

**Consonants**

b d k l m n t w	These may be pronounced as in ModE.
c, ć	<p>1. ‘Hard’ (velar) as <i>c</i> in ModE ‘come’: before and, when final, after <i>a</i>, <i>o</i>, <i>u</i> or <i>y</i>, and finally after short <i>æ</i> and <i>e</i>, and before consonants: <i>bōc</i> ‘book’, <i>bēc</i> ‘back’, <i>cuman</i> ‘come’, <i>cniht</i> ‘boy’.</p> <p>2. ‘Soft’ (palatalised) as <i>ch</i> in ModE ‘church’: before or between <i>e</i> or <i>i</i> (short and long) and finally after <i>i</i> (short and long), <i>ē</i> and <i>ā</i>: <i>ic</i> ‘I’, <i>cīrīcē</i> ‘church’, <i>cīld</i> ‘child’, <i>tēcān</i> ‘teach’.</p> <p>3. There are exceptions; a good guide <i>may</i> be the pronunciation of the ModE equivalent; thus OE <i>cēne</i> has the ‘hard’ <i>c</i>, as in ‘keen’, <i>hwilc</i> has ‘ch’, as in ‘which’. But see note below.</p>
cg	As ModE <i>dg</i> , so that OE <i>ecg</i> sounds very like ModE ‘edge’.
f	<p>1. ModE ‘voiceless’ <i>f</i>, as in ‘father’: when initial or final: <i>fēder</i> ‘father’, <i>hlāf</i> ‘loaf’, <i>wīf</i> ‘woman’, ‘wife’.</p> <p>2. ModE ‘voiced’ <i>v</i>, as in ‘weave’: when between vowels or other ‘voiced’ sounds: <i>hlāfvas</i> ‘loaves’, <i>hafde</i> ‘had’.</p>
g, ǵ	<p>1. ‘Hard’ (velar) as in ModE ‘god’: before <i>a</i>, <i>o</i> and <i>u</i>, and initially before consonants: <i>god</i> ‘a god’, <i>lagu</i> ‘law’, <i>gnornian</i> ‘mourn’.</p> <p>2. ‘Soft’ (palatalised) as <i>y</i> in ModE ‘yet’: initially before or after <i>e</i> or <i>i</i> (short or long), and finally after <i>e</i>, <i>i</i> and <i>æ</i>: <i>gēar</i> ‘year’, <i>gīf</i> ‘if’, <i>þeġn</i> ‘thegn’, <i>daęg</i> ‘day’, <i>hięg</i> (late form of <i>hi</i>) ‘they’.</p> <p>3. Something like the <i>ch</i> of ModE ‘loch’ pronounced abruptly without ‘voicing’ (g in dialectal <i>sagen</i> is a guide for German-speakers): after or between <i>a</i>, <i>o</i> and <i>u</i>: <i>magan</i> ‘can’, <i>bōga</i> ‘bow’, <i>burg</i> ‘stronghold’. A sort of ‘swallowed’ hard <i>g</i> will do here; the sound often modified into <i>w</i> in later English.</p>
h	<p>1. As in ModE ‘he’: initially: <i>hūs</i> ‘house’, <i>hwār</i> ‘where’.</p> <p>2. A sound like <i>ch</i> in German <i>ich</i> or <i>nicht</i>: after <i>e</i> or <i>i</i>: <i>fēhp</i> ‘seizes’, <i>riht</i> ‘right’.</p> <p>3. Elsewhere <i>h</i> sounds something like <i>ch</i> in ModE ‘loch’ or German <i>nach</i>: <i>hēah</i> ‘high’, <i>þūhte</i> ‘thought’.</p>
r	<p>1. Probably trilled when initial.</p> <p>2. Probably sounded with the tip of the tongue curled back, as often in American English, when final, or following a consonant.</p>
s	<p>1. <i>z</i> as in ModE ‘zoo’: between vowels or next to voiced consonants: <i>rīsan</i> ‘rise’, <i>wīsdom</i> ‘wisdom’.</p> <p>2. <i>s</i> as in ModE in ‘sit’: elsewhere: <i>sittan</i> ‘sit’, <i>eorlas</i> ‘earls’.</p>
sc	As ModE <i>sh</i> in ‘ship’: <i>scip</i> ‘ship’, <i>scūr</i> ‘shower’, <i>disc</i> ‘dish’. There are a few exceptions, such as <i>āscian</i> ‘ask’ and <i>Scottas</i> ‘Scots’, in which <i>sc</i> is pronounced <i>sk</i> .
ð, þ	<p>1. ‘Voiced’ as in ModE ‘this’ or ‘father’: at the start of a word or medially: <i>þis</i> ‘this’, <i>hwāper</i> ‘whether’.</p> <p>2. ‘Voiceless’ as in ModE ‘path’: at the end of a word: <i>pæp</i> ‘path’.</p>

**Vowels**

a	As <i>a</i> in ModE ‘man’: <i>mann</i> ‘person’
ā	As <i>a</i> in BritE ‘father’ or ‘ah!’: <i>fāh</i> ‘hostile’, <i>bān</i> ‘bone’
æ	As <i>a</i> in BritE ‘that’ or ‘mat’, a brisk ‘fronted’ sound: <i>pæt</i> ‘that’, <i>fæt</i> ‘vessel’
ǣ	A longer version of <i>æ</i> : the vowel in ModE ‘mad’ is usually pronounced long, far longer than in ‘mat’: <i>pǣr</i> ‘there’. Many readers of OE use a lengthened <i>e</i> , so that <i>pǣr</i> sounds rather like ModE ‘there’.
e	As in ModE ‘met’: <i>bet</i> ‘better’, <i>wendep</i> ‘turns’; it should be sounded finally also: <i>reste</i> ‘at rest’
ē	As <i>a</i> in southern BritE ‘hate’ (but a single unbroken sound): <i>mē</i> ‘to me’, <i>wēste</i> ‘deserted’
i	As in ModE ‘bit’: <i>sibban</i> ‘then’
ī	As in ModE ‘beet’: <i>sib</i> ‘journey’
o	As in BritE ‘not’: <i>God</i> ‘God’
ō	As in ModE ‘note’: <i>gōd</i> ‘good’, <i>mōder</i> ‘mother’
u	As in ModE ‘put’ (not ‘putt’): <i>up</i> ‘up’, <i>sunu</i> ‘son’
ū	As <i>oo</i> in southern BritE ‘boot’ (with lips rounded: a single unbroken sound): <i>bū</i> ‘you’
y	As <i>u</i> in French <i>tu</i> or <i>ü</i> in German <i>müde</i> ; made by trying to pronounce <i>i</i> with the lips pursed: <i>byrgen</i> ‘burying place’
ŷ	A long version of <i>y</i> , made by trying to pronounce ModE <i>ee</i> with the lips pursed: <i>sŷ</i> ‘be’, <i>fŷr</i> ‘fire’

**Diphthongs**

ea	æ + a
ēa	ǣ + a
eo	e + o
ēo	ē + o
ie	i + e
īe	ī + e
io	i + o
īo	ī + o

The emphasis in diphthongs is usually given to the first vowel, and this should be pronounced long, if it is so marked. They should thus *not* be pronounced as *ao* in ModE *chaos*, where there are two separate sounds. In the case of *ea/ēa*, it should be