

I

Practice Sentences

A. Although sometimes pronounced differently from their MnE descendants, many OE words have the same form and the same basic meaning as their MnE counterparts: e.g. *bliss, colt, dung, elm, finger, fox, handle, him, land, mist, nest, of, on, rest, sprang, winter, writ*. Indeed, entire sentences can have essentially the same appearance in OE and MnE, although it must be conceded that such sentences can be composed only through a rather artificial selection of words from the OE lexicon:

Harold is swift. His hand is strong and his word grim. Late in life hē went tō his wīfe in Rōme.

Is his inn open? His cornbin is full and his song is written.

Grind his corn for him and sing mē his song.

Hē is dēad. His bed is under him. His lamb is dēaf and blind.

Hē sang for mē.

Hē swam west in storme and winde and froste.

Bring ūs gold. Stand ūp and find wīse men.

B. Many other OE words appear strange at first glance, but when pronounced according to the rules set out in §§5–9 they become immediately recognizable as MnE words in earlier dress: e.g. *bæc, biscoþ, cinn, diç, disc, ecg, feðer, hecg, hwelp, lifer, pic, ræfter, scort, þæc, þing, þiðer, þrescold, wecg, wofen*. Among the following sentences set out for practice in pronunciation are a number of words which will become recognizable when pronounced correctly.

Is his þeġn hēr ġiet?

His līnen socc fēoll ofer bord in þæt wæter and scranc.

Hwær is his cȳþþ and cynn?

His hring is gold, his disc glæs, and his belt leðer.

5 Se fisc swam under þæt scip and ofer þone sciellfisc.

His cīcen ran from his horsweġe, ofer his pæð, and in his
geard.

Se horn sang hlūde: hlysten wē!

Se cniht is on þære brycge.

Sēo cwēn went from þære cīrice.

Hēo siteþ on þære benće.

10 God is gōd.

þis trēow is æsc, ac þæt trēow is āc.

Hē wolde begān wiccecræft, and hē began swā tō dōnne.

Fuhton ġē manlice oþþe mǎnlice?

His smiððe is þām smiðe lēof.

C. After studying key paradigms 1, 2, and 4 (p. 4), you should find most of the grammatical relationships in the following sentences readily understandable:

15 Ic bræc þone stān.

Se stān is micel.

Ðæs stānes micelnes is wundorlic.

þes stānwyrhta ġeaf þām stāne hīw.

Hē slōh þone mann þȳ stāne.

20 Sēo sunne is swiðe micel.

þær hēo scīnþ, þær biþ dæg.

Niht is þære eorðan sceadu betwēonan þære sunnan and
mancynne.

þis lif is læne, and þeos woruld drēoseþ and fealleþ.

25 Sing þisne song!

Hīe scufon ūt hira scipu and sigldon tō þære sǎ.

On þissum dæġe cwealdon wē þone fēond þisses folces.

Ic ġeman þā naman þāra folca and þissa folca.

His wīfes nama wæs Elizabeþ.

30 þeos ġiefu is for ūs, and hēo līcaþ ūs.

Se dēaþ is þisses lifes ende, ac sēo sǎwol is undēadlic.

Hīe hine ne dorston þā þing āscian.

Hwæt þyncþ ēow be Crīste? Hwæs sunu is hē?

Hwæs sunu eart þū? And hwæs dohtor eart þū?

35 Hwȳ ġeworhte God þā yfelan nǎdran?