

Old English Activity Booklet



The Lord's Prayer

Fæder ure þu be eart on heofonum

si þin nama gehalgod

to becume þin rice

gewurpe ðin willa

on eorðan swa swa on heofonum

urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us todæg

and forgyf us ure gyltas

swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum

and ne gelæd þu us on costnunge

ac alys us of yfele

soplice



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done

On Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

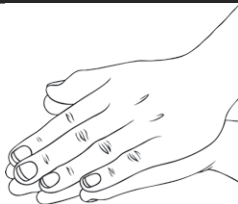
And forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil.

Amen.



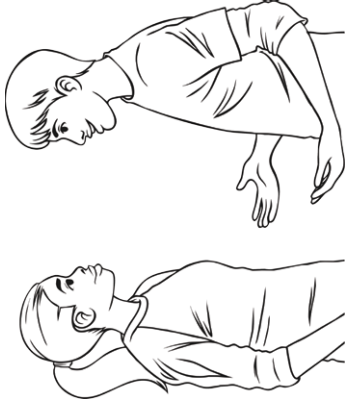
Saying Goodbye

Old English Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
God þe mid s̥e	God thee mid schee	God be with you (goodbye)
gōd nihten	gode nighten	goodnight
habbe ān gōd dæg	hab-eh ahn gode daey	have a good day

Useful Questions and Answers

Old English Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
Hwā ēower nama is?	huwah eeower nahnmah iss?	What is your name?
Mīn nama is...	mine nahnmah is...	My name is...
Hwiðer eart þu fram?	h-wither eart thoo frahm?	Where are you from?
Ic ear...	itch ee-ahr...	I'm from...
Hū eart þu?	hoo eart thoo?	How are you?
Wel þancas	well thank-ahs	Fine thanks.
Spraec þu nglisc?	spr-ay-ech thoo eyn-glish?	Do you speak Old English?
Gea, an fea	yeya, an feya	Yes, a bit.

Using these words and phrases, try to have a conversation with your partner!



Revive a Dead Language

Pronunciation

In Old English, every letter is usually pronounced. For example, the word 'bidde' would be pronounced 'bidd-eh'.

Also, don't forget those strange letters that we no longer use:

Letter Name	Lower Case	Upper Case	Sound
Ash	æ	Æ	Can be short 'a' or long 'ah'
Eth	ð	Ð	th
Thorn	þ	Þ	th
Wynn	ƿ	Ʋ	w
Yogh	ȝ	Ȟ	g, j, y, x, w

Here are some useful phrases for your time travel back to Anglo-Saxon England:

Greetings		
Old English Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
wes hāl	wess hahl	hello
ēalā	ee-a-lah	hello
welcumen	well-come-un	welcome

Being Polite		
Old English Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
bidde	bidd-eh	please
þancas	thank-ahs	thanks
lāda mec	laa-da mech	excuse me
sārig	sah-riy	sorry

Guess the Word!

These are the letters used in Old English which we no longer use:

Letter Name	Lower Case	Upper Case	Sound
Ash	æ	Æ	Can be short 'a' or long 'ah'
Eth	ð	Ð	th
Thorn	þ	Þ	th
Wynn	ƿ	Ʋ	w
Yogh	ȝ	Ȟ	g, j, y, x, w

Now see if you can work out what these Old English words mean:

eald _____ nett _____
 æppel _____ cwæn _____
 ban _____ hring _____
 bruder _____ wif _____
 bealcan _____ winter _____
 clawu _____ lif _____
 hus _____ wifmann _____
 hel _____ lēogre _____
 cynn _____ brēad _____



The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle Extract

Anno 455. Her Hengest and Horsa fuhton wip Wyrhtgeorne þæm cyninge in þære stowe þe is genemned Æglesbrep and his broþor Horsan man ofslog. And æfter þæm Hengest feng to rice and Æsc his sunu.



Translation

The year 455. At this time Hengest and Horsa fought with Vortigern the king in the locality named Aylesford and his brother Horsa was struck down. And after, Hengest and Æsc his son inherited the realm.



Even the translation sounds strange and doesn't quite make sense. Can you change it to 21st-century English so that it reads better?

Beowulf Extract

Wæs se grimma gæst Grendel haten,
mære mearcstapa, se þe moras heold
fen ond fæsten; fifealcynnes eard
wonsæli wer weardode hwile
siþðan him Scyppend forscrifen
hæfde.



Translation

That hated savage demon was called Grendel,
Notorious border-crosser who belongs in the swamp,
fen and prison; native of the land of sea monsters
The unhappy creature occupied for some time
Since the Creator had doomed him.



Can you take the translation and make it sound more like 21st-century English? Use your imagination.

kennings

Here are some examples of Anglo-Saxon kennings. Kennings are compound words used to describe nouns in a new and imaginative way.

Old English	Modern English	Meaning
bānhūs	bone house	body
hwælweg	whale road	sea
wægflota	wave floater	ship
hildenædre	battle serpent	arrow
hildeswat	battle sweat	blood
sōlarborð	sun-table	sky

Try to make some kennings of your own. Here are some nouns you could create kennings for, but you can choose your own. See if another student can guess what your kenning refers to.

cup	desk	socks	mobile
arm	clock	dream	social media
head	pen	exams	teacher
school uniform	scissors	ink	friend
