

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	ƿ	w
Yogh	ȝ	ȝ	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

Saying Goodbye

Old English Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
God þē mid sīe	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 īs?	huwah eeower nahmah iss?	What is your name?
Mīn nama is...	mine nahmah 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!

