

Problem set 12: 24.900
Due Monday, December 4, 2001

Part One

Question 1: Match the Old English words to the meanings or clues given. Note that there are more meanings/clues listed than Old English words, so you will not use up all the meanings/clues given. There are some tricks...

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|------------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. bɔ:n | _____ | a. broad | l. sacred |
| 2. ma:k | _____ | b. what a dentist works on | m. not in |
| 3. nu: | _____ | c. where you might go over winter break | n. state of mind |
| 4. fe:d | _____ | d. you don't want this in your garden | o. <i>him</i> as subject of sentence |
| 5. hɔ:lig | _____ | e. toward | p. prevents flooding |
| 6. u:t | _____ | f. give food | q. at this time |
| 7. wi:d | _____ | g. opposite of "yes" | r. fire |
| 8. to: | _____ | h. says "moo" | s. ouch! I stubbed this |
| 9. hwi: | _____ | i. create | t. for what reason |
| 10. hɔ:m | _____ | j. part of a skeleton | u. cease to be visible |
| 11. di:k | _____ | k. benefit | v. what horses eat |
| 12. bla:se | _____ | | |
| 13. mo:d | _____ | | |
| 14. he: | _____ | | |
| 15. cu: | _____ | | |
| 16. to: | _____ | | |

Question 2: What sound change is illustrated in all these examples?

[Source: Grover Hudson. 2000. *Essential Introductory Linguistics*. Oxford:Blackwell. (adapted)]

Part Two: An Imaginary Story

Time: Sometime in the late Middle English period or early Modern English period (1550, perhaps?)

Place: Somewhere in England

A traveller, dusty from the road, stops at a roadside inn. The following conversation takes place between the traveller and the innkeeper. We give the conversation in modern English orthography.

Traveller: Give me some ale, my good man!

Innkeeper: We don't sell seafood, sir.

Traveller: Huh?

Miscommunication occurred because one of them came from an area where a particular sound change had occurred and the other did not. The traveller and bartender spoke different dialects of English. Think about what was going on in the history of English at the time. Explain what the traveller said (use IPA), and why the innkeeper misunderstood him. Your answer must include a specific indication of whose English did and whose English did not have the sound change.

[Source: James McCawley "Dates in the month of May". (adapted)]