

Chapter 2 (2.1.2, 2.3): pronunciation of g

In editions for students we distinguish between dotted and undotted **g**. But there are actually *four* ways to pronounce this letter:

1. as a voiced stop, as in Modern English ‘good’;
2. as a semivowel, as in Modern English ‘yes’;
3. as a voiced affricate (as in Modern English *impinge*);
4. as a voiced spirant ([ɣ], as in some dialects of Dutch)

For each of the words in the following list, write 1, 2, 3 or 4 from the list above to indicate how the g should be pronounced. We omit the dots to make things more interesting.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ___ galan <i>sing</i> | ___ sweg <i>sound</i> | ___ lāgon <i>lay</i> (plural) |
| ___ geondþencan <i>ponder</i> | ___ þing <i>thing</i> | ___ læg <i>lay</i> (singular) |
| ___ giedd <i>song, tale</i> | ___ sweng <i>blow</i> | ___ slōgon <i>struck, killed</i> (plural) |
| ___ glēo <i>merriment, music</i> | ___ hangian <i>hang</i> | ___ wīgend <i>warrior</i> |
| ___ gōd <i>good</i> | ___ sang <i>song</i> | ___ duguþ <i>army, warband</i> |
| ___ gnornian <i>mourn</i> | ___ singan <i>sing</i> | ___ segen <i>seen</i> |
| ___ grēot <i>earth, sand</i> | ___ neorxnawang <i>paradise</i> | ___ gesihð <i>sight</i> |
| ___ ælmihtig <i>almighty</i> | ___ āwyrġan <i>curse</i> | ___ magon <i>can, may</i> (plural) |
| ___ bēag <i>ring</i> | ___ būrġeteld <i>tent</i> | ___ mæg <i>can, may</i> (singular) |
| ___ bēagas <i>rings</i> (plural) | ___ ġeþēode <i>language</i> | ___ ānig <i>any</i> |
| ___ burg <i>fortress, city</i> | ___ earg <i>wretched, vile, useless</i> | ___ ānigum <i>any</i> (dative) |
| ___ byrġ <i>fortress, city</i> (dative) | ___ herġian <i>plunder, harry</i> | ___ ġēotan <i>pour</i> |
| ___ costnung <i>temptation</i> | ___ herġe <i>praise</i> (subjunctive sg.) | ___ ġūþ <i>war, battle</i> |
| ___ dæg <i>day</i> | ___ wēriġ <i>weary</i> | ___ ġyrdan <i>gird</i> |
| ___ dagas <i>days</i> | ___ wērgum <i>weary</i> (dative) | ___ ġyrd <i>rod, staff</i> |
| ___ dōġor <i>day</i> | ___ engel <i>angel</i> | ___ ġylt <i>guilt</i> |
| ___ fāġ <i>variegated, adorned</i> | ___ englas <i>angels</i> | ___ ġyst <i>stranger, guest</i> |
| ___ hāliġ <i>holy</i> | ___ lang <i>long</i> | ___ ġæst <i>stranger, guest</i> |
| ___ sorg <i>sorrow</i> | ___ lengra <i>longer</i> | ___ ġearo <i>ready</i> |
| ___ strang <i>strong</i> | ___ þeġn <i>servant, retainer</i> | ___ ġeat <i>gate</i> |
| ___ strengra <i>stronger</i> | ___ āġan <i>own</i> | ___ ġatu <i>gates</i> |
| ___ strengo <i>strength</i> | ___ āġhwylc <i>each</i> | ___ hræġl <i>garment</i> |
| ___ strengð <i>strength</i> | ___ brōġa <i>terror</i> | ___ hringas <i>rings</i> |