

## Chapter 7. Preterite-present verbs

Since several preterite-present verbs (§§ 7.1.3, 7.6) survive in Modern English, they tend to give beginning readers little trouble. Still, several Old English preterite-presents do not survive, and there are differences of meaning and usage between those that do survive and their Old English ancestors. This exercise should make you somewhat better acquainted with this odd class of verbs. For each of the following sentences, fill in the blanks to supply the requested information about the verb in **bold** type (but leave the blanks that do not apply); then translate the sentence. All of the verbs for this exercise are in the indicative mood.

1. Bringað mē eal þæt ġē **āgon**!  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ic **āh** byrnan and gōd sword.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ēadgār **āhte** manige þrælas.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
4. Ic ġeare **can** þisne cræft.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ġē ne **cūðon** mīne spræce understandan.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
6. Se trēowwyrhta **dēah** þe þās healle ġetimbode.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
7. Ne **dear** ic feohtan onġēan þām entum.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_

8. Ne **dorste** ic nān ðing wiðcweðan.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
9. Hē **geman** þā þing þe ic him sǣde.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
10. Nān sceaða ne **mæg** his mādmas forstelan.<sup>1</sup>  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
11. Ic wēne þæt þū **meaht** þisne man gehælan.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
12. Þære hālgan fæmnan līchoma brosnian<sup>2</sup> ne **meahte**.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
13. God him geūðe þæt hē **mōste** his fýnd āfyllan.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
14. Ic **mōt** sittan hēr on bençe.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
15. Cyning **sceal** rīce healdan.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
16. Ælíc man **sceolde** wær<sup>3</sup> bēon wið his fýnd.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_

---

1 *forstelan*: steal.

2 *brosnian*: decay.

3 *wær*: wary, prepared, on guard.

17. Dēoflu **sceolon** on helle wunian.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
18. Ne **þearf** nān man wēnan miltse fram þisum cyninge.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
19. Ælfred cyning **ūðe** mē þisses landes.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
20. Þū **wāst** mīne gyltas and mine dysignyssa.<sup>4</sup>  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
21. Ic ne **wāt** hwær þū eart.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
22. Se ceorl **wisse** þæt his oxa hnitol<sup>5</sup> wære.  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_
23. Hē **wiste** witodlice hwā hyne scolde belāwan.<sup>6</sup>  
person \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ tense \_\_\_\_\_

---

4 *dysignyssa*: follies.

5 *hnitol*: given to butting.

6 *belāwan*: betray.