

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 gē **āgon**!
person _____ number _____ tense _____
2. Ic **āh** byrnan and gōd sweord.
person _____ number _____ tense _____
3. Ēadgār **āhte** manige þrælas.
person _____ number _____ tense _____
4. Ic geare **can** þisne cræft.
person _____ number _____ tense _____
5. Gē ne **cūðon** mīne spræce understandan.
person _____ number _____ tense _____
6. Se trēowwyrhta **dēah** þe þās healle getimbrode.
person _____ number _____ tense _____
7. Ne **dear** ic feohtan ongēan þām entum.
person _____ number _____ tense _____
8. Ne **dorste** ic nān ðing wiðcweðan.
person _____ number _____ tense _____

9. Hē **ġeman** þā þing þe ic him sǣde.
 person ____ number ____ tense ____
10. Nān sceaða ne **mæg** his mādmas forstelan.¹
 person ____ number ____ tense ____
11. Ic wēne þæt þū **meaht** þisne man ġehǣlan.
 person ____ number ____ tense ____
12. Þære hālgan fǣmnan lichoma brosnian² ne **meahte**.
 person ____ number ____ tense ____
13. God him ġeūðe þæt hē **mōste** his fȳnd āfyllan.
 person ____ number ____ tense ____
14. Ic **mōt** sittan hēr on benċe.
 person ____ number ____ tense ____
15. Cyning **sceal** rīce healdan.
 person ____ number ____ tense ____
16. Ālc man **sceolde** wær³ bēon wið his fȳnd.
 person ____ number ____ tense ____
17. Dēoflu **sceolon** on helle wunian.
 person ____ number ____ tense ____
18. Ne **þearf** nān man wēnan miltse fram þisum cyninge.
 person ____ number ____ tense ____
19. Ālfred cyning **ūðe** mē þisses landes.
 person ____ number ____ tense ____

1 *forstelan*: steal.

2 *brosnian*: decay.

3 *wær*: wary, prepared, on guard.

20. Ðū **wāst** mīne gyltas and mine dysiġnyssa.⁴
person ____ number ____ tense ____

21. Ic ne **wāt** hwær þū eart.
person ____ number ____ tense ____

22. Se ceorl **wisse** þæt his oxa hnitol⁵ wære.
person ____ number ____ tense ____

23. Hē **wiste** witodlice hwā hyne sceolde belæwan.⁶
person ____ number ____ tense ____

4 *dysiġnyssa*: follies.

5 *hnitol*: given to butting.

6 *belæwan*: betray.