

How “mixed” is English, really?

Don Ringe, July 1999
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It is generally agreed that English is a language of unusually mixed ancestry; but how much mixture of languages is really involved? The purpose of this handout is to give you an accurate and detailed answer to that question. I investigate two areas of the language that are agreed *on independent grounds* to be the “core” of any language’s idiosyncratic resources, maximally resistant to change. The first is the inflectional morphology of the language; the second is the crosslinguistic “basic” vocabulary worked out by Morris Swadesh in the 1950’s for anthropological (not historical / philological) purposes.

It will be seen that the core of English is still thoroughly Anglo-Saxon—in fact, much of it goes back to Proto-Indo-European by the usual channel of linguistic transmission, i.e. first-language learning by children on the basis of the speech of their elders—but even in the core there are some Norse, and a very few French, elements. To the non-linguist they don’t look like much, but it is startling to find *any* Norse pronouns in English, or *any* Norse influence (indirect though it is) on English inflection—and that’s what we mean when we say that English is a “mixed” language. (Less basic vocabulary, and some derivational morphology, are typically much less resistant to change; most languages are “mixed” in those areas, and English is NOT special in that regard.) You will see that the real situation is a far cry from the popular misconception that languages can “merge”.

Throughout this handout ME = Middle English, ModHG = Modern High German, OE = Old English, OF = Old French, OHG = Old High German, OIr. = Old Irish, ON = Old Norse, PC = Proto-Celtic, PG = Proto-Germanic (the reconstructed ancestor of the Germanic languages), PIE = Proto-Indo-European (the reconstructed ancestor of all the Indo-European languages), Skt. = Sanskrit; sg. = singular, pl. = plural, nom. = nominative case, acc. = accusative case, gen. = genitive case, dat. = dative case, masc. =

masculine, fem. = feminine, neut. = neuter, coll. = collective, pres. = present, 3 = third person, ptc. = participle, adj. = adjective. The shaftless arrows <, > indicate development by regular sound change; ←, → indicate development by other types of linguistic change processes.

1. Inflectional morphology.

In this section I will note ON and OF influence in boldface.

Noun plurals:

-(e)s < OE -as (nom./acc. pl. ending of masc. a-stems) < nom. pl. *-ōs; the *-s is surprising, but is shared by Old Saxon; the PG ending was *-ōz < PIE *-o-es

[the irregular voicing of stem-final fricatives, as in *wife* : *wives*, *mouth* : *mouths*, *house* : *houses* also goes back to OE, where it was the regular result of a pre-OE sound change; English has been gradually eliminating it for some centuries now]

∅ (i.e. zero ending, as in *sheep*) < OE ∅ (nom./acc. pl. ending of neut. a-stems with heavy stem syllables) < *-u < PG *-ō < *-ā < PIE *-a-h₂ < coll. *-e-h₂

oxen < OE *oxan* (nom./acc. pl. of masc. n-stem *oxa*) < (post-)PG nom. pl. *uhsan-iz, acc. pl. *uhsan-unz; stem-final *-an- replaces expected *-in-, but otherwise these forms reflect PIE nom. pl. *uksén-es, acc. pl. *uksén-ns (note that the sequence -an was originally part of the stem, but was reinterpreted as an ending in OE when the original endings were lost)

children shows the addition of -en in the ME period to a form that was already plural, reflecting late OE *cildru* (nom./acc. pl. of neut. z-stem *cild*); this noun can’t be traced much farther back than OE, but the ending is PG *-iz-ō (again, the sequence *-iz- was really part of the stem at that period) < post-PIE *-es-ā, replacing PIE *-ōs

type *mouse*, pl. *mice* < OE *mūs*, nom./acc. pl. *mȳs* < PG *mūs, nom. pl. *mūs-iz < PIE *mús, nom. pl. *mús-es; there are only seven of these “umlauting” plurals left in English, but there were more than

a dozen in OE, still more in PG (where they still had recognizable nom. pl. endings, not umlaut), and a very large number in PIE (likewise with endings, not umlaut)

Noun possessive *'s* < OE *-es* (gen. sg. ending of a-stems), though the ME development was complex (see Allen 1997 with references, Kroch 1997:133-5); OE *-es* < *-æs* < PG **-as* < PIE **-osyo*

Comparison of adjectives:

comparative *-er* < OE *-ra(n-)*, *-ora(n-)* < PG **-izan-* ~ **-izōn-*, **-ōzan-* ~ **-ōzōn-*; the n-stem extension is a Germanic innovation, and so is the initial **-ō-* of the second form of the suffix, but **-iz-* directly reflects PIE **-is-*, unaccented “zero-grade” form of the elative suffix **-yōs-* (meaning ‘especially ...’ or ‘rather ...’)

superlative *-est* < OE *-est*, *-ost* < PG **-ista-*, **-ōsta-*; as above, the latter is a Germanic innovation, but the former reflects PIE **-is-to-*, an intensifying extension of the elative suffix (meaning ‘exceptionally ...’ or ‘most ... of all’)

the periphrastic comparison *more ...*, *most ...* looks like a loan translation from French, but could easily have arisen independently (it’s a very natural thing to do)

Verb endings:

pres. 3sg. *-s* < late Northumbrian OE *-es*, a variant of inherited *-ep* that clearly reflects **ON influence** (see Kroch, Taylor, and Ringe 2000 for discussion), though the ending was NOT borrowed from ON

pres. ptc. and gerund *-ing* exhibit some obscurities of development: the gerund apparently reflects OE *-ing*, *-ung*, a derived verbal noun suffix which has cognates in other Germanic languages but doesn’t go back any farther; the ptc. might have developed partly from such phrases as *a’ singing*—literally ‘on singing’, with the gerund—but already in the ME period the old ptc. suffix *-ende* had been replaced in the southern and central dialects by *-inge*, the source of which does not seem to be the gerund suffix

past and past ptc. *-(e)d*, *-t* < OE past (3sg.) *-te*, *-de*, *-ede*, *-ode* and past ptc. *-t*, *-d*, *-ed*, *-od*; the various vowels (or lack thereof) marked

different classes of verbs; the past ending reflects PG (3sg.) **-dē* (**-tē* in a few verbs), which actually appears to be a reduced form of the ancestor of English *did* (!) and is a striking Germanic innovation; the past ptc. ending reflects PG **-da-* (**-ta-*) < PIE verbal adj. suffix **-tó-*.

type *sing*, *sang*, *sung* (with various vowel alternations) < OE pres. (infinitive) *singan*, past (3sg.) *sang*, past ptc. *sungen* < PG **sing^wana*, **sang^w*, **sungana-* < PIE pres. **séng^{wh}-e/o-*, perfect (3sg.) **se-sóng^{wh}-e*, verbal adj. **sng^{wh}-nó-* (the latter with the suffix remodelled in PG—and this particular verb meant something like ‘chant’ in PIE)

am, *art* (archaic), *is* < OE *eam*, *eart*, *is*; the second-person form is not found in any other attested Germanic language, though it probably reflects an irregular PG verb; the vowel of the first-person form was probably introduced by analogy from the second-person form, but otherwise *eam*, *is* reflect PG **immi*, **isti* < PIE **h₁es-mi*, **h₁es-ti*

are < Northumbrian OE pl. *arun*, from the same original verb as *art*; in other dialects of OE the pl. was *sind* < PG **sindi* < PIE **h₁s-enti* *was*, *were* < OE (1&3sg.) *wæs*, (pl.) *wæron* < PG **was*, (3pl.) **wēzun*; this is a past tense newly formed in Germanic to **wes-* ‘remain, be’ < PIE **h₂wes-* ‘stay overnight’

be < OE (infinitive) *bēon* ultimately reflects PIE **b^huh₂-* ‘become’, though the intermediate stages are complex and partly obscure

It seems reasonable to include in this section the pronouns, which belong to small closed classes and are in effect “grammatical”.

I, *me*, *my* ~ *mine* < OE nom. *ic*, acc. *mec*, dat. *mē*, gen. and adj. *mīn* < PG **ek* ~ **ik* (the latter form originally unstressed), **mek* ~ **mik*, **miz*, adj. **mīna-*; the nom. and the stem of the other forms reflect PIE **éǵh₂* and acc. **(m)mé* ~ **me*, though considerable innovations have taken place in Germanic

we, *us*, *our* ~ *ours* (the last with possessive *-s*) < OE nom. *wē*, acc. and dat. *ūs*, gen. and adj. *ūre* < PG **wīz* ~ **wiz*, **uns*, **unsera-*; **wīz* <

*wéy-es, with added plural ending, replacing PIE *wéy, and *uns reflects the first syllable of PIE acc. *ṛ̥smé, but again there have been considerable innovations

thou, thee, thy ~ thine (all now archaic) < OE nom. *þū*, acc. *þec*, dat. *þē*, gen. and adj. *þīn* < PG *þū, *þek ~ *þik, *þiz, adj. *þīna-; < PIE nom. *túh₂, acc. *twé ~ *te, with innovations

ye, you, your ~ yours (the first now archaic) < OE nom. *gē*, acc. and dat. *ēow* < *īow*, gen. and adj. *ēower* < *īower* (i.e., in both the latter cases the forms with *īo* are older); < PG *jūz, *izwiz, *izwera-; PIE had nom. *yú, acc. *uswé, and in this pronoun the Germanic innovations were massive

he, him, his, her, her ~ hers, it, its all reflect various forms of OE (masc.) *hē*, (fem.) *hēo*, (neut.) *hit*; this was originally a PG demonstrative *hi- ~ *he- ‘this’ < PIE *ki- ~ *ke-

she is of very unclear origin; it might have developed out of OE *hēo* in some ME dialect and have spread because it was so distinctive (in most dialects *hēo* had merged with masc. *hē* by regular sound change)

they, them, their ~ theirs < ON *þeir, þeim, þeira* ‘those’ and ‘they’; this is a rare example of a language *apparently* borrowing a pronoun—in fact, a sign of imperfect 2nd-language learning (see Kroch, Taylor, and Ringe 2000)

that, those (the latter with added pl. -s) < OE (nom./acc. neut.) *þæt*, (nom./acc. pl.) *þā*; the history of the pl. form is complex, but the word clearly reflects PG *þat, stem *þa- < PIE *tód, stem *to- *this, these* < OE (nom./acc. neut.) *þis* with an innovative pl.; this demonstrative pronoun was formed from the preceding in pre-OE by adding enclitic particles in a pattern similar, but not identical, to what was done in other Germanic languages

who, whom, whose, what < OE nom. masc./fem. *hwā*, dat. *hwām*, nom./acc. neut. *hwæt* (the possessive was formed later with possessive -s) < PG *h^wa- < PIE *k^wo- ‘which?’ (adj.)

Finally, it should be pointed out that all the numerals up to *thousand* are

directly descended from their OE counterparts, except for the ordinal *second*, which was **borrowed from OF**, and the ordinal *first*, which originally meant ‘first’ in a more general sense and replaced OE *forma* as the ordinal numeral.

2. Basic vocabulary.

In this section words are arranged by origin; I include all items in the Swadesh 100-word list, even those discussed above.

Words borrowed from Old French into Middle English:

human (adj.) ← OF *humain* < Latin (Lat.) *hūmānus* (perhaps derived from *homō* ‘human being’, but the *ū* is puzzling); the OE word was *mann* (see below)

mountain ← OF *montaigne* < late Lat. **montāneus* ← Lat. *montānus* (adj.) ‘mountainous, of mountains’, derived from *mōns, mont-* ‘mountain’; the OE words were *beorg* and *munt* (the latter independently borrowed from Latin)

round ← OF *rond* < Lat. *rotundus*, derived from *rota* ‘wheel’; the OE word was *sinwealt*

Old English word whose shape has been influenced by an OF word:

hair < ME *heer, haire* < OE *hær* < Proto-Germanic (PG) **hēra* (cf. ON *hár*, etc.); but also ← OF *haire* ‘hair cloth, hair shirt’ ← Frankish **hārja* ← PG **hērijō* (cf. OHG *hārja*) derived from **hēra*

Words borrowed from Old Norse into ME or late OE:

skin ← ON *skinn* ‘hide’ < PG **skinþą* (cf. ModHG *schinden* ‘to flay’, etc.); the OE word was *hyd* (> *hide*)

egg ← ON *egg* < PG **ajją*; the OE word was *æg*, also inherited < PG **ajją*

root ← ON *rót* < PG **wrōt-*, ultimately related to Lat. *rādīx*; borrowed already in late OE, but the usual OE words were *wyrtruma* and *wyrtwala* (the latter cognate with ModHG *Wurzel*)

bark ← ON *bqrkr, bark-* < **barkuz* (no further cognates); the OE word seems to have been *rinde* (> *rind*)

die ← ON *deyja* < PG **dawjana* (cf. OHG *touwen*, etc.); the verb does

not survive in OE (which instead uses *steorfan* (> *starve*) and *sweltan*), but cf. PG **daudaz* > OE *dēad* > *dead* and PG **daupuz* > OE *dēap* > *death*

big ← ON?: the word first appears in northern England in the 13th c.; cf. Norwegian dial. *bugge* ‘strong man’, suggesting an (unattested) ON slang term from which the English word was borrowed; the OE word was *micel* (> *Mitchell*)

OE word whose shape has been influenced by an ON word:

give < OE *giefan* and ON *gefa* < PG **gebaną*; the initial /g/ can only be from ON, since OE *giefan* developed into *yeve* (actually attested in early ModE)

ME word of doubtful origin:

kill < ME *killen*, *cullen*; connection with OE *cwellan* (> *quell*) doubtful

OE words of obscure origin:

dog < OE *dogga* ‘draft dog’; ‘dog’ in OE was *hund* (> *hound*)

bird < OE *bridd* ‘young bird’; ‘bird’ in OE was *fugol* (> *fowl*)

cloud < OE *clūd* ‘rocky hill’; ‘cloud’ in OE was *wolcen*

OE words with partial or approximate cognates in other Germanic lgg.:

this < OE neuter *þis* (masc. *þēs*, fem. *þēos*): this pronoun arose by conflation of the fully inflected basic demonstrative (‘that’, see below) and a following particle, so that the original inflectional endings wound up in the middle of the word; each Germanic language resolved that anomalous situation by shifting the endings to the end, tacking on new endings, etc., and in each language the details are somewhat different (so that *this*, Netherlandic *dit*, ModHG *dieses*, etc. are not exactly cognate)

not < ME *not*, *nat*, unstressed form of *nought*, *naught* ‘nothing, nought’ < OE *nāwiht* ← *ne* ‘not’ + *āwiht* ‘anything’, the latter ← *ā* ‘ever’ + *wiht* ‘creature, thing’; cf. ModHG *nicht*, which reflects a conflation of the first and last of those elements (without the middle one)

woman < ME *wuman* < OE *wīfmann* ‘female person’ ← *wīf* ‘woman, female’ (> *wife*) + *mann* ‘human being’ (see below); OE *wīf* < PG **wībą* ‘woman’ (cf. OHG *wīb*, etc.)

neck < OE *hnecca* ‘nape of the neck’; related, but not identical in formation, are ON *hnakkr* and OHG *hnac*; ‘neck’ in OE was *heals* smoke < OE *smoca*, derived from *smēocan* ‘to smoke’ = Middle Dutch *smieken* < PG **smeukaną*; some other related words occur, but none is an exact cognate of the OE noun; another OE word for ‘smoke’ was *rēoc* (> *reek*)

dry < OE *dryge* < **drūgijaz*; cf. *drēagnian* ‘to dry out (intr.)’, Netherlandic *droog*, etc. < **draug-*, but there are no exact cognates of the OE word

PG words of obscure origin:

meat < OE *mete* ‘food’ < PG **matiz* (cf. Gothic *mats*, etc.); ‘meat’ in OE was *flāsc* (> *flesh*)

blood < OE *blōd* < PG **blōdą* (cf. Goth. *blōþ*, etc.)

bone < OE *bān* < PG **bainą* (cf. ON *bein*, etc.)

mouth < OE *mūþ* < PG **munþaz* (cf. Goth. *munþs*, etc.)

liver < OE *lifer* < PG **librō* (cf. ON *lifr*, etc.)

hand < OE *hand* < PG **handuz* (cf. Goth. *handus*, etc.)

claw < OE *clāwu* ← *clēa* < PG **klēwō* (cf. OHG *klāwa*)

rain < OE *reġn* < PG **regną* (cf. Goth. *rign*, etc.)

stone < OE *stān* < PG **stainaz* (cf. Goth. *stains*, etc.)

swim < OE *swimman* < PG **swimmaną* (cf. ON *svimma*, etc.)

sleep < OE *slāpan* < PG **slēpaną* (cf. Goth. *slēpan*, etc.)

drink < OE *drincan* < PG **drinkaną* (cf. Goth. *drigkan*, etc.)

burn < OE *birnan* < PG **brinnaną* (cf. Goth. *brinnan*, etc.)

small < OE *smæl* ‘narrow, small’ < PG **smalaz* (cf. ON *smalr*, etc.)

green < OE *grēne* < PG **grōnijaz* (cf. ON *grænn*, etc.; related to OE *grōwan* (> *grow*), etc., but no cognates outside Germanic)

good < OE *gōd* < PG **gōdaz* (cf. Goth. *gōþs*, etc.)

Word borrowed into PG:

path < OE *pæþ* < PG **paþaz* ← Iranian (Scythian?) **paθ-* (cf. Avestan *pantā*, *paθ-*)

PG innovations based on inherited roots:

you < OE pl. acc. & dat. *ēow* < *īow* < **iwwi* < PG **izwiz* (cf. Goth.

izwis): the PG form reflects the PIE stressed accusative *uswé (elsewhere remodelled as *usmé > Doric Greek *hūmé*; further remodelled in Sanskrit (Skt.) *yusmán*); on the complex remodelling in Germanic see Joshua Katz's 1998 Harvard dissertation

fat < OE adj. *fætt* 'fat(ened)' < PG *faitidaz (cf. OHG *feizzit*), ptc. of *faitijanaþ 'to fatten', derived from adj. *faitaz 'fat' (cf. ON *feittr*): cf. PIE *pí-won- 'fat' > Skt. *pívan-*, Greek *píon-*; the PG words must be based on an o-grade form *poy(H)-, though the details are unclear; the noun 'fat' in OE was *smeoru*

eye < OE *ēage* < PG *augōn- (cf. Goth. *augō*, etc.): a reflex of PIE *h₃ok^w- 'eye', but drastically remodelled on the analogy of PG *auzōn- 'ear' (see below)

head < OE *hēafod* < PG *haubudaþ (cf. Goth. *haubiþ*, etc.): apparently a conflation of some unknown word with PG *hafudaþ (> ON *hofuð*), the latter reflecting western IE *kaput- (cf. Lat. *caput*)

sun < OE *sunne* < PG *sunnōn- (cf. Goth. *sunno*, etc.): a drastically remodelled form that coexisted with PG *sōwel- (> Goth. *sauil*, ON *sól*), the latter < PIE *sah₂wel-, *sóh₂w₁ (> Lat. *sól*)

ashes < OE *ascan*, sg. *asce* < PG *askōn- (cf. ON *aska*, etc.): derived by suffixation from PIE *h₂aHs- 'dry' (> Lat. *ārēre* 'be dry'), also the source of other words for 'ashes' (e.g. Skt. *ásas*) and 'hearth' (e.g. Hittite *hassas*; also Lat. *āra* 'altar')

fly < OE *flēogan* < PG *fleuganaþ (cf. ON *fljúga*, etc.): an extended form of PIE *plew- 'float' (> Skt. *plávatē* 'it floats', etc.)

go < OE *gān* < PG *gai- (cf. OHG *gēn*, but also OHG *gān*, Old Swedish *gá* < PG *gā-): apparently a reflex of PIE *ǵ^heh₁-, which was some sort of motion verb (cf. Skt. *jáhāti* '(s)he lets (it) go', Homeric Greek *kik^hémenai* 'to find')

stand < OE *standan* < PG *standanaþ (cf. Goth. *standan*, etc.): an extended form of PIE *stah₂- (> Lat. *stāre*, etc.)

know < OE *cnāwan* < PG *knē- (cf. ON *kná*): clearly a reflex of PIE *ǵnoh₃- 'recognize' (> Greek aorist *égnō* '(s)he recognized', etc.), but we expect the PG form to have been “*knō-” by the usual

sound changes, and the actually occurring vowel is puzzling

hot < OE *hāt* < PG *haitaz (cf. ON *heitr*, etc.): an extended form of northern IE *kay- (cf. Lithuanian *kaĩsti* 'to get hot', etc.)

cold < OE *cald*, *ceald* < PG *kaldaz (cf. Goth. *kalds*): originally a verbal adj. of PG *kalaną 'to get cold' (> OE *calan*, etc.); the latter reflects PIE *gel- 'to freeze' (Lat. *gelāre*, etc.), but the vowel is unexpected

black < OE *blæc* < PG *blakaz (cf. OHG *blah* 'ink'): originally *'burnt material, soot', to judge from such apparently related verbs as ON *blakra* 'to flash' and Lat. *flagrāre* 'to be on fire'

white < OE *hwīt* < PG *h^wītaz (cf. Goth. *heits*, etc.): an extension of PIE *k^wey-; cf. Skt. *śvétás* 'white' (whose -t- does NOT match that of PG; PG *t = Skt. *d*, while PG *þ (and in some circumstances *d) = Skt. *t*)

Words found in more than one subfamily of Indo-European, but not securely reconstructable for Proto-Indo-European:

many < OE pl. *manige* < PG *managai (cf. Goth. *managai*), stem *managa- < *monogh^o-: cf. Old Irish (OIr.) *menicc* 'often', Old Church Slavonic *mūnogŭ* 'much' (but not all the sounds match)

all < OE pl. *alle*, *ealle* < PG *allai (cf. Goth. *allai*), stem *alla- < *ol-no-: cf. OIr. *uili* < PC *olyoi, stem *ol-yo-

fish < OE *fisc* < PG *fiskaz (cf. Goth. *fisks*) < *piskos: cf. OIr. *iasc* < PC *eiskos < *peyskos, Lat. *piscis* < *piskis; the word does not occur outside the west European branches of IE

breast < OE *brēost* < PG *breustaþ (cf. ON *brjóst*) and *brust- (cf. Goth. *brusts*) < *b^hrews- ~ *b^hrus- 'belly': cf. OIr. *brú* < PC *brusū < *b^hrusō, Russian *brjúxo* < *b^hréwsos

belly < OE *belg* 'hide, bag, bellows' < PG *balgiz < *b^holǵ^h-: cf. OIr. *bolg* 'bag', Old Prussian *balsinis* 'pillow'; OE 'belly' was *wamb* (> *womb*)

tail < OE *tægl* '(horse's) tail' < PG *taglą 'hair' (cf. Goth. *tagl*) < *dokló-: cf. OIr. *dúal* 'lock of hair'; OE 'tail' (the generic term) was *steort*

leaf < OE *lēaf* < PG *laubaz (cf. Goth. *laufs*, etc.) < *lowb^h-: cf. Russian *lub* ‘bast’, and zero-grade *lub^h- in OIr. *luib* ‘herb’; European word

long < OE *lang* < PG *langaz (cf. Goth. *laggs*) < *long^hos: cf. Lat. *longus*; west European word

PIE words that changed their meaning in PG:

one < OE *ān* < PG *ainaz (cf. Goth. *ains*, etc.) < PIE *óynos ‘single’ or the like (cf. Lat. *ūnus*, OIr. *óen*, both ‘one’, also Greek *oínē* ‘one-spot [on dice]’); cf. also *óywos ‘single, lone’ (> Greek *oíos* ‘alone’, Avestan *aēuuō* ‘one’); but the actual numeral ‘one’ was apparently *sem- in PIE (> Greek masc. *heís*, neut. *hén*; cf. also Lat. *semel* ‘once’)

come < OE *cuman* < PG *k^wemanaṅ (cf. Goth. *qiman*, OHG *queman*) < PIE *g^wém-e/o-, aorist subjunctive of *g^wem- ‘step’ (cf. Skt. *gámat* ‘(s)he will go’; present *g^wm̐-ské/ó- > Skt. *gác^hati* ‘(s)he goes’, Greek *báskein* ‘to go’)

bite < OE *bītan* < PG *bītanaṅ (cf. Goth. *beitan*, etc.) < PIE *b^héyd-e/o-, aorist subjunctive of *b^heyd- ‘split’ (cf. Skt. *b^hédati* ‘(s)he will split’; present *b^hi-né-d- ~ *b^hi-n-d- > Skt. *b^hináti* ‘(s)he splits’, Lat. *findere* ‘to split’)

hear < OE *hīeran* < PG *hauzijanaṅ (cf. Goth. *hausjan*) < PIE *h₂k̑-h₂ows-ié/ó- ‘be sharp-eared’ (*h₂ak̑- ‘sharp’, *h₂áwsos ‘ear’; cf. Greek *akoúein* ‘to hear’)

PIE words that survived without drastic change in PG:

I < OE *iç* < PG *ik (cf. OHG *ih*), unstressed form of *ek (cf. ON *ek*) < PIE *égh₂ (cf. Skt. *ahám*, Greek *egō*, Lat. *ego*, all with suffixes); see also above

we < OE *wē* < PG *wiz, unstressed form of *wīz (cf. Goth. *weis*) < *wéyes (cf. Hittite *wēs*) ← PIE *wéy (cf. Skt. *vayám*, with suffix); see also above

that < OE neuter *þæt* < PG *þat (cf. ON *þat*) < PIE *tód (cf. Skt. *tát*, Greek *tó*); see also above

who < OE *hwā* < PG *h^waz (cf. Goth. *huas*) < PIE adj. *k^wós ‘which’

(cf. Skt. *kás* ‘who’)

what < OE *hwæt* < PG *h^wat (cf. ON *hvæt*) < PIE adj. *k^wód ‘which’ (neut.) (cf. Lat. *quod*)

two < OE fem. *twā* < PG *twōz (cf. Goth. *twōs*); the ending is plural (since the dual has been lost in Germanic nominals, except for the 1st- and 2nd-person pronouns), but the stem reflects PIE *dwóh₁ ‘two’ (cf. Skt. *dvá*, Lat. *duo*, etc.)

man < OE *mann* ‘human being, man’ < PG *mann- ‘human being’ (cf. Goth. *manna*) < PIE *manw-, prevocalic form of *mánu- (cf. Skt. *mánus*); a more usual OE word for ‘male human being’ was *wer*

louse < OE *lūs* < PG *lūs (cf. ON *lús*) < PIE *luh₂s- ‘animal’ (?; cf. Welsh *llau* ‘lice’, but also Tocharian B *lwāsa* ‘animals’)

ear < OE *ēare* < PG *auzōn- (cf. ON *eyra*) ~ *ausōn- (cf. Goth. *ausō*) ← PIE *h₂áwsos (cf. Lat. *auris*, Greek *oūs*, etc.) with suffix remodelled

nose < OE *nasu*, *nosu* < PG *nas- (cf. ON *nqs*) ~ *nus- (cf. Netherlandic *neus*) < PIE *nās- ~ *nas- ~ *ns- (cf. Skt. dual *nāsā*, Lat. pl. *nārēs* ‘nostrils’, etc.)

tongue < OE *tunge* < PG *tungōn- (cf. Goth. *tuggō*) < PIE *dn̥ǵ^hwáh₂- (cf. Lat. *lingua*, OLat. *dingua*) with additional n-suffix

tooth < OE *tōþ* < PG *tanþ- (cf. OHG *zand*) ~ *tund- (cf. Goth. *tunþus*) < PIE *h₁dónt- ~ *h₁dnt- (cf. Skt. *dán*, *dánt-* ~ *dat-*, Greek *odoús*, *odónt-*, Lat. *dēns*, *dent-*, etc.), originally a participle of ‘eat’

heart < OE *heorte* < PG *hertōn- (cf. Goth. *hairtō*) ← *k̑erd- ← PIE *k̑ér, *k̑rd- (cf. Hittite *kēr*, *kard-*, Homeric Greek *kēr*, Lat. *cor*, *cord-*)

knee < OE *cnēo* < PG *knewaṅ (cf. Goth. *kniu*) < PIE *ǵnéw-, oblique stem of *ǵónu (cf. Skt. *jānu*, Greek *gónu*, etc.; for the PIE inflection cf. ‘tree’ below)

foot < OE *fōt* < PG *fōt- (cf. ON *fótr*) < PIE *pód̥s, *pód- ~ *ped- (cf. Skt. *pát*, *pád-* ~ *pad-*, Greek *poús*, *pod-*, Lat. *pēs*, *ped-*, etc.)

feather < OE *feðer* < PG *feþrō < *pét-ra-h₂ ‘that with which one flies’ (probably a collective, cf. the ending), late PIE derivative of PIE

*pet- ‘fly’ (cf. Greek *pétes^hai*, etc.)
 horn < OE *horn* < PG *hurną (cf. Goth. *hairn*) < PIE *k₁rn- (cf. Lat. *cornū*, etc.)
 tree < OE *trēo* < PG *trewą ‘tree, wood’ (cf. Goth. *triu* ‘club’) < PIE *dréw- (cf. Skt. genitive *drós*), oblique stem of *dóru (cf. Skt. *dāru*, Greek *dóru* ‘spear(-shaft)’, etc.)
 seed < OE *sāw* < PG *sēdą (cf. ON *sād*) < *sētóm ← PIE *sh₁tóm neut. ‘sown’ (cf. Lat. *satum*), verbal adjective of *seh₁- ‘sow’ (cf. OE *sāwan*, Goth. *saian*, Lat. *sēvit* ‘(s)he sowed’, *sēmen* ‘seed’, etc.)
 moon < OE *mōna* < PG *mēnan- (cf. Goth. *mēna*) ← PIE *meh₁nos- ‘moon, month’ (cf. Lith. *mėnuo* ‘moon’, *mėnesis* ‘month’, etc.)
 star < OE *steorra* ← PG *sternōn- (cf. Goth. *stairnō*) ← PIE *h₂stēr, *h₂ster- (cf. Greek *astēr*, Hittite *hasterz*, etc.)
 night < OE *niht* < PG *naht- (cf. Goth. *nahts*) < *nok^{wt}- ~ *nek^{wt}- (cf. Lat. *nox*, *noct-*, Hittite *nekuz mēhur* ‘evening time’, etc.)
 water < OE *wæter* < PG *watōr, *watin- (cf. Goth. *watō*) ← PIE *wódr̥, *udén-, collective *wédōr (cf. Hittite *wātar*, genitive *widēnas*, coll. *widār*, Skt. *udán-*, etc.)
 sand < OE *sand* < PG *samdaz (cf. ON *sandr*, Middle High German *sambt*) < PIE *sámh₂d^hos (cf. Greek *ámat^hos*)
 earth < OE *eorðe* ← PG *erþō (cf. Goth. *airþa*) < *értā (cf. OIr. *-ert* ‘-land’ in compounds), derivative of PIE *érah₂ (cf. OHG *ero*, Homeric Greek *érasde* ‘earthwards’)
 fire < OE *fȳr* < PG *fōr, *funin- (cf. OHG *fuir*, Goth. *fōn*) ← PIE *páh₂wr̥, *ph₂uén-, coll. *páh₂wōr (cf. Hittite *pahhur*, dat. *pahhueni*, Greek *pūr*, Tocharian B *puwar*, etc.)
 name < OE *nama* < PG *nam (cf. Goth. *namō*) ← PIE *h₁néh₃m̥, *h₁nóh₃mn-, coll. *h₁nóh₃mō (cf. Lat. *nōmen*, Greek *ónoma*, Hittite *lāman*, gen. *lamnas*, Tocharian B *ñem*, etc.)
 sit < OE *sittan* < PG *sitjana (cf. ON *sitja*) < PIE *sed- (cf. Lat. *sedere*, etc.)
 lie < OE *licgan* < PG *ligjana (cf. ON *liggja*) < PIE *leg^h- (cf. Ho-

meric Greek *lék^hos* ‘bed’, etc.)
 eat < OE *etan* < PG *etana (cf. Goth. *itan*) < PIE *h₁ed- (cf. Lat. *edere*, etc.)
 say < OE *secgan* < PG *sagai- ~ *sagja- (cf. OHG *sagēn*, ON *segja*) ← PIE *sek^w- ~ *sok^w- (cf. Lith. *sėkti* ‘to tell about’, *sakýti* ‘to say’, etc.)
 see < OE *sēon* < PG *seh^wana (cf. Goth. *saihan*) < PIE *sek^w- (cf. Hittite *sākua* ‘eyes’ < *sók^wo-)
 full < OE *full* < PG *fullaz (cf. Goth. *fulls*) < PIE *p₁h₁nós (cf. Lith. *pilnas*, Skt. *pūrñás*, etc.)
 red < OE *rēad* < PG *raudaz (cf. Goth. *raups*) < PIE *h₁rowd^hos (cf. OIr. *riúad*), derivative of *h₁rewd^h- ‘be red’ (cf. Homeric Greek *ereú^hein* ‘to redden’, etc.)
 yellow < OE *geolu* < PG *gelwaz (cf. ModHG *gelb*) < PIE *g^heIHwos (cf. Lat. *helvos* ‘honey-colored’, Lith. *žėlvas* ‘green’)
 new < OE *nīowe* < PG *niwjaz (cf. Goth. *niujis*) < PIE *néwios (cf. Skt. *návyas*, Welsh *newydd*, etc.), derivative of *néwos (cf. Hittite *nēwas*, Greek *néos* ‘young’, Lat. *novos*, etc.)

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