

# OLD ENGLISH WORD-STOCK (OEW)



# 1. ETYMOLOGY

---

## 1.1. Native words

a) Common Indo-European words:

Latin - frāter; Russian - брат; Gothic - brōþar; Old English - brōþor

sedēre                      сидеть                      sitan  
sittan

b) Specifically Germanic words:

Gothic - handus; OE - hand; OHG - hant

siggwan                      singan                      singan

c) specifically OE words:

wimman,                      hlāford,                      hlāfdige

Hlāford = hlāf (loaf) + weard (ward) > "bread-guarding"

Hlāfdige = hlāf (loaf) + dige (knead) > "bread-kneading"

(Gothic - hlaiba, Russian - хлеб)

# 1. ETYMOLOGY

---

## 1.2. Borrowings

### **Latin borrowings:**

a) trade and household:

Latin - pondō; Gothic – pund; OHG – pfunt; OE - pund; ModE – pound  
discus - tise disc disk

b) names of Roman settlements and defensive works:

Latin – strāta; castra; OE – strēt; ceaster; ModE – street; military camp  
>Lancaster, Manchester, Devonport, Portsmouth

c) religion and learning:

Latin – episcopos; schola; OE – biscop; scōl; ModE – bishop; school

d) “translation loan-words”:

Latin – Lunedies; OE – Mōnandeg; ModE – Monday  
Martis dies (Mars); Tiwesdeg (Tiu) Tuesday

e) derivatives with the suffix *-arius*:

Latin – tolōnārius (tax-gatherer); OE – tōlnere

Latin – scholārius (scholar); OE – scōlere

New derivatives in OE: fiscere (fisher), writere (writer), becere (baker).

# 1. ETYMOLOGY

---

## 1.2. Borrowings

### **Celtic borrowings**

- a) place-names: Duncombe, Estcombe <  
OE – cumb > ModE (dial.) comb – “a small valley”  
(Welsh cwm)  
OE – dūn > ModE down - “hill” (O.Irish dun)
- b) the names of rivers, mountains and towns:  
ModE (dial.) loch < Gæl. loch „lake”.

## 2. WORD-FORMATION

---

2.1. Simple words

2.2. Derived words:

a) Sound alternations in the root-morpheme:

OE sprēcan (to speak) – OE sprēce (speech)

OE sittan (sit) – OE settan (set)

b) affixation: suffixation and prefixation

Prefixation: mis – OE miscweþan (speak incorrectly),

un – OE unwiseþōm (unwisdom)

Suffixation: -estre – OE becestre (woman-baker),

-nes, -nis – OE blindness (blindness);

OE lic (“a body”) > -ly: OE daglic (daily).

## 2. WORD-FORMATION

---

### 2.3. Word-composition (compound words)

#### a) primary compounds:

nouns: OE *mid* + *niht* (midnight),

verbs: OE *dæl-niman* (take part); OE *ful-fyllan* (fulfil),

“bahuvrihi” (in poetry): *ber-fōt* “bare-footed” (lit. “bare foot”)

#### b) secondary compounds:

OE *rēdes-man* “councilor” (lit. “a man of advice”, *rēdes* is Gen. Sing. of *rād* “advice” + *man* “man”).

# 3. SEMANTIC AND STYLISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OEW

---

## 3.1. Stylistically neutral words

OE wæter - 1) water, 2) rain, 3) a stream, 4) a lake.

## 3.2. Poetic words

OE wine (poetic) – frēond (common) – ModE friend  
kennings - OE bān-cōfa “body” – lit. “the dwelling of bones”.

## 3.3. Learned words

OE pistol – ModE letter (translation).