

CHASE

Consortium for the Humanities and the Arts South-East England

Old English Pronoun Practice

Personal pronouns he/it/she/they:

	<i>Masc</i>	<i>Neut</i>	<i>Fem</i>	<i>Plural</i>
N	he	hit	heo	hi[e]
A	hine	hit	hie	hi[e]
G	his	his	hire	hira [heora]
D	him	him	hire	him [heom]

NOTE: Spelling is variable, especially the vowels. *Hie* could be spelled *hi*; *hira* could be spelled *hyra* or *heora*, etc.

Name the Old English personal pronoun you would use for each of the underlined words:

1. Give him his stylus.
2. Pass it to her.
3. They gave their book to him.
4. Its cover is silver and it shines.
5. He baptized them

Personal pronouns I/we two/we & you/you two/y'all:

1st Person:	<i>Sing</i>	<i>Dual</i>	<i>Plural</i>	2nd Person:	<i>Sing</i>	<i>Dual</i>	<i>Plural</i>
N	ic	wit	we	N	þu	git	ge
A	me[c]	unc	us	A	þe[c]	inc	eow
G	min	uncer	unc	G	þin	incer	eower
D	me	unc	us	D	þe	inc	eow

Name the Old English personal pronoun you would use for each of the underlined words:

1. We two will guard our gold.
2. I will lead you all into battle
3. Our leader gives us rings.
4. Can you introduce me to the bishop?
5. Yes, I can introduce you to the bishop.

Note that in practice, first- and second-person possessive pronouns act like adjectives, taking endings that agree with the nouns they modify. E.g. in the phrase *on minre hande* (in my hand), *min* takes a feminine singular dative ending.

Genesis 40 from the Old English Heptateuch

1. Þa þis wæs þus gedon, þa gelamp **hit**
þæt twegen afyrede men
agylton wyþ **heora** hlaford,
Egypta cynges byrle, 7 **his** bæcestre.
When this was thus done, then it happened
that two servants (lit. eunuchs)
committed offense against their lord,
the King of Egypt's cup-bearer and his baker.
2. 7 Pharao wearþ swyðe yrre.
Ðara oþer bewiste **hys** byrlas,
oþer **hys** bæcestran.
And Pharaoh became very angry.
One of them managed his cupbearers,
the other his bakers.
3. Ða dide **hi** man on cwearten,
on þam wæs eac Iosep gebunden.
Then he had them put in the prison
in which Joseph was also bound.
4. 7 þæs cwearternes hyrde **hi** betæhte Iosepe,
7 **he** þenode **him**.
And the prison-guard appointed them to Joseph,
greeted
5. Binnan fyrste **hi** gesawon begen
swefn on anre nihte.
Within the space..., saw, both
dream, ...of one night
6. Ða wæron **hi** swiþe unrote on merigen.
then, very, unhappy, morning
- 8.¹ 7 cwædon to Iosepe: **Wit** gesawon swefn,
ac **wit** nyton hwa **hit** **unc** atelle hwæt **hit** behealde.
Ða cwæp Iosep: Secgaþ **me** hwæt **gyt** gesawon.
but, do not know, who, may tell, signified
9. Þa rehte þæra byrla ealdor **him** **his** swefn,
7 cwæp: **ic** geseah wingearde.
recounted, the senior cupbearer²
vinyard
10. On þam wæron þreo clystru,
7 **ic** geseah þæron weaxende blostman
litlum 7 litlum, 7 æfter þam blostmum winberian,
on which, branches
thereon, growing, blossoms
grapes
11. 7 Pharaones drincefæt on **minre** hande,
7 **ic** nam þa winberian 7 wrang on þæt fæt
7 sealde Pharaone.
drinking-cup
took, cup
gave
12. Ða cwæp Iosep: Þis is **þin** swefn:
Ða þreo clystru, þæt sind gyt þry dagas:
those are yet
13. Æfter þam Pharao geþencþ **þine** ðenunga
7 **he** geset **þe** to þære ylcan note **þe** **þu** ær hæfdest,
7 **þu** sylst **him** **hys** drincefæt swa **þu** ær didest.
after which, will think on, service
will set/restore, that same office which
will give

¹ There is no equivalent to verse 7 in the text.

² Literally, 'of the cup-bearers leader'.

14. Geþence me þonne þe þin wise licie,
7 lære Pharao
þæt he me ut alæde of þison cwearterne;
when, ruler, is pleased
persuade
lead
15. For ðam þe ic wæs dearunga forstolen
of Ebrea lande 7 her unscyldic on pit beworpen.
because, secretly
unguilty, thrown
16. Ða þæra bæcestra ealdor gehyrde
hu gleawlice he þæt swefn rehte,
ða cwæð he: Ic geseah swefn,
þæt is ðæt ic hæfde ðry windlass mid melewe
ofer min heafod.
When, senior baker
wisely, interpreted
baskets, meal
head
17. 7 on þam yfemestan windle
wære manegra cynna gebæc,
7 fugelas ætan of þam.
uppermost
many kinds of baked things
birds
18. Ða andswarode Iosep, 7 cwæð:
Þys is þin swefn: Ða þri windlass,
þæt synd þry dagas nu gyt.
19. 7 æfter þam hæt Farao þe ahon on rode
7 fugelas fretap ðyn flæsc.
will command, hung on a cross
will devour
20. Syððan wæs se þridda dæg
Pharaones gebyrtdid:
þa worhte he micelne beorscipe his cnihtum;
gemang þam ða geþohte he
þæra byrla ealdor 7 þæra bæcestra.
afterwards
birthday
made, great, beer-party
among them then thought he
of the
21. 7 he gesette þære byrla magyster
to þære note þe he ær hæfde.
master
22. Þone oþerne he het hon on gealgan.
Ða wæs Iosepes sopfæstnes afandod.
had hung on gallows
truthfulness, proven
23. 7 þeahhwæpere þære byrla ealdor
forgeat Iosepes ærende.
nevertheless
message