

2.1 Reading

As stated in the addition to Lesson 1, the paragraph appearing in this lesson is a continuation of the Preface to the Peterborough Chronicle, which was written in 1122; it presents certain anomalies that make it linguistically inconsistent with much of the Chronicle itself, excepting the annals from 1122 on, which were written as part of the First Continuation and excepting certain interpolated passages throughout the manuscript that date not from the inception of the Chronicle in 9th-century Alfredian Wessex but instead with the early 12th-century creation of the Peterborough manuscript. Therefore, the best practice might not require students to begin translating these passages but, instead, to allow an instructor to guide them through a translation of the text with ad-hoc commentary on grammatical aspects and other features.

Facilitating this might be a simple parsing of the passage, marking subjects with a single underline and verbs/verb phrases with double underlines, as follows:

Ða ferdon þa Pihtas ond geferdon þis land. Norþanweard ond suþanweard hit hefdon Brittas,
| swa we ær cwædon. Ond þa Pyhtas heom abædon wif æt Scottum, on þa gerad | þæt hi
gecuron heora kynecinn aa on þa wif healfa, | þæt hi heoldon swa lange syððan. Ond þa
gelamp hit imbe geara rina | þæt Scotta sum dæl gewat of Ybernian on Brittene ond þes
landes sum dæl geeodon. Ond wes heora heratoga Reoda gehaten, fram þam heo sind
genemnode Dæl Reodi.

In lieu of an instructor's guided analysis of the passage, some users might find it helpful to read and contemplate the relationship between the OE material that appears in the book and the following plausible translation:

Then the Picts went and overran this land northward; and southward the Britons possessed it, as we said before. And then the Picts asked for wives for themselves from the Scots, with the understanding that they chose their royal line always on the female side, which they upheld thus long afterward. And then it happened in the course of time that a certain portion of the Scots departed from Ireland into Britain and conquered a certain part of the land. And their leader was named Reoda, from whom they are called the Dal Riata.

2.3 Grammar: case forms and noun declensions

All n-stem nouns appearing in this book

abboðessa f.n-st. "abbess"	almighty"	bana m.n-st. "slayer,
æfþunca m.n-st. "offense,	anda m.n-st. "enmity"	murderer"
displeasure"	ānhaga m.n-st. "recluse"	bēaggyfa m.n-st. "ring-giver,
ærendraca m.n-st.	hermit"	lord"
"messenger"	apostata m.n-st. "an	begenga m.n-st. "inhabitant"
āfera m.n-st. "son, child"	apostate"	bera m.n-st. "bear"
alwalda [†] m.n-st. "the	arwe f.n-st. "arrow"	bīgenga m.n-st. "inhabitant"

boda m.n-st. “messenger, herald”	guard”	warrantor”
boga m.n-st. “bow”	eorðe f.n-st. “earth”	gewinna m.n-st. “enemy, opponent”
bolca m.n-st. “gangway, gangplank”	fāmne* f.n-st. “maid, virgin”	gewitloca m.n-st. “mind”
bolla n.n-st. “bowl, cup”	fārsceaða m.n-st. “enemy, foe”	gewuna m.n-st. “custom, wont”
brema n.n-st. “renowned one”	fēondsceaða† m.n-st. “enemy”	gifola m.n-st. “giver”
brēostcofa† m.n-st. “heart, affections”	fēra* m.n-st. “associate, companion”	gingra m.n-st. “youth, disciple”
brōga m.n-st. “terror, danger”	ferðloca m.n-st. “breast, thoughts”	gingre fem.n-st. “maid- servant”
Brytenwealda m. n-st. “supreme	fēpa m.n-st. “foot-soldier, comrade”	goldgifa† m.n-st. “gold-giver, lord”
bucca m.n-st. “buck, male”	flōda f.n-st. “channel, river”	guma m.n-st. “man, person”
byrne f.n-st. “mail shirt”	flota m.n-st. “vessel, boat”	gūðfana m.n-st. “war-banner, ensign”
byrnwiga m.n-st. “warrior”	folctoga† m.n-st. “leader”	gūðfreca† m.n-st. “warrior”
castela m.n-st. “castellan”	folde f. n-st. “land”	gūðplega m.n-st. “battle, attack”
čempa m.n-st. “warrior, champion”	foregenga m.n-st. “forerunner, predecessor”	gyfa m.n-st. “giver, donor”
čiriče f.n-st. “church”	frætwa f.n-st. “treasures, ornaments”	hafela m.n-st. “head”
čiričhata m.n-st. “church- tormenter”	franca m.n-st. “lance, javelin”	hālifēmne f. n-st. “holy woman”
clēofa m.n-st. “cleft, chasm”	frēa m.n-st. “ruler, lord”	handplega m.n-st. “hand- play’, fight”
comēta m.n-st. “comet” (L)	frōda m.n-st. “wise one”	hara m.n-st. “hare, rabbit”
crisma m.n-st. “christening”	fruma m.n-st. “beginning, origin”	hearpe f.n-st. “harp”
cwene f.n-st. “woman, prostitute”	gealga m.n-st. “gallows, cross”	hearra m.n-st. “lord, master”
cwyda m.n-st. “proverb, saying”	gefēa m.n-st. “joy, happiness”	helsceaða m.n-st. “hell-foe, devil”
dādfroma m.n-st. “doer of deeds”	gefera m.n-st. “companion, fellow”	heorte f.n-st. “heart, soul”
dādhata m.n-st. “ravager”	gegenga* m.n-st. “fellow- traveler” companion”	hereflȳma m.n-st. “deserter
dēma m.n-st. “judge”	gelēafa m.n-st. “belief” faith”	heretoga m.n-st. “commander, general”
draca m.n-st. “dragon”	gemāna m.n-st. “community”	herewæða† m.n-st. “warrior”
drihtguma m n-st.. “warrior”	genga* m.n-st. “fellow- traveler, companion”	hildelēoma m.n-st. “battle- gleam’, battle-light”
ēage n.n-st. “eye”	geolca m.n-st. “yolk”	hildewīsa m.n-st. “commander, general”
ealdgēniðla, m.n-st. “ancient foe”	gerēfa m.n-st. “reeve, sheriff”	hordcofa† m.n-st. “treasure- chest, heart”
eardstapa m.n-st. “earth- walker, wanderer”	geriht n.n-st. “right, justice”	hornboga† m.n-st. “horn-bow’, bow”
ečgplega† m.n-st. “sword- play, battle”	geselda m.n-st. “companion” fellow-retainer”	hringloca m.n-st. “coat of
efenwyrhta m.n-st. “fellow- worker, comrade”	getruma n.n-st. “legion, army	hrūse f.n-st. “ground, earth”
eģesa m.n-st. “awe, fear”	getȳma m.n-st.? “guarantor”	
endesāta m.n-st. “border		

hunta m.n-st. "hunter"
 ieldra m.n-st. "elders,
 ancestors, forebears"
 intinga m.n-st. "matter,
 business"
 inwidda[†] m.n-st. "wicked
 one"
 inwitta n.n-st. "evil,
 deceitful"
 landbīgenga m.n-st. "native,
 peasant"
 lēodhata m.n-st. "tyrant"
 lēofa* m.n-st. "beloved,
 loved"
 lēoma m.n-st. "ray of
 līchama m.n-st. "body,
 corpse"
 lindplega m.n-st. "shield-play,
 battle"
 loca n.n-st. "lock, bolt"
 lufe f.n-st. "love"
 maþpumgyfa m.n-st.
 "treasure-giver"
 meniġu f. īn-st. "the
 meowle[†] f.n-st. "maiden"
 meregrota m.n-st. "pearl"
 mitta m.n-st. "measure,
 bushel"
 mōdsefa m.n-st. "heart, mind"
 molde f.n-st. "soil, ground"
 mōna m.n-st. "moon"
 morgencolla[†] m.n-st.
 "morning-terror"
 mundbora m.n-st. "protector,
 preserver"
 myre f.n-st. "mare"
 naca m.n-st. "ship, vessel"
 nama m.n-st. "name"
 nefas m.n-st. "nephew"
 nihtscua m.n-st. "shadow of
 nunna f.n-st., female
 religious"
 ordfruma m.n-st. "source,
 author"
 oxa m.n-st. "ox"

racente f.n-st. "chain, fetter"
 rāswa[†] m.n-st. "leader"
 saca f.n-st. "lawsuit"
 sālida m.n-st. "seafarer,
 sailor"
 sārīma m.n-st. "sea-coast,
 shore"
 sčaða m.n-st. "attacker,
 assassin"
 sčeaþa m.n-st. "chip,
 shaving"
 sčeaða m.n-st. "criminal,
 enemy"
 sčīma m.n-st. "radiance,
 brightness"
 sčipflota m.n-st. "sailor,
 seaman"
 sčyldwīga m.n-st. "warrior"
 sefa m.n-st. "mind, spirit"
 seldguma m.n-st. "hall-man"
 sinčgyfa m.n-st. "treasure-
 giver, king"
 sōðbora m.n-st. "soothsayer,
 astrologer"
 spearwa m.n-st. "sparrow"
 stefna m.n-st. "stem, prow"
 steorra m.n-st. "star"
 sumerlida m.n-st. "summer
 army"
 sweora m.n-st. "neck"
 swīca m.n-st. "traitor,
 betrayer"
 swīma[†] m.n-st. "swoon"
 tella m.n-st. "rank, station"
 tēona m.n-st. "hurt, injury"
 tīma m.n-st. "time, period"
 tohte[†] f.n-st. "battle"
 truma* m.n-st. "legion, troop"
 tunge f.n-st. "tongue"
 tungelwitega m.n-st.
 "astrologer"
 tūngerēfa m.n-st. "town-reeve,
 bailiff"
 tunne f.n-st. "tun, butt"
 tyma [tīma] f.n-st. "time"

þēostru [þīestro] f. īn-st.
 ūhta m.n-st. "pre-dawn"
 underþeodda m.n-st. "a
 subject"
 ūþwita m.n-st. "scholar"
 waldendwyrhta m.n-st.
 "master-builder"
 wange* n.n-st. "cheek"
 wela m.n-st. "prosperity,
 happiness"
 wīga m.n-st. "fighter,
 warrior"
 wīgplega m.n-st. "war-play,
 war-sport"
 wīhaga m.n-st. "war-hedge,
 phalanx"
 willa m.n-st. "desire, wish"
 wīse f.n-st. "way, manner"
 wīsa m.n-st. "leader"
 wita m.n-st. "wise one"
 witan m.n-st. pl. "council"
 wītega m.n-st. "wise-man,
 prophet"
 wīpersaca* m.n-st. "foe"
 wlenco f.in-st. "pride, daring"
 wōma m.n-st. "noise, tumult"
 wrecca m.n-st. "wretch,
 fugitive"
 wyrhta m.n-st. "worker,
 maker"
 yrfenuma m.f.n-st. "heir,
 successor"

2.6 Exercise

1. masculine or neuter genitive singular.
2. $\bar{p}ys$.
3. $\bar{p}ys$.
4. masculine or neuter dative singular; dative or instrumental plural for all genders.
5. singular subject.
6. feminine, genitive, plural.
7. singular subject or singular direct object (and sometimes the singular object of a preposition taking accusative objects).
8. $\bar{p}eos$.
9. feminine, accusative, singular; masculine, feminine, or neuter nominative plural; masculine, feminine, or neuter accusative plural.
10. $m\bar{o}nan$.