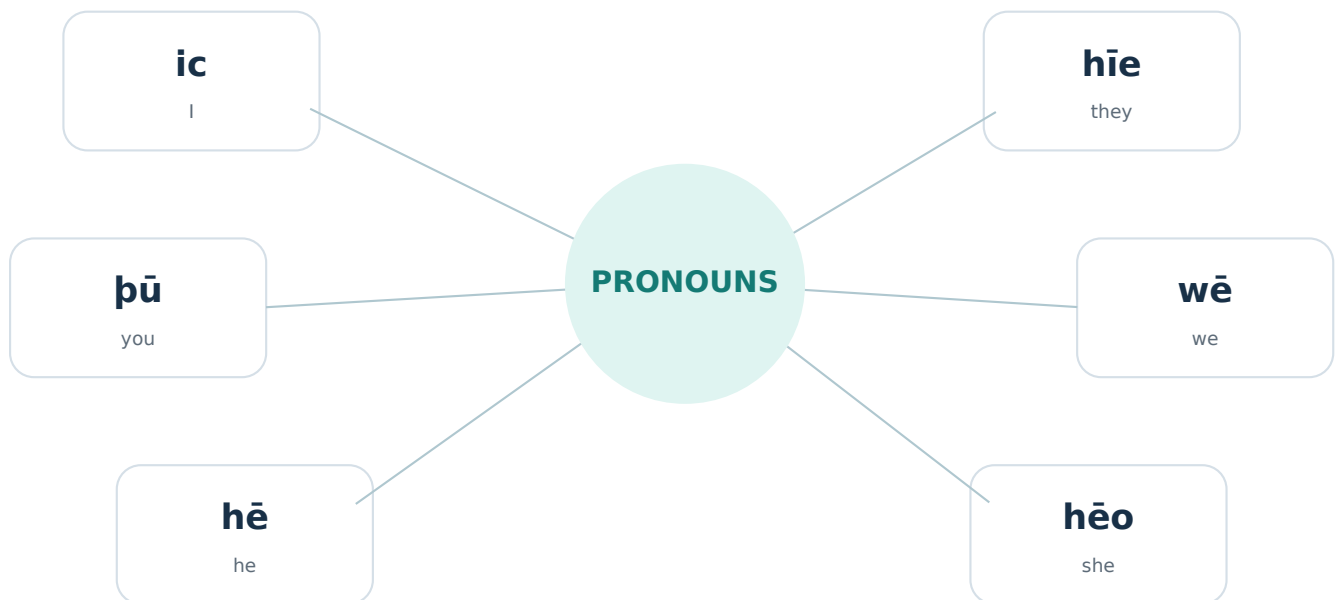


Old English Pronouns

I, You, He, She, We and They

A visual classroom lesson for the main pronouns, dual forms, cases, possession and pronunciation.



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STEP 1

Meet the Core Pronouns

Quick Nav

Start with the subject forms. Use these when the pronoun is doing the action.

ic

I

þū

you - one

hē

he

hēo

she

hit

it

wē

we

gē

you - several

hīe

they

Teacher board: singular -> plural

1st person

ic**wē**

I -> we

2nd person

þū**gē**

you -> you

3rd person

hē / hēo / hit**hīe**

he / she / it -> they

One-line memory check

ic = I | þū = you | hē = he | hēo = she | hit = it

wē = we | gē = you all | hīe = they

STEP 2

Learn I and You

Quick Nav

Learn the singular forms by job: subject, object, possession, and to/for.

FIRST PERSON

īc

I

subject	īc
object	mē
possessive	mīn
to / for	mē

SECOND PERSON

þū

you - one person

subject	þū
object	þē
possessive	þīn
to / for	þē

Teacher board: follow the same four jobs



Example: **īc eom hēr.** = I am here. **þū eart hēr.** = You are here.

What to remember

mīn is related to modern mine. **þīn** is related to thine. Use these familiar forms as anchors before learning the full case map.

STEP 3

Learn He, She and It

Quick Nav

Third-person singular pronouns show masculine, feminine, and neuter grammatical gender.

hē he masculine object possessive to / for hine his him	hēo she feminine object possessive to / for hīe hire hire	hit it neuter object possessive to / for hit his him
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Teacher board: grammatical gender is a grammar label



Key distinction

Old English noun gender is grammatical. A noun can be masculine, feminine, or neuter even when natural sex is not involved.

STEP 4

Learn We, You and They

Quick Nav

Move to the ordinary plural forms. These three are central to reading short Old English sentences.

1st person

wē

we

object

ūs

possessive

ūre

2nd person

gē

you - several

object

ēow

possessive

ēower

3rd person

hīe

they

object

hīe

possessive

hira

Teacher board: spot the modern-English family resemblance

wē

we

ūs

us

ūre

our

his

his

him

him

The third-person plural is less familiar: hīe = they; hira = their; him/heom = to or for them.

Read this aloud

Wē sindon hēr. = We are here. Gē sindon hēr. = You are here.

Hīe sindon hēr. = They are here.

STEP 5

Discover Dual Pronouns

Quick Nav

Old English can mark exactly two people. Modern English usually needs extra words such as “we two” or “you two.”



wit

we two



git

you two

Teacher board: one -> exactly two -> ordinary plural



Only first and second person have special dual forms. There is no separate third-person dual pronoun.

Subject	Object	Possessive	To / For
wit	unc	uncer	unc
git	inc	incer	inc

Fast distinction

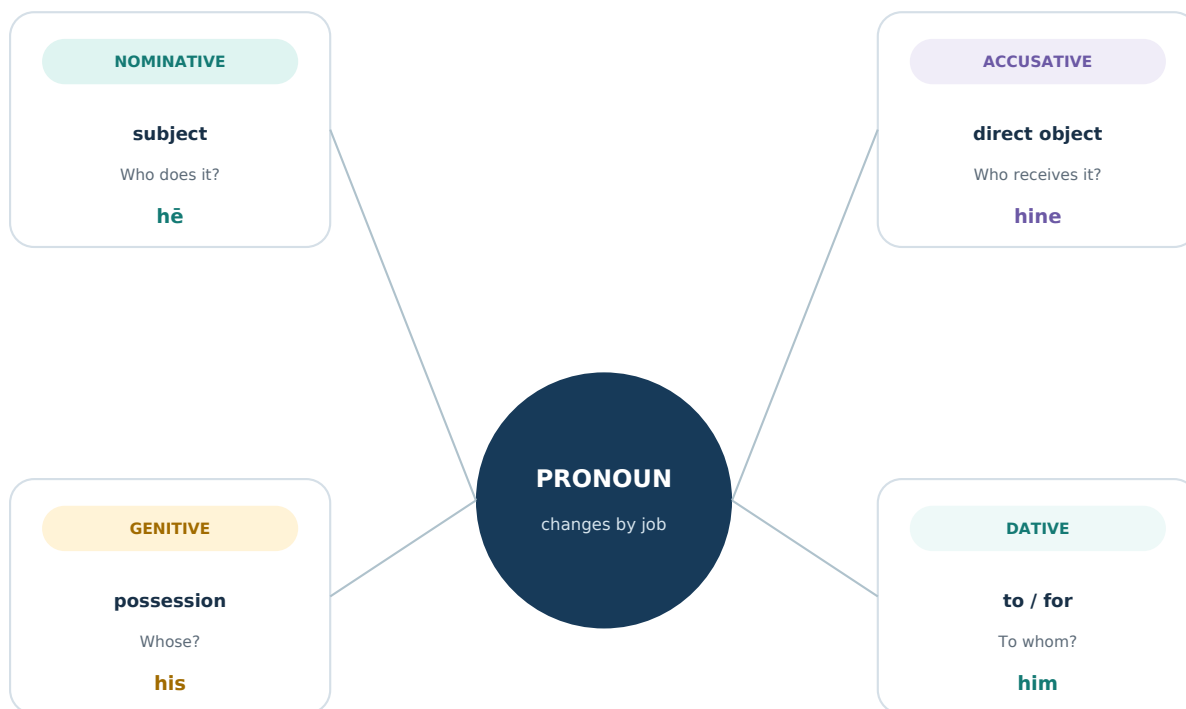
ic = I, wit = we two, wē = we. þū = you one, git = you two, gē = you several.

STEP 6

Understand the Four Cases

Quick Nav

Case tells you what job a pronoun is doing in the sentence.



Sentence map

Se cyning geseah **hine.** → **hine = accusative object**
 the king saw him

Use the case label to identify the job, then learn the matching form.

Four-job shortcut

Nominative = subject. Accusative = direct object. Genitive = possession. Dative = to/for or certain prepositions.

STEP 7

Read the Full Case Map

Quick Nav

Use the left column to find person and number, then move across to the job you need.

Person	Subject	Object	Possessive	To / For
1st sg.	ic	mē	mīn	mē
1st dual	wit	unc	uncer	unc
1st pl.	wē	ūs	ūre	ūs
2nd sg.	þū	þē	þīn	þē
2nd dual	git	inc	incer	inc
2nd pl.	gē	ēow	ēower	ēow
3rd masc.	hē	hine	his	him
3rd fem.	hēo	hīe	hire	hire
3rd neut.	hit	hit	his	him
3rd pl.	hīe	hīe	hīra	him / heom

Reading shortcut

First find person and number. Then move across to subject, object, possession, or to/for.

Normalized learner forms are shown; manuscripts can contain spelling variants.

STEP 8

Show Possession

Quick Nav

These genitive forms often work like modern my, your, his, her, our, and their.

mīn

my / mine

þīn

your / yours

his

his

hire

her

ūre

our

ēower

your - plural

hira

their

Teacher board: use familiar descendants as memory anchors

mīn

mine

þīn

thine

ūre

our

his

his

Mini examples

mīn bōc = my book his bōc = his book ūre bōc = our book

At this stage, learn the possessive meaning first. Detailed adjective agreement can come later.

STEP 9

Say the Pronouns

Quick Nav

Use pronunciation as a recognition aid. These are learner approximations, not exact modern sounds.

Old English	Meaning	Learner sound
īc	I	roughly "itch"
þū	you	"thoo"; th as in thin
hē	he	long "eh"; no y-glide
hēo	she	roughly "hay-oh" smoothly
hit	it	close to "hit"
wē	we	roughly "way"; no y-glide
gē	you - plural	roughly "yay"; no y-glide
hīe	they	roughly "hee-eh"

► Thorn

þū

→ th sound

The letter þ is thorn. Read it as th here, not as p or b.

Macron

wē

→ long vowel

The line above a vowel is an editorial mark that shows vowel length.

STEP 10

Match Pronouns with Verbs

Quick Nav

Pronouns help identify the person. Learn one model pattern, then reuse it.

Teacher board: one verb, different persons

ic	→	wīte	I write
þū	→	wīrst	you write
hē	→	wīt	he writes
wē	→	wītaþ	we write
gē	→	wītaþ	you write
hīe	→	wītaþ	they write

Pattern to notice

With this verb, wē, gē, and hīe share wītaþ. The pronoun tells you who is acting even when the plural verb ending is the same.

Read together:

wē wītaþ | gē wītaþ | hīe wītaþ

Check What You Know

[Quick Nav](#)

Use these four short groups after the ten steps. They check recognition, number, cases, and pronunciation.

A. Pronoun Recognition

1. Which Old English pronoun means "I"?
2. Which form means "you" for one person?
3. Which form means "they"?

B. Number and Dual Forms

4. What does wit mean?
5. What does git mean?
6. Which ordinary plural form means "you"?

C. Cases

7. Which case usually marks the subject?
8. Which case commonly shows possession?
9. In hē -> hine, what job does hine usually perform?

D. Translation and Sound

10. Translate: Wē sindon hēr.
11. What sound does þ represent in þū?
12. What does the macron show in forms such as wē?

Self-check target

Recognise 8 core subjects + 2 dual forms + 4 case jobs.