

**EXERCISES IN OLD ENGLISH  
BASED UPON THE PROSE  
TEXTS OF THE AUTHOR'S  
"FIRST BOOK IN OLD ENGLISH"**

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Exercises in Old English Based Upon the Prose Texts of the Author's "First Book in Old English"  
by Albert S. Cook

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# EXERCISES IN OLD ENGLISH

BASED UPON THE PROSE TEXTS OF THE AUTHOR'S  
"FIRST BOOK IN OLD ENGLISH"

BY

ALBERT S. COOK

PROFESSOR OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN  
YALE UNIVERSITY

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## PREFACE.

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THE author's experience in the teaching of Old English has persuaded him that exercises for translation into Old English would serve a useful purpose. A sufficient reading knowledge is often acquired before there is any adequate mastery of forms. Such mastery is of the first importance, considering that Old English is studied quite as much for the light it sheds upon the subsequent development of English speech as for any other reason; yet it is not easy to induce the student to make the requisite effort when he no longer finds especial difficulty in reading the text. On the other hand, to require an exhaustive knowledge of inflections at the very outset is somewhat opposed to current pedagogical theory, which assumes that there should be at least a superficial acquaintance with the phenomena before any considerable attempt at classifying them is made. In this dilemma, a book of exercises, only sufficient in length to enforce the requisite knowledge of inflections, of groups like the various classes of verbs, and of the most essential principles of syntax, appeared likely to offer the teacher what is needed. Such an aid is commonly employed in teaching the two ancient languages, and all the modern ones; if it be an innovation to make use of it in the teach-

ing of Old English, it is not because there could be any serious doubts of its utility, but because pedagogical skill has scarcely been turned in this direction.

The exercises here provided fall roughly into two divisions. The earlier ones follow somewhat closely the opening selections of the author's First Book in Old English in respect to the words employed and the mold of sentences, the particular selections being referred to by Roman numerals; the later ones deviate more widely from the corresponding selections in this respect, and will require more frequent reference to the Vocabulary provided at the end of the book. This deviation, however, is not from good usage; for the exercises under consideration are usually based upon such texts as the Gospels and Ælfric's Homilies. The necessity of rendering the form of the Old English sentence unmistakable to the attentive student has sometimes led to a departure from familiar modern idiom, especially in the case of Scriptural passages. In a few instances this transgression of idiomatic propriety may be regarded as excessive; but perhaps it will be forgiven in view of the exigency which occasioned it.

The author has intended to supply all needful assistance in the way of syntactical references, and of the suggestion, when doubt might arise, of the proper word. If in this respect or any other he has failed to supply the reasonable demands of the teacher or student, he will be grateful for such hints as may enable him to effect an improvement.

YALE UNIVERSITY,  
April 15, 1896.



## EXERCISES IN OLD ENGLISH.



### I.

#### Exercise 1.

1. The evening and the morning. 2. The day and the night. 3. The earth and the heaven. 4. The fish and the bird. 5. The grass and the seed. 6. The tree and the herb. 7. The dry land and the water. 8. The image and the likeness. 9. The light and the darkness (plur.). 10. The sign and the season. 11. The spirit and the life. 12. The creature and the food. 13. The year and the day. 14. The man and the animal. 15. The tree and the fruit. 16. The firmament and the abyss.

#### Exercise 2.

1. The days and the nights. 2. The fishes and the birds. 3. The trees and the herbs. 4. The images and the likenesses. 5. The signs and the seasons. 6. The years and the days. 7. The men and the animals. 8. The seas and the heavens. 9. The seeds and the fruits. 10. The evenings and the mornings. 11. The spirits and the men. 12. The whales and the cattle.

**Exercise 3.**

[NOTE.— In the case of a noun with limiting genitive, it is more in accordance with Old English idiom to leave untranslated the article defining the limited noun, and to make the limited noun follow the genitive. For instances see *First Book*, p. 123, l. 3; p. 124, l. 14; p. 126, ll. 7, 12.]

1. The beginning of the day. 2. The spirit of God.  
 3. The light of the life. 4. The life of the bird.  
 5. The food of the fish. 6. The firmament of the  
 heaven. 7. The beasts of the earth. 8. The face of  
 the deep. 9. The congregations of the waters. 10. The  
 waters of the sea. 11. The fishes of the sea. 12. The  
 birds of the air. 13. The array of the heavens and of  
 the earth. 14. The works of God. 15. The kinds  
 of the animals. 16. The stars of the heaven. 17. The  
 seeds of the grass. 18. The illumination of the nights.

**Exercise 4.**

[NOTE.— For adjectives preceded by a demonstrative, see 55.]

1. The great whales. 2. The earth was empty and  
 void. 3. The things were good. 4. The fruit-bearing  
 trees. 5. The great lights. 6. The little star. 7. The  
 smaller bird. 8. The larger tree. 9. The life of the  
 good man. 10. The beginning of the seventh night.  
 11. The waters of the great sea. 12. The second  
 (80) day and the second night. 13. The third day  
 of the second year. 14. The food of the fifth man.  
 15. The light of the sixth evening. 16. The works  
 of the moving creatures. 17. The morning of the  
 first day. 18. Increase (sing.) and be multiplied.

**Exercise 5.**

1. God created the heavens and the earth. 2. God made two great lights. 3. God made the firmament. 4. God created the great whales. 5. He made the beasts of the earth. 6. He saw all those things. 7. He finished his work. 8. He blesses the seventh day. 9. The man ceases from his work. 10. I see the bird in the tree. 11. They saw the fish in the water. 12. The birds of the air fly. 13. The trees grew. 14. The stars shone. 15. The fish swims. 16. The men swam.

**Exercise 6.**

1. The animal lives. 2. The bird flies. 3. The tree grows. 4. The man rules over the cattle of the earth. 5. Let him be over the birds and (over) the beasts. 6. The stars are above the sea. 7. It is for your food [to you for food]. 8. The herb bears seed. 9. The tree yields fruit. 10. The air is very good. 11. The things are very good. 12. The birds were very good. 13. The light of the stars was very good. 14. He gave them all trees. 15. I give you all things upon earth. 16. I call the firmament Heaven.

**Exercise 7.**

1. He has dominion. 2. He blesses the earth. 3. He says thus. 4. Now is the season. 5. It was so called. 6. Behold, God rules over the earth. 7. The tree is in the midst of the grass. 8. The earth is in the midst of the air. 9. The waters are under the firmament. 10. Birds are the food of the animal. 11. Divide (plur.)