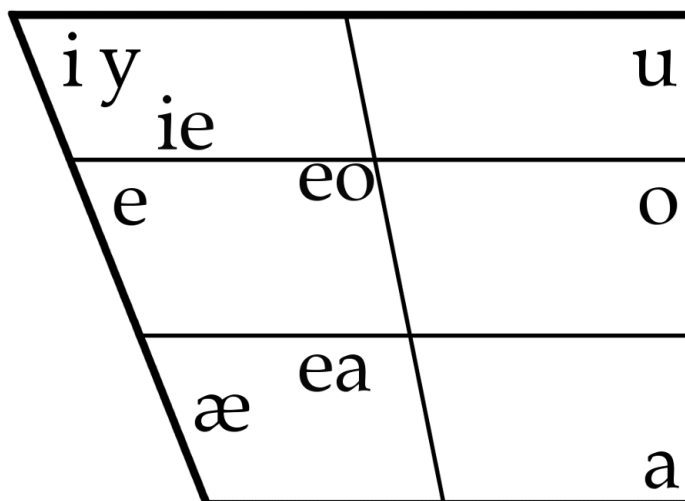


Old English Sound Changes



*bōciz	*mūsiz
bōtjan	fulljan

The word forms above are variously reconstructed Proto-English and attested Gothic. The image at the top shows the Old English (West Saxon) vowel system, with phonemes represented by their graphemes rather than in phonemic transcription.

1. In what sense can the word forms in the top table row be called unassimilated?
2. What do you predict these two forms will look like at a later stage of the language, and why?
3. Why might the items in the second row be expected to undergo the same development?
4. Can you explain what happened to the forms in the table below?

Early form	sifon	efor	herot	gætu
Late form	siofon	eofor	heorot	geatu

Introduction to English Linguistics

Variant 1	Variant 2	Variant 1	Variant 2	Variant 1	Variant 2
feh	feoh	hros	hors	niman	nioman
fela	feola	enleofan	endleofan	werpa	worpa
stefn	stemn	blīps	bliss	æfterra	æftra
þēodenes	þēodnes	hēahnes	hēanes	bōce	bēc

5. Identify for each of the above word-pairs which phenomenon is illustrated:
front mutation; back mutation; breaking; retraction; elision; syncope; epenthesis;
metathesis; assimilation.