Consonant class	*PIE	Latin	Greek	English	Examples
VOICELESS STOPS	*p	p	p	f	*pedal, podiatry, **f**oot*
	*t	t	t	θ	*triple, triad, **thr**ee*
	*k	k	k	h	*cordial,[5] cardiac, **h**eart*
VOICED STOPS	*b	b	b	p	*Very rare*
	*d	d	d	t	*endure, dryad, **t**ree*
	*g	g	g	k	*cognition, prognosis, **k**now*
VOICED	*bʰ	f	pʰ	b	*refer, euphoria, **b**ear*
ASPIRATED	*dʰ	f	tʰ	d	*forum, thyroid, **d**oor*
STOPS	*gʰ	h	kʰ	g	*horticulture, chorus, **g**ird*

Figure 3.3 PIE cognates in Latin, Greek and English

two rows, /p, t, k, b, d, g/, kept their quality, or a quality very similar to the original PIE input.

The third set involving the PIE aspirated voiced stops */bʰ, dʰ, gʰ/ represents a more complex development. 💻 In Germanic the aspirated stops are reconstructed as going through an intermediate stage of voiced fricatives /β, ð, ɣ/; they result ultimately in voiced stops /b, d, g/ in West Germanic/Old English. PIE */bʰ, dʰ, gʰ/ first get devoiced to /pʰ, tʰ, kʰ/ in word-initial position, which is the result of the shift we find attested in Greek. In the Italic branch, as attested in Latin, the aspirated voiceless stops /pʰ, tʰ, kʰ/ become voiceless fricatives /f, f, h/. Of special note for the shift in Latin is the merger of the labial and the dental, where the place difference is neutralised in favour of the labial.[4]

Figure 3.3 illustrates the First Consonant Shift with native English words and cognates borrowed from Latin and Greek.

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[4] The confusability of the fricatives /f/ and /θ/ and their merger is perceptually motivated. A parallel merger of /θ/ and /f/ is attested in some English dialects. Though 'generally associated with Cockney and London pronunciation . . . it is in fact characteristic not only of the Home Counties as a whole but of areas further afield. It can, for example, be heard in Leeds' (Wakelin 1972: 98). Wells (1982, II: 329) illustrates the variability of [f] ~ [θ] in Cockney with a pun: 'Advertisements for beer award the brand in question "thirst prize".' 💻

[5] The spelling for /k/ in Latin is <c>: as in *cor* 'heart', *centum* 'hundred', *celer* 'swift', *culmen* 'summit', and so on.