

Letter	Value	Examples
<ð>/<þ>	[θ]	<i>ðrēo</i> ‘three’, <i>þīn</i> ‘thine’, <i>bæþ</i> ‘bath’ (at word-edges and before C)
	[ð]	<i>hwæþer</i> ‘whether’, <i>baþian</i> ‘bathe’, <i>hræðe</i> ‘rather’ (between voiced sounds)
<c>	[k]	<i>bōc</i> ‘book’, <i>cræft</i> ‘craft’, <i>cweðan</i> ‘say’ (adjacent to back vowels and C)
	[kʲ]/[tʃ]	<i>čild</i> ‘child’, <i>čēse</i> ‘cheese’, <i>rīčē</i> ‘kingdom’ (adjacent to front vowels) <sup>11</sup>
<g>	[j]	<i>ġiet</i> ‘yet’, <i>mæġden</i> ‘maiden’, <i>dæg</i> ‘day’, <i>reġn</i> ‘rain’ (next to <i>/front vowels)
	[g]	<i>grund</i> ‘ground’, <i>ġast</i> ‘ghost’, <i>ġnatt</i> ‘gnat’ (initially before back V and sonorant)
	[ɣ]	<i>dragan</i> ‘draw’, <i>lagu</i> ‘law’ (between back vowels)
<-g> ~ <-h>	[x] ~ [h]	<i>mearg</i> ~ <i>mea<sup>h</sup></i> ‘marrow’, <i>dāg</i> ~ <i>dā<sup>h</sup></i> ‘dough’ (finally after back V and sonorant)

**Digraphs**

<cg>	—— [dʒ]	<i>brycġ</i> ‘bridge’, <i>secġ</i> ‘sedge’
<sc>	—— [ʃ]	<i>sēip</i> , ‘ship’, <i>sēulan</i> ‘must’, <i>sēieppan</i> ‘create’

Figure 4.2 Some letter–sound correspondences for OE consonants

the loss of phonemic gemination in his dialect. The south lags behind, but degemination there must have been very advanced or even fully accomplished by the end of the fourteenth century.

**4.2 Sound-to-spelling correspondences of the consonants in OE**

Projecting the present into the past inevitably requires information on the written shape of the words in the older language. Linking spelling to pronunciation provides the philological foundation for figuring out the intended pronunciation of OE. With some extra effort and time, one can develop the skill to read edited OE texts aloud and appreciate the ‘sound’ of the older language. To complement the classification of the OE consonants in Figure 4.1, Figure 4.2 lists some common correspondences between consonant letters and letter combinations used in OE

<sup>11</sup> The overdot on the letters <ċ> and <ġ> is not in the manuscripts. It is a common editorial practice indicating palatalisation in OE scholarly and pedagogical materials. This text will use the overdot only when the palatality of the consonant is of some consequence.