

## Activity 18.8 - *A Yorkshire Dialogue*

### Yorkshire dialectal words and pronunciations

The pronunciations of the following dialect words are listed in alphabetical order of the spelling of the main vowels. The transcription is speculative sometimes, and assumes that the writer's spellings are consistent in representing the dialectal pronunciations.

<a> = short [æ] ~ [a]

farrand	with qualifying word refers to disposition, eg <i>well-farrand</i> .
Fatther	pronounced with "short a" –[fæðər]
gang	from OE <i>gangan</i> , the reduplicated form of <i>gan</i> which does not survive in Standard English.
gat	original past tense of <i>get</i> from ON <i>geta</i> . StE <i>got</i> resulted from the assimilation of the vowel of <i>gat</i> to the vowel of the past participle <i>goten</i> .
mack	from OE <i>macian</i> , retaining the short vowel, [mæk]
tack	from ON <i>taka</i> , retaining the short /a/ which in southern dialects lengthened and eventually raised to [ɛː] or [eː].
varra	variation of <i>very</i> .
wallaneerin	<i>Welladay</i> and <i>wellaway</i> were expressions of sorrow, like <i>alas</i> . The form <i>wellanear</i> appears to have derived from the substitution of <i>anear</i> for <i>away</i> . The forms <i>wellanearing</i> or <i>wallanearin</i> are extensions of <i>wellanear</i> .

<ai> = [eː]

flaid	past participle of <i>fley</i> from ON <i>fleyja</i> , OE <i>flegan</i> , = <i>frightened, scared, worried</i> .
mains	from OE <i>mægen</i> or ON <i>megenn</i> meaning <i>force, strength</i> , used as an adverb to mean <i>very</i>

<ay> = [e]

say	past tense from OE <i>seon</i> , ON <i>sea</i> , = <i>saw</i> ; compare OE past tense <i>ic seah</i> .
sayr	from OE <i>sar</i> , ON <i>sarr</i> . The vowel has fronted to [e], whereas in other dialects and RP it retracted to [ɔ].

<aw> = [ɑ]

awd	from OE northern dialect <i>ald</i> ; StE <i>old</i> derives from the Mercian dialect, in which <i>ald</i> first lengthened to <i>āld</i> and then shifted to <i>ōld</i> .
cawd	has a similar pattern of derivation from OE northern <i>cald</i> .
Chawmber	retains the vowel of OF <i>chambre</i> .
Crawe	from OE <i>crawe</i> , retaining the original vowel.

<ae> = [æ] ?

Cael	= <i>broth, soup</i>
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<ar> = [ar]

hard	past tense of <i>hear</i> , from Northern OE <i>herde</i> from <i>heran</i> and ON <i>heyra</i> .
warke	the ON verb <i>verkja</i> meant <i>to feel pain, ache</i> , and this is the meaning of <i>warke</i> here.

## &lt;are&gt; = [ɛ:r]

evermare -*mare* from OE *māra* and ON *meire*. The vowel of OE *māra* rounded to the back vowel of *mōre* in Southern dialects. Later, the vowel of Northern *māre* shifted in the other direction to the front vowel [ɛ].

## &lt;au&gt; = [aʊ]

haud from Northern OE *haldan* and ON *balda*.

Naunt from OF *aunte*; the phrase *mine aunt* gave rise to the pronunciation *my naunt* by a mistaken division of the words - similar to the change of *a nadder* (OE *an næddre*) to *an adder* in Standard English today, but "in reverse".

Saul from OE *sawol*.

## &lt;aw&gt; = [a]

knawe OE *cnāwan* and ON *knā*. Another example of the retention of the older pronunciation in the North.

snawke = *inhale*

tawke ME *talken* from OE *talū* (*tale*) and *tellan* (*tell*).

## &lt;e&gt; = [e]

semper = *simper*

## &lt;ea&gt; = [e]

Presumably Meriton is using the digraph <ea> to represent the open front vowel, so that <eau> is a diphthong [ɛʊ].

deaur from OE *duru* or *dore*.

feaul from ME *fōl* from OF *fol*

Leauke/leauks from OE *lōcian*

greave [grɛ:v], from OE *græf*, ME *grāve*.

neay [nɛ:], probably a single vowel; from ON *nei*.

seave [sɛ:v], from OF *salver/sauver*, ME *sauven/sāven*.

seay [sɛ:], from OE *swā*, ME *sō*.

## &lt;ee&gt; = [i:]

Kneet [ni:t], from OE *cnihht*, ME *knight* /kniçt/.

Leet/ Leetsome [li:t], from OE *leoht/līht*, ME *liçt* /liçt/.

Reet [ri:t], from OE *riht*, ME *riçt* /riçt/.

Neen = *een*, (*eyes*) from OE *eagan/ēgen*, ME *ēzen*; compare the form *neen* with *naunt*.

Stee from ON *stige/stege*, *ladder*, *staircase*; only in Northern dialects.

steeke from OE *stecan*, ME *steken*, (*to shut*); Northern dialects.

## &lt;ew&gt; = /ø/ ? (rounded front vowel)

Newke *nook*, origin not known, but earliest recorded examples are Northern.

**<i> = [ɪ]**

Clim	retains the short vowel of OE <i>climban</i> which elsewhere lengthened.
gitten	Northern dialectal form of <i>getten</i> from ON <i>geta</i>
wilta	<i>wilt thou</i> , with reduced and assimilated spoken form of <i>thou</i> .
winderboard	indicates reduced unstressed second syllable of <i>window</i> .

**<i-e> = diphthong [əɪ] ~ [aɪ] ?**

Belive	from ME <i>be life</i> = <i>with life</i> = <i>quickly, soon</i> .
sike	reduced form of <i>swilk</i> , <i>swik</i> from OE <i>swylc</i> ; elsewhere ME <i>swich</i> etc, MnE <i>such</i> .
stime	origin not known; <i>not to see a stime</i> means <i>to be unable to see anything</i> .

**<y> = diphthong [əɪ] ~ [aɪ] ?**

flyer	<i>fleer</i> , probably from ON, <i>to laugh</i> .
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**<o> = [ɒ]**

Cozen	from French <i>cousin</i> .
dovening	from ON <i>dofna</i> ; the verb <i>dover</i> meant <i>to doze</i> .
onny	from OE <i>ānig</i> ,

**<oe/o-e> = [oɪ]**

whopes	from OE <i>hopian</i> ; the spelling <wh-> presumably indicates a pronunciation like [hw] or [ʍ].
woes	= <i>woos</i> , from OE <i>wōgian</i> ; retains original vowel.

**<ou> = [uɪ]**

aboun	reduced form of early Northern ME formation <i>abufan</i> , from <i>a-</i> + OE <i>bufan</i> .
stoun	from OE & ON <i>stund</i> ; only Northern dialects, meaning <i>to smart, ache</i> .

**<u> = [ʊ]**

dus/duz	[dʊs ~ dʊz]; RP pronunciation [dʊz] did not begin to emerge until the 18th C.
mun	dialectal auxiliary verb from ON <i>monu/munu</i> , meaning <i>must</i> .
nut	perhaps the reduced form of <i>not</i> , [nʊt] rather than [nʊt].
tull	from OE <i>tilian</i> ( <i>to strive, acquire</i> ), here meaning <i>to seek</i> .

**<ur> = [ʊr]**

Snurles	dialectal word meaning <i>nostrils</i> ; compare the derivation of <i>nostril</i> from OE <i>nos</i> + <i>þyrl</i> .
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**<'th>**

= Meriton's spelling of the reduced Yorkshire pronunciation of *the*, which is commonly an unreleased [t<sup>ɹ</sup>]; often represented in written prose as <t'>.