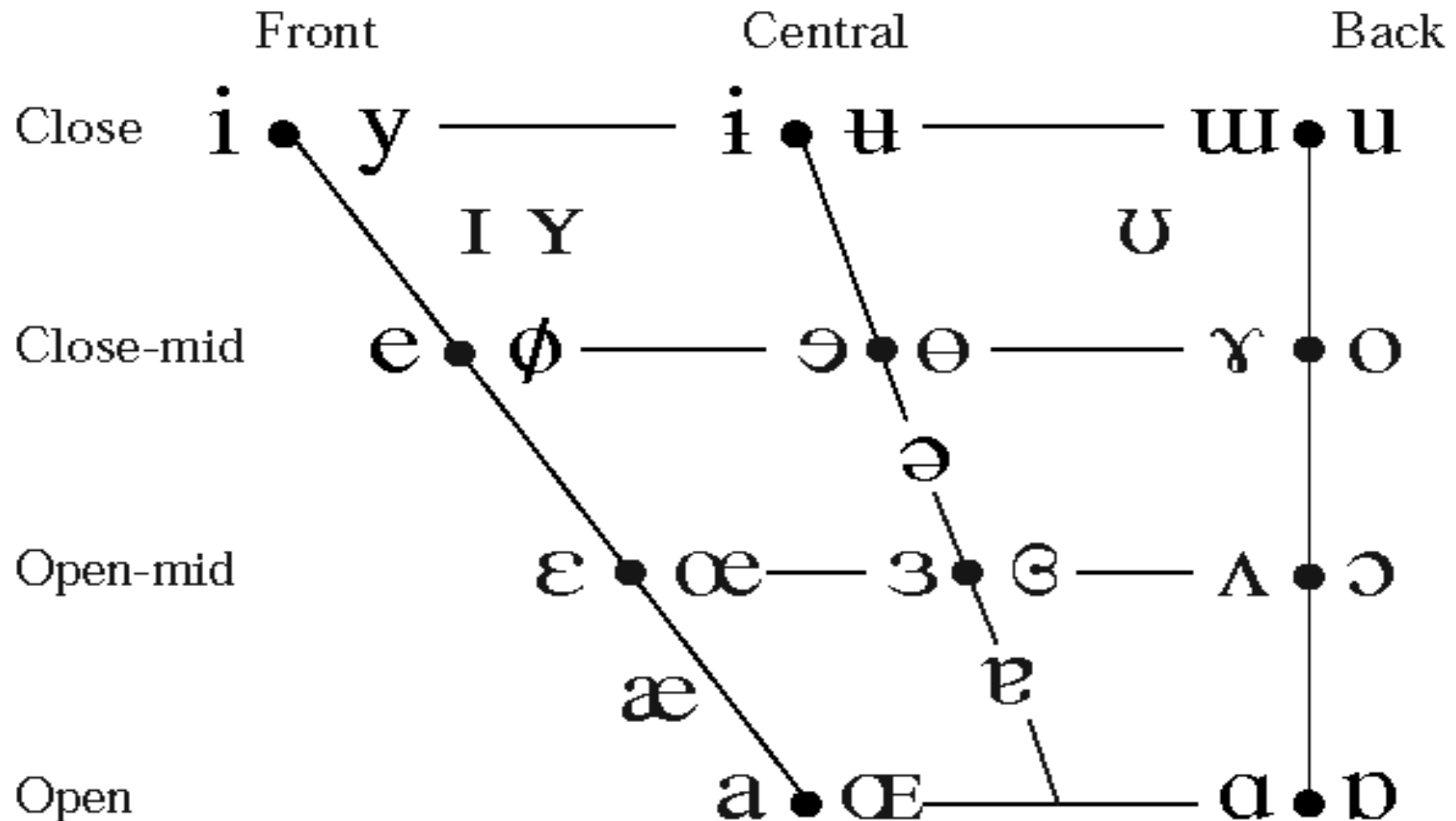


Phonetics & Inflection

M&R §§1–14, 187–193

Vowel system

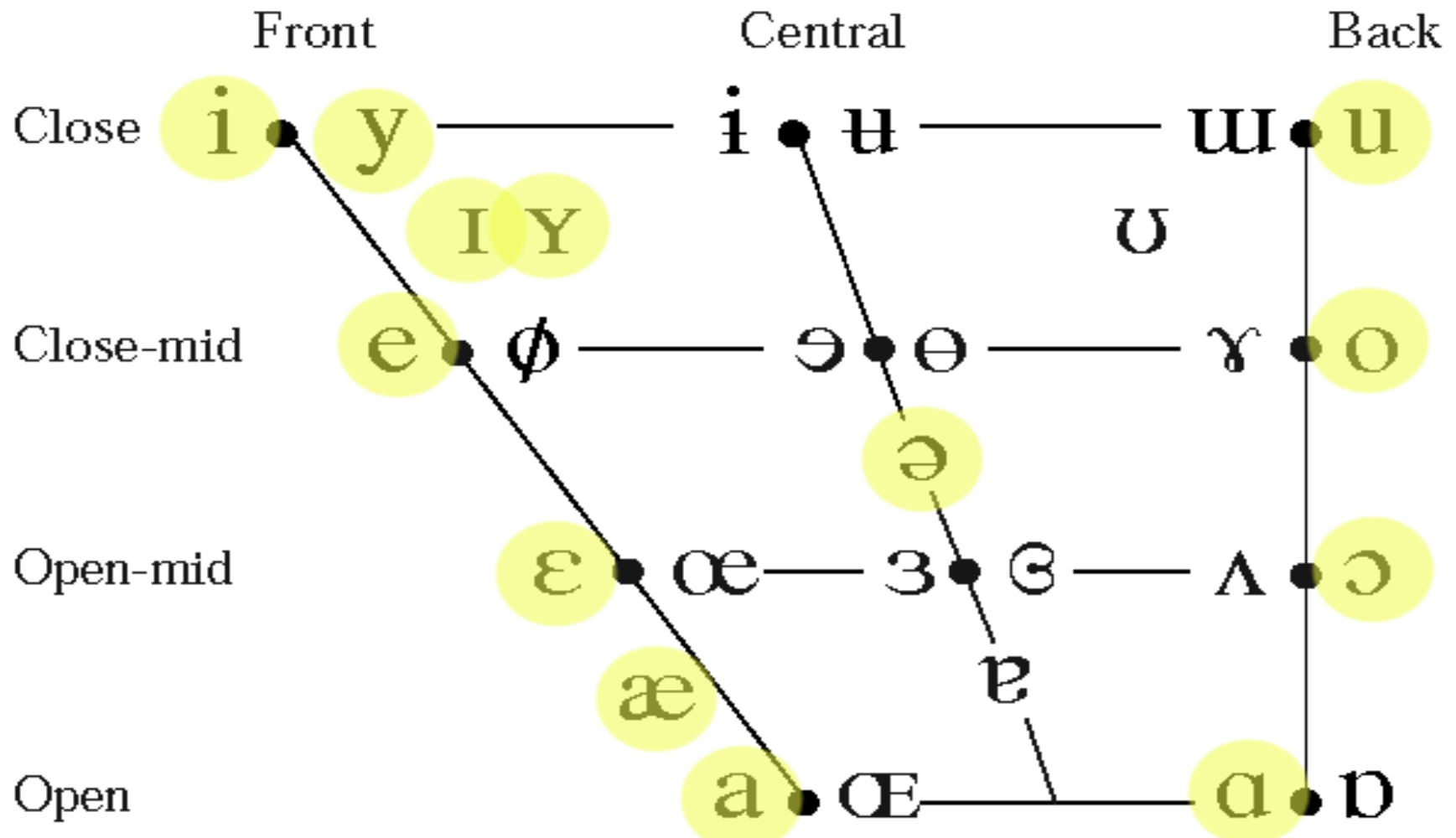
VOWELS



Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.

Vowel system

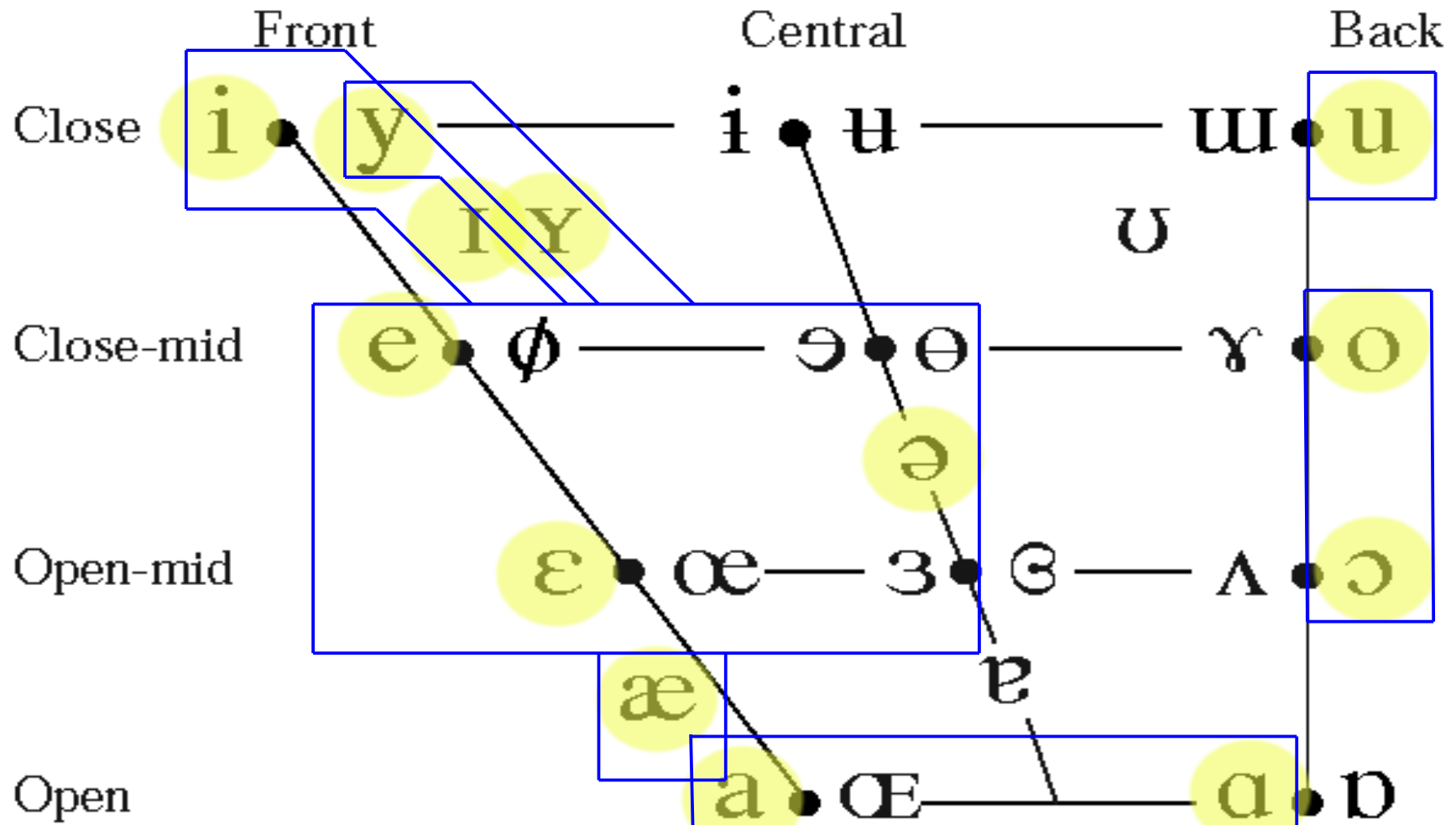
VOWELS



Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.

Vowel system

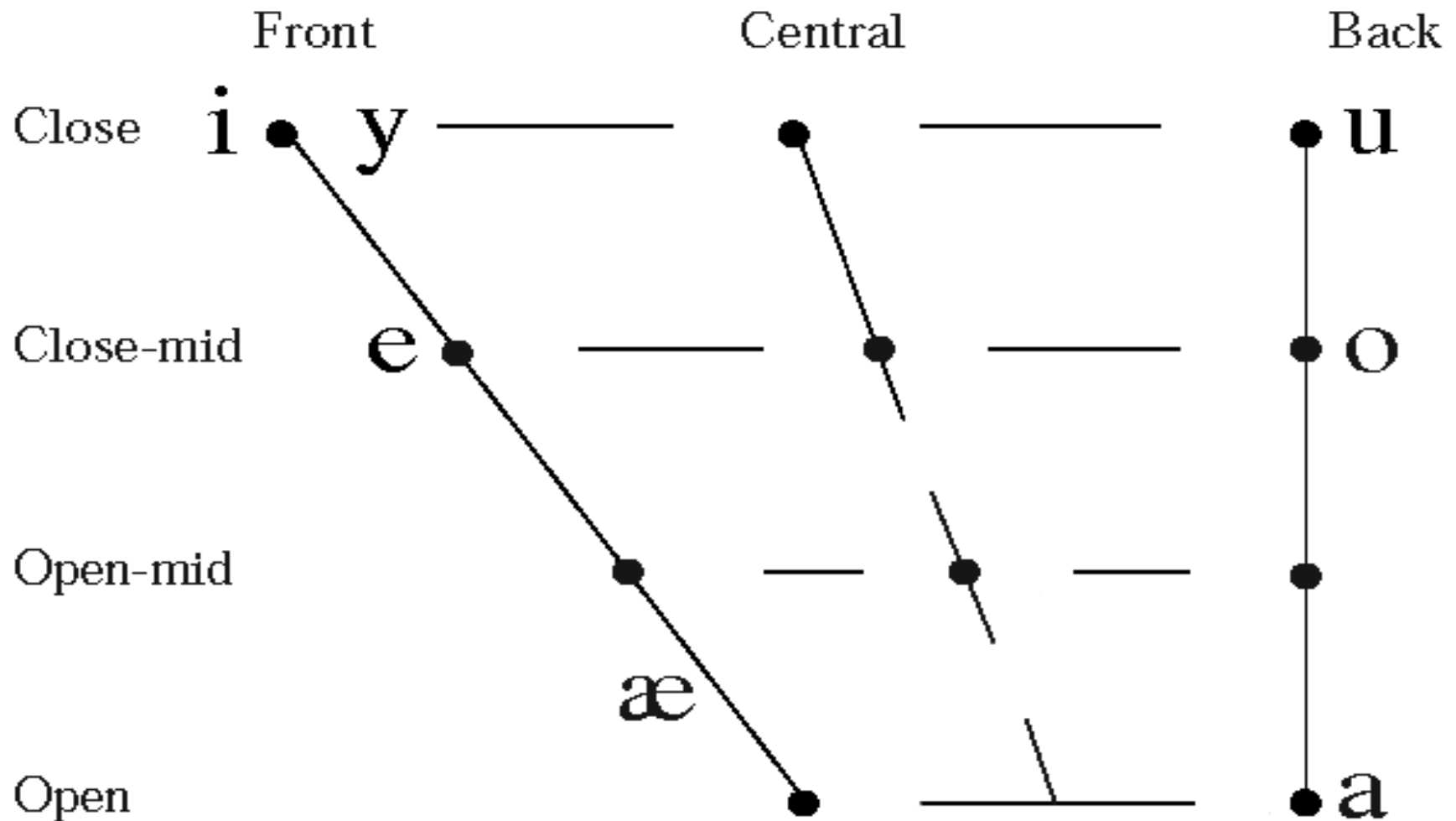
VOWELS



Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.

Vowel system by graphemes

VOWELS



Consonants to watch

- c*
- /k/ when not adjacent to *i* or *e*
 - /tʃ/ before or after *i* or *e* (historically!)
- cc* /tʃ/
- cg* /dʒ/
- g*
- /g/ before back vowels and *æ*
 - /j/ or /ɟ/ in *ge*-prefix, before *i*, *e*, and *y*
 - /ɣ/ between back vowels
- h*
- /h/ initially before a vowel
 - /x/ or /ç/ in other positions
- sc* /ʃ/
- f, s, þ, ð*
- /f/, /s/, /θ/ when initial, final, or adjacent to a voiceless sound
 - /v/, /z/, /ð/ between voiced sounds

Consonants to watch

c /k/ cunnan, corn, cald, cyning, cæg, bacan, bōc, bæc

c /tʃ/ cēap, ciele, ræcan, mislic (but /k/ in *cearo*)

cc /tʃ/ reccan, wiccecræft (but /kk/ in, e.g., *folccyning*)

cg /dʒ/ ecg, secgan, fricgan

g /g/ gālan, gold, guma, gæf

g /j/, /j/ gerēfa, gieldan, geong, gȳman

g /ɣ/ āgan, flēogan, gioguð

h /h/ hund, helpan

h /x/ hweorfan, ahsian

sc /ʃ/ scip, gesceaft, scōh

f /f/ faran, rēaf

f /v/ lafian, rēafode

s /s/ sacerd, forst, gymelēas

s /z/ drēosan, gymelēase

þ, ð /θ/ þorn, forð

þ, ð /ð/ baðian, brōþor

Sample sentences

- Flōd blōd gewōd.
- Geweorðod ofer werþēoda.
- Hwȳ þū lā drihten æfre woldest þæt sēo wyrd swā hwyrfan sceolde?
- Ne sēce ic nō her þā bēc, ac þæt ðæt þā bēc forstent.

Inflection

nominals inflect for case, number, and gender:

- case: nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, instrumental
- number: singular, (dual,) plural
- gender: masculine, neuter, feminine
- pronouns also inflect for person: first, second, third

verbs inflect for person, tense, number, and mood:

- person: first, second, third
- tense: present, preterite
- number: singular, plural
- mood: indicative, subjunctive, imperative

NB: Old English has no *inflectional* passive voice.

Case (basic uses)

Nominative

subject case (who does the action?)

The baker gave the butcher a shepherd's pie.

Accusative

direct object case (who/what is being somethinged?)

The baker gave the butcher a shepherd's pie.

Genitive

possession case (whose?)

The baker gave the butcher a shepherd's pie.

Dative

indirect object case (to whom is the action of relevance?)

The baker gave the butcher a shepherd's pie.

Old English cases

Nominative	subject, subject complement, address
Accusative	direct object, object complement
Genitive	possession, description, adverbial uses (note the partitive genitive construction)
Dative	interest, possession, adverbial uses (e.g. time), comparison, (absolute)
Instrumental	means/manner, comparison, (accompaniment), time

Old English cases

Nominative

- Se cyning is gōd
- Ælfred wæs Westseaxna cyning
- Lā æelmihtiga God and ealra cyninga cyning

Accusative

- Ic gesēo mīnne cyning
- Þū hine ongēate unweorðne

Genitive

- Æðelflæd wæs þæs cyninges dohtor
- Angle sind swā fægeres hiwes menn
- Hē wunode on dūnum dæges and nihtes
- Fīftyna sum sundwudu sōhte
- Se wæs þāra manna mōdgast ealra

Old English cases

Dative

- Hē geaf his dohtor Burgrēde cyninge
- Þā wearð God þām werode wrāð
- Him wæs þearf micel
- Dægtīdum ic oft spæte sperebrōgan
- Hīe wæron englum gelice
- (þām gedōnum andswarige eall chor)

Instrumental

- Se palm þe drihten sylf sette his āgenum handum
- Þā wæs gāst ofer holm boren miclum spēdum
- þy̅ geare wæs senoð æt Heorotforde
- Barrabas wæs þær þy̅ sīðe on bendum
- Man bið þy̅ strengra þe hē bið micel on his lichoman
- Ic ðē mæg sum bispell secgan, þæt þū meahst þy̅ sweotolor ongitan

Old English cases

In addition, a large number of prepositions and verbs require one of the oblique cases, and often two are possible.

e.g.

<i>be</i> 'about, near'	+ dat.	be streame
<i>ymb</i> 'about, after'	+ acc.	ymb stream
<i>andlang</i> 'along'	+ gen.	andlang streames
<i>mid</i> 'with'	+ dat./acc./inst.	mid stream(e)
<i>wið</i> 'against, towards'	+ acc./dat.	wið stream(e)

See further M&R §214