

*Beowulf*, lines 1-11 (53 words) (text following Fisher and Bronstein 1984)

1. Hwæt, wē Gār-Dena in gēardagum  
 what we spear-Dane in year-days=old days  
 N S N/A<sup>1</sup> 1 PI N M PI G M PI D

*Lo, we have heard of the glory of the  
 spear-Danes, of the people's kings, in  
 the old days, how the nobles  
 performed (deeds of) valor.*

2. þēodcyninga þrym gefrūnon  
 people=king glory hear  
 M PI G M S N/A Pret PI

3. hū ðā æþelingas ellen fremedon!  
 how the/those nobles courage perform  
 PI N/A M PI N/A N S N/A Pret PI

4. Oft Scyld Scēfing sceaþena þrēatum,  
 often Scyld Scēfing enemy crowd  
 N M PI G M PI D

*Scyld Shefing often deprived many  
 tribes, crowds of enemies, of (their)  
 meadbenches, he terrified noblemen,  
 since first he was found poor; he had  
 solace for that*

5. monegum mægþum meodosetla oftēah  
 many tribe mead-bench deprive  
 PI D N PI D PI G Pret 1/3 S

6. egsode eorl[as],<sup>2</sup> syððan ærest wearð  
 terrify nobleman since first happen  
 Pret 1/3 S M S[PI] N/A Pret 1/3 S

7. fēasceaft funden; hē þæs frōfre gebād,  
 poor find he that solace live-to-see  
 Pret 1/3 S N/M S G F S G/D/A PastPart

8. wēox under wolcnum weorðmyndum þāh  
 increase under clouds honor prosper  
 Pret 1/3/S N PI D PI D Pret 1/3 S

*He flourished under the heavens,  
 prospered in honors, until each of  
 the neighboring peoples across the  
 ocean had to obey him, to pay him  
 tribute; that was a good king!*

9. oð þæt him<sup>3</sup> æghwylc þāra ymsittendra  
 until that him each those neighboring=peoples  
 =until (conj) M S D M S N/A M PI G

10. ofer hronrāde hyran scolde,  
 across ocean listen had=to  
 F S A inf Pret 1/3 S

11. gomban gyldan; þæt wæs gōd cyning!  
 tribute pay that was good king  
 S G/D/A inf N S N/A Pret 3 S M S N M S N/A

<sup>1</sup> The order of abbreviations for parts of noun phrases is Gender (Masculine (M), Feminine (F), Neuter (N)) where known; Number (Singular (S), Plural (PI)); and Case (Nominative (N), Genitive (G), Dative (D), Accusative (A), and Instrumental (I)). Verbs are treated as indicative unless otherwise marked (Subj=subjunctive). Verbs are labeled with Tense (Preterite (Pret), Present (Pres)), Person (1, 2,3) and Number (S, PI). PastPart means past participle. Where the form is indeterminate all possible identifications are indicated with the options separated by /s. Where context disambiguates. I have underlined the relevant identification.

<sup>2</sup> Note that the text is emended here: the recorded versions do not contain the suffix [-as] to indicate that this noun is meant to refer to the object (the plural *princes/nobles*), rather than the subject (*Scyld Shefing*).

<sup>3</sup> The combination of the preposition + pronoun makes a conjunction.