

Common Middle English Words

Give students a word or combination of words and ask them to use the words in a sentence.
Then see if the other students can translate the sentence into modern English.

and	<i>can sometimes mean if</i>
anon	right away, soon
assay	try
[a]stonied	stunned
avoid	leave, send away; <i>sometimes</i> dismount
bachelor	young knight
beseen	looking
big	great, strong
blonk	horse
brachet	female hound
brand	sword
brast	burst
britten	beat down
burgh	town, fortress
busk	go, hasten, prepare
carp	speak
cheer	appearance; <i>can mean</i> entertainment
clenly (-lich)	handsomely, completely
courage	desire; heart
defend	refuse
depart	divide
dint	blow
dress	set in position
eek, eke	also
eft	again
enow	enough
enprise	try (<i>can be spelled emprise</i>)

erst	before
espy	see
fain	glad; gladly
fewter	to fix a spear or lance in its rest <i>(the fenter)</i>
foin	thrust
folde	earth, ground
freke	man
gar	to cause (someone to do something)
gat	took, got
gome	man
graithe	go, prepare
grame	harm
gramercy	many thanks
hie	go
hope	think
iwis	indeed
kaire	go
keep	care for, guard
kidd	famous
kith	country, native land
large	generous
laund	glade
list	to wish
maugre	in spite of
meet	suitable, useful
mensk	honour
ne	nor, not <i>(double negatives are OK)</i>
nis	is not
no force	[I] don't care
ought	owed; owned
or	<i>can be or, but can also mean before</i>

passing	very
quit	to avenge; to acquit oneself
rash	to dash, slash
rede	advice; to advise
renk	man
sad	grave, serious
scathe	harm
siker	certain, sure
sithen	since
slade	valley
speed	be successful
sterte	leap, go
stint	stop; put an end to
swithe	fast, quick, very
tatch	quality, habit
thrang	thrust
trow	think, believe
unhappy	unlucky, unfortunate
wallop	gallop
warn	to present
wax	grow
ween	think, believe
wele	prosperity, joy
wend	turn, go
wight	strong
wreken	avenge
wit	know (wist)
wood	crazy, mad
wroth	angry
yede	went (yode)