Sound Changes from OE to ME

Consonants (working from left to right):
1. Reduction of initial prefix ȝe- [jɛ-] to [I-], spelt ȝ or ɪ-.
2. Loss of [h] in initial consonant clusters.
3. Loss of [w] between C (esp. [s, t]) and a back vowel.
   --Most vowel changes occur at this point in the word except for changes e and ŏ, below.
5. [ȳ] > [w] after [l, r]
7. Loss of final [n] in unstressed syllables and words (late).
8. The allophones [v, z, ð] become phonemes.

Vowels
a. Unrounding of y [y:, y] to [i:] or [I], spelt ȝ or ɪ.
b. [a:] > [ɔ:].
c. [æ:] > [ɛ:].
d. [æ] > [a].
e. Reduction of vowels in unstessed syllables, esp. inflectional syllables [ə]. (Late OE, early ME.)
f. Loss of [ə]: word-final and in most inflectional syllables. (Late ME, three to four centuries later than the reduction to [ə] listed above.)

Diphthongs (Note: v stands for ‘any vowel’.)
1. Smoothing of OE diphthongs to monophthongs.
2. New diphthongs ending in [I]:
   a) vj > vɪ
   b) vχ > vɪχ
3. New diphthongs ending in [ʊ]:
   a) ʊ > [ʊ] after vowels: vʊ > vʊ
   b) vχ > vʊχ
   c) vw > vʊ
4. [ɔɪ] and [ʊɪ] from French.