



# Adjectives & Declension Patterns

M&R §§63–81



# Adjectives: strong and weak

- Strong:

- Good kings (first word in phrase)
- The king is good (separated from phrase)
- A good king (preceded by indefinite article)
- Good! (only word in phrase)
- What is good? (separated from phrase)
- What is good intention without virtue? (first word in phrase)

- Weak:

- The good king (preceded by article)
- My good king (preceded by possessive adjective)
- The Saxons' good king (preceded by a genitive construction)
- Oh good King! (address)

# Adjectives: strong and weak

- Strong:

- gōde cyningas (first word in phrase)
- Se cyning is gōd (separated from phrase)
- Ān gōd cyning (preceded by 'indefinite' *ān*)
- Gōd! (only word in phrase)
- Hwæt is gōd? (separated from phrase)
- Hwæt is gōd willa būtan gōdnys? (first word in phrase)

- Weak:

- Se gōda cyning (preceded by demonstrative pr.)
- Mīn gōda cyning (preceded by possessive adjective)
- Þāra Seaxna gōda cyning (preceded by a genitive constr.)
- Lā gōda cyning! (address)



# Adjectives: strong and weak

Always strong:

- Possessive adjectives (*mīn*, *his*, *ēower*):

*Gyt ne cōm mīn tīd; ēower tīd is symble gearu*

- *Ōðer* ('second, other'):

*Ic gehyre mīnne ōðerne hlāford*

Always weak:

- Comparatives:

*Hige sceal þē heardra*

- Ordinal numerals other than *ōðer*:

*Mæg wæs his āgen þridða and hē feōrða sylf*

# Weak adjectives

	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Plural
Nom.	tila	tile	tile	tilan
Acc.	tilan	tile	tilan	tilan
Gen.	tilan	tilan	tilan	tilra
Dat.	tilan	tilan	tilan	tilum

# Weak adjectives

	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Plural
Nom.	tila <b>a</b>	tile <b>e</b>	tile <b>e</b>	tilan
Acc.	tilan	tile <b>e</b>	tilan	tilan
Gen.	tilan	tilan	tilan	til <b>ra</b>
Dat.	tilan	tilan	tilan	til <b>um</b>
	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Plural
Nom.	nama <b>a</b>	ēage <b>e</b>	sunne <b>e</b>	naman
Acc.	naman	ēage <b>e</b>	sunnan	naman
Gen.	naman	ēagan	sunnan	nama <b>ena</b>
Dat.	naman	ēagan	sunnan	nama <b>um</b>



# Strong adjectives

Sing.	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.
Nom.	til	til	tilu
Acc.	tilne	til	tile
Gen.	tiles	tiles	tilre
Dat.	tilum	tilum	tilre
Inst.	tile	tile	
Plur.	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.
Nom.	tile	tilu	tile
Acc.	tile	tilu	tile
Gen.	tilra	tilra	tilra
Dat.	tilum	tilum	tilum

# Strong adjectives

Sing.	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.
Nom.	til	til	tilu
Acc.	tilne	til	tile
Gen.	tiles	tiles	tilre
Dat.	tilum	tilum	tilre
Inst.	tile	tile	
Plur.	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.
Nom.	tile	tilu	tile
Acc.	tile	tilu	tile
Gen.	tilra	tilra	tilra
Dat.	tilum	tilum	tilum

- *-u* only occurs following short monosyllables (cf. *scip*, *giefu*)



# Stem changes in adjectives

- A medial vowel is sometimes dropped before an ending beginning in a vowel, especially in long-stemmed dissyllables (*hālig* > *hālge*, but *hāligne*)
- Final *h* is usually dropped before an ending (*hēah* > *hēane* > *hēas* > *hēam* > *hēa*)
- Final *e* is usually dropped before an ending (*blīðe* > *blīðne* > *blīðes* > *blīðum* > *blīðe*, cf. *ende*)

# Stem changes in adjectives

- *æ* 'becomes' *a* in open syllables, weak and strong:

Sing.	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.
Nom.	glæd	glæd	gladu
Acc.	glædne	glæd	glade
Gen.	glades	glades	glædre
Dat.	gladum	gladum	glædre
Inst.	glade	glade	
Plur.	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.
Nom.	glade	gladu	glade
Acc.	glade	gladu	glade
Gen.	glædra	glædra	glædra
Dat.	gladum	gladum	gladum



# Stem changes in adjectives

- in *wa/wo*-adjectives, stem-final *o/u* is *w* before vowels:

Sing.	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.
Nom.	gearo	gearo	gearo
Acc.	gearone	gearo	gearwe
Gen.	gearwes	gearwes	gearore
Dat.	gearwum	gearwum	gearore
Inst.	gearwe	gearwe	
Plur.	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.
Nom.	gearwe	gearu	gearwe
Acc.	gearwe	gearu	gearwe
Gen.	gearora	gearora	gearora
Dat.	gearwum	gearwum	gearwum

# Comparison

- Comparative adjectives always decline weak
- Superlatives decline according to context

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
blind	blindra	blindost
hwæt	hwætra	hwatost
hālig	hāligra	hālgost
eald	ieldra	ieldest
geong	gingra	gingest
hēah	hīerra	hīehst
lang	lengra	lengest
sceort	scyrtra	scyrtest



# Comparison

- Irregulars:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
gōd	betra	betst
gōd	sēlra	sēlest
yfel	wiersa	wierst
micel	māra	māest
lýtēl	lāessa	lāest

# Comparison

- Hīe gesetton tictator, þæt hē sceolde bion **hierra** ofer þā consulas.
- Bēo ge underðiodde ēowrum **ieldrum** māgum.
- Scipþie hāfdon **māran** monmenie, and self **hwætran** wæron.
- Þis is landa **betst**.



# Strong declension patterns

noun / pronoun / adjective

Sing.	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	
Nom.	- / - / -	- / t / -	u / ~ / u	
Acc.	- / ne / ne	- / t / -	a / ~ / e	
Gen.	es / es / es	es / es / es	e / re / re	
Dat.	e / um / um	e / um / um	e / re / re	
Inst.	e / $\bar{y}$ / e	e / $\bar{y}$ / e		
Plur.	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Unified
Nom.	as / e	- / u	a or e / e or a	~
Acc.	as / e	- / u	a or e / e	~
Gen.	a / ra	a / ra	a / ra	a
Dat.	um / um	um / um	um / um	um

~ = no fixed pattern

# Strong declension patterns

- þæs cyninges
- gōdes hlāfes
- ðære þēode
- ælcere giefe
- þissum cyninge
- hēaum cyninge
- hēaum cyningum
- þām giefum
- þisra hlāfa
- gōdra manna



# Pronominal ambiguity

	Masc. sg	Neut. sg	Fem. sg	Plural
Nom.	hē	hit	hēo	hīe
Acc.	hine	hit	hīe	hīe
Gen.	his	his	hire	hira
Dat.	him	him	hire	him

- Þā sendon Rōmāne ærendracan tō **him**.
- Ðā andwyrde se Wisdom **him**.
- Hē nāt hwæt **him** tōweard bið.
- Oft **him** gebýreð ðæt **hīe** weorðað berēafod.
- Hē forspilde **hīe** þurh forligre.
- Þā hēt se cyning **hīe** sittan, and **hīe** swā dydon.
- **Hīe him** on ðæt nebb spæton, forðon ðe hē nyle giefan ðæt **him** God geaf.

# What case, number?

- þæs fætes
- þām monigum giefum
- gōdra manna
- þæm werode
- sēo hālge lār
- þȳ miclan stāne
- miclum menn
- strange worde



# What case, number?

- hēaum Gode
- þære sweostor
- þone gladan mann
- þā nīwan lāre
- tilra mōdra
- tile mōdra
- þā tilan mōdra
- þæm werode