



Weak Verbs & Verb Prefixes

M&R §§115–126, 138

bēon

- originally three verbs: *bēon*, **es-*, *wesan*
- two common conjugations of the present: *eom*, *bēo*

<i>present ind. 1</i>	<i>present ind. 2</i>	<i>present subj. 1</i>	<i>present subj. 2</i>
ic eom	ic bēo	ic sīe	ic bēo
þū eart	þū bist	wē sīen	wē bēon
hē is	hē biþ		
wē sind	wē bēoþ		
<i>preterite ind.</i>	<i>preterite subj.</i>	<i>imperative 1</i>	<i>imperative 2</i>
ic wæs	ic wære	wes	bēo
þū wære	wē wæren	wesap	bēoþ
hē wæs			
wē wæron			

Weak verbs

- Form their preterites and past participles by adding a dental suffix *d/t*:

lāeran > *lāerde* > *lāerdon* > *lāered*

cýpan > *cýpte* > *cýpton* > *cýped*

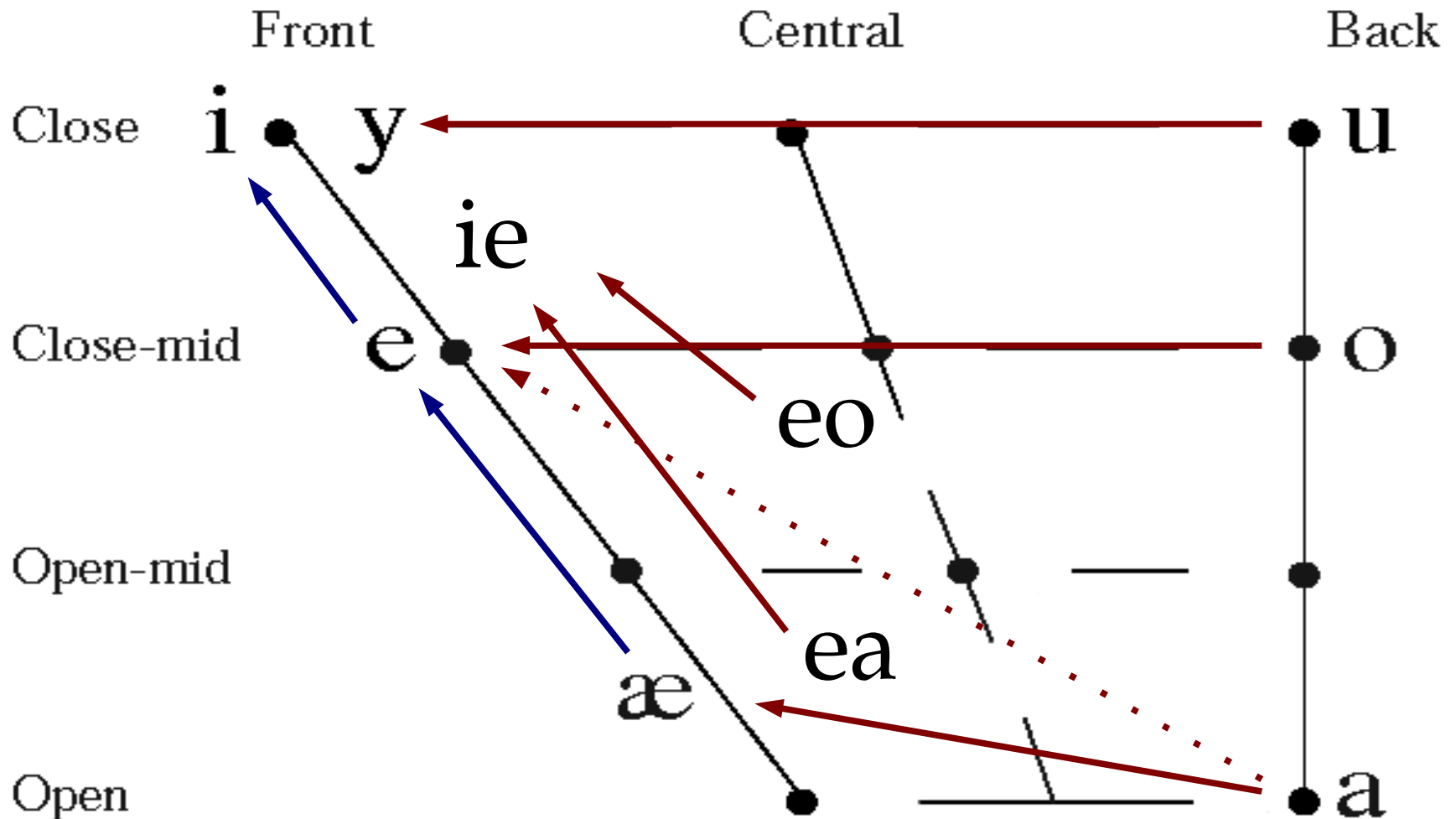
- Exclusive to the Germanic languages

Weak Ia conjugation

<i>fremman</i> ¹	present	preterite
indicative 1sg	ic fremme	ic fremede
2sg	þū fremest	þū fremedest
3sg	hē fremeð	hē fremede
ind. plural	wē fremmað	wē fremedon
subjunctive sg	ic fremme	ic fremede
subjunctive pl	wē fremmen	wē fremeden
imperative sg	freme!	
imperative pl	fremmað!	
participle	fremmende	fremed
infl. infinitive	tō fremmenne	

i-mutation

VOWELS



- raising: short vowels only
- fronting: all vowels

- fronting + raising:
/a/ + nasal (/m, n/)

Weak Ia conjugation

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imperative sg	freme!	
imperative pl	fremmað!	
participle	fremmende	fremed
infl. infinitive	tō fremmenne	

Weak verbs

- stem changes:

	Ia	II
inf.	fremman	lufian
infl. inf.	tō fremmenne	tō lufienne
pres. ind. 1sg	fremme	lufie
pres. ind. pl.	fremmað	lufiað
pres. subj. sg.	fremme	lufie
pres. subj. pl.	fremmað	lufien
imp. pl.	fremmað	lufiað
present ptc.	fremmende	lufiende

- other stem used in 2/3 sg. pres. ind., imp. sg., all prets, past ptc.
(*frem-*, *luf-*)

Weak verbs

- stem changes:

	III	III
inf.	habban	secgan
infl. inf.	tō hæbbenne	tō secgenne
pres. ind. 1sg	hæbbe	secge
pres. ind. pl.	habbað	secgað
pres. subj. sg.	hæbbe	secge
pres. subj. pl.	hæbben	secgen
imp. pl.	habbað	secgað
present ptc.	hæbbende	secgende

- other stem used in 2/3 sg. pres. ind., imp. sg., all prets, past ptc.
(*haf/hæf-*, *seg/sæg-*)

Weak verbs

- Side by side:

indic.	Ia(1)	Ia(2)	Ib(1)	II	III
inf.	fremman	nerian	hīeran	lufian	habban
pres 1sg	fremme	nerie	hīere	lufie	hæbbe
2	fremest	nerest	hīerst	lufast	hæfst
3	fremeð	neredð	hīerð	lufað	hæfð
plural	fremmað	neriað	hīerað	lufiað	habbað
pret 1sg	fremede	nerede	hīerde	lufode	hæfde
2	fremedest	neredest	hīerdest	lufodest	hæfdest
3	fremede	nerede	hīerde	lufode	hæfde
plural	fremedon	neredon	hīerdon	lufodon	hæfdon

Weak verbs

Class I infinitive recognition patterns:

Ia(1): short vowel + double consonant *fremman*

Ia(2): short vowel + *-ri-* *nerian*

Ib(1): long vowel *hīeran*

Ib(2): short vowel + 2 different consonants *sendan*

Stem changes:

Ia(1): gemination *fremme, fremest*

Ia(2): *i*-alternation *nerie, nerest*

Ib(1): *e*-alternation *hīere, hīerst*

Ib(2): none *sende, sendest*

II: *i*-alternation *lufie, lufast*

III: consonant alternation *hæbbe, hæfst; secge, sægst*

Weak verbs

Infinitive endings:

- I: *-(ri)an*
- II: *-ian* (rarely *-rian*)
- III: *-an* (*habban, libban, secgan, hycgan*)

Example sentences

- Hē fremede swā and frēan hīerde.
- Ne fremest þū riht wið mē.
- Hī bēoð gesælige gif hī sōð lufiað.
- Þā þæt se ealdormon hīerde, þā ādrencte hē hiene selfne.
- Hī sendon þām cyninge sumne bisceop.
- Men hēr on eorðan fremedon morðor wið heora scyppend.
- Se yrðling lufað þone æcer.
- Se þēoden sende his þegnas.
- Lufiað ēowre fynd.
- Hē fremede swyðe fela yfela.
- Þisne ic wille sendan.
- Se wer fremep unrihthæmed wiþ oþer wif.
- Sio tunge sendeð þā sāwle in hellegrund.
- Hīe habbað feala morðres gefremed.

Verb prefixes

ā-	away	ādrīfan, āweorpan, ātīon
be-	- deprivative - around - transitive	: beniman, behēafdian : begān, beþringan : bewēpan, betredan
for-	- intensifier - negative	: formeltan, forswelgan : fordōn, forweorðan
ge-	completion, or nothing	geāscian, gefeohtan
on-, an-	- positive prep. (<i>on, to</i>) - negative (= <i>un-</i>) - towards, against	: onbīdan, onfōn : onbindan, onlūcan : onfeallan
tō-	separation	tōfaran, tōdrīfan
wið-	against	wiðcweðan, wiðstandan
ymb-	around	ymbgangan, ymbhōn

Example sentences

- Mīn brōþor mec of earde ādrāf.
- Cynewulf **benam** Sigebyrht his rīces.
- Her līð sweorde gehēawen, **behēafdod** healdend ūre.
- On fýrbæðe wunodest, sūslum **beþrunge**.
- **Bewēpað** ēowre synna.
- Þā ārleasan ealle **forweorðað**.
- Habbap wē **geāscad** þæt se ælmihtiga worhte wer ond wīf.
- Hīe **onlūcað** hiera mōd.
- Ealle cyningas **onbūgað** him.
- Þæt folc wæs **tōdrifen** ofer eall Egypta land.
- Dryhtnes cempa fēonda þrēatum **wiðstōd** stronglice.
- Bēon ēower lendenas **ymbgyrde**.