

Sound Changes & Strong Verbs

M&R §§90–109

Strong versus weak

weak¹ *fremman*

ic fremme

þū fremest

hē fremep

wē fremmap

ic fremede

þū fremedest

hē fremede

wē fremedon

fremed

strong¹ *wrītan*

ic wrīte

þū wrītest

hē wrītep

wē wrītap

ic wrāt

þū write

hē wrāt

wē writon

writen

Strong versus weak

weak¹ fremman

ic fremme

þū fremest

hē fremeþ

wē fremmaþ

ic fremede

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strong¹ wrītan

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hē wrāt

wē writon

writen

Strong verb classes

class	inf.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	past ptc.
I	scīnan	scān	scinon	scinen
IIa	crēopan	crēap	crupon	cropen
IIb	brūcan	brēac	brucon	brocen
III	bregdan	brægd	brugdon	brogden
IV	beran	bær	bæron	boren
V	tredan	træd	trædon	treden
VI	faran	fōr	fōron	faren
VIIa	healdan	hēold	hēoldon	healden
VIIb	hātan	hēt	hēton	hāten

Strong verb classes

class	inf.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	past ptc.
I	ī+C	scān	scinon	scinen
IIa	ēo+C	crēap	crupon	cropen
IIb	ū+C	brēac	brucon	brocen
III	e+CC	brægd	brugdon	brogden
IV	e+C	bær	bæron	boren
V	e+C	træd	trædon	treden
VI	a+C	fōr	fōron	faren
VIIa	V(C)C	hēold	hēoldon	healden
VIIb	V(C)C	hēt	hēton	hāten

NB: a few verbs in most classes have lost their stem consonant through contraction, and a few verbs in 5, 6, 7 have weak presents and therefore different infinitives.

Strong verb classes

class	inf.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	past ptc.
I	scīnan	scān	scinon	scinen
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IIb	brūcan	brēac	brucon	brocen
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VIIa	healdan	hēold	hēoldon	healden
VIIb	hātan	hēt	hēton	hāten

Strong verb classes

class	inf.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	past ptc.
IIIa	br e gdan	br æ gd	br u gdon	br o gden
IIIb	w e orpan	w e arp	w u rpon	w o rpen
	f e ohtan	f e aht	f u hton	f o hten
IIIc	h e lpan	h e alp	h u lpon	h o lpen
IIId	g i eldan	g e ald	g u ldon	g o lden
IIIe	dr i ncan	dr a nc	dr u ncon	dr u ncen
VIIa	h e aldan	h e old	h e oldon	h e alden
VIIb	h a tan	h e t	h e ton	h a ten

Class VII past ptc. vowel always the same as inf. vowel, namely: *a, ā, ō, ea, ēa* (weak presents: *ā, ē*). It never matches other classes' infinitive vowels.

Class III sound changes

- breaking: diphthongization of a front vowel when a back consonant follows
 - full breaking before *h, lh, h+C, r+C*: $\text{ǣ} > \text{ěa}$, $\text{ē} > \text{ēo}$
 - limited breaking before *l*: $\text{ǣ} > \text{ěa}$
 - additional breaking before *h, h+C*: $\bar{i} (> \bar{i}o) > \bar{e}o$

class	inf.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	past ptc.
IIIa	bre g dan	br æ gd	bru g don	bro g den
IIIb	w e o r pan	w e ar p	w u rpon	w o rpen
	fe o htan	fe a ht	fu h ton	fo h ten
IIIc	he l pan	he a lp	hu l pon	ho l pen

Class III sound changes

- palatal diphthongization: initial \dot{g} , sc , \dot{c} cause $\ddot{e} > \ddot{ie}$, $\ddot{æ} > \ddot{ea}$

class	inf.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	past ptc.
IIIa	bre g dan	br æ gd	bru g don	bro g den
IIIc	gi e ldan	ge a ld	gu l don	go l den
	gi e lpan	ge a lp	gu l pon	go l pen

Class III sound changes

- nasal raising and resistance to fronting:
before *m+C* or *n+C*: ě > ĭ, æ > ǣ, ǫ > ū

class	inf.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	past ptc.
IIIa	br e gdan	br æ gd	br u gdon	br o gden
IIIe	dr i ncan	dr a nc	dr u ncon	dr u ncen
	sw i mman	sw a mm	sw u mmon	sw u mmen

Class III sound changes

class	inf.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	past ptc.
IIIa	bregdan	brægd	brugdon	brogden
IIIb	weorpan	wearp	wurpon	worpen
	feohtan	feaht	fuhton	fohten
IIIc	helpan	healp	hulpon	holpen
IIId	gieldan	geald	guldon	golden
IIIe	drincan	dranc	druncon	druncen

Strong verb classes

class	inf.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	past ptc.
I	scīnan	scān	scinon	scinen
IIa	crēopan	crēap	crupon	cropen
IIb	brūcan	brēac	brucon	brocen
III	bregdan	brægd	brugdon	brogden
IIIbr.	weorpan	wearp	wurpon	worpen
III diph.	gieldan	geald	guldon	golden
III nasal	drincan	dranc	druncon	druncen
IV	beran	bær	bæron	boren
V	tredan	træd	trædon	treden
VI	faran	fōr	fōron	faren
VIIa	healdan	hēold	hēoldon	healden
VIIb	hātan	hēt	hēton	hāten

Grammatical alternation

- *p/ð* versus *d*
- *h* versus *g*
- *s* versus *r*

class	inf.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	past ptc.
I	snīðan	snāð	snidon	sniden
II	cēosan	cēas	curon	coren
VI	hliehan	hlōh	hlōgon	*hlagen

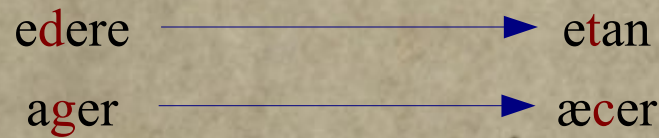
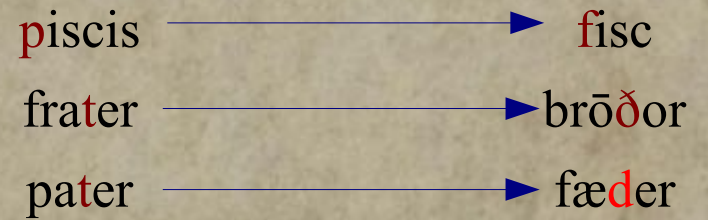
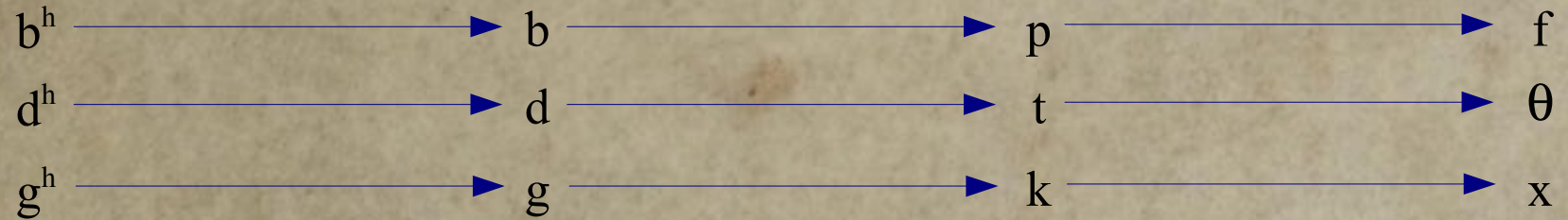
Grimm's Law

aspirated voiced stops

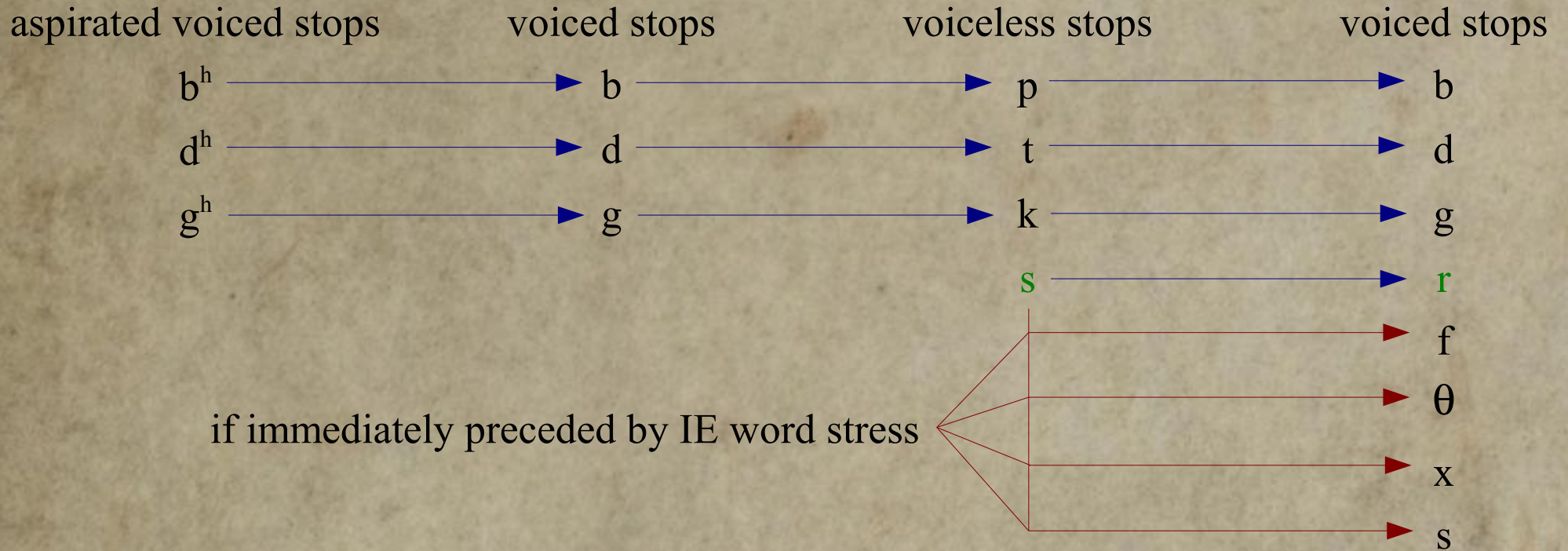
voiced stops

voiceless stops

voiceless fricatives



Verner's Law



if immediately preceded by IE word stress

frater \rightarrow brōðor

pater \rightarrow fæder

Grammatical alternation

- *p/ð* versus *d*
- *h* versus *g*
- *s* versus *r*

class	inf.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	past ptc.
I	snīðan	snāð	snidon	sniden
II	cēosan	cēas	curon	coren
VI	hliehan	hlōh	hlōgon	*hlagen