



# Strong Verb Conjugation & Anomalous Verbs

M&R §§110–114, 128–130

# personal/participle endings

**weak<sup>1</sup> fremman**

ic fremme

þū fremest

hē fremeþ

wē fremmaþ

ic fremede

þū fremedest

hē fremede

wē fremedon

fremed

**strong<sup>1</sup> wrītan**

ic wrīte

þū wrītest

hē wrīteþ

wē wrītaþ

ic wrāt

þū write

hē wrāt

wē writon

writen

# preterite/participle stem

**weak<sup>1</sup> fremman**

ic fremme

þū fremest

hē fremep

wē fremmap

ic fremede

þū fremedest

hē fremede

wē fremedon

fremed

**strong<sup>1</sup> wrītan**

ic wrīte

þū wrītest

hē wrīteþ

wē wrītaþ

ic wrāt

þū write

hē wrāt

wē writon

writen

# syncope

**weak<sup>1</sup> *hīeran***

ic hīere

þū hīerest > **hīerst**

hē hīereþ > **hīerþ**

wē hīeraþ

ic hīerde

þū hīerdest

hē hīerde

wē hīerdon

hīered

**strong<sup>5</sup> *bidan***

ic bidde

þū biddest > **bidst**

hē biddeþ > **bitt**

wē biddaþ

ic bæd

þū bæde

hē bæd

wē bædon

beden

# *i*-mutation

**weak<sup>2</sup> *lufian***

ic lufie

þū lufast

hē lufaþ

wē lufiaþ

ic lufode

þū lufodest

hē lufode

wē lufodon

lufod

**strong<sup>2</sup> *brūcan***

ic brūce

þū brȳcst

hē brȳcþ

wē brūcaþ

ic brēac

þū bruce

hē brēac

wē brucon

brocen

# Conjugating quirks

- present indicative 2/3sg:
  - both weak and strong: commonly syncope  
(þū bide**st** > þū bit**st**; hē bide**ð** > hē bit**t**)
  - weak: no gemination  
(ic frem**me**, þū frem**est**, hē frem**eð**, wē frem**mað**)
  - strong: *i*-mutation when possible  
(ic s**ē**o, þū sie**h**st, hē sie**h**ð, wē s**ē**oð)
- both weak and strong: with a personal pronoun 1/2pl  
(wē/gē) following the verb, -að may be reduced to -e  
(wē sing**að** > sing**e** wē)

# Strong verb conjugation

<i>wrītan</i> <sup>1</sup>	present	preterite
indicative 1sg	ic wrīte	ic wrāt
2sg	þū wrītest	þū write
3sg	hē wrīteð	hē wrāt
ind. plural	wē wrītað	wē writon
subjunctive sg	ic wrīte	ic write
subjunctive pl	wē wrīten	wē writen
imperative sg	wrīt!	
imperative pl	wrītað!	
participle	wrītende	writen
infl. infinitive	tō wrītenne	

# Weak presents (strong classes V–VII)

<i>biddan</i> <sup>5</sup>	present	preterite
indicative 1sg	ic bidde	ic bæd
2sg	þū bidst	þū bæde
3sg	hē bitt	hē bæd
ind. plural	wē biddað	wē bædon
subjunctive sg	ic bidde	ic bæde
subjunctive pl	wē bidden	wē bæden
imperative sg	bide!	
imperative pl	biddað!	
participle	biddende	gebeden
infl. infinitive	tō biddenne	



# 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

# Anomalous verbs

- bēon
- dōn
- gān
- willan
- preterite-present verbs
  - present tense derives from strong past
  - newly-formed weak preterite

# Preterite-present verbs

<i>witan</i>	present	preterite
indicative 1sg	ic wāt	ic wiste
2sg	þū wāst	þū wistest
3sg	hē wāt	hē wiste
ind. plural	wē witon	wē wiston
subjunctive sg	ic wite	ic wiste
subjunctive pl	wē witen	wē wisten
imperative sg	wite	
imperative pl	witað	
participle	witende	witen
infl. infinitive	tō witenne	

# Anomalous conjugation: *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			

# Anomalous conjugation

<i>dōn</i>	present	preterite
indicative 1sg	ic dō	ic dyde
2sg	þū dēst	þū dydest
3sg	hē dēð	hē dyde
ind. plural	wē dōð	wē dydon
subjunctive sg	ic dō	ic dyde
subjunctive pl	wē dōn	wē dyden
imperative sg	dō!	
imperative pl	dōð!	
participle	dōnde	gedōn
infl. infinitive	tō dōnne	

# Anomalous conjugation

<i>gān</i>	present	preterite
indicative 1sg	ic gā	ic ēode
2sg	þū gæst	þū ēodest
3sg	hē gæð	hē ēode
ind. plural	wē gāð	wē ēodon
subjunctive sg	ic gā	ic ēode
subjunctive pl	wē gān	wē ēoden
imperative sg	gā!	
imperative pl	gāð!	
participle	gānde	gegān
infl. infinitive	tō gānne	

# Anomalous conjugation

<i>willan</i>	present	preterite
indicative 1sg	ic wille	ic wolde
2sg	þū wilt	þū woldest
3sg	hē wile	hē wolde
ind. plural	wē willað	wē woldon
subjunctive sg	ic wille	ic wolde
subjunctive pl	wē willen	wē wolden
imperative sg	wille!	
imperative pl	willað!	
participle	willende	gewillen
infl. infinitive	tō willenne	

# Parsing

- Hū **mæg** þis **gewurðan**? forðan þe ic ne **brūce** nānes weres.
- Eadulf bisceop þyssa landa **breac** his līfes tīda.
- Þonne **secge** wē þæt hē **wæs** se mann se ðe God **spræc** tō.
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