

**Weak verbs**

- Conjugation of weak verbs class 1, 2

<b>Class 1</b>			<b>Class 2</b>
<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	
<b>Present Indicative</b>			
Sg.1 fremme	nerie	dēman	lufie
2 fremest	nerest	dēmst	lufast
3 fremep	nerep	dēmþ	lufaþ
Pl. fremmaþ	neriaþ	dēmaþ	lufiaþ
<b>Imperative</b>			
Sg. freme	nerie	dēm	lufa
Pl. fremmaþ	nerien	dēmaþ	lufiaþ
<b>Present Subjunctive</b>			
Sg. fremme	nerie	dēme	lufie
Pl. fremmen	nerien	dēmen	lufien
<b>Preterite Indicative</b>			
Sg. 1 fremede	nerede	dēmde	lufode
2 fremedest	neredest	dēmdest	lufodest
3 fremede	nerede	dēmde	lufode
Pl. fremedon	neredon	dēmdon	lufodon
<b>Preterite Subjunctive</b>			
Sg. fremede	nerede	dēmde	lufode
Pl. fremeden	nederen	dēmden	lufoden
<b>Infinitive</b> fremman	nerian	dēman	lufian
<b>Infl. Inf.</b> tō fremmenne	tō nerienne	tō dēmenne	tō lufienne
<b>Pres.Ptc.</b> fremmende	neriende	dēmende	lufiende
<b>Past Ptc.</b> (ge-)fremed	(ge-)nered	(ge-)dēmed	(ge-)lufod

- OE weak verbs Class 1**

class 1 is characterized by the historical formative \*/jan/ in the infinitive, still unchanged in Gothic *fram-jan*, unlike in OS *fremmian*, OE *fremman*. West Germanic Gemination is responsible for major alternations in Class 1 of weak verbs.

- OE weak verbs Class 2**

Historically, these have thematic \*/o:/ followed in some Gmc. dialects (e.g. OE) by a post-theme \*/j/ in the present (analogical to class 1). Thus OE *lufian* ← \*/luβo:jan/. This post-thematic /j/ was, however, restricted to *infinitive*, *present participle*, *1sg, plural, subjunctive*, and *imperative plural*. Consequently, these forms preserve *i* in OE paradigms. Others, (like 2,3sg) show *a* as the OE reflex of thematic /o:/

**Strong verbs**

	<b>IE ablaut e (present)</b>	<b>o (perfect)</b>	<b>∅ (aorist)</b>	historically a thematic adj. (IE o-stem, Gmc. a-stem) root+a+na
	<b>Present</b>	<b>Pret 1</b>	<b>Pret 2</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
<b>class I</b>	e+i	o+i	∅+i	∅+i
Gmc	ī	a+i	i	i
OE	ī	ā	i	i
	<i>writan</i>	<i>wrāt</i>	<i>writon</i>	<i>writen</i>
<b>class II</b>	e+u	o+u	∅+u	∅+u
Gmc	eu	au	u	o (lowered before low a vowel)
OE	ēo	æu æa <ēa>	u	o
	<i>cēosan</i>	<i>cēas</i>	<i>curon</i>	<i>coren</i>

<b>class III a.</b>	e+n+C	o+n+C	∅+n+C	∅+n+C	
OE	inC <i>singan</i>	anC <i>sang</i>	unC <i>sungon</i>	unc <i>sungen</i>	
	<b>b.</b>	e+l+C	o+l+C	∅+l+C	∅+l+C
Gmc		e+l+C	o+l+C	∅+l+C	∅+l+C
OE		e+lC (no br.) <i>helpan</i>	o+lC <i>healp</i>	∅+lC <i>hulpon</i>	o+lC <i>holpen</i>
	<b>c.</b>	e+r/h+C	o+r/h+C	∅+r/h+C	∅+r/h+C
Gmc.		e+r/h+C	o+r/h+C	∅+r/h+C	∅+r/h+C
OE		eo weorpan feohtan	ea wearp feaht	u wurpon fuhton	o worpen fohten
<b>class IV</b>	e	o	ē (lengthened grade)	∅	
IE	e+l/r/m	o+l/r/m	ē+l/r/m	∅+l/r/m	
Gmc	e	a	ǣ	u > o	
OE	beran stelan niman	bær stæl nam	bǣron stǣlon nōmon	boren stolen numen	
<b>class V</b>	e+C	o+C	ē+C	e+C (analogy on the pres.)	
Gmc	e	a	ǣ	e	
OE	e sprecan etan	æ spræc æt	ǣ sprǣcon ǣton	e sprecen eten	

**class VI**

class VI is not an ablaut series in the strict sense but a Germanic innovation, if with elements of original ablaut. Many class VI verbs seem to have uniquely Germanic roots and no secure IE etymologies.

IE	o+C	ō+C	ō+C	o+C (analogy on the pres.)
OE	a faran	ō fōr	ō fōron	a faren

**class VII**

OE	x	ēo/ē	ēo/e	x
	cnāwan	cnēow	cnēowon	cnāwen
	lǣtan	lēt	lēton	lǣten
	blōwan	blēow	blēowon	blōwen
	healdan	hēold	hēoldon	healden

class VII is often referred to as ‘reduplicating’. regular reduplication preserved in Gothic, only some relic forms in Northwest Germanic. Gothic *haitan* – *haihait* ‘command’, OE *hātan* – *heht*, alongside a more frequent *hēt*.

**Conjugation of the verb**

		<i>Strong</i>			<i>Weak</i>		
		Indicative	Subjunctive	Imperative	Indicative	Subjunctive	Imperative
		<b>Present</b>			<b>Present</b>		
SG	1	-e	} -e	-∅	-e	} -e	-e
	2	-(e)st					
	3	-eþ					
PL		-aþ	-en	-aþ	-aþ	-en	-aþ
		<b>Past</b>			<b>! dental suffix Past</b>		

SG 1	-∅	}	-e	-d-e	}
2	-e		-d-(e)st	-d-e	
3	-∅		-d-e	-d-e	
PL	-on	-en	d--on	-d-en	

Conjugation of the strong verb Class IIIa *singan*.

Present			Preterite	
Indicative	Subjunctive	Imperative	Indicative	Subjunctive
singe	singe	sing	sang	sunge
singest			sang	
singeþ			sang	
singaþ	singen	singaþ	sungon	sungen

### ***Preterite-present verbs***

- This is a small but interesting group of Teutonic *preterite-present* verbs (now chiefly used as auxiliaries of tense, mood, or predication), in form characterised by having as their present tense an original preterite, which retains the preterite form but has come to have a present signification, and from which a new weak past tense has subsequently been developed.

- Exemplary paradigms

Meaning	Inf.	Pres.Ind.Sing		Pres.Ind. Pl	Pret Sg
		1, 3	2	all persons	
'possess'	āgan	āh	āhst, āht	āgon	āhte
'can, know how to'	cunnan	cann	canst	cunnon	cūþe
'avail, be of use'	*dugan	dēah	---	dugon	dohte
'dare'	*durran	dearr	dearst	durron	dorste
remember'	gemunan	geman	gemanst	gemunon	gemunde
'be able'	magan	mæg	meaht	magon	mihte, meahte
'be allowed to, may'	*mōtan	mōt	mōst	mōton	mōste
'be obliged to'	*sculan	sceal	scealt	sculon	sceolde
'need'	þurfan	þearf	þearft	þurfon	þorfte
'grant'	unnan	ann	---	unnon	ūþe
'know'	witan	wāt	wāst	witon	wiste, wisse