



# Pronouns

Paradigms in any foreign language are typically learned by rote. This ultimately does the trick, but it can be rather dull, and it is not at all helpful in relating the forms you are learning to their function in context. Fortunately, one can often find cognate forms in related languages. To a speaker of English and/or German, the Old Norse pronouns are a breeze once you are aware of their Germanic analogues. Most forms are cognate but have developed separately; only English *they*, *them*, *their* are direct borrowings from Old Norse.

If you'd like to test your knowledge of these paradigms, head over to the flashcards for paradigms, phrases and simple clauses, or actual sentences.

## Personal pronouns

### First person ("I, we")

sg	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	ich	<b>ek</b>	ic	I
<i>acc.</i>	mich	<b>mik</b>	mē	me
<i>gen.</i>	mein	<b>mín</b>	mīn	my (mine)
<i>dat.</i>	mir	<b>mér</b>	mē	me

dual	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	--	<b>vit</b>	wit	--
<i>acc.</i>	--	<b>okkr</b>	unc	--
<i>gen.</i>	--	<b>okkar</b>	uncer	--
<i>dat.</i>	--	<b>okkr</b>	unc	--

pl	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	wir	<b>vér</b>	wē	we
<i>acc.</i>	uns	<b>oss</b>	ūs	us
<i>gen.</i>	unser	<b>vár</b>	ūre	our
<i>dat.</i>	uns	<b>oss</b>	ūs	us

### Second person ("you")

sg	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	du	<b>þú</b>	þū	you
<i>acc.</i>	dich	<b>þik</b>	þē	you (thee)
<i>gen.</i>	dein	<b>þín</b>	þīn	your (thine)
<i>dat.</i>	dir	<b>þér</b>	þē	you (thee)

dual	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	--	<b>(þ)it</b>	ġit	--
<i>acc.</i>	--	<b>ykkar</b>	inc	--
<i>gen.</i>	--	<b>ykkar</b>	incer	--
<i>dat.</i>	--	<b>ykkar</b>	inc	--

pl	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	ihr	<b>(þ)ér</b>	gē	you (ye)
<i>acc.</i>	euch	<b>yðr</b>	ēow	you
<i>gen.</i>	euer	<b>yðar</b>	ēower	your
<i>dat.</i>	euch	<b>yðr</b>	ēow	you

Third person (“she, he, it”)

fem	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	sie	<b>hon</b>	heō	she
<i>acc.</i>	sie	<b>hana</b>	hīe	him
<i>gen.</i>	ihr	<b>hennar</b>	hire	her
<i>dat.</i>	ihr	<b>henni</b>	hire	her

<sg/pl>	German	ON	OE	English
	sie	<b>þær</b>	hīe	they
	sie	<b>þær</b>	hīe	them
	ihr	<b>þeir(r)a</b>	heora	their
	ihnen	<b>þeim</b>	him	them

masc	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	er	<b>hann</b>	hē	he
<i>acc.</i>	ihn	<b>hann</b>	hine	him
<i>gen.</i>	sein	<b>hans</b>	his	his
<i>dat.</i>	ihm	<b>honum</b>	him	him

<sg/pl>	German	ON	OE	English
	sie	<b>þeir</b>	hīe	they
	sie	<b>þá</b>	hīe	them
	ihr	<b>þeir(r)a</b>	heora	their
	ihnen	<b>þeim</b>	him	them

neut	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	es	<b>þat</b>	hit	it
<i>acc.</i>	es	<b>þat</b>	hit	it
<i>gen.</i>	sein	<b>þess</b>	his	its
<i>dat.</i>	ihm	<b>þ(v)í</b>	him	it

<sg/pl>	German	ON	OE	English
	sie	<b>þau</b>	hīe	they
	sie	<b>þau</b>	hīe	them
	ihr	<b>þeir(r)a</b>	heora	their
	ihnen	<b>þeim</b>	him	them

## Demonstrative pronouns

### Distal ("that")

fem	German	ON	OE	English	<sg pl>	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	die	sú	sēo	that		die	þær	þā	those
<i>acc.</i>	die	þá	þā	that		die	þá	þā	those
<i>gen.</i>	der	þeir(r)ar	þære	her		der	þeir(r)a	þāra	their
<i>dat.</i>	der	þeir(r)i	þære	her		den	þeim	þām	those

masc	German	ON	OE	English	<sg pl>	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	der	sá	se	that		die	þeir	þā	those
<i>acc.</i>	den	þann	þone	that		die	þá	þā	those
<i>gen.</i>	des	þess	þæs	his		der	þeir(r)a	þāra	their
<i>dat.</i>	dem	þeim	þām	him		den	þeim	þām	those
<i>inst.</i>	--	--	þȳ	--		--	--	--	--

neut	German	ON	OE	English	<sg pl>	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	das	þat	þæt	that		die	þau	þā	those
<i>acc.</i>	das	þat	þæt	that		die	þau	þā	those
<i>gen.</i>	des	þess	þæs	its		der	þeir(r)a	þāra	their
<i>dat.</i>	dem	þ(v)í	þām	that		den	þeim	þām	those
<i>inst.</i>	--	--	þȳ	--		--	--	--	--

### Proximal ("this")

fem	German	ON	OE	English	<sg pl>	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	diese	sjá/þessi	þēos	this		diese	þessar	þās	these
<i>acc.</i>	diese	þessa	þās	this		diese	þessar	þās	these
<i>gen.</i>	dieser	þessar(rar)	þisse	her		dieser	þessa(rra)	þissa	their
<i>dat.</i>	dieser	þess(arr)i	þisse	her		diesen	þessum	þām	these

masc	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	dieser	<b>sjá/þessi</b>	þes	this
<i>acc.</i>	diesen	<b>þenna</b>	þisne	this
<i>gen.</i>	dieses	<b>þessa</b>	þisses	his
<i>dat.</i>	diesem	<b>þessum</b>	þissum	him
<i>inst.</i>	--	--	þýs	--

<sg/pl>

German	ON	OE	English
diese	<b>þessir</b>	þās	these
diese	<b>þessa</b>	þās	these
dieser	<b>þessa(rra)</b>	þissa	their
diesen	<b>þessum</b>	þām	these
--	--	--	--

neut	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	dieses	<b>þetta</b>	þis	this
<i>acc.</i>	dieses	<b>þetta</b>	þis	this
<i>gen.</i>	dieses	<b>þessa</b>	þisses	its
<i>dat.</i>	diesem	<b>þessu</b>	þissum	it

<sg/pl>

German	ON	OE	English
diese	<b>þessi</b>	þās	these
diese	<b>þessi</b>	þās	these
dieser	<b>þessa(rra)</b>	þissa	their
diesen	<b>þessum</b>	þām	these

## Interrogative pronoun

fem/masc	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	wer	<b>hverr</b>	hwā	who
<i>acc.</i>	wen	<b>hvern</b>	hwone	whom
<i>gen.</i>	wessen	<b>hvess</b>	hwæs	whose
<i>dat.</i>	wem	<b>hveim</b>	hwām	whom
<i>inst.</i>	--	--	hwý	--

neut	German	ON	OE	English
<i>nom.</i>	was	<b>hvat</b>	hwæt	what
<i>acc.</i>	was	<b>hvat</b>	hwæt	what
<i>gen.</i>	wessen	<b>hvess</b>	hwæs	whose
<i>dat.</i>	wem	<b>hví</b>	hwām	what
<i>inst.</i>	--	--	hwý	--

## Application

To learn pronominal declension, it may be useful to bring the pronouns together into a series of simple sentences. To this end, you will need to learn the present indicative forms of three verbs: one for each of the oblique cases. We'll also add in an impersonal verb for good measure. The strong verb classes are identified with Roman numerals, the weak with Arabic numerals. The differences between the classes are of limited relevance to the present exercise; simply study the forms of these individual verbs for now.

<i>sjá V "see" (+acc.)</i>		
#	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
1	ek sé	vér sjám
2	þú sér	(þ)ér séð
3	hann sér	þeir sjá

<i>hefna 1 "avenge" (+gen.)</i>		
#	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
1	ek hefni	vér hefnum
2	þú hefni	(þ)ér hefnið
3	hann hefni	þeir hefna

<i>segja 3 "say" (to +dat.)</i>		
#	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
1	ek segi	vér segjum
2	þú segir	(þ)ér segið
3	hann segir	þeir segja

<i>langa 2 "long for" (+acc. for til +gen.)</i>		
#	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
1	mik langar	oss langar
2	þik langar	yðr langar
3	hann langar	þá langar

Given these paradigms, and the knowledge that dual pronouns take plural verbs, you can now form simple sentences like the following:

- Ek sé þik ("I see you")
- It séð hana ("You two see her")
- Þú hefni hennar ("You avenge her")
- Þær hefna mín ("They [feminine] avenge me")
- Hon segir þeim ("She tells them")
- Þau segja okkr ("They [mixed gender] tell the two of us")
- Oss langar til hans ("We long for him")
- Ykkur langar til vár ("You two long for us")

With just the personal pronouns and these four verbs, you are now able to read or form 423 different Old Norse sentences! With the above paradigms close at hand, head over to set 1 of the flashcards to practise doing just that.