

Strong Verbs

Preterite and Past Participle Formation

Weak

- ▶ Stem + dental suffix + personal ending
- ▶ Dental suffix:
 - ▶ Gothic *-d-*
 - ▶ English *-d/t*
 - ▶ **Old Icelandic** *-ði-*, *-ðr/ð/t*
 - ▶ Form assimilates to context → *-di-*, *-ddi-*, *-ti-*
- ▶ e.g. *said*, *spent*, *walked*
- ▶ *segja* → *sagði*
- ▶ *beiða* → *beiddum*
- ▶ *festa* → *festu*
- ▶ *flytja* → *fluttuð*

Strong

- ▶ Stem with modified vowel + personal ending
- ▶ Up to four different vowels for present, preterite singular, preterite plural, and past participle (“the four principal parts”)
- ▶ Vowel gradation:
 - ▶ English:
 - ▶ *write*, *wrote*, *written*
 - ▶ *sing*, *sang*, *sung*
 - ▶ Old Icelandic:
 - ▶ *rita*, *reit*, *ritum*, *ritinn*
 - ▶ *syngja*, *søng*, *sungum*, *sunginn*

Vowel Gradation

Class	First	<i>Fronted</i>	Second	Third	<i>Fronted</i>	Fourth
I	í		ei	i		i
II	jú (jó)	ý	au (ó)	u	y	o
III	eCC (iCC)		aCC	uCC	yCC	uCC (oCC)
IV	e		a	á	æ	o
V	e (i)		a (á)	á	æ	e
VI	a	e	ó	ó	œ	a (e)
VII	X	<i>X-fronted</i>	Y	Y	<i>Y-fronted</i>	X
