

Weak Verbs

A Typical Weak Conjugation

→ paradigms.langeslag.org/?l=kalla_2

Personal Endings, Present Tense

Person	Pronoun	Ending	Example 1	Example 2
1sg	ek	—	kalla	tel
2sg	þú	-r	kallar	telr
3sg	hon/hann/þat	-r	kallar	telr
1pl	vér	-um	køllum	teljum
2pl	(þ)ér	-ið	kallið	telið
3pl	þær/þeir/þau	-a	kalla	telja

Weak Verb Classes and Thematic Vowels

Class	Thematic Vowel	Example
1 short	(i/)j	ek tel, þú telr, hon telr vér teljum, þér telið, þau telja
1 long	i(/j)	ek heyri, þú heyrir, hon heyrir vér heyrum, þér heyrrið, þau heyra
2	a	ek kalla, þú kallar, hon kallar vér kollum, þér kallið, þau kalla
3a	i (PN e)	ek hefi, þú hefir, hon hefir vér hofum, þér hafið, þau hafa
3b	i (PN e)	ek segi, þú segir, hon segir vér segjum, þér segið, þau segja

Stem Length

Short A monosyllabic stem ending in VC or \bar{V} (i.e. a long vowel)

Long Any other combination

NB Thematic vowels and stem augments *j/v* are not counted towards stem length, while geminate *gg* counts as a single consonant. Diphthongs count as long vowels.

Short *kveðja*, *hyggja*, *leggja*, *selja*, *spyrja*, *telja*, *verja*, *þekja*, *æja*

Long *blœða*, *brenna*, *dreyma*, *elda*, *fylgja*, *hlífa*, *kyssa*, *sigla*, *þykkja*

NB *byggja* is a long stem, while *hyggja* counts as short!

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Thematic Vowels and Front Mutation

Class	T-Vowel	Front Mutation
1 short	(i/)j	Everywhere except preterite indicative, past ptc
1 long	i(/j)	Everywhere
2	a	Nowhere
3a	i (PN e)	Preterite subjunctive
3b	i (PN e)	Everywhere except preterite indicative, past ptc

Preterite Formation

The dental suffix *-ði* loses its vowel when followed immediately by a vowel in the personal ending.

Person	Pronoun	Ending	Example
1sg	ek	-a	kallaða
2sg	þú	-r	kallaðir
3sg	hon/hann/þat	—	kallaði
1pl	vér	-um	kolluðum
2pl	(þ)ér	-uð	kolluðuð
3pl	þær/þeir/þau	-u	kolluðu

Some Representative Weak Verbs

- dvelja (1, short stem)
- dœma (1, long stem)
- spyrja (1, long stem)
- leita (2)
- tala (2)
- þakka (2)
- hafa (3, usual type)
- lifa (3, usual type)
- segja (3, fronted type)