

**OLD ENGLISH GRAMMAR:  
THE NOUN, THE PRONOUN,  
THE ADJECTIVE**

# THE NOUN

- Gender: Masculine, Feminine and Neuter.
- Number: Singular and Plural:

fisc – fiscas; tōð – tēð

- Case: Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative.  
(Genitive) OE thæs cyninges brōðor - “that king’s brother”.

# NOUN DECLENSIONS (STEMS)

- Strong (vowel) declension: **a**-stem, **ō**-stem, **u**-stem and **i**-stem.
- Weak (consonant) declension: **n**-stem, **r**-stem, **s**-stem.
- Root-stems: the root was equal to the stem.

# STRONG (VOWEL) DECLENSION

		A-stems		Ō - stems
		Masculine	Neuter	Feminine
Sin- gu- lar	Nominative	fisc (fish)	scip	tal <u>u</u> (tale)
	Genitive	fisc <u>e</u> s	(ship)	tal <u>e</u>
	Dative	fisc <u>e</u>	scip <u>e</u> s	tal <u>e</u>
	Accusative	fisc	scip <u>e</u> scip	tal <u>e</u>
Plural	Nominative	fisc <u>a</u> s	scipu	tala,-e
	Genitive	fisc <u>a</u>	scip <u>a</u>	tala,-ena
	Dative	fisc <u>u</u> m	scip <u>u</u> m	tal <u>u</u> m
	Accusative	fisc <u>a</u> s	scip <u>u</u>	tala,- <u>e</u>

# WEAK (CONSONANT) DECLENSION

	Case	masculine	feminine	neuter
Singular	Nominative	nama (name)	tunge	eage (eye)
	Genitive	naman	(tongue)	eagan
	Dative	naman	tungan	eagan
	Accusative	naman	tungan tungan	eage
Plural	Nominative	naman	tunge	eagan
	Genitive	namena	tungena	eagena
	Dative	namum	tungum	eagum
	Accusative	naman	tungan	eagan

# ROOT-STEM DECLENSION

	case	masculine	feminine
singular	Nominative Genitive Dative Accusative	man (man) mannes man man	mūs (mouse) mūse mýs mūs
plural	Nominative Genitive Dative Accusative	men manna mannum men	mýs mūs mūs mýs

# THE PRONOUN

- personal,
- demonstrative,
- interrogative,
- possessive,
- indefinite,
- relative.

# PERSONAL PRONOUN

- 1<sup>st</sup> pers.: Ic, wē;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> pers.: ǫu, gē;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> pers.: hē, hēo, hit; hī /hīe.



# CATEGORY OF NUMBER

person	singular	dual	plural
1st	ic	wīt	wē
2nd	đu	gīt	gē
3rd	(Masc.) Hē	-	hī / hīe
	(Fem.) Hēo	-	
	(Neut.) Hit	-	

# DECLENSION OF THE PERSONAL PRONOUN /C

case	singular	dual	plural
Nominative	ic	wit	wē
Genitive	mīn	uncer	ūser, ūre
Dative	mē	unc	ūs
Accusative	mec, mē	unc	ūsic, ūs

# DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN

- Masculine: sē,
- Feminine: sēo,
- Neuter: thæt
- Plural: thæt

# DECLENSION OF THE DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

case	Mascul. Singular (that)	Femin. Singular (that)	Neuter Singular (that)	Plural (those)
Nomin.	sē	sēo	þæt	þæt
Genitive	þæs	þære	þæs	þara
Dative	þæm	þære	þæm	þæm
Accusat.	þone	þa	þæt	þā
Instrum.	þý, þon			þý

# POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

- A separate class of pronouns:

OE his mōdor - ModE his mother;

OE sunu mīn “my son” – ModE son mine  
(literally)

# THE ADJECTIVE

- Case,
- Number,
- Gender,
- Two types of declensions:  
weak and strong.

# DECLENSION OF ADJECTIVES

number	case	strong	weak
singular	Nominative Genitive Dative Accusative Instrumental	gōd (good) gōdes gōdum gōdne gōde	gōda gōdan gōdan gōdan gōdan
plural	Nominative Genitive Dative Accusative Instrumental	gōde gōdra gōdum gōde gōdum	gōdan gōdra gōdum gōdan gōdum

# DEGREES OF COMPARISON

- The Comparative degree: the suffix **-ra**,
- The Superlative degree: the suffix **-est/-ost**
- Vowel alternations due to palatal mutation
- Suppletive forms



# SOFT, BLÆC, EALD, GŌD, MICEL

Form-building means	Positive	Comparative	Superlative	ModE
Suffix	soft	softra	softost	soft
Suffixes plus vowel alternations	blæc eald	blæcra ieldra	blacost ieldest	black old
Suppletive forms	gōd micel	betera māra	betst mæst	good big, much