OLD ENGLISH VERB

GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES OF THE VERB

- number (singular, plural
- Person (1st, 2nd, 3rd distinguished only in the Singular of the Present Tense)
- mood (Imperative, Indicative, Subjunctive)
- tense (Present, Past)

NON-FINITE FORMS

- <u>Infinitive</u>

  OE helpan (Nom.) - OE to helpenne (Dat.)

- <u>Participle:</u>

- <u>Participle I</u> – present, active

- <u>Participle II</u> – past, passive (from the transitive verbs), active (from the intransitive verbs)

SUMMARY TABLE

Gram.Categories	Finite Forms	Non-finite forms
Mood	Indicative, Imperative, Subjunctive	-----
Tense Voice Number	Past, Present --------- Singular & Plural	Participle
Person	1,2,3 in the Indicative Mood, Singular	------
Case	--------	Infinitive & Participle
Gender	--------	Participle

MORPHOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF VERBS

- Strong verbs
- Weak verbs
- Preterit – present verbs
- Suppletive verbs
- Anomalous, or irregular verbs

STRONG VERBS

- <u>Four principal forms</u>: Infinitive, Past Singular (for the 1st and 3rd pers.sg.), Past Plural (for the 2nd and plural), Participle II

- <u>Seven classes</u>: five classes due to the ablaut (the gradation of root-vowels);

  class 6 – quantitative changes (*a-ō-o-a*);

  class 7 – reduplication (the doubling of the root in the Past tense stems)

DIFFERENT ADDED SOUNDS IN THE CLASSES OF VERBS

- 1 – i
- 2 – u
- 3 – sonorant + *h* or another consonant
- 4 – sonorant in the root
- 5 – noise consonant in the root
- 6 – quantitative ablaut: IE *o - ō*, Germ. *a – ō*
- 7 – reduplication of the first consonant of the root + *ai>e* in the Past Tense; the root is a long monophthong or a long diphthong.

CLASSES OF STRONG VERBS

Principal forms Classes	Infinitive	Past Singular	Past Plural	Participle II	ModE
[1] **i**	writan	writ	writon	writen	*write*
2. **u**	(a) ceosan (b) bugan	ceas beag	curon bugon	coren bogen	*choose* *bow*
3. Son+cons	(a) findan	fand	fundon	funden	*find*
	(b) helpan	healp	hulpon	holpen	*help*
	(c) feohtan	feaht	fuhton	fohten	*fight*
4. Son.	beran	bær	bæron	boren	*bear*
5. Noise Cons.	(a) cweþan	cwæþ	cwædon	cweden	'say' (obs. *quoth)*
	(b)sittan	sæt	sæton	seten	*sit*
6. long	scacan	scōc	scocon	scacen	*shake*
7. redupl.	(a) hatan	het (heht)	heton (hehton)	haten	'call', 'name'
	(b) growan	greow	greowon	growen	grow

WEAK VERBS (1)

- <u>Three principal forms</u>: Infinitive, Past, Participle II

- <u>Three classes</u> (dental suffix **–d / -ed**; no vowel interchange)

WEAK VERBS (2)

- The 1st class (non-productive): derivatives

  a) of nouns: *dēman ← dōm*,

  b) of adjectives: *fyllan ← full*,

  c) of the Past Sg of strong verbs (with causative meaning):

  sittan – sæt – sæton – seten = sit,

  sæt + jan > settan = set

IRREGULAR WEAK VERBS OF THE 1ST CLASS

- tellan (ea ← breaking before -ld);

- Þencan – þōhte – þoht (think)

  (*þankjan – þankde – þankd)

WEAK VERBS (3)

- <u>The 2nd class</u> (productive): stem-suffix **ō**

    lufian ← *luf-ō-jan

WEAK VERBS (4)

- The 3rd class (non-productive):
  habban (have), *libban* (live), *secgan* (say)

  1) habban – hæfde – hæfd
  2) libban – lifde – lifd
  3) secgan – sægde – sægd

WEAK VERBS IN OLD ENGLISH

Principal forms Classes	Infinitive	Past Tense	Participle 11	NE
	-an/ -ian	*-de/-ede/-te*	*-ed/-d/-t*	*stir*
	(a)styrian	styrede	styred	
	(b)temman	temede	temed	*tame*
I	(c)deman	demde	demed	*deem*
	(d)cepan	cepte	ceped	*keep*
II	*-ian*	*-ode*	*-od*	*look*
	locian	locode	locod	
III	*-an*	*-de*	*-d*	*live*
	libban	lifde	lifd	

PRETERITE–PRESENT VERBS

- the Present Tense - according to the Past Tense of strong verbs,

- the Past Tense – according to the Past Tense of weak verbs (dental suffix)

- Modern English modal verbs

   (OE cunnan – ModE can)

SUPPLETIVE VERBS (GO, BE)

Infin.   –   Past   –   Part.II

- gān   –   ēode   –   gān (or ge-gān) = go
- bēon – wæs, wæron – bēn = be

ANOMALOUS VERBS (WILL, DO)

Infin. – Past – Part.II

- willan – wolde -   ---   = will
- dōn   –   dyde   – dōn (ge-dōn) = do