

The subclasses of English verbs recognized by Henry Gleason, with the etymologies of their members. (The membership of the classes given here reflects my own speech. Compounds are counted in with simplices.)

1. The regular productive class: any and all etymological origins, as expected.

2. Past and ptc. with no affix.

bet	*	OF	rid	*	ON
burst		OE s3	set		OE w1
cast	*	ON	shed		OE s7
cost	*	OF	shut		OE w1
cut	*	???	slit		ME w1 (?)
hit	*	ON	split	*	MDu
hurt	*	OF	spread		OE w1
let		OE s7	thrust	*	ON
put	!	OE w2	wet		OE w1
quit	*	OF	☞ so also: beset, upset		

3. Pres. with /-i-/, past and ptc. with /-ə-/.

cling		OE s3	stick	!	OE w2
dig	!	OF	sting		OE s3
fling	*	ON	string	!!	← noun
sling	*	ON	swing		OE s3
slink		OE s3	win		OE s3
spin		OE s3	wring		OE s3

4. Pres. with /-iy-/, past and ptc. with /-e-/ and /-t-/.

creep		OE s2	leap		OE s7
deal		OE w1	mean		OE w1
dream	!!	← noun	sleep		OE s7
feel		OE w1	sweep		ME (unclear)
keep		OE w1	weep		OE s7
kneel	!	OE w2	☞ also regular: dream, kneel		

5. Pres. with /-iy-/, past and ptc. with /-e-/.

bleed		OE w1	plead	*	OF
breed		OE w1	read		OE s7
feed		OE w1	speed		OE w1
lead		OE w1	☞ also regular: plead		
meet		OE w1			

6. Pres. with /-i-/, past with /-æ-/ ~ /-æ:-/, ptc. with /-ə-/.

begin	OE s3	sink	OE s3
drink	OE s3	spring	OE s3
ring !	OE w1	stink	OE s3
shrink	OE s3	swim	OE s3
sing	OE s3		

7. Pres. with /-ay-/, past with /-ow-/, ptc. with /-i-/ and /-ən/.

drive	OE s1	strive !	OF
ride	OE s1	thrive *	ON
rise	OE s1	write	OE s1
smite	OE s1	⚡ ptc. also regular: thrive	

8. Pres. with /-d/, past and ptc. with /-t/.

bend	OE w1	rend	OE w1
build	OE w1	send	OE w1
gird	OE w1	spend	OE w1
lend	OE w1*		

9. Pres. with /-iy-/, past with /-ow-/, ptc. with /-ow-/ and /-ən/.

cleave	OE s2	steal	OE s4
freeze	OE s2	weave	OE s5
speak	OE s5		

10. Pres. with /-ay-/, past and ptc. with /-aw-/.

bind	OE s3	grind	OE s3
find	OE s3	wind	OE s3

11. Pres. with /-ow/, past with /-uw/, ptc. with /-ow-n/.

blow	OE s7	know	OE s7
grow	OE s7	throw	OE s7

12. Pres. with /-e(y)-/, past with /-o-/, ptc. with /-o-/ and /-n/.

bear	OE s4	wear !	OE w1
swear	OE s6	⚡ so also: forbear	
tear	OE s4		

13. Pres. with /-ey-/, past with /-u-/, ptc. with /-ey-/ and /-ən/.

forsake	OE s6	take *	ON
shake	OE s6	⚡ so also: mistake, undertake	

☞ From this point the classes are my own.

14. Past and ptc. with /-t/ or /-d/.

burn	OE s3 & w1	smell	ME w1
dwell	OE w1	spell	* OF
learn	OE w2	spill	* OE w1 (& ON?)

15. Past with /-d/, ptc. with /-n/.

sew (!)	OE w2	strew (!)	OE w2
show (!)	OE w2	☞ also regular:	sew, sow, strew
sow	OE s7		

16. Pres. with /-i-/, past and ptc. with /-æ-/.

sit	OE s5	☞ the latter also without affix
spit !	OE w1	

17. Pres. with /-e-/, past with /-a-/, ptc. with /-a-/ and /-ən/.

forget	OE s5	☞ so also: beget
tread	OE s5	☞ also: ptc. 'trod'

18. Pres. with /-e-/, past and ptc. with /-ow-/ and /-d/.

sell	OE w1	☞ so also: foretell
tell	OE w1	

19. Pres. in /-iyč/, past and ptc. in /-ot/.

teach	OE w1	beseech	OE w1
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20. Pres. with /-ey-/, past with /-ow-/, ptc. with /-ow-/ and /-ən/.

break	OE s4	☞ the latter also regular;
wake	OE s6	so also: awake

21. Pres. with /-ay-/, past and ptc. with /-ow-/.

shine	OE s1	☞ the dictionaries give ptc. 'stridden',
stride	OE s1	but only 'strode' in my speech

22. Pres. with /-ay-/, past and ptc. with /-i-/.

light	OE w1	slide	OE s1
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23. Pres. with /-ay-/, past with /-i-/, ptc. with /-i-/ and /-ən/.

bite	OE s1	hide (!)	OE w1
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24-35. Unique irregular weak (and half-weak) verbs with past tenses in /-d/.

make: /meyk, meyd, meyd/	!	OE w2
say: /sey (sez), sed, sed/		OE w3
have: /hæ:v (hæ:z), hæ:d, hæ:d/		OE w3
do: /duw (dəz), did, dən/		OE irreg.
flee: /fliy, fled, fled/		OE s2

hear: /hi(y)r, hǣrd, hǣrd/		OE w1
swell: reg., alt. ptc. /swowlǣn/		OE s3
shear: reg., alt. ptc. /šorn/		OE s4
bereave: reg., alt. ptc. /biréft/	(!)	OE w2
abide: reg., alt. past /ǣbowd/		OE s1
☞ note that 'bide (one's time)' is reg.		
heave: reg., exc. past /howv/		
in '(the ship) hove in sight'		OE s6
stave: reg., exc. past /stowv/		
in 'stove (it) in'	!!	← noun
36-42. Unique weak verbs with past and ptc. in /-t/.		
leave: /liyv, left, left/		OE w1
lose: /luwz, lost, lost/	!	OE w2 (with infl. of s2)
bring: /brin̄, brot, brot/		OE w1
think: /θiŋk, θot, θot/		OE w1
catch: /kæč, kot, kot/	!	OF
seek: /siyk, sot, sot/		OE w1
buy: /bay, bot, bot/		OE w1
43-62. Unique strong verbs.		
bid: /bid, bæ:d, bidǣn/		OE s5
☞ so also: forbid		
give: /giv, geyv, givǣn/		OE s5
☞ so also: forgive		
get: /get, gat, gat/		OE s5
hang: /hæŋ, hǣŋ, hǣŋ/		OE s7
stand: /stæ:nd, stud, stud/		OE s6
☞ so also: understand, withstand		
run: /rǣn, ræ:n, rǣn/		OE s3
come: /kǣm, keym, kǣm/		OE s4
☞ so also: become		
draw: /dro, druw, drǣn/		OE s6
☞ so also: withdraw		
fall: /fol, fel, folǣn/		OE s7
☞ so also: befall		
beat: /biyt, biyt, biytǣn/		OE s7
eat: /iyt, eyt, iytǣn/		OE s5

see: /siy, so, siyn/	OE s5
☞ so also: foresee	
slay: /sley, sluw, sleyn/	OE s6
strike: /strayk, stræk, stræk/	OE s1
fight: /fayt, fot, fot/	OE s3
lie: /lay, ley, leyn/	OE s5
fly: /flay, fluw, flown/	OE s2
hold: /howld, held, held/	OE s7
☞ so also: behold, uphold, withhold	
shoot: /šuwɪt, šat, šat/	OE s2
choose: /čuwz, čowz, čowzən/	OE s2
63-64. Suppletive verbs.	
go: /gow, went, gon/	OE irreg.
be: /biy (æ:m, ar, iz), wəz (wər), bin/	OE irreg.
65-72. Modal verbs and ‘ought’.	
will: /wil, wud/	OE irreg.
shall: /šæl, šud/	OE preterite-present
can: /kæ:n, kud/	OE preterite-present
may: /mey, mayt/	OE preterite-present
dare: /de(y)r/	OE preterite-present
must: /məst/	past of OE preterite-present
need: /niyd/	!!! ME noun
ought: /ot/	past of OE preterite-present
☞ There are a few other irregularities; for example, I think that (in my speech) the ptc. of ‘knit’ has no affix when intransitive (‘the bone has knit’). Quite a number of former participles are now used only as adjectives; clear examples are ‘molten, laden, shaven, hewn, sawn, mown, gilt’. The past and ptc. ‘wrought’ (pres. ‘work’ in the meaning ‘make’), the past ‘quoth’ (no pres. or ptc.), and the ptc. ‘clad’ (pres. ‘clothe’) are, for me, literary and archaic.	