

Outline of the Proto-Indo-European verb system.

Construction of a verb form:

[ROOT+aspect](+mood suffix)+ending

The aspect marker can be a suffix, an infix, initial reduplication of the root, or zero; affixes induce specific ablaut patterns.

The mood suffix expresses subjunctive or optative mood.

The endings express: (a) person and number (sg., dual, pl.) of the subject; (b) tense (nonpast or past); (c) imperative mood; (d) voice (active or mediopassive).

System of categories.

Note that each finite category has forms for all nine person-and-number combinations of the subject (six for imperatives, with no 1st person).

Participles are adjectives, inflected for gender, number, and case.

<i>Active voice:</i>	<i>imperfective</i>	<i>perfective</i>	<i>stative</i>
	<i>(“present”) stem</i>	<i>(“aorist”) stem</i>	<i>(“perfect”) stem</i>
<i>nonpast indic.</i>	present indicative	—	perfect indicative
<i>past indic.</i>	imperfect indic.	aorist indicative	—
<i>subjunctive</i>	pres. subjunctive	aorist subjunctive	perfect subjunctive
<i>optative</i>	pres. optative	aorist optative	perfect optative
<i>imperative</i>	pres. imperative	aorist imperative	perfect imperative
<i>participle</i>	pres. participle	aorist participle	perfect participle

There were also infinitives, though how they fit into the system is unclear.

<i>Mediopassive voice:</i>	<i>imperfective</i>	<i>perfective</i>
	<i>(“present”) stem</i>	<i>(“aorist”) stem</i>
<i>nonpast indic.</i>	present indicative	—
<i>past indic.</i>	imperfect indic.	aorist indicative
<i>subjunctive</i>	pres. subjunctive	aorist subjunctive
<i>optative</i>	pres. optative	aorist optative
<i>imperative</i>	pres. imperative	aorist imperative
<i>participle</i>	pres. participle	aorist participle

Outline of the Proto-Germanic verb system.

Construction of a verb form:

[ROOT+tense](+mood suffix)+ending

Present tense markers are almost always suffixes. The past tenses of some verbs are also suffixed; those of others exhibit ablaut, reduplication, or both.

The mood suffix expresses subjunctive mood (etymologically descended from the PIE optative); it contracts with the present stem-final vowel but replaces the past stem-final vowel.

The endings express: (a) person and number (sg., dual, pl.) of the subject; (b) imperative mood; (c) voice (active or passive). There are no 3rd-person dual forms.

System of categories.

Note that each finite category has forms for all eight person-and-number combinations of the subject (four for imperatives, with no 1st person and no dual forms). There is massive syncretism in the passive voice.

Participles are adjectives, inflected for gender, number, and case.

<i>Active voice:</i>	<i>present stem</i>	<i>past stem</i>
<i>indicative</i>	present indicative	past indicative
<i>subjunctive</i>	pres. subjunctive	past subjunctive
<i>imperative</i>	pres. imperative	—
<i>participle</i>	pres. participle	—
<i>infinitive</i>	pres. infinitive	—
<i>Passive voice:</i>	<i>present stem</i>	<i>past stem</i>
<i>indicative</i>	present indicative	—
<i>subjunctive</i>	pres. subjunctive	—
<i>participle</i>	—	past participle

Proto-Indo-European sources of the Proto-Germanic verb categories.

Person and number have not changed (except that 3rd-person dual forms have been lost; 3rd-personal plural forms are used instead).

The mediopassive voice has been restricted to passive function, and its finite forms have been restricted to the present tense and the indicative and subjunctive moods. (On the past participle see below.)

The sources of the other categories are as follows.

Present indicative: PIE present indicative or (for a few verbs) aorist subjunctive.

Present subjunctive: PIE present optative.

Present imperative: PIE present imperative.

Present participle: PIE present participle.

Present infinitive: ?; apparently from PIE derived nouns, but remodelled so as to fit into present tense system.

Past indicative: perfect indicative of most underived verbs (“strong past”); imperfect indicative of ‘do’; periphrastic construction, probably past participle + ‘did’, of derived verbs (“weak past”).

Past subjunctive: perfect or imperfect optative (same distribution as past indicative).

Past participle: derived adjectives.