

Some verbs frequently encountered in Old English prose.

This list too is based to some extent on Jember and Kemmler 1981. The prefix *ge-* is ignored when it is optional and does not change the meaning of the basic verb.

Strong class I

belīfan, belīfþ, belāf, belifon, belifen ‘remain, be left over’

bīdan, bīt, bād, bidon, biden ‘stay, wait (for)’

ābīdan ‘await, experience’

ġebīdan ‘await, experience’

bītan, bīt, bāt, biton, biten ‘bite’

drīfan, drīfþ, drāf, drifon, drifen ‘drive’

ādrīfan ‘drive off’

bedrīfan ‘pursue’

fordrīfan ‘drive off’

oferdrīfan ‘overcome’

ġewītan, ġewīt, ġewāt, ġewiton, ġewiten ‘go, go out, depart’

glīdan, glīt, glād, glidon, gliden ‘glide, slide’

grīpan, grīpþ, grāp, gripon, gripen ‘grasp, seize’

rīdan, rīt, rād, ridon, riden ‘ride’

berīdan ‘overtake, surround’

forrīdan ‘intercept’

rīsan, rīst, rās, rison, risen ‘rise, arise’

ārīsan ‘rise, arise’

slītan, slīt, slāt, sliton, sliten ‘tear, slit’

tōslītan ‘tear, slit’

stīgan, stīġþ, stāg, stigon, stiġen ‘go, mount, ascend’

āstīgan ‘go, mount, ascend’

swīcan, swīcþ, swāc, swicon, swicen ‘cease, fail’

beswīcan ‘deceive, betray’

wrītan, wrīt, wrāt, writon, writen ‘write’

āwrītan ‘write’

wrīþan, wrīþ, wrāþ, wriþon, wriþen ‘twist, wrap, tie up’

With the Verner’s Law alternation:

snīþan, snīþ, snāþ, snidon, sniden ‘cut, cut down’

☞ A couple of rarer verbs also exhibit this alternation; however, note that rīsan and wrīþan (above) do not exhibit it.

Strong class II

bēodan, bīet, bēad, budon, boden ‘offer, command, announce’
 ābēodan ‘offer, command, announce’
 bebēodan ‘command, entrust’
 forbēodan ‘forbid’
 misbēodan ‘treat badly, wrong’
 brūcan, brȳcþ, brēac, brucon, brocen ‘use, enjoy’
 būgan, bȳgþ, bēag, bugon, bogen ‘bend, bow down’
 forbūgan ‘refrain from, avoid’
 clēofan, clīefþ, clēaf, clufon, clofen ‘split’
 crēopan, crīepþ, crēap, crupon, copen ‘crawl, creep’
 drēogan, drīegþ, drēag, drugon, drogen ‘experience, take part in, perform’
 ādrēogan ‘act, endure, pass time’
 flēogan, flīegþ, flēag, flugon, flogen ‘fly’
 ġēotan, ġīet, ġēat, guton, goten ‘pour’
 hrēowan, hrīewþ, hrēaw, —, — ‘regret, repent’ (impersonal, thus only 3sg.)
 ofhrēowan ‘pity’
 lēogan, līegþ, lēag, lugon, logen ‘tell a lie’
 ālēogan ‘deny, deceive’
 forlēogan ‘perjure oneself’
 lūcan, lȳcþ, lēac, lucon, locen ‘close, lock’
 belūcan ‘close, lock’
 scēotan, scīet, scēat, scuton, scoten ‘shoot’
 onscēotan ‘unbar, open’
 þurhscēotan ‘pierce’
 scūfan, scȳfþ, scēaf, scufon, scofen ‘push, shove’

With the Verner’s Law alternation:

ċēosan, ċīest, ċēas, curon, coren ‘choose, decide’
 forlēosan, forlīest, forlēas, forluron, forloren ‘lose, abandon’
 frēosan, frīest, frēas, fruron, froren ‘freeze’
 hrēosan, hrīest, hrēas, hruron, hroren ‘fall’
 sēoþan, sīeþ, sēaþ, sudon, soden ‘boil’

Strong class III

Subclass 1: verbs with preconsonantal nasals in the root-syllable coda.

beginnan, beġinþ, begann, begunnon, beginnen ‘begin, undertake’

onġinnan ‘begin, undertake’
 bindan, bint, band, bundon, bunden ‘tie, bind’
 drincan, drinċ, dranc, druncon, druncen ‘drink’
 ādrincan ‘be drowned’
 findan, fint, fand (funde), fundon, funden ‘find’
 onfindan ‘find out, discover’
 limpan, limpċ, lamp, lumpon, lumpen ‘happen, pertain to’
 belimpan ‘belong to, concern’
 singan, singċ, sang, sungon, sungen ‘sing’
 āsingan ‘sing, compose’
 stincan, stinċ, stanc, stuncon, — ‘smell’
 swimman, swimċ, swamm, swummon, swummen ‘swim’
 swincan, swinċ, swanc, swuncon, swuncen ‘work hard, struggle’
 swingan, swingċ, swang, swungon, swungen ‘beat, flog’
 beswingan ‘beat, flog’
 winnan, winċ, wann, wunnon, wunnen ‘struggle, fight’
 ġewinnan ‘conquer, gain’
 oferwinnan ‘overcome’

Two of these verbs have undergone metathesis:

birnan, birnċ, barn, burnon, burnen ‘burn [intr.], be on fire’
 forbirnan ‘burn up, be consumed’
 irnan, irnċ, arn, urnon, urnen ‘run, flow’
 but note: ġerinnan ‘run together, congeal’

Subclass 2: verbs with preconsonantal *l*, *r*, or *h* in the root-syllable coda.

belgan, bilġċ, bealg, bulgon, bolgen ‘get angry’
 beorgan, bierġċ, bearg, burgon, borgen ‘save, protect, spare’
 ċeorfan, ċierfċ, ċearf, curfon, corfen ‘cut, cut down, carve’
 āċeorfan ‘cut away, cut down’
 tōċeorfan ‘cut to pieces’
 deorfan, dierfċ, dearf, durfon, — ‘exert oneself, work hard’
 feohtan, fieht, feaht, fuhton, fohten ‘fight’
 ġieldan, ġilt, ġeald, guldon, golden ‘pay’
 āġieldan ‘pay’
 forġieldan ‘pay for’
 helpan, hilpċ, healp, hulpon, holpen ‘help’
 steorfan, stierfċ, stearf, sturfon, storfen ‘die’

swellan, swilþ, sweall, *swullon, swollen ‘swell’

tōswellan ‘swell’

sweltan, swilt, swealt, swulton, swolten ‘die’

weorpan, wierþþ, wearþ, wurpon, worpen ‘throw’

āweorpan ‘throw away/out’

beweorpan ‘throw’

tōweorpan ‘throw down’

With the Verner’s Law alternation:

weorþan, wierþ, wearþ, wurdon, worden ‘become, happen, be done’

forweorþan ‘perish’

Subclass 3: verbs with other consonant clusters in the root-syllable coda.

brēgdan, brīgt, brægd, brugdon, brogden ‘move (something) quickly; change appearance; braid’

Two of these verbs have undergone metathesis:

berstan, birst, bærst, burston, borsten ‘break, burst’

ætberstan ‘break out, escape from’

tōberstan ‘burst apart, shatter’

þerscan, þirscþ, þærsc, þurscon, þorscen ‘thresh’

Subclass 4: nasal-suffixed verbs.

frīgnan, frīgnþ, frægn, frugnon, frugnen ‘ask’

befrīgnan ‘ask’

murnan, myrnþ, mearn, murnon, — ‘be anxious about, mourn’

Strong classes I–III, contract verbs

These verbs tend to be attracted into class II, regardless of their original inflection.

flēon, flīehþ, flēah, flugon, flogen ‘flee (from), escape’

āflēon; forflēon ‘flee (from), escape’

tēon, tīehþ, tēah, tugon, togen ‘pull, draw, attract, educate’

ātēon ‘pull out/up, deal with’

tēon (tīon), tīehþ, tēah, tugon, tīgen (togen) ‘accuse, blame’ (orig. class I)

þēon (þīon), þīehþ, þāh (þēah), þungon (þigon, þugon), þungen (þīgen, þogen)
‘thrive, prosper’ (orig. class III)

wrēon (wrīon), wrīehþ, wrāh (wrēah), wrigon (wruon), wrīgen (wrogen) ‘cover’
(orig. class I)

Strong class IV

beran, birþ, bæŕ, bæron, boren ‘carry, bring, bear, produce’
 forberan ‘abstain from, tolerate’
 brecan, bricþ, bræc, bræcon, brocen ‘break’
 ābrecan ‘break, conquer’
 tōbrecan ‘shatter, destroy’
 cuman, cymþ, c(w)ōm, c(w)ōmon, cumen (cymen) ‘come’
 ācuman ‘bear, endure’
 becuman ‘approach, happen’
 cwelan, cwilþ, cwæl, cwælon, cwolen ‘perish, die’
 ācwelan ‘perish, die’
 helan, hilþ, hæl, hælon, holen ‘hide, conceal’
 niman, nimþ, nam, nōmon, numen ‘take’
 beniman ‘deprive (of)’
 forniman ‘take away, destroy’
 scieran, scirþ, scear, scēaron, scoren ‘cut (off), separate, shear’
 stelan, stilþ, stæl, stælon, stolen ‘steal’
 bestelan ‘move stealthily’
 teran, tirþ, tær, tæron, toren ‘tear’

Strong class V

begietan, begitt, begeat, begēaton, begieten ‘get, beget’
 forgietan ‘forget’
 ongietan ‘grasp, understand, perceive’
 undergietan ‘understand’
 etan, itt, æt, æton, eten ‘eat, eat up’
 fretan ‘consume, devour’
 giefan, gifþ, geaf, gēafon, giefen ‘give’
 āgiefan ‘yield, give back’
 forgiefan ‘grant, forgive’
 metan, mitt, mæt, mæton, meten ‘measure’
 sprecan, spricþ, spræc, spræcon, sprecen ‘talk, speak’
 besprecan ‘discuss’
 tredan, tritt, træd, trædon, treden ‘step on, tread’
 ātredan ‘oppress, extort’
 wrecan, wricþ, wræc, wræcon, wrecen ‘pursue, accomplish, banish, avenge’

With the Verner's Law alternation:

cweþan, cwipþ(þ), cwæþ, cwædon, cweden 'say, speak'
 becweþan 'exhort, bequeath'

Presents with *j-suffix:

biddan, bitt, bæd, bædon, beden 'ask for, pray'
 ābiddan 'ask for, pray'

licgan, lig(e)þ, læg, lægon, legen 'lie'

sittan, sitt, sæt, sæton, seten 'sit, stay, occupy'
 āsittan 'settle; run aground'

besittan 'surround, besiege'

þicgan, þig(e)þ, þeah, þægon, þegen 'receive, accept, partake of'

☞ The last verb just listed is strong in verse, but mostly weak in prose (see below).

Contract verbs:

gefēon, gefieþ, gefeah, gefægon, — 'be glad, rejoice'

sēon, sieþ, seah, sāwon, sewen 'see, observe, experience'

besēon 'look, go see'

forsēon 'overlook, reject'

Strong class VI

faran, færþ, fōr, fōron, faren 'go, travel, act, fare, die'

āfaran 'depart'

forfaran 'perish, destroy, obstruct'

forþfaran 'depart, die'

offaran 'intercept'

oferfaran 'cross, pass through, meet with, overtake'

tōfaran 'be scattered, disperse'

sacan, sæcþ, sōc, sōcon, sacen 'dispute'

forsacan 'reject, renounce'

wascan, wæsc(e)þ, wōsc, wōscon, wascen 'wash'

Presents with *j-suffix:

hebban, hef(e)þ, hōf, hōfon, hafen 'lift, raise, exalt'

āhebban; onhebban 'lift, raise, exalt'

hliehhan, hlieþ, hlōg, hlōgon, — 'laugh'

sceþþan, sceþ(þ)þ, scōd, scōdon, sceaðen 'harm'

☞ The verb just listed is Anglian; the ptc. is attested only 1x, in verse.

sctieppan, scieþþ, scōp, scōpon, sceapen 'create'

forscieppan ‘transform’
 stæppan, stæpþ, stōp, stōpon, stapen ‘walk, go’
 forestæppan ‘precede’
 swerian, swereþ, swōr, swōron, sworn ‘swear’
 forswerian ‘swear falsely’

Presents with nasal affixes:

standan, stent, stōd, stōdon, standen ‘stand’
 āstandan ‘stand up’
 ætstandan ‘remain’
 forstandan ‘defend, be of use, understand’
 oþstandan ‘stand still’
 tōstandan ‘not occur’
 understandan ‘understand’
 wiþstandan ‘withstand’
 wæcnan, wæcneþ, wōc, wōcon, — ‘awake, arise’

☞ The compounds with ā- and on- (same mng.) occur only in the past.

Contract verbs:

slēan, sliehþ, slōg, slōgon, slægen ‘strike, kill’
 forslēan ‘strike through, destroy’
 ġeslēan ‘win, conquer’
 ofslēan ‘kill, destroy’
 ofāslēan ‘strike off’
 þurhslēan ‘strike through’
 þwēan, þwiehþ, þwōg, þwōgon, þwægen ‘wash’
 āþwēan ‘wash’

Strong class VII

Subclass 1: past with -ē-.

hātan, hæt, hēt, hēton, hāten ‘call, command’
 behātan ‘promise’
 lātan, læt, lēt, lēton, lāten ‘let, allow, leave’
 ālātan ‘let go, give up’
 (ān)forlātan ‘relinquish, abandon’
 slāpan (slæpan), slæpþ, slēp, slēpon, slāpen ‘sleep’
 onslāpan ‘go to sleep’

Contract verbs:

fōn, fēhþ, fēng, fēngon, fangen ‘seize, take’

befōn ‘surround, include, contain’

onfōn; underfōn ‘receive, accept’

hōn, hēhþ, hēng, hēngon, hangen ‘hand, suspend’

āhōn ‘hang, suspend’

Subclass 2: past with -ēo-.

bēatan, bīet, bēot, bēoton, bēaten ‘beat’

blāwan, blāwþ, blēow, blēowon, blāwen ‘blow, breathe’

blōwan, blēwþ, blēow, blēowon, blōwen ‘bloom, flourish’

cnāwan, cnāwþ, cnēow, cnēowon, cnāwen ‘know, recognize, acknowledge’

oncnāwan ‘perceive, understand’

feallan, fielhþ, fēoll, fēollon, feallen ‘fall, decay, die’

āfeallan ‘fall (in battle), decay’

befeallan ‘fall, fall to (someone)’

oþfeallan ‘decline, decay, fail’

flōwan, flēwþ, flēow, flēowon, flōwen ‘flow’

healdan, hielt, hēold, hēoldon, healden ‘hold, keep, guard, rule’

behealdan ‘possess, guard, observe’

forhealdan ‘forsake, withhold’

hēawan, hīewþ, hēow, hēowon, hēawen ‘chop, hew’

hlēapan, hlēpþ, hlēop, hlēopon, hlēapen ‘leap, run’

rōwan, rēwþ, rēow, rēowon, rōwen ‘row’

berōwan ‘row around’

oþrōwan ‘escape by rowing’

sāwan, sāwþ, sēow, sēowon, sāwen ‘sow’

spōwan, spēwþ, spēow, spēowon, — ‘succeed, thrive’

wealdan, wielt, wēold, wēoldon, wealden ‘rule, control’

weallan, wielþ, wēoll, wēollon, weallen ‘seethe, boil up’

weaxan, wiext, wēox, wēoxon, weaxen ‘grow’

beweaxan ‘overgrow’

wēpan, wēpþ, wēop, wēopon, wōpen ‘cry, weep’

bewēpan ‘weep for’

Strong present, weak past

bringan, bringþ, brōhte, brōht ‘bring, lead’
 forþbringan ‘bring forth, produce’
 būan, bȳþ, būde, būn ‘dwell, settle’

Weak class I

1. Underived verbs (including fully fossilized denominatives).

a) Verbs with no *-i- in the past.

bycgan, byġ(e)þ, bohte, boht ‘buy’
 bebycgan ‘sell’
 cweċċan, cwecþ, cweahte, cweaht ‘shake’
 dreċċan, drecþ, drahte, draht ‘trouble, afflict’
 læċċan, læcþ, læhte, læht ‘seize, catch’
 ræċċan, ræcþ, ræhte, ræht ‘reach, offer’
 āræċċan ‘reach’
 ġeræċċan ‘attain, obtain, take’
 sēċan, sēcþ, sōhte, sōht ‘look for, seek, visit, attack’
 sellan, sel(e)þ, sealde, seald ‘give, sell, pay’
 foreġesellan ‘advance (money)’
 stellan, stel(e)þ, stealde, steald ‘put, place’
 āstellan ‘display, establish’
 onstellan ‘institute, establish’
 streċċan, strecþ, streahte, streaht ‘stretch’
 āstreċċan ‘extend, prostrate oneself’
 tæċċan, tæcþ, tæhte, tæht ‘show, teach’
 betæċċan ‘entrust, point out’
 þenċan, þencþ, þōhte, þōht ‘think, consider, intend’
 āþenċan ‘invent, devise’
 beþenċan ‘consider’; (reflexive) ‘reflect’
 þyncan, þyncþ, þūhte, þūht ‘seem, appear’
 miþþyncan (impersonal) ‘be mistaken’
 ofþyncan ‘displease, insult, grieve’
 wyrċan, wyrċþ, worhte, worht ‘do, make, work’
 forwyrċan ‘sin, obstruct’
 fullwyrċan ‘complete, fulfill’

b) Verbs with light roots ending in *r*.

erian, ereþ, erede, ered ‘plow’

herian, hereþ, herede, hered ‘praise’

styrian, styreþ, styrede, styred ‘move, stir up’

āstyrian ‘agitate, rouse’

c) Verbs with light roots ending in *t* or *d*, and verbs in *-ett-*.

andettan, andett, andette, andett ‘confess, acknowledge’

hreddan, hrett, hredde, hredd ‘rescue, save’

āhreddan ‘rescue, save’

d) Verbs with heavy roots.

ætīewan, ætīewþ, ætīewde, ætīewed ‘show’

berīepan, berīeþþ, berīepte, berīeped ‘rob, plunder’

ġerīepan ‘rob, plunder’

cennan, cenþ, cende, cenned ‘beget, conceive, give birth to, create’

ācennan ‘bear, produce’

cīēgan, cīēgþ, cīēgde, cīēged ‘call’

dwāscan, dwāschþ, dwāscete, dwāsced ‘extinguish’

ādwāscan ‘extinguish’

fæstan, fæst, fæste, fæsted ‘fast, abstain’

fylgan, fylgþ, fylgde, fylged ‘follow, pursue’

æfterfylgan ‘follow, pursue’

ġīeman, ġīemþ, ġīemde, ġīemed ‘take care of, heed’

hīeran, hīerþ, hīerde, hīered ‘hear, listen to, obey’

hierwan, hierw(e)þ, hierwde, hier(w)ed ‘abuse, deride, blaspheme’

nēalācan, nēalācþ, nēalācete, nēalāced ‘approach’

wāgan, wāgþ, wāgde, wāged ‘trouble, afflict’

āwāgan ‘deceive, destroy’

wrēgan, wrēgþ, wrēgde, wrēged ‘accuse’

2. Causatives and intensives of strong verbs and preterite-presents.

a) Verbs with no **-i-* in the past.

cwellan, cwel(e)þ, cwealde, cweald ‘kill’ (← cwelan)

ācwellan ‘kill’

weccan, wecþ, weahte, weaht ‘awaken, rouse, incite’ (← wæcnan)

āweccan ‘awaken, rouse, incite’

b) Verb with a light root ending in *r*.

nerian, nereþ, nerede, nered ‘save, rescue’ (← ġenesan ‘escape, survive’)

c) Verbs with light roots ending in *t*.

ettan, ett, ette, ett ‘graze’ (← etan)

settan, sett, sette, sett ‘set, put, place, ordain, settle’ (← sittan)

āsettan ‘set, establish’

d) Other verbs with light roots.

lecgan, leg(e)þ, legde, legd ‘lay, put, place’ (← licgan)

ālecgan ‘lay down, suppress, conquer’

e) Verbs with heavy roots.

ācwenċan, ācwenċþ, ācwencte, ācwenċed ‘extinguish, quench’ (← ācwincan
‘be extinguished’)

ærnan, ærnþ, ærnde, ærned ‘ride, gallop’ (← irnan)

bærnan, bærnþ, bærnde, bærned ‘burn, cause to burn’ (← birnan)

forbærnan ‘burn up, consume by fire’

onbærnan ‘kindle, light’

bīegan, bīegþ, bīegde, bīeged ‘bend, subject, convert’ (← būgan)

dræfan, dræfþ, dræfde, dræfed ‘drive, drive out’ (← drīfan)

ādræfan ‘drive away, expel’

fēran, fērþ, fērde, fēred ‘go, march, travel’ (← faran)

forþfēran ‘depart, die’

oferfēran ‘traverse, cross, pass’

fiellan, fielþ, fielde, fielled ‘cause to fall, fell, defeat, demolish’ (← feallan)

āfiellan (same range of meanings)

ġecwēman, ġecwēmþ, ġecwēmde, ġecwēmed ‘please, satisfy’ (← cuman)

hwierfan, hwierfþ, hwierfde, hwierfed ‘turn, change, move’ (← hweorfan

‘turn, change, move’)

lædan, læt, lædde, læded ‘lead, bring, carry’ (← līþan ‘go, travel’)

ālædan ‘lead away, carry off’

inlædan ‘bring in’

læfan, læfþ, læfde, læfed ‘leave’ (← (be)līfan)

mētan, mēt, mētte, mēted ‘meet, find’ (← mōtan)

ræran, rærþ, rærde, ræred ‘raise, rear’ (← rīsan)

āræran ‘raise, rear’

swenċan, swenċþ, swencte, swenċed ‘afflict, torment’ (← swincan)

wendan, went, wende, wended ‘turn, go, change, convert, translate’ (← windan

‘wind, twist, turn’)

āwendan ‘turn aside, overturn, change, pervert, translate’

bewendan ‘turn around’

onwendan ‘overturn, change, transgress’

Fossilized causatives:

fortendan, fortent, fortende, fortended ‘burn away’

grētan, grēt, grētte, grēted ‘greet’

lāran, lārþ, lārde, lāred ‘teach, advise, preach’

sendan, sent, sende, sended ‘send’

āsendan ‘send forth, send away’

ġeondsendan ‘spread throughout’

onsendan ‘send out, send forth’

3. Factitives derived from adjectives.

a) Verbs with light roots.

gremman ‘anger, provoke’ (← gram ‘angry’)

trymman ‘strengthen, confirm’ (← trum ‘strong, firm’)

b) Verbs with heavy roots.

bedīeglan, bedīegleþ, bedīeglede, bedīegled ‘conceal’ (← dēagol ‘hidden’)

cýþan, cýþ, cýþde, cýþed ‘make known, proclaim, inform’ (← cūþ ‘known’)

drēfan, drēfþ, drēfde, drēfed ‘disturb, trouble’ (← drōf ‘muddy, turbid, troubled’)

fæstan, fæst, fæste, fæsted ‘fasten, make fast’ (← fæst ‘fixed, fast, secure’)

befæstan ‘establish, apply, entrust’

oþfæstan ‘set to (a task), entrust’

fyllan, fylþ, fylde, fylled ‘fill, fulfill’ (← full ‘full’)

āfyllan ‘fill, fulfill’

fyrhtan, fyrht, fyrhte, fyrhted ‘frighten’ (← fyrht ‘afraid’)

āfyrhtan ‘frighten’

ġierwan, ġiereþ (ġierwþ), ġierede (ġierwde), ġier(w)ed ‘prepare’ (← ġearu ‘ready’)

hælan, hælp, hælede, hæled ‘heal, save’ (← hāl ‘whole, healthy’)

hīenan, hīenþ, hīende, hīened ‘prostrate, humiliate’ (← hēan ‘lowly, despised’)

līesan, līest, līesde, līesed ‘loosen, release, liberate’ (← lēas ‘free from, lax, faithless’; orig. *‘loose’)

ālīesan ‘release, redeem’

stillan, stilþ, stilde, stilled ‘quiet, calm’ (← stille ‘still, at rest’)

wēstan, wēst, wēste, wēsted ‘lay waste’ (← wēste ‘barren, desolate’)

āwēstan ‘lay waste’

4. Other denominatives.

a) Verbs with no *-i- in the past.

reċċan, reċþ, reahte, reahht ‘explain, tell, narrate’ (← racu ‘exposition, account’)
 āreċċan ‘declare, explain, translate’

tellan, tel(e)þ, tealde, teald ‘count, tell, consider’ (← talu ‘calculation, statement’)
 betellan ‘defend oneself’

b) Verbs with light roots ending in *r*.

byrian, byreþ, byrede, byred ‘happen, pertain to, belong to’ (← byre ‘time,
 opportunity’ [?])

derian, dereþ, derede, dered ‘hurt, harm’ (← daru ‘injury, damage’)

ferian, fereþ, ferede, fered ‘carry, convey’ (← faru, fær ‘way, journey’)

werian, wereþ, werede, wered ‘guard, defend’ (← waru ‘protection, defense’)

c) Other verb with a light root.

fremman, fremþ, fremede, fremed ‘make, do, accomplish’ (← fram ‘forth,
 forward’)

fullfremman ‘complete, fulfill, perfect’

d) Verbs with heavy roots.

andwyrðan, andwyrð, andwyrde, andwyrðed ‘answer’ (← andwyrde ‘answer’)

beclȳsan, beclȳst, beclȳsde, beclȳsed ‘close, shut up, confine’ (← clūse ‘bar
 (of a door), bolt’)

bētan, bēt, bētte, bēted ‘amend, atone for, compensate’ (← bōt ‘compensation,
 atonement’)

dǣdbētan ‘atone for, repent’ (← dǣdbōt ‘atonement, repentance’)

byrgān, byrgþ, byrgde, byrged ‘bury, raise a mound over’ (← burg ‘citadel,
 walled town’, orig. *‘mound’, cf. Old Irish brí, brig- ‘hill’)

bebyrgān ‘bury, raise a mound over’

ċīepan, ċīepþ, ċīepte, ċīeped ‘buy, sell, trade’ (← cēap ‘purchase, bargain,
 merchandise’)

ċierran, ċierþ, ċierde, ċierred ‘turn, change, return, convert, translate’ (← ċierr
 ‘turn, change, time’)

cwielman, cwielmþ, cwielmde, cwiemed ‘torment, kill’ (← cwealm ‘violent
 death, torture’)

dǣlan, dǣlþ, dǣlde, dǣled ‘divide, distribute’ (← dǣl ‘part’)

bedǣlan ‘deprive of’

tōdǣlan ‘divide, distribute’

dēman, dēmþ, dēmde, dēmed ‘judge, decide’ (← dōm ‘judgment’)

fordēman ‘condemn’
 dihtan, diht, dihte, dihted ‘arrange, compose’ (← diht ‘arrangement, composition’)
 ef(e)stan, ef(e)st, ef(e)ste, ef(e)sted ‘hurry, hasten’ (← ofost ‘haste’)
 ēhtan, ēht, ēhte, ēhted ‘attack, persecute, pursue’ (← ōht ‘persecution’)
 endebyrdan, endebyrt, endebyrde, endebyrded ‘arrange’ (← endebyrd ‘order’)
 fēdan, fēt, fēdde, fēded ‘feed, nourish, bring up’ (← fōda ‘food, nourishment’)
 āfēdan ‘feed, nourish, bring up’
 frēfran, frēfreþ, frēfrede, frēfred ‘comfort, console’ (← frōfor ‘consolation’)
 fylstan, fylst, fylste, fylsted ‘help, support’ (= fullāstan; see below)
 ġelīefan, ġelīefþ, ġelīefde, ġelīefed ‘believe (in)’ (← ġelēafa ‘belief, faith’)
 ġerȳman, ġerȳmþ, ġerȳmde, ġerȳmed ‘extend, enlarge’ (← rūm ‘ample, spacious’)
 ġiernan. ġiernþ, ġiernde, ġierned ‘yearn for’ (← ġeorn ‘eager’)
 glengān, glengþ, glengde, glenged ‘adorn, trim (a lamp)’ (← gleng ‘ornament’)
 ierfan, ierfþ, ierfde, ierfed ‘inherit’ (← ierfe ‘inheritance, property’)
 lāestan, lāest, lāeste, lāested ‘follow, carry out, perform, fulfill’ (← lāst ‘footprint, track’)
 fullāstan ‘help, support’
 līefan, līefþ, līefde, līefed ‘allow’ (← lēaf ‘leave, permission’)
 mengān, mengþ, mengde, menged ‘mix, combine, disturb’ (← ġemang ‘mixture, assembly’)
 nemnan, nemþ, nem(n)de, nemned ‘name, call’ (← nama ‘name’)
 rāesan, rāest, rāesde, rāesed ‘rush’ (← rāes ‘rush’)
 restan, rest, reste, rested ‘rest’ (← rest ‘rest’)
 rīman, rīmþ, rīmde, rīmed ‘count’ (← rīm ‘number’)
 scendan, scent, scende, scended ‘confound, blame, insult’ (← scand ‘ignominy, disgrace’)
 scrȳdan, scrȳt, scrȳdde, scrȳded ‘clothe, dress’ (← scrūd ‘garment, clothing’)
 unscrȳdan ‘undress’
 sierwan, siereþ (sierwþ), sierede (sierwde), sier(w)ed ‘devise, plot, entrap’
 (← searu ‘cunning, device, trick’)
 besierwan ‘ensnare, deceive’
 smierwan, smiereþ (smierwþ), smierede (smierwde), smier(w)ed ‘smear, anoint’
 (← smeoru ‘grease’)
 stāenan, stāenþ, stāende, stāened ‘stone, execute by stoning’ (← stān ‘stone’)

stīeran, stīerþ, stīerde, stīered ‘steer, direct, rule, correct’ (← stēor ‘guidance, correction’)

strīenan, strīenþ, strīende, strīened ‘acquire, gain’ (← strēon ‘acquisition, property’)

tālan, tælþ, tælde, tæled ‘blame, reproach’ (← tæl ‘blame, reproach’)

timbran, timbreþ, timbrede, timbred ‘build’ (← timber ‘timber, building’)

trīewan (trēowan), trīewþ, trīewde, trīewed ‘believe, trust, rely on’ (← trēow ‘faith, trust’)

tȳnan, tȳnþ, tȳnde, tȳned ‘enclose’ (← tūn ‘enclosure, farmstead, (stockaded) town’)

betȳnan ‘enclose, limit, end’

þīedan (þēodan), þīet, þīedde, þīeded ‘join, associate with, follow’ (← þēod ‘nation, retainers’)

underþīedan (underþēodan) ‘subdue, subjugate’

wēnan, wēnþ, wēnde, wēned ‘think, believe, expect, hope’ (← wēn ‘hope, expectation, probability’)

wiernan, wiernþ, wiernde, wierned ‘withhold, refuse, reject, forbid’ (← wearn ‘reluctance, refusal’)

forwiernan ‘hinder, prevent’

5. Special cases.

ādrædan, ādræt, ādrædde, ādræded ‘dread, fear’ (orig. strong verb)

ondrædan ‘dread, fear’

myntan, mynt, mynte, mynted ‘intend’ (← myne ‘purpose’ [?]; but the form of the suffix is puzzling)

rædan, ræt, rædde, ræded ‘advise, consult, plan, rule, read’ (conflation of two verbs: an orig. strong verb ‘advise’ and a denom. of ġerād ‘reckoning, account’)

ārædan ‘arrange, read’

forrædan ‘plot against, betray’

oferrædan ‘read through, consider’

āspendan, āspent, āspende, āspended ‘spend, expend’ (← Lat. expendere ‘weigh out, disburse’)

forspendan ‘squander, consume’

Weak class II

Since the inflection of this class is uniform, I give the principal parts only for the first example and for those whose spelling is peculiar.

1. Underived verbs (including fully fossilized denominatives and deverbatives).

āscian. āscaþ, āscode, āscod ‘ask’

ġeāscian ‘find out by inquiry’

brosnian ‘crumble, decay’

ċeorian ‘murmur, complain’

clipian ‘call, cry out’

earnian ‘earn’

folgian ‘follow’ (cf. fylġan above)

fulwian ‘baptize’ (orig. *‘consecrate completely’, cf. full ‘full’, wēoh ‘idol’ ← *‘holy thing’)

leornian ‘learn’ (orig. fientive to læran ‘teach’)

lōcian ‘look’

scēawian ‘look at, observe, examine’

bescēawian ‘survey, contemplate’

swīgian ‘be silent’

forswīgian ‘suppress, cover up’

tēorian, ātēorian ‘fail, cease, be exhausted’

þolian ‘suffer, forfeit’

þrōwian ‘suffer’

wealwian ‘roll’

wunian ‘dwell, inhabit, be accustomed to’

āwunian, þurhwunian ‘continue, remain’

2. Denominatives in *-ō-.

āġnian ‘own, possess, take possession of’ (← āġen ‘(one’s) own, property’)

andswarian ‘answer’ (← andswaru ‘answer’)

ārweorþian ‘honor’ (← ārweorþ ‘venerable’)

bisenian ‘given an example’ (← bisen ‘example, model’)

bisġian; ābisġian ‘occupy, employ’ (← bisġu ‘occupation’)

blissian ‘be glad, gladden’ (← bliss ‘happiness’)

bodian ‘proclaim, announce, preach’ (← ġebod ‘message’)

brocian ‘afflict’ (← broc ‘affliction’)

campian ‘fight’ (← camp ‘battle’)

ealdian ‘grow old’ (← eald ‘old’)

eardian ‘dwell, inhabit’ (← eard ‘native country’)
 oneardian ‘inhabit’
 endian ‘end, die’ (← ende ‘end’)
 forhtian; āforhtian ‘be afraid (of)’ (← forht ‘afraid’)
 fultumian ‘help’ (← fultum ‘help’)
 fylċian ‘marshall troops’ (← fylċe ‘army’)
 gadrian ‘gather, collect, assemble’ (← ġeador, ætgædere ‘together’)
 ġearwian ‘prepare’ (← ġearu ‘ready’; cf. ġierwan)
 ġedafenian ‘beseem, befit’ (← ġedafen ‘fitting’)
 ġefæġnian ‘be glad, rejoice’ (← fæġen ‘glad’)
 onfæġnian ‘fawn on’
 ġetīmian ‘happen’ (← tīma ‘time’)
 ġīslīan ‘give hostages’ (← ġīsel ‘hostage’)
 ġōdian ‘improve’ (← ġōd ‘good’)
 herġian, herġaþ, herġode, herġod ‘ravage, plunder’ (← here ‘army’)
 forherġian ‘ravage, plunder’
 oferherġian ‘overrun’
 onherġian ‘harrass’
 hīersumian ‘obey’ (← hīersum ‘obedient’)
 laþian ‘invite, summon’ (← *laþu in nēodlaþu ‘wish’, wordlaþu ‘conversation’)
 līcian ‘please, be pleasing to’ (← ġelīċ ‘like, equal, suitable’)
 lufian ‘love’ (← lufu ‘love’)
 miltsian ‘have pity on, show mercy to’ (← milts ‘mercy, pity’)
 openian ‘open’ (← open ‘open’)
 rēafian ‘rob, plunder, ravage’ (← rēaf ‘plunder’)
 berēafian ‘rob, despoil, deprive of’
 samnian ‘collect, gather’ (← ætsamne ‘together’)
 scamian ‘be ashamed’ (← scamu ‘shame’)
 sīþian ‘travel’ (← sīþ ‘journey’)
 stalian ‘steal’ (← stalu ‘theft’)
 stician ‘stick, stab, pierce’ (← stiċe ‘puncture, sting’)
 ofstician ‘stab to death’
 sweotolian ‘reveal, make / become manifest’ (← sweotol ‘clear’)
 syngian (i.e. [synyian]) ‘sin’ (← synniġ ‘guilty, sinful’)
 forsyngian ‘sin greatly’
 tācnian ‘indicate, signify, represent’ (← tācen ‘sign’)

þancian ‘thank’ (← þanc ‘thought, favor, thanks’)
 þegnian ‘serve’ (← þegn ‘servant, retainer’)
 þingian ‘intercede, plead for’ (← þing ‘thing, cause, lawsuit, assembly’)
 þēowian ‘serve, enslave’ (← þēow ‘servant, slave’)
 wanian ‘lessen, diminish, dwindle, wane’ (← wan ‘lacking, deficient’)
 weorþian ‘honor’ (← weorþ ‘honored’)
 wīcian ‘camp’ (← wīc ‘dwelling-place’, pl. ‘camp’)
 wīsian ‘direct, instruct, guide’ (← wīs ‘wise’)
 wissian ‘direct, instruct, guide’ (← ġewiss ‘certain’; made on the model of the preceding verb, which is older)
 wīteġian, forewīteġian ‘prophesy, predict’ (← wīteġa ‘prophet’)
 wuldrian ‘glorify’ (← wuldor ‘glory’)
 wundian, forwundian ‘wound’ (← wund ‘wound’)
 wundrian ‘wonder, be amazed at’ (← wundor ‘wonder’)
 yfelian ‘get worse, injure’ (← yfel ‘bad, evil’)

Contract verb:

smēaġan, smēaþ, smēade, smēad ‘think, consider’ (← smēah ‘sagacious’)
 āsmēaġan ‘consider, examine, investigate’

3. Denominatives and deverbatives in *-inō-.

drohtnian ‘conduct oneself, lead a life, live’ (← droht ‘way of life’)
 fæstnian ‘fasten, secure, confirm’ (← fæst ‘fixed, firm’)
 twēonian ‘doubt, hesitate’ (← twēoġan ‘doubt, hesitate’, twēo ‘doubt, ambiguity’)
 wilnian ‘desire, wish’ (← willan ‘want’)

4. Denominatives in *-isō-.

clāensian ‘cleanse, clean’ (← clāene ‘clean’)
 hrēowsian, behrēowsian ‘repent’ (← hrēow ‘repentance’)
 rīcsian ‘rule, reign’ (← rīce ‘kingdom’)

☞ Note that blissian, miltsian could be listed here too, if they were originally derived from blīþe ‘happy’, milde ‘gentle’ (and the nouns bliss, milts then derived from the verbs), as is possible.

5. Special cases.

fandian; āfandian ‘try, test’ (← findan ‘find’; rare deverbative formation)
 offrian ‘offer, sacrifice’ (← Lat. offerre)
 plegian ‘move quickly, exercise, play’ (orig. strong verb (plegan, occ. attested)?
 or denom. ← plega ‘exercise, game’?)
 tilian ‘strive after, provide, work, till, plow’ (← til ‘apt, useful, profitable’?)

Weak class III

habban, hæfþ, hæfde, hæfd ‘have’

hycgan (hogian), hyg(e)þ (hogað), hog(o)de, hogod ‘think, consider’

libban, liofað, lifde, lifd ‘live’

ālibban ‘live’

secgan, sægþ, sægde, sægd ‘say, speak, tell, mean’

foresecgan ‘mention previously, foretell’

Note also one verb that has been shifted into class I but retains irregular stem formation:

feccan, fett, fette, fett ‘fetch, bring’

Preterite-presents:

I order these by strong ablaut class. Infinitives are given as citation forms whether or not they actually occur; those that do not are starred. Both the 3sg. and the 3pl. of the present are given. Few past participles are attested.

(I) witan, wāt, witon, wisse, (wiste), witen ‘know, understand, be aware of, perceive’
bewitan ‘be in charge of, administer, care for’
forewitan ‘know in advance’

(II) *dugan, dēag, dugon, dohte ‘be of use, be worth’

(III) cunnan, cann, cunnon, cūþe ‘recognize, be acquainted with, know how to’
unnan, ann, unnon, ūþe, (ge)unnen ‘grant’

*durran, dearr, durron, dorste ‘dare’

þurfan, þearf, þurfon, þorfte ‘need (to)’

☞ Note also pres. ptc. þearfende ‘needy’.

(IV) *benugan, beneah, benugon, benohte ‘be enough, suffice’
*genugan ‘be enough, suffice’

gemunan, geman, gemunon, gemunde, gemunen ‘remember, think about’

onmunan ‘think worthy (of)’, (reflexive) ‘care for’

*sculan, sceal, sculon, scolde ‘shall, ought to, must’

(VI) *mōtan, mōt, mōton, mōste ‘must’

(VII) āgan, āh, āgon, āhte ‘have, possess, obtain’

There is also a non-ablauting verb that does not fit into class VII:

*magan, mæg, magon, meahte ‘can, be able, may’

Anomalous verbs:

bēon (bīon), pres. indic. eam, eart, is, sind(on), subj. sīe, perfective biþ, bēoþ
(bīoþ); past wæs, wæron ‘be’

dōn, dēþ, dyde, (ġe)dōn ‘do, make, perform, put, bestow, cause’
fordōn ‘destroy’

gān, gāþ, ēode, (ġe)gān ‘go’

āgān ‘go by, pass, occur’

begān ‘traverse, occupy, surround, practice, perform, cultivate, honor’

ġegān ‘get, conquer’

ofergān ‘traverse, overrun, overtake’

willan, wile, wolde ‘want (to)’