

## **Strong verbs and the Verner's Law alternation in Old English.**

The 17 OE contract verbs reliably reflect the VL alternation in their paradigms; so do the two j-presents with roots in \*h, *þicgan* 'receive' and *hliehhan* 'laugh'.

Strong verbs with roots ending in *-þ-* or *-s-* should also reflect the VL alternation, but some do and some do not. This is a list of those 20 verbs, arranged first by class, then by whether they exhibit VL.

### **Class I.**

*with VL:*

līþan, lāþ, lidon, liden 'go, travel'

snīþan, snāþ, snidon, sniden 'cut'

*with inconsistent VL:*

scrīþan, scrāþ, scridon (2x), scriþen (1x) 'move, stride' (poetic)

*without VL:*

mīþan, māþ, miþon, miþen 'hide'

rīsan, rās, rison, risen 'rise'

wrīþan, wrāþ, wriþon, wriþen 'twist, wrap'

### **Class II.**

*with VL:*

ċēosan, ċēas, curon, coren 'choose'

drēosan, drēas, druron, droren 'fall' (poetic)

forlēosan, forlēas, forluron, forloren 'lose'

frēosan, frēas, fruron, froren 'freeze'

hrēosan, hrēas, hruron, hroren 'fall'

sēoþan, sēaþ, sudon, soden 'boil'

*without VL:*

ābrēoþan, ābrēaþ, ābruþon, ābroþen 'deteriorate, disintegrate, decay'

**Class III, with VL:**

weorþan, wearþ, wurdon, worden ‘become’

**Class V.**

*with VL:*

cweþan, cwæþ, cwædon, cweden ‘say’

wesan, wæs, wæron ‘be’

*without VL:*

lesan, læs, læson, lesen ‘gather’

ġenesan, ġenæs, ġenæson, ġenesen ‘survive, be saved’

**Class VI, with VL:**

sceþþan, scōd, scōdon, sceapen ‘hurt, harm’ (past ptc. attested only once, in verse)

**Class VII, probably without VL:**

hwōsan, hwēos ‘cough’ (no other forms attested)