

Examples illustrating the development of strong verbs, classes I–III.

The forms in each column are: present indicative 3sg. and 3pl., (perfect →) preterite indicative 3sg. and 3pl., (verbal adjective →) preterite participle.

Pre-PGmc. I (PIE phonology, mostly Germanic morphology):

‘trust’	‘make aware’	‘tie’	‘keep, save’	‘inflate’
*bhéyd ^h eti	*bhéwd ^h eti	*bhénd ^h eti	*bhérg ^h eti	*bhélǵ ^h eti
*bhéyd ^h onti	*bhéwd ^h onti	*bhénd ^h onti	*bhérg ^h onti	*bhélǵ ^h onti
*bheb ^h óyd ^h e	*bheb ^h ówd ^h e	*bheb ^h ónd ^h e	*bheb ^h órg ^h e	*bheb ^h ólǵ ^h e
*bheb ^h id ^h ér	*bheb ^h ud ^h ér	*bheb ^h nd ^h ér	*bheb ^h rg ^h ér	*bheb ^h lǵ ^h ér
*bhid ^h nós	*bud ^h nós	*bnd ^h nós	*brg ^h nós	*blǵ ^h nós

Pre-PGmc. II (after merger of palatals and velars, Grimm’s Law, loss of word-final nonhigh vowels, analogical replacement of *-ér by *-nd, and remodelling of *-nós as *-onós):

‘trust’	‘make aware’	‘tie’	‘keep, save’	‘inflate’
*béydeþi	*béwdeþi	*béndeþi	*bérgþi	*bélgeþi
*béydonþi	*béwdonþi	*béndonþi	*bérgonþi	*bélgonþi
*bebóyd	*bebówd	*bebónd	*bebórg	*bebólg
*bebidnd	*bebudnd	*bebndnd	*bebrgnd	*beblǵnd
*bidonós	*budonós	*bndonós	*brgonós	*blǵonós

Pre-PGmc. III (after Verner’s Law, shift of stress to the initial syllable, change of *R̥ to *uR, loss of word-final dental obstruents, and loss of reduplication in these classes of strong verbs):

‘trust’	‘make aware’	‘tie’	‘keep, save’	‘inflate’
*beydedi	*bewdedi	*bendedi	*bergedi	*belgedi
*beydondi	*bewdondi	*bendondi	*bergondi	*belgondi
*boyd	*bowd	*bond	*borg	*bolg
*bidun	*budun	*bundun	*burgun	*bulgun
*bidonos	*budonos	*bñdonos	*burgonos	*bulgonos

PGmc. (after *o > *a, unstressed *e > *i, *e...i > *i...i, *ey > *ī, *e > *i before *NC, and analogical replacement of *-s by *-z in nominative singular forms):

‘wait for’	‘offer’	‘tie’	‘keep, save’	‘inflate’
*bīdidi	*biudidi	*bindidi	*birgidi	*bilgidi
*bīdandi	*beudandi	*bindandi	*bergandi	*belgandi
*baid	*baud	*band	*barg	*balg
*bidun	*budun	*bundun	*burgun	*bulgun
*bidanaz	*budanaz	*bundanaz	*burganaz	*bulganaz

☞ Note that the sound changes involving *e give rise to the first alternation within the present tense subparadigm and disturb the parallelism between the classes and within class III.

PWG (after the phonemic split of *u and the loss of word-final *z and *a in unstressed syllables):

‘wait for’	‘offer’	‘tie’	‘keep, save’	‘inflate’
*bīdidi	*biudidi	*bindidi	*birgidi	*bilgidi
*bīdandi	*beudandi	*bindandi	*bergandi	*belgandi
*baid	*baud	*band	*barg	*balg
*bidun	*budun	*bundun	*burgun	*bulgun
*bidan	*bodan	*bundan	*borgan	*bolgan

☞ Note that the first of these sound changes disturbs the parallelism of classes I and II further and widens the split of class III.

Pre-OE I (after the analogical generalization of *þ in verb endings, the Ingvaenic change of *VN to long nasalized vowels immediately before fricatives, the nasalization and fronting of *a, and analogical generalization of *æ in the past ptc. suffix):

‘wait for’	‘offer’	‘tie’	‘keep, save’	‘get angry’
*bīdiþi	*biudiþi	*bindiþi	*birgiþi	*bilgiþi
*bīdāþi	*beudāþi	*bindāþi	*bergāþi	*belgāþi
*baid	*baud	*baṅd	*bærg	*bælg
*bidun	*budun	*bundun	*burgun	*bulgun
*bidæn	*bodæn	*bundæn	*borgæn	*bolgæn

Pre-OE II (after sound changes affecting diphthongs, breaking, and the loss of *-i in the pres. 3pl. ending):

‘wait for’	‘offer’	‘tie’	‘keep, save’	‘get angry’
*bīdiþi	*bīodiþi	*bindiþi	*biorgiþi	*bilgiþi
*bīdāþ	*bēodāþ	*bindāþ	*beorgāþ	*belgāþ
*bād	*bēad	*bānd	*wearþ	*bealg
*bidun	*budun	*bundun	*wurdun	*bulgun
*bidæn	*bodæn	*bundæn	*wordæn	*bolgæn

Early OE (after palatalization, i-umlaut, syncope, apocope, and the reduction of the long nasalized vowel in the pres. 3pl. ending):

‘wait for’	‘command’	‘tie’	‘become’	‘get angry’
bītt	bīett	bint	biergþ	bilgþ
bīdaþ	bēodaþ	bindaþ	beorgaþ	belgaþ
bād	bēad	bond ~ band	wearþ	bealg
bidun	budun	bundun	wurdun	bulgun
bidæn	bodæn	bundæn	wordæn	bolgæn

The later OE forms show only three further changes:

- (1) the merger of unstressed *i* and *æ* in *e* (whence the usual form *-en* of the participial suffix);
- (2) the (inconsistent) change of *-un* to *-on*;
- (3) the (mostly Anglian) levelling of the alternations in the present subparadigm to produce 3sg. *bīdeþ*, *bēodeþ*, *bindeþ*, *beorgeþ*, *belgeþ*.