

An Icelandic Primer  
With Grammar, Notes, and Glossary  
By Henry Sweet, M.A.

New edition by Alaric Hall.  
2007.

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### **Preface to Alaric's edition (2007)**

This grammar is basically Sweet's, but with some tweaking to make his presentation a bit less idiosyncratic (specifically, Alaric has used ´ for ˘, and *e* for *ę*, renumbered the verb classes, and reordered the substantive paradigms as NAGD rather than NADG). The best English grammar of Old Icelandic today is Michael Barnes, *A New Introduction to Old Norse: Part I, Grammar*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (London: Viking Society for Northern Research, 2004), but it contains a lot more detail than many starting students need.

**There are almost certainly some mistakes and inconsistencies in this version—please let Alaric know if you spot any.**

### **Preface to Sweet's edition (1886)**

The want of a short and easy introduction to the study of Icelandic has been felt for a long time—in fact, from the very beginning of that study in England. The *Icelandic Reader*, edited by Messrs. Vigfusson and Powell, in the Clarendon Press Series, is a most valuable book, which ought to be in the hands of every student; but it still leaves room for an elementary primer. As the engagements of the editors of the Reader would have made it impossible for them to undertake such a work for some years to come, they raised no objections to my proposal to undertake it myself. Meanwhile, I found the task was a more formidable one than I had anticipated, and accordingly, before definitely committing myself to it, I made one final attempt to induce Messrs. Vigfusson and Powell to take it off my hands; but they very kindly encouraged me to proceed with it; and as I myself thought that an Icelandic primer, on the lines of my Anglo-Saxon one, might perhaps be the means of inducing some students of Old English to take up Icelandic as well, I determined to go on.

In the spelling I have not thought it necessary to adhere strictly to that adopted in the Reader, for the editors have themselves deviated from it in their *Corpus Poeticum Boreale*, in the way of separating *ϕ* from *ö*, etc. My own principle has been to deviate as little as possible from the traditional spelling followed in normalized texts. There is, indeed, no practical gain for the beginner in writing *tíme* for *tími*, discarding *ð*, etc., although these changes certainly bring us nearer the oldest MSS., and cannot be dispensed with in scientific works. The essential thing for the beginner is to have *regular* forms presented to him, to the exclusion, as far as possible, of isolated archaisms, and to have the defective distinctions of the MSS. supplemented by diacritics. I have not hesitated to substitute (˘) for (˘) as the mark of length; the latter ought in my opinion to be used exclusively—in Icelandic as well as in Old English and Old Irish—to represent the actual accents of the MSS.

In the grammar I have to acknowledge my great obligations to Noreen's *Altisländische Grammatik*, which is by far the best Icelandic grammar that has yet appeared—at least from that narrow point of view which ignores syntax, and concentrates itself on phonology and inflections.

The texts are intended to be as easy, interesting, and representative as possible. With such a language, and such a master of it as Snorri to choose from, this combination is not difficult to realise. The beginner is indeed to be envied who makes his first acquaintance with the splendid mythological tales of the North, told in an absolutely perfect style. As the death of Olaf Tryggvason is given in the Reader only from the longer recension of the Heimskringla, I have been able to give the shorter text, which is admirably suited for the purposes of this book. The story of Auðun is not only a beautiful one in itself, but, together with the preceding piece, gives a vivid idea of the Norse ideal of the kingly character, which was the foundation of their whole political system. As the

Reader does not include poetry (except incidentally), I have added one of the finest of the Eddaic poems, which is at the same time freest from obscurity and corruption—the song of Thor's quest of his hammer.

In the glossary I have ventured to deviate from the very inconvenient Scandinavian arrangement, which puts *þ, æ, œ*, right at the end of the alphabet.

I have to acknowledge the great help I have had in preparing the texts and the glossary from Wimmer's *Oldnordisk Læsebog*, which I consider to be, on the whole, the best reading-book that exists in any language. So excellent is Wimmer's selection of texts, that it was impossible for me to do otherwise than follow him in nearly every case.

In conclusion, it is almost superfluous to say that this book makes no pretension to originality of any kind. If it contributes towards restoring to Englishmen that precious heritage—the old language and literature of Iceland—which our miserably narrow scheme of education has hitherto defrauded them of, it will have fulfilled its purpose.

HENRY SWEET

London,

February, 1886

## Grammar

1. This book deals with Old Icelandic in its classical period, between 1200 and 1350.

### Pronunciation and sound-changes

2-21: Rather than Sweet's guide, check out [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7koz\\_onBrY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7koz_onBrY). This gives you modern Icelandic pronunciation, which is what pretty much everyone in the English-speaking world uses when pronouncing Old Icelandic. The pronunciation of the vowels has actually changed quite a lot since the Old Icelandic period, which is relevant to how poetic metre works; but on the other hand, there have been very few phonemic shifts over the years, and learning Old Icelandic with the pronunciation of a living language makes it easier to gain a sense of fluency. The Old Icelandic letter *æ* is pronounced the same as *æ* (i.e. like the *i* in *fight*) and the Old Icelandic letters *ϕ* and *ϑ* are pronounced the same as the modern Icelandic letter *ö* (i.e. more or less like the *ur* in *hurt* in the English found in most parts of England). For further pronunciation fun, try <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNM1yGaZ468>.

### Mutation

22. The following changes are **i**-mutations (caused by an older *i* or *j* following, which has generally been dropped):<sup>1</sup>

**a (ǫ) ... e** :— *mann* (man *acc.*), *menn* (men); *hǫnd* (hand), *hendr* (hands).

**á ... æ** :— *mál* (speech), *mæla* (speak).

**e (ja, jǫ) ... i** :— *verðr* (worth), *virða* (estimate).

**u (o) ... y** :— *fullr* (full), *fylla* (to fill); *lopt* (air), *lypta* (lift).

**ú ... ý** :— *brún* (eyebrow), pl. *brýnn*.

**o ... ö** :— *koma* (to come), *kömr* (comes).

**ó ... œ** :— *fór* (went), *færa* (bring).

**au ... ey** :— *lauss* (loose), *leysa* (loosen).

**jú (jó) ... ý** :— *sjúkr* (sick), *sýki* (sickness); *ljósta* (strike), *lýstr* (strikes).

23. The change of *a* into *e* is sometimes the result of a following *k*, *g*, or *ng*, as in *degi* dat. sg. of *dagr* (day), *tekinn* (taken), *genginn* (gone), inf. *taka*, *ganga*. *i* appears instead of *e*, and *u* instead of *o* before a nasal followed by another cons.: cp. *binda* (to bind), *bundinn* (bound) with *bresta* (burst) ptc. prt. *brostinn*.

24. There is also a **u**-mutation, caused by a following *u*, which has often been dropped:

**a ... ǫ** :— *dagr* (day) dat. pl. *ǫggum*; *land* (land) pl. *lǫnd*.

<sup>1</sup> Many of the *i*'s which appear in derivative and inflectional syllables are late weakenings of *a* and other vowels, as in *bani* (death) = Old English *bana*; these do not cause mutation.

25. Unaccented *o* becomes *u*, as in *sumur* pl. of *sumar* (summer), *kølluðu* (they called), infin. *kalla*.

### Fracture

26. The only vowel that is affected by fracture is *e*: when followed by original *a* it becomes *ja*, when followed by original *u* it becomes *jø*, as in *jarðar* gen. of *jörð* (earth).<sup>2</sup> When followed by original *i*, the *e* is, of course, mutated to *i*, as in *skildir* plur. nom. of *skjöldr* (shield), gen. *skjaldar*.

### Gradation

27. By gradation the vowels are related as follows:—

**a ... ó** :— *fara* (go) pret. *fór*, whence by mut. *færa* (bring).

**e (i, ja) ... a ... u (o)** :— *bresta* (burst), prt. *brast*, prt. pl. *brustu*, ptc. prt. *brostinn*; *finna* (find), *fundinn* (found ptc.), *fundr* (meeting).

**e ... a ... á ... o** :— *stela* (steal), prt. *stal*, prt. pl. *stálu*, ptc. prt. *stolinn*.

**e ... a ... á ... e** :— *gefa* (give), *gaf* (he gave), *gáfu* (they gave), *gefinn* (given), *gjöf* (gift), *u*-fracture of *gef-*, *gæfa* (luck) mut. of *gáf-*.

**í ... ei ... i** :— *skína* (shine), *skein* (he shone), *skinu* (they shone). *sól-skin* (sunshine).

**jú (jó) ... au ... u ... o** :— *ljúga* (tell a lie), prt. *laug*, prt. pl. *lugu*, ptc. prt. *loginn*. *lygi* (lie *subst.*) mut. of *lug-*. *skjóta* (shoot), *skjótr* (swift), *skotinn* (shot ptc.), *skot* (shot *subst.*).

### Other changes

28. All final vowels are long in accented syllables: *þá* (then), *nú* (now).

29. Inflectional and derivative vowels are often dropt after long accented vowels: cp. *ganga* (to go) with *fá* (to get), the dat. plurals *knjám* (knees) with *húsum* (houses).

30. Vowels are often lengthened before *l* + cons.: *hálf* (half *adj.*), *fólk* (people); cp. *fólginn* (hidden) with *brostinn* (burst ptc.).

### Consonants

31. *v* is dropped before *o* and *u*: *vaxa* (to grow), prt. *óx*, *vinna* (to win), *unninn* (won ptc.), *svelta* (to starve), *soltinn* (starved, hungry).

Final *r* is often assimilated to a preceding cons.

32. *\*-lr*, *\*-nr*, *\*-sr* always become *-ll*, *-nn*, *-ss* after a long vowel or diphthong, as in *stóll* (chair *nom.*), acc. *stól*, *steinn* (stone *nom.*), acc. *stein*, *víss* (wise *masc. nom. sg.*), *vís* *fem. nom. sg.*, and in unacc. syllables, as in the *masc. sg. nominatives* *mikill* (great), *fem. mikil*, *borinn* (carried), *fem. borin*, *ýmiss* (various) *fem. ýmis*.

33. Words in which *l*, *n*, *r*, *s* are preceded by a cons. drop the *r* entirely, as in the *masc. nominatives* *jarl* (earl), *hrafn* (raven), *vit* (wise), *þurs* (giant), *lax* (salmon).

<sup>2</sup> Cp. German *Erde*.

34. If *l* and *n* are preceded by a short accented vowel, the *r* is generally kept, as in *stelr* (steals), *vinr*, (friend), *sr* becoming *ss*, as elsewhere.
35. *r* is kept after *ll*, and generally after *nn*, as in the masc. nom. *allr* (all), and in *brennr* (burns).
36. *z* often stands for *ðs* as well as *ts*, as in *þér þykkizk* (ye seem) = *\*þykkið-sk*, *Vest-firzkr* (belonging to the West Firths) = *\*firðskr* (*fǫrðr*, firth).
37. Inflectional *t* is generally doubled after a long accented vowel: *fár* (few) neut. *fátt* (cp. *allr* 'all,' neut. *allt*), *sá* (I saw), *sátt* 'thou sawest.'

## Inflections: nouns

38. **Gender.** There are three genders in Icelandic—masculine, feminine, and neuter. The gender is partly natural, partly grammatical, generally agreeing with the gender in Old English. Compound words follow the gender of their last element.

39. **Strong and Weak.** All weak nouns end in a vowel in the nom. sg. and in most of the other cases as well. Most strong nouns end in a cons. in the nom. sg.

40. **Cases.** There are four cases—nominative, accusative, dative, genitive. All nouns (except a few contractions) have the gen. pl. in *-a* (*fiska*, of fishes), and the dat. pl. in *-um* (*fiskum*). All strong masculines (*fiskr*) and some strong feminines (*brúðr*, bride) take *r*<sup>3</sup> in the nom. sg. Most strong feminines show the bare root in the nom. sg. with *u*-mutation, if possible (*ást*, favour, *för*, journey). The nom. pl. of all strong masc. and fem. nouns ends in *r* (*fiskar*, *ástir*). The acc. pl. of fem. nouns is the same as the nom. pl. (*ástir*). The acc. pl. of masc. strong nouns always ends in a vowel (*fiska*). The plur. nom. and acc. of neuters is the same as the sing. nom. and acc., except that in the plur. nom. and acc. they take *u*-mutation, if possible (*hús*, houses, *lönd*, lands).

41. The declensions are most conveniently distinguished by the acc. plur.

### Strong Masculines

#### (1) a-plurals

	Singular	Plural
<i>Nom.</i>	fisk-r ( <i>fish</i> )	fisk-ar
<i>Acc.</i>	fisk	fisk-a
<i>Gen.</i>	fisk-s	fisk-a
<i>Dat.</i>	fisk-i	fisk-um

42. So also *heimr* (home, world); *konungr* (king); *Þórr* (Thor), acc. *Þór*, gen. *Þórs*; *steinn* (stone), acc. *stein*, gen. *steins*, pl. nom. *steinar*; *hrafñ* (raven), acc. *hrafñ*, pl. nom. *hrafñar*; *þurs* (giant), acc. gen. *þurs*, pl. nom. *þursar*.

43. Dissyllables in *-r*, *-l*, *-n* generally throw out the preceding vowel before a vowel-inflection: *hamarr* (hammer), dat. *hamri*; *jötunn* (giant), pl. nom. *jötnar*. *ketill* (kettle) and *lykill* (key) show unmutated vowels in the contracted forms, as in the acc. plur. *katla*, *lukla*.

44. Some nouns of this decl. take *-ar* in the gen. sing., especially proper names, such as *Hákon*, gen. *Hákonar*.

45. Some nouns add *v* before vowels: *sær* (sea), gen. *sævar*.

46. The dat. sometimes drops the *i*: *sæ* (sea), *Þór. dagr* (day) mutates its vowel in the dat. *degi*.

47. Nouns in *-ir* keep the *i* in the sing., and drop it in the plur.:

	Singular	Plural
<i>Nom.</i>	helli-r ( <i>cave</i> )	hell-ar

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3 Subject, of course, to the assimilations described above.

<i>Acc.</i> helli	hell-a
<i>Gen.</i> helli-s	hell-a
<i>Dat.</i> helli	hell-um

48. So also a number of proper names, such as *Skrymir*, *Pórir*.

(2) **i**-plurals

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i> stað-r ( <i>place</i> )	stað-ir
<i>Acc.</i> stað	stað-i
<i>Gen.</i> stað-ar	stað-a
<i>Dat.</i> stað	stað-um

49. So also *gripr* (precious thing), *salr* (hall).

50. *gestr* (guest) takes *-i* in the dat. sg., and *-s* in the gen. sg.

51. Those ending in *g* or *k* (together with some others) insert *j* before *a* and *u*: *bekkr* (bench), *bekk*, *bekk*, *bekkar*; *bekkir*, *bekki*, *bekkjum*, *bekkja*. So also *mergr* (marrow), *strengr* (string).

(3) **u**-plurals

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i> skjöld-r ( <i>shield</i> )	skild-ir
<i>Acc.</i> skjöld	skjöld-u
<i>Gen.</i> skjald-ar	skjald-a
<i>Dat.</i> skild-i	skjöld-um

52. So also *vöndr* (twig), *völlr* (plain), *viðr* (wood). *áss* (god) has plur. nom. *æsir*, acc. *ásu*. *sonr* (son) has dat. sg. *syni*, plur. nom. *synir*. It regularly drops its *r* of the nom. in such compounds as *Tryggva-son* (son of Tryggvi).

(4) **r**-plurals

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i> fót-r ( <i>foot</i> )	fæt-r
<i>Acc.</i> fót	fæt-r
<i>Gen.</i> fót-ar	fót-a
<i>Dat.</i> fæt-i	fót-um

53. So also *fingr* (finger), gen. *fingrar*, pl. *fingr*; *vetr* (winter), pl. *vetr*. *maðr* (man) is irregular: *maðr*, *mann*, *manni*, *manns*; *menn*, *menn*, *monnum*, *manna*.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i> faðir ( <i>father</i> )	feðr
<i>Acc.</i> faður	feðr
<i>Gen.</i> faður	feðra
<i>Dat.</i> faður	feðrum

54. So also *bróðir* (brother), pl. *bræðr*.

55. Pres. participles used as nouns follow this decl. in the pl., following the weak class in the sg.:



	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	bóndi ( <i>yeoman</i> )	bœndr
<i>Acc.</i>	bónða	bœndr
<i>Gen.</i>	bónða	bónða
<i>Dat.</i>	bónða	bóndum

56. So also *frændi* (kinsman), pl. *frændr*.

### Strong Neuters

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	skip ( <i>ship</i> )	skip
<i>Acc.</i>	skip	skip
<i>Gen.</i>	skip-s	skip-a
<i>Dat.</i>	skip-i	skip-um

57. So also *orð* (word), *land* (land) pl. *lond*, *sumar* (summer) pl. *sumur* (§ 25).

58. *men* (necklace), *kyn* (race), *grey* (dog) insert *j* before *a* and *u*: *greyjum*. *hogg* (stroke) inserts *v* before a vowel: *hoggví*. *kné* (knee), *kné*, *kné*, *knés*; *kné*, *kné*, *kjám*, *knjá*. So also *tré* (tree).

59. *fé* (money) is contracted: gen. *fjár*, dat. *fé*.

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	kvæði ( <i>poem</i> )	kvæði
<i>Acc.</i>	kvæði	kvæði
<i>Gen.</i>	kvæði-s	kvæða
<i>Dat.</i>	kvæði	kvæðum

60. So also *klæði* (cloth). Those in *k* insert *j* before *a* and *u*: *merki* (mark), *merkjum*, *merkja*. So also *ríki* (sovereignty).

### Strong Feminines

(1) **ar-plurals**

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	gjöf ( <i>gift</i> )	gjaf-ar
<i>Acc.</i>	gjöf	gjaf-ar
<i>Gen.</i>	gjaf-ar	gjaf-a
<i>Dat.</i>	gjöf	gjöf-um

61. So also *møn* (mane), *gjörð* (girdle), *ár* (oar).

62. *á* (river) contracts: *á*, *á*, *á*, *ár*; *ár*, *ár*, *ám*, *á*.

63. Many take *-u* in the dat. sg.: *kerling* (old woman), *kerling*, *kerlingu*, *kerlingar*; *kerlingar*, *kerlingar*, *kerlingum*, *kerlinga*. So also *laug* (bath).

64. Those with a mutated root-vowel (or *i*) insert *j* in inflection: *ey* (island), *ey*, *eyju*, *eyjar*; *eyjar*, *eyjar*, *eyjum*, *eyja*. So also *Frigg*, *Hel. mæ*r (maid), *mey*, *meyju*, *meyjar*; *meyjar*, *meyjar*, *meyjum*, *meyja*.

65.

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	heið-r ( <i>heath</i> )	heið-ar
<i>Acc.</i>	heið-i	heið-ar
<i>Gen.</i>	heið-ar	heið-a
<i>Dat.</i>	heið-i	heið-um

(2) **ir**-plurals

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	tíð	tíð-ir
<i>Acc.</i>	tíð	tíð-ir
<i>Gen.</i>	tíð-ar	tíð-a
<i>Dat.</i>	tíð	tíð-um

66. So also *sorg* (sorrow), *skipun* (arrangement), *høfn* (harbour) pl. *hafnir*, and the majority of strong feminines.

67. Many have *-u* in the dat. sg.: *sól* (sun), *sól*, *sólu*, *sólar*; *sólir*, *sólir*, *sólum*, *sóla*. So also *jörð* (earth), *stund* (period of time).

68. One noun has *r* in the nom. sg., following *heiðr* in the sg.: *brúðr* (bride), *brúði*, *brúði*, *brúðar*; *brúðir*, *brúðir*, *brúðum*, *brúða*.

(3) **r**-plurals

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	bók ( <i>book</i> )	bæk-r
<i>Acc.</i>	bók	bæk-r
<i>Gen.</i>	bók-ar	bók-a
<i>Dat.</i>	bók	bók-um

69. So also *nátt* (night) pl. *nætr*, *bót* (compensation) pl. *bætr*, *tönn* (tooth) gen. *tannar* pl. *tennr*.

70. *hönd* (hand) pl. *hendr* has dat. sg. *hendi*.

71. *kýr* (cow) has acc. *kú*, pl. *kýr*.

72. *brún* (eyebrow) assimilates the *r* of the pl.: *brýnn*.

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	móðir ( <i>mother</i> )	mœðr
<i>Acc.</i>	móður	mœðr
<i>Gen.</i>	móður	mœðra
<i>Dat.</i>	móður	mœðrum

73. So also *dóttir* (daughter) pl. *dætr*; *systir* (sister) pl. *systr*.

**Weak Masculines**

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	bog-i ( <i>bow</i> )	bog-ar
<i>Acc.</i>	bog-a	bog-a
<i>Gen.</i>	bog-a	bog-a
<i>Dat.</i>	bog-a	bog-um

74. So also *máni* (moon), *félagi* (companion).

75. *hofðingi* (chief) and some others insert *j* in inflection: *hofðingja*, *hofðingjar*, *hofðingjum*.

76. *lé* (scythe) is contracted; its gen. sg. is *ljá*.

77. *oxi* (ox) has pl. *öxn*.

78. *herra* (lord) is indeclinable in the sg.

**Weak Neuters**

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	hjárt-a ( <i>heart</i> )	hjórt-u
<i>Acc.</i>	hjárt-a	hjórt-u
<i>Gen.</i>	hjárt-a	hjárt-na
<i>Dat.</i>	hjárt-a	hjórt-um

79. So also *auga* (eye).

**Weak Feminines**

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	tung-a ( <i>tongue</i> )	tung-ur
<i>Acc.</i>	tung-u	tung-ur
<i>Gen.</i>	tung-u	tung-na
<i>Dat.</i>	tung-u	tung-um

80. So also *stjarna* (star) pl. *stjörnur*, *kirkja* (church), gen. plurals *stjarna*, *kirkna*.

*Sg. Nom.* elli (*old age*)

*Acc.* elli

*Gen.* elli

*Dat. elli*

81. So also *gleði* (joy) and many abstract nouns.

82. *lygi* (falsehood) has pl. *lygar*; so also *görsimi* (precious thing).

## Inflexions: adjectives

83. Adjectives have three genders, and the same cases as nouns, though with partly different endings, together with strong and weak forms.

### Strong Adjectives

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	ung-r ( <i>young</i> )	ung-t	ung
<i>Acc.</i>	ung-an	ung-t	ung-a
<i>Gen.</i>	ung-s	ung-s	ung-rar
<i>Dat.</i>	ung-um	ung-u	ung-ri
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	ung-ir	ung	ung-ar
<i>Acc.</i>	ung-a	ung	ung-ar
<i>Gen.</i>	ung-ra	ung-ra	ung-ra
<i>Dat.</i>	ung-um	ung-um	ung-um

84. So also *fagr* (fair), fem. *føgr*, neut. *fagrt*.

85. Some insert *j* before *a* and *u*: *nýr* (new), *nýjum*, *nýjan*.

86. Some insert *v* before a vowel: *hár* (high), *hávan*, *dökkur* (dark), *dökkvir*, *kykr* (alive), *kykvir*.

87. The *t* of the neut. is doubled after a long vowel: *nýtt*, *hátt*. Monosyllables in *ð*, *dd*, *tt* form their neut. in *-tt*: *breiðr* (broad), *breitt*; *leiddr* (led), *leitt*. *góðr* (good) has neut. *gott*. *sannr* (true) has neut. *satt*. In unaccented syllables or if a cons. precedes, *tt* is shortened to *t*: *kallaðr* (called), *kallat*; *blindr* (blind), *blint*, *harðr* (hard), *hart*, *fastr* (firm), *fast*.

88. *l* and *n* assimilate a following *r*: *gamall* (old), fem. *gömul*, fem. acc. *gamla*, dat. *gamalli*. *vænn* (beautiful), gen. pl. *vænna*.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	mikill ( <i>great</i> )	mikit	mikil
<i>Acc.</i>	mikinn	mikit	mikla
<i>Gen.</i>	mikils	mikils	mikillar
<i>Dat.</i>	miklum	miklu	mikilli

<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	miklir	mikil	miklar
<i>Acc.</i>	mikla	mikil	miklar
<i>Gen.</i>	mikilla	mikilla	mikilla
<i>Dat.</i>	miklum	miklum	miklum

89. So also *lítill* (little).

90. Dissyllables in *-inn* have *-it* in the neut., and *-inn* in the masc. sg. acc.: *tíginn* (distinguished), *tígit*, *tíginn*, pl. *tígnír*. So also *kominn* (come).

91.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	annarr ( <i>other</i> )	annat	önnur
<i>Acc.</i>	annan	annat	aðra
<i>Gen.</i>	annars	annars	annarrar
<i>Dat.</i>	öðrum	öðru	annarri
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	aðrir	önnur	aðrar
<i>Acc.</i>	aðra	önnur	aðrar
<i>Gen.</i>	annarra	annarra	annarra
<i>Dat.</i>	öðrum	öðrum	öðrum

## Weak Adjectives

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	ung-i	ung-a	ung-a
<i>Acc.</i>	ung-a	ung-a	ung-u
<i>Gen.</i>	ung-a	ung-a	ung-u
<i>Dat.</i>	ung-a	ung-a	ung-u
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	ung-u	ung-u	ung-u
<i>Acc.</i>	ung-u	ung-u	ung-u
<i>Gen.</i>	ung-u	ung-u	ung-u
<i>Dat.</i>	ung-u	ung-u	ung-u

92. So also *fagri*, *hávi*, *mikli*, etc.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	yngri ( <i>younger</i> )	yngra	yngri
<i>Acc.</i>	yngra	yngra	yngri
<i>Gen.</i>	yngra	yngra	yngri
<i>Dat.</i>	yngra	yngra	yngri

<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	yngr	yngr	yngr
<i>Acc.</i>	yngr	yngr	yngr
<i>Gen.</i>	yngr	yngr	yngr
<i>Dat.</i>	yngrum	yngrum	yngrum

93. So also all comparatives, such as *meiri* (greater), and pres. partic. when used as adjectives, such as *gefandi* (giving), dat. pl. *geföndum*.

## Comparison

94. (1) with *-ari, -astr*: *ríkr* (powerful), *ríkari, ríkastr*; *göfugr* (distinguished), *göfgari, göfgastr*.

95. (2) with *-ri, -str* and mutation: *langr* (long), *lengri, lengstr*; *stórr* (big), *stærri, stærstr*; *ungr* (young), *yngr, yngstr*.

96. The following are irregular:

<i>gamall (old)</i>	<i>ellri</i>	<i>elztr</i>
<i>góðr (good)</i>	<i>betri</i>	<i>beztr</i>
<i>illr (bad)</i>	<i>verri</i>	<i>verstr</i>
<i>lítill (little)</i>	<i>minni</i>	<i>minstr</i>
<i>margr (many)</i>	<i>fleiri</i>	<i>flestr</i>
<i>mikill (great)</i>	<i>meiri</i>	<i>mestr</i>

## Numerals

97.

<b>Cardinal</b>	<b>Ordinal</b>
1. einn ( <i>one</i> )	<i>fyrstr (first)</i>
2. tveir	<i>annarr</i>
3. þrír	<i>þriði</i>
4. fjórir	<i>fjórði</i>
5. fimm	<i>fimmti</i>
6. sex	<i>sétti</i>
7. sjau	<i>sjaundi</i>
8. átta	<i>átti</i>
9. níu	<i>níundi</i>
10. tíu	<i>tíundi</i>
11. ellifu	<i>ellifti</i>
12. tólf	<i>tólfti</i>
13. þrettán	<i>þrettánda</i>

14. fjórtán  
 15. fimmtán  
 16. sextán  
 17. sjaután  
 18. átján  
 19. níttján  
 20. tuttugu  
 21. einn ok tuttugu, etc.  
 30. þrír tígir, etc.  
 100. tíu tígir  
 110. ellifu tígir  
 120. hundrað  
 1200. þúsund

*einn* is declined like other adjectives:—

98.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	einn	eitt	ein
<i>Acc.</i>	einn	eitt	eina
<i>Gen.</i>	eins	eins	einnar
<i>Dat.</i>	einum	einu	einni

It also has a pl. *einir, einar, ein*; gen. *einna*, etc. in the sense of 'some.'

The next three show various irregularities.

99.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	tveir	tvau	tvær
<i>Acc.</i>	tvá	tvau	tvær
<i>Gen.</i>	tveggja	tveggja	tveggja
<i>Dat.</i>	tveim	tveim	tveim

Similarly *báðir* (both):

100.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	báðir	bæði	báðar
<i>Acc.</i>	báða	bæði	báðar

*Gen.* beggja beggja beggja  
*Dat.* báðum báðum báðum

101.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	þrír	þrjú	þrjár
<i>Acc.</i>	þrjá	þrjú	þrjár
<i>Gen.</i>	þriggja	þriggja	þriggja
<i>Dat.</i>	þrim	þrim	þrim

102.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Nom.</i>	fjórir	fjogur	fjórar
<i>Acc.</i>	fjóra	fjogur	fjórar
<i>Gen.</i>	fjogurra	fjogurra	fjogurra
<i>Dat.</i>	fjórum	fjórum	fjórum

103. The others are indeclinable up to *þrír tígir*, etc.; the *tígir* being declined regularly as a plural strong *u*-masculine *tígir*, *tigu*, *tigum*, *tiga*.

104. *hundrað* is a strong neut.: *tvau hundruð* (240), *tveim hundruðum*, etc. It governs the gen. (as also does *þúsund*): *fimm hundruð gólfa*, 'five (six) hundred chambers.'

105. *þúsund* is a strong *ir*-feminine: *tvær þúsundir* (2400).

106. *hundrað* and *þúsund* are rarely = 100 and 1000.

107. Of the ordinals *fyrstr* and *annarr* (§ 91) are strong, the others weak adjectives. *þriði* inserts a *j*: *þriðja*, etc.

## Inflexions: pronouns

### 108. Personal

<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	ek ( <i>I</i> )	þú ( <i>thou</i> )	—
	<i>Acc.</i> mik	þik	sik ( <i>oneself</i> )
	<i>Gen.</i> mín	þín	sín
	<i>Dat.</i> mér	þér	sér
<i>Dual. Nom.</i>	vit	it	—
	<i>Acc.</i> okkr	ykkur	sik
	<i>Gen.</i> okkar	ykkar	sín
	<i>Dat.</i> okkr	ykkur	sér



<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	vér ( <i>we</i> )	þér ( <i>ye</i> )	—
<i>Acc.</i>	oss	yðr	sik ( <i>oneselves</i> )
<i>Gen.</i>	vár	yðar	sín
<i>Dat.</i>	oss	yðr	sér

**Masc.    Neut.    Fem.**

<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	hann ( <i>he</i> )	þat ( <i>it</i> )	hon ( <i>she</i> )
<i>Acc.</i>	hann	þat	hana
<i>Gen.</i>	hans	þess	hennar
<i>Dat.</i>	honum	því	henni

<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	þeir ( <i>they</i> )	þau	þær
<i>Acc.</i>	þá	þau	þær
<i>Gen.</i>	þeira	þeira	þeira
<i>Dat.</i>	þeim	þeim	þeim

109. *ek* was often suffixed to its verb, especially in poetry, being sometimes added twice over: *mætta-k* (I might), *sá-k-a-k* (I saw not; *a*='not'). So also *þú: er-tu* (art thou), *skalt-u* (shalt thou) = *\*skalt-tu*.

### Possessive

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	minn ( <i>my</i> )	mitt	mín
<i>Acc.</i>	minn	mitt	mína
<i>Gen.</i>	míns	míns	minnar
<i>Dat.</i>	mínum	mínu	minni
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	mínir	mín	mínar
<i>Acc.</i>	mína	mín	mínar
<i>Gen.</i>	minna	minna	minna
<i>Dat.</i>	mínum	mínum	mínum

110. So also *þinn* (thy), *sinn* (his, etc., reflexive).

111. *várr, várt, vár* (our) is regular: acc. masc. *várn*, masc. plur. *várir, vára, várum, várra*, etc.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	yðarr ( <i>your</i> )	yðart	yður
<i>Acc.</i>	yðarn	yðart	yðra
<i>Gen.</i>	yðars	yðars	yðarrar

<i>Dat.</i>	yðrum	yðru	yðarri
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	yðrir	yður	yðrar
<i>Acc.</i>	yðra	yður	yðrar
<i>Gen.</i>	yðarra	yðarra	yðarra
<i>Dat.</i>	yðrum	yðrum	yðrum

112. So also *okkarr* (our two) and *ykkarr* (your two).

113. *hans* (his), *þess* (its), *hennar* (her), and *þeira* (their) are indeclinable.

### Demonstrative

114.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	sá ( <i>that</i> )	þat	sú
<i>Acc.</i>	þann	þat	þá
<i>Gen.</i>	þess	þess	þeirar
<i>Dat.</i>	þeim	því	þeiri
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	þeir	þau	þær
<i>Acc.</i>	þá	þau	þær
<i>Gen.</i>	þeira	þeira	þeira
<i>Dat.</i>	þeim	þeim	þeim

115. *hinn, hitt, hin* (that) is inflected like *minn* (except that its vowel is short throughout): acc. masc. *hinn*, plur. masc. *hinir, hina, hinum, hinna*.

116.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	þessi ( <i>this</i> )	þetta	þessi
<i>Acc.</i>	þenna	þetta	þessa
<i>Gen.</i>	þessa	þessa	þessar
<i>Dat.</i>	þessum	þessu	þessi
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	þessir	þessi	þessar
<i>Acc.</i>	þessa	þessi	þessar
<i>Gen.</i>	þessa	þessa	þessa
<i>Dat.</i>	þessum	þessum	þessum

## Definite

The prefixed definite article is declined thus:

117.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	inn	it	in
<i>Acc.</i>	inn	it	ina
<i>Gen.</i>	ins	ins	innar
<i>Dat.</i>	inum	inu	inni
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	inir	in	inar
<i>Acc.</i>	ina	in	inar
<i>Gen.</i>	inna	inna	inna
<i>Dat.</i>	inum	inum	inum

118. When suffixed to its noun it undergoes various changes. In its monosyllabic forms it drops its vowel after a short (un-accented) vowel, as in *auga-t* (the eye), but keeps it after a long vowel, as in *á-in* (the river), *tré-it* (the tree). The dissyllabic forms drop their initial vowel almost everywhere; not, however, after the *-ar*, *-r*, of the gen. sg., nor in *menninir* (men, *nom.*), *menn-ina* (men, *acc.*). The *-m* of the dat. pl. is dropped before the suffixed *-num*.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	fiskr-inn	skip-it	gjöf-in
<i>Acc.</i>	fisk-inn	skip-it	gjöf-ina
<i>Gen.</i>	fisks-ins	skips-ins	gjafar-innar
<i>Dat.</i>	fiski-num	skipi-nu	gjöf-inni
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	fiskar-nir	skip-in	gjafar-nar
<i>Acc.</i>	fiska-na	skip-in	gjafar-nar
<i>Gen.</i>	fiska-nna	skipa-nna	gjafa-nna
<i>Dat.</i>	fisku-num	skipu-num	gjöfu-num
	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	bogi-nn	auga-t	tunga-n
<i>Acc.</i>	boga-nn	auga-t	tungu-na
<i>Gen.</i>	boga-ns	auga-ns	tungu-nnar
<i>Dat.</i>	boga-num	auga-nu	tungu-nni

<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	bogar-nir	augu-n	tungur-nar
<i>Acc.</i>	boga-na	augu-n	tungur-nar
<i>Gen.</i>	boga-nna	augna-nna	tungna-nna
<i>Dat.</i>	bogu-num	augu-num	tungnu-num

## Relative

119. The ordinary relative pron. is the indeclinable *er*, often preceded by *sá*: *sá er* = he who, who, *sú er* who fem.

## Interrogative

120. The neut. *hvat* has gen. *hvess*, dat. *hví*, which last is chiefly used as an adverb = 'why.'

121.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	hvárr ( <i>which of two</i> )	hvárt	hvár
<i>Acc.</i>	hvárn	hvárt	hvára
<i>Gen.</i>	hvárs	hvárs	hvárrar
<i>Dat.</i>	hvárum	hváru	hvárri
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	hvárir	hvár	hvárar
<i>Acc.</i>	hvára	hvár	hvárar
<i>Gen.</i>	hvárra	hvárra	hvárra
<i>Dat.</i>	hvárum	hvárum	hvárum

122.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	hverr ( <i>which, who</i> )	hvert	hver
<i>Acc.</i>	hvern	hvert	hverja
<i>Gen.</i>	hvers	hvers	hverrar
<i>Dat.</i>	hverjum	hverju	hverri
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	hverir	hver	hverjar
<i>Acc.</i>	hverja	hver	hverjar
<i>Gen.</i>	hverra	hverra	hverra
<i>Dat.</i>	hverjum	hverjum	hverjum

## Indefinite

123. *einn-hverr, eitthvert, einhver* (some one) keeps an invariable *ein-* in the other cases, the second element being inflected as above.

124. *sumr* (some) is declined like an ordinary adjective.

125.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	nakkvarr ( <i>some</i> )	nakkvat	nøkkur
<i>Acc.</i>	nakkvarn	nakkvat	nakkvara
<i>Gen.</i>	nakkvars	nakkvars	nakkvarrar
<i>Dat.</i>	nøkkurum	nøkkuru	nakkvarri
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	nakkvarir	nøkkur	nakkvarar
<i>Acc.</i>	nakkvara	nøkkur	nakkvarar
<i>Gen.</i>	nakkvarra	nakkvarra	nakkvarra
<i>Dat.</i>	nøkkurum	nøkkurum	nøkkurum

126.

	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>
<i>Sg. Nom.</i>	engi ( <i>none, no</i> )	ekki	engi
<i>Acc.</i>	engan	ekki	enga
<i>Gen.</i>	engis	engis	engrar
<i>Dat.</i>	engum	engu	engri
<i>Pl. Nom.</i>	engir	engi	engar
<i>Acc.</i>	enga	engi	engar
<i>Gen.</i>	engra	engra	engra
<i>Dat.</i>	engum	engum	engum

127. In *hvár-tveggja* (each of the two, both) the first element is declined as above, the second is left unchanged.

## Verbs

128. There are two classes of verbs, *strong* and *weak*. Strong verbs are conjugated partly by means of gradation, weak verbs by adding *ð* (*d, t*).

129. The *ð* of the 2 pl. is dropt before *þit* (ye two) and *þér* (ye): *gefi þér, gáfu þit*.

130. There is a middle voice, which ends in *-mk* in the 1 pers. sg. and pl., the rest of the verb being formed by adding *sk* to the active endings, *r* being dropt, the resulting *ts, ðs* being written *z* (§ 36): *kvezk* (active *kveðr* 'says'), *þu fekkzk* (*fekk* 'gottest').

131. The following is the conjugation of the strong verb *gefa* (give), which will show those endings which are common to all verbs:

Active

	<b>Indicative</b>	<b>Subjunctive</b>
<i>Present sg.</i>		
1. gef		gef-a
2. gef-r		gef-ir
3. gef-r		gef-i
<i>pl.</i>		
1. gef-um		gef-im
2. gef-ið		gef-ið
3. gef-a		gef-i
<i>Preterite sg.</i>		
1. gaf		gæf-a
2. gaf-t		gæf-ir
3. gaf		gæf-i
<i>pl.</i>		
1. gáf-um		gæf-im
2. gáf-uð		gæf-ið
3. gáf-u		gæf-i

*Imperative sg.* 2 gef; *pl.* 1 gef-um, 2 gef-ið.

*Participle pres.* gef-andi; *pret.* gef-inn.

*Infin.* gefa.

Middle

	<b>Indicative</b>	<b>Subjunctive</b>
<i>Present sg.</i>		
1. gef-umk		gef-umk
2. gef-sk		gef-isk
3. gef-sk		gef-isk
<i>pl.</i>		
1. gef-umk		gef-imk
2. gef-izk		gef-izk
3. gef-ask		gef-isk
<i>Preterite sg.</i>		
1. gáf-umk		gæf-umk
2. gaf-zk		gæf-isk
3. gaf-sk		gæf-isk
<i>pl.</i>		
1. gáf-umk		gæf-imk
2. gáf-uzk		gæf-izk

## 3. gáf-usk      gæf-isk

*Impers. sg.* 2 gef-sk; *pl.* 1 gef-umk, 2 gef-izk.

*Partic. pres.* gef-andisk; *pret.* gef-izk *neut.*

*Infin.* gef-ask.

**Strong Verbs**

132. In the strong verbs the plur. of the pret. indic. generally has a different vowel from that of the sing. The 1 sg. pret. of the middle voice always has the vowel of the pl. pret.: *gáfumk*. The pret. subj. has the vowel of the pret. indic. plur. mutated: *skaut* (he shot), *skutu* (they shot), *skyti* (he might shoot). But there is no mutation in verbs of the first conj.: *hljópi*, inf. *hlaupa* (leap).

133. The pres. indic. sing. mutates the root-vowel in all three persons: *ek skýt*, *þú skýtr*, *hann skýtr*, infin. *skjóta* (shoot). *e* however is not mutated: *ek gef*, *þú gefr*. The inflectional *r* is liable to the same modifications as the *r* of nouns (§ 32): *skínn*, *vex*, infin. *skína* (shine), *vaxa* (grow).

134. Verbs in *ld* change the *d* into *t* in the 1, 3 sg. pret. indic. and in the imper. sg.: *held* (held), *halt* (hold!), infin. *halda*. *nd* becomes *tt*, and *ng* becomes *kk* under the same conditions: *binda* (bind), *ganga* (go), pret. *batt*, *gekk*, imper. *bitt*, *gakk*.

135. The *t* of the 2 sg. pret. indic. is doubled after a long accented vowel: *þú sátt* (thou sawest). If the 1 sg. pret. indic. ends in *t* or *ð*, the 2 sg. ends in *zt*: *lét* (I let), *þú lézt*, *bauð* (I offered) *þú bauzt*.

136. There are seven conjugations of strong verbs, distinguished mainly by the characteristic vowels of their preterites.

137.

## I. 'Shine'-conjugation

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
bíta ( <i>bite</i> )	bítr	beit	bitu	bitinn
drífa ( <i>drive</i> )	drífr	dreif	drifu	drifinn
grípa ( <i>grasp</i> )	grípr	greip	gripu	gripinn
líða ( <i>go</i> )	líðr	leið	liðu	liðinn
líta ( <i>look</i> )	lítr	leit	litu	litinn
ríða ( <i>ride</i> )	ríðr	reið	riðu	riðinn
síga ( <i>sink</i> )	sígr	seig	sigu	siginn
slíta ( <i>tear</i> )	slítr	sleit	slitu	slitinn
stíga ( <i>advance</i> )	stígr	steig	stigu	stiginn
bíða ( <i>wait</i> )	bíðr	beið	biðu	beiðnn

138. The following has a weak present:

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
víkja ( <i>move</i> )	víkr	veik	vikur	vikinn

139.

## II. 'Choose'-conjugation

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
bjóða ( <i>offer</i> )	býðr	bauð	buðu	boðinn
brjóta ( <i>break</i> )	brýtr	braut	brutu	brotinn
fljóta ( <i>float</i> )	flýtr	flaut	flutu	flotinn
hljóta ( <i>receive</i> )	hlýtr	hlaut	hlutu	hlotinn
kjósa ( <i>choose</i> )	kýss	kaus	kusum	kosinn
njóta ( <i>enjoy</i> )	nýtr	naut	nutu	notinn
skjóta ( <i>shoot</i> )	skýtr	skaut	skutu	skotinn
drjúpa ( <i>drop</i> )	drýpr	draup	drupu	dropinn
ljúga ( <i>tell lies</i> )	lýgr	laug	lugu	loginn
lúka ( <i>close</i> )	lýkr	lauk	luku	lokinn
lúta ( <i>bend</i> )	lýtr	laut	lutu	lotinn
fljúga ( <i>fly</i> )	flýgr	fló	flugu	floginn

140.

## III. 'Bind'-conjugation

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
bresta ( <i>burst</i> )	brestr	brast	brustu	brostinn
hverfa ( <i>turn</i> )	hverfr	hvarf	hurfu	horfinn
svelga ( <i>swallow</i> )	svelgr	svalg	sulgu	sólginn
verða ( <i>become</i> )	verðr	varð	urðu	orðinn
skjálfa ( <i>shake</i> )	skelfr	skalf	skulfu	skolfinn
drekka ( <i>drink</i> )	drekkr	drakk	drukku	drukkinn
finna ( <i>find</i> )	finnr	fann	fundu	fundinn
vinna ( <i>win</i> )	vinnr	vann	unnu	unninn
binda ( <i>bind</i> )	bindr	batt	bundu	bundinn
springa ( <i>spring</i> )	springr	sprakk	sprungu	sprunginn
stinga ( <i>pierce</i> )	stingr	stakk	stungu	stunginn
bregða ( <i>pull</i> )	bregðr	brá	brugðu	brugðinn
sökkva ( <i>sink</i> )	sökkr	sökk	sukku	sokkinn
stökkva ( <i>spring</i> )	stökkr	stökk	stukku	stokkinn

141. The following have weak presents (which makes however no difference in their conjugation):

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
brenna ( <i>burn</i> )	brennr	brann	brunnu	brunninn
renna ( <i>run</i> )	rennr	rann	runnu	runninn



142.

## IV. 'Bear'-conjugation

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
bera ( <i>carry</i> )	berr	bar	báru	borinn
nema ( <i>take</i> )	nemr	nam	námu	numinn
fela ( <i>hide</i> )	felr	fal	fálu	fólginn
koma ( <i>come</i> )	kömr	kom	kvámu	kominn
sofa ( <i>sleep</i> )	söfr	svaf	sváfu	sofinn

143.

## V. 'Give'-conjugation

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
drepa ( <i>kill</i> )	drepr	drap	drápu	drepinn
gefa ( <i>give</i> )	gefr	gaf	gáfu	gefinn
kveða ( <i>say</i> )	kveðr	kvað	kváðu	kveðinn
meta ( <i>estimate</i> )	metr	mat	mátu	metinn
reka ( <i>drive</i> )	rekr	rak	ráku	rekinn
eta ( <i>eat</i> )	etr	át	átu	etinn
sjá ( <i>see</i> )	sér <sup>4</sup>	sá	sá <sup>5</sup>	sénn

144. The following have weak presents:—

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
biðja ( <i>ask</i> )	biðr	bað	báðu	beðinn
sitja ( <i>sit</i> )	sitr	sat	sátu	setinn
liggja ( <i>lie</i> )	liggr	lá	lágum	leginn
þiggja ( <i>receive</i> )	þiggr	þá	þágu	þeginn

145.

## VI. 'Shake'-conjugation

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
fara ( <i>go</i> )	ferr	fór	fóru	farinn
grafa ( <i>dig</i> )	grefr	gróf	grófu	grafinn
hlaða ( <i>load</i> )	hleðr	hlóð	hlóðu	hlaðinn
vaxa ( <i>grow</i> )	vex	óx	óxu	vaxinn
standa ( <i>stand</i> )	stendr	stóð	stóðu	staðinn
aka ( <i>drive</i> )	ekr	ók	óku	ekinn

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4 Sé, sér, sér; sjám, séð, sjá. Subj. sé, sér, sé; sémm, séð, sé.

5 Sámm, sáið, sá.

taka ( <i>take</i> )	tekr	tók	tóku	tekinn
draga ( <i>draw</i> )	dregr	dró	drógu	dreginn
flá ( <i>flay</i> )	flær	fló	flógu	fleginn
slá ( <i>strike</i> )	slær	sló	slógu	sleginn

146. The following have weak presents:

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
hefja ( <i>lift</i> )	hefr	hóf	hófu	hafinn
deyja ( <i>die</i> )	deyr	dó	dó	dáinn
hlæja ( <i>laugh</i> )	hlær	hló	hlógu	hleginn

147.

### VII. 'Fall'-conjugation

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
falla ( <i>fall</i> )	fellr	fell	fellu	fallinn
láta ( <i>let</i> )	lætr	lét	létu	látinn
ráða ( <i>advise</i> )	ræðr	réð	réðu	ráðinn
heita ( <i>call</i> )	heitr	hét	hétu	heitinn
halda ( <i>hold</i> )	heldr	helt	heldu	haldinn
ganga ( <i>go</i> )	gengr	gekk	gengu	genginn
fá ( <i>get</i> )	fær	fekk	fengu	fenginn
<hr/>				
auka ( <i>increase</i> )	eykr	jók	jóku	aukinn
búa ( <i> dwell</i> )	býr	bjó	bjoggu	búinn
hoggva ( <i>hew</i> )	höggr	hjó	hjoggu	hoggvinn
hlaupa ( <i>leap</i> )	hleypr	hljóp	hljópu	hlaupinn

148. The following have weak preterites in *r*:

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Third Pres.</b>	<b>Prt. Sing.</b>	<b>Prt. Pl.</b>	<b>Ptc. Prt.</b>
gróa ( <i>grow</i> )	grær	gröri	gröru	gróinn
róa ( <i>row</i> )	rær	röri	röru	róinn
snúa ( <i>twist</i> )	snýr	snöri	snöru	snúinn

149. *heita* in the passive sense of 'to be named, called' has a weak present: *ek heiti, þú heitir*.

### Weak Verbs

150. There are three conjugations of weak verbs. Those of the first have no vowel in the present indicative singular, and different root-vowels between the present and preterite indicative; those of

the second has *a* in the present and preterite indicative; and those of the third has no change in the root vowel and *i* in the present indicative singular.

### I 'tell'-conjugation

#### Active

151. All these verbs have *j* preceded by a short syllable (*telja*), or a long vowel without any cons. after it (*dýja*), or *gg* (*leggja*); the *j* being kept before *a* and *u*, as in the pres. ind. of *spyrja* (ask): *spyr*, *spyr*, *spyr*; *spyrjum*, *spyr*ð, *spyrja*, pres. subj. 1 sg. *ek spyrja*; they unmutate their vowel in the pret. and ptc. pret. (*spurða*, *spurðr*), the mutation being restored in the pret. subj. *spyrð**a*, *spyrðir*, etc. The ptc. pret. often has an *i* before the *ð*.

#### Indicative Subjunctive

<i>Present sg.</i>	1. tel	tel-ja
	2. tel-r	tel-ir
	3. tel-r	tel-i
<i>pl.</i>	1. tel-jum	tel-im
	2. tel-ið	tel-ið
	3. tel-ja	tel-i
<i>Preterite sg.</i>	1. tal-ða	tel-ða
	2. tal-ðir	tel-ðir
	3. tal-ði	tel-ði
<i>pl.</i>	1. tøl-ðum	tel-ðim
	2. tøl-ðuð	tel-ðið
	3. tøl-ðu	tel-ði

*Imper. sg.* 1. tel; *pl.* 1. tel-jum, 2. tel-ið.

*Partic. pres.* teljandi; *pret.* tal(i)-ðr.

*Infin.* telja.

#### Middle

#### Indicative Subjunctive

<i>Present sg.</i>	1. teljumk	teljumk
	2. telsk	telisk
	3. telsk	telisk
<i>pl.</i>	1. teljumk	telimk
	2. telizk	telizk
	3. teljask	telisk

<i>Preterite sg.</i>	1. tölðumk	telðumk
	2. talðisk	telðisk
	3. talðisk	telðisk

<i>pl.</i>	1. tölðumk	telðimk
	2. talðuzk	telðizk
	3. talðusk	telðisk

*Imper. sg.* 2. telsk; *pl.* 1. teljumk, 2. telizk.

*Partic. pres.* teljandisk; *pret.* tal(i)zk *neut.*

*Infin.* teljheyr-ask.

berja ( <i>strike</i> )	barða	barðr
leggja ( <i>lay</i> )	lagða	lag(i)ðr
telja ( <i>tell</i> )	talða	tal(i)ðr
vekja ( <i>wake</i> )	vakða	vakðr
flytja ( <i>remove</i> )	flutta	fluttr
dýja ( <i>shake</i> )	dúða	dúðr

152. The following keep the mutated vowel throughout:

selja ( <i>sell</i> )	selda	seldr
setja ( <i>set</i> )	setta	settr

C.

153. The following are irregular:

sækja ( <i>seek</i> )	sótta	sótttr
þykkja ( <i>seem</i> )	þótta	þótttr

Subj. pret. *sætta*, *þætta*.

The following has an adj. for its partic. pret.:

göra ( <i>make</i> )	görða	görr.
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IIa. 'Call'-conjugation

154. Active

	<b>Indicative</b>	<b>Subjunctive</b>
<i>Present sg.</i>		
1. kall-a	kall-a	
2. kall-ar	kall-ir	
3. kall-ar	kall-i	
<i>pl.</i>		
1. köll-um	kall-im	
2. kall-ið	kall-ið	

3. kall-a      kall-i

*Preterite sg.* 1. kall-aða      kall-aða  
2. kall-aðir      kall-aðir  
3. kall-aði      kall-aði

*pl.* 1. kǫll-uðum      kall-aðim  
2. kǫll-uðuð      kall-aðið  
3. kǫll-uðu      kall-aði

*Imper. sing.* 2. kall-a; *plur.* 1. kǫll-um, 2. kall-ið.

*Partic. pres.* kall-andi; *pret.* kallaðr (*neut.* kallat).

*Infin.* kalla.

Middle

### Indicative      Subjunctive

*Present sg.* 1. kǫll-umk      kǫll-umk  
2. kall-ask      kall-isk  
3. kall-ask      kall-isk

*pl.* 1. kǫll-umk      kall-imk  
2. kall-izk      kall-izk  
3. kall-ask      kall-isk

*Preterite sg.* 1. kǫll-uðumk      kǫll-uðumk  
2. kall-aðisk      kall-aðisk  
3. kall-aðisk      kall-aðisk

*pl.* 1. kǫll-uðumk      kall-aðimk  
2. kǫll-uðuzk      kall-aðizk  
3. kǫll-uðusk      kall-aðisk

*Imper. sing.* 2. kall-ask; *pl.* 1. kǫll-umk, 2. kall-izk.

*Partic. pres.* kall-andisk; *pret.* kall-azk *neut.*

*Infin.* kall-ask.

155. So also *byrja* (begin), *herja* (make war), *vakna* (awake).

### IIb. 'Have'-conjugation

156. The few verbs of this class are conjugated like those of conj. IIa, except that some of them have imperatives in *-i*: *vaki*, *þefi*; *uni. lifa*, *segja* have imper. *lif*, *seg*. They mutate the vowel of the pret. subj. (*ynða*). Their partic. pret. generally occurs only in the neut.; sometimes the *a* is dropped.

lifa ( <i>live</i> )	lifi	lifða	lifat
una ( <i>be contented</i> )	uni	unða	unat
skorta ( <i>be wanting</i> )	skorti	skorta	skort
þola ( <i>endure</i> )	þoli	þolða	þolat
þora ( <i>dare</i> )	þori	þorða	þorat
ná ( <i>attain</i> )	nái	náða	náðr, náit

157. The following show mutation:

segja ( <i>say</i> )	segi	sagða	sagðr
þegja ( <i>be silent</i> )	þegi	þagða	þagat
hafa ( <i>have</i> )	hefi	hafða	hafðr
kaupa ( <i>buy</i> )	kaupi	keypta	keyptr

158. The present indic. of the first three is as follows:

<i>Sing.</i> 1. hefi	segi	þegi
2, 3. hefir	segir	þegir

<i>Plur.</i> 1. hōfum	segjum	þegjum
2. hafið	segið	þegið
3. hafa	segja	þegja

159. The rest of *hafa* is regular. Pres. subj. *hafa, hafir, hafi; hafim, hafið, hafi*. Pret. indic. *hafða, hafðir, hafði; hōfdum, hōfðuð, hōfðu*. Pret. subj. *hefða, hefðir, hefði; hefðim, hefðið, hefði*. Imper. *haf, hōfum, hafið*. Ptc. *hafandi, hafðr*.

### III. 'Hear'-conjugation

Active

160.

#### Indicative Subjunctive

<i>Present sg.</i> 1. heyr-i	heyr-a
2. heyr-ir	heyr-ir
3. heyr-ir	heyr-i

<i>pl.</i> 1. heyr-um	heyr-im
2. heyr-ið	heyr-ið
3. heyr-a	heyr-i

<i>Preterite sg.</i> 1. heyr-ða	heyr-ða
2. heyr-ðir	heyr-ðir
3. heyr-ði	heyr-ði

<i>pl.</i> 1. heyr-ðum	heyr-ðim
2. heyr-ðuð	heyr-ðið
3. heyr-ðu	heyr-ði

*Imper. sg.* 1. heyr; *pl.* 1. heyr-um, 2. heyr-ið.

*Partic. pres.* heyr-andi; *pret.* heyr-ðr.

*Infīn.* heyr-a.

Middle

### Indicative Subjunctive

<i>Present sg.</i> 1. heyr-umk	heyr-umk
2. heyr-isk	heyr-isk
3. heyr-isk	heyr-isk

<i>pl.</i> 1. heyr-umk	heyr-imk
2. heyr-izk	heyr-izk
3. heyr-ask	heyr-isk

<i>Preterite sg.</i> 1. heyr-ðumk	heyr-ðumk
2. heyr-ðisk	heyr-ðisk
3. heyr-ðisk	heyr-ðisk

<i>pl.</i> 1. heyr-ðumk	heyr-ðimk
2. heyr-ðuzk	heyr-ðizk
3. heyr-ðusk	heyr-ðisk

*Imper. sg.* 2. heyr-sk; *pl.* 1. heyr-umk, 2. heyr-izk.

*Partic. pres.* heyr-andisk; *pret.* heyr-zk *neut.*

*Infīn.* heyr-ask.

161. The inflectional *ð* becomes *d* after long syllables ending in *l* or *n*: *sigla* (sail), *siglda*; *nefna* (name), *nefnda*, *nefn̄dr*.

162. *-ðð* becomes *dd*: *leiða* (lead), *leid̄da*.

163. *ð* after *s* and *t* becomes *t*: *reisa* (raise), *reista*; *mæta* (meet), *mæt̄ta*. Also in a few verbs in *l, n*: *mæla* (speak), *mælda*; *spenna* (buckle), *spenta*.

164. After *nd* and *pt* it is dropped: *senda* (send), *senda*, *sendr*; *lypta* (lift), *lypta*.

165. It is preserved in such verbs as the following: *dæma* (judge), *dæmða*; *færa* (lead), *færða*; *herða* (harden), *herða*; *hleyppa* (gallop), *hleyppða*.

### Strong-Weak Verbs (aka pretite-present verbs)

166. These have old strong preterites for their presents, from which new weak preterites are formed.

<b>Infin.</b>	<b>Pres. Sg.</b>	<b>Pres. Pl.</b>	<b>Prt.</b>	<b>Ptc.</b>
eiga ( <i>possess</i> )	á	eigu	átta	átr
kunna ( <i>can</i> )	kann	kunnu	kunna	kunnat <i>n.</i>
mega ( <i>can</i> )	má	megu	mátta	mátt <i>n.</i>
muna ( <i>remember</i> )	man	munu	munða	munat <i>n.</i>
munu ( <i>will</i> )	mun	munu	munða	—
skulu ( <i>shall</i> )	skal	skulu	skylda	skyldr
þurfa ( <i>need</i> )	þarf	þurfu	þurfta	þurft <i>n.</i>
unna ( <i>love</i> )	ann	unnu	unna	unnt <i>n.</i>
vita ( <i>know</i> )	veit	vitu	vissa	vitaðr

167. Of these verbs *munu* and *skulu* have preterite infinitives: *mundu*, *skyldu*.

### Anomalous Verbs

168. *Vilja* (will):

Present

#### Sing. Plur.

1. vil	viljum
2. vill	vilið
3. vill	vilja

*Subj. pres.* vili. *Pret. ind.* vilda. *Ptc. prt.* viljat.

169. *Vera* (be):

#### Indicative Subjunctive

<i>Present sg.</i> 1. em	sé
2. ert	sér
3. er	sé

<i>pl.</i> 1. erum	sém
2. eruð	séð
3. eru	sé

<i>Preterite sg.</i> 1. var	væra
2. vart	værir
3. var	væri

<i>pl.</i> 1. várum	værim
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2. váruð	værið
3. váru	væri

*Imper. sg. ver; pl. verið. Ptc. prt. verit n.*

## Composition (aka compounding)

170. Composition with the genitive is very frequent in Icelandic. Thus by the side of *skip-stjórn* (ship-steering) we find *skips-brot* (ship's breaking, shipwreck), *skipa-herr* (army of ships, fleet). Genitival composition often expresses possession, as in *konungs-skip* (king's ship).

## Derivation

### Prefixes

171. Prefixes are much less used in Icelandic than in Old English.

**al-** 'quite,' 'very': *al-búinn* 'quite ready,' *al-snotr* 'very clever.'

**all-** 'all,' 'very': *all-valdr* 'all-ruler, monarch,' *all-harðr* 'very hard,' *all-stórum* 'very greatly.'

**and-** 'against': *and-lit* 'countenance' (*lita*, look), *and-svar* 'answer.'

**fjöl-** 'many': *fjöl-menni* 'multitude' (*maðr*, man).

**mis-** 'mis-': *mis-líka* 'displease.'

**ú-** 'un-': *ú-friðr* 'war' (*friðr*, peace), *ú-happ* 'misfortune' (*happ* luck).

### Endings (aka suffixes)

(a) Nouns

Personal

172. **-ingr, -ingi, -ing**: *víkingr* 'pirate,' *hofðingi* 'chief,' *kerling* 'old woman.'

Abstract

173. **-ð**, fem. with mutation: *fegrð* 'beauty' (*fagr*, fair), *ferð* 'journey' (*fara*, go), *lengð* 'length' (*langr*, long).

**-ing**, fem.: *svipting* 'pulling,' *víking* 'piracy,' *virðing* 'honour.'

**-leikr**, masc.: *kær-leikr* 'affection' (*hærr*, dear), *skjót-leikr* 'speed' (*skjótr*, swift).

**-an, -un**, fem.: *skipan* 'arrangement,' *skemtun* 'amusement.'

## (b) Adjectives

174. **-ugr**: *ráðugr* 'sagacious,' *þrúðugr* 'strong.'

**-ótttr**: *kollótttr* 'bald,' *öndótttr* 'fierce.'

**-lauss** '-less': *fé-lauss* 'moneyless,' *ótta-lauss* 'without fear.'

**-ligr** '-ly': *undr-ligr* 'wonderful,' *sann-ligr* 'probable' (*sannr*, true).

**-samr**: *líkn-samr* 'gracious,' *skyn-samr* 'intelligent.'

**-verðr** '-ward': *ofan-verðr* 'upper.'

## (c) Verbs

175. **-na**: *brotna* 'be broken' (*brotinn*, broken), *hvítna* 'become white,' *vakna* 'awake.' Used to form intransitive and inchoative verbs of the third conj.

## (d) Adverbs

176. **-liga** '-ly': *undar-liga* 'wonderfully,' *sterk-liga* 'strongly' (*sterkr*, strong).

**-um**, dat. pl.: *stórum* 'greatly' (*stórr*, great).

**Syntax**

177. Icelandic syntax greatly resembles Old English, but has several peculiarities of its own.

**Concord**

178. Concord is carried out very strictly in Icelandic: *allir menn váru búnir* 'all the men were ready,' *allir váru drepnir* 'all were killed.'

179. A plural adj. or pronoun referring to two nouns of different (natural or grammatical) gender is always put in the neuter: *þá gekk hann upp, ok með honum Loki* (masc.), *ok Þjálfi* (masc.), *ok Rǫskva* (fem.). *þá er þau* (neut.) *hǫfðu lítla hrið gengit...* 'he landed, and with him L., and Þ., and R. When they had walked for some time...'

**Cases**

180. The extensive use of the instrumental dative is very characteristic of Icelandic: whenever the direct object of a verb can be considered as the instrument of the action expressed by the verb, it is put in the dative, as in *kasta spjóti* 'throw a spear' (lit. 'throw *with* a spear'), *hann helt hamarskaptinu* 'he grasped the handle of the hammer,' *heita því* 'promise that,' *játa því* 'agree to that.'

## Adjectives

181. The weak form of adjectives is used as in O.E. after the definite article, *þessi* and other demonstratives. *annarr* (other) is always strong.

182., An adj. is often set in apposition to a following noun to denote part of it: *eiga hálf dýrit* 'to have half of the animal,' *önnur þau* 'the rest of them,' *of miðja nátt* 'in the middle of the night.'

## Pronouns

183. *sá* is often put pleonastically before the definite article *inn*, both before and after the subst.: *sá inn ungi maðr* 'that young man,' *hafit þat it djúpa* 'the deep sea.'

184. The definite article is generally not expressed at all, or else *einn*, *einnhverr* is used.

185. A noun (often a proper name) is often put in apposition to a dual pron. of the first and second persons, or a plur. of the third person: *þit félagar*, 'thou and thy companions,' *með þeim áka* 'with him and áki.' Similarly *stendr Þórr upp ok þeir félagar* 'Thor and his companions get up.'

186. The plurals *vér*, *þér* are sometimes used instead of the singulars *ek*, *þú*, especially when a king is speaking or being spoken to.

187. *sik* and *sér* are used in a strictly reflexive sense, referring back to the subject of the sentence, like *se* in Latin: *Þorr bauð honum til matar með sér* 'Thor asked him to supper with him.'

## Verbs

188. The tenses for which there is no inflection in the active, and all those of the passive, are formed by the auxiliaries *skal* (shall), *hafa* (have), *vera* (be) with the infin. and ptc. pret., much as in modern English.

189. The historical present is much used, often alternating abruptly with the preterite.

190. The middle voice is used: (1) in a purely reflexive sense: *spara* 'spare,' *sparask* 'spare oneself, reserve one's strength.' (2) intransitively: *búa* 'prepare,' *búask* 'become ready, be ready'; *setja* 'set,' *setjask* 'sit down'; *sýna* 'show,' *sýnask* 'appear, seem.' (3) reciprocally: *berja* 'strike,' *berjask* 'fight'; *hitta*, 'find,' *hittask* 'meet.' In other cases it specializes the meaning of the verb, often emphasizing the idea of energy or effort: *koma* 'come,' *komask* 'make one's way.'

191. The impersonal form of expression is widely used in Icelandic: *rak á storm* (acc.) *fyrir þeim* 'a

storm was driven in their face.'

192. The indef. 'one' is expressed in the same way by the third pers. sg., and this form of expression is often used when the subject is perfectly definite: *ok freista skal þessar íþróttar* 'and this feat shall be tried (by you).'

193. The abrupt change from the indirect to the direct narration is very common: *Haraldi konungi var sagt at þar var komit bjarnýri, 'ok á íslenzkr maðr,* 'King Harold was told that a bear had arrived, and that an Icelander owned it.' The direct narration is also used after *at* (that): *hann svarar at 'ek skal ríða til Heljar* 'he answers that he will ride to Hel.'