

In. VI, 6

GRAMMAR

Pronouns

Pl. nom.	<i>nokkr-ir</i>	<i>nokkr-ar</i>	<i>nokkur</i>
acc.	<i>nokkr-a</i>	<i>nokkr-ar</i>	<i>nokkur</i>
dat.	<i>nokkr-um</i>		
gen.	<i>nokkur-ra</i>		

Note: The dat. sg. masc. and dat. pl. may be colloquially *nokkur-j-um*, likewise dat. sg. neuter *nokkur-j-u*. These forms are not to be imitated.

(c) *Annar* is declined like the numeral *annar*; *hver*, *sérhver*, and *einhver* are declined like the interrogative pronoun *hver*, with double forms *hvert*, *hvað* in the nom.-acc. sg. neuter. *Einhver* has, besides, the irregular forms *eitt-hvert* and *eitt-hvað* in the nom.-acc. sg. neuter. The reason for this is that originally *einhver* was two words: *einn* and *hver* with both words inflected. In the following there will be other instances of these doubly inflected compounds.

(d) *Annarhver* and *annarhvor* have such a double inflection, the first part going like *annar* the second like *hver*, *hvor*. For the sake of clearness the full inflexion of *annar-hvor* is here given:

Sg. nom.	<i>annar-hvor</i> m.	<i>önnur-hvor</i> f.	<i>annað-hvort</i> n.
acc.	<i>annan-hvorn</i>	<i>aðra-hvora</i>	<i>annað-hvort</i>
dat.	<i>öðrum-hvorum</i>	<i>annari-hvorri</i>	<i>öðru-hvoru</i>
gen.	<i>annars-hvors</i>	<i>annarar-hvorra</i>	<i>annars-hvors</i>
Pl. nom.	<i>aðrir-hvorir</i>	<i>aðrar-hvorar</i>	<i>önnur-hvor</i>
acc.	<i>aðra-hvora</i>	<i>aðrar-hvorar</i>	<i>önnur-hvor</i>
dat.	<i>öðrum-hvorum</i>		
gen.	<i>annara-hvorra</i>		

(e) In *annar-tveggja*, *hvor-tveggja* the first part only is inflected, *tveggja* being the gen. pl. of *tveir* two. Sometimes, however, *tveggja* is felt to be a weak adjective, having *-tveggi* in nom. sg. masc. But the feminine hardly ever shows *-tveggju* in the oblique cases. Instead of *hvor-tveggja*, *hvoru-tveggja* may be used, *hvoru-* being indeclinable. The pronunciation *hvur-tveggja*, *hvuru-tveggja* is common, but need not be imitated.

(f) *Báðir* goes as follows:

Pl. nom.	<i>báð-ir</i> m.	<i>báð-ar</i> f.	<i>bæð-i</i> n.
acc.	<i>báð-a</i>	<i>báð-ar</i>	<i>bæð-i</i>
dat.	<i>báð-um</i>		
gen.	<i>beggj-a</i>		

Cf. the inflexion of the numeral *tveir* two.

Verbs

INFLEXIONS

In. VII, 1, 1

(g) *Enginn*, like *annar-tveggja*, originally was a compound (*einn* + *gi*) where the first part was inflected, but the second part indeclinable. Now fusion of the two parts has taken place, and the inflexion is added to the end in agreement with the general custom of the language. This accounts for the irregularities of inflexion.

Sg. nom.	<i>enginn</i> ( <i>engi</i> ) m.	<i>engin</i> ( <i>engi</i> ) f.	<i>ekkert</i> ( <i>ekki</i> ) n.
acc.	<i>engan</i> , <i>öngvan</i>	<i>enga</i> , <i>öngva</i>	<i>ekkert</i> ( <i>ekki</i> )
dat.	<i>engum</i> , <i>öngvum</i>	<i>engri</i> , <i>öngri</i>	<i>engu</i> , <i>öngvu</i>
gen.	<i>einskis</i> , <i>einkis</i> , <i>eingis</i>	<i>engrar</i> , <i>öngrar</i>	<i>einskis</i> , <i>einkis</i> , <i>eingis</i>
Pl. nom.	<i>engir</i> , <i>öngvir</i>	<i>engar</i> , <i>öngvar</i>	<i>engin</i>
acc.	<i>enga</i> , <i>öngva</i>	<i>engar</i> , <i>öngvar</i>	<i>engin</i>
dat.	<i>engum</i> , <i>öngvum</i>		
gen.	<i>engra</i> , <i>öngra</i>		

The forms enclosed in parentheses are literary or old. *Ekki* is the most common negation ('not') in Icelandic, but in the sense 'nothing' it survives only in a few idiomatic expressions: *seint er betra en ekki* 'late is better than nothing' i. e. better late than never, *allt kom fyrir ekki* everything was in vain, *litið sem ekki* hardly anything. The forms with *eng-* are both literary and colloquial, those with *öngv-* only colloquial. Only colloquial, too, and dialectal is a pronunciation of *öng-* (pronounced *aung-*) for *eng-* (*eing-*) throughout the paradigm. It is advisable to use *eng-* in speaking as well as writing.

VII. THE CONJUGATION OF VERBS.

1. Preliminary Remarks.

1. Verb Categories.

Icelandic verbs, like the English verbs, have *tenses*, *moods*, *verbals*, *voices*, *numbers*, and *persons*.

(a) Of *tenses* Icelandic, like English, has two that are differentiated by inflexion: the *present* and the *preterite*. The other tenses are formed with the auxiliary verbs: *hafa* to have, *vera* to be, *munu* shall, will, and others.

(b) Of *moods* Icelandic, like English, has three: *indicative*, *subjunctive*, and *imperative*. In Icelandic these moods are distinct by form, whereas they are only partly so in English. The subjunctive, too, is very rare in English, while it is common in Icelandic.

(c) Of *verbals* Icelandic has three: the *infinitive* (a noun) and the present and past *participles* (adjectives). English has all these



ég  
bú  
hann  
við  
þið  
þeir

and a verbal noun (the *gerund*) in addition; in Icelandic its function is often taken by the infinitive: smoking is forbidden: *það er bannað að reykja*.

(d) Of voices English has two: *active* and *passive*, but Icelandic three: *active*, *middle*, and *passive*. The two first named are differentiated by inflexional endings; the passive, as in English, is formed by an auxiliary verb: to be (shot): *að vera* (*skotinn*).

(e) Icelandic verbs, like English verbs, have two numbers: *singular* and *plural* in all the moods and tenses. Contrary to English usage these numbers are found also in the participles when they take the adjective inflexion.

(f) Icelandic, like English, has three *persons*, first, second, and third, in all tenses of the indicative, subjunctive, and, partly, of the imperative. But whereas English (in most verbs) has only one inflexional ending, namely that of the third person present (I, you, we, they come; he comes), Icelandic has two or three different personal endings in the singular, and three in the plural: *ég kem*, *þú, hann kemur*; *við komum*, *þið komið*, *þeir koma*. There are, furthermore, different sets of personal endings for the different tenses (present, preterite), for the different moods (indicative, subjunctive, imperative) and for two of the voices (active and middle).

## 2. Strong and Weak Verbs.

As in English, it is possible in Icelandic to divide all verbs into two large groups, called *strong* and *weak* verbs. In English the great majority of verbs is *weak*, hence they are often called the *regular* verbs. In Icelandic the same is true to a lesser extent. Actually both the strong and the weak verbs fall into many smaller classes, at least seven for the strong verbs, and four for the weak. There are subdivisions within the classes.

The strong verbs are characterized by the old shift of vowels (Pr. 5, 1). There are four different stem forms, called the principal parts of the strong verbs: *infinitive* *bresta*, first (and third) person preterite indicative singular *brast*, first person preterite indicative plural *brustum*, and past participle *brastinn*. The strong verbs are also marked by no ending in the first (and third) person preterite indicative singular, and by the ending *-inn* in the past participle.

The weak verbs have root vowels unchanged by the old shift; in the first (and third) person preterite singular indicative they have the endings *-ði*, *-di*, *-ti*, *-aði*, and their past participles end in *-ður*, *-dur*, *-tur*, *-aður*, and *-inn*.

Both strong and weak verbs may have their root vowels in certain forms affected by i-shift and u-shift (Pr. 5, 2 and 3). Since the present singular of strong verbs often is affected by the i-shift, it is advisable to quote the first (or the third) person present singular indicative in addition to the four principal parts.

## 2. Strong Verbs.

### 1. Principal Parts.

There are as many classes of strong verbs as there are types of the old shift of vowels (see Pr. 5, 1) or seven in all.

From the four principal parts (stem forms) of the strong verbs all other forms are derived in the following manner, illustrated by the verb *bjóða* to offer.

(a) From the infinitive (or present stem) *bjóð-a*:

1. The present indicative active, i-shifted (Pr. 5, 2) in the singular, without i-shift in the plural: *ég býð*, *við bjóð-um*. Likewise the middle: *ég býð-st*, *við bjóð-um-st*.

2. The present subjunctive active and middle (without i-shift): *ég bjóð-i*; *ég bjóð-i-st*.

3. The imperative active and middle (without i-shift): *bjóð þú* or *bjóð-du*; *bjóð-st þú*.

4. The present participle (as a rule only in the active): *bjóð-andi*.

(b) From the preterite singular stem *bauð* are formed only the first, second and third persons of the preterite singular indicative active and middle: *ég, hann bauð*, *þú bauð-st*; *ég, þú, hann bauð-st*.

(c) From the preterite plural stem *buð-um* are formed:

1. The first, second, and third person plural active and middle: *við buð-um*, *þið buð-uð*, *þeir buð-u*; *við buð-um-st*, etc.

2. The preterite subjunctive active and middle, with i-shift of the root vowel: *ég byð-i*; *ég byð-i-st*.

(d) The past participle, *boð-inn*, is not used to form any other parts of the verb by endings (though it is itself inflected as an adjective). But its neuter form *boð-ið* (middle *boð-i-zt*) is used to form compound tenses in combination with the auxiliary verb *hafa*: *ég hef boðið* I have offered, *ég hafði boðið* I had offered, *ég mun hafa boðið* I have probably offered, *ég mundi hafa boðið* I would have offered; see the Syntax VI, 1, 2.

Note 1. I-shift (Pr. 5, 2) takes place only if the root vowels are susceptible to it: *i*, *í*, *e*, *ei* are not. Hence there is no i-shift in



the present of verbs of the first, third, fourth, and fifth classes: *bíta* bite, *ég bit*; *dett-a* fall, *ég dett*; *bera* bear, *ég ber* I bear; *stela* steal, *ég stel*.

*Note 2.* Verbs, having breaking (Pr. 5, 4) in the infinitive, give it up in the present singular indicative, replacing it with the original *e*: *gjalda* pay, *ég geld* I pay. In the present plural breaking returns: *við gjöldum* we pay (u-shift, Pr. 5, 3), *þið gjaldið* you pay, *þeir gjalda* they pay.

2. Class 1: *bíta*. Vowel Shift: *i—ei/é—i—i*; root vowel followed by one consonant.

Type a: *bíta* bite, *bit*, *beit*, *bitum*, *bitinn*.

Thus go: *biða* wait (past participle irregularly *beðinn*, usually only in neuter *beðið*), *drífa* drive, drift, snow, *grípa* seize, catch, grip, *hrífa* have effect, fascinate, *hrína* cry, *hvína* whiz, *kviða* fear for, *líða* pass (of time), glide, *líta* look, see, *ríða* ride, *rísa* rise, *skína* shine, *skriða* creep, *slíta* tear, *sníða* cut, *svífa* soar, hover, *þrífa* catch, *þrífast* thrive.

Type b: *stíga* step, ascend, *stíg*, *steig/sté*, *stigum*, *stiginn*.

Thus go: *hníga* fall gently, *míga* piss, *síga* fall, sink (run slowly like molasses), *svíkja* betray, *víkja* deviate, turn, yield. But the forms *hné*, *sté*, etc., are mostly literary or rare.

*Note:* *Rísta* cut (literary) is the only verb of this class having more than one consonant following the root vowel. Usually it is weak: *rista*, *risti*, *rist*.

3. Class 2: *bjóða*. Vowel Shift: *jó/jú/ú—au/ó—u—o*; root vowel followed by one consonant.

Type a: *bjóða* offer, *býð*, *bauð*, *buðum*, *boðinn*.

Thus go: *brjóta* break, *fljóta* float, *frjósa* freeze, *gjósa* gush, spout, *hljóta* must, have to, *hnjóta* stumble, *kjósa* choose, *njóta* enjoy, *sjóða* cook, boil, seethe, *þjóta* rush, speed, *þrjóta* give out, cease.

Type b: *drjúpa* drip, *draup*, *drupum*, *dropinn*.

Thus go: *ffjúka* be blown away, *kljúfa* split, cleave, *ljúga* lie (tell a lie), *ljúka* finish, *rjúfa* break, tear up, *sjúga* suck.

Type c: *súpa* sip, drink, *sýp*, *saup*, *supum*, *sopinn*.

Thus go: *túka* pay up, *lúta* bend over forward, bow, incline.

Type d: *fljúga* fly, *flýg*, *flaug/fló*, *flugum*, *floginn*  
*smjúga* creep, *smýg*, *smaug/smó*, *smugum*, *smoginn*.

*Fló*, *smó* are literary forms.

*Note:* *Ljósta* strike (literary) is the only verb of this class having two consonants following the root vowel.

4. Class 3: *bresta*. Vowel Shift: *e/i/ja/ö/y—a/ö—u—o/u*; root vowel followed by two consonants.

Type a<sup>1</sup>: *bresta* burst, *brest*, *brast*, *brustum*, *brostinn*.

Thus go: *detta* fall, *skella* clash, fall, *skreppa* slip, dash for, *sleppa* let go of, *smella* clash, crack, *snerta* touch, *spretta* sprout, grow, sprint. *Bregða*, move quickly, is irregular: *bregð*, *brá*, *brugðum*, *brugðinn*.

Type a<sup>2</sup>: *verða* become, *verð*, *varð*, *urðum*, *orðinn*.

Thus go verbs in which *v* precedes the root vowel, dropping the *v* before the *u* of the preterite plural and the *o* of the past participle: *hverfa* disappear, *svelgja* swallow, *svelta* starve, *sverfa* file (iron, etc.), *vella* cook, boil, well up, *velta* turn over, *verpa* throw, *þverra* dwindle, diminish.

Type b<sup>1</sup>: *spinna* spin, *spinn*, *spann*, *spunnum*, *spunninn*

b<sup>2</sup>: *finna* find, *finn*, *fann*, *fundum*, *fundinn*

b<sup>3</sup>: *vinna* work, win, *vin*, *vann*, *unnum*, *unninn*

b<sup>4</sup>: *binda* bind, *bind*, *batt*, *bundum*, *bundinn*.

Thus go: *vinda* wind, twist, *hrinda* push, *springa* (preterite *sprakk*) burst, *stinga* (preterite *stakk*) prick, pierce.

*Note 1:* The *i* of the infinitive and the *u* of the past participle (instead of the regular *e*, *o* of type a) show a shift caused by the following *n*+consonant. A *v* is lost before *u* in pret. pl. and pp.

*Note 2:* The preterite singular *batt* comes from *bant* which in turn is from *band*. Similarly *stakk* from *stank* from *stang*.

Type c: *drekka* drink, *drekk*, *drakk*, *drukkum*, *drukkinn*  
*brenna* burn (intr.), *brenn*, *brann*, *brunnum*, *brunninn*  
*renna* run (intr.), *renn*, *rann*, *runnum*, *runninn*.

*Note:* Since *kk* in *drekka* was originally *nk*, this type is really a subdivision of *b* with the original *e* restored in the infinitive. *Brenna*, *renna* (transitive) burn, run are weak: *brenndi*, *renndi*.

Type d: *bjarga* save, *berg*, *barg*, *burgum*, *borginn*  
*gjalda* pay, *geld*, *galt*, *guldum*, *goldinn*  
*gjalla* resound, *gell*, *gall*, *gullum*, *gollinn*  
*skjálfa* shiver, *skelf*, *skalf*, *skulfum*, *skolfinn*.

*Note 1:* *Bjarga* is usually weak, preterite *bjargaði*, likewise *gjalla*,

*gjallaði* in the sense: speak loudly. In their strong form, these verbs are all literary, except *skjálfa*. The common verb for *gjalda*, pay, is *borga*.

Note 2: Preterite singular *galt* shows the same hardening (un-voicing) of the original -d as *batt* above.

Note 3: The *ja* of the infinitive is broken (see breaking Pr. 5, 4) from an original *e*, which always appears in the present indicative singular—the present plural has the breaking again.

Type e: *hrökkva* flinch, break, *hrekk*, *hrökk*, *hrukkum*, *hrokkinn*  
*slökkva* put out, quench, *slekk*, (*slökk*, *slukkum*, *slokkinn*)  
*stökkva* jump, gallop, *stekk*, *stökk*, *stukkum*, *stokkinn*  
*sökkva* sink (intr.), *sekk*, *sökk*, *sukkum*, *sokkinn*.

Note 1: The *ö* of the infinitive is a u-shifted *e*, the *ö* of the preterite singular a u-shifted *a*.

Note 2: *Slökkva* usually has a weak preterite and past participle: *slökkti*, *slökktur*. *Stökkva*, *sökkva*, when transitive, are weak: *stökti*, *sökkti*.

Type f: *syngja* sing, *syng*, *söng*, *sungum*, *sunginn*  
*tyggja* chew, *tygg* — — *tugginn*.

Note 1: The *y* in *syngja* (*tyggja*) is a u-shifted *i* (from *e*, cf. type b, note 1).

Note 2. *Tyggja* usually has a weak preterite: *tuggði*.

5. Class 4: *bera*. Vowel Shifts: *e/o—á/o—á/o—o/u*; root vowel followed by one liquid or nasal (*l, r, m, n*).

Type a: *bera* bear, carry, *ber*, *bar*, *bárum*, *borinn*.

Thus go: *skera* cut, *stela* steal, *fela* conceal (past participle *fólginn*; the verb is also weak: *fela*, *faldi*, *falinn*), and *nema* take, learn (past participle *numinn*).

Type b: *koma* come, *kem*, *kom*, *komum*, *kominn*  
*sofa* sleep, *sef*, *svaf*, *sváfum*, *sofinn*  
*troða* step, tread, *treð*, *trað*, *tráðum*, *troðinn*.

Note: These verbs are marked by an old *o* in the infinitive; *kom*, *komum* is from older *kvam*, *kvámum*; *troða* usually has *tróð*, *tróðum* in preterite singular and plural according to class 6.

6. Class 5: *gefa*. Vowel Shift: *e/i/é—á/á—á/o—e/é*; root vowel followed by any one consonant, except *l, r, m, n*.

Type a: *gefa* give, *gef*, *gaf*, *gáfum*, *gefinn*.

Thus go: *drepa* kill, knock, *geta* beget, guess, also *geta* be able to,

with the exception of the past participle, whose neuter form is *getað*; *kveða* chant, compose poetry, say, *leka* leak, *lesa* read, *meta* estimate, esteem (also weak: *matti*), *reka* drive.

Note: *Vera* to be, has not only a very irregular present, but also an irregular preterite plural, because an original *vá-* has turned to *vo-*: *vera*; *er*, *em*; *var*, *vorum*, *verið*. See Irregular Verbs, 5 below.

Type b<sup>1</sup>: *biðja* ask, beg, pray, *bið*, *bað*, *báðum*, *beðinn*

*sitja* sit, *sit*, *sat*, *sátum*, *setinn*

b<sup>2</sup>: *liggja* lie, *ligg*, *lá*, *lágum*, *leginn*

*þiggja* accept, *þigg*, *þá*, *þágum*, *þeginn*.

Note 1: *Biðja*, *sitja*, *liggja*, *þiggja* are called *j*-presents because their present stem terminates in *j*; in all these verbs the root vowel was originally *e* as in *gefa*, but has been shifted to *i* by the following *j*. In *liggja*, *þiggja* an original single *g* has been doubled by the following *j*.

Note 2: The preterites *lá*, *þá* stand for original *lag*, *þag*; *þiggja* has also a weak preterite and past participle: *þaði*, *þáður*; the weak preterite is more common than the strong one.

Type c: *sjá* (*séa*) see, *sé*, *sá*, *sáum*, *séður* (*sénn*)  
*éta*, *eta* eat, *ét*, *et*; *át*; *átum*; *étinn*, *etinn*.

Note: *Sjá* and *éta* are quite irregular. *Séa*, *sénn* are old forms now never used, *séður* is a weak past participle. *Éta* is colloquial, slightly vulgar; *borða* (literally: eat at a table) is polite, *eta* is literary.

7. Class 6: *fara*. Vowel Shift: *a/e/á/o/ey/æ—ó—ó—á/e*; root vowel followed by one consonant.

Type a<sup>1</sup>: *fara* go, fare, *fer*, *fór*, *fórum*, *farinn*.

Thus go: *ala* give birth to, feed, *gala* crow (more commonly weak: *galaði*, *galað*), *grafa* dig, bury, *hlaða* build (a wall), *kala* freeze (to death, or so as to be hurt), *mala* grind (more commonly weak: *malaði*, *malað*), *skafa* scrape, *skapa* create, shape (literary, more commonly weak: *skapaði*, *skapaður*).

Type a<sup>2</sup>: *taka* take, *tek*, *tók*, *tókum*, *tekinn*.

Thus go: *aka* drive, *draga* draw, drag (preterite singular *dró* from *dróg*; cf. class 5, type b, note 2), *skaka* shake, churn. The *e* of the past participle is an i-shifted *a* that occurs only before *-ki* and *-gi* (see *hleginn*, below).

Type b<sup>1</sup>: *hefja* lift, heave, *hef*, *hóf*, *hófum*, *hafinn*

*kefja* suffocate, suppress, *kef*, (*kóf*, *kófum*), *kafinn*

*skekja* shake (rare), *skek*, *skók*, *skókum*, *skekinn* (cf. type a<sup>2</sup>)

*sverja* swear, *sver*, *sór*, *sórum*, *svarinn* (*v* lost before *ó*).

Type b<sup>2</sup>: *deyja* die, *dey*, *dó*, *dóum*, *dáinn*

*geyja* bark (literary), *gey*, *gó*, *góum*, —

*hlæja* laugh, *hlæ*, *hló*, *hlógum*, *hlegið* (cf. type a<sup>2</sup>)

*klæja* itch, *klæ*, *kló*, *klógum*, *klegið* (cf. type a<sup>2</sup>).

Note 1: All the verbs of type b are *j*-presents (cf. class 5, type b) with *e* from i-shifted *a* in the infinitive (originally *hafja*, *dauja*, *hlahja*).

Note 2: In *hlæja*, *klæja* an *h* corresponding to the *g* in the preterite plural and past participle has been lost in the present and preterite singular.

Note 3: *Kefja* and *klæja* are usually weak: *kafði*, *kafinn*, *klæjaði*, *klæjað*.

Type c: *flá* flay, *flæ*, *fló*, *flógum*, *fleginn*

*slá* beat, *slæ*, *sló*, *slógum*, *sleginn*

*þvo* wash, *þvæ*, *þó*, *þógum*, *þveginn*.

Note 1: These verbs had an *h* in the present and preterite singular, corresponding to the *g* in the preterite plural and past participle. The *h* has been lost as in *hlæja*, *klæja* above.

Note 2: *Þvo* was originally *þvá*; *v* is, as usually, lost before the *ó* in the preterite singular and plural. But sometimes it is restored by analogy, giving *þvó*, *þvógum*. Most commonly, however, the verb is weak in the preterite: *þvoði*.

Type d: Irregular verbs, originally belonging to classes 4 and 5.

*fela* hide, conceal, *fel*, *fól*, *fólum*, *falinn*

*troða* tread, stuff, *treð*, *tróð*, *tróðum*, *troðinn* (also class 4, type b)

*vefa* weave, *vef*, *óf*, *ófum*, *ofinn* (*v* lost before *ó*, *o*)

*vega* weigh, kill, *veg*; *óg*, *vó(g)*; *ógum*, *vógum*; *vegin*.

Note: Since *g* is lost in pronunciation after *ó*, there is colloquially no difference between the singular and plural stem in *-ó*, *-óg*. Hence there is a tendency to confusion in writing, and wrong spellings like *dróg*, *slóg* are occasionally seen in print. In *vó(g)*, *vógum* *v* is restored by analogy with the *v*-forms.

8. Class 7: *heita*. Verbs with *é—é* or *jó/ó—ju/u* in preterite singular and plural. Stems of infinitive and past participle are as a rule alike.

Type a<sup>1</sup>: *heita* be called, *heiti*, *hét*, *hétum*, *heitinn*  
*leika* play, *leik*, *lék*, *lékum*, *leikinn*.

Type a<sup>2</sup>: *falla* fall, *fell*, *féll*, *féllum*, *fallinn*  
*halda* hold, *held*, *hélt*, *hældum*, *haldinn*  
*hanga* hang, *hangi*, *hékk*, *hégum*, *hanginn*  
*fá* get, *fæ*, *fékk*, *fengum*, *fenginn*  
*ganga* (*gá*) go, walk, *geng*, *gekk*, *gengum*, *genginn*.

Type a<sup>3</sup>: *blása* blow, *blæs*, *blés*, *blésur*, *blásinn*  
*gráta* weep, *græt*, *grét*, *grétum*, *grátinn*  
*láta* let, *læt*, *lét*, *létum*, *látinn*  
*ráða* advise, *ræð*, *réd*, *rédum*, *ráðinn*.

Note 1: *Heiti*, *hangi* are weak presents, like *dæmi* of *dæma*. *Ráða* may have a weak preterite *rédi*.

Note 2: *Hélt* comes from *held*, *hékk* from *henk* from *heng*, cf. *batt* of class 3, above. Similarly *fékk*, *gekk* from *feng*, *geng*.

Note 3: *Fá* and *ganga* are irregular, *fá* in the present and preterite plural, *ganga* in the preterite singular and plural. In the past participle both these verbs have *e* from an i-shifted *a*.

Note 4: *Valda* cause, *veld*, *olli*, *ollum*, *valdið* has an irregular weak preterite.

Type b<sup>1</sup>: *auka* increase, *eyk*, *jók*, *jukum* (*ukum*), *jyki* (*yki*), *aukinn*  
*ausa* dip, ladle, *eys*, *jós*, *jusum* (*usum*), *jysi* (*ysi*), *ausinn*  
*hlaupa* run, *hleyp*, *hljóp*, *hlupum*, *hlypi*, *hlaupinn*.

Type b<sup>2</sup>: *búa* prepare, live, *bý*, *bjó*, *bjuggum*, *b(j)yggi*, *búinn*  
*spýja* spew, vomit, *spý*, *spjó* — *spúið*.

Type b<sup>3</sup>: *höggva* hew, *hagg*, *hjó*, *hjuggum*, *h(j)yggi*, *högg(v)inn*  
*vaxa* grow, *vex*, (*v*)*óx*, (*v*)*uxum*, *yxi*, *vaxinn*.

Note 1: *Spýja* has a *j*-present with i-shift of the root vowel from *ú* (cf. class 5, type b, note 1); it is also often weak: *spúið*, so always in preterite plural *spúðum*.

Note 2: The forms following the preterite plurals are preterite subjunctives. *Ukum*, *yki*, *usum*, *ysi*, *bygggi*, *hyggi*, *vóx*, *vuxum* are unusual forms, mostly literary.

### 3. Weak Verbs.

#### 1. Preliminary Remarks.

1. Weak verbs have only three principal parts (or stem forms): the infinitive (the present stem) *tel-j-a* count, *dæm-a* judge; the

preterite singular indicative (preterite stem) *tal-di*, *dæm-di*; and the past participle *tal-inn*, *tal-dur*, *dæm-dur*.

2. But, as mentioned above, the preterite (and the past participle) of the weak verbs is formed by addition of the suffix *-ði*, *-di*, *-ti*, or *-aði* (past participle *-ður*, *-dur*, *-tur*, *-aður*, or *-inn*) to the (sometimes slightly changed) present stem of the verb. Whether the verb adds *-ði*, *-di*, or *-ti* to the present stem, depends on the nature of the sounds before the ending.

(a) *-ði* is used:

(1) After vowels, thus also in the ending *-aði*: *kall-a*: *kall-a-ði* call, *strá*: *strá-ði* strew.

(2) After voiced spirants (except *ð*) and soft (not dental) stops: *haf-a*: *haf-ði* (also pronounced *habb-ði*) have; *seg-j-a*: *sag-ði* (also pronounced *sagg-ði*) say; *ybb-a*: *ybb-ði* show hostility; *hygg-j-a*: *hug-ði* (also pronounced *hugg-ði*) think.

(3) After (vowel+) *r*, *rf*, and *rg*: *lær-a*: *lær-ði* learn; *horf-a*: *horf-ði* look; *byrg-j-a*: *byrg-ði* (also pronounced *byr-ði*) lock up.

(4) Sometimes after *rr*: *perr-a*: *perr-ði* dry, wipe; but *sperr-a*: *sperr-ti* stretch out (a foot), perk up.

(b) *-di* is used:

(1) After (vowel+) *ð*, which turns to *d*: *beið-a*: *beid-di* ask, beg.

(2) After *dd* (with assimilation and loss of *d*): *brydd-a*: *brydd-di* furnish with a border (*brydding* f.) or a point (*broddur* m.).

(3) After (vowel+) *n*, *fn*, *gn*, and *ng*: *reyn-a*: *reyn-di* try; *nefn-a*: *nefn-di* (pronounced *nem-di*) name; *rign-a*: *rign-di* (pronounced *ring-di*) rain; *hring-j-a*: *hring-di* ring.

(4) After (vowel+) *m*, *mm*, *lm*, *rm*, and *mb*: *dæm-a*: *dæm-di* judge; *dimm-a*: *dimm-di* darken; *hylm-a*: *hylm-di* conceal (a thievery); *verm-a*: *verm-di* warm; *kemb-a*: *kemb-di* (pronounced *kem-di*) comb.

(5) After *lf*, *fl*, *lg*, *gl*: *skelf-a*: *skelf-di* frighten; *skeft-a*: *skeft-di* form snowdrifts; *velg-j-a*: *velg-di* warm up; *sigl-a*: *sigl-di* sail. (Note: in all these combinations the *f* and *g* tends to be lost in the preterite before the consonant (see Pronunciation 3, 4)).

(6) Usually after (vowel+) *l*: *mæl-a*: *mæl-di* measure; sometimes after *rn*: *stirn-a*: *sti(r)n-di* glitter; rarely after *ld*, *nd* (with assimilation and loss of *d*), *ll*, and *nn*: *ýld-a*: *ýld-i* putrify; *send-a*: *send-i* send; *fell-a*: *fell-di* fell; *brenn-a*: *brenn-di* burn (transitive).

(c) *-ti* is used:

(1) After the hard stops *p*, *t*, *k*, and after *s*: *kaup-a*: *keypti* buy; *mæt-a*: *mæt-ti* meet; *vak-a*: *vak-ti* be awake; *reis-a*: *reis-ti* raise.

Note: If the stem ends in consonant + *t*, the suffix is lost by assimilation: *svelt-a*: *svelt-i* starve (transitive), *hitt-a*: *hitt-i* hit, meet.

(2) After *rð* (with assimilation and loss of *ð*): *girð-a*: *girt-i* gird, span, enclose.

(3) Usually after *ll*, *nn*; *ld*, *nd* (with assimilation and loss of *d*): *vill-a*: *vill-ti* lead astray; *spenn-a*: *spenn-ti* span; *gild-a*: *gilt-ti* be worth; *synd-a*: *syn-ti* swim; rarely after (vowel+) *l*: *mæl-a*: *mæl-ti* speak; sometimes after *rr* and *rn*: *sperr-a*: *sperr-ti* stretch out, perk up; *girn-ast*: *girn-tist* desire.

Note 1. Loss of consonants is frequent in the groups that arise through the addition of the *ð*, *d* or *t* of the preterite suffix. See the Pronunciation 3, 4.

Note 2. For the student it may be easiest to memorize the cases listed under (a) and (c) as having respectively *-ði*, and *-ti*, while all the rest (b) have *-di*.

3. Before *-ði*, *-di*, *-ti* the following changes in the verb stem take place:

(a) A *j* or *v* of the present stem is dropped: *tel-j-a*: *tal-di* count; *sökk-v-a*: *sökk-ti* sink (transitive).

(b) The dentals *ð*, *d*, *t*, if preceded by a consonant, are assimilated and lost: *herð-a*: *her-ti* harden; *synd-a*: *syn-ti* swim; *svelt-a*: *svelt-i* starve (transitive).

(c) If preceded by a vowel, *ð* becomes *d* by assimilation: *hræð-a*: *hræd-di* frighten.

(d) In a few verbs the consonant of the preterite suffix is fully assimilated to an *ll* or *nn* of the verb stem: *skroll-a*: *skroll-i* hang loosely; *vald-a*: *oll-i* cause; *kunn-a*: *kunn-i* know (how to); *unn-a*: *unn-i* love. Similarly *t-t* turns into *s-s* in *vit-a*: *viss-i* know.

4. The weak verbs are divided into four classes on the basis of their present stem:

1. *tel-j-a* count, *tel*, *tal-di*, *tal-inn* (*tal-dur*)
2. *dæm-a* judge, *dæm-i*, *dæm-di*, *dæm-dur*
3. *lif-a* live, *lif-i*, *lif-ði*, *lif-að*
4. *kall-a* call, *kall-a*, *kall-aði*, *kall-aður*.



2. Class 1: *tel-j-a* count, *tel*, *tal-di*, *tal-inn* (*tal-dur*).

1. The root syllable of these verbs contains a lax vowel (cf. Pronunciation 2, 2, 3(c)) followed by one consonant (not counting the *j*), or a tense vowel with no consonant following. Like some of the strong verbs, these verbs are *j*-presents, the *j* appearing in the infinitive (*tel-j-a*), in the present plural indicative (*tel-j-um*, etc.), in the present subjunctive (*tel-j-i*, etc.), and in the present participle (*tel-j-andi*). If the stem ends in a tense vowel or *k* or *g*, the *j* is not written (though pronounced) before -i in the ending (*flý-j-a* flee, *þið flý-ið* you flee; *vek-j-a* awaken, *þið vek-ið*).

The first person singular indicative is monosyllabic (*tel*); the second and third person singular end in -ur (*tel-ur*). This -ur is really an expanded -r, which will appear as such after a vowel of the stem (*flý-r*), and which will be lost after -r of the stem (*ber-j-a* beat, *hann ber* he beats). To the forms *flý-r*, *ber* an *ð* is usually added in the second person, giving *flý-r-ð*, *ber-ð*, this *ð* has been drawn over to the verb from a following pronoun: *þú*.

The whole present (indicative, subjunctive, imperative, infinitive, and participle) has an i-shifted (Pr. 5, 2) root vowel, which appears unshifted in the preterite indicative and the past participle.

*Note:* Verbs with *g* in the stem double it before the *j*, or rather throughout the present. Thus: *leggja* lay, *ég legg* I lay; *þiggja* accept, *hyggja* think; preterites: *lag-ði*, *þá-ði* (irregular), *hug-ði*. *Tyggja*, *tuggði* chew, has *gg* in the stem.

2. Normally these verbs have a past participle ending in -inn with a mixed inflexion, as shown in the Adjectives, III, 2 (a), paradigm 10. But there are other possibilities:

(a) Some verbs show two past participles, one in -inn, the other in -ður, -dur, -tur, e.g. *berja* beat, *barinn* (*barður*); *leggja* lay, *lagður* (*laginn*); *knýja* compel, propel, *knúinn* (*knúður*); *núa* rub, *núinn* (*núður*); *telja* count, *talinn* (*taldur*); *velja* choose, *valinn* (*valdur*); *dylja* conceal, *dulinn* (*duldur*); *hrekja* treat roughly, *hrakinn* (*hraktur*); *vekja* awaken, *vakinn* (*vaktur*); *þekja* cover up, thatch, *þakinn* (*þaktur*).

(b) Other verbs show only the weak past participle, e.g. *flá* skin, flay, *\*fláður*; *ná* reach, *náð* n.; *þiggja* accept, *\*þáður*; *hyggja* think, *hugað* n.; *spyrja* ask, *spurður*; *ljá* lend, *léður*; *tjá* tell, *téður*; *gleðja* gladden, *gladdur*; *kveðja* say goodbye, *kvaddur*; *seðja* satisfy (hunger), *saddur*; *bryðja* crunch, *bruddur*; *ryðja* clear (out of the way), *ruddur*; *styðja* support, *studdur*; *fletja* flatten, cut open (fish),

*flattur*; *hvetja* exhort, encourage, whet, *hvattur*; *flytja* move, *fluttur*; *lykja* lock up, (en)close, *luktur*.

*Note:* The verbs marked with (\*) are also strong: *flá*: *fleginn*, *þiggja*: *þeginn*. Likewise *þvo* wash, *þvoð*, or strong *þvegin*.

3. The following types of stems are found in the first class of weak verbs:

Type a: *vefja* wrap, *vef*, *vafði*, *vafinn*  
*telja* count, *tel*, *taldi*, *talinn* (*taldur*)  
*vekja* awaken, *vek*, *vakti*, *vakinn* (*vaktur*).

*Note:* This is the most common type.

Type b: *smyrja* butter, smear, grease, *smyr*, *smurði*, *smurinn*  
*(smurður)*  
*mylja* crush, *myl*, *muldi*, *mulinn*  
*styðja* support, *styð*, *studdi*, *studdur*  
*flytja* move, *flyt*, *flutti*, *fluttur*.

*Note:* This, too, is a common type.

Type c: *flýja* (*flúa*) flee, fly, *flúði* (*flýði*), *flúinn*  
*gnýja* storm, rage, *gný*, *gnúði*, *gnúinn*  
*knýja* compel, *kný*, *knúði*, *knúinn*  
*núa* rub, *ný*, *núði*, *núinn*  
*rýja* shear (the wool), *rý*, *rúði*, *rúinn* (also Weak class 3).

*Note:* A less common type. Similar is:  
*tæja* tease, pick the wool, *tæ*, *táði*, *táinn* (also Weak-class 3).

Type d: *selja* sell, *sel*, *seldi*, *seldur*  
*skilja* understand, *skil*, *skildi*, *skilinn*  
*setja* set, *set*, *setti*, *settur*  
*deyja* die, *dey*, *deyði*, (*deyður*) (usually Strong class 6).

*Note:* These verbs have i-shifted root vowels, even in the preterite. The vowel of *skilja*, however, is not subject to i-shift at all.

Type e: Verbs with irregular infinitives.  
*flá* flay, skin, *flæ*, *fláði*, *fláður* (also Strong class 6)  
*ná* reach, get, *næ*, *náði*, *náð* n.  
*þvo* wash, *þvæ*, *þvoði*, *þvoð* n. (also Strong class 6)  
*ljá* lend, *ljæ*, *léði*, *léður*  
*hafa* have, *hef*, *hafði*, *hafður* (also Weak class 3)  
*fela* conceal, *fel*, *faldi*, *falinn* (also Strong class 4 and 6).

*Note:* The older forms of the infinitives *ljá*, *tjá* were *léa*, *téa*.

3. Class 2: *dæm-a* judge, *dæm-i*, *dæm-di*, *dæm-dur*.

1. Verbs of this class either have (a) a tense root vowel (cf. Pronunciation 2, 2, 3(c)) followed by one or more consonants, or (b) a lax root vowel followed by two or more consonants. Whenever possible, the root vowel is i-shifted throughout the conjugation.

The present indicative is disyllabic (*dæm-i*, etc.).

2. Verbs, whose stems terminate in *g* or *k*, insert a *j* between the *g* and *k* and a following *-a*, *-u* in the ending: *víg-j-a*: *víg-j-um* consecrate; *steik-j-a*: *steik-j-um* roast. Before an *-i* in the ending this *j* is dropped in writing, but not in pronunciation: *víg-i*, *steik-i*. But before consonants it is dropped both in writing and pronunciation: *víg-ði*, *steik-ti*.

Note: These *ja*-verbs can be distinguished from the verbs of the first class by observing the type of the stem. Class 1 has a type consisting of a lax vowel (Pr. 2, 2, 3) + one consonant, with the one exception of *ggj*. It may also have a tense stem vowel followed by no consonant.

3. Three verbs have an infinitive in *-va*:

*slökkva* put out (the light), *slökkvi*, *slökkti*, *slekti*, *slökktur*  
*stökkva* spray, *stökkvi*, *stökkti*, *stekkti*, *stökkt* n.  
*sökkva* sink (trans.), *sökkvi*, *sökkti*, *sekti*, *sökkt* n.

All these verbs may also go according to Strong class 3, but *stökkva* and *sökkva* are then intransitive: to jump, to sink. The forms *slekti*, *stekkti*, *sekti* are (i-shifted) preterite subjunctives.

4. Apart from these *-ja* and *-va* verbs, there are really no variant types of inflexion in this class, to which a great number of the weak verbs belongs. They all go like *dæma* with preterites in *-ði*, *-di*, *-ti* according to the rules in the Preliminary Remarks 2.

Instances:

*heyra* hear, *heyri*, *heyrdi*, *heyrdur*  
*preyja* wait patiently for, *preyi*, *preyði*, *preyður* (rare type)  
*dæma* judge, *dæmi*, *dæmdi*, *dæmdur*  
*byggja* build, *byggji*, *byggði*, *byggður*  
*breiða* spread out, *breiði*, *breiddi*, *breiddur*  
*þekkja* know, recognize, *þekki*, *þekkti*, *þekktur*  
*kyssa* kiss, *kyssi*, *kyssti*, *kysstur*.

5. A few irregular, but very common verbs, that may be classed here because of affinities with this class, are:

*kaupa* buy, *kaupi*, *keypti*, *keyptur*  
*meina* mean, *meina*, *meinti*, *meintur*

*sækja* seek, fetch, *sæki*, *sótti*, (*sækti*), *sóttur*  
*yrkja* compose a poem, *yrki*, *orti*, (*yrkti*), *ortur*  
*þykja* think, feel, seem, *þyki*, *þótti*, (*þætti*), *þótt* n.

Note: *Sækti*, *yrkti*, *þætti* are preterite subjunctives.

4. Class 3: *lif-a* live, *lif-i*, *lif-ði*, *lif-að*.

1. Like the verbs of the second class (preceding), these verbs have a disyllabic present with the same endings. But unlike the verbs of the second class, these verbs, with the exception of a few *j*-presents, have no i-shift of the root vowel (Pr. 5, 2).

Verbs having *a* in the root syllable u-shift (Pr. 5, 3) this *a* to *ö* before *u* in the endings: *vak-a* to be awake, *við vök-um* we are awake, *við vök-t-um* we were awake.

In the majority of verbs the preterite subjunctive is not i-shifted, but several common verbs have an i-shifted preterite subjunctive, among them: *segja*: *segði* say; *þegja*: *þegði* to be silent; *þora*: *þyrði* dare; *duga*: *dygði* avail; *trúa*: *tryði* believe; *þola*: *þylði* endure, suffer; *una*: *yndi* like, enjoy; *vaka*: *vekti* be awake.

The past participle in *-að* n. is similar to that of class 4: *kalla*: *kall-aður* to call.

2. Because of the intransitive meaning of most of these verbs, the past participle has usually only its neuter form: *lif-að* lived, *sá-ð* sown, *hvolf-t* capsized. But when transitive, these verbs have past participles in *-aður*, *-ður*, *-dur*, *-tur*, e.g. *segja*: *sagður* say. More instances: *há*: *háður* hold (a meeting); *má*: *máður* erase, make fade; *skrú*: *skráður* write, register; *snjá*: *snjáður* wear threadbare; *strá*: *stráður* strew; *tjá*: *tjáður* tell, say; *þjá*: *þjáður* afflict, torment; *þrá*: *þráður* long for, yearn; *rýja* (*rúa*): *rúður* shear (the wool).

3. Past participles in *-að(ur)* belong to verbs whose stems are made up of a lax root vowel (Pr. 2, 2, 3) and a consonant: *lif-a*: *lif-að*. (Cf. class 1 above). Past participles in *-ð(ur)* (originally *-að(ur)*) belong to the many verbs with the stem vowel *á*: *sá*: *sá-ð* sow (cf. 2. above), and the few with the stem vowels *ó*, *ú*: *gló-a*: *gló-ð* glow; *spú-a*: *spú-ð* spew, but *trú-a*: *trú-að*. Past participles in *-t* (*-ður*, *-dur*, *-tur*) belong to verbs whose stems contain (a) a lax vowel + two consonants (*horf-a*: *horf-t* look) or (b) a tense vowel + one or more consonants (*slór-a*: *slór-t* loaf, tarry). (Cf. class 2 above). But many of these verbs have also a past participle in *-að*: *slór-að*. Those having *-t* only are: *horfa*

look, *hanga* hang, *góna* stare, *glápa* stare, *glotta* grin, *skorta* lack, *drúpa* droop, *húka* squat, *skúta* overhang, *slúta* project, hang down.

4. Belonging to this class are several verbs with *j*-presents:

*segja* say, *segi*, *sagði*, (e), *sagður*  
*þegja* be silent, *þegi*, *þagði*, (e), *þagað* (*þagður*)  
*æja* rest and graze (horses), *æi*, *áði*, (á), *áð*; also *á*, *ái*  
*heyja* hold (a meeting), *heyi*, *háði*, (æ), *háður*; also *há*, *hái*  
*tæja* tease, pick (wool), *tæi*, *táði*, (æ), *táður*, *táinn*  
*dýja* shake (of quicksand), *dýi*, *dúði*, (ú), *dúð*, *dúað*; also *dúa*, *dúi*  
*hlýja* warm, cover up, *hlýi*, *hlúði*, (ú), *hlúð*; also *hlú(a)*, *hlúi*  
*lýja* tire, *lýi*, *lúði*, (ú), *lúinn*, *lúður*  
*rýja* shear (the wool), *rýi*, *rúði*, (ú), *rúinn*, *rúður*; also *rúa*, *rúi*  
*spýja* spew, vomit, *spýi*, *spúði*, (ú), *spúinn*, *spúður*; also *spúa*, *spúi*.

Note: Most of these verbs, from *æja* on, also may have first class presents: *æ*, etc. Enclosed in parentheses: preterite subjunctive vowels.

5. Otherwise the verbs of this class can be arranged in the following types on the basis of their stems:

Type a<sup>1</sup>: Stems in *-á* (with loss of the infinitive ending *-a*):  
*á* rest and graze (horses), *ái*, *áði*, (á), *áð*; also *æja*, *æi*  
*gá* look, look out, *gái*, *gáði*, (á), *gáð(ur)*.

Note: Thus go some thirty-five verbs, of which these are the most common: *gljá* shine, glitter; *há* handicap; *hvá* say *hvað* (= what), beg your pardon; *lá* blame somebody for something (*e-m e-ð*); *má* erase; *sá* sow; *skrá* write, register; *snjá(st)* become threadbare; *spá* prophesy; *strá* strew; *tjá* avail, tell; *þjá* torment; *þrá* long for.

Type a<sup>2</sup>: Stems in *-ú* and *-ó*:

*dúa* angle, *dúi*, *dúði*, (ú), *dúð*, *dúað*  
*glóa* glow, shine, *glói*, *glóði*, (ó), *glóð*, *glóað*

Note: *Dúa* shake also has a *j*-present *dýja*; thus all other verbs of this type; cf. 4 above.

Type b: Stems made up of a lax vowel (Pr. 2, 2, 3)+a consonant:

*lifa* live, *lifi*, *lifði*, *lifað*  
*hjara* vegetate, *hjari*, *hjarði*, *hjarað*  
*þora* dare, *þori*, *þorði*, (y), *þorað*  
*loða* stick to, *loði*, *lodd*, (y), *loðað*  
*pola* endure, *poli*, *poldi*, (y), *polað*  
*vaka* be awake, *vaki*, *vakti*, (e), *vakað*.

Note: Thus go several common verbs: *lafa* hang limply; *stara* stare; *vara* suspect; *vofa* (*yfir*) threaten, hang over; *blasa* (*við*) lie open before the eye; *flaka* flap; *brosa* smile.

Note 2: Here, too, belongs the (auxiliary) verb *hafa* have:

*hafa* have, *hefi* or *hef*, *hafði*, (*hefði*), *hafður*.

The form *hefi* is literary only, *hef* (like *tel* from *telja*) is both literary and colloquial.

Type c: Stems made up of a lax vowel (Pr. 2, 2, 3)+two consonants, or a tense vowel+one or more consonants (like *dæma*):  
*horfa* look, *horfi*, *horfði*, *horft*.

Note: Thus go the verbs of this type enumerated in 3 above; exception:

*tolla* stick to, cleave, *tolli*, *tolldi*, (*tyll*di), *tollað*.

Type d: Irregular preterites:

*olla* cause, *olli*, *olli*, (*ylli*), *ollað*; also *valda*, *veld*, *olli*, *valdið*  
*skolla* hang loosely, *skolli*, *skolli*, (o), *skollað*  
*skrolla* hang loosely, *skrolli*, *skrolli*, (o), *skrollað*.

5. Class 4: *kall-a* call, *kall-a*, *kall-aði*, *kall-aður*.

1. The greatest number of weak verbs belongs to this class. The disyllabic present ends in *-a*, the preterite in *-aði*, the past participle in *-aður*. Unless the verb is compounded of a root syllable and a suffix (e.g. *hýr-g-a* gladden), an *i*-shift (Pr. 5, 2) is never found in the root syllables of this class. Neither is the preterite subjunctive formed by *i*-shift, as in almost all other classes of verbs, weak and strong.

Before *u* in the ending, an *a* of the root syllable is *u*-shifted (Pr. 5, 3) to *ö*, while the *a* of the preterite (and past participle) suffix is turned to *u*: *við köll-um* we call; *við köll-uð-um* we called.

2. The past participle, too, when inflected as an adjective, has *u*-shift of *a* in root syllable and suffix in the cases which ordinarily show *u*-shift (cp. *fagur*, Adjectives, III, 2 (a), paradigm 2). The suffix vowel is never dropped:

Sg. nom.	<i>kall-að-ur</i> m.	<i>köll-uð</i> f.	<i>kall-að</i> n.
acc.	<i>kall-að-an</i>	<i>kall-að-a</i>	<i>kall-að</i>
dat.	<i>köll-uð-um</i>	<i>kall-að-ri</i>	<i>köll-uð-u</i>
gen.	<i>kall-að-s</i>	<i>kall-að-rar</i>	<i>kall-að-s</i>
Pl. nom.	<i>kall-að-ir</i>	<i>kall-að-ar</i>	<i>köll-uð</i>
acc.	<i>kall-að-a</i>	<i>kall-að-ar</i>	<i>köll-uð</i>
dat.		<i>köll-uð-um</i>	
gen.		<i>kall-að-ra</i>	

*Note:* All other vowels of the root syllable remain unchanged, e. g. *hýrg-að-ur*, *hýrg-uð*, *hýrg-að*.

3. All the verbs of this class go like *kalla* or *hýrga*; like *kalla* if they have *a* in the root syllable.

A great many of these verbs are uncompounded (derivations of nouns *kall-a*, from *kall* n. call), but a number of them are formed with the following suffixes: *-ga*, *-ka*, *-la*, *-na*, *-ra*, and *-sa*, as well as with *-ja* and *-va*.

4. The verbs in *-ja* belonging to this class are naturally hard to distinguish (most of them have i-shift) in the infinitive from the *j*-verbs of other classes. But most of the forms are quite distinct, and in this class the *j* goes through the whole conjugation:

*byrja* begin, *byrja*, *byrjaði*, *byrjaður*.

Likewise the *-va* verbs:

*bölva* curse, damn, *bölva*, *bölvaði*, *bölvaður*.

Thus: *döggva* bedew, *fölva* cover with a film of snow, *glöggva* make clear, *mölva* break, smash, *rökkva* grow dark, fall (of dusk), *skrökva* not tell the truth, *slöngva* sling, hurl, *stöðva* stop, *uppgötva* discover, *vökva* water, wet, *þröngva* compel, *ölvast* become intoxicated, *örva* encourage.

#### 4. Inflectional Endings of the Verbs.

##### 1. Synopsis of the Endings of the Active Voice.

Present.....				Subjunctive....
Indicative.....				Strong & Weak
Strong & Weak 1	Weak 2 & 3	Weak 4		
Sg. 1 —	-i	-a	-i	
2 -ur (-rð, -ð, -t, -)	-ir	-ar	-ir	
3 -ur (-r, -)	-ir	-ar	-i	
				-um
Pl. 1	-um		-ið	
2	-ið		-i	
3	-a			
Imperative.....				Infinitive.....
Strong & Weak 1 & 2	Weak 3	Weak 4	All Verbs	Participle
Sg. 2 —	-i	-a	-a (-u, -)	-andi (-ndi)
Pl. 1 -um	-um	-um		
2 -ið	-ið	-ið		

Preterite.....				Subjunctive.....	Past Participle.....
Indicative.....				Strong	Weak
Strong	Weak	Strong & Weak	Strong	Weak	
Sg. 1 —	-i	-i	-inn	1 -inn	
2 -st (-zt, -t, -)	-ir	-ir		2 -ður, -dur, -tur	
3 —	-i	-i		3 -ður, -dur, -tur	
				4 -aður	
Pl. 1	-um				
2	-uð				
3	-u	(-i)			

*Note:* In this table Sg. (Pl.) 1, 2, 3, means singular (plural) first, second, and third person, while Weak 1, 2, 3, 4 means weak verbs of first, second, third, and fourth class.

##### 2. The Present Indicative.

(a) The present indicative singular shows the greatest variety of endings. Seemingly it has a different set of endings for (a) all the strong verbs and the weak verbs of the first class, (b) for the weak verbs of the second and third classes, and (c) for the weak verbs of the fourth class. If, however, we look upon the vowels of the endings in the second, third, and fourth classes (-i and -a) as belonging to the stem of these verbs (as they originally did), the picture is considerably simplified. We see then that:

1. The first person has no ending: *ég gef* I give, *tel* count, *dæm-i* judge, *vak-i* am awake, *kall-a* call.

2. The second person ends in *-r* after vowels: *þú dæm-i-r* you judge, *kall-a-r* you call; and in an expanded *-r* (= *ur*) after consonants: *þú gef-ur* you give, *tel-ur* count.

But there are exceptions in the monosyllabic stem forms of the strong verbs and the weak verbs of the first class: (a) After a vowel *-rð* is added: *þú fær-rð* you get. This is the normal personal ending *-r* plus an *ð* which is drawn over from the pronoun *þú* in phrases like *fær þú* (becoming *færðu* and, by faulty analysis, *færð þú*). (b) *-r* is assimilated and lost after the consonants *-r*, *-s*, *-x*, and *-n*, while *-ð*, *-t* (from *þú*) is added to *-r*, *-s* (but not to *-x*, *-n*): *þú ber-ð* you bear, carry; *þú kús-t* you choose, elect; *þú vex* you grow; *þú hrín* you cry.

*Note:* In the literary and poetic language the forms without *-ð*, *-t* are not uncommon.

3. The third person ends in *-r* after vowels (also after root vowels!) *hann fær-r* he gets, *sný-r* turns; *dæm-i-r* judges, *kall-a-r* calls. It ends in expanded *-r* (= *ur*) after consonants, except *-r*, *-s*, *-x*, *-n* after which it is lost: *hann gef-ur* he gives, but *hann ber* he carries, *kús* chooses, *vex* grows, *hrín* cries.



4. Verbs with infinitives in *-ja*, *-va* always drop the *j* and *v* in the present singular, if they are strong or belong to the first class of the weak verbs: *ligg-j-a* lie, *ég ligg*; *sökk-v-a* sink, *ég sök*; *tel-j-a* count, *ég tel*. If they belong to the second and third weak classes, they keep the *v* but drop the *j*: *sökk-v-a* sink (transitive), *ég sök-v-i*; *víg-j-a* consecrate, *ég víg-i*; *seg-j-a* say, *ég seg-i*. (Though *j* is dropped in writing it is kept in pronunciation.) If they belong to the fourth class of the weak verbs, they keep both *j* and *v*: *fer-j-a* ferry, *ég fer-j-a*; *vök-v-a* water, *ég vök-v-a*.

(b) The present indicative plural endings are alike for all verbs, strong and weak: *-um*, *-ið*, *-a*, the third person being identical with the infinitive: *gef-a* to give, they give, *kall-a* to (they) call, also *fá* to (they) get (with loss of the end vowel from *fá-a*). As to the plural stem forms, these rules are to be noted:

1. Unlike the singular stem (in strong verbs) which has the root vowel i-shifted or without breaking (Pr. 5), (e.g. *ég kys* I choose, *tek* take, *geld* pay), the plural stem shows no i-shift, but breaking: *við kjós-um* we choose, *við tök-um* we take, *við gjöld-um* we pay. These examples also show u-shift of the root vowel before *-um*; the second and third person *tak-ið*, *-a*; *bjarg-ið*, *-a* are not u-shifted (there being no *u* in the ending).

Note 1: Exceptions are *j*-presents, having i-shift both in singular and plural: *sverja* swear, *ég sver*, *við sverjum*.

Note 2: Verbs with *i*, *e*, *ei* as root vowels keep them unchanged in singular and plural: *bíta* bite, *ég bit*, *við bitum*; *finna* find, *ég finn*, *við finnum*; *bera* bear, carry, *ég ber*, *við berum*; *heita* be called, *ég heiti*.

Note 3: Though always spelled *-ið* the second person present plural ending often drops the *-ð* before its pronoun: *komi(ð)* *þið*, or rather *komiðið*? do you come (are you coming)?

Note 4: Verbs dropping the *-a* of the infinitive, also drop it in the third person present plural: *flá* to flay, they flay; *þvo* to wash, they wash; *flú(a)* to flee, they flee.

2. Verbs with *j*-presents, whether strong (*sver-j-a* swear) or weak (regardless of class) show their *j* before the plural endings, except before *-ið*, if the *j* is preceded by a (tense, Pr. 2, 2, 3) vowel, *k* or *g*: *sver-j-um*, *sver-j-ið*, *sver-j-a*; but *svík-j-a* deceive, betray, *svík-j-um*: *svík-ið*; *víg-j-a* consecrate, *víg-j-um*: *víg-ið*; *kný-j-a* compel, *kný-j-um*: *kný-ið*. In pronunciation, however, *j* is retained even before *-ið*.

3. Verbs of all classes, whether strong or weak, having *v* in their present stem show this *v* before the present plural personal endings: *sökk-v-a* sink, *sökk-v-um*, *sökk-v-ið*, *sökk-v-a*; *böl-v-a* curse, *böl-v-um*, *böl-v-ið*, *böl-v-a*.

### 3. The Present Subjunctive.

1. Only one set of endings is used in this inflexion. The singular endings *-i*, *-ir*, *-i* are added to the infinitive (present) stem without i-shift (Pr. 5, 2): *kjós-a* choose, *ég kjós-i*, etc. The first and second person plural are like the corresponding indicative forms: *við kjós-um*, *þið kjós-ið*, with u-shift (Pr. 5, 3) before *-um*: *við tök-um* we take. The third person plural is like the first and third person singular: *þeir kjós-i*, *tak-i*.

2. Verbs with infinitives in *-ja* and *-va* retain their *j* and *v* both in singular and plural, except that *j* is dropped (but pronounced!) before *-i* in the ending, if preceded by a (tense, Pr. 2, 2, 3) vowel, *k*, or *g*: *sver-j-a* swear, *sver-j-i*; *tel-j-a* count: *tel-j-i*; *sökk-v-a* sink, *sökk-v-i*; but *frý-j-a* taunt, *frý-i*; *seg-j-a* say, *seg-i*; *vek-j-a* awaken, *vek-i*.

### 4. The Preterite Indicative.

(a) The preterite indicative singular has two sets of endings, one for the strong, the other for the weak verbs.

1. The strong verbs have no endings in the first and the third person, while the normal ending of the second person is *-st*: *ég*, *hann gaf* I, he gave; *þú gaf-st* you gave (thou gavest). But if the preterite stem terminates in *-s*, the ending is only *-t*: *kjós-a* choose, *ég kaus* I chose, *þú kaus-t* you chose; if it terminates in *-t*, an assimilation takes place and the ending is *-z-t*: *skjót-a* shoot, *ég skaut*, *þú skau-z-t*; *hald-a* hold, *ég hélt*, *þú hél-z-t*; if it ends in *-tt*, the ending is *-t-zt*: *bind-a* bind, *ég batt*, *þú bat-zt*; and if it, finally, ends in *-st*, there is no ending: *brést-a* burst, *ég brast*, *þú brast*.

Note: Not only *-zt*, but also *-tzt* is always pronounced *-st*, and by many authors so spelled.

2. The weak verbs have invariably *-i*, *-ir*, *-i* in preterite singular (a set of endings that is also used in the present singular subjunctive, and in the preterite singular subjunctive of all verbs): *tel-j-a* count, *ég tal-d-i*, *þú tal-d-ir*, *hann tal-d-i* I, you, he counted.

(b) The preterite plural indicative has the same set of endings: *-um*, *-uð*, *-u* for all verbs strong and weak (these endings are also used for the preterite plural subjunctive): *far-a* go, *við fór-um*,

*þið fór-uð, þeir fór-u; tel-j-a count, við töl-d-um, þið töl-d-uð, þeir töl-d-u; kall-a call, við köll-uð-um, þið köll-uð-uð, þeir köll-uð-u.* The two last examples show that an *a*, whether in the root or the suffix syllable, is always u-shifted (Pr. 5, 3) before these endings.

### 5. The Preterite Subjunctive.

The preterite subjunctive, whose stem in strong and weak verbs alike is identical with that of the preterite plural indicative, but i-shifted (Pr. 5, 2) (except in the fourth class of weak verbs and in some of the verbs of the third weak class), has the endings *-i, -ir, -i* in the singular, and *-um, -uð, -u* (or *-i*) in the plural: *kjós-a* choose, preterite plural: *við kus-um*, preterite subjunctive: *ég kys-i, þú kys-ir, hann kys-i, við kys-um, þið kys-uð, þeir kys-u (kys-i); tel-j-a* count, preterite indicative: *ég tal-d-i, við töl-d-um*, preterite subjunctive: *ég tel-d-i, við tel-d-um*, etc.; but *kall-a* call, preterite indicative: *ég kall-að-i, við köll-uð-um*, preterite subjunctive the same. It will be observed that the plural endings cause no u-shift (Pr. 5, 3), except in the third and fourth classes of weak verbs, when the i-shift is lacking. But strong verbs, whose stems end in a tense (Pr. 2, 2, 3) vowel, *g* or *k*, add a *j* before the *u* of the plural endings: *sjá* see, preterite plural: *við sá-um*, preterite subjunctive: *ég sæ-i, við sæ-j-um; tak-a* take, *við tók-um, ég tæk-i, við tæk-j-um; ljúg-a* lie, *við lug-um, ég lyg-i, við lyg-j-um; gang-a* go, *við geng-um, ég geng-i, við geng-j-um.*

### 6. The Imperative.

1. The second person singular is without ending in all strong verbs (*tak-a* take, *tak* (you) take!), and in the first and second classes of weak verbs (*tel-j-a* count, *tel* count! *dæm-a* judge, *dæm* judge!). But in some verbs of the third weak class it has the ending *-i*: *þeg-j-a* be silent, *þeg-i þú* you be silent (but *seg-j-a* say, *seg þú!* without ending!); and in the verbs of the fourth weak class it has the ending *-a*: *kall-a* call, *kall-a þú* (you) call! Since, however, the *-i* and the *-a* of these imperatives originally belonged to the stem, it may be said that they, too, are without ending.

*Note 1:* The above forms are mostly literary. Usually *þú* is added to these imperatives as an ending. The resulting forms are given in Pronunciation 4, 4. Whether *þú* becomes *-ðu, -du, or -tu* depends upon much the same rules as govern the formation of the preterite suffix (see Weak Verbs, Preliminary Remarks, 3, 1 above).

*Note 2:* Verbs in *-ja* or *-vu* never show the *j* or *v* in the imperative singular, unless they belong to the fourth class of weak verbs: *her-j-a* plunder, *bö-l-va* curse, imperatives *her-j-a þú, bö-l-va þú.* But *tel-j-a* count, *tel þú*, and *sökk-v-a* sink, *sökk þú*, regularly.

*Note 3:* The verbs *binda* bind, *standa* stand, *vinda* wind, turn, and *hrinda* push, have *bitt(u), statt(u), vitt(u), hritt(u), or hrint(u)* as imperatives; the verbs *ganga* go, and *stinga* stab, pierce, have *gakk* or *gáttu*, and *stíktu*. All other verbs in *-nd* and *-ng* retain these sounds unchanged.

2. The first and second person plural are identical with the corresponding indicative forms: *tak-a* take, *tök-um við! tak-ið þið!* let us take! you take!

### 7. The Infinitive.

The infinitive of all verbs ends in *-a*, before which a *j* or *v* of the present stem appears, if it exists: *far-a* go, *tel-j-a* count, *sökk-v-a* sink. In *kall-a* the *-a* really belongs to the stem, so that the *-a* of the ending is dropped. It is also dropped after *á* (in many verbs: *fá* get, *sá* sow, *slá* beat), *o* (originally *á*: *þvo* wash, from *þvá*), *e* (in *ske* happen), and partly after *ú* (*flú(a)* flee, *snú(a)* turn).

*Note:* Two verbs have an infinitive in *-u*: *munu* shall, will, and *skulu* shall; see the Preterite present verbs, 5 below. These two verbs as well as *vilja* (rarely) also have a preterite infinitive: *mundu, skyldu, vildu* with the same *-u* ending. Sometimes, however, these preterite infinitives end in *-i*, but that is chiefly colloquial.

### 8. The Participles.

1. Present participles ending in *-andi (-ndi)* are indeclinable when used as adjectives (weak declension, third class); when used as nouns they go like *nemandi* (weak masculine, second class). Verbs in *-ja, -va* retain *j* and *v* throughout the inflexion: *vel-j-a* choose, vote, *vel-j-andi* voter, pl. *vel-j-endur* (not *vel-éndur!* though otherwise *je* is always spelled *é*).

2. Past participles, whether strong: *-inn*, or weak: *-inn, -ður, -dur, -tur, -aður*, go like adjectives (see Adjectives, III, 2 (a), paradigms 9 and 10: *heiðinn, talinn*; and *kallaður* under the third class of weak verbs), strong and weak. They also take comparison: *lúinn* tired (from *lýja* tire out), *lún-ari* more tired, *lún-astur* most tired; *ryðgaður* rusty, *ryðgaðri, ryðgaðastur*, from *ryðga* rust.

# 9. Paradigms of the Strong Verbs.

In. VII, 4, 9

Present.	Indicative.	Class 1.	2.	3 <sup>1</sup>	3 <sup>2</sup>	4.	5.	6.	7 <sup>1</sup>	7 <sup>2</sup>
Sg. 1 <i>skín</i>	<i>kýs</i>	<i>brest</i>	<i>geld</i>	<i>der</i>	<i>gef</i>	<i>tek</i>	<i>fæ</i>	<i>hægg</i>		
2 <i>skín</i>	<i>kýs-t</i>	<i>brest-ur</i>	<i>geld-ur</i>	<i>der-ð</i>	<i>gef-ur</i>	<i>tek-ur</i>	<i>fæ-rð</i>	<i>hægg-ur</i>		
3 <i>skín</i>	<i>kýs</i>	<i>brest-ur</i>	<i>geld-ur</i>	<i>der</i>	<i>gef-ur</i>	<i>tek-ur</i>	<i>fæ-r</i>	<i>hægg-ur</i>		
Pl. 1 <i>skín-um</i>	<i>kýs-um</i>	<i>brest-um</i>	<i>geld-um</i>	<i>der-um</i>	<i>gef-um</i>	<i>tek-um</i>	<i>fá-um</i>	<i>hægg-v-um</i>		
2 <i>skín-ið</i>	<i>kýs-ið</i>	<i>brest-ið</i>	<i>geld-ið</i>	<i>der-ið</i>	<i>gef-ið</i>	<i>tek-ið</i>	<i>fá-ið</i>	<i>hægg-v-ið</i>		
3 <i>skín-a</i>	<i>kýs-a</i>	<i>brest-a</i>	<i>geld-a</i>	<i>der-a</i>	<i>gef-a</i>	<i>tek-a</i>	<i>fá</i>	<i>hægg-v-a</i>		
Subjunctive.										
Sg. 1 <i>skín-i</i>	<i>kýs-i</i>	<i>brest-i</i>	<i>geld-i</i>	<i>der-i</i>	<i>gef-i</i>	<i>tek-i</i>	<i>fá-i</i>	<i>hægg-v-i</i>		
2 <i>skín-ir</i>	<i>kýs-ir</i>	<i>brest-ir</i>	<i>geld-ir</i>	<i>der-ir</i>	<i>gef-ir</i>	<i>tek-ir</i>	<i>fá-ir</i>	<i>hægg-v-ir</i>		
3 <i>skín-i</i>	<i>kýs-i</i>	<i>brest-i</i>	<i>geld-i</i>	<i>der-i</i>	<i>gef-i</i>	<i>tek-i</i>	<i>fá-i</i>	<i>hægg-v-i</i>		
Pl. 1 <i>skín-um</i>	<i>kýs-um</i>	<i>brest-um</i>	<i>geld-um</i>	<i>der-um</i>	<i>gef-um</i>	<i>tek-um</i>	<i>fá-um</i>	<i>hægg-v-um</i>		
2 <i>skín-ið</i>	<i>kýs-ið</i>	<i>brest-ið</i>	<i>geld-ið</i>	<i>der-ið</i>	<i>gef-ið</i>	<i>tek-ið</i>	<i>fá-ið</i>	<i>hægg-v-ið</i>		
3 <i>skín-i</i>	<i>kýs-i</i>	<i>brest-i</i>	<i>geld-i</i>	<i>der-i</i>	<i>gef-i</i>	<i>tek-i</i>	<i>fá-i</i>	<i>hægg-v-i</i>		
Imperative.										
Sg. 2 <i>skín, skín-u</i>	<i>kýs (tu)</i>	<i>brest (u)</i>	<i>geld, gjaltu</i>	<i>der (ðu)</i>	<i>gef (ðu)</i>	<i>tek (tu)</i>	<i>fá (ðu)</i>	<i>hægg (ðu)</i>		
Pl. 1 <i>skín-um</i>	<i>kýs-um</i>	<i>brest-um</i>	<i>geld-um</i>	<i>der-um</i>	<i>gef-um</i>	<i>tek-um</i>	<i>fá-um</i>	<i>hægg-v-um</i>		
2 <i>skín-ið</i>	<i>kýs-ið</i>	<i>brest-ið</i>	<i>geld-ið</i>	<i>der-ið</i>	<i>gef-ið</i>	<i>tek-ið</i>	<i>fá-ið</i>	<i>hægg-v-ið</i>		
Infinitive.										
<i>skín-a</i>	<i>kýs-a</i>	<i>brest-a</i>	<i>geld-a</i>	<i>der-a</i>	<i>gef-a</i>	<i>tek-a</i>	<i>fá</i>	<i>hægg-v-a</i>		
Present Participle.										
<i>skín-andi</i>	<i>kýs-andi</i>	<i>brest-andi</i>	<i>geld-andi</i>	<i>der-andi</i>	<i>gef-andi</i>	<i>tek-andi</i>	<i>fá-andi</i>	<i>hægg-v-andi</i>		

# 9. Paradigms of the Strong Verbs (continued).

Verb Endings

Preterite.	Indicative.	Class 1.	2.	3 <sup>1</sup>	3 <sup>2</sup>	4.	5.	6.	7 <sup>1</sup>	7 <sup>2</sup>
Sg. 1 <i>skín</i>	<i>káus</i>	<i>brast</i>	<i>galt</i>	<i>bar</i>	<i>gaf</i>	<i>tók</i>	<i>fékk</i>	<i>hjó</i>		
2 <i>skín-st</i>	<i>káus-t</i>	<i>brast</i>	<i>galt-st</i>	<i>bar-st</i>	<i>gaf-st</i>	<i>tók-st</i>	<i>fékk-st</i>	<i>hjó-st</i>		
3 <i>skín</i>	<i>káus</i>	<i>brast</i>	<i>galt</i>	<i>bar</i>	<i>gaf</i>	<i>tók</i>	<i>fékk</i>	<i>hjó</i>		
Pl. 1 <i>skín-um</i>	<i>kús-um</i>	<i>brust-um</i>	<i>guld-um</i>	<i>bar-um</i>	<i>gáf-um</i>	<i>tók-um</i>	<i>feng-um</i>	<i>hjúgg-um</i>		
2 <i>skín-uð</i>	<i>kús-uð</i>	<i>brust-uð</i>	<i>guld-uð</i>	<i>bar-uð</i>	<i>gáf-uð</i>	<i>tók-uð</i>	<i>feng-uð</i>	<i>hjúgg-uð</i>		
3 <i>skín-u</i>	<i>kús-u</i>	<i>brust-u</i>	<i>guld-u</i>	<i>bar-u</i>	<i>gáf-u</i>	<i>tók-u</i>	<i>feng-u</i>	<i>hjúgg-u</i>		
Subjunctive.										
Sg. 1 <i>skín-i</i>	<i>kýs-i</i>	<i>bryst-i</i>	<i>gyld-i</i>	<i>bar-i</i>	<i>gef-i</i>	<i>tek-i</i>	<i>feng-i</i>	<i>hjúgg-i</i>		
2 <i>skín-ir</i>	<i>kýs-ir</i>	<i>bryst-ir</i>	<i>gyld-ir</i>	<i>bar-ir</i>	<i>gef-ir</i>	<i>tek-ir</i>	<i>feng-ir</i>	<i>hjúgg-ir</i>		
3 <i>skín-i</i>	<i>kýs-i</i>	<i>bryst-i</i>	<i>gyld-i</i>	<i>bar-i</i>	<i>gef-i</i>	<i>tek-i</i>	<i>feng-i</i>	<i>hjúgg-i</i>		
Pl. 1 <i>skín-um</i>	<i>kýs-um</i>	<i>bryst-um</i>	<i>gyld-um</i>	<i>bar-um</i>	<i>gef-um</i>	<i>tek-um</i>	<i>feng-um</i>	<i>hjúgg-um</i>		
2 <i>skín-uð</i>	<i>kýs-uð</i>	<i>bryst-uð</i>	<i>gyld-uð</i>	<i>bar-uð</i>	<i>gef-uð</i>	<i>tek-uð</i>	<i>feng-uð</i>	<i>hjúgg-uð</i>		
3 <i>skín-u (-i)</i>	<i>kýs-u (-i)</i>	<i>bryst-u (-i)</i>	<i>gyld-u (-i)</i>	<i>bar-u (-i)</i>	<i>gef-u (-i)</i>	<i>tek-u (-i)</i>	<i>feng-u (-i)</i>	<i>hjúgg-u (-i)</i>		
Past Participle.										
<i>skín-inn</i>	<i>kos-inn</i>	<i>bróst-inn</i>	<i>gold-inn</i>	<i>bar-inn</i>	<i>gef-inn</i>	<i>tek-inn</i>	<i>feng-inn</i>	<i>hjúgg-v-inn</i>		

INFLEXIONS

In. VII, 4, 9





11. *The Middle Voice.*

1. The middle voice is originally a reflexive, formed by addition of *sik* (the old form of the reflexive pronoun *sig*) to all forms of the verb in the active voice. *Sik* in these endings was contracted to *-sk* which in turn has given the modern *-st* or *-zt*. The middle forms are made as follows:

2. After vowels, whether in stems or endings, *-st* is added. Thus in infinitives: *-(a)-st*; first person present indicative: *-i-st*, *-a-st*; third person plural indicative: *-(a)-st*; first and third person singular of (a) present subjunctive, (b) weak preterite indicative, and (c) preterite subjunctive: *-i-st*; third person plural preterite indicative and subjunctive: *-u-st*; third person plural present (and preterite) subjunctive: *-i-st*; singular imperative: *kalla-st*.

3. The second and third persons singular present indicative drop the endings *-ur* (*-r*, *-ð*, *-rð*, *-t*), leaving a stem form identical with the first person, to which the *-st* (or *-zt*) is added. Likewise the *-ir* of the second person present subjunctive, preterite subjunctive, and weak preterite indicative, drops its *-r*, adding *-st* to the vowel: *-i-st*.

4. The first person plural *-um*, regardless of tense or mood, always becomes *-um-st*, or colloquially *-ust-um*, a form that is hardly to be recommended.

The second person plural present ending *-ið* becomes *-izt* in all three moods, and the preterite *-uð* becomes *-uzt* both in indicative and subjunctive.

5. In the present indicative singular of strong verbs and weak verbs of the first class, as well as in the preterite singular of strong verbs (all three persons), the middle ending is added directly to the (monosyllabic) stem. It is then always *-st* unless the stem terminates in the consonants *-d*, *-t*, *-tt*, and (consonant +) *-ð*. In these special cases the *-st* combines with the specified consonants to make *-zt*, or, in the case of *-tt*, *-t-zt*. Examples:

<i>hald-a</i> hold,	present: <i>ég hel-zt</i> ( <i>helst</i> ), from <i>held-st</i> preterite: <i>ég hél-zt</i> ( <i>hélst</i> ), from <i>hélt-st</i>
<i>lát-a</i> let,	present: <i>ég læ-zt</i> ( <i>læst</i> ), from <i>læt-st</i> preterite: <i>ég lé-zt</i> ( <i>lést</i> ), from <i>lét-st</i>
<i>vind-a</i> wind,	present: <i>ég vin-zt</i> ( <i>vinst</i> ), from <i>vind-st</i> preterite: <i>ég vat-zt</i> ( <i>vast</i> ), from <i>vatt-st</i>
<i>bregð-a</i> jerk,	present: <i>ég breg-zt</i> ( <i>bregst</i> ), from <i>bregð-st</i> preterite: <i>ég brá-st</i> ( <i>brást</i> ).

6. The second person preterite indicative (active), which now has the ending *-st*, formerly ended in *-t*: *gaf-st* you gave, formerly *gaf-t*. Hence the middle ending could be spelled *-zt* to distinguish it from the active; but both are spelled and pronounced alike. Example: *gef-a* give, active and middle *gaf-st*.

7. The present participles are now hardly used in the middle voice, except facetiously in imitation of the old learned style: *berjandisk ok bölvandisk* beating and cursing.

The past participles are found only in a neuter form, used to make up the compound tenses of the verbs. Since the neuter form of the (active) past participle ends either in *-ið*, *-ð*, *-t*, (*-tt*), or *-að*, it is obvious that the assimilations described in 5 above always take place. Examples:

taka take	pp. <i>tekinn</i> , <i>tekið</i>	middle <i>tekist</i> ( <i>tekist</i> )	from <i>tekið-st</i>
<i>kalla</i> call	" <i>kallaður</i> , <i>kallað</i>	" <i>kallast</i> ( <i>kallast</i> )	" <i>kallað-st</i>
<i>skrá</i> book	" <i>skráður</i> , <i>skráð</i>	" <i>skráðst</i> (!)	" <i>skráð-st</i>
<i>sjá</i> see	" <i>séður</i> , <i>séð</i>	" <i>sézt</i> (!) ( <i>sést</i> )	" <i>séð-st</i>
<i>dæma</i> judge	" <i>dæmdur</i> , <i>dæmt</i>	" <i>dæmzt</i> ( <i>dæmst</i> )	" <i>dæmt-st</i>
<i>þekkja</i> know	" <i>þekktur</i> , <i>þekkt</i>	" <i>þekktzt</i> ( <i>þekkst</i> )	" <i>þekkt-st</i>
<i>breiða</i> spread	" <i>breiddur</i> , <i>breitt</i>	" <i>breiðzt</i> (!)	" <i>breitt-st</i>
		( <i>breiðst</i> )	
<i>hitta</i> hit	" <i>hittur</i> , <i>hitt</i>	" <i>hitzt</i> ( <i>hist</i> )	" <i>hitt-st</i>
<i>kyssa</i> kiss	" <i>kysstur</i> , <i>kysst</i>	" <i>kysstzt</i> ( <i>kysst</i> )	" <i>kysst-st</i>

Note 1: One would expect *séðst*, *breitzt*, and *kysszt*, but these forms are never so spelled. Verbs like *breiða*, *breiddi*, *breiddur*, with *ð* in the present stem and *dd* in the preterite and past participle, always have *ð* in the past participle middle. It will be seen that the past participles in the middle voice always have *-z*, except in *skráðst* (in weak verbs after *á* in stem) and *kysstst*.

Note 2. Two verbs, *leggja* and *setja* lay and set, have expanded their past participles in the middle voice with case endings of adjectives, i. e. the indeclinable neuter form *lagzt* and *setzt* take the ordinary strong adjective endings: *lagzt-ur*, *lögzt*, *lagzt*; *setztur*, *setzt*, *setzt*. *Ég er lagztur* I have taken to bed.

Note 3. It should not be forgotten that the above rules about where to place *-zt* and *-tzt* are simply orthographical, and that these combinations are always pronounced, and by many writers spelled *-st*. I have added these forms in parentheses.

8. Not all verbs may have the middle voice; this depends upon their meaning (of which more in the Syntax). Thus *vera* be, and *verða* become, lack it. On the other hand, there are verbs, appearing only in the form of the middle voice; thus *óttast* fear.

Present.....		Indicative	Subjunctive
Indicative			
Sg. 1, 2, 3	fer-st	kall-a-st	far-i-st
Pl. 1	för-um-st	köll-um-st	för-um-st
2	far-i-zt	kall-i-zt	far-i-zt
3	far-a-st	kall-a-st	far-i-st
.....			
Preterite.....			
Sg. 1	för-st	kall-aði-st	fær-i-st
2	för-st	kall-aði-st	fær-i-st
3	för-st	kall-aði-st	fær-i-st
Pl. 1	för-um-st	köll-uðum-st	fær-um-st
2	för-u-zt	köll-uðu-zt	fær-u-zt
3	för-u-st	köll-uðu-st	fær-u-st
.....			
Imperative.....			
Sg. 2	far-st (does not occur)	kall-a-st	
Pl. 1	för-um-st	köll-um-st	
2	far-i-zt	kall-i-zt	
.....			
Infinitive.....			
	far-a-st	kall-a-st	perish
.....			
Past Participle.....			
	far-i-st	kall-a-zt	

### 1. Preterite Present Verbs.

These are verbs, few in number but very common, whose present has the same form as the preterite of a strong verb, and whose preterite is weak. As a rule, in these verbs the infinitive, the (weak) preterite, and the past participle (if found) are formed from the present plural stem.

These verbs are *vita* know; *kunna* know, know how to, *linna* love, *purfa* need; *muna* remember, *munu* shall, will, *skulu* shall; *mega* may, *eiga* own, have (to), and *vilja* will, want to. They are inflected as follows:

## INFLEXIONS

In. VII, 5, 1

Present Indicative.										
Sg. 1	veit	kann	ann	þarf	man	mun	skal	má	á	vil
2	veist	kannst	annst	þarft	manst	munt	skalt	mátt	átt	vilt
3	veit	kann	ann	þarf	man	mun	skal	má	á	vill
Pl. 1	vitum	kunnum	unnum	þurfum	munum	munum	skulum	megum	eigum	viljum
2	við	kunnist	unnist	þurfið	munist	munuð	skuluð	megist	eigist	viljist
3	vita	kunna	unna	þurfa	muna	munu	skulu	mega	eiga	vilja
Present Subjunctive.										
Sg. 1	vit-i	kunn-i	unn-i	þurf-i	mun-i	mun-i	skal-i	meg-i	eig-i	vilj-i
etc.: -ir, -i; -um, -ið, -i.										
Preterite Indicative.										
Sg. 1	viss-i	kunn-i	unn-i	þurft-i	mund-i	—	—	mátt-i	átt-i	vild-i
etc.: -ir, -i; -um, -uð, -u.										
Preterite Subjunctive.										
Sg. 1	viss-i	kynn-i	ynn-i	þurft-i	mynd-i	mynd-i	skyld-i	mætt-i	ætt-i	vild-i
etc.: -ir, -i; -um, -uð, -u (-i).										
Imperative.										
Sg. 2	vit (tu)	—	unn (tu)	—	mun (du)	—	—	—	—	—
Pl. 1	vitum	—	unnum	—	munum	—	—	—	—	—
2	við	—	unnist	—	munist	—	—	—	—	—
Infinitive.										
vita		kunna	unna	þurfa	muna	munu	skulu	mega	eiga	vilja
Present Participle.										
vitandi		kunnandi	unnandi	þurfandi	munandi	—	—	megandi	eigandi	viljandi
Past Participle.										
vitaður		kunnad	unnad,	þurft	munad	—	—	mátt	átt	viljad
unnit										

*Note:* For the infinitive forms *munu*, *skulu* the subjunctive forms *muni*, *skuli* are sometimes substituted: *hún segist skuli reyna það* she says she'll try it.

The verbs *munu*, *skulu*, and *vilja* also have the preterite infinitives *mundu*, *skyldu*, and *vildu* (*mundi*, *skyldi*, *vildi*).

The form *mundi* (of *munu*) was originally an indicative form, but has now only subjunctive meaning.

## 2. Preterites in -ri.

A few verbs have preterites in *-ri*. As is most clearly seen in *róa row*, *re-ri*, these are traces of reduplicating preterites. The verbs are as follows:

Infinitive	Present	Preterite	Past Participle
<i>kjósa</i> choose, vote	<i>kýs</i>	<i>kjöri</i> ( <i>keri</i> )	<i>kjörinn</i> ( <i>kerinn</i> ) also strong, class 2
<i>róa</i> row	<i>ræ</i>	<i>rer</i> ( <i>réri</i> , <i>röri</i> )	<i>róinn</i>
<i>gróa</i> grow	<i>græ</i>	<i>grer</i> ( <i>gréri</i> , <i>gröri</i> )	<i>gróinn</i>
<i>núa</i> rub	<i>ný</i>	<i>ner</i> ( <i>néri</i> , <i>nöri</i> )	<i>núinn</i>
<i>snúa</i> turn	<i>sný</i>	<i>sner</i> ( <i>snéri</i> , <i>snöri</i> )	<i>snúinn</i>

*Note:* These preterites in *-ri* take the endings of the weak preterites: *-i*, *-ir*, *-i*; *-um*, *-uð*, *-u*. The preterite subjunctive is identical with the indicative, except for an occasional third person plural in *-i*. The form *rer* is literal, but *réri* is a common and *röri* a dialectal colloquial form. The same is true of the variants of the other verbs.

## 3. The Verb *vera* to be.

Present.....		Preterite.....	
Indicative	Subjunctive	Indicative	Subjunctive
Sg. 1 <i>er</i> , <i>em</i>	<i>sé</i> <i>veri</i>	<i>var</i>	<i>væri</i>
2 <i>ert</i>	<i>sért</i> <i>verir</i>	<i>varst</i>	<i>værir</i>
3 <i>er</i>	<i>sé</i> <i>veri</i>	<i>var</i>	<i>væri</i>
Pl. 1 <i>erum</i>	<i>séum</i> <i>verum</i>	<i>vorum</i> , <i>vórum</i>	<i>værum</i>
2 <i>eruð</i>	<i>séuð</i> <i>verið</i>	<i>voruð</i> , <i>vóruð</i>	<i>væruð</i>
3 <i>eru</i>	<i>sé(u)</i> <i>veri</i>	<i>voru</i> , <i>vóru</i>	<i>væru</i> , <i>væri</i>
Imperative	Infinitive	Present Participle	Past Participle
Sg. 2 <i>ver(tu)</i>			
Pl. 1 <i>verum</i>	<i>vera</i>	<i>verandi</i>	<i>verið</i>
2 <i>verið</i>			

## PART III. SYNTAX.

### I. CASES AND THEIR USES.

#### 1. Nominative.

Icelandic agrees with English in using the nominative as a subject of a sentence. As a rule, the object is put in the accusative, but some verbs take a dative or even a genitive object. The normal use of the dative is for the indirect object, and the normal function of the genitive is as a possessive.

In English the functions of the parts of the sentence are determined by the word order: subject, verb, indirect object, object, e. g. he gave me the book. This, too, is the normal order in Icelandic: *hann gaf mér bókina*, but it need not be as strictly observed as in English. See Word Order, VII below.

#### 2. Accusative.

##### 1. Accusative with Verbs.

1. The accusative normally marks the object of transitive verbs: *taka bókina* take the book; transitive verbs in the middle voice also take accusative: *hræðast dauðann* dread death.

2. Some verbs take double accusative, e. g. *þeir kusu hann borgarstjóra* (or: *fyrir borgarstjóra*) they elected him (as) mayor; *ég taldi hann góðan* I considered him good.

*Note:* In the passive the object (accusative) becomes subject (nominative), and the subject is turned into a prepositional phrase (much as in English): *hann var kosinn borgarstjóri (af þeim)* he was elected mayor (by them); the verbs of the middle voice cannot be so converted.

3. Some verbs take the logical subject in the accusative, and the (logical) object in the accusative. These are really impersonal verbs (q. v. VI, 14 below) with two accusatives; they tend to have the (logically normal) word order: logical subject, verb, object. Examples:

*mig vantar skó* I lack (need) shoes (literally: 'it lacks me shoes');  
*mig skortir ekkert* I lack nothing;  
*mig dremndi draum* I dreamt (had) a dream.