

Verbs

Proto-Indo-European Verbs: Stems and Aspects

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- ▶ Over time,
 - ▶ The perfective came to signal completed action, associating it with past time
 - ▶ The imperfective developed a present-tense system by adding a deictic morpheme, leaving its earlier forms to signal the past
 - ▶ Stems were merged into comprehensive conjugations towards the end of the period (c. 4000 BCE)

Proto-Germanic Verbs: Two Parallel Systems

Strong

zero	short	long
∅	e	ē
∅	o	ō

Table: PIE ablaut grades

	1	2	3	4
I	ī	ai	i	i
II	eu	au	u	u
III	e	a	u	u
IV	e	a	ē	u
V	e	a	ē	e
VI	a	ō	ō	a

Table: Ablaut in PG verbs

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Weak

e	o
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Table: PIE thematic vowels

	Present	Past
1	j	i
2	ō	ō
3:stative	ja/ai	∅
3:factive	ā/ai	a
4	n	nō

Table: Thematic vowels in PG verbs

stem + thematic vowel + “did”

Proto-Indo-European Verb Derivation

Underived Verb

A verb whose present PIE stem consists of root (+ thematic vowel)

Derived Verb

A PIE verb that adds a derivational (aspectual) affix to a preexisting form

- ▶ Most strong verbs are underived
- ▶ Most weak verbs are derived

Tendencies in Weak Verb Formation

Class	Tendency	Examples
1	Causative	<i>setja</i> (cf. <i>sitja</i>)
2	Denominative	<i>lofa</i> (cf. <i>lof</i>)
	Deadjectival	<i>heilsa</i> (cf. <i>heill</i>)
3	Stative	<i>hafa</i>
	Intransitive	<i>lifa</i> , <i>þegja</i>
	Underived	
4→2	Dynamic	<i>batna</i> “improve, recuperate”
	Inchoative	<i>vakna</i> , <i>þagna</i> (cf. <i>vaka</i> , <i>þegja</i>)
	Deverbal	<i>vakna</i> , <i>þagna</i> (cf. <i>vaka</i> , <i>þegja</i>)