

## The Commonest Verbs in Old Norse

Old Norse verbs are listed in the dictionary under their infinitive form (e.g. *blauþa*, "to run"). In addition to the infinitive, verbs are often listed in Old Norse dictionaries and glossaries with their "principal parts," the four forms you need in order to predict what all the other forms of the word are. These principal parts are the third-person singular present (e.g. "he runs," abbreviated **3 sg. pres.** below), the third-person singular past (e.g. "she ran," abbreviated **3 sg. past** below), the third-person plural past (e.g. "they ran," abbreviated **3 pl. past** below), and the past participle ("I have run in that race," "It's a well-run operation;" abbreviated **part.** below).

In what follows, I present the principal parts of several very common verbs in Old Norse. If you are embarking on serious study of the language, it helps to memorize these as they can save you a lot of time looking for something in the dictionary.

Verbs listed in SMALL CAPS are completely predictable and regular based on their type. Those listed in **bold** are the extra-common verbs I think any learner should have memorized early.

infinitive	3 sg. pres.	3 sg. past	3 pl. past	part.	meaning	type
biðja	biðr	bað	báðu	beðinn	"request"	strong—V
BJÓÐA	BÝÐR	BAUÐ	BUÐU	BOÐINN	"OFFER"	STRONG—II
BRJÓTA	BRÝTR	BRAUT	BRUTU	BROTINN	"BREAK"	STRONG—II
<b>búa</b>	<b>býr</b>	<b>bjó</b>	<b>bjuggu</b>	<b>búinn</b>	<b>"prepare, live"</b>	<b>strong—VII</b>
<b>eiga</b>	<b>á</b>	<b>átti</b>	<b>áttu</b>	<b>átr</b>	<b>"own, have"</b>	<b>preterite-present</b>
falla	fellr	fell	fellu	fallinn	"fall"	strong—VII
FARA	FERR	FÓR	FÓRU	FARINN	"GO, TRAVEL"	STRONG—VI
<b>fá</b>	<b>fær</b>	<b>fekk</b>	<b>fengu</b>	<b>fenginn</b>	<b>"get"</b>	<b>strong—VII</b>
finna	finnr	fann	fundu	fundinn	"find"	strong—IIIb
FYLGJA	FYLGR	FYLGÐI	FYLGÐU	FYLGÐR	"FOLLOW"	WK.—I-TYPE
<b>ganga</b>	<b>gengr</b>	<b>gekk</b>	<b>gengu</b>	<b>genginn</b>	<b>"walk, go"</b>	<b>strong—VII</b>
GEFA	GEFR	GAF	GÁFU	GEFINN	"GIVE"	STRONG—V
<b>hafa</b>	<b>hef(i)r</b>	<b>hafði</b>	<b>høfðu</b>	<b>haför</b>	<b>"have"</b>	<b>wk.—unique</b>
<b>halda</b>	<b>heldr</b>	<b>helt</b>	<b>heldu</b>	<b>haldinn</b>	<b>"hold"</b>	<b>strong—VII</b>
HEYRA	HEYRIR	HEYRDI	HEYRÐU	HEYRÐR	"HEAR"	WK.—I-TYPE
<b>hoggva</b>	<b>høgggr</b>	<b>hjó</b>	<b>hjøggju</b>	<b>hjøggvinn</b>	<b>"cut, chop"</b>	<b>strong—VII</b>
KALLA	KALLAR	KALLAÐI	KÖLLUÐU	KALLAÐR	"CALL"	WK.—A-TYPE
kunna	kann	kunni	kunnu	kunnaðr	"know how"	preterite-present

KVEÐA	KVEÐR	KVAÐ	KVÁÐU	KVEÐINN	"SPEAK"	STRONG—V
láta	lætr	lét	létu	látinn	"let"	strong—VII
LEGGJA	LEGGR	LAGÐI	LQGDU	LAGÐR	"PUT"	WK.—JA-TYPE
LEIÐA	LEIÐIR	LEIDDI	LEIDDU	LEIDDR	"LEAD"	WK.—I-TYPE
LIFA	LIFIR	LIFÐI	LIFÐU	LIFÐR	"LIVE"	WK.—I-TYPE
<b>liggja</b>	<b>liggr</b>	<b>lá</b>	<b>lágu</b>	<b>leginn</b>	<b>"lie (down)"</b>	<b>strong—V</b>
LÍKA	LÍKAR	LÍKAÐI	LÍKUÐU	LÍKAÐR	"LIKE"	WK.—A-TYPE
mega	má	mátti	máttu	máttur	"may"	preterite-present
<b>munu</b>	<b>mun</b>	<b>mundi</b>	<b>mundu</b>	—	<b>"will"</b>	<b>preterite-present</b>
MÆLA	MÆLIR	MÆLTI	MÆLTU	MÆLTR	"SPEAK"	WK.—I-TYPE
ná	nær	náði	náðu	náðr	"go get"	strong pres./ wk. past
NEMA	NEMR	NAM	NÁMU	NUMINN	"TAKE"	STRONG—IV
RÓÐA	RÓÐIR	RÓDDI	RÓDDU	RÓDDR	"SPEAK"	WEAK—I-TYPE
SENDA	SENDIR	SENDI	SENDU	SENDR	"SEND"	WEAK—I-TYPE
SETJA	SETR	SETTI	SETTU	SETTR	"PUT"	WEAK—JA-TYPE
sitja	sitr	sat	sátu	setinn	"sit"	strong—V
<b>sjá</b>	<b>sér</b>	<b>sá</b>	<b>sá(u)</b>	<b>sénn</b>	<b>"see"</b>	<b>strong—V</b>
skilja	skilr	skilði	skilðu	skil(i)ðr	"understand"	wk.—ja-type
SKJÓTA	SKÝTR	SKAUT	SKUTU	SKOTINN	"SHOOT"	STRONG—II
skulu	skal	skyldi	skyldu	skyldr	"ought to"	preterite-present
snúa	snýr	sneri/snøri	sneru/snøru	snúinn	"turn"	strong—VII
SPYRJA	SPYRR	SPURÐI	SPURÐU	SPURÐR	"ASK"	WK.—JA-TYPE
SVARA	SVARAR	SVARAÐI	SVQRUÐU	SVARAÐR	"ANSWER"	WK.—A-TYPE
SÝNA	SÝNIR	SÝNDI	SÝNDU	SÝNDR	"SHOW"	WK.—I-TYPE
trúa	trúir	trúði	trúðu	trúaðr	"believe"	wk.—unique
<b>unna</b>	<b>ann</b>	<b>unni</b>	<b>unnu</b>	<b>unnaðr</b>	<b>"love"</b>	<b>preterite-present</b>
VEITA	VEITIR	VEITTI	VEITTU	VEITTR	"GRANT"	WK.—I-TYPE
<b>vera</b>	<b>er</b>	<b>var</b>	<b>váru</b>	<b>verinn</b>	<b>"be"</b>	<b>unique</b>
<b>verða</b>	<b>verðr</b>	<b>varð</b>	<b>urðu</b>	<b>orðinn</b>	<b>"become"</b>	<b>strong—III</b>
<b>vilja</b>	<b>vill</b>	<b>vildi</b>	<b>vildu</b>	<b>viljaðr</b>	<b>"want"</b>	<b>wk.—unique</b>
<b>vita</b>	<b>veit</b>	<b>vissi</b>	<b>vissu</b>	<b>vitaðr</b>	<b>"know"</b>	<b>preterite-present</b>
þiggja	þiggr	þá	þágu	þeginn	"receive"	strong—V
þykkja	þykkir	þótti	þóttu	þótt	"seem"	wk.—i-type
ÆTLA	ÆTLAR	ÆTLAÐI	ÆTLUÐU	ÆTLAÐR	"INTEND"	WK.—A-TYPE