



Pronouns

Paradigms for the Old Norse pronouns are not hard to get by. However, if you have an understanding of Old and Modern English it can be rather useful to see the inflections in these three languages side by side. As you compare the paradigms for some of the most common pronouns below, remember that both Old English and Old Norse pronouns have fed into our modern system, as the Norse speakers in the Danelaw had a profound impact on the English language. Note that not all variants of Old English forms have been included in these paradigms.

If you'd like to test your knowledge of these paradigms, head over to the flashcards for paradigms, phrases and simple clauses, or actual sentences.

Personal pronouns

First person ("I, we")

OE <i>ic</i>			
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>dual</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	ic	wit	wē
<i>acc.</i>	mē	unc	ūs
<i>gen.</i>	mīn	uncer	ūre
<i>dat.</i>	mē	unc	ūs

ON <i>ek</i>			
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>dual</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	ek	vit	vér
<i>acc.</i>	mik	okkr	oss
<i>gen.</i>	mín	okkar	vár
<i>dat.</i>	mér	okkr	oss

MnE <i>I</i>			
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>dual</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	I	--	we
<i>acc.</i>	me	--	us
<i>gen.</i>	my (mine)	--	our
<i>dat.</i>	me	--	us

Second person ("you")

OE <i>þū</i>			
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>dual</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	þū	g̊it	g̊ē
<i>acc.</i>	þē	inc	ēow
<i>gen.</i>	þīn	incer	ēower
<i>dat.</i>	þē	inc	ēow

ON <i>þú</i>			
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>dual</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	þú	(þ)it	(þ)ér
<i>acc.</i>	þik	ykkkr	yðr
<i>gen.</i>	þín	ykkar	yðar
<i>dat.</i>	þér	ykkkr	yðr

MnE <i>you</i>			
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>dual</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	you	--	you (ye)
<i>acc.</i>	you	--	you
<i>gen.</i>	your	--	your
<i>dat.</i>	you	--	you

Third person ("he, she, it")

OE masc. <i>hē</i>		
	sg.	pl.
nom.	hē	hīe
acc.	hine	hīe
gen.	his	heora
dat.	him	him

ON masc. <i>hann</i>		
	sg.	pl.
nom.	hann	þeir
acc.	hann	þá
gen.	hans	þeir(r)a
dat.	honum	þeim

MnE masc. <i>he</i>		
	sg.	pl.
nom.	he	they
acc.	him	them
gen.	his	their
dat.	him	them

OE fem. <i>hēo</i>		
	sg.	pl.
nom.	hēo	hīe
acc.	hīe	hīe
gen.	hire	heora
dat.	hire	him

ON fem. <i>hon</i>		
	sg.	pl.
nom.	hon	þær
acc.	hana	þær
gen.	hennar	þeir(r)a
dat.	henni	þeim

MnE fem. <i>she</i>		
	sg.	pl.
nom.	she	they
acc.	her	them
gen.	her	their
dat.	her	them

OE neut. <i>hit</i>		
	sg.	pl.
nom.	hit	hīe
acc.	hit	hīe
gen.	his	heora
dat.	him	him

ON neut. <i>þat</i>		
	sg.	pl.
nom.	þat	þau
acc.	þat	þau
gen.	þess	þeir(r)a
dat.	þ(v)i	þeim

MnE neut. <i>it</i>		
	sg.	pl.
nom.	it	they
acc.	it	them
gen.	its	their
dat.	it	them

Demonstrative pronouns

Distal ("that")

OE masc. <i>se</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	se	þā
<i>acc.</i>	þone	þā
<i>gen.</i>	þæs	þāra
<i>dat.</i>	þām	þām
<i>inst.</i>	þȳ	--

ON masc. <i>sá</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	sá	þeir
<i>acc.</i>	þann	þá
<i>gen.</i>	þess	þeir(r)a
<i>dat.</i>	þeim	þeim

MnE <i>that</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	that	those
<i>acc.</i>	that	those
<i>gen.</i>	its	their
<i>dat.</i>	that	those

OE fem. <i>sēo</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	sēo	þā
<i>acc.</i>	þā	þā
<i>gen.</i>	þære	þāra
<i>dat.</i>	þære	þām

ON fem. <i>sú</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	sú	þær
<i>acc.</i>	þá	þær
<i>gen.</i>	þeir(r)ar	þeir(r)a
<i>dat.</i>	þeir(r)i	þeim

MnE <i>that</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	that	those
<i>acc.</i>	that	those
<i>gen.</i>	its	their
<i>dat.</i>	that	those

OE neut. <i>þæt</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	þæt	þā
<i>acc.</i>	þæt	þā
<i>gen.</i>	þæs	þāra
<i>dat.</i>	þām	þām
<i>inst.</i>	þȳ	--

ON neut. <i>þat</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	þat	þau
<i>acc.</i>	þat	þau
<i>gen.</i>	þess	þeir(r)a
<i>dat.</i>	þ(v)i	þeim

MnE <i>that</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	that	those
<i>acc.</i>	that	those
<i>gen.</i>	its	their
<i>dat.</i>	that	those

Proximal ("this")

OE masc. <i>þes</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	þes	þās
<i>acc.</i>	þisne	þās
<i>gen.</i>	þisses	þissa
<i>dat.</i>	þissum	þām
<i>inst.</i>	þȳs	--

ON masc. <i>sjá/þessi</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	sjá/þessi	þessir
<i>acc.</i>	þenna	þessa
<i>gen.</i>	þessa	þessa
<i>dat.</i>	þessum	þessum

MnE <i>this</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	this	these
<i>acc.</i>	this	these
<i>gen.</i>	its	their
<i>dat.</i>	this	these

OE fem. <i>þeos</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	þeos	þās
<i>acc.</i>	þās	þās
<i>gen.</i>	þisse	þissa
<i>dat.</i>	þisse	þām

ON fem. <i>sjá/þessi</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	sjá/þessi	þessar
<i>acc.</i>	þessa	þessar
<i>gen.</i>	þessar	þessa
<i>dat.</i>	þessi	þessum

MnE <i>this</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	this	these
<i>acc.</i>	this	these
<i>gen.</i>	its	their
<i>dat.</i>	this	these

OE neut. <i>þis</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	þis	þās
<i>acc.</i>	þis	þās
<i>gen.</i>	þisses	þissa
<i>dat.</i>	þissum	þām
<i>inst.</i>	þȳs	--

ON neut. <i>þetta</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	þetta	þessi
<i>acc.</i>	þetta	þessi
<i>gen.</i>	þessa	þessa
<i>dat.</i>	þessu	þessum

MnE <i>this</i>		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>nom.</i>	this	these
<i>acc.</i>	this	these
<i>gen.</i>	its	their
<i>dat.</i>	this	these

Interrogative pronoun

OE masc./fem. <i>hwā</i>	
<i>nom.</i>	hwā
<i>acc.</i>	hwone
<i>gen.</i>	hwæs
<i>dat.</i>	hwām
<i>inst.</i>	hwȳ

ON masc./fem. <i>hverr</i>	
<i>nom.</i>	hverr
<i>acc.</i>	hvern
<i>gen.</i>	hvers
<i>dat.</i>	hveim

MnE masc./fem. <i>who</i>	
<i>nom.</i>	who
<i>acc.</i>	whom
<i>gen.</i>	whose
<i>dat.</i>	whom

OE neut. <i>hwæt</i>	
<i>nom.</i>	hwæt
<i>acc.</i>	hwæt
<i>gen.</i>	hwæs
<i>dat.</i>	hwām
<i>inst.</i>	hwȳ

ON masc./fem. <i>hvat</i>	
<i>nom.</i>	hvat
<i>acc.</i>	hvat
<i>gen.</i>	hvers
<i>dat.</i>	hví

MnE masc./fem. <i>what</i>	
<i>nom.</i>	what
<i>acc.</i>	what
<i>gen.</i>	whose
<i>dat.</i>	what

Application

To learn pronominal declension, it may be useful to bring the pronouns together into a series of simple sentences. To this end, you will need to learn the present indicative forms of three verbs: one for each of the oblique cases. We'll also add in an impersonal verb for good measure. The strong verb classes are identified with Roman numerals, the weak with Arabic numerals. The differences between the classes are of limited relevance to the present exercise; simply study the forms of these individual verbs for now.

<i>sjá</i> V "see" (+acc.)		
#	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
1	ek sé	vér sjám
2	þú sér	(þ)ér séð
3	hann sér	þeir sjá

<i>befna</i> 1 "avenge" (+gen.)		
#	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
1	ek hefni	vér hefnum
2	þú hefmir	(þ)ér hefnið
3	hann hefmir	þeir hefna

<i>segja</i> 3 "say" (<i>to</i> +dat.)		
#	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
1	ek segi	vér segjum
2	þú segir	(þ)ér segið
3	hann segir	þeir segja

<i>langa 2 "long for" (+acc. for til +gen.)</i>		
#	<i>sg.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
1	mik langar	oss langar
2	þik langar	yðr langar
3	hann langar	þá langar

Given these paradigms, and the knowledge that dual pronouns take plural verbs, you can now form simple sentences like the following:

- Ek sé þik ("I see you")
- It séð hana ("You two see her")
- Þú hefnir hennar ("You avenge her")
- Þær hefna mín ("They [feminine] avenge me")
- Hon segir þeim ("She tells them")
- Þau segja okkr ("They [mixed gender] tell the two of us")
- Oss langar til hans ("We long for him")
- Ykkar langar til vár ("You two long for us")

With just the personal pronouns and these four verbs, you are now able to read or form 423 different Old Norse sentences! With the above paradigms close at hand, head over to set 1 of the flashcards to practise doing just that.