

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

Abbreviations used

fem., feminine

masc., masculine

nt., neuter

pl., plural

pres., present

sg., singular

str., strong verb (followed by a number indicating which class)

3rd, third person

(?), means the word is used in an interrogative sense

A

af, of, from

- takes dative object

akkeri (ija-stem nt.), anchor

aldr (a-stem masc., note radical r), age (of the earth)

aldregi also **aldri**, never

allr, all

andi (weak masc.), breath, spirit

annarr (fem. **önnur**, nt. **annat**), other

aptr, again

at, that (“to say that...”), to (“to do”)

at, at

- takes dative object

atburðr (i-stem masc.), event

atganga (weak fem.), attack

atgeirr (a-stem masc.), spear

atkváma (weak fem.), arrival

atseta (weak fem.), king’s hall

auðigr, rich

auga (weak nt.), eye

auka (str. 7: 3rd pres. sg. **eykr, 3rd pres. pl.**

auka, 3rd past sg. **jók**, 3rd past pl.

jóku, past participle **aukit**), to increase

- takes an accusative object

austan, from the east

austr (a-stem masc., note radical r), east; also used as an adverb

austrónn, eastern

Á

á, on

- takes dative object if the verb is stationary (ek var á skipi) or for expressing time (á því ári)

- takes accusative object if the verb is mobile (ek gekk á fjallit) or for expressing “good old days” time (á minna daga)

á, present tense 1st & 3rd sg. of **eiga**

á (true o:-stem fem.), river

áðr, before

ágætr, excellent

án, without

- takes accusative, dative or genitive object (without distinction of meaning)

ár (a-stem nt.), year

áss (u-stem masc.), god (pagan)

ást (o:/i-stem fem.), love

átta, eight

B

bak, back

bani (weak masc.), killer (of a certain person)

bardagi (weak masc.), battle

barn (a-stem nt.), child

báðir (fem. **báðar**, nt. **bæði**), both

bátr (a-stem masc.), boat

beiða (ija-verb), to ask for

- the *thing being asked for* is genitive; the *person being asked for* is accusative, the *person on whose behalf something is being requested* is in dative (ek beidda konung griða þér – “I asked the king for a pardon for you.”); often used mediopassively when requesting something for oneself (ek beiddumk konung griða – “I asked the king for a pardon for myself.”)

bein (a-stem nt.), leg, bone

bera (str. 4), to carry

- takes accusative object

berja (ja-verb), to fight

- takes accusative object, but most often used mediopassively in a reflexive sense

betri, better

beztr, best

biðja (str. 5), to ask for

- the *object asked for* is in the genitive and the *person being asked*

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

for it is in the accusative (ek bið þik friðar – “I ask for peace from you”)

binda (str. 3), to bind, tie up, chain

- takes an accusative object

birta (ija-verb), to announce

- takes dative or accusative object

bíða (str. 1), to wait, wait for

- takes a genitive object

björn (u-stem masc.), bear

bjóða (str. 5), to offer

- the *object being offered* is in the accusative and the *person it is being offered to* is in the dative (ek býð þér frið – “I offer you peace.”)

blár, black

blindr, blind

blíðr, happy

blóð (a-stem nt.), blood

bogi (weak masc.), bow (for arrows)

borg (o:/i-stem fem.), city, wall, hill

bók (C-stem fem.), book

brauð (a-stem nt.), bread

bráðr, sudden

brátt, suddenly, soon

bregða (str. 3), to draw a weapon, to change, to move swiftly, to break a promise

- takes dative object

breiðr, broad

brenna (str. 3), to burn *intransitive*

brenna (ija-verb), to burn *transitive*

- takes accusative object

brjóta (str. 2), to break, destroy, demolish

- takes accusative object

brott (usually **á brott**), away

brynja (weak fem.), chain-mail shirt

bóndi (nd-stem masc.), farmer

bróðir (r-stem masc.), brother

brúnn, brown

bú (a-stem nt.), farm

búa (str. 7: 3rd pres. sg. býr, 3rd pres. pl.

búa, 3rd past sg. bjó, 3rd past pl.

bjuggu, past participle búit), to live (dwell), prepare

- takes accusative object in the sense “prepare”

byggva (ija-verb), to inhabit

- takes accusative object

byrja (o:n-verb), to begin

- takes accusative object

byrr (i-stem masc.), fair wind for sailing

bón (o:/i-stem fem.), prayer, request

bór (i-stem masc.), farm

D

dagr (a-stem masc., note dat. sg. degi), day

Danmørk (C-stem fem.), Denmark

danskr, Danish

dauði (weak masc.), death

dauðr, dead

dauftr, deaf

dáð (i/o:-stem fem.), deed

deyja (str. 6), to die

dómr (a-stem masc.), judgment, reputation

dóttir (r-stem fem.), daughter

draga (str. 5), to drag, pull

- takes accusative object

dráp (a-stem nt.), killing, murder

dreki (weak masc.), “dragon-ship;” classic Viking longship with dragon’s head

drekka (str. 3), to drink

- takes accusative object

drengiligr, used to describe (approvingly) a bold or reckless person or deed

drengr (i-stem masc.), term of approval for a bold man; “badass”

drepa (str. 5), to kill

- takes accusative object

dróttinn (a-stem masc.), lord

dróttning (true o:-stem fem.), queen

dvelja (ja-verb), to slow, stop, delay

- takes accusative object, or is used mediopassively in a reflexive sense

dökk (wa-stem adj.), dark

dóma (ija-verb), to judge

- either the *judgment* or the *person being judged* may be accusative; if both are expressed, the *person* is in dative & the *judgment* accusative

E

eða, or

ef, if

egg (a-stem nt.), egg

eggja (o:n-verb), to incite, to egg on

- the *person being egged on* is in the accusative, the *thing that person is being incited to do* is in genitive (ek

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

eggjaði hann dráps – “I incited him to murder.”)

eiðr (a-stem masc.), oath

eiga (pret. pres: 3rd pres. sg. á, 3rd pres. pl. eigu, 3rd past sg. átti, 3rd past pl. áttu, past participle átt), to own

- takes accusative object

eigi, not/don't

eignask (o:n-verb, only mediopassive), to become the owner of

- takes accusative object

einheri (jan-stem masc.), warrior of Othinn's chosen

einn, one

einnhverr, someone

ek, I

ekki, nothing, not/don't

eldr (a-stem masc.), fire

ellifu, eleven

en, and (in a contrastive sense), but, than

- Both **ok** and **en** are usually translated “and,” but they have slightly different meanings. **ok** expresses “and” in a complementary way (hann var góðr konungr ok ríkr – “He was a good & powerful king,” where these attributes are complementary, not contrasted). **en** expresses “and” in a contrastive way (hann heitir Einarr, en systir hans Ingríðr – “He is named Einarr, & his sister is named Ingríðr,” where the facts being stated are contrasting).

enda, and yet

engi, none, no one

England (a-stem nt.), England

enn, still, yet

enskr, English

eptir, after

- takes dative object in the sense “after somebody” (hann hljóp eptir honum – “he ran after him,” with the implication that both were running)
- takes accusative object for expressing time (eptir þat, eptir fall Óláfs)

er, who/which/that (in a relative sense)

er, where/when (in a coordinating sense)

eta (str. 5), to eat

- takes accusative object

eyra (weak nt.), ear

F

faðir (r-stem masc.), father

fagr (note radical **r**), beautiful

fall (a-stem nt.), fall (by extension “death”)

falla (str. 7: 3rd pres sg. fellr, 3rd pres. pl. falla, 3rd past sg. fell, 3rd past pl. fellu, past participle fallit), to fall

fara (str. 6), to go, travel

farmr (a-stem masc.), cargo

farþegi (weak masc.), passenger on a voyage

fá (str. 7: 3rd pres. sg. fær, 3rd pres. pl. fá, 3rd past sg. fekk, 3rd past pl. fengu, past participle fengit), to get

- takes accusative object
- also used together with the past participle of another verb to express “can, able to” (ek fæ þat sétt – “I can see it.”)

fár, few

fásénn, rare

fátókr (ja-stem adj.), poor, wretched

feðgar (a-stem masc., only pl.), father and son (as a unit)

feginn, happy

feigr, fated to die

fekk, see fá

fela (str. 4), to hide

- takes accusative object

ferð (o:/i-stem fem.), journey

ferma (ija-verb), to load a ship with cargo

- the ship is in accusative, the cargo being loaded is in dative or accusative with the preposition **með**

fé (u-stem nt.), wealth, cattle

félagi (weak masc.), fellow, comrade

fimm, five

finna (str. 3), to find

- takes accusative object

fiskr (a-stem masc.), fish

fjall (a-stem nt.), mountain

fjórir, four

fjōðr (true o:-stem fem.), feather

fjōlōi (weak masc.), abundance

fjōlmennr, crowded

fjōrðr (u-stem masc.), fjord

fleinn (a-stem masc.), spear

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

fleiri, more (in number)

flestr, most (in number)

fljúga (str. 2), to fly

flytja (ja-verb), to move

- takes accusative object

fólk (a-stem nt.), people

fótr (C-stem masc.), foot

fram, forth

frá, from

- takes dative object

fregna (str. 5), to learn of (archaic “to ask”)

- takes accusative object, or more often **at** and a new clause

fríðr (u-stem masc.), peace

fríðr, beautiful

frost (a-stem nt.), frost

frægr, well-known

frændi (nd-stem masc.), relative

fugl (a-stem masc.), bird

fullr, full

fundr (i-stem masc.), meeting

fúss, eager for

- the *thing one is eager for* is in genitive

fylgja (ija-verb), to follow

- takes a dative object

fyrir, for, before, in front of

- takes dative object if the *object* of the verb is stationary (ek gekk fyrir konungi – implies that the king was not moving, and I walked in front of him) or for expressing time since (fyrir dögum þeim, “since those days”)
- takes accusative object if the *object* of the verb is in motion (ek gekk fyrir konung - implies that the king was walking, too, and I was walking in front of him) or to express time before (fyrir daga þá, “before those days”)
- also used with accusative object when paired with adverbs in phrases meaning “to the ___ side of,” e.g.
fyrir austan (on the east side of),
fyrir norðan (on the north side of),
fyrir sunnan (on the south side of),
fyrir vestan (on the west side of)

fyrr, earlier, before

fyrri, former, earlier

fyrstr, first

fýsa (ija-verb), to be eager

- typically used either mediopassively or with the *subject* in accusative; the thing one is eager to do is infinitive together with **at** (fýsumk at fara – “I’m eager to go.”)

fóra (ija-verb), to lead, to bring

- takes dative object

G

gamall (fem. **gömul**, nt. **gamalt**), old

ganga (str. 7: 3rd pres sg. **gengr, 3rd pres.**

pl. **ganga**, 3rd past sg. **gekk**, 3rd past

pl. **gengu**, past participle **gengit**), to walk

gefa (str. 5), to give

- the *object being given* is in the accusative and the *person it is being given to* is in the dative (ek gef þér sverð – “I give you a sword.”)

geirr (a-stem masc.), spear

gekk, see **ganga**

gera, alternative present form of **göra**

gestr (i-stem masc.), guest

geta (str. 5), to get, beget, guess, tell of

- takes accusative object in the sense “get” or “beget” (hann gat son – “he begat a son”)
- takes genitive object in the sense “guess” or “tell of” (vér gátum þess – “we told of this”)

gjalda (str. 3), to pay, yield up

- the *object being given* is in the accusative and the *person it is being given to* is in the dative (ek geld þér sverð – “I give you a sword.”)

gjarn, eager (frequent in compounds)

gjarna, gladly, eagerly

glaðr, glad, happy

gleði (i:n-stem fem.), glee, happiness

goð (a-stem nt.), god (pagan)

goði (weak masc.), local Icelandic leader and legal advocate

góðr, good

grár, gray

gríð (a-stem nt., only pl.), a truce, a pardon, terms of peace

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

gripr (i-stem masc.), treasure
grípa (str. 1), to grip, grasp, take into hand

- takes accusative object

grónn, green
guð (a-stem nt. or masc.), god (pagan)/
God (Christian)
gull (a-stem nt.), gold
gæta (ija-verb), to heed, watch, tend

- takes genitive object

gøra (3rd pres. sg. **gørir**, 3rd pres. pl. **gøra**,
3rd past sg. **gerði**, 3rd past pl.
gerðu, past participle **gørt** *ja-stem*
adj. – however the vowels get
confused and **ø** is frequently seen in
the present, **e** in the past in spite of
the original pattern), to do, make

- takes accusative object

gøfugr, noble
gørr (ja-stem adj.), past participle of **gøra**

H

haf (a-stem nt.), ocean
hafa (e:-verb), to have

- takes accusative object

**halda (str. 7: 3rd pres. sg. heldr, 3rd
pres. pl. halda, 3rd past sg. helt, 3rd
past pl. heldu, past participle
haldit),** to hold, keep

- usually takes dative object, but may
take accusative object, especially in
the sense of *owning* something or of
keeping one's word (ek held orð mín
– “I keep my words.”)

hamarr (a-stem masc.), hammer
**hanga (str. 7 with weak endings in
present tense: 3rd pres. sg. hangir,
3rd pres. pl. hanga, 3rd past sg.
hekk, 3rd past pl. hengu, past
participle hangit),** to hang
intransitive

hann, he
harðr, hard
haukr (a-stem masc.), hawk
haust (a-stem nt.), autumn
hálf, half
hár (wa-stem adj.), high, tall
hár (a-stem nt.), hair
hátr (u-stem masc.), way/manner (of
doing something)
heðan, from here

hefja (str. 6), to lift

- takes an accusative object

hefna (ija-verb), to avenge

- takes genitive object

heill, whole
heim, “to home” (uninflected)
heimr (a-stem masc.), world, home
heit (a-stem nt.), promise
**heita (str. 7: 3rd pres. sg. heitr, 3rd pres. pl.
heita, 3rd past sg. hét, 3rd past pl.
hétu, past participle heitit),** to
promise, be named

- in the sense *to be named*, this verb
has unusual (Germanic passive)
inflection in the pres. sg.: **ek heiti**,
þú heitir, **þat heitir**
- in the sense “promise,” the *person*
being promised to and the *thing*
being promised may both be dative
(ek heit þér liði – “I promise you an
army.”)

heitr, hot
heldr, rather (**en**, than)
hengja (ija-verb), to hang *transitive*

- takes an accusative subject

hestr (a-stem masc.), horse
heyra (ija-verb), to hear

- takes accusative object

hér, here
himinn (a-stem masc.), sky
hingat, to here
hinn, (the) other
hirð (i/o:-stem fem.), a king's (or other
leader's) retinue of bodyguards
hirðmaðr (C-stem masc.), a member of a
king's **hirð**, a bodyguard (for
inflection see **maðr**)
hjarta (weak nt.), heart
hjá, nearby

- takes dative object

hjálmr (a-stem masc.), helmet
hjálp (i/o:-stem fem.), help
hjálpa (str. 3), to help

- takes a dative object

**hlaupa (str. 7: 3rd pres. sg. hleypr, 3rd pres.
pl. hlaupa, 3rd past sg. hljóp, 3rd
past pl. hljópu, past participle
hlaupit),** to run
hlíð (true o:-stem fem.), side
hlutr (i-stem masc.), thing

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

hon, she

hrafn (a-stem masc.), raven

hríð (i/o:-stem fem.), a while

hrím (a-stem nt.), rime

hugr (i-stem masc.), a thought, sometimes pl.; also “mind”

- a common idiom is *koma í hug* (“to come to mind”), with the *person in whose mind something is occurring* in dative

hundrað (a-stem nt.), 120

hús (a-stem nt.), house

húskarl (a-stem masc.), servant

hvalr (a-stem masc.), whale

hvar, where(?)

hvass, sharp

hvat, what(?)

hvárgi, neither

hvárr, who(?)/which(?) of two

hvárrtveggi, each of the two

hvárt, whether

hverfa (str. 3), to disappear, leave

hverr, who(?), each

hversu, how

hvetja (ja-verb), sharpen (a weapon), incite (a person) to violence

- takes accusative object

hvítr, white

hyggja (ja-verb), to think

- typically used with **at** + a new clause

höfðingi (jan-stem masc.), chieftain

höfuð (a-stem nt.), head

höggva (str. 7: 3rd pres. sg. **höggv, 3rd pres. pl. **höggva**, 3rd past sg. **hjó**, 3rd past pl. **hjuggu**, past participle **höggvit**), to chop**

- takes accusative object

höll (i/o:-stem fem.), hall

hönd (C-stem fem.), hand

I

illa, badly

illr, bad

illska (weak fem.), badness

inn, inside (with movement)

inni, inside (stationary)

Í

í, in

- takes dative object if the verb is stationary (*víkingr stendr í skipinu*)
- takes accusative object if the verb is mobile (*víkingr gekk í skipit*) or for expressing time (*í þat ár*)

Írland (a-stem nt.), Ireland

írskr, Irish

Ísland (a-stem nt.), Iceland

íslenzkr, Icelandic

íss (a-stem masc.), ice

J

jarl (a-stem masc.), nobleman, “earl”

jók, see **auka**

jól (a-stem nt., only pl.), Yule (a great heathen feast around the winter solstice), Christmas

jörð (o:/i-stem fem.), earth

K

kaldr, cold

kalla (o:n-verb), to call, summon

- takes accusative object, sometimes with preposition **á**

karl (a-stem masc.), (free but not noble) man

kátr, cheerful

kenna (ija-verb), to recognize

- takes accusative object

kjósa (str. 2), to choose

- takes accusative object, or another verb in the infinitive linked by **at** (*þau kjósa at fara*- “They choose to go.”)

klæði (ija-stem nt.), clothing

kné (a-stem nt.), knee

knorr (u-stem masc.), ocean-going ship

koma (str. 4), to come

kona (weak fem., note gen. pl. **kvenna)**, woman

konungr (a-stem masc.), king

kostr (i-stem masc.), choice

kraptr (a-stem masc.), strength

kunna (pret. pres.: 3rd pres. sg. **kann, 3rd pres. pl. **kunnu**, 3rd past sg. **kunni**, 3rd past pl. **kunnu**, past participle **kunnat**)**, know how to, know (a language)

- used with the infinitive of another verb (*ek kann skrifa*- “I know how

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

to write.”) or an accusative (ek kann norrónu – “I know Norse.”)

kunnigr, cunning, sorcerous

kveða (str. 5), to speak, say

- the *words being spoken* are in the accusative; often *the person being spoken with* is in the dative with the preposition **at** (ek kvað þat at honum – “I said that to him.”)
- this verb is very often used in the mediopassive: hann kvazk vera ofsterkr (“he said that he was too strong”)

kveld (a-stem nt.), evening

kvíkr (wa-stem adj.), alive

kvíkvendi (ija-stem nt.), creature

kvæði (ija-stem nt.), poetry, poem

kykr, alternative form of **kvíkr**

kykvendi, alternative form of **kvíkvendi**

kyrr, calm

kærleíkr (a-stem masc.), affection, friendship

L

land (a-stem nt.), land

lauss, loose, free (frequent in compounds)

langr, long

langskip, longship, a Viking’s warship

láta (str. 7: 3rd pres. sg. lætr, 3rd pres. pl.

láta, 3rd past sg. lét, 3rd past pl. létu,
past participle **látit**), to let, put

down, leave, leave behind, stop, lose

- in the sense “to let,” used with an object in the accusative and an infinitive verb (konungrinn lét hann fara – “the king let him go”)
- in the sense “put down,” “leave,” “leave behind,” “stop,” takes accusative object
- in the sense “lose,” takes dative object
- very often used together with the preposition **af** to mean “cease,” either intransitively (vetr lætr af – “The winter is ending.”) or transitively (vér látum af manndrápum – “We stopped murdering.”)

leggja (ja-verb), to lay, set, place

- takes accusative object

leið (o:/i-stem fem.), path, road

leiða (ija-verb), to lead

- takes accusative object

leika (str. 7: 3rd pres. sg. leíkr, 3rd pres. pl.

leika, 3rd past sg. lék, 3rd past pl.

léku, past participle **leikit**), to play, perform, deceive

- takes an accusative object

leita (o:n-verb), to search for, seek

- takes genitive object

lengi, for a long time

lesa (str. 5), to read

- takes accusative object

lið (a-stem nt.), army, armed band

lifa (e:-verb), to live

liggja (str. 5), to lie down

líða (str. 1), to go, travel (of a person), pass (of time)

líf (a-stem nt.), life

líka (o:n-verb), to be pleasing

- the *thing that pleases* is in nominative; the *person whom it pleases* (or who *likes* it) is in dative, which creates the impression that the subject is dative (mér líkar þat – “It pleases me,” or “I like it.”)

líkligr, likely

líkr, alike

- used with a dative (hon er mér lík – “She is like me.”)

líta (str. 1), to look at

- takes accusative object

lítill, little

lunga (weak nt.), lung

lúka (str. 2), to open or close a door

- “to open” may be specified by saying **lúka upp** with the object in dative or accusative
- “to close” may be specified by saying **lúka aþr**; the object is in accusative or dative

M

maðr (C-stem masc.: acc. sg. mann, gen.

sg. **manns** or **mannz**, dat sg.

manni, nom. & acc. pl. **menn**, gen.

pl. **manna**, dat. pl. **monnum**), man

manndráp (a-stem nt.), murder

margr, many

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

matr (i-stem masc.), food

mál (a-stem nt.), speech, case, matter

með, with

- takes accusative or dative object

mega (pret. pres.: 3rd pres. sg. má, 3rd pres.

pl. **megu,** 3rd past sg. **mátti,** 3rd past

pl. **máttu,** past participle **mátt**), to be allowed, “may”

- used with the infinitive of another verb (ek má gøra þat – “I am able to do that.”)

megin (a-stem nt.), strength

menn, nom. & acc. pl. of **maðr**

miðr, middle

mikill, big, great

milli/millum, between

- takes genitive object

minn, my

minni, minztr, comparative, superlative of

lítill

mjøðr (u-stem masc.), mead

mjök, very, much

morginn (a-stem masc.), morning

móðir (r-stem fem.), mother

mót(i) (usually **í mót(i)**), against

- takes dative object

muna (defective pret. pres.: 3rd pres sg.

man, 3rd pres. pl. **muna,** past tense unused), to remember

- takes accusative object

munu (pret. pres.: 3rd pres. sg. mun, 3rd pres. pl. munu, 3rd past sg. mundi, 3rd past pl. mundu), will

- together with the infinitive of another verb, this forms the future tense (hann mun drepa mik – “He will kill me.”)

myrkr (wa-stem adj.), dark, murky

mæla (ija-verb), to speak, say

- the *words being spoken* are accusative or dative; *the person being spoken with* is in the dative

N

nafn (a-stem nt.), name

náttúra (weak fem.), natural ability

neðan, from below

nema, except

- ex. “Þau kómu öll, nema Einarr” (“They all came, except Einarr.”)

nema (str. 4), to take

- takes accusative object

né, nor

niðr, down

níu, nine

níð (a-stem nt.), word of contempt, insult

norðan, from the north

norðr (a-stem nt., note radical **r**), north; also used as an adverb

norróna (weak fem.), “Norse,” literally “Northern;” the language of medieval Iceland & Norway

norrónn, literally “northern,” but often means specifically “Norwegian”

Nóregr (a-stem masc.), Norway

nótt (C-stem fem.), night

nú, now

nýr (ja-stem adj.), new

nær, near

- takes dative object

næstr, next, nearest

- takes dative object (þat væri mér næst skapi – “That would be nearest my inclination.”)

noðkurr, someone, some, a certain

O

of-, too (prefixed to an adjective)

ofan, from above

ok, and

- see **en** for some usage notes

orð (a-stem nt.), word

orðinn, see **verða**

orlof (a-stem nt.), permission

ormr (a-stem masc.), worm, serpent, dragon

orrosta (weak fem.), battle

Ó

ó-, un-

ór, out from

- takes dative object

óvinr (i-stem masc.), enemy (“unfriend”)

R

rauðr, red

ráð (a-stem nt.), counsel, advice

ráða (str. 7: 3rd pres. sg. ræðr, 3rd pres. pl.

ráða, 3rd past sg. **rêð,** 3rd past pl.

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

- réðu**, past participle **ráðit**), to counsel/advise, rule
- the *thing being ruled* is in dative (Óðinn ræðr öllum hlutum – “Óthinn rules all things.”)
 - if a *person is being counseled* then he/she is in dative & the *thing being advised* is in accusative (ek ræð þér þetta, at... – “I advise you this, that...”)

reiði (**weak masc.**), ship’s equipment

reiði (**i:n-stem fem.**), anger, wrath

reiðr, angry

reka (**str. 5**), to drive off

- takes accusative object

renna (**str. 3**), to run

réttr, right, correct

rísta (**str. 1**), to carve

- takes accusative object

ríða (**str. 1**), to ride

- an *animal being ridden* is in the dative; a *road being ridden on* is in the accusative (ek reið hesti – “I rode a horse,” but ek reið mína leið – “I rode my way.”)

ríki (**ija-stem nt.**), kingdom, realm

ríkr (**ja-stem adj.**), powerful, rich

rísa (**str. 1**), to rise

ríta (**str. 1**), to write

róa (**str. 7 with weak endings in past**

tense: 3rd pres. sg. **rór**, 3rd pres. pl.

róa, 3rd past sg. **rerí**, 3rd past pl.

reru, past participle **róit**), to row

- the *ship being rowed* is in the dative, the *water being rowed over* is in the accusative (often with **yfir**)

rún (**i/o:-stem fem.**), rune

róða (**ija-verb**), to speak

- the *words being spoken* are accusative; the *person being spoken with* is in the accusative with the preposition **við**

S

saga (**weak fem.**), story

saman, together

samr, same

sannr, true

sauðr (**i-stem masc.**), sheep

sá, that

sár (**a-stem nt.**), wound

sárr, wounded

sáttr, reconciled

segja (**e:-verb**), to say

- the *words being spoken* are accusative or dative; the *person being spoken with* is in the dative

sekr, guilty

sem, as

senda (**ja-verb**), to send, throw (e.g. spears)

- the *object being sent* is in the accusative; the *person it is being sent to* is either in dative or is in genitive with the preposition **til** (ek send orð til sonar míns – “I send word to my son.”)

setja (**ja-verb**), to set, place, put

- takes accusative object

sex, six

siðr (**u-stem masc.**), way/rite/ritual

sigla (**ija-verb**), to sail, travel by boat

sigr (**a-stem masc.**, note radical **r**), victory

sigra (**o:n-verb**), to defeat

- takes an accusative object, though often used mediopassively in the sense “win”

sik, himself/herself/itself

sinn (**a-stem nt.**), time, in the sense

“instance” (fyrsta sinn – “the first time”)

sinn, his/her/its/their own

sitja (**str. 5**), sit

siðan, then, since, later

sjau, seven

sjá (**str. 5**), to see

- takes accusative object

sjálfr, -self (intensive, not reflexive)

sjór (**wa-stem masc.**), sea

skammr, short

skap (**a-stem nt.**), mind, inclination, mood

skáld (**a-stem nt.**), poet

skegg (**ja-stem nt.**), beard

skera (**str. 4**), to cut

- takes accusative object

skilja (**ja-verb**), to understand, separate

- takes accusative object

skip (**a-stem nt.**), ship

skipa (**o:n-verb**), to set in order

- takes dative object

skjóta (**str. 2**), to shoot

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

- the *weapon* is in dative, its *target* is in accusative or in genitive with **til** (ek skaut ǫru til hans – “I shot an arrow at him.”)

skjótr, swift

skjöldr (u-stem masc.), shield

skulu (pret. pres: 3rd pres. sg. skal, 3rd pres. pl. skulu, 3rd past sg. skyldi, 3rd past pl. skyldu), to be obligated to

- used with the infinitive of another verb (ek skal hefna hans – “I oblige myself to avenge him.”)

skyldr, related, obligated

skynsemð (i/o:-stem fem.), understanding

slíkr, such

slíta (str. 1), to cut

- takes accusative object

snerta (str. 3), to touch

- takes accusative object, often with preposition **við**

snjór (wa-stem masc.), snow

snúa (str. 7 with weak endings in past

tense: 3rd pres. sg. snýr, 3rd pres. pl. snúa, 3rd past sg. sneri, 3rd past pl. sneru, past participle snúit), to turn

- takes a dative object, though very often used reflexively in mediopassive

sofa (str. 4), to sleep

sonr (u-stem masc.), son

sól (i/o:-stem fem.), sun

sómi (weak masc.), an honor

spakr, wise

speki (i:n-stem fem.), wisdom

spjót (a-stem nt.), spear

spyrja (ja-verb), to ask, learn

- in the sense “to learn,” usually *the person/thing about which one is learning* is in the genitive with the preposition **til**, and the *information learned* is in a new clause beginning with **at** (ek spurða til Ingríðar, at hon var þar – “I learnt as to Ingríðr, that she was there.”)
- also widely used mediopassively in the sense “it is learned, heard” (þat spyrsk víða – “it is widely heard”)
- in the sense “to ask,” usually the *person or thing asked about* is in the

genitive (spyrja margra manna – “to ask about many people”) or the dative with the preposition **at** (spyrja at sverðum – “to ask about swords”); typically a *question asked* will simply be introduced with a question word like **hvat** (ek spurða, hvat hann gerði – “I asked what he did.”)

staddr, present, attending

staðr (i-stem masc.), place

standa (str. 6: 3rd pres. sg. stendr, 3rd pres. pl. standa, 3rd past sg. stóð, 3rd past pl. stóðu, past participle staðit), stand

starf (a-stem nt.), work

stefna (ija-verb), to point, aim in a direction

steinn (a-stem masc.), stone

sterkr, strong

stíga (str. 1), to step

stormr (a-stem masc.), storm

stórmennska (weak fem.), magnanimity

stórr, big

strengja (ija-verb), to swear solemnly, to string tight

- takes accusative object

stund (o:i-stem fem.), period of time

stýra (ija-verb), to steer a ship

- takes dative object

stýrimaðr (C-stem masc.), captain of a ship

suðr (a-stem nt., note radical r), south; also used as an adverb

suðrónn, southern

sultr (i-stem masc.), starvation, hunger

sumar (a-stem nt.), summer

sumr, some

sunnan, from the south

sunnr, alternative form of **suðr**

svalr, cool

svara (o:n-verb), to answer

- the *person being answered* is dative; the answer itself is typically in a new clause headed by **at**

svartr, black

svá, so

sveinn (a-stem masc.), boy

sverð (a-stem nt.), sword

sverja (str. 6), to swear

- takes accusative object (ek sór eið – “I swore an oath”) or more often

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

genitive þess + a new clause (ek sór þess, at ek þik eiga, eða enga konu ella – “I swore that I shall have you or no woman otherwise”)

svik (a-stem nt., only pl.), betrayal

svipstund (i/o:-stem fem.), moment

svíkja (str. 1), to betray

- takes accusative object

Svíþjóð (i/o:-stem fem.), Sweden

syngva (str. 3), to sing

- takes accusative object

systir (C-stem fem.), sister

sýna (ija-verb), to show

- the *object being shown* is in accusative, the *person to whom it is shown* is in dative

sókjja (ija-verb), to seek

- the *object being sought* is in accusative, the *person for whom it's being sought* is in dative (ek sótta mér við – “I sought wood for myself.”)

sómð (i/o:-stem fem.), honor

sónskr, Swedish

søk (i/o:-stem fem.), thing, case

T

taka (str. 6), to take

- typically takes an accusative object, and the subject will be repeated reflexively in the dative (ek tók mér vápn – “I took weapons,” hon tók sér sverð – “She took a sword.”)

tal (a-stem nt.), conversation, talk

tala (o:n-verb), to speak, discuss, talk

- the *words being spoken* are accusative; the *person being spoken with* is in the accusative with the preposition **við** (ek talaða þetta við Ingríð – “I spoke about this with Ingríðr.”)

tign (i/o:-stem fem.), honor

til, to

- takes genitive object

tíðendi (a-stem nt., only pl.), news

tími (weak masc.), period of time, hour

tíu, ten

tólf, twelve

tré (a-stem nt.), tree

trúa (e:-verb), to believe

- a *thing believed* is in the dative (ek trúi orðum hennar – “I believe her words.”); a *person or faith believed in* is in the accusative following **á** (ek trúi á Guð – “I believe in God.”)

tveir, two

U

um, about (a subject), during (a season, year, time)

- takes accusative object

umhverfis, around

- takes accusative object

undan, (out) from under

- takes dative object (þú hjótt beinin undan honum)

undir, under

- takes dative object if verb is stationary (hundr liggr undir konunginum)
- takes accusative object if the verb is mobile (vér gengum undir skóginum)

unna (pret. pres.: 3rd pres. sg. ann, 3rd pres. pl. unnu, 3rd past sg. unni, 3rd past pl. unnu, past participle unnat), to love, to grant, to bestow

- takes dative object in the sense “to love” (ek ann þér – “I love you.”)
- in the sense “to grant,” the *thing granted* is in the genitive, the *person to whom it is granted* is in dative (“ek ann þér ríkis míns” – “I bestow upon you my kingdom.”)

ungr, young

unz, till, until

upp, up

urðum, urðuð, urðu, see **verða**

Ú

úlfr (a-stem masc.), wolf

út, out (with motion: ek fer út)

úti, out (stationary: ek em úti)

útan, from outside

útlendr, foreign

V

vald (a-stem nt.), power

valkyrja (weak fem.), valkyrie

vanr, accustomed

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

- frequently forms compound adjectives, e.g. **vígvanr** (“accustomed to fighting”)

varðveita (ija-verb), to keep, watch, defend

- takes dative or accusative object

varmr, warm
varr, aware
vatn (a-stem nt.), water
vaxa (str. 6), to grow
ván (i/o:-stem fem.), hope
vánder, bad
vápn (a-stem nt.), weapon
vár (a-stem nt.), spring
várr, our
veðr (a-stem nt., note radical r), weather
veggr (i-stem masc.), wall
vegr (a-stem masc.), path, road
veita (ija-verb), to grant, bestow upon

- the *thing being granted* is in accusative; the *person it's being granted to* is in dative (ek veiti þér lið – “I grant you an army.”)

vel, well (also frequent in compounds)
vera, to be
verða (str. 3), to become
verðr, worthy
verk (a-stem nt.), work
verri, worse
verstr, worst
veröld (i/o:-stem fem.), world
vestan, from the west
vestr (a-stem nt., note radical r), west; also used as an adverb
vestrónn, western
vetr (C-stem masc.), winter
vél (i/o:-stem fem.), deceit, trick, cunning plan
við, against, next to, during

- takes dative object in the sense “against” (risu við konunginum)
- takes accusative object in the sense “next to” (skip við skip) or “during” (við daginn)

viðr (u-stem masc.), wood, lumber, forest
vili (jan-stem masc.), desire
vilja (defective weak verb: 3rd pres. sg. vill, 3rd pres. pl. vilja, 3rd past sg. vildi, 3rd past pl. vildu, past participle viljat), to want

- takes accusative object (hvat vill þú – “What do you want?”) or the infinitive of another verb (hvat vill þú sjá? – “What do you want to see?”)

vinr (i-stem masc.), friend
vinsæll, popular
virða (ija-verb), to evaluate, value, appraise

- takes accusative object

virðing (true o:-stem fem.), respect, value
vit (a-stem nt.), intelligence
vitja (on:-verb), to visit

- takes genitive object

vittr (note radical r), intelligent
vita (pret. pres.: 3rd pres. sg. veit, 3rd pres. pl. vitu, 3rd past sg. vissi, 3rd past pl. vissu, past participle vitat), to know

- takes accusative object

viða, widely
víg (a-stem nt.), fight, killing, battle
vígr (ja-stem adj.), capable of fighting
vikingr (a-stem masc.), viking
vikja (str. 1), to move

- takes dative object

víss, certain, wise
víst, certainly
vængr (ja-stem masc.), wing
vænn, beautiful
vænta (ija-verb), to expect, hope for

- takes genitive object

vörðr (u-stem masc.), guardian, watchman

Y

yfir, over

- takes dative object if verb is stationary (konungr stendr yfir barninu)
- takes accusative object if verb is mobile (Loki flaug yfir landit)

P

þaðan, from there
þakka (o:n-verb), to thank

- the *person being thanked* is dative, the *thing that person is being thanked for* is accusative (ek þakka konunginum þenna sóma – “I thank the king for this honor.”)

þangat, to there
þar, there

Most of the Words You'll Ever See in Old Norse

alphabetized, expanded, & defined by Jackson Crawford, from word-frequency lists by Wikipedia user LokiClock

þá, then

þegar, immediately

þegja (e:-verb), to be silent, to shut up

þessi, this

þiggja (str. 5), to receive

- takes accusative object

þing, legal assembly

þinn, your

þjóð (i/o:-stem fem.), people (in the sense of "nation," "culture," "tribe")

þjóna (o:n-verb), to serve

- takes dative object

þola (e:-verb), to endure

- takes accusative object

þótt, though

þrír, three

þungr, heavy

þurfa (pret. pres.: 3rd pres. sg. þarf, 3rd pres. pl. þurfu, 3rd past sg. þurfti, 3rd past pl. þurftu, past participle þurfat), to need

- takes a genitive or accusative object, or the infinitive of another verb with **at** (ek þarf at fara – "I need to go.")

þú, you

þúsund (i/o:-stem fem.), 1200

þvá (str. 6), to wash

- takes dative or accusative object

þvilíkr, such

þykkja (ija-verb), to seem, think

- the *thing that seems* or *the thing that is being thought* is in nominative; the *person to whom it seems* (or who is *thinking* it) is in dative, which creates the impression that the subject is dative (mér þykkir þat gott – "It seems good to me," or "I think it's good.")

þykkir (wa-stem adj.), thick

Æ

ætla (o:n-verb), to intend, to be of the opinion that

- in the sense "intend," usually used with the infinitive of another verb or with an accusative noun (ek ætla at fara – "I intend to go," ek ætla ferð – "I intend a journey.")
- in the sense "be of the opinion that," takes **at** and a new clause in

subjunctive (ek ætla at hann sé verri

– "I think he's worse")

ætlan (i/o:-stem fem.), intent

ætt (i/o:-stem fem.), family

Ø

ørendi (ija-stem nt.), errand

øx (ijo:-stem fem.), axe

Ó

órinn, enough

Q

q̄l (wa-stem nt.), ale, beer

q̄r (wo:-stem fem.), arrow

q̄rn (u-stem masc.), eagle