

11. Early Modern English III

The History of English (Ling 390)

Prof. Pentangelo

Fall 2025

What we'll cover

- Midterm Review
- Strong and Weak Verbs
- Person and Number Endings
- Discussion of Jordan
- For next time

Verbs

- What are “weak verbs”?
- Give an example.
- What are “strong verbs”?
- Any other examples?
- For our purposes, I’m not very concerned about Class I/II/III etc. verbs, but I do care that you can identify strong vs. weak verbs.

infinitive	preterit		past participle	
drive	drove		driven	
ride	rode		ridden	
write	wrote		written	
begin	began		begun	
spring	sprang		sprung	

Lie/lay

- What does it mean for a verb to be transitive?
- Do you know the difference between *lie-lay-lain*, *lie-lied-lied*, and *lay-laid-laid*?



Conjugating Verbs

- Let's fill this out:

	Present		Preterit	
I	run		ran	
thou	runnest		rannest	
s/he	runneth		ran	
we, you, they	run		ran	

- We'll practice with this more. But first:
- When did *-est* in the present tense die out?
- What did *-eth* become?
- When?

Jorden discussion

- Talk with your groups for 15 minutes about what your chapter(s) discussed. You'll present this to the class.
- Each of your chapters leave out some information. After all, you've only read part of this book. Your group should come up with 2 questions that were *not* answered in your chapter. (E.g. if your chapter covered symptoms of the disease, you might be wondering if there are any cures.) Ask these questions as part of your presentation.
- At the end of the discussion, we'll return to each group to see how/if your questions were addressed.

For December 1st:

- Read pp.181–193 in Algeo.
- The syllabus mentions a reading from Webster, but I'll share that with you next week to be read for the following week.