

OLD ENGLISH NOUN

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- ▶ **Nouns** are words which indicate a person, place, animal, thing, or idea, like "thing", "animal", "Samuel", and "Buddhism" in Modern English.
- ▶ In Old English they have 3 genders (masculine, neuter, feminine),
- ▶ 2 numbers (singular, plural),
- ▶ and 5 cases (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, instrumental).
Note that the so-called "genders" were purely *grammatical* genders they very often did not correspond to *natural* gender.
- ▶ For example the word *pīf* - "woman" is actually of the neuter (grammatical) gender, not the feminine (natural gender).



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- ▶ Nouns are divided into two main categories of declension in Old English: the so called "Strong" and "Weak" nouns.
- ▶ There are other minor declension groups, as well; but most nouns fall into these two classifications. If a noun belongs to a particular declension group, it can usually only be declined that way. Occasionally, you can decline an Old English noun one of several ways. Whether or not a noun is weak or strong does *not* affect whether or not the modifiers (adjectives) used with it are declined weak or strong.
- ▶ Which declension a noun takes must be memorized along with the noun itself. Often, the noun itself may give clues as to which declension it takes, but not always.

NOUN DECLENSION

- ▶ The strong declension is itself subdivided into first, second, and third declensions, which are also called "masculine," "neuter," and "feminine."
- ▶ The strong noun paradigm declines for case, gender and singular/plural

STRONG NOUN

	gender and number					
	Masculine		Neuter		Feminine	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
case	Strong Noun Declension					
	engel 'angel'		scip 'ship'		sorg 'sorrow'	
Nominative	engel	englas	scip	scipu	sorg	sorga
Accusative	engel	englas	scip	scipu	sorge	sorga/sorge
Genitive	enges	engla	scipes	scipa	sorge	sorga
Dative	engle	englum	scipe	scipum	sorge	sorgum
case	Weak Noun Declension					
	nama 'name'		ēage 'eye'		tunge 'tongue'	
Nominative	nama	naman	ēage	ēagan	tunge	tungan
Accusative	naman	naman	ēage	ēagan	tungan	tungan
Genitive	naman	namena	ēagan	ēagena	tungan	tungena
Dative	naman	namum	ēagan	ēagum	tungan	tungum

FOR EXAMPLE :

Nominative	បាឃា	បាឃា	ឡាន	ឡាន	ព្រៃ	ព្រៃ
Genitive	បាឃា	បាឃា	ឡាន	ឡាន	ព្រៃ	ព្រៃ
Accusative	បាឃា	បាឃា	ឡាន	ឡាន	ព្រៃ	ព្រៃ
Nominative	បាឃា	បាឃា	ឡាន	ឡាន	ព្រៃ	ព្រៃ

Weak Declension

n-stem

- It comprises masculine, feminine and neuter nouns.

<i>Masc.</i>		<i>Fem.</i>		<i>Neuter</i>	
Sg.	Pl.	Sg.	Pl.	Sg.	Pl.
N. nama	naman	cwene	cwenan	ēāre	ēāran
G. naman	namena	cwenan	cwenena	ēāran	ēārena
D. naman	namum	cwenan	cwenum	ēāran	ēārum
A. naman	naman	cwenan	cwenan	ēāre	ēāran

WEAK NOUNS

A. naman naman

cwenan cwenan

ēāre ēāran

D. naman namum

cwenan cwenum

ēāran ēārum