

OHG nominal morphology practice

For the noun forms in UNDERLINED SMALL CAPS, indicate the morphological information you can about the noun: number, case, class, even gender. This exercise requires you to work beyond your comfort zone, to make some smart guesses based on what you're learning and what you know about German.

Note: The default assumption for masc./neuter is *a*-stem (they ARE that common), and likewise *ō*-stem is the default for feminines. We'll focus on the major classes we've talked about above and it's worth keeping modern German cognates in mind where you can, especially when it comes to gender. There will also (now and later) be cases where you can't be sure of the class, so just note that and take your best guess, like you would in working with any language you don't know very well. (Even native speakers can be unsure of gender and yet they use those nouns in conversation!)

Example:

Gang uz, NESSO, mid niun nessimlinon 'Go out, worm, with 9 little worms'
... vonna den adrun in daz FLEISK

Nesso. From context, it's got to be nominative, and if so, it looks suspiciously like an *n*-stem masculine (*hano*), but could belong to some minor class. *Fleisk* has to be neuter (*daz!*) and given how the same structure would work in modern German, that article after a preposition must be accusative. In the absence of other evidence, I'd assume that it's an *a*-stem.

1. Glaubistû einan GOT almahtigan in thrînisse inti in einisse? Ih gilaubu.
2. her fragen gistuont FOHEM UUORTUM huer sin fater wari (foh- = few)
'he began to ask ...'
3. nu scal mih suasat CHIND SUERTU hauwan ...
'my own'
4. SUNU GOTES