

Practice: Alternations. The items below represent patterns in German that might look odd, irregular or unexpected from a contemporary perspective, but history makes pretty clear where they come from. Sketch briefly where they come from.

1. bringen ~ brâhte
2. si darf_, ich sol_ vs. si nimet, ich nime
3. helfen ~ ich hilfe, nemen ~ nime
4. By MHG, most noun classes show some kind of singular ~ plural distinction, but a few have really limited inflectional forms, like masculines that simply contrast the NOM.SG. with all other forms, like *fürste*, *mensche*, *garte* (Garten).
5. Class III strong verbs usually have *e* in the infinitive (*helfen*, *sterben*, *swellen*, *smelzen*), but some have *i* (*dringen*, *gewinnen*, *stinken*, *vinden*).
6. MHG consonants have almost always changed dramatically since Germanic, let alone Indo-European or other IE languages, but yet we have a couple of sets of exceptions, like these:
 - a. IE *spreg- > MHG *sprechen*, IE *stel- > MHG *stellen*
 - b. Low German/Dutch *wâpen* ~ MHG *wâpen*
 - c. Old French *prophecie* ~ MHG *prophezê*
7. Central German *ûmbe* (and Modern Low German *öm*) vs. Upper German *umbe*
8. These two words not only look a lot alike, they even come from the same Germanic root: *schône* ‘already’ ~ *schæne* ‘beautiful’.
9. Sometimes, consonants change in different forms of the strong verbs:
 - a. *dîhen*, *dech*, *gedigen* ‘gedeihen’
 - b. *lîden*, *leit*, *geliten*
10. mêt(e) ~ meist(e)
11. The words for both ‘ear’ and ‘eye’ go back to Germanic words beginning with *au*, but in MHG we find *ôre* and *ouge*.
12. It seems like lots of MHG nouns ending in *-e* are feminine: *lêre*, *êre*, *sache*, *krône*, *vrâge*, *helle*, *klage*.