

The Perfect Stem

The circumflected accents are used to mark the vowels' length.

The perfect stem is derived from the root in several ways:

1. With the characteristic –v- after a long vowel. The most verbs of the I and IV conjugations and some verbs of the II and III conjugations form their perfect stem with it:

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Present stem</i>	<i>Perfect stem</i>
amo, 1 to love audio, 4 to hear deleo, 2 to destroy cupio, 3 to long for	amâ- audî- delê- cupi-	amâv- audîv- delêv- cupîv-

2. With the characteristic –u- after consonants only. This characteristic replaces the thematic vowel of the verbs of the I, II and IV conjugations. A great part of the II conjugations verbs form their perfect stem in this way:

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Present stem</i>	<i>Perfect stem</i>
veto, 1 to forbid moneo, 2 to remind alo, 3 to nourish salio, 4 to jump	veta- mone- al- sali-	vetu- monu- alu- salu-

3. With the characteristic –s- after consonants only. It is used to form the perfect stem of many verbs of the III conjugations and of some verbs of the II and IV conjugations; the verbs of the I conjugation never form their perfect stem in this way. The characteristic –s- often brings for the changing of the preceding consonant:

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Present stem</i>	<i>Sound changes</i>	<i>Perfect stem</i>
maneo, 3 to remain repo, 3 to crawl	manê- rep-	<i>no changes</i>	mans- reps-
duco, 3 to lead rego, 3 to rule	duc- reg-	$c+s > x$ $g+s > x$	dux- rex-

traho, 3 to drag	trah-	$h+s > x$	trax-
scribo, 3 to write	scrib-	$b+s > ps$	scrips-
rideo, 2 to laugh mitto, 3 to send cedo, 3 to go sentio, 4 to feel	ride- mitt- ced- senti-	$d+s > s$ $tt+s > s$ $d+s > ss$ $t+s > s$	ris- miss- cess- sens-

4. By reduplication of the first root consonant followed by the vowel e:

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Present stem</i>	<i>Perfect stem</i>
do, 1 to give cado, 3 to fall cano, 3 to sing	da- cad- can-	ded- cecid- cecin-

5. By reduplication of the first root syllable:

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Present stem</i>	<i>Perfect stem</i>
spondeo, 2 to promise mordeo, 2 to bite curro, 3 to run	sponde- morde- curr-	spopond- momord- cucurr-

6. By the lengthening of the root vowel and cutting away of the thematic vowel (if the verb belongs to the I, II or IV conjugation):

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Present stem</i>	<i>Perfect stem</i>
lavo, 1 to wash video, 2 to see lego, 3 to read venio, 4 to come	lava- vide- leg- veni-	lav- vid- leg- vên-

7. By the ablaut and lengthening of the root vowel:

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Present stem</i>	<i>Perfect stem</i>
ago, 3 to conduct capio, 3 to seize sido, 3 to sit down	ag- capi- sid-	êg- cêp- sêd-

8. By extracting an infixal –n- from the present stem:

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Present stem</i>	<i>Perfect stem</i>
vinco, 3 to vanquish	vinc-	vîc-

Note that some verbs have incorporated the infixal –n- of the present stem in the perfect stem also:

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Present stem</i>	<i>Perfect stem</i>
stringo, 3 to strain pango, 3 to fix	string- pang-	strinx- panx-

9. By applying several of the above transformations at once:

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Present stem</i>	<i>Transformation</i>	<i>Perfect stem</i>
tango, 3 to touch	tang-	<i>reduplication and extraction of the infixal –n-</i>	tetig-
pango, 3 to fix	pang-	---,,--- <i>extraction of the infixal –n- and ablaut with lengthening</i>	pepig- pêg-
sino, 3 to allow	sin-	<i>extraction of the infixal –n- and adding the characteristic –v-</i>	siv-

10. Few verbs have identical present and perfect stems:

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Present stem</i>	<i>Perfect stem</i>
bibo, 3 to drink defendo, 3 to defend statuo, 3 to set up	bib- defend- statu-	bib- defend- statu-

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