

# ULTRAFRENCH

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## 2 Accidence

### 2.1 Verbal Morphology

Verbs in UF are inflected for person, number, tense, aspect, mood, and voice. Verbal inflexion is mainly done by means of concatenating a vast set of prefixes onto a verb, with the occasional suffix and circumfix making its appearance. This chapter details these affixes, their meanings, uses, forms, and restrictions.

#### 2.1.1 Active/Passive Affixes

UF has a set of active/subject as well as passive/object prefixes which can be used on their own or in combination with one another, though at most one active and one passive prefix may be combined with a verb.<sup>2</sup> Table 1 below lists those prefixes, two of which are actually circumfixes.

Active	Sg	Pl	Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	<i>j-</i>	<i>ó-/r-/w- -ó</i>	1st	<i>v-</i>	<i>ó-/r-/w-</i>
2nd	<i>d(ə)-</i>	<i>b'h(y)- -é</i>	2nd	<i>d(ə)-</i>	<i>b'h(y)-</i>
3rd m	<i>l(ə)-</i>	<i>l(ə)-</i>	3rd m	<i>y'-</i>	<i>lý-</i>
3rd f	<i>ll(a)-</i>	<i>ll(ə)-</i>	3rd f	<i>y'-</i>	<i>lý-</i>
3rd n	<i>y'-</i>	<i>l(a)-</i>	3rd n	<i>y'-</i>	<i>lý-</i>
Infinitive		<i>d(ə)-</i>	Infinitive		<i>à-/h-</i>

Table 1: Active (left) and passive (right) verbal affixes.

A great degree of syncretism can be observed in the third-person forms. The gender distinction in the third person singular that diachronically resulted from gendered personal pronouns is almost non-existent in the plural; the reason for this development is that those forms are derived from the old dative form, which lacked this distinction altogether. Furthermore, the active first and second person plural are only distinguished from their passive counterparts by the presence of additional suffixes in the former.

The first person plural prefix varies if there is a vowel following it: if it is any vowel that is not a variant of 'ó', the prefix is realised as *r-* instead, e.g. *ad'hór* 'love' to *rad'hóró* 'we love'. If the vowel is a variant of 'ó', the prefix is realised as *w-* instead, e.g. *ob'heír* 'obey' to *wob'heíró* 'we obey'.

The passive infinitive prefix *à-* coalesces with any vowel following it: it becomes *á* if it is followed by a non-nasal variant of 'a', e.g. *ad'hór* to *ád'hór* 'to be loved'; *â* if it is followed by a nasal variant of 'a', e.g. *ánvé* 'give life to' to *ânvé* 'to be animated'; and *h-* if it is followed by any other vowel, e.g. *ob'heír* to *hob'heír* 'to be obeyed'.

The parenthesised vowels are used if the prefix is followed by a consonant, e.g. *dír* 'say' to *lledír* 'they (f) say' and *b'hydíré* 'you (pl) say', but *ad'hór* to *llad'hór* 'they (f) love' and *b'had'hóré* 'you (pl) love'. The prefixes *ó-* and *à-* retain their main forms if followed by a consonant, e.g. *dír* 'say' to *ódíró* 'We say' and *àdír* 'to be said'. The exception to this is that second person plural *b'h(y)-* drops the *y* if followed by a glide, e.g. *y'ír* 'to hear' to *b'hy'íré* 'you (pl) hear' (not *\*b'hyy'íré*).

When multiple prefixes are used together, active prefixes precede passive prefixes, except that infinitive prefixes always come first, e.g. *ad'hór* 'love' to *jvad'hór* 'I love myself' (not *\*vjad'hór*) and *b'hyàd'hóré* 'you (pl) love him/her', but *devad'hór* 'to love me' and *àb'had'hóré* 'to be loved by you (pl)'. Recall that at most one infinitive prefix may be used.

By way of illustration, consider the paradigm of the verb *ad'hór* as shown in Table 2 below. Since this word starts with a vowel, the parenthesised vowels in Table 1 above are not used. Furthermore,

<sup>2</sup>Irrespective of whether they are personal or infinitive prefixes. For instance, it would also be illegal to combine e.g. the active infinitive prefix with the first person active singular prefix.

since it starts with a non-nasal ‘a’-like vowel, the *ó*- prefix is realised as *r*- and the *à*- prefix coalesces with the initial ‘a’ of the stem to form *á*.

Active	Sg	Pl	Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	<i>jad’hór</i>	<i>rad’hóró</i>	1st	<i>vad’hór</i>	<i>rad’hór</i>
2nd	<i>ḍad’hór</i>	<i>b’had’hóré</i>	2nd	<i>ḍad’hór</i>	<i>b’had’hór</i>
3rd m	<i>lad’hór</i>	<i>lad’hór</i>	3rd m	<i>y’ad’hór</i>	<i>lýad’hór</i>
3rd f	<i>llad’hór</i>	<i>llad’hór</i>	3rd f	<i>y’ad’hór</i>	<i>lýad’hór</i>
3rd n	<i>y’ad’hór</i>	<i>lad’hór</i>	3rd n	<i>y’ad’hór</i>	<i>lýad’hór</i>
Infinitive	<i>dad’hór</i>		Infinitive	<i>ád’hór</i>	

Table 2: Paradigm of the verb *ad’hór*.

For comparison, the paradigm of the verb *vvórihe* ‘remember’ is shown in Table 3 below. Since it starts with a consonant, the parenthesised vowels in Table 1 are used, and any prefixes that end with a vowel remain unchanged.

Active	Sg	Pl	Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	<i>jvvórihe</i>	<i>óvvórihy’ó</i>	1st	<i>vvvvórihe</i>	<i>óvvórihe</i>
2nd	<i>ḍevvórihe</i>	<i>b’hyvvórihê</i>	2nd	<i>ḍevvórihe</i>	<i>b’hyvvórihe</i>
3rd m	<i>lëvvórihe</i>	<i>lëvvórihe</i>	3rd m	<i>y’vvórihe</i>	<i>lývvórihe</i>
3rd f	<i>llavvórihe</i>	<i>llëvvórihe</i>	3rd f	<i>y’vvórihe</i>	<i>lývvórihe</i>
3rd n	<i>y’vvórihe</i>	<i>lavvórihe</i>	3rd n	<i>y’vvórihe</i>	<i>lývvórihe</i>
Infinitive	<i>ḍevvórihe</i>		Infinitive	<i>àvvórihe</i>	

Table 3: Paradigm of the verb *vvórihe*.

### 2.1.2 The Conjugation of *ed* ‘to be’

	Sg	Pl
1st	<i>vy’í</i>	<i>ósó</i>
2nd	<i>ḍe</i>	<i>b’heḍ</i>
3rd m	<i>le</i>	<i>leşó</i>
3rd f	<i>lle</i>	<i>lleşó</i>
3rd n	<i>y’e</i>	<i>lasó</i>
Infinitive	<i>éḍ</i>	

Table 4: Paradigm of the verb *ed*.

## 3 Examples

As an example, the sentence below is the UF translation of ‘Charles, you bought a fish on the mountain?’.

## 4 Dictionary

**açt'he** *v. tr.* [PF *acheter*] To buy.

**ad'hór** *v. tr.* [PF *adore*] To love, adore.

**ánvé** *v. tr.* [PF *animer*] To bring to life, animate.

**b'heḁ** → *eḁ*.

**Çár** *n.* [PF *Charles*] Charles (name).

**ḁe** → *eḁ*.

**dír** *v. tr.* [PF *dire*] To say, tell.

**éḁ** → *eḁ*.

**eḁ** *v. intr. irreg.* [PF *être*] FORMS: *active only* SG *vy'í*,  
*ḁe*, *le*, *lle*, *y'e*; PL *ósó*, *b'heḁ*, *leşó*, *lleşó*, *lasó*; INF *eḁ*.  
To be.

**lasó** → *eḁ*.

**le** → *eḁ*.

**leşó** → *eḁ*.

**lle** → *eḁ*.

**lleşó** → *eḁ*.

**ob'heír** *v. (in)tr.* [PF *obéir*] To obey.

**ósó** → *eḁ*.

**ráhó** *n.* [PF *poisson*] Fish.

**vôt'há** *n.* [PF *montagne*] Mountain.

**vvórihe** *v. (in)tr.* [PF *mémoriser*] To remember.

**vy'í** → *eḁ*.

**y'e** → *eḁ*.

**y'ír** *v. (in)tr.* [PF *ouïr*] To hear, understand, listen.