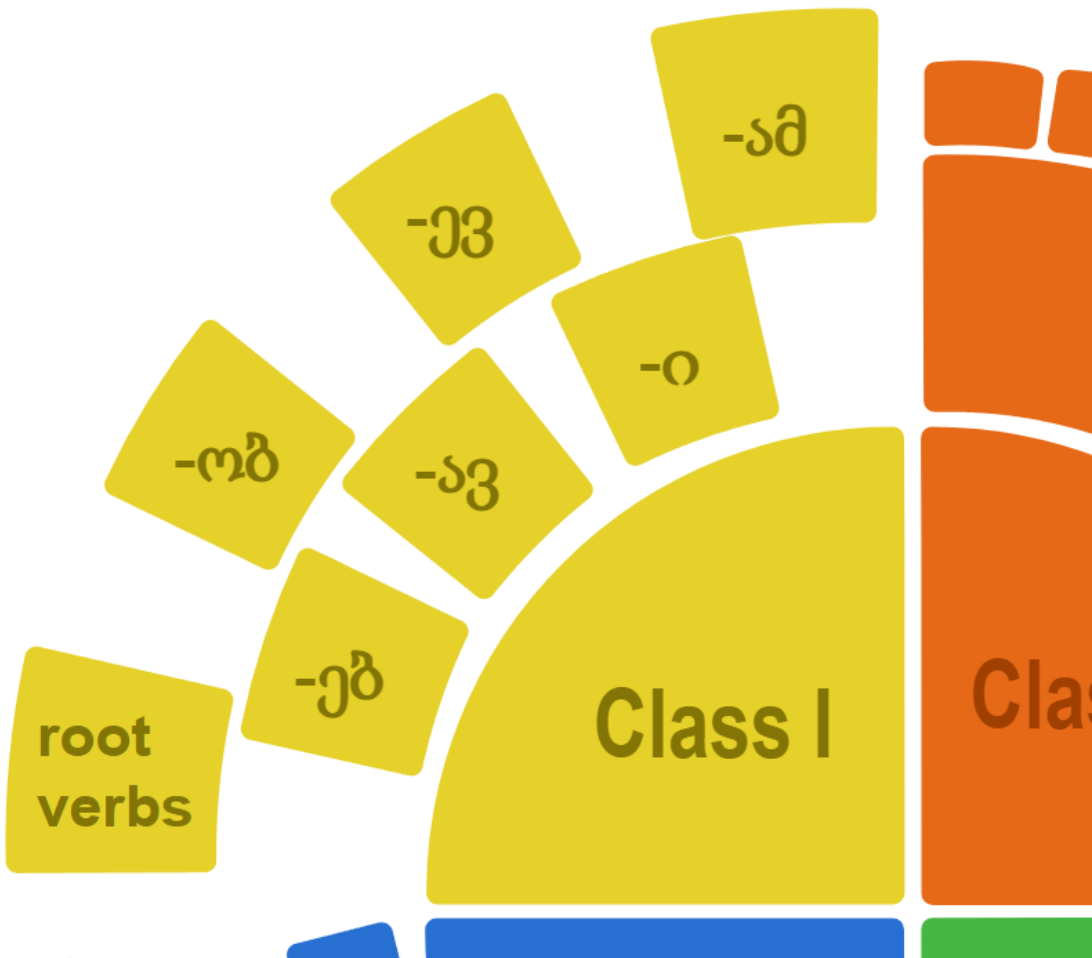




The Georgian Conjugation Compass



The content of this ebook is based on content of the website:

The Georgian Language Universe

ქართული ენის სამყარო

<https://www.kartuliena.eu/>

Copyright © 2023 by Stefan Otto

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except as permitted by the copyright law in Germany. For permission requests, contact the author (s.otto_bio@gmx.net).

Book Cover by Stefan Otto

1. Edition, 2023

Content

The Scope of this Book	5
The Georgian Verb classes	7
The Conjugation Schemata.....	9
Class-I Conjugations	12
Root Verbs	12
1. Standard Root Verbs with - <i>ე/-ა</i> Aorist (I-root-1)	12
2. Medial Root Verbs with - <i>ე/-ა</i> Aorist (I-root-2)	16
3. Reduced Root Verbs (I-root-3)	19
- <i>ე</i> Verbs	20
1. - <i>ე</i> Verbs with - <i>ე/-ა</i> Aorist (I- <i>ე</i> -4)	20
2. - <i>ე</i> Verbs with - <i>ე/-ო</i> Aorist (I- <i>ე</i> -5)	23
3. Medial - <i>ე</i> Verbs with - <i>ე/-ა</i> Aorist (I- <i>ე</i> -6)	26
- <i>ო</i> Verbs	29
1. - <i>ო</i> Verbs with - <i>ე/-ო</i> Aorist (I- <i>ო</i> -7).....	29
2. - <i>ო</i> Verbs with - <i>ო/-ო</i> Aorist (with alternation) (I- <i>ო</i> -8).....	32
3. Medial - <i>ო</i> Verbs with (mostly) - <i>ე/-ა</i> Aorist (I- <i>ო</i> -9).....	36
- <i>ავ</i> Verbs.....	39
1. - <i>ავ</i> Verbs with - <i>ე/-ა</i> Aorist (I- <i>ავ</i> -10).....	39
2. - <i>ავ</i> Verbs with - <i>ო/-ა</i> Aorist (and alternation) (I- <i>ავ</i> -11).....	43
3. Medial - <i>ავ</i> Verbs (I- <i>ავ</i> -12).....	46
- <i>ევ</i> Verbs (I- <i>ევ</i> -13).....	49
- <i>ო</i> Verbs	53
1. - <i>ო</i> Verbs with - <i>ე/-ა</i> Aorist (I- <i>ო</i> -14).....	53
2. - <i>ო</i> Verbs with - <i>ო/-ა</i> Aorist (I- <i>ო</i> -15).....	56
3. Medial - <i>ო</i> Verbs (I- <i>ო</i> -16).....	59
- <i>ამ</i> Verbs (I- <i>ამ</i> -17)	63
Class-II Conjugations	66
- <i>ება</i> Verbs.....	66
1. - <i>ება</i> with - <i>ე/-ა/-ეს</i> Aorist and - <i>ო/-ოს/-ონ</i> Optative (II- <i>ება</i> -18)	66
2. - <i>ება</i> with - <i>ე/-ო/-ენ</i> Aorist and - <i>ო/-ოს/-ონ</i> Optative (II- <i>ება</i> -19)	70
3. - <i>ება</i> with - <i>ო/-ა/-ენ</i> Aorist and - <i>ე/-ეს/-ენ</i> Optative (II- <i>ება</i> -20)	73
4. -(<i>დ</i>) <i>ება</i> with - <i>ო/-ა/-ენ</i> Aorist and - <i>ე/-ეს/-ენ</i> Optative (II- <i>დება</i> -21) .	76
- <i>ევა</i> Verbs (II- <i>ევა</i> -22).....	79
Static Verbs on - <i>ია</i> (II- <i>ია</i> -23).....	82

Class-III Conjugations	85
-ა Verbs (III-ა-24)	85
-ია Verbs (III-ია-25).....	87
-ს Verbs (III-ს-26)	90
-ება Verbs (III-ება-27)	95
-ევა Verbs (III-ევა-28)	98
Irregular Conjugations	99
Irregular Verbs with -ი/-ა Aorist	100
1. იცის (ცოდნა)	100
2. ამბობს (თქმა).....	103
3. ეუბნება (თქმა).....	106
4. მიდის (სვლა).....	110
5. დადის (სვლა)	113
6. დგას (დგომა).....	117
7. ზის (სხდება, ჯდება)	119
8. სვამს (სმა).....	123
9. მოუდის	126
10. იქმს (შვრება).....	129
Irregular Verbs with -ი/-ო Aorist	133
11. არის (ყოფნა)	133
Resources	136

The Scope of this Book

Whenever you work through Georgian grammars you will find thorough introductions to the three classes of the Georgian verbs, where Class I is often labeled “Transitive Verbs”, Class II is labeled “Passive Verbs” or “Intransitive Verbs” and Class III is labeled “Inverse Verbs” or “Indirect Verbs”. Interestingly, the different specific conjugation schemata are only introduced exemplarily and only rarely is a full conjugation schema provided. I can only recall a couple of instances where this full conjugation was accompanied by full example sentences for each mode and tense. It has always confused me that there seemed to be no system of Georgian conjugations. The very few existing books on “Georgian Verb Tables” do not explain why one conjugation would be different from the other and some of the tables seem to be identical to others, again with no explanation, why.

It was with this in mind that I set up the website/blog “The Georgian Language Universe” on kartuliena.eu in 2020 and dove into the existing materials of Georgian verb conjugations, trying to find, if existing, a meaningful conjugation system for the Georgian verbs. I knew such conjugation tables or schemata exist for other languages and I hypothesized they existed as well in Georgian. Especially for the adult language learner it can be beneficial for their learning experience to have templates which can be applied to other verbs, so every new verb does not have to be learned by a completely new set of rules. It also facilitates deriving certain tenses or moods, say the *Imperative* or the *Present Subjunctive*, from the conjugation of a known verb belonging to a certain conjugation.

I was pleasantly surprised that the more examples of conjugation schemata I had collected and had started to sort them by pattern, the emerging system very quickly proved quite robust: The more verbs I fed into the system, the more they fit one of the existing schemata. After a year or so I noticed that I did not have to open a new category or schema anymore. There seem to be 28 main conjugations, plus about 47 more or less abundant variations or exceptions, plus a small number of irregular verbs. This is comparable to French or German

with each having 30-40 main conjugation schemata plus a number of exceptions and more or less strong variations of the main conjugations.

Each of these 28 main conjugations is presented in this book with a characterization of its conjugation schema, a list of common verbs belonging to it and one example verb with its full conjugation, including short sentences, showing how this verb is used with subject and object. The translations in English and German should help you as well, especially since most conjugation tables in Georgian textbooks do not provide them, I guess in order to save space on paper. You can follow the links to the Georgian Language Universe site where more verbs are presented in a similar fashion or at least in a short description, example sentences, links to synonyms and thematic thesaurus etc.

In addition to the 28 main conjugations (and 47 variations to them), so far, I have found 11 additional verbs with irregular conjugations. They are presented as separate conjugation schemata and should be learned individually. Just as in other languages, irregular conjugations are quite typical for some very important and frequent verbs, in Georgian for example ყოფნა/არის (*to be*), იცის/ცოდნა (*to know*) and მიდის/სვლა (*to go*).

I recommend using the Georgian Conjugation Compass as a companion while working through any Georgian language textbook. The system presented here is helping me a lot in my own learning efforts, providing a roadmap for navigating the wealth and diversity of the Georgian verbs, so my hope and prediction is that I will help you as well. The content provided here is almost the same as on the website but having a PDF or printout of the conjugation system does provide some benefits while studying, so I wanted to give you the opportunity to choose the one that suits you.

I wish you many helpful insights and light-bulb moments when using the Compass! If you like it, spread the word to other learners, and if you see potential for improvement or correction of errors, I would love to read your comments in the feedback channel at kartuliena.eu/feedback!

წარმატებას გისურვებთ!

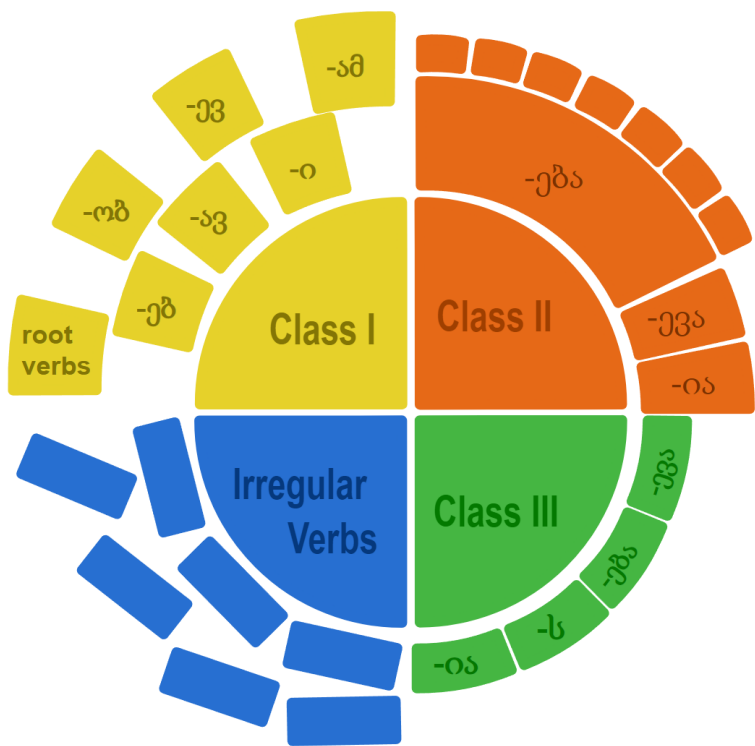
The Georgian Verb classes

In textbooks and grammars of the Georgian language, the verbs are divided into at least three large groups, based on their own inflexion as well as the inflexion of the subjects and objects used with these verbs.

Conjugation **Class I** includes all verbs for which is true: (1) in the Present Indicative the subject is in Nominative and the object is in Dative/Accusative: *ის წერს წერილს*; and (2) in the Aorist Indicative the subject is in Ergative, and the object is in Nominative: *მან დაწერა წერილი*. They can often be recognized by their suffixes -ს, -ობ, -ებ, -ავ, -ევ, -ი, -ამ. In some grammars the verbs in this Class are called 'transitive verbs' (Tschenkeli 1958) even though not all of them are transitive – most of the medial verbs for example.

In the Georgian verb system, the **medial verbs** are characterized by a conjugation type with mixed characteristics between conjugation Class I and Class II – hence the name medial verbs (in German: *Mittelverb*, *Mischtyp*). Most medial verbs are intransitive and often describe actions of motion and nature sounds, e.g. *ცხოვრობს*, *ცურავს*, *დუღს*. Since their subject stands in Nominative in the Present Indicative and in Ergative in the Aorist Indicative, they belong to Conjugation Class I, even though they form the Future Indicative quite differently from the other Class-I verbs – almost like most of the Class-II verbs – by adding *ი--ებ* to the verb root: *წყალი დუღს* - the water is boiling. *წყალი იდუღებს* - the water is going to boil.

Conjugation **Class II** includes all verbs which in Present Indicative as well as in Aorist Indicative have their subject in Nominative: *ის იჭრება* - he is cutting himself (Present) and *ის დაიჭრა* - he cut himself (simple past). These verbs often end on -ება, -ევა or -ია. Some Georgian grammars call these verbs 'passive verbs' or 'intransitive verbs' but there are many verbs in Class II which are neither passive nor intransitive, see Tschenkeli (1958: 254-256).



outdoors navigation, this *Conjugation Compass* is very helpful in navigating the depths and shallows of the Georgian verb system.

The Conjugation Schemata

With the help of the Georgian textbooks and some practice, you will soon have no problems recognizing to which verb Class a verb belongs. This is already a great help because now you know how to use this verb with the subject and the object. But it does not help you much in exactly *how* to conjugate this verb.

In order to conjugate a verb properly in the different moods and tenses, you must be aware that there are several different kinds of conjugations within each verb Class, and it is not obvious in most instances, how exactly it is conjugated. If you just have a look at the table of contents, you see that even if you have recognized a verb as belonging to Class I, there are 7 groups of conjugations depending on how the verb ends (e.g. with suffix -*ებ*) and not in all moods or tenses this suffix is still present. And even if you recognize that the verb is one of the -*ებ* verbs in Class I, there are still 3 different conjugation schemata that could apply to this verb.

A conjugation schema is a specific pattern of prefixes, suffixes and other modifiers in order to align this verb properly with the mood, tense, subjects and objects used. For example, in the verb *წერს* (*to write*), the Future Indicative is formed by adding a preverb syllable (*pv*), often *და*, and in third person singular it ends on -*ს*, therefore *დაწერს* is the Future Indicative of this verb. The typical pattern is marked as *pv-ს*.

An example of a conjugation schema: The Class-I root verbs like *წერს* have this pattern of inflexion in these six important tenses:

Future pv-ს	Aorist -ე/-ა	Perfect -ია
Imperfect -ი/-ა	Optative -ო/-ოს	Pluperfect -ა
Example:	<u>წერს</u>	

Recognizing and grouping verbs by such patterns has the advantage of being able to chunk information when learning conjugations. Say, you have stumbled upon a new word, ჭამს (*to eat*) and you are learning its conjugation. Instead of memorizing it by heart, it is much easier – once you have recognized that it has the same conjugation as წერს – since now you can apply the known conjugation of წერს to the new verb ჭამს: მე უნდა დავწერო წერილი - *I should write the letter* and მე უნდა შევჭამო ვაშლი - *I should eat the apple*.

Throughout this book, each verb conjugation is first introduced by its typical schema in the gray box, then a list of common verbs with this conjugation is given, followed by a full conjugation of one example verb. The last section in each conjugation is a list of **variations and exceptions**, where some verbs are conjugated in a similar way but not quite exactly as in the main schema.

Common variations of the standard schemata include **alternations**, when certain letters or syllables are switched. For example, in the verb წარმოადგენს (*to imagine*), the Aorist is not მე წარმოვადგენე as demanded by the conjugation schema for the root verbs in Class I, which is be -ე/-ა, but instead the -ენე is switched – alternated – with -ინე, making the correct form: მე წარმოვადგინე - *I imagined*. In a similar fashion, variations are sometimes based on the **omission** of certain letters or syllables, or an **insertion** (*infix*) in others. A variation based on a -ვ- infix is, for example, found in the verb შეატყობს (*to notice*): მე ვატყობ – *I notice* but მე შევატყვე – *I noticed*.

Such small differences in conjugation in certain verbs certainly make the life of a language learner more complicated, as we all know, but variations and exceptions do exist in all languages. They are just that and do not warrant the creation of a completely new conjugation

schema, just because two letters are exchanged in one mood or tense. In my opinion, we learners of the Georgian language can be quite happy that overall exceptions seem to be less common in Georgian than in other languages. At least, that is my impression and experience.

The full conjugations in this book do not include the table for the Perfect Subjunctive. I decided to omit these because it is only rarely used in contemporary Georgian and would therefore only use up valuable space in this book. Anyone interested in the Perfect Subjunctive can access it on the respective pages on kartuliena.eu.

Class-I Conjugations

The vast majority of Georgian verbs belongs to Class I with its 17 main conjugations.

Root Verbs

The so-called *root verbs* in Class I consist mostly of one syllable and end with a consonant. The other verbs typically end on -ო, -ავ, -ამ, -ებ and -ობ. An exception is ჭამს, which is grouped with the root verbs with ამ being considered a part of the verb root. Likewise, some verbs on -ავ come in a short version as well which looks similar to a root verb: ტეხავს/ტეხს, ხვეჭავს/ხვეჭს and are not considered root verbs. More on root verbs in Tschenkeli (1958) p. 68.

When conjugating root verbs one must distinguish three conjugations: (1) the standard root verbs ending on -ს with the Future Indicative formed by adding the preverb, e.g. წერს, დაწერს; (2) the medial root verbs, which also end on -ს but where the Future Indicative is formed by adding the preverb ი- and the suffix -ებ, e.g. წყხს, იწყებებს, and (3) the few reduced root verbs, which end on -ა and have only the Present and Imperfect Indicative, e.g. ცივა (ციოდა).

1. Standard Root Verbs with -ე/-ა Aorist (I-root-1)

Future pv-ს	Aorist -ე/-ა	Perfect -ია
Imperfect -ო/-ა	Optative -ო/-ოს	Pluperfect -ა
Example:	წერს	

Examples: ბანს, გეხს, სთხოვს, იტანს, ჰგებანს, წერს, ჭამს.

Full Example: წერს

დაწერს - to write something // etwas schreiben

წერს is a transitive root verb of conjugation Class I. With the preverb და- it has the general meaning of writing something.

Present Indicative – აწმყო თხრობითი

მე ვწერ რაღაცას	I am writing something	ich schreibe etwas
შენ წერ რაღაცას	you are writing something	du schreibst etwas
ის წერს რაღაცას	he is writing something	er schreibt etwas
ჩვენ ვწერთ რაღაცას	we are writing something	wir schreiben etwas
თქვენ წერთ რაღაცას	you are writing something	ihr schreibt etwas
ისინი წერენ რაღაცას	they are writing something	sie schreiben etwas

The Future Indicative (მყობადი თხრობითი) is derived using the preverb და-. მე დავწერ რაღაცას - I am going to write something // Ich werde etwas schreiben.

Imperfect Indicative – უწყვეტილი თხრობითი

მე ვწერდი რაღაცას	I was writing something	ich schrieb etwas
შენ წერდი რაღაცას	you were writing something	du schriebst etwas
ის წერდა რაღაცას	he was writing something	er schrieb etwas
ჩვენ ვწერდით რაღაცას	we were writing something	wir schrieben etwas
თქვენ წერდით რაღაცას	you were writing something	ihr schrieht etwas
ისინი წერდნენ რაღაცას	they were writing something	sie schrieben etwas

The conditional mood (ბოლმეობითი კილო) is derived from the Imperfect using the preverb და-. მე დავწერდი რაღაცას - then I would write something // dann würde ich etwas schreiben.

Aorist Indicative – წყვეტილი თხრობითი

მე დავწერე რაღაცა	I wrote something	ich habe etwas geschrieben
შენ დანერე რაღაცა	you wrote something	du hast etwas geschrieben
მან დანერა რაღაცა	he wrote something	er hat etwas geschrieben
ჩვენ დავწერეთ რაღაცა	we wrote something	wir haben etwas geschrieben
თქვენ დანერეთ რაღაცა	you wrote something	ihr habt etwas geschrieben
მათ დანერეს რაღაცა	they wrote something	sie haben etwas geschrieben

Perfect Indicative – I თურმეობითი თხრობითი

მე დამიწერია რაღაცა	I have written something	ich habe etwas geschrieben
შენ დაგიწერია რაღაცა	you have written something	du hast etwas geschrieben
მას დაუწერია რაღაცა	he has written something	er hat etwas geschrieben
ჩვენ დაგვიწერია რაღაცა	we have written something	wir haben etwas geschrieben
თქვენ დაგიწერიათ რაღაცა	you have written something	ihr habt etwas geschrieben
მათ დაუწერიათ რაღაცა	they have written something	sie haben etwas geschrieben

Pluperfect Indicative – II თურმეობითი თხრობითი

მე დამეწერა რაღაცა	I had written something	ich hatte etwas geschrieben
შენ დაგეწერა რაღაცა	you had written something	du hattest etwas geschrieben
მას დაეწერა რაღაცა	he had written something	er hatte etwas geschrieben
ჩვენ დაგვეწერა რაღაცა	we had written something	wir hatten etwas geschrieben
თქვენ დაგეწერათ რაღაცა	you had written something	ihr hattet etwas geschrieben
მათ დაეწერათ რაღაცა	they had written something	sie hatten etwas geschrieben

Optative – II კავშირებითი

მე (მინდა) დავწერო რაღაცა	I want to write something	ich möchte etwas schreiben
შენ დანერო რაღაცა	you want to write something	du möchtest etwas schreiben
მან დანეროს რაღაცა	he wants to write something	er möchte etwas schreiben
ჩვენ დავწეროთ რაღაცა	we want to write something	wir möchten etwas schreiben

თქვენ დაწეროთ რაღაცა	you want to write something	ihr möchtet etwas schreiben
მათ დაწერონ რაღაცა	they want to write something	sie möchten etwas schreiben

Present Subjunctive – I კავშირებითი აწმყო

მე ვწერლე რაღაცას	if I would be writing something	würde ich (schon) etwas schreiben
შენ წერლე რაღაცას	if you would be writing something	würdest du etwas schreiben
ის წერდეს რაღაცას	if he would be writing something	würde er etwas schreiben
ჩვენ ვწერდეთ რაღაცას	if we would be writing something	würden wir etwas schreiben
თქვენ წერდეთ რაღაცას	if you would be writing something	würdet ihr etwas schreiben
მათ წერდნენ რაღაცას	if they would be writing something	würden sie etwas schreiben

In conditional clauses relating to the Future, the Future Subjunctive (I კავშირებითი მყობადი) is derived by adding the preverb და-: მე რომ დაწერლე რაღაცას - if I would start writing something // würde ich dann etwas schreiben.

Chotiware-Jünger et al. (2010): Table 1.18, p. 106.

Variations:

Some standard root verbs are conjugated slightly differently, with alternation in the Aorist Indicative:

- -ინე/-ინა Aorist: ადგენს, წარმოიდგენს, აღმოაჩენს, აწვენს, ახდენს, შეიძენს, კბენს, ისმენს, აღმოაჩენს,
- -ინდე/-ინდა Aorist: წმენდს,
- -იჰე/-იჰა Aorist: კრეჰს,
- -იხე/-იხა Aorist: გრეხს,
- -იკე/-იკა Aorist: ჩხრეკს
- -იტე/-იტა: Aorist: ჩქმეტს, ჩხვლეტს, დახვრეტს.

Chotiware-Jünger et al. et al. (2010): თაბლე 1.2a (ჩქმეტს).