The Beygingarlýsing íslensks nútímanáls: http://bin.arnastofnun.is/

You can put any modern Icelandic noun/pronoun/adjective or verb into the Beygingarlýsing and it will tell you all the words of which it could be an inflected form, and enable you to work out its number/gender/case (for nouns, pronouns and adjectives) or number/person/tense (for verbs).

The beygingarlýsing is useful:

• if you want to know what the basic form of a word is so you can easily look it up in the dictionary
• if you think you know what kind of word you're looking at but aren't sure what its ending could be
• if you're stuck with a word and want to get other ideas for what else it could be

Admittedly some of the words it gives you are really obscure; you'll have to build up a sense of which suggestions are the most likely, and therefore the best to start with, first.

1. the start page

beýging (fem.) = inflection
lýsing (fem.) = elucidation
beýgingar-lýsing = elucidation of inflection

íslensk = Icelandic
nú = now
tími (masc.) = time
nú-tími = present, modern
mál (neut.) = language
íslensks nú-tíma-mál = of modern Icelandic language
leita = search (put in a word in the nominative or, for verbs, in the infinitive)

mynd (fem.) = form (also picture, etc.)

beygingar-mynd = inflected form

leit að beygingarmynd = search for an inflected form (tick this and put in a word in any form that you encounter)

2. let’s search for sát and find out all the things it could be
3. wow, it could be a form of any of four words!

ord (neut.) = word

sögð (fem.) = narrative
sagn-ord = verb

veik beyging = weak inflection (a normal verb, which adds -aði or similar to indicate past tense)
sterk beyging = strong inflection (an evil verb, which changes a vowel to show past tense)

nafn (neut.) = name
nafn-ord = noun

for-nafn = pronoun

lýsingar-ord = adjective

kyn (neut.) = kind, gender
karl (masc.) = man
karl-kyn = masculine
karl-kyns-nafn-ord = masculine noun

hvorug = neither
hvorug-kyn = neuter
hvorug-kyns-nafn-ord = neuter noun

kona (fem.) = woman
kven-kyn = feminine
kven-kyns-nafn-orð = feminine noun

4. hmm, maybe it’s a masculine noun (karlkynsnafnord)?

einn = one
tala = number
ein-tala = singular

fleiri = more
fleir-tala = plural

greinir (masc.) = definite article
án greinis = without article
með greini = with article

NB Alaric’s Modern Icelandic magic sheet goes nominative, accusative, genitive, dative; the Beygingarlýsing goes nominative, accusative, dative, genitive. Sorry.

fall (neut.) = case

Nf. = nefni-fall = nominative
Pt. = þol-fall = accusative
Pgf. = þágu-fall = dative
Ef. = eignar-fall = genitive

So the form sá could be an accusative or dative singular of the masculine noun sár, ‘wound’.

5. but what if it was actually a strong verb (sagnorð, sterk beyging)?
There’s lots of stuff going on here, but the first box is the most important.

### 6. some practice

What could *þeir urðu góðir menn* mean? Look up the words it could be from in Sverrir Hólmarsson, Christopher Sanders and John Tucker, *Íslensk-ensk orðabók / Concise Icelandic-English Dictionary* (Reykjavík: Íðunn, 1989), available at [http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/IcelOnline/Search.TEId.html](http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/IcelOnline/Search.TEId.html). Which word must be right?

What could *ár eru votar* mean? NB the number of the verb and the number and gender of the adjective are clues.

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**háttur** (masc.) = kind, type, way

**nafn-háttur** = infinitive (i.e. the normal, *ég er að hitta* form)

**tíð** (fem.) = time

**ní-tíð** = present

**þá** = then

**þá-tíð** = past