

Initial sketch for O Yis, an Istran language

Phonology

Vowels

Vowels come in two forms, short and long (held almost double the length of short vowels).

Working from front to back:

- Open front unrounded / æ æ: / < a á >
- Close front unrounded / i i: / < i í >
- Open-mid central / e e: / < y ý >
- Close-mid central unrounded / ə ə: / < e é >
- Open-mid back rounded / ɔ ɔ: / < o ó >
- Close back rounded / u u: / < u ú >

When two short vowels of the same value come together, they will form a long vowel. Two vowels of different value are generally pronounced as separate entities within the same syllable (ie no glottal stop between them).

Consonants

- Stops: / p b t k g q / < p b t k g q >
- Fricatives: / f ð s ʒ x h / < f d c z x h >
- Affricates: / ts tʃ ʤ / < s tz dz >
- Liquids, nasals, rhotics: / l m n ŋ r / < l m n ŋ r >
- Semi-vowels: / w j / < v j >

Consonant clusters

For onsets, stops and fricatives can combine with liquids

- pl bl tl kl gl ql fl cl zl xl hl

Some stops and fricatives can combine with nasals

- km gm cm zm kn gn dn cn zn xn

All consonants can combine with semi-vowels

- pv bv tv kv gv qv fv dv cv zv xv hv sv tzv dzv lv mv nv ŋv rv
- pj bj tj kj gj qj fj dj cj zj xj hj sj tzj dzj lj mj nj ŋj rj

Many of these combinations can be reversed in codas (except with h)

- vk vg vq vf vd vc vz vx vs vtz vdz
- jp jb jt jk jg jq jf jd jc jz jx js jtz jdz jl jm jn jŋ jr

Also for codas, nasals and rhotics can combine with stops, fricatives and affricates

- mp mb nt nk ŋg ŋq
- rp rb rt rk rg rq rf rd rc rz rx rs rtz rdz

And some fricatives combine with stops

- cp ct ck cq zb zg

Syllable structure is (C)(C)(V)V(C)(C)

The following consonants can also stand as syllabic consonants. A syllabic consonant is indicated in the orthography with a following apostrophe:

- t' k' g' f' d' c' z' s' dz' l' m' n' j'

Nominal grammar

Noun classes

All nouns have articles and, except with personal names (under certain circumstances), the article must always be present in the noun phrase. Articles change according to the noun's topicality, demonstration state, and whether the noun is modifying another noun – supplying eight articles for each noun 'case'.

O Yis is part of the Istran language family. These languages are typically isolating rather than agglutinative, relying on clause syntax to supply grammatical information such as grammatical noun case (nominative, accusative, etc). Istran languages also make heavy use of noun classifier words: most of the languages have between 200 and 300 classifiers, with each noun having its default classification.

At some point in its development, O Yis speakers started conflating classifier nouns with demonstrative pronouns and (possibly at a later stage) copula words. The result has been the collapse in the number of classifier groups – to a point where it is debatable whether O Yis is a classifier language with a very limited number of classifier groups, or a noun case language with a very large number of nominal cases.

Prescriptive grammars state that O Yis divides its nouns into 19 separate cases, though this varies by dialect – some linguists argue that some dialects have collapsed much further, with speakers only distinguishing between 6 regular cases (together with a number of irregular nouns).

Case articles were once nouns in their own right, and the origins of each article can still be seen in the modifier sequence of articles. In dictionaries nouns are always shown with their base article (of which there are nine: *an, ni, o, y, in, e, by, ze, o*) and modifier article (unique to each class) to help assign the noun to its correct class.

The names given to the nominal cases are somewhat arbitrary: as the collapse of the classifier system has proceeded classifier groups have been conflated together as much on the phonemic similarities between their eroding classifier words as on the semantic relationships between groups.

Examples:

harf (dog): a communal noun

in harf - basic (the dog)

in harf - topical (a dog)

riŋ harf - near (this dog)

roŋ harf - distant (that dog)

am harf - genitive (dog's)

aŋ - pronominal (it)

arid harf - complement (is a dog)

aric harf - modifier (has dog-ness)

cmal (girl): a human noun

- e cmal - basic (the girl)
- é cmal - topical (a girl)
- ej cmal - near (this girl)
- eb cmal - distant (that girl)
- em cmal - genitive (girl's)
- e - pronominal (she)
- e cmal - complement (is a girl)
- ec cmal - modifier (has girl-ness)

dzabber (shop): a locational noun

- y dzabber - basic (the shop)
- ý dzabber - topical (a shop)
- yl dzabber - near (this shop)
- yb dzabber - distant (that shop)
- um dzabber - genitive (shop's)
- u - pronominal (it)
- y dzabber - complement (is a shop)
- yc dzabber - modifier (has shop-ness)

tvel (redness): a conceptual noun

- o tvel - basic (the red one)
- ó tvel - topical (a red one)
- di tvel - near (this red one)
- do tvel - distant (that red one)
- om tvel - genitive (the red one's)
- o - pronominal (it)
- do tvel - complement (is red)
- doc tvel - modifier (red X)

A table of noun articles by nominal case

Classifier	basic	topical	near	distant	genitive	pronominal	complement	modifier
	(the)	(a)	(this)	(that)	(x's)	(it)	(y is x)	y has/for x
physical	an	án	aj	ab	am	a	a	ac
inanimate	ni	ní	nir	nior	nim	ni	nir	nirc
constructed	ni	ní	nib	niab	nim	ni	niab	niac
structural	o	ó	jol	tol	tom	to	tol	toc
locational	y	ý	yl	yb	um	u	y	yc
animate	y	ý	yr	ort	um	u	urt	urc
animal	in	ín	inj	oj	am	aŋ	ij	ic
communal	in	ín	riŋ	roj	am	aŋ	arid	aric
consumable	e	é	ej	el	aem	pel	pel	pec
plant	by	bý	byj	byv	bym	by	by	byc
vegetable	by	bý	byj	byl	bym	byl	byl	byc
human	e	é	ej	eb	em	e	e	ec
relative	ze	zé	zej	zev	em	e	ze	ec
authoritative	ze	zé	zej	zev	em	e	zej	ec
group	an	án	tin	ton	tam	ta	tain	taic
conceptual	o	ó	di	do	om	o	do	doc
sacred	o	ó	xí	xo	om	o	xo	xoc
dangerous	e	é	dzi	dzo	em	e	dzeg	dzec
calculated	an	en	riŋ	roj	em	en	rent	rec

Noun number

O Yis nouns are indeclinable: by itself *in harf* can mean 'a dog' or 'some dogs'. A noun's number is shown by placing a quantifier word (which can be a formal number or an informal count word) between the article and the noun:

<i>in harf</i>	the dog
<i>in ýtz harf</i>	no dogs
<i>in bo harf</i>	one dog
<i>in to harf</i>	two dogs, a pair of dogs, a couple of dogs
<i>in jan harf</i>	a few dogs
<i>in mein harf</i>	some dogs
<i>in rede harf</i>	many dogs
<i>in lór harf</i>	enough dogs
<i>in lolór harf</i>	too many dogs
<i>in didzer harf</i>	all of the dogs

Partitive number is shown by joining two quantifiers with the partitive conjunction *jer* (from) and placing the compound quantifier phrase between the article and noun. When the second quantifier in the compound is *didzer* (all of), it can be dropped:

<i>in to jer didzer harf uram a mú</i>	out of all my dogs, two of them are black
<i>in to jer harf uram a mú</i>	two of my dogs are black

Proper nouns

Labelling words play an important part in the language. A person's name must always be introduced with an honorific word which is placed immediately before the proper noun: for the most part these are words that have degraded over time to the extent that they have no meaning beyond the honorific:

- **daba** (child title)
- **far** (friend title)
- **tzim** (sibling/cousin title)
- **de** (younger man title)
- **di** (younger woman title)
- **dzeo** (older man title)
- **dzir** (older woman title)
- **jóct** (leader, respected person title)

The choice between *de/dzeo* and *di/dzir* is set by the relative age of the listener compared to the age of the speaker; in cases where the speaker is unsure of the listener's age, most speakers will use *dzeo/dzir* or, just to be on the safe side, *jóct*.

Proper nouns are class-mobile: people's names usually take the authoritative or relative articles, while names for pets will use the communal class; names for businesses and associations are generally placed in the group class; place names take the locational articles.

Proper nouns can drop their articles in some situations, for example when the noun is the subject of a clause; any modifying particles acting on the proper noun will cliticise to the honorific when the article has been dropped.

Common (non-proper) nouns can also act as honorific words – these are often words associated with professions; when used as an honorific the noun loses its article. Unlike with a pure honorific, a proper noun using a common-noun honorific will not drop its article in the nominative case:

- **xejact** (teacher)
- **zjibbec** (healer)

The convention is to capitalise proper nouns when using the Latin orthography, but there is no rule requiring capitalisation. The native script does not possess an uppercase/lowercase distinction, rendering the convention moot for most O Yis speakers and writers.

Note that O Yis verbs make no distinction between second and third person, and there are no separate second person pronouns. Proper names, or the honorific that the speaker has associated with a name, are deployed in place of second person pronouns.

Postpositions

The Istran languages use an absolute frame of reference for locative and spatial prepositions, assisted by an intrinsic frame of reference where necessary. The absolute reference system uses cardinal directions for orientation; the direction names are degraded forms of real words: ice (north); morning, (east); warm water (south); and evening (west). Indeed all postpositions can trace their origins back to complete words.

It is imperative to remember that where English has one locative or spatial preposition (to, towards, from, away from, near, etc) O Yis will have up to four equivalent postpositions. You cannot indicate where something is, or where something is going, without providing details of where in the absolute frame of reference that thing is in relation to a second object (or the speaker): icewards, morningwards, warmthwards or eveningwards.

The intrinsic reference system assumes that most immobile objects have a front to the south (sun) and a back to the north (shadow) – most Istran islands are north of the equator. For those objects that have an obvious main entrance, that side is considered to be the front (nose/snout) of the object while the opposite side is referenced as the back (tail).

For location and movement in the vertical plane, above (sky) and below (sea) are determined by reference to the vertical level of a third object or, when no such overt reference is given, the level is assumed to be at around the head height of the speaker. The sky also represents the future while the sea represents the past: time is equivalent to light, sinking from the bright sky to the dark ocean depths. Movement and location through the temporal plane is assumed to be relative to the now, unless a different point in the time-stream is indicated by the speaker.

The body space uses a relative frame of reference, though here the reference is always the speaker. The eyes see what is in front while the arse represents what is behind, the face

indicates that which is opposite (because you can't see your own face). Istrans don't understand the concept of 'left' and 'right': such directionality is handled by the absolute frame of reference prepositions.

Body parts are also used as the origin for a wealth of other postpositions. The heart indicates what is inside while the wind signifies what is outside; the breath lies on the cusp of things – that which touches. The belly takes (acquisitive) while the hands help (benefactive) and also use (instrumental); thumbs point to those who act (passive marker); fingers count (measurement) and accompany themselves.

Nouns modifying other nouns

O Yis is a head initial language; modifiers always follow their head noun. Thus adjective-like nouns always follow the noun they are modifying, and will use the modifying form of their article to link to the head noun:

ni réng doc tvel	the red ball
ni sul ac kanó	the large boat
e cmas yc kvixac	the tall woman

This also holds true for less adjective-like nouns:

o riant aric harf	the kennel (dog house)
y dzabber nirc rebyl	the greengrocers (vegetable shop)

Linking nouns together into a list is achieved by means of postpositions. For simple additive lists ('and' lists) the postposition can be dropped, though it is retained for emphasis when required. For additive lists of more than two nouns the postposition goes at the end of the list:

in harf in máv	the dog and the cat
in harf in máv idzim	the dog and the cat as well
in harf in máv iqer	the dog or the cat
in harf in máv e arig idzim	the dog, the cat and the chicken

Proper nouns almost always drop their articles when they are not the first item in the list:

ze dzir Dzán dzir Már	Jane and Mary
ze dzir Dzán dzir Már idzim	Jane, with Mary
ze dzir Dzán dzir Már iqer	Jane or Mary
ze dzir Dzán dzir Már dzeo Petyr idzim	Jane, Mary and Peter

For genitive modifiers, the possessing noun follows the possessed noun, and links to the modified noun using the genitive form of its article:

ni réng am harf	the dog's ball
ni sul em cmas	the woman's boat

Proper nouns acting as genitives cannot drop their articles:

in máv em dzeo Petyr	Peter's cat
e to voal em dzir Már	Mary's eyes

When two or more modifiers are acting on the same noun, the more specific/intrinsic modifiers are placed closer to the noun; by definition genitive nouns are less intrinsic and are thus placed further away from the noun. The modifier hierarchy is:

- noun
- intimate detail (size, weight, value)
- shape
- colour
- general size (big, tall, etc)
- possessor

Some examples:

<code>ni réng doc tvel ac nuc</code>	the little red ball
<code>ni sul doc tzirt doc tvel em cmas</code>	the woman's fast red boat
<code>e to voal doc zoar em dzir Már</code>	Mary's blue eyes

Postpositional noun phrases can directly modify a noun; the postpositional phrase is linked to the noun using the relative particle **m'**:

<code>ni kjap m'ni zlek il</code>	the chair by the table
<code>by radim m'o gner jab</code>	the tree in the field

Demonstrative nouns

Any head noun can change its article to indicate specificity and location (eg this, that, these, those) simply by using the near and distant articles in place of the basic article

<code>jol riant aric harf</code>	this kennel (dog house)
<code>eb cmas yc kvixac</code>	that tall woman
<code>ni kjap m'niab zlek il</code>	the chair by this table
<code>byv jan radim m'o gner jab</code>	those trees in the field

Quantifiers and nominal particles

Noun quantifiers can do more than measure counts and quantities. Quantifier words can also be used to indicate noun comparisons, noun tense, intensity, negation and interrogation.

It is a peculiarity of O Yis that some of these quantifiers will, if given the opportunity, move from between the article and the noun to before the article and, in many cases, become reduced to a vowel, or syllabic consonant (called a nominal particle) that cliticises to the front of the article.

A noun will only allow one quantifier to be placed ahead of its article (and only if the space is not occupied by a conjunction such as the relative particle **m'**). There is a hierarchy of precedence to determine which quantifier can go ahead of the article:

- The comparison quantifier (**k'**) will always go ahead of the article; this is because it never modifies a head noun, only listed nouns following the head noun
- Tense quantifiers (**g'/galo**, **t'/tea**, **e/eten**) routinely go ahead of the article
- Wherever possible, the intensifier quantifiers (**n'/né**, **dz'/dzé**) will go ahead of the article

- The negator (u/utz) and interrogator (f'/fal) can go ahead of the article – this is sometimes done for emphasis.
- Quantity and count quantifiers never go ahead of the article.

Intensity quantifiers are used to show diminution (less, little, -ling, -ette, quite) and intensification (more, great, very, just):

ni réng dz'doc tvel the very red ball
ni sul n'ac kanó the quite large boat

Both intensity quantifiers (and the negation quantifier) can also prefix to a range of postpositions:

ni kjap m'ni zlek dzil the chair very close to the table
ni kjap m'ni zlek nil the chair a little distant from the table
ni kjap m'ni zlek uil the chair that's not close to the table

Tense quantifiers allow the noun to be given a place in a person's lifeline:

g'in harf em cmas the woman's old dog (presumably dead)
t'ni sul uram my current boat (the one I own at the moment)
e o riant em dzeo Dzon John's next house (the one he's going to buy)

When used with complement articles the tense quantifiers take on the meaning 'is no longer', 'is still', 'is becoming':

ni réng e do tvel the ball is turning red
ni réng t'do tvel the ball is still red
ni réng t'do dzé tvel the ball is still very red
ni réng g'do tvel the ball is not red any more

The comparison of qualities of two (or more) objects is regularly handled in a single noun phrase where the reference object, to which the head noun is being compared, takes the comparator quantifier:

de Dzon y kvixac John is tall
de Dzon y mein kvixac John is the taller
de Dzon y lór kvixac John is the tallest
de Dzon y didzer kvixac John is the tallest of all
de Dzon k'de Petyr dz'y kvixac John is taller than Peter
de Dzon k'de Petyr dz'y utz kvixac John is not as tall as Peter
de Dzon k'de Petyr n'y kvixac John is shorter than Peter

The negation quantifier indicates opposition or denial; it should not be confused with the null quantifier (ýtz) which indicates absence. Repetition adds emphasis:

de Dzon u y kvixac John is not tall
u roŋ máv that is not a cat
u roŋ utz máv that is definitely not a cat

The interrogation quantifier can be used for asking quick, closed questions:

f'roŋ máv is that a cat?

Personal pronouns

O Yis has a system of personal pronouns that distinguish between 'self' and 'other'. Pronouns demonstrate number and change according to their grammatical case; there are five cases: nominative, accusative, genitive, oblique and reflexive.

A table of personal pronouns by person, number and grammatical case

grammatical case	self			other		
	singular	paucal	plural	singular	paucal	plural
nominative	úrag	úraŋ	búran	úceg	úcej	búcen
accusative	urag	uraŋ	buran	uceg	ucej	bucen
genitive	uram	rannam	buram	ucem	cennam	bacam
oblique	rag	raŋ	buran	ceg	cej	bucen
reflexive	rarag	raraŋ	babran	ceceg	cecej	babcen
nominal	o/xo ran	o/xo ranna	o/xo baran	o/xo cen	o/xo cenna	o/xo bacen

Personal pronouns are generally reserved for people, spiritual entities, pets, and (with children) anthropomorphised toys. Other nouns can be referenced by the nominal form of their article, which is indeclinable.

There is no equivalent to 'you', 'your', 'yours' in the language. Instead speakers use a mix of honorifics, proper nouns and nicknames (assigned to the relative or authoritative classes) – their grammatical case is demonstrated syntactically.

Counting

The numbers from 1 to 7 are nouns in the conceptual case. These numbers can also be used as quantifier words (losing their articles) with other nouns and verbs:

(o/do) bo	1
(o/do) tet	2
(o/do) vyl	3
(o/do) cean	4
(o/do) goat	5
(o/do) loker	6
(o/do) moir	7

Istrans use a base8 counting system. All numbers above 7 are placed in the calculated case (an/rent) and are only found as nouns, not quantifiers:

an/rent bó	8
an/rent bó bo	9
an/rent bó tet	10
an/rent bó vyl	11
an/rent bó cean	12
an/rent bó goat	13
an/rent bó loker	14
an/rent bó moir	15
an/rent tét bo	16
an/rent tét tet	17
an/rent tét vyl	18

an/rent tét cean	19
an/rent tét goat	20
an/rent vyl	24
an/rent cén	32
an/rent gót	40
an/rent lóker	48
an/rent mór	56

Numbers occupying the third and fourth ranks are modified versions of the unit numbers:

an/rent boef	64
an/rent boef bo	65
an/rent boef tet	66
an/rent boef bó	72
an/rent boef bó bo	73
an/rent boef bó tet	74
an/rent boef tét	80
an/rent boef vyl tet	90
an/rent boef cén cean	100
an/rent boef gót loker	110
an/rent boef mór	120

an/rent tehef	128
an/rent vyef	192
an/rent céf	256
an/rent gohef	320
an/rent lokef	384
an/rent moef	448

an/rent rabo	512
an/rent rabo boef vyl	600
an/rent rabo tehef mór cean	700
an/rent rabo céf cén	800
an/rent rabo lokef cean	900
an/rent rabo moef gót	1000

an/rent ratet	1024
an/rent ravyl	1536
an/rent racean	2048
an/rent ragoat	2560
an/rent ralok	3072
an/rent ramoir	3584

Noun phrase syntax

For common nouns:

- (noun particle) - article - (quantifier) - noun - (postposition)

For proper nouns:

- (noun particle) - (article) - (quantifier) - honorific - noun - (postposition)

For personal pronouns and nominal articles:

- (noun particle) - pronoun/article - (quantifier) - (postposition)

Nouns can be concatenated using postpositions:

- [noun] - [noun - (postposition)]

Noun phrases can concatenated using conjunctions:

- [nounPhrase] conjunction [nounPhrase]

Verbal grammar

The syntax of the verb phrase is analogous to that of the proper noun phrase:

proper noun phrase

- (noun particle) - (article) - (quantifier) - honorific - noun - (postposition)

verb phrase

- (verb particle) - (article) - (quantifier) - auxiliary - verb - (postposition)

Verb case

All verbs have a case, which is shown through the verb's article; in many circumstances the article can be dropped from the verb phrase. Verb cases can be thought of as a form of aktionsart, though the case of some verbs are not semantically logical.

O Yis divides its verbs into nine classes:

- **Stative** verbs describe states that have no apparent outcome (think, know, believe, watch, listen, discuss, hope, want, need, own, have) – passive suffix: *-ep*
- **Outcome** verbs describe states that do have an apparent outcome (choke, be pregnant, arrive/leave, come/go, sleep) – passive suffix: *-eko*
- **Momentary** verbs show momentary or instantaneous actions (sneeze, cough, blink, swallow, trap, jump, grab, poke, stab, enter/exit) – passive suffix: *-(i)t*
- **Manual** verbs involve the handling and transportation of objects (take, give, pick up, put down, place, touch, catch, hold, bring, drag) – passive suffix: *-eko*
- **Motive** verbs involve the movement of the body (run, walk, sail, skip, dance, drive, ride, swing, climb, fall) – passive suffix: *-olq*
- **Spatial** verbs describe states or actions that can be tied to a location (rain, snow, hang/dangle, be placed at, live in, live, die) – passive suffix: *-erk*
- **Undertaking** verbs show accomplishments (calculate, teach, make, build, learn, weave, hammer) – passive suffix: *-(i)k*
- **Sensual** verbs relate to the physical and spiritual senses (see, hear, smell, feel hot, feel cold, stroke, dream) – passive suffix: *-(i)k*
- **Oral** verbs involve the mouth and nose (say, eat, sing, tell/order, write, read, kiss, lick, breathe) – passive suffix: *-(i)k*

Verbs do not conjugate for tense, aspect or mood; the only suffix they take is used to indicate the voice of the verb's clause.

Verb articles

Verb articles indicate the time of an action compared to previously described actions; they can also indicate that the action is perfect (where a completed action has direct relevance to the current time, for instance the perfect *I've brought a cake* vs non-perfect *I brought a cake*). Articles can often be dropped, particularly in non-dependent verb phrases.

A table of verb articles

Class	Base article	Prior article (before)	Concurrent article (as)	Post article (after)	Perfect article	Relativising article
stative	er	eraz	erat	eras	elle	eŋ
outcome	e	fez	fet	fes	elle	eŋ
momentary	a	kaz	kat	kas	al	aŋ
manual	e	iz	it	is	el	aŋ
motive	u	suz	sut	sus	ul	uŋ
spatial	u	yz	yt	ys	ul	uŋ
undertaking	a	jaz	jat	jas	al	aŋ
sensual	e	ceaz	ceat	ceas	ella	eŋ
oral	a	az	at	as	alla	aŋ

A verb used without its article or auxiliary is imperative. Imperative clauses by definition take no subject, which are usually interpreted as 'you'; if this is not the case then the subject needs to be placed ahead of the verb phrase in its own clause:

xjaot uceg!	watch him
rucp uceg rag irt!	bring it to me
sébba úrag!	I know
t'eb ru, labu itzjer y dzabber!	that boy, go to the shop now

Including the article adds emphasis to the command:

er xjaot uceg!	watch him!
e rucp uceg rag irt!	bring it to me!
er sébba úrag!	I know!
t'eb ru, e labu itzjer y dzabber!	that boy, go to the shop now!

A few verbs are routinely used without articles and auxiliaries. These verbs can be thought of as yes/no verbs, used to answer questions. When used without a subject, the subject is understood to be the self. The negative verbs are formed irregularly in this situation:

cna	yes, I agree	úcna	no, I don't agree
sébba	yes, I know	úseb	no, I don't know
zunta	yes, I understand	úzunt	no, I don't understand
senna	yes, I believe so	úsen	no, I don't believe so
gjai	yes, I have it	úgjai	no, I don't have it
xalle	yes, I did	úxal	no, I didn't
vollo	yes, I see you	úvol	no, I don't see you
áqe	yes, I hear you	úqe	no, I don't hear you

Verb auxiliaries

Apart from when used as an imperative, or when a verb is being used as a yes/no response to a question, every O Yis verb will come with an auxiliary verb. Auxiliary verbs are conjugated; an auxiliary consists of a stem and a suffix. Conjugation is irregular.

The auxiliary performs several tasks: it carries information about the grammatical mood of the clause, and also some aspectual details; it also provides information about the perceived status of the person being addressed. Furthermore, some auxiliaries carry tense information (past vs non-past) encoded lexically: different stems are used for each tenses.

The auxiliary suffix changes according to the **state** of the verb – in other words the intentionality and/or success of a given action. A verb will be in one of five states of completion:

- **-ic**, the possible or **conditional state** – an action may or may not happen
- **-(mb)e**, the **intended state** – definite plans have been made to undertake an action
- **-a**, the incomplete or **imperfective state** – the action has started but not yet completed
- **-uk**, the complete or **perfective state** – the action has finished (as far as possible) or stopped, but there's no indication of whether the result is satisfactory
- **-(t)an**, the satisfactory or **telic state** – the action has been completed and the outcome is satisfactory

The auxiliary stem carries information about how the speaker views the action. This information can be generic (I tell you, I ask you) or can carry details of the perceived veracity of the statement (I know this first hand; I believe this is what happened). The action can also be optative, jussive or hortative (like, need, let, endure, want). The default is the tell/say/ask series of stems. Different stems are used depending on the status of the person being addressed and, for some series, the tense of the action.

A table of auxiliary verb stems – tense sensitive

spoken to:	tell, say, ask		believe		know, understand	
	Past [said]	Non-past [say]	Past [believed]	Non-past [believe]	Past [knew]	Non-past [know]
1. children; close family	hil-	hve-	sej-	sen-	semb-	seb-
2. family friends	hil-	hve-	sej-	sen-	semb-	seb-
3. ext. family; friends	hi-	ha-	sej-	sen-	semb-	seb-
4. colleagues	hi-	ha-	sej-	sen-	semb-	seb-
5. acquaintances	hi-	ha-	sejva-	seva-	semb-	seb-
6. strangers	hit-	hat-	sejva-	seva-	semb-	seb-
7. authority figures	hit-	hat-	sejva-	seva-	svemb-	svo-

A table of auxiliary verb stems – tense insensitive

spoken to:	like, enjoy	need, require	let, permit, beg	put up with, endure	demand, hope, want
1. children; close family	xik-	ki-	a-	vear-	div-
2. family friends	xi-	ki-	a-	vear-	div-
3. ext. family; friends	xi-	nek-	a-	vear-	div-
4. colleagues	xel-	nek-	a-	vear-	kla-
5. acquaintances	xel-	nek-	a-	vear-	kla-
6. strangers	xel-	nek-	a-	vear-	kla-
7. authority figures	xel-	njek-	aq-	vear-	kla-

A table showing all combinations of auxiliary stems and suffixes

	<u>conditional</u>	<u>intended</u>	<u>imperfective</u>	<u>perfective</u>	<u>telic</u>
a-	aic	ambe	á	auk	atan
aq-	aqic	aqe	aqá	aquk	aqan
div-	divic	dive	diva	divuk	divan
ha-	haic	hambe	há	hauk	hatan
hat-	hatic	hate	hata	hatuk	hátan
hi-	híc	himbe	hia	hiuk	hitan
hil-	hilic	hile	hila	hiluk	hiltan
hit-	hitic	hite	hita	hituk	hittan
hve-	hveic	hvembe	hvea	hveuk	hvetan
ki-	kík	kimbe	kia	kiuk	kitan
kla-	klaic	klambe	klá	klauk	klatan
nek-	nekic	neke	neka	neuk	nekan
njek-	njekic	njeke	njeka	njekuk	njekan
seb-	sebic	sebe	seba	sebuk	seban
semb-	sembic	sembe	semba	sembuk	seman
sen-	senic	sene	sena	senuk	senan
sej-	sejic	seje	seja	sejuk	sejan
sejva-	sejvaic	sejvambe	sejvá	sejvauk	sejván
seva-	sevaic	sevambe	sevá	sevauk	seván
svemb-	svembic	svembe	svemba	svembuk	svemban
svo-	svoic	svombe	svoa	svouk	svotan
vear-	vearic	veare	veara	vearuk	veartan
xel-	xelic	xelbe	xela	xeluk	xeltan
xi-	xíc	ximbe	xia	xiuk	xitan
xik-	xikic	xike	xika	xikuk	xikan

Verb quantifiers

Verbs and nouns share many quantifiers, though they carry slightly different meanings when used in a verbal context. Verbs also have a few of their own quantifiers:

ýtʒ	never	roet	start
bo	once	iqqe	stop
to	twice	roroet	resume
jan	occasionally	kjant	repeat, again
mein	sometimes		
rede	often	dzé	carefully
oja	almost manage to	né	carelessly
lór	manage to	utz	did not
lolór	easily manage to	fal	does (simple yes/no questions)
didzer	always		

Three quantifiers only appear with verbs as modifying particles:

g'	an action in the distant past
t'	now, right at this moment
e	timeless actions

Adverbs

Modifying nouns (adverbs) can modify verbs just as they modify other nouns. This is particularly true of timing adverbs which are responsible for providing information on when the action occurred.

Adverbs of manner

O Yis doesn't differentiate between adjectives (eg quick, heavy) and adverbs of manner (eg quickly, heavily). Manners are routinely applied to the subject noun, not the verb; thus *"the girl quickly took the money"* will be translated along the lines of *"took the girl quick the money"*. To indicate that it is the girl who is quick, rather than the action, relativise the modifier: *"the girl who was quick took the money"*.

Adverbs of place (and locative pronouns)

O Yis makes no special effort to indicate where an action takes place; this is generally handled through indirect noun phrases. 'Here' can be translated as *nir yct* (this place); 'there' is translated as *nior yct* (that place).

Adverbs of time

O Yis verbs are regularly modified by time-related nouns, with the temporal noun acting just as if it was modifying a head noun.

The basic unit of time for Istran speakers is the half-day, or period, which can be either daytime or night-time. Periods before the contemporary 'now', and those after, have different words:

an/rent pyr _k	the period before now
an/a roxo	the now
an/rent rean	the period after now

Other time-related nouns will use temporal quantifiers to indicate the time of action:

t'o som - this moment	g'o som - a moment ago	e o som - in a moment
t'o trop - this while	g'o trop - a while ago	e o trop - in a while
t'o kreac - this week	g'o kreac - last week	e o kreac - next week
t'o dzaloq - this month	g'o dzaloq - last month	e o dzaloq - next month
t'o ynner - this season	g'o ynner - last season	e o ynner - next season
t'o tavver - this year	g'o tavver - last year	e o tavver - next year

Quantifiers are used to indicate how many periods before or after roxo, the contemporary 'now', took/will take place. The translations for pyr_k and rean depend on whether roxo is in a daytime or night-time period:

Phrase	Translation	
	Roxo = daytime	Roxo = night-time
an pyr _k , an bo pyr _k	tonight	tomorrow
an to pyr _k	tomorrow	tomorrow night
an vyl pyr _k	tomorrow night	the day after tomorrow
an rean, an bo rean	last night	earlier today
an to rean	yesterday	last night
an vyl rean	the night before last	yesterday

Verbal postpositions

Motive and spatial verbs routinely take a postposition to indicate the direction or location of the action. As intransitive verbs, motive and spatial verbs are followed by a subject noun phrase and, if required, an indirect noun phrase: the directionality/location of the action is shown by placing the postposition after the indirect noun, if present, or after the verb if there is no indirect noun in the clause. In more informal registers of speech the postposition will be placed after both noun and indirect object.

Without the postposition, the motive/spatial verb is said to be directionless and unlocatable, and is considered to be ungrammatical.

Clause syntax

O Yis is a verb initial language, with core subjects coming before direct objects (ie VSO). It is also an accusative language:

- The subject will be the agent of transitive verb clauses, and either the agent or experiencer of intransitive verb clauses.
- The direct object will be the patient of transitive clauses; intransitive clauses do not take a direct object
- Oblique objects are noun phrases that modify the entire clause, and thus come after any subjects and direct objects in the clause.

Ditransitive verbs are dechticaetative in nature: the agent (ie the one who gives) is treated as the subject of the clause and the receiver (the one who receives) is the direct noun; the theme (that which is given) is considered to be an oblique noun and thus comes at the end of the clause. Most manual class verbs are ditransitive verbs.

Not all clauses require the presence of a verb.

The following examples are spoken to an acquaintance:

há ney itzjer dzir Már

há ney itzjer dzir Már
say.5.imperf walk northwards Ms Mary
Mary is walking

hia ney itzjer dzir Már dzir Dzán idzim

hia ney itzjer dzir Már dzir Dzán idzim
said.5.imperf walk northwards Ms Mary Ms Jane accompanies
Mary and Jane were walking together

hiuk ney dzir Már y mein dzabber ipjamjer

hiuk ney dzir Már y mein dzabber ipjamjer
said.5.perf walk Ms Mary the some shop eastwards
Mary walked to the shops

há glas dzir Dzán y ridza jab

há glas dzir Dzán y ridza jab
say.5.imperf reside Ms Jane the town within
Jane lives in the town

klambe roet glas dzeo Dzon ý dzabber itoxol

klambe roet glas dzeo Dzon ý dzabber itoxol
want.5.intend start reside Mr John a shop above
John wants to live above a shop

aic glas g'o trop úrag ó riant ac kanó jab

aic glas g'o trop úrag ó riant ac kanó jab
let.5.condit reside a-while-ago I a house has bigness within
I could have lived in a big house

há hjus in harf em dzeo Petyr in máv

há hjus in harf em dzeo Petyr in máv
say.5.imperf chase the dog of.the Mr Peter a cat
Peter's dog chases a cat

há hjus dzeo Dzon in harf em dzir Petyr

há hjus dzeo Dzon in harf em dzir Petyr
say.5.imperf chase Mr John the dog of.the Mr Peter
John chases Peter's dog

há qlais dzeo Petyr in harf o riant jab

há qlais dzeo Petyr in harf o riant jab
say.5.imperf trap Mr Peter the dog the house inside
Peter traps the dog in the house (the dog is caught in the house)

há qlais dzeo Petyr in harf m'o riant jab

há qlais dzeo Petyr in harf m'o riant jab
say.5.imperf trap Mr Peter the dog that.the house inside
Peter traps the dog in the house (the dog in the house is caught)

há qubba dzir Már ze dzeo Petyr in máv irt

há qubba dzir Már ze dzeo Petyr in máv irt
say.5.imperf give Ms Mary the Mr Peter the cat for
Mary gives Peter the cat (Mary gives the cat to Peter)

há qubba dzeo Dzon m'e to rat ucem ni réng irt

há qubba dzeo Dzon m'e to rat ucem ni réng irt
say.5.imperf catch Mr John with.the pair hand his the ball for
John catches the ball with his hands (no direct object)

Clause focus

O Yis places the focus of the clause on the subject. The voice of the clause depends on whether the agent/experiencer, patient or theme of the clause is in focus:

- The **active voice** is the default voice. In active clauses the subject noun is the agent/experiencer of intransitive verbs, and the agent of transitive and ditransitive verbs.
- To move the focus of the clause to the transitive verb patient or ditransitive verb recipient, the focussed noun will be promoted to the subject with the previous subject demoted to an indirect object phrase (which can be dropped), generally marked with the agentive postposition (**al**); the verb will also be marked, taking a passive suffix (which varies between verb cases) – this is the **passive voice**.

há hjuseko in máv in harf em dzeo Petyr al

há hjuseko in máv in harf em dzeo Petyr al
say.5.imperf chase.pass a cat the dog of.the Mr Peter by
a cat is being chased by Peter's dog

há hjuseko in harf em dzeo Petyr ze dzeo Dzon al

há hjuseko in harf em dzeo Petyr ze dzeo Dzon al
say.5.imperf chase.pass the dog of.the Mr Peter the Mr John by
John chases Peter's dog

há qlaisit in harf o riant jab ze dzeo Petyr al

há qlaisit in harf o riant jab ze dzeo Petyr al
say.5.imperf trap.pass the dog the house inside the Mr Peter by
the dog is trapped in the house by Peter

há qlaisit in harf m'o riant jab ze dzeo Petyr al

há qlaisit in harf m'o riant jab
say.5.imperf trap.pass the dog that.the house inside
ze dzeo Petyr al
the Mr Peter by
the dog inside the house is trapped by Peter

há qubbaeko dzeo Petyr in máv irt ze dzir Már al

há qubbaeko dzeo Petyr in máv irt ze dzir Már al
say.5.imperf give.pass Mr Peter the cat for the Ms Mary by
Peter is given the cat by Mary

Oblique noun phrases (including the theme noun phrases of ditransitive verbs) cannot be promoted to the subject position in the clause. To focus on these noun phrases, O Yis speakers will usually place them in their own clause - usually a verbless clause - ahead the remaining parts of the clause which are introduced using the relative conjunction (not the verb's relativising article). An oblique pronoun can be used in the second clause to emphasise the reference to the first clause, but is only required in the most formal contexts.

y mein dzabber ipjamjer m'hiuk ney dzir Már

y mein dzabber ipjamjer m' hiuk ney dzir Már
the some shop eastwards [rel] said.5.perf walk Ms Mary
To the shops was where Mary walked

y ridza jab m'há glas dzir Dzán

y ridza jab m' há glas dzir Dzán
the town within [rel] say.5.imperf reside Ms Jane
In the town is where Jane lives

ý dzabber itoxol m'klambe roet glas dzeo Dzon

ý dzabber itoxol m' klambe roet glas dzeo Dzon
a shop above [rel] want.5.intend start reside Mr John
Above a shop is where John wants to live

o riant jab m'há qlais dzeo Petyr in harf

o riant jab m' há qlais dzeo Petyr in harf
the house inside [rel] say.5.imperf trap Mr Peter the dog
In the house is where Peter traps the dog

in máv irt m'há qubba dzir Már ze dzeo Petyr

in máv irt m' há qubba dzir Már ze dzeo Petyr
the cat for [rel] say.5.imperf give Ms Mary the Mr Peter
The cat is what Mary gives to Peter

An example of a ditransitive verb. John is the agent and thus the subject; Mary, as the receiver, is the direct object; the ball is the theme, making it oblique:

hitan yomer dzeo Dzon dzir Már ni réng irt

hitan yomer dzeo Dzon dzir Már ni réng irt
said.5.telic catch Mr John Ms Mary the ball for
John caught the ball for Mary

O Yis speakers have no problem with dropping core nouns; there is no need to mark the loss of the noun in any way:

hitan yomer dzeo Dzon ni réng irt

hitan yomer dzeo Dzon ni réng irt
said.5.telic catch Mr John the ball for
John caught the ball

Receivers are generally animate entities; rather than render an inanimate entity (eg hand) in the oblique case, O Yis speakers much prefer to let the entity modify the most appropriate noun phrase as a relative noun phrase:

hitan yomer dzeo Dzon m'e to rat ucem ni réng irt

hitan yomer dzeo Dzon m'e to rat ucem ni réng irt
said.5.telic catch Mr John with.the pair hand his the ball for
John caught the ball with his hands

Passive clauses are formed according to the normal rules for passivisation:

hitan yomereko dzir Már ni réng irt ze dzeo Dzon al

hitan yomereko dzir Már ni réng irt ze dzeo Dzon al
said.5.telic catch.pass Ms Mary the ball for the Mr John by
It was for Mary that John caught the ball

ni réng irt m'hitan qubba dzeo Dzon

ni réng irt m' hitan qubba dzeo Dzon
the ball for [rel] said.5.telic catch Mr John
The ball was caught by John

To move the focus to a relativised noun phrase, the phrase needs to be moved in front of the noun and set to modify an appropriate (nominalised) pronoun:

o cen m'e to rat ucem m'hitan yomer dzeo Dzon ni réng irt

o cen m'e to rat ucem m' hitan yomer
the he with.the pair hand his [rel] said.5.telic catch
dzeo Dzon ni réng irt
Mr John the ball for
It was with his hands that John caught the ball

Question strategies

Open questions can be formed by applying the interrogator qualifier (*f' /fal*) to an appropriate noun (or verb) in the clause:

dzir Dzon nirc fal yct?

dzir Dzon nirc fal yct
Mr John has.the what place
Where is John?

elle hiuk labu úceg y pvarz iljer.

elle hiuk labu úceg y pvarz iljer
article.perfect said.3.perf come.go he the market southwards
He's gone to the market.

o fal laxe ucem?

o fal laxe ucem
the what purpose his
Why did he go?

neke zvatta úceg bý mein gvect.

neke zvatta úceg bý mein gvect
need.3.intend buy he a some apple
He's gone to buy some apples.

o get ucem doc fal trop?

o get ucem doc fal trop
the action his has.the what while
When did he go?

hiuk lú g'o som úceg nir yct iljer.

hiuk lú g'o som úceg nir yct iljer
said.3.perf leave.arrive prior the moment he this place southwards
He left here a few moments ago.

há teyx o fal klean ucem nior yct itzjid?

há teyx o fal klean ucem nior yct itzjid
say.3.imperf travel the what method his that place from.north
How is he getting there?

sene ney iljer úceg.

sene ney iljer úceg
believe.3.intend walk southwards he
I think he was going to walk.

[to do:

- clause conjunctions
- derivation strategies]

Lexicon – English to **O Yis**

Nouns

action	o/do get
air	o/xo ceal
animal	y/urt in
apple	by/byl gvect
approaching	o/do jidda
arse	e/e bvad
baby	e/e idi
ball	ni/nir réng
belly	e/e gly
boat	ni/niab sul
boss	e/e azen
boy	e/e ru
bread	an/a kol
breath	o/xo xol
brother	ze/ze uryŋ
brow, forehead	e/e jeran
building, structure	ni/niab tol
cat	in/arid máv
chair	ni/niab kjap
chicken	e/pel arig
child	e/e leoc
cloud	y/urt beik
complete, whole	o/do hemme
constructed object	ni/nir niab
dangerous thing	o/do dzegga
daughter	ze/ze lýd
dog	in/arid harf
domesticated animal	in/in arin
door	o/tol fezg
evening	an/a cvenk
eye	e/e voal
face	e/e cper
father	ze/zen qlá
field	o/tol gner
finger	e/e dzim
following	o/do lezda
fork, parting, division	an/a qeros
girl	e/e cmal
group, crowd	e/e tain
hand	e/e rat
hat	ni/nir pluet
heart	e/e biab
house	o/tol riant
ice	e/dceg tziar
idea, concept	an/a dom
language	o/xo yic
leg	e/e sub
lightning	e/dzeg katta
living thing	an/a urt

man	e/e qlét
market	y/y pvarz
meat	ni/nir pel
method	o/do klean
moment	o/do som
month	o/do dzaloq
morning	an/a pjam
mother	ze/zej má
mouth	e/e dzav
non-living object	an/a nir
nose/snout	in/iŋ fiaf
now, this time	an/a te
number	o/do rent
past	o/do gal
person	y/urt te
place, location	ni/nir yct
plant	in/iŋ réby
purpose	o/do laxe
relative	e/e teze
retreating	o/do xerda
sacred thing	o/do xocca
sea	y/urt zaurz
season	o/do yinner
shadow	e/dceg fuidz
shoe	ni/nir knyrf
shop	y/y dzabber
sister	ze/ze cmyŋ
sky	o/xo tos
son	ze/ze kód
sun	o/xo dem
table	ni/niab zlek
tail	in/iŋ tuim
thing, object	an/a jack
thumb	e/e taup
town	y/y ridza
tree	by/by radim
vegetable	ni/nir rebyl
village, settlement	y/y irdz
water (drinking)	ni/niab gan
water (warm)	an/a laed
week	o/do kreac
while	o/do trop
whole, complete	o/do hemme
wind	y/urt hus
woman	e/e cmas
year	o/do tavver

Honorifics (always used before names)

child title	daba
friend title	far
sibling/cousin	tzim
younger man	de

younger woman	di
older man	dzeo
older woman	dzir
leader	jóct
teacher	xejact
healer	zjibbec

Names

Jane	Dzán
John	Dzon
Mary	Már
Peter	Petyr

Quantifiers

None, never	ýtz
is not, does not	utz
one, once	bo
two, a pair of, twice	to
a little, a few, occasionally	jan
some, sometimes	mein
many, plenty, often	rede
almost, almost enough	oja
enough, sufficient, manage	lór
too much, easily	lolór
all, always	didzer
start	roet
stop	iqqe
resume	roroet
repeat, again	kjant

diminutive: less, little, -ling, -ette, quite, uncaringly	n' / né
intensification: more, great, very, just, carefully	dz' / dzé
past: previous, old, former, ex-, 'is no longer'	g' / galo
present: current, 'is still', remains, now	t' / tea
future: forthcoming, future, new, -to-be 'is becoming'	e / eten
comparator: compared to, as, than	k'
negator: is not, does not	u / utz
interrogation: quick, closed questions	f' / fal

Modifying nouns

blackness	an/a mú
blueness	o/do zoar
greenness	o/do zmai
largeness	an/a kanó
oldness	an/a zýr
quickness	o/do tzirt
redness	o/do tvel
smallness	an/a nuc
tallness	y/y kvixac
whiteness	an/a sitte
yellowness	o/do killeb

youth

an/a **l6**

Conjunctions

from (eg two from all)

jer

that (relative phrases)

m'

Postpositions

at, by, near, located north

itz

at, by, near, located east

ipjam

at, by, near, located south

il

at, by, near, located west

icven

at, located here, touching

ix

approaching a place from the north

itzjid

approaching a place from the east

ipjamjid

approaching a place the south

iljid

approaching a place the west

icvenjid

points north, heading north from a place

itzjer

points east, heading east from a place

ipjamjer

points south, heading south from a place

iljer

points west, heading west from a place

icvenjer

north along

itzblez

east along

ipjamblez

south along

ilblez

west along

icvenblez

behind, in the shade of, north of

ifuidz

behind

ibvad

the back of

itvim

in front of, sunwards of, south of

idem

in front of

ivoal

the front of

ifjaf

opposite, across from, facing

icper

the side of, beside

iblez

hanging above, overhead

itotz

hiding below, beneath, under

izaurz

on, on top of, resting on, touching

itoxol

up, upwards

itosjid

down, downwards

izaurzjid

outside, surrounding

ihutz

out of

ihutzjid

in, inside, surrounded by

jab

into

jabjid

before, forthcoming

ito

a long time before, approaching

itojid

during, at

ixol

after

izau

afterwards, a long time after

izaujid

of, for (measuring)

dzi

for (acquire)

igly

to, for (benefit)

irt

from (partitive)

ijer

concerning, by

itau

with, using

irat

with, accompanied by, and

idzim

or, alternatively
like

iqer
ibek

Verbs

agree	a/kat cna
approach	u/sut jid
arrive, leave	e/fet lú
be placed at	u/yt hvei
be pregnant	e/fet baox
believe	er/erat senna
blink	a/kat tvek
breathe	a/at xoha
bring	e/it rucp
build	a/jat calop
buy, purchase	e/fet zvatta
calculate	a/jat jaurim
catch	e/it yomer
chase	e/it hjus
choke	e/fet kukí
climb	u/sut qiró
come, go	e/fet labu
cough	a/kat xokra
dance	u/sut cqal
die	u/yt qurc
discuss	er/erat kmaet
do, undertake	a/jat xalle
drag	e/it lán
dream	e/ceat njyrt
drive	u/sut yozb
eat	a/at hyyj
enter, exit	a/kat mír
exit, enter	a/kat mír
fall	u/sut pvéx
feel cold	e/ceat tzúfo
feel hot	e/ceat xém
follow	u/sut blez
give	e/it qubba
go, come	e/fet labu
grab	a/kat varó
hammer	a/jat kanke
hang, dangle	u/yt rapo
have	er/erat gjai
heal	a/jat zibbec
hear	e/ceat áqe
hold	e/it nyí
hope	er/erat klar
jump	a/kat deark
kiss	a/at tzám
know	er/erat sébba
lead	u/sut óst
learn	a/jat tvaŋo
leave, arrive	e/fet lú
lick	a/at klad

listen	er/erat teka
live in	u/yt glas
live	u/yt ár
make	a/jat clép
move, travel	u/sut tejx
need	er/erat kiking
order, tell	a/at gúr
own	er/erat hlot
pick up	e/it zent
place	e/it ven
poke	a/kat gliq
purchase, buy	e/fet zvatta
put down	e/it árob
rain	u/yt píto
read	a/at cnipo
retreat	u/sut xer
ride	u/sut tíŋa
run	u/sut két
sail	u/sut rab
say	a/at havl
see	e/ceat vollo
sing	a/at lyle
skip	u/sut triŋ
sleep	e/fet xnauc
smell	e/ceat fiffo
sneeze	a/kat tzac
snow	u/yt lembo
stab	a/kat tzý
stroke	e/ceat meve
swallow	a/kat gúppa
swing	u/sut votta
take	e/it mjei
teach	a/jat xreact
tell, order	a/at gúr
think	er/erat koe
touch	e/it bvé
trap	a/kat qlais
travel, move	u/sut tejx
understand	a/kat zunta
walk	u/sut ney
want	er/erat king
watch	er/erat xjaot
weave	a/jat ceikko
write	a/at cnake

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Lexicon – O Yis to English

áqe	hear [v]
ár	live [v]
arig	chicken [n]
arinj	domesticated animal [n]
árob	put down [v]
azej	boss [n]
baox	be pregnant [v]
beik	cloud[n]
biab	heart [n]
blez	follow [v]
blezda	following [n]
bo	one, once [quantifier]
bvad	arse [n]
bvé	touch [v]
calop	build [v]
ceal	air [n]
ceikko	weave [v]
clép	make [v]
cmal	girl [n]
cmas	woman [n]
cmyj	sister [n]
cna	agree [v]
cnake	write [v]
cnipo	read [v]
cper	face [n]
cqal	dance [v]
daba	child [honorific]
de	younger man [honorific]
demark	jump [v]
dem	sun [n]
di	younger woman [honorific]
didzer	all, always [quantifier]
dom	idea, concept [n]
dz'	intensification: more, great, very, just
dzabber	shop [n]
dzaloq	month [n]
Dzán	Jane [name]
dzav	mouth [n]
dzé	intensification: more, great, very, just; carefully
dzegga	dangerous thing [n]
dzeo	older man [honorific]
dzi	of, for (measuring) [postposition]
dzim	finger [n]
dzir	older woman [honorific]
Dzon	John [name]
e	future: forthcoming, future, new, -to-be 'is becoming'
eten	future: forthcoming, future, new, -to-be 'is becoming'
f'	interrogation: quick, closed nominal questions
fal	interrogation: quick, closed nominal questions
far	friend [honorific]
fezg	door [n]

fiaf	nose/snout [n]
fiffo	smell [v]
fuidz	shadow [n]
g'	past: previous, old, former, ex-, 'is no longer'
gal	past [n]
galo	past: previous, old, former, ex-, 'is no longer'
gan	water (drinking) [n]
get	action [n]
gjai	have [v]
glas	live in [v]
gliq	poke [v]
gly	belly [n]
gner	field [n]
gúppa	swallow [v]
gúr	tell, order [v]
gvect	apple [n]
harf	dog [n]
havt	say [v]
hemme	whole, complete thing [n]
hjus	chase [v]
hnyi	eat [v]
hlot	own [v]
hus	wind [n]
hvei	be placed at [v]
ibek	like [postposition]
iblez	the side of, beside [postposition]
ibvad	behind [postposition]
icper	opposite, across from, facing [postposition]
icven	at, by, near, located west [postposition]
icvenblez	west along [postposition]
icvenjer	points west, heading west from a place [postposition]
icvenjid	approaching a place the west [postposition]
idem	in front of, sunwards of, south of [postposition]
idi	baby [n]
idzim	with, accompanied by [postposition]
ifjaf	the front of [postposition]
ifuidz	behind, in the shade of, north of [postposition]
igly	for (acquire) [postposition]
ihutz	outside, surrounding [postposition]
ihutzjid	out of [postposition]
ijer	from (partitive) [postposition]
il	at, by, near, located south [postposition]
ilblez	south along [postposition]
iljer	points south, heading south from a place [postposition]
iljid	approaching a place the south [postposition]
in	animal [n]
ipjam	at, by, near, located east [postposition]
ipjamblez	east along [postposition]
ipjamjer	points east, heading east from a place [postposition]
ipjamjid	approaching a place from the east [postposition]
iqer	or, alternatively [postposition]
iqqe	stop [quantifier]
irat	with, using [postposition]

irdz	village, settlement [n]
irt	to, for (benefit) [postposition]
itau	concerning, by [postposition]
ito	before, forthcoming [postposition]
itojid	a long time before, approaching [postposition]
itos	hanging above, overhead [postposition]
itosjid	up, upwards [postposition]
itoxol	on, on top of, resting on, touching [postposition]
itvim	the back of [postposition]
itz	at, by, near, located north [postposition]
itzblez	north along [postposition]
itzjer	points north, heading north from a place [postposition]
itzjid	approaching a place from the north [postposition]
ivoal	in front of [postposition]
ix	at, located here, touching [postposition]
ixol	during, at [postposition]
izau	after [postposition]
izaujid	afterwards, a long time after [postposition]
izaurz	hiding below, beneath, under [postposition]
izaurzjid	down, downwards [postposition]
jab	in, inside, surrounded by [postposition]
jabjid	into [postposition]
jack	thing, object [n]
jan	a little, a few, occasionally [quantifier]
jaurim	calculate [v]
jer	from (partitive) [conjunction]
jeran	brow, forehead [n]
jid	approach [v]
jidda	approaching [n]
jóct	leader [honorific]
k'	comparison: compared to, as, than
kanó	largeness [n]
kanke	hammer [v]
katta	lightning [n]
két	run [v]
kiking	need [v]
killeb	yellowness [n]
king	want [v]
kjant	repeat, again [quantifier]
kjap	chair [n]
klad	lick [v]
klar	hope [v]
klean	method [n]
kmaet	discuss [v]
knyrf	shoe [n]
kód	son [n]
koe	think [v]
kol	bread [n]
kreac	week [n]
kukí	choke [v]
kvixac	tallness [n]
labu	come, go [v]
laed	water (warm) [n]

lán	drag [v]
laxe	purpose [n]
lembo	snow [v]
ló	youth [n]
lolór	too much, easily [quantifier]
lór	enough, sufficient, manage to [quantifier]
lú	arrive, leave [v]
lýd	daughter [n]
lyle	sing [v]
m'	(relative)
má	mother [n]
Már	Mary [name]
máv	cat [n]
mein	some, a reasonable amount, sometimes [quantifier]
meve	stroke [v]
mír	enter, exit [v]
mjei	take [v]
mú	blackness [n]
n'	diminutive: less, little, -ling, -ette, quite
né	diminutive: less, little, -ling, -ette, quite; carelessly
ney	walk [v]
niab	constructed object [n]
nir	non-living object [n]
njyrt	dream [v]
nuc	smallness [n]
nyi	hold [v]
óct	lead [v]
oja	almost, almost enough [quantifier]
pel	meat [n]
Petyr	Peter [name]
píto	rain [v]
pjam	morning [n]
pluet	hat [n]
pvarz	market [n]
pvéx	fall [v]
qeros	fork, parting, division [n]
qiró	climb [v]
qlá	father [n]
qlais	trap [v]
qlét	man [n]
qubba	give [v]
qurc	die [v]
rab	sail [v]
radim	tree [n]
rapo	hang, dangle [v]
rat	hand [n]
réby	plant [n]
rebyl	vegetable [n]
rede	many, plenty, often [quantifier]
rent	number [n]
réng	ball [n]
riant	house [n]
ridza	town [n]

roet	start [quantifier]
roroet	resume, start again [quantifier]
ru	boy [n]
rucp	bring [v]
sébba	know [v]
senna	believe [v]
sitte	whiteness [n]
som	moment [n]
sub	leg [n]
sul	boat [n]
svenk	evening [n]
t'	present: current, 'is still', remains
tain	group, crowd [n]
taup	thumb [n]
tavver	year [n]
te	now, this point in time [n]
te	person [n]
tea	present: current, 'is still', remains
tejx	travel, move [v]
teka	listen [v]
teze	relative [n]
tíŋa	ride [v]
to	two, a pair, twice [quantifier]
tol	building, structure [n]
tos	sky [n]
triŋ	skip [v]
trop	while [n]
tuim	tail [n]
tvaŋo	learn [v]
tvek	blink [v]
tvel	redness [n]
tzac	sneeze [v]
tzám	kiss [v]
tziar	ice [n]
tzim	sibling/cousin [honorific]
tzúfo	feel cold [v]
tzý	stab [v]
u	negation: is not
urt	living thing [n]
uryŋ	brother [n]
utz	negation: is not; do not
varó	grab [v]
ven	place [v]
veoc	child [n]
voal	eye [n]
vollo	see [v]
votta	swing [v]
xalle	do, undertake [v]
xact	teach [v]
xejact	teacher [honorific]
xém	feel hot [v]
xer	retreat [v]
xerda	retreating [n]

xjaot	watch [v]
xnauc	sleep [v]
xocca	sacred thing [n]
xoha	breathe [v]
xokra	cough [v]
xol	breath [n]
yct	place, location [n]
yis	language [n]
ynner	season [n]
yomer	catch [v]
yozb	drive [v]
ýtz	none, never [quantifier]
zaurz	sea [n]
zent	pick up [v]
zibbec	heal [v]
zjibbec	healer [honorific]
zlek	table [n]
zmai	greenness [n]
zoar	blueness [n]
zunta	understand [v]
zvatta	buy, purchase [v]
zýr	oldness [n]