

# Pandunia

**sal, dunia!** – Hello, world!

Welcome to learn about Pandunia, the evenly global helping language!



Image designed by Freepik

## What is Pandunia?

Pandunia is a globally sourced constructed language that combines a simple grammar and international words from all continents into one language.

Pandunia is a helping language for world-wide use. It is an easy language that people can use to talk with each other when they don't talk any other common language. It is meant to supplement other languages in our multilingual world.

Pandunia is simpler, more regular and easier to learn than natural world languages, like English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Arabic and Hindi. Learning Pandunia is equally easy for everybody. Its words have been borrowed from many languages on all continents and all cultures of the world.

The 3rd version of Pandunia was published in April 2024. It includes simpler grammar, more international word forms, and many new words.



You can contact the creator and a main developer of Pandunia, Risto Kupsala, via email [risto@pandunia.info](mailto:risto@pandunia.info) and in the aforementioned forums. # Pandunia - the evenly global helping language

## Introduction

Pandunia is an equally global auxiliary language. In this article, we explain what makes Pandunia global and equal, why it was made to be global and equal, and how it could help people around the world communicate better with each other.

## Principles of Pandunia

Pandunia is *fair*. Everybody has an equal chance of learning and speaking Pandunia well. It is supposed to be the *great equalizer* — a way of communicating that everybody can use on the same level.

Pandunia is *evenly global*. It borrows words from from all regions and all cultures of the world. It is the world language that stands for the whole world!

Pandunia is *practical*. It re-uses things that have already become international, including the basic Latin alphabet and international words from English, Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Chinese and Arabic, among others. That way Pandunia can be used in real international communication right from the start.

Pandunia is *simple*. In international situations it is best to use plain words, short sentences and simple language because they are much more effective than specialized words, long sentences and complex language. So, let's keep it simple!

## How is Pandunia evenly global?

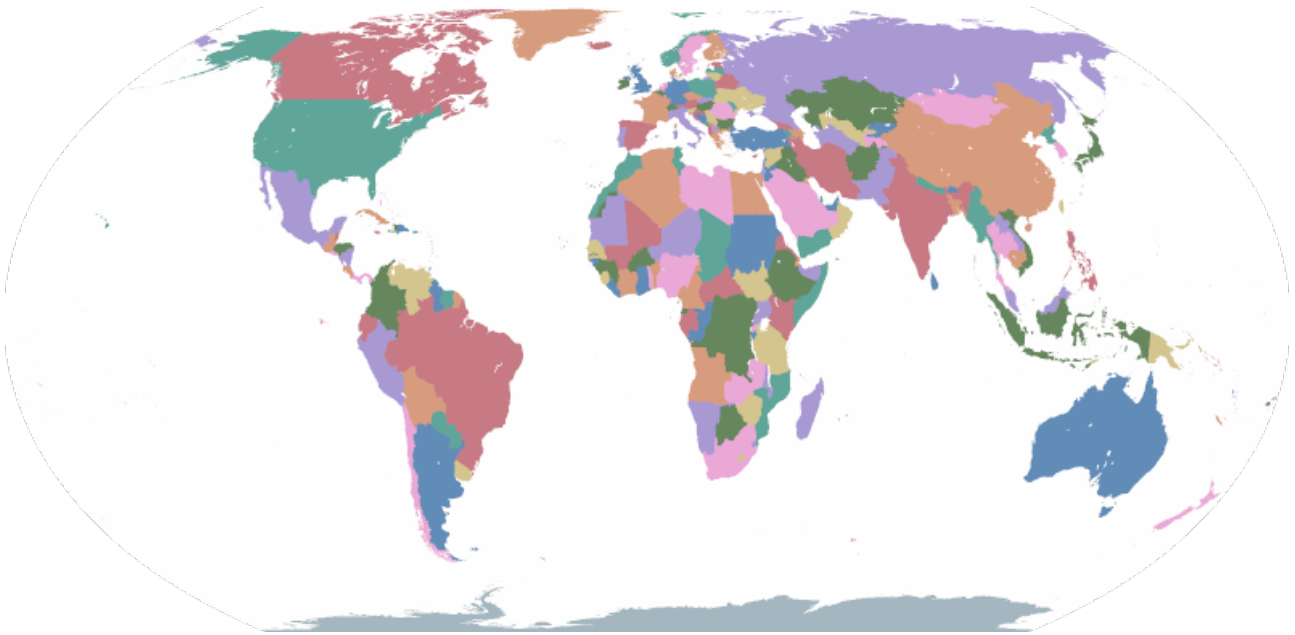
Many people are used to seeing the kind of world map below. It is the famous *Mercator projection* map. Unfortunately it distorts the size of countries badly.



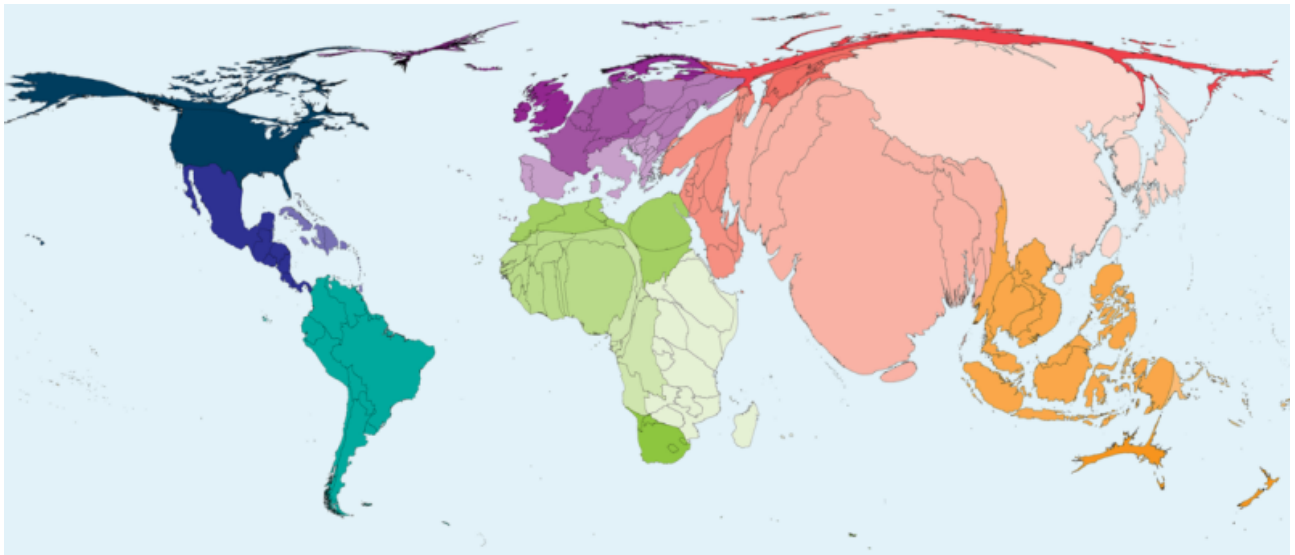
Why is that? The world is a three-dimensional globe and turning it into a flat, two-dimensional map is not easy. Equal-area projections, such as the *Equal Earth projection* below, show land areas more accurately. Compare the sizes of Greenland and Africa in these two maps. In the Mercator projection Greenland appears bigger, but the Equal Earth projection shows that in reality Africa is 14 times bigger than Greenland.



That is the physical world. We live also in a human world, which comprises of nations that are divided by borders. In a normal map of countries of the world, sizes of the countries are defined by their geographic area.



The map projection below is based on the population of countries, not on their geographic area.

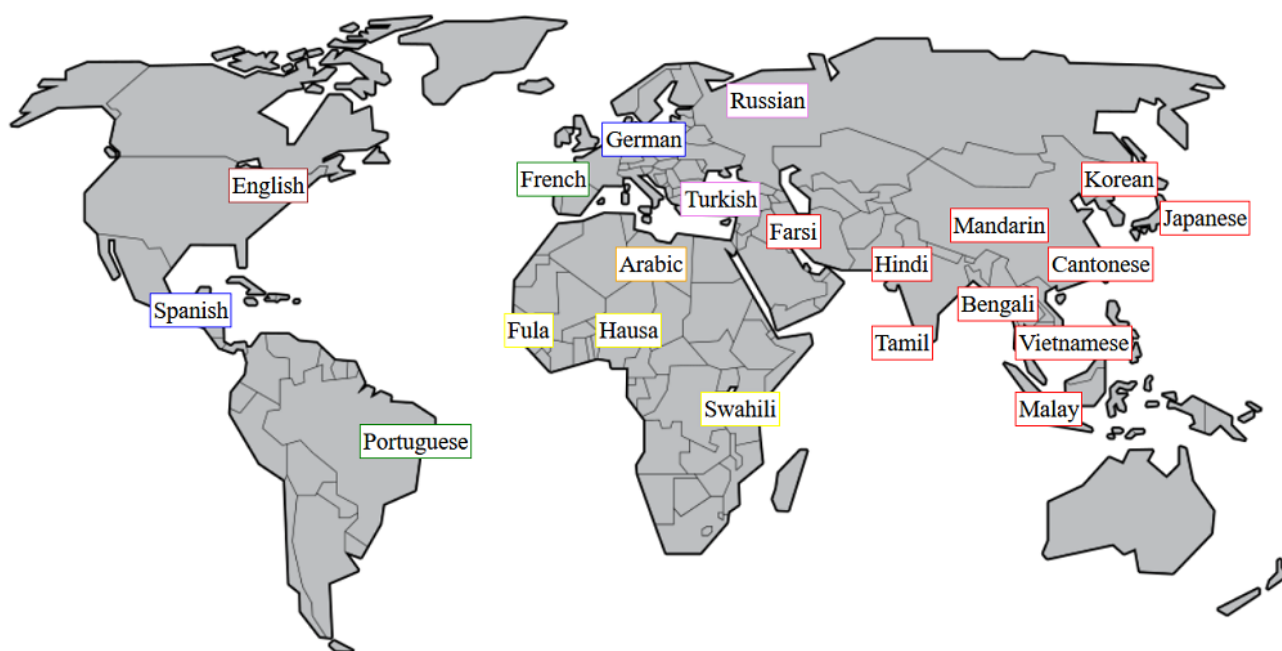


In our opinion the world language should represent the human world. Every part of the world, every culture, should be treated fairly and democratically. The grammar should be easy for all. Areal linguistic characteristics, such as Standard Average European, are not suitable guidelines for the world language. Instead, the grammar should be built from things that are universally known and/or universally considered easy.

Words are included in Pandunia mostly from 21 main source languages. The six official languages of the United Nations are included: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Mandarin Chinese. The language of the heart of Europe is included: German. The language of the South Atlantic is included: Portuguese. The most important East Asian languages are included: Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Malay. The most influential languages of the Indian subcontinent are included: Hindi, Urdu, Bengali and Tamil. The most widely spoken native African languages after Arabic are included: Swahili, Hausa and Fula. The other major languages of Middle East besides Arabic are included: Turkish and Persian.

All in all, they represent a good mix of cultures and regions of the world.





Only two languages have more than one billion speakers each: Mandarin and English. Mandarin is by far the largest language by number of native speakers, while English is the language with the greatest number of second language speakers.

In the following chapters we will use these two dissimilar languages as the points of comparison when we present some of the key features of Pandunia as a language. This approach is not meant to belittle the importance of the other languages but it would be impractical to compare Pandunia to all 21 source languages at once in a short and non-exhaustive presentation like this.

## Spelling and pronunciation

### The most widely used alphabet

There are many writing systems in the world today but only a handful of them are international. The most popular writing systems are the Latin alphabet, the Cyrillic alphabet, the Arabic script and the Chinese pictographic symbols.

Only the Latin alphabet has become truly global. Most languages of Europe, the Americas and Africa are written in the Latin alphabet. Also several notable languages in Asia, including Turkish, Malay and Vietnamese, are written in the Latin alphabet.

Therefore the Latin alphabet is the obvious choice for the international language.

### Only five vowels

According to chapter 2 of The World Atlas of Language Structures, the vowel inventories in world's languages are categorized by size as follows:

- small: 2-4 vowels
- average: 5-6 vowels
- large: 7-14 vowels

Pandunia has only five pure vowels: a, e, i, o, u. The number is approximately the same as the global average. In this respect, Pandunia is close to languages like Spanish and Japanese as both have a system of five vowels.

Examples of large vowel inventories include English (12 vowels) and Mandarin (9 vowels).

### Common consonants

According to chapter 1 of The World Atlas of Language Structures, the consonant inventories in world's languages are categorized by size as follows:

- small: 6-14 consonants
- moderately small: 15-18
- average: 19-25
- moderately large: 26-33
- large: 34 or more consonants

Pandunia has only 20 consonants so its consonant inventory is average in size.

English and Mandarin, for example, have much bigger consonant inventories than Pandunia. Most consonant letters are pronounced in the same way in all three languages. The table below shows what consonant sounds correspond to each other in Pandunia, English and Mandarin. Sounds that are present in English or Mandarin but not in Pandunia are inside parenthesis.

	Pandunia	English	Mandarin
Nasals	m n (ng)	m n (ng)	m n (ng)
Stops	p b t d k g	p b t d k g	p b t d k g
Liquids	l r y v	l r y w	l r y w (yü)
Sibilants	s z sh	s z sh (zh)	s z* x (sh)
Fricatives	f h	f h (v th th)	f h
Affricates	ch j	ch j	ch j (c zh q)

### Easy syllable structure

A syllable consists of one core vowel and possible consonants. In some languages syllables are simpler than in others. For example in Japanese the heaviest syllables consist of an initial consonant, a vowel and a final nasal consonant. This is why Japanese sounds light and vocalic. In English, on the other hand, it is possible to cram many consonants in one syllable, as in *strict parents*.

Pandunia is somewhere in the middle. Most syllables are simple a-consonant-and-a-vowel pairs but also more complex syllables are allowed, especially in internationally known technical terms. For example **kristal** (crystal) is a complex word by Pandunia standards.

There are two ways to simplify words that are too complex for the international language:

1. Select a simpler variant of the same word from another language. For example, the English word *project* ends in two consonants but the same word in Portuguese is *projeto*.
2. Break the consonant clusters by adding vowels. For example, the English word *sport* is too complex but the same word in Portuguese is *esporte*, which breaks the difficult consonant clusters in the beginning and end by additional vowels.

### Regular spelling

English spelling is notoriously irregular. Pinyin was created more recently, in the 1950s, but unfortunately it also has some irregularities, simply because there are more sounds in spoken Chinese than there are letters in the Latin alphabet. Still, in comparison to English, Pinyin is very regular. For example the English rhymes *my*, *sigh*, *lie*, and *rye* would be written in Pinyin *mai*, *sai*, *lai*, *rai*. It is as simple as that!

Pandunia can be spelled regularly because it has fewer speech sounds (24) than there are letters in the Basic Latin alphabet (26). The alphabet of Pandunia is:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p r s t u v x y z

Pandunia has almost perfect letter-to-sound correspondence. One letter stands for one sound only. One sound is represented by exactly one letter. Every word is pronounced as it is written.

### Regular accent

Pandunia has a regular stress accent. The place of the stress is decided by two simple rules. In the examples that follow, primary accent is indicated by an acute accent (´) and secondary accent by a grave accent (`) over the first vowel of a stressed syllable.

1. Basic words are stressed on the syllable that is before the last consonant of the word.  
**hálo! mí vól lóga da háu dúnia báshe.**  
(Hello! I want to speak the good world language.)
2. Compound words are stressed according to their component words so that the primary stress is in the main word.  
**pandúnia es dèmokrátike báshe.**  
(Pandunia is a democratic language.)

Regular stress is easier to learn and more comfortable to use than irregular and unpredictable stress. English is an example of a language with irregular stress. In a written expression like “totally fantastic personnel”, nothing shows that each word has the stress on a different syllable. If the stress was marked on the vowels, it might look something like this: “tóttally fantástic personnél”.

Pandunia doesn't have tones either. Chinese, on the other hand, is a tonal language. That's why texts in romanized Chinese are loaded with accent marks, as in *wǒmen yě huì shuō zhōngguóhuà*. They are there to mark tones. In Standard Chinese, each syllable is pronounced in one of the four tones or in the unmarked neutral tone.

Tones are hard to learn for people who are not used to them. Variable stress is hard to learn for people who are used to fixed stress. Neither word tone nor variable word stress are necessary in the world language.

## The simplest structure

Languages can be categorized by two parameters:

- Is a single word made of few or many parts?
- Are those parts easy to separate or fused together?

The widely spoken languages can be categorized into four types according to these parameters.

1. Analytic languages – Words are made of few, distinct parts.
  - Mandarin Chinese
2. Analytic fusional languages – Words are made of few, fused parts.
  - English
3. Agglutinative languages – Words are made of many, distinct parts.
  - Japanese, Malay, Tamil, Swahili
4. Synthetic fusional languages – Words are made of many, fused parts.
  - Spanish, Portuguese, French
  - German, Russian
  - Hindi-Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi
  - Arabic, Hausa

Usually languages are a mixture of different types. For example, in English the plural can be formed in several different ways. *Many a cat* is an analytic phrase that consists of three separate words. *Cats* is an agglutinative word that consists of two distinct parts, *cat* and *-s*. *Leaves* is a fused word that consists of two parts, *leaf* and *-s*.

Pandunia is an analytic language. Its words consist of few parts and they are clearly separable. This is a good thing because it makes the language easy to learn and use in comparison to languages where words are longer or fused of many parts.

## Parts of word

The word is made of a root and optional affixes, which are attached to the root word. Prefixing languages put affixes before the root and suffixing languages put affixes after the root. Some languages put affixes on both sides or even inside the root. Usually languages use several different ways. For example English uses both prefixes (ex. un-kind) and suffixes (ex. kind-ly).

Suffixing languages are the most common type. Indo-European languages, Telugu, Chinese and Japanese are mostly suffixing.

Chinese has no inflection. Words are only combined into larger words. Some words have a special meaning when they appear as a part of a larger word. These so called bound morphemes are much like suffixes.

English, Spanish and Hindi-Urdu use mainly *root and affix system*. The meaning is changed by adding dependent parts before and after the root. For example “booklets” consists of root *book* and affixes *-let* (which adds meaning of smallness) and *-s* (which adds plural meaning). Most affixes can’t stand alone, they always need to be fixed to a root.

Arabic uses transfixes. The root consists of (usually three) consonants and it is changed by inserting a pattern of vowels between them. Arabic also has many prefixes and suffixes for creating additional words.

Pandunia uses the simple root-and-affix system. Its words can consist of many, distinct parts that are easy to separate. Everybody can create new words easily.

## Word orders

Different word orders are used in the languages of the world. Some of the most important areas of word order are:

- Sentence structure. Order of subject (S), verb (V) and object (O) in a transitive clause. The most common sentence structures are subject–verb–object (SVO) and subject–object–verb (SOV).
- Order of numeral and noun. Cardinal numeral can be either before (NumN) or after (NNum) the noun.
- Order of adjective and noun. There are two possible orders
  1. Adjective is before the noun (AdjN)
  2. Adjective is after the noun (NAdj)
- Order of adposition and noun.
  1. Prepositions are before the noun.
  2. Postpositions are after the noun.
- Order of relative clause and noun. The relative clause can be either before (RelN) or after (NRel) the noun.

The table below shows what are the typical, unmarked word orders in important world languages.



Language	Sentence	Numeral	Adjective	Relative	Adposition
English	SVO	NumN	AdjN	NRel	pre
Chinese	SVO	NumN	AdjN	RelN	post
Spanish	SVO	NumN	NAdj	NRel	pre
Hindi-Urdu	SOV	NumN	AdjN	RelN	post
Arabic	VSO	both	NAdj	NRel	pre
Russian	SVO	NumN	AdjN	NRel	pre
French	SVO	NumN	NAdj	NRel	pre
Indonesian	SVO	NumN	NAdj	NRel	pre
Japanese	SOV	NumN	AdjN	RelN	post
Swahili	SVO	NNum	NAdj	NRel	pre

Also other word orders are possible. For example in English, which normally uses the SVO order in declarative sentences, the object can be fronted in interrogative and relative clauses, as in “What did you say?”

The previous table shows that the major languages don’t agree about word orders. Pandunia supports several word orders but the default is to use the most common ones: subject–verb–object (SVO), numeral before the noun, adjective before the noun, relative clause after the noun and prepositions.

## World words

Most Pandunia words are already international – at least in some part(s) of the world! The three key principles for selecting words for Pandunia are:

- **Equality** : Words are borrowed equally from different regions of the world. In practice it means that Pandunia borrows words from the languages of Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.
- **Prevalence** : Widely spread words are favored. The more people know the word the better.
- **Simplicity** : Word forms with easy pronunciation are preferred.

However, sometimes it’s hard to find international. The most frequent and at the same time the most basic words, like *me*, *you*, *one*, *two*, *be* and *do*, are typically the oldest words in languages, and they tend to be unique to a language or a group of closely related languages.

Therefore it’s almost impossible to find international words for the most basic ideas, that are in common to unrelated languages in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. Still, we have tried.

The personal pronouns are among the most frequently occurring words.

The first-person pronoun often begins with *m*- even in unrelated languages, for example English *me*, French *moi*, Spanish *me*, Hindi *main*, Finnish *minä*, Igbo *mu*, Kongo *mu*, Swahili *mimi*, and Zulu *mina*. In Pandunia it is **mi** (*I, me*).

The second-person pronoun **tu** comes from the Indo-European family of languages, including French *tu*, Spanish *tú*, Russian *ты* and Hindi *tū*. In Pandunia it is a neutral pronoun that can be used both in informal and formal situations.

The third-person pronoun in Pandunia is **da**. It has the remarkable benefit that it can refer to both males and females as well as lifeless objects. So it covers the English third-person pronouns *he*, *she* and *it*, all at once.

English	Pandunia	Chinese
I	mi	wǒ
you	tu	nǐ
he/she/it	da	tā
we	vi	wǒmen
you all	yu	nǐmen
they	di	tāmen

The possessive pronouns follow the super simple pattern of Standard Chinese. Simply add **se** to form the possessive, as below.

English	Pandunia	Chinese
my	mi se	wǒ de
your	tu se	nǐ de
his/her/its	da se	tā de

English	Pandunia	Chinese
our	vi se	wǒmen de
your	yu se	nǐmen de
their	di se	tāmen de

The personal pronouns in Pandunia attain three important goals.

1. The basic pronouns (**mi**, **tu**, **da**) look and sound distinct.
2. The possessive pronouns are built in a systematic way. They are not only a bunch of random words.
3. The words are international and come from many different language families.

## Easy sentences

In this section we will compare the sentence structures of Pandunia with English and Chinese, the two most widely spoken languages of the world.

The normal sentence word order is subject–verb–object – just like in English and Chinese.

English: I love you, and you love me.

Pandunia: mi love tu, tu love mi.

Chinese: Wǒ ài nǐ, nǐ ài wǒ. (我愛你，你愛我)

The auxiliary verb **be** is used when the object of the action comes first in the sentence. (This is the so called passive sentence.)

English: Apples were eaten.

Pandunia: aple be yam.

Chinese: Píngguǒ bèi chī le. (蘋果被吃)

**be** is a loan word from Standard Chinese *bèi*, but it is also close to some uses of English *to be*.

English: It can not be eaten.

Pandunia: da no ken be yam.

Chinese: Tā bù néng bèi chī. (它不能被吃)

Like Chinese, Pandunia doesn't mark verbs with a word like "to".

English: I invite him to drink coffee.

Pandunia: mi plis da yam kafe.

Chinese: Wǒ qǐng tā hē kāfēi. (我請他喝咖啡)

In Pandunia and Chinese, nouns can be singular or plural depending on surrounding words. There's no plural ending like -s in English. Also verbs are not conjugated. In Pandunia, one word, **es**, is used instead of *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, *were*...

English: It is an apple.

Pandunia: da es aple.

Chinese: Tā shì píngguǒ. (它是蘋果)

English: They are apples.

Pandunia: di es aple.

Chinese: Tāmen shì píngguǒ. (他們是蘋果)

## 2. Spelling and pronunciation

Pandunia is phonetic in two directions:

1. When you read a word, you can always pronounce it.
2. When you hear a word, you can almost always write it. (Foreign names can be an exception.)

Once you have learned the few rules and the way letters are pronounced, you can read Pandunia aloud and be understood.

### Basic Latin Alphabet

Pandunia is written in the basic Latin alphabet – the same as English! It doesn't have any of the accented letters, which are different from language to language. So it can be typed, printed and used with computers and smart devices in most countries without any difficulty.

## Note on phonetic notation

In this page, we use the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to show pronunciation in writing. We use square brackets and slashes to show that we're talking about a sound and not a letter.

Physical speech sounds are written between square brackets, for example [r] and [ɹ] indicate two different *r*-sounds, the trill and the glide. However, [r] and [ɹ] are not distinguished in Pandunia, but they are perceived as one sound. These mental sounds or **phonemes** can cover several physical sounds and are written between slashes. So, speakers of Pandunia perceive mentally always one sound, /r/, regardless of which physical sound, [r] or [ɹ], is actually heard. It is said that Pandunia has the phoneme /r/, which has alternative physical pronunciations [r] and [ɹ]. This can be annotated /r/ = [r] ~ [ɹ].

## Sounds

Pandunia has its own sound system and its own spelling system that are mostly similar to those of the languages of continental Europe and Latin America.

The complete speech sound inventory of Pandunia is presented in the table below.

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
<b>Stops</b>	b p	t d	ch j	k g	
<b>Fricatives</b>	f	s z	sh		h
<b>Nasals</b>	m	n		ng	
<b>Lateral</b>		l			
<b>Trill</b>		r			
<b>Semivowels</b>	v		y		
<b>High vowels</b>	u		i		
<b>Mid vowels</b>	o	(ə)	e		
<b>Low vowels</b>		a			
	<b>Back</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Front</b>		

## Vowels

Pandunia has five oral vowel sounds. They are represented by the letters *a*, *e*, *i*, *o* and *u* in the writing system.

The list below shows how each vowel is pronounced by using the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as well as pronunciation advice in plain English.

- **a** = a  
A is pronounced as in *father*.
- **e** = [e]  
E is pronounced as in *bet*.
- **i** = [i]  
I is pronounced as in *machine*.
- **o** = [o]  
O is pronounced as in *or*.
- **u** = [u]  
U is pronounced as in *rule*.

In addition, there is an optional mid central vowel sound [ə], which is also called the **schwa**. It is pronounced as the *a* in *about* /əbaʊt/ or the *a* in *sofa* /soʊfə/. It is the most basic vowel sound that can be created without much effort. It is called optional because it is never written and in many cases not even pronounced.

The purpose of the schwa is to make speaking Pandunia easier. It can be inserted after consonants that are difficult to pronounce without a vowel. Different people can insert schwas in different places depending on what is natural to them. (There are native languages that don't allow any consonant cluster and final consonants.) The schwa sound can be inserted between the consonants of a consonant cluster and after word-final consonants. For example the word *skol* can be pronounced /skol/ or /səkol/ (where the initial consonant cluster is broken apart by a schwa) or /səkolə/ (where the final consonant is followed by a schwa). All these pronunciations sound almost the same, because the schwa sound is always very short and unstressed. Schwas don't ever change what syllable of the word is stressed! Everybody is free to insert schwas or to omit them depending on what is most comfortable for them.

## Semivowels

A semivowel is a sound that is phonetically similar to a vowel sound but functions like a consonant as the syllable boundary. Pandunia has two semivowels **y** and **v**. They appear only in the beginning of a syllable and they are always followed by a full vowel.

- **v** = [w] ~ [v] ~ [ɤ]  
V is pronounced as the *w* in *wet*, but some speakers may pronounce it more like the *v* in *vet*.
- **y** = [j]  
Y is pronounced as the *y* in *yes*.

There are also several common vowel sequences – au, eu, ou, ai, ei, oi – which are pronounced as the consecutive vowels with or without a hiatus in between.

## Consonants

Pandunia has 19 consonant sounds. They are represented in the writing system by 19 Latin letters and their combinations. Most of them are pronounced in roughly the same way as in English.

If alternative pronunciations are possible, they are joined with the tilde (~).

- **b** = [b]
- **ch** = [tʃ]  
Ch is pronounced always like *ch* in *chat*, never as in *chateau* or *choir*.
- **d** = [d]
- **f** = [f]
- **g** = [g]  
G is always hard as in *get*, never soft as in *gel*.
- **h** = [h] ~ [x]  
H can be rougher than in English.
- **j** = [dʒ]  
J is pronounced always as in *judge* or as the soft *g* in *gel*.
- **k** = [kʰ] ~ [k]  
K is preferably always pronounced with a puff of air as in *kin*.
- **l** = [l]  
L is always “light” as *lip* in and never “dark” as in *cold*.
- **m** = [m]
- **n** = [n] ~ [ŋ]  
N is pronounced with the tip of the tongue except in combinations *nk* and *ng*, where it is velar [ŋ] like in *banker* and *finger*.  
In the end of a word, the *g* in *ng* can be silent. So the word **pang** can be pronounced [paŋ] as well as [paŋg].
- **p** = [pʰ] ~ [p]  
P is pronounced with a puff of air as in *pin*.
- **r** = [r] ~ [ɹ]  
R is preferably trilled as in Scottish and Indian English, or smooth as in American English. Never silent!
- **s** = [s]  
S is always voiceless like *s* in *sissy*.
- **sh** = [ʃ]  
Sh is pronounced as in *shop*.
- **t** = [tʰ] ~ [t]  
T is pronounced with a puff of air as in *tin*.
- **x** = [ks] ~ [s]  
X is pronounced as *ks* when it is between vowels. For example **maxim** is pronounced /maksim/. In other positions it may be pronounced as *s*, for example **max** /mas/, **xenon** /senon/.
- **z** = [z] ~ [dz]

## External letters and sounds

There are also additional letters and letter-combinations, which can be used only in *external words*, which do not belong to the ordinary vocabulary of Pandunia, like names of places and people. They are not used in any common Pandunia words.

- **c** = [ts]  
Like *ts* in *bits*.
- **kh** = [x]  
Voiceless velar fricative, like *ch* in *Loch* in Scottish.

- **gh** = [ɣ]  
Voiced velar fricative
- **ph** = [ɸ]  
Voiceless bilabial fricative
- **bh** = [β] Voiced bilabial fricative
- **q** = [q]  
Voiceless uvular stop.
- **qh** = [χ] Voiceless uvular fricative.
- **rh** = [ʀ] ~ [ʁ]  
Voiced uvular trill or fricative like *rh* in *rhume* in Parisian French.
- **th** = [θ]  
Like *th* in *thing*.
- **dh** = [ð]  
Like *th* in *they*.
- **zh** = [ʒ]  
Like *z* in *azure*.
- **w** = [w] ~ [v] ~ [ʋ]  
W is pronounced the same as **v**.

The additional letters and digraphs are used locally. Their purpose is to help to transfer names in local languages to the international language, so that local people can recognize them. It's OK if you don't know how to pronounce any of these sounds. The letters *c*, *q*, and *w* can be pronounced the same as *ch*, *k*, and *v*, and all digraphs can be pronounced as if the *h* was not there. So, for example, *zh* can be pronounced simply as *z* in the simplified international accent.

For example, the capital of Greece is called “Αθήνα” /aθina/ in the local language, Greek. The Pandunia version of this name is “Athina”. It can be pronounced either /aθina/ (as the Greek do) or /atina/ (in the simplified international accent).

More examples:

**Khartum** Khartoum (the capital of Sudan)

**Rhone** Rhône (a river in France and Switzerland)

## Word Structure

Pandunia words are structurally rather simple. Syllables are structured (C) (L) V (S) (N) where

- C is a consonant.
- L is a liquid consonant (**l** or **r**).
- V is a vowel.
- S is a semivowel (**i** or **u**),
- N is a nasal (**m**, **n** or **ng**), a liquid (**l** or **r**), or a voiceless fricative (**f**, **s**, **sh** or **h**).
- The sounds between brackets are optional.

In the table below there are some syllables from the lightest to the heaviest. Each of them is also a word in Pandunia.

Syllable	(C)	(L)	V	(S)	(N)	Word meaning
<b>a</b>			a			‘at’
<b>ai</b>			a	i		‘ow!’
<b>an</b>			a		n	‘un-’
<b>pa</b>	p		a			‘father’
<b>pai</b>	p		a	i		‘pie’
<b>pan</b>	p		a		n	‘all’
<b>plan</b>	p	l	a		n	‘plan’

## Adapting Loan Words

As a general rule, loan words are adapted to the phonetic spelling system of Pandunia. This rule is applied to both common words and proper names.

### Common words

A common word refers to a thing as a member of a group, not as an individual. For example *dog* is a common word but *Sam* is not, it is a proper name.

Common words, which are in general use, must fit into the normal word structure, and they can include only the normal sounds of Pandunia.

Most Pandunia words are structurally simpler than the corresponding English words. Difficult consonant groups are avoided in the beginning, middle and end of words, so *stadium* is **estade**, *act* is **ate**, and *saint* is **sante** in Pandunia. Also final stop consonants are avoided, so for example *soup* is **supe** in Pandunia.

### Proper names

Proper nouns and rarely used common nouns can be more complex than ordinary words. They can even include sounds that don't belong to the normal sound inventory of Pandunia.

For example, family name *Smith* may remain **Smith** in Pandunia, although it is structurally more complex than common Pandunia words, and it has the external *th* sound. However, foreign people probably will pronounce this name incorrectly. Therefore it is advisable to adapt also proper names to the phonetic system of Pandunia.

### Large and small Letters

Pandunia has its own rules for using the large letters (i.e. upper-case letters) and the small letters (i.e. lower-case letters).

The only case when large letters are absolutely necessary is writing standard international acronyms, because using wrong letter-case could result into wrong meaning. For example, *1 mm (un milimetre)* means 'one thousandth of a metre' and *1 Mm (un megametre)* means 'one million metres'. Otherwise all text in Pandunia can be written in small letters. In particular, the first letter of sentences is not capitalized!

There are three reasons why large letters and rules about their usage are not necessary.

1. Writing represents speech and there are no "capital letters" in speech. Yet understanding spoken words is as easy as understanding written words in spite of this "shortcoming".
2. Most of the scripts and alphabets of the world have only one letter type, i.e. they don't have separate large and small letters.
3. It is simpler to use only small letters. No need for special rules for capitalization.

### Proper names

Proper names *may* be capitalized according to the writers preference. Family names *may* be written completely in large letters. It is helpful because names are written in different way from language to language and they can include several given names and family names. However, all names may be written completely in small letters too.

Examples of written names:

- (1) ludoviko lazaro zamenhof, edgar de val, mizuta sentaro
- (2) Ludoviko Lazaro Zamenhof, Edgar de Val, Mizuta Sentaro
- (3) Ludoviko Lazaro ZAMENHOF, Edgar de VAL, MIZUTA Sentaro

### Acronyms

Initialisms, like **ASEAN**, **EU**, **NAFTA** and **UN**, are always written in large letters. Other acronyms may use a mixture of large and small letters, like for example **GULag**, which is an acronym of the Russian words "Glavnoye Upravleniye Lagerey".

Capital letters are also used in the standard international acronyms. For example: 10 Mb (des megabite), 100 GB (sento gigabite), 2 mm (du milimetre), 1 kJ (un kilojul).

### Syllabification

« - » Words may be divided into syllables with a hyphen. The hyphen is placed between spoken syllables. For example: **bus**, **ka-fe**, **hu-mor**, **pos-te**, **hi-drar-gen-te**.

### Punctuation

« . » All kinds of sentences may end with a full stop.

« ? » Questions may end alternatively with a question mark.

« ! » Exclamation mark indicates loudness or emphasis.

« ... » Three dots (i.e. ellipsis) indicates incompleteness or uncertainty.

« : » Colon indicates the beginning of an explanation, quotation or list.



« , » Comma indicates a small pause or separation between clauses or listed items.

Tip! Because the first word of sentences is not capitalized, sentences can be set apart with more than one space. One may (1) insert two spaces after the punctuation mark, or (2) insert one space before and after the punctuation mark. This practice helps to separate sentences more clearly.

(1) sal! tu hau, he? mi vol go do kafekan. tu vol kom kon mi, he?

(2) sal ! tu hau, he ? mi vol go do kafekan . tu vol kom kon mi, he ?

In informal texts, smileys, emoticons and emojis may be used like punctuation marks to end sentences but in addition they indicate the mood of the speaker. For example :) indicates happiness and :( indicates sadness.

**mi love yu :) = I love you.**

**yu no love mi :( = You don't love me.**

### 3. Word types in Pandunia

#### Introduction

Everybody knows at least two essential units of grammar: words and sentences. In written texts, words are separated by spaces and sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop. However, there are also other grammatical units besides words and sentences.

Grammar involves a hierarchy of grammatical units, which are listed below from the simplest to the most complex.

1. **Morpheme** is the **smallest part of language** with a meaning or function.
2. **Words** are made up of **one or more morphemes**.
3. **Phrases** are made up of **one or more words**.
4. **Clauses** are made up of **one or more phrases**.
5. **Sentences** are made up of **one or more clauses**.

Morphemes don't have any syntactic function in Pandunia. Their job is only to help to build the vocabulary of Pandunia. So the simplest grammatical unit that one usually thinks of in Pandunia is the word.

One of the first things that an typical person notices about Pandunia is that its words don't ever change. Most words in Pandunia have one unchanging form, which does not change according to number, case, gender, tense, mood or any of the other inflectional categories known from other languages. Compare, for example, what happens to the words in the following two sentences in Pandunia and English.

1. *mi love da.* – I love him.
2. *da love mi.* – He loves me.

In Pandunia, the subject and object simply change places and that's it. All words stay the same, and only their order changes. In contrast, in English, the subject *I* changes to *me* when it becomes the object, the object *him* changes to *he* when it becomes the subject, and the verb *love* changes to *loves* in order to agree with the new subject. Changes like this are called grammatical inflections, and languages that use them are called *inflected languages*.

Languages with very few grammatical inflections are known as *isolating languages*. Pandunia is one of those languages that is free from all grammatical inflections, but it goes even further. Pandunia words are multipurpose words that can be used as nouns, verbs or adjectives without any changes in the form of words. So you don't have to worry about using incorrect forms. This is one of the reasons why Pandunia is easier to learn and more convenient to use than other languages.

What is important is the order of words because grammatical relationships are encoded into the word order, not into words. However, the word order in Pandunia is very natural, so it is easy to learn.

Pandunia is so simple that we don't need specialized or complicated words to describe how it works. That's why all things in this grammar are explained in plain words and basic terms that you have probably already learned in school. And don't worry if you don't remember some of them, all terms are explained when they are met for the first time.

#### Analytic and isolating

Pandunia is an *analytic language*. It means that different parts of sentence, like subject, verb and object, are always independent words. Their syntactic relationship is encoded into word order only. Words don't change unlike in *synthetic languages*, which denote syntactic relationships by inflection or agglutination. Therefore the order of words is very important in Pandunia.

Pandunia is also an *isolating language*. Grammatical information, like case, gender, number and tense, is not encoded into words by affixation, inflection or any other means. In fact, words don't ever change in Pandunia. So when one wants to express a new

meaning or a nuance, one can't do that by modifying the words. The only way to add more details is to add more words. For example, the verb **kom** ('to come') is changed to the past tense by adding a word that means the past: **did kom** ('came' or 'did come').

## Content words and structure words

A word class is a group of words that have similar forms and similar use in sentences. In Pandunia, word classes belong to two superclasses: content words and structure words. Content words are the words for things in the real world. The job of structure words is to bind content words into meaningful phrases. They have little meaning or only an occasional meaning in the world outside the language.

Content words convey most of information and meaning. You can't say anything meaningful without them, but they don't make any sense without structure words, which are the necessary words for grammar. You need structure words to put content words together into more or less complex sentences. Content words are like bricks of information and structural words are like the mortar that holds them together.

In Pandunia, it is easy to identify structure words because they always consist of only one syllable. Content words, on the other hand, are typically longer. Structure words are best explained in the grammar, whereas content words are translated in the dictionary.

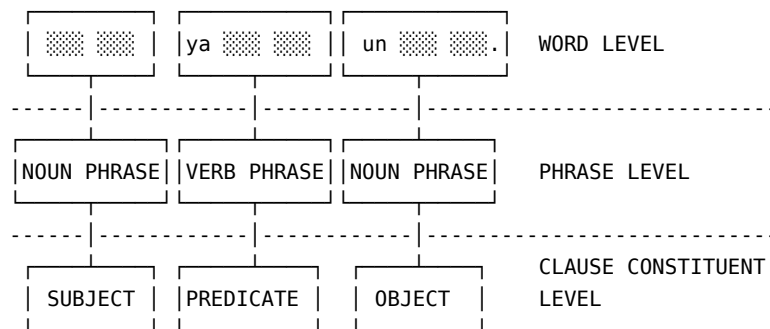
In Pandunia, sentences are held together by a fixed group of structure words. They include pronouns (such as **mi** 'I' and **tu** 'you'), determiners (such as **un** 'a, one' and **da** 'the') and various grammatical particles (such as the affirmative and negative particles **ya** and **no**). Structure words make the syntactical structure easy to see, because they mark out the boundaries between sentence constituents.

Therefore one can know the grammatical structure of a sentence by knowing the structure words only. It doesn't matter does one know any of the content words. It's because the structure words define the structure and the content words define the meaning. For example, consider the following sentence where only structure words are visible and content words are hidden.

▯▯▯▯▯▯ **ya** ▯▯▯▯▯▯ **un** ▯▯▯▯▯▯.

Here the structure words **ya** and **un** form a certain construction or mold where content words are inserted. The type and placement of the structure words reveals the structure of the mold. Namely, it is the transitive clause construction. It is identified by its three-part structure. First there is the subject (a noun phrase). It is followed by the predicate (a verb phrase), whose beginning is marked here by the affirmative particle **ya**. It is in turn followed by the object (another noun phrase), whose beginning is marked by the determiner **un** 'a, one'.

Figure. The transitive construction in three levels.



The transitive construction is one of the most common structures in Pandunia. Essentially it consists of following parts:

(det.) + NP + TAM + VP + det. + NP

where det. = determiner, TAM = tense, aspect or mood particle, NP = noun phrase and VP = verb phrase. It can be filled with different content words in order to give different specific meanings for the sentence, as in the table below.

Subject	TAM	Predicate	Det.	Object
<i>suka bacha</i> The happy child	<b>ya</b>	<i>kitabe</i> writes	<b>un</b>	<i>long letre.</i> a long letter.
<i>yun man</i> The young man	<b>ya</b>	<i>vize</i> sees	<b>un</b>	<i>mei parke.</i> a beautiful park.
<i>meni jen</i> Many people	<b>ya</b>	<i>van shope</i> want to buy	<b>un</b>	<i>nove haus.*</i> a new house.

So the key to decoding Pandunia is to know the structure words and the clause constructions. There is a small and fixed number of both of them, about 40 structure words and less than 10 clause constructions. They form the molds where an endless amount of content words can be inserted in order to say anything that we can think of.

## Word classes

Structure words can be categorized into word classes as follows:

1. Pronouns : words that point to people and things.
2. Prepositions : words that relate things and actions into circumstances
3. Conjunctions : words that join phrases and clauses together
4. Particles : words that indicate temporal, modal and structural relations.

Content words can be classified further into the following word classes:

1. Nouns : words for things, ideas, places and people.
2. Adjectives : words for qualities of nouns, such as good, bad, and big.
3. Adverbs : words that describe degrees of qualities, such as less, more and very.
4. Numerals : words for numbers and amounts.
5. Verbs : words for actions and occurrences, such as to eat and to look.

However, the class of a content word is seldom permanent. A word like **love** ('love') can function as verb, noun or adjective depending on its position in the sentence.

**mi love tu.** – *I love you.* (verb)

**tu fikre mi se love.** – *You think about my love.* (noun)

**mi kitabe un love\*\*\* letre.** – *I write a love letter.* (adjective)

## 5. Nouns

### Only one form

A noun is a word that refers to a concrete or abstract object, such as *person, tree, house, life* and *speed*. Like all words in Pandunia, nouns don't ever change in form. The same word form is always used, no matter whether the referred thing is singular or plural, definite or indefinite, subject or object, etc. Therefore the same Pandunia word form can correspond to many different word forms in English.

**haus** – a house, houses, the house, or the houses

**meza** – a table, tables, the table, or the tables

**kursi** – a chair, chairs, the chair, or the chairs

**sui** – water, the water

Number and definiteness are often known because they were previously mentioned in the conversation or because they are general knowledge. For example, normally the word **sol** refers to *the sun* and **lun** refers to *the moon*, our only sun and moon.

### Indicating number

Pandunia nouns have the same form in singular (when there is one) and plural (when there is more than one). Therefore all Pandunia nouns are like the English words *sheep, deer* and *fish*, which also have only one form though they can refer to one or many things.

In Pandunia, the number is indicated only when it matters and when it is new information. It is done simply by inserting a number or a quantity word before the noun.

**meme** – (one or more) sheep

**un meme** – a sheep or one sheep

**du meme** – two sheep

**tri meme** – three sheep

**meni meme** – many sheep

**kursi** – a chair or chairs

**un kursi** – one chair

**du kursi** – two chairs

**tri kursi** – three chairs

**meni kursi** – many chairs

It is possible to specify plurality also by reduplication, by saying the noun two times.

**haus haus** – houses and houses, a variety of houses

**buke buke** – books and books, a variety of books

Quantity words should not be used together with reduplication. Therefore, a phrase like **tri buke buke** would be superfluous, whereas **tri buke** ('three books') is just perfect.

## Proper names

Proper names are nouns for individual people, places and other things.

Names of people can be tagged with the universal title of respect **si**. Using it shows respect and politeness. In Pandunia, you use it in front of someone's name.

It can be used in formal and informal situations and for all age groups, for all social groups and for all sexes and genders. The closest translation for it in English is *Mr* or *Ms* or *Mx*.

There are different customs concerning honorific titles in different cultures. In some cultures it is not polite to use someone's name without a title of respect. Therefore it is advisable to use **si** always when you meet new people from different cultures.

A title of respect can be used with a given name, a family name, or both.

**si Bili King** – Mx Billy King

**si Bili** – Mx Billy

**si King** – Mx King

## 7. Modifiers

A modifier is a word that adds a particular quality or description, such as good, bad, big, and fast, to another word. In Pandunia, there is only one class of modifiers. The same word can modify nouns and verbs, whereas in English only *adjectives* can modify nouns and only *adverbs* can modify verbs. For example, the word **mei** ('beautiful' or 'beautifully') modifies a noun in sentence A and a verb in sentence B.

A. **da es mei kitabe.** – That is a beautiful writing.

B. **tu mei li kitabe.** – You write *beautifully*.

### Modifying nouns

In Pandunia, "adjectives" are modifiers that are placed before the noun that they modify.

**un nove karo** – a *new* car

**un rapide karo** – a *fast* car

**meni dai meza** – *big* tables

**meni gau meza** – *high* tables

**un gude jen** – a *good* person

Two or more modifiers can modify the same noun.

**un lil nove karo** – a *little new* car

### Modifying verbs

A modifier that modifies a verb is placed immediately before the verb.

**tu rapide loga.** – You talk *fast*.

**di jen gude kitabe.** – They write *well*.

It is common to put the modifying particle **li** between the modifier and the verb. It makes the structure of the verb phrase clearer.

**tu mei li kitabe.** – You write *beautifully*.

**di rapide li marche.** – They walk *fast*.

### Modifying other modifiers

The particle **li** is used also when a modifier modifies another one.

**un dai li gude buke** – a *greatly* good book

**bala li lovente jen** – *strongly* loving people

## Degree words

Degree words tell us about the intensity of something.

**muche** – very

**bas** – quite, sufficiently, enough

**mor** – more

**les** – less

Degree words are placed before the word that they modify.

**un dai man** – a big man

**un muche dai man** – a very big man

**un bas dai man** – a big enough man / a sufficiently big man

A degree word together with a modifier forms a *compound adverb* that can modify a verb or a sentence. The compound adverb is placed immediately before the verb that it modifies.

**vere muche** – very much

**mi vere muche van loga.** – I want very much to speak.

**mi van vere muche loga.** – I want to speak very much.

It is also possible to place the compound adverb very last in the sentence, and then it modifies the sentence as a whole. The meaning is the same like when the compound adverb modifies the main verb.

**mi van loga vere muche.** – I want to speak very much.

**sual tu sona bas gude?** – Did you sleep well enough?

## Adverbs of comparison

Adjectives can be compared with the adverbs of comparison.

**mor** (*more*) indicates comparison of superiority

**mor... of hol** (*most... of all*) indicates the superlative of superiority

**les** (*less*) indicates comparison of inferiority

**les... of hol** (*least... of all*) indicates the superlative of inferiority

**sim** (*as or equally*) indicates the comparison of equality

The particle **dan** relates the adverbs of comparison to the object of comparison.

**apple es mor hau dan aranja.** = Apples are better than oranges.

**aranja es les hau dan apple.** = Oranges are less good than apples.

**tu loga sim hau dan mi.** = You speak as well as me.

## 6. Numerals

### Cardinal numbers

Ones	Ten and over	20 and over	30 and over
0 siro	10 (un) ten	20 du ten	30 tri ten
1 un	11 ten un	21 du ten un	31 tri ten un
2 du	12 ten du	22 du ten du	32 tri ten du
3 tri	13 ten tri	23 du ten tri	33 tri ten tri
4 for	14 ten for	24 du ten for	34 tri ten for
5 faif	15 ten faif	25 du ten faif	35 tri ten faif
6 sixe	16 ten sixe	26 du ten sixe	36 tri ten sixe
7 seven	17 ten seven	27 du ten seven	37 tri ten seven
8 eite	18 ten eite	28 du ten eite	38 tri ten eite
9 nain	19 ten nain	29 du ten nain	39 tri ten nain

Ones	Tens	Hundreds	Thousands
1 un	10 (un) ten	100 un hunde	1000 un tauzen
2 du	20 du ten	200 du hunde	2000 du tauzen
3 tri	30 tri ten	300 tri hunde	3000 tri tauzen

Ones	Tens	Hundreds	Thousands
4 for	40 for ten	400 for hunde	4000 for tauzen
5 faif	50 faif ten	500 faif hunde	5000 faif tauzen
6 sixe	60 sixe ten	600 sixe hunde	6000 sixe tauzen
7 seven	70 seven ten	700 seven hunde	7000 seven tauzen
8 eite	80 eite ten	800 eite hunde	8000 eite tauzen
9 nain	90 nain ten	900 nain hunde	9000 nain tauzen

Greater numbers follow the same logic as above.

10'000 un ten tauzen  
 100'000 un hunde tauzen  
 1'000'000 un milion  
 10'000'000 un ten milion  
 100'000'000 un hunde milion  
 1'000'000'000 un tauzen milion

Note: The words “billion” and “milliard” are not used in Pangdunia because their meanings are different from country to country. Instead, one should say **tauzen milion** (thousand millions) or **un giga**.

The numerals that are greater than one hundred are borrowed from the

The prefixes of the International System of Units (SI) are used in common language in Pandunia. It is normal to say, for example: **eite giga person bi live in Dunia**.

– Eight billion (or *milliard*) people live on Earth.

Prefix	Symbol	Base 10	Decimal
deka	da	10 <sup>1</sup>	10
heto	h	10 <sup>2</sup>	100
kilo	k	10 <sup>3</sup>	1'000
mega	M	10 <sup>6</sup>	1'000'000
giga	G	10 <sup>9</sup>	1'000'000'000
tera	T	10 <sup>12</sup>	1'000'000'000'000
peta	P	10 <sup>15</sup>	1'000'000'000'000'000
exa	E	10 <sup>18</sup>	1'000'000'000'000'000'000
zeta	Z	10 <sup>21</sup>	1'000'000'000'000'000'000'000
yota	Y	10 <sup>24</sup>	1'000'000'000'000'000'000'000'000

### Cardinal number before noun

Quantity can be expressed with numerals and other quantity-words. They are put before the word or phrase that they qualify.

**un sing** – one star  
**du sing** – two stars  
**tri sing** – three stars  
**kam sing** – few stars  
**meni sing** – many stars

**un dai kursi** – one big chair  
**du dai kursi** – two big chairs  
**tri hau kursi** – three good chairs

### Ordinal numbers

Ordinal numbers are similar to cardinal numbers but they are placed after the noun that they modify.

**parte un** – part one (the first part)  
**parte du** – part two (the second part)  
**parte tri** – part three (the third part)



## Classifiers of measurement

The classifier of measurement is a word that occurs between a numeral and a noun. It indicates how the referent of the noun is measured, contained or packaged. Classifiers of measurement is an open class of words, which includes, among many others, **litre** 'liter', **metre** 'meter', **bottle** 'bottle', **kupa** 'cup, mug', **pake** 'package', **pote** 'pot', **sake** 'bag, sack', **tin** 'can, tin' **tong** 'cask, barrel'.

**du litre jus** – two liters of juice  
**tri metre kable** – three meters of wire  
**un kupa kafe** – a cup of coffee  
**du bottle vin** – two bottles of wine  
**tri sake patate** – three sacks of potatoes  
**for tin limon jus** – four cans of lemonade

## Fractions

Fractions are formed with the help of the word **parte** 'part'.

Fractions can be interpreted in two ways. Firstly, the word **parte** can be interpreted as a classifier of measurement. Then, for example, **du parte tri** is interpreted as 'two parts of three (parts)'. Secondly, the last numeral can be understood as an ordinal number that modifies **parte**. Then, for example, **du parte tri** is interpreted as 'two thirds'. Both interpretations lead to the same result that **du parte tri** stands for '2/3' in mathematical symbols.

**un parte du** – a half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )  
**un parte for** – one fourth, one quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ )  
**tri parte for** – three fourths, three quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ )  
**un parte hunde** – one hundredth, one percent (1%)  
**un parte tauzen** – one thousandth, one permille (1‰)

Fractions are connected to their noun head with **of** ('of').

**un parte du of haur** – a half (of an) hour  
**faif ten parte hunde of jen** – fifty percent of people  
**du parte tri of keke** – two thirds of a cake

In addition, there is also a longer pattern for forming fractions. It uses the pattern **X of Y parte** ('X of Y parts').

**un of du parte** – one of two parts, a half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )  
**un of for parte** – one of four parts, a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ )  
**tri of for parte** – three of four parts, three quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ )  
**un of hunde parte** – one of hundred parts, a percent (1%)  
**un of tauzen parte** – one of thousand parts, a permille (1‰)

## Date

### Days of the week

Days of the week are named after celestial bodies according to the historical international system and they include the word **dei** ('day, 24 hours').

1. **lunadei** – Monday
2. **marisdei** – Tuesday
3. **merkurdei** – Wednesday
4. **mushindei** – Thursday
5. **zukradei** – Friday
6. **shanidei** – Saturday
7. **soldei** – Sunday

### Months

Names of the months are made up of the number of the month and **mes** ('month') is used.

1. **mes un** – January
2. **mes du** – February
3. **mes tri** – March
4. **mes for** – April
5. **mes faif** – May
6. **mes sixe** – June

7. **mes seven** – July
8. **mes eite** – August
9. **mes nain** – September
10. **mes ten** – October
11. **mes ten un** – November
12. **mes ten du** – December

### Date format

The date formats use the *ordinal number after the noun* pattern. The day, month and year ordered from the longest period of time to the shortest, i.e. day first and year last, or vice versa i.e. year first and day last. Month is always in the middle.

**nen 2022 mes 9 dei 17 ~ dei 17 mes 9 nen 2002**

There are also two short formats without the year.

**mes 9 dei 17 ~ dei 17 mes 9**

### Time

The normal pattern for telling time is **haur H e M**, where H stands for hours and M stands for minutes. We always use this direct pattern, and we never use words like *past* and *to* in Pandunia.

**haur tri** – three o'clock

**haur tri e siro** – three o'clock sharp

**haur tri e faif** – three oh-five – or five past three

**haur tri e ten** – three ten – or ten past three

**haur tri e ten faif** – three fifteen – or quarter past three

**haur tri e tri ten** – three thirty – or half past three

**haur tri e for ten faif** – three forty-five – or quarter to four

**haur tri e faif ten** – three fifty – or ten to four

**haur tri e faif ten faif** – three-fifty-five – or five to four

### The 24 hour clock

Normally we use the 24 hour clock to tell the time in Pandunia.

01:00 = **haur un** – one o'clock ~ one hundred hours

01:15 = **haur un e ten faif** – one fifteen ~ one hundred fifteen hours

01:30 = **haur un e tri ten** – one thirty ~ one hundred thirty hours

13:00 = **haur ten tri** – thirteen o'clock ~ thirteen hundred hours

13:15 = **haur ten tri e ten faif** – thirteen fifteen ~ thirteen hundred fifteen hours

13:30 = **haur ten tri e tri ten** – thirteen thirty ~ thirteen hundred thirty hours

### The 12 hour clock

The 12 hour clock splits the day into two 12 hour sections. One lasts from midnight to noon and the second half lasts from noon to midnight. Hours before noon are called *AM* (pronounced *ah-em*), which comes from the phrase **ante mide dei**, which means 'before midday'. Hours after noon are called *PM* (pronounced *peh-em*), which comes from the phrase **pos mide dei**, which means 'after midday'.

Before midday we say:

☐ = **haur un AM** – one AM

☐ = **haur un e tri ten AM** – one thirty AM

☐ = **haur faif AM** – five AM

☐ = **haur ten AM** – ten AM

After midday we say:

☐ = **haur un PM** – one PM

☐ = **haur un e tri ten PM** – one thirty PM ☐ = **haur faif PM** – five PM

☐ = **haur ten PM** – ten PM

## 4. Pronouns

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns and noun phrases in a sentence. They keep us from repeating the same words over and over again. Here's an example of a sentence without pronouns:

*My mother is a teacher but my mother is also a singer and my mother sings beautifully.*

It sounds clumsy and repetitive. Here's the same sentence with a personal pronoun:

*My mother is a teacher but **she** is also a singer and **she** sings beautifully.*

The latter sentence sounds fluent and smooth.

### Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns refer to people. They are used in place of a person's name or title.

Singular	Plural
<b>mi</b>	<b>vi</b>
I, me	we
<b>tu</b>	<b>yu</b>
you	you all
<b>da</b>	<b>di</b>
he or she	they

All pronouns can be used for all genders. In Pandunia, personal pronouns do not specify whether the person discussed is a woman or a man. For example, in the third person, one word – **da** – refers to women, men and people of other genders alike. It is a gender-neutral personal pronoun and it treats everyone equally.

The singular 2nd person pronoun **tu** can be used in all situations, both formal and informal, regardless of differences in social status and age of the speakers. In this way it is similar to Swedish *du*. However, some speakers may prefer to use **tu** only with family and intimate friends. Then its usage is comparable to German *du*, French *tu*, Russian *ты* (ty) and Hindi *tū*.

It is always acceptable to use the plural pronoun **yu** instead of the singular pronoun **tu**.

There are three first-person plural pronouns. **yumi** is the inclusive *we* that includes the audience: 'you, I and other people'. **dimi** is the exclusive *we* that excludes the audience: 'I and other people only'. Finally, **vi** is the neutral *we* that can be both inclusive and exclusive. It is also the most common first-person plural pronoun, and the other two are used only occasionally.

The possessive pronouns consists of the personal pronoun and the possessive particle **se**.

Singular	Plural
<b>mi se</b>	<b>vi se</b>
my	our
<b>tu se</b>	<b>yu se</b>
your	your
<b>da se</b>	<b>di se</b>
his or her	their

### Reflexive pronoun

The reflexive pronoun is used when the object of a sentence is the same as the subject.

**selfe** – self

Note! The same reflexive pronoun **selfe** is used for all persons, so it corresponds to English *myself*, *yourself*, *himself*, *herself*, *itself*, *ourselves* and *themselves* all at once.

**mi vize selfe**. – I see myself.

**da vize selfe**. – She sees herself. / He sees himself. / It sees itself.

**vi vize selfe**. – We see ourselves.

The expression **unotre** is used as the reciprocal pronoun.

**unotre** – each other, one another

**mi e tu vize unotre.** – Me and you see each other.  
**vi vize unotre.** – We see each other.

## Demonstrative pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns are used with nouns to make them more specific.

Pandunia has two main demonstrative pronouns:

**da** this, that  
**di** these, those

As they do not differentiate between near and far, they can be further qualified by adding **hir** (*here*) or **der** (*there*).

**da haus** – this or that house  
**di haus** – these or those houses  
**da hir haus** – this house  
**di hir haus** – these houses  
**da der haus** – that house  
**di der haus** – those houses

The proximal demonstrative **da hir** points to things that are close to the speaker in terms of physical distance or relation. The distal demonstrative **da der** points to things that are further away from the speaker in terms of physical distance or relation.

**tu van da der buke, he?** – Do you want that book?  
**no, mi van da hir buke, no da der.** – No, I want this book, not that.

The demonstratives can serve as subjects and objects in the same way as nouns.

**da hir es gude.** – This is good.  
**da der es bade.** – That is bad.  
**tu van da hir, he?** – Do you want this?  
**no, mi van da der.** – No, I want that.

When the verb is a content word, there needs to be a modal particle, like **ya** or **no**, between the subject and the verb.

**mi vize du jen.** – I see two persons.  
**da hir ya gani e da der no gani.** – This one sings and that one doesn't sing.

The basic proximal and distal pronouns are used for introducing a new object. The topical demonstrative **da**, on the other hand, does not specify physical distance but it is used when the speaker has already mentioned the object or person in question and it is known by the audience or is topical within the discourse.

**da hir es mau. da van yam da der mushu.** – This is a cat. It wants to eat that mouse.

**mi have un mau e un vaf. da vaf es dai. da bi yam mucho yam.** – I have a cat and a dog. The dog is big. It eats a lot of food.

## Abstract use

The demonstrative pronouns can be used also discourse internally. Then they refer to abstract entities of discourse, not concrete objects. **da** refers to things previously spoken, **da hir** refers to things currently being spoken, and **da der** refers to things about to be spoken.

**da hir jumla es korte.** – This sentence is short.

In the above, **da hir jumla** (*this sentence*) refers to the sentence being spoken.

**mi seme da der: mi love tu.** – I mean this: I love you. OR I mean that I love you.  
**mi love tu. mi seme da.** – I love you. That is what I mean.

In the above, the pronoun **da der** refers to the content of the next statement and **da** refers to the content of the previous statement.

## Interrogative pronouns

There are two interrogative pronouns in Pandunia.

**kua** – what  
**hu** – who

**da es kua?** – What is it?  
**da es hu?** – Who is it?

**yu van kua?** – What do you want?  
**kua es a meza.** – What is on the table?

The possessive interrogative pronoun is created regularly.

**hu se** – whose

Adjectives are questioned with **kua li**.

**kua li nove?** – How new?  
**kua li koste?** – How costly?  
**kua li muche?** – How many?  
**kua li kam?** – How few?  
**kua li dai?** – How big?  
**kua li lil?** – How small?

**tu have kua li dai mau?** – How big a cat do you have?

## Table of pronominals

A pronominal phrase is an expression that consists of several words and functions syntactically as a pronoun. Pandunia's pronominal phrases can be arranged in a regular table of pronominals as below.

Category	Interrogative	Demonstrative	Indefinite	Universal	Negative	Alternative	Elective
<b>ting</b>	<b>kua ting</b>	<b>da ting</b>	<b>som ting</b>	<b>evri ting</b>	<b>no ting</b>	<b>otre ting</b>	<b>eni ting</b>
Thing	what (thing)	that thing	something	everything	nothing	another	anything
<b>von</b>	<b>kua von</b>	<b>da von</b>	<b>som von</b>	<b>evri von</b>	<b>no von</b>	<b>otre von</b>	<b>eni von</b>
Individual	who	that one	someone	every one	no-one	another	anyone
<b>have</b>	<b>kua von se</b>	<b>da von se</b>	<b>som von se</b>	<b>evri von se</b>	<b>no von se</b>	<b>otre von se</b>	<b>eni von se</b>
Possession	whose	that one's	someone's	everyone's	no-one's	another's	anyone's
<b>loke</b>	<b>kua loke</b>	<b>da loke</b>	<b>som loke</b>	<b>evri loke</b>	<b>no loke</b>	<b>otre loke</b>	<b>eni loke</b>
Location	where	there	somewhere	everywhere	nowhere	elsewhere	anywhere
<b>tem</b>	<b>kua tem</b>	<b>da tem</b>	<b>som tem</b>	<b>evri tem</b>	<b>no tem</b>	<b>otre tem</b>	<b>eni tem</b>
Time	when, what time	that time	sometime	always, all the time	never	another time	any time
<b>vei</b>	<b>kua vei</b>	<b>da vei</b>	<b>som vei</b>	<b>evri vei</b>	<b>no vei</b>	<b>otre vei</b>	<b>eni vei</b>
Manner	how	in that way	somehow	in every way	in no way	otherwise	anyway
<b>tipe</b>	<b>kua tipe</b>	<b>da tipe</b>	<b>som tipe</b>	<b>evri tipe</b>	<b>no tipe</b>	<b>otre tipe</b>	<b>eni tipe</b>
Kind, sort	what kind of	that kind of	some kind of	all kinds of	no kind of	another type of	any kind of
<b>monta</b>	<b>kua monta</b>	<b>da monta</b>	<b>som monta</b>	<b>evri monta</b>	<b>no monta</b>	<b>otre monta</b>	<b>eni monta</b>
Amount	how much	so much	some	all	none	other amount	any amount

## 8. Verbs

Verbs are unchanging in Pandunia. Things like person, number, time and mood are indicated by separate words, not by changing the form of verbs as in English and other languages.

### Person and number

Person and number are indicated by the subject. For example, the verb **es** ('to be') has the same form in all persons.

**mi es frende.** – I am a friend.  
**tu es frende.** – You are a friend.  
**da es frende.** – He/she is a friend.  
**vi es frende.** – We are friends.  
**yu es frende.** – You are friends.  
**di es frende.** – They are friends.

Also a noun can serve as subject.

**mau es hevan.** – The cat is an animal.

## Indicating time and mood

Verb tenses, moods and voices are expressed with auxiliary verbs, which come first in the verb phrase. The order of the auxiliaries is tense, mood and aspect. The tense marker is first, the mood marker is next, and the aspect marker is last.

### Tense

Tense is a property that expresses time reference. The main tenses are the past, present, and future. More specific time references are expressed with various time expressions, like *yesterday*, *tomorrow* or *one hour ago*. The marker **did** indicates the past tense, **nau** indicates the present tense, and **vil** indicates the future tense.

**man did yam ban.** – The man *ate* (or *did eat*) bread.

**man nau yam ban.** – The man *eats* bread (now).

**man vil yam ban.** – The man *will eat* bread.

It is also possible to express the future in the past with a combination of two tense markers.

**man did vil yam ban.** – The man *was going to* eat bread.

### Aspect

Aspect expresses how an action or event extends over time. There are two aspect markers in Pandunia, **bi** and **haf**.

The marker **bi** indicates that the action or event is *on-going* or *in progress* at the time, which the speaker is talking about. The time can be indicated with a tense marker.

**man bi yam ban.** – The man *is, was* or *will be* eating bread.

**man did bi yam ban.** – The man *was* eating bread.

**man nau bi yam ban.** – The man *is* eating bread.

**man vil bi yam ban.** – The man *will be* eating bread.

The marker **haf** indicates that the action or event is completed and its results still has an effect at the time, which the speaker is talking about. The time can be indicated with a tense markers.

**man haf yam ban.** – The man *had, has* or *will have* eaten bread.

**man did haf yam ban.** – The man *had* eaten bread.

**man nau haf yam ban.** – The man *has* eaten bread.

**man vil haf yam ban.** – The man *will have* eaten bread.

### Conditional mood

The conditional marker **vud** indicates that the realization of an action or event depends on another condition. This marker is used in both main and subordinate clauses.

**mi vud van yam.** – I *would* like to eat.

**mi vud go to Dubai.** – I *would* go to Dubai.

**mi vud go, if tu las mi.** – I *would* go if you let me.

**tu no vud es suka, if mi vud go.** – You *would not* be happy, if I *would* go.

### Transitivity

In general, there are three types of verbs.

1. Transitive verbs need a direct object, which is the target of the action.
2. Intransitive verbs don't accept an object. Then the action is directed to the subject.
3. Ambitransitive verbs can be both transitive and intransitive.

Pandunia verbs are typically ambitransitive i.e. they may or may not require an object depending on the sentence structure. When there is an object, the verb is transitive, and when there isn't an object, the verb is intransitive.

**mi bule sui.** – I boil water. (transitive sentence)

**sui bule.** – Water boils. (intransitive sentence)

**baker bake ban.** – The baker bakes bread. (transitive sentence)

**ban bake in tanur.** – Bread bakes in the oven. (intransitive sentence)

Serial verb construction is a string of verbs that share the same subject, which is before the verbs. In serial verb constructions the verbs are interpreted so that the first verb (an auxiliary verb) is something that the subject possesses and the second verb is something that the subject does (when there is an object in the end) or experiences (when there is no object).



**mi ken kitabe da javabe.**

*≈ I have the ability to write the answer.*

– I can write the answer.

**mi halal kitabe da javabe.**

*≈ I have the permission to write the answer.*

– I may write the answer.

**mi mus kitabe da javabe.**

*≈ I have the compulsion to write the answer.*

– I must write the answer.

Note that the same auxiliary verbs can be used alone as transitive verbs in the pivot construction.

**guru halal mi kitabe da javabe.** – The teacher permits me to write the answer.

**guru mus mi kitabe da javabe.** – The teacher compels me to write the answer.

## Prepositions

In Pandunia, prepositions are words that function almost like verbs. They always take an object.

### a

The preposition **a** expresses general location in time or space, ‘at, in, on’.

**vi marche a dau.** – We walk on the road.

**mau side a meza.** – A cat sits on the table.

**mi mus sta long a labur.** – I must stay long at work.

### to

The preposition **to** denotes a destination, goal or purpose, ‘to, toward, for’.

**di marche to bazar.** – They walk to the market.

**mi van don da hir buke to yu.** – I want to give this book to you.

### of

The preposition **of** expresses separation or origin, ‘of, off, from’.

**di kom of Brazil.** – They come from Brazil.

**da lexe kitabe es of arabe asle.** – This word *kitabe* is of Arabic origin.

### ex

The preposition **ex** denotes location on the outside, ‘out, outside’.

**deme ya proteste ex da burge.** – People protest outside the castle.

### in

The preposition **in** denotes location on the inside, ‘in, inside’.

**zulmer ya sir in da burge.** – The tyrant hides in the castle.

### kon

The preposition **kon** denotes togetherness, ‘with, in the company of’.

**da loga kon da shefe.** – He/she speaks with the boss.

### pos

The preposition **pos** denotes later position in time or space, ‘after, later than’.

**di kom pos mi.** – They come after me.

## pre

The preposition **pre** denotes earlier position in time or space, 'before, in front of'.

**di kom pre mi.** – They come before me.

## pro

The preposition **pro** denotes intention, cause or motivation, 'for, for the sake of, in order to, pro'.

**mi kurse pro salta.** – I jog for health.

## re

The preposition **re** denotes movement back, 'back, in return'.

**da don da buke re mi.** – He gave the book back to me.

## tra

The preposition **tra** denotes piercing through, 'through'.

## via

The preposition **via** denotes road or way, 'via, by way of'.

**vi kom to Berlin via Praha.** – We come to Berlin via Prague.

## vise

The preposition **vise** denotes substitution, 'instead of, on behalf of'.

**da loga vise mi.** – He speaks on my behalf.

## 9. Sentence structures

### Building blocks for sentences

Sentences consist of clauses, which in turn consist of constituents, which are phrases, which consist of words and have a certain internal word order.

The clause constituents are listed below.

- The subject is the topic of the sentence. It is typically a noun phrase.
- The predicate says something about the subject. In the narrow sense it covers only the verb and its modifiers, which indicate the event or action that is occurring.
- The object is the participant that is affected by the event.
- The predicative is a complement of the predicate that describes the subject.
- Adverbial indicates means or circumstances that are involved in the event.

Subject	Predicate	Object	Adverbial
A young man	is driving	a car	on the street.
We	should take	our old stuff	to the flea market.

Subject	Predicate	Predicative	Adverbial
You and me	are	happy	together.
My friend	got	upset	for the war.

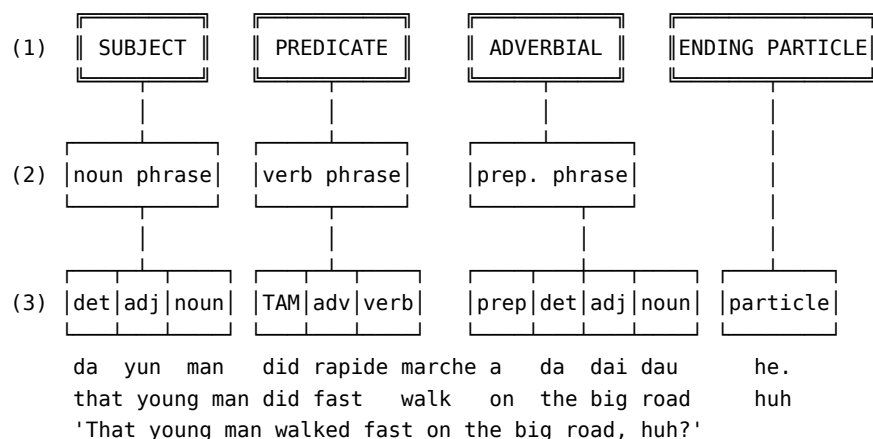
The clause constituents are phrases. The main phrase types are listed below.

- The noun phrase (NP) consists of a determiner (det.), adjectives and a noun. The noun is the head of the noun phrase, which means that it is the main word and the other words only add to its meaning. The head can serve alone as the noun phrase whereas the other words can't.

- The adjective phrase (AP) consists of an adjective (adj.) with any adverbs (adv.) that modify it.
- The verb phrase (VP) consists of a tense, aspect or mood marker (TAM), one or more adverbs and a verb (or a verb series). The verb is the main word of the verb phrase.
- The preposition phrase consists of a preposition (prep.) as head and usually a noun phrase as its complement.

Pandunia sentences are made up of the building blocks listed above. The figure below shows the decomposition of a Pandunia sentence in three levels: (1) clause constituents, (2) phrases and (3) words.

Figure 1. Decomposition of a sentence structure in Pandunia.



### Marking boundaries between constituents

Clause constituents can consist of more than one word. Subject and object can be noun phrases that consist of many words, and there can be a series of verbs (i.e. a serial verb) instead of a single verb. In such cases the boundaries between the clause constituents can become doubtful.

**lil baku meme van shuru yam hau seng chau.** – Little white sheep want to start to eat good fresh grass.

Boundaries between sentence elements can be marked with little words. Determiners, like **un** 'a, one', **ye** 'this or these', **vo** 'that or those over there', **da** 'that or those', and **yo** 'some', help to indicate where noun phrases begin.

**da lil baku meme ya van shuru yam da hau seng chau.** – The little white sheep want to start to eat that good fresh grass.

## Clause types

### Predicative clause

The basic predicative clause patterns are:

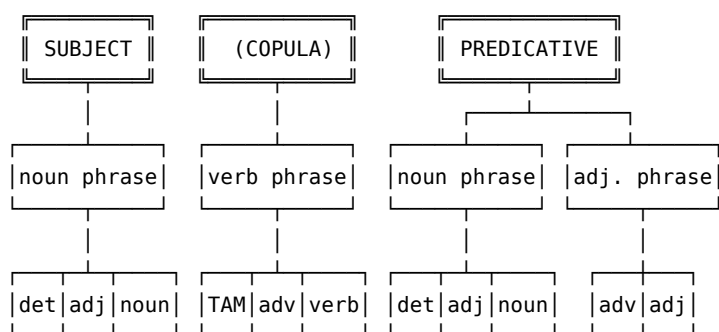
Someone is something.

Someone is of some kind of.

In short, the subject is what the predicative says.

The predicative clause is simple in Pandunia. What is new for English speakers, is that the copula verb 'to be' can be left out. It's not necessary in Pandunia. There are two types of predicative clause: verbal and nominal.

Figure 2. Decomposition of the copula clause.



### Nominal predicative clause

A predicative completes the meaning of a sentence by giving information about a noun by either renaming it or describing it. Often there is no copula verb (i.e. linking verb) between the subject and its predicative complement.

**da Ali.** – He is Ali.

**Ali guru.** – Ali is a teacher.

**Ali rike.** – Ali is rich.

**Ali a haus.** – Ali is at home.

### Verbal predicative clause

The copula verb **es** 'to be' can be used optionally in simple predicative sentences like the ones above.

**da es Ali.** – He is Ali.

**Ali es guru.** – Ali is a teacher.

**Ali es rike.** – Ali is rich.

**Ali es a haus.** – Ali is at home.

The copula verb is used when it is necessary in order to convey the desired meaning. For example, modal verbs, like **van** 'to want', always need it as the main verb because the sentences would have a different meaning without it.

**da van es guru.** – He (or she) wants to be a teacher.

Compare with:

**da van guru.** – He (or she) wants a teacher.

**da van es rike.** – He (or she) wants to be rich.

Compare with:

**da van rike.** – He (or she) wants riches.

The linking verb is used also when structural complexity of subject and/or predicate makes the boundary between the two sentence elements doubtful.

**mi se kar helpe bacha.** – My job helps children.

**mi se kar es helpe bacha.** – My job is to help children.

It is also possible to use a pause, that is indicated by a dash in writing, instead of the linking verb.

**mi se kar – helpe bacha.** – My job: to help children.

### Negating the complement

All predicative complements can be negated by **no** 'not' and the linking verb **es** is optional in the same cases as before

**da no Ali.** ~ **da no es Ali.** – He is not Ali.

**da no guru.** ~ **da no es guru.** – He is not a teacher.

**da no van es guru.** – He doesn't want to be a teacher.

**da no rike.** ~ **da no es rike.** – He is not rich.

**da no van es rike.** – He doesn't want to be rich.

**da no a haus.** ~ **da no es a haus.** – He is not at home.

**da se kar no es helpe bacha.** – His job is not to help children.

### Adjective and verb subjects

In addition to noun subjects and pronoun subjects, the previous rules apply also to adjective subjects and verb subjects.

**yun – mei.** ~ **yun es mei.** – Young is beautiful.

**yun – no sen.** ~ **yun no es sen.** – Young is not old.

**gani – hau.** ~ **gani es hau.** – Singing is good.

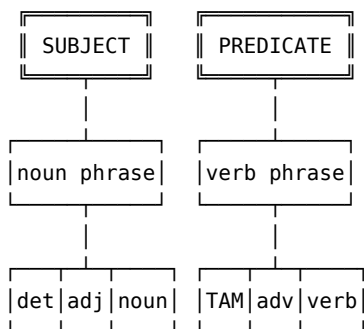
**gani – no dus.** ~ **gani no es dus.** – Singing is not bad.

**skolefa bacha – helpe bacha.** ~ **skolefa bacha es helpe bacha.** – To teach children is to help children.

### Intransitive clause

The purpose of the intransitive clause is to express an event, where someone does something, or where something happens. The intransitive clause contains only one participant, the subject. It is the doer or the experiencer of the event. Intransitive clause does not contain an object.

Figure 3. Decomposition of the intransitive clause.



Here are some examples of intransitive clauses. *Children run*. This sentence tells what the children do, they run. *The door opens*. This sentence tells what the door does, it opens. *The old man dies*. This sentence tells what the old man experiences, he dies.

The actions described by intransitive clauses can be voluntary or involuntary. They are done by the subject, or they just happen to the subject.

In intransitive clauses, if anyone at all is affected by the event, it is the subject. So the action is directed at the subject. The subject undergoes a change. The change can be a change of state or a change of place.

In the sentence *the children run*, the subject changes place. In the sentence *the old man dies*, the subject changes state from living to dead.

Here are some intransitive clauses in Pandunia. The subjects are written in cursive.

***bacha kurse***. – Children run.

***yun fem danse***. – The young woman dances.

***sen man morte***. – The old man died.

Note that Pandunia verbs don't include tense. So they can express the past and present alike. Therefore for example **morte** can mean both 'died' and 'dies'.

So called intransitive verbs can take a cognate object, whose meaning is very close to the meaning of the verb. For example the sentence ***bacha kurse***, 'the children run', can take an object like ***long kurse***, 'a long run'.

\****bacha kurse long kurse***. – 'The children run a long run.'

The meaning of the sentence doesn't really change. It is still about an activity and a change of place, but structurally it is now a transitive clause.

***yun fem danse mei danse***. – The young woman dances a beautiful dance.

***sen man morte hau morte***. – The old man died a good death.

The intransitive clause is structurally similar to the nominal predicative clause, which has zero copula. Compare the first two examples below!

- (1) ***sen man morte***. – The old man died. (intransitive clause)
- (2) ***sen man – morte***. – The old man (is) dead. (nominal predicative clause)
- (3) ***sen man es morte***. – The old man is dead. (verbal predicative clause)

The same sentence can mean both 'the old man died' and 'the old man is dead'. However, they mean almost the same thing, so their almost similar appearance is not an issue. One can use the copula verb to clarify the situation, as in the third sentence, when necessary.

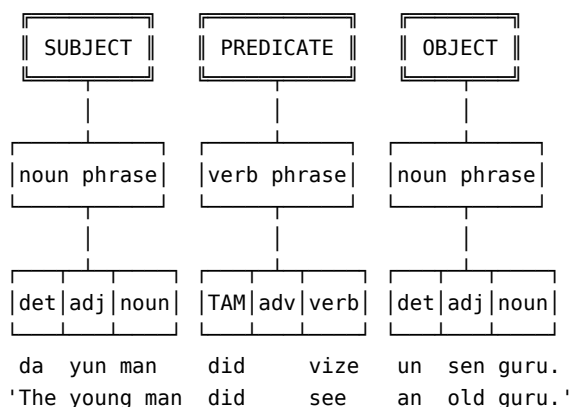
## Transitive clause

The transitive clause is the most versatile clause type in Pandunia, and it has many different realizations.

Transitive clauses are clauses where the verb takes a direct object. The purpose of the transitive clause is to express an event where someone does something to someone or something.

The three constituents of the transitive clause are subject, verb and object. In theory, they can be ordered in many different ways. In Pandunia, their normal order is subject–verb–object (SVO). This order is one of the most common word orders among world's languages. It is the most common word order by number of speakers and the second-most common order by number of languages.

Figure 4. Decomposition of the transitive clause.



Transitive clauses are called transitive because they express an event where some energy transits from the subject to the object. Subject–verb–object is a natural word order, because it follows the natural order of the event. The subject is the source of the energy and it sends the energy through the verb, which transmits it to the object. The object receives the energy and is affected by it.

### Ambitransitive verbs

In general, there are three types of verbs.

1. Transitive verbs need a direct object, which is the target of the action.
2. Intransitive verbs don't take an object. Then the action is directed to the subject.
3. Ambitransitive verbs can be both transitive and intransitive.

Pandunia verbs are typically ambitransitive i.e. they may or may not take an object. When there is an object, the clause is transitive, and when there isn't an object, the clause is intransitive.

In transitive clauses, the subject is the agent and the object is the patient. There is a lot of variation in the roles of agent and patient, but their most basic types can be described as prototypical roles.

The prototypical agent

1. is alive
2. can move
3. participates in the event by its own will
4. causes a change in another participant
5. exists independently of the event.

The prototypical patient

1. might be a non-living thing
2. is standing still relative to another participant
3. is drawn into the event by another participant
4. undergoes a change because of the event
5. might not exist without the event.

In the event, energy flows from the agent to the patient in the form that the verb describes. Consider the following sentence, where the child is the agent that departs energy in the form of a push to the ball, the patient.

**da bacha bate da bol.** – The child hits the ball.

There can also be an instrument that mediates the flow of energy from the agent to the patient. The sequence agent > instrument > patient reflects the flow of energy in an action chain.

**da bacha uze da bang bate da bol.** – The child uses the bat to hit the ball.

The order of the participants is in line with the order of the action chain in reality. The agent, as the origin of the energy flow, is in the beginning, the instrument is in the middle, and the patient, as the recipient of the energy flow, is in the end.

In syntactical terms the order of the words is subject–verb–object (or SVO in short). This is the normal and neutral word order in Pandunia.

For example, in the following sentence, the subject is **mi** 'I', the verb is **vize** 'see', and the object is **tu** 'you'.

**mi vize tu.** – I see you.



If the words are arranged in the opposite order, the entire sentence will have the opposite meaning.

**tu vize mi.** – You see me.

The subject and object roles are related to syntax, which deals with word order and other grammatical phenomena. The agent, instrument and patient roles are related to semantics, which is about the meaning of words. The semantic and syntactic roles can be mapped together in many ways. Usually the most energetic semantic participant takes the role of the subject.

1. If there is an agent, it becomes the subject.
  - **da bacha uze da bang bate da bol.** – *The child uses the bat to hit the ball.*
2. Otherwise, if there is an instrument, it becomes the subject.
  - **da bang bate da bol.** – *The bat hits the ball.*
3. Otherwise the patient becomes the subject and the clause type becomes intransitive.
  - **da bol bate.** – *The ball is hit.*

When a sentence consists of a subject and a verb (SV), the role of the subject can be ambiguous. It can be either the agent or the patient. In such cases the interpretation of its role is based on probability. What is the most likely role that fits together with the situation that the sentence describes?

Often the other words in the sentence help to define the role of the subject, and the sentence can be interpreted in only one meaningful way that is in line with the reality. In the following examples, the subject is in all likelihood a patient i.e. the recipient or the undergoer of the action.

**banana yam.** – Banana is eaten.

**fuku gan.** – Clothes dry.

**ite pada.** – Stone falls.

(The alternative interpretations, where the subject would be agent, *banana eats something*, *clothes make something dry*, and *stone drops something*, would not make sense.)

There are also SV sentences where the subject is likely the agent, as in the following examples.

**mau marche.** – The cat walks.

**sol lume.** – The sun shines.

**di kom.** – They come.

However, it is possible to clarify the roles of subject and object with the help of the auxiliary verbs **fa** ‘do, make’ and **be** ‘undergo’. **fa** indicates that the subject is the agent or doer of the action, and **be** indicates that the subject is the patient or receiver of the action.

**banana be yam.** – Banana is eaten.

**fuku be gan.** – Clothes are dried.

**ite be pada.** – Stone is dropped.

**mau fa marche.** – The cat walks. ~ The cat does walk.

**sol fa lume.** – The sun shines. ~ The sun makes the shining.

It is also possible to add other objects with the help of **fa** ‘make’.

**mau yam peshe.** – The cat eats fish.

**mi fa mau yam peshe.** – I make the cat eat fish. ~ I feed the cat with fish.

**fuku gan.** – Clothes dry.

**sol fa fuku gan.** – The sun makes clothes dry.

## Pivot construction

### Basic pivot construction

The **basic pivot construction** is a syntactic realization of an action chain that reflects the flow of energy from one participant to another. A basic sequence is that of agent > instrument > patient.

**da uze un chaku kate da ban.** – He uses a knife to cut the bread.

**da jete da bol bate da dika.** – He throws the ball to hit the target.

**mi shofe da karo kom da site.** – I drive the car to enter the city.

Another common sequence is that of causer > agent > patient. In such sequences the first verb typically indicates a modality such as desire, permission or obligation, and the second verb indicates what the causer wants the agent to do.

**mi van tu yam vege.** – I want you to eat vegetables. (desire)  
**mi sel tu yam vege.** – I advise you to eat vegetables. (advice)  
**mi halal tu yam vege.** – I allow you to eat vegetables. (permission)  
**mi ken tu yam vege.** – I enable you to eat vegetables. (ability)  
**mi mus tu yam vege.** – I compel you to eat vegetables. (obligation)  
**mi rai tu yam vege.** – I think you eat vegetables. (opinion)

Syntactically the pivot construction is made up of **subject–verb<sub>1</sub>–pivot–verb<sub>2</sub>–object**. The pivot is at the same time the object for verb<sub>1</sub> and the subject for the verb<sub>2</sub>.

**mi van tu yam som vege.** – I want you to eat vegetables.

In the example above, **mi van** has **tu** as its object. At the same time, the very same **tu** functions as the subject of the following predicate, **yam som vege**. So **tu** is the pivot that links the clauses together.

A complete action chain is that of **causer > agent > instrument > patient > recipient**. The previous sequences, **agent > instrument > patient** and **causer > agent > patient**, were in fact only subsequences of this chain. One may pick any or all participants of the action chain into a sentence as long as they stay in the same order. In the following example sentence all optional participants and their verbs are enclosed in brackets.

**(mi van) (tu uze) (da chaku) kate da ban (don ma).** – I want you to use the knife to cut the bread and give to mother.

### Modal pivot construction

In pivot constructions where the first action indicates a modality, such as desire, permission or obligation, the first participant can be left out when it indicates the first person ('I'). The remaining syntactic construction is **verb<sub>1</sub>–pivot–verb<sub>2</sub>–object**.

**mi sual tu kom haus.** – I ask (whether) you come come?  
**sual tu kom haus.** – Do you come come?  
**mi asha tu yam mas fite.** – I wish you would eat more vegetables.  
**asha tu yam mas fite.** – Wish you would eat more vegetables.

In commands and requests also the second participant can be left out when it indicates the second person ('you'). The remaining syntactic structure is **verb<sub>1</sub>–verb<sub>2</sub>–object**.

**mi plis tu kom haus.** – I ask you to come home.  
**plis kom haus!** – Please come home!  
**mi amir tu kluze da mun.** – I command you to shut the door.  
**amir kluze da mun.** – Shut the door!

### Serial verb construction

People tend to express actions that they want to or should do differently than actions that they want other people to do. They don't say, for example, *I want that I write* but they say *I want to write*. Looks like it is worthwhile to mention the participants only when they add new information to the sentence. The second participant can be left out from the pivot construction when it is the same as the subject.

**mi van mi kitabe letre.** – I want *me* to write a letter.  
**mi van kitabe letre.** – I want to write a letter.

This structure is called the verb series or the serial verb construction. It is very common in Pandunia. There can be two, three or even more verbs in a series. All verbs are about the same subject.

1. **mi go a haus.** – I go home.
2. **mi ken go a haus.** – I can go home.
3. **mi van ken go a haus.** – I want to be able to go home. (Word for word: *I want can go home!*)

The last verb in the series is the main verb. The verbs before it are modal verbs.

**tu van yam som vege.** – You want to eat vegetables. (desire)  
**tu sele yam som vege.** – You had better eat vegetables. (advice)  
**tu halal yam som vege.** – You may eat vegetables. (permission)  
**tu ken yam som vege.** – You can eat vegetables. (ability)  
**tu mus yam som vege.** – You must eat vegetables. (obligation)

## Changing the focus

The **topic** is what is being talked about, and the **comment** is what is being said about the topic. Typically the topic is something that is known before and the comment is a piece of new information about the topic. In Pandunia the topic comes first so it is a topic-fronting language.

The focus of the sentence can be changed by changing the order of the topic and comment.

**Maria es guru.** – Maria is a teacher.

**guru es Maria.** – The teacher is Maria.

In Pandunia, the topic can be fronted by using various sentence structures, such as passivization and change of word order. Consider the following sentence:

**mi vize tu.** – I see you.

The topic of the sentence is the subject **mi** 'I'. The object, **tu**, can be topicalized by moving it to the front. There are several ways how to do it. The simplest one involves a simple change of word order and a pause.

**tu – mi vize.** – (It's) you I saw.

One can also use the passive construction to a similar effect.

**tu be mi vize.** – You were seen by me.

Another way to front the object is to use the relative clause construction.

**tu es ki mi vize.** – You are the one whom I saw.

This sentence can be made more impactful by fronting the linking verb **es**, and then even more by dropping the relative pronoun.

**es tu ki mi vize.** – It's you whom I saw.

**es tu mi vize.** – It's you I saw.

Finally, the same **es...** constructions can be used for emphasizing the topicness of the normal subject too.

**es mi ki vize tu.** ~ **es mi vize tu.** – It's me who saw you.

**es mi ki kom.** ~ **es mi kom.** – It's me who came.

## Questions

### Yes-no questions

*Yes-no* questions are questions that expect 'yes' or 'no' as answer. The easiest way to form a yes-no question in Pandunia is to simply attach the particle **he** ('eh', 'huh') to the end of a statement.

**tu yam un pizza.** – You eat a pizza. (statement)

**tu yam un pizza, he?** – Do you eat a pizza? (question)

It is also possible to use **no** ('no', 'not') or **ya** ('yes') instead of **he** to suggest the expected answer.

**tu yam un pizza, no?** – You eat a pizza, don't you?

**tu yam un pizza, ya?** – You eat a pizza, right?

The third way to ask a yes-no question is to contradict the verb with the *A-not-A* structure.

**tu yam no yam un pizza?** – Do you or don't you eat a pizza?

**tu ken no ken yam un hol pizza?** – Can you or can't you eat a whole pizza?

Finally, you can emphasize the question by using **sual**.

**mi sual, tu yam un pizza?** – I ask do you eat a pizza?

**sual tu yam un pizza?** – Do you eat a pizza?

Yes-no questions are answered with **ya** ('yes') and **no** ('no').

**tu vize mi, he?** – Do you see me?

**ya. (mi ya vize tu.)** – Yes. (I *do* see you.)

**no. (mi no vize tu.)** – No. (I don't see you.)

Negative questions are answered so that **ya** and **no** apply to the verb, not the whole question.

**tu no vize mi, he?** – Don't you see me?  
**ya. (mi vize tu.)** – Yes. (I see you.)  
**no. (mi no vize tu.)** – No. (I don't see you.)

### Alternative questions

Questions that offer alternatives end with the particle **he** or start with the word **sual** to indicate that an answer is expected. The question is answered by repeating the chosen alternative.

**tu yam un o du banana.** – You eat one or two bananas. (statement)  
**tu yam un o du banana, he?** – Do you eat one or two bananas? (question)  
**un.** – One.

### Open questions

Open questions, or *wh*- questions, ask for more information. In Pandunia they use the word **kua** ('what').

**piza es kua?** – What is pizza?

The question word may be moved to the front of the sentence for emphasis. However, unlike in English, the word order may also be unchanged.

**kua tu yam?** – What are you eating?  
**tu yam kua?** – You are eating what?  
**da kom a kua tem?** – When does he arrive?  
**yu vizite a kua jen se haus?** – Whose house did you all vizet?

### Relative clauses

A relative clause is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun phrase, most commonly a noun. For example, the phrase "the person who lives there" includes the noun *person*, which is modified by the relative clause *who lives there*.

There are different ways to build a relative clause in Pandunia. The relative pronoun in Pandunia is **ki** and it corresponds to English *that*, *who* and *which*.

In Pandunia, relative clauses are always set off by commas.

**da buke, ki da jen kitabe, pada.** – The book, which the person writes, falls.

It is also possible to leave **ki** out. This structure is called *reduced relative clause*.

**da buke, da jen kitabe, pada.** – The book the person writes falls.

The relative pronoun is necessary when the relativized noun is the subject of the relative clause.

**da jen, ki kitabe da buke, pada.** – The person that writes the book falls.

Also the object noun of a preposition can be the target of the relative clause. It's possible to use relative pronouns or the reduced relative clause structure.

**da kalam, a ki da jen kitabe da buke, pada.** – The pen, with *which* the person writes the book, falls.

**da kalam, da jen kitabe da buke a, pada.** – The pen the person writes the book with falls.

The relative pronoun can be put in its right place in the pivot structure or it can be left out by using the reduced relative clause structure.

**da jen, mi vize ki kitabe da buke, pada.** – The person, whom I see write the book, falls.

**da jen, mi vize kitabe da buke, pada.** – The person that I see write the book falls.

Also a *resumptive relative pronoun* can be used if needed.

**da jen, mi kitabe da buke a ki se kalam, pada.** – The person whose pen I write the book with falls.

### Content clauses

A content clause is a subordinate clause that provides content that is commented or referred to by its main clause. In Pandunia they are typically introduced with the conjunction **ke**.

**mi nou ke tu es frende.** – I know that you are a friend.  
**di fikre ke vi haf chute.** – They think that we have left.

A content clause can be placed before or after the clause that talks about it. The demonstrative **vo** points to the following content clause and **da** points to the previous one.

**vo es bari, ke mi no haf vize di.** – *It is important that I haven't seen them.*

**ke pan jen be sana ka par, da es klar.** – *That all people are created as equals; it is clear.*

The content clause marker **ke** can be combined to the prepositions in order to construct conjunctions of cause and purpose.

**to ke** – so that, in order that, with the result that

**of ke** – because, for the reason that

**mi dugu ye buke to ki mi trapas da teste.** – *I read this book so that I will pass the test.*

**mi haf trapas da teste de ki mi dugu da buke.** – *I have passed the test because I read the book.*

## Conditional clauses

The word **si** means 'to suppose', and in conditional sentences, it works in the same way as English 'if'.

**mi no yam da, si mi es tu.** – *I wouldn't eat it if I were you.*

The rest of the sentence can optionally be preceded by the word **asar**, which means 'then'.

**si tu tochu tava, asar tu pati hanu.** – *If you touch the pan, then you will hurt your hand.*

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## Combining phrases with conjunctions

**e** – and (connects two similar words or phrases)

**o** – or (connects two alternative words or phrases)

**ama** – but (introduces a word or phrase that contrasts with or contradicts the preceding word or phrase)

**mi suka mau e vaf.** – *I like cats and dogs.*

**mi suka mau o vaf.** – *I like cats or dogs.*

**mi suka mau ama no vaf.** – *I like cats but not dogs.*

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## Particles

### Affirmation and Negation

#### Affirmative

Expressions are affirmative by default.

**mi es shefe.** – *I am the boss.*

**da es nova meza.** – *It is a new table.*

Affirmation can be emphasized with the adverb **ya** ('yes indeed').

**mi ya es shefe.** – *I indeed am the boss.*

**da ya es nova meza.** – *It indeed is a new table.*

#### Negative

Such sentences can be simply negated with **no**.

**da no es shefe.** – *He is not the boss.*

**da no es nove meza.** – *It's not a new table.*

The word **no** is used for denying anything. It affects always the next word. Different scopes of negation may result depending on the location of the negative word.

**mi vize tu.** – *I see you.*

**mi no vize tu.** – *I don't see you.*

**mi vize no tu ama di.** – *I see, not you, but them.*

**mi plis tu safi da kamar.** – *I ask you to clean the room.*

**mi no plis tu safi da kamar.** – *I do NOT ask you to clean the room.*

**mi plis tu no safi da kamar.** – *I ask you NOT to clean the room.*

Particles **ya** and **no** are used also for answering questions.

**sual tu vize mi?** – Do you see me?

**ya. (mi ya vize tu.)** – Yes. (I do see you.)

**no. (mi no vize tu.)** – No. (I don't see you.)

Negative questions are answered so that **ya** and **no** apply to the verb alone and not the sentence as a whole.

**sual tu no vize mi?** – Don't you see me?

**ya. (mi ya vize tu.)** – Yes. (I do see you.)

**no. (mi no vize tu.)** – No. (I don't see you.)

### Modifier particles

Particles **li** and **of** are used to link a noun, an adjective or a verb phrase to a noun to modify it. **li** connects the modifying word or phrase to the main noun word. **of** works in the opposite direction, it connects the main noun to the modifying word or phrase.

### Modification with noun phrases

One way to use these particles is to connect an adjective or other words with a noun. It gives us more information about the noun, and the particle makes it clear in which end the main noun is.

The modifier particles are useful for creating complex adjectives that consists of two or more words.

**rode rang li labi** – rose-colored lips

**sama rang li yen** – sky-colored eyes

Or in the opposite order:

**labi of rode rang** – lips of the rose-color

**yen of sama rang** – eyes of the sky-color

The particles help in creating measure words too.

**un sake li patate** – one sack of potatoes

**du sake li patate** – two sacks of potatoes

**mor sake li patate** – more sacks of potatoes

Note that **li** and **of** connect phrases together. So a modifier phrase with and without them can mean a different thing.

**mor mei hua** – more beautiful flowers

**mor of mei hua** – more of beautiful flowers

### Modification with verb phrases

Verbs are turned into modifiers by placing **de** or **li** immediately next to the verb. Verb phrases can also be made into modifiers in this way, but any objects must be moved to before the verb.

**shute of grafe pente** – the art of picture-painting (the art of painting pictures)

**ale se helpe se suka** – the joy of others-helping (the joy of helping others)

### Possession

The possessive particle **se** works like the *s*-genitive (') in English. It indicates that the previous word has possession of the next one.

**Maria se mama** – Maria's mother

**Maria se mama se haus** – Maria's mother's house

The same particle is used with with personal pronouns too.

**mi se haus** – my house

**tu se haus** – your house

**da se haus** – his or her house

**vi se haus** – our house

**yu se haus** – your house

**di se haus** – their house

## Sentence-ending particles

Sentence-ending particles are modal particles or interaction particles that occur at the end of a sentence. They indicate the speaker's mood or attitude to the meaning of the sentence. They can also indicate what kind of reaction to the sentence the speaker expects from the listener. For example, the speaker can use the particle **ne** to indicate that they expect the listener express their point of view.

**ba** indicates a suggestion or a command.

**yam ba!** – Eat!

**fi** indicates disdainment, disrespect or contempt. It translates as *bah, fie*.

**tu fete da, fi.** – You did it, bah.

**fi! pizza! mi no van.** – Bah! Pizza! I don't want (it).

**he** asks a direct *yes or no* question. It translates as *eh?* or *huh?*.

**tu love kafe, he?** – You love coffee, huh?

**me** indicates indifference, boredom or lack of excitement.

**me. da no nove.** – Meh. It's not new.

**ne** asks for the listener's point of view on the matter, usually their agreement. It is different from **he** in that it's not directly asking a question but it only seeks confirmation. It roughly translates as *right?*, *isn't it?*, *isn't that so?*, etc. One uses it at the end of sentence if one is not completely sure about something but thinks it's probably true.

**tu suka kafe, ne? sepe un kupa ba!** – You like coffee, right? Grab a cup!

**da nove, ne?** – It is new, isn't it?

**na** is used to introduce a statement. It can fill a pause, particularly at the beginning of a response to a question. It can also introduce a statement that may be contrary to expectations.

**tu kitabe da, he? – na, no haf.** – Did you write it? – Well, not yet.

**da hau, ne? – na, ya.** – It's good, isn't it? – Well, yes.

**o** indicates that the speaker is uncertain of the matter. It roughly translates as *or...?*.

**da okei a tu, o...** – It is okay for you, or...

**va** indicates that the speaker is excited, amazed or surprised. It can be used on its own or at the start or end of a sentence to express how amazing or surprising something is.

**va!** Wow!

**va, da dai!** – Wow, it's big!

**da dai, va!** – It's so big!

**ya** reinforces the meaning of the sentence or indicates agreement. The speaker is absolutely sure of what they are saying. It can be translated as *indeed* or *truly*.

**mi haf vize tu ya.** – I truly saw you.

**da ver, ya.** – It is true indeed.

**da nove, ne? – da nove, ya.** – It is new, right? – It's new indeed.

## Observations

Observations are the simplest sentence type. They may consist of only one word, which draws the listener's attention.

**mau!** – A cat!

**barsha!** – Rain! / (It) rains!

## 11. Word derivation

Making new words from existing words is called word derivation. Often a new word is made by adding a prefix or suffix, such as *un-* and *-ness* in English. For example, *un-happy* and *happi-ness* are derived from the root word *happy*.

New words can be built freely in Pandunia! Pandunia has a word derivation system that is regular and productive.

## Zero Derivation

Zero derivation means conversion of a word of a certain word class to a different word class without any change in form. This is very common in Pandunia, where most words don't belong to any fixed word classes. Instead, the word class is determined by the word's place in the sentence.

For example, the word **hali** can function equally as an adjective (*blank* or *void*), noun (*a blank*) and verb (*to make blank* or *to get blank*).

**tu have hali papir, he?** – Do you have some blank paper?

**don mi un hali!** – Give me a blank!

**tu mus hali da lexe.** – You must blank out that word.

Likewise, the word **kitabe** can function as a verb (*to write*), a noun (*a writing*) and adjective (*written* or *textual*).

**mi kitabe letre.** – I write a letter.

**letre es kitabe misaje.** – A letter is a written message.

**mi love yu se kitabe.** – I love your writings.

## Compound Words

A compound word is a word that is formed of two or more simpler words in order to yield a new meaning. The last word is the most meaningful part in the compound and the preceding words only modify its meaning. New compound words can be created freely and easily in Pandunia. There are two types of compound words in Pandunia, open compounds and closed compounds.

An open compound is simply a series of base words put next to each other. They are written separately and there is a space between each words. For example, **tomato** 'tomato' + **sos** 'sauce' = **tomato sos** 'tomato sauce',

Closed compounds are written together and there is no space between the words. For example, **poste** 'mail' + **kan** 'place for working' = **postekan** 'post office'. Typically closed compounds include affixes. Affixes are word-like units that have special properties. Some of them are not stand-alone words, they can only appear as part of another word.

Pandunia's system of word derivation is designed to produce compound words that look and/or sound so close to international words that they are easy to recognize. They are not meant to be identical with words in English or in any other language, because international words tend to be written and pronounced in more or less different ways from language to language, anyway. In fact, many compound words are built in a different way in Pandunia than in European languages, though the results usually look mostly similar.

## Affixes

Affixes, i.e. prefixes and suffixes, are very important and give great flexibility to the language. They are joined together with the base word.

Pandunia has adopted international prefixes, including **a-**, **de-**, **pro-**, **re-** and **su-** among others, in order to re-create many international words as native Pandunia words.

	a-	'to, toward'
+	sese	'go, pass'
<hr/>		
=	asese	'get past to, access'
	pro-	'forward, to the front'
+	sese	'go, pass'
<hr/>		
=	prosese	'pass forward, process'
	re-	'back to'
+	sese	'go, pass'
<hr/>		
=	resese	'pass back, recede'
	de-	'away, off'
+	sese	'go, pass'
<hr/>		
=	desese	'pass away, die'



	su-	'good, well'
+	sese	'go, pass'
<hr/>		
=	susese	'go well, succeed'

Note that these international prefixes are used only in compound words that really mean the sum their parts. Fossilized words whose meanings are no longer the sum of their parts, like *evolution* (originally 'rolling out'), are not compound words in Pandunia.

Many suffixes have two forms, one that begins with a vowel and one that begins with a consonant. The vowel-initial form is used when the base word ends in a consonant or in the vowel **-e**, which disappears before the suffix. Below we add the vowel-initial suffix **-ike** to a base word that ends in **-e**.

	fize	'body'
+	-ike	'adjectival suffix'
<hr/>		
=	fizike	'bodily, physical'

The consonant-initial form is used when the base word ends in any other vowel except **-e**. Below we add the consonant-initial suffix **-tike** to a base word that ends in another vowel.

	tema	'theme, topic'
+	-tike	'adjectival suffix'
<hr/>		
=	tematike	'thematic, topical'

The vowel-initial suffix **-ike** and the consonant-initial suffix **-tike** are alternative forms of one and the same underlying suffix, **(t)ike**, which has an optional initial sound. The surface form of the suffix depends on the properties of the base word.

Another suffix with two forms is **(o)krate**. Its vowel-initial form is **-okrate** and its consonant initial form is **-krate**. So this time the optional sound is a vowel (and not a consonant as in **(t)ike**).

Below we add this suffix to a base word that ends in **-e**.

	deme	'people, public'
+	(o)krate	'rule, govern'
+	-ia	'collective noun suffix'
<hr/>		
=	demokratia	'democracy, rule by the public'

Next we add the suffix to a base word that ends in another vowel.

	media	'the media'
+	(o)krate	'rule, govern'
+	-ia	'collective noun suffix'
<hr/>		
=	mediakratia	'mediacracy, rule by the media'

## Prefixes

### a-

The prefix **a-** means that the action brings the agent and the object together.

**sepe** 'take, catch' → **asepe** 'take to oneself, accept'

**liga** 'tie' → **aliga** 'tie to oneself, ally'

### an-

The prefix **an-** means being or doing the opposite of the base word.

**deiste** 'theist' → **andeiste** 'atheist'

**alkolike** 'alcoholic' → **analkolike** 'unalcoholic'

**homan** 'human' → **anhoman** 'unhuman'

**tabakiste** 'smoker' → **antabakiste** 'non-smoker'

**kluze** 'closed' → **ankluze** 'unclosed, open'

**uzebil** 'usable' → **anuzebil** 'unusable'

## de-

The prefix **de-** means that the action is directed away from or off something.

**sepe** 'take, catch' → **desepe** 'take away, remove'  
**dute** 'lead, conduct' → **dedute** 'lead away, deduce'  
**parte** 'part, chip' → **departe** 'part away, chip off'  
**kode** 'code' → **dekode** 'decode, remove coding'  
**tape** 'plug, cap, stopper' → **detape** 'unplug, remove the plug, cap or stopper'

## dis-

The prefix **dis-** means that the action is directed apart or in many directions.

**trate** 'draw' → **distrate** 'draw apart, distract'  
**turbe** 'whirl, spin' → **disturbe** 'disturb'

## dus-

The prefix **dus-** adds a quality of badness to the base word.

**funte** 'function' → **dusfunte** 'malfunction, dysfunction'  
**rupa** 'appearance, looks' → **dusrupa** 'bad-looking, ugly'

## ex-

The prefix **ex-** means that the action is directed outside from something.

**sepe** 'take, catch' → **exsepe** 'take out, except'  
**jete** 'thrust' → **exjete** 'thrust out, eject'

## in-

The prefix **in-** means that the action is directed into something.

**jete** 'thrust' → **injete** 'thrust in, inject'  
**kluze** 'close, shut' → **inkluzo** 'close in, enclose, include'

## kon- ~ kom-

The prefixes **kon-** and **kom-** mean 'together'. There are two forms of this prefix. The form **kom-** is used when the following word begins with a *b*, *p* or *m*, and the form **kon-** is used in all other cases.

**tene** 'hold, keep' → **kontene** 'keep together'  
**strute** 'structure' → **konstrute** 'construct, put together'  
**patia** 'suffering' → **kompatia** 'suffering together, compassion'

## per-

The prefix **per-** means that something is done completely, entirely or all the way through.

**fete** 'make, do' → **perfete** 'perfect, completely done'  
**uze** 'use' → **peruze** 'use up'

## pos-

The prefix **pos-** means that something is after in time or space.

**pozi** 'put, pose' → **pospozi** 'put after, postpone'  
**production** 'production' → **posproduction** 'post-production'

## pre-

The prefix **pre-** means that something is before in time or space.

**pozi** 'put, pose' → **prepozi** 'put before, prepend'  
**dite** 'tell' → **predite** 'foretell, predict'  
**vize** 'see' → **previze** 'foresee, preview'

### pro-

The prefix **pro-** means that something is moved onward or into the open.

**pozi** 'put, pose' → **propozi** 'put forward, propose'

**voka** 'call, summon' → **provoka** 'call forth, provoke'

### re-

The prefix **re-** means that something is done back or in the opposite direction than originally.

**ate** 'to act' → **reate** 'to act back, react'

**turne** 'to turn' → **returne** 'to turn back'

### ri-

The prefix **ri-** means repetition or doing again.

**forma** 'form' → **riforma** 'form again, reform'

**nate** 'be born' → **rinate** 'be born again'

**pleye** 'play' → **ripleye** 'play again, replay'

### sin- ~ sim-

The prefixes **sin-** and **sim-** mean '(for, to or at) the same'. There are two forms of this prefix. The form **sim-** is used when the following word begins with a *b*, *p* or *m*, and the form **sin-** is used in all other cases.

**kronike** 'timely, temporal, chronic' → **sinkronike** 'synchronic, happening at the same time'

**metria** 'measurement' → **simmetria** 'symmetry, equal measurements'

**patia** 'suffering' → **simpatia** 'feeling ~ suffering the same, sympathy'

**mixe** 'mix' → **simmixe** 'mix together, blend'

### su-

The prefix **su-** adds the quality of goodness into the base word.

**sese** 'pass, go by' → **susese** 'go well, succeed'

**rupe** 'appearance, looks' → **surupike** 'good-looking'

## Suffixes

### -aje

The suffix **-aje** means something that is made of or something that consists of the thing indicated by the base word.

**bage** 'bag' → **bagaje** 'baggage, luggage'

**kore** 'core' → **koraje** 'guts, the things in the core'

**mise** 'send' → **misaje** 'something sent, message'

**fase** 'face' → **fasaje** 'facade, frontage'

**limon** 'lemon' → **limonaje** 'lemonade'

### -al ~ -ial

The suffix **-al** means that something belongs to or is related to the thing or person indicated by the base word.

**fine** 'end' → **final** 'final, belonging to the end'

**universe** 'universe, everything' → **universal** 'universal, something that concerns everything and everyone'

**karne** 'flesh' → **karnal** 'fleshly, related to flesh'

When **-al** is suffixed to a base word that ends in **-ia**, the endings merge together into **-ial**.

**dunia** 'world' → **dunial** 'worldly'

**imperia** 'empire' → **imperial** 'imperial'

**nasia** 'nation' → **nasial** 'national'

**sosia** 'society' → **sosial** 'societal, social'

### **-an ~ -ian**

The suffix **-an** denotes someone that is a member of a community, such as a country, city or a club. When this suffix is added to a base word that ends in *-ia*, they merge together into *-ian*.

**Amerike** 'America' → **amerikan** 'American'

**Italia** 'Italy' → **italian** 'Italian'

**Rusia** 'Russia' → **rusian** 'Russian'

**Paris** 'the city of Paris' → **parisan** 'Parisian'

**kristia** 'Christendom' → **kristian** 'Christian'

### **-bil**

The suffix *-bil* means that something is possible or able to be done.

**vize** 'see, view' → **vizebil** 'one that can be seen, visible'

**uza** 'use' → **uzabil** 'one that can be used, usable'

### **-eme**

This rarely used suffix means a fundamental unit in the system of things that is indicated by the base word. For example, **lexeme** ('lexeme') is the fundamental unit in the system of *lexe* 'words'. For example *spoke* and *spoken* are individual words but they represent the same underlying fundamental unit, which is *speak* in its basic form.

**fone** 'speech sound' → **foneme** 'phoneme, distinct speech sound'

**lexe** 'word' → **lexeme** 'lexeme, fundamental unit of a family of words'

**mite** 'myth' → **miteme** 'mytheme, an archetypal story'

### **-ente ~ -nte**

The suffixes **-ente** and **-nte** mean 'one who does the action of the base word'.

**es** 'to be' → **esente** 'a being, one who is'

**loga** 'to talk' → **logante** 'a talking one, one who talks'

### **-er ~ -ter**

The suffixes **-er** and **-ter** mean 'a person who is occupied with the action of the base word'. It implies often but not always a professional occupation.

**ate** 'to do, to act' → **ater** 'doer, actor, one who does or acts'

**bake** 'to bake' → **baker** 'baker'

**lide** 'to lead' → **lider** 'leader, the one who leads'

**filsofe** 'to think deeply' → **filsofer** 'philosopher'

**sapate** 'shoe' → **sapater** 'shoemaker'

**muskete** 'musket' → **musketer** 'musketeer'

**kase** 'box, cash box' → **kaser** 'cashier'

### **-eria ~ -teria ~ -ria**

This suffix is the combination of *-er* and *-ia*. It means the place for making, producing or selling the thing that is indicated by the base word.

**bake** 'to bake' → **bakeria** 'bakery'

**perfume** 'perfume' → **perfumeria** 'perfumery'

**enjener** 'engineer' → **enjeneria** 'engineering'

In some rare cases this suffix is trimmed into **-ria**.

**piza** 'pizza' → **pizaria** 'pizzeria, pizza place'

### **-ete ~ -lete**

The suffix *-ete* indicates essentially the same thing as the base word but in a small size.

**pake** 'pack' → **pakete** 'packet'

**kase** 'case' → **kasete** 'cassette'

**sigare** 'cigar' → **sigarete** 'cigarette'

## **-ia**

The suffix *-ia* has a variety of meanings, but fundamentally it means a collective of things or a community of people.

**nese** 'island' → **nesia** 'archipelago'

**lexe** 'word' → **lexia** 'vocabulary'

**homan** 'human being' → **homania** 'humanity, mankind, all the human beings as a group'

**kriste** 'Christ' → **kristia** 'Christianity, all Christians as a group'

This ending is often used in place names, especially in country names. However it is not always used. There are also a lot of country names that do not end in *-ia*.

**arabe** 'Arab, Arabic' → **Arabia** 'Arabia'

**rus** 'Russian, Ruski' → **Rusia** 'Russia'

**turke** 'Turk, Turkish' → **Turkia** 'Turkey'

**itale** 'Italic, Italian' → **Italia** 'Italy'

**Asia** 'Asia'

**Indonesia** 'Indonesia'

The suffix *-ia* is also used in names of scientific disciplines, where it can be understood as collection of scientific knowledge and practices.

**kime** 'chemical' → **kimia** 'chemistry'

**filsofe** 'view, outlook, life wisdom' → **filsofia** 'philosophy, the discipline of wisdom'

**loge** 'to study and reason systematically' → **logia** 'systematic study, logic'

**biologia** 'biology, systematic study of organic life'

**geologia** 'geology, systematic study of the ground'

## **-ife ~ -tife**

The suffix *-ife* means to make or turn into the thing that is indicated by the base word.

**komple** 'complex' → **komplife** 'make complex, complexify'

**long** 'long' → **longife** 'make long, lengthen'

**un** 'one' → **unife** 'make one, unify'

## **-ike ~ -tike**

The suffix *-ike* means something that is characterized by the thing or quality indicated by the base word. There are two forms of this suffix. The form *-ike* is used when the base word ends in a consonant or an *-e*.

**un** 'one' → **unike** 'only, sole, single'

**makin** 'machine' → **makinike** 'machine-like, mechanical'

The form *-tike* is used when the base word ends in a vowel other than *-e*.

**tema** 'theme' → **tematike** 'thematic'

## **-ime**

The suffix *-ime* means something that is in the position or rank that is indicated by the base word.

**un** 'one' → **unime** 'the first'

**pre** 'fore, front' → **prime** 'foremost, prime'

**extre** 'outside, exterior' → **extrime** 'outermost, extreme'

## **-ion ~ -tion**

The suffix *-ion* or *-tion* means action or process. There are two forms of this suffix. The form *-ion* is used when the base word ends in a consonant or an *-e*.

**dite** 'say' → **dition** 'saying, diction'

The form *-tion* is used when the base word ends in a vowel other than *-e*.

**rota** 'wheel; to turn like a wheel' → **rotation** 'turning, rotation'

### **-isme ~ -tisme**

The suffix **-isme** means an ideology, a way of thinking or a way of life.

**alkol** 'alcohol' → **alkolisme** 'alcoholism'

**dee** 'god' → **deisme** 'theism'

**ative** 'active' → **ativisme** 'activism'

### **-iste ~ -tiste**

The suffix **-iste** means a person who tends to behave or think in a certain way or an adherent of an ideology or a religion.

**alkol** 'alcohol' → **alkoliste** 'alcoholic, alcoholist'

**dee** 'god' → **deiste** 'theist, one who believes in existence of a god or gods'

### **-ita ~ -ta**

The suffixes **-ita** and **-ta** create abstract nouns that represent a quality or a state.

**nove** 'new, novel' → **novita** 'newness, novelty'

**un** 'one' **unita** 'oneness, unity'

### **-ium ~ -um**

The suffix **-ium** means 'chemical element'.

**kali** 'base, alkali' → **kalium** 'kalium'

**Kuri** → **kurium** 'curium, the chemical element named after Marie Curie'

**Einstein** → **einsteinium** 'einsteinium, the chemical element named after Albert Einstein'

### **-ive ~ -tive**

The suffix **-ive** or **-tive** means someone who tends to do what the base word says. There are two forms of this suffix. The form **-ive** is used when the base word ends in a consonant or an *-e*.

**ate** 'act, perform' → **ative** 'active, inclined to act'

**exploze** 'explode' → **explozive** 'explosive'

The form **-tive** is used when the base word ends in a vowel other than *-e*.

**dika** 'point at, indicate' → **dikative** 'indicative'

### **-ize ~ -tize**

The suffix **-ize** means to furnish or equip with the thing indicated by the base word.

**aure** 'gold' → **aurize** 'to gild, to coat with gold'

**makin** 'machine' → **makinize** 'to mechanize, to equip with machinery'

### **-krate ~ okrate**

The suffix **(o)krate** means 'rule, govern'.

**deme** 'people, public' → **demokratia** 'democracy, rule by the people'

**tekne** 'technology' → **teknokratia** 'technocracy, rule by the technology'

**media** 'the (mass) media' → **mediakratia** 'mediacracy, rule by the media'

### **-metre ~ ometre**

The suffix **(o)metre** means 'measurement'.

**terme** 'temperature' → **termometria** 'temperature measurement, thermometry'

**sim-** 'same' → **simmetria** 'equal measurements, symmetry'

### **-nome ~ onome**

The suffix **(o)nome** means 'arrangement, management'.

**astre** 'celestial body' → **astronomia** 'astronomy'

**agre** 'farming' → **agronomia** 'agronomy'

### **-one**

The suffix **-one** indicates great size.

**bol** 'ball' → **bolon** 'balloon'

### **-or ~ -tor**

The suffix **-or** means an apparatus, device or machine for doing the work that is indicated by the base word.

**trate** 'drag, haul' → **trator** 'tractor'

**fotografe** 'to photograph' → **fotografor** 'photograph apparatus, camera'

### **-ul ~ -kul**

The suffixes **-ul** and **-kul** forms a diminutive of the base word.

**kume** 'mound, hill' → **kumul** 'small hill, hillock, heap, pile'

**bande** 'band, group of things tied together' → **bandul** 'bundle'

**mira** 'stare in awe' → **mirakul** 'wonder, miracle'

### **-ure ~ -ture**

The suffixes **-ur** and **-tur** mean something that is the result or product of the action that is indicated by the base word.

**kulte** 'cultivate (a way of life)' → **kultur** 'culture'

**mixe** 'mix' → **mixure** 'mixture'

### **Affixes for chemistry**

**-al** 'aldehyde':

**metanal** 'formaldehyde, methanal'

**-an** 'alkane group':

**metil** 'methyl' → **metan** 'methane'

**-ate** 'salt or ester':

**sulfe** 'sulfur' → **sulfate** 'sulfate'

**-en** 'alkene group':

**meten** 'methen'

**-il** 'alkyl group':

**bute** 'butter' → **butil** 'butyl'

**metan** 'methane' → **metil** 'methyl'

**-in** 'alkyne group':

**metin** 'methyne'

**-ite** 'salt or ester':

**sulfe** 'sulfur' → **sulfite** 'sulfite'

**-ol** 'alcoholic compound':

**etan** 'ethane' → **etanol** 'ethanol'

**-on** 'ketone group':

**propan** 'propane' → **propanon** 'propanone'

**-os** 'sugar':

**frute** 'fruit' → **frutos** 'fructose'

**malte** 'malt' → **maltos** 'maltose'

## Lessons

### Introducing yourself

#### Dialog



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- ☺ **sal!** = Hello!
- ☑ **sal!** = Hello!
- ☺ **tu es kua?** = Who are you?
- ☑ **mi es Yusef. tu es kua?** = I am Yusef. Who are you?
- ☺ **mi es Sara. da es kua?** = I am Sara. Who is that?
- ☑ **da es mi se frende.** = That is my friend.
- ☺ **da se nam es kua?** = What's her name?
- ☑ **da se nam es Maria.** = Her name is Maria.

#### Grammar

Pandunia's sentences normally follow the topic-comment structure. The topic indicates who or what is being talked about. The comment tells something about the topic. For instance in **da es mi se frende** the topic is the pronoun **da** (he, she, it), which is followed by the comment **es mi se frende** (is my friend).

In Pandunia, the word **es** functions like *to be* in English. The same word is used for all persons. And to say the opposite, simply put **no** before it.

**da es Sara.** = She is Sarah.

**da no es Sara.** = She is not Sarah.

**mau es hevan.** = The cat is an animal.

**haus no es hevan.** = The house is not an animal.

In the same way you can describe yourself by saying **mi es** and a word that describes you.

**mi es hau.** = I'm good.

**mi es man.** = I'm a man.



**mi es fem.** = I'm a woman.  
**mi es nobi.** = I'm non-binary.

### Exercises

Try translating these sentences from English to Pandunia. The correct answers are after the word list.

1. Who are you?
2. I am Thomas.
3. Who is your friend?
4. She is Sarah.
5. What is your name?
6. My name is .....

### Word List

**mi** I, me  
**mi se** my  
**tu** you  
**tu se** your  
**da** he, she or it  
**da se** his, her, its  
**kua** who or what  
**es** to be  
**no** no; not  
**hau** good  
**frende** friend  
**nam** name  
**fem** woman  
**man** man  
**mau** cat  
**hevan** animal

### Answers to the Exercises

1. tu es kua?
  2. mi es Tomas.
  3. tu se frende es kua?
  4. da es Sara.
  5. tu se nam es kua?
  6. mi se nam es .....
- 

### Saying hello

**sal** = Hello!

This is how people often greet each other in Pandunia. They say **sal**. It is used for saying both hello and goodbye.

**sal** = Bye!

The word **sal** means 'hello' or 'hi'.

It has two origins. On one hand, it comes from the Latin greeting *salve* and related greetings like French *salut*. Also English *salute* and Spanish *saludo* are related to it. On the other hand, it comes from a common Middle Eastern word for wishing well-being, health and safety. It appears as *shlaam* in Aramaic, the language that Jesus of Nazareth spoke. In Hebrew it is *shalom*, and in Arabic it is *salaam*. So smething like **sal** is already a common greeting in hundreds of languages in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Pandunia is a constructed world language that borrows and blends together international words from all parts of the world.

The word **sal** means *greeting* or *to greet*.

**mi sal tu.** = I greet you.  
**tu sal mi.** = You greet me.

These are active sentences. In active sentences the subject does the action to the object. In **mi sal tu** the first word **mi** is the subject, **sal** is the verb (action word), and **tu** is the object. The order of subject, verb and object is the normal word order in Pandunia.

Word order in active sentence: Subject + Verb + Object

Pandunia's personal pronouns are: **mi** = I, **tu** = you, and **da** = he, she, it. Note that the pronouns stayed the same in the previous example sentences. Words never change in Pandunia. They always stay the same regardless of their position in sentence.

In Pandunia sentences can be made shorter by leaving out pronouns that are obvious in the present situation.

**mi sal tu!** = I greet you.

**sal tu!** = Greetings to you! (It is obvious that the speaker is the one who greets.)

**sal!** = Greeting! (It is obvious that the listeners are greeted.)

Another Pandunia word for greeting is **halo**. It is also a very international greeting. You can choose freely, which word to use when you greet people.

**halo!** = Hello!

You may use both **sal** and **halo** to address people by name, kinship term or profession.

**halo, toni!** – Hello, Tony!

**sal, mama!** – Hello, mother!

**halo, papa!** – Hello, father!

**sal, shefe!** – Hello, chief!

## Exercises

Try translating these sentences from English to Pandunia. The correct answers are after the word list.

1. You greet him/her.
2. Mother greets father.
3. Hello, mother!
4. Goodbye!

## Word List

**sal** hello, hi, salaam, ciao

**halo** hello (said especially on the phone)

**sal** greeting(s), to greet.

**sal** to greet

**mama** mother, mom

**papa** father, dad

**shefe** chief, boss

## Answers to the Exercises

1. tu sal da.
  2. mama sal papa.
  3. sal mama!
  4. sal!
-

## Making requests

### Dialog



Image designed by macrovector

- ☛ **halo, chin pa!** = Hello, grandfather!
- ☺ **halo! plis side.** = Hello! Please sit!
- ☛ **tanke.** = Thank you.
- ☺ **plis yam kafe o cha.** = Please have some coffee or tea.
- ☛ **ama mi un li yam cha! tanke.** = But I only drink tea! Thank you.
- ...
- ☛ **chin pa, mi mus go a nau.** = Grandfather, I have to go now.
- ☺ **okei. plis sal tu se mama!** = OK. Please tell greetings to your mother.
- ☛ **mi sal da. sal reste!** = I will. Bye!
- ☺ **sal go!** = Bye!

### Grammar

Pandunia's personal pronouns are **mi** 'I', **tu** 'you', and **da** 'he, she, it'. Pandunia is a gender-neutral language. It doesn't distinguish between sexes in the third person pronoun or any of the pronouns. All the personal pronouns are present in the following example sentence.

**mi plis tu sal da.** = I ask you to say hello to him/her.

This sentence has a *pivot structure*. The first verb, **plis** ('to request'), addresses **tu** as its object. At the same time **tu** serves also as the subject of the second verb, **sal** ('to greet'), whose object is **da**. So **tu** has a double role: (1) object of the first verb and (2) subject of the second verb. Hence, it is the *pivot* or hinge between the two verbs.

Pivot Structure: Subject + Verb<sup>1</sup> + Object/Subject + Verb<sup>2</sup> + Object

The pivot structure is a common structure in Pandunia.

Remember that it is allowed to leave out pronouns that are known in the context. In other words the speaker can safely assume that the listeners know who he/she is talking about. So it is unnecessary to keep on repeating them. In this manner phrases can be made shorter.

**mi plis tu sal da.** = I ask you to say hello to him/her.

**plis sal da.** = Please say hello to him/her.

See how the translation of **plis** changed between the two sentences? The meaning of the word, the concept, did not change, but its use did. English reflects this change by using different words, to ask and please. Pandunia can cope with changes like this without resorting to different words. It is a principle in Pandunia that there is always exactly one word for one concept. Different words are not created just because the grammatical role of a concept changes.

The phrase **plis sal da** has a useful pattern that can be used for making polite requests.

**plis side.** = Please be seated.

**plis don kafe.** = Please give me some coffee.

**plis don cha.** = Please give me some tea.

**plis yam cha.** = Please have some tea.

**plis safi kamar.** = Please clean the room.

Commands are introduced with **amir** ('to command'). They employ the same pivot structure as requests with **plis**.

**amir don cha.** = Give (me) some tea!

**amir safi kamar.** = Clean the room!

In practice, direct commands can be also made with just one verb and a commanding voice.

**safi da!** = Clean it!

## Exercises

Try translating these sentences from English to Pandunia.

1. He drinks tea.
2. The boss asked her to sit down.
3. Please have some coffee or tea.
4. Mother asked me to clean the room.
5. The boss sits and drinks coffee.

## Word List

**amir** to order, to command

**cha** tea

**chin pa** grandfather

**plis** to ask; please

**don** to give

**e** and

**go** to go

**kafe** coffee

**kamar** room

**da** the

**mus** must, have to

**o** or

**safi** to clean

**side** to sit

**tanke** thanks

**un li** only

**yam** to eat or drink

**yo** some, a(n)

## Answers to the Exercises

1. da yam cha.
2. da shefe plis da side.
3. plis yam kafe o cha.
4. mama plis mi safi kamar.

5. shefe side i yam kafe.

## Yes or no questions

### Dialog



Image designed by pikisuperstar

- ☺ **sal! sual tu yam kafe o cha?** = Hello! Would you like to have coffee or tea?
- ☹ **cha.** = Tea.
- ☺ **tu ne?** = And you?
- ☺ **mi no bashe pandunia...** = I don't speak Pandunia...
- ☺ **perdon! sual da yam cha?** = Pardon! Will he have tea?
- ☹ **no. da no yam cha. da yam kafe.** = No, he won't. He would like to have coffee.
- ☺ **sual tu yam supe?** = Would you like to have soup?
- ☹ **ya.** = Yes.
- ☺ **sual da yam supe?** = Would he like to have soup?
- ☹ **no yam.** = No.
- ☺ **tanke. mi don un cha e un kafe e un supe pos ten minute.** = Thank you. I will bring one tea, one coffee and one soup in ten minutes.

### Asking questions

Questions that can be answered by saying *yes* or *no* have the same pivot structure as requests with **plis**, which you learned in the previous lesson. Question sentences are introduced with **sual** 'to ask'.

**mi sual tu yam cha.** = I ask (do) you drink tea.

**sual tu yam cha?** = Do you drink tea?

**sual yam cha?** = Drink tea?

Requests usually concern the one or the ones spoken to, but questions are often about other people. Therefore the second pronoun

is usually needed. It can be left out only when it is clear who is the topic of discussion.

**sual da yam cha?** = Does he/she drink tea?

**sual tu yam supe?** = Do you eat soup?

**sual vi yam sui?** = Do we drink water?

Of course common and proper nouns can also be used.

**sual shefe yam kafe?** = Does the chief drink coffee?

**sual papa safi kamar?** = Does the father clean the room?

**sual Niki bashe pandunia?** = Does Nicky speak Pandunia?

### Giving answers

Yes/no questions can be answered with **ya** 'yes', and **no** 'no'.

– **sual tu yam supe?** = Do you eat soup?

– **ya.** = Yes.

– **sual da yam supe?** = Does she eat soup?

– **no.** = No.

Also more complete answers can be given.

– **sual tu yam kafe?** = Do you drink coffee?

– **ya. mi yam kafe.** = Yes, I drink coffee.

– **sual da yam kafe?** = Does he drink coffee?

– **no. da no yam kafe.** = No, he doesn't drink coffee.

It is also possible to answer yes by repeating the main verb of the question.

– **sual tu yam sui?** = Do you drink water?

– **yam.** = (Yes, I) drink.

### Exercises

Try translating these sentences from English to Pandunia.

1. Do you speak Pandunia?
2. Yes, I speak Pandunia.
3. Does the mother drink coffee?
4. No, she doesn't drink coffee.
5. Does she eat soup?
6. She doesn't.

### Word List

**bashe** speak a language

**minute** minute

**ne** sentence-ending tag for asking the other's point of view

**perdon** pardon, sorry

**pos** after

**sual** to ask a question

**sui** water

**supe** soup

**ten** ten

**un** one (1)

**ya** yes

### Answers to the Exercises

1. **sual tu bashe pandunia?**
2. **ya. mi bashe pandunia.**
3. **sual mama yam kafe?**
4. **no. da no yam kafe.**
5. **sual da yam supe?**
6. **(da) no yam.**

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## Saying no

In the previous lesson you learned to answer **ya** and **no** to questions. The word **no** is used for denying something. Adding **no** in front of the verb turns an affirmative sentence to negative.

**mi sal tu.** = I greet you.

**mi no sal tu.** = I do not greet you.

Conceptually negation means the absence or non-existence of the negated word. In the phrase **mi no sal tu** the negative word **no** denies the existence of greeting.

In Pandunia the negative word affects the word that follows it. Different scopes of negation may result depending on the location of the negative word.

**mi plis tu safi kamar.** = I ask you to clean the room.

**mi no plis tu safi kamar.** = I do NOT ask you to clean the room.

**mi plis tu no safi kamar.** = I ask you NOT to clean the room.

The negated word can be of any type: verb, pronoun, noun, adjective and even numeral.

**da no have mau.** = She doesn't have a cat.

**da have no mau, ama vaf.** = She has no cats but dogs.

**no da, ama mi have mau.** = Not she but I have cats. (It's not her, but me who has cats.)

**mi have no un, ama du mau.** = I have not one but two cats.

## Exercises

Translate these sentences from English to Pandunia. Sometimes there is more than one correct answer.

1. He didn't clean the room.
2. One cup is not empty.
3. Two dogs don't eat soup.
4. She has neither dogs nor cats.
5. The chief drinks tea but not coffee.
6. The mother has no dogs but (she has) two cats.

## Word List

**ama** but

**du** two

**hali** empty

**have** to have

**kupa** cup, glass, mug

**mau** cat

**vaf** dog

**siro** zero

## Answers to the Exercises

1. da no safi kamar.
2. un kupa no hali.
3. du vaf no yam supe.
4. da no have vaf e mau. / da have no vaf e no mau.
5. shefe yam cha ama no kafe.
6. mama have no vaf ama du mau.

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## More Questions

To ask questions beginning with *what*, *which*, *how*, *who* and *when*, the interrogative pronoun **kua** is normally used. The question can be made more specific by adding words for person, time, manner or thing if needed.

**da es kua?** = What is that? / Who is (s)he?

**da es kua jen?** = Who is he/she?

**da es kua ting?** = What (thing) is it?

**kua jen kom?** = Who is coming? (**jen** = person)

**tu yam a kua tem?** = When do you eat? (**tem** = time)

**von danse a kua mode?** = How to dance? (**mode** = manner, style)

In Pandunia, questions beginning with *why* are asked using **kua sababe**.

**kua sababe tu suka mau?** = Why do you like cats?

Questions asking about the cause or reason of something, are answered by adding **de sababe** before the cause or reason.

**kua sababe tu suka mau?** = Why do you like cats?

**de sababe di es kawai.** = Because they are cute.

Of course, **sababe** can also be used to express the cause or reason for something, even when not answering to a question.

**mi suka mau of sababe di es kawai** = I like cats because they are cute.

### Exercises

1. Who likes soup?
2. The father does.
3. When will he come?
4. In ten minutes
5. Why doesn't she eat?
6. Because she doesn't like coffee and soup.

### Word List

**danse** to dance

**kom** to come

**a** at, in, on

**jen** person

**suka** to like

**mode** manner, style

**zaman** period of time

### Answers to the Exercises

1. kua jen suka supe?
  2. papa suka.
  3. kua tem da kom?
  4. pos des minute.
  5. kua sababe da no yam?
  6. of sababe da no suka kafe e supe.
- 

## Past, present and future

### Expressing time

There are no verb conjugations in Pandunia. All verbs have only one form for all times. In a way they are similar to some English verbs, such as "to hit", which is the same in all tenses.

**mi bate da.** = I hit it.

In Pandunia all verbs are like that! For example, **mi yam ban** can mean both "I eat bread" and "I ate bread", but usually only one or the other meaning makes sense in the context of the discussion. For example when people talk about that morning's breakfast, the sentence tells about the past time.

**mi yam ban a ye suba yam.** = I ate bread for this breakfast.

There are also specific time words.



**did** = in the past  
**nau** = currently, at the moment  
**vil** = later, in the future

They can be used for modifying nouns.

**Sara es mi se did shefe.** = Sarah is my former boss.

**Yusef es mi se nau shefe.** = Yusef is my current boss.

**Maria es mi se vil shefe.** = Maria is my future boss.

The same words are used when you talk about actions and events in time. Simply put the word before the verb.

**mi did bate da.** = I hit it (in the past).

**mi nau bate da.** = I am hitting it (currently).

**mi vil bate da.** = I will hit it (in the future).

It is not necessary to repeat the time expressions all the time. It would be awkward. It is enough to set the stage once in the beginning with a time expression. Another time word will not be needed until the tense changes or until it becomes useful to stress that you are still talking in the same tense.

**mi did have un mau.** = I had a cat in the past.

**da es hau mau.** = It was a good cat.

**mi have un vaf nau.** = I have a dog now.

Any expression of time is good for expressing the tense. When one time expression is present, other markers are not needed.

**mi be gene a nen 2003.** = I was born in 2003.

**da safi da kamar a pos den.** = He will clean the room tomorrow.

## Exercises

Try translating these sentences from English to Pandunia.

1. My boss will celebrate in the future
2. I used to have two dogs.
3. You are eating soup right now.
4. She cleaned the room the day before.
5. The cat will drink milk tomorrow.
6. Your mother partied last night.

## Word List

**did** past, former  
**nau** present, current  
**vil** will, future tense marker  
**pre** before  
**den** day, 24 hours  
**noche** night  
**bate** to hit, to beat  
**ban** bread  
**suba yam** morning meal, breakfast  
**milke** milk

## Answers to the Exercises

1. mi se shefe feste a vil.
2. mi have du vaf a pas.
3. tu yam supe a nau.
4. da safi kamar a preden.
5. mau yam milke a posden.
6. tu se ma feste a prenoche.