Pandunia

halo, dunia! – Hello, world!

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

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What is Pandunia?

Pandunia is a globally sourced constructed language that combines a simple grammar and international words from all continents into one language. It is a very good language to be learned as the first foreign language because it prepares students to study many other foreign languages in a unique way. Pandunia helps students to identify and use

- the basic word classes
- different word orders
- analytic grammar
- word derivation and structure of international words

- widely known words from Western, Asian and African cultures.

One year of learning Pandunia produces a language ability equivalent to what the average learner reaches with other languages after several years of study. It is a first stepping stone that builds confidence and improves the ability of the student to learn any other language in the future.

One year of learning Pandunia also enables students to communicate well with a growing number of people who have also learned this regular, flexible and multicultural language.

Pandunia is meant to be a world-wide helping 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. It 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 second version of Pandunia was published in September 2021. It includes simpler grammar, more international word forms, and many new words.

The basic rules of Pandunia

These are the basic rules of Pandunia language. They are described in more detail later in this document.

1. **World words:** Pandunia is an evenly global language. International words are borrowed from all parts of the world to Pandunia. They are adapted to the pronunciation and orthography of Pandunia. One base word is admitted and additional words are built from it according to rule 10.
2. **Spelling and pronunciation:** Spelling is simple and regular. Every word is pronounced exactly as it is written. Almost every letter and letter-combination indicates always the same sound.
3. **Regular accent:** If the word has one or two syllables, the first syllable is accented. If the word has three or more syllables, the second syllable is accented.
4. **Pronouns:**

- The personal pronouns are: **mi** *I*, **tu** *you* (sg.), **ye** *he or she*, **mimon** *we*, **tumon** *you* (pl.), **yemon** *they*.
- The possessive pronouns are: **mi su** *my*, **tu su** *your*, **ye su** *his or her*, **mimon su** *our*, **tumon su** *your*, **yemon su** *their*.
- The interrogative pronouns are: **ke** *what* or *who*, **ke su** *whose*.
- The impersonal pronoun is **mon** (*one*, *you*, *they*)

5. **Nouns:** Nouns have only one form, always the same. Their form is not affected by number, gender or case. Number is indicated by number and quantity words. Their role is indicated by word order or by a preposition.

6. **Numerals:** The cardinal numbers are: - 0 **siro**, 1 **un**, 2 **du**, 3 **tri**, 4 **nelu**, 5 **lima**, 6 **luka**, 7 **cheti**, 8 **bati**, 9 **tisa**, 10 **des**. - Greater than ten: 11 **des un**, 12 **des du**, 13 **des tri**, etc. - Tens: 20 **du des**, 30 **tri des**, 40 **nelu des**, etc. - Hundreds: 100 **un sento**, 200 **du sento**, 300 **tri sento**, etc. - Thousands: 1000 **un kilo**, 2000 **du kilo**, 3000 **tri kilo**, etc. - The ordinal numbers use the suffix **me**: **un me** (first), **du me** (second), **tri me** (third), etc.

7. **Modifiers:** The adjective and the adverb have the same form. The adjective modifier is before the noun that it modifies, and the adverb modifier is before the verb that it modifies.
   - **un rapide loga** – A fast speech.
   - **tu rapide loga.** – You speak fast.

8. **Verbs:** The verb does not change in person, number and tense. Auxiliary verbs indicate time.
   - **zai** indicates an ongoing event.
   - **le** indicates a completed event whose results have an effect on the present situation.
   - **pas** indicates a completed event that has no connection to the present situation.
   - **xa** indicates a future event.

9. **Word order:**
   - The word order is subject–verb–object. The same order is used in declarations and questions.
   - A passive sentence is created with the help of the passive auxiliary verb **be**. A similar effect can be also reached with the impersonal pronoun **mon**.
     - **pandunia be loga.** – Pandunia is spoken.
     - **mon loga la pandunia.** – One speaks Pandunia.
   - In the *pivot structure*, the object of the transitive verb functions as

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the subject of the following verb.

> – **mi cing tu loga la pandunia.** – I ask you to speak Pandunia.

- Pronouns can be left out when they are obvious and redundant.

> – *mi* **cing** *tu* **loga la pandunia.** → **cing loga la pandunia.** – Please speak Pandunia.

10. **Word building:** In Pandunia, words change only when their actual meaning changes. Words don't ever change only to serve in a different grammatical role. Compound words are made by combining the elements that form them. The main word stands at the end.

- **poste** ("mail") + **kase** ("box") = **poste kase** ("mailbox")

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.

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

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
Stops	b p	t d	c j	k g	
Fricatives	f	s z	x		h
Nasals	m	n		ng	
Lateral		l			
Trill		r			
Semivowels	v		y		
High vowels	u		i		
Mid vowels	o		e		
Low vowels		a			
	Back	**Central**	**Front**		

Vowels

Pandunia has five oral vowels. They are represented by the five vowel letters A, E, I, O and U in the writing system.

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

Pandunia	IPA	Pronunciation advice
a	a	As in *father*.
e	e	As in *bet*.
i	i	As in *machine*.
o	o	As in *or*.
u	u	As in *rule*.

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.

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.

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.

The table below shows how each Pandunia consonant is pronounced by using the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as well as pronunciation advise in plain English. If an alternative pronunciation is allowed, it is enclosed in parentheses in the IPA column.

Pandunia	IPA	Pronunciation advise
b	b	
c	t∫	Always like *ch* in *chat*.
d	d	
f	f	
g	g	Always hard as in *get*. Never soft as in *gel*.
h	h (x)	
j	dʒ	Always like *j* in *judge* or the soft *g* in *gel*.
k	kʰ	Pronounced with a puff of air as in *kin*.
l	l	
m	m	
n	n (ŋ)	
p	pʰ	Pronounced with a puff of air as in *pin*.
r	r (ɹ)	Preferably trilled as in Scottish and Indian English, or smooth as in American English. Never silent!
s	s	Always voiceless like *s* in *sissy*.
t	tʰ	Pronounced with a puff of air as in *tin*.
v	w (ʋ v)	
x	∫	Like *sh* in *shop*.
y	j	Like *y* in *yes*.
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 individual places and people. They are not used in any common Pandunia words.

Pandunia	IPA	Pronunciation advise
Ch	ts (s)	Like *ts* in *bits* or like *c* in *city*.
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)	

The additional letters and digraphs are used locally. Their purpose is to help to transfer names in the local language to the international language, so that the 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 S, K, and V, and the others can all be pronounced as if the H is not there.

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).

Examples:
Athina Athens (the capital of Greece)
Khartum Khartoum (the capital of Sudan)
Rhone Rhône (a river in France and Switzerland)

Word Structure

Pandunia words are structurally rather simple. A syllable can include in maximum:

- one initial consonant
- one liquid consonant (**l** or **r**)
- one or two vowels, and
- one final consonant from the following: **m**, **n**, **ng**, **l**, **r**, **f**, **s**, **sh**, **h**.

Certain consonant clusters are also allowed only between vowels, like **ks** and **zn**.

Some of the heaviest words in practice are **problem** and **simple**.

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 **estadia**, *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

Infrequently used common nouns and proper 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 ex-

ternal *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 is normally written only in small letters (i.e. lower case letters). Large letters are used only in special cases.

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. Still understanding spoken words is as easy as understanding written words.
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.

Note! It's not a mistake to use the capital letters. Sometimes people do it because they are accustomed to them in other languages. But still capital letters are unnecessary and not recommended in Pandunia.

Capital letters are necessary in standard international acronyms. For example: 10 Mb (des megabite), 100 GB (sento gigabaite), 2 mm (du milimitre), 1 kJ (un kilojul).

Proper names

Personal names and other proper names can be capitalized although it's not necessary or recommended. For example *Thomas Stearns Eliot* would be written **Tomas Sternz Eliot** in Pandunia, and it can be abbreviated to initial letters variously **Tomas S Eliot**, **TS Eliot** and **TSE**.

In titles of artistic works, like books, songs and films, every word begins with a large letter. For example, **Putong Loga Da Insan Haki** (The Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

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 gigabaite), 2 mm (du milimitre), 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**, **yu-mor**, **pos-ta**, **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, two spaces can be inserted *after* the punctuation mark that ends the sentence. This practice helps to separate sentences more clearly.

In informal texts, smileys, emoticons and emojis may be used to indicate mood. For example **:)** indicates happiness and **:(** indicates sadness.

mi vide tu :) = I see you.
tu no vide mi :(= You don't see me.

What are words in Pandunia grammar?

Introduction

The grammar of Pandunia is simple and concise compared to most languages. The main principle is that words don't ever change for the reasons of grammar. Therefore the same word can be used as a noun, verb or adjective without any change in the form of the word. This is one of the reasons why Pandunia is easier to learn and simpler to use than other languages.

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 a sentence (like subject, verb and object) are independent, they are not fused together into single words like in *synthetic languages*, and their relationships are encoded into the word order, not into words. 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. One can express more things only by using more words or different words. For example, the verb **lai** ('to come') is changed to the past tense by adding a word that means the past: **pas lai** ('came' or 'to come in the past').

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.

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 together

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 **ame** ('love') can function as a verb, noun or adjective depending on its position in the sentence.

mi *ame* tu. – I *love* you. (verb)
tu emosi mi su *ame*. – You feel my *love*. (noun)
mi kitabe un *ame* anjil. – I write a *love* letter. (adjective)

Pronouns

Pronouns can substitute nouns and noun phrases.

Personal pronouns

Singular	Plural
mi	**mimon**
I, me	we
tu	**tumon**
you	you all
ye	**yemon**
he or she	they

All pronouns can be used for all genders.

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

Singular	Plural
mi su	**mimon su**
my	our
tu su	**tumon su**
your	your
ye su	**yemon su**
his or her	their

Reflexive pronoun

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

se – self

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

mi vide se – I see myself.
ye vide se – She sees herself. / He sees himself. / It sees itself.
mimon vide se. – We see ourselves.

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

semon – each other, one another

mi e tu vide semon. – Me and you see each other.
mimon vide semon. – We see each other.

Demonstrative pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns are used with nouns to make them more specific. The demonstrative pronouns in Pandunia are:

ni – this (near the speaker)
go – that (far from speaker)
la – the (known by both the speaker and the listener)

In Pandunia, **ni**, **go** and **la** work only as modifiers and they always require a noun after them. To use them like pronouns, a generic noun like **she** ('thing') needs to be added after these words.

The proximal demonstrative **ni** points to things that are near the speaker. The distal demonstrative **go** points to things that are far from the speaker.

ni she si bon. – This (thing) is good.
go she si dus. – That (thing) is bad.
mi vol ni buke, no go. – I want this book, not that.

The basic proximal and distal pronouns are used for introducing a new object. The topical demonstrative **la**, 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.

ni she si mau. ye vol yam go mushu. – This is a cat. It wants to eat that mouse.

mi ten un mau e un vaf. la vaf si dai. ye yam poli 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. **la** refers to things previously spoken, **ni** refers to things currently being spoken, and **go** refers to things about to be spoken.

ni jumle si korte. – This sentence is short.

In the above, **ni jumle** (*this sentence*) refers to the sentence being spoken.

mi mana go: mi ama tu. – I mean this: I love you. OR I mean that I love you.
mi ama tu. mi mana la. – I love you. That is what I mean.

In the above, the pronoun **go** refers to the content of the next statement and **la** refers to the content of the previous statement.

Interrogative pronouns

ke is a general-purpose interrogative pronoun. It does the job of English words *who* and *what*.

ke? – Who or what?

The adjectival interrogative pronoun is also **ke** and it means the same as English *which*.

ke she? – What? (Which thing?)
ke jen? – Who? (Which person?)
ke zaman? – When? (What time?)
ke yang? – How? (What way?)
ke sabu? – Why? (What reason?)

Also adjectives are questioned with **ke**.

ke nove? – How new?
ke koste? – How costy?
ke poli? – How many?
ke dai? – How big?
ke lili? – How small?

tu ten ke dai di mau? – How big a cat do you have?

Nouns

Only one form

A noun is a word that names a thing. Like all words in Pandunia, nouns don't ever change their form. So the same form is used in singular and plural, in definite and indefinite, etc.

seku – a stone, stones, the stone or the stones
meza – a table, tables, the table or the tables
kursi – a chair, chairs, the chair or the chairs
sui – 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 **luna** 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 English words *sheep*, *deer* and *fish*, which also have only one form.

A numeral or another quantity word can be added to indicate number – but usually it's not necessary. Simply insert a numeral in front of the unchanged noun.

meme – (one or more) sheep
un meme – a sheep or one sheep
du meme – two sheep
tri meme – three sheep
ba meme – many sheep

kursi – a chair or chairs
un kursi – one chair
du kursi – two chairs
tri kursi – three chairs
ba kursi – many chairs

An easy way to say that there are many is to repeat the noun two times.

seku seku – stones and stones, a variety of stones
buke buke – books and books, a variety of books

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 **xi**. Using it shows respect and politeness.

It can be used in formal and informal situations and for all age groups, social groups 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 **xi** 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.

xi Bili King – Mx Billy King
xi Bili – Mx Billy
xi King – Mx King

Compound words

Two or more nouns can be put together to make a compound word. The last word is the most meaningful word in the compound, and the words that come before it only modify the meaning.

sol foto – sun light
luna foto – moon light
luna seku – moon stone

Numerals

Cardinal numbers

Ones	Ten and over	20 and over	30 and over
0 siro	10 (un) des	20 du des	30 tri des
1 un	11 des un	21 du des un	31 tri des un
2 du	12 des du	22 du des du	32 tri des du
3 tri	13 des tri	23 du des tri	33 tri des tri
4 nelu	14 des nelu	24 du des nelu	34 tri des nelu
5 lima	15 des lima	25 du des lima	35 tri des lima
6 luka	16 des luka	26 du des luka	36 tri des luka
7 cheti	17 des cheti	27 du des cheti	37 tri des cheti
8 bati	18 des bati	28 du des bati	38 tri des bati
9 tisa	19 des tisa	29 du des tisa	39 tri des tisa

Ones	Tens	Hundreds	Thousands
1 un	10 (un) des	100 (un) sento	1000 (un) kilo
2 du	20 du des	200 du sento	2000 du kilo
3 tri	30 tri des	300 tri sento	3000 tri kilo
4 nelu	40 nelu des	400 nelu sento	4000 nelu kilo
5 lima	50 lima des	500 lima sento	5000 lima kilo
6 luka	60 luka des	600 luka sento	6000 luka kilo
7 cheti	70 cheti des	700 cheti sento	7000 cheti kilo
8 bati	80 bati des	800 bati sento	8000 bati kilo
9 tisa	90 tisa des	900 tisa sento	9000 tisa kilo

Greater numbers follow the same logic as above.

10'000 = un des kilo
100'000 = un sento kilo
1'000'000 = un mega
10'000'000 = un des mega
100'000'000 = un sento mega
1'000'000'000 = un giga

The numerals that are greater than one hundred are borrowed from the International System of Units (SI). They are used in scientific words in the whole world.

Prefix	Symbol	Base 10	Decimal
kilo	k	10^3	1'000
mega	M	10^6	1'000'000
giga	G	10^9	1'000'000'000
tera	T	10^{12}	1'000'000'000'000
peta	P	10^{15}	1'000'000'000'000'000
eksa	E	10^{18}	1'000'000'000'000'000'000
zeta	Z	10^{21}	1'000'000'000'000'000'000'000
yota	Y	10^{24}	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
shau sing – few stars
poli sing – many stars

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

Ordinal numbers

Ordinal numbers are created with the particle **me**.

- **un me** – first
- **du me** – second
- **tri me** – third
- **nelu me** – fourth
- **lima me** – fifth
- **luka me** – sixth
- **cheti me** – seventh
- **bati me** – eighth
- **tisa me** – ninth

- **des me** – tenth

They are placed before the modified noun like normal adjectives.

un me fen – the first part
du me fen – the second part
tri me fen – the third part

Ordinal number after noun

Another way to form ordinal numbers is to place the number after the noun.

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

Fractions

There are two ways to create fractions. Both of them use the word **fen** ('part').

The short way is to use ordinal numbers.

un fen du – a half (½)
un fen nelu – one fourth, one quarter (¼)
tri fen nelu – three fourths, three quarters (¾)
un fen sento – one hundredth, one percent (1%)
un fen kilo – one thousandth, one permille (1‰)

The longer way uses the pattern **X da Y fen** ('X of Y parts').

un da du fen – one of two parts, a half (½)
un da nelu fen – one of four parts, a quarter (¼)
tri da nelu fen – three of four parts, three quarters (¾)
un da sento fen – one of hundred parts, a percent, (1%)
un da kilo fen – one of thousand parts, a permille, (1‰)

Fractions are connected to the noun with **da** ('of').

un fen du da hor – a half (of an) hour
lima des fen sento da jen – fifty percent of people
du fen tri da keke – two thirds of a cake

Date and time

Days of the week

Days of the week include the word **var** ('day of the week'). They are numbered starting from Monday. Monday is **var un** ('weekday one'), Tuesday is **var du** ('weekday two') and so on.

1. **var un** – Monday
2. **var du** – Tuesday
3. **var tri** – Wednesday
4. **var nelu** – Thursday
5. **var lima** – Friday
6. **var luka** – Saturday
7. **var cheti** – Sunday

Months

Names of the months are composed like the names of days but this time the word **mes** ('month') is used.

1. **mes un** – January
2. **mes du** – February
3. **mes tri** – March
4. **mes nelu** – April
5. **mes lima** – May
6. **mes luka** – June
7. **mes cheti** – July
8. **mes bati** – August
9. **mes tisa** – September
10. **mes des** – October
11. **mes des un** – November
12. **mes des du** – December

Telling time

Time can be told with the word **hor** ('hour'). The 24 hour clock is the standard.

hor des du – twelve o'clock
hor des du e tri des – twelve thirty, half past twelve

hor du des – eight PM
hor du des e des lima – quarter past eight PM # 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 **sundar** ('beautiful' or 'beautifully') modifies a noun in sentence A and a verb in sentence B.

A. **go si un *sundar* kitabe.** – That is a beautiful writing.
B. **tu *sundar* di kitabe.** – You write *beautifully*.

Modifying nouns

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

un *nove* kar – a *new* car
un *rapide* kar – a *fast* car
ba *dai* meza – *big* tables
ba *gau* meza – high tables
un bon jen – a good person

Two or more modifiers can modify the same noun.

un lili nove kar – a little new car

Modifying verbs

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

tu *rapide* loga. – You talk *fast*.
yemon *bon* kitabe. – They write *well*.

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

tu *sundar di* kitabe. – You write *beautifully*.
yemon *rapide di* marce. – They walk *fast*.

Modifying other modifiers

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

un *surpris di* **bon buke** – a *surprisingly* good book
ba *lika di* **ama ja jen** – *strongly* loving people

Degree words

Degree words tell us about the intensity of something.

tre – very
bas – quite, sufficiently, enough
max – more
min – less **max ka bas** – too

Degree words are placed before the word that they modify.

un dai man – a big man
un tre dai man – a very big man
un bas dai man – a big enough man / a sufficiently big man **un max dai man ka bas** – a too 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.

tre poli – very much
mi *tre poli* **vol loga.** – I want very much to speak.
mi vol *tre poli* **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 vol loga *tre poli*. – I want to speak very much.
sual tu sona *bas bon*? – Did you sleep well enough?

Adverbs of comparison

Adjectives can be compared with the adverbs of comparison.

- **max** (*more*) indicates comparison of superiority

- **maxim** (*most*) indicates the superlative of superiority
- **min** (*less*) indicates comparison of inferiority
- **minim** (*least*) indicates the superlative of inferiority
- **par** (*as* or *equally*) indicates the comparison of equality

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

aple si max bon ka oranje. = Apples are better than oranges.
oranje si min bon ka aple. = Oranges are less good than apples.
tu loga par bon ka mi. = You speak as well as me.

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 **si** ('to be') has the same form for all persons.

mi **si doste.** – I am a friend.
tu **si doste.** – You are a friend.
ye **si doste.** – He or she is a friend.
mimon **si doste.** – We are friends.
tumon **si doste.** – You are friends.
yemon **si doste.** – They are friends.

Also a noun can serve as subject.

mau si zou. – The cat is an animal.

Frequently there is a marker between the subject and the verb to indicate where the subject ends and the verb begins. It is particularly helpful when the subject and the verb are content words that could serve as both. The marker is typically a particle or an auxiliary verb. One of the many suitable markers is **ya** ('yes'), which adds no content to the sentence but helps to clarify its structure.

pexe si mau yam. – Fish is cat food.
mau *ya* yam yo pexe. – The cat eats some fish.

Other suitable markers include auxiliaries of time and mood, which are introduced next.

Auxiliaries of time

The relationship of an action, event or state to time is indicated with auxiliary verbs.

shuru ('begin, start') indicates beginning of an action or transition to a new situation.

mi shuru fuku la kote. – I start wearing the coat. = I put the coat on.
kaguji ya shuru hogo. – Paper starts to burn.
tu shuru yam. – You start to eat.

fin ('end, cease, quit, stop') conveys the idea of "to stop doing something".

yemon fin haha. – They stopped laughing.
kaguji ya fin hoge. – Paper ceased to burn.
tu fin yam. – You stop eating.

pul ('fulfill', 'complete') indicates that an action is done completely.

tu pul yam un piza. – You ate a pizza completely.
mi pul vide la filme. – I completed watching the film. / I watched the film completely.

fen ('partially') indicates that the action is only partially done.

tu fen yam un piza. – You ate some of the pizza.
mi fen vide la filme. – I watched some of the movie.

zai '(be present') indicates that a situation is happening at present.

mi zai yam un piza. – I am eating a pizza.

dur ('keep on', 'continue', 'proceed') indicates that a situation is continuing or in progress.

mi dur yam la piza. – I keep on eating the pizza.

ada ('have a habit', 'be used to') indicates that an action is done regularly.

mi ada gul yo bir. – I have a habit of drinking beer.

le ('attain, accomplish, reach') indicates that an action has happened in the past and is still ongoing, or is relevant to the current situation. You can think of it somewhat like the present perfect in English (*I have done*, *I have eaten*).

ye *le* si guru. – He or she has been a teacher (and still is).
mi no *le* gul yo alkohol. – I haven't drank alcohol.
mi *le* no gul yo alkohol. – I have reached not drinking alcohol.
mi *le* don la buke do yemon. – I have given the book to them. (So I don't have it.)
yemon no *le* don ye re do mi. – They haven't given it back to me.
mi *le* lai do siti. – I have come to the city.

pas ('pass, go past, go through') indicates that an action is finished and is no longer relevant to the current situation. You can think of it somewhat like the past simple in English (I finished, I ate).

mi pas don la buke do yemon. – I gave the book to them. (Maybe they don't have it anymore or they gave it back.)
mi pas keka la France. – I have visited France.
mi pas ada gul yo bir. – I used to drink beer. / I had a habit of drinking beer.
mi pas lai do siti. – I came to the city.

xa ('will, shall') indicates that the event will take place later or in the future.

ye *xa* si guru. – He or she shall be a teacher.
mi no *xa* gul un bir. – I will not drink a beer.

Prepositions

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

a – at, on, by, next to, on the side of
abe – away
de – off, away from, from
do – to, until
ex – out of, outside
in – in, inside
kon – with, together with

pos – after
pre – before
pro – for, forth, forward
re – back, back to
tras – beyond
vise – instead of

ye go in la dome. – He/she went into the house.
ye go ex la dome. – He/she went out of the house.
ye lai re la dome. – He/she came back to the house.
ye loge kon la xefe. – He/she speaks with the boss.

Sentences

Observations

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

mau! – A cat!
shava! – (It) rains!

Stative Sentences

With noun or pronoun subject

Normally a sentence consists of a subject and a predicate. In the simplest sentences, the subject is a pronoun and the predicate is an adjective or a noun.

mi bon. – I am good.
ye nove. – It is new.
ye Sara. – She is Sara.

When the subject is a noun, the connecting verb **si** (*to be*) is necessary.

Sara si bon. – Sara is good.
seku si dai. – Stones are big.
meza si nove. – The table is new.

The word **no** is added to form the negative. Then the verb **si** is not needed.

Positive	Negative
mi bon.	**mi no bon.**
I am good.	I am not good.
ye nove.	**ye no nove.**
It is new.	It is not new.
ye Sara.	**ye no Sara.**
She is Sarah.	She is not Sarah.
Sara si bon.	**Sara no bon.**
Sarah is good.	Sarah is not good.

Also two personal pronouns can be combined with **si** and **no**.

mi si ye. – I am he/she.
mi no tu. – I'm not you.

With adjective or verb subject

The same rule applies also for two adjectives, or a verb and an adjective.

jovan si sundar. – Young is beautiful.
nove no lau. – New is not old.
chanta si bon. – Singing is good.

Action Sentences

A predicate can also be a verb. In this case, there may be objects as well as the subject. These come after the predicate.

mi marce. – I walk.
tu yam yo apel. – You eat some apples.
mimon dona ye yo pesa. – We give her some money.

Sometimes, the subjet of one sentence can become the object of another.

la fuku ya gan. – The clothes dry.
la sol ya gan la fuku. – The sun dries the clothes.

To clarify the order or to add other objects, the auxiliary verbs **fa** and **be** are used. **fa** indicates that the subject is the agent or doer of the action, and **be** indicates that the subject is the patient, or receiver.

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mi fa salam mi su doste. – I greet my friend.
mi be salam mi su doste. – I am greeted by my friend.
pa fa mi salam mi su doste. – Father makes me greet my friend.

Pivot structure

Basic pivot structure (SVOVO)

In the *pivot structure* the word order is:
subject – verb 1 – object 1 – verb 2 – object 2.

Object 1 has two roles. It is at the same time the object for the verb 1 and the subject for the verb 2.

mi vol tu yam ba fito. – I want you to eat vegetables.

In the example above, **mi vol** has **tu** as its object. At the same time, **tu** functions as the subject of the following predicate, **yam ba fito**. So **tu** is the *pivot* of the entire sentence.

The second verb in a pivot structure is the main verb. The first verb is a modal verb, which indicates a modality such as desire, permission or obligation.

mi vol tu yam ba fito. – I want you to eat vegetables. (desire)
mi sel tu yam ba fito. – I advise you to eat vegetables. (advice)
mi halal tu yam ba fito. – I allow you to eat vegetables. (permission)
mi bil tu yam ba fito. – I enable you to eat vegetables. (ability)
mi mus tu yam ba fito. – I compel you to eat vegetables. (obligation)
mi rai tu yam ba fito. – I think you eat vegetables. (opinion)

Verb series structure

There can be two, three or even more verbs in a series, and all of them are about the same subject.

1. **mi ga do dom.** – I go home.

2. **mi bil ga do dom.** – I can go home.

3. **mi vol bil ga do dom.** – 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 vol yam yo fito. – You want to eat vegetables. (desire)
tu sel yam yo fito. – You had better eat vegetables. (advice)
tu halal yam yo fito. – You may eat vegetables. (permission)
tu bil yam yo fito. – You can eat vegetables. (ability)
tu mus yam yo fito. – You must eat vegetables. (obligation)

Pronoun dropping

In certain types of expressions the pronouns get dropped for brevity. This is done especially in commands and requests.

Short pivot structure (VOVO)

mi amir tu kai la mun. – I command you to open the door.
amir tu kai la mun. – Open the door!

Short pivot structure (VVO)

mi cing tu lai do dom. – I ask you to come home.
cing lai do dom! – Please come home! (Word for word: *Request come home!*)

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 piza. – You eat a pizza. (statement)
tu yam un piza, 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 piza, no? – You eat a pizza, don't you?
tu yam un piza, 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 piza? – Do you or don't you eat a pizza?
tu bil no bil yam un piza? – Can you or can't you eat a pizza?

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

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

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

tu vide mi, he? – Do you see me?
ya. (mi ya vide tu.) – Yes. (I *do* see you.)
no. (mi no vide 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 vide mi, he? – Don't you see me?
ya. (mi vide tu.) – Yes. (I see you.)
no. (mi no vide 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 **ke**.

piza si ke? – 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 left alone.

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ke she tu zai yam? – What are you eating?
tu zai yam ke she? – You are eating what?
ye lai na ke sata? – When does he arrive?
tumon keka na ke jen su dom? – Whose house did you all visit?

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 **jo** and it corresponds to English *that*, *who* and *which*.

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

la buke, jo la jen fa kitabe, pade. – The book, which the person writes, falls.

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

la buke, la jen fa kitabe, pade. – The book the person writes falls.

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

la jen, jo fa kitabe la buke, pade. – 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.

la kalam, na jo la jen fa kitabe la buke, pade. – The pen, with *which* the person writes the book, falls.
la kalam, la jen fa kitabe la buke na, pade. – 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.

la jen, mi vide jo fa kitabe la buke, pade. – The person, whom I see write the book, falls.

la jen, mi vide fa kitabe la buke, pade. – The person that I see write the book falls.

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

la jen, mi fa kitabe la buke na jo su kalam, padu. – 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 **ki**.

mi sabe ki tu si doste. – I know that you are a friend.
yemon fikir ki mimon le chuti. – They think that we have left.

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

go si bari, ki mi le no vide yemon. – *It* is important *that I haven't seen them*.
ki pan jen be sana ka par, la si klar. – *That all people are created as equals*; *it* is clear.

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

do ki – so that, in order that, with the result that
ze ki – because, for the reason that

mi duku ni buke *do ki* mi transe la teste. – I read this book so that I will pass the test.
mi le transe la teste *ze ki* mi duku la buke. – I have passed the test because I read the book.

Conditional clauses

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

mi no yam ye gar mi si 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'.

gar tu tochu la tava, asar tu pasi la hande. – *If* you touch the pan, *then* you will hurt your hand.

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.

Particles

Affirmation and Negation

Affirmative

Expressions are affirmative by default.

mi si xefe. – I am the boss.
ye si nove meza. – It is a new table.

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

mi ya si xefe. – I indeed am the boss.
ye ya si nove meza. – It indeed is a new table.

Negative

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

ye no si xefe. – He is not the boss.
ye no si 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 vide tu. – I see you.
mi no vide tu. – I don't see you.
mi vide no tu a yemon. – I see, not you, but them.

mi cing tu safe la kamar. – I ask you to clean the room.
mi no cing tu safe la kamar. – I do NOT ask you to clean the room.
mi cing tu no safe la kamar. – I ask you NOT to clean the room.

Modifier particles

Particles **di** and **da** are used to link a noun, an adjective or a verb phrase to a noun to modify it. **di** connects the modifying word or phrase to the main noun word. **da** 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 di labi – rose-colored lips
sama rang di yen – sky-colored eyes

Or in the opposite order:

labi da rode rang – lips of the rose-color
yen da sama rang – eyes of the sky-color

The particles help in creating measure words too.

un sake di patate – one sack of potatoes
du sake di patate – two sacks of potatoes

mas sake di patate – more sacks of potatoes

Note that **di** and **da** connect phrases together. So a modifier phrase with and without **da** can mean a different thing.

mas sundar hua – more beautiful flowers
mas di sundar hua – more of beautiful flowers

Modification with verb phrases

Verbs are turned into modifiers by placing **da** or **di** 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.

suta da grafi pente – the art of picture-painting (the art of painting pictures)
alo su mede su suka – the joy of others-helping (the joy of helping others)

Possession

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

Maria su mama – Maria's mother
Maria su mama su dom – Maria's mother's house

The same particle is used with with personal pronouns too.

mi su dom – my house
tu su dom – your house
ye su dom – his or her house
mimon su dom – our house
tumon su dom – your house
yemon su dom – their house

Tense and Aspect Particles

In Pandunia, tense can be expressed with time words and time phrases if needed. The general time words are **pas** (past), **zai** (present) and **xa** (future, upcoming). They function like adverbs, so typically their place is before the verb.

mi pas ha mau. – I had cats.
ama mi no zai ha mau. – But I now don't have cats.
bil, mi xa ha mau. – Maybe I will have cats.

It's also possible to say it in a longer way like **na pas zaman** (in the past) etc.

mi ha mau na pas zaman. – I had cats in the past.
ama mi no ha mau na zai zaman. – But I don't have cats at present.
bil, mi ha mau na xa zaman. – Maybe I will have cats in the future.

Note! Verbs are not conjugated. So the verb **ha** stayed the same in all tenses in the examples above.

Naturally time words are used only when they are necessary. Usually it is enough to mention the time just once at the beginning of the text and not in every single sentence, if the tense doesn't change.

Word derivation

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

How to combine words?

Pandunia words are made up of roots and suffixes. A root is that part of word that refers to something in the world outside the language. A suffix is a vowel ending that has mainly a grammatical function. For example, the word **zemia** 'planet Earth' consists of the root **zem-** 'earth, soil' and the collective noun suffix **-ia**.

```
      zem-        'earth, soil'
  +   -ia         'a noun ending'
_____
=     zemia       'planet Earth'
```

Two or more roots can be put together to make *compound words*. The last root is the most meaningful part in the compound and the preceding roots only modify its meaning.

```
      pan-        'all'
  +   dem-        'people, public'
```

```
    +    -i        'adjective ending'
_____
=   pandemi       'pandemic'
```

Joining roots together could sometimes result into unpronounceable consonant sequences. For example, the consonant sequence **-tgr-** could appear when the roots **fot-** and **graf-** were put together. Then the connecting vowel **-o-** is inserted between the roots to make pronunciation easier.

```
      fot-        'light'
   +   -o-        'connecting vowel'
   + graf-        'picture, image'
_____
=   fotograf      'photograph'
```

There are two more examples below.

```
      dem-        'people, public'
   +   -o-        'connecting vowel'
   + krat-        'rule, govern'
   +   -ia        'a noun ending'
_____
= demokratia      'democracy'


     term-        'temperature'
   +   -o-        'connecting vowel'
   +  met-        'measuring'
   +   or-        'apparatus'
_____
= termometor      'thermometer'
```

Some roots are used frequently as prefixes but seldom as words on their own. These *international prefixes* include the roots **a-**, **de-**, **pro-**, **re-** and **su-** among others. Pandunia has adopted them in order to re-create many international words as native Pandunia words.

```
       a-        'to, toward'
   +  ces-       'pass'
_____
=    acese       'get past to, access'
```

```
         pro-      'forward, to the front'
  +   ces-      'pass'
_____

=   procese    'pass forward, process'


          re-      'back to'
  +   ces-      'pass'
_____

=   recese     'pass back, recede'


          de-      'away, off'
  +   ces-      'pass'
_____

=   decese     'pass away, die'


          su-      'good, well'
  +   ces-      'pass'
_____

=   sucese     'go well, succeed'
```

Note that these 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') and *revolution* (originally 'rolling back'), are not compound words in Pandunia.

Compound words – together or separately?

It doesn't matter are the elements of a compound word written together or separately – both ways work without problems. So, for example, the word for 'mailbox' can be written **poste kase** or **postokase** and the word for 'democracy' can be written **deme kratia** or **demokratia**.

Affixes

Prefixes and suffixes are very important and give great flexibility to the language. The most useful ones are listed here. Most of them are in fact ordinary words that are also used on their own, but some are true prefixes or suffixes and can be used only as such, not as separate words.

Prefixes

a- 'to oneself' :
cepe 'take, catch' → **acepe** 'take to oneself, accept'
lige 'tie' → **alige** 'tie to oneself, ally'

an- 'opposite, un-, in-' :
human 'human' → **anhuman** 'unhuman' **deviste** 'theist' → **andeviste** 'atheist'
tabakiste 'smoker' → **antabakiste** 'non-smoker'
kluze 'close' → **ankluze** 'unclose, open'

de- 'away, off' :
cepe 'take, catch' → **decepe** 'take away, remove'
duce 'lead, conduct' → **deduce** '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'

ex- 'out' :
cepe 'take, catch' → **excepe** 'take out, except'
jete 'thrust' → **exjete** 'thrust out, eject'

in- 'in, into, in-, en-' :
jete 'thrust' → **injete** 'thrust in, inject'
kluze 'close, shut' → **inkluze** 'close in, enclose, include'

kon- 'together' :
strute 'structure' → **konstrute** 'construct, put together'

Since this prefix consists of one consonant only, its alternative form **ən-** is used before roots that begin with a vowel.

uzable 'usable' → **ənuzable** 'unusable'

pos- 'after' :
poze 'put, pose' → **pospoze** 'put after, postpone'

pre- 'before' :
dite 'tell'
→ **predite** 'foretell, predict'
vide 'see' → **previde** 'foresee, preview'

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pro- 'onward, forth' :
poze 'put, pose' → **propoze** 'put forward, propose'
voke 'call, summon' → **provoke** 'call forth, provoke'

re- 'back' :
ate 'to act' → **reate** 'to act back, react'
turne 'to turn' → **returne** 'to turn back'

ri- 'again, repeatedly' :
forme 'to form' → **riforme** 'to reform'

su- 'good, well' : **cese** 'pass, go by' → **sucese** 'go well, succeed'
rupe 'appearance, looks' → **surupe** 'good-looking'

Suffixes

-abl- 'that can be done' :
vide 'see, view' → **vidable** 'one that can be seen, visible'
uze 'use' → **uzable** 'one that can be used, usable'

-aj- 'thing made of or consisting of' :
bage 'bag' → **bagaje** 'baggage, luggage'
forme 'form' → **formaje** 'format, formation'
kore 'core' **koraje** 'guts, the things in the core'
mise 'send' → **misaje** 'something sent, message'
fase 'face' → **fasaje** 'facade, frontage'
limon 'lemon' → **limonaje** 'lemonade'

-an 'one who belongs to, one who has membership in' :
Amerike 'America' → **amerikan** 'American'
Italia 'Italy' → **italian** 'Italian'
Rusia 'Russia' → **rusian** 'Russian'
Paris 'the city of Paris' → **parisan** 'Parisian'
kristia 'Christendom' → **kristian** 'Christian'
hume 'earth, soil' → **human** 'earthling' and, *by extension*, 'human being'

-at- 'doing, action' :
rote 'wheel' → **rotate** 'rotate, turn like a wheel'

-em- 'distinct meaningful element' :
fone 'speech sound' → **foneme** 'phoneme, distinct speech sound'

lexe 'word' → **lexeme** 'lexeme'

-er- 'doer, agent, -er' :
beke 'bake' → **beker** 'baker'
lide 'lead' → **lider** 'leader, the one who leads'
filsofe 'think deeply' → **filsofer** 'philosopher'
sapate 'shoe' → **sapater** 'shoemaker'
muskete 'musket' → **musketer** 'musketeer'
kase 'cash box, cash register' → **kaser** 'cashier'

-eria 'place for making, producing or selling; profession' :
beker 'baker' → **bekeria** 'bakery'
perfume 'perfume' → **perfumeria** 'perfumery'
enjener 'engineer' → **enjeneria** 'engineering'

-ia 'collection of, aggregation of' :
human 'human being' → **humania** 'humanity, mankind, all the human beings as a group'
kriste 'Christ' → **kristia** 'Christianity, all Christians as a group'
filsofe 'view, outlook, life wisdom' → **filsofia** 'philosophy, the discipline of wisdom'

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**.

-ia 'area, region, country' :
arabe 'Arab, Arabic' → **Arabia** 'Arabia'
rus 'Russian, Ruski' → **Rusia** 'Russia'
turke 'Turk, Turkish' → **Turkia** 'Turkey'
itale 'Italic, Italian' → **Italia** 'Italy'
Asia 'Asia'
Indonesia 'Indonesia'

-ia 'abstract quality' :
nove 'new' → **novia** 'newness, novelty'
hure 'free' → **huria** 'freedom'

-ik- 'of the style or manner of, -ish, -esque' :
un 'one' → **unike** 'only, sole, single'
dom 'home' → **domike** 'domestic'

nove 'new' → → **novike** 'novice, newbie'

-im- 'the most, superlative' :
pre 'fore, front' → **prime** 'foremost, prime'
extre 'outside, exterior' → **extrime** 'outermost, extreme'

-ion- 'action, process' :
dite 'say' → **dition** 'saying, diction'
rotate 'turn like a wheel' → **rotation** 'rotation, turning'

-ist- 'person who tends to behave or think in a certain way, adherent of an ideology or religion' :
deu 'god' → **deviste** 'theist, one who believes in existence of a god or gods'

-ism- 'ideology, way of thinking, way of living, ism' :
deu 'god' → **devisme** 'theism'

-it- 'passive participle' :
sabe 'know' → **sabite** 'known'

-iv- 'inclined to' :
ate 'act, perform' → **ative** 'active, inclined to act'
exploze 'explode' → **explozive** 'explosive'

-or- 'apparatus, device, machine' :
trate 'drag, haul' → **trator** 'tractor'
fotegraf 'photograph' → **fotegrafor** 'photograph apparatus, camera'

-ur- 'result or product' :
kulte 'cultivate (a way of life)' → **kulture** 'culture'
mixe 'mix' → **mixure** 'mixture'

Lessons

Introducing yourself

Dialog

Image designed by Freepik

☺ **halo!** = Hello!
☻ **salam!** = Hello!
☺ **tu si ke?** = Who are you?
☻ **mi si Yusef. tu si ke?** = I am Yusef. Who are you?
☺ **mi si Sara. ye si ke?** = I am Sara. Who is that?
☻ **ye si mi su doste.** = That is my friend.
☺ **ye su nam si ke?** = What's her name?
☻ **ye su nam si 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 **ye si mi su doste** the topic is the pronoun **ye** (he, she, it), which is followed by the comment **si mi su doste** (is my friend).

In Pandunia, the word **si** functions like *to be* in English. The same word is used for all persons. And to say the opposite, simply put **no** before it.

ye si Sara. = She is Sarah.
ye no si Sara. = She is not Sarah.

mau si zou. = The cat is an animal.
dom no si zou. = The house is not an animal.

In the same way you can describe yourself by saying **mi si** and a word that describes you.

mi si bon. = I'm good.
mi si man. = I'm a man.
mi si fem. = I'm a woman.
mi si 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 su my
tu you
tu su your
ye he, she or it
ye su his, her, its
ke who or what

si to be
no no; not
bon good
doste friend
nam name
fem woman
man man
mau cat
zou animal

Answers to the Exercises

1. tu si ke?
2. mi si tomas.
3. tu su doste si ke?
4. ye si Sara.
5. tu su nam si ke?
6. mi su nam si ....

Saying hello

salam = Hello!

This is how people often greet each other in Pandunia. They say **salam**. It is used for saying both hello and goodbye.

salam = Bye!

The word **salam** means "greeting". It is originally a 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". Today it is a common greeting in hundreds of languages in Africa, Asia and Europe. Pandunia is a constructed world language that borrows international words from all parts of the world.

The word **salam** is also a verb, which means "to greet".

mi salam tu. = I greet you.
tu salam mi. = You greet me.

These are active sentences. In active sentences the subject does the action to the object. In **mi salam tu** the first word, **mi**, is the subject, **salam** 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 **ye** = 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 salam tu! = I greet you.
salam tu! = Greetings to you! (It is obvious that the speaker is the one who greets.)
salam! = 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 **salam** and **halo** to address people by name, kinship term or profession.

halo, toni! – Hello, Tony!
salam, mama! – Hello, mother!
halo, papa! – Hello, father!
salam, xefe! – 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

salam, halo greeting, hello, hi, salaam, ciao, etc.
salam to greet
mama mother, mom
papa father, dad
xefe chief, boss

Answers to the Exercises

1. tu salam ye.
2. mama salam papa.
3. salam mama!
4. salam!

Making requests

Dialog

Image designed by macrovector

☻ **halo, cin pa!** = Hello, grandfather!
☺ **halo! cing side.** = Hello! Please sit!
☻ **shukur.** = Thank you.
☺ **cing yam yo kafe o cai.** = Please have some coffee or tea.
☻ **a mi yam un di cai! shukur.** = But I drink only tea! Thank you.
…
☻ **cin pa, mi mus ga na zai.** = Grandfather, I have to go now.
☺ **bon. cing salam tu su mama!** = OK. Please tell greetings to your mother.
☻ **mi salam ye. salam reste!** = I will. Bye!
☺ **salam ga!** = Bye!

Grammar

Pandunia's personal pronouns are: **mi** = I, **tu** = you, and **ye** = 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 cing tu salam ye. = I ask you to say hello to him/her.

This sentence has a *pivot structure*. The first verb, **cing** ('to request), addresses **tu** as its object. At the same time **tu** serves also as the subject of the second verb, **salam** ('to greet'), whose object is **ye**. 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.

$$\text{Pivot Stucture: Subject} + \text{Verb}^1 + \text{Object/Subject} + \text{Verb}^2 + \text{Object}$$

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 or she is talking about. So it is unnecessary to keep on repeating them. In this manner phrases can be made shorter.

mi cing tu salam ye. = I ask you to say hello to him/her.
cing salam ye. = Please say hello to him/her.

See how the translation of **cing** 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 **cing salam ye** has a useful pattern that can be used for making polite requests.

cing side. = Please be seated.
cing don yo kafe. = Please give me some coffee.
cing don yo cai. = Please give me some tea.
cing yam yo cai. = Please have some tea.

cing safe la kamar. = Please clean the room.

Commands are introduced with **amir** ('to command'). They employ the same pivot structure as requests with **cing**.

amir don yo cai. = Give (me) some tea!
amir safe la kamar. = Clean the room!

In practice, direct commands can be also made with just one verb and a commanding voice.

safe ye! = 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
cai tea
cin pa grandfather
cing to ask; please
don to give
e and
ga to go
kafe coffee
kamar room
la the
mus must, have to
o or
safe to clean
shukur thanks
side to sit
un di only

yam to eat or drink
yo some, a(n)

Answers to the Exercises

1. ye yam cai.
2. la xefe cing ye side.
3. cing yam kafe o cai.
4. mama cing mi safe kamar.
5. xefe side e yam kafe.

Yes or no questions

Dialog

Image designed by pikisuperstar

☺ **salam! sual tu yam kafe o cai?** = Hello! Would you like to have coffee or tea?

☻ **cai.** = Tea.

☺ **e tu?** = And you?

☹ **mi no basha pandunia...** = I don't speak Pandunia...

☺ **maf! sual ye yam cai?** = Pardon! Will he have tea?

☻ **no. ye no yam cai. ye yam kafe.** = No, he won't. He would like to have coffee.

☺ **sual tu yam yo supe?** = Would you like to have soup?

☻ **ya.** = Yes.

☺ **sual ye yam yo supe?** = Would he like to have soup?

☻ **no yam.** = No.

☺ **shukur. mi don un cai e un kafe e un supe pos des 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 **cing**, which you learned in the previous lesson. Question sentences are introduced with **sual** = to ask.

mi sual tu yam cai. = I ask (do) you drink tea.
sual tu yam cai? = Do you drink tea?
sual yam cai? = 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 ye yam cai? = Does he or she drink tea?
sual tu yam supe? = Do you eat soup?
sual mimon yam sui? = Do we drink water?

Of course common and proper nouns can also be used.

sual xefe yam kafe? = Does the chief drink coffee?
sual papa safe kamar? = Does the father clean the room?
sual niki basha 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 ye 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 ye yam kafe?** = Does he drink coffee?
– **no. ye 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

pos after
maf pardon, sorry
minute minute
basha speak a language
sui water
supe soup
un one (1)
des ten

sual to ask a question
ya yes

Answers to the Exercises

1. sual tu basha pandunia?
2. ya. mi basha pandunia.
3. sual mama yam kafe?
4. no. ye no yam kafe.
5. sual ye yam supe?
6. (ye) no yam.

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 salam tu. = I greet you.
mi no salam tu. = I do not greet you.

Conceptually negation means the absence or non-existence of the negated word. In the phrase **mi no salam 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 cing tu safe la kamar. = I ask you to clean the room.
mi no cing tu safe la kamar. = I do NOT ask you to clean the room.
mi cing tu no safe la kamar. = I ask you NOT to clean the room.

The negated word can be of any type: verb, pronoun, noun, adjective and even numeral.

ye no ten mau. = She doesn't have a cat.
ye ten no mau, a vaf. = She has no cats but dogs.
no ye, a mi ten mau. = Not she but I have cats.
mi ten no un, a du mau. = I have not one but two cats.

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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

kupa cup, glass, mug
hali empty
ten to have
mau cat. **vaf** dog
du two
siro zero
a but

Answers to the Exercises

1. ye no safe kamar.
2. un kupa no hali.
3. du vaf no yam supe.
4. ye no ten vaf e mau. / ye ten no vaf e no mau.
5. xefe yam cai a no kafe.
6. mama ten no vaf a du mau.

More Questions

To ask questions beginning with *what*, *which*, *how*, *who* and *when*, the interrogative pronoun **ke** is normally used. The question can be made more specific by adding words for person, time, manner or thing if needed.

ye si ke? = What is that? / Who is (s)he?

ye si ke jen? = Who is he/she?
ye si ke she? = What (thing) is it?
ke jen lai? = Who is coming? (**jen** = person)
tu yam na ke zaman? = When do you eat? (**zaman** = time)
mon danse na ke yang? = How to dance? (**yang** = manner, style)

In Pandunia, questions beginning with *why* are asked using **ke sabu**.

ke sabu tu suka mau? = Why do you like cats?

Questions asking about the cause or reason of something, are answered by adding **sabu** before the cause or reason. **sabu** is actually a passive verb meaning *to be caused by*.

ke sabu tu suka mau? = Why do you like cats?
ze sabu yemon si kavai. = Because they are cute.

Of course **sabu** can also be used to express the cause or reason for something, even when not answering to a question.

mi suka mau ze sabu yemon si kavai = 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 or soup.

Word List

danse to dance
lai to come
na at, in, on
jen person
suka to like
yang manner, style
zaman period of time

Answers to the Exercises

1. ke jen suka supe?
2. papa suka.
3. ke zaman ye lai?
4. pos des minute.
5. ke sabu ye no yam?
6. ze sabu ye no suka kafe o supe.

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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 darba ye. = I hit it.

In Pandunia all verbs are like that! For example, **mi yam pang** 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 pang na ni suba yam. = I ate bread for this breakfast.

There are also specific time words.

zai = currently, at the moment
xa = later, in the future

They can be used for modifying nouns.

Sara si mi su pas xefe. = Sarah is my former boss.
Yusef si mi su zai xefe. = Yusef is my current boss.
Maria si mi su xa xefe. = 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 pas darba ye. = I hit it (in the past).
mi zai darba ye. = I am hitting it (currently).

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mi xa darba ye. = I will hit it (in the future).

It's also possible to use preposition phrases of time.

mi darba ye na pas. = I hit it in the past.
mi darba ye na zai. = I hit it at present.
mi darba ye na xa. = I 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 pas ten un mau. = I had a cat in the past.
ye si bon mau. = It was a good cat.
mi ten un vaf na zai. = 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 jene na nen 2003. = I was born in 2003.
ye safe la kamar na 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

pas past, former
zai present, current
xa future
cen before
den day
noce night

darba to hit, to beat
pang bread
suba yam morning meal, breakfast
milke milk

Answers to the Exercises

1. mi su xefe festa na xa.
2. mi ten du vaf na pas.
3. tu yam supe na zai.
4. ye safe kamar na cen den.
5. mau yam milke na pos den.
6. tu su mama festa na cen noce.