

# Líká Grammar and Lexicon v0.55

**Version:** 0.55 (Beta, April 17, 2025)  
**Status:** Pre-public, internal reference for platform testing (ChatGPT, Gemini). Version 1.0 targeted for public release.  
**Purpose:** Definitive grammar and lexicon for Líká, a constructed auxiliary language (auxlang) with strict Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order, designed for clarity, expressiveness, minimalism, and global accessibility. Orthography is diacritic-free, with tones (flat, rising, falling) expressed via gliding diphthongs as single vowels.

Líká uses phoneme markers (**-x**, **-f**, **-th**) for argument roles, verb compounding for nuance, and a 240-syllable inventory (236 used, ~4 free). Bold phonetics (e.g., /θ/, /ŋ/), teachable pronunciation (e.g., “tongue tip” for **-th**), and lean structure ensure accessibility.

## 1. Phonology

Líká’s phonology is globally pronounceable, with 18 consonants, 5 vowels, 10 diphthongs, and 3 tones, all diacritic-free.

### 1.1 Consonants

Phoneme	Orthography	Description	Example
e			
/p/	p	Voiceless bilabial stop, like “pin”	<b>pa</b> (tool)
/t/	t	Voiceless alveolar stop, like “top”	<b>to</b> (thing)
/k/	k	Voiceless velar stop, like “cat”	<b>ka</b> (base)
/b/	b	Voiced bilabial stop, like “bin”	<b>bi</b> (end)
/d/	d	Voiced alveolar stop, like “dog”	<b>da</b> (know)
/m/	m	Bilabial nasal, like “man”	<b>ma</b> (mother)
/n/	n	Alveolar nasal, like “net”	<b>ni</b> (you)
/ŋ/	g	Velar nasal, like “sing”	<b>gi</b> (give)
/s/	s	Voiceless alveolar sibilant, like “see”	<b>si</b> (small)
/ʃ/	sh	Voiceless palato-alveolar sibilant, like “she”	<b>kash</b> (focus)

/h/	h	Voiceless glottal fricative, like “hat”	<b>hoie</b> (question)
/l/	l	Alveolar lateral, like “let”	<b>lu</b> (person)
/r/	r	Alveolar trill/tap, like Spanish “pero”	<b>ri</b> (belong)
/w/	w	Labial-velar glide, like “win”	<b>woi</b> (go)
/j/	y	Palatal glide, like “yes”	<b>ji</b> (move)
/x/	x	Voiceless velar fricative, like “loch”	<b>tox</b> (thing-x, direct)
/f/	f	Voiceless labiodental fricative, like “fish”	<b>fif</b> (friend-f, indirect)
/θ/	th	Voiceless dental fricative, like “think”	<b>siuth</b> (city-th, oblique)

- **Notes:**
  - /x/, /f/, /θ/ are marker-only (**-x**, **-f**, **-th**), not root-initial.
  - /ŋ/ (**g**) limited to ~5 roots (e.g., **gi**, **ga**, **gu**, **go**, **ge**).
- **Teaching:**
  - **-th**: “Tongue between teeth, blow, show the tip!” Like “think.”
  - **-x**: “Growl from throat, like ‘loch’.”
  - **-f**: “Lip to teeth, hiss like ‘fish’.”
  - **ŋ**: “Hum ‘sing,’ back of throat.”
  - Audio samples, minimal pairs (e.g., **siuth** vs. **siuf**, **gi** vs. **ni**).

## 1.2 Vowels and Diphthongs (v0.55 Highlight)

Líká uses 5 monophthongs and 10 diphthongs, treated as single vowels, expressing 3 tones (flat, rising, falling) without diacritics.

Vowel	Flat	Rising (high tone)	Falling (low tone)
a	a /a/	ai /aɪ/	ae /aɛ/
e	e /e/	ei /eɪ/	ea /ɛɑ/
i	i /i/	ie /iɛ/	ia /ia/
o	o /o/	oi /oɪ/	oa /oa/
u	u /u/	ui /uɪ/	ua /ua/

- **Phonetic Notes:**

- **Flat:** Neutral monophthongs (e.g., **a** /a/, **e** /e/) for default roots (e.g., **ji** /dʒi/, **si** /si/).
- **Rising:** Diphthongs with upward glide (e.g., **ai** /aɪ/, **ei** /eɪ/) for emphasis (e.g., **kai** /kaɪ/, **sei** /seɪ/).
- **Falling:** Diphthongs with downward glide (e.g., **ae** /aɛ/, **ia** /ia/) for nuance (e.g., **kae** /kaɛ/, **toae** /toaɛ/).
- **Orthography:** No diacritics; tones implied by diphthongs (e.g., **ai** feels “rising,” **ae** feels “falling”).
- **Examples:**
  - **ka** /ka/ (flat, base), **kai** /kaɪ/ (rising, emphatic base), **kae** /kaɛ/ (falling, nuanced base).
  - **si** /si/ (flat, small), **sie** /siɛ/ (rising, emphatic small), **sia** /sia/ (falling, nuanced small).
- **Teaching:** Audio for **kai** /kaɪ/ vs. **ka** /ka/, **sie** /siɛ/ vs. **sia** /sia/. Practice gliding: “Feel **ai** rise, **ae** fall.”

### 1.3 Tones

Tone	Description	Example
Flat	Neutral, monophthongs or diphthongs	<b>ji</b> /dʒi/, <b>si</b> /si/
Rising	Emphasis, diphthong glide (e.g., /aɪ/, /eɪ/)	<b>kai</b> /kaɪ/, <b>sie</b> /siɛ/
Falling	Modifier, diphthong glide (e.g., /aɛ/, /ia/)	<b>kae</b> /kaɛ/, <b>sia</b> /sia/

- **Notes:** Tones are unmarked; diphthongs carry rising/falling qualities. No diacritics.
- **Teaching:** Pitch exercises (“Feel **kai** glide up, **sia** glide down”). Audio samples.

### 1.4 Syllable Structure

- **Roots:** (C)V, e.g., **lu**, **kai**. ~236 roots.
- **Markers:** (C)VN, e.g., **kan**, **kash**. 4 topic/focus markers.
- **Argument Markers:** **-x**, **-f**, **-th**, attach to last syllable, no tone change (e.g., **to** → **tox**, **siu** → **siuth**).
- **Cap:** 240 syllables, ~236 used (231 original + 4 markers + 5 new roots), ~4 free.

## 2. Lexicon (~236 Roots, 4 Markers, 3 Argument Markers)

Complete lexicon with 236 roots (231 original, 5 new), 4 topic/focus markers, and 3 argument markers. Roots use /p, t, k, b, d, m, n, ŋ, s, ʃ, h, l, r, w, j/, avoiding /x/, /f/, /θ/ (marker-only). ~30

key roots detailed; full ~231 summarized, with 5 new roots listed explicitly. All orthography is diacritic-free.

## 2.1 Roots (~236)

### Entities (People, Things, Places)

Root	Phoneme	Meaning	Usage	Notes
lu	/lu/	Person	<b>lu kan tox ji</b> = “Person moves thing.”	/u/, flat. Contrast <b>ru</b> .
fi	/fi/	Friend	<b>fif, lu kan fif sa</b> = “Person lives for friend.”	/i/, flat. Contrast <b>pi</b> .
to	/to/	Thing	<b>tox, lu tox ji</b> = “Person moves thing.”	/o/, flat. Contrast <b>ta</b> .
siu	/siu/	City	<b>siuth, lu siuth woi</b> = “Person goes to city.”	/u/, flat. Contrast <b>su</b> .
ru	/ru/	Place	<b>ruth, lu ruth woi</b> = “Person goes to place.”	/u/, flat. Contrast <b>lu</b> .
nei	/nei/	Sea	<b>neith, lu neith woi</b> = “Person goes to sea.”	/ei/, rising. Contrast <b>ni</b> .
ma	/ma/	Mother	<b>maf, lu maf sa</b> = “Person lives for mother.”	/a/, flat. Contrast <b>na</b> .
pa	/pa/	Tool	<b>path, lu tox path ji</b> = “Person moves thing with tool.”	/a/, flat. Contrast <b>ba</b> .
gu	/ŋu/	Group	<b>gux, lu gux sa</b> = “Person lives for group.”	/ŋ/, flat. Contrast <b>ku</b> .
ku	/ku/	Body	<b>kux, lu kux ji</b> = “Person moves body.”	/u/, flat. Contrast <b>gu</b> .

### Actions

Root	Phoneme	Meaning	Usage	Notes
ji	/dʒi/	Move/Do	<b>lu tox ji</b> = “Person moves thing.”	/i/, flat. Contrast <b>yi</b> .
sa	/sa/	Live	<b>lu siuth sa</b> = “Person lives in city.”	/a/, flat. Corrected from <b>za</b> .

woi	/woi/	Go	<b>lu siuth woi</b> = “Person goes to city.”	/oi/, rising. Contrast <b>wei</b> .
wei	/wei/	Come	<b>lu siuth wei</b> = “Person comes to city.”	/ei/, rising. Contrast <b>woi</b> .
gi	/ŋi/	Give	<b>lu kan fif tox gi</b> = “Person gives thing to friend.”	/ŋ/, flat. Contrast <b>ni</b> .
se	/se/	See	<b>lu tox se</b> = “Person sees thing.”	/e/, flat. Contrast <b>si</b> .
yi	/ji/	Say	<b>lu tox yi</b> = “Person says thing.”	/i/, flat. Contrast <b>ji</b> .
da	/da/	Know	<b>lu tox da</b> = “Person knows thing.”	/a/, flat. Contrast <b>ta</b> .
lo	/lo/	Want	<b>jilo, lu tox jilo</b> = “Person wants to move thing.”	/o/, flat. Contrast <b>ro</b> .
ta	/ta/	Cause	<b>lu tox ta</b> = “Person causes thing.”	/a/, flat. Contrast <b>da</b> .

### Properties

Roo t	Phonem e	Meanin g	Usage	Notes
bie	/bie/	Good	<b>to bie</b> = “good thing.”	/ie/, rising. Contrast <b>bae</b> .
bae	/bae/	Bad	<b>to bae</b> = “bad thing.”	/ae/, falling. Contrast <b>bie</b> .
ga	/ŋa/	Big	<b>to ga</b> = “big thing.”	/ŋ/, flat. Contrast <b>ka</b> .
si	/si/	Small	<b>to si</b> = “small thing.”	/i/, flat. Corrected from <b>sài</b> .
vo	/vo/	Very	<b>vo si, lu vo si ji</b> = “Person moves very small.”	/o/, flat. Contrast <b>bo</b> .
bo	/bo/	Much	<b>to bo</b> = “many things.”	/o/, flat. Contrast <b>vo</b> .
ri	/ri/	Belong	<b>to ri</b> = “belonging thing.”	/i/, flat. Contrast <b>li</b> .

### Relations

Roo t	Phonem e	Meaning	Usage	Notes
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ka	/ka/	Base/Kind	<b>ka ji</b> = “Base moves.”	/a/, flat. Contrast <b>ga</b> .
ni	/ni/	You	<b>ni kan tox ji</b> = “You move thing.”	/i/, flat. Contrast <b>gi</b> .
a	/a/	I	<b>a kan tox ji</b> = “I move thing.”	/a/, flat. Contrast <b>ha</b> .
su	/su/	Time	<b>suth, lu suth ji</b> = “Person moves at time.”	/u/, flat. Contrast <b>siu</b> .
ro	/ro/	Feel	<b>lu tox ro</b> = “Person feels thing.”	/o/, flat. Contrast <b>lo</b> .

### Others

Root	Phoneme	Meaning	Usage	Notes
li	/li/	This	<b>to li</b> = “this thing.”	/i/, flat. Contrast <b>ri</b> .
ha	/ha/	All	<b>to ha</b> = “all things.”	/a/, flat. Contrast <b>a</b> .
na	/na/	Not	<b>lu tox na ji</b> = “Person not moves thing.”	/a/, flat. Contrast <b>ma</b> .
hoie	/hoie/	Question	<b>lu tox ji hoie?</b> = “Does person move thing?”	/oi/, rising. Contrast <b>wei</b> .

### New Roots (ChatGPT’s Suggestions, 5)

Root	Phoneme	Meaning	Usage	Notes
nu	/nu/	Number/Count	<b>to nu</b> = “number of things,” <b>lu tox nu da</b> = “Person knows number.”	/u/, flat. Contrast <b>ni</b> .
yu	/ju/	Game/Play/Fun	<b>lu yu si</b> = “Person plays.” <b>lu fif yu</b> = “Person plays with friend.”	/u/, flat. Contrast <b>ji</b> .
di	/di/	Change/Transform	<b>lu tox di</b> = “Person changes thing.” <b>lu dith woi</b> = “Person goes with change.”	/i/, flat. Contrast <b>ti</b> .
ra	/ra/	Language/Speak/Symbol	<b>lu ra sa</b> = “Person makes language.” <b>to ra</b> = “language thing.”	/a/, flat. Contrast <b>la</b> .

pe	/pe/	Tool/Device	<b>lu pex sa</b> = "Person makes device." <b>lu peth woi</b> = "Person goes with device."	/e/, flat. Contrast <b>pa</b> .
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- **Total Roots:** 236 (231 original + 5 new).
- **Full Lexicon:** ~231 roots cover NSM primes and core concepts. ~30 detailed; remaining ~201 follow (C)V structure, e.g., **ba** (group), **go** (together), **la** (light, tentative). Full list expandable on request.
- **Corrections:**
  - **za** → **sa** /sa/ (live).
  - **zài** → **sì** /si/ (small, via **sài**).
- **η Roots:** ~5, e.g., **gi** (give), **ga** (big), **gu** (group), **go** (together), **ge** (force).
- **Teaching:** Audio (e.g., **gi** /ŋi/ vs. **ni** /ni/), minimal pairs (e.g., **siuth** vs. **siuf**).

## 2.2 Topic/Focus Markers (4)

Marker	Phoneme	Meaning	Usage	Notes
	e			
kan	/kan/	Topic, general context	<b>lu kan tox ji</b> = "As for person, they move thing."	/a/, flat. Contrast <b>kain</b> .
kain	/kain/	Topic, question/emphasis	<b>tox kain lu ji hoie?</b> = "As for thing, does person move it?"	/ai/, rising. Contrast <b>kan</b> .
kash	/kaʃ/	Focus, emphasis/new info	<b>tox kash lu ji</b> = "It's thing person moves."	/a/, flat. Contrast <b>kaish</b> .
kaish	/kaɪʃ/	Focus, question/confirmation	<b>siuth kaish lu woi hoie?</b> = "Is it to city person goes?"	/ai/, rising. Contrast <b>kash</b> .

## 2.3 Argument Markers (3)

Marker	Phoneme	Role	Usage	Notes
	e			
-x	/x/	Direct Object (accusative)	<b>tox, lu kan tox ji</b> = "Person moves thing."	/x/, like "loch."
-f	/f/	Indirect Object (dative, "to/for")	<b>fif, lu kan fif sa</b> = "Person lives for friend."	/f/, like "fish."

-th	/θ/	Oblique (location, instrument, etc.)	<b>siuth, lu kan fif tox siuth woi</b> = “Person goes to city with thing for friend.”	/θ/, like “think.” “Tongue tip!”
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- **Mechanics:** Attach to last syllable, no tone change (e.g., **to** → **tox**, **siu** → **siuth**). Optional in simple SOV, required in complex.

## 3. Morphology

Líká is isolating, with minimal inflection.

### 3.1 Argument Markers

- **-x:** Direct object, e.g., **tox**.
- **-f:** Indirect object, e.g., **fif**.
- **-th:** Oblique, e.g., **siuth**.
- **Usage:** **lu kan fif tox siuth path jilo jiti** = “Person moves thing to city with tool for friend.”

### 3.2 Topic/Focus Markers

- **kan, kain:** Context, e.g., **lu kan tox ji** = “As for person, they move thing.”
- **kash, kaish:** Emphasis, e.g., **tox kash lu ji** = “It’s thing person moves.”

### 3.3 Verb Compounding

- Combine (C)V roots, e.g., **ji** + **lo** = **jilo** (want-move).
- Aspect Markers:
  - **ti** = begin, e.g., **jiti**.
  - **bi** = end, e.g., **jibi**.
  - **si** = continue, e.g., **jisi**.
  - **pi** = habitual, e.g., **jipi**.
- Example: **jilo jiti jipi** = “want-move begin habitually.”

## 4. Syntax

Strict SOV, with optional markers.

### 4.1 Basic Structure

- Simple: **lu tox ji** = “Person moves thing.”
- Complex: **lu kan fif tox siuth path jilo jiti jipi** = “Person wants to habitually move thing to city with tool for friend.”



## 4.2 Word Order

- Subject → Indirect (-f) → Direct (-x) → Obliques (-th) → Verb(s).
- Topic/Focus: **kan**, **kash** follow nouns, e.g., **tox kash lu ji**.

## 4.3 Questions

- **hoie**: e.g., **lu kan tox siuth jilo jiti hoie?** = “Does person want to move thing to city?”

## 4.4 Modifiers

- Adjectives: Follow nouns, e.g., **to si** = “small thing.”
- Adverbs: Follow verbs or obliques, e.g., **vo si** = “very small.”

# 5. Loanword Adaptation Rules

Loanwords conform to Liká’s phonology, using vowels/diphthongs from the table, diacritic-free.

- **Phonotactics**: (C)V for roots, (C)V(C) for markers. No clusters; split with /a/.
- **Consonant Replacement**:
  - /v/ → /w/, e.g., “video” → **wieo** /wieo/.
  - /z/, /ʒ/ → /s/, e.g., “zoo” → **su** /su/, “pizza” → **pisa** /pisa/.
  - /tʃ/, /dʒ/ → /dʒ/ (**y**), e.g., “church” → **yika** /jika/.
  - /g/ → /k/, e.g., “Google” → **kuka** /kuka/.
  - /x/, /f/, /θ/ marker-only, e.g., “myth” → **mita** /mita/.
  - Clusters: Insert /a/, e.g., /str/ → **sata** /sata/.
- **Vowel Mapping**:
  - Source /a/ → **a** (flat), **ai** (rising), **ae** (falling), e.g., “cake” → **kaik** /kaɪk/ (rising).
  - Source /e/ → **e** (flat), **ei** (rising), **ea** (falling), e.g., “bed” → **bei** /beɪ/ (rising).
  - Source /i/ → **i** (flat), **ie** (rising), **ia** (falling), e.g., “see” → **sie** /siɛ/ (rising).
  - Source /o/ → **o** (flat), **oi** (rising), **oa** (falling), e.g., “core” → **koi** /koɪ/ (rising).
  - Source /u/ → **u** (flat), **ui** (rising), **ua** (falling), e.g., “moon” → **mui** /muɪ/ (rising).
- **Final Consonants**: Add /a/, e.g., “net” → **neta** /neta/, “Tesla” → **tesa** /tesa/.
- **Tone**: Flat default (e.g., **pisa** /pisa/), rising for emphasis (e.g., **pisai** /pisai/), falling for nuance (e.g., **pisae** /pisɛ/).
- **Examples**:
  - “Internet” → **inai** /inai/ (rising).
  - “Google” → **kuka** /kuka/ (flat).
  - “Pizza” → **pisa** /pisa/ (flat) or **pisai** /pisai/ (rising).
  - “Tesla” → **tesa** /tesa/ (flat) or **tesae** /tesɛ/ (falling).

## 6. NSM Prime Coverage

Líká's ~236 roots cover all ~60 NSM primes, verified with **si** for "small."

NSM Prime	Líká Root	Phoneme	Example
I	a	/a/	<b>a kan tox ji</b> = "I move thing."
YOU	ni	/ni/	<b>ni kan tox ji</b> = "You move thing."
WANT	lo	/lo/	<b>a tox jilo</b> = "I want to move thing."
DO	ji	/dʒi/	<b>lu tox ji</b> = "Person moves thing."
KNOW	da	/da/	<b>a tox da</b> = "I know thing."
GOOD	bie	/bie/	<b>to bie</b> = "good thing."
NOT	na	/na/	<b>a tox na ji</b> = "I not move thing."
SOMEONE	lu	/lu/	<b>lu kan tox ji</b> = "Someone moves thing."
SOMETHING	to	/to/	<b>tox, lu tox ji</b> = "Person moves something."
LIVE	sa	/sa/	<b>lu siuth sa</b> = "Person lives in city."
SMALL	si	/si/	<b>to si</b> = "small thing."
ONE	nu	/nu/	<b>to nu</b> = "one thing."
BE	(contextual)	-	<b>lu fi</b> = "Person is friend."

- **Notes:** Full ~60 primes include compounds (e.g., **sa bi** = die). "Be" is contextual (e.g., **lu tox**). No gaps.

## 7. Politeness and Endearment

- **Endearment (Root Duplication):**
  - **fi** → **fifi** = "dear friend."
  - **ma** → **mama** = "dear mother."
  - **lu** → **lulu** = "dear person."
  - Usage: **a kan fifi tox gi** = "I give thing to dear friend."
- **Politeness:**
  - **kan:** Softens, e.g., **lu kan fif tox ji** = "As for person, they move thing."
  - **vo:** Formal, e.g., **lu kan fif tox vo ji** = "Person respectfully moves thing."
- **Examples:**
  - **a kan mama tox sa** = "I live for dear mother."
  - **lu kan fif tox vo jilo** = "Person respectfully wants to move thing."

## 8. Usage Examples

### 8.1 Simple Sentences

- **lu tox ji** = “Person moves thing.”
- **lu siuth woi** = “Person goes to city.”
- **lu kan fif sa** = “As for person, they live for friend.”
- **to si** = “Small thing.”

### 8.2 Complex Sentences

- **lu kan fif tox siuth path jilo jiti jipi** = “Person wants to habitually move thing to city with tool for friend.”
- **lu kan fif pex siuth gilo jiti si** = “Person begins to continue wanting to give device to city for friend.”
- **lu kan gaf fif tox kash siuth gilo jiti** = “Person begins to want to give thing to city for friend for bigness.”

### 8.3 Dialogue

**Mi: Ni kain tox fif siuth jilo jiti hoie?**

“Do you want to start moving thing to city for friend?”

**Ni: A kan neix fif siuth path jilo gika bi.**

“I go to city with tool for friend, stop giving movement to sea.”

**Mi: To kaish ri nix fif a loie vo si jira jipi hoie?**

“Is it you that I quietly love a lot and try to move small for friend?”

## 9. Design Principles

- **Clarity:** Markers (**-x**, **-f**, **-th**) ensure unambiguous roles.
- **Expressiveness:** Compounding (**jilo jiti jipi**), phonemes (**-th** /θ/, **ŋ** /ŋ/).
- **Minimalism:** ~236 roots, 4 markers, 3 argument markers, ~240 syllables.
- **Accessibility:** Teachable phonemes (e.g., “tongue tip” for **-th**).

## 10. Platform Compatibility

- **Standardization:** Phoneme guides (e.g., /θ/ = “think”) and audio (e.g., **siuth** /siuθ/) ensure ChatGPT/Gemini accuracy.
- **Testing Prompt:** “Analyze Líká’s v0.55 grammar and lexicon, ensuring /θ/ for **-th**, /x/ for **-x**, /ŋ/ for **g**, no /z/, no diacritics. Generate 5 sentences with **-x**, **-f**, **-th**, roots **a**, **ni**, **lo**, **pisa**, **nu**, **si**.”

- **Dialect Prevention:** Audio, minimal pairs (**siuth** vs. **siuf**, **gi** vs. **ni**).

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