

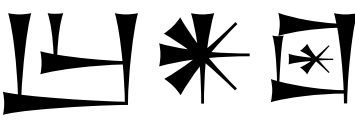
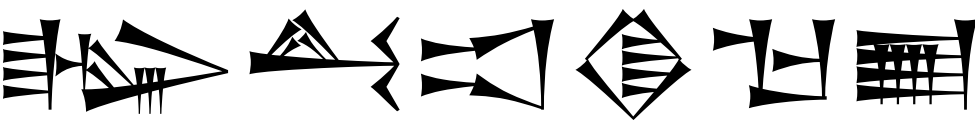

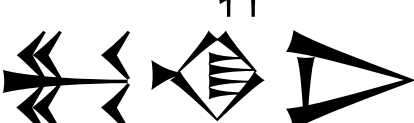

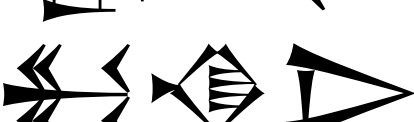


# Sumerian cuneiforms

## Grammar and commented text



# Chapter 1: Ur-Nammu 9

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 

There are few grammar books for Sumerian. Unfortunately, Marie-Louise Thomsen's "*The Sumerian Language*" does not use cuneiform, so I cannot recommend it. The same can be said about "*An Introduction to the Grammar of Sumerian*," by Gábor Zólyomi. This leaves us with John Hayes's manual. Therefore, I advise you to buy "A Manual of Sumerian: Grammar and Texts" to learn this ancient language in depth.



# Sentence structure

- 1- [NANNA
- 2- LUGAL.ANI].{(R) #benefactive} -- For his king Nanna,
- 3- [UR.NAMMU
- 4- LUGAL.URIM5.{AK #genitive}].{E #ergative} -- the king of UR
- 5- [E2.ANI].{#object} -- his temple
- 6- MU.NA.DU3 #verb -- he built
- 7- [[BAD3.URIM5].{A(K) #genitive}].{#object} -- the city wall of Ur
- 8- MU.NA.DU3 #verb -- he built













- 1,2- The benefactive has an unwritten R, which is represented by {(R)}
- 3,4- The genitive ends in {AK} after consonant; the ergative ends in {E}
- 5- The object of the action has no ending, which is represented by {}
- 7- The genitive has an unwritten K, which is represented by {A(K)}

Braces represent endings. In the representation of an ending, I may add a hash-prefixed comment on the grammatical function. For instance, the ergative ending {E} may be written as {E #ergative}. The empty ending of the object is commented as {#object}. Unwritten endings are placed between parentheses, such as {(R)}.

## First Line








The Ur-Nammu 9 document is divided into eight lines. On the first line the text  is written, which is the Sumerogram for the name of Nanna, the god of the Moon. The  symbol is read as DIĜIR and is determinative for deity. We will learn in the next paragraph that this word is in the dative case; therefore, the translation of the line is "***For Nanna.***"

## Second Line







The second line contains three Sumerogram33s:  (LUGAL),  (syllable A), and  (syllable NI). LUGAL () means "King" or "Lord." ANI ( ) can be translated as "his." Then LUGAL ANI (  ) means "his Lord." The Sumerogram  (LUGAL) is formed from  (lu<sub>2</sub>, "person") and  (gal, "big").

In Sumerian, like in Latin and German, a nominal phrase has a case marker that indicates various grammatical functions. On the first and second lines, the case marker is the dative, which suggests the beneficiary of the action (*cui bono*). The dative marker is an "R," rarely expressed in writing. Therefore, the whole nominal phrase can be transliterated as [NANNA LUGAL.ANI]-(R), where the (R) is not expressed.

## Third Line

The third line contains the name of Ur-Nammu ( ) , the king who rebuilt the temple of Nanna and is the document's author. The king's name is formed by  (UR), which means man or dog, and  (NAMMA), the Mother Earth of the Sumerians. Therefore, the king's name,  , means "The Man of Namma." Note that the determinative of deity () precedes the goddess's name.

## Fourth Line

On the fourth line,    (URIM2) is written, representing the city that was the cult center of Nanna. It is formed by the Sumerograms ŠEŠ () and UNUG () . The Sumerogram  is determinative for geographic names. The genitive case denotes possession. Unlike the dative, English has a genitive case, formed by an apostrophe followed by "s." In English, one would say, "Urim's King."

In Sumerian, the genitive follows the possessor and is marked with "AK" after consonants and "K" after vowels. In this case, the "A" of "AK" was assimilated with the previous consonant, becoming 𒀭 (MA). The Sumerogram 𒀭 (KE4) represents the "K" of the genitive and the "E4" of the ergative.

Sumerian is an ergative language, meaning the agent of transitive actions is marked. In Sumerian, the marker is "E." However, the subject of an intransitive verb, like "to go" or "to sleep," does not receive the "E" that marks the agent.

### Fifth Line

The fifth line introduces the temple (E2 - 𒂗) that Ur-Nammu built. The expression 𒂗𒀭𒀭𒀭 (E2 ANI) means "his temple."

### Sixth Line

The verb 𒀭𒀭𒀭𒀭 (MUNADU3) can be translated as "built." The verb has three components:

𒀭𒀭 — conjugation prefix

𒀭 — Dimensional Prefix (DP) cross-referencing the dative

𒀭 — verbal root

### Seventh Line

The noun phrase 𒂗𒀭𒀭𒀭𒀭 (BAD2.URIM2.MA) means "wall of URIM2." The sumerogram 𒂗 (BAD2) means "city wall." The /K/ of the genitive is omissible, meaning it is not expressed because it is not pronounced at the end of a nominal phrase.

### Eighth Line






The last rectangle repeats the 𒀭𒀭𒀭𒀭 (MUNADU3) verb.

# The Method

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Each chapter of this document will contain precise grammar, vocabulary, syllables, and Sumerograms essential for reading a document. This methodology ensures you will be able to handle a manageable amount of information initially.

## Symbol List

	Sky, gods	(cn an)
	Inanna, a goddess	(cn inanna)
	Syllabic A	(cn a)
	Syllabic NI	(cn ni)
	Ur-Nammu	(cn ur-nammu)
	Nanna, a god	(cn nanna)
	Syllabic MU	(cn mu)
	Syllabic NA	(cn na)
	To build	(cn du3)
	King	(cn lugal)
	Ur, a city	(cn urim)
	Syllabic MA	(cn ma)
	Ergative marker	(cn ke4)
	House/temple	(cn e2)
	City wall	(cn bad3)

# Chapter 2: 𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪

1. 𒈹 𒀭
2. 𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪
3. 𒀭𒈹 𒀭
4. 𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪
5. 𒌆𒍪𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪
6. 𒌆𒍪𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪
7. 𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪
8. 𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪
9. 𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪𒀭𒂗𒊩𒌆𒍪

## Sentence structure

- 1- [INANNA – For Inanna,
- 2- NIN.ANI].{(R) #benefactive} – his Lady,
- 3- [UR.NAMMU – Ur-Nammu,
- 4- [NITA.KALAG].{A #adjective from verb} -- the mighty man,
- 5- [LUGAL.URIM<sup>ki</sup>].{MA(K) #genitive} – the king of Ur,
- 6- [LUGAL.KIENGI.KIURI].{K}. {E} – the king of Sumer and Akkad,
- 7- [E2.ANI].{} -- her temple (of Innana)
- 8- MU.NA.DU3 #verb – (the king) built



Let us interpret the above structure.

- 1-2 (cn an inanna nin a ni) ;; As in text one, this noun phrase ends in an unwritten R, the dative marker.
- 3-4 (cn ur-nammu nita kalag ga) ;; One may form adjectives by adding a nominalizing A-particle to a verbal root, **\*\*kalag\*\*** in the present expression. The nominalizing particle was contaminated by the final G consonant of the preceding word, giving extra information about its correct reading. Different from English, Sumerian adjectives follow the noun they modify.
- 5 (cn lugal urim ma) ;; As we learned from text 1, the genitive is formed by K after vowels and AK after consonants. The scribe often omitted the K of AK. The M of MA is contamination from the final consonant of the previous word.
- 6 (cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri ke4) ;; In ke4 (𒂗), the K is the genitive marker, and the e4 is the ergative marker.
- 7 (cn e2 a ni)
- 8 (cn mu na du3)

## Translation

For Inanna, his lady, Ur-Nammu, the mighty man, King of Urim, King of Sumer and Akad, built her temple.

# Symbol List



(cn inanna)



(cn nin)



(cn ur-nammu)



(cn nita)



(cn kalag)



(cn ga)



(cn ki-en-gi)



(cn ki uri)



(cn ke4)



(cn e2 a ni)



(cn mu na du3)



(cn an)



(cn lugal)



(cn nammu)



(cn e2)



(cn mu)










(cn na)



(cn du3)

# Chapter 3: UR-NAMMU 31

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 

## Sentence structure

- 1- [NINGAL -- For Ningal
- 2- NIN.ANI].{(R)} -- his Lady,
- 3- [UR-NAMMU -- Ur-Nammu,
- 4- [NITAH.KALAG].{A #adjective from verb} -- the mighty man,
- 5- [LUGAL.URIM5].{MA(K) #genitive} -- the king of Ur,
- 6- [LUGAL.KIENGI.KIURI].{K #gen.}.{E #ergative} -- the king of Sumer and Akkad,
- 7- [{NAM #abstract noun}.TIL3.ANI].{ŠE3 #goal} -- for the sake of his life,
- 8- A.MU.NA.RU -- dedicated (this vessel).

## Annotations and Scholia



Eval: (cn nin gal)

;; *For Ningal*



Eval: (cn nin a ni)

;; *his Lady,*



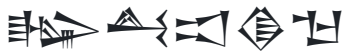
Eval: (cn ur-nammu)

;; *Ur-Nammu*



Eval: (cn nita kalag ga)

;; *the mighty man*



Eval: (cn lugal urim ma)

;; *The King of Ur,*



Eval: (cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri ke4)

;; *King of Sumer and Akkad,*



Eval: (cn nam til3 la ni she3)

;; *for the sake of his life,*

Sumerians used the terminative case -še (𒊩) to indicate end-points in space or time and the targets or the goals of the action.



Eval: (cn a mu na ru)

;; *dedicated it (this object)*

# Symbol List



(cn an ningal)



(cn nim)



(cn gal)



(cn ur-nammu)



(cn nita kalag ga)



(cn lugal)



(cn urim)



(cn ki-en-gi)



(cn ki uri)



(cn ke4)



(cn nam)



(cn til3)



(cn la)

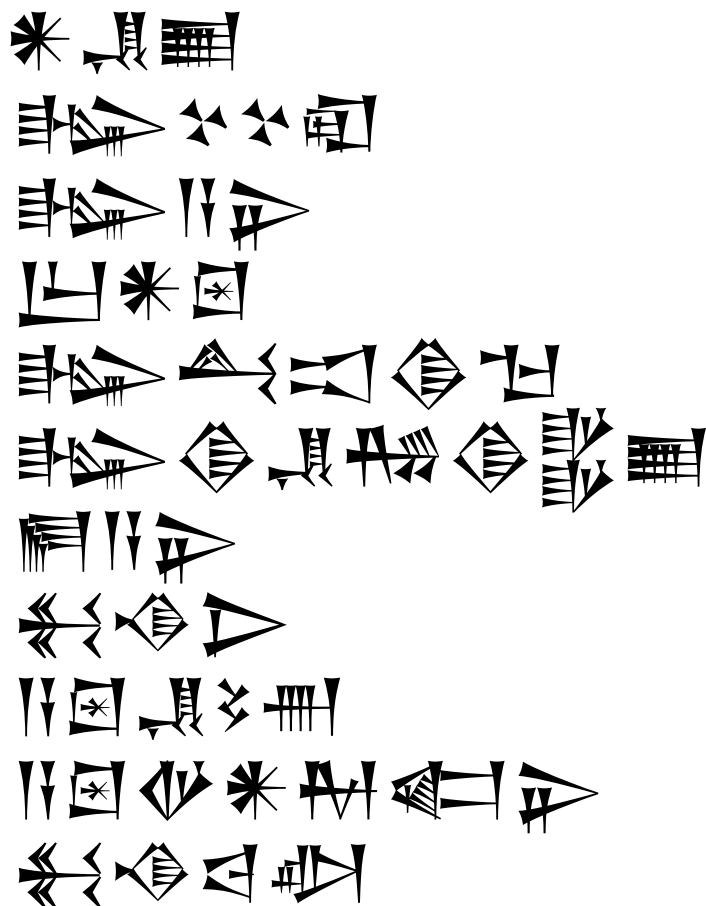


(cn she3)



(cn ru)

# Chapter 4: UR-NAMMU 23



## Annotations and Scholia



Eval: (cn an en lil2)

;; *For Enlil,*



Eval: (cn lugal kur kur ra)

;; *King of all the lands,*



Eval: (cn lugal a ni)

;; *His Lord,*



Eval: (cn ur-nammu)



(cn lugal urim ma)

;; *the king of Ur,*



Eval: (cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri ke4)

;; *the king of Sumer and Akkad,*



Eval: (cn e2 a ni)

;; *his temple*



Eval: (cn mu na du3)

;; *built.*



Eval: (cn id2 en erin2 nun)

;; *The Eneirinnu canal,*



Eval: (cn id2 nidba ka ni)

;; *his canal of food offerings,*



Eval: (cn mu na ba al)

; he, the king, dredged.

## Sentence structure

The text starts with the benefactive, that ends in R, not expressed.



The plural of nouns that refer to human beings is formed by a suffixed ENE. The plural of things, plants and animals is usually unmarked. Reduplication -- such as KUR.KUR (𒀭𒀭) -- conveys the idea of totality: "\*\*\*all the lands\*\*."

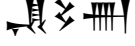
Then comes the agent, with the E prefix combined with the genitive ending into KE4 (𒀭𒄩).

The next in the line is the object that was built, to wit, his temple 𒀭𒄩𒀭𒂗 (cn e2 a ni).

- 1- [ENLIL -- For Enlil,
- 2- [LUGAL.KUR.KUR].{RA(K) #genitive} -- the king of all lands,
- 3- [LUGAR.ANI].{R}} -- his king,
- 4- [UR.NAMMU
- 5- [LUGAL.URIM].{MA(K)} -- the king of Ur,
- 6- [LUGAL.KIENGI.KIURI].{K}. {E} -- the king of Sumer and Akkad,
- 7- [E2.ANI].{} -- his temple
- 8- MU.NA.DU3 -- build
- 9- [ID2.EN.ERIN2.NUN -- The Ederinnun canal,
- 10- [ID2.NIDBA].{K}.ANI.{} -- his canal of food offering,
- 11- MU.NA.BA.AL -- (the king) dredged for him.



# Symbol List



enlil

lil2

erin2

nun

enerinnun

id2

kur

pad

nidba

ba

al

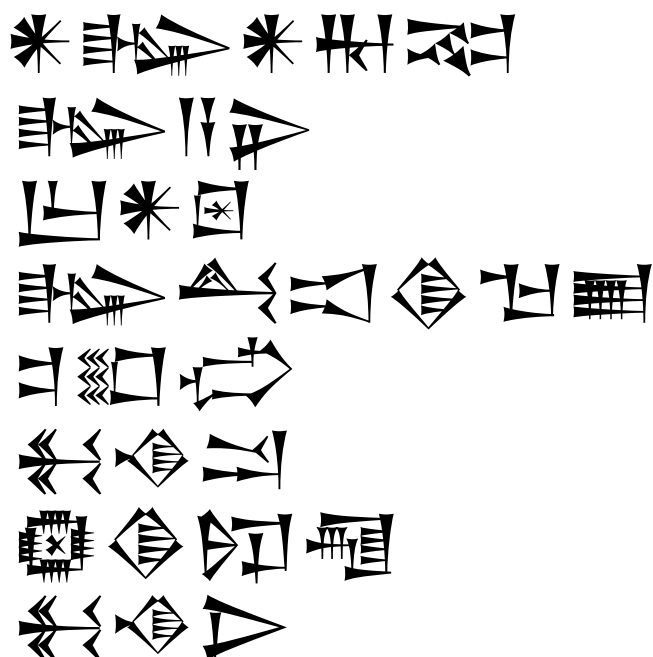
ba-al

ka

ra

ash

# Chapter 5: UR-NAMMU 5



## Annotations and Scholia



(cn an lugal digir re ne)

;; *For An, the king of the gods, ,*

In the above expression, the suffix ENE (𒂗𒂗) forms the plural of words that denote human beings and gods. The 'RE' (𒊕𒊕) is a reduplication of the final consonant of the previous word, *digir*(𒃵).



(cn lugal a ni)

;; *His King,*



(cn ur-nammu)



(cn lugal urim ma ke4)

;; *the king of Ur,*



(cn gish kiri6 mah)

;; *a magnificent garden*



(cn mu na gub)

;; *(the king) planted.*



(cn barag ki sikil la)

;; *A dais in purity*

The marker LA (𒀭) of the locative denotes places. The locative is generally marked with an A, but here, the suffix is contaminated by the final consonant of sikil (𒀭).



(cn mu na du3)

;; *(the king) built (for An).*

## Sentence structure

- 1- [AN LUGAL.[DIGIR.{RE.NE #plural}] -- For An, the king of the gods,
- 2- LUGAL.ANI].{R} -- his king,
- 3- [UR.NAMMU
- 4- [LUGAL.URIM5.M].{AK}].{E} -- the king of UR,
- 5- [GISH.KIRI6.MAH].{} -- an outstandig garden
- 6- MU.NA.GUB -- planted.
- 7- [BARAG.[KI.SIKIL].{LA #locative}].{} -- a dais in a pure place
- 8- MU.NA.DU3 -- (the king) build (for An).

# Symbol List



gish



bara2, barag



kiri6



gub



mah



sikil



ne



re

# Chapter 6: AMA GI

米 家 福 生 日

生命

井金口市米田金田

生命

米 田 米 田 田

里山

五、六、七、八、九

平江府志

重山

# Annotations

(cn an lugal e2 mush3 ra)



;; *For Lugalemush (Innana's husband),*

(cn en-te-me-na)

(cn ensi2)

(cn lagash ki)



;; *Entemena,*

;; *governor of Lagash,*

(cn sha3 pad3)

(cn nanshe)



;; *the chosen of Nanshe's heart,*

(cn ensi2 gal an ningirsu)



;; *the general governor of Ningirsu,*

(cn dumu en-an-na-tum2)



;; *the son of Enannatum,*

(cn ensi2)

(cn lagash ki ka ke4)



;; *the governor of Lagash (mark of ergative),*

(cn an ningirsu ra)

(cn esh3 dug-ru)

(cn mu na du3)



;; he built the shrine of Dugru for Ningirsu.

(cn ama gi4 lagash ki)

(cn e gar)



;; A remission of the obligations {ama-gi4} of Lagash he instituted.

Ama-gi4 means freedom, liberty, the right to return to one's mother, and remission. The

verb e-gar (𒂗 𒂗) means "to place" but conveys the idea of "to institute."

(cn ama dumu mu ni gi4)



;; He returned the mother to her child,

(cn dumu ama mu ni gi4)



;; he returned the children to their mother,

(cn ama gi4 she ur5 zuh)

(cn e gar)

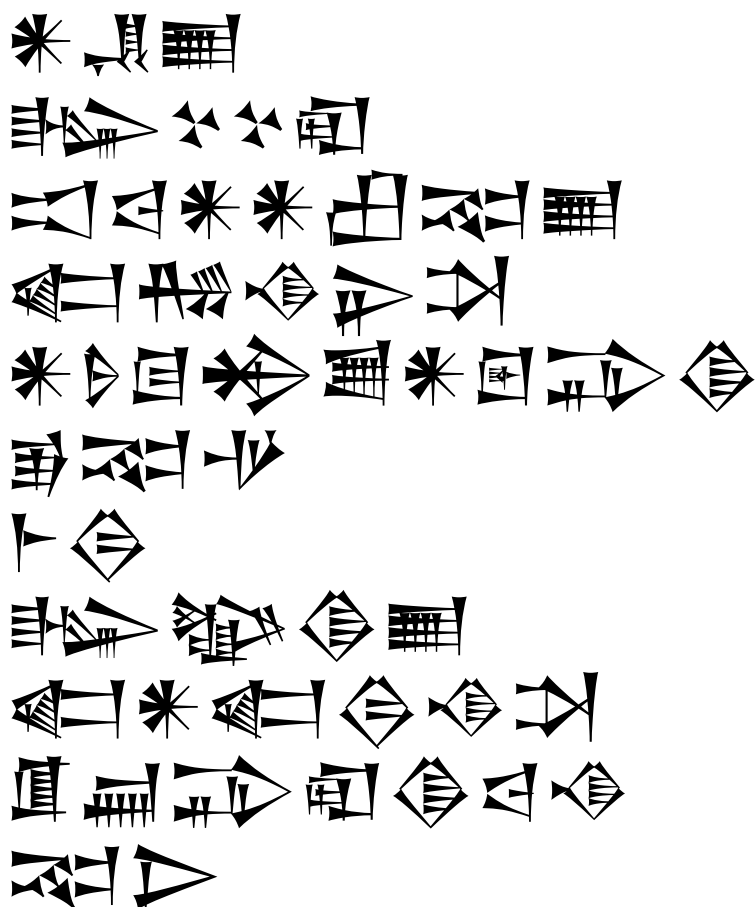


;; and the liberation of the barley handmill owner

;; from being stolen,

;; he instituted.

# Chapter 7: Border between Ningirsu and Shara



## Typesetting

(cn an en-lil2)



;; *Enlil,*

(cn lugal kur-kur ra)



;; *the king of all the lands,*

The genitive after a consonant is marked by A(K), where K is omissible. Therefore, the genitive is expressed by RA, where the R is contamination from the previous consonant.



The ENE marks the plural. The R in RENE is contamination from the previous consonant.

五、魚、魚、魚、魚、魚

INIM (𐎠𐎢𐎥) means command. 𐎠𐎢𐎥𐎢𐎠 (GIN6) = to be firm.

米 豆 米 豆 米 豆 米

里外一少

→ (SUR) means fixed.



23

(cn inim ishtaran na ta)



;; *commanded by Ištar,*

(cn esh gana2 be2 ra ki-ba na)



;; 𒂍 (ESH) – regarding

;; KI-BA -- there

;; NA -- stone, border landmark

;; GANA2 -- field

;; GANA2 BE2 RA -- this field

(cn bi2-ru2)



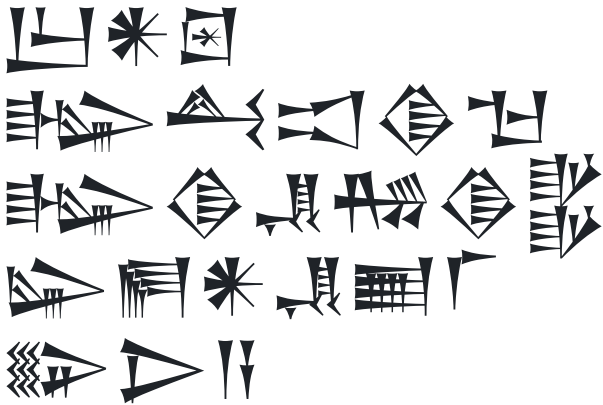
;; *regarding this field,*

;; *he set a border landmark there.*

## Translation

Enlil, the king of all lands and the father of the gods, fixed the border between Ningirsu and Shara with his firm command. Mesilim, the king of Kish, commanded by Ištar, regarding this field, set a border landmark there.

# Chapter 8: Relative Clause



## Typesetting

(cn ur an nammu)



(cn lugal urim ma)



(cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri)




(cn lu2 e2 en-lil2 la2)



(cn in du3 a)



## Relative Clause

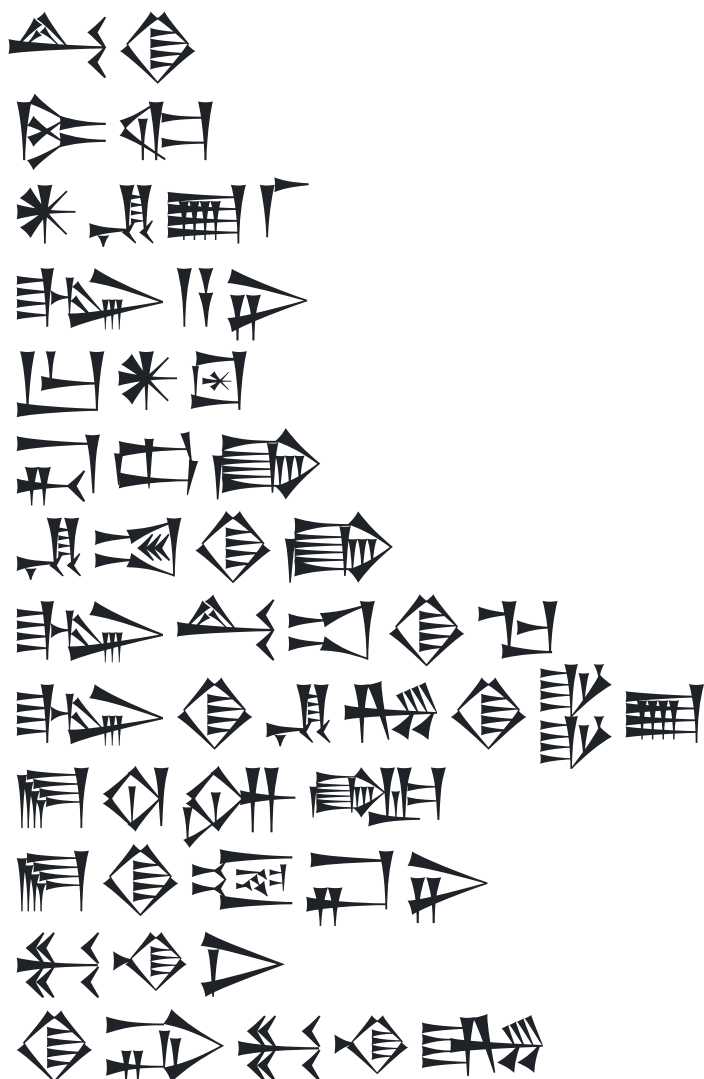
In a Sumerian relative clause, there are two elements. The first element is the head noun, LU2 () , the person who built the temple. The second element is a verbal phrase, which is transformed into an adjective by the suffix A. There is no need for a relative pronoun, such as *who* or *that*. The verbal phrase follows the noun directly.

Pay attention to an important point: the relative clause ends in the adjective-forming A-morpheme. After all, relative clauses are adjectives.

# Translation

Ur-Nammu, the king of Ur, the king of Sumer and Akkad, the man who built the temple of Enlis.

# Chapter 9: Beloved Temple



## Typesetting

(cn nanna)



(cn dumu sag)



(cn en-lil2 la2)



(cn lugal a ni)



(cn ur-nammu)



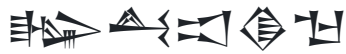
(cn nita kalag ga)



(cn en unug ki ga)



(cn lugal urim ma)



(cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri ke4)



(cn etemenniguru)



(cn e2 ki aga2 ga2 ni)



KI AGA2 (𒀭𒀭𒀭) means "to love". Therefore, the A-formed adjective beloved is [KI.AGA2].{A}, or, [KI.AGA2].{GA2} (𒀭𒀭𒀭𒀭). NI (𒀭) is abbreviation of ANI, and means his.

(cn mu na du3)



(cn ki be2 mu na gi4)



The expression means to restore something so that it regains its former significance. In German: ***etwas restaurieren, wieder herrichten, so dass es seine alte Funktion/Bedeutung wieder erlangt.***

## Translation

For his lord Nanna, the eldest son of Enlil, Ur-Nammu -- the mighty man, the lord of Uruk, the king of Ur, the king of Sumer and Akkad -- built Etemenniguru, his beloved temple. He restored it to its former glory.

# Chapter 10: Gilgamesh's Curse

[illegible]



# Annotations

;; (cn bil3-ga-mesh3) \*𐀀𐀁𐀂𐀃𐀄𐀅𐀆𐀇𐀈𐀉𐀊𐀋𐀌𐀍𐀎𐀏𐀐𐀑𐀒𐀓𐀔𐀕𐀖𐀗𐀘𐀙𐀚𐀛𐀜𐀝𐀞𐀟𐀠𐀡𐀢𐀣𐀤𐀥𐀦𐀧𐀨𐀩𐀪𐀫𐀬𐀭𐀮𐀯𐀰𐀱𐀲𐀳𐀴𐀵𐀶𐀷𐀸𐀹𐀺𐀻𐀼𐀽𐀾𐀿𐁀𐁁𐁂𐁃𐁄𐁅𐁆𐁇𐁈𐁉𐁊𐁋𐁌𐁍𐁎𐁏𐁐𐁑𐁒𐁓𐁔𐁕𐁖𐁗𐁘𐁙𐁚𐁛𐁜𐁝𐁞𐁟𐁠𐁡𐁢𐁣𐁤𐁥𐁦𐁧𐁨𐁩𐁪𐁫𐁬𐁭𐁮𐁯𐁰𐁱𐁲𐁳𐁴𐁵𐁶𐁷𐁸𐁹𐁺𐁻𐁼𐁽𐁾𐁿𐂀𐂁𐂂𐂃𐂄𐂅𐂆𐂇𐂈𐂉𐂊𐂋𐂌𐂍𐂎𐂏𐂐𐂑𐂒𐂓𐂔𐂕𐂖𐂗𐂘𐂙𐂚𐂛𐂜𐂝𐂞𐂟𐂠𐂡𐂢𐂣𐂤𐂥𐂦𐂧𐂨𐂩𐂪𐂫𐂬𐂭𐂮𐂯𐂰𐂱𐂲𐂳𐂴𐂵𐂶𐂷𐂸𐂹𐂺𐂻𐂼𐂽𐂾𐂿𐃀𐃁𐃂𐃃𐃄𐃅𐃆𐃇𐃈𐃉𐃊𐃋𐃌𐃍𐃎𐃏𐃐𐃑𐃒𐃓𐃔𐃕𐃖𐃗𐃘𐃙𐃚𐃛𐃜𐃝𐃞𐃟𐃠𐃡𐃢𐃣𐃤𐃥𐃦𐃧𐃨𐃩𐃪𐃫𐃬𐃭𐃮𐃯𐃰𐃱𐃲𐃳𐃴𐃵𐃶𐃷𐃸𐃹𐃺𐃻𐃼𐃽𐃾𐃿𐄀𐄁𐄂𐄃𐄄𐄅𐄆𐄇𐄈𐄉𐄊𐄋𐄌𐄍𐄎𐄏𐄐𐄑𐄒𐄓𐄔𐄕𐄖𐄗𐄘𐄙𐄚𐄛𐄜𐄝𐄞𐄟𐄠𐄡𐄢𐄣𐄤𐄥𐄦𐄧𐄨𐄩𐄪𐄫𐄬𐄭𐄮𐄯𐄰𐄱𐄲𐄳𐄴𐄵𐄶𐄷𐄸𐄹𐄺𐄻𐄼𐄽𐄾𐄿𐅀𐅁𐅂𐅃𐅄𐅅𐅆𐅇𐅈𐅉𐅊𐅋𐅌𐅍𐅎𐅏𐅐𐅑𐅒𐅓𐅔𐅕𐅖𐅗𐅘𐅙𐅚𐅛𐅜𐅝𐅞𐅟𐅠𐅡𐅢𐅣𐅤𐅥𐅦𐅧𐅨𐅩𐅪𐅫𐅬𐅭𐅮𐅯𐅰𐅱𐅲𐅳𐅴𐅵𐅶𐅷𐅸𐅹𐅺𐅻𐅼𐅽𐅾𐅿𐆀𐆁𐆂𐆃𐆄𐆅𐆆𐆇𐆈𐆉𐆊𐆋𐆌𐆍𐆎𐆏𐆐𐆑𐆒𐆓𐆔𐆕𐆖𐆗𐆘𐆙𐆚𐆛𐆜𐆝𐆞𐆟𐆠𐆡𐆢𐆣𐆤𐆥𐆦𐆧𐆨𐆩𐆪𐆫𐆬𐆭𐆮𐆯𐆰𐆱𐆲𐆳𐆴𐆵𐆶𐆷𐆸𐆹𐆺𐆻𐆼𐆽𐆾𐆿𐇀𐇁𐇂𐇃𐇄𐇅𐇆𐇇𐇈𐇉𐇊𐇋𐇌𐇍𐇎𐇏𐇐𐇑𐇒𐇓𐇔𐇕𐇖𐇗𐇘𐇙𐇚𐇛𐇜𐇝𐇞𐇟𐇠𐇡𐇢𐇣𐇤𐇥𐇦𐇧𐇨𐇩𐇪𐇫𐇬𐇭𐇮𐇯𐇰𐇱𐇲𐇳𐇴𐇵𐇶𐇷𐇸𐇹𐇺𐇻𐇼𐇽𐇾𐇿𐈀𐈁𐈂𐈃𐈄𐈅𐈆𐈇𐈈𐈉𐈊𐈋𐈌𐈍𐈎𐈏𐈐𐈑𐈒𐈓𐈔𐈕𐈖𐈗𐈘𐈙𐈚𐈛𐈜𐈝𐈞𐈟𐈠𐈡𐈢𐈣𐈤𐈥𐈦𐈧𐈨𐈩𐈪𐈫𐈬𐈭𐈮𐈯𐈰𐈱𐈲𐈳𐈴𐈵𐈶𐈷𐈸𐈹𐈺𐈻𐈼𐈽𐈾𐈿𐉀𐉁𐉂𐉃𐉄𐉅𐉆𐉇𐉈𐉉𐉊𐉋𐉌𐉍𐉎𐉏𐉐𐉑𐉒𐉓𐉔𐉕𐉖𐉗𐉘𐉙𐉚𐉛𐉜𐉝𐉞𐉟𐉠𐉡𐉢𐉣𐉤𐉥𐉦𐉧𐉨𐉩𐉪𐉫𐉬𐉭𐉮𐉯𐉰𐉱𐉲𐉳𐉴𐉵𐉶𐉷𐉸𐉹𐉺𐉻𐉼𐉽𐉾𐉿𐊀𐊁𐊂𐊃𐊄𐊅𐊆𐊇𐊈𐊉𐊊𐊋𐊌𐊍𐊎𐊏𐊐𐊑𐊒𐊓𐊔𐊕𐊖𐊗𐊘𐊙𐊚𐊛𐊜𐊝𐊞𐊟𐊠𐊡𐊢𐊣𐊤𐊥𐊦𐊧𐊨𐊩𐊪𐊫𐊬𐊭𐊮𐊯𐊰𐊱𐊲𐊳𐊴𐊵𐊶𐊷𐊸𐊹𐊺𐊻𐊼𐊽𐊾𐊿𐋀𐋁𐋂𐋃𐋄𐋅𐋆𐋇𐋈𐋉𐋊𐋋𐋌𐋍𐋎𐋏𐋐𐋑𐋒𐋓𐋔𐋕𐋖𐋗𐋘𐋙𐋚𐋛𐋜𐋝𐋞𐋟𐋠𐋡𐋢𐋣𐋤𐋥𐋦𐋧𐋨𐋩𐋪𐋫𐋬𐋭𐋮𐋯𐋰𐋱𐋲𐋳𐋴𐋵𐋶𐋷𐋸𐋹𐋺𐋻𐋼𐋽𐋾𐋿𐌀𐌁𐌂𐌃𐌄𐌅𐌆𐌇𐌈𐌉𐌊𐌋𐌌𐌍𐌎𐌏𐌐𐌑𐌒𐌓𐌔𐌕𐌖𐌗𐌘𐌙𐌚𐌛𐌜𐌝𐌞𐌟𐌠𐌡𐌢𐌣𐌤𐌥𐌦𐌧𐌨𐌩𐌪𐌫𐌬𐌭𐌮𐌯𐌰𐌱𐌲𐌳𐌴𐌵𐌶𐌷𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌻𐌼𐌽𐌾𐌿𐍀𐍁𐍂𐍃𐍄𐍅𐍆𐍇𐍈𐍉𐍊𐍋𐍌𐍍𐍎𐍏𐍐𐍑𐍒𐍓𐍔𐍕𐍖𐍗𐍘𐍙𐍚𐍛𐍜𐍝𐍞𐍟𐍠𐍡𐍢𐍣𐍤𐍥𐍦𐍧𐍨𐍩𐍪𐍫𐍬𐍭𐍮𐍯𐍰𐍱𐍲𐍳𐍴𐍵𐍶𐍷𐍸𐍹𐍺𐍻𐍼𐍽𐍾𐍿𐎀𐎁𐎂𐎃𐎄𐎅𐎆𐎇𐎈𐎉𐎊𐎋𐎌𐎍𐎎𐎏𐎐𐎑𐎒𐎓𐎔𐎕𐎖𐎗𐎘𐎙𐎚𐎛𐎜𐎝𐎞𐎟𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨𐎩𐎪𐎫𐎬𐎭𐎮𐎯𐎰𐎱𐎲𐎳𐎴𐎵𐎶𐎷𐎸𐎹𐎺𐎻𐎼𐎽𐎾𐎿𐏀𐏁𐏂𐏃𐏄𐏅𐏆𐏇𐏈𐏉𐏊𐏋𐏌𐏍𐏎𐏏𐏐𐏑𐏒𐏓𐏔𐏕𐏖𐏗𐏘𐏙𐏚𐏛𐏜𐏝𐏞𐏟𐏠𐏡𐏢𐏣𐏤𐏥𐏦𐏧𐏨𐏩𐏪𐏫𐏬𐏭𐏮𐏯𐏰𐏱𐏲𐏳𐏴𐏵𐏶𐏷𐏸𐏹𐏺𐏻

:: (cn en-dim2-gig) 𐎠𐏀𐎥𐎡𐏁

***;; For Gilgamesh of Endimgig***

;; (cn lugal a ni) 


*;; his king*

;; (cn ur-nammu) 

## *;; Ur-Nammu*

;; (cn nita kalag ga) 𐄌𐄓𐄔𐄕𐄖𐄗


*;; the mighty man,*

;; (cn lugal urim ma) 

*;; the king of Ur,*

; (cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri ke4) 𒌦𒀭𒈾𒂗𒄣𒅗𒃶𒍪

*;; the king of Sumer and Akkad,*

;; (cn ud e2 an nanna) 


*;; when he built the temple of Nanna,*

;; (cn mu du3 a)   

We have here an adjective form of built. Temporal clauses are consists of the head noun UD (✂, day) followed by a verbal phrase adjectivized in A (⚡).

;; (cn nam til3 la ni she3) 姓李名三

***;; for the sake of his life,***

;; (cn a mu na ru) 

***;; he dedicated.***

*;; whoever erases this inscription,*

Here, we have another example of the relative clause. In the next line, we have an adjectivized verbal phrase.

⦿ Contraction of ⦿ (be<sub>2</sub>, "this") + ⦿ (A, locative case marker).

• (ba /bâ/) locative of  $\Rightarrow$  (be<sub>2</sub>, "this")

SHU...UR3 (𒍪...𒍪) means to erase.

***;; May Gilgamesh curse him.***

The E-suffix (ꠘꠞꠤ) is the ergative marker.

:: (cn nam ha ba da ku5 e) 𐀓𐀠𐀥𐀢𐀤𐀡𐀮𐀵𐀸𐀶

The first element in the Sumerian verbal chain is the Modal Prefix (MP), which is unmarked for the indicative. Here, HA (~~U~~) expresses the desiderative MP, which expresses wishes for the third person to fulfill.

There are two kinds of verbal roots in Sumerian. The Akkadians called them hamtu and marû. The marû is equivalent of our imperfect. In the relative phrase of the inscription, you can see an example of the marû root. It has the following components:

1. SHU -- part of the compound verb SHU...UR3 (𒍪...𒌆)
2. BI2 (𒁩) -- Conjugation Prefix (CP)
3. IB2 (𒁩𒀭) -- Personal affix cross-referencing the inscription
4. UR3 (𒌆) -- second part of the verb SHU...UR3 (𒍪...𒌆)
5. A (𒀭) -- formative element of adjective from verb

The last verb of the inscription (line 5) has the following components:

1. NAM (𒀭𒌆) -- cross-reference to a historic patient
2. HA (𒄩) -- Modal Prefix (MP)
3. BA (𒁩) -- Conjugation Prefix (CP)
4. DA (𒁩𒀭) -- Dimensional Prefix (DP) for the comitative
5. KU5 (𒀭) -- verbal element of NAM...KU5 (𒀭𒌆...𒀭)
6. E (𒀭) -- marû suffix

Note that the verb of the relative clause does not show the marû suffix, because it is omissible, like many other Sumerian markers.

## Translation

For his Lord Gilgamesh of Endimgig, the mighty man Ur-Nammu, the king of Ur, the king of Sumer and Akkad, when he built the temple of Nanna, dedicated this vase for the sake of his life. May Gilgamesh curse the man who erases this inscription.