

3. NOUNS

There are various types of nouns in Klingon.

3.1. Simple nouns

Simple nouns, like simple nouns in English, are simple words; for example, **DoS** *target* or **QIH** *destruction*.

3.2. Complex nouns

Complex nouns, on the other hand, are made up of more than one part.

3.2.1. Compound nouns

Compound nouns consist of two or three nouns in a row, much like English *earthworm* (*earth* plus *worm*) or *password* (*pass* plus *word*). For example, **jolpa'** *transport room* consists of **jol** *transport beam* plus **pa'** *room*.

3.2.2. Verb plus -wI'

A second type of complex noun consists of a verb followed by a suffix meaning *one who does* or *thing which does*. The English suffix *-er* (as in *builder* “one who builds” or *toaster* “thing which toasts”) is a rough equivalent. In Klingon, the

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suffix is **-wI'**. It occurs, for example, in **baHwI'** *gunner*, which consists of the verb **baH** *fire (a torpedo)* plus **-wI'** *one who does*. Thus, **baHwI'** is literally “one who fires [a torpedo].” Similarly, **So'wI'** *cloaking device* comes from the verb **So'** *cloak* plus **-wI'** *thing which does*. **So'wI'** is a “thing which cloaks.”

A noun formed by adding **-wI'** to a verb is a regular noun, so it may be used along with another noun to form a compound noun. For example, **tIjwI'ghom** *boarding party* comes from **tIjwI'** *boarder* plus **ghom** *group*; and **tIjwI'** comes from **tIj** *board* plus **-wI'**.

3.2.3. Other complex nouns

There are a good many nouns in Klingon which are two or, less frequently, three syllables long, but which are not complex nouns of the types described above. These nouns probably at one time were formed by combining simple nouns, but one or all of the nouns forming the complex noun are no longer in use, so it is not possible (without extensive etymological research) to know what the individual pieces mean.

For example, **'ejDo'** means *starship*. The syllable **'ej** also occurs in **'ejyo'** *Starfleet*. There are, however, no known Klingon words **'ej**, **Do'**, or **yo'** that have anything to do with Starfleet, starships, the Federation, or space vehicles of any kind. It is quite likely that **Do'** is an Old Klingon word for *space vessel* (the modern Klingon word is **Duj**) that is used nowhere except in the noun **'ejDo'**. Of course, without further study, that remains pure conjecture.

3.3. Suffixes

All nouns, whether simple or complex, may be followed by one or more suffixes. If there are two or more suffixes, the suffixes must occur in a specific order. Suffixes may be classified on the basis of their relative order after the noun. There are five types of suffixes (which, for convenience, will be numbered 1 through 5). Suffixes of Type 1 come right after the noun; suffixes of Type 2 come after those of Type 1; suffixes of Type 5 come last. This may be illustrated as follows:

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NOUN-1-2-3-4-5

Of course, if no suffix of Type 1 is used but a suffix of Type 2 is used, the Type 2 suffix comes right after the noun. If a suffix of Type 5 is the only suffix used, it comes right after the noun. Only when two or more suffixes are used does their order become apparent.

There are at least two suffixes in each suffix type. Only one suffix of each type may be used at a time. That is, a noun cannot be followed by, for example, two or three Type 4 suffixes.

The members of each suffix type are as follows.

3.3.1. Type 1: Augmentative/diminutive

-**'a'** *augmentative*

This suffix indicates that what the noun refers to is bigger, more important, or more powerful than it would be without the suffix.

SuS *wind, breeze*
Qagh *mistake*
woQ *power*

SuS'a' *strong wind*
Qagh'a' *major blunder*
woQ'a' *ultimate power*

-**Hom** *diminutive*

This is the opposite of the augmentative suffix. It indicates that what the noun refers to is smaller, less important, or less powerful than it would be without the suffix.

SuS *wind, breeze*
roj *peace*

SuSHom *wisp of air*
rojHom *truce, temporary peace*

3.3.2. Type 2: Number

As in English, a singular noun in Klingon has no specific suffix indicating that it is singular: **nuH** *weapon* refers to a single weapon of any type. Unlike English, however, the lack of a specific suffix for plural does not always indicate that the noun is singular. In Klingon, a noun without a plural suffix may still refer to more than one entity. The plurality is indicated by a

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pronoun, whether a verb prefix (see section 4.1) or a full word (section 5.1), or by context. For example, **yaS officer** may refer to a single officer or to a group of officers, depending on other words in the sentence or the context of the discussion.

Compare:

yaS vImojpu' *I became an officer.*

yaS DIImojpu' *We became officers.*

yaS jIH *I am an officer.*

yaS maH *We are officers.*

In the first pair of sentences, the only difference is the verb prefix (here only partially described; see section 4.1): **vI-** *I*, **DI-** *we*. In the second pair, the pronouns are different: **jIH** *I*, **maH** *we*.

Under certain circumstances, the only way to know whether the noun refers to one or more than one entity is by context. Thus, **yaS mojpup'** can be translated either *he/she became an officer* or *they became officers*. Those taking part in any discussion in which this sentence is used would presumably already know whom is being talked about, so they would also know whether *he* or *she* or *they* is the correct meaning.

Fortunately for students of Klingon, it is never incorrect to add a plural suffix to a noun referring to more than one entity, even in those cases where it is unnecessary to do so. Accordingly, both **yaS maH** and **yaSpup' maH** are correct, both meaning *we are officers* (**-pu'** is a plural suffix). On the other hand, a plural suffix cannot be added to a noun referring to only one thing, even if pronouns are present in the sentence. In Klingon, **yaSpup' jIH I am officers** is as incorrect as its English translation.

There are three different plural suffixes in Klingon.

-pu' *plural for beings capable of using language*

This suffix can be used to indicate plurality for Klingons, Terrans, Romulans, Vulcans, and so on, but not for lower animals of any kind, plants, inanimate objects, electromagnetic or other beams or waves, etc.

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yaS *officer*
Duy *emissary*

yaSpu' *officers*
Duypu' *emissaries*

-Du' *plural for body parts*

This suffix is used when referring to body parts of those beings capable of using language as well as of any other animal.

qam *foot*
tlhon *nostril*

qamDu' *feet*
tlhonDu' *nostrils*

-mey *plural, general usage*

This suffix is used to mark the plural of any noun.

mID *colony*
yuQ *planet*

mIDmey *colonies*
yuQmey *planets*

It can also be used with nouns referring to beings capable of using language (those nouns which take **-pu'**). When it is so used, it adds a notion of “scattered all about” to the meaning. Compare:

puq *child*
puqpu' *children*
puqmey *children all over the place*

The suffix **-mey** cannot be used with body parts. It should be noted, however, that Klingon poets often violate this grammatical rule in order to evoke particular moods in their poetry. Thus, forms such as **tlhonmey** *nostrils scattered all about* do occur. Until the subtle nuances of such constructions are firmly grasped, however, it is suggested that students of Klingon stick to the rules.

Finally, some nouns in Klingon are inherently or always plural in meaning, and therefore never take plural suffixes.

ray' *targets*

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cha *torpedoes*

chuyDaH *thrusters*

The singular counterparts of such words are utterly distinct:

DoS *target*

peng *torpedo*

vIj *thruster*

The singular forms may take the **-mey** suffix, but the meaning always carries the “scattered all about” connotation:

DoSmey *targets scattered all about*

pengmey *torpedoes all over the place*

Inherently plural nouns are treated grammatically as singular nouns in that singular pronouns are used to refer to them (sections 4.1, 5.1). For example, in the sentence **cha yIghuS** *Stand by torpedoes!* or *Get the torpedoes ready to be fired!* the verb prefix **yI-**, an imperative prefix used for singular objects, must be used even though the object (**cha torpedoes**) has a plural meaning.

3.3.3. Type 3: Qualification

Suffixes of this type indicate the speaker’s attitude toward the noun, or how sure the speaker is that the noun is being used appropriately.

-qoq *so-called*

This suffix indicates that the noun is being used in a false or ironic fashion. Saying **rojqoq** *so-called peace*, rather than simply **roj** *peace*, indicates that the speaker does not really believe that peace is legitimate or likely to endure.

-Hey *apparent*

This suffix indicates that the speaker is pretty sure the object referred to by the noun is accurately described by the noun, but has some doubts. For example, if the scanner on a Klingon ship senses an object, and the officer reporting the presence of this object assumes, but is not yet sure, that the object is a vessel, he will probably refer to the object as **DujHey** *an apparent vessel*, rather than simply **Duj** *vessel*.

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-na' *definite*

This is the counterpart of **-Hey**. It indicates that there is no doubt in the speaker's mind as to the accuracy of his or her choice of words. Once the Klingon officer referred to above is sure that the object the scanner has found is a vessel, he might report the presence of **Dujna'** *a definite vessel, undoubtedly a vessel*.

3.3.4. Type 4: Possession/specification

Type 4 is the largest class of noun suffixes. It consists of all the possessive suffixes, plus suffixes which can be translated as English *this* and *that*.

The possessive suffixes are:

-wIj *my*

-Ilj *your*

-Daj *his, her, its*

-maj *our*

-raj *your (plural)*

-chaj *their*

Thus, **juH** *home* occurs in **juHwIj** *my home*, **juHIIlj** *your home*, **juHchaj** *their home*, etc.

When the noun being possessed refers to a being capable of using language, a special set of suffixes is used for first- and second-person possessors:

-wI' *my*

-Il' *your*

-ma' *our*

-ra' *your (plural)*

These suffixes occur in, for example, **joHwI'** *my lord* and **puqIl'** *your child*. It is grammatically correct to use the regular possessive suffixes with nouns referring to beings capable of speech (as in **puqIlj** *your child*), but such constructions are considered derogatory; **joHwIj** for *my lord* borders on the taboo. Students of Klingon should bear this in mind.

To indicate that one noun is the possessor of another noun (e.g., *enemy's weapon*), no suffix is used. Instead, the two nouns are said in the order possessor–possessed: **jagh nuH** *enemy's weapon* (literally, *enemy weapon*). This construction is also used for phrases translated by *of the* in English, such as *weapon of the enemy*. (See also section 3.4.)

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There are two suffixes indicating how close to the speaker the object referred to by the noun is.

-vam *this*

Like its English translation, this suffix indicates that the noun refers to an object which is nearby or which is the topic of the conversation.

nuHvam *this weapon (near me as I speak)*

yuQvam *this planet (that we've been talking about)*

When used with a plural noun (one with a plural suffix or an inherently plural noun), **-vam** is translated *these*:

nuHmeyvam *these weapons*

-vetlh *that*

This suffix indicates that the noun refers to an object which is not nearby or which is being brought up again as the topic of conversation.

nuHvetlh *that weapon (over there)*

yuQvetlh *that planet (as opposed to the one we were just talking about)*

When used with a plural noun, **-vetlh** is translated *those*:

nuHmeyvetlh *those weapons*

There is no Klingon equivalent for English *a*, *an*, *the*. In translating from Klingon to English, one must use context as a guide to when to use *a* or *an* and when *the*. In this book, *a* or *an* and *the* are used in translations to make the English sound more natural.

3.3.5. Type 5: Syntactic markers

These suffixes indicate something about the function of the noun in the sentence. As in English, subjects and objects are normally indicated by the position of the noun or nouns in the sentence. The following two English sentences have the same words, but the sentences have different meanings due to the order of the words:

Dogs chase cats.

Cats chase dogs.

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Subjects and objects in Klingon are likewise indicated by word order. This is described in section 6.1.

In other instances, English indicates the function of nouns in a sentence by adding words, particularly prepositions. In the following English sentence, the word *around* before *canaries* indicates that the canaries are neither chasing nor being chased:

Dogs chase cats around canaries.

Similarly, in Klingon, nouns which indicate something other than subject or object usually must have some special indication of exactly what their function is. Unlike English, this is accomplished by using suffixes.

-Daq *locative*

This suffix indicates that something is happening (or has happened or will happen) in the vicinity of the noun to which it is attached. It is normally translated by an English preposition: *to*, *in*, *at*, *on*. The exact translation is determined by the meaning of the whole sentence. For example, **pa'Daq** is **pa'** *room* plus the suffix **-Daq**. It may occur in sentences such as the following:

pa'Daq jIHtaH *I'm in the room.*

pa'Daq yIjaH *Go to the room!*

In the first sentence, **jIH** *I* is used in the sense of *I am* (see section 6.3), so *in* is the most reasonable translation of **-Daq**. In the second sentence, the verb is **jaH** *go*, so *to* makes the most sense as a translation of **-Daq**. An English preposition need not be part of the translation. Klingon **Dung** means *area above*, and **DungDaq** is *overhead*, literally something like "at the area above." For further discussion on prepositional concepts, see section 3.4.

It is worth noting at this point that the concepts expressed by the English adverbs *here*, *there*, and *everywhere* are expressed by nouns in Klingon: **naDev** *hereabouts*, **pa'** *thereabouts*, **Dat** *everywhere*. These words may perhaps be translated more literally as "area around here," "area over there," and "all places," respectively. Unlike other nouns, these three words are never followed by the locative suffix. (Note

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that **pa'** *thereabouts* and **pa'** *room* are identical in sound; **pa'Daq**, however, can mean only *in/to the room*.)

There are a few verbs whose meanings include locative notions, such as **ghoS** *approach, proceed*. The locative suffix need not be used on nouns which are the objects of such verbs.

Duj ghoStaH *It is approaching the ship.*

(**Duj** *ship, vessel*, **ghoStaH** *it is approaching it*)

yuQ wIghoStaH *We are proceeding toward the planet.*

(**yuQ** *planet*, **wIghoStaH** *we are proceeding toward it*)

If the locative suffix is used with such verbs, the resulting sentence is somewhat redundant, but not out-and-out wrong.

DujDaq ghoStaH *It is approaching toward the ship.*

-vo' *from*

This suffix is similar to **-Daq** but is used only when action is in a direction away from the noun suffixed with **-vo'**.

pa'vo' yIjaH *Leave the room!*

A more literal translation of this sentence might be "Go from the room."

-mo' *due to, because of*

This suffix occurs in sentences such as:

SuSmo' joqtaH *It is fluttering in the breeze.*

The noun **SuSmo'** means *due to the breeze*, so the whole sentence is literally "due to the breeze, it [a flag] is fluttering."

-vaD *for, intended for*

This suffix indicates that the noun to which it is attached is in some way the beneficiary of the action, the person or thing for whom or for which the activity occurs.

Qu'vaD II' De'vam *This information is useful for the mission.*

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The noun **Qu'vaD** means *for the mission*, and in this sentence **-vaD** indicates that the information is intended to be used somehow for the mission under discussion.

-'e' *topic*

This suffix emphasizes that the noun to which it is attached is the topic of the sentence. In English, this is frequently accomplished by stressing the noun (saying it emphatically) or by special syntactic constructions.

lujpu' jIH'e' *I, and only I, have failed.*

It is I who has failed.

De''e' vItlhapnISpu' *I needed to get the INFORMATION.*

It was the information (and not something else) that I needed.

Without the **'e'**, these same sentences would have no noun singled out for emphasis:

lujpu' jIH *I have failed.*

De' vItlhapnISpu' *I needed to get the information.*

For a further use of **-'e'**, see section 6.3.

3.3.6. Relative ordering of the suffixes

As briefly illustrated in the discussion of **-vam** *this* and **-vetlh** *that* (section 3.3.4), when a noun is followed by more than one suffix, the suffixes must occur in the proper order, according to the classification just described. It is rare for a noun to be followed by five suffixes, but it does happen from time to time. Some examples of nouns with two or more suffixes follow. (Suffix types are indicated by numbers.)

QaghHommeHeylIjmo' *due to your apparent minor errors*

Qagh	(noun)	<i>error</i>
-Hom	(1)	<i>diminutive</i>
-mey	(2)	<i>plural</i>
-Hey	(3)	<i>apparent</i>
-Ij	(4)	<i>your</i>
-mo'	(5)	<i>due to</i>

pa'wIjDaq *in my quarters*

pa' (noun) *room*

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-wIj	(4)	<i>my</i>
-Daq	(5)	<i>locative</i>

Duypu'qoqchaj *their so-called emissaries*

Duy	(noun)	<i>emissary</i>
-pu'	(2)	<i>plural</i>
-qoq	(3)	<i>so-called</i>
-chaj	(4)	<i>their</i>

qamDu'wIjDaq *at my feet*

qam	(noun)	<i>foot</i>
-Du'	(2)	<i>plural</i>
-wIj	(4)	<i>my</i>
-Daq	(5)	<i>locative</i>

rojHom'e' *the truce (as topic)*

roj	(noun)	<i>peace</i>
-Hom	(1)	<i>diminutive</i>
-e'	(5)	<i>topic</i>

All examples of suffixes given so far show only simple nouns. Suffixes are attached to complex nouns (section 3.2) in exactly the same fashion.

DlIvI'may'DujmeyDaq *at/to the Federation battle cruisers*

DlIvI'may'Duj	(noun)	<i>Federation battle cruiser</i>
-mey	(2)	<i>plural</i>
-Daq	(5)	<i>locative</i>

baHwI'pu'vam *these gunners*

baHwI'	(noun)	<i>gunner</i>
-pu'	(2)	<i>plural</i>
-vam	(4)	<i>this</i>

3.4. The noun–noun construction

Some combinations of two (or more) nouns in a row are so common as to have become everyday words. These are the compound nouns (as discussed in section 3.2.1). In addition, it is possible to combine nouns in the manner of a compound noun to produce a new construct even if it is not a legitimate compound noun (“legitimate” in the sense that it would be found in a dictionary).

The translation of two nouns combined in this way, say

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N1–N2 (that is, noun #1 followed by noun #2), would be *N2 of the N1*. For example, **nuH** *weapon* and **pegh** *secret* combine to form **nuH pegh** *secret of the weapon*. An alternate translation would be *N1's N2*, in this case, *the weapon's secret*. As discussed in section 3.3.4, this is the Klingon possessive construction for a noun possessed by another noun.

When the noun–noun construction is used, only the second noun can take syntactic suffixes (Type 5). Both nouns, however, may take suffixes of the other four types. For example:

nuHvam pegh <i>secret of this weapon</i>		
nuH	(noun)	<i>weapon</i>
-vam	(4)	<i>this</i>
pegh	(noun)	<i>secret</i>
jaghpu' yuQmeyDaq <i>at/to the enemies' planets</i>		
jagh	(noun)	<i>enemy</i>
-pu'	(2)	<i>plural</i>
yuQ	(noun)	<i>planet</i>
-mey	(2)	<i>plural</i>
-Daq	(5)	<i>locative</i>
puqwI' qamDu' <i>my child's feet</i>		
puq	(noun)	<i>child</i>
-wI'	(4)	<i>my</i>
qam	(noun)	<i>foot</i>
-Du	(2)	<i>plural</i>

English prepositional phrases are also rendered in Klingon by this noun–noun construction. Prepositional concepts such as *above* and *below* are actually nouns in Klingon, best translated as “area above,” “area below,” etc. The locative suffix (section 3.3.5) follows the second noun. For example:

nagh DungDaq <i>above the rock</i>		
nagh	(noun)	<i>rock</i>
Dung	(noun)	<i>area above</i>
-Daq	(5)	<i>locative</i>

More literally, this is “at the area above the rock” or “at the rock’s above-area.”

4. VERBS

Klingon verbs are mostly monosyllabic forms which may be accompanied by several affixes. As with Klingon nouns, Klingon verbs may take suffixes falling into a number of types based on their relative position following the verb. There are nine types of verb suffixes. Unlike Klingon nouns, Klingon verbs may take prefixes. Thus, if suffix types are indicated as numbers, the structure of a Klingon verb is:

PREFIX-VERB-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9

4.1. Pronominal prefixes

Each Klingon verb begins with a single prefix that indicates who or what is performing the action described by the verb and, when relevant, who or what is the recipient of that action. In other words, Klingon verb prefixes indicate both the subject and the object of the sentence.

4.1.1. Basic prefixes

The basic set of prefixes can be presented in a chart. (In order to make the chart as clear as possible, some prefixes are repeated.)

Note that both the subject and the object are combined

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OBJECT	none	<i>me</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>him/ her/it</i>	<i>us</i>	<i>you (plural)</i>	<i>them</i>
SUBJECT							
<i>I</i>	jI-	–	qa-	vI-	–	Sa-	vI-
<i>you</i>	bI-	cho-	–	Da-	ju-	–	Da-
<i>he/she/it</i>	0	mu-	Du-	0	nu-	II-	0
<i>we</i>	ma-	–	pI-	wI-	–	re-	DI-
<i>you (plural)</i>	Su-	tu-	–	bo-	che-	–	bo-
<i>they</i>	0	mu-	nI-	lu-	nu-	II-	0

into a single prefix. 0 in the chart means that the particular subject-object combinations are indicated by the absence of a prefix before the verb; – in the chart notes subject-object combinations which cannot be expressed with the Klingon verb prefix system. For such meanings, suffixes (section 4.2.1) and/or pronouns (section 5.1) must be used.

The prefixes in the first column of the chart (headed “none”) are used when there is no object; that is, when the action of the verb affects only the subject (the “doer”). The verb **Qong** *sleep* occurs with the pronominal prefixes as follows:

jIQong *I sleep*
bIQong *you sleep*
Qong *he/she/it sleeps, they sleep*
maQong *we sleep*
SuQong *you (plural) sleep*

In the case of **Qong** *he/she/it sleeps, they sleep*, the exact subject would be indicated elsewhere in the sentence or by context.

This set of prefixes is also used when an object is possible, but unknown or vague. Thus, **jIyaj** *I understand* can be used

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when the speaker understands things in general, knows what is going on, or understands what another speaker has just said. It cannot, however, be used for understanding a language or understanding a person. Similarly, **maSop** *we eat* can be used to indicate a general act of eating, but not if a specific food is mentioned.

The remaining prefixes combine subject and object. Some of them are illustrated below, using the verb **legh** *see*.

qalegh *I see you*

vIlegh *I see him/her/it/
them*

Salegh *I see you (plural)*

Dalegh *you see him/her/
it/them*

julegh *you see us*

legh *he/she/it sees
him/her/it/them,
they see them*

cholegh *you see me*

mulegh *he/she/it sees me,
they see me*

tulegh *you (plural) see me*

Dulegh *he/she/it sees you*

pIlegh *we see you*

lulegh *they see him/her/it*

4.1.2 Imperative prefixes

A special set of prefixes is used for imperatives, that is, verbs giving commands. Commands can be given only to *you* or *you (plural)*.

OBJECT	none	<i>me</i>	<i>him/her/it</i>	<i>us</i>	<i>them</i>
<i>you</i>	yI-	HI-	yI-	gho-	tI-
<i>you (plural)</i>	pe-	HI-	yI-	gho-	tI-

Note that, with one exception, the identical prefix is used regardless of whether the command is being given to one or more than one person. The single exception is when a command is given but there is no object. In such cases, a special prefix **pe-** is used to give a command to several people. Examples of the imperative prefixes follow. Exclamation points in the translation indicate that it is a command.

yIQong *sleep!*

HIqIp *hit me!*

peQong *(you plural) sleep!*

ghoqIp *hit us!*

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yIqIp *hit him/her/it!*

tIqIp *hit them!*

To indicate action directed against oneself in an imperative verb (e.g., *tell yourself*), the suffix **-egh oneself** is used along with **yI-** or **pe-** (see section 4.2.1).

4.1.3 Notational conventions

As a notational convention, prefixes indicating subject and object will be translated as *subject-object*; e.g., **qa-** *I-you*, **DI-** *we-them*. Imperative prefixes will be translated similarly, preceded by the word *imperative*: **tI-** *imperative: you-them*.

Also, prefixes which can refer to male, female, inanimate, singular, and/or plural (e.g., **vI-** *I-him/her/it/them*) will be translated correctly, but usually without giving all the options (e.g., *I-him/her*). This convention will also be used when translating verbs containing these prefixes; e.g., **vIlegh** *I see him/her*.

4.2. Verb suffixes

There are nine types of verb suffixes.

4.2.1. Type 1: Oneself/one another

-egh oneself

This suffix is used to indicate that the action described by the verb affects the performer of the action, the subject. It is translated by English *self*. When this suffix is used, the prefix set indicating “no object” must also be used.

jIqIp’egh *I hit myself* (**qIp** *hit*)

bIqIp’egh *you hit yourself*

qIp’egh *he/she hits himself/herself*

It is also possible to use this suffix with imperative verbs. As with nonimperatives, the prefix indicating “no object” must be used.

yIja’’egh *tell yourself!* (**ja’** *tell*)

peja’’egh *tell yourselves!*

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-chuq *one another*

This suffix is used only with plural subjects. It is translated *each other* or *one another*. The prefix set indicating “no object” is also used when this suffix is used.

maqIpchuq *we hit each other (qIp hit)*
SuqIpchuq *you (plural) hit each other*
qIpchuq *they hit each other*
peqIpchuq *hit each other!*

4.2.2. Type 2: Volition/predisposition

Suffixes of this type express how much choice the subject has about the action described or how predisposed the subject is to doing it.

-nIS *need*

vIleghnIS *I need to see him/her (legH see)*
bISopnIS *you need to eat (Sop eat)*

-qang *willing*

Heghqang *he/she is willing to die (HegH die)*
qaja'qang *I am willing to tell you (ja' tell)*

-rup *ready, prepared (referring to beings)*

Heghrup *he/she is ready to die (HegH die)*
qaleghrup *I am ready to see you (legH see)*
nuja'rup *they are prepared to tell us (ja' tell)*

-beH *ready, set up (referring to devices)*

pojbeH *(the device) is set up to analyze it (poj analyze)*
labbeH *(the device) is ready to transmit data (lab transmit data)*

There is, it should be noted, a verb **ghuS** which means *to be prepared to launch or project (something)*. This verb never takes the suffix **-rup**. It is used primarily in reference to torpedoes—so much so that if the object is not specifically

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stated, and context does not dictate otherwise, it is always assumed to be *torpedoes*. Accordingly, both of the following sentences mean *Be prepared to launch torpedoes!* or *Stand by on torpedoes!*

cha yIghuS (**cha torpedoes**)
yIghuS

The verb **ghuS** can also be used in reference to, among other things, rockets, missiles, and various kinds of energy beams (which, like torpedoes, go from one point to another). It is also used to describe the action of pulling back the elastic band of a slingshot. In most other instances of preparedness, however, **-rup** is required.

-vIp *afraid*

choHoHvIp *you are afraid to kill me (HoH kill)*
nuqIpvIp *they are afraid to hit us (qIp hit)*

This suffix is rarely used with a prefix meaning *I* or *we*. Though it is grammatically correct, it is culturally taboo.

4.2.3. Type 3: Change

Suffixes of this type indicate that the action described by the verb involves a change of some kind from the state of affairs that existed before the action took place.

-choH *change in state, change in direction*

maDo'choH *we are becoming lucky, we are undergoing
a turn of luck (Do' be lucky)*

ghoSchoH *he/she is beginning to go (somewhere)*
(**ghoS** go)

The implication of the second example is that he or she was going either nowhere or somewhere else sometime before the phrase was uttered. Note that the translation of this suffix may be English *become* or *begin to*.

-qa' *resume*

Using this suffix implies that an action had been taking place, then it stopped, and then it began again.

vIneqqa' *I am resuming the search, I am searching for*

him/her again (nej search)

4.2.4. Type 4: Cause

-moH *cause*

Adding this suffix to a verb indicates that the subject is causing a change of condition or causing a new condition to come into existence.

tIjwI'ghom vIchenmoH *I form a boarding party*
(tIjwI'ghom boarding party,
chen take form, take shape)

This sentence might also be translated *I cause a boarding party to be formed.*

HIQoymoH *let me hear (something) (Qoy hear)*

More revealingly, this sentence could be translated *cause me to hear (something)*. Note that this sentence would not be used in asking permission to hear; it is a direct command.

Normally, the best English translation of a verb with **-moH** does not contain the word *cause*. For example, **chenmoH** *he/she makes, creates* could be translated *he/she causes to take shape (chen take form, take shape)*, but this is an awkward English phrase.

4.2.5. Type 5: Indefinite subject/ability

The two suffixes of Type 5 have nothing much to do with each other except for both being Type 5. As a result, no verb occurs with both of these suffixes at the same time.

-lu' *indefinite subject*

This suffix is used to indicate that the subject is unknown, indefinite, and/or general. Since the subject is always the same (that is, it is always unstated), the pronominal prefixes (section 4.1.1) are used in a different way. Those prefixes which normally indicate first- or second-person subject and

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third-person singular object (**vI-**, **Da-**, **wI-**, **bo-**) are used to indicate first- or second-person object. Thus, **vI-**, which normally means *I do something to him/her*, when in a verb with **lu'** means *someone/something does something to me*. Similarly, the prefix **lu-**, which normally means *they do something to him/her*, becomes *someone/something does something to them*.

Daqawlu' *someone/something remembers you*
(**qaw** remember)
wIleghlu' *someone/something sees us* (**legh** see)
Soplu' *someone/something eats it* (**Sop** eat)

Verbs with **-lu'** are often translated into the English passive voice.

Daqawlu' *you are remembered*
wIleghlu' *we are seen*
Soplu' *it is eaten*

When used with the verb **tu'** *find, observe* and a third-person singular subject pronoun (0), the resulting verb form **tu'lu'** *someone/something finds it* is often translated by English *there is*.

naDev puqpu' tu'lu' *there are children around here,*
someone/something finds children
here (**naDev** *hereabouts*, **puqpu'**
children)

-laH *can, able*

jiQonglaH *I can sleep* (**Qong** sleep)
choleghlaH *you can see me* (**legh** see)
nuQaw'laH *he/she can destroy us* (**Qaw'** destroy)

4.2.6. Type 6: Qualification

Like Type 3 noun suffixes, these suffixes show how sure the speaker is about what is being said.

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-chu' *clearly, perfectly*

jIyajchu' *I understand clearly (yaj understand)*

baHchu' *he/she fired (the torpedo) perfectly (baH fire [a torpedo])*

-bej *certainly, undoubtedly*

chImbej *it is undoubtedly empty (chIm be empty)*

nuSeHbej *he/she is certainly controlling us (SeH control)*

-law' *seemingly, apparently*

chImlaw' *it appears to be empty (chIm be empty)*

nuSeHlaw' *he/she seems to be controlling us (SeH control)*

This suffix expresses any uncertainty on the speaker's part and may even be thought of as meaning *I think* or *I suspect*. Thus, the previous two sentences could be translated *I think it's empty, I suspect that he/she is controlling us*.

4.2.7. Type 7: Aspect

Klingon does not express tenses (past, present, future). These ideas come across from context or other words in the sentence (such as **wa'leS** *tomorrow*). The language does, however, indicate aspect: whether an action is completed or not yet completed, and whether an action is a single event or a continuing one.

The absence of a Type 7 suffix usually means that the action is not completed and is not continuous (that is, it is not one of the things indicated by the Type 7 suffixes). Verbs with no Type 7 suffix are translated by the English simple present tense.

Dalegh *you see him/her (legh see)*

qaja' *I tell you (ja' tell)*

When the context is appropriate, verbs without a Type 7 suffix may be translated by the English future tense (*will*), but the real feeling of the Klingon is closer to English sentences such as *We fly tomorrow at dawn*, where the present-tense verb refers to an event in the future.

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-pu' *perfective*

This suffix indicates that an action is completed. It is often translated by the English present perfect (*have done something*).

Daleghpu' *you have seen it (legh see)*

vIneHpu' *I wanted them (neH want)*

qaja'pu' *I told you (ja' tell)*

-ta' *accomplished, done*

This suffix is similar to **-pu'**, but it is used when an activity was deliberately undertaken, the implication being that someone set out to do something and in fact did it. English translations seldom reveal the distinction.

vISuqta' *I have acquired it (Suq get, acquire)*

luHoHta' *they have killed him/her (HoH kill)*

The second sentence above could not be used if the killing were the result of a general attack not intended to kill a specific person or if the killing were an accident. In such cases, **-pu'** would be used:

luHoHpu' *they have killed him/her*

The meaning of **-ta'** can also be indicated syntactically. That is, instead of using the suffix **-ta'**, a special verbal construction can follow the verb which indicates the accomplished action. This special verb is **rIn** *be finished, accomplished*, and in this usage it always takes the suffix **-taH** *continuous* (see below) and the third-person pronominal prefix (0). The resulting construction, **rIntaH**, literally means *it continues to be finished* or *it remains accomplished*. It is used to indicate that the action denoted by the preceding verb is a fait accompli: it is done, and it cannot be undone.

luHoH rIntaH *they have killed him/her (HoH kill)*

vIje' rIntaH *I have purchased it (je' purchase)*

The English translations of **rIntaH** and **-ta'** are usually the same. The notion of absolute finality implied by **rIntaH** seldom comes across.

It should be noted that **rIntaH** is sometimes used for

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dramatic effect, even in cases when the action could be undone.

-taH *continuous*

This suffix indicates that an action is ongoing.

nughoStaH *it is approaching us (ghoS approach)*

yIghoStaH *steady on course!, maintain this course!*

(ghoS go, approach, proceed on a course)

Both of the above sentences suggest a continuing activity. The meaning of **-taH** can be seen clearly by comparing the following two commands:

yIjun *execute an evasive maneuver!*

yIjuntaH *take evasive action!*

In the first case, the maneuver is to be executed once only. In the second, a series of evasive maneuvers is to be executed—the action is to be continuous.

-II' *in progress*

This suffix is similar to **-taH** *continuous* in that it indicates that an activity is ongoing. Unlike **-taH**, however, **-II'** implies that the activity has a known goal or a definite stopping point. In other words, it suggests that progress is being made toward that goal.

chollII' *it is getting closer*

(chol get close, come near)

This word would be used for, i.e., a missile approaching a target, when it is known that the missile has been aimed at that target. If a missile is getting closer, but its intended destination is not known, **choltaH** (with **-taH** *continuous*) would be more appropriate.

vIII'II' *I am transmitting (the data)*

(II' transmit data to a place)

This word implies that data are in the process of being transmitted, but that there is a finite amount of data, so there will be a definite end to the transmission. The fact that the verb **II'** and the suffix **-II'** are identical in sound is purely coincidental, so far as can be determined.

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The suffix **-taH** *continuous* can be used whether there is a known goal or not. **-II'**, on the other hand, can be used only when there is an implied goal. It is possible to consider **-II'** a *continuous* counterpart of **-ta'**, and **-taH** a *continuous* counterpart of **-pu'**.

4.2.8. Type 8: Honorific

-neS *honorific*

There is but one suffix in this category. It is used to express extreme politeness or deference. It is used only in addressing a superior, someone of higher rank in the Klingon social, political, or military hierarchy. It is never required.

qaleghneS *I am honored to see you (legh see)*

HIja'neS *do me the honor of telling me (ja' tell)*

This suffix is used rather infrequently by Klingons.

4.2.9. Type 9: Syntactic markers

Similar to Type 5 noun suffixes (section 3.3.5), these verb suffixes have to do with the verb's role in the sentence. The first six suffixes will be noted briefly here, but illustrated more completely in section 6.2.

-DI' *as soon as, when*

DaSeHDI' *as soon as you control it (SeH control)*

qara'DI' *as soon as I command you (ra' command)*

-chugh *if*

DaneHchugh *if you want them (neH want)*

choja'chugh *if you tell me (ja' tell)*

-pa' *before*

choja'pa' *before you tell me (ja' tell)*

qara'pa' *before I command you (ra' command)*

-vIS *while*

This suffix is always used along with the Type 7 suffix

-taH *continuous*.

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SutlhtaHvIS *while they are negotiating (Sutlh negotiate)*

bIQongtaHvIS *while you are sleeping (Qong sleep)*

-bogh *which*

This is the relative-clause marker. It is described in section 6.2.3.

-meH *for*

This marks purpose clauses. See section 6.2.4.

-'a' *interrogative*

This suffix indicates that the sentence is a yes/no question; that is, a question which can be answered “yes” or “no.” (See also section 6.4.).

cholegh'a' *do you see me? (legh see)*

yaj'a' *does he/she understand? (yaj understand)*

Questions of other types require special question words (section 6.4).

-wI' *one who does, thing which does*

This is the suffix described earlier (section 3.2.2) which turns verbs into nouns.

So'wI' *cloaking device (So' cloak, hide)*

baHwI' *gunner (baH fire [a torpedo])*

joqwI' *flag (joq flutter, wave)*

4.2.10. Relative ordering of the suffixes

As with nouns, when more than one suffix is used with a verb, they must occur in the correct order, according to their type. No more than one suffix of each type may occur at a time. No instances have been found of a verb followed by nine suffixes, but it is theoretically possible. A few examples should suffice to show ordering of the suffixes.

nuHotlhpu''a' *have they scanned us?*

nu- (prefix) *they-us*

Hotlh (verb) *scan*

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-pu'	(7)	<i>perfective</i>
-'a'	(9)	<i>interrogative</i>

Qaw''eghpu' *he/she destroyed himself/herself*

0	(prefix)	<i>he/she</i>
Qaw'	(verb)	<i>destroy</i>
-'egh	(1)	<i>oneself</i>
-pu'	(7)	<i>perfective</i>

wIchenmoHlaH *we can create it*

wI-	(prefix)	<i>we-it</i>
chen	(verb)	<i>take form</i>
-moH	(4)	<i>cause</i>
-laH	(5)	<i>can, able</i>

Daqawlu'taH *you are to be remembered*

Da-	(prefix)	<i>you-him/her</i>
qaw	(verb)	<i>remember</i>
-lu'	(5)	<i>indefinite subject</i>
-taH	(7)	<i>continuous</i>

vItlhapnISpu' *I needed to take him/her*

vI-	(prefix)	<i>I-him/her</i>
tlhap	(verb)	<i>take</i>
-nIS	(2)	<i>need</i>
-pu'	(7)	<i>perfective</i>

HeghqangmoHlu'pu' *it made him/her willing to die*

0	(prefix)	<i>he/she-him/her</i>
Hegh	(verb)	<i>die</i>
-qang	(2)	<i>willing</i>
-moH	(4)	<i>cause</i>
-lu'	(5)	<i>indefinite subject</i>
-pu'	(7)	<i>perfective</i>

maghoSchoHmoHneS'a' *may we execute a course (to some place)?*

ma-	(prefix)	<i>we</i>
ghoS	(verb)	<i>proceed on a course</i>
-choH	(3)	<i>change</i>
-moH	(4)	<i>cause</i>
-neS	(8)	<i>honorific</i>
-'a'	(9)	<i>interrogative</i>

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4.3. Rovers

There is one additional set of verb suffixes which Klingon grammarians call **lengwI'mey rovers** (from **leng** *travel, roam, rove*, **-wI'** *thing which does*, **-mey** *plural*). Rovers are verb suffixes which do not have a fixed position in relation to the other suffixes following a verb but, instead, can come just about anywhere except following a Type 9 suffix. Their position is determined by the meaning intended. There are two types of rovers: the negative and the emphatic.

-be' *not*

This is the general suffix of negation, translated as English *not*. It follows the concept being negated.

vIlo'laHbe' *they are useless to me, I cannot use them*

vI-	(prefix)	<i>I-them</i>
lo'	(verb)	<i>use</i>
-laH	(5)	<i>can, able</i>
-be'	(rover)	<i>not</i>

jISaHbe' *I don't care (which of several courses of action is followed)*

jI-	(prefix)	<i>I</i>
SaH	(verb)	<i>care, be concerned about</i>
-be'	(rover)	<i>not</i>

qay'be' *it's not a problem, no problem (exclamation)*

0	(prefix)	<i>it</i>
qay'	(verb)	<i>be a problem, be a hassle</i>
-be'	(rover)	<i>not</i>

The roving nature of **-be'** is best illustrated in the following set of words.

choHoHvIp *you are afraid to kill me*
choHoHvIpbe' *you are not afraid to kill me*
choHoHbe'vIp *you are afraid to not kill me*

cho-	(prefix)	<i>you-me</i>
HoH	(verb)	<i>kill</i>
-vIp	(2)	<i>afraid</i>
-be'	(rover)	<i>not</i>

In the second word, the negated notion is *afraid* (that is, *not afraid*), and **-be'** follows **-vIp**. In the third word, the negated notion is *kill* (that is, *not kill*), so **-be'** follows **HoH**.

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The suffix **-be'** cannot be used with imperative verbs. For imperatives, the following suffix is required.

-Qo' *don't!, won't*

This negative suffix is used in imperatives and to denote refusal.

	yIja'Qo'	<i>don't tell him/her!</i>
yI-	(prefix)	<i>imperative: you-him/her</i>
ja'	(verb)	<i>tell</i>
-Qo'	(rover)	<i>don't!</i>

choja'Qo'chugh *if you won't tell me, if you refuse to tell me*

cho-	(prefix)	<i>you-me</i>
ja'	(verb)	<i>tell</i>
-Qo'	(rover)	<i>won't</i>
-chugh	(9)	<i>if</i>

HIHoHvIpQo' *don't be afraid to kill me!*

HI-	(prefix)	<i>imperative: you-me</i>
HoH	(verb)	<i>kill</i>
-vIp	(2)	<i>afraid</i>
-Qo'	(rover)	<i>don't!</i>

Unlike **-be'**, the position of **-Qo'** does not change: it occurs last, unless followed by a Type 9 suffix. Nevertheless, it is considered a rover because it is the imperative counterpart to **-be'**.

-Ha' *undo*

This negative suffix implies not merely that something is not done (as does **-be'**), but that there is a change of state: something that was previously done is now undone. For convenience, it will here be translated as *undo*, but it is closer to the English prefixes *mis-*, *de-*, *dis-* (as in *misunderstand*, *demystify*, *disentangle*). It is also used if something is done wrongly. Unlike **-be'**, **-Ha'** can be used in imperatives.

chenHa'moHlaH		<i>it can destroy them</i>
0	(prefix)	<i>it-them</i>
chen	(verb)	<i>take form</i>

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-Ha'	(rover)	<i>undo</i>
-moH	(4)	<i>cause</i>
-laH	(5)	<i>can, able</i>

This verb actually means something like *it can cause them to undo their form*.

yIchu'Ha' *disengage it! (e.g., cloaking device)*

yI-	(prefix)	<i>imperative: you-it</i>
chu'	(verb)	<i>engage, activate</i>
-Ha'	(rover)	<i>undo</i>

bIjatlhHa'chugh *if you say the wrong thing*

bI-	(prefix)	<i>you</i>
jatlh	(verb)	<i>say</i>
-Ha'	(rover)	<i>undo</i>
-chugh	(9)	<i>if</i>

This shows how **-Ha'** can be used in the sense of *wrongly*. The word might be translated as *if you misspeak*. Using **-be'** (that is, **bIjatlhbe'chugh**) would mean *if you don't speak*.

Do'Ha' *it is unfortunate*

0	(prefix)	<i>it</i>
-Do'	(verb)	<i>be lucky, fortunate</i>
-Ha'	(rover)	<i>undo</i>

The use of **-Ha'** in this sentence suggests a turn of luck from good to bad.

It is interesting that **-Ha'** always occurs right after the verb. It is not known why Klingon grammarians insist on calling it a rover. It was felt best not to argue with Klingon tradition, however, so **-Ha'** is here classified as a rover.

-qu' *emphatic*

This suffix emphasizes or affirms whatever immediately precedes it.

yIHaghqu' *study him/her well*

yI-	(prefix)	<i>imperative: you-him/her</i>
Hagh	(verb)	<i>study</i>
-qu'	(rover)	<i>emphatic</i>

nuQaw'qu'be' *they have not finished us off*

nu-	(prefix)	<i>they-us</i>
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Qaw'	(verb)	<i>destroy</i>
-qu'	(rover)	<i>emphatic</i>
-be'	(rover)	<i>not</i>

The roving nature of **-qu'** can be seen in the following set:

pIHohvIpbe'qu'	<i>we are NOT afraid to kill you</i>	
pIHohvIpqu'be'	<i>we are not AFRAID to kill you</i>	
pIHohqu'vIpbe'	<i>we are not afraid to KILL you</i>	
pI-	(prefix)	<i>we-you</i>
HoH	(verb)	<i>kill</i>
-vIp	(2)	<i>afraid</i>
-be'	(rover)	<i>not</i>
-qu'	(rover)	<i>emphatic</i>

The first word above might be used after an enemy challenged the bravery of the speaker. The second might be followed by an explanation such as, "We are not willing to kill you because we require your services." The third word would be used to emphasize killing, as opposed to some other form of punishment.

The rover **-qu'** also follows verbs when they are used adjectivally (section 4.4).

4.4 Adjectives

There are no adjectives as such in Klingon. Those notions expressed as adjectives in English (such as *big*, *tired*) are expressed by verbs in Klingon (*be big*, *be tired*). A verb expressing a state or quality can be used immediately following a noun to modify that noun.

puq Doy' *tired child*
puq *child*
Doy' *be tired*

Dujmey tIn *big ships*
Dujmey *ships, vessels*
tIn *be big*

The rover **-qu'** *emphatic* (section 4.3) may follow verbs functioning adjectivally. In this usage, it is usually translated *very*.

Dujmey tInqu' *very big ships*

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wanI' ramqu' *a very unimportant event*

wanI' *event, occurrence*

ram *be trivial, unimportant*

If a Type 5 noun suffix is used (section 3.3.5), it follows the verb, which, when used to modify the noun in this way, can have no other suffix except the rover **-qu'** *emphatic*. The Type 5 noun suffix follows **-qu'**.

veng tInDaq *in the big city*

veng *city*

tIn *be big*

-Daq *locative*

veng tInqu'Daq *in the very big city*

5. OTHER KINDS OF WORDS

By far the bulk of Klingon words are nouns and verbs. There are a few others which, probably as an expedient, Klingon grammarians lump together in a group called **chuvmey** *leftovers*. It is possible to classify the **chuvmey** somewhat.

5.1. Pronouns

In addition to possessive suffixes for nouns (section 3.3.4) and pronominal prefixes for verbs (section 4.1), there is a set of nine pronouns which are independent words.

jiH *I, me*

soH *you*

ghaH *he/she, him/her*

'oH *it*

'e' *that*

net *that*

maH *we, us*

tlhIH *you (plural)*

chaH *they, them*

biH *they, them*

The pronoun **chaH** *they* is used when it refers to a group of beings capable of using language; otherwise, **biH** *they* is used. The pronouns **'e'** and **net** are used only in special sentence constructions (see section 6.2.5).

There is no grammatical gender in Klingon. Third-person

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singular pronouns can be translated *he* or *she* as context dictates.

Pronouns may be used as nouns, but only for emphasis or added clarity. They are not required. Thus, the following sets of sentences are all grammatically correct.

yaS vIlegh jIH
yaS vIlegh

I see the officers.

jIH mulegh yaS
mulegh yaS

The officer sees me.

ghaH vIlegh jIH
ghaH vIlegh
vIlegh jIH
vIlegh

I see him/her.

(**yaS** *officer*, **vIlegh** *I see him/her*, **mulegh** *he/she sees me*)

The final two sentences (**vIlegh jIH**, **vIlegh**) are in fact ambiguous. They could equally well mean *I see them*. (The verb prefix **vI-** is either *I–him/her* or *I–them*.) If context does not make it clear which meaning is intended, pronouns can be used:

ghaH vIlegh *I see him/her.*
chaH vIlegh *I see them.*

Pronouns are not used in possessive constructions in the way nouns are; instead, the set of possessive noun suffixes is used (section 3.3.4).

Finally, pronouns can be used as verbs, in the sense of “I am,” etc. (See section 6.3).

5.2. Numbers

Klingon originally had a ternary number system; that is, one based on three. Counting proceeded as follows: 1, 2, 3; 3+1, 3+2, 3+3; 2×3+1, 2×3+2, 2×3+3; 3×3+1, 3×3+2, 3×3+3; and then it got complicated. In accordance with the more accepted practice, the Klingon Empire sometime back adopted a decimal number system, one based on ten.

OTHER KINDS OF WORDS

Though no one knows for sure, it is likely that this change was made more out of concern for understanding the scientific data of other civilizations than out of a spirit of cooperation.

The Klingon numbers are:

1	wa'	6	jav
2	cha'	7	Soch
3	wej	8	chorgh
4	loS	9	Hut
5	vagh	10	wa'maH

Higher numbers are formed by adding special number-forming elements to the basic set of numbers (1–9). Thus, **wa'maH** *ten* consists of **wa'** *one* plus the number-forming element for *ten*, **maH**. Counting continues as follows:

11	wa'maH wa'	(that is, <i>ten and one</i>)
12	wa'maH cha'	(that is, <i>ten and two</i>)
etc.		

Higher numbers are based on **maH** *ten*, **vatlh** *hundred*, and **SaD** or **SanID** *thousand*. Both **SaD** and **SanID** are equally correct for *thousand*, and both are used with roughly equal frequency. It is not known why this number alone has two variants.

20	cha'maH	(that is, <i>two tens</i>)
30	wejmaH	(that is, <i>three tens</i>)
etc.		

100	wa'vatlh	(that is, <i>one hundred</i>)
200	cha'vatlh	(that is, <i>two hundreds</i>)
etc.		

1,000	wa'SaD or wa'SanID	(that is, <i>one thousand</i>)
2,000	cha'SaD or cha'SanID	(that is, <i>two thousands</i>)
etc.		

Numbers are combined as in English:

5,347 **vaghSad wejvatlh loSmaH Soch** or

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vaghSanID wejvatlh loSmaH Soch

604 javvatlh loS

31 wejmaH wa'

Some of the number-forming elements for higher numbers are:

ten thousand	netlh
hundred thousand	bIp
million	'uy'

Zero is **pagh**.

Numbers are used as nouns. As such, they may stand alone as subjects or objects or they may modify another noun.

mulegh cha' *Two (of them) see me.*
(**mulegh they see me, cha' two**)

wa' yIHoh *Kill one (of them)!*
(**wa' one, yIHoh kill him/her!**)

The preceding sentence is grammatically correct even without the **wa'** because the prefix **yI-** indicates a singular object. The **wa'**, therefore, is used for emphasis only.

Numbers used as modifiers precede the noun they modify.

loS puqpu' or **loS puq** *four children*
vaghmaH yuQmey or **vaghmaH yuQ** *fifty planets*

The plural suffixes (**-pu'**, **-mey**) are not necessary when a number is used.

When a number is used for numbering, as opposed to counting, it follows the noun. Compare:

DuS wa' *torpedo tube number 1*
wa' DuS *one torpedo tube*

Ordinal numbers (*first, second, etc.*) are formed by adding **-Dich** to the numbers.

wa'Dich *first*
cha'Dich *second*
HutDich *ninth*

Ordinal numbers follow the noun.

meb cha'Dich *second guest*

OTHER KINDS OF WORDS

Adding **-logh** to a number gives the notion of repetitions.

wa'logh *once*

cha'logh *twice*

Hutlogh *nine times*

These numbers function in the sentence as adverbials (section 5.4).

5.3. Conjunctions

Conjunctions are of two types: those that join nouns together and those that join sentences together. The meanings of the two types of conjunctions, however, are the same:

JOINING NOUNS

je

joq

ghap

JOINING SENTENCES

'ej

qoj

pagh

and

and/or

either/or

The conjunctions joining nouns come after the final noun.

DeS 'uS je *an arm and a leg*

DeS 'uS joq *an arm or a leg or both*

DeS 'uS ghap *either an arm or a leg (but not both)*

The noun conjunction **je** has an additional function: when it follows a verb, it means *also, too*.

qaleghpu' je *I also saw you, I saw you too*

As in English, the meaning of such sentences is ambiguous: *I and others saw you* or *I saw you and others*. The exact meaning is determined by context.

In addition to the three listed above, there is one other sentence conjunction:

'ach *but, nevertheless, however, even so*

This word is sometimes shortened to **'a**.

The conjunctions joining sentences occur between the sentences they join. For illustrations, see section 6.2.1.

5.4. Adverbials

These words usually come at the beginning of a sentence and describe the manner of the activity.

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batlh *with honor, in an honored fashion*
bong *by accident, accidentally, not intentionally*
chaq *perhaps*
chIch *on purpose, purposely*
DaH *now*
Do' *with luck, luckily*
loQ *slightly, a little bit*
nom *fast, quickly*
not *never*
pay' *suddenly*
plj *often*
QIt *slowly*
reH *always*
rut *sometimes*
tugh *soon*
vaj *thus, in that case, so, accordingly, then*
wej *not yet*

Examples:

bong yaS vIHohpu' *I accidentally killed the officer.*
(**yaS** officer, **vIHohpu'** I killed him/her)
batlh Daqawlu'taH *You will be remembered with honor.*
(**Daqawlu'taH** somebody continues to remember you)
vaj Daleghpu' *Then you have seen it.*
(**Daleghpu'** you have seen it)
wej vIlegh *I don't see him/her yet*
(**vIlegh** I see him/her)

One word fits somewhat awkwardly into this category:

neH *only, merely, just*

Unlike the other adverbials, it follows the verb which it modifies. The semantic effect is one of trivializing the action.

gama' vIqIppu' neH *I merely hit the prisoner.*
(**gama'** prisoner, **vIqIppu'** I hit him/her)
Duj yIQotlh neH *Just disable the ship!*
(**Duj** ship, vessel, **yIQotlh** disable it!)

OTHER KINDS OF WORDS

The use of **neH** in the preceding sentence implies that the ship is to be disabled, but not damaged further.

Also unlike the other adverbials, **neH** can follow a noun. In such cases, it means *only, alone*.

yaS neH *only the officer, the officer alone*
jonta' neH *only the engine*

Adverbials sometimes occur alone, functioning more or less as exclamations (section 5.5). For example:

nom *Move fast! Move quickly!*
wej *Don't do it yet!*
tugh *Hurry up!*

5.5 Exclamations

These expressions stand as sentences in their own right.

ghobe' *No. (response to a question)*
Ha' *Let's go! Come on!*
HIja' or **HISlaH** *Yes. (response to a question)*
lu' or **luq** *Yes. Okay. I will.*
maj *Good. (expressing satisfaction)*
majQa' *Very good. Well done.*
nuqneH *What do you want? (greeting)*
pItlh *Done!*
Qo' *No. I won't. I refuse.*
SuH or **Su'** *Ready!*
toH *Well! So!*
wejpuH *Charming. (used only ironically)*
'eH *Ready!*

HIja' and **HISlaH** *yes* seem to be used interchangeably.

SuH, **Su'**, and **'eH** all mean that the speaker is about to give a command. They are comparable to the “Ready!” at the beginning of a race: “Ready! Set! Go!” **SuH** and **Su'**, but not **'eH**, can also be used to indicate that the speaker is ready to do something or that arrangements have been made for something to happen. Some speakers of Klingon pronounce **SuH** as if it were **SSS**, almost like the English expression for “be quiet”: *shhh!*

pItlh is used for *It's done! I've done it! I've finished! All done!* etc.

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The expression **toH** is roughly equivalent to English *aha!*

Also included in the category of exclamations are Klingon curses. Only three such curses have been noted to date.

QI'yaH *?!#@
ghuy'cha' *@\$%
Qu'vatlh #*@!

5.6. Names and address

Klingon names are frequently mispronounced by non-Klingons. Furthermore, when written in the writing systems of other languages, they usually end up with spellings which only suggest their true pronunciation. For example, the Klingon sound **tlh** at the beginning of a word is almost always written *kl* by English speakers, presumably because the sound *tl* cannot occur at the beginning of an English word. Similarly, Klingon **Q** is often rendered *kr*, and Klingon **q** always comes out *k*.

The following is a list of a few Klingon names along with their usual English spellings.

mara	<i>Mara</i>
matlh	<i>Maltz</i>
qeng	<i>Kang</i>
qeylIS	<i>Kahless</i>
qoloth	<i>Koloth</i>
qor	<i>Kor</i>
qoreQ	<i>Korax</i>
QaS	<i>Kras</i>
Qel	<i>Krell</i>
Qugh	<i>Kruge</i>
torgh	<i>Torg</i>
valQIS	<i>Valkris</i>

Names may be used in direct address (that is, calling somebody by name) at the beginning or end of the sentence. Other words in direct address (such as **qaH** *sir*, **joHwI'** *my lord*) are used similarly.

torgh HIghoS *Torg, come here! (HIghoS proceed toward me!)*
lu' qaH *Yes, sir!*

6. SYNTAX

As in any language, Klingon sentences range from the very simple and straightforward to the very complex and convoluted. What follows here are the mere basics of Klingon sentence structure. This information should provide a good foundation so that students of Klingon can converse properly, though not eloquently, while learning more about the language.

6.1. Basic sentences

The basic structure of a Klingon sentence is:

OBJECT-VERB-SUBJECT

This is the reverse of the order in English, so care should be taken to avoid interpreting sentences backward. The subject is the person or thing doing the action described by the verb; the object is the recipient of that action.

The importance of word order can be seen by comparing the following sentences.

puq legh yaS *The officer sees the child.*
yaS legh puq *The child sees the officer.*

In both sentences, the words are identical: **puq** *child*, **legh**

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he/she sees him/her, **yaS officer**. The only way to know who is seeing whom is by the order of the words in the sentence. The verb **legH** is preceded by the prefix 0 *he/she–him/her*.

When the subject and/or object is first or second person, the prefix on the verb must be the proper one.

puq vIlegH jIH *I see the child.*
(**vIlegH** *I see him/her*)
jIH mulegh puq *The child sees me.*
(**mulegh** *he/she sees me*)

Actually, the first- and second-person pronouns are seldom used in sentences of this type (though they can, as here, be used for emphasis), so the following sentences illustrate more commonly occurring sentence types.

puq vIlegH *I see the child.*
mulegh puq *The child sees me.*

Imperative sentences (commands) follow the same rules.

So'wI' yIchu' *Engage the cloaking device!*
(**So'wI'** *cloaking device*,
yIchu' *engage it!*)
DoS yIbuS *Concentrate on the target!*
(**DoS** *target*, **yIbuS** *concentrate on it!*)
yaSpu' tIHoh *Kill the officers!*
(**yaSpu'** *officers*, **tIHoh** *kill them!*)

Any noun in the sentence indicating something other than subject or object comes first, before the object noun. Such nouns usually end in a Type 5 noun suffix (section 3.3.5).

pa'Daq yaS vIlegHpu' *I saw the officer in the room.*
(**pa'Daq** *in the room*,
yaS officer, **vIlegHpu'** *I saw him/*
her)

Other examples of this construction are given in section 3.3.5.

6.2. Complex sentences

A few of the more common types of more elaborate Klingon sentences will be illustrated.

6.2.1. Compound sentences

Two sentences may be joined together to form a longer compound sentence. Both sentences must be able to stand alone as properly formed sentences. When combined, they simply come one after the other, joined by a conjunction (see section 5.3).

jISoptaH 'ej QongtaH *I am eating, and he/she is sleeping.*

jISoptaH 'ach QongtaH *I am eating, but he/she is sleeping.*

bISoptaH qoj bItlhutlhthaH *You are eating and/or you are drinking.*

bISoptaH pagh bItlhutlhthaH *You are either eating or else you are drinking.*

When the subject of both of the joined sentences is the same, the English translation may be reduced to a less choppy form, but Klingon does not allow this shortening. The pronominal prefix must be used with both verbs. Thus, the final two sentences above may be translated *You are eating and/or drinking; You are either eating or drinking.*

When a noun (as opposed to simply a verbal prefix) indicates subject and/or object, there are some options in Klingon. In its fullest form, a Klingon sentence repeats the noun:

yaS legh puq 'ej yaS qIp puq
 (yaS officer, puq child, legh he/she sees
 him/her, qIp he/she hits him/her)
The child sees the officer and the child hits the officer.

or

The child sees the officer and hits the officer.

or

The child sees and hits the officer.

It is possible, however, to use pronouns rather than nouns in the second of the joined sentences.

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yaS legh puq 'ej ghaH qIp ghaH (ghaH he/she)
The child sees the officer and he/she hits him/her.
or

The child sees the officer and hits him/her.

If the context is clear, even the pronoun may be left out.

yaS vIlegh 'ej vIqIp (vI- I-him/her)
I see the officer and I hit him/her.

or

I see the officer and hit him/her.

or

I see and hit the officer.

6.2.2. Subordinate clauses

Klingon verbs ending in Type 9 suffixes (other than **-'a'** *interrogative* and **-wI'** *one who does, one which does*) always occur in sentences with another verb. Hence, they are verbs in subordinate clauses.

cha yIbaH qara'DI'
or **qara'DI' cha yIbaH** *Fire the torpedoes at my command!*

The two parts of this sentence are **cha yIbaH** *fire the torpedoes!* and **qara'DI'** *when I command you* or *as soon as I command you*. **-DI'** is a Type 9 suffix meaning *as soon as, when*, so **qara'DI'** must occur as part of a larger sentence. Note that the order of the two parts of the sentence is variable.

A few further examples should make the use of subordinate clauses clear.

bIjatlhHa'chugh qaHoH
or **qaHoH bIjatlhHa'chugh** *If you say the wrong thing, I will kill you.*
(**bIjatlhHa'chugh** *if you misspeak*, **qaHoH** *I kill you*)

Note that although the English translation uses the word *will*, there is no marker for future in Klingon. The unsuffixed verb **HoH** *kill* is neutral as to time: since the person being

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addressed is being given a chance to speak, that person must still be alive. Thus, the killing must take place in the future.

SutlhtaHvIS chaH DIHlvpu'
or **DIHlvpu' SutlhtaHvIS chaH** *While they were negotiating we attacked them.*
(**SutlhtaHvIS** *while they are negotiating,*
chaH *they,* **DIHlvpu'** *we attacked them*)

The notion of *were negotiating*, rather than *are negotiating*, comes from the suffix **-pu'** *perfective* attached to the verb **HlV** *attack*. A translation such as *While they are negotiating we attacked them* makes little sense in English and misrepresents the meaning of the Klingon sentence.

6.2.3. Relative clauses

Relative clauses are translated into English as phrases beginning with *who*, *which*, *where*, and, most commonly, *that*. Like adjectives, they describe nouns: *the dog which is running*, *the cat that is sleeping*, *the child who is playing*, *the restaurant where we ate*. The noun modified by a relative clause is the head noun.

In Klingon, the verb in the relative clause ends with the Type 9 suffix **-bogh**, which will, for convenience, be translated *which*.

Whether the head noun follows or precedes the relative clause depends on its relationship to that clause. Compare the following:

qIppu'bogh yaS *officer who hit him/her*
yaS qIppu'bogh *officer whom he/she hit*

In both phrases, the relative clause is **qIppu'bogh** (**qIp** *hit*, **-pu'** *perfective*, **-bogh** *which*), and the head noun is **yaS** *officer*. In the first phrase, **yaS** is the subject of the verb **qIp** (the officer is doing the hitting), so it follows **qIppu'bogh**, just as all subjects follow the verb. In the second phrase, **yaS** is the

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object (the officer is getting hit), so it precedes **qIppu'boqh**, just as all objects precede the verb.

The whole construction (relative clause plus head noun), as a unit, is used in a sentence as a noun. Accordingly, this construction follows or precedes the verb of the sentence, depending on whether it is the subject or object.

qIppu'boqh yaS vIlegh *I see the officer who hit him/her.*

The entire relative construction **qIppu'boqh yaS** *officer who hit him/her* is the object of the verb **vIlegh** *I see him/her*, so it precedes the verb.

mulegh qIppu'boqh yaS *The officer who hit him/her sees me.*

Here, **qIppu'boqh yaS** is the subject of the verb **mulegh** *he/she sees me*, so it follows the verb.

This pattern is also followed when the head noun is the object of the verb in the relative clause, such as **yaS qIppu'boqh** *officer whom he/she hit*.

yaS qIppu'boqh vIlegh *I see the officer whom he/she hit.*

mulegh yaS qIppu'boqh *The officer whom he/she hit sees me.*

In the English translation, the relative pronouns (*that, which, etc.*) may often be omitted: *I see the officer he/she hit, the officer he/she hit sees me*. In Klingon, however, **-boqh** is mandatory.

6.2.4. Purpose clauses

If an action is being done in order to accomplish something, or for the purpose of accomplishing something, the verb describing what is to be accomplished ends with the Type 9 suffix **-meH**, which may be translated *for, for the purpose of, in order to*. The purpose clause always precedes the noun or verb whose purpose it is describing.

ja'chuqmeH rojHom neH jaghla' *The enemy commander wishes a truce (in order) to confer.*

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The phrase **ja'chuqmeH rojHom** *a truce (in order) to confer* is the object of the verb **neH** *he/she wants it*; the subject is **jaghla'** *enemy commander*. The object is a noun **rojHom** *truce* preceded by the purpose clause **ja'chuqmeH** *for the purpose of conferring or in order to confer*. (The verb is made up of **ja'** *tell*, **-chuq** *each other*; thus, *confer* is *tell each other*.)

jagh luHoHmeH jagh lunejtaH *They are searching for the enemy in order to kill him/her.*

Here the purpose clause is **jagh luHoHmeH** *in order for them to kill the enemy*, which is made up of the object noun **jagh** *enemy* preceding the verb **luHoHmeH** *in order for them to kill him/her* (**lu-** *they-him/her*, **HoH** *kill*, **-meH** *for*). It describes the purpose of the verb **lunejtaH** *they are searching for him/her* (**lu-** *they-him/her*, **nej** *seek, search for*, **-taH** *continuous*). Note that, just as in compound sentences, the object noun **jagh** *enemy* occurs before each verb for which it is the object. Thus, somewhat more literally, the sentence may be translated *In order to kill the enemy, they are searching for the enemy*.

Furthermore, just as in compound sentences, the second of two identical nouns may be replaced by a pronoun or, if the context is clear, left out altogether.

jagh luHoHmeH ghaH lunejtaH
jagh luHoHmeH lunejtaH *They are searching for the enemy in order to kill him/her.*

6.2.5. Sentences as objects

Klingon has two special pronouns, **'e'** and **net**, which refer to the previous sentence as a whole. They are used primarily, though not exclusively, with verbs of thinking or observation (such as *know*, *see*). They are always treated as the object of the verb, and the verb always takes a prefix indicating a third-person singular object. What is a single sentence in English is often two sentences in Klingon. **net** is used only under special circumstances (see page 66), but **'e'** is common. Several examples should make the use of **'e'** clear.

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qama'pu' DIHoH 'e' luSov *They know we kill prisoners.*

This sentence is actually two: (1) **qama'pu' DIHoH** *We kill prisoners (qama'pu' prisoners, DIHoH we kill them)*; (2) **'e' luSov** *They know that ('e' that, luSov they know it)*. The pronoun **'e'** refers to the previous sentence, *We kill prisoners*.

yaS qIppu' 'e' vIlegh *I saw him/her hit the officers.*

The two sentences here are: (1) **yaS qIppu'** *He/she hit the officer*; (2) **'e' vIlegh** *I see that (vIlegh I see it)*. The construction might equally well be translated as *I saw that he/she hit the officer*. Note that the verb in the second sentence, **vIlegh** *I see it*, is neutral as to time. The past tense of the translation (*I saw . . .*) comes from the verb in the first sentence, **qIppu'** *he/she hit him/her (-pu' perfective)*. In complex sentences of this type, the second verb never takes an aspect suffix (section 4.2.7).

When the verb of the second sentence has a third-person subject (that is, the pronominal prefix is 0) but the intended meaning is *one* or *someone*, rather than *he, she, it, or they*, **net** is used instead of **'e'**.

qama'pu' DIHoH net Sov *One knows we kill prisoners.*

As above, the first sentence here is **qama'pu' DIHoH** *We kill prisoners*. The second sentence is **net Sov** *One knows that*. The full construction implies that it is common knowledge that the group to which the speaker belongs kills prisoners.

Qu'vaD II' net tu'bej *One certainly finds it useful for the mission.*

The first part of this example is **Qu'vaD II'** *It is useful for the mission (Qu'vaD for the mission, II' it is useful)*. The second part is **net tu'bej** *One certainly finds that* or *One certainly observes that*. The full construction might also be translated *One will certainly observe that it is useful to the mission*. Note that although the word *will* makes a more flowing translation, there is nothing in the Klingon sentence indicating future tense.

When the verb of the second sentence is **neH** *want*, neither

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'e' nor **net** is used, but the construction is otherwise identical to that just described.

jIQong vIneH *I want to sleep.*

(**jIQong** *I sleep*, **vIneH** *I want it*)

qalegh vIneH *I want to see you.*

(**qalegh** *I see you*, **vIneH** *I want it*)

Dalegh vIneH *I want you to see him/her.*

(**Dalegh** *you see him/her*, **vIneH** *I want it*)

qama'pu' vIjonta' vIneH *I wanted to capture prisoners.*

In this final example, the first part is **qama'pu' vIjonta'** *I captured prisoners* (**qama'pu'** *prisoners*, **vIjonta'** *I captured them*). Note once again that the aspect marker (in this case, **-ta'** *accomplished*) goes with the first verb only; the second verb, **vIneH** *I want it*, is neutral as to time. The past tense of the translation (*I wanted . . .*) comes from the aspect marker on the first verb.

Similarly, with verbs of saying (*say, tell, ask*, etc.), 'e' and **net** are not used. The two phrases simply follow one another, in either order.

qaja'pu' HIqaghQo'

or **HIqaghQo' qaja'pu'** *I told you not to interrupt me.*

This is literally *I told you, "Don't interrupt me!"* or *"Don't interrupt me" I told you* (**qaja'pu'** *I told you*, **HIqaghQo'** *don't interrupt me!*). An aspect marker (here, **-pu'** *perfective*) may always be attached to the verb of saying, regardless of whether it is the first or second verb.

Finally, the use of **rIntaH** to indicate that an action is accomplished (section 4.2.7) is another example of the two-verb (or two-sentence) construction.

6.3. "To be"

There is no verb corresponding to English *to be* in Klingon. On the other hand, all pronouns (section 5.1) can be used as verbs, in the sense of *I am, you are*, etc.

tlhIngan jIH *I am a Klingon.*

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yaS SoH *You are an officer.*

puqpu' chaH *They are children.*

The pronoun always follows the noun.

Similarly, there is no verb corresponding to *to be* in the sense of “to be at a place.” Again, the pronouns are used, followed, where appropriate, by verbal suffixes.

pa'wIjDaq jIHtaH *I am in my quarters.*

(**pa'wIjDaq** in my room, **jIH** I, **-taH** continuous)

In the above examples, the subjects are pronouns. If the subject is a noun, it follows the third-person pronoun (**ghaH** *he/she*, **'oH** *it*, **chaH** *they*, **biH** *they*) and takes the **-e'** topic suffix (see section 3.3.5).

puqpu' chaH qama'pu' 'e' *The prisoners are children.*

pa'DajDaq ghaHtaH la''e' *The commander is in his quarters.*

These sentences might also be translated *As for the prisoners, they are children; As for the commander, he is in his quarters.*

6.4. Questions

There are two types of questions: those which may be answered “yes” or “no,” and those which require explanations as answers.

Yes/no questions are formed with the Type 9 suffix **-a'** added to the verb. Examples are given in section 4.2.9.

Appropriate answers to yes/no questions are:

HIja' or **HISlaH** *yes*
ghobe' *no*

The other type of question contains a question word:

chay' *how?*

ghorgh *when?*

nuq *what?*

nuqDaq *where?*

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qatlh *why?*

'ar *how many? how much?*

'Iv *who?*

For **'Iv** *who?* and **nuq** *what?* the question word fits into the sentence in the position that would be occupied by the answer. For example:

yaS legh 'Iv *Who sees the officer?*

'Iv legh yaS *Whom does the officer see?*

In the first question, it is the subject which is being asked about, so **'Iv** *who?* goes in the subject position, following the verb **legh** *he/she sees him/her*. In the second case, the object is being questioned, so the question word goes in the object position, before the verb.

Similarly with **nuq** *what?*:

Duj ghoStaH nuq *What is coming toward the ship?*

(**Duj** *ship, vessel*, **ghoStaH** *it is proceeding toward it*)

nuq legh yaS *What does the officer see?*

Both **'Iv** and **nuq** are treated as nouns as far as the pronominal prefixes are concerned. That is, they are considered third person.

nughoStaH nuq *What is coming toward us? (nughoStaH it is proceeding toward us)*

nuq Dalegh *What do you see? (Dalegh you see it)*

The word for *where?*, **nuqDaq**, is actually **nuq** *what?* followed by the suffix **-Daq** *locative* (see section 3.3.5). As would any locative phrase (see section 6.1), it comes at the beginning of the sentence.

nuqDaq So'taH yaS *Where is the officer hiding?*

(**So'taH** *he/she is hiding*)

Three other question words likewise occur at the beginning of the sentence.

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ghorgh Haw'pu' yaS *When did the officer flee?*
(**Haw'pu'** *he/she has fled*)
qatlh Haw'pu' yaS *Why did the officer flee?*
chay' Haw'pu' yaS *How did the officer flee?*

Note also:

chay' jura' *What are your orders?*

This is actually **chay'** *how?*, **jura'** *you command us*; thus, *How do you command us?*

The question word **chay'** *how?* may be used as a one-word sentence meaning *How did this happen? What happened? What the—?*

Finally, **'ar** *how many? how much?* follows the noun to which it refers. It can never follow a noun with a plural suffix (**-pu'**, **-mey**, **-Du'**; see section 3.3.2).

Haw'pu' yaS 'ar *How many officers fled?*
(**Haw'pu'** *they fled*, **yaS** *officer*)
nIn 'ar wIghaj *How much fuel do we have?*
(**nIn** *fuel*, **wIghaj** *we have it*)

6.5. Commands

Commands are given with appropriate imperative prefixes. See sections 4.1.2, 4.3.

6.6. Comparatives and superlatives

The idea of something being more or greater than something else (comparative) is expressed by means of a construction which can be represented by the following formula:

A Q law' B Q puS

In this formula, A and B are the two things being compared and Q is the quality which is being measured. The two Klingon words in the formula are **law'** *be many* and **puS** *be few*. Thus, it says *A's Q is many*, *B's Q is few* or *A has more Q than B has* or *A is Q-er than B*.

Any verb expressing a quality or condition may fit into the Q slot.

SYNTAX

la' jaq law' yaS jaq puS *The commander is bolder than the officer.*
(**la'** commander, **jaq** be bold, **yaS** officer)

To express the superlative, that something is the most or the greatest of all, the noun **Hoch** *all* is used in the B position:

la' jaq law' Hoch jaq puS *The commander is boldest of all.*

In comparative and superlative constructions, the verb of quality (**jaq** *be bold* in the sentences above) must be said twice.