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aaaaaaaaA, the language of somewhere

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uruwi

aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

*A complete grammar*

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*Dedicated to ostracod.*

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## 0.1 | Introduction



# 1 | Phonology and orthography

## 1.1 | Phonemes

aaaaaaaaA has the following consonants:

Table 1.1: The consonants of aaaaaaaaaA.

	Bilabial / Labiodental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m	n		ɲ		
Plosive	p p̚ b	t t̚ d			k k̚ g	
Fricative	f	s	tʃ tʃ̚			h
Trill		r				
Tap		ɾ				
Approximant				j		

Table 1.2: The vowels of aaaaaaaaaA.

Stressed	Unstressed
i	ɪ
e	ə
ɑ	æ
o	ɔ
u	ʊ

## 1.2 | Phonotactics

A syllable is allowed to consist of:

- an onset, from one of:
  - nothing at all
  - a single consonant

- a non-tense plosive plus /r/
- a vowel
- a coda, from one of /m n s r/

1.3 | Allophony

The following changes are made:

$$\begin{aligned} h &\rightarrow x && (\blacklozenge\{o, u\}) \\ m &\rightarrow m̥ && (\blacklozenge f) \\ n &\rightarrow ŋ && (\blacklozenge C[+ve]) \\ C_1[+v, +pl] &\rightarrow C_1[+fr] && (V_1\blacklozenge V_2) \\ \{i, e, a, o, u\}[-s] &\rightarrow \{ɪ, ə, æ, ɔ, ʊ\} \end{aligned}$$

1.4 | Orthography

The language does not have a written form but we shall use the following romanisation:

Table 1.3: The consonants of aaaaaaaaaA.

	Bilabial / Labiodental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m	n		ɲ		
Plosive	p pp b	t tt d			k kk g	
Fricative	f	s	ch cch			h
Trill		rr				
Tap		r				
Approximant				y		

Table 1.4: The vowels of aaaaaaaaaA.

Rom	Stressed	Unstressed
i	ɪ	ɪ
e	e	ə
a	ɑ	æ
o	o	ɔ
u	u	ʊ

<r> represents /r/ at the start of a word but /r/ elsewhere.  
If the stress does not fall on the second-to-last syllable, then an acute accent appears on the stressed vowel.

## 2 | Syntax

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In this chapter, we look at the structure of the whole sentence.

### 2.1 | Basic word order

aaaaaaaaA uses SVO order, although this is somewhat flexible due to verbal morphology.

### 2.2 | Modifiers

Modifiers (adjectives and adverbs) follow what they modify.





## 3 | Honourifics

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aaaaaaaaA uses the following speech levels:

- plain: used with unfamiliar or socially distant people, or when communicating to a general audience.
- subservient: used toward superiors (incl. familial relationships ascending one or more generations).
- dominating: used toward inferiors (incl. familial relationships descending one or more generations).
- intimate: used between socially close people of similar status.



## 4 | Nouns

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Nouns fall into one of two genders and are marked for definiteness.

### 4.1 | Gender

aaaaaaaaA has two genders: *feminine* and *masculine*.

Nouns tend to be feminine if they end in one of the following:

- <-a>
- <-in>
- <-er>
- <-ir>

Nouns tend to be masculine if the end in one of the following:

- <-o>
- <-u>
- <-as>
- <-os>
- <-us>
- <-ur>

These are only tendencies – for instance, <mora> is masculine and <kas> is feminine.

A group of objects of both the feminine and masculine genders is regarded as feminine.

There are three degrees of definiteness in aaaaaaaaaA:

- Indefinite: the referent is not identifiable.
- Definite: the referent is identifiable. Unlike in English, names fall under this category.
- Generic: refers to the idea of something, rather than the entity itself, or a general statement.

There are definite and generic articles of each gender; indefinite noun phrases receive no article. Before a vowel, articles become clitics.

	Feminine	Masculine
Definite	te (t')	tu (t')
Generic	che (ch')	ho (h')

#### 4.4.1 | Personal pronouns

Table 4.2: Personal pronouns.

P	Plain / Dom		Subservient		Intimate	
	fem	masc	fem	masc	fem	masc
Nominative						
1	na	nu	han	dan	bi	
2	te				isi	isu
3	sa	so	sa	so	cha	chu
Genitive						
1	nas	nus	hanis	danis	bis	
2	tes				iris	irus
3	sam	som	sam	som	cham	chum
Accusative						
1	ke (k')		pe (p')		mi (m')	
2	ti (tt')		si (s')		isi	isu
3	si (s')				chi (cch')	
Dative						

P	Plain / Dom		Subservient		Intimate	
	fem	masc	fem	masc	fem	masc
1		ko		pu		be
2		tir		ser	isir	isur
3			ser			cher

Second-person nominative and genitive pronouns are not used in the subservient speech style, but rather the listener's title.

The dative and accusative pronouns fall right before the verb, in that order. If the verb starts with a vowel, then the clitic (in parentheses, if applicable) is used in place of the usual accusative pronoun. The dative pronoun *must be used* if there is an indirect object, even if it is stated explicitly somewhere else in the sentence.



## 5 | Verbs

Verbs in aaaaaaaaaA are conjugated according to:

- Speech style
- Person (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
- Tense (past, present, future)
- Aspect (imperfect, perfect)
- Mood (indicative, subjunctive)

Table 5.1: Verb conjugations for verbs whose infinitives end in <-is>.

P	II	IP	SI	SP
Present				
1	-e	-es	-eda	-esta
2	-u	-us	-utta	-usta
3	-a	-an	-asa	-asta
Past				
1	-i	-is	-ita	-ista
2	-uka	-uska	-ukka	-uska
3	-o	-os	-ona	-onsa
Future				
1	-ore	-ose	-orda	-ordas
2	-oru	-oso	-ortta	-ostra
3	-ora	-osa	-orna	-onsa

Table 5.2: Verb conjugations for verbs whose infinitives end in &lt;-ir&gt;.

P	II	IP	SI	SP
Present				
1	-e	-er	-eda	-erta
2	-u	-ur	-utta	-urta
3	-a	-an	-asa	-arsa
Past				
1	-i	-ir	-ita	-itra
2	-uka	-urka	-ukka	-ukra
3	-o	-or	-ona	-orna
Future				
1	-ose	-ore	-osta	-ostar
2	-osu	-oro	-ostra	-otra
3	-osa	-ora	-onsa	-orna

Table 5.3: Verb conjugations for <fir> *be*<sup>1</sup>.

P	II	IP	SI	SP
Present				
1	fie	fyer	kkeda	kkerta
2	fyu	fyur	kkutta	kkurta
3	fia	fian	kkasa	kkarsa
Past				
1	ñi	ñir	ñita	ñitra
2	nuka	nurka	nokka	nukra
3	no	nor	nona	norna
Future				
1	fes	ferus	kkosta	kkostar
2	fuas	furus	kkotra	kkotra
3	fas	farus	kkonsa	kkorna

Table 5.4: Verb conjugations for <abis> *be*<sup>2</sup>.

P	II	IP	SI	SP
Present				
1	ppe	abes	ppeda	abesta
2	ppu	abus	pputta	abusta
3	ppa	aban	pasa	pasta
Past				
1	abi	gis	abita	abista
2	abuka	guska	ppukka	abuska
3	abo	abos	pona	ponsa
Future				



P	II	IP	SI	SP
1	gore	guse	morda	abordas
2	goru	guso	mortta	abostra
3	gora	gusa	porna	ponsa



## A | Dictionary

An entry looks like this:

*magis* vt (S) throws (O)

From left to right:

1. The entry – the aaaaaaaaA term listed.
2. The part of speech of the corresponding entry:
  - *nf* – a feminine noun
  - *nm* – a masculine noun
  - *vt* – a transitive verb
  - *vi* – an intransitive verb
  - *va* – an ambitransitive verb
3. The definition – the gloss for the corresponding entry.
  - (a) (S) – the subject
  - (b) (O) – the direct object
  - (c) (I) – the indirect object
4. If applicable, any special grammatical or semantic notes for this term.
5. Optionally, examples of usage.

| f

*fir* vt be – general trait, profession,  
existence

| a

*abis* vt be – location, temporary  
condition

| k

*kas* *nf* bark (of a tree)

## | m

magis vt (S) throws (O)  
mora nm finger

## | t

tegu nm a stone