

Grammatical Concepts

Sentence Structure

The basic sentence structure of Zdetl is object-leading; in other words, the word order is *Obj - Verb - Subj*.

Fevr`anzh moch`i-tio`d.
(A book is being read by you.)

Adjectives precede the noun they modify: *Adj - Obj - Verb - Adj - Subj*.

Vrien`a ka`fi tla`pa-ens ka`yo-tle zief`i.
(Hot coffee is being drunk by the pretty woman.)

The same rule applies to adverbs: *Obj - Adv - Verb - Subj*.

Fevr`anzh a`chan-e mo`chi-tens.
(A book is still being read by her.)

The Indirect object follows the subject: *Obj - Verb - Subj - Ind Obj*.

Tlan`qil ki`lo-ik ai o`d.
(A letter was written by me to you.)

Sentences using verb infinitives take the following order: *Obj - Verb Inf - Verb - Subj*.

Mi`to-tle`i`ko-tik.
(To dance desire I.)

Prepositions precede the word they modify the same way adjectives and adverbs do: *Prep - Obj - Verb Inf - Verb - Subj*.

Kon ens mi`to-tle`i`ko-tlik.
(With her/him to dance desire I.)

Interrogative statements are either by the question word **JDO**:

JDO ka`fi i`ko-tlio`d?
(Do you want coffee?)

They can also include the word suffix **AQLE**:

Ka`fi i`ko-tlio`dAQLE?
(Do you want coffee?)

Conjunctions are placed between the nouns they refer to (i.e., Do you want coffee or tea: *O - Con - O - V - S* (JDO Coffe OR tea/desire/you)

Jdo ka`fi pra kotl i`ko-tlia de?
(Do you want coffee OR tea?)

Possession and Agency

1 st person singular	-ik	◁ ㄷ
1 st person plural	-(d)ish	◁ (ㄷ) ㄷ ㅅ
2 nd person (all)	-o'd	◁ ㄹ ㅏ ㄷ
3 rd person (all)	-ens	◁ ㅈ ㅓ

Past	daz	ㄉㄞ ㄗ
Future/Potential	chtenz	ㄔㄢ ㄗ
Habitual/Continual	tsench	ㄗㄢ ㄗ
Completive/Punctual	toz	ㄗㄞ ㄗ
Imperative	zhda	ㄗㄞ ㄗ
Conditional	ek	ㄗㄞ
Optative (hopeful)	pri`	ㄗㄞ ㄗ
Participle (is *-ing)	-enzh	ㄗㄞ ㄗ
Perfective (has *-ed)	-ej	ㄗㄞ ㄗ

Did you want coffee?
Kafi kotlio'dagle dazenzh?
 2πςς 2QεςQ^ϐΓςκ ϐΓκς3/

Will you want coffee?
Kafi kotlio'dagle chtenzenzh?
 2πςς 2QεςQ^ϐπςκ ƑκƑκƑ/

Had you danced?
Mitlo'dagle dazej?

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For more complete grammar instruction, please refer to **Conversational Zdetl** from the ZLI. You can also find additional information at <https://wiki.travellerrpg.com/Zdetl> (language).

basic grammar