

Lesson 2: Itzi iazh Kenkali

Home and Family

Nouns

Nouns are the words used to name things, either living or inanimate. Nouns can also be used to express abstract concepts as well, like “family” or “household,” as we will see in this lesson. In modern Zdetl, many nouns have been standardized to a common ending; this is usually “-i.”

Kenkali - family

ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ

Kenkalitzi - household

ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ



Boy	Man	Woman	Girl
Driefri	Shtiefri	Ziefri	Choqi
ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ
Brother	Father	Mother	Sister
Driefrabr	Shtiefrabr	Ziefrabr	Chogabr
ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ
Son	Husband	Wife	Daughter
Driefrzin	Shtiefnram	Ziefnram	Chogzin
ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑎᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ

Kenkali Tliaqrnad. Iqia Ikan Tliaqrnad shtiefrabr. Iqia Nor Tliaqrnad ziefabr.
 Iqia Ikan shtiefnram. Iqia Nor ziefnram. Iqia Ikan iazh Nor chefrnam.
 Iqia Akam driefrzin. Iqia Kieko choqzin. Iqia Akam iazh Kieko chefrzin.
 Iqia Mashti Tliaqrnad shtiefrabr. Iqia Mazi Tliaqrnad ziefabr.

In Anglic, singular nouns are often indicated by placing the *indefinite article* “a” or “an” before them, though it is sometimes omitted. In Zdetl there is no similar word – “a man” and “man” are expressed by simply saying “shtiefri”.

Plural forms of nouns are expressed by either stating the specific number of the object (or person, place, concept, etc). For non-specific quantities of an object, the prefix **icha-** is added to the word (**shtiefrabr**, father; **ICHAshtiefrabr**, fathers).

Ma – added to *shtiefri* or *ziefri* to create the equivalent of *Mr., Mrs, or Miss*, when needed. If the gender of the person is unknown or non-binary, **Ma** is used without the root word. For same-gender couples, **-o** is added to the end to indicate plurality. When both parents are referred to without regard for gender, **Mao** is used.

Mashti Tliaqrnad – Mr. Miller

Mazi Tliaqrnad – Mrs. Miller

Mashtio Tliaqrnad – Mr and Mr Miller

Mazio Tliaqrnad – Mrs and Mrs Miller

Mao Tliaqrnad – The Miller family adults

Ke – equivalent of Anglic *the*. This definite article is used when specificity is required:

Ke shtiefrabr – the father

Ke ziefnam – the wife

ke zinzin – the children

Ke kenkalitzi – the household

lazzh – equivalent of Anglic *and*; also used commonly to mean *also* or *as well as/too*. Pronounced “yazh”.

Shtiefrabr IAZH driefrzin – father AND son

Shtiefrabr IAZH ziefbrabr – father AND mother

Ziefnam IAZH ziefnam – wife AND wife

Driefbrabr IAZH choqrabr – brother AND sister

A few more Nouns

Tlekoni – animal

Chikakenmiztli – a six-legged catlike creature native to Zhdant

Ziatl – table

Kafi – coffee

Ibro – egg

Fevranzh – book

Verbs – the Present Tense

The words used to name an *action* or a *state of being* are called *verbs*. In Zdetl, most (but not all; these will be highlighted as needed) verbs can be identified by their *infinitive* forms, which usually end in “-e^”. The present tense of verbs (actions taking place at the present time, or the current state of an event) is typically denoted by adding the suffix **-IA** to the word:

IkatikIA ke shtiefrabr.

The father stands/The father is standing.

KrillIA ke driefri.

The boy cries/The boy is crying.

ChoetzhIA ke ziefnam.

The wife laughs/The wife is laughing.

Word order: Note the appearance of the words in each sentence. Unlike many Terran languages, which are “subject oriented” meaning the subject of the sentence is almost always placed first in word order, Zdetl is “object oriented.” In Zdetl, sentences follow the pattern “Object – Verb – Subject – Indirect Object(s)”⁸. In the simple sentences above, a direct translation of the words as they appear might be “Stands the father,” “Cries the boy,” and “laughs the wife.” This is likely to be an unusual word pattern to students, particularly those accustomed to the Subject – Verb – Object word order used in most European languages. Practice and patience will help with learning the sentence structure.

Correlative Pro-forms

Words which express a relationship between objects, refer to specific objects, are used to inquire as to the status of objects or concepts, are collectively referred to as *correlative pro-forms*⁹. In modern Zdetl these concepts have been simplified to a standardized set of forty constructions. In this lesson we will concentrate on two: **iad** (*which person* or *who*) and **ininad** (*that person* or *them*, used when a person or thing is known by its proper name)¹⁰.

⁸ [Zdetl \(language\) - Traveller \(travellerrpg.com\)](http://Zdetl(language)-Traveller(travellerrpg.com))

⁹ [Pro-form - Wikipedia](http://Pro-form-Wikipedia)

As discussed previously, the verb always comes first in the sentence.

Iqia iad ke shtiefrabr?

Who is the father? (Is who the father?)

Nilozhia iad?

Who is talking?

Tlakolia iad?

Who is eating?

Iqia iad tlekoni ke chikakenmiztli?

Which animal is the cat (chikakenmiztli)?

Iqia ininad ke shtiefrabr.

That person is the father. (Is that person the father.)

Nilozhia ininad.

That person is talking.

Tlakolia ininad.

That person is eating.

Iqia ininad tlekoni ke chikakenmiztli.

That animal is the cat (chikakenmiztli).

Zdetl has another correlative form used for inanimate objects. Whereas the suffix **-ad** refers exclusively to a person or animal capable of thought, the suffix **-tetl** refers to objects or organic beings such as plants, not capable of thought or lacking a defined brain that can either learn or be influenced by psionics. Robots and artificial intelligences fall into this latter category. Its usage follows the same pattern:

Iqia itetl ke iadlajem?

Which is the sky car? (Is which thing the sky car?)

Iqia itetl ke ziatl?

Which is the table?

Iqia itetl ke ibro?

Which is the egg?

Iqia inintetl ke iadlajem.

That one is the skycar.

Iqia inintetl ke ziatl.

That is the table.

Iqia inintetl ke ibro.

That one is the egg.

For correlative forms that refer to plural nouns, **-O** is added:

Iqia iado ke ichashtiefr?

Who are the men?

Nilozhia iado?

Who is talking?

Tlakolia iado?

Who is eating?

Iqia ininado ke ichashtiefr.

They are the men.

Nilozhia ininado.

They are talking.

Tlakolia ininado.

They are eating.

Prefixes and Suffixes

Like many Terran languages, Zdetl makes extensive use of prefixes and suffixes to extend the vocabulary. Zdetl also combines words into compound word forms that carry deeper meaning than the root words. Many of these are easy to spot and apply as needed or desired without sacrificing clarity. In such cases, nouns modify other nouns as in Anglic, with the root or main noun appearing final in the word.

We have already seen a few such prefixes and suffixes in use in this lesson, notably **ICHA-** and **-ABR**. This section will introduce a few more common ones for routine use.

CHE-

The prefix **che-** is used to denote people of both sexes or gender expressions taken together:

Driefrzin – son

Chezin – children (sons and daughters)

Choqzin – daughter

Driefri – boy

Chefri – boys and girls

Choqi – girl

Shtiefrnam – husband

Chefrnam – husbands and wives; men and women of the household

Ziefrnam – wife

Chefri is occasionally used collectively for “ladies and gentlemen,” “Mr and Mrs,” but in such cases there are more formal modes of address considered appropriate for use.

-NAD

The suffix **-nad** is used when referring to a person who performs a specific function. It modifies a verb¹¹:

Qiloe[^] - to paint

Qilonad – a painter

Tliaqre[^] - to grind grain

Tliaqrnad – one who grinds grain, a miller – also a common Zhodani Prole surname

Zhant’ad – a commoner or Prole

¹¹ The suffix **-nad** almost exclusively refers to *trades* or *professions* and implies a level of training to do the activity.

-PRIAA

The suffix **-priaa** is used when referring to a place where an activity is done. It also modifies a verb or noun:

Mochite[^] - to read

Kotozhe[^] - to sit

Kafi – coffee

ladlajem – sky car; air/raft

Mochiepriaa – a reading room

Kotozhepriaa – a sitting room

Kafipriaa – a coffee house

ladlajempriaa – sky car garage; hangar

Priaa can also be used on its own to mean any room of indeterminate function.

-TIKI

The suffix **-tiki** is a diminutive, often used when referring to infants or young children. Also sometimes used as a term of endearment, like the Japanese “-chan” modifier. It can also refer to objects that are small, or small animals.

Driefri – a boy

Zin – a child

Shtiefrnam – husband

ladlajem – sky car; air/raft

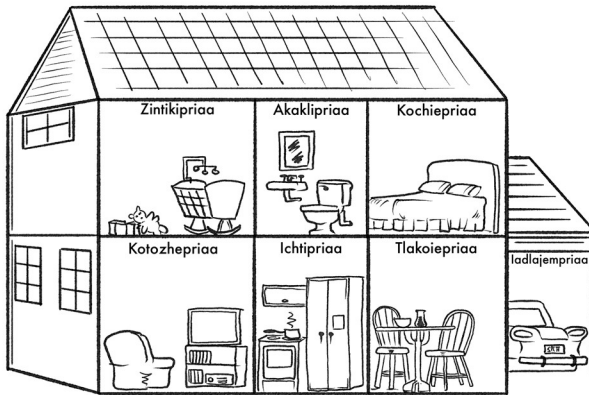
Drieftiki – a baby boy

Tikizin – an infant

Shtiefrnamtiki – my darling husband

ladlajemtiki – a compact sky car

Itzi



Itzi yzqia kenkali Tliaqrnad. Klachti priaa choktas itzi: zinkikipriaa, akaklipriaa, kochlepriaa, kotozhepriaa, ichtipriaa, iazh tlakoiepriaa. Akom tlakoiepriaa tlakolia kenkali. Akom kochiepriaa kochia ke chefrnam. Akom zintikipriaa kochia ke chefrzin. Alir itzi iqia iadlajempriaa. Akom iadlajempriaa iqia iadlajem.

Vocabulary

[illegible]

nad	*アㇿㇿ	person who
nam	*アㇿㇿ	spouse of
niloze'	アㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	to talk
noetzhite'	アㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	to climb
oliane'	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	to swim
priaa	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	a room
qiloe'	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	to paint
shtiave'	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	to think
shtiefrabr	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	father
shtiefri	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	man
shtiefrnam	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	husband
tie'	ㇿㇿㇿ	to throw
tikizin	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	infant, small child
tlakole'	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	to eat
tlapae'	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	to drink
tlekoni	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	animal
tliaqre'	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	to grind grain
yanae'	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	to hide
yzqe'	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	behold, look at, observe
zhdazhe'	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	to catch
ziatl	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	table
ziefraabr	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	mother
ziefri	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	woman
ziefnam	ㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿㇿ	wife
zin	*ㇿㇿㇿㇿ	child of

Exercises

Exercise 2a: Zdetl to Anglic

1. Iqia Mashti Tlieqrnad shtiefrabr, iazh iqia Mazi Tliaqrnad ziefabr.
2. Iqia Akam iazh Kieko chezin.
3. Iqia iad Mashti Tlieqrnad? Iqia iad Mazi Tlieqrnad?
4. Iqia iad Akam? Iqia iad Kieko?
5. Itzi yzqia kenkali Tliaqrnad.
6. Tlakoia akom itetl priaa kenkali Tliaqrnad?
7. Kochia akom itetl priaa Mao Tliaqrnad?
8. Oshia akom itetl priaa ke chezin?
9. Ichtia akom itetl priaa Mao Tliaqrnad?
10. Iqia akom itetl priaa ke iadlajem?
11. Akom iadlajempriaa iqia iadlajem.

Exercise 2b: Anglic to Zdetl

1. Who is Mr. Miller?
2. Who is Mrs. Miller?
3. Who is Akam Miller? Who is Kieko Miller?
4. Observe the Miller residence (house).
5. In which room do Mr and Mrs Miller sleep?
6. In which room do the children play?
7. In which room does the family eat?
8. Where is the sky car?
9. The sky car is in the garage.