

Lesson 7: Ke kiatok

The Weather

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Impersonal Verbs

Every language has idiomatic structures that are used to express facts and events that are not necessarily attributable to a specific agent or actor. These are called *impersonal* phrases and the verbs that belong to them are impersonal verbs. In Anglic, the word **it** is used as a stand-in for the nonexistent subject, as when referring to the weather (“it is snowing,” “it is raining,” etc.) In Zdetl this is unnecessary and omitted:

rintia (it is raining)

lienjie (it was windy)

piapře (it will thaw)

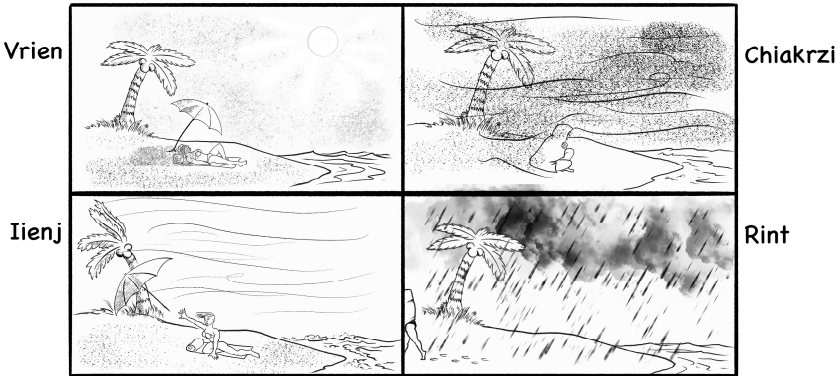
vrienia (it is hot)

chiakrzře (it will sandstorm)

ashtiablia (it is freezing)

Note that in each of these cases, the noun referring to the type of weather (rint = rain) becomes a verb by adding the required verb ending.

While it is possible and not necessarily incorrect to say **lqia rinte** for **It is rainy**, it's also not preferred and is considered stilted and overly formal, if not archaic.



The Reflexive Pronoun

In **Lesson 3, Akom ke Priaa**, we introduced **zhe** (ㄗㄝ), the reflexive pronoun. In this lesson we will investigate the uses of **zhe** in greater detail.

Most verbs show an action being done by someone (the subject) to something (the object). Remember that in Zdetl, sentence order is *object – verb – subject*:

<i>Object</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Ke fevranzh	mochitia	ke driefri
The book	is read by	the boy

With some verbs, it is possible for the subject to perform the action on itself rather than on another entity. In Anglic, we often append some variation of **-self** to the pronoun, as in **myself, yourself,**

ourselves, etc. In Zdetl such actions are indicated merely by repeating the pronoun:

Ze	pyalia	ze
myself	take care of	I
De	chedlia	de
Ourselves	guard, protect	we
Ye	tlakentia	ye
Yourself	amuse	you

Third person pronouns (collective “*you*”, *he/she/it*, and *they*), which in Anglic would become **yourselves**, **himself (etc)**, and **themselves**, in Zdetl become the reflexive pronoun **zhe**:

Zhe	tlakentia	se
Herself	amuses	she
Zhe	koetsie	le
Yourselves	teleported	y’all
Zhe	yanaia	ye
Themselves	hid	they

Likewise, the reflexive pronoun can be used with the definite article to indicate specificity:

Ai zhe	mochitia	ke ziefri
To herself	reads	the woman
Al zhe	nilozie	ke driefri
To himself	talked	the boy ¹⁸
Al zhe	koqie	ye
To themselves	listened	they

When a verb follows the pronoun **zhe**, it is said to be being used *reflexively*, because the action being done *reflects* to the subject.

¹⁸ The Zhodani would consider this to be poor manners. Despite being a telepathic society, they still expect people to keep their thoughts to themselves.

The Possessive Reflexive Form

In the same way that adding **-o** to personal pronouns makes them possessive pronouns (my, your, our, etc), **-o** when added to the reflexive pronoun **zhe** indicates that the object belongs to the subject.

Zheo can be translated into *his, hers, its, or their*:

Zheo kafi	tlapaie	se
Her coffee	drank	she
Zheo itzi	qiloie	se
His house	painted	he
Zheo chikakenmiztli	chilitia	ye
Their cat	play with	they

Remember that **zheo** must not be used to directly qualify a *subject*, it may only refer to it. For example, in the following sentence, it would be incorrect to say **Potlia se, zheo chikakenmiztli ...** because **chikakenmiztli** is a subject.

Potlia se, seo chikakenmiztli chopia ZHEO chami.

He says that his cat is washing its face.

Suffix: -EV

The suffix **-ev** (-**ע**) is used to indicate when an action is causing or bringing into being the state or condition expressed by the root word. **Ev** can also be used independently as either a noun (**ke ev**, the cause of) or a verb (**eve'**, to cause). This is not to be confused with the partial pro-form **-patle**, which expresses the reason for an event or condition.

-Ev applied to adjectives transforms them into verbs.

ashtiabla (cold)	ashtiableve' (to cause to be cold)
vrien (hot)	vrieneve' (to make warm)
qita (wet)	qiteve' (to dampen)
zotl (dry)	zotleve' (to dry off)

-Ev applied to a *verb* makes the action *causative*; in other words, it expresses an act that is done to something or someone:

choetzhe' (to laugh)

iqe' (to be)

kochie' (to sleep)

otre' (to be calm)

choetzheve' (to make laugh)

iqeve' (to bring into being)

kochieve' (to put to sleep)

otreve' (to pacify, to calm)

Suffix: -EZ

To indicate when the state of being expressed in the root word has come into being, we apply the suffix **-ez** (-<ㇰ). Independently, **-ez** can be used as the verb **eze'**, *to become*.

-Ez can modify adjectives:

ashtiabla (cold)

vrien (hot)

kayotle (beautiful)

yekta (good)

etli (heavy)

ashtiableze' (to become cold)

vrieneze' (to become warm)

kayotleze' (to become beautiful)

yekteze' (to get better)

etleze' (to get bigger)

-Ez modifies nouns, prepositions, and affixes:

chtol (n., a glow)

shtiefrnam (husband)

choqzin (daughter)

kon (with)

akom (inside)

-tiki (small)

chtoleze' (to become glowing)

shtiefrnameze' (to become a husband)

choqzineze' (to become a daughter)

koneze' (to unite)

akomeze' (to enter, to go inside)

tikieze' (to shrink)

-Ez modifies verbs:

choetzhe' (to laugh)

iqe' (to be)

kochie' (to sleep)

otre' (to be calm)

tlakole' (to eat)

choetzheze' (to become laughing)

iqeze' (to begin existing)

kochieze' (to fall asleep)

otreze' (to become calm)

tlakoleze' (to be eaten)

The suffix **-ez** is used commonly with verbs that show an action being done *to something* or *someone* in order to show that the action does not affect anyone other than the subject.

achitsle' (to collide)

fronzh' (to lay waste)

kotozhe' (to sit)

matlachtie' (to prosper)

namiqe' (to meet)

achitsleze' (to have a collision)

fronzheze' (to become a wasteland)

kotozheze' (to be seated)

matlachteze' (to become prosperous)

namiqeze' (to come together)

Suffix: -AJI

The suffix **-aji** (-ᄃᆞᆫ) is used to denote a smaller piece of a larger whole, as indicated by the root word:

rint (rain)

tezintl (fire)

ketli (snow)

abradlnad (currency, credits)

rintaji (raindrop)

tezintlaji (a spark)

ketlaji (a snowflake)

abradlnadaji (a coin or banknote)

Prefix: KASHA-

The prefix **kasha-** (ᄃᆞᆫᄃᆞᆫ-) makes the affixed noun into a **container** of the thing it describes:

abradlnad (currency)

kotl (tea)

tilma (clothing)

jiebl (spice)

kashabradlnad (wallet or purse)

kashakotl (teapot, tea cozy)

kashatilma (suitcase)

kashajiebl (spice rack)

This can also be used for comic effect, as in **kashanad**, a *sarcophagus* or *coffin*, literally a “box that holds people.” It is culturally incorrect as well – since the **Dzatqlas** plague, Zhodani funeral rites have involved cremation. Also, while **kashatlima** is structurally and grammatically correct and could be used for *wardrobe* or *closet*, Zdetl has another word more commonly used (**chtofrchez**) that takes those meanings. Overuse of prefixes and suffixes is often an indicator of a non-native speaker.

The Conditional Mood

Conditional clauses are introduced by **ek** (эк) in Zdetl. They express an action or event that will take place only under certain conditions.

There are two types of conditional clauses in Zdetl. Real conditionals take place in the present or future and unreal conditionals are not fulfilled in the present or future or weren't fulfilled in the past.

Real Conditionals

Real conditionals usually express that we are not sure whether an action will take place but there is a real possibility that the action can be fulfilled (*perhaps I'll have time in the afternoon*).

The condition and its result are in the future, so we use both verbs in the future tense (**-ře**).

Ek tlachae achan kavře ze, ve makoře pakiae ze.

If I have time this afternoon, I will gladly help you.

Sometimes it's possible for a condition to be fulfilled at the time of speaking and be followed by an action in the future. Here, we put the conditional verb in the present (**-ia**) and the result in the future (**-ře**).

Ek ke shtiefrabr achane kokia, ke kenkali ezhře zane.

If the mother is still baking, we will visit the family later.

It's possible that the condition has already been fulfilled and the result will take place in the future. In this case we put the condition in the past (**-ie**) and the result in the future (**-ře**).

Ek kokie zeo shtiefrabr, tlatsoe mizhtloyo tlakoře de.

If my mother baked, we will eat cakes in the evening.

We can also use an imperative **(-zhda)** in the main clause.

Ek mizhtloyo kokia shtiefrabr, makozhda se.

If mother bakes cake, help her.

Unreal Conditionals

Unreal conditionals express what we would do or would have done under different conditions or in a different situation.

If the condition and result are in the present or future, we use the conditional verb mood **(-za)** in Zdetl.

Ek achan kavza ze, ve makoza pakiae ze.

If I had the time, I would be happy to help you.

If the condition and the result are in the past, we use the *past participle* form of the verb **(-ien)** with the conditional **-za: (-ienza)**:

Ek achan kavienza ze, ve makienza pakiae ze.

If I'd had the time, I'd have been happy to help you.

Correlative Pro-Form: -ADL

The pro-form ending **-adl (-ר ל)** is used when discussing the *possession* of a noun or who owns or is attached to it:

Iadl	ר ל	Whose?
Ininadl	ר ל ר ל ר ל	Theirs
Achiadl	ר ל ר ל ר ל	Everyone's
Ayoadl	ר ל ר ל ר ל	No-one's
Ichadl	ר ל ר ל	Someone's
Ziadl	ר ל ר ל	Anyone's

Iadl iqia?

Whose is it?

Ayoadl.

It's no one's

Ichadl iqia ke ololi.

The ball is someone's.

Dialogue

Azhdiazhiepr, Velmiepr, and Kieko plan an outing.

Vocabulary

Exercises