

# 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 ziefr`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

The above forms indicate actions or agency in the *present tense*. Other aspects are indicated using an *aspect modifier*:

Did you want coffee?

2πs, 2aπa^dπs, dπc3/

## Kafi kotlio'daqle chtenzenzh?

$2\pi \leq x$      $20 \leq x \leq 2\pi$      $\frac{7}{6}\pi \leq x$      $\frac{\pi}{6} \leq x \leq \frac{7}{6}\pi$

## Mitlo'daqle dazej?

$$\frac{1}{2} \pi \sqrt{\frac{1}{\mu_0 \epsilon_0}} = \frac{1}{2} \pi \sqrt{\frac{1}{4\pi \times 10^{-7} \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12}}} = 1.5 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$$

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\\_\(language\)](https://wiki.travellerrpg.com/Zdetl_(language)).

## Standardized Word Endings

Word Form	Ending	Zdetl
verb infinitive	-e`	<ㄷ^
nouns	-i	<ㄴ
adjectives	-a	<ㄹ
adverbs	-e, -vra	<ㄷ, <ㄴㄹ

daz	ㄉㄞˊ	past
chtenz	ㄘㄢˊ	potential/future
tsench	ㄘㄢˊ	habitual/repetitive
toz	ㄘㄢˊ	completive/punctual
pri`	ㄘㄢˊ	optative/hopeful
ek	ㄘㄢˊ	conditional
zhda	ㄘㄢˊ	imperative
-enzh	ㄘㄢˊ	participle (is -ing)
-ej	ㄘㄢˊ	perfective (has -ed)

## Grammar

### Verb Conjugation (basic)

Verb Form	Ending	Zdetl
Infinitive	-e'	◀ ㄷ'
Present tense	-ia	◀ ㅈ
Past tense	-ie	◀ ㅊ
Future tense	-ře	◀ ㅊ ㄷ
Imperative	-zhda	◀ ㅈ ㅈ
Conditional	-za	◀ ㅈ ㅈ
Present participle	-iana	◀ ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ
Past participle	-iena	◀ ㅊ ㅈ ㅈ
Future participle	-řena	◀ ㅊ ㄷ ㅈ ㅈ
Present passive participle	-ianta	◀ ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ
Past passive participle	-ienta	◀ ㅊ ㅈ ㅈ
Future passive participle	-řenta	◀ ㅊ ㄷ ㅈ ㅈ

### Prepositions

ai	ㅈ ㅈ	to, unto
akom	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	inside, within
alir	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	outside, external to
apaz	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	in front of
cho	ㅈ ㅈ	unto, as in "to give"
dlafł	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	beneath
dra	ㅈ ㅈ	"of" as in possession or relation
edre	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	near
ichi	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	upon
iepri	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	after
io	ㅈ ㅈ	to, into
je	ㅈ ㅈ	at
kon	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	with
nal	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	across
ok	ㅈ ㅈ	beside
pe'	ㅈ ㅈ'	from, away from
taj	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	from, out of
tlo	ㅈ ㅈ	through
vel	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	behind

### Logical Conjunctions

iazh	ㅈ ㅈ	and
pra	ㅈ ㅈ	or
chak	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	not
plaz	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	xor (either is true but not both)
chapra	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	nor (neither is true)
plachapra	ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ ㅈ	xnor (either both are true or both are false)

Table of Pro-form Constructions

	Some (icha-) ጎጃጃጃ	What (i-) ጎጃ	That (inin-) ጎጃጎጃጃጃ	Every (achi-) ጎጃጎጃጃጃ	None (ayo-) ጎጎጎጎጃ	Any (zi-) ጎጎጎጎጃ
<b>Thing</b> (-teti) ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	icha-teti ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	i-teti ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	inin-teti ጎጃጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	achi-teti ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	ayo-teti ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	zi-teti ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ
<b>Person</b> (-ad) ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	icha-ad ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	i-ad ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	inin-ad ጎጃጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	achi-ad ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	ayo-ad ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	zi-ad ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ
<b>Place</b> (-zhia) ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	icha-zhia ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	i-zhia ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	inin-zhia ጎጃጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	achi-zhia ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	ayo-zhia ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	zi-zhia ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ
<b>Quantity</b> (-gez) ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	icha-gez ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	i-gez ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	inin-gez ጎጃጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	achi-gez ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	ayo-gez ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	zi-gez ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ
<b>Reason</b> (-patle) ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	icha-patle ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	i-patle ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	inin-patle ጎጃጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	achi-patle ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	ayo-patle ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	zi-patle ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ
<b>Manner</b> (-genta) ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	icha-genta ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	i-genta ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	inin-genta ጎጃጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	achi-genta ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	ayo-genta ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	zi-genta ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ
<b>Time</b> (-qik) ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	icha-qik ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	i-qik ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	inin-qik ጎጃጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	achi-qik ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	ayo-qik ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	zi-qik ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ
<b>Possession</b> (-adl) ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	icha-adl ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	i-adl ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	inin-adl ጎጃጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	achi-adl ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	ayo-adl ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	zi-adl ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ
<b>Kind</b> (-ochti) ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	icha-ochti ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	i-ochti ጎጎጎጎጃጃ	inin-ochti ጎጃጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	achi-ochti ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	ayo-ochti ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ	zi-ochti ጎጎጎጎጎጎጎጃጃ