

Introduction

Zdetl is the official language used throughout the Zhodani Consulate in the age of the Third Imperium. While its precise origins are unknown, it is commonly accepted that it developed in the wake of the Final War when the surviving humans on Zhdant found themselves bereft of their Ancient masters for the first time. Over the millennia, Zdetl evolved gradually into its modern form, which was universally adopted as the official language in the 300th Olympiad, the Imperial year -6055.

A distinguishing feature of modern Zdetl is its emphasis on standardization in morphology, grammar, syntax, and structure. Zhodani culture is fundamentally assimilative in nature; in other words, the Consulate is not interested in conquest by force but by acculturation. To this end, the Consular language has been simplified over time to make it easy to teach and learn (or at least less difficult than other languages). This does not mean that Zdetl lacks complexity – like the ancient Terran game of Go, its fundamentals can be learned in minutes, but it can take a lifetime to truly master, and few non-native speakers ever reach that level.

This dictionary is not intended to be complete; indeed, this would be an impossible task as words are always being added to the overall Zdetl lexicon. Instead, it is meant to be a starting point for learning the language and vocabulary. As such it is a companion to the Zhdantia Language and Cultural Institute's other publications, **Beginning Zdetl** and **Conversational Zdetl**. The first section contains a brief discussion of the grammar of Zdetl; the rest of the book is a Zdetl-to-Anglic word list, organized by the Zdetl phonemes in approximate Anglic order for easy reference.

While the ZLI research staff have endeavored to produce an accurate and precise publication, errors and inconsistencies are often unavoidable. Questions, requests, and suggestions may be addressed to the ZLI at the link below.



