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?)

Posession and Agency

In Zdetl, *agency* or *ownership* of an action (verb) or noun is indicated by appending a *pronoun suffix* to the word:

1st person singular	-ik	‹↙⊇
1st person plural	-(d)ish	‹(◁)↙±
2nd person (all)	-o'd	‹Ɑˆ◁
3rd person (all)	-ens	‹↙Ⴍ

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

Past	daz	◁Ʀ⊐
Future/Potential	chtenz	ⴄ↙Ǝ
Habitual/Continual	tsench	ᘚ↙ᗰ
Completive/Punctual	toz	⊂Ɑ⊐
Imperative	zhda	⊐Ʀ
Conditional	ek	↙⊇
Optative (hopeful)	pri`	Ⴅ↙ˆ
Participle (is *-ing)	-enzh	‹↙Ǝ
Perfective (has *-ed)	-ej	‹↙J

The *aspect modifiers* follow the verb in the following ways:

Did you want coffee?
Kafi kotlio'daqle dazenzh?
⊇Ʀ⤳↙ ⊇ɑᘚ↙Ɑˆ◁ƦSↆ ◁Ʀ⊐↙Ǝ/

Will you want coffee?
Kafi kotlio'daqle chtenzenzh?
⊇Ʀ⤳↙ ⊇ɑᘚ↙Ɑˆ◁ƦSↆ ⴄ↙Ǝ↙Ǝ/

Had you danced?
Mitlo'daqle dazej?
ᗧↆᘚɑˆ◁ƦSↆ ◁Ʀ⊐↙J/

And so forth. The grammar presented in **Beginning Zdetl** is still valid and recognizable Zdetl; the forms presented here are supplemental and considered more "formal" than the simplified versions.

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).