

MONGOLIAN CHEAT SHEET

Ablative Case

-Translates the English 'from,' The double vowel changes four times according to vowel harmony:

- a) - **а а с** : For words ending in consonants or unpronounced final vowels
- b) - **и а с** : For words ending in the soft sign or a short final 'и'
- c) - **н а а с** : For n-stem nouns
- d) - **г а а с** : For g-stem nouns and nouns ending in a long final vowel. In the case of the latter, the 'г' is to separate the stem from the ending

-Can also be used to show from a time, place or person, show a 'than' comparison, and verb а с у у х (to ask) and а й х (to fear)

Example: Т э р х о т о о с и р н э .

Accusative Case

-Often omitted from the noun

- A) - **ы г** - for back vowels
- B) - **и й г** - for front vowel words and back vowel words ending in ж, ч, ш, г, ь, и
- C) - **г** - for all words ending in long vowels or diphthongs
- D) Words ending in a single vowel drop this vowel when the ending is added

Example: Т э р м и н и й н о м ы г а в н а . - She will buy my book.

Dative Case

-Translates the idea of 'to, in, at, for,' etc.

- A) - **д** : For words ending in any vowel; for words ending in -м, -н о р - л ; after an -р followed by a short vowel not spelled in the cyrillic; after a soft sign or short -и ; after the final -н of an n-stem noun; and after most consonants
- B) - **а д** : For words ending in -д, -з, -ц, -с, -т, -х . Words ending in -ш or -ч take the ending -и д
- C) - **т** : For stems ending in the consonants -р, -г, -с (when the -с is preceded by a vowel)

The dative case has several uses. These are as follows:

- A) Describing location: Т э р а н г и д б а й н а . (He is in the classroom.)
- B) Describing motion to somewhere/something: Т э р М о н г о л д я в а в . (He has gone to Mongolia.)
- C) With the verb 'to give': Б и н о х о й д м а х ө г ө в . (I gave the dog meat.)
- D) To translate the verb 'to have': Б а т а а р т о л о н ү х э р б а й н а . (Baatar has a lot of cattle.)

Comitative Case

-Translate the English 'with.'

-Takes the suffix -**т а й**, regardless of the end of the noun: т а й, т о й, т э й

-Often used with х а м т or ц у г meaning 'together'

-Example: Б и б а г ш т а й и р с э н . - I came with the teacher.
-It can also be used to translate 'to have': Б и г у р в а н а х т а й . - I have three brothers.

-The dative goes on who is having, the comitative on what is had
Б а а т а р т х о н ь б и й . - Baatar has some sheep.
Б а а т а р х о н ь т о й . - Baatar has some sheep.

-When used with the reflexive, the comitative takes a 'г': Б и э г ч т э й г э э и р с э н . - I came with my sister.
-Used with the verbs я р и х (to talk) and у у л з а х (to meet): Б и Г а н б о л д т о й я р ь с а н . - I talked to Ganbold.

The Emphatic

-A double vowel is sometimes added to verbs also, to show emphasis.
-On verbs, the double is written separately.
-Example: Х ү й т э н б а й н а а а . - Oh, it's cold!
-Example: Ч и с у р г у л ь д а а я в а х у у ? - Are you going to school?
/ Я в н а а а , я в н а . - Yes, yes.

Genitive Case

-Shows possession, attributives
A) - н - for all words ending in a diphthong or long - и й
B) - ы - for back vowel words ending in - н , including n-stems
C) - и й - for front vowel words ending in - н , including n-stems
D) - и й н - for front vowel words ending in short vowels and consonants except - н ; and for back vowel words ending in - ж , - ч , - ш , - г , - ь , - н . A short vowel will be dropped for this ending.
E) - ы н - for all other back vowels ending with short vowels or other consonants except - н
F) - г и й н - for front or back vowels ending in long vowels
Example: Б а а т а р Ц э р м а а г и й н н о м ы г у н ш и ж б а й н а . - Baatar is reading Tsermaa's book.

Habitual Present

-The idea of somebody doing something habitually, regularly or repeatedly
- д а г , д о г , д ө г , д э г
Example: М и н и й н а й з г э р т с у у д а г . - My friend lives in a yurt.

The Imperative

-Giving requests and commands.
-It consists of the stem of the verb only, dropping the infinitive ending.
Example: Х о о л о о и д ! - Eat your dinner!

Instrumental Case

-Expresses the idea of 'with' or 'by means of'
-The different possible endings include:
A) - а а п : For nouns ending in consonants and unpronounced final vowels
B) - г а а п : For nouns ending in pronounced final vowels (foreign loan words), long vowels, diphthongs and the latent - г

С) - и а р : For nouns ending in the soft sign and short final 'и'
-Example: Б и м о р и о р и р с э н . - I came by horse.

N-Stem Nouns

- Words ending in long or short vowels add an "н" - ш и р э э - ш и р э э н
- Words ending in consonants add a vowel to separate it - м а х - м а х а н
- Nouns ending in a soft sign drop this and add - и н - м о р ь - м о р и н

Negatives

- А) б и ш - negative of б а й х and means 'is/are not': Б и э м ч б и ш (I'm not a doctor.)
- В) - г ү й - suffix added to the verb: Б и х о о л и д э х г ү й (I won't eat anything.)
- С) ү г ү й - corresponds to the English 'no': ү г ү й , т э р х о о л и д э х г ү й б а й н а . (No, he's not eating)

Nominative Case: N/A

The Particle Н Ъ

- Subject marker, for emphasis, to draw attention to something
- Originally was the third person singular possessive, and can still be used as such:
Б а а т а р х о о л о о и д э ж , а х н ъ ц а й у у с а н . -
Baatar ate his food and his brother drank some tea.
- Example: Ө в ө л н ъ х ү й т э н , з у н н ъ х а л у у н . - The winter is cold, the summer is hot.

Past Tense (I)

- Uses suffixes - а в and - в
- This form is used less frequently
- Example: Т э р г э р т о р о в . - He went into the yurt.

The Past Tense (II)

- The - а в past could be called "perfect," the - с а н "imperfect."
- This past tense is used far more than the - а в form.
- Stem changes to reflect vowel harmony: с а н , с о н , с ө н , с э н
- Example: Т э р т э н д б а й с а н . - He was there.
- The past tense of 'to be' can be used with the present participle to form the past continuous: Б и с о н и н у н ш и ж б а й с а н . - I was reading the newspaper.
- Can also be used with the habitual - д а г to express the English "used to": Б и н о м и х у н ш д а г б а й с а н , о д о о у н ш д а г г ү й . - I used to read a lot of books, now I don't.

Past Tense Negative

- Negative of the present-continuous tense, but has past tense meaning
- Used as an alternative to - с а н г ү й

-Example: Д о р ж и р с э н үү? - Did Dorj come? // И р с э н г үй. / И р э э г үй. - No, he hasn't.

Postpositions

-Follow the noun and usually take no case: д э э р, д о т о р, д о р

-Example: ш и р э э н д э э р - on the table

-Other postpositions, like 'т у х а й - about' take the genitive: Б и М о н г о л ы н т у х а й я р я с а н. - I spoke about Mongolia.

Present/Continuous Tense

-Shows somebody 'doing' something

-Followed by б а й н а (б а й х)

A) -ж - for stems ending in a long vowel, short vowel and -л

B) -ч - for stems ending in consonants

C) -и ж - for stems ending in -и, -ж, -ч, -ш

Example: Д о л г о р к и н о ү з э ж б а й н а. - Dolgor is watching a movie.

Plurals

-Rarely used

a) -у у д : used generally on nouns and some nationalities

н а й з - н а й з у у д (friend-friends)

b) -ч у у д : used on certain other nationalities

м о н г о л - м о н г о л ч у у д (Mongol-Mongols)

c) -д : used on nouns describing an occupation

м а л ч и н - м а л ч и д (herdsman-herdsmen)

d) -н а р : is only ever used of people, for certain, usually respectable occupations

б а г ш - б а г ш н а р (teacher-teachers)

e) -с : is added to some words

х ү н - х ү м үү с (person-people)

Present Continuous Tense

-Used mostly in formal speech

-Takes the ending - а а

-Similar to -д а г, but more about ongoing actions/situations than repeated regular ones

-Most often used with the verb 'б а й х - to be,' making б а й г а а. There is also a short equivalent: б и й.

-Example: Н ө г өө н о м б а й г а а ю у? - Is that book there? /

Б а й г а а. Х э р э г т э й ю у? - It is. Do you need it?

Present/Future Tense

-Same stem for both meanings

-Uses suffixes - н а, н э, н о, н ө

Example: Б и м о н г о л х э л с у р н а. - I study/will study Mongolian.

Questions

Type one: question without question word

- A) **у у /үү**, depending on vowel harmony of the last word in the question.
- B) **ю у** where the final word ends in a long vowel or diphthong

Type two: with a question word

- A) **б э** is used after words ending in - В, - М, - Н
- B) **в э** for all else

Example: Т а н о м у н ш и ж б а й н а **у у**? - Are you reading a book?

Reflexive

-Denotes possession

-Double vowel added to the case ending of a noun: - **а а**.

-Where the noun ends in a soft sign or short 'i' (и): - **и а**.

-The reflexive can be added to any case.

-NOTE: genitive+reflexive requires 'х' between the two, and a noun ending in a long vowel requires a 'г' to separate the two. In the accusative+reflexive, the accusative ending isn't used.

Example: Б и а х ы н **х а а** н о м ы г у н ш и н а . - I will read my brother's book.