



mini-language
handbook

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0. Introduction

ki is a constructed language, with the goals of high digital compression, easy learning, and a small grammar. This handbook helps learners, and is essentially an abridged version of the documentation.

Email: phun@pm.me

Works: github.com/phunanon/conlangs

Community: reddit.com/r/conlangs

Dedicated to: [Mikhailah Yap Rañada](#)



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1. Alphabet & Script

- It is important to memorise the numeric values of the alphabet

Latin Vowels

| # | Ch | IPA | # | Ch | IPA |
|---|-----|-----|---|------|-----|
| 0 | i i | /i/ | 8 | ii í | /í/ |
| 1 | j j | /ɪ/ | 9 | jj ì | /ì/ |
| 2 | e e | /ɛ/ | A | ee é | /é/ |
| 3 | a a | /a/ | B | aa á | /á/ |
| 4 | q q | /ɒ/ | C | qq ò | /ó/ |
| 5 | o o | /o/ | D | oo ó | /ó/ |
| 6 | u u | /u/ | E | uu ú | /ú/ |
| 7 | h h | /ə/ | F | hh ù | /ú/ |

Latin Consonants

| # | Ch | IPA | # | Ch | IPA |
|---|----|-----|---|----|-----|
| 0 | p | /p/ | 8 | f | /f/ |
| 1 | b | /b/ | 9 | v | /v/ |
| 2 | t | /t/ | A | y | /θ/ |
| 3 | d | /d/ | B | s | /s/ |
| 4 | k | /k/ | C | z | /z/ |
| 5 | g | /g/ | D | c | /ʃ/ |
| 6 | m | /m/ | E | l | /l/ |
| 7 | n | /n/ | F | w | /w/ |

Native Script

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| i | u | q | ei | ii | li | qq | li | p | u | k | ei | f | li | z | li |
| j | ue | o | ee | jj | le | oo | le | b | ue | g | ee | v | le | c | le |
| e | ul | u | el | ee | ll | uu | ll | t | ul | m | el | y | ll | l | ll |
| a | ul | h | el | aa | ll | hh | ll | d | ul | n | el | s | ll | w | ll |

2. Sentence Construction

Constructing a sentence has a strict pattern of nouns, verbs, and adjectives:

... (noun) noun (adj) verb (adj) noun ...

Words in parenthesis are optional. Example 2.0:

I eat food

I eat food

pi ki ki

Notice how <ki> can be both "eat" and "food" - this is because it is following the pattern of {noun verb noun}.

All words in ki begin with the consonants <p> through to <n>. However, when we want to use the optional part of a pattern, we use the other half of the alphabet. E.g. <p> becomes <f>, <d> becomes <s>, <n> becomes <w>. Refer to the table on the left. Example 2.1:

Food becomes cold

food becomes !cold

mi bú cì

Cold as a noun is <gì>, but it became <cì>.

If you have this inflection more than once in a row, it continues the optional part of the pattern. Example 2.2:

Food becomes really cold

food becomes !cold !really

mi bú cì fh

Because both <gì> "cold" and <ph> "really" have been inflected to <cì> and <fh>, at this part of the pattern, both are adjectives.

Notice how adjectives follow the noun, and other adjectives, they describe.

The pattern repeats until a period, or a pause between sentences. Of repeating, Example 2.3:

I watched a teacher who teaches cooking

I watch !past person school teach cooking

pi dj bó ti dó dó mj

{noun verb !adj noun noun verb noun} is the pattern employed here. Notice how two nouns can sometimes have a compound meaning: "person school" becomes "teacher". Also notice how <dó dó> is {noun verb} in the pattern. Many words in ki have very related noun, verb, and adjective meanings.

Example 2.4 shows a complex pattern:

I met a little village girl who says hello

I meet !past female !house house !little say
hello

pi tj bó kj dí sí

Here, “female !house house” make up a {noun !noun noun} part of the pattern.

“house house” is a Multi-Root in the lexicon meaning “village”, and notice how, in order to construct it, we had to use the optional noun part of the pattern. Learning how to do this fluently is important to speaking ki.

This example also illustrates an adjective after a noun (“meet !past”).