

# Common Tode

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# Chapter 1

## Phonology

### 1.1 Consonants

		Labial	Dentoalveolar	Postalveolar	Velar
Nasal	Voiced	m	n		ŋ
Plosive	Voiceless	p	t		k
	Voiced	b			g
Fricative	Voiceless	f	s	ʃ	x
	Voiced	β   v	ð	ʒ	
Trill			r		
Approximant			l	j	

Plosives can be geminated only at the end of roots, and are written by doubling the plosive. This plosive will generally be realized as a glottal stop after conjugating the word it is part of.

## 1.2 Vowels

	Front	Back
Close	i	u
Close-mid	e	o
Open-mid	ɛ	ɔ
Open	æ	ɑ

## 1.3 Orthography

### Vowels

<b>IPA</b>	i	u	e	o	ɛ	æ	ɑ	ɔ
<b>Ortho.</b>	i	u	é	ó	e	à	a	o

### Consonants

<b>IPA</b>	m	n	p	t	k	b	g	f	st
<b>Ortho.</b>	m	n	p	t	c	b	g	f	x
<b>IPA</b>	s	ʃ	x	β	v	ð	ʒ	r	l
<b>Ortho.</b>	s	sh	h	w	v	d	zh	r	l
<b>IPA</b>	j								
<b>Ortho.</b>	y								

## Chapter 2

# Noun Declination

### 2.1 Number

Nouns can be marked as dual, paucal, or plural. When unmarked, singular is assumed. Pronouns only mark for singular and plural. Paucal remains fairly unused, being used only in informal contexts, most of which are under a negative connotation. Dual refers to two of something, paucal of a "few" of something, and plural of three or more. An older number used to be in use which marked zero of something ("no houses"), but fell out of use. It is still inflected onto the noun *along with* the word for zero used as an adjective:

#### 2.1.1 Suffixes

**ZERO:** -a  
**Dual:** -i  
**Paucal:** -o  
**Plural:** -e

#### 2.1.2 With numbers

When an adjective specifying quantity (which includes numbers) is used on a noun, the grammatical number closest to it is declined for. Zero of something declines for *ZERO*, one of something declines for singular (which is unmarked), two of something declines for dual, and three or more of something declines for plural. A subjectively small number of things will sometimes decline for paucal, depending on context. In informal and causal speech, dual marking is sometimes ignored, either replacing it with plural, or by simply dropping it entirely. In other instances, no number will be declined, leaving just the adjective or number to specify.

### 2.1.3 Examples

- (2.1) **aneni ala**  
 anena - i ala  
 city - DL DEF  
 “the two cities”
- (2.2) **yau ḡódo**  
 yau ḡóda - o  
 2SG.M.GEN virtues - PAU  
 “his accomplishments (sarcastic)”
- (2.3) **anené ala**  
 anen - e ala  
 city - PL DEF  
 “the cities”
- (2.4) **nod wishma**  
 nod wishmè - a  
 zero trill - ZERO  
 “zero trills”

## 2.2 Copula

Nouns can be formed into a verb meaning “to be something” via adding a suffix. Three suffixes exist for this purpose: **-(a)s** (“I am something”) which forms the first person singular, **-(a)ns**, which forms the first person plural (“we are something”), and **-(a)no**, which forms a standard copula verb (“to be something”). Examples:

- (2.5) **nanenas**  
 n - anena - s  
 NDEF - city - COP.1SG  
 “I am a city”
- (2.6) **nonàrons**  
 no - nàro - ns  
 NDEF - bee - COP.1PL  
 “We are a bee”
- (2.7) **echéno**  
 eché - no  
 friend - COP  
 “to be a friend”

## 2.3 Cases

### 2.3.1 Comitative

The comitative case is marked with a suffix **-(a)wa**. It is marked on nouns which the subject is in the company of. Inanimate nouns cannot be marked with the comitative case, and instead must use a preposition (*mjàuttawa*—“with a cat” (animate), but *an anena*—“with a city” (inanimate))

### 2.3.2 Instrumental

The instrumental case is marked on nouns which are the tool or method by which the verb is completed. It is marked by the suffix **-(a)xa**.



## Chapter 3

# Pronouns

### 3.1 Personal

In Common Tode, personal pronouns mark for three numbers: singular, dual, and plural. By default, pronouns are in the nominative case. Accusative case can be marked with the preposition **a**. The genitive case can be marked using the preposition **an**. An exception is with the first-person singular pronoun: As a nominative form doesn't exist, the pronouns **ais** and **ai** are used for the accusative and genitive forms, respectively. To inflect for masculine gender on third-person pronouns, the last vowel of the pronoun is backed. To inflect for feminine gender, the final vowel is raised, and a suffix **-n** is added. Gender marking is optional, and typically is not done unless the accepted pronouns has been mentioned. Typically gender is only marked to differentiate between two different-gendered people or to emphasize gender. A table of nominative pronouns (number on left, person on top):

	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<b>SG</b>		on	lé
<b>DU</b>	in	óne	la
<b>PL</b>		né	ya

(3.1)    **mjàut an lin**  
          mjàut an lin  
          *cat with 3SG.F.GEN*  
          “her cat”

(3.2)    **a ló lóéas**  
          a ló lóéa - s  
          *about 3sg.M love - 1sg.NOM*  
          “I love him”

# Chapter 4

## Verbs

### 4.1 Voice, Aspect, Tense

In Common Tode, the method of inflecting voice, aspect, and tense is simple. Each has its own affix, and are applied in the order *VOICE-ROOT-ASPECT-TENSE*.

#### 4.1.1 Voice

Passive	a(s)-
Active	Ø-
Middle	x(a)-

Table 4.1: Verb Voice

Passive voice indicates that the subject is receiving the action which is performed by the object (“the food was baked by him”). Active indicates that the subject is performing the action (“he baked the food”), and the object is receiving the action. Middle voice indicates that the subject is both initiating and receiving the action in some way (“the boy received the bike”). On an intransitive verb, middle voice marks reflexive (“the boy hit himself”).

### 4.1.2 Aspect

Perfective	-(a)l
Iterative	-(p)ón
Habitual	-(x)i
Gnomic	-(a)ya

Table 4.2: Verb Aspect

Perfective aspect indicates that the action is completed and is no longer being performed. The iterative and habitual aspects encode the same meaning, but iterative is applied to verbs with an inanimate actor and habitual with an animate actor. Both state that the verb is done over and over again. Finally, gnomic aspect implies that the action is a common universal truth.

### 4.1.3 Tense

Past	-(a)t
Nonfuture	-(a)ra
Present	-(o)ya
Future	-(é)n

In C-Tode, there are 4 main tenses: Past, Nonfuture, Present, and Future. Past, present, and future are used in their standard meanings, but nonfuture is used to mean that one *has been* doing something. Some examples:

- (4.1)    **onus**        **daiara**  
           ona - us     daia - ra  
           *sun* - DEF *shine* - NFUT  
           “The sun has been shining.”
- (4.2)    **hecasén**        **a**        **lin**  
           hec - as    - én    a        lin  
           *kill* - 1SG - FUT *about* 3SG.F  
           “I will kill her.”