

# **Lukokish**

*(Lükorâk)*

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**This language is entirely imaginary!**

It is spoken by imaginary speakers on an imaginary planet. Please consider the rest of this document accordingly!

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*-Alison*

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# Introduction

## Background

Lukokish is a language spoken by the people of the main islands of Lukok, a country in the continent of Lukok. Lukokish is also spoken throughout the Lukok-controlled islands of Fircudia, and by citizens of the country of Lukok throughout the world.

Lukokish, as well as the related languages of Laguine, Aveyish and Sohdi, is thought to be descended from Proto-Lukokish, spoken by a people group of this same name. After the Naruki Meltdown, the Proto-Lukokish split into two groups: one that would become the Sohdi and Aved, and one that would become the Lukokish and Laguines. By the time that the legendary king Hosultë was ruling, the people of modern-day Lukok and Laguina, who considered themselves one group, were speaking Old Lukokish. After the Great Split, in which Lukok and Laguina became separate countries, Old Lukokish developed into Middle Lukokish in Lukok and Middle Laguine in Laguina. Today, the languages of Lukokish and Laguine are significantly different, but remain noticeably related.

Lukokish has borrowed heavily from Laguine, and vice versa. No other language has had as significant an impact as Laguine, but Lukokish has borrowed many words from the main Mirztiakeni languages (Aveyish, Sohdi and Mirzi), many Fircudian languages, several Thomoraii languages (Kaafi, Tâi and various small ones), and Uniatic. Borrowed Laguine words span a wide range of subjects. Mirztiakeni words generally relate to trade, ships and warfare. Fircudian words are mostly terms for uniquely Fircudian plants and animals, but also include many geographical terms. Thomoraii words are mostly for Thomoraii exports, including plants, fish, stones, etc., but there are also many originally Thomoraii words relating to dancing, music, philosophy and science. Borrowed Uniatic words almost all relate to logic, philosophy, science, politics and government.

## Significant features

Lukokish is mostly fusional, with some agglutinative and isolating elements, and has nominative-accusative alignment. It has nouns, verbs and adjectives. Postpositions are treated as adjectives, and adverbs are simple derivations of adjectives. Nouns are marked by case, mood and definiteness (a/the). Using an isolated element known as *d\**, verbs mark tense, mood, perfection, habituality, generality and movement. Adjectives have a complex morphological system and generally have to match the case of their nouns, and there are complicated rules for comparisons with adjectives. There is no full gender system – there was in Old Lukokish and there is today in Laguine, but modern-day Lukokish does not have it.

In Lukokish, many nouns have default verb meanings if they are subjects or objects. In such a case, d\* can be used without a verb, and it carries the default meaning. For example, in *Ejû melòme du* “The boy threw the ball,” the verb for “throw” is not present. But the default verb meaning for “ball,” if it is used as an object, is “throw.” So d\* (which, in this case, is *du*) carries the meaning “throw.” Many verbs also can be given different meaning through movement marked on d\*. Movement can be used to actually imply movement (for example, when using the verb for “move”), or it can be used to give other meanings. For example, the verb for “add” is *enêru*. But if downwards movement is marked on d\*, then *enêru* means “subtract” or “take away.”

## Sounds

### Consonants

	labial	labio-dental	alveolar	alveolar-palatal	palatal	velar
stops			d, t			k
fricatives		v	z		ʃ	
affricates				j, ç		
approximants			r, l			
nasals	m		n			

/d/ is pronounced as in English. /t/ is always pronounced [t]. /k/, /v/ and /z/ are pronounced as in English. /ʃ/ is similar to an English /s/, but is palatal. /j/ is pronounced as in English. /ç/ is an English “ch.” /r/ is usually a tap, but is also often trilled. /l/ is always a clear [l]. /m/ is always labial. /n/ is pronounced as in English.

### Vowels

Vowels in Lukokish are quite similar to those in English. There are ten vowel sounds. Five are considered “base” sounds, and the other five are considered elongated ones.

Base: e – o – u – a – i

/e/ as in let

/o/ as in got

/u/ as in cut

/a/ as in ask



/i/ as in tin

Elongated: ë – ö – ü – ä – ĩ

/ë/ as in feet

/ö/ depends – sometimes as in hoot, sometimes as in coat

/ü/ as in hoot

/ä/ as in lay

/ĩ/ is similar to /ä/, but is lower – more like hey

There are also ten letters which are the vowels with glottal stops afterwards. The base vowels with glottal stops are shown as ê, ô, û, â and î. The elongated vowels with glottal stops are shown as e:, o:, u:, a: and i:.

## Stress

### *Root words*

If a syllable has any of the diacritic vowels, it's the stressed one.

devi → de-Vĭ

enêru → en-Ê-ru

de:me → DE:-me

If a word has multiple syllables with diacritic vowels, the first is stressed.

mëisë → MË-is-ë

sëseâk → SË-se-âk

If there are no diacritic vowels, stress is irregular and marked. You will also occasionally see one-syllable words (e.g. Rèn) that have markings – this usually means that the word used to have more than one syllable.

lòme → LO-me

şuràçe → şu-RA-çe

### *Words with prefixes and postfixes*

If the root word has diacritic vowels, the stress is determined by the root word.

memëisëet (root: *mëisë*) → me-MË-is-ë-et  
ötkmiv (root: *kmiv*) → öt-KMIV

If the root word has no diacritic vowels or prefixes, but does have postfix(es) *with no diacritic vowels*, the stress is put on the first postfix.

veşre (root: *ve*) → ve-ŞRE  
lomeaşçet (root: *lòme*) → lo-me-ASÇ-et

In such examples with no diacritic vowels at all, a writer would mark the syllable that is stressed, so *veşre* would actually be written *veşrè* and *lomeaşçet* would actually be written *lomeàşçet*.

If the root word has no diacritic vowels but does have postfix(es) with diacritic vowels, the stress is put on the first postfix.

kuçmäevë (root: *kuç*) → kuç-MÄ-ev-ë  
ötlomeëv (root: *lòme*) → öt-lo-me-ËV

In all other cases, stress is determined by the root word.

ötlome (root: *lòme*) → öt-LO-me  
şêlumumje (root: *lumùmje*) → şê-lu-MUM-je  
nivet (root: *vet*) → ni-VET

Some Lukokish words have no vowels, for example ç “mouth.” With such words, if there are any postfixes, the first one gets the stress; if there are prefixes and no postfixes, the last prefix syllable gets the stress. Diacritic vowels have no effect, apart from the fact that if there are none, the stress must be marked.

mejet (root: *j*) → me-JET (This would be written *mejèt*)  
dêlötç (root: *ç*) → dêl-ÖTÇ  
ötçav (root: *ç*) → öt-ÇAV

## Doubling

If a consonant is doubled, e.g. *nënlla*, it is drawn out, usually with a lull between the sounds or a raise

in pitch for the second one, or the sound is repeated twice. If a vowel is doubled, for example *reeza* (and not *rëza!*), it is drawn out, again with a lull between the sounds or a raise in pitch for the second one.

# Morphology

## Nouns

### Case

Nouns in Lukokish can be subjects, objects, indirect objects, objects of postpositional phrases, possessive (e.g. the cat's), or commanding (e.g. *I command you to sit*). All non-proper nouns are marked accordingly, and proper nouns are marked if they are possessive or commanding. Subjects, objects, indirect objects, possessive nouns, and commanding nouns are differentiated by case. Objects of postpositional phrases match the case of the noun they are modifying if the postpositional phrase is modifying a noun; if it modifying a verb, the object is marked to show this.

**Case for subjects, objects and direct objects** is indicated by prefixes, which are shown below. Subjects are in accusative case; objects are in nominative case; direct objects are in dative case. They can also be indefinite (*a seakitty*) or definite (*the seakitty*). Finally, there are four moods: plain, comparative, and, and or.

Mood	INDEFINITE (a)			DEFINITE (the)		
	Accusative	Nominative	Dative	Accusative	Nominative	Dative
Plain	at-	öt-	ört-	e-	me-	nï-
Comparative	eş-	şê-	aş-	em-	meô-	vô-
And	de-	do-	de:-	so:-	şa-	rem-
Or	ke-	kle-	çe-	çï-	jë-	je:-

**Case for possessive nouns** does not have moods, but is also indicated by prefixes.

Indefinite Possessive	Definite Possessive
krê-	ker-

**Case for commanding nouns** is based on definiteness and politeness, and is shown by postfixes.

	Indefinite	Definite
Normal	-kiç	-şre
Polite/Friendly	-aşç	-zre

**Objects of postpositional phrases**, using postfixes, must either match the case of the noun they modify (accusative, nominative, or dative – they cannot match possessive, commanding or postpositional nouns, and they do not need to match definiteness) or use special prefixes to show that they modify a verb, adjective or adverb. In this table, definiteness shows the definiteness of the object of the postpositional phrase – it is entirely separate from what the object is modifying!

	Indefinite	Definite
Accusative	sku-	jäe-
Nominative	ska-	jä-
Dative	skë-	oj-
Verbal	ki-	ko-
Adjectival	kën-	kê-

### Gender

As previously explained, Lukokish does not have full grammatical gender. But it does have a poetic gender, discussed below, which factors into using nouns to modify other nouns. Additionally, nouns can be given postfixes to show the gender of what they refer to. To show a noun is female, append -a or -ëa (which to choose depends on dialect and what is clearest). To show a noun is male, append -ëan or -ë (again, dialect and clarity affect the choice). For example, *mëisë* “seakitty” → *mëisëa* “female seakitty.” It is not *mëisëëa* because this would not be as clear.

The **poetic gender** divides all nouns into one of four categories: Reason, Beauty, Imbalance or Balance. You cannot tell what category a noun is in by its normal spelling and/or pronunciation, but you can add a special postfix to make the category clear:

Category	Postfix
Reason	-est

Beauty	-os
Imbalance	-in
Balance	-llë

The use of the poetic gender in modifying nouns with other nouns is discussed under the section on syntax with noun phrases.

### *Plurality*

To make a noun plural, append -ï (or change ï to -ö, if the noun ends in ï).

Mëisë → Mëisëï

Lòme → Lòmeï

Devï → Devö

To give a specific number, or a word like “all,” “few,” or “many,” just add the number or word afterwards.

**Mëisëï tavak**

*Five seakitties*

**Mëisëï masea**

*Few seakitties*

### *Honorifics*

To show honor to the noun you are referring to, add the word *şev* beforehand. To show honor to whoever you are talking to, prefix the subject(s) with *dël-*.

### *Possession*

In Lukokish, if you want to use a pronoun as the owner of an object (for example, “my seakitty” instead of “Ama’s seakitty”), you can use a possessive postfix instead of adding a pronoun in possessive case. Here’s a list of the postfixes (see the section on pronouns for more explanation of the impersonal ones). If needed for easy pronunciation, insert -t before the rest of the postfix. (For example, instead of saying *mëisëëv* for “your [male] seakitty,” a speaker would probably say *mëisëtëv*, to make sure the two ë’s aren’t confusing.)

Pronoun	Postfix
My	-et
Your, male	-ëv
Your, female	-ïev
His	-av
Her	-ët
Our, inclusive	-eït
Our, exclusive	-eşï
Your, plural	-emït
His, plural	-ekt
Her, plural	-eçt
Their	-ïte
It's	-akt
It's, plural	-akit
Human impersonal singular	-tek
Human impersonal plural	-tësk
Non-human imp. sing.	-tök
Non-human imp. plural	-täk

**Memëisëet**

*My seakitty* [as subject]

**Memëisëitav**

*His seakitties* [as subjects]

**Ejûemït**

*Your* [plural] *ball* [as object]

**Verbs**

## Overview

Lukokish verbs are divided into two parts: the word carrying the inflection, known as *d\** (since it almost always starts with *d*), and the actual verb. For example, *di enêru* “add” - *di* carries the information that it is present tense, while *enêru* means “add” (in this case). *d\** can be inflected for tense and mood (e.g. negated, possible, subclause, etc.), and use special prefixes and postfixes to mark movement (e.g. upwards, downwards, through, over, and so on), habituality, perfection and “to be.”

## Conjugation of *d\**

Here's a table of the conjugation of *d\** for marking tense and mood. By default, *d\** is perfect.

Mood	Tense				
	RECENT	PAST	PRESENT	SOON	FUTURE
PLAIN	dö	du	di	dê	der
NEGATED	du:	duv	de	des	dâ
COULD	drë	daç	dös	doş	dul
MIGHT	den	dede	dlë	daä	duä
PROBABLY	däş	de:a	dêl	da:l	döe
SARCASTIC	dûu	dâa	di:i	dula	döö
HYPOTHET.	dök	dëç	dâr	dse	dûj
SUBCLAUSE	dî	dia	do	dë	däd
SUBCLS. NEG.	dak	dûr	döv	dre	dum
SUBCLS. COULD	edëj	dëj	dsm	dëm	dâar
SUBCLS. MIGHT	dîr	dli	dil	div	drak
SUBCLS. PROB.	dje	doe	daë	dîk	dîm
SUBCLS. SARC.	djor	dier	dâê	dâç	davê
SUBCLS. HYPO.	dïë	da:m	di:m	dro:	dir

## Imperfection, habituality and “to be”

To show imperfection, append -k if d\* ends in a vowel, or -ëk if it ends in a consonant. There is also another set of imperfection postfixes, -kë and -ëkë, that are used if something happened in the past, but continues into the present. For example, the sentence “The seakitty is lost” would use an ongoing imperfection postfix on a past or recent tense d\*, since the seakitty got lost (past/recent), but *still* is lost (present, ongoing, imperfect).

To show habituality, append -mek (after an imperfection postfix, if needed). Both postfixes go *before* movement postfixes. When saying that “X is [noun]” (for example, “I am a seakitty”), prefix kî- to the verb. Just to make it clear, this cannot be used to say “X is [adj]”!

When using multiple d\* (as will be explained later on), put any of these markers only on the first d\*.

For example, *dik kězër* “is committing treason”; *da:lme:k kězër* “will probably soon commit treason regularly”; *da:lëkmek kězër* “will probably soon be committing treason regularly;” *kîdi:i* “is” [sarcastic].

### **Movement**

These are all postfixes for d\*. If you are using two d\* (as will be explained later on), put the movement postfix only on the first d\*.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Postfix</b>
upwards	-kèt
downwards	-sèk
towards (subject)	-rê
away from (subject)	-çë
over	-kâs
through	-şem
back to	-vël
around	-me:t
into	-nek
stopping, finishing	-kër




## Adjectives, postpositions and adverbs

### Agreement

Adjectives and postpositions modifying nouns must agree in case, definiteness and mood with the nouns they modify, using postfixes. Postpositions modifying verbs and adverbs have special postfixes to show verbal agreement. Adverbs have a set of special comparative postfixes, as well as postfixes that show they are modifying information given by d\*. Finally, 'e' is sometimes added in between the word and the postfix for easier pronunciation (for example, *kuçeço* instead of *kuçço*).

Here's a table of postfixes for adjectives modifying accusative, nominative and dative nouns.

	Indefinite (a)			Definite (the)		
Mood	Accusative	Nominative	Dative	Accusative	Nominative	Dative
Plain	-çe	-ço	-ak	-lo	-mä	-dï
Comparative	-at	-ët	-öt	-êt	-met	-let
And	-te	-rë	-lê	-tä	-löum	-sö
Or	-ter	-trê	-kä	-mö	-amö	-lmö

Postfixes for adjectives modifying possessive nouns:

Indefinite Possessive	Definite Possessive
-mek	-mëk

Postfixes for adjectives modifying commanding nouns:

	Indefinite (a)	Definite (the)

<b>Normal</b>	-läç	-ätl
<b>Polite/Friendly</b>	-löd	-ält

Postfixes for adjectives modifying objects of postpositional phrases:

	<b>Indefinite (a)</b>	<b>Definite (the)</b>
<b>Accusative</b>	-öst	-ej
<b>Nominative</b>	-ast	-öz
<b>Dative</b>	-jes	-jöz
<b>Verbal</b>	-ok	-ôik
<b>Adjectival</b>	-tën	-tëa

These postfixes turn an adjective into an adverb. The kinetic, “relating to tense,” “relating to mood” and “relating to aspect” postfixes are used for adverbs that modify information given by d\* (movement, tense, mood or aspect).

<b>Description</b>	<b>Postfix</b>
General	-ska
Kinetic	-dek
Relating to Tense	-ëur
Relating to Mood	-mul
Relating to Aspect	-miz
Comparative – more	-sdï
Comparative – less	-sïö
Comparative – equal	-äds

Finally, there is a postfix, -sik, for adverbs modifying other adverbs or adjectives modifying other adjectives (for example, “*especially* peculiar”).

### *Inflection*

Adjectives can be inflected in addition, with the standard tenses and four special moods. There is no limit to the number of these inflections that one adjective can have.

	Tense				
Mood	RECENTLY	PAST	PRESENT	SOON	FUTURE
PLAIN	se-	së-	sek-	-dar	-drë
VERY	me-	më-	meş-	mul-	-aäk
A LITTLE	vu-	ev-	vû-	vö-	evm-
OR	-şëm	-şö	de-	dme-	dmë-
NEGATED	da-	der-	-evë	mö-	mô-

## Derivational morphology

### *Nouns, verbs and adjectives*

**Augmentative:** -an, -anĩ

*sësea* “fire” → *sësean* “big fire”

**Diminutive** (for pet names): -ele (neuter), -elë (male), -ela (female)

*itë* “seakitty” → *itele, itelë, itela*

**Diminutive** (smaller, less): -sk-

*itë* “seakitty” → *isktë* “seakitten”

**Comes from:** -âk

*sësea* “fire” → *sëseâk* “ashes”

**With:** -ke-

*rön* “water” → *röken* “water pot”

**Without:** -ent-

*nemim* “warmth” → *nementim* “winter”

**Resulting from:** -sö-

*ïnelet* “spinning batt” → *inesölet* “yarn”

**Like:** -se-

*amer* “sun” → *asemer* “lamp”

**Place:** -san

*ösön* “cold” → *Ösönsan*

**To adjective:** -da-

*rön* “water” → *rödan* “watery”

*enêru* “accept” → *endaêru* “accepting, tolerant”

**Opposite:** *nu-*

*ken* “land” → *nuken* “sea”

**Is this, does this, this applies:** *-ek*

*şârön* “blood” → *şârönek* “wounded”

*kêzêr* “commit treason” → *kêzêrek* “traitor”

*sev* “clever, resourceful” → *sevek* “character in a legend or story”

**Collection of this:** *-ä-*

*ämerk* “vegetables, herbs” → *ämereäk* “salad”

*desç* “attack” → *deseäç* “war”

## Nouns

**User of:** *-em-*

*rôme* “salt” → *remôme* “cook”

**Creator of/cause of:** *-şu-*

*ken* “earth” → *Keşun* “God”

**Destroyer of (stronger):** *-mö-*

*çikel* “fish” → *çimökel* “seakitty”

**Destroyer of (weaker):** *-mî-*

*kv* “sound” → *kmîv* “fog”

**Made of:** *-en-*

*ëmäva* “sand” → *ëmenäva* “desert”

**Larger/in general/meaning of this:** *-tê-*

*lo* “man” → *lotê* “mankind”

**Smaller part of/physical example:** *-rê-*

*tol* “matter, stuff” → *torêl* “tiny bit, atom”

**Covering or container for this:** *-za-*

*o* “person” → *oza* “piece of clothing”

**To verb:** *-şz*

*sêsea* “fire” → *sêseaşz* “burn”

**Person or object who gives/provides/facilitates this:** *-uz*

*usêv* “oath” → *usêvuz* “oath keeper, trustworthy person”

**Tool for creating:** *-nê-*

*şurekin* “drawing” → *şunêrekin* “pencil”

**Is also this:** *-vö-*

*niçê* “son” → *nivöçê* “heir”

**The state of being this:** -zis

*iškeiz* “king” → *iškeizzis* “kingship”

### Verbs

**Instance of this action:** -tu; if you are talking about an instance of this verb without any movement postfixes, put -tu on the verb. If you are talking about an instance of this verb *with* a movement postfix, put -tu on the movement postfix and add the verb afterwards.

*çê* “move, go” → *çêtu* “movement”

*çê* “move, go” with -çê “away” movement postfix → “depart” → *çêtu-çê* “departure”

**What this is done to:** -le-

*veş* “look, see” → *veleş* “what is known”

**Reason for doing this:** -rö-

*kest* “eat” → *keröst* “hunger”

### Adjectives

**Thing that has this attribute:** -ava

*öds* “yellow” → *ödsava*, a type of yellow flower

**Thing that gives others this attribute:** -klë

*kuç* “dirty” → *kuçklë* “mud, dirt”

**Person who has this attribute:** -as

*sesè* “short” → *sesèas* “toddler, small child”

**Person who gives others this attribute:** -il

*elvi* “too” [as in “too much”] → *elviil* “very generous person”

**This property:** -ne:-

*ûrë* “foolish, stupid” → *ûnerë* “foolishness, stupidity”

## Syntax

### Using nouns

#### Case

The **nominative case** is used for all subjects, including subjects in commands or addresses. Though, if you want to emphasize who you are talking to (e.g. “halt, you traitor”), you might put *eë* before the addressed. This is discussed further in the section on word order.

There can be multiple subjects in a sentence, both in different statements (as in “The *seakitty* is eating her fish more quickly than the boy is eating his”) and in the same statement (“The *seakitty* and

the *toddler* are playing in the mud”). In the second case, you might use “and” mood, but you don't have to.

**Ejû ötlòme du.**

def.ACC-ball indef.NOM-boy d\*.past

*A boy threw the ball.*

**Eçikelèt memëisë dik kest jelesdî mîas eçikelav melòme jelesîö.**

def.ACC-her def.NOM-seakitty d\*.pres-imperf eat fast-comp.more and.share.d\*.verb def.NOM-boy fast-comp.less

*The seekitty is eating her fish more quickly than the boy is eating his.*

**Memëisë, de nîkën koçens vêlok.**

def.NOM-seakitty, d\*.pres.neg play def.POSTP-rain in-def.POSTP

*Seekitty, don't play in the rain.*

The **accusative case** is used for direct objects. Note that these objects often don't require the adpositions they would in English.

**Edanë Amerë eë deşem devî!**

def.ACC-table Amerë emphasis d\*.pres.neg-through smash

*Don't smash the table, Amerë!*

**Ekëzërekî Virküdeâk meçav du.**

def.ACC-traitors Fircudian def.NOM-mouth-his d\*.past

*He spoke of the Fircudian traitors.*

The **dative case** is used for indirect objects, which usually come after the direct object. Again, adpositions needed in English are often not required in Lukokish. There are also some other special cases with particular verbs; for example, in “travel from X to Y,” Y is the direct object and X the indirect one.

**Elumùmje rôdanlo nîmëisëet melëmo duçë enêru.**

def.ACC-custard.sauce watery-def.ACC def.DAT-seakitty-my def.NOM-woman d\*.past-away give

*The woman gave the watery custard sauce to my seekitty.*

**Nêleru örtsämer Vere:san vêljes meevë du içê.**

Nêleru indef.DAT-house Vere:san in-indef.DAT def.NOM-he d\*.past travel

*He traveled from a house in Vere:san to Nêleru.*

The **possessive case** is used for nouns that own something (besides any that can be indicated by the possessive postfixes). It is used on proper nouns in addition to non-proper ones. If the same word serves another place in the sentence (for example, in “the owner of that seakitty is annoying,” “owner” serves both a possessive and a nominative place), then it must be repeated.

**Mesämer kerevaçeëm meşnaseskmä.**

def.NOM-house def.POSS-holy.man very.pres-neat.careful.orderly-def.NOM

*The minister's house is very neat and orderly.*

**Emejëet meo, jămëisë ëmäv kero, duvëkëvël enêru.**

def.ACC-book def.NOM-person, def.POSTP.nom-seakitty that def.poss-person, past.neg-ongoing-back.to give.back

*The owner of that seakitty didn't return my book.*

Note how *jămëisë* “seakitty” is in postpositional nominative-matching case. There is no postposition in the sentence (not even “of!”), but since *jămëisë* is a noun that modifies *meo*, another noun and the subject, it is treated as a postposition.

The **commanding case** is used for nouns that are giving a command, and, again, is used by proper nouns as well as non-proper ones. Note that Lukokish is more strict than English in requiring a commander for each command. A person might say “Stop eating my flowers, you dirty seakitty!” in English, but in Lukokish they'd say the equivalent of “I command you to stop eating my flowers, you dirty seakitty!”

**Ekerörïet ötmëisë kuçeço eë de kest veşre!**

def.ACC-flowers-my indef.NOM-seakitty dirty-indef.NOM emphasis d\*.pres.neg eat I-command

*Stop eating my flowers, you dirty seakitty!*

**Attuvï tav nïevë mevet diçë enêru Şâaş Elvîl-şre.**

indef.ACC-sheep three def.DAT-him def.NOM-you.male d\*.pres-away give Şâaş Elvîl-commands

*Lord Elvüil commands you [male] to give him three sheep.*

The **postpositional case** is used for objects in postpositional phrases, for example, “to the *field*,” “on the *table*,” “without the *eggplants*.” The object of the postposition must match the case (nominative, accusative or dative) of the noun they modify, or, if they modify a verb, they should use a verbal postpositional case, or, if they modify an adjective or adverb, they should use an adjectival postpositional case. Definiteness in postpositional case refers to the definiteness of the object that is in postpositional case. As mentioned above, in some cases where a noun modifies another noun without a postposition, the postpositional case is used. Just to clarify, this is *not* the case in such phrases as “seakitty herder.”

**Memëisë dukèt nāk kodanë ulaok.**

def.NOM-seakitty d\*.past-up jump def.POSTP.vb-table on-POSTP.vb

*The seakitty jumped onto the table.*

**Evit meemelësi vëlëz jämersan dikçë veş.**

def.ACC-you.female def.NOM-stars in-def.NOM def.nom.POSTP-sky d\*.pres.imp-away watch

*The stars in the sky are watching you [female].*

**Meevë nesemä kënlie mötën.**

def.NOM-him tall-def.NOM indef.POSTP.adj-tree like-indef.POSTP.adj

*He is tall like a tree.*

## *Mood*

**Comparative mood** is used for comparisons – the subject is what is being compared (the *seakitty* is smaller than the boy), and the object is what it is being compared to (the *seakitty* is smaller than the boy).

**Emazinan ëmäv meôuënt ärv äseëlmet!**

def.ACC.comp-road that def.NOM.comp-stick this straight-def.NOM.comp

*This stick is more straight than that road!*

“**And**” **mood** is used when there are multiple subjects, objects or direct objects that are doing one action *together*. For example, if you wanted to say, “His mother gave candy and custard sauce to him,” if she gave it all at the same time, or in the same general transaction, then “candy” and “custard sauce” would both be indefinite accusative “and.” If you wanted to say “His mother gave candy and



custard sauce to him,” but it was at different times, you would *not* use the “and” mood and merely have two accusative nouns.

**Desdöasei delumùmje Näk Naza duçë enêru.**

indef.ACC.and-candy indef.ACC.and-custard.sauce Näk Naza d\*.past-away give  
*Naza gave candy and custard sauce to Näk.* [in the same transaction]

**Atçikeli atämerkî nîmëisëiët Lesv dumekçë di enêru.**

indef.ACC-fishes indef.ACC-vegetables def.DAT-seakitties-her Lesv d\*.past-hab-away d\*.pres give  
*Lesv gives fish and vegetables to her seekitties.* [at different times]

“Or” mood is used similarly. If “his mother gave candy or custard sauce to him,” and it was one particular time or transaction when she gave one or the other, then you would use “or” mood. If “his mother gave candy or custard sauce to him,” and you're referring to separate occasions, then you would not use “or” mood. Instead, you would use a normal conjunction.

**Kesdöasei kelumùmje Näk Naza duçë enêru.**

indef.ACC.or-candy indef.ACC.or-custard.sauce Näk Naza d\*.past-away give  
*Naza gave candy or custard sauce to Näk.* [the speaker is not sure which]

**Şenta atçikeli şenta atämerkî nîmëisëiët Lesv dumekçë di enêru.**

or indef.ACC-fishes or indef.ACC-vegetables def.DAT-seakitties-her Lesv d\*.past-hab-away  
d\*.pres give  
*Lesv gives fish or vegetables to her seekitties.* [each time, she only gives one or the other]

**Plain mood** is used for everything else.

**Ötkeröstav tâleço du.**

indef.NOM-hunger-his deep-indef.NOM d\*.past  
*He was very hungry.*

*Using gender*

Speakers of Lukokish often use the **normal gender** on names, to communicate the sex of an animal, or to imply what gender this object is intended for.

**Ezl melë-a-ölöet durê ästok ötkmiv dia, ezl elë Kmiva meve du örve.**

so def.NOM-she-baby-my d\*.past-towards during-vb.POSTP indef.NOM-fog d\*.past.subcls, so  
def.ACC-she Kmīva def.NOM-me d\*.past name

*My baby girl was born during a fog, so I named her Kmīva.*

In this example, the speaker took the word for fog (*kmīv*) and turned it into a female name by appending -a, one of the feminine gender markers. In fact, when using gender markers for a name, speakers of Lukokish can even take words besides nouns and append gender postfixes to them, since the name *as a whole* is a noun. For example, *keši* “search” → *Kešiëa*, a female name meaning “search.” Or *ama* “pigeon” + *lir* “light-colored” → *Amalirë*, a male name meaning “light-colored pigeon.”

Here's an example of using gender to show the sex of an animal:

**Atmëisëa meve dik mêlo.**

indef.ACC-seakitty-fem def.NOM-me d\*.pres-imp want

*I want a female seekitty.*

And an example of using it to show who some objects are meant for:

**Eozaëaï meve dik keši.**

def.ACC-clothing-fem-pl def.NOM-me d\*.pres-imp search

*I'm looking for the women's clothes.*

The **poetic gender** is based on the Lukokish philosophical theory of Reason (*nask*) and Beauty (*lirz*). Reason epitomizes order, rationality, judgment, logic and neatness; Beauty is a manifestation of emotion, feeling, freedom and spontaneity. In the beginning, this theory says, the world had a perfect balance of Reason and Beauty. However, this perfect world somehow fell, and Reason and Beauty fell out of balance. So now almost all things are of pure Reason, without Beauty; or of pure Beauty, without Reason; or have an imbalance of the two. A few things, however, still have balance, or are close to balance. The Lukokish poetic gender divides nouns into categories of Reason, Beauty, Imbalance and Balance (which includes anything close to balance). Some nouns categorized under Reason are “math,” “principle” and “system”; some nouns attributed to Beauty are “love,” “sound” and “wildness”; some Imbalance nouns are “person,” “government” and “language”; and some Balance nouns are “God,” “music” and “novel” (as in, a written story).

Speakers of Lukokish generally don't use the poetic gender postfixes, except in some types of poetry

and to distinguish certain words. Poetic gender also factors into using nouns to modify other nouns, but the postfixes aren't used for this task.

The most common use of poetic gender is in distinguishing words. For example, the word for “music” is categorized under Balance. But this word generally refers to complex, instrumental, more classical-style music. If you wanted to show that you were talking about popular music, which is not as complex or classical and usually involves singing, you could add the imbalance postfix -in, since this particular type of music is categorized under Imbalance.

The poetic gender is also used in “balance poetry,” where only nouns from one class can be used in a poem. Within the genre of balance poetry, you have “beauty poetry,” “reason poetry,” “balanced poetry” and “imbalance poetry” - one for each noun class. In such writing, the author would almost always use the poetic gender postfixes on every noun (which also helps in repetition and rhyme!).

### *Using honorifics*

The honorifics are generally used when talking about or to a superior (for a peasant, his or her lord; for an aristocrat, a higher aristocrat or the king; etc.).

**Etuvi ääns sev ker-Ulùr Enêru meisktëet duçë emöş.**

def.ACC-sheep all honor def.POSS-Lord Enêru def.NOM-seakitten-my d\*.past-away kill  
*My seakitty kitten killed all Lord Enêru's sheep.*

**Etuviëv ääns dêlmeisktëet duçë emöş, Meş Enêru.**

def.ACC-shep-your.male all honor-def.NOM-seakitten-my d\*.past-away kill, Lord Enêru  
*My seakitty kitten killed all your sheep, Lord Enêru.*

They used to be used almost all the time anybody was talking about or talking to somebody above them, but they are beginning to fall out of use. Additionally, some older Lukokish books, especially ones written by lesser aristocrats, use the prefix honoring the hearer all the time:

**Elotênêt ker-Keşun dêlôtevölöşë du...**

def.ACC-mankind-ladp.tool.for.creating def.POSS-God honor-indef.NOM-evolution d\*.past...  
*Evolution was God's tool for creating mankind...*

This is supposed to show respect to the reader. Other books use honorifics when referring to the hero. But, again, this practice has become less and less common, and nowadays a book that regularly

uses honorifics is considered to have a rather overly humble tone.

### *Using possessive postfixes*

Possessive postfixes are quite common in Lukokish speech. Note that if you want to emphasize that something is owned by somebody, for example, “your OWN path” as opposed to “your path,” you would usually not use a possessive postfix. Instead, you would probably use a pronoun in possessive case.

#### **Eazinanëv**

*Your path* [as obj]

#### **Eazinan kerve**

*Your own path* [as obj]

### *Order of prefixes and postfixes on nouns*

Nouns can have case/mood and honorific prefixes. If you are using both, then honorific prefixes should go before case/mood ones. Nouns can also have postfixes showing gender, possession and plurality, and have postfixes for Laguine adpositional phrases. Gender comes before plurality, which comes before possession, which comes before any Laguine adpositional phrase postfixes.

#### **Dêlmemëisëaïet**

honor-def.NOM-seakitty.fem-pl-my

*My female seakitties* [as subjects] [honor to hearer]

### *Numbers*

In Lukokish, a number can be one of four types: a normal noun (such as in “add two and three”), a number (as in “three Fircudians”), an adjective (as in “second coming”), or an adverb (as in “ate twice”). When it is a noun, adjective or adverb, the number is inflected as though it were a normal noun, adjective or adverb. Additionally, some numbers take different forms when they are different types. For example, the number 2 can be *ma* or *met*. When it is a noun or a number, it is usually *ma*. But when it is an adverb or adjective, it is generally *met*. However, this is not set in stone, and both words are used in all roles.

#### **Dema dekös mevît di enêru veşre.**

*Add two and three.*

**Ekerörriet öttuvī ma dik kest.**

*Two sheep are eating my flowers.*

**Emejë metlo mevīt diaçë enêru meve du zëskr.**

*I hated the second book you gave me.*

**Stella du kězër metska!**

*Stella committed treason twice!*

## Using verbs

### Overview

First of all, Lukokish verbs are divided into two parts: the word carrying the inflection, known as *d\** (since it almost always starts with *d*), and the actual verb. For example, *dirê enêru* “accept” - *dirê* carries the information that it is present tense, while *enêru* means “accept.” Secondly, Lukokish has a system in which most nouns have default verbs. They usually have two – one for when they are a subject, and one for when they are an object. For example, the default verb for *jû* “ball” as an object is “throw.” This means that you can have a sentence with only *d\**, not joined by any other verb. For example:

**Ejû melòme du.**

*The boy threw the ball.*

the.obj-ball the.sub-boy *d\**

The verb always meaning “throw” is not present in this sentence. But since the default verb for *jû* as an object is “throw,” *d\** carries this meaning.

*d\** can be modified for tense, mood (e.g. negated, possible, subclause, etc.), and movement (e.g. upwards, downwards, through, over, and so on). Movement is not just used for actual movement, but is used to give verbs additional meanings. For example, in *dirê enêru* “accept,” *enêru* can mean “add,” “give,” “accept,” “take away” and some other things, too. But the *d\** word, *dirê*, has the postfix *-rê*, which implies movement towards the subject. Because of this, *enêru* means “accept.”

### Rules for and use of the default verb

1. In general, default subject verbs take precedence over default object verbs, but some nouns have so-called yielding default verbs as subjects. In such a case, if there was an object with a

default verb as object in the same sentence, the object's default verb would prevail. In the above example, *lòme* “boy” has the yielding default verb as subject of “exist, be.” Usually, *lòme*'s default verb would prevail, since it is the subject, so this sentence would make no sense - “The boy exists the ball”? But since “exist, be” is a *yielding* default verb for *lòme* as subject, the object's default verb (“throw”) is what d\* carries.

2. Most nouns have at least one default verb. If they have none, then they automatically get the yielding default verb as subject of “exist, be.”
3. The majority of default verbs correspond to normal verbs in Lukokish, so then you can use movement postfixes on d\* to use the additional meanings of these verbs. For example, the default verb for *ç* “eye” is “look.” This corresponds to the verb *veş*, which is used for a whole family of actions involving looking – looking around, watching, describing, etc. Specifically, the postfix used to make *veş* mean “watch” is the one implying movement away from the subject, -*çë*. If you have a sentence with “eye” as the subject, with d\* carrying the default meaning of “look,” you can put -*çë* on d\* to have it carry the meaning of “watch.”

**Elë meçet du.**

*I was looking at her.* (Lit., my eye was looking at her.)

**Elë meçet duçë.**

*I was watching her.* (Lit., my eye was watching her.)

4. However, some nouns have default verbs corresponding to actions that are additional meanings of other verbs. This is the case with *emöşuz*, “murderer.” The default verb of *emöşuz* is (not surprisingly) “kill.” But to say “kill” otherwise, a speaker of Lukokish would need to use the verb *emöş*, normally “die,” with the movement-away-from-subject postfix -*çë* on d\*. Yet, if *emöşuz* is the subject, and d\* is carrying the default meaning of “kill,” there is no need to use any movement postfixes! In such a case, you *cannot* use the other meanings of *emöş* without actually mentioning the verb *emöş*. Here's an example with an additional meaning of *emöş*, “transmit a disease to the person caring for you,” which is expressed when you use the movement-back-to postfix, -*vël*.

**Elë meemöşuz du.**

*The murderer killed her.*

### **Elë meemöşuz duvël emöş.**

*The murderer spread a disease to the woman who was caring for him.*

5. Finally, note that I said the *majority* of default verbs correspond to normal verbs. There are some that don't! These are known as unconnected default verbs. For example, the default verb for *asemer* "lamp" as subject is "shine." Now, there is a verb for "shine" in Lukokish, *lömi*, which has additional meanings including "throw light into a dark place" (movement-into), "shine through something" (movement-through), "shine upwards" (movement-up), "reflect" (movement-back-to), etc. But the default verb of *asemer* as subject is not the same "shine" - if you use the movement-into postfix on d\* carrying *asemer*'s default verb, it does not mean "throw light into a dark place," but "be refilled with oil." If you use the movement-through postfix, it doesn't mean anything. If you use the movement-upwards postfix, it means "be turned on." Now, you might imagine that then *asemer*'s default verb as subject corresponds to some other Lukokish word for "shine" that has these additional meanings. Well, it doesn't! There is *no Lukokish verb* that is the same as the default-verb-as-subject for *asemer*. There are other words for "refill," "turn on" and the like. But there is no one word that means "shine," "be refilled with oil," "be turned on" and the rest.

Despite the fact that they may appear to a non-native-speaker as tremendously complex, default verbs are extremely common in Lukokish speech, from the lowest of classes to the highest of classes. Speakers will very often use a different word than we would in other languages in order to make use of a default verb. For example, instead of saying "I think you are crazy" as in English, a speaker of Lukokish would generally say, "My brain thinks you are crazy." Since the default verb for *j* "brain" as subject is "think," they could then make use of a default verb and make the sentence more compact. For this reason, you will find that very common verbs like "speak" and "think" are quite long in Lukokish. This is because people hardly ever use them - they just use words like "mouth" and "brain" and make use of default verbs. Similarly, Lukokish is full of examples of inanimate objects having default verbs implying action. Sounds do not merely exist ("There were cheerful sounds of men talking and fish frying") but they "sound" themselves, travel, speak, describe ("Sounds were describing men cheerfully talking and fish cheerfully frying"). Chairs do not merely "be" ("There is a chair on the carpet"), but they sit ("There is a chair sitting on the carpet"). The sun does not merely exist in the sky, but watches from the sky.

A few particularly revolutionary Lukokish grammarians have attacked the system of default verbs,

saying that it is open to ambiguity and confusion, but nobody listens to them. You could really not have Lukokish without default verbs. In short, anybody learning Lukokish needs to know how to use default verbs, no matter how complicated they may be!

### *Using tenses*

The **recent tense** is used for things that happened only a little while ago, usually within the past week or so, *and* are being treated as recent events. For example, if you're saying, "Kestë ate the cake today so now there's none left," you would use recent tense. If you're saying, "I remember one time when Kestë ate the whole cake," even if this had happened in the last week, you would probably use normal past tense. However, in educated speech, recent tense is used for pretty much any event that is not 1) historical 2) very old (happened over a few decades ago, though children and young adults occasionally define this differently in their speech). In this case, if you were a rich and educated Jaeve and said, "I remember one time when Kestek ate the whole cake," unless this had happened decades ago and was a fairly memorable event, you would use recent tense. If you were talking about the coronation of a king (e.g. a historical event) that had happened two weeks ago, you would use past tense.

The **past tense** is used for events that are more far away and less recent. As discussed above, if you were treating an event as something that happened in the past (for example, reminiscing, even about a fairly recent event), you would use past tense. But educated Lukokish tend to use this tense only for historical events or things that happened a long time ago. In some circles, people consider that the more frequently you use the recent tense, the more high-class you are. In books told in a normal past tense, where the narrator is writing after all the events have happened, this past tense is usually used (even in very high-class books). If you refer to events in the book, you would also use past tense. However, books where the narrator is writing during the time period of the book, or during a very close time (for example, in a diary, where each entry is written during the time spread of the book) would be in recent tense.

Bottom line: If you want to sound normal, use recent tense when you want to talk about recent events, and use past tense for everything else. If you want to sound very educated and high-class, use recent tense as much as you can and reserve past tense for historical and far-away events.

The **present tense** is a normal present tense: it talks about things that are happening now, or very close to now.

The **soon tense** is used for events that are supposed to happen soon, especially planned ones. If you



are planning a party, and are not sure of anything except that it will be in the next week, you can say, “I'm going to have a party soon” with soon tense. If you have meticulously planned out a party that will happen two years from now, you may use soon tense to talk about that, too. In general, the lower classes tend to use soon tense only for things that are happening within a week or so, and the higher classes use it for anything that is happening soon or has been well planned. (Perhaps this reflects the lower classes' more fatalistic approach to life – you can plan all you want, but you can't be sure that anything will actually happen.)

The **future tense** is used for things happening in the future, especially things that are not too sure. As explained above, lower-class people use the future tense more, since they consider future events more unsure. Higher classes may use the soon tense for any fairly certain future event.

### *Using moods*

The **negated mood** is used for exactly that – negating a verb. For example:

**Edanëiev memëisëet duvsem devî.**

def.ACC-table-your.fem def.NOM-seakitty-my d\*.past.neg-through smash

*My seekitty did not smash your [female] table.*

The **could mood** is for actions that are possible. For example:

**Lagöen mevîl doş desc.**

Laguina def.NOM-us.exc d\*.soon.could attack

*It is possible for us to attack Laguina soon.*

It is also used for suggesting actions that are possible.

**Eämerkî äeseslo mevet dös kest.**

def.ACC-vegetables old-def.ACC def.NOM-you.male d\*.pres.could eat

*You [male] could eat the old vegetables.*

The **might mood** is for events that might be happening. Example:

**Sörlëon melë dlëk içê.**

Sörlëon def.NOM-she d\*.pres.might-imp travel

*She might be traveling to Sörlëon.*

The **probably mood** is for things that are probably happening. Example (note the imperfection postfix on d\*):

**Elä Keröra dêlêk slä.**

def.ACC-woods Keröra d\*.pres.prob-imp be.in.a.place

*Keröra is probably in the woods.*

Basically, the could and might moods replace common words that serve as modal verbs in English, and the probably mood replaces what is an adverb in English.

The **sarcastic mood** is often used for sarcastic statements, especially ones that might be considered offensive if taken seriously. However, it is quite common for speakers of Lukokish to be sarcastic without using this mood.

**Lagöen meve di:çë nestel**

Laguina def.NOM-me d\*.pres.sarc-away love.serve

*I love Laguina! [sarcastic]*

The **hypothetical mood** is used for hypothetical events, such as in a conditional statement (“if the seakitty finds the sugar, it will disappear within minutes”). In educated speech and in books, it is used when asking a question.

**Ed attural meketên kîdâr, ed elêv meve dâr teşd.**

if indef.ACC-rectangle def.NOM-world is-d\*.pres.hypo, then def.ACC-it def.NOM-me d\*.pres.hypo fall

*If the world is flat, I could fall off it. (Lit., if the world is a rectangle...)*

If you use hypothetical mood outside of a question or conditional statement, then it generally implies that you hope this will happen.

**Ata kâçe memëisëet marmä dâr.**

indef.ACC-dummy.noun black-indef.ACC def.NOM-seakitty-my black-def.NOM d\*.pres.hypo

*I hope my new seakitty is black.*

The **subclause mood** is used for statements in a subclause. For example, “the boy who threw the ball,” “the bed where Remë is sitting.” (There is no such word for “where” in Lukokish; you would say the equivalent of “the bed that Remë is sitting on it” or “the bed that Remë is sitting.”) For example (note that when a place, such as Lukok, is an object, the default verb is “go to”):

**Lükok melòme ejû dia du.**

Lukok def.NOM-boy indef.ACC-ball d\*.past.subcls d\*.past

*The boy who threw the ball went to Lukok.*

The rest of the moods combine subclause mood and some other mood.

Now, what if you want to combine two moods at once? For example, “The seakitty probably didn't eat your custard sauce,” which would use both negated and probably moods? In such a case, you would use multiple d\*. One would be in the first mood (in this case, probably mood), and the others would be in subclause-whatever other moods (in this case, subclause-negated mood). The very last d\* would decide the actual verb, so it would have any needed postfixes (imperfection, movement, etc.) and either carry a default meaning or have another verb next to it. Here's an example that makes use of four moods (in order: sarcastic, hypothetical, probably and negated):

**Lagöen meevë di:ĩ di:m daë dövëk desc.**

Laguina def.NOM-he d\*.pres.sarc d\*.pres.subcls.hypo d\*.pres.subcls.prob d\*.pres.subcls.neg-imp  
attack

*He probably could not be attacking Laguina. [sarcastic]*

### *Showing generality*

To show that something happens in general (e.g. “Seakitties love candy”), then use two d\*: one in the past tense and one in the present tense. To show that something *used* to happen in general, have two d\* in the past and recent tenses; to show that something *will* happen in general, use two d\* in the soon and future tenses. Any inflection (including inflection for mood), postfixes, etc. should only go on the first d\*. The second one is always in plain mood with no postfixes.

**Atsdöaseĩ ötmëisëĩ dâa di zëskr.**

indef.ACC-candies indef.NOM-seakitties d\*.past.sarc d\*.pres hate/dislike

*Seakitties hate candy. [sarcastic]*

**Atmejëi mevet doş der mësölo zonäska.**

indef.ACC-books def.NOM-you.male d\*.soon.could d\*.future buy here-ADV  
*It will be possible [for you, male] to buy books here in the future.*

### *Showing commands*

To show that a verb is a command, put a noun in commanding case after it. Note that Lukokish is much more strict than English in requiring a subject for the command and a noun in commanding case to show that it is a command. You might say “Wash the dishes!” in English, and it's a perfectly valid command, but in Lukokish you'd have to say what's literally “I command you to wash the dishes!” For example, see all the information in this sentence:

**Ea ärv mevît di kest veşrel**

def.ACC-dummy.noun this def.NOM-you.fem d\*.pres eat me-def.COM  
*Eat this one!*

### *No passive*

There is no passive voice in Lukokish. Do note, however, that there are many Lukokish verbs that would be rendered passive in English. For example, one additional meaning of the default verb for *asemer* “lamp” as subject is “be turned on.” So you could say:

**Measemer dukèt.**

*The lamp was turned on.*

This is not passive, however, since the lamp is still the subject.

So then how do you add emphasis to the object of the sentence? For example, what if you wanted to emphasize that you had turned on the *green* lamp, and so wanted to say “the green lamp was turned on by me” instead of “I turned on the green lamp”? Well, you could put the emphasis marker, *eë*, before “lamp” or “green.” Here's one way to do it:

**Easemer eë tenlo meve dukèt.**

def.ACC-lamp emphasis green-def.ACC def.NOM-me d\*.past-up  
*I turned on the green lamp.*

The emphasis marker will be discussed further in the section on sentence word order.

### *Verbal conjunctions*

Lukokish has several different conjunctions that allow two statements to share the same subject,

object, d\* and/or separate verb. This helps to make sentences more compact, and can make things more clear when you make multiple statements involving the same actors or actions. For example, the word for sharing both the subject and object is *dsîr*, yielding the following sentence:

**Melë atämerkî du sêseaşz dsîr di devî.**

def.NOM-she def.ACC-vegetables d\*.past burn vconj.sub.obj d\*.pres destroy

*She burned the vegetables and now is destroying them.*

*Melë* “she” and *atämerkî* “vegetables” don't need to be repeated in the second half of the sentence (*di devî*) because *dsîr* carries them over to that other side. The other half is treated as if *melë* and *atämerkî* were there in the proper places.

If two statements are sharing the same d\*, and one statement causes d\* to carry a default meaning, this default meaning does *not* apply to the other statement. However, any other information communicated by d\* - mood, tense, movement, imperfection, habituality, generality, etc. - is shared by both the statements. This makes it more difficult to use the conjunctions for sharing d\*, since so many verbs depend on d\* having a specific movement postfix. So the conjunctions for sharing d\* tend to be a bit more rare than the other ones.

Here's a table of these verbal conjunctions.

SHARED ELEMENTS	WORD	EXAMPLE
subject	dvîr	<b>Kosämer eïkok meevë duvël çê dvîr atçikel du kest.</b> <i>He returned to the house and ate a fish.</i>
object	sîr	<b>Emejë Naskë du zîr, sîr mesm ker-Aëla dik.</b> <i>Naskë wrote the book, and Aëla is reading it.</i>
d*	azîr	<b>Keşi dik kest azîr meve krînelt.</b> <i>Keşi is eating and I am spinning.</i>
verb	avîrë	<b>Eniçaav Osultâk Nurö duçë emöş, avîrë eniçëav Devî diçë.</b> <i>King Nurö killed his daughter, and now Devî kills his son.</i>
subject & object	dsîr	<b>Atînelet Keşi duşem enêru dsîr du krînelt.</b> <i>Keşi got out a spinning batt and combed it.</i>
subject & d*	vsîr	<b>Meve du di mest vsîr ke:svl, kimo:.</b> <i>I work and I spin, that's all.</i>

subject & verb	âîre	<b>Meevë du kězër, âîre di!</b> <i>He committed treason, and he commits treason!</i>
object & d*	rêr	<b>Esdöaseï meevë dê şast rêr melë öasêlëuş.</b> <i>He will cook the candy soon and she will glaze it.</i>
object & verb	ursêr	<b>Lükok Lagöen du desç, ursêr Unëa di!</b> <i>Laguina attacked Lukok, and now Unia attacks Lukok!</i>
d* & verb	mîas	<b>Atsdöaseï Lirëa dikvël elëu mîas atâmerkî Keröra.</b> <i>Lirëa is cooking candy and Keröra is cooking vegetables.</i>
subject & object & d*	îars	<b>Eçikel meevë dik şast îars rômeş.</b> <i>He is cooking and salting the fish.</i>
subject & object & verb	nîêrz	<b>Atçikel meevë duk şast, nîêrz du.</b> <i>He was cooking the fish, and now he has cooked it.</i>
subject & d* & verb	înîez	<b>Lagöen Lükok du desç înîez Virködëa.</b> <i>Lukok attacked Laguina and Fircudia.</i>
object & d* & verb	szûr	<b>Emëisëi Keröra dikçë kest szûr Amalirëan.</b> <i>Keröra and Amalirëan are feeding the seakitties.</i>
all	zûîr	<b>Devî meevë duçë emöş, zûîr nazska!</b> <i>He killed Devî, and did it happily!</i>

These conjunctions are often used in colloquial speech to add a piece of information after one has already finished a sentence. For example, with the example sentence for *szûr*, a person might say, “Keröra is feeding the seakitties.” Then the speaker realizes that Amalirëan is, too, so s/he would add, “And so is Amalirëan” by additionally saying “*szûr Amalirëan.*” (Perhaps that sentence would be better translated as “Keröra is feeding the seakitties, and Amalirëan is too.”)

You may also ask what on earth *zûîr* is for. Again, it's useful if you want to add or emphasize information, as shown in the example. I can imagine a political agitator yelling, *Devî meevë duçë emöş!* “He killed Devî!”, and then an enraged listener adding, *Zûîr nazska!* “And did it happily!” Or perhaps the political agitator says *Devî meevë duçë emöş, zûîr nazska!* in the first place, to emphasize that Devî did it happily (as the translation implies).

*Mîas*, *înîez* and *szûr* can usually be replaced by using “and” mood on subjects or objects. In such cases in writing or in formal speech, using the conjunction instead of “and” mood is considered more

formal and stylized. But there are cases where the conjunctions are needed and a noun mood would not do. And, as seen above, they are used frequently in colloquial speech without any implication of formality.

## Noun phrases and adjectives

### *Position of modifiers*

In general, noun modifiers go in this order:

**noun** + modifying noun + quantifier + adjective + possessive + postp. phrase + demonstrative/interrogative + relative clause

**Melë-a-ölöi ma tûêmä kerulùr jädanë ulaëz ärv atlumùmje dia**

def.NOM-she-babies two tired-def.NOM def.POSS-lord.him def.POSTP.nom-table under-def.POSTP.nom this indef.ACC-custard.sauce d\*.past.subcls

*These two tired lord's baby girls on the table who ate custard sauce [as subjects]*

### *Adjective agreement*

Adjectives that modify nouns must agree with the case, definiteness and mood of the nouns they modify. There are some special rules when doing comparisons and superlatives with nouns, however – see the section on comparatives and superlatives for more information.

**Deämerki vist imste so:mëisë kätä mezöjaet sevmä dik mësölo.**

indef.ACC.and-vegetables some good-indef.ACC.and def.ACC.and-seakitty black-def.ACC.and def.NOM-wife-my clever-def.NOM d\*.pres-imp buy

*My clever wife is buying some good vegetables and the black seekitty.*

### *Adjective inflection*

Adjectives are usually not inflected, unless you want to use one of the tenses or moods to give additional information, or you are making a standalone “[Noun] is [adj]” statement in writing or in educated speech. Here are some examples of when you would use adjective inflection.

**Mezöjaet sënazmä.**

def.NOM-wife-my past-happy-def.NOM

*My wife used to be happy.*

**Atsdöase detençe deödsçe meevë dimek kest.**

indef.ACC-candy pres.or-green-indef.ACC pres.or-yellow-indef.ACC def.NOM-him d\*.pres-hab eat  
*He always eats green or yellow candy.*

**Mevölöšë sekûremä.**

def.NOM-evolution pres-stupid-def.NOM

*Evolution is stupid.*

The last example would most likely be an example of educated speech, since very few uneducated Lukokish speakers care or even know about evolution.

If there are multiple inflections with different moods but the same tense, it conveys the combined meaning of those moods with that tense.

**Mevè meşnesemäevë.**

def.NOM-me pres.very-tall-def.NOM-pres.neg

*I am not very tall.*

If there are multiple inflections with the same moods but different tenses, or multiple inflections with different moods and tenses, the meaning is the same as if there were separate adjectives, each with one inflection. E.g., there are two separate “occurrences” of this adjective combined into one word.

**Melë dersevmäevë.**

def.NOM-she past.neg-clever-def.NOM-pres.neg

*She was not clever and she still is not.*

**Mevè dameşnesemä.**

def.NOM-me recent.neg-pres.very-tall-def.NOM

*I used to not be tall, but now I am very tall.*

***How to say “X is adj”***

In normal speech, you would just give X as the subject of the sentence and put the adjective afterward.

**Memëisëet nazmä.**

def.NOM-seakitty-my happy-def.NOM



*My seakitty is happy.*

In educated speech, or in a book, you would inflect the adjective.

**Memëisëet seknazmä.**

def.NOM-seakitty-my pres-happy-def.NOM

*My seakitty is happy.*

But what if you want to use a verb mood? In this case, you would use the dummy noun, *a*, and say that X is an adj dummy-noun.

**Ata nazeçe memëisëet kîdâr.**

indef.ACC-dummy.noun happy-indef.ACC def.NOM-seakitty-my be-d\*.pres.hypo

*I hope my seakitty is happy.*

**Comparatives and superlatives**

Comparing the properties of nouns in Lukokish are all based on which noun agrees with the adjective. For example:

<b>Emlòme</b>	<b>meômëisë</b>	<b>kuçmet.</b>
def.ACC.comp-boy	def.NOM.comp-seakitty	dirty-def. <u>NOM</u> .comp
<i>The seakitty is dirtier than the boy.</i>		

Because “seakitty” is the subject, the question is how dirty the seakitty is in relation to the boy. Since “dirty” agrees with “seakitty,” the seakitty is said to be dirtier than the boy.

Another example:

<b>Emlòme</b>	<b>meômëisë</b>	<b>kuçêt.</b>
def.ACC.comp-boy	def.NOM.comp-seakitty	dirty-def. <u>ACC</u> .comp
<i>The seakitty is less dirty than the boy.</i>		

In this case, the question is still how dirty the seakitty is in comparison to the boy, but now “dirty” agrees with “boy” instead. So the seakitty is said to be less dirty than the boy.

Here's another case:

<b>Emlòme</b>	<b>meômëisë</b>	<b>kuçêt</b>	<b>kuçmet.</b>
def.ACC.comp-boy	def.NOM.comp-seakitty	dirty-def.ACC.comp	dirty-def.NOM.comp
<i>The seakitty is as dirty as the boy.</i>			

What if you wanted to say X is the most Y?

<b>Meômëisë</b>	<b>meşkuçmet.</b>
def.NOM.comp-seakitty	pres.very-dirty-def.NOM.comp
<i>The seakitty is the dirtiest.</i>	

You inflect the comparative adjective so it's in the augmentative mood. Note that if “seakitty” and “dirty” were not comparative, you would merely be saying that the seakitty is very dirty.

How can you say X is the least Y?

<b>Meômëisë</b>	<b>kuçêt.</b>
def.NOM.comp-seakitty	dirty-def.ACC.comp
<i>The seakitty is the least dirty.</i>	

You have the adjective agree with a nonexistent object.

Another question is what to do when you want to make a comparison, but then have the subject of that comparison serve another function in the sentence. For example, “The least dirty boy threw the ball,” or “The boy who is dirtier than the seakitty threw the ball.” The fact is that Lukokish only allows a noun to have one place in the sentence, so in proper Lukokish, you can't have one noun be compared to something and also do something else.

There are two options a speaker can choose from in order to communicate such statements. The first, which violates grammar rules, is generally only used by uneducated and lower-class speakers of Lukokish, and would result in something like this:

**Ejû melòme kuçêt du.**

def.ACC-ball def.NOM-boy dirty-def.ACC.comp d\*.past

*The least dirty boy threw the ball.*

Or this:

**Ejû melòme emmëisë kuçmet du.**

def.ACC-ball def.NOM-boy def.ACC.comp-seakitty dirty-def.NOM.comp d\*.past

*The boy who is dirtier than the seekitty threw the ball.*

In the first example, *kuçêt* is thrown in there even though it doesn't match up properly to *melòme* (since *melòme* is not comparative) or *atjû*. But it is understood to modify *melòme*, since it is directly afterwards. The second example is similar – it throws in *emmëisë kuçmet* after *melòme*, as if *melòme* were comparative. Both get the point across, but are not very grammatical and are considered a sort of slang by high-class Lukokish. They do things like this instead:

**Ejû melòme, meòlòme kuçêt, du.**

def.ACC-ball def.NOM-boy, def.NOM.comp-boy dirty-def.ACC.comp, d\*.past

*The least dirty boy threw the ball.*

Or this:

**Ejû melòme, emmëisë meòlòme kuçmet, du.**

def.ACC-ball def.NOM-boy, def.ACC.comp-seakitty def.NOM.comp-boy dirty-def.NOM.comp,  
d\*.past

*The boy who is dirtier than the seekitty threw the ball.*

The first example would translate to something like “The boy, the least dirty boy, threw the ball,” and the second would be “The boy, the boy who is dirtier than the cat, threw the ball.” It might seem a bit awkward, but it's grammatical and sounds more high-class to Lukokish speakers.

Things are treated the same way when you want to make two comparisons sharing one subject in the same sentence. For example, “The dirtiest boy is the least sad boy” in low-class, non-grammatical Lukokish:

**Meòlòme meşkuçmet röêt.**

def.NOM.comp-boy pres.very-dirty-def.NOM.comp sad-def.ACC.comp

*The dirtiest boy is the least sad boy.*

In grammatical, high-class Lukokish:

**Meòlòme, meòlòme meşkuçmet, röêt.**

def.NOM.comp-boy, def.NOM.comp-boy pres.very-dirty-def.NOM.comp, sad-def.ACC.comp

*The dirtiest boy is the least sad boy.*

In any more complicated situations, a speakers of Lukokish would generally just break what would be one sentence or one statement in English into several sentences or statements.

***Nouns modifying nouns***

When having a noun modify a noun, for example, “book writer,” you must take into consideration the poetic gender of each of the constituents. In the example, *mejë* “book” is categorized under Reason, and *zirek* “writer” goes under Imbalance. Then, you must see what category of poetic gender they would be put under if combined. In this case, a combination of Reason and Imbalance would be Imbalance. After this, use the final category to pick an infix to combine the two words.

Category	Infix
Imbalance	-a-
Balance	-i-
Reason	-o-
Beauty	-e-

So for the example, in the end you would have *mejë-a-zirek* “book writer.” The rules for combinations are as follows (with higher-numbered rules taking precedence):

1. Combining two things of the same type results in the same type.
2. A combination of Imbalance and any other category is Imbalance.

3. A combination of Balance and any other category is Imbalance.
4. Things are a bit more sticky when combining Reason and Beauty. According to the theory behind poetic gender, a combination of Reason and Beauty would be categorized under Balance. However, any time you give something the poetic gender of Balance, you are making the statement that it is close to God, very good and nearly perfect. So be careful when using this categorization. In general, non-educated Lukokish are more liberal in their use of the Balance gender, while educated Lukokish tend to be very careful about using it.

Scholars of Lukokish are not sure quite how the poetic gender, which is used so little in everyday speech, managed to become vital in doing something as basic as modifying nouns with nouns. The general consensus is that poetic gender was in fact more common in everyday speech in the past, but now its use has mostly died out among the uneducated.

### *Quantifiers*

Quantifiers are treated like any other number: put after the noun they modify.

#### ***Atmëisëi masea***

*A few seakitties [as objects]*

#### ***Melomei ëans***

*All boys [as subjects]*

## Verb phrases and adverbs

### *Position of modifiers*

In general, verb modifiers go in this order:

**d\* + verb + adverb + postp. phrase + commander**

#### ***Mevet di keşi menunskà kodanë ulaôik veşre.***

def.NOM-you.male d\*.pres search careful-VERB def.POSTP-table on-def.POSTP I-def.COM

*I order you [male] to carefully search on the table.*

### *Adverb inflection*

Any adjective can be turned into an adverb by adding an adverbial postfix to it. The kinetic, “relating to tense,” “relating to mood” and “relating to aspect” postfixes are used when an adverb is modifying

the movement, tense, mood or aspect marked by d\*. For example, you might want to say that you *really* far up the mountain, not just up it. Here's how you would say you just went up it:

**Esuçur meve dukèt çê.**

def.ACC-mountain def.NOM-me d\*.past-up go

*I went up the mountain.*

If you wanted to say you went really far up the mountain, you would be modifying the movement marked by d\* (up), so you would use a kinetic adverbial postfix on “really”:

**Esuçur meve dukèt çê josdek.**

def.ACC-mountain def.NOM-me d\*.past-up go very-ADV.kinetic

*I went really far up the mountain.*

The comparative adverbial postfixes are used when comparing adverbs (e.g. “more quickly,” “less quickly,” “just as quickly”). -*sik* is used when having an adverb modify another adverb. Finally, the general adverbial postfix is used in all other cases.

**Melë du di kest jelesdî mîas meevë jelesîö.**

def.NOM-she d\*.past d\*.pres eat fast-ADV.comp.more vconj.verb.d\* def.NOM-he fast-ADV.comp.less

*She eats more quickly than he does.*

**Melë du di kest jeleska elvisik.**

def.NOM-she d\*.past d\*.pres eat fast-ADV too-ADV.adv

*She eats too quickly.*

**Melë du di kest jeleska.**

def.NOM-she d\*.past d\*.pres eat fast-ADV

*She eats quickly.*

### *Comparatives and superlatives*

What if you wanted to do comparisons with adverbs and verbs, for example, “The seakitty is eating more quickly than the boy”? In such a case, you would make the original adjective (“quick”) verbal comparative, and since the seakitty (the subject) is eating more quickly, you would use the “more” verbal comparative postfix. The boy would be another subject, and he would use the word “quick”

with a verbal comparative less postfix. Note that any subjects, objects, indirect objects, etc. do *not* need to be in comparative mood. Only the adverbs need to be comparative.

**Memëisë dik kest jelesdî mîas melòme jelesîö.**

def.NOM-seakitty d\*.pres-imp eat fast-ADV.comp.more vconj.d\*.verb def.NOM-boy fast-ADV.comp.less

*The seekitty is eating more quickly than the boy.*

A literal translation would go something like “The seekitty is eating more quickly and the boy is eating less quickly.” Note how the verbal conjunction *mîas* is used so that “boy” shares *d\** and the verb, “eat.”

If you wanted to say “The seekitty is eating less quickly than the boy,” you would switch around the verbal comparative postfixes like this:

**Memëisë dik kest jelesîö mîas melòme jelesdî.**

def.NOM-seakitty d\*.pres-imp eat fast-ADV.comp.less vconj.d\*.verb def.NOM-boy fast-ADV.comp.more

*The seekitty is eating less quickly than the boy.*

If you wanted to say that they were eating just as quickly as each other, you would use the verbal comparative equal postfix on both adverbs:

**Memëisë dik kest jeleäds mîas melòme jeleäds.**

def.NOM-seakitty d\*.pres-imp eat fast-ADV.comp.equal vconj.d\*.verb def.NOM-boy fast-ADV.comp.equal

*The seekitty is eating as quickly as the boy.*

What if you throw some objects into the mix, such as “The seekitty is eating the fish as fast as the boy is eating it”? Well, if they are eating the same fish, you would include an object normally, and then use the verbal conjunction for sharing *d\**, verb and object instead of the one that only shares *d\** and verb. Example:

**Eçikel memëisë dik kest jeleäds szûr melòme jeleäds.**

def.ACC-fish def.NOM-seakitty d\*.pres-imp eat fast-ADV.comp.equal vconj.d\*.verb.obj

def.NOM-boy fast-ADV.comp.equal

*The seakitty is eating the fish as quickly as the boy is eating it.*

But if they were eating *different* fish, you would have two separate objects, and use the conjunction that only shares d\* and verb:

**Eçikelët memëisë dik kest jelesdî mîas eçikelav melòme jelesîö.**

def.ACC-fish-her def.NOM-seakitty d\*.pres-imp eat fast-ADV.comp.more vconj.d\*.verb

def.ACC-fish-his def.NOM-boy fast-ADV.comp.less

*The seakitty is eating her fish more quickly than the boy is eating his.*

What if you are comparing two different actions? For example, “The boy is eating his fish more quickly than a clever woman gives away bad vegetables”? In such a case, you would not use verbal conjunctions at all. You would basically be making two separate statements, but with “quickly” in both cases being comparative. Example:

**Eçikelav melòme dik kest jelesdî, atâmerkî eslkçe ötlèmo sevço dukçë di enêru jelesîö.**

def.ACC-fish-his def.NOM-boy d\*.pres-imp eat fast-ADV.comp.more, indef.ACC-vegetables

bad-indef.ACC indef.NOM-woman clever-indef.NOM d\*.past-imp-away d\*.pres give fast-ADV.comp.less

*The boy is eating his fish more quickly than a clever woman gives away bad vegetables.*

### *Timing and numbering of verbs*

To say that an action happened at a certain time, use one of the time adjectives inflected as an adverb relating to tense. For example, to say that “The sun will shine tomorrow,” you would use *ëkas* “tomorrow, tomorrow's” in this way:

**Meamer dê ëkasëur.**

def.NOM-sun d\*.soon tomorrow-ADV.tense

*The sun will shine tomorrow.*

To say that an action happened a certain number of times, inflect this number as a normal adverb.

**Atlumùmjeët memëisëet du kest metska.**

indef.ACC-custard.sauce-her def.NOM-seakitty-my d\*.past eat two-ADV

*My seakitty ate her custard sauce twice.*



Note that some numbers generally take different forms when they are used as adverbs; see the section on Numbers under Using Nouns for more information.

## Pronouns

### *The personal pronouns*

When using a pronoun, you still need case marking (e.g. in “I threw the ball,” you would not just use *ve* for “me” - you would use *meve*). Note that the indefinite (that is, “a”) case markings are still used on pronouns. Because of this, speakers of Lukokish will often say something directly translating to “a she” instead of something like “a girl.”

DESCRIPTION	WORD
Me	ve
You, male	vet
You, female	vīt
You, plural	vöt
He/Him	evë
She/Her	lë
We/us, exclusive	vīl
We/us, inclusive	vevet
He, plural	evī
She, plural	līt
Them (mixed gender)	evīt
It	lëv
It, plural	lërv

**Atjû meve dik.**

*I am throwing a ball.*

**Esasenëv ötlit di slä.**

*A group of women are in your shop.*

## The impersonal pronouns

There are four impersonal pronouns in Lukokish:

	Singular	Plural
Human	çem	çim
Non-Human	çulm	çulma

The human singular impersonal can be translated as “one” or “you” or “a person” - basically, a person in general. The human plural impersonal can be translated as “everybody” or “people” - basically, people in general. Again, you still must use case markings; usually the indefinite ones are used.

### **Atrèketek ötçem daç di dövşem devı anenäska.**

indef.ACC-dish-hum.imper.sing's indef.NOM-hum.imper.sing d\*.past.could d\*.pres  
d\*.pres.neg.subcls-through destroy should-adv  
*One should not smash one's dish.*

### **Ötçim ûrëço.**

indef.NOM-hum.imper.pl foolish-indef.NOM  
*People are foolish.*

The non-human impersonal pronouns are similar – they refer to non-human things in general. But they can also take on the meaning of a specific non-human noun in general. For example, you could say, “The lord was not in a *çulm*,” and it would mean that the lord wasn't anywhere.

### **Ötçulma du di emöş.**

indef.NOM-nonhum.imper.pl d\*.past d\*.pres die  
*Things die.*

### **Atçulm meulür duv slä.**

indef.NOM-nonhum.imper.sing def.NOM-lord d\*.past.neg be.somewhere  
*The lord was not anywhere.*

## Interrogative and demonstrative pronouns

There is one interrogative pronoun and three demonstrative pronouns in Lukokish:

Description	Pronoun
Interrogative (what)	ävne
Demonstrative #1 (this)	ärv
Demonstrative #2 (that)	ëmäv
Demonstrative #3	emärv

Each of these pronouns can either modify a noun or stand alone as a noun. When modifying a noun, put the interrogative or demonstrative pronoun immediately afterward with no inflection:

**Elumùmjeet ötmëisë ävne du kest?**

def.ACC-custard.sauce-my indef.NOM-seakitty what d\*.past eat

*What seekitty ate my custard sauce?*

When standing alone as a noun, an interrogative or demonstrative pronoun must be inflected with case markings, etc. as usual:

**Ekëzërek meëmäv kîdi.**

def.ACC-traitor def.NOM-that be-d\*.pres

*That is the traitor.*

**Evît ötävne du desc?**

def.ACC-you.fem indef.NOM-what d\*.past attack

*What attacked you?*

## Adpositional phrases

### Overview

There are two adpositional systems in Lukokish: the normal postpositional system and the system known as the Laguine adpositional system. The normal postpositional system was developed in Middle Lukokish, and treats postpositions as a special kind of adjectives. The Laguine adpositional system comes from the original adpositional system in Old Lukokish, but with influences from the current Laguine system.

What are the differences? Normal postpositional phrases are quite strict about specifying what sort of word they are modifying, while Lagune adpositional phrases are comparatively loose. Normal postpositional phrases are used for all purposes across all class levels, while Lagune adpositional phrases are used more frequently in poetic or figurative speech and by higher classes (though they are still and increasingly common in normal, low-class speech). Finally, Lagune adpositions have a significant restriction: they can only be used in one standalone statement. For example, you can say, “He is using the frying pan” via a Lagune adpositional phrase (literally “he is the user of the frying pan,” or even more literally, “the user of the frying pan is him”), *Eevë merəkëluesk dik*, but you could not say “He is using the frying pan to cook” with a Lagune adposition.

### *Normal postpositions*

First of all, the object of a postpositional phrase must be a noun or a verb phrase in subclause mood. If it is a noun, it must use one of the postpositional noun case inflections. If this postpositional phrase modifies a noun, the object must match the case of the noun. If the postpositional phrase modifies a verb, the object must use a verbal postpositional case inflection. If the postpositional phrase modifies an adjective, the object must use an adjectival postpositional case inflection. The object's also marks definiteness (“a” or “the”); this is based on the definiteness of the object itself – it need not match the definiteness of what it modifies! If the object of a postpositional phrase is a verb phrase, then it need not be marked in any way; it just must be in subclause mood.

#### **Memëisë jälie zësöz dik kest.**

def.NOM-seakitty def.POSTP.nom-tree under-def.POSTP.nom d\*.pres-imp eat  
*The seekitty under the tree is eating.*

#### **Ötven du näk kodanë ulaôik.**

indef.NOM-fretoriod d\*.past jump def.POSTP.verb-table on-def.POSTP.verb  
*A fretoriod jumped on the table.*

#### **Mekerör drilmä kënnuken mötën.**

def.NOM-flower blue-def.NOM indef.POSTP.adj-sea like-indef.POSTP.aj  
*The flower is blue like a sea.*

#### **Ötçem daç dös kězër atoï ötçem da:mçë di:m emöş nùdeok.**

indef.NOM-imper.sing d\*.past.could d\*.pres.could commit.treason indef.ACC-people indef.NOM-imper.sing d\*.past.subcls.hypo-away d\*.pres.subcls.hypo die without-indef.POSTP.verb  
*You can commit treason without killing people.*

A normal postpositional phrase treats postpositions as adjectives, and so they are inflected with the postpositional adjective inflections. If the object of the postpositional phrase is a noun, the postposition is inflected to match the case and definiteness of the object. If the object is a verbal phrase, the postposition is inflected to match what would have been the case and definiteness of the object, if it had been a noun. E.g. in the example *Ötçem daç dös kězër atoï ötçem da:mçë di:m emöş nùdeok* “You can commit treason without killing people,” *nùdeok* “without” is given the indefinite verbal postpositional inflection. It's indefinite because this is *an* instance of killing people you're talking about; verbal because it modifies a verb; and postpositional because it's a postposition.

As with other adjectives, the postposition comes after the object of the phrase. Here are the same examples with the postpositions highlighted:

**Memëisë jãlie zësöz dik kest.**

def.NOM-seakitty def.POSTP.nom-tree under-def.POSTP.nom d\*.pres-imp eat  
*The seekitty under the tree is eating.*

**Ötven du nãk kodanë ulaôik.**

indef.NOM-fretoriod d\*.past jump def.POSTP.verb-table on-def.POSTP.verb  
*A fretoriod jumped on the table.*

**Mekerör drïlmã kënnuken mötën.**

def.NOM-flower blue-def.NOM indef.POSTP.adj-sea like-indef.POSTP.aj  
*The flower is blue like a sea.*

**Ötçem daç dös kězër atoï ötçem da:mçë di:m emöş nùdeok.**

indef.NOM-imper.sing d\*.past.could d\*.pres.could commit.treason indef.ACC-people indef.NOM-imper.sing d\*.past.subcls.hypo-away d\*.pres.subcls.hypo die without-indef.POSTP.verb  
*You can commit treason without killing people.*

***Using Laguine adpositions***

Laguine adpositional statements have three parts: the subject, which the adposition is marked on, the optional object, which is generally what *is* this, and *d\**. For example, take the adpositional postfix *-ek*, “with.” Perhaps you wanted to say “The seekitty is with the sheep.” The subject would be “sheep,” because this is what the adposition “with” is modifying, and so it would be postfixed with *-ek*. The object would be “seekitty,” since this is what *is* with the sheep. Finally, there would be *d\** to

convey normal verb information. Note that the “be” prefix kî- is *not* used on d\* in Laguine adpositional statements. Here's the final example:

**Emëisë metuvek di.**

def.ACC-seakitty def.NOM-sheep-ladp.with d\*.pres

*The seekitty is with the sheep.*

Since Laguine adpositional phrases use d\*, they are treated as full verb phrases. For example, it's easy to say “She went to the store with a sheep” with normal postpositions:

**Esasen melë du içê kituv sdeok.**

def.ACC-store def.NOM-she d\*.past travel indef.POSTP.verb-sheep with-indef.POSTP.verb

*She went to the store with a sheep.*

But you can't say “She went to the store with a sheep” in the same way with Laguine adpositions. You'd have to say something along the lines of “She, who was with a sheep, went to the store,” using a Laguine adpositional phrase in subclause mood, since, again, Laguine adpositional phrases are treated as verb phrases. This statement is also more ambiguous – was she with the sheep when she went to the store, or was she with a sheep just sometime in the past?

**Esasen melë elë öttuvek dia du içê.**

def.ACC-store def.NOM-she def.ACC-she indef.NOM-sheep-ladp.with d\*.past.subcls d\*.past travel

*She went to the store with a sheep.*

There are four different sets of Laguine adpositions. The first set allows nouns, verbs and adjectives to be used as subjects. The second set only allows nouns as subjects; the third set only allows verbs as subjects; the fourth set only allows adjectives as subjects. In a case where you use a verb or adjective as a subject, treat it as a noun – take the root non-noun word and apply noun cases to it as if it were one. In the below example, *ûrë* “foolish” is given the indefinite nominative noun case prefix *öt-* just as any normal noun might be. Using non-nouns in this way would be totally ungrammatical in normal Lukokish, but it is accepted in Laguine adpositional phrases.

**Eevë ötûrëas di.**

def.ACC-he indef.NOM-foolish-ladp.person.w.attribute d\*.pres

*He is a foolish person.*

There is a lot of debate about how exactly Lukokish acquired these peculiar additional adpositions. Most scholars agree that they came from a combination of relics of Middle Lukokish postpositions and influence from the modern-day Laguine adpositional system (which is quite similar). The strangest thing of all is that these Laguine adpositions seem to be related somehow to the derivational morphology of Lukokish. For example, the augmentative Laguine adposition, *-ani*, is remarkably similar to the augmentative postfix from derivational morphology, *-an*. The adpositional postfix for “without,” *-ent*, is identical to the infix for “without,” *-ent-*, from derivational morphology. Scholars argue a great deal nowadays on how they are related, but the general consensus is that modern-day Lukokish derivational morphology originally came from the Middle Lukokish postpositional system.

### *Laguine adpositions for nouns, verbs and adjectives*

**Augmentative:** *-ani*

*Mesēsani di* “The fire is big”

**Diminutive:** *-ški*

*Melòmęski di* “The boy is small”

**Comes from:** *-âk*

*Evä Lükorâk di* “He comes from Lukok”

**With:** *-ek*

*Emëisë metuvek di* “The seakitty is with the sheep”

**Without:** *-ent*

*Atşaz merönent du di* “Şaz is without water”

**Resulting from:** *-te*

*Meçav dia menesavte jälë êalëz di* “He talked because of his love for her”

**Like:** *-se*

*Evä ötsëkease di* “He is like day”

**Opposite of:** *-uns*

*Atön ötsëkeaus du di* “Night is the opposite of day”

**Collection of:** *-etä*

*Eëmäv öttuvetä di* “That is a herd of sheep”

### *Laguine adpositions for nouns only*

**User of:** *-esk*

*Evä merekëluesk dik* “He is using the frying pan”

**Creator of/cause of:** *-şu*

*Elë ötmejëşu du* “She wrote a book”

**Destroyer of (stronger):** -osm

*Elòme meçikelosm du* “The boy gobbled the fish”

**Destroyer of (softer):** -om

*Elòme meçikelom du* “The boy ate the fish”

**Made of:** -elk

*Ekerèt ötaëlelk di* “Her face is made of light”

**Larger than/this in general/meaning of this:** -st or -est

*Du atnès meşurekinavest?* “Was love the meaning of his drawing?”

**Smaller part of:** -arst

*Attorèl öttolarst di* “An atom is a smaller part of matter”

**Person who gives/provides/facilitates this:** -uşz

*Bö ötkëzëruşz di!* “Bö facilitates treason!”

**Tool for creating:** -nêt

*Atevölöşë ker-Këşun melotênêt du* “Evolution was God's tool for creating mankind”

*Laguine adpositions for verbs only*

**Instance of this action:** -tu

*Eşùrekinav ötkëzërta di* “His drawing is an instance of treason”

**What this is done to:** -le

*Atjaeveï ötzërle di* “The Jaeve are hated”

**Reason for doing this:** -rö

*Meçav dia elë meevë diçë mêlorö* “He talked because he loves her”

*Laguine adpositions for adjectives only*

**Thing that has this attribute (usually in general):** -va

*Atmëisë ötjeleva du di* “Seakitties are fast”

**Thing that gives others this attribute:** -klë

*Atçens ötneseklë du di* “Rain makes things tall”

**Person who has this attribute:** -as

*Eevë ötûrëas di* “He is a foolish person”

**Person who gives others this attribute:** -il

*Elë atnazil di* “She makes others happy”

**Sentences**

*Word order*



In theory, the case system in Lukokish could give it a fairly free word order. But in practice, Lukokish has quite a strict word order. Some forms of speech and writing, like particular kinds of poetry, meddle with this order, but this is the exception. In sentences that are not questions, the ordering generally goes like this:

object – indirect object – subject – verb – adverbs

**Atven nîlē meevë duçë enêru amsöleşska kosämerav vëlôik.**

indef.ACC-fretorioid def.DAT-her def.NOM-him d\*.past-away give cheerful-adv def.POSTP.verb-house-his in-def.POSTP.verb

*He cheerfully gave a fretorioid to her at his house.*

In questions, the verb comes before the subject.

**Even nîvît duçë enêru Virülëan?**

def.ACC-fretorioid def.DAT-you.fem d\*.past-away give Virülëan

*Did Virülëan give you the fretorioid?*

To bring attention to a specific word of the sentence, put *eë* before it. This is often used where the passive voice would be used in English.

**Even ëmäv nîvît duçë enêru eë Virülëan?**

def.ACC-fretorioid that def.DAT-you.fem d\*.past-away give emphasis Virülëan

*Did Virülëan give you that fretorioid?*

**Eë Lüos Devî duçë emöş.**

emphasis Lüos Devî d\*.past-away kill

*Luos was killed by Devî.*

## **Negatives**

The simplest way to negate a statement is to use a verb or adjective in negated mood.

**Lagöena Osultâk Devî duy desç.**

Laguina King Devî d\*.past.neg attack

*King Devî did not attack Laguina.*

**Mememşet ukeëntmäevë.**

def.NOM-mother-my stern-def.NOM-pres.neg

*My mother is not stern.*

The impersonal pronouns replace words like “nobody” and “nowhere.” The human impersonal pronouns replace “nobody” and “no[human noun]”; the non-human impersonal pronouns replace “nowhere” and “no[any other non-human noun].” In all of these cases, you would need to use a negated verb or adjective in addition to show that this is talking about *no* person or place or whatever it is.

**Lagöena ötçem Lukorâk deçë mêlo.**

Laguina indef.NOM-hum.imper.sing Lukokish d\*.pres.neg-away love

*No Lukokish person loves Laguina.*

**Eçulm memëisëet de slä.**

def.ACC-nonhum.imper.sing def.NOM-seakitty-my d\*.pres.neg be.somewhere

*My seekitty is nowhere.*

**Questions**

**Yes-no questions** are indicated by putting the verb before the subject. In high-class or educated speech, you would also put the verb in hypothetical mood.

**Ejû du melòme?**

def.ACC-ball d\*.past def.NOM-boy

*Did the boy throw the ball?*

**Ejû dëç melòme?**

def.ACC-ball d\*.past.hypo def.NOM-boy

*Did the boy throw the ball?*

A yes-no question can be answered in the affirmative by repeating d\*, or in the negative by giving a d\* in negated mood (with all other parts of d\* identical to d\* in the original question).

**-Dös nâk meölöiev?**

*Can your baby jump?*

**-Dös.**

Yes.

**-De.**

No.

Questions with **who, what, where, etc.** are identical to normal statements besides using interrogative pronouns.

**Esan ävnë Lumëan di slä?**

*Where is Lumëan?* [Lit., in what place is Lumëan?]

**Comparison questions** are worded just like normal statements – the fact that such a sentence is a question must be indicated by tone, body language, etc. They're answered in much the same way as normal questions – by repeating the adjective or inflecting it differently to correct the comparison.

**-Emazinan ëmäv meôazinan ärv e:smet?**

*Is this road longer than that road?*

**-E:smet.**

Yes.

**-E:sêt.**

*No, the other road is longer.*

**-E:smetevë.**

No.

**-Meôazinan meşe:smet?**

*Is that road the longest?*

**-Meşe:smet.**

Yes.

**-Meşe:smetevë.**

No.

### **Subclauses**

Subclauses can be used to modify nouns or they can stand in for subjects and objects. All verbs in subclauses must be in subclause mood. Otherwise, a subclause is no different from any other statement. A subclause modifying a noun must come after the noun. If the noun the subclause modifies is anything other than the object or subject of the subclause, it must be repeated with the proper inflection within the subclause.

**Memëisë elumùmjeet dia kest dik nāk kodäneëv ulaôik.**

def.NOM-seakitty def.ACC-custard.sauce-my d\*.past.subcls eat d\*.pres-imp jump def.POSTP.verb-table-your.male on-def.POSTP.verb

*The seekitty who ate my custard sauce is jumping on your table.*

**Atven nīve melòme ëmäv di:mçë enêru meve di ivt.**

indef.ACC-fretoriod def.DAT-me def.NOM-boy that d\*.pres.hypo.subcls-away give def.NOM-me d\*.pres wish

*I wish that boy would give me a fretoriod.*

**Meörän Remë dik sdek kolëv ulaôik ösmä.**

def.NOM-bed Remë d\*.pres-imp sit def.POSTP.verb-it on-def.POSTP.verb white-def.NOM

*The bed that Remë is sitting on is white.*

### **Conjunctions**

There are two kinds of conjunctions in Lukokish: phrase conjunctions and word conjunctions. Phrase conjunctions can only join phrases; word conjunctions can only join words. For both types, the conjunction must come before both parts that it is joining. Verbal conjunctions are often used with phrase conjunctions, in which case they must come after the phrase conjunction. Word conjunctions can join any type of word – nouns, adjectives, verbs, anything. Do note that the conjunctions “and” and “or” can often be replaced by moods in adjectives or nouns, however.

**De:me Jàrin dia emöş mejitësk du, de:me ursêr meve duv.**

but Jàrin d\*.past-subcls die def.NOM-brains-hum.imper.pl's d\*.past, but vconj.verb.obj def.NOM-me d\*.past.neg

*People thought Jàrin died, but I didn't think so.*

**Meevë du şente eveëm şente irlîrz.**

def.NOM-him d\*.past or understand or lie

*He either understood or lied.*