Pedin Edhellen

a Sindarin-Course

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PREFACE

This course was originally only a small project I made up for myself to train the material presented on the German website `www.sindarin.de` with additional texts and some structure in terms of lessons. It clearly got out of hand since then.

As I write these lines, the second German version is out for download, as far as I can observe the course has become one of 'the' standard documents for German Sindarin students in the web-based community (before they move on to `www.ardalambion.com`), an exercise book is being prepared and I wrote a similar Quenya course which is now being reviwed. So —here's the English translation.

I think for a beginner the charm of this course is that he or she is confronted with Sindarin texts from the very beginning, thus one has the opportunity to get into the feeling of how this language is used, which is hard to imagine if one reads through one of Helge Fauskanger's essay —these are certainly much better from a linguistic point of view but I think most of the readers do not want to become linguists but rather just use the language. If you belong to this group: This course is written for you. If you are interested into the intricate background of the material presented here, then Helge Fauskanger's article `http://www.uib.no/People/hnohf/sindarin.htm` is the best place to look.

The course consists of two parts: The first part deals with basic knowledge with the aim to teach what is more or less regular in the language. Additional sections on the writing of Elvish in tengwar and (not too serious) conversation chapters offer additional information (not needed to go through the rest of the course). In the second part, the main topic are the exceptions and the more speculative interpretations of the original texts

The main problem when one discusses Sindarin is that there are too few actual text samples from Tolkien which would tell us how the language is really used. Furthermore, we do not know central parts of the grammar, such as many pronouns. Many forms and rules that appear in this course are therefore to some degree speculation. In order not to hide this from the reader, the following scheme is consistently used:

Any forms presented in Helge Fauskanger's article are quoted without further comment. Reconstructions done by myself of by others known to me are marked with a '*' if they are

single forms. Longer texts based on some degree of speculation are greyed out. If some form is especially uncertain, additional remarks are made even in greyed sections.

One should therefore not be tempted to believe greyed sections or forms marked with a '*' as 'right' in the sense that other theories are wrong: Often many interpretations of a form are possible and I have tried to pick the most likely one, but that does not make the others wrong, only, according to my opinion, less likely.

In general, no explanations are given why a particular reconstruction takes a particular shape —these can get quite lengthy (for a single form frequently several pages) and would blow up the number of pages of this course close to infinity.

So —a final remark: Please do not let yourself be deceived by the absence of contradictions in this course that this reflects a high degree of certainty of our knowledge of Sindarin: This is not the case. Typically, less than three examples are at the base of some rule, and everyone doing data analysis will immediately realize that one cannot get firm conclusions in such a situation. Publication of further texts from Tolkien might easily change one or several of the forms presented here (and have indeed done so in the past).

Anyone who is interested in the background of how the grammar of Sindarin is derived from the available information should use `www.ardalambion.com` as a starting point —but be warned, it soon gets very technical.

Regarding the second part of the course: This part contains in some places conclusions which are highly controversial. However, usually these controversely discussed topics are potentially of enormous importance for the use of Sindarin (such as passive constructions or subjunctive expressions). Therefore, I will present one interpretation of these forms (in greyed sections) in this course. Since this is a beginners course to Sindarin and not an essay on grammar, I will not present any alternative views, nor will I discuss the arguments for and against each theory. The view presented here is the one I consider most likely given all available evidence, but my views may easily change (and in fact, so will this course) if more evidence becomes available. The reader would be well advised to study some of the alternative interpretations and make up his own mind before using the constructions presented here in his own texts or starting grammar discussions.

* * *

In the version 2, several striking differences to the presentation as currently found on Ardalambion occur. This reflects to a large degree very fruitful discussions with Carl Hostetter, Bertrand Bellet, Aaron Shaw and Florian "Lothenon" Dombach (whom I'd like to thank very much) and ultimately my own research into Tolkien's fascinating writings as well as the publication of several relevant pieces of evidence. The reasoning underlying the changes can be found in a series of grammar articles on my site **Parma Tyelpelassiva**:

Mutations in Sindarin:
`http://www.phy.duke.edu/~trenk/elvish/mutations.html`

The Sindarin Verb System:
`http://www.phy.duke.edu/~trenk/elvish/verbs.html`

Common Eldarin Views on the Sindarin Pronomial System
`http://www.phy.duke.edu/~trenk/elvish/pron_rek.html`

Impersonal Constructions in Elvish
`http://www.phy.duke.edu/~trenk/elvish/impersonal.html`

I certainly hope that Helge Fauskanger will eventually come to adopt some of these views in his presentation of Sindarin grammar, but only time and release of new publications can help to clarify the more obscure issues.

With many thanks to Eirien, Míriel, Ithrenwen, Giliathiell, Penenûr, Lothenon, Calar, Maewen and many others who have given helpful comments, criticism and other support.

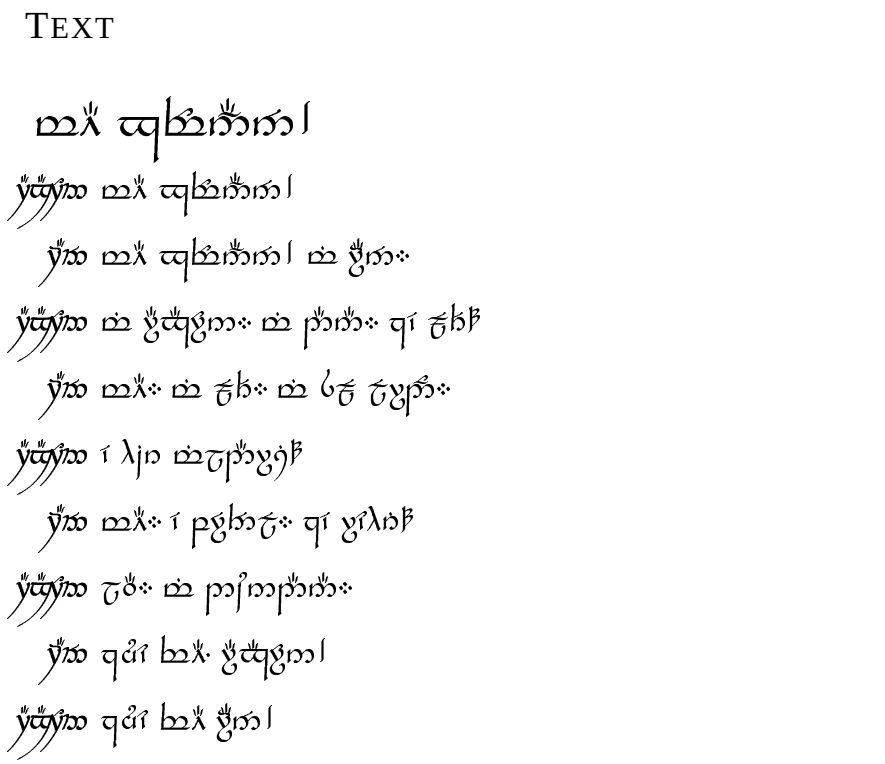
Part I - Basic Knowledge

Flee, darkness!

Lesson 1

PERSONAL PRONOUNS AND GENITIVE

1.1 TEXT



Mae govannen!

Aragorn: Mae govannen!
Arwen: Mae govannen! Im Arwen.
Aragorn: Im Aragorn. Im adan. Ce elleth?
Arwen: Mae. Im elleth. Im sell Elrond.
Aragorn: E hîr Imladris?
Arwen: Mae. E peredhel. Ce Rohir?
Aragorn: Law. Im Dúnadan.
Arwen: Cuio vae, Aragorn!
Aragorn: Cuio vae, Arwen!

Well met!

Aragorn: Well met!
Arwen: Well met! I'm Arwen.
Aragorn: I'm Aragorn, a human. Are you an elven-maiden?
Arwen: Yes, I am an elven-maiden. I am Elrond's daughter.
Aragorn: He is the lord of Rivendell?
Arwen: Yes. He is a half-elf. Are you from the Rohirrim?
Aragorn: No. I am a Dúnadan.
Arwen: Farewell, Aragorn!
Aragorn: Farewell, Arwen.

1.2 GRAMMAR

1.2.1 The genitive

The genitive singular is often expressed using the article **en** which can roughly be translated as 'of'. It is mostly used if the noun in genitive is not a name, like in

cabed en aras (leap of the deer)

If the noun in genitive is a name, the usually the **en** is left out, although it is still permissible to use it:

aran Gondor (king of Gondor)
aran en Echoriath (king of Echoriath)

Likewise, it is unusual but permissible to leave out **en** in constructions which do not involve a name. For the question of definite genitive ('of the') or indefinite genitive ('of a') this makes no strict difference, although there seems to be a tendency to prefer **en** for the definite genitive. In some circumstances (see lesson 12) the form **en** is shortened to **e**. In plural, the genitive is expressed using **in**. This can be left out as well:

ion in erain (sons of the kings)
aran in erais (king of the deers)
aran Ennorath (king of the Inner Lands)

An additional form (though seldom used) is **i** instead of **en**. Similarly there is the ancient pair **na** (singular) and **nia** (plural) to express genitive:

cabed i aras (leap of the deer)
aras na aran (deer of the king)
ion nia erain (sons of the kings)

If the second word of such a genitive construction starts with a consonant, usually shifts of that consonant, so-called mutations take place. We will discuss those later on in lessons 3 and 12.

1.2.2 Personal pronouns

Sindarin has a courteous or formal form of 2nd person pronouns used to address high-ranking personalities and possibly strangers. Presubamly there's no difference between 2nd person singular and plural.

The Sindarin pronouns in nominative are:

Subject	Singular	Plural
1. Person	im (I)	mín (we)
2. Person (formal)	*le (thou)	*le (thou)
2. Person	*ce (you)	*ce (you)
3. Person (male)	e,*so (he)	*sy (they)
3. Person (female)	*e, *se (she)	*si (they)
3. Person (things)	*sa (it)	*sai (they)

Presumably, the male and female forms **sy** and **si** are only used if a group is known to be all-female (all-male). Otherwise, it is better to use (like for things) **sai** as a gender-neutral version.

It is likely that Sindarin actually has several sets of pronouns —additional emphatic ones ('even I') and reflexive ones ('I myself') and that those are mixed in the above table. However, for the beginner it is better not to be confronted with a pronomial table with 90% hypothetical forms. Moreover, the forms above are most likely recognized by every Sindarin community.

Presumably, there's no explicit word for 'to be' in Sindarin, at least as long as the context is unambiguous. On the other hand, in all other verbs the personal pronoun is expressed via the verbal ending (see lesson 2), so there is no need for nominative pronouns most of the time. This leads to the idea that writing out personal pronouns explicitly is a way of expressing 'to be' in Sindarin:

Im Arwen. (I [am] Arwen.)
Ce aran. (You [are] King.)

Other pronouns can presumably be used in a similar fashion.

1.2.3 The definite and indefinite article

In Sindarin, there is no word for the indefinite article 'a' - it is simply left out and needs to be introduced if necessary when translating from Sindarin:

edhel ('elf' or 'an elf')
aran ('king' or 'a king')

The definite article in Sindarin is **i** in singular and **in** in plural. With the exception of pronouns and a few nouns derived with gender-specific endings, Sindarin does not distinguish nouns of different gender, hence the article does not assume distinct forms in front of male or female nouns. The article is written in front of the word it refers to

i edhel (the elf)
in ion (the sons)

Gramatically, the article is closely connected with the noun - often this is expressed in writing also:

iRath (the way)

If a noun begins with a consonant, the definite article is also likely to cause consonant shifts. We will discuss these in some detail in lessons 3 and 4.

1.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English
adan (pl. edain)	human
aran (pl. erain)	king
aras (pl. erais)	deer
cabed	leap
cuio vae!	farewell!
edhel (pl. edhil)	elf
elleth (pl. ellith)	elf-maiden
Ennorath	Middle Earth (lit. Inner Lands)
hîr (pl. hîr)	lord
Imladris	Rivendell
ion (pl. ion)	son, son
*law	no (denying fact, not intention)
mae	well, *yes
mae govannen	well met
methed	end
peredhel	half-elf
rath (pl. raith)	way, path
sell (pl. sill)	daughter

1.4 TENGWAR

1.4.1 General Remarks

In order to write Sindarin like the elves would have done, it is necessary to learn tengwar, the Elvish script. For the beginner the arguably greatest source of confusion lies in the fact that a single character ('têw') does not correspond to a single sound, but that this correspondence is altered according to which 'mode' one writes —there is a different tengwar system for writing Quenya than for Sindarin, and even Sindarin can be written in (at least) two different modes with different sounds for a given sign —the general Sindarin mode (also called Sindarin tehtar mode) and the mode if Beleriand.

What remains fixed however are the relations between the characters, independent of their sounds. In the following, we will start by discussing the general Sindarin mode, which is used in most of this course.

1.4.2 The 12 basic signs

Basis of the tengwar system are two characters which consist only of a stem ('telco') and a bow ('luva'): ᚹ and ᚳ. By adding a small line, one gets two more characters, all together tinco ᚹ parma ᚹ calma ᚳ and quesse ᚳ. However, in the general Sindarin mode, all

characters derived from calma are not used: the main purpose of their existence is the writing of Quenya.

In the general mode, the sounds expressed by tinco, parma and quesse are t, p and c(k).

One finds three additional sounds by adding a second bow to make the sound softer. In this way, ando, umbar, and ungwe are derived, corresponding to the sounds d, b, and g.

By extending the telco upward one 'adds an h' to the sounds, resulting in thule, formen and hwesta, corresponding to the sounds th, f and ch.

The last three of the basic signs are found by combining the two methods described above: adding a luva and extending the telco. Hence one finds anto, ampa and unque with the sounds dh, v and gh.

We end up with the following table:

t	p	c(k)
d	b	g
th	f	ch
dh	v	gh

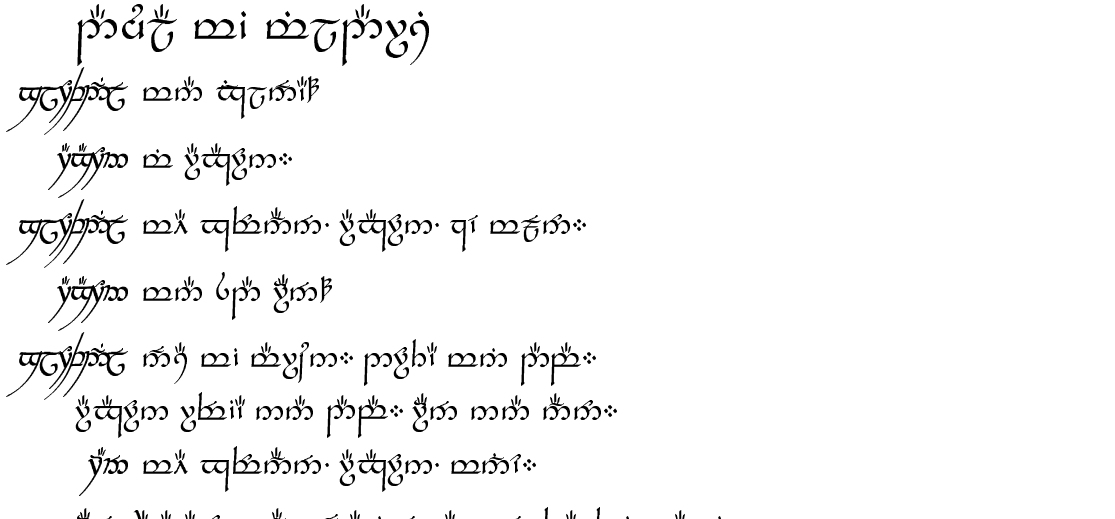
unque is usually unused in Sindarin, only if other languages (like the Black Speech) are written in this mode the character is used. If in Sindarin a g connects with a h, both are written separately (and the pronounciation is different).

A table of all tengwar and their names is found in appendix B.

Lesson 2

CONJUGATION OF A-VERBS

2.1 TEXT



Aduial mi Imladris

Glorfindel: Man anglenna?
Aragorn: Im Aragorn.
Glorfindel: Mae govannen, Aragorn, ce mellon.
Aragorn: Man sad Arwen?
Glorfindel: Ennas mi amrûn. Dortha min adab.
Aragorn revia nan adab. Arwen nan annon.
Arwen: Mae govannen, Aragorn, minno.
Arwen ah Aragorn anglennar i edrain en-falch Imladris.
Arwen: Anor revia nan aeglir. Thinna. Lastach in edhil linno?

Evening in Rivendell

Glorfindel: Who is comming?
Aragorn: I am Aragorn.
Glorfindel: Well met, Aragorn, you are a friend.
Aragorn: Where is Arwen?
Glorfindel: There to the East. She lives in the house.
Aragorn wanders to the house. Arwen is at the gate.
Arwen: Well met, Aragorn, enter!
Arwen and Aragorn approach the border of the ravine of Rivendell.
Arwen: The sun wanders to the mountain peaks. It grows towards evening. Do you hear the elves sing?

2.2 GRAMMAR

2.2.1 Basic facts about Sindarin verbs

In Sindarin there are, roughly spoken, two main classes of verbs:

The first, larger class of 'derived' verbs is formed from archaic roots by means of a verbal formation ending (-na, -ia, -da, -tha or -ta). Since all these endings (and hence also the derived verbs) end with **-a**, this class of verbs is often denoted A-verbs. The stem of an A-verb is for example **lacha-** (to flame).

The second, smaller class of 'basic', 'primitive' or 'strong' verbs is derived directly from the archaic root without any verbal formation ending. Since these verbs form the present tense with a connecting vowel **-i-** (and also the infinitive), they are sometimes denoted I-verbs. The stem of such a verb is for example **ped-** (to speak). We will deal with this second class in lesson 5 in some detail.

Both these classes contain a number of sub-classes, mostly distinct different in the way the past tense is formed.

2.2.2 Pronomial endings for A-verbs

In Sindarin, verbs are inflected for number and person by appending endings to the verb stem. These endings are:

Subject	Singular	Plural
1. person	-n (I)	-m (we)
2. pers. (courteous)	*-l (thou)	*-l ('thou' pl.)
2. person	*-ch (you)	*-ch (you)
3. person	- (he/she/it)	*-r (they)

Note that the 3rd person singular (he/she/it) does not have a separate ending, it is identical with the stem for A-verbs. In the first person singular, the resulting ending **-an** (if the ending is appended to an A-verb) is always changed to **-on**.

The formal or courteous form of the 2nd person is used when addressing important personalities or when being polite. Since it is unattested, we will not include it into every conjugation example in the following.

For the stem **lacha-**, one gets:

lachon (I flame), lachach (you flame), lacha (he/she/it flames)
lacham (we flame), lachach (you flame), lachar (they flame)

If the subject of the sentence is mentioned explicitly, a personless form of the verb is used. This form distinguishes only singular and plural. In Sindarin, the personless form is identical to the 3rd person. Normally, this is not confusing, but problems arise once the explicit subject is a pronoun in 1st or 2nd person: This seemingly gets the ending of the 3rd person (but in truth only the personless form):

Arwen linna. (Arwen sings.)
Im linna. (I sing.), an emphatic alternative for
Linnon. (I sing.)

A formation like *Im linnon.* (I I-sing) would probably not be good Sindarin.

Things are similar in plural: Here the 3rd person pl. is identical with the personless form [1]:

Edhil linnar. (Elves sing.)
Mín linnar. (We sing.)

2.2.3 Infinitive

The infinitive of A-verbs is formed by replacing the final **-a** of the stem by **-o**.

lacha- → lacho (to flame)
linna- → linno (to sing)
anna- → anno (to give)

laston Arwen linno (I hear Arwen sing)

Note that for reasons which will become obvious when we discuss the I-verbs, listing Sindarin verbs by their infinitive is not a good idea, hence one usually quotes a verb (sloppily) like **linna-** (to sing) although the root **linna-** as such can neither appear in a Sindarin text nor be translated like this.

2.2.4 Imperative

The imperative for A-verbs is also formed (like the infinitive) by replacing the final **-a** of the stem by **-o**. For A-verbs, infinitive and imperative are therefore identical and need to be distinguished by context. The imperative is identical regardless if one commands one or several persons.

lacho (flame!), linno (sing!), anno (give!), minno (enter!)

[1] While the ending **-r** is attested as such, it may well be a plural marker rather than a true pronomial ending 'they'. In this case, there would be a distinct ending marking 'they' and personless and 3rd person plural would not be identical.

Possibly, the imperative can also be used in the 3rd person to express a wish:
Minno Aragorn! (Aragorn shall enter!)

2.2.5 *The gerund*

The gerund is a noun which is derived from a verb. It refers to the action described by the verb. For A-verbs, the gerund is formed by adding the ending **-d** to the stem. This corresponds to the English ending '-ing'

lacha- (flame) → lachad (flaming)
ertha- (unite)→ erthad (uniting)
linna- (sing) → linnad (singing)

Note that the gerund corresponds to the English noun derived with '-ing', like in 'the singing of the elves was beautiful', not to the participle like in 'the singing elf' —the latter is quite a different form in Sindarin.

Gerunds are also often used in Sindarin where English would use the infinitive. From the few examples, one is unable to draw firm conclusions what form is to be preferred in what situation.

laston linnad (I hear singing)
laston Arwen linnad (I hear Arwen sing) (possibly an alternative)

For all we know, gerunds can be used almost like regular nouns in Sindarin but cannot be pluralized.

2.2.6 *The use of 'and'*

In Sindarin, there are two distinct words for 'and' which are presumably derived from different stems. The first one is the arguably older form **a**. If a vowel follows, this gets possibly **ah**:
Aragorn a Legolas (Aragorn and Legolas)
Elrond ah Aragorn (Elrond and Aragorn)

2.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
a(h)	and	lacha-	to flame
adab (pl. edaib)	house, building	lasta-	to hear
aeglir (pl. aeglir)	range of peaks	linna-	to sing
aduial	evening	man?	who?, what?
amrûn	East	man sad	what place?, where?
anglenna-	approach	mellon (pl. mellyn)	friend
anna-	to give	mi	in
annon	gate	min	in the
Anor	sun	minna-	to enter
dortha-	to stay, dwell	na	to, towards, at
edrain (pl. edrain)	border	nan	to the, at the
ennas	there	revia-	to wander
falch (pl. failch)	ravine	thinna-	to grow towards evening

2.4 TENGWAR

2.4.1 More consonants

By shortening of the telco, we can derive two more groups of characters. However, the regular pattern of sounds becomes now a bit broken:

With a single luva, one finds ore , vala and wilya . In Sindarin, only the first two are used with the sounds r and w.

Using two luvar, one gets numen malta and nwalme . The first two represent the sounds n and m. nwalme has the sound ñ, which is spoken like the ng in 'ring'. This tengwa is only used at the beginning or end of a word, ng in the middle of a word is always written as two distinct characters and pronounced differently.

We can add to our table:

r	w	-
n	m	ñ

2.4.2 Vowels

In the general Sindarin mode described here, vowels are written as accents ('tehtar') above consonants. When reading, one starts with the vowel above and then the consonant below follows (this is different from Quenya where this order is interchanged).

The tehtar are a e, i, o and u.

Sometimes (so in the inscription on the ring), the signs representing o and u are switched: This may have to do with the question which of the two occurs more frequently in a language and is easier to write. For the writing of Sindarin, we should not be worried to much.

In Sindarin, also y counts as a vowel (and is written as tehta): It is represented by .

For the diphthongs in Sindarin (which are ai, ei, ui, ae, oe and au; any other combination of vowels represents two distinct sound and not a diphthong) one uses the following convention: The first vowel is written as tehta, but the second is represented by a tengwa. For this, one uses for i, for e and for u as carrier. The combination ae for example reads .

Sometimes, a word ends with a vowel, or two vowels not forming a diphthong connect. In this case, there is no consonant where the tehta should be written onto and one uses a short carrier instead, which does not represent any sound.

In other cases, a long vowel needs to be expressed. For this, tehtar are written onto a long carrier . This sign also does not represent any sound.

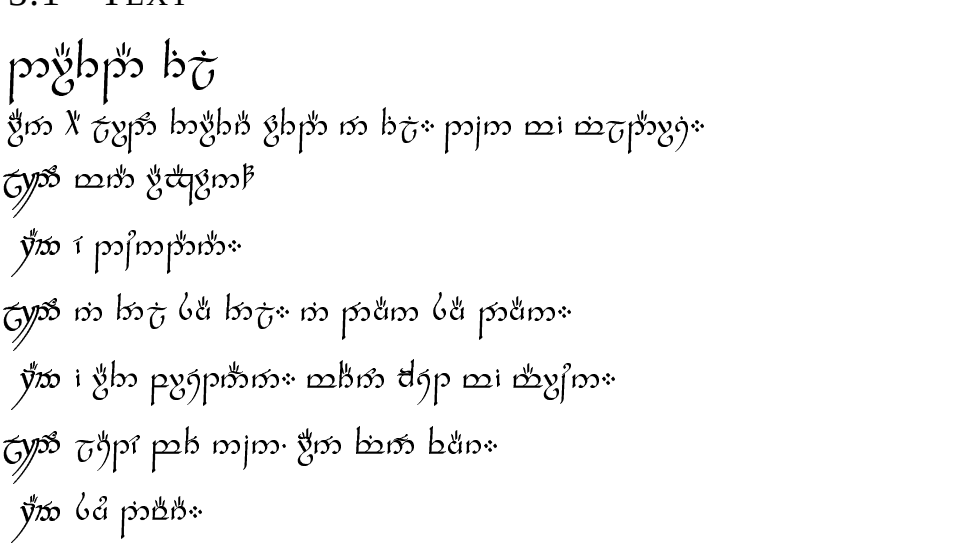
2.4.3 Examples

aran (king), tîw (sign), Aragorn, Barad-dûr, Moria

Lesson 3

THE SOFT MUTATION (LENITION)

3.1 TEXT



Darthad Ithil

Arwen ah Elrond *dh*arthar orthad en Ithil. Dîn mi Imladris.

Elrond: Man Aragorn?

Arwen: E Dúnadan.

Elrond: In edhil - sai edhil. In edain - sai edain.

Arwen: I *'a*rdh prestannen. Mathon *chw*est mi amrûn.

Elrond: Lasto *b*eth nîn, Arwen: I *v*enn fair.

Arwen: Sui i *d*awar.

Awaiting the moon

Arwen and Elrond are waiting for the rising of the moon. Silence is in Rivendell.

Elrond: Who is Aragorn?
Arwen: A Dúnadan.
Elrond: The elves —are elves. The men —are men.
Arwen: The world is changed. I feel a breeze in the East.
Elrond: Hear my word, Arwen. The man is mortal.
Arwen: Like the forest.

3.2 GRAMMAR

3.2.1 General information

Sound and the proper 'flow' of words are important in Sindarin. This has led to the phenomenon of consonant mutations —the first consonant of a word is often altered to adjust to a more smooth flow of speech. Especially, this concerns words closely related to each other, such as the definite article and a noun or prepositions and nouns.

This, however, poses a problem for the student, because wordlists are usually organized by sorting words by their first character, and if this changes, the student needs to understand the pattern how this works in some detail before he can look up some word. Let us see how this works:

Consider the two different words **saew** (poison) and **haew** (habit). One rule of consonant mutation states that **s-** is changed into **h-** in some circumstances, one of them being the definite article **i** in singular. Hence, 'the poison' is **i haew** and not *i saew*. For the experienced Sindarin learner however, this does not introduce the danger of translating 'habit' instead of 'poison', for another rule states that **h-** is changed into **ch-**. Therefore, the habit cannot pass of as poison but becomes **i chaew** instead (however, this does not always help, and sometimes only the context can decide). It follows that one needs a solid understanding of mutations in order to be able to look up the correct word in a wordlist.

Consonant mutations come in several types —soft, nasal, mixed, stop and liquid. However, these are technical terms and we will discuss them in due time. Here, we are only concerned about the most common one —the soft mutation.

One can also group mutations in two different groups —phonological mutations (having to do with consonant shifts when two words connect) and grammatical mutations (not caused by any specific word but indicating grammatical role of the mutated word in the sentence). We will deal with these two main classes in the lessons 15 and 21 in some detail. For the moment, let us only state that if a phonological and a grammatical mutation compete, the phonological one prevails. A word can only be subject to one mutation at a time, not be mutated twice for different reasons. We will give examples later.

3.2.2 The rules of mutation

Soft mutation occurs frequently in Sindarin. As its name indicates, 'hard' consonants at the beginning of words are changed to 'soft' consonants. The soft mutation is caused by the following situations:

1. A noun following the definite singular article **i** is mutated.

2. An adjective which determines a noun and is in trailing (not leading) position is mutated.
3. An adjective used as adverb to determine a verb, which is in trailing position is often mutated.
4. A direct object (regardless if it is accusative or dative in English) is mutated.
5. A verb directly following the subject of the sentence is often changed.[1]
6. The second word of a compound is often subject to soft mutation.

Many of these rules are only listed here to provide the complete picture —we will investigate their consequences in detail later (see lesson 15).

Here, we only elaborate on the rules 4 and 5 briefly:

In the sentence

Aragorn bada na Imladris. (Aragorn is going to Rivendell.)

the verb **pada** directly followes the subject (Aragorn) and hence is mutated. However, in

Aragorn aran Gondor pada na Imladris.
(Aragorn, king of Gondor is going to Rivendell).

the phrase **aran Gondor** intrudes between subject and verb and hence no mutation is seen.

In the sentence

Laston venn. (I hear a man.)

the word **benn** is subject to soft mutation ('lenited'), because it represents an accusative object. Although datives in Sindarin are usually expressed differently (using the preposition **an**), sometimes a dative object is written similarly:

Annon chammad vellon. (I give a friend clothing.)

As mentioned before, a single word can be mutated only once: If e.g. **tawar** (forest) is used as direct object, the result is according to the rules **dawar**. However, if now a definite article is used, one gets **i dawar** and not *i dhawar*, even if this expression is a direct object, the lenition can be carried out only once.

The individual consonants are changed when lenition is carried out as follows:

p-, **t-** and **c-** become **b-**, **d-** and **g-**:

pân (plank) → i bân (the plank)
tawar (forest) →i dawar (the forest)
calad (light) → i galad (the light)

b- and **d-** become **v-** and **dh-** :

benn (man)→i venn (the man)
daw (darkness) → i dhaw (the darkness)

g- vanishes:

galadh (tree)→i 'aladh (the tree)
glam (din)→i 'lam (the din)

[1] At this stage, it is highly unclear if this is indeed a rule - there's one example and one counterexample, so at best, it is an optional rule. However, for the time being this course will adopt the convention that a verb immediately following the subject of the sentence is usually mutated.

h- ,**s-** and **m-** change into **ch-**, **h-** and **v-**.

hammad (clothing)→i chammad (the clothing)
salph (soup)→i halph (the soup)
mellon (friend)→i vellon (the friend)

The combination **hw-** is changed into **chw-**:

hwest (breeze)→i chwest (the breeze)

The consonants **f-**, **th-**, **n-**, **r-** and **l-** remain unchanged:

fen (threshold)→i fen (the threshold)
thond (root)→i thond (the root)
nath (web)→i nath (the web)
rem (net)→i rem (the net)
lam (tongue)→i lam (the tongue)

The voiceless **rh-** and **lh-** possibly become **thr-** and **thl-**:

rhaw (flesh)→i thraw (the flesh)
lhûg (snake)→i thlûg (the snake)

Soft mutation is also caused by the following particles and prefixes:

ab, **adel**, **am**, **ath-**, **athra-**, **be**, **dad**, **di**, **go-/gwa-**, **na**, **nu/no**, **trî/tre-**, **ú-** and **av-/avo**. We will discuss them in later lessons.

3.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
benn (pl. binn)	man	lhûg (pl. lhŷg)	snake, serpent
calad (pl. celaid)	light	matha-	feel
daw	darkness	nath (pl. naith)	web
dîn (pl. dîn)	silence	nîn	my
dôl (pl. dŷl)	head	orthad	rising (noun)
dartha-	to wait	pân (pl. pain)	plank
fair (pl. fair)	mortal (noun)	peth (pl. pith)	word
fen (pl. fin)	threshold	prestannen	changed
galadh (pl. gelaidh)	tree	rem (pl. rim)	net
gardh (pl. gairdh)	world	rhaw (pl. rhaiw)	flesh, body
glam (pl. glaim)	din, uproar	salph (pl. sailph)	soup
hammad (pl. *hemmaid)	clothing	sui	like
hwest (pl. hwist)	breeze	tawar (pl. tewair)	forest
Ithil	moon	thond (pl. thynd)	root
lam (pl. laim)	tongue		

3.4 TENGWAR

3.4.1 More consonants

The tengwar system contains a number of consonants which cannot be derived from telco and luva. These are silme ϛ, silme nuquerna ϙ, lambe ϖ rómen ϑ hwesta sindarinwa ϟ and

hyarmen λ. They represent the sounds s, s, l, r, hw and h. Hence, the complete table of all tengwar relevant for the general mode is:

t	p	c(k)	r	w	-
d	b	g	n	m	ng
th	f	ch	s	s	hw
dh	v	gh	r	h	l

3.4.2 Writing 'r' and 's'

You may have noticed that there are two characters for r and s. Which of those should be preferred? In general, it is nicer to end a word with a 'closed' ore than with the rather open shape of a rómen and to use the silme nuquerna instead of silme in final position for precisely the same reason. Also, the nuquerna versions are preferred if there is a tehta above the tengwa —writing silme nuquerna instead of silme offers just more space for the tehta.

3.4.3 The defi nite article

If a noun has a definite article and starts with a consonant, the definite article is usually not written on a separate short carrier (as in the case when the noun starts with a vowel) but directly above the first consonant as tehta. Hence, we have i **i aran** (the king) but **iVellon** (the friend)

3.4.4 Punctuation marks

The tengwar writing system does not really contain the same set of punctuation marks known from English. However, breaks can be expressed by dots: a short break with a single dot ·, a longer break with a double dot : and a new sentence or paragraph is usually concluded with four dots ⁘. Possibly, one can use those similar to the comma, semicolon and full stop. Additionally, there's the question mark ⸮ and exclamation mark ⸘.

3.4.5 Examples

Aragorn, Legolas, Galadriel, Gimli, Perhael, Eirien

Lesson 4

PLURAL FORMATION AND NASAL MUTATION

4.1 TEXT

Lui ym

Sai lui ym na Chithaeglir. Yrch reviar min eryd. Dravar ’elaidh a lachar noer. Droeg athradar i *th*ewair. In edain ’rogar a padar na i *th*elaith. I *m*iss ah i *ch*în egledhiar. I *m*inn vabar dhring a ’rynd a maethar. Binn rim ’wannar ah in yrch aphadar in edain.

Bad times

It are bad times in the misty mountains. Orcs wander in the mountains. They hew trees and flame fires. Wolves cross the forests. The humans fear and go to the plains. The women and children go to exile. The men seize hammers and clubs and fight. Many men die and the orcs follow the humans.

4.2 GRAMMAR

4.2.1 Plural formation

In the last lesson, we have met a situation where initial consonants of words were changed. Now, when discussing plural formation, we have a similar phenomenon: The vowels of a word are changed, and this change is such that they become 'more similar' to a final **-i** (which was present in archaic Sindarin). This is called i-affection. The individual vowels are changed as follows (note that **y** counts as a vowel in Sindarin):

a in the final syllable becomes **ai**, in all other syllables **e**:

barad (tower) → beraid (towers)
aran (king) → erain (kings)

e in the final syllable becomes **i**, in all other syllables it remains **e**:

edhel (elf) → edhil (elves)
hên (child) → hîn (children)

i always remains **i**:

Ithil (moon) → Ithil (moons)

o in the last syllable becomes **y**, in all other syllables **e**:

orod (mountain) → eryd (mountains)
orch (orc) → yrch (orcs)

short **u** becames **y** in any syllable, long **û** becomes **ui** instead in the last syllable:

tulus (poplar) → tylys (poplars)
dûr (dark) → duir (dark) (Pl.)

y always remains **y**:

ylf (drinking vessel) → ylf (drinking vessels)

the combination **io** becomes **y**:

thalion (hero) → thelyn (heroes)

the diphthong **au** becomes **oe**:

draug (wolf) → droeg (wolves)

the combination **ie** becomes **i** in the last syllable:

miniel (elf of the first house) → minil (elves of the first house)

all other diphthongs are unchanged:

aew (bird) → aew (birds)

Of course also combinations of these rules are valid:

annon (gate) → ennyn (gates)
pennas (history) → pennais (histories)

4.2.2 Nasal mutation

If the plural is formed with the definite article a new difficulty arises because **in** causes a new type of mutation, the so-called nasal mutation. This mutation changes the initial

consonants of words in a different way than lenition does. Often, the **-n** is assimilated into the following word and changes its initial consonant.

Nasal mutation occures less frequent than lenition. Mostly, it is caused by the three following objects: The plural article **in** and the prepositions **an** and **dan** (to be discussed in a later lesson).

The individual consonants are changed according to the following pattern:

p-, t- and **c-** become **ph-, th-** and **ch-**:

pân (plank) → i phain (the planks)
tawar (forest) → i thewair (the forests)
calad (light) → i chelaid (the lights)

b- and **d-** change into **m-** und **n-**, but **dr-** stays unchanged:

benn (man) → i minn (the men)
daw (darkness) → i noe (the darknesses)
draug (wolf) → in droeg (the wolves)

g- becomes **ng-**, but not if it appears in the combinations **gl -, gr-** or **gw-**, those do not mutate.

galadh (tree) → i ngelaidh (the trees)
grond (club) → in grynd (the clubs)

h- and **hw-** change into **ch-** and **'w-**:

hammad (clothing) → i chemmaid (the clothings)
chwest (breeze) → i 'wist (the breezes)

f-, l-, m-, n-, r-, s- and **th-** stay unchanged, but the article gets reduced to **i** nevertheless, or in the case of **r-** becomes **idh**:

fen (threshold) → i fin (the thresholds)
lam (tongue) → i laim (the tongues)
mellon (friend) → i mellyn (the friends)
nath (web) → i naith (the webs)
rem (net) → idh rim (the nets)
salph (soup) → i sailph (the soups)
thond (root) → i thynd (the roots)

lh- and **rh-** become **'l-** and **'r-**:

lhug (serpent) → i 'lyg (the serpents)
rhass (precipie) → i 'ress (the precipies)

4.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
aew	bird	hên	child
aphada-	to follow	lû	time
athrada-	to cross	maba-	to seize
barad	tower	maetha-	to fight
bess	woman	orch	orc
draug	wolf	pada-	to go
drava-	to hew	rim	many
dring	hammer	talath	plain
egledhia-	to go to exile	thalion	hero
groga-	to fear	tulus	poplar
grond	club	um	bad
gwanna-	to die, to depart		

4.4 TENGWAR

4.4.1 Some special points

There are several specialities of the general Sindarin mode which should be known to a tengwar writer:

If a tilde ˜ appears above t,d,th, dh or n, this represents an additional n, for example **Gondor**. If the tilde is located above p,b,f, v or m, an additional m is to be insterted. Finally, it it is found above c,g,ch, gh, or ñ, an additional ñ is implied.

If a bar _ is drawn below a tengwa, it represents a doubling of the sound (except for nasal sounds and s), for example in **mellon** (friend). Inside a word, underlined formen however represents ph in the transcription. Word-final ph or f inside a word is written using alone, f in final position is written using . For a double ss, no bar is drawn, instead esse (nuquerna) is used: or .

If a w is appended to sound, this can be written as tehta using ˘, for example **Arwen**. But if too many tehtar are stacked on top of each other, can also be used.

If a word starts with the combination i + vowel, then the initial i is represented by : **iaur** (old). If a word ends with -aw, then this is read -au and is also written like this in tengwar: **naw** (thought).

4.4.2 Examples

grond (club), lembas (waybread), linnod (short poem), rohirrim, gwedh (bond), hwest (breeze)

4.4.3 The Beleriand mode

To show the difference between the various writing modes, here is a brief introduction to the Beleriand Sindarin mode:

In this mode, vowels are not written as tehtar but as full signs, hence ·a·i·a·o represent a,e,i,o and u. In this mode, Aragorn reads .

If a long vowel needs to be indicated, an andaith ('longsign') is written: . is Barad-Dûr.

Additionally, the meaning of the signs for m, n and y is changed: is m, n and y (it follows trivially that r is always written as rómen in this mode).

For nn, numen is written and for mm malta , for ll however lambe is simply repeated, e.g. **mellon** (friend) but **annon** (gate).

The tilde-notation of the general mode are not used with the exception if the w-tehta which is used in the same function: **gwanna** (he dies).

4.4.4 Examples

Here is beginning of the Moria gate inscription in the Beleriand-mode

and in the general mode:

Ennyn durin aran moria: Pedo mellon a minno!

Do you recognize this writing?

Lesson 5

Conjugation of I-verbs

5.1 Text

Círiθ

Galadriel i aranwë Galadriel ilmarë ná ëarë ómaryo. Galadriel
aglon ëanë mirë mana Ñaranë.

Galadriel aranwë. Galadriel, pirë hanë!

aranwë pirë Ñ aranë!

hanë ëarë mana ná ëarë i mana ëanë.

ëarë ma Ñ aharanë! ro ilcalë. Caranë Círiθ na Galë.

mana ëllë ná ómaryo

aranwë ma Ñ aharanë! ómaryo mana Ñëllë. mirë!

Galadriel mana ëllë ná ómaryo i aglë.

aranwë Galadriel ilmarë i aglë.

Galadriel mana!

aranwë mana ëarë i ómaryo i aglë.

Siniath

Aragorn a Glorfindel reviar na ’laind Imladris. Aragorn gên adan neri nan aeglir.

Aragorn: Glorfindel, tiro venn!

Glorfindel: Daro ah anglenno!

I venn bada nan edhel a nan adan.

Eobhan: Mae govannen! Im Eobhan. Tegin hiniath an Elrond. Man râd na Imladris?

Glorfindel: Mae Govannen! Imladris nan harad. Noro!

Glorfindel gên na chaered a gîr.

Aragorn: Man?

Glorfindel: Mathon vorn…

Tidings

Aragorn and Glorfindel wander at the borders of Rivendell. Aragorn sees a man run at the mountains.

Aragorn: Glorfindel, look, a man!

Glorfindel: Stop and come closer!

The man goes to the elf and the human.

Eobhan: Well met! I’m Eobhan. I bring news for Elrond. Which way to Rivendell?

Glorfindel: Well met! Rivendell is to the South. Run!

Glorfindel is looks towards the distance and shudders.

Aragorn: What?

Glorfindel: I feel a darkness...

5.2 GRAMMAR

5.2.1 General remarks

In contrast to the A-verbs, the I-verbs end with their bare stem, i.e. with a consonant. An example of such a verb is **ped-** (to speak). In present tense, the conjugational endings are connected to this stem using the vowel **-i-**, hence the term I-verbs. Apart from A and I-verbs, there are also several irregular verbs in Sindarin which differ in the way the past tense is formed. Blendings between that A- and the I-verb classes, so-called analoguous forms, are also quite common. In present tense, however, every verb can be treated as either A or I-verb.

5.2.2 Pronomial endings for I-verbs

The pronomial endings for I-verbs are identical to those for A-verbs, the only difference is the (endingless) 3rd person singular. Here the vowel is lengthened if the I-verb contains only one syllable. As already mentioned, **-i-** is insterted between stem and ending.

Subject	Singular	Plural
1. Person	-n (I)	-m (we)
2. Pers. (formal)	*-l (thou)	*-l (’thou’ pl)
2. Person	*-ch (you)	*-ch (you)
3. Person	- (he/she/it)	*-r (they)

Using **ped-**, one finds:

pedin (I speak), pedich (you speak), pêd (he speaks)

pedim (we speak), pedich (you speak), pedir (they speak)

However, like in the case of plural formation, the **-i-** changes vowels according to the rules of i-affection: **a** and **o** become **e**, hence **tol-** (to come) one finds:

telin (I come), telich (you come), tôl (he comes)
telim (we come), telich (you come), telir (they come)

For **dar-** (to stop) this yields:

derin (I stop), derich (you stop), dâr (he stops)
derim (we stop), derich (you stop), derir (they stop)

5.2.3 Infinitive

The infinitive of I-verbs is formed by (taking care of i-affection) appending **-i** to the word in question. (The i-affection during this process is the reason why it is not a good idea to list Sindarin verbs by their infinitive forms).

pedi (to speak), neri (to run), teli (to come), peli (to wither), firi (to die)

5.2.4 Imperative

The imperative for I-verbs is formed by appending **-o** to the verb stem:

pedo (speak!), noro (run!), tolo (come!), pelo (wither!), firo (die!)

Its use is identical for A- and I-verbs.

Tolo Aragorn! (Aragorn shall come!)

5.2.5 Gerund

The gerund for I-verbs is formed by appending the ending **-ed** to the verbal stem:

cab- (to jump) → cabed (jumping)
cen- (to see) → cened (seeing)
glir- (to recite)→ glired (reciting)

Gerunds are often used where English would have the infinitive. However, gerunds used as infinitive are not subject to soft mutation of direct objects:

cenin toled i aduial (I see the evening come)

However, gerunds used as nouns are probably treated as nouns and subject to mutation, cf. the slight difference in expression:

cenin doled en aduial (I see the coming of the evening)

5.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English
an	for
ar	and
cen-	to see
dar-	to stop
*fir-	to die
gir-	to shudder
gland	border
glir-	to sing, to recite
haered	distance
harad	South

Sindarin	English
morn	darkness
nor-	to run
ped-	to speak
pel-	to wither, to fade
siniath	news, tidings
tir-	to watch
tog-	to bring
tol-	to come

5.4 CONVERSATION - GREETINGS

If you meet elves, it is good to know some basic phrases for greeting and farewell. Usually, one greets with a simple

Mae govannen! (Well met! Welcome!)

If you prefer a more formal greeting, you can also try

Le suilon! (I greet thou!),

using the formal pronoun, or, if you happen to know the elf better, you might try

Gen suilon! (I greet you!)

Introduce yourself by phrases like

Im N.N. (I'm N.N.), Estannen N.N. (I'm called N.N.)
or Nin estar N.N. (They call me N.N.)

But you can also say

Eneth nîn N.N. (My name is N.N.).

If you want to know the name of an elf, you can ask

Man eneth lîn? (What is thy name?).

Since you do not yet know the name of the other person, it is much better to use the formal pronoun in this situation.

If you want to leave, you can say goodbye using

Cuio vae! (Fare well!)

or, if you prefer a very formal phrase

Namarië. (Farewell!)

However, this is not Sindarin but Quenya, a very ancient elvish language. The Sindarin equivalent of this reads

*Novaer! (Farewell!)

Lesson 6

ADJECTIVES, NEGATION

6.1 TEXT

Hydrak

Ithalion hydri mae hon i ardhrenc pelori nai ceyen.

Aragorn mae mijy, mapa lainiw.

Ceyan mijyan hana mapan.

Ithalion mi ardhranan. Ceyen. Panua dhixardhen mijyn pen? ne hen. Ethy ghen pydri ethan. Ÿd p ceard pardhe bad i djan. Ardhrec pardhe ne hen ilpŷran.

Ceyan ne hen ilhon pen? Nalan hesen Hyd nalan ne panua.

Ŷan ethan. Panŷ

Ceyan panua idhrhon ne hen.

Aragorn ni adhan lagan.

Ceyan ne hen ne mijyn pelpelp pen pelpelp. ne pydri.

Athrabeth

Eobhan dhartha min tham a Glorfindel bada na Elrond.

Glorfindel: Benn aníra annad hiniath.
Elrond: Aníron i venn minnad.
Eobhan: Mae govannen, Elrond. Edain o Chithaeglir anírar i dulu in edhil. Amarth 'ortheb presta ammen. Yrch elaig degir viss a chîn. Curu aglareb e-dagor in edhil istassen.
Elrond: In edhil ú-annar dulu. I naid edhellin avar i naid in edain.
Arwen: Amman, adar?
Gilraed: Sa gwend iaur.
Elrond: Edain ú-chalthar in edhil.
Glorfindel: Sa ú-vaer.
Elrond: In edhil in anírar padad pelir padad. Im dartha.

A debate

Eobhan is waiting in the great hall and Glorfindel is going to Elrond.

Glorfindel: A man desires to bring news.
Elrond: I want the man to enter.
Eobhan: Well met, Elrond. The men of the Misty Mountains desire the help of the elves. A horrible fate troubles us. Wild orcs slay women and children. The famous skill of the elves in battle is known.
Elrond: The elves do not give help. The elvish things won't be the things of the men.
Arwen: Why, father?
Gilraed: It is old friendship.
Elrond: The men don't defend the elves either.
Glorfindel: It is not good.
Elrond: The elves who desire to go can go. I stay.

6.2 GRAMMAR

6.2.1 Adjectives

The Sindarin adjective is not very different from the noun in some sense, many words even double as noun and adjective, such as **morn** which can express both 'darkness' and 'dark'. Unlike in English, Sindarin adjectives agree in number with the noun they determine: If the noun appears in plural, then so does the adjective. Adjectives form their plural by exactly the same i-affection rules as nouns do, so we do not need to discuss this again.

Adjectives describing a noun usually follow this noun (they can only come before the noun in poetic word order) and are in this position lenited (see lesson 3). But adjectives may also function as adverbs and be for this or a different reason accidentially behind a noun: If there is no connection between adjective and noun, there is also no lenition. We will elaborate on these points in lesson 15 and give some examples in the mean time:

ylf dawaren (a wooden drinking-vessel)
ylf tawaren (a drinking-vessel is wooden)
ylf dewerin (wooden drinking-vessels)

Many adjectives are formed from nouns by means of the endings **-eb, -ui** and **-en**. Here, the ending **-eb** usually denotes 'full of', the ending **-(r)en** is used to characterize unchangeable properties of something and the ending **-ui** often denotes transient properties. However, this rule doesn't always apply.

aglar (fame) → aglareb (famous)
brass (white heat) → brassen (white hot)
úan (monster) → uanui (monstrous)
celeb (silver) → *celebeb (full of silver)
celeb (silver) → celebren (of silver)

There is no true comparative known in Sindarin. Based on Quenya examples one may deduce that a construction involving a preposition could be used. The most likely candidate for this preposition may be **athan**[1](beyond), causing nasal mutation for the following word:

barad beleg atham menn (a tower is great beyond a man)
Aragorn aglareb athan Elrohir (Aragorn is more famous than Elrohir)

There is also an intensified form of the adjective. For practical purpose, one can picture it as being formed with the help of the prefix **an-**. Presumably, nasal mutation occurs for the adjective in this case.

parch (dry) → apharch (arid)
alag (wild) → analag (exceedingly wild)
beleg (great) → ammeleg (truly great)
brassen (white hot) → amrassen (exceedingly hot)
maer (good) → ammaer (exceedingly good)

If an **-i-** occurs in the adjective, i-affection of the prefix needs to be carried out, changing the prefix to **en-/ein-**.

lint (swift) → ellint (very swift)
iaur (old) → einior (elder)
ring (cold) → edhring (freezing)

Presumably, the superlative cannot be expressed directly —it arises from a combination of intensifying prefix and genitive:

alag (wild) → analag in edain ('exceedingly wild among men', wildest of men)
iaur (old) → einior in edhil (eldest among the elves)
maer (good) → ammaer in naid (best of the things)
uannui (monstrous) → anuannui in yrch (most monstrous of the orcs)

6.2.2 Negation

A sentence in Sindarin is usually negated using the prefix **ú-**, which causes lenition for the following word. In a standard sentence, **ú-** is prefixed to the verb.

cên (he sees) → ú-gên (he doesn't see)

It is a bit of a mystery what has to be done if the sentence doesn't contain a verb. Possibly, the prefix can be used with the adjective in this case:

Im lint. (I'm swift.) → Im ú-lint. (I'm not swift.)
Maer. (It is well.) → ú-vaer. (It is not well.)

Imperatives are negated differently: Here, the particle **avo** (causing lenition) or the closely related prefix **av-** (also causing lenition) is used.

pedo! (speak!) → avo bedo! or avbedo → (don't speak!)
minno! (enter!) → avo vinno! or avinno → (don't enter!)

[1]This may also be interpreted as **athar**, if so, Liquid Mutation (see Lesson 13) would be caused.

6.2.3 Relative sentences

The relative pronoun in Sindarin is identical with the definite article: It is **i** in Singular and **in** in plural.

i elleth i linna (the elf-maiden who sings)
in edhil i maethar (the elves who fight)
i ylf i tawaren (the drinking-vessel that is wooden)

The relative pronoun **i** usually causes lenition for the verb of the relative sentence, the plural pronoun **in** causes nasal mutation. Sometimes, **i** can also be used as relative pronoun in plural. If the relative sentence is an object, however, and the relative pronoun is hence not the subject of the relative clause, presumably no mutation is caused:
Laston venn i cenin. (I hear the man whom I see.)

6.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
aglar	fame, glory	gortheb	horrible
aglareb	famous, glorious	gwend	friendship
alag	wild	haltha-	protect
amarth	fate	iaur	old
amman	why	istassen	known
aníra-	to wish, to desire	*lint	swift
athrabeth	debate	maer	good
ava-	will not	parch	dry
beleg	great	presta-	to affect, trouble, change
brass	white heat	*pol-	can, to be able
brassen	white hot	nad	thing
car	house, building	o Chithaeglir	from the Misty Mountains
celeb	silver	tawaren	wooden
curu	skill	tulu	help
dartha-	wait	úan	monster
e-dagor	in battle	uanui	monstrous

6.4 CONVERSATION - CAN YOU GIVE ME?

Imagine you and some elves sit around a camp-fire or around a table eating and the dishes are passed around. Would it not be nice if you could just ask for things? So, let's try a few phrases:

Annach nin. . . ? (Would you give me. . . ?) or
Annach. . . enni? (Would you give me. . . ?)

is a polite phrase to ask for something. If you are less educated, you can also try

Anno nin. . . ! (Give me. . . !) or
Anno. . . enni! (Give me. . . !).

You might also try

Aníron. . . . (I wish. . .).

If you are asked for something, you can reply

Mae. (Yes.) or Annon. (Yes, I give.)

or, if you want to deny the request, you say

Baw. (No.) or ú-annon. (No, I don't give.)

If you intend to be really rude, try

Baw. Han hebin anim. (No. I keep it for myself.).

If you want to thank the other, you can use

Gen *hannon. (I thank you.) or simply *Hannon. (I thank!)

If someone thanks you, you can say

Glassen. (My pleasure.).

If you want to ask for things, the following words might be of use:

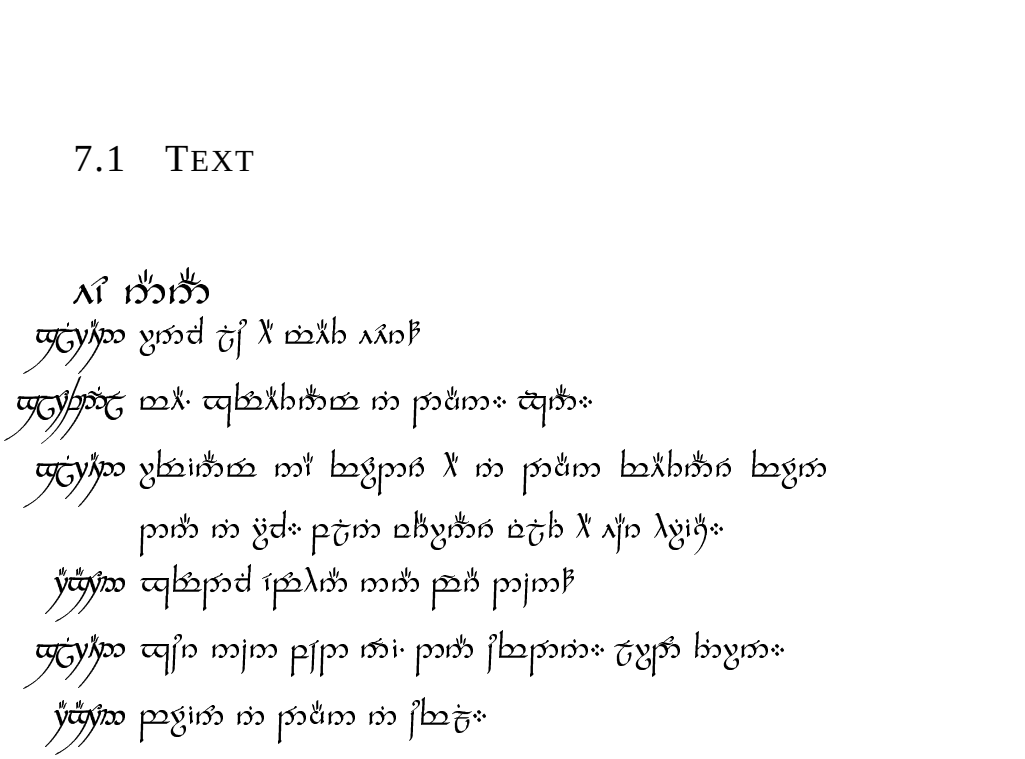
saw (juice), *súthlas (tea), *nen-e-guil (spirit, whiskey 'water of life'), *nen-e-naur (spirit, 'water of fire'), aes (cooked food), bass (bread), basgorn (loaf of bread)[2], lembas (way-bread), cram (cake), rhaw (flesh), glî (honey), iau (corn), solch (edible root), paich (syrup), *iaunen (beer, 'corn water')

[2] **bass** and **basgorn** are special cases for mutations, see lesson 18.

Lesson 7

Prefixes, Past tense of A-verbs, Possessives

7.1 Text



Io anann

Gilraed: Renich i lû ah i maeth ioer?
Glorfindel: Mae, govaethannem in edain. Gwann.
Gilraed: Reviannem na Vordor ah in edain vaethanner veren dan in yrch. Pilin 'wathranner i 'wilith ah iâr hirias.
Aragorn: Govedich Eobhan nan mbar dîn?
Gilraed: Gûr nîn pêd enni, dan ú-vedin. Elrond idhren.
Aragorn: Berion in edain in ú-vill.

Long past

Gilraed: Do you remember the old time and the past fights?
Glorfindel: Yes, we fought together with the humans. It is past.
Gilraed: We marched to Mordor and the humans fought boldly against the orcs. Arrows shadowed the sky and blood flowed.
Aragorn: Do you go with Eobhan to his home?
Gilraed: My heart tells me, but I don't go. Elrond is wise.
Aragorn: I protect the men who are not strong.

7.2 GRAMMAR

7.2.1 Prefixes

Prefixes and prepositions are very similar objects in Sindarin (and in fact, closely related). Thus, sometimes objects which appear in English as preposition can be just prefixes to a verb in Sindarin. For example, for 'to go through something', in Sindarin one might use 'to through-go something'. Possibly, some English prepositions can only be expressed this way in Sindarin. Most of the prefixes cause lenition for the word that receives the prefix. Prefixes causing lenition are:

go- (together with)

govaetha Aragorn (he fights together with Aragorn)

gwa- (together with, an archaic version of **go-**)

gwaguion vess (I live together with a woman)

ab- (behind, in the rear of)

abvedin Legolas (I go behind Legolas)

am- (up, upward)

amvêd orod (he goes up a mountain, he climbs a mountain)

ath-,athra- (across)

athnallon i hirion (I call across the river)

dad- (down)

dadvêd orod (he goes down from a mountain, he descends a from a mountain)

However, prefixes are not only used as substitute for prepositions with verbs but also sometimes for the formation of new words or shades of meaning with nouns, see e.g. **penn** (declivity) and **ambenn** (uphill).

For **lh-** and **rh-**, the soft mutation caused by a prefix is different from the soft mutation caused for other reasons. In compounds with prefixes, **rh-** and **lh-** become **r-** and **l-** instead of **thr-** and **thl-** as usually.

rhûn (East) → amrûn (sunrise)

but:

rhûn (East) → i thrûn (the East)

7.2.2 Possessives

Possessives identify the possessor of some thing. In Sindarin, the most common forms should really be called 'possessive adjectives' since grammatically they behave like adjectives: They follow the noun whose possession they clarify and are lenited in this position. They are:

Possessor	singular	plural
1st person	nîn (my)	mîn (our)
2nd pers.(formal)	lîn (thy)	lîn (thy)
2nd person	*cîn (your)	*cîn (your)
3rd person	tîn (his/hers/its)	*tîn (their)
3rd person (reflexive)	în (his/her/its)	*în (their)

mabam ylf vîn (we seize our drinking-vessles)
maetha vaeth în (he fights his fight)
cenin vess dîn (I see his wife)

As the above examples already indicate, the reflexive **în** is used if the sentence is in the 3rd person and the possessive refers to the same person who is also subject of the sentence:

maba ylf dîn (he takes his cup; i.e. someone else's)
maba ylf în (he takes his [own] cup)

Occasionally, a noun can be described by an adjective and its possession be indicated by a possessive at the same time. In this case, it does not matter if the possessive or the adjective is first. However, if the possessive comes directly after the noun, it causes nasal (not soft) mutation for the adjective behind. (The opposite case is somewhat unclear, conceivably in most cases lenition is caused for the possessive if the adjective is first).

mellon vîn maer (our good friend)
mellon vaer vîn (our good friend)

It seems to be entirely permissible to add a definite article to a possessive phrase without altering its meaning (this is impossible in English, 'the my house' is not good English), however, the vowel of the possessive then seems to be slightly shortened:

mellon vîn (our friend)
i vellon vín (our friend)

7.2.3 Past tense of A-verbs

The majority of A-verbs seems to form their past tense by appending an ending. Apparently, there's distinction in the past tense formation for transitive and intransitive verbs.

Transitive verbs are those that can take an object, like 'see' in 'I see a man'. Such A-verbs form their past tense with the help of the ending **-nt**. The resulting form doubles as personless form and 3rd person singular form just like the present tense.

Intransitive verbs are those that cannot take an object, like 'flow' —one cannot 'flow something'. Such A-verbs form their past tense with the ending **-s** which likewise yields a form that doubles as personless and 3rd person singular.

There are also verbs which can be both intransitive and transitive, like 'sink' —a ship can 'sink' (and here the verb cannot take an object) but an iceberg can 'sink something' (e.g. a ship) and here the verb can take an object and is used transitively. For such verbs, it seems best to use the ending **-nt**.

maetha- (to fight) → maethant (he fought)
cuia- (to live) → cuias (he lived)

Transitive A-verbs in past tense are conjugated by appending the usual pronomial endings, changing **-nt** to **-nn-** in this process (this is quite a regular change —Sindarin can't usually have the consonant cluster **-nt-** in the middle of a word and we have seen this change also taking place for adjectives with ending **-nt** when they for the superlative). One finds:

maethannen (I fought), maethannech (you fought), maethant (he fought)
maethannem (we fought), maethannech (you fought), maethanner (they fought)

Some stems already end in a **-nna**, e.g. **linna-** (to sing). In order to avoid the rather awkward **linnannen*, this may be contracted:

linnen (I sang), linnech (you sang), linnant (he sang)
linnem (we sang), linnech (you sang), linner (they sang)

For intransitive A-verbs in past tense, the presence of a pronomial ending restores the **-s** to **-sse-**, hence one finds:

mudassen (I laboured), mudassech (you laboured), mudas (he laboured)
mudassem (we laboured), mudassech (you laboured), mudasser (they laboured)

7.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
bad-	to go	idhren	wise
bain	beautiful, fair	io anann	long ago
bâr	home	loth	flower
bell	strong	ista-	to have knowledge
beren	bold	malen	yellow
beria-	to protect	maeth	fight
cuia-	to live	mel-	to love
dan	but, however	mell	dear
eirien	daisy	muda-	to labour, toil
egor	or	nalla-	to call, to cry
enni	me, to me	nan mbar	to the home
eria-	to rise	*nosta-	to smell
gûr	heart	pilin	arrow
gwann	past	*ren-	to remember
gwatha-	to shadow, darken	siria-	to flow
gwilith	sky	sirion	river
iâr	blood	tanc	strong

7.4 CONVERSATION - COMPARISONS

If you're about to get to know elves better, you probably want to talk about your affections and aversions. Following the sentence

Man loth nostach ammell - i veril egor i eirien?
(Which flower do you smell preferably - the rose of the daisy?)

you can ask those questions. If you prefer to ask more general, you might use

Man nosta ammain i-lyth? (Which among the flowers smells most beautiful?).

You might try an answer like

I veril ammain. (The rose smells really beautiful.) or
Noston veril ammell i-lyth. (I like the smell of roses best among the flowers.)

If you want to ask how you look in a certain piece of clothing, you have to ask a bit different:

Man thia ammain - i chammad valen egor i chammad galen?
Which appears more beautiful - the yellow or the green clothing?)

The answer may be

I chammad valen bain athan i galen.
(The yellow clothing is more fair than the green one.)

You might have use of the following vocabulary when forming sentences of your own:

Colors: caran (red), malen (yellow), calen (green), nim (white), morn (black), mallen (golden), luin (blue), mith (grey), gwind (blue-grey), baran (brown), elw (sky blue), glos (snow white)

Properties: beleg (great), maer (good), bain (fair), mell (dear), gwain (new), lagor (fast), *lint (swift), tîr (straight, right), raeg (wrong)

Lesson 8

PREPOSITIONS 1, IRREGULAR PLURALS 1, OBJECT PRONOUNS

8.1 TEXT

mi lam imdathe

Gandalf i mithrim mahan an tolo mi dhathe. Polmo mi lam imdathe.

Pengolod Gi el a Celebrim

Mithrim Lúd ed ú bedathe a ú dúhe.

Pengolod I. ná! nan ed mae ed Celebrim mae dh

Mithrim ed poi hílo bellanh

Pengolod ma. edro lamana. Lúmo pedo pan helpanh

Mithrim ídúd. Pelpir pul i nana lam.

Pengolod ma. mae el glaithon

Mithrim mí dúlpo ríla.

Mi ham i-meigol

Aragorn a Ninias nauthar an i lend na Chithaeglir. Bedir na i ham i-meigol.

Aragorn: Si cû ar pilin?
Ninias: Hirich gui im veigol ar im cheithol.
Aragorn: A, ennas! Annach nin i gû veleg min ich?
Ninias: I gû di i thôl vallen?
Aragorn: Mae. Gen hannon. Hirin bilin adel i thaind?
Ninias: ú-chirich. Bado trî i annon hen.
Aragorn: Mae. Man lû reviam?
Ninias: Ne cheriad e-laer.

In the armory

Aragorn and Ninias plan for the journey to the Misty Mountains. They go to the armory.

Aragorn: Is here a bow and arrows?
Ninias: You find bows between swords and axes.
Aragorn: Ah, there. Can you give me the great bow between the spears?
Ninias: The bow beneath the golden helmet?
Aragorn: Yes. I thank you. Do I find arrows behind the shields?
Ninias: No. Go through this door.
Aragorn: Well. What time do we go?
Ninias: In the beginning of summer.

8.2 GRAMMAR

8.2.1 Prepositions

Up to now, we have already used some prepositions: **mi**, **na** and **dan**. Like in English, prepositions in Sindarin stand in front of a noun and clarify a relation of this noun within the sentence (often a spatial or temporal position such as 'in the forest', 'on the table'). Grammatically, the preposition + noun combination becomes an indirect object.

Although it is tempting, such indirect objects are not automatically subject to the grammatical lenition which is observed for direct objects (those without a preposition in front). But in most cases, there is a close relation between preposition and noun (remember, prepositions and prefixes are closely related), leading to a phonological mutation dependent on the final character of the preposition. In most cases, this is lenition anyway, but unlike for direct objects, other types of mutations are possible for indirect objects. We will treat this in full detail only in lesson 21

Here, we discuss only prepositions causing lenition, we will introduce the other ones later.

The list is:

mi (in, between (spatial))

cuion mi Chithaeglir (I live in the Misty Mountains)
revion mi 'elaidh (I wander between trees)

na (to, towards; at; with, by use of)

bâd na 'ondor (he goes to Gondor)
im na orod (I'm at a mountain)
maethon na vagol (I fight with a sword)

nedh (in, (abstract))

nedh ’ûr (in a heart)

im (between, (abstract or spatial))

dagor im vellyn (battle between friends)

ab (after (temporal))

pêd ab Elrond (he speaks after Elrond)

adel (behind, rear (spatial))

bedin adel in yrch (I go behind the orcs)

am (over, onto (denoting height and movement))

cemmin am i ’olf (I jump over a bough)

be (according to)

be beth en aran (accoring to a word of the king)

di (beneath (abstract, spatial))

athrabeth di ’wilith (a debate beneath the sky)

nu (under, beneath (spatial))

nu amon (under a hill)

nef (on this side of)

nef aer (on this side of the sea)

trî (through)

minnon trî annon (I enter through a gate)

Presumably, also the preposition **o** (about, concerning) causes lenition. However, there is some peculiarity: If the following word starts with a vowel, this preposition causes an **h-** to be prefixed to the following word:

o (about, concerning)

siniath o Rohan (tidings concerning Rohan)
trenarn o hedhil (a tale about elves)

8.2.2 Irregular plural formation

Unfortunately, not all nouns and adjectives follow the pattern of plural formation outlined in lesson 4. We will now get to know the first group of exceptions to the main pattern.

There are some words which had only one syllable in archaic Sindarin but acquired a second syllable in the evolution towards modern Sindarin. However, their plural formation preserves the original monosyllabic word. For example, in early Sindarin there was the word **dagr** (battle) derived from primitive **ndakrô**. This word had the completely regular plural **deigr** (this **-ei-** later became the **-ai-** of modern Sindarin). However, only *afterwards* the word developed a second syllable, becoming **dagor**, but the same was done in the regular plural, resulting in final **deigor** instead of *degyr* as one might expect.

The words which form plural in this way are:

badhor (judge) → beidhor
bragol (sudden) → breigol
dagor (battle) → deigor
glamor (echo) → gleimor
hador (thrower) → heidor
hathol (axe) → heithol
idhor (thoughtfullness) → idhor
ivor (crystal) → ivor
lagor (swift) → leigor
magol (sword) → meigol
magor (swordfighter) → meigor
nadhor (pasture) → neidhor
nagol (tooth) → neigol
naugol (dwarf) → noegol
tadol (double) → teidol
tathor (willow) → teithor
tavor (woodpecker) → teivor
tegol (pen) → tigol
gollor (mage) → gyllor

However, there's a different development in which the ending **-rô** (denoting someone doing something) is not appended to the primitive stem like in **makrô** but to the primitive verb, cf. **maktârô**. Whereas the first form yields **makr** → **magor** as outlined above, the second form had a second syllable from the start and would yield a regular plural **maethor** → **maethoer**. This basically applies to all nouns formed from A-verbs by exchanging the final **-a** into **-or**:

maethor (fighter) → maethoer (fighters)
*halthor (protector) → halthoer (protectors)

8.2.3 Agreement and disagreement

In order to express agreement and disagreement, one may use **mae** (well, yes) and **baw** and **law** (no, don't!). The latter two words for denial show an important difference: While **law** is used to deny facts, **baw** is used to deny intentions.
A question like
Telich ned aduial nan adab nîn? (Do you come to my house in the evening?)
asks for someones intention. If you want to say no to this request, you have to answer with **baw**. On the other hand, a question like
Govant Aragorn Legolas? (Did Aragorn meet Legolas?)
has to do with a fact and therefore one has to answer with **law** if Aragorn did not meet Legolas.
Both **law** and **baw** are rather hard and sudden denials, and although they are understood, they should not usually be used in normal conversation. Often it is better to repeat the verb of the question:
Lastach i 'lamor? (Do you hear the echo?)
Laston. (Yes.) - ú-Laston. (No.)
Only for questions involving the verb 'to be' (which is not written in Sindarin) one is often forced to use **mae** or **law**.

8.2.4 Object pronouns

In Sindarin (like in English), there is often no marked distinction between an object in dative (I give you) and accusative (I see you). Hence, both can be expressed by a direct object in Sindarin (however, to make a distinction, in Sindarin often **an** is used to express dative, corresponding to the English 'I give to you', 'I give for you'). We will treat those pronouns in lesson 19). The direct object pronouns are

Object	Singular	Plural
1. Person	nin (me)	men (us)
2. Pers.(formal)	le (thou)	le (thou)
2. Person	*cen (you)	*cen (you)
3. Pers.(male)	*son (him)	*syn (them)
3. Pers.(female)	*sen (her)	*sin (them)
3. Pers.(things)	*san (it)	sain (them)
3. Person (reflexive)	*in (him-, her-, itself)	*in (themselves)

Since these forms are used as direct objects, they have to be lenited when in actual use:

Pronouns in accusative are often found before the verb:
hon cenin (I see him)
gen hîr (he finds you)
If used in dative, they are likely to follow the verb:
Anno nin i vagol! (Give me the sword!)
Lasto hon! (Listen to him!)
The reflexive pronouns refer back to the subject of the sentence:
Cên in. (He sees himself.)
Cên hon. (He sees him.)

8.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
badhor	judge	lagor	fast
baw	no	maethor	fighter
bragol	sudden	magol	sword
cab-	to jump, to leap	magor	swordfighter
dagor	battle	ne cheriad	in the beginning
e-laer	of Summer	nautha-	to think, to plan
ech	spear	peth	word
glamor	echo	nadhor	pasture
golf	branch	nagol	tooth
gollor	mage	naugol	dwarf
hador	thrower	sam	chamber, room
hathol	axe	si	here
heriad	beginning	tadol	double
idhor	thoughtfulness	tathor	willow
i-meigol	of swords	tavor	woodpecker
ivor	crystal	thand	shield
man lû	what time?	thôl	helmet

8.4 Conversation —an Invitation

If you know elves for some time, maybe you want to invite them to your home, or you're invited yourself. In Sindarin, this may be expressed as

> Aníral toled na gar nîn? (Do you want to come to my house?)
> Aníral toled an govaded nin? (Do you want to come to meet me?).

If you don't know the other too well, it is better to use the courteous endings of the 2nd person (like in the above example). If your guest has arrived, you ask him to enter:

> Minno! (Enter!)

If you have met him outside and ask him in spontaneously, you can also use

> Aníral minnad? (Do you want to enter?).

Once he is inside, you can offer food or drink using

> Aníral maded? (Do you want to eat?) Aníral sogad? (Do you want to drink?)

or you start showing him your home. This is done with phrases like

> Sen i thambas. (This is the hall.)
> Trî i annon hiril i ham-e-guiad. (Through the door you find the living-room.)
> Am i bendrath i ham-e-maded. (Up the stairs is the eating room.)
> Fair. . . (Right is . . .) Hair. . . (Left is. . .)
> Trî chenneth cenil i daur. (Through the window you can see the forest.)
> Tiro i ham-e-meigol. (Look, the armoury.)

The following words might come in handy if you describe your own home:

thamb (hall), *sam-i-meigol (armoury), car (house), henneth (window), annon (gate), pen-drath (stairs), *sam-e-guiad (living room), *sam-en-nen (bathroom), *sam-e-lostad (bed-room), haust (bed)

Lesson 9

Past tense of I-verbs, irregular Plurals 2

9.1 Text

Pengolodh

Ye mae'n ú'l [illegible]

Yáwim gwa'n ye'n [illegible]:

Ye [illegible] mi [illegible]. Ar nauco: mainu ha'i hauhaur [illegible] ye'n [illegible]. I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

I narn e-harch

Arwen: Man lû bedich?
Aragorn: Erin arad aphadol.
Arwen: Bennin na Chithaeglir. Io anann. Mín edhil vaethanner dan yrch. A dan affaeg. Cennin firn-i-chuinar nan had hen.
Aragorn: Sen tîr?
Arwen: Aphadol rýn tolem na i harch en aran fern-i-guina. Sa eithel i naid faeg. Nauthon i aran hen tôl. No diriel!
Aragorn: Mae. Cuio vae!

The tale of the grave

Arwen: What time do you go?
Aragorn: On the following day.
Arwen: I went to the Misty Mountains. Long ago. We elves fought against orcs. And against worse. I saw dead who lived at this place.
Aragorn: Is this true?
Arwen: Following tracks we came to the grave of the undead king. It was the source of the bad things. I thing this king comes again. Be watchful!
Aragorn: Yes. Fare well!

9.2 GRAMMAR

9.2.1 Past tense of I-verbs

The formation of past tense for I-verbs is a little more complex than in the case of A-verbs. There are several ways of how these verbs can form their past tense, and often more recent developments replaced the original past tense formation, leading to the fact that a verb may have more than one correct past tense.

The most frequently encountered case are basic verbs ending in the consonants **-b, -d, -g** and **-dh**. These verbs form their past tense by so-called nasal infixion. We start with the formation of the personless singular form (which is identical to the 3rd person singular as in present tense) from which all other past tense forms can be derived. The past tense is formed with the help of the element **-n-**, but this is not appended to the word but inserted *before* the final consonant. This leads to the following set of sound shifts: **nd** → **nt**, **nb** → **mp**, **ng** → **nc** and **ndh** → **nd** (essentially, the final consonant is 'un-mutated').

had- (to throw) → hant (he threw)
cab- (to leap) → camp (he leaped)
dag- (to slay) → danc (he slew)
gwedh- (to bind) → gwend (he bound)

Forms corresponding to other persons are derived by appending an **-i-** to this 3rd person/personless forms onto which in turn the appropriate pronomial ending is appended. Like in present tense, this causes i-affection in the verb:

hennin (I threw), hennich (you threw), hant (he threw)
hennim (we threw), hennich (you threw), hennir (they threw)

Verbs which originally ended in **-m-** or **-n** (this comes out in 3rd age Sindarin as **-v-** or **-n-**) are similar, but there's a peculiarity to them: Regularly, adding the nasal past tense marker **-n-** would produce the sound shift **nv** → **mm**, but it comes out as **mp** instead due to the similarity to the more frequently encountered class of verbs described above. It may be that

the other nasal combination **nn** is changed into **nt** for similar reasons, but we don't know for sure. However, only three verbs of this class are known:

hav- (to sit) → hamp (he sat)
cen- (to see) → cenn or cent (he saw)
can- (to shout) → cann or cant (he shouted)

Like for their counterparts described above, all other forms are derived by appending **-i-** and the pronomial endings to the forms. **-mp-** and the possible **-nt-** are changed into **-mm-** and **-nn-** respecitvely. Again, i-affection has to be carried out:

hemmin (I sat), hemmich (you sat), hamp (he sat)
hemmim (we sat), hemmich (you sat), hemmir (they sat)

There's a deceptively similar verb derived from original end consonant **-b** (which also lenites into **-v**). This, along with verbs ending in the nasals **-r** or **-l** forms a past tense of a completely different kind —by strengthening of the stem vowel. A stem vowel **a** or **o** is changed into **au**, the vowel **i** is lengthened to **î** in the process. Verbs ending in **-r-** or **-l-** but having **e** as stem vowel have yet a different way of forming the past tense which we'll cover in lesson 11. Hence

hal- (to lift) → haul (he lifted)
gir- (to shudder) → gîr (he shuddered)
nor- (to run) → naur (he ran)
lav- (to lick) → lauf (he licked)

(the change of **-v-** into **-f** is merely the way this sound is written when it is final).

However, the sound **au** in Sindarin can only persist in words with one syllable —if the verb is longer, e.g. by the presence of a prefix or an ending, then it is changed into **o**:

trenar- (to tell) → trenor (told)

This is especially relevant for the question of endings. Verbs of this class insert the vowel **-e-** between the 3rd person/personless form and the pronomial endings. Consequently, there's no i-affection:

tolen (I came), tolech (you came), taul (he came)
tolem (we came), tolech (you came), toler (they came)

gíren (I shuddered), gírech (you shuddered), gîr (he shuddered)
gírem (we shuddered), gírech (you shuddered), gírer (they shuddered)

We will cover other ways of forming I-verb past tenses in later lessons.

9.2.2 Demonstrative pronouns

The demonstrative pronouns in Sindarin are ***sen** (this) and **sin** (these). Like an adjective, they follow a noun and are lenited in this position. Usually, the definite article is written before the noun:

i aran hen (this king)
i thîw hin (these signs)

Possibly, the demonstrative pronoun can also be used as an independent entity, i.e. not determining a noun. If so, it occurs unlenited:
Sen magol. (This is a sword.)

9.2.3 Imperative of 'to be'

There are few situations where the context is not sufficient to allow what form of 'to be' needs to be filled into a given 'gap'. One of these situations is the imperative. Here, the form **no!** (be!) is written explicitly.

No veren! (Be bold!)

Most likely, this **no** has evolved beyond a mere imperative into a particle denoting optative, which might be translated as 'may it be that'.

9.2.4 ai-Plurals

There are some cases where an **-ai-** in a word is not left unchanged when plural is formed but is instead changed into **-î-** or rarely into **-y-**. This is caused for words with **-e-** or **-y-** in the archaic stem of the word, leading to a different plural formation. The words with this seemingly irregular formation are:

cai (hedge) → cî (hedges)
cair (ship)→ cîr (ships)
fair (mortal)→ fîr (mortals)
fair (right, right hand) → fyr (right hands)
gwain (new)→ gwîn
lhain (thin, lean)→ lhîn
paich (juice)→ pich (juices)
rain (footprint, track)→ rýn (tracks)
tellain (sole of foot)→ tellyn (soles of feet)

9.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
aphadol	following	had-	to throw
cai	hedge	hal-	to lift
cair	ship	hav-	to sit
can-	to shout	lav-	to lick
cuina-	to be alive	lhain	thin, lean
dag-	to slay	narn	tale
e-harch	of the grave	paich	juice
eithel	spring, source	rain	footprint, track
erin	on the (indicating time)	redh-	to sow
fair	right, right hand	sarch	grave
faeg	bad, mean, poor	taen	long
fern	dead	tellain	sole of foot
gwain	new	tîr	true, right, straight
gwann	past	tiriel	watchful
gwedh-	to bind	trenar-	to tell

9.4 CONVERSATION —THE WEATHER

The weather is, also for elves, a topic which is often discussed. If you don't know what to talk about, try dropping a comment on weather conditions! You can start with

Man tolthant i ’waew?
(’What did the wind bring?’, How is the weather?)

Man tolthatha i ’waew?
(’What will the wind bring?’, How will the weather become?).

The answer might include something like

Ail. (It is raining.)
Danna loss. (Snow falls.)
Síla Anor. (The sun is shining.)
Hithu. (It is fog.)

An elf experiences the weather as something outside his influence, and furthermore, he doesn’t have a specific agent ’doing’ the weather in mind —consequently statements about the weather are impersonal. This is best seen in **ail** which literally translates ’is raining’, avoiding the english ’dummy’ subject ’it’ (there is no ’it’ doing the raining if you think a bit).
But this implies that also statements like ’it is cold’ have to be phrased impersonal, hence **ring** (it is cold) and **ring enni** (I am cold) instead of *sa ring* or *im ring*.

The following words might be useful for talking about the weather:

ring (cold), laug (warm), loss (snow), ross (rain), mith (wet mist), faun (cloud), glawar (sunlight), alagos (storm)

Lesson 10

Future tense of A- and I-verbs, Numbers, irregular Plurals 3

10.1 Text

mi dhŵthrin

ŷthŷn· mminiŷ· ithlim ŵ in hrth i mthrnŷ prnin mi dhŵthrin min mjn ithlin·

ŷthŷm min th pthm min rnŵmb

mmniŷ prrhm thn lin rnrn ŷŭrn· hi ŷlrn rthi· in hŷrnhm rnŏn ŷŭrn hŵth· i rhmhm thq·

ŷthŷm mhin dhrn· lhi rnthi mrrn rnŭth·

mmniŷ mŵ· rthi· ŷth· rthhm ŵm thn in mŏn hi ŵ injŷm thŏth·

ŷthŷm mŵ· mŏ hmŵn·

Mi Chithaeglir

Aragorn, Ninias, Eobhan ah in edhil o Imladris padar mi Chithaeglir nan mbâr Eobhan.

Aragorn: Man lû telitham nan daen?

Ninias: Bedítham i lond hen dad eraid. Si i râd talu, ir athradatham i daur i raid faeg. A cenitham loss.

Aragorn: Mathon chwest. Hithu delitha ned aduial.

Ninias: Mae, telitha. Ring. Tolthatham aen 'lad an naur si ae aníram laug.

Aragorn: Mae. Naw vaer.

In the Misty Mountains

Aragorn, Ninias, Eobhan and the elves from Rivendell march in the Misty Mountains towards the home of Eobhan.

Aragorn: What time will we come to the summits?

Ninias: We will go this path for two days. Here, the way is level, but when we have crossed the forest the ways are poor. And we will see snow.

Aragorn: I feel a breeze. Mist will come in the evening.

Ninias: Yes. It will be cold. We should maybe fetch wood for a fire now if we want to be warm.

Aragorn: Yes, a good idea.

10.2 GRAMMAR

10.2.1 The future tense

Future tense of A-verbs

The future tense is formed for A-verbs by appending the ending **-tha** to the word stem. It is conjugated by appending the appropriate pronomial ending to this form. Like in present tense, the 1st person ending **-n** changes the preceding **-a-** into **-o-**.

lachathon (I will flame), lachathach (you will flame)
lachatha (he will flame) lachatham (we will flame)
lachathach (you will flame), lachathar (they will flame)

erthathon (I will unite), erthathach (you will unite)
erthatha (he will unite) erthatham (we will unite)
erthathach (you will unite), erthathar (they will unite)

linnathon (I will sing), linnathach (you will sing)
linnatha (he will sing) linnatham (we will sing)
linnathach (you will sing), linnathar (they will sing)

Future tense of I-verbs

For most of the I-verbs, the formation of the future tense is almost free of complications. We will discuss the exceptions in lesson 11. Starting with the infinitive, one simply appends the ending **-tha** and the appropriate pronomial endings for conjugation:

pedithon (I will speak), pedithach (you will speak)
peditha (he will speak), peditham (we will speak)
pedithach (you will speak), pedithar (they will speak)

telithon (I will come), telithach (you will come)
telitha (he will come), telitham (we will come)
telithach (you will come), telithar (they will come)

One should not forget that i-affection is carried out in forming the infinitive and that again in the 1st person singular **-a-** is changed into **-o-** again.

Meaning of the future tense

Besides the ordinary meaning that something will happen in the future, the future tense in Sindarin can probably also imply an intention. The precise meaning must then be deduced from the context.
Nin pennir beriathon Edoras. (They told me I shall defend Edoras.)

Future of 'to be'

Since 'to be' is usually left out, the context of a sentence has to be used to determine which tense is meant (a single sentence is usually insufficient for this):
Im faeg. ('I am bad', 'I was bad' or 'I will be bad')
can, according to context, be translated in present tense, past tense or future tense.

10.2.2 Plural formation for words ending in **-u**

There is a group of words which had only one syllable in archaic Sindarin but ended with **-w**. This final sound often developed into a **-u** in modern Sindarin (and thus a second syllable was formed), but the plural formation of these words still reflects the original pattern for the monosyllabic word. For example, the archaic word **celw** (source) formed the plural as **cilw**. But later, the word became **celu** in modern Sindarin, but the plural is not *cily* as one might expect from the rules, but **cilu**, reflecting the development of the word. Other words in this group of irregular plural formation are:

anu (male) → einu
celu (spring, source)→cilu (sources)
coru (cunning)→cyru
galu (blessing)→geilu (blessings)
gwanu (death, act of dying)→gweinu (deaths)
haru (wound)→heiru (wounds)
hethu (vague)→hithu
hithu (mist)→hithu (mists)
inu (female)→inu
malu (pale)→meilu
naru (red)→neiru
nedhu (cushion)→nidhu (cushions)
pathu (level space, sward)→peithu (swards)
talu (flat)→teilu
tinu (spark)→tinu (sparks)

However, there are indications that 'regular' plurals may be formed by analogy with other words, for example, the word **curu** (skill) would follow the above pattern and develop into *cyru*, but instead its plural is the analoguous **cyry**. Possibly, this may be relevant for more of the above, and there may even be two valid plural forms for a given word.

10.2.3 Numbers

The numbers from 1 to 10 in Sindarin read:

1	min		6	eneg	
2	tâd		7	odog	
3	neled		8	toloth	
4	canad		9	neder	
5	leben		10	caer	

For larger numbers, we have scarce information. However, we may use the number formation of Qenya as a guideline. Based on this idea, we may expect ***minchaer** (11), ***tadchaer** (12), ***nelchaer** (13) but ***tadchaen** (20) ***min tadchaen** (21), ***nelchaen** (30), ***eneg nelchaen** (36), ***neder odchaen** (69) and so on.
Basically, **-chaer** has the meaning of '-teen' whereas **-chaen** stands for **-ty**. The prefix is always the first syllable of the number. Numbers are written just the other way as they are in English —the last english digit comes first in Sindarin.
Unfortunately, we do not know what the word for 100 should be. For even larger numbers, there would be **meneg** (1000) which possibly might also indicate a large number in general.

If things are counted, the number goes before the substantive and does not cause mutation:

> Neled binn delithar. (Three men will come.)

Elvish numbers are said to follow the duodecimal system, however the only examples of Sindarin numbers known follow the decimal system instead, hence we will not describe speculations about the duodecimal formation here.

10.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
*ae	if	malu	pale
anu	male	nan mbâr	to the home
athrada-	to cross	naru	red
celu	spring, source	naur	fire
coru	wily, cunning	naw	idea
galu	blessing	nedhu	cushion
glad	wood	pathu	level space, sward
gwanu	death, act of dying	ring	cold
haru	wound	sun	few
hethu	vague	taen	peak, summit
hithu	mist, fog	talu	flat
inu	female	tinu	spark
ir	when	toltha-	to fetch, to summon
lond	path		

10.4 CONVERSATION —ASKING THE WAY

If you have lost your way but are lucky enough to meet some elves, it is very useful to know some phrases in order to be able to ask for the way:

Using

> Man sad . . . ? (’What place is. . . ?’, Where is. . .) or
> Man râd na . . . ? (’Which way to. . . ?’, Where to. . . ?)

you can phrase your question. One can also try

> Nin pelich peded i râd na. . . ? (Can you tell me the way to. . . ?).

A possible answer might be

> Pado fair/hair! (Go right/left!)

if it is only a short distance. For a longer distance in a city, you might get an answer like

> Ab vennich daer neled raith, pado fair na gar veleg.
> (After you have gone straight for three streets, go right towards a large house.)

If you are out in nature, the directions given to you might rather sound like

> Pado nan amrûn nan thin. Hirich hirion. Aphado i hirion min arad a pado na charad.
> (Go east until the evening. You find a great river. Follow the stream one day and go south.).

Sometimes, you might also hear something like

> Hirithach amon i estar ’Amon Hen’. (You will find a hill called ’Amon Hen’.)

The following vocabulary might be of use:

Directions: hair (left), fair (right), taer (straight), ad (back)

The Compass: amrûn (East, sunrise), rhûn (East), rhuven (East), harad (South), forn (North), forod (North), forven (North) annûn (West), dûn (West)

Points of reference: taur (forest), tawar (wood), ael (lake), rim (cold mountain lake), lô (swamp), aer/aear (sea, ocean), gaer, gaear (sea, ocean), sîr (river), celon (river), duin (stream), ered (mountains), amon (hill), habad (shore), toll (isle), athrad (crossing), cîl (cleft, gorge), eithel (spring), parth (field, enclosed grassland)

In town: iant (bridge), iaun (holy place), sant (garden), rath (street), barad (tower), ram (wall), ost (town)

Lesson 11

Analoguous verb forms, Class Plural

11.1 Text

Govaded

Aragorn ah in edhil ’evedir Rycol vaethor. E trenar:

Rycol: Tolen am i thaen. Nin govennir neled maethoer. Athrannem i daur ennas a hiriannem rýn i-nglamhoth. Aphannem idh rýn hin neled eraid. Hiriannem i ’lamhoth a lathrannem. Ai! Ven lastanner a dagor vragol heriant. Grogassen. Degannen orch, dan maethoer nîn firianner. Drengen, labassen am girith a bronnen. Sa gortheb.

A meeting

Aragorn and the elves meet Rycol, a fighter. He tells:

Rycol: I came over the summits. Three fighters went with me. We crossed the forest there and found tracks of an orc-horde. We followed the tracks three days. We found the orc-horde and eavesdropped. Alas! They heard us and a sudden battle began. I felt great fear. I killed an orc, but my fighters died. I flew, jumped over a cleft and survived. It was horrible.

11.2 GRAMMAR

11.2.1 Analoguous past tenses for I-verbs

Some I-verbs don't form their past tenses by either nasal infixion or stem vowel strengthening which are the past tenses developed directly from primitive Elvish. Instead, they form past tenses in analogy with the more frequent A-verbs with the ending **-ant** (which has no justification from the underlying primitive forms). The following rules involve a fair amount if guesswork about what Tolkien really had in mind and not everything is definitely known.

This analoguous replacement comes in two different types. The first class of these verbs has only an analoguous past tense (and usually retains the regular past tense as a valid alternative). However, the analoguous past tense is somehow appended to the infinitive, so these forms show i-affection in past tense even if there's no **i** in the ending. In the following, we list all verbs of this class:

dag- (to slay) → degi (to slay) → danc or degant (he slew)
gwedh- (to bind) → gwedhi (to bind) → gwend or gwedhant (he bound)
redh- (to sow) → redhi (to sow) → rend or redhant (he sowed)
tog- (to bring) → tegi (to bring) → tunc or tegant (he brought)

Some verbs ending in nasals presumably share this analoguous formation. If the stem vowel of the verb is an **i**, the ending is expanded to **-iant** to echo the **i**. This is quite a common phenomenon in Sindarin and we will meet it again later in this lesson:

fir- (to die) → firi (to die) → fîr or firiant (he died)
gir- (to shudder) → giri (to shudder) → gîr or giriant (he shuddered)
glir- (to sing) → gliri (to sing) → glîr or gliriant (he sang)
hir- (to find) → hiri (to find) → hiriant (he found)
nor- (to run) → neri (to run) → naur or nerant (he ran)
sol- (to close) → seli (to close) → saul or selant (he closed)
trenar- (to tell) → treneri (he told) → trenor or trenerant (he told)
tir- (to watch) → tiri (to watch) → tiriant (he watched)

However, there's a second class of I-verbs for which the analoguous replacement has affected more forms. These forms typically show an infinitive in **-o** (e.g. **garo** 'to hold' but **gerin** 'I hold'), consequently an analoguous past tense *without* i-affection and presumably a future in **-atha** instead of **-itha**. The verbs in question are:

dreg- (to flee) → drego (to flee) → drenc or dregant (he flew)
→ dregatha (he will flee)
hav- (to sit) → havo (to sit) → hamp or havant (he sat)
→ havatha (he will sit)
rad- (to find a way) → rado (to find a way) → rant or radant (he found a way)
→ radatha (he will find a way)

sog- (to drink) → sogo (to drink) → sunc or sogant (he drank)
→ sogatha (he will drink)
tob- (to cover) → tobo (to cover) →tump or tobant (he covered)
→ tobatha (he will cover)
drav- (to hew) → dravo (to hew) →dramp or dravant (he hewed)
→ dravatha (he will hew)

For a couple of verbs, especially those ending in a liquid **-r, -l** with stem vowel **e**, the analoguous past tense seems to have replaced the regular formation alltogether:

gar- (to hold) → garo (to hold) →garant (he held) → garatha (he will hold)
mel- (to love) → melo (to love) →melant (he loved) → melatha (he will love)
pel- (to fade) → pelo (to fade) →pelant (he faded) → pelatha (he will fade)
thel- (to intend) → thelo (to intend) →thelant (he intended) → thelatha (he will intend)

All these verbs append the pronomial endings by inserting the vowel **-e-**. Hence

drammen (I hewed), drammech (you hewed), dramp (he hewed)
drammem (we hewed), drammech (you hewed), drammer (they hewed)
or
dravannen (I hewed), dravannech (you hewed), dravant (he hewed)
dravannem (we hewed), dravannech (you hewed), dravanner (they hewed)

dangen (I slew, dangech (you slew), danc (he slew)
dangem (we slew), dangech (you slew), danger (they slew)
or
degannen (I slew), degannech (you slew), degant (he slew)
degannem (we slew), degannech (you slew), deganner (they slew)

11.2.2 Analoguous past tenses for A-verbs

There are also some derived verbs which form their present tense and past tense analoguous with the I-verbs. This primarily concerns the following A-verbs with three syllables (one may question if it still makes sense to call these verbs A-verbs since they don't show an ending **-a** in present tense, but they are definitely derived verbs):

athrad- (to cross) → athrado (to cross) → athrad (he crosses)
→ athrant (he crossed) → athradatha (he will cross)
aphad- (to follow) → aphado (to follow) → aphad (he follows)
→ aphant (he followed) → aphadatha (he will follow)
gannad- (to play harp) → gannado (to play harp) → gannad (he plays harp)
→ gannant (he played harp) → gannadatha (he will play harp)
lathrad- (to eavesdrop) → lathrado (to eavesdrop) → lathrad (he eavesdrops)
→ lathrant (he eavesdropped) → lathradatha (he will eavesdrop)
limmmid- (to moisten) → limmido (to moisten) → limmid (he moistens)
→ limmint (he moistened) → limmidatha (he will moisten)
nimmmid- (to whiten) → nimmido (to whiten) → nimmid (he whitens)
→ nimmint (he whitened) → nimmidatha (he will whiten)
tangad- (to establish) → tangado (to establish) → tangad (he establishes)
→ tangant (he established) → tangadatha (he will establish)

In present tense, these verbs presubaly are conjugated like I-verbs:

ephedin (I follow), ephedich (you follow), aphad (he follows)
ephedim (we follow), ephedich (you follow), ephedir (they follow)

In past tense however, they do not behave like the most frequent class of I-verbs but use the vowel **-e-** to attach the endings:

aphannen (I followed), aphannech (you followed), aphant (he followed)
aphannem (we followed), aphannech (you followed), aphanner (they followed)

11.2.3 Class plural

Sindarin does not only have the 'ordinary' plural, denoting an a priori rather unspecified amount of something (e.g. **edain** might denote two or several thousand —there is no way to tell) but also a distinct plural form called 'class plural'. This class plural, roughly spoken, denotes all objects of some specific kind. The class in question may be large ('all stars') or small ('all sons of Elrond'; there are only two), but it has to be a true plural, there is no class with only one object.

The most common ending to form class plural is **-ath**:

Perian (halfling) → Periannath (halflings as a people)
sell (daughter) → sellath dîn (all his daughters)
elen (star) → elenath (all stars, the nightsky)

If the noun ends with an **-m** or **-mb**, this becomes **-mm-** before the class plural ending. Likewise, if the noun ends with **-nd**, this becomes **-nn-**. A single **-n** may be expanded to **-nn-**, this depends on the question if it represents a shortened **-nd, -nn** (like in **Perian**) or an original ending **-n** (like in **elen**) —in the first case, there are often longer variants of the word. Final **-s** is expanded to **-ss-**. Final **-nc** is softened to **-ng**.

lam (tongue) → lammath (all tongues)
ranc (arm) → rangath (all arms)

If the last syllable of the noun contains an **i** and only one consonant follows afterwards, the **i** is echoed in the ending, changing it to **-iath**, if however more than one consonant follows then the ending remains **-ath**. Unfortunately, the last rule also holds for an **-m, -s** or the **-n** that would be expanded to **-nn-**:

gîl (star) → giliath (stars)
pilin (arrow) → pilinnath Aragorn (all arrows of Aragorn)

The special class of words ending in **-u** (see lesson 10.2.2) changes the final **-u** into **-w-** when the ending is appended:

galu (blessing) → galwath (all blessings)
tinu (spark) → tinwath (all sparks)

If a word in class plural is determined by the definite article, this has to appear as plural **in** since the class plural is a plural form after all. This can be confusing if one uses a new word to denote the whole class:

in elenath (the nightsky)

In order to denote peoples or races, one often finds **-rim** ('people' with positive connotation) or **-hoth** ('horde', with negative connotation) instead of **-ath**:

glamhoth (din-horde, a host of orcs)
Nogothrim (dwarves)

As in the previous example, all these words are true plural and get the definite article **in**, even though e.g. 'din-horde' is actually singular in English.

i nglamhoth (the host of orcs)
idh Rohirrim (the people of Rohan)

11.2.4 The relative pronoun in dative

Presumably, there is an abbreviation of relative sentences in dative which would involve **an i** (for him who) or **an in** (for those who). This is done by the contracted form **ai**:

Maethathon ai melin. (I will fight for those (whom) I love.)
Cuinach ai ú-belich gared. (You live for what you cannot have.)

Note that this particular contraction only concerns the relative pronoun **i** or **in**: If **an** is used with the definite article, this reads **'nin** instead and causes nasal mutation of the following word:

aglar 'ni Pheriannath (glory to the halflings)

11.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
aphad-	to follow	laba-	to hop
athrad-	to cross	lathrad-	to listen to, to eavesdrop
brona-	to survive, to endure	limmid-	to moisten
cirith	cleft	nimmid-	to whiten
dag-	to slay	rad-	to find a way
drav-	to hew	ranc	arm
dreg-	to flee	síla-	to shine
gar-	to hold, to possess	sog-	to drink
gannad-	to play the harp	sol-	to close
gortheb	horrible	tangad-	to make fast, to confirm
govaded	meeting	thel-	to intend, to mean
groga-	to feel terror	tíra-	to watch
*hir-	to find	tob-	to cover, to roof

11.4 CONVERSATION —IN BATTLE

If you're ever unlucky enough to end up in a battle, you might not give up hope as long as elves are around. However, in order to fight alongside with them, you might need to understand the following commands. General commands will be given like

Noro nan goth! (Run towards the enemy!)
Pain! Si berio! (All! Defend here!)
Drego! (Flee!)

Before battle starts, however, you might get to hear the battle plan:

Idh rochyn delithar lagor o chair a heriathar i nagor.
(The riders shall come swiftly from the left and shall begin the battle.)

I meigor veriathar i had hen.
(The swordfighters shall defend this place.)

Mabo i cheithol dan in yrch!
(Take the axes against the orcs!)

Hado ich ben daith nîn!
(Throw spears according to my sign!)

If you're cut off, don't despair: Use the following phrases to call for help:

Govaetham! (We shall fight together!)
Tulu! (Help!)
Amaethatham! (Let us attack again!)
Im harnannen! (I'm wounded!)

As long as the battle goes well, you can also try one of the following:

Lacho calad! Drego morn! (Flame light! Flee darkness!)
Gurth 'ni yrch! (Death to the orcs!)
An Imladris! (For Rivendell!)

The following words might prove a useful addition to your battle vocabulary:

Different troops: rochon (rider), magor (swordfighter), hador (thrower), cúvenn (bowman)

Weapons and armour: magol (sword), ech (spear), cû (bow), pilin (arrow), hathol (axe), sigil (dagger, knife), lang (saber), thôl (helmet), thand (shield), crist (knife), grond (club), dring (hammer)

Verbs: drav- (to hew), maetha- (to fight), dag- (to slay), had- (to throw), dartha- (to wait), beria- (to defend), rocha- (to ride), nor- (to run), dreg- (to flee), heria- (to begin suddenly), harna- (to wound)

Lesson 12

PREPOSITIONS 2, MIXED MUTATION

12.1 TEXT

[illegible]

[illegible]

Dagor

Ben bith Rycol Aragorn ar in edhil anírar hired idh rýn in yrch. Nan meth telir nan imlad dholen ias in yrch dharthar. Aragorn ar Ninias vedir tired a hirir ’lamhoth. Bragol lastar deng a pilin reviar dan in yrch. Aragorn nalla ’Gurth an yrch!’ a nôr dan i goth. In yrch ’erir leng ar higil; magol Aragorn and athan i sigil hin a dâg orch. Pilin edhrim reviar dan in yrch, a rim ú-belir drego. Ab nagor leithiar venn naud.

A battle

According to the words of Rycol, Aragorn and the elves want to find the tracks of the orcs. At the end they come to a hidden valley where the orcs rest. Aragorn and Ninias go watching and find an orc-host. Suddenly they hear bowstrings and arrows fly against the orcs. Aragorn cries 'Death to the orcs!' and runs against the enemy. The orcs have sabers and daggers; Aragorn's sword is longer than these daggers and he slays an orc. More arrows fly against the orcs and many cannot flee. After the battle they free a prisoner.

12.2 GRAMMAR

12.2.1 Prepositions

At this point, we will learn about some new prepositions which, unlike the group discussed before, cause nasal mutation (see lesson 4) for the following word.

They are

an (for)

maethon an Ngondor (I fight for Gondor)

dan (against)

maethon dam Mordor (I fight against Mordor)

and presumably also

athan (on the other side of, beyond)

athan aer (on the other side of an ocean)

We have learned about the fact that the plural article **in** is often shortened to **i** when nasal mutation for the following word is caused. If prepositions cause nasal mutations, this can in principle also happen, however, the pattern how the preposition is shortened is unfortunately different. Prepositions are only shortened if they cause nasal mutation for hard consonants **p, t** or **c**, or if they mutate **ml, h** or **th**.

a Pheriannath (for halflings)
da thaur (against a forest)
a thôl (for a helmet)

For the consonants **b, m, f, l, lh, r, s** and **th** the preposition adjusts:

am marad (for a tower)
am mellon (for a friend)
af fair (for a mortal)
al loth (for a flower)
al 'lug (for a serpent)
adh roch (for a horse)
as sarch (for a grave)

Since in the case of **athan** it is not even sure if this preposition causes nasal mutation at all, it is presumably better not to change this preposition at all.

Although we have introduced **an** (for) as a preposition, this does not appear to be its main function in Sindarin: Usually it is used (similarly to **en** denoting genitive) to denote the

dative. Although it is permissible to express the dative (like the accusative) as a lenited direct object, datives with **an** are much more common in the attested text samples:

Annon vagol venn. (I give the man a sword; unusual expression)
Annon vagol am menn. (I give a sword to the man; usual expression)

12.2.2 The mixed mutation

Mixed mutation is generally caused by compounds of prepositions with the definite article **i** or **in**. The genitive **en** also falls into this class.

To explain this in some more detail: Often, one would like to use an article immediately following a preposition, like in *be i* (according to the) or **na in** (to the). Both cases can be expressed by appending the ending **-n** (or sometimes **-in**) to a preposition (if **-in** is used, I-affection occurs). One finds

na (towards) → nan (towards the)
be (according to) → ben (according to the)
nu (under) → nuin (under the)
od (of) → uin (of the)
or (above, on) → erin (on the)

As the attested example **an + i** → **'nin** with nasal mutation indicates, it is somewhat dangerous (although tempting) to generalize this rule for compounds with prepositions too much.

As its name indicates, the mixed mutation acts sometimes like lenition and sometimes like nasal mutation. If caused by genitive, **en** is often shortened to **e**. Other compounds of preposition and article however are not shortened. The mixed mutation acts on the individual consonants as follows:

Hard sounds are changed as if it were lenition:

p-, **t-** and **c-** become **b-**, **d-** and **g-**:

calad (light) → e-galad (of the light)
pilin (arrow) → e-bilin (of the arrow)
taur (forest) → e-daur (of the forest)

pr- however becomes **mr**

prestanneth (affection) → e-mrestanneth (of the affection)

b-, d- und g- stay unchanged, but **en** gets shortened, but for **dr-, gl-, gr-** or **gw- en** comes in full length :

barad (tower) → e-barad (of the tower) but:
draug (wolf) → en-draug (of the wolf)

bl- and **br-** become **ml-** and **mr-**:

brôg (bear) → e-mrôg (of the bear)

f- and **n-** stay unchanged, and so does **en**:

nad (thing) → en-nad (of the thing)

h-, l-, th- and **m-** stay unchanged, but **en** is shortened:

hîr (lord) → e-hîr (of the lord)
maethor (fighter) → e-maethor (of the fighter)
thôl (helmet) → e-thôl (of the helmet)

rh-, lh- and **hw-** are changed into **'r-, 'l-**, and **'w-**, with **en** being shortened:

hwest (breeze) → e-'west (of the breeze)

s- becomes **h-** with shortened **en**:

salph (soup) → e-halph (of the soup)

Finally, **r-** is unchanged but **en** is changed into **edh**:

rem (net) → edh rem (of the net)

12.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English
ab nagor	after the battle
and	long
brôg	bear
coth	enemy
dolen	hidden
gurth	death
ias	where (not as question)
imlad	valley
lang	saber
leithia-	to free
meth	end
naud	bound
rim	much
sigil	dagger, knife
tang	bowstring

12.4 CONVERSATION —TELL ABOUT YOURSELF!

If you get to know elves better, maybe at some stage you feel it would be time to tell something about yourself, your family or details of your life. Well, you can do this with sentences like

Telin o…(I come from…)[1].
Nostor nîn ned…. (My birthday is on…)[2]
Tâd hîn mi adab nîn. (I have two children. [3])
Gwedhithon na N.N. ('I will bind to N.N. .', I'm engaged with N.N.)
Im gwennen na N.N. (I'm married to N.N.)

You can tell your job with

Im maethor. (I'm a fighter.)
Echedin gair. ('I build houses.', I'm a builder.)
Bangon chemmaid. (I trade with clothes.)
Redhin iau. ('I sow corn.', I'm a farmer.)
Neston. ('I heal.', I'm a healer.)
Im benn idhren. ('I'm a wise man.', I'm a scholar.)
Gennedin. ('I play the harp.', I'm a harper.)

[1] Unfortunately, you'll have to look ahead to lesson 13 if you want to use**o** correctly .
[2] The same holds for **ned**.
[3] Elves would never use 'have' in connection with children.

If you want to ask yourself, use

Man ceril? (What do you do?)
Man lû nostor lîn? (What time is your birthday?)
Le gwennen? (Are you married?)
Man sâd tolel? ('What place did you come from?', Where are you from?)

Some more useful words:

Jobs and titles: aran (king), rîs (queen), caun (prince), hîr (lord), hiril (lady), arphen (a noble), ithron (wizard), condir (mayor), rochben (rider), ceredir (maker), thavron (carpenter, builder), orodben (mountaineer), pethron (narrator), cennan (potter)

The family: herven (husband), herves (wife), dîs (bride), adar (father), naneth (mother), ion (son), sell (iell) (daughter), muindor (brother), muinthel (sister), gwanunig (twin), gwanur (relative)

Lesson 13

PREPOSITIONS 3, STOP-MUTATION AND LIQUID-MUTATION

13.1 TEXT

ibh an ÿan bÿan

pai ísûn· bann i an hac ţúhiman· lí manan aðn an ÿan bÿan· ar mam í pap bh mí bÿip

ó lÿd pshan man pnûan· n ednedhn· ÿ lûan ţpnhí bûn majan n dnahan pnûan· ÿd í dhXedţn psههn pnşí pnedpn dh· n ÿhn majan hşhí·

ísûn manî an ÿd pnan í lÿan bÿan í ednedn· an hac hşn lí lÿpn lpn hn bûan í manp ÿpn ÿpnşlpnş lÿpn lÿd·

I phith en aran fern

Be Eolair, i venn i in edhil leithianner, sa narn iaur en aran fern. Io anann e bent i phith nu firiant:
'Es sarch telithon nan edain, ar grogathar. Or hain lodatha faer nîn ar cenithon bain. Yrch o Chithaeglir tolthathar dulu daged i chyth. Ar ardh nîn athelitha.'
Eolair trenar in yrch bennir o haran fern a grogasser. In edhil thelir si hired had af fuin a ned arad aphadol hired i harch.

The words of the dead king

According to Eolair, the man whom the elves have freed, there is an old tale of the dead king. Long ago he said before he died the words:
'Out of a grave I will come to the men, and they will feel terror. Above them my spirit will float and I will see all. Orcs of the misty mountains will bring help to slay the enemies. And my kingdom will come again.'
Eolair tells that the orcs spoke about the dead king and had fear. The elves decide to find a place for the night now and to find the grave on the next day.

13.2 GRAMMAR

13.2.1 Prepositions

The last prepositions that we discuss here cause mutations of yet other types that we had not covered before. For most of the following prepositions, this is the so-called stop-mutation, in one case, this is the liquid mutation.

Please note that the liquid mutation is not specifically mentioned by Tolkien but its existence is only concluded from general principles, therefore it is rather uncertain. Luckily, it occurs rarely.

The prepositions to be discussed now are:

o (od) (of, coming from)

> Celebrimbor o Eregion (Celebrimbor of Eregion)
> nen o Chithaeglir (water coming from the Misty Mountains)
> sarn od Orthanc (a stone of the Orthanc)

ned (in, on (denoting time))

> telin ned laer (I come in summer)

ed (out of)

> ed annon (out of a door)
> es sarch (out of a grave)
> e thaur (out of a forest)

or (above, on)

> or amon (above a hill)
> or chaw (on a top)

The preposition **o** may become **od** if it comes before a vowel, most notably before a word starting in **o-**. Note that there is a second preposition **o** (about, concerning) which adds an **h-** to the following word if it ends in a vowel. Usually, these two prepositions can be

distinguished by the different mutations caused by them, but there are cases where only the context can help.

13.2.2 Stop-mutation

Stop mutation is caused by the prepositions **o** (from archaic **od**) and **ed**. Both prepositions become short, i.e. **o** and **e** if the following word starts with a consonant. In order to distinguish the short **e** coming from **ed** from the rather similar **e** coming from genitive **en**, the latter is usually written with a hyphen whereas the former is not. In tengwar, no hyphen should be written, so one might distinguish by leaving some space between the **e** and the following word if **ed** is meant.

Stop mutation can also be caused in compounds if the initial word ends with **-t** or **-d**. An example for this is presumably the prefix **ad-** (re-, again).

On 'hard' sounds, stop mutation acts like nasal mutation:

p-, **t-** and **c-** are changed into **ph-**, **th-** and **ch-**:

calad (light) → e chalad (out of a light)
taur (forest) → e thaur (out of a forest)

h- becomes **ch-**:

hammad (clothing) → e chammad (out of clothing)

hw-, lh- and **rh-** are mutated to **w-, thl-** and **thr-**:

hwest (breeze) → e west (out of a breeze)
lhug (serpent) → e thlug (out of a serpent)

b-, d-, g-, m- und **n-** remain unchanged but the preposition becomes short:

Gondor (Gondor) → o Gondor (of Gondor)
nath (web) → e nath (out of a web)

l- and **r-** remain also unchanged, however the preposition is not shortened:

Lothlórien (Lothlórien) → ed Lothlórien (out of Lothlórien)
rem (net) → ed rem (out of a net)

th-, f- and **s-** stay unchanged as well, but the preposition sometimes adjusts:

sarch (grave) → es sarch (out of a grave)
falch (ravine) → ef falch (out of a ravine)
thôl (helmet) → eth thôl (out of a helmet)

13.2.3 Liquid-mutation

Liquid-mutation usually follows **-r** or **-l**. This can be caused by the preposition **or** (above) or by forming a compound, such as **morchant** (shadow) from **mor** (dark) and **cant** (shape). Liquid mutation obeys the following rules:

p-, **t-** and **c-** become **ph-**, **th-** and **ch-**:

taur (forest) → or thaur (above a forest)
caw (top) → or chaw (above a top)

lh- and **rh-**are changed into **'l-** and **'r-**:

lhûg (serpent) → or 'lûg (above a serpent)

s- remains **s-**:

salph (soup) → or salph (above a soup)

All other consonants follow the rules for soft mutation.

13.2.4 New prefi xes

There are also some prefixes which do not cause lenition but rather stop- or liquid-mutation. Presumably, an example of the former is:

ad- (re-, again)

ertha- (to unite) → adertha- (to reunite)
tol- (to come) → athol- (to come back)

The prefix **ar-** is seen to cause liquid mutation, but sometimes also lenition:

ar- (royal, exalted)

pen (somebody) → arphen (a noble)

But there is a different prefix **ar-** probably causing only liquid mutation:

ar- (without)

nedia- (to count) → arnediad (without count)

13.2.5 Ordinal numbers

The ordinal numbers in Sindarin are:

first	minui	sixth	enchui
second	tadui (edwen)	seventh	odothui (othui)
third	nellui (nail)	eighth	tollui (tolothen)
fourth	canthui	ninth	nedrui
fifth	lefnui	tenth	paenui

13.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English
ardh	kingdom
arphen	a noble
faer	spirit
loda-	to float
nedia-	to count
pen	somebody
sarn	stone

13.4 CONVERSATION —THE TIME

You can hardly expect of an elf (an immortal being after all) that he looks to his watch and gives you an exact time. However, you can make an appointment with elves provided you are willing to risk a brief period of waiting. If you want to see an elf again, you can say while you say goodbye:

Man lû vin achenitham? (When will we see each other again?)
Man lû telithal na nin? (When will you come to me?)
Man lû gevedítham? (When will we meet?)

To indicate the day of the meeting, you will maybe hear:

Erin dolothen Nínui. (On the 8th of February.)

You might also hear

Uin dolothen Urui. (On the 9th day of August).

Note the difference between **erin** (on the), giving a date and **uin** (from the), indicating a time-span from a given date which in essence means one day more. Do not confuse these, or you will miss your date!

The hour can be indicated using

Ned amrûn. (At sunrise.)
Neth thîn. (At evendim.)
Ned aduial (At the twilight of evening.)

If you don't like this, you might say

ú-belin teli. (I cannot come.)

An other time will be found. Elves have much time to share.

The following vocabulary should enable you to arrange a meeting:

Months: Narwain (January), Nínui (February), Gwaeron (March), Gwirith (April), Lothron (May), Nórui (June), Cerveth (July), Urui (August), Ivanneth (September), Narbeleth (October), Hithui (November), Girithron (December)

Seasons: echuir (early spring), ethuil (late spring), laer (summer), iavas (harvest), firith (late fall), rhîw (winter)

Times of the day: amrûn (sunrise), aur (day, morning), arad (daytime), thin (evening), dû (sunset), tinnu (early night), daw (night)

Lesson 14

PARTICIPLES

14.1 DIALOG

[illegible]

[illegible] i [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Neth thin

Edhil hernennin, a tíriel i ardh darthar mi lad dithen dheliannen. Lechiel naur Aragorn a Ninias badar ambenn. Tiriel i minn lostol, Aragorn cheria peded.

Aragorn: Nauthol o haran fern goston.
Ninias: Mae. I harch hollen ammaer. Dan noer lechennin a beriathar vin dam morn.
Aragorn: Grogon yrch i chenir i noer.
Ninias: Si hain orthorem.
Aragorn: Orthorem. No mîn tiriel.

In the evening

Some elves are wounded, and having watched the surroundings, they rest in a small hidden valley. Having lighted a fire, Aragorn and Ninias go upward. Watching the sleeping men, Aragorn suddenly begins to speak:

Aragorn: I fear, thinking of the dead king.
Ninias: Well. The grave being closed would be better. But we have lighted fires and they will protect us against darkness.
Aragorn: I fear orcs who see the fire.
Ninias: Here, we have beaten them.
Aragorn: Yes, we did. But we should be watchful.

14.2 GRAMMAR

14.2.1 Participles of A-verbs

Present active participle

The present active participle is an adjective derived from a verb. It describes the state one is in if one does the action described by a verb, e.g. if one uses his eyes ('sees') one is seeing (in English, this is rather saying the same thing twice, because the present active participle 'seeing' is also used to form the present continuous tense 'is seeing' —however this is not so in many other languages including Sindarin).

One forms the present active participle for A-verbs by replacing the final **-a** by **-ol**:

lacha- (to flame) → lachol (flaming)
ertha- (to unite) → erthol (uniting)
linna- (to sing) → linnol (singing)

For the reason mentioned above, one should resist the obvious temptation to translate 'a man is singing' by *benn linnol*. While this might be correct in some situations, it is not attested and indeed the presence of a distinct present continuous tense in Quenya makes it highly unlikely that such a construction is possible. Possibly, **benn linna** covers both 'a man is singing' and 'a man sings'. However, it makes some sense to use this participle to describe simultaneous actions:

Linnol gen cenin. ([While] singing, I see you.)

Perfect active participle

The perfect active participle is also an adjective derived from a verb, but it describes the state in which someone is who has already carried out the action described by the verb.

Hence, the perfect active participle to 'see' is 'having seen'. Note that there is no dedicated form of this participle in English —the auxiliary form 'having' is used instead.

This participle is formed by replacing the final **-a** by **-iel**:

ertha- (to unite) → erthiel (having united)

Presumably, the **-i-** in this ending leads to the well-known i-affection for verbs with **-a-** or **-o-**:

lacha- (to flame) → lechiel (having flamed)

For verbs ending with **-ia**, some irregularities occur —we will postpone this discussion until lesson 17.

Without changing the meaning of the sentence much, one can often translate the perfect active participle using 'after' and past perfect:

Lechiel i naur lostannen.
('Having lighted the fire I slept'; After I had lighted the fire I slept.)

Perfect passive participle

The final participle is also an adjective derived from a verb —but this time it describes the state of someone who has been affected by the action of the verb: If the verb is 'see', someone affected by this is therefore 'seen'. It is formed by appending **-nnen** to the stem:

lacha- (to flame) → lachannen (flamed)
ertha- (to unite) → erthannen (united)

If **-nn-** occurs twice in such a verb, it is permissible to shorten the word by leaving out one syllable:

linna- (to sing) → linnen (sung)

Neither of the active participles seems to form a distinct plural (a fact which sets them apart from the ordinary adjectives in Sindarin), however the perfect passive participle forms the usual plural by i-affection:

ardh erthannen (a united nation) → airdh erthennin (united nations)

Theoretically, intransitive verbs might form the perfect passive participle using the ending **-ssen** —it is however unclear if a verb which by definition cannot be in passive would have a passive participle. In English, formally intransitive verbs do indeed have such a form, e.g. 'smiled', but that is rather an abbreviation of the perfect active form 'having smiled' instead of a passive 'having been smiled'. We don't know if **mudassen** would be a valid (or better) alternative to **múdiel** 'having toiled'.

14.2.2 Participles of I-verbs

Present active participle

For I-verbs, the present active participle is formed by appending **-el** to the stem of the verb:

ped- (to speak) → pedel (speaking)
tol- (to come) → tolel (coming)

For verbs containing the vowel **-i**, this ending becomes **-iel** however, somehow 'echoing' the **-i-** of the stem:

tir- (to watch) → tiriel (watching)
fir- (to die) → firiel (dying)

Perfect active participle

The perfect active participle is formed by appending **-iel** to the verb while the stem-vowel of the verb (the last vowel contained in the verb when no ending is present) is lengthened. However, due to vowel-shifts in archaic Sindarin, this leads to the somewhat surprising changes of **á** to **ó**, **ó** to **ú** and **é** to **í**.

tol - (to come) → túliel (having come)
mad- (to eat) → módiel (having eaten)
ped- (to speak) → pídiel (having spoken)

If the verb has the stem vowel **-i**, no shifts occur and the ending just leads to a lengthening of **-i-** to **-í** (indicating a difference to the present active participle).

fir- (to die) → fíriel (having died)
tir- (to watch) → tíriel (having watched)

Perfect passive participle

Finally, the perfect passive participle is formed by appending the ending **-en** to the person-less/ 3rd person form of the past tense:

dar- (to stop) → daur (he stopped) → doren (stopped)
cen- (to see) → cenn (he saw) → cennen (seen)

Again, we observe the by now well-known consonant shifts: Final **-nt/-nd, -nc** and **-mp** become non-final due to the ending and shift to **-nn-, -ng-** and **-mm-**:

ped- (to speak) → pent (he spoke)→ pennen (spoken)
dag- (to slay) → danc (he slew) → dangen (slain)
redh- (to sow) → rend (he sowed) → rennen (sowed)

As in the case of A-verbs, only the perfect passive participle can form distinct plural by i-affection:

annon hollen (a closed gate) → ennyn hellin (closed gates)

14.2.3 Participles for verbs with analoguous past tenses

The participles tend to reflect the original form of verbs rather than their later developments, hence analoguous forms may be rather rare.

Present active participle

For example, the verb **aphad-** presumably would have the present active participle **aphadol** rather than *aphadel* since it must have had a final **-a** in present tense at an earlier stage. Likewise, even if a basic verb has an analoguous past tense in **-ant**, it would probably still form the present active participle as if it would be an I-verb. Hence

aphad- (to follow) → aphadol (following)
mel- (to love) → melel (loving)
gar- (to have) → garel (having)

Perfect active participle

Since the formation of the perfect active participle appears to be quite similar for basic and derived verbs, there should not be any big problems. For basic verbs, it is presumably always advisable to lengthen the stem vowel, regardless of the past tense formation of the verb:

aphad- (to follow) → aphadiel (having followed)
mel- (to love) → míliel (having loved)
gar- (to have) → góriel (having had)

Perfect passive participle

Since the participles tend to preserve older verb forms, we sometimes see the old past tense marker **-n-** in verbs which form a different past tense. So for example **tirnen** (watched) is formed reflecting an older past tense **tirn** and not the more recent **tiriant**.
This is where matters get complicated —for some verbs, stem vowel strengthening is not the original past tense either. We see a perfectly regular perfect passive participle in

thor- (to fence) → thaur (fenced) → thoren (fenced)

but on the other hand presumably

sol- (to close) → saul (closed) → sollen (closed)

It is very difficult to decide which of the forms should be preferred for a given verb — probably often both have to be regarded as acceptable.
Yet for other verbs, the perfect passive participle is formed directly from the analoguous past tense, hence

suc- (to drink) → sogant (drank) → sogannen (drunk)

14.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English
ambenn	uphill
dadbenn	downhill
delia-	to hide
gosta-	to feel terror
harna-	to wound
lad	valley
orthor-	to conquer, to overpower
si	now
tithen	small

14.4 CONVERSATION - IN NATURE

If you are travelling with elves, you should not just silently stare down and watch the street beneath your feet —elves love nature and usually observe hundreds of details away from the road. Make this your habit also and observe the beauty of nature around you. You can direct the attention of your waymates to something you've discovered using

Tiro! (Watch!) Ceno (See!) Alae! (Behold!)

Do not simply say 'Look, a leaf!' but use poetry to express yourself. Compare things using **be** (like; causing lenition) or **sui** (like; presumably not causing lenition).

Sui côl lilthar i laiss nedh i 'waew. (Like gold dance the leaves in the wind.)
I hûl bresta i ngylf be aear. (The wind affects the branches like an ocean.)

Sui silith rimma i nen. (Like silver is the water foaming.)

Also animals can be described in a more poetic manner:

Lim i raun e-thôr min gwilith balan.
(Swift is the flight of the eagle in the wide sky.)
Tiro i rem gelair en ungol nedh i galad.
(Watch, the glittering web of the spider in the light.)

The following vocabulary might help you to describe nature around you:

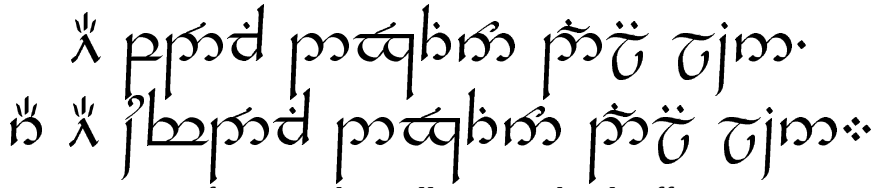
Trees: tathor (willow), doron (oak), mallorn (mallorn), fêr (beech), thôn (pine-tree), ereg (holly), lalven (elm), tulus (poplar)

Low plants: athelas (kingsfoil), salch (grass), thâr (reed), salab (herb), loth (flower), aeglos (snowthorn), hwand (fungus), uil (seaweed)

Birds: alph (swan), corch (crow), cugu (dove), dúlin (nightingale), heledir (kingfisher), maew (gull), *mornaew (raven), tavor (woodpecker), thoron (eagle), tuilinn (swallow)

Animals: annabon (elephant), aras (deer), brôg/megli (bear), cabor (frog), draug/garaf (wolf), gaur (werewolf), gwilwileth (butterfly), half (shell), hû (dog), lyg (snake), lim (fish), lhûg (serpent), limlug (sea serpent), nâr (rat), raw (lion), roch (horse), ungol (spider)

PART II - ADVANCED TOPICS



If you speak, I will cut your heads off,
if you don’t speak, I will cut your heads off.
Gantō

Lesson 15

GRAMMATICAL MUTATIONS, EXPANDED PLURALS

15.1 TEXT

Ôl dhem

Aragorn ú-bôl losto vaer, dan nan meth oltha ôl dhem a dheleb. Cên rochon vorn i rocha trî ’wath. Dûr hammad dîn a hent dîn gerthib. Ias rocha, edain verin girir a yrch vill grogar. Gâr vagol i morn a delu. Lim nôr i roch dîn nuin gwaith. Bragol Aragorn vatha i rochon vorn glinna hon. Nallol i lostad dîn methannen. Tiriel nan daur aníra achired îdh în. In edhil díriel telir a pheded a al lastad o hely dîn.

A gloomy dream

Aragorn cannot sleep well, but in the end he dreams a gloomy and horrible dream. He is seeing a black rider who is riding through shadow. Dark is his cloak and his gaze is horrible. Where he rides, brave men shudder and strong orcs feel terror. He has a sword that is black and deadly. Swiftly his horse is running beneath shadows. Suddenly Aragorn feels the rider glancing at him. Screaming his sleep is ended. Staring to the forest, he wishes to find his calm again. The watching elves are coming to talk and to hear about his dreams.

15.2 GRAMMAR

Up to now, we have used consonant mutation in many cases. We have briefly mentioned the distinction between grammatical and phonological mutations, but we have not yet made this distinction precise. In this lesson, we will define the term 'grammatical mutation' and try to explain its rules.

Some of the following conclusions are still discussed controversial. Although lenition of direct objects and lenition of trailing adjectives are commonly accepted rules, the lenition of trailing adverbs is not certain. The reader is encouraged to look at other interpretations and make up his own mind.

In contrast to phonological mutations which are caused when two words which are closely related to each other come in sequence and the last letter if the first word determines the type of the mutation (soft, stop, liquid...), such as lenition in **i venn** or nasal mutation in **i minn**, a grammatical mutation is not caused by a specific word (like the definite article in the above examples of phonological mutations) but is caused by the grammatical role of a word in the sentence. Hence, unlike for phonological mutations, there is no final letter which could determine the type of a grammatical mutation and therefore there is only one type of grammatical mutation which may occur at all —lenition. Thus, whenever one encounters a mutation type different from lenition, this mutation must be caused by a specific word or prefix and is therefore a phonological mutation.

Grammatical mutations have the purpose to distinguish between different possible meanings of a word inside the sentence and so to create grammatical structure. Grammatical mutations are observed for nouns, most likely for adjectives and conceiveably also for adverbs and verbs. Whenever a single word would be subject to a grammatical mutation (i.e. because it is a direct object of the verb) and to a phonological mutation (i.e. because it has the definite plural article in front), the phonological mutation must be carried out and the grammatical mutation is lost; a single word can not be mutated twice.

The number of texts, from which the following rules are derived is limited. Therefore, the following is a reconstruction of a consistent set of rules for grammatical mutations, however it is not an unique reconstruction and so these rules do not necessarily represent Tolkiens ideas.

15.2.1 Grammatical mutation of adjectives

Adjectives used to determine a noun usually follow the noun and are lenited in this position, however a fair share of unlenited adjectives is found in the known Sindarin examples, hence this is by no means a very hard rule:

benn veren (a bold man)

In a longer list of properties, every trailing adjective is presumably lenited, even if it is rather remote from the noun and an **a** (and) intrudes. However, it is possible that only the first adjective has to be lenited and that lenition is optional for the rest:

benn veren, vell ar vaer (a bold, strong and good man)

Adjectives which come for some reason (i.e. in poetry) before the noun (which is not the usual word order) are unlenited:

beren benn ar vell (bold a man and strong)

15.2.2 Grammatical mutation of adverbs

If adjectives are used to describe a verb (such as in 'he runs fast'), they are used as adverbs. In addition to those, there are some words which can only appear as adverbs, such as 'here', 'now' or 'tomorrow'.
Unlike adjectives, adverbs may precede the verb or follow it —there is no rule to determine their position. However, if they follow the verb, they are often lenited:

Maethon veren. (I fight boldly.)
Tolo hi! (Come now!)

If they precede the verb, no mutation takes place:

Si le nallon! (Here I cry to you!)
Beren maethant (Bravely he fought.)

Hence, in a longer phrase the appearance of a lenition can presumably decide which verb is described by the adverb:

Maethannen vaer ar veren i goth. (I fought the enemy well and bravely.)
Maethannen vaer ar beren i goth. (I fought well, and bravely the enemy.)

Conceiveably this can be used to convey very subtle nuances in meaning (pay attention to the comma and the allocation of **si/hi**):

Le nallon hi ne daw. (To thee I cry now, in the night!)
Le nallon si ne daw. (To thee I cry, now in the night!)

The technical term for an adjective used in connection with the verb 'to be' is 'predicatively used adjective'. Since in Sindarin 'to be' is left out, the predicatively used adjective is presumably not subject to mutation and hence a missing lenition gives indication that a form of 'to be' must be filled into the sentence, even if personal pronouns usually associated with 'to be' are not written:

Maethon vaer, veren ar bronathon.
(Ich fight well, bravely and will survive.)
Maethon vaer, beren ar bronathon.
(I fight well, [I am] brave and will survive.) but:
Maethon vaer, ce beren ar bronathon.
(I fight well, *you* [are] brave and I will survive.)

15.2.3 Grammatical mutation of nouns

On first glance, the rule for nouns seems simple: Direct objects (these include all nouns which are not the subject of the sentence and do not have a preposition in front) are lenited:

Cenin venn. (I see a man.)

This is also relevant for names:

Cenin 'imli. (I see Gimli.)

If the direct object is given by a longer expression, only the first word is lenited, all others are unaffected by the mutation:

Cenin Dhenethor hîr Gondor. (I see Denethor, the lord of Gondor.) but not:
Cenin Dhenethor chîr Gondor.

If however the direct object is a longer expression containing adjectives or adverbs, these are lenited according to the rules relevant for adjectives or adverbs, hence:

Cenin venn veren ar vaer. (I see a brave and good man.)
Cenin venn i beren. (I see a man who is brave.)
Cenin hi venn veren. (I see now a brave man.)
Cenin hi venn i beren. (I see now a man who is brave.)
Cenin si benn beren. (I see [that] now a man [is] brave.)

A gerund used as infinitive (or an infinitive) is not a direct object and hence remains unlenited; however a gerund used as a noun *is* a direct object and is lenited:

Anîron suilad vellyn nîn. (I desire to greet my friends.)
Anîron huilad i-mellyn nîn. (I desire [the] greeting of my friends.)

If a new object is started after **a(h), ar** (and) or **egor** (or), the first word of this new object may be lenited, but this is not mandatory:

Eglerio Daur a Berhael! (Praise Frodo and Sam!) aber:
Anîron suilad vinn a biss bain. (I want to greet all men and women.)

15.2.4 Grammatical mutation of verbs

It may be that verbs are sometimes lenited if they come directly after the subject of the sentence but not if they precede it or if words intrude between subject and verb. Taking all evidence together, this seems to be only an optional lenition:

Aragorn vaetha dan yrch. (Aragorn fights against orcs.)
Aragorn, i beren, maetha dan yrch.
(Aragorn, who is bold, fights against orcs.)
Maetha Aragorn yrch. (Aragorn fights orcs.)

15.2.5 Expanded plural forms

Some nouns in Sindarin don't form their plurals by i-affection alone but instead an ending is appended. Those are:

ael (lake)→ aelin (lakes)
bôr (trusty man) →beryn (trusty men)
êl (star)→elin (stars)
fêr (beech)→ferin (beeches)
ôl (dream)→ely (dreams)
pêl (fenced field)→peli (fenced fields)
tôr (brother)→teryn (brothers)
thêl (sister)→theli (sisters)
thôr (eagle)→ theryn (eagles)

15.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
ael	lake, pond, mere	hent	a pair of eyes
bôr	trusty man	îdh	rest, repose
deleb	horrible	*losta-	to sleep
delu	deadly	metha-	to end
dem	gloomy	ôl	dream
dûr	dark	oltha-	to dream
êl	star	pêl	fenced field
fêr	beech	tôr	brother
glinna-	to gaze at	thêl	sister
gwath	shadow	thôr	eagle

15.4 CONVERSATION - HOW DO YOU FEEL?

Sometimes, you might want to ask if an elvish friend is well —you might do this using the following words:

Man mathach? ('What do you feel?'; How do you feel?)

Maybe he will answer something like

Im maer. (I'm well.)
ú-vathon 'alu. (I'm not feeling happy.)
Aníron gladhad. (I want to laugh.)
Im gruitheb na.... (I feel angry towards...)
Im lhaew. (I'm ill.)

If your friend does not feel well, you can express your good wished using

No ce ammaer ab lû thent. ('May it be that you [are] better after a short time'; Hopefully you are better soon.)
No achirich i lalaith gîn. (May you find again your laugh.)

But also if he is well you can still whish for his luck:

No galu govad gen. (May blessings go with you.)
No in elenath hîlar nan râd gîn. (May all stars shine upon your path.)

The following words might help you finding your own expressions:

Feelings: gruith/rûth (rage), achas/daedeloth/niphred (fear), gost (dread), gell/glass (happiness), naeg (pain), galu (blessing), cael/lhîw (illness), lalaith (laughter), idhor (thoughtfullness)

Adjectives: erui (alone), lhaew/caeleb (ill), dem/naer (sad), idhren (thoughtfull)

Verbs: groga- (to feel terror), gosta- (to feel dread), gladha- (to laugh)

Lesson 16

SUBJUNCTIVE; WISHES, OBLIGATIONS

16.1 TEXT

ÿd mbr hûmb

hrz ẋ prûm mprm ı ẋlz ÿdḫÿm·

mmmi mrḫhm ı ẋl ẋm pḫh m ẋmÿh mẋz·

rẋm mẋ mẋm pẋiẋ· m ẋḫẋpḫl ÿd ẋi ḫẋmẋḫ ẋmẋ!

ẋḫÿm ẋûm ẋÿdḫm· ẋḫẋpm ı ẋm hÿm ẋ ẋdḫm ẋm ûm ẋl mẋjm·

rẋm ẋ m ÿd ḫ̄pm hmm· pẋm pmÿḫı mmm pmḫm·

mmmi ẋ m ÿd ḫ̄pm hmm ẋm· mẋm pmḫm· ÿdḫÿm pẋm·
mḫm ẋḫ̄ẋd ÿrmm pÿẋm hûm·

ẋmẋm m hẋ ÿıı· m ÿd ẋhmÿhm pẋẋm·

mmmi ẋḫḫmd ẋm mḫm mẋẋd·

rẋm ẋ m ÿd ẋdmm m ẋm

mmmi mı pmjmmı!

Yrch nef fuin?

Edhil ah edain bedir o hôl Aragorn.

Ninias: Nauthon i ôl hen taith en úmarth dolel.
Eolair: Boe mín tiriel. Im gosta! Yrch si anglennar aen!
Aragorn: Hain ú-'rogon. Goston i aran fern ah i rochon hen uin ôl nîn.
Eolair: Ae in yrch aphadar ven, pelir dartho min dawar.
Ninias: Ae in yrch aphadar ven aen, mín dangen. Aragorn tîr. Naid affaeg reviar trîn fuin.
Eobhan: Ir Ithil eria, in yrch ú-verthar toled.
Ninias: Lachatham aen naur ammeleg.
Eolair: Ae in yrch genir i naur hen…
Ninias: No dínen!

Orcs in the darkness?

Elves and men speak of Aragorn's dream.

Ninias: I think this dream is a sign of coming doom.
Eolair: We have to be careful. I do feel fear. Maybe orcs approach even now!
Aragorn: Them I don't fear. I fear the dead king and this rider from my dream.
Eolair: If orcs have followed us, they can lurk in the forest.
Ninias: If orcs had followed us, we would be slain. Aragorn is right. Extremely bad things wander through the night.
Eobhan: When the moon rises, the orcs will not dare to come.
Ninias: We should maybe light a great fire.
Eolair: If the orcs see this fire…
Ninias: Be silent!

16.2 Grammar

16.2.1 Wishes

In order to express a wish in Sindarin there are essentially two possibilities. First, there are the verbs **íra** and **aníra-** (to wish, to desire). Both can be used to express wishes:

Íron vagol. (I wish a sword).
Aníron gen cened. (I desire to see you.)

The second possibility involves the imperative form of 'to be', **no**, which presumably can also act as an optative particle denoting some sentence as a wish:

No lagor i roch lîn. (Be swift thy horse.)
No annach nin gram. (May you give me cake.)

One might think of translating the second example as 'I would like to have some cake.' in English.

It is also possible that the modal particle **aen**, which normally seems to be used for subjunctive expressions and is discussed later in this section acts as an optative particle when placed at the beginning of a sentence:

Aen lagor i roch lîn. (May your horse be swift.)

16.2.2 Obligations

To express moral obligations or a desired outcome of an action, presumably the Sindarin future is used:

Mudathach! (You shall work hard!)

Alternatively, one could make use of **no** again:

No ce tiriel. (You should be watchful!; lit. 'Be it [that] you are watchful!')

No tiriel! (Be watchful!)

Or, **aen** could be used:

Aen ce tiriel. (May you [be] watchful!)

16.2.3 Necessities

To express the idea that something is necessary or that someone must do something one uses the impersonal verb **boe** (it is necessary) in Sindarin. The label 'impersonal' means here that the English 'it' does not need to appear in the Sindarin sentence: **boe** literally means 'is necessary', but it cannot have a subject (there is no way of constructing a similar expression in English). In such a sentence, the one who must do something is placed in dative (using **an**). Alternatively, it might be permissible to fill in a 'that' in the english translation.

Boe tired i dawar. (One must watch the forest.)
Boe lostad enni. (I must sleep; lit. 'It is necessary for me to sleep.')
Boe an Aragorn tired i dawar. (Aragorn has to watch the forest.)
Boe im lostol. (I have to sleep. lit. 'It is necessary [that] I [am] sleeping.)
Boe 'ni minn tiriel. (The men have to be watchful.)

If something is not necessary, it is probably expressed with a negated form of **boe**. Note that this comes out as **ú-moe** rather than *ú-voe*:

ú-moe tired i dawar. (It's unnecessary to watch the forest.)

Si ú-moe maethad enni. (I don't have to fight now.)

16.2.4 Subjunctive expressions - general remarks

The use of subjunctive (i.e. contrary to fact) statements is discussed controversely and there are those who do not believe that the following rules have to do with subjunctive at all. Nevertheless, there are good arguments for the following position. Since subjunctive expressions are an important pattern of speech, they are presented here in spite of ongoing discussions and the reader is encouraged to check the evidence himself.

Presumably, there is a modal particle **aen** in Sindarin expressing uncertainty about a statement. There is also some evidence for the existence of a second particle, **ge**, expressing a lesser degree of uncertainty. According to context, this may be translated as a subjunctive or an uncertain statement in English.

16.2.5 Subjunctive expressions in present tense

One forms subjunctive expressions by appending **aen** or **ge** to the sentence. Roughly speaking, it is probably often preferable to translate **aen** as 'maybe' in all sentences not starting with **ae** (if) whereas one may form subjunctive expressions (i.e. describe fictional situations) for all sentences starting with 'if'. However, the following involves a good deal of speculation and the reader is encouraged to check the evidence himself before using these constructions:

cenin (I see) → hon cenin aen (maybe I see him)

but also

hon cenin ge (I may see him)
hon cenin aen (I might see him)

But:

Ae cenin orch, nerin.
(If I see an orc, I run.)
Ae cenin orch aen, nerin.
(If I would see an orc, I would run.)

In the second example, there is not much use in a translation of **aen** as 'maybe'. If the first half of an expression is subjunctive already, it is presumably unnecessary to repeat **aen** in the second half.
Maybe one can also alter the meaning by using **aen** in the second half of the expression (once again, this is a good deal of speculation):

Ae tôl, hon cenin aen. (If he comes, I see him maybe.) but:
Ae tôl aen, hon cenin. (If he would come, I would see him.)

16.2.6 Subjunctive expressions in future tense

Future situations are a priori undetermined — they have not yet happened after all. When translating, **aen** in a sentence involving the future tense would presumably translate 'maybe' if one deals with a true future expression whereas one forms again subjunctive expressions if a wish or an obligation is expressed:

Beriathon Edoras. (I shall defend Edoras.)
Beriathon aen Edoras. (I should defend Edoras.)

But:

Padathon ned laer na Imladris.
(In summer I will go to Rivendell.)
Padathon aen ned laer na Imladris.
(Maybe in summer I will go to Rivendell.)

16.2.7 Subjunctive expressions in past tense

There is little value in translating **aen** as 'maybe' in expressions in past tense —the past has happened and things are determined. Therefore, it is probably only useful to express the wish that a past situation had been different:

Hon cennin aen. (I would have seen him.)
Ae cennin i orch aen, noren.
(If I would have seen the orc, I would have run.)

For the second sentence, one might also think of using the participle

Ae im cíniel i orch aen, noren.
(If I had seen the orc, I would have run.)

16.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English
*ae	if
bertha-	to dare
cram	cake
dínen	silent
eria-	to rise
ir	when
*íra-	to wish
nautha-	to think
úmarth	doom

16.4 CONVERSATION - LETTERS

Like in English, a letter in Sindarin might be a formal or an informal message. You should choose the style of the letter accordingly.

You might think of starting a letter to your friends like

> Arwen vail... (Dear Arwen,) or
> Mellon voron... (Faithful friend,)

Continue writing your message and at the end, you might add

> Suil, N.N. (Greetings, N.N.) oder
> Gen suila N.N. (N.N. greets you)

However, if you would like to write a formal letter, you should think of using the formal 2nd person pronouns and pronomial endings in **-l** first instead of the informal **-ch**. If you are going to be very formal, do not use 2nd person forms at all and address the recipient throughout the whole letter in the 3rd person or using his name.

Start the letter by stating your name and all your titles:

> Aragorn Arathornion Edhelharn, aran Gondor ar hîr i mbair annui
> (Aragorn son of Arathorn the elfstone, king of Gondor and lord of the western lands)

For ordinary people, this might get a little shorter

> Gwendolyn Súliell, meldis e-lam edhellen
> (Gwendolyn Winddaughter, friend of the Elvish language)

Continue the opening paragraph of your letter by using phrases like

> aníra suilannad... (desires to send greeting to...)

and continue with the name(s) of the recipient(s). As soon as you have mentioned your name in such a formal letter, continue speaking of yourself in 3rd person. Hence, if you would like to know when the other will come and see you, you have to write something like

> íra istad ir e telitha (desires to know when he will come)

or, somewhat less formal

> íra istad ir le telitha (desires to know when thou wilt come)

Close your letter with a phrase like

A Pherhael ar am Meril suilad uin aran o Minas Tirith nelchaenen uin Echuir
(To Sam and Rose the greeting of the king of Minas Tirith on the 31. of spring)

Lesson 17

Irregular Verbs

17.1 Text

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Man sâd i harch?

Ned aur aphadol ail. Módiel lagor in edhil ah in edain adreviar. Írar hi hired i harch, dan i aur bân róniel darthar. Anírar heniad amman ú-radar. Eolair drenar:

Eolair: I harch deliannen aen. Pedir i dûr e-harch pôl gwerio i chin vîn. ú-agorem naid tangadad han, dan englenniel aen.

Ninias: Sa tîr. I naid hin ú-chóniel reniassem. Onech nangweth idhren.

Aragorn: Man ceritham?

Ninias: Boe padad nan had hen ias ú-aníram padad. ú-voratham aen i chin vîn dan i nguir vîn. Ae cerim i nad hen, hiritham i harch.

Aragorn: Mae.

Where is the grave?

On the next morning it is raining. Having eaten swiftly, the elves and the men wander again. They wish to find the grave now, but having strayed all morning they rest. They want to understand why they don't find the way. Eolair tells:

Eolair: Maybe the grave is hidden. They say the power of the grave can deceive our eyes. We have not done anything to confirm it, but we might have come close already.

Ninias: It is true. We strayed, not having understood these things. You have given a wise answer.

Aragorn: What shall we do?

Ninias: We must go to the place where we do not want to go. We should not trust our eyes but our hearts. If we do this, we will find the grave.

Aragorn: Well.

17.2 GRAMMAR

17.2.1 Irregular perfect active participle for A-verbs

Usually, the conjugation of A-verbs is quite free of complications, the only real difficulty is the i-affection when forming the perfect active participle by appending the ending **-iel**. However, for A-verbs ending in **-ia**, this leads to a lengthening of the stem vowel, and this in turn may imply that an original archaic stem vowel (which is not visible in the other forms of the verb) is restored. Since one cannot tell this from the normal stem of the verb, the group of verbs exhibiting this special property have to be memorized:

beria- (protect) → bóriel (having protected)
egledhia- (to go to exile) → eglídhiel (having gone to exile)
gweria- (to betray) → gwóriel (having betrayed)
henia- (to understand) → hóniel (having understood)
pelia- (to spread) → póliel (having spreaded)
penia- (to fix) → póniel (having fixed)
renia- (to stray) → róniel (having strayed)
revia- (to fly, to sail, to wander) → róviel (having sailed)
seidia- (to lay aside) → sódiel (having laid aside)
telia- (to play) → tóliel (having played)
egleria- (to praise) → aglóriel (having praised)
delia- (to hide) → dúliel (having hidden)
elia- (to rain) → úliel (having rained)
eria- (to rise) → úriel (having risen)

heria- (to begin suddenly) → húriel (having begun)

17.2.2 Irregular past for I-verbs

A small group of I-verbs changes the stem vowel when one forms the past tense. This, again, is caused by the history of their development and these verbs must be memorized separately:

nod- (to tie) → nunt (he tied), nunnen (tied), núdiel (having tied)
tog- (to bring) → tunc (he brought), tungen (brought), túgiel (having brought)

If pronomial endings are attached to these past tense forms, the **-u-** in these verbs is presumably shifted into **-y-**:

nynnin (I tied), nynnich (you tied), nunt (he tied)
nynnim (we tied), nynnich (you tied), nynner (they tied)

17.2.3 Irregular A-verb past tenses

For a few A-verbs, the past tense is formed by strengthening of the stem vowel as for a lot of basic verbs In any case, for those verbs past tense, perfect active participle and perfect passive participle are irregular. This can apply to both A- and I-verbs, although sometimes an alternative, regular past tense formation exists:

anna- (to give) → aun (he gave), onen (given), óniel (having given)
delia- (to conceal) → daul (he concealed), dolen (concealed), dúliel (having concealed)
suilanna- (to give greeting) → suilon (he gave greeting), suilóniel (having given greeting)

Unlike in the usual past tense formation, those verbs are presumably conjugated with the connecting vowel **-e-** in past tense. The diphthong **-au-** is contracted to **-o-** if the word has more than one syllable:

onen (I gave), onech (you gave), aun (he gave)
onem (we gave), onech (you gave), oner (they gave)

For some verbs, strangely contracted forms may appear:

egledhia- (to go to exile) → egledhas/eglant (he went to exile), eglídhiel (having gone to exile)
ista- (to have knowledge) → istas/sint (he had knowledge), ístiel (having had knowledge)

17.2.4 Truly irregular verbs

There also some verbs which do not really seem to fit in a particular scheme. Mots notably the verb **car-** (to do) has a peculiar augmentive prefix in addition to the usual past tense formation. Most of the following forms are rather speculative:

elia-: elio (to rain), ail (it is raining) , eliant or aul (it was raining),
eliatha (it will rain), elio (rain!), eliol (raining), úliel (having rained)
eliannen (Pl. eliennin) (rained), eliad ([the] raining)

car-: ceri (to do), câr (he does), with endings ceri-: cerin (I do), agor (he did) with endings agore-: agoren (I did), ceritha (he will do), caro (do!), carel (doing), córiel (having done), coren (or carnen?) (Pl. corin or cernin) (done), cared ([the] doing)

dant-: denni (to fall), dant (he falls), with endings denni-: dennin (I fall), dannant (he fell) with endings danne-: dannen (I fell), dennitha (I will fall), danno (fall!), dannel (doing), dónniel (having fallen), dannen (Pl. dennin) (fallen), danned ([the] falling)

17.2.5 I-affection for prefi xes

The role of prefixes in Sindarin is not completely clear, but it seems that they can occur in two types of situations: First, prepositions in English might appear as prefixes on the verb instead of being prepositions in Sindarin. We introduced some of these prefixes in lesson 7. Second, prefixes can be used for the derivation of verbs from primitive stems. The difference between these two situations is that a verb that takes a prefix instead of a preposition being used elsewhere would regularly appear without this prefix whereas a verb derived from a primitive stem with the help of a prefix could not appear without this prefix.

Presumably, the distinction between prefixes which are seen as a separate entity and prefixes being part of a word becomes important once these verbs are subject to i-affection (i.e. for the perfect active participle).

The guideline seems to be that the prefix is subject to i-affection if it cannot ordinarily be separated from the word, however the prefix seems to be unaffected if it is recognized as separate entity which can be removed from the word, or if its nature is somehow evident. Though this is a far shot in speculation, we might imagine that a prefix even appears in both roles:

govedi (to go together), prefix on the verb instead of preposition
gevedi (to meet), derived from primitive stem

For other verbs with prefixes, the following forms seem most likely:

govad-: gevedi (to meet), govad (he meets), with endings gevedi-: gevedin (I meet), govant (he met) with endings gevenni-: gevennin (I met), geveditha (he will meet), govado (meet!), govadel (meeting), govódiel) (having met), govannen (pl. gevennin) (met), govaded ([the] meeting)

gonathra-: gonathro (to entangle), gonathra (he entangles), gonathrant (he entangled) with endings: gonathranne-: gonathrannen (I entangled), gonathratha (he will entangle), gonathro (entangle!), gonathrol (entangling), genethriel (having entangled), gonathrannen (pl. genethrennin) (entangled), gonathrad ([the] entangling)

gonod-, genedi (to count), gonod (he counts) with endings genedi-: genedin (I count), gonont (he counted) with endings genenni-: genennin (I counted), geneditha (he will count), gonodo (count!), gonodel (counting) gonúdiel (having counted), gononnen (pl. genennin) (counted), gonoded ([the] counting)

genedia-: genedio (to reckon), genedia (he reckons), genediant (he reckoned) with endings genedianne-: genediannen (I reckoned), genediatha (he will reckon), genedio (reckon!), genediol (reckoning), gonúdiel (having reckoned), genediannen (pl. genediennin) (reckoned), genediad ([the] reckoning)

adertha-: adertho (to reunite), adertha (he reunites), aderthant (he reunited) with endings aderthanne-: aderthannen (I reunited), aderthatha (he will reunite), adertho (reunite!), aderthol (reuniting), aderthiel (having reunited), aderthannen (pl. aderthennin) (reunited), aderthad ([the] reuniting)

anglenna-: anglenno (to approach), anglenna (he approaches), anglennant (he approached) with endings anglenne-: anglennen (I approached), anglennatha (he will approach), anglenno (approach!), anglennol (approaching), anglenniel (having approached), anglennen (pl. anglennin) (approached), anglennad ([the] approaching)

aníra-: aníro (to wish), aníra (he wishes), anirn (he wished) with endings anirne-: anirnen (I wished), aníratha (he will wish), aníro (wish!), anírol (wishing) aníriel (having wished), anirnen (pl. anirnin) (wished) anírad ([the] wishing)

osgar-: esgeri (to amputate), osgar (he amputates) with endings esgeri-: esgerin (I amputate), osgarn (he amputated) with endings: esgerni-: esgernin (I amputated), esgeritha (he will amputate), osgaro (amputate!), osgarel (amputating), osgóriel (having amputated), osgarnen (pl. esgernin) (amputated), osgared ([the] amputating)

17.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
adertha-	to reunite	henia-	to understand
aur	day, morning	mad-	to eat
bora-	to trust	nangweth	answer (mutated form)
car-	to make, to do	nod-	to tie
dant-	to fall	osgar-	to amputate
egleria-	to praise	pelia-	to spread
elia-	to rain	penia-	to fix
genedia-	to reckon	rada-	to find a way
gonathra-	to entangle	renia-	to stray
gonod-	to count	seidia-	to cast aside
gûr	counsel	telia-	to play
gweria-	to betray	*tûr	power, might
hen	eye		

17.4 CONVEYING EMPHASIS —WORD ORDER

The relatively small amount of available words (~ 1500) in Sindarin poses a problem if one wants to convey different nuances of meaning since it is often impossible to choose a different word for the same thing (as it would be in English —compare e.g. the different

shades of 'instruction', 'order' and 'command'). However, there seem to be some possibilities to put emphasis to some part of an expression even in Sindarin by changing the usual word order.

To a certain degree, the following rules are speculation based on the conjecture that emphasis is put on the first part of the sentence (which is true for many languages including English —compare 'I go to Rivendell.' with 'To Rivendell I go (and not to Moria)').

17.4.1 Standard word order

The usual word order follows the SVO rule, i.e. teh subject is first, then the verb and the object follows the verb. However, if the verb carries a pronomial ending, the subject is already part of the verb and therefore the word order in such sentences can be reduced to VO.

Aragorn gên venn. (Aragorn sees a man.)
Mabon gû. (I seize a bow.)

When multiple objects are present, direct objects (without preposition) come before indirect objects (with preposition):

Cenin venn nef i hirion. (I see a man on this side of the river.)

When there's more than one direct object, usually one of them is in dative and the other in accusative. In this case, accusative objects precede dative objects. This is different from the word order in English in such a case. The order of indirect objects among themselves is arbitrary:

Ónen estel in edain. (I gave the people hope.)
Tolen ab Legolas na Imladris. (I came after Legolas to Rivendell.)
Tolen na Imladris ab Legolas. (I came to Rivendell after Legolas.)

Deviating from the above rule, pronouns used as objects may appear before the verb (and possibly come also before an accusative object if they are in dative in order to avoid confusion with possessives):

Hon cenin. (I see him.)
Legolas hon cên. (Legolas sees him.)
Anna nin i ylf. (He gives me the cup.) but:
Anna i ylf Aragorn. (He gives Aragorn the cup.)

However, pronouns which are formed as compounds of a preposition and a pronoun (see lesson 19) are technically indirect objects and can be moved to the rear of the sentence:

Anna i ylf enni. (He gives the cup to me.)
Hebin i vagol anim. (I keep the sword for myself.)

17.4.2 The verb in front position

If the subject is given as an independent word (and hence is not part of the verb) it is possible to move the verb to the beginning of the sentence (VSO order). In this case, the action described by the verb is emphasized.

In present tense, this might be used to express a general truth (in contrast to an ongoing action), however there might also be a distinct tense for the same function:

Tôl acharn. (Vengeance comes; i.e. maybe not now, but eventually)
Acharn dôl. (Vengeance is coming; i.e. right now)

Pêd Aragorn edhellen. (Aragorn speaks Elvish; i.e. he is able to speak it)
Aragorn bêd edhellen. (Aragorn is speaking Elvish; i.e. right now)

In past tense, the expression becomes very formal and possibly a bit archaic:

Cenn Aragorn Legolas. (It saw Aragorn Legolas.) or:
Aragorn genn Legolas. (Aragorn saw Legolas.)

Aragorn dhanc i orch. (Aragorn slew the orc.) oder:
Danc Aragorn i orch. (Aragorn did truly slay the orc.)

Maybe emphasizing the action can also be used to draw a distinction between expected and unexpected events:

Taul Arwen. (Arwen has [surprisingly] come.)
Arwen daul. (Arwen came.)

In future tense, putting emphasis on the action might be used to express the degree of certainty that the speaker assumes for the event he's describing:

Telitha lû ammaer. (It will come a very good time; i.e. convinced)
Lû ammaer telitha. (A very good time will come; i.e. doubtful)

17.4.3 Indirect objects in front position

A direct object can in general not be moved before the subject of the sentence because the grammatical structure of the expression would then become ambiguous. Consider for example *i venn cên Aragorn* with the intended meaning 'Aragorn sees the man.'). Here, the missing mutation of the verb might provide an indirect clue that the normal word order is broken, but in *i venn veleg cên Aragorn* even this distinction is lost. However, an indirect object can always be identified and hence it can be moved to the front position for emphasis:

Na Imladris revion. (To Rivendell I wander; i.e. not somewhere else)
Ab Elrond pedin. (After Elrond I speak; i.e. not after someone else)

Such expressions are possibly translated best by keeping the abnormal word order in English also.

Lesson 18

SPECIAL CASE MUTATIONS

18.1 TEXT

Ardh

Mae mah Aryn Ardh mapa aur. Ui ygor mui pauth hyapan i Arymaú. Ro pawm ro morth paúum mród mann mah. Dúi ytha. Bávm haúr pcyn í pajlma. Ro hrch rdgyn hypmh.

Íceúm Alpn Aran pyápn.

Ymlúm maún pnyápln úma hmm mmrpn.

Yúgúm jmmúna. Baúma pnchúi Ai. Mm jhnyhhúi mn mnc.

Mmmúi rdcpnaí Ui. Pnmn pjla ro hrchh pngihúi hmma.

Yúgúm pnghíl

Mahr cjla hrch A paúum pmpúm mmn Ardh. Ui Aóha pnbma ych hma pnhíma. i hma Ucéma. Mmmúi pnciií ha ygúd jma i pjlpa mah uya. i hma pnyií.

I harch

Nan meth hirir i harch ned uial. Sa ereb na dalath vrand a harnui. In ndaen in eneg edain ennas min mbyth. I ’waew ring. Foen dhuir telir o ndûn. In edhil gerir athrabeth.

Eolair: I had hen barad.

Eobhan: Maer darthad aen atham minnad.

Aragorn: ú-ammaer. I fuin delitha hi. Im ú-dharthatha an i noll.

Ninias: Guldur si. Dan tûr in edhelath beriatha ven.

Aragorn: Bertho!

Nedh lîr edhil ah edain badar nan harch. Sa haudh dofn ’arel fen dithen. I fen sollen. Ninias belia idh rainc în a pêd bith ioer. I fen edra.

The grave

At the end they find the grave in twilight. It is isolated on a high and stony plain. The corpses of six men lie there in puddles. The wind is cold. Dark clouds come from the west. The elves hold a debate.

Eolair: This place is doomed.

Eobhan: Maybe it is better to wait than to enter.

Aragorn: It isn’t very good. The night is now coming. I will not wait for the darkness.

Ninias: Dark sorcery is here. But the might of the elven-folk will protect us.

Aragorn: Dare it!

In a row elves and men go towards the grave. It is a low mound with a small opening. The doorway is closed. Ninias spreads his arms and speaks ancient words. The door is opening.

18.2 GRAMMAR

18.2.1 Archaic nasalized stops

Some words beginning with the consonants **d-, b-** and **g-** show unexpected behaviour when they are subject to mutations. The reason for this is that there are two ways how a noun could have evolved towards these initial consonants.

For example, most words beginning with **d-** are derived from primitive elvish stems which also begin with **D-**, such as **dartha-** (wait) from primitive **DAR**. Those words show the mutation pattern we have discussed so far.

However, there is also a second group with primitive stems beginning with the nasalized stops **ND-, MB-** and **ÑG-**. Those stems also have evolved into the initial consonants **d-, b-** and **g-**, an example being **dagor** (battle) from primitive **NDAK**.

Unmutated, there is no way to distinguish these two groups of words, however, as soom as they are mutated, the original initial nasal is often restored and the mutation pattern looks different. Since there’s no rule to recognize there words, they have to be memorized.

18.2.2 Lenition

Presumably, lenition causes archaic **nd-** to become **n-**, **mb-** to become **m-** and **ñg-** to become **ñ-**, the latter however is usually written as **ng-**. However, when writing in tengwar, this **ng-** is written as nwalme ᧁ, not ᧂᧁ.

dagor (battle) → i nagor (the battle)
bâr (home) → i mâr (the home)
gannel (harp) → i ngannel (the harp)

18.2.3 Nasal mutation

Nasal mutation restores the original sounds completely, hence words of the special case class beginning with **d-** are restored to **nd-**, those with **b-** to **mb-** and those with **g-** to **ñg-**. However, again one has to pay attention: If not in tengwar, the combination **i ñ-** is commonly written as **in g-**, hence **in gennil** instead of **i ñgennil** (the harps).

dagor (battle) → an ndagor (for a battle)
dagor (battle) → i ndeigor (the battles)
bâr (home) → am mbâr (for a home)
bâr (home) → i mbair (the homes)
gannel (harp) → an gannel (for a harp)
gannel (harp) → in gennil (the harps)

18.2.4 Mixed mutation

As far as special case mutations are concerned, mixed mutation acts exactly like nasal mutation, hence

dagor (battle) → nan ndagor (to the battle)
bâr (home) → nan mbâr (to the home)
gannel (harp) → nan gannel (to the harp)

18.2.5 Stop mutation

Stop mutation also restores the complete original consonant group, again one has to pay attention how to write things: When one does not write tengwar, **e ñg-** is presumably rather written as **en g-**:

dagor (battle) → e ndagor (out of a battle)
bâr (home) → e mbâr (out of a home)
gannel (harp) → en gannel (out of a harp)

The latter combination is prone to be confused with the genitive, the reader has to pay attention to the context.

18.2.6 Liquid mutation

The liquid mutation does not affect the special cases:

dagor (battle) → or dagor (above a battle)
bâr (home) → or bâr (above a home)
gannel (harp) → or gannel (above a harp)

18.2.7 List of the special cases

With the original archaic consonant group **nd-** one finds:

daen (corpse) → i naen (the corpse)
dangen (slain) → i nangen (the slain one)
dagor (battle) → i nagor (the battle)
daug (orc-warrior) → i naug (the orc-warrior)

dam (hammer) → i nam (the hammer)
damma- (to hammer) → i namma (. . . who hammers)

dôl (head) → i nôl (the head)
dolt (knob) → i nolt (the knob)

dûn (west) → i nûn (the west)
Dân (Nandorin elf) → i Nân (the Nandorin elf)
dangweth (answer) → i nangweth (the answer)
daer (bridegroom) → i naer (the bridegroom)
dess (young woman) → i ness (the yound woman)
dôr (land) → i nôr (the land)
dortha- (to live) → i northa (. . . who lives)
doll (dark) → i noll (the dark)

With archaic **mb-**:

bachor (pedlar) → i machor (the pedlar)
bach (article (for exchange)) → i mach (the article)

barad (doomed) → i marad (the doomed)
bartha- (to doom) → i martha (. . . that dooms)

bast (bread) → i mast (the bread)
basgorn (loaf) → i masgorn (the loaf)

band (prison) → i mand (the prison)
baug (cruel) → i maug (the cruel)
baugla- (to oppress) → i maugla (. . . who oppresses)
bauglir (tyrant) → i mauglir (the tyrant)
baur (need) → i maur (the need)

bereth (feast) → i mereth (the feast)[1]

bâr (home) → i mâr (the home)
both (puddle) → i moth (the puddle)
bund (nose) → i mund (the nose)

Finally, the words with archaic **ñg-**:

gannel (harp) → i ngannel (the harp)
ganna- (to play harp) → i nganna (. . . who plays harp)

garaf (wolf) → i ngaraf (the wolf)
gaur (werewolf) → i ngaur (the werewolf)
gawad (howling) → i ngawad (the howling)

golu (lore) → i ngolu (the lore)
golwen (wise) → i ngolwen (the wise)

[1] There is also a 'normal' form mereth → i vereth

goll (wise) → i ngoll (the wise)
gollor (mage) → i ngollor (the mage)
Golodh (Noldo) → i Ngolodh (the Noldo)
gûl (magic) → i ngûl (the magic)
Golovir (Silmaril) → i Ngolovir (the Silmaril)

gûr (death) → i ngûr (the death)
goroth (horror) → i ngoroth (the horror)

18.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English	Sindarin	English
bach	article (for trade)	doll	dark
bachor	pedlar	dolt	round knob
band	prison	dôr	land
barad	doomed	dûn	west
bartha-	to doom	edra-	to open
bast	bread	ereb	isolated, alone
basgorn	loaf of bread	faun	cloud
baug	cruel, tyrannic	gannel	harp
baugla-	to oppress	ganna-	to play harp
bauglir	tyrant	garaf	wolf
baur	need	gaur	werewolf
bereth	feast	gawad	howling
both	puddle	goll	wise
brand	high	gollor	mage
bund	nose	golu	lore
daen	corpse	golwen	wise
daer	bridegroom	goroth	horror
dangweth	answer	gûl	magic
dam	hammer	guldur	dark sorcery
damma-	to hammer	taur	high, mighty, vast
daug	orc-warrior	tithen	small
dess	yound woman	uial	twilight
dofn	low		

18.4 EXPRESSIONS —'ALL' AND EXPLICIT PRONOUNS

18.4.1 The use of 'all'

In Sindarin, there are two ways of expressing 'all': One is the adjective **pan** (all), the other is the class plural **-(i)ath**. We can only speculate at a difference, but taking 'class plural' literally, this implies that the speaker wants to denote all of a class without any exception.

The class might be very limited, like

sellath en aran (all daughters of the king)

or very large, like

elenath (all stars, the nightsky)

presumably the crucial point is that a speaker using class plural does not want to make exceptions. Therefore, phrases like

> Lassath dhanner. (All leaves are fallen.)
> Mellonath nin awarthanner. (All friends have forsaken me.)

sound rather hopeless, because the speaker seems to indicate that there's no excaption.

This would lead to the conjecture that **pan** is rather used in the sense 'all here'. For example, an elf who wanders in a mountain forest in fall, but who knows that down in the valley the leaves are still green would rather use **pan** in the following

> Laiss bain danner. (All leaves are fallen.)

indicating that he nows of (possible) exceptions. This scenario is also confirmed in Aragorns letter to Sam, where we wishes to send greetings to 'all his friends', using **pan** —it is hardly conceiveable that Aragorn would not have any friends in Gondor —he simply wants to express 'all friends in the Shire'.

18.4.2 The use of pronouns in nominative

Usually, pronouns in nominative are not used as long as a sentence contains a verb, because the nominative can be expressed in the verbal ending. If they are however written, this puts emphasis on the pronoun (but the pronomial ending of the verb cannot be used in this case). Typically, this is done to express the contrast to someone else:

> Pelich reviad na Imladris. Im dhartha.
> (You can go to Rivendell. I stay.)

In the translation, the emphasis can be expressed by phrases like 'but I', 'however, I' and so on.

> Anírach maethad, im ú-aníra.
> (You want to fight, however I don't.)

Sometimes, the nominative pronoun is just used to emphasize the own involvement:

> Im Narvi hain echant. (I, Narvi made them.)

Lesson 19

PRONOUNS AS INDIRECT OBJECTS, POSSESSIVE ENDINGS

19.1 TEXT

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Dagor dan i morchaint

Adel i fen, aglonn dhem tôg dadbenn. In edhil lachanner ylf, dan cenir faeg. I aglonn taen. Nan meth telir na ham veleg nuin haudh. Bragol thiar gaint vyrn o min bain ah anglennar.

Eolair: No tiriel! Ninias, anno i galadach enni!

Ninias: Baw. Ammaer ae hebin i galad anim!

Aragorn: Magolan hain ú-charna.

Ninias: Morchaint, lasto bethan veleg! Drego i galad!

Gwaew vragol luithia galadath dîn ar Aragorn ereb nedh dhúath. Sôl hent în ar lathrada. ú-lasta naid dan nosta ast barch ah iaur nedh 'welu. Bragol matha gam ring mabad nan ranc în a vagol în dhrava nan gant. A si han harna. Nalla: 'Ae ú-genich hain pelich harnad!'

Fight against the shadows

Behind the doorway, a gloomy passage leads downward. The elves light torches, but they see poorly. The passage is long. At the end they come to a great hall below the mound. Suddenly dark shapes appear from all directions and approach.

Eolair: Be watchful! Ninias, give me your light!

Ninias: No! It is better if I keep the light myself!

Aragorn: My sword doesn't hurt them!

Ninias: Shadows, hear my mighty word! Flee the light!

A sudden wind quenches all their lights and Aragorn is alone in the darkness. He closes his eyes and listens. He does not hear a thing, but he smells dry and old dust in the air. Suddenly he feels a cold hand reach for his arm and his sword hews at the shape. And now he wounds it. He cries: 'If you don't see them, you can would them!'

19.2 GRAMMAR

19.2.1 Pronouns in dative

For all we know, it is entirely permissible to express dative in Sindarin exactly like accusative as a direct object. Nevertheless, objects in dative, regardless if nouns or pronouns, seem to be preferably expressed as indirect objects with the case marker **an** (for).

If the indirect object is a pronoun, this case marker forms a compound with the pronoun. We know two of these forms, **ammen** (for us) and **enni** (me), indicating that nasal mutation and i-affection are both carried out in the formation of these pronouns.

The following pronouns can be reconstructed:

Object	Singular	Plural
1. Person	enni (me)	ammen (us)
2. Person (formal)	*allen (thee)	*allen (thee)
2. Person	*achen (you)	*achen (you)
3. Person (male)	*asson (him)	*assyn (them)
3. Person (female)	*assen (her)	*essin (them)
3. Person (things)	*assan (it)	*essain (them)
3. Person (reflexive)	*enin (him-, her-, itself)	*enin (themselves)

However, contrary to expectation, to express the 2nd person formal, the form **le** seems to be preferred.

These pronouns can now be written instead of a direct object in dative (not in accusative):

Anno nin i vagol! (Give me the sword!)

oder

Anno i vagol enni! (Give the sword to me!)

(Presumably, the normal order with accusative object preceding dative object *Anno i vagol nin!* in the first example is not favoured because this is easy to confuse with *Anno i vagol nín!* if the speaker is not careful. The use of **enni** avoids this problem.)

The reflexive forms might again be used if the subject of the sentence is in the 3rd person and identical with pronoun:
Maba vagol enin. (He seizes a sword for himself.)

19.2.2 Pronouns in emphasized/reflexive dative

Apart from the indirect object pronouns discussed above, a further form **anim** is known which is translated with the somewhat stronger expression 'for myself'. Since no i-affection is visible here, this indicates that the two parts are simple written next to each other, presumably without mutation. However, it is entirely possible that one would see a different construction principle based on emphasized pronouns. Unfortunately, apart from **anim**, there is not much basis for any of the following forms, they are basically educated guesswork:

Object	Singular	Plural
1. Person	anim (for myself)	*anmen (for ourselves)
2. Person (formell)	*anle (for thyself)	*anle (for thyselves)
2. Person	*ance (for yourself)	*anech (for yourselves)
3. Person (m"annlich)	*anson (for himself)	*ansyn (for themselves)
3. Person (weiblich)	*ansen (for herself)	*ansin (for themselves)
3. Person (Dinge)	*ansan (for itself)	*ansain (for themselves)
3. Person (Dinge)	*anin (for him-, her-, itself)	*anin (for themselves)

These forms can be used similar to the indirect object pronouns, although they carry more emphasis:

Hêb i lembais anin. (He keeps the waybread for himself.)
Annon vagol anson. (I give [him] a sword for himself;
i.e. not to give it away.)
ú-chebin estel anim. (I do not keep hope for myself.)

19.2.3 Possessive endings

Apart form possessive adjectives, there is also a certain class of endings in Sindarin which can be used to indicate possession of something. We know two examples of those, **guren** (my heart) and **lammen** (my tongue). Tempting as it may be to assume that the relevant ending is **-en**, the form **lammen** instead of *lamen* suggests a different scenario:

Presumably, we see the ending **-n** (possible also **-nV** with a lost final vowel) appended to the archaic form **lambê** which undergoes several phonetical shifts to end in **lammen**. This means that the vowel preceding the ending is only accidentally in both attested examples **-e-** and would in general be the archaic final vowel of the word, which is normally lost in Sindarin but restored by the ending (this is in complete analogy to possessive endings in Quenya).

This, unfortunately, implies that it is impossible to form the correct possessive without knowing the archaic form (for which a Common Eldarin or maybe a Quenya wordlist might be useful). To actually do this is beyond the scope of this course, we just give some examples below.

Possessor	Singular	Plural
1. Person	-n (my)	*-m (our)
2. Pers. (formell)	*-l (thy)	*-l (thy)
2. Person	*-ch (your)	*-ch (your)
3. Person	*-() (his, her, its)	* -r (their)

Here, **-()** indicates that only the archaic vowel is restored (if the archaic form would not end with a vowel, presumably **-e** or in the 1st person sg. **-i** (with i-affection) is filled in.

Gûren bêd enni. (My heart tells me.) ('órë' in Quenya)
Anno veigolar essain. (Give their swords to them.) ('makla' in Old Sindarin)
Lasto bethan. (Hear my word!) ('quetta' in Quenya)
Sen ostom. (This is our fortress.) ('osto' in Quenya)
Denethor ederin. (Denethor is my father.) ('atar' in Quenya)
Denethor adarem. (Denethor is our father.) ('atar' in Quenya)

It is very likely that these endings are not used in everyday conversation but only survive in some phrases.

19.2.4 Irregular Plurals

There are some nouns with an extremely irregular plural formation which do not fall in any class discussed so far. These exceptions are:

fela (cave) → fili (caves)
thela (spearpoint) → thili (spearpoints)
thala (strong) → theili
tara (tough) → teiri

19.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English
aglonn	small passage
ast	dust
cam	hand
dúath	darkness
fela	cave
gwelu	air (the element)
luithia-	to quench
men	road, way
morchant	shadow
tara	stiff, tough
thela	spearpoint
thala	strong
thia-	to appear
ylf	torch

19.4 Translations into Sindarin —Remarks

The translation of arbitrary texts into Sindarin, and in especial the writing of texts in Sindarin is much more difficult than translations from Sindarin. Therefore, we start discussing this topic only now.

The main reason for this difficulty is, that apart from the usual translation problems such as the correct choice of mutation, plural formation and so on, there is a very specific problem: lack of vocabulary. There are about 1500 words attested in Sindarin, this is obviously enought to write some text and do conversation, but this number is by far too small to translate any given text (a good dictionary of a foreign language would have about 50.000 entries, a specialized dictionary might easily contain some 300.000, just to give an example).

19.4.1 Recognize limits

Although many students of Sindarin are not aware of this, the first step of any translation into Sindarin is to know what can be translated and what cannot. Sindarin was written as the language of the elves in Middle-Earth, hence it mainly describes things in Middle-Earth and the more heroic activities of the elves. Therefore, songs and stories about elves are easily written. However, there is almost nothing in the vocabulary describing everyday activities of the elves like doing laundry or cooking (it goes without saying that Sindarin does not contain any words of modern life such as 'computer' or 'car').

Many words can be paraphrased, but these constructions tend to become lengthy and cumbersome, and a potential reader will most likely not recognize what the writer wishes to express. Therefore, if it turns out that there is no good way of translating a particular sentence into Sindarin, just plainly don't do it. The outcome will be ugly und not worth the effort (and no-one really *needs* to communicate in Sindarin nowadays, although looking through the typical forum post starting with 'Urgent' and 'I desperately need the translation of…' one might think otherwise…).

19.4.2 Don't translate words but the sentence

Please do memorize this rule: It makes translations so much easier for two reasons:

First, it may be that a word is simply missing in Sindarin. However, often a different sentence can be constructed with approximately the same meaning, but this second sentence might not need the missing word. So, instead of inventing a word that no-one will understand anyway, it is so much easier to use the other sentence.

To give an example: Imagine you want to use 'innocence' in a sentence. Now, Sindarin doesn't have a proper word. There would be **úgarth** (sin), but that is already derived with the negative prefix from **carth** (deed), so removing the prefix doesn't work and a second negative prefix is not a good idea either.

But what is actually meant with 'innocence'? Either the juristic meaning 'someone has not done something' —this can be translated with **ú-g óriel** (not having done) or child-like behaviour, and this might be expressed with **nauthol sui hên** (thinking like a child). While neither of those is particularly elegant, the meaning can be expressed and the reader of such a sentence will most likely get the meaning. Writing text in Sindarin is the art of continuously rephrasing sentences while keeping the intended meaning.

Worse traps, however, are situations in which each word of a text can be translated into Sindarin but does not quite end up with the desired meaning. Of course this holds for all obvious phrases which are a speciality of English, such as 'make friends' which should of course not be translated as *ceri vellyn*. Let's try the innocent looking example 'I'm not here now.' Trying to translate word by word yields

> *Im si ú-hi.* (*I'm not here now.*)

But in Sindarin, due to the missing form of 'to be' and the fact that **si** can express both 'here' and 'now', the sentence cannot be understood by a reader. He can also read 'I will not be here now.' or 'I am here, but not now.'.

In order to make the expression unambiguous, we have to rephrase again. Doing this e.g. for here and expressing this as **nan had istassen** (at the known place) could help. But how to express 'I am not'?

Just imagine the chain of events: You did not *come* to the place, therefore you *are* not there and if he's looking for you, he *will not find* you. You can give him any of the information in italics and he will know what the sentence is about. Hence, you might say

> ú-chirich nin si nan had istassen.
> (You will not find me at the usual place.)

and you will be understood.

Lesson 20

PASSIVE, SINGULAR FORMATION

20.1 TEXT

i ŷmŵ bygan

ŷdŵgan adaunawŵr an i'r tu ithŵdd. Taflu'r hat lygaddan. Canŵ'r ffenestr agorir mewn munud. Bwrdd ger y ffenestr oedd y mae'r ffenestr hefyd yn cau'n awtomatig. Ac felly ni ellir ei ddefnyddio i ŷmŵ bygan λ ghiz bêan jan pllan dh ithnlu. i ŷmŵ ddwrdd i ŷmŵ bygan λ ghiz bêan jan pllan dh ithnlu. i ŷmŵ ddwrdd i ŷmŵ bygan λllan hallu canŵ anniddig. ŷddygan ŵllyd addlan cazi. canŵ bê annhebygol. anniddig mêr ŷddygan. cnydrdl bwr ddarllen angrl λgiid mwhŵrwr. i adlz hid hên. ŷddygan hnydri i'r tu ithŵdd. Taflu'r hat λgannŵrnn. anniddig ŷ'r ffenestr cadw'n ôl. canŵ lladdan anaupan. bwddz jan ghiz pllid annŵ mlŷ. annŵ mah hid zlann. plz dmi bzi bazdd. dlŷ ddzŵrdi. dlŷ bê mwyan ŷz ŷj bazwn. ŷddygan ydri i adjan. mddz canlan canŵ anŵ cazbm. cnydrdz hat canlz i mlŷ. i anniddig. i

i ŷmŵ bygan

ŷddygan adzúnawŵrwr an i'r tu ithŵdd. Taflu'r hat λgannŵrnn. canŵ lladdan anaupan. bwddz jan ghiz pllid annŵ mlŷ. annŵ mah hid zlann. plz dmi bzi bazdd. dlŷ ddzŵrdi. dlŷ bê mwyan ŷz ŷj bazwn. ŷddygan ydri i adjan. mddz canlan canŵ anŵ cazbm. cnydrdz hat canlz i mlŷ. i anniddig. i

I aran fern

Aragorn gleinannen na ’lam e-ndagor. Lasta edhil hernennin, dan ú-gên naid. I vagol în orthiel pada nan môr. Nan meth thia ’lîn. Pôl ceni fela veleg. Cant anglenna; cant sui daen ’arel rî vallen. Aragorn ’roga a gîr. Magol dîn dant nan dalaf. Bragol edhel dôl e môr. E Ninias. E anglenna i aran fern ah orthiel i fair în pêd pith e-dûr. I aran fern hâd dhûath dan Ninias. Aragorn aníra toged dulu, dan sui nuithannen. Ninias nalla: ’Aragorn, drego! Avo acheno! Noro!’ Heria maethad a gîl thia thent. Aragorn dhrega a lasta chûl ’ortheb adel in. Aphadol dîn.

The dead king

Aragorn is enclosed by battle-sounds. He hears that elves are wounded, but he does not see anything. Having rised his sword, he is going into the darkness. At the end a gleam of light appears. He can see a great cave. A shape is approaching, a shape like a corpse with a golden crown. Aragorn feels terror and shivers. His sword is falling to the ground. Suddenly an elf is coming out of the darkness. It is Ninias. He approaches the dead king having rised his right hand and speaks words of power. The dead king throws darkess agains Ninias. Aragorn wants to help, but he is like paralyzed. Ninias cries: ’Aragorn, flee! Don’t look back! Run!’ He begins to attack and a bright light appears briefly. Aragorn flees and hears a horrible scream behind himself, followed by silence.

20.2 GRAMMAR

20.2.1 The Passive

In Sindarin (like in English, but unlike e.g. Latin) there is no full verb form to express the passive. An auxiliary construction has to be used instead. Sindarin has two different possibilities for such a construction: Either, the personless plural form is used to refer to ’some unspecified persons’ doing an action, i.e. instead of ’I am seen’ one really expresses ’some persons see me’; or one uses, like in English, the perfect passive participle (PPP) to form such expressions.

20.2.2 Passive by impersonal constructions

In an impersonal construction, the phrase has to be cast into such shape that an ’unspecified’ group is carrying out the verb action. In Sindarin, this is not a true passive form, but it is best translated into passive in English:

> Nin estar Legolas. (’They call me Legolas’; I’m called Legolas.)
> Annathar dulu mi Imladris. (You will be helped in Rivendell.)
> Nin cennir. (I have been seen.)
> Ae ú-chorthannen aen, nin cennir.
> (If I had not hurried, I might have been seen.)

Since the personless plural form in Sindarin (unlike in Quenya) seems to be identical with the 3rd person plural form, all these sentences might also be translated using active instead.

20.2.3 Passive using the PPP

Like in English, passive can also in Sindarin by formed using the perfect passive participle. However, since there is no 'to be' in Sindarin to construct the auxiliary form, the personal pronoun has to be used as a marker of person. This means that the tense cannot be specified in such constructions and has to be clarified either by context or by using an adverb like **si** (now). Furthermore, if the pronoun is plural, then the PPP has to be plural also. One can construct:

> im cennen (I am seen) ce cennen (you are seen)
> e cennen (he is seen) mín cennin (we are seen)
> ce cennin (you are seen) sai cennin (they are seen)

In a longer expression, the missing tense usually does not pose a great problem:

> Ae im cennen aen, noren. (If I would have been seen, I would have run.)
> Ir telithach, ce suilennin. (When you come, you will be greeted.)
> I laer linniel, im egleriannen.
> (Having sung the tune, I was praised.)

20.2.4 Singulars from Plurals

Sometimes, it occurs that one would like to name one thing out of a group of many, but the word for this group of many is not the plural of the one, e.g. the pair 'snowflake' and 'snow' —without a doubt snow consists of many snowflakes, but one cannot claim that snow is plural for snowflake.

To express these ideas in Sindarin, there are several endings denoting objects in singular. Those are **-og, -ig** and **-od**. Here, **-ig** seems to denote one of a pair, whereas the other two endings denote one of many. It is unclear if there is a further difference between **-od** and **-og**.

For example, from **lind** (tune, song) one can form **linnod** (a single verse). This in turn can form plural **linnyd** (several single verses), which is of course not identical with 'song'. Further formations of this type include

> lhaw (two ears) → lhewig (one ear)
> gwanûn (twins) → gwanunig (a twin)
> filig (several small birds)→ filigod (a single small bird)

We might try to form the following:

> loss (snow) → *lossod (snowflake)
> ross (rain) → *rossod (raindrop)
> glam (orc-host) → glamog (an orc soldier)
> finnel (hair) → *finnelod (a single hair)

20.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English
fileg	small bird
gîl	bright light
glam	orc-host
gleina-	to bound, to enclose, to limit
glîn	glint of light
gwanûn	twins
hûl	scream
lhaw	a pair of ears
mallen	golden
nuitha-	to stunt, to prevent from continuing
rî	crown
talaf	ground, floor

20.4 TRANSLATIONS INTO SINDARIN —'THAT'

This section in the German original dealt with the difficulty of matching German and Sindarin prepositions and made the suggestion to try to match the English prepositions to the Sindarin ones instead because this is often easier. Since it is utterly pointless to translate this into English, this section will deal with problems which are peculiar to the English language.

The english word 'that' can appear in two different functions: It can be the relative pronoun, like in 'the thing that I saw'. One can recognize it as such by a replacement test —if it can be replaced by 'which', then it is the relative pronoun; since 'the thing which I saw' is fine, it passes the test. 'That' as relative pronoun can be translated into Sindarin as **i**, hence the sentence becomes **i nad i gennen**.

On the other hand, 'that' can be a conjunction used to start a nominal clause, e.g. in 'I see that you have come.' One can see that this is different by trying 'I see which you have come.' which does not make much sense. For all we know, Tolkien meant to make a distinction between these two functions in his elvish languages —for example the Early Qenya Grammar has:

The indeclinable relative pronoun is **ya**, *which is either to be understood in any relation, or, very frequently, is defined by demonstrative or pronomial or adverbial words inside the relative clause.*

The conjunction 'that' is **ne** *and must not be confused.* (from Parma Eldalamberon 14:54).

We have no particular reason to assume that Sindarin would be any different. Therefore, the conjunction 'that' can probably not be translated by **i**. In most sentences, it might be best simply to leave it out in Sindarin (it can often be left out in English), hence

> Cenin tolech. (I see [that] you came.)
> Aníron i vinn tiriel. (I want [that] the men [are] watchful.)

A related question concerns sentences like 'The water flowing over the rocks.'. It is tempting to associate 'flowing' with 'water' and mutate it as an adjective in trailing position when translating into Sindarin; however the sentence is really an abbreviation for 'The water [that is] flowing over the rocks', and this abbreviation is not possible in other languages, so there is no reason to assume that it would be in Sindarin.

But the longer version of the sentence would not have an adjective at all (the English version has the participle to form the present continuous tense) and furthermore require a relative pronoun, therefore

I nen i rimma or sern. (The water flowing over the rocks.)

Lesson 21

PHONOLOGICAL MUTATIONS

21.1 TEXT

Ithryndir a Nóg

Nóga dúin ennirin X Gwaithon mela mein hara. Ilmen ónin. Ennin Ithryndir. Ennyth a Nan nalen lúr X Gwaithon nallor mel ríl hara. Ennyth im ú uel ulbor ú nin hara Ennyrion mel Ithryndir. Gna lúrin an ríbad ginan X hara Ennyrion ú nin ú Ennyrion ennin ú Gwaithon ennyn. Ennin X hara Ennyrion ú nin hara Ennyrion ú Gwaithon ennyn. Ennin X Gwaithon ennyn ú nin ú Ennyrion ennyn. Ennin X Gwaithon ennyn ú nin hara Ennyrion ú Gwaithon

I dhregad es sarch

Sern cheriar dannad ah Aragorn nôr nan fen. ú-rên i rad, dan ú-dhartha. Bragol or son gond talt ah Aragorn gâb nan edrath în. Nan meth tira galad ar anglenna fen. Dâr bo ceven. Nef fuin. Gwanod in edhil paul drego es sarch, dan Aragorn vellyn rim ú-geveditha ad. Adel hon i fen e-harch sôl an-uir. I mronanner gerir naergon af firn.
In edhil vrúniel awarthar i had e-harch erin aur aphadol. Edain ah edhil bedir novaer. In edain badar nan mbâr în ar in edhil adreviar na Imladris. Erin heriad en iavas telir ennas ah Aragorn bada an govaded Arwen.

The flight from the grave

Suddenly, stones begin to fall and Aragorn is running to the doorway. He doesn't remember the way, but he does not stop. Suddenly, a stone above him is falling and Aragorn jumps in order to save himself. At the end he sees light and approaches the doorway. He stops on the earth. It is night. A number of elves could flee from the grave, but there are many friends whom Aragorn will not meet again. Behind him, the doorway of the grave closes forever. Those who survived make a lament for the dead.
The surviving elves leave the place of the grave on the next day. Men and elves say farewell. The men are going to their home and the elves wander back to Rivendell. On the beginning of fall they arrive there and Aragorn goes to meet Arwen.

21.2 GRAMMAR

The basic principle of phonological mutations is actually simpler to understand than the origin of grammatical mutations: Two closely related words folow each other, and since they are so closely related, they are seen as one word only, hence the initial consonant of the second word is shifted as if it would be found in the middle of a word. Therefore, the last sound of the first word in such a combination in principle dictates the nature of the following mutation.

Unfortunately, the difficulties start about here. Obviously, not any two words following each other cause mutations, instead, this is only done in special circumstances. The first investigation therefore has to be into the nature of these circumstances. But even then, a number of examples indicates that the type of mutation is not uniquely determined by the last sound of the first word —for example, the prefix **dad-** would end with **-d** and stop mutation might therefore be expected, unfortunately, this prefix apparently causes lenition. The most probable reason is that this prefix causes lenition because its original stem did end in a vowel.

The theory of phonological mutations is a very difficult chapter, and the following explanations are nothing but an attempt to find the most plausible explanation that describes most of the available examples. This does by no means imply that there are no gaps in our understanding or that these explanations are in any sense final.

21.2.1 Compounds and loose compounds

The rules of phonological mutations apparently apply to two seemingly different situations: compounds and loose compounds.

By referring to compounds in the following, we mean an object formed of two words which do not need be closely associated under ordinary circumstances but are nevertheless cast together in a particular situation, for example in order to form a name. Examples are

Angband (ang + band, 'iron prison') or **Baranduin** (baran + duin, 'brown river'). However, compounds do not have to be names, there's e.g. **morchant** (shadow, from mor + cant, 'darkshape').

A loose compound on the other side refers in the following to the compounding of closely associated words. Since unlike for compounds, this is not always indicated in writing, we call this a loose compound. Such loose compounds may be carried out and yield proper compounds, or may be indicated with a hyphen or may not be indicated at all —the essential feature is that the involved words are in a close relation. Mutation is caused regardless if the compound is indicated in writing. The most important situations where loose compounds occur are:

- the definite article in singular **i** and plural **in**, which can be written in different ways: **i fen, i-fen** or **iFen** (the doorway).
- likewise the relative pronoun in singular and plural: **i-chuinar** (who live), **ai gerir** (for those who do)
- the negative prefix **ú-**, which can be written as true compound or using a hyphen: **umarth** (ill fate) or **ú-gerin** (I don't do)
- all prepositions which can also be used as prefixes: **abvedin** (I go behind), **ab Aragorn** (after Aragorn), **na-chaered** (into the distance)

21.2.2 Phonological mutations in compounds

In the formation of compounds, three different cases can occur:

- No mutation is caused, the words form the compound without any change. This phenomenon is observed in names of ancient origin, such as **Angband** (not *Angmand*) and in relatively new ones, such as **Baranduin** (not *Barannuin* or *Barandhuin*). In general, however, this seems to be a rare case, and especially for **baranduin**, the reason for the lack of mutation may be found in the fact that the root **duin** is denoted as being Ilkorin, so maybe it intruded into Sindarin and is not subject to the same rules.
- The first word of the compound used to end with a vowel (lost in modern Sindarin), and this dictates the mutation. In this case, lenition is caused. We find this in names like **Angmar**.
- In the last case, the ending of the first word dictates the mutation and stop mutation is caused for **-d** or **-t**, liquid mutation for **-r** or **-l**, nasal mutation for **-n** or **-m** and presumably lenition in all other cases. We may observe this in the names **Mordor**, **Barad-Dûr**, **morchant** or **Gondor**.

Obviously, the last case can only be relevant for relatively recent compound, because in old compounds, a final vowel would not yet have been lost, and about 80% of all endings in primitive Elvish are vocalic and would lead to lenition in compounds.

For the creation of new compounds (e.g. in order to create an elvish name) it is probably safest to let the mutation be dictated by the ending of the first word, unless the compound is supposedly very old. Otherwise, it is most painless simply to use names provided by Tolkien; trying to determine what the underlying principles of his creations are is often

frustrating, since he was in the habit of changing the explanation for a name as he developed the languages further.

21.2.3 Phonological mutations for loose compounds

Loose compounds are, although at first glance different, in essence nothing but compounds which are written in a peculiar way. Therefore, we find the same three possible outcomes.

However, typically loose compounds do lead to mutations, regardless if the compound is written as such or not. The type of mutation is more often than not dictated by an archaic ending, but this should not worry the reader, because we have discussed all relevant prepositions, articles and relative pronouns along with the different types of mutation already.

It is probably fruitful to imagine prepositions as developed from prefixes which have somehow come loose but still behave as if they would still form a compound. It is an important point to realize that prepositions do not cause mutation because the following word is an object (and is affected by a grammatical mutation like direct objects), but only because preposition and noun are closely associated and a loose compound is formed.

The type of mutation caused can vary even for a single prefix, if it does not end in a vowel. For example, one finds for the prefix **ar-** (high, noble) **arphen** (a noble), with liquid mutation, but also **Argonath** ('high stones'), quite without mutation.

For most prefixes, not enough examples are known to make definite statements which mutation could be caused by them. However, as the example **ar-** shows, there might still be different possibilities. In general, it is rarely seen that a prefixed element does not cause any mutation, therefore it is probably best if no examples are known for a particular prefix/preposition to assume that its last sound dictates the type of mutation or else carry out lenition —most probably both are permissible.

21.2.4 Special cases —prepositions without mutation

Prepositions seem to be in a close relationship with prefixes, therefore it is cause for some surprise if a preposition does not cause any mutation. Small as the number of Sindarin text samples is, two of these cases are actually known:

bo (auf)

bo Ceven (on earth)

vi (in)

vi Menel (in heaven)

In these examples, **vi** seems to be a lenited form of **mi** (no unmutated Sindarin word begins with **v-**). This is somewhat surprising, because lenition of prepositions is nothing which is observed elsewhere. We may however find a clue to these things by the following observation: The word **coe** (earth) is described as bein 'indeclinable'. Presumably, this is in close relationship with **ceven**, and indeclinable in a language without case inflection for a word that would not form distinct plural can conceiveably only mean one thing: Not subject to mutation.

This might lead to the following scenario: Words like the names of 'heaven' and 'earth' are indeclinable, hence cannot be mutated, even if they are used in combination with a preposition. In order to signal that the complete phrase is an object, the preposition is lenited instead, explaining the attested forms.

Please note that this is only one theory able to explain this unusual pattern. However, for the 'normal' use, it is probably better to use **mi** and do lenition on the following word as used throughout this course.

It is unclear if there are any more words which would be indeclinable in a similar way.

21.2.5 Double-prefi xes

Sometimes, a situation may occur in which a word would get a double prefix, such as in the translation of 'meet again' where we would combine **ad-** (again) with **govad-** (meet). Presumably, the same distinction between prefixes recognized as such and prefixes being part of the word which we know for i-affection applies here.
If the prefix is not usually part of the word, it 'shields' the following word: This essentially means that it cannot be affected by mutations of any kind, regardless if they are grammatical ones (such as lenition of direct objects) or phonological ones (such as a verb following the relative pronoun).
Article, relative pronoun and presumably the negative element **ú** remain in front of such a word, however without causing mutation, whereas any other prefixes follow behind but do not cause mutations for the word behind them in turn since they are not in any way associated with it:

govedin ad (I accompany again)
govedin ad vellon (I accompany again a friend)
ú-govedin (I do not accompany)
ai ú-govedir ad (for those who don't accompany)

If however the prefix has merged with the word, then everything follows the usual rules:

gonod- (count) → gonoded ([the] count) → aronoded (without count)

The above rule may be in close connection with the fact that prepositions themselves are usually not lenited. However, apart from the 'indeclinable constructions' already discussed, a further exemption may be **pen** (without). However, this element really seems rather to be used for forming adjectives, quite like the english '-less', so maybe we should not be surprised that it is lenited like adjectives following their noun:

iarwain ben-adar (eldest without father; name of Tom Bombadil)

Now, if a preposition acts on a word with a prefix that is recognized as such, it follows logically that the preposition would not cause lenition:

na govaded (with company)

We may safely assume that such complications occur rarely.

21.2.6 Pronouns as indirect objects

Another difficult question is the use of pronouns as indirect objects in a sentence, i.e. in a phrase like 'above you'. First, we may infer that the fact that the pronoun is an object makes is permissible to select the object forms of pronouns ending in **-n** rather than the nominative forms, although the compounds **ammen** and **enni** may indicate that both choices are possible. However, since the preposition causes a phonological mutation overriding the grammatical mutation, we must start with the unlenited form even for object pronouns, in the above example **cen** instead of **gen** as it usually would appear. Then, we have to let the mutation caused by the preposition act on the pronoun, which in our example would be liquid mutation. Hence, we find **or chen**. Some more examples would be

or son (above him)
o chen (from you)
o men (from us)

Instead of letting **an** act on a pronoun, it is better to use the compounds with **an** described in lesson 19.

21.2.7 Relative sentences

The relative pronoun seems to form a loose compound with the verb of the relative sentence, hence causing lenition in singular and nasal mutation in plural. However, if it is for some reason (e.g. an adverb) separated from the verb, no mutation is caused because the relative pronoun is not closely associated with the adverb, only with the verb:

biss i cherir (women who do) but:
biss in si cerir (women who now do)

21.2.8 Adverbs

Some prepositions may also be used as adverbs, e.g. **dan** (against, but) or **an** (for). If they are used like this, again, there is usually no close connection between them and the following word, therefore they do not form loose compounds and no mutation is caused.

Ring, dan padam nan amon. (It is cold, but we go to the hill.)
Im harnannen, dan maethon. (I'm wounded, nevertheless I fight.)

21.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English
awartha-	to forsake
cef	soil
dalt	slippery, falling
edrath	saving
gond	stone
iavas	autumn
naer	sad
naergon	lament
riss	ravine
uir	eternity

21.4 TRANSLATIONS INTO SINDARIN —ADVERBS

As soon as one tries to translate anything longer than single sentences into Sindarin, one faces the problem that there are few words like 'then', 'however', 'because' to provide structure for the sentence. Nevertheless, it is important to know what words of this type exist in Sindarin and what other constructions may be used for the same purpose —just forming a row of simple sentences sounds like baby-speech even in Sindarin.

21.4.1 Temporal sequences

If things happen at the same time, the persent active participle can often be helpful:

Linnol cennin i minn.
(Singing, I watched the men; While I sang, I watched the men.)

Similarly, in order to indicate that something has happened before, the perfect active participle can be used:

I riss anglenniel cemmin.
('Having approached the ravine I jumped.'; After I had approached the ravine, I jumped.)

Finally, for a later event it seems useful to use **aphadol** (following) and to translate it as 'then':

Lachannen in naur. Aphadol lostannen.
(I lighted the fire. Then I slept.)

More useful prefixes and adverbs include

ad- (again), **io** (ago, *before), **ir** (when), **si** (now), **sir** (today), ***ui** (ever), ***nivarad** (tomorrow), ***adarad** (yesterday), **nan meth** (at the end), **na vedui** (at last)

Adarad cennin orch. Io bennin na dawar.
(Yesterday, I saw an orc. Before that, I went to the forest.)

21.4.2 Causal sequences

The reason for some event may presumably be expressed using **an** (for) in Sindarin (which as an adverb does not cause mutation for the following word). Also **an** as preposition with following verb in gerund may be useful for forming expressions involving 'in order to'.

An Aragorn bant na Imladris. (For Aragorn went to Rivendell.)

Han cerin an edraith ammen.
(I do it for the saving of us; I do it because I want to save us.)

Linnon am meleth vîn.
(I sing for our love; I sing because I love you.)

Tolen al linnad.
(I have come for singing; I have come in order to sing.)

Another useful word might be **farn** (enough):

Mudassech farn. (You have worked enough.)
Sa farn palan. (This is far enough.)

Lesson 22

WORD RECONSTRUCTION

22.1 TEXT

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Telitha i lû gî n

Aragorn adgovad Arwen na lanthir nef riss Imladris.

Arwen: Tolech revianneth and.

Aragorn: Tolen.

Arwen: Man agorech?

Aragorn: Edregol renin ’osten ir im nuin haudh marad. Cennin Ninias maetho, dan im sui nuithannen. Nan meth orthor i aran fern, dan e dangen. Yrch ú-drastathar in edain, dan i dulu nîn tithen.

Arwen: Telitha i lû gîn. ú-chenion hi bain, dan iston cerithach naid verin a doer. ú-iston ias egor ir, dan gweston. Hebo estel.

Your time will come

Aragorn meets Arwen again at a waterfall on this side of the valley of Rivendell.

Arwen: You have come a long wandering.

Aragorn: Yes.

Arwen: What did you do?

Aragorn: In especial I remember my fear as I was under the doomed hill. I saw Ninias figth, but I was like paralyzed. At the end he defeated the dead king, but he was also slain. Orcs will not trouble the men, but my help was small.

Arwen: Your time will come. I don’t understand now everything, but I know you will do brave and great things. I don’t know where or when, but I promise. Have hope.

22.2 GRAMMAR

22.2.1 Nouns from verbs

For the formation of verbs from nouns, some simple guidelines can be derived. Apart from the gerund which describes the action corresponding to the verb, i.e. for **ped-** (to speak) **i beded** ’the speaking’ there are several other possibilities. However, the precise meaning and shape of other derived nouns cannot be predicted as reliably as for the formation of the gerund; for each of the following rules, there are also some exceptions known.

I-verbs

For I-verbs, the result of the verb action or an abstract noun associated with the verb action is formed by means of the ending **-th**:

car- (to do) → carth (deed)
dar- (to stop) → *darth (stop, rest)

If the verb stem ends with **-d**, this is dropped when appending **-th**. If the stem ends with **-l**, then a connecting vowel **-e-** is inserted:

ped- (to speak) → peth (word)
nod- (to tie) → *noth (bundle)
pel- (wither) → peleth (withering)

If the stem vowel is **-i**, the ending reads **-ith** instead of **-th**:

tir- (to watch) → tirith (watch)
gir- (to shudder) → girith (shuddering)

A-verbs and mixed conjugation

A-verbs and mixed conjugation seem to have two distinct possibilities for the formation of nouns from verbs: The first one is the loss of the ending **-a**:

nautha- (to think) → nauth (thought)
lacha- (to flame) → *lach (flame)
dartha- (to wait) → *darth (rest, break)

The second (rare) possibility runs presumably via the perfect passive participle and results in the ending **-nneth**, which describes the final result of the verb action:

presta- (to affect) → prestanneth (affection)
revia- (to wander) → *revianneth (wandering)

Much more examples with loss of the ending are known; this seems to be favoured for A-verbs.

22.2.2 Persons performing an action

The person performing the verb action is often derived by the endings **-or, -on** and **-ron** (male) or **-eth** and **-ril** (female). However, these are not real endings but remnants of underlying archaic forms, so there's no guarantee that they come out like this in every instance, and they should be used with great care. The rule indicated here is a mere rough guideline.

maeth (fight) → maethor (fighter) or *maethril (female fighter)
roch (horse) → rochon (rider) or *rocheth (female rider)
nath (net) → nathron (weaver) or nathril (female weaver)

22.2.3 Composed things

A whole composed of many parts is often denoted by combining the word for the part with the ending **-as**:

car (house) → caras (town)
sarn (stone) → sarnas (mound)
pân (plank) → panas (floor)

22.2.4 The use of infi nitives

Presumably, infinitives in Sindarin are used like in Quenya. This would imply that a short infinitive 'go' (like in 'I see him go') is usually translated as infinitive, a longer infinitive 'to go' (like in 'I woule like to go') as a gerund and an intention '(in order) to go' as a gerund in dative, i.e. using **an** in Sindarin:

Pelin pedi i lam edhellen. (I can speak the elvish language.)
Aníron cened Aragorn. (I with to see Aragorn.)
Tolen al lastad. (I came in order to hear.)

22.2.5 More question words

Based on Quenya, one can reconstruct several more question words besides **man** (who? what?): ***mas** (where) with the associated relative pronoun ***ias** (where) and ***mar?** (when) with **ir** (when, as).

Mas han agorech? (Where did you do it?)
Agoren ennas, ias nin ú-chirich. (I did it there where you will not find me).
Mar han cerich? (When do you do it?)
Ir nin ú-dirich. (When you do not watch me.)

22.3 VOCABULARY

Sindarin	English
and	long
estel	hope
gwesta-	to swear
lanthir	waterfall
trasta-	to trouble

22.4 TRANSLATIONS INTO SINDARIN —CREATING WORDS

Sometimes it happens in spite of all creativity in rephrasing an expression that a word is simply missing. In this case, one is almost certainly tempted to (re-)construct the word somehow. In principle, this is not a cause to burn in hell if one sticks to some rules:

22.4.1 General remarks regarding reconstructions

This goes without saying, but: Never put a word you've made yourself in a wordlist next to a proper, attested Sindarin word without making a clear and visible distinction. The fact that people have not cared for this rule in the past has led to endless confusion and hard-to-kill versions of improper Sindarin all around the web. In a text *in* Sindarin, such a form may appear without comment (it would not do to add 20 footnotes to a poem just because it uses reconstructed vocabulary), but in a text about Sindarin, upholding this distinction is mandatory. In the present course, you might have observed that this is usually done by prefixing a * to a reconstructed word [1].

The next rule is that (re-)creation of words has to be understood: If one has to give explanations to the reader along with the Sindarin text, then the text could as well given in English. The aim of a language is communication and this means the reader has to be able to figure out what is meant. A creation like ***nen en-naur** ('fire-water') will presumably readily be understood as a word for alcohol, whereas **lavan varan** (brown animal) does not really point to a specific animal.

Especially word reconstrucion along the lines outlined by Tolkien is readily understood, e.g. the formation of nouns from verbs by means of the ending **-th** is prone to be readily recognized.

[1] In spite of all case, there might still be some forms in this course that are not properly attested. This is not so by intention of the author but caused by the fact that the earliest version of this course was written using an improper wordlist and the author since then struggles to remove or mark all words that are not attested. Under no circumstances should the vocabulary in this course be preferred to a proper wordlist which gives references where a particular word is attested.

22.4.2 Different types of reconstruction

There are only very few words which are attested in proper Sindarin. Most of the known vocabulary is actually Noldorin, a conceptional predecessor of Sindarin. However, the structure of both languages seems to be pretty similar and the phonetical shifts connecting both are rather well known, therefore one can deduce with reasonable certainty how words would look in proper Sindarin.

A second class of words is formed by analogy from Quenya words. This is justified to some degree since both languages are developed from a common ancestor (Common Eldarin). However, this process is not as reliable as the update of Noldorin to Sindarin since the grammar of Quenya is often quite different from Sindarin.

The next class of reconstructions is based directly on the primitive Elvish stems of words. Using known derivational endings and phonetical shifts, one can use those to reconstruct Sindarin words.

All these methods are more or less directly based on Tolkiens works. Any reconstructions deviating from those are likely to be wrong or useless, unless they are simple compounds of known Sindarin elements. For a serious introduction how derivations from primitive Elvish roots are done this course is not the right place. A good beginner's resource for how to reconstruct words from primitive roots is 'A rogue's guide to Sindarin word reconstruction' `http://www.phy.duke.edu/~trenk/elvish/rogue.html`.

Appendix A

TABLE OF MUTATIONS

The following tables are a summary of all mutation patterns. The mutations are described in detail in lessons 3 (lenition), 4 (nasal), 12 (mixed) and 13 (stop and liquid).

The first (shorter) table is relevant for the special cases resulting from nasalized stops; this subject is covered in detail in lesson 18. The second, longer table treats the standard case.

In the tables, mutation is illustrated for cases in which the article or a preposition gets shortened. The generalization to cases in which this does not take place is straightforward.

Example: We would like to know the mutation in the (unmutated) expression **or taen** (above a summit). According to lesson 13 the preposition **or** causes liquid mutation. **taen** starts with a simple **t-**, therefore the second table is the relevant one and taking a look we find the entry **or th...**. Therefore, the correct mutation of the expression is **or thaen**.

Special cases —nasalized stops

unmutated	soft	nasal I	nasal II	mixed	stop	liquid
b...	i m...	i mb...	am mb...	e-mb...	e mb...	or b...
d...	i n...	i nd...	an nd...	e-nd...	e nd...	or d...
g...	i ng...	in g...	an g...	en-g...	en g...	or g...

Standard cases

unmutated	soft	nasal I	nasal II	mixed	stop	liquid
b…	i v…	i m…	am m…	e-b…	e b…	or v…
bl…	i vl…	i ml…	a ml…	e-ml…	e bl…	or vl…
br…	i vr…	i mr…	a mr…	e-mr…	e br…	or vr…
c…	i g…	i ch…	a ch…	e-g…	e ch…	or ch…
cl…	i gl…	i chl…	a chl…	e-gl…	e chl…	or chl…
cr…	i gr…	i chr…	a chr…	e-gr…	e chr…	or chr…
d…	i dh….	i n…	an n…	e-d…	e d…	or dh…
dr…	i dhr…	in dr…	an dr…	en-dr…	e dr…	or dhr…
f…	i f…	i f…	af f…	en-f…	ef f…	or f…
g…	i ’….	i ng…	an ng…	e-g…	e g…	or ’…
gl…	i ’l…	in gl…	an gl…	en-gl…	e gl…	or ’l…
gr…	i ’r…	in gr…	an gr…	en-gr…	e gr…	or ’r…
gw…	i ’w….	in gw…	an gw…	en-gw…	e gw…	or ’w…
h…	i ch…	i ch…	a ch…	e-h…	e ch…	or ch…
hw…	i chw…	i ’w…	a ’w…	e-’w…	e w…	or chw…
l…	i l….	i l…	al l…	e-l…	ed l…	or l…
lh…	i thl…	i ’l…	al ’l…	e-’l…	e thl…	or ’l…
m…	i v…	i m…	am m…	e-m…	e m…	or v…
n…	i n….	i n…	an n…	en-n…	e n…	or n…
p…	i b…	i ph…	a ph…	e-b…	e ph…	or ph…
pr…	i br…	i phr…	a phr…	e-mr…	e phr…	or phr…
r…	i r….	idh r…	adh r…	edh-r…	ed r…	or r…
rh…	i r…	idh ’r…	adh ’r…	e-’r…	e thr…	or ’r…
s…	i h…	i s…	as s…	e-h…	es s…	or s…
t…	i d…	i th…	a th…	e-d…	e th…	or th…
th…	i th…	i th…	ath th…	e-th…	eth th…	or th…
tr…	i dr…	i thr…	a thr…	en-dr…	e thr…	or thr…

Appendix B

TENGWAR AND THEIR NAMES

tinco	parma	calma	quesse
ando	umbar	anga	ungwe
thule	formen	harma	hwesta
anto	ampa	anca	unque
numen	malta	ñoldo	ñwalme
óre	vala	anna	wilya

rómen	arda	lambe	alda
silme		esse	
hyarmen	halla	yanta	úre

Appendix C

VOCABULARY SINDARIN-ENGLISH

A

a *and*
adab *house, building*
adan *man, human*
adertha- *to reunite*
aduial *evening twilight*
*ae *if*
aeglir *mountain range*
ael *lake, pool*
aew *bird*
aglar *glory, brilliance*
aglon *pass between high walls*
alag *wild*
amarth *fate, doom*
ambenn *uphill*
*amman *why?*
amrûn *the East*
an *for*
and *long*
anglenna- *to approach*
aníra- *to wish, to desire*
anna- *to give*
annon *gate*
anor *sun*
anu *male*
aphada- *to follow*
ar *and*
aran *king*
aras *deer*
ardh *realm, region*
arphen *a noble*
ast *dust*
athrabeth *debate*
athrada- *to cross*
aur *day, morning, sunlight*
ava- *will not*

B

bach *article (for trade)*
bachor *pedlar*
bad- *to go*
badhor *judge*
bain *beautiful*
band *prison*
bar *home*
barad *1) tower 2) doomed*
bartha- *to doom*
basgorn *loaf (of bread)*
bast *bread*
baug *cruel, oppressive*
baugla- *to oppress*
bauglir *tyrant*
baur *need*
beleg *great, mighty*
bell *strong (in body)*

benn *man*
beren *bold*
beria- *to protect*
bertha- *to dare*
bess *woman*
bôr *trusty man*
bora- *to trust*
both *puddle, small pool*
bragol *sudden*
brand *hight (in size)*
brass *white-hot*
brôg *bear*
brona- *to last, to survive*
bund *nose, cape (of land)*

C

cab- *to leap, to jump*
cabed *jump*
cai *hedge*
cair *ship*
calad *light*
cam *hand*
car *house, building*
car- *to do*
cef *soil*
celeb *silver*
celu *spring, source*
cen- *to see*
cirith *cleft, pass*
coru *cunning, wily*
coth *enemy*
cuia- *to live*
cuina- *to be alive*
curu *craft, skill*

D

dadbenn *downhill*
daen *corpse*
daer *bridegroom*
dag- *to slay*
dagor *battle*
dam *hammer*
damma- *to hammer*
dan *1) against 2) *but, *however*
dangen *slain*
dangweth *answer*
*danna- *to fall*
dar- *to stop*
dartha- *to wait*
daug *orc-warrior*
daw *darkness*
deleb *horrible*
delia- *to hide, to conceal*
delu *deadly*
dem *gloomy*
dess *young maiden*
dîn *silence*
dinen *silent*
dofn *low*
dôl *head*
dolen *hidden*
doll *dark*
dolt *round knob*
dôr *land*
dortha- *to dwell*
draug *wolf*
drava- *to hew*
dreg- *to flee*
dring *hammer*
dúath *darkness*
dûn *West*
dûr *dark*

E

ech *spear*
edhel *elf*
edra- *to open*
edrain *border*
edrath *saving*
egledhia- *go to exile*
egleria- *to praise*
egor *or*
eirien *daisy*
eithel *spring, source*
êl *star*
elia- *to rain*
elleth *elf-maiden*
ennas *there*
ereb *single, alone*
eria- *to rise*
eriol *alone, lonely*
estel *hope*

F

faeg *bad, evil*
faer *spirit*
fair *1) mortal man 2) right, right hand*
falch *ravine*
fara- *to hunt*
faun *cloud*
fela *cave*
fen *doorway*
fêr *beech*
fern *dead*

fileg *small bird*
*fir- *to die*

G

gala- *to grow*
galadh *tree*
galu *good fortune*
ganna- *to play the harp*
gannada- *to play the harp*
gannel *harp*
garaf *wolf*
gardh *area, region, the world*
gaur *werewolf*
gawad *howling*
genedia- *to count, to reckon*
gîl *bright light*
gir- *to shudder*
glad *wood*
glam *1) din, uproar 2) orc-troup*
glamor *echo*
gland *border*
gleina- *to limit, to enclose*
glinna- *to look towards*
glir- *to recite*
golf *branch*
goll *wise*
gollor *wise man, mage*
golu *lore*
golwen *wise*
gonathra- *to entangle*
gond *stone*
gonod- *to count, to reckon*
goroth *horror*
gortheb *horrible*
gosta- *to feel horror*
govad- *to meet*
groga- *to fear*
grond *club*
gûl *magic*
gûr *1) heart 2) death 3) counsel*
gurth *death*
gwain *new*
gwann *past*
gwanna- *to die, to depart*
gwanu *dying, fading*
gwanûn *pair of twins*
gwath *shadow*
gwatha- *to shadow*
gwelu *air (as substance)*
gwend *friendship*
gweria- *to betray*
gwesta- *to promise, to swear*
gwilith *sky*

H

had- *to throw*
hador *thrower*
haered *distance*
haltha- *to defend*
hammad *clothing*
harad *south*
harna- *to wound*
haru *wound*
hathol *axe*
hen *eye*
hên *child*
henia- *to understand*
hent *pair of eyes*
heriad *beginning*
hethu *vague*
hîr *lord*
hithu *mist, fog*
hûl *scream*
hwest *breeze*

I

iâr *blood*
iaur *old*
iavas *autumn*
idh *rest, repose*
idhor *thoughtfulness*
idhren *wise, thoughtful*
imlad valley
inu *female*
io anann *long past*
ion *son*
ir *when*
íra *to desire*
ista- *to have knowledge*
Ithil *moon*
ivor *crystal*

L

laba- *to hop*
lacha- *to flame*
lad *valley*
lagor *swift*
lam *tongue*
lang *cutlass, sword*
lanthir *waterfall*
lasta- *to listen*
lathrada- *to eavesdrop*
lav- *to lick*
*law *no*

leithia- *to set free*
lhain *lean, thin*
lhaw *a pair of ears*
lhûg *snake, serpent*
limmida- *to moisten*
linna- *to sing*
lond *path*
loth *flower*
lû *time, occasion*
luithia- *to quench*

M

maba- *to seizr*
mad- *to eat*
mae *well*
maeth *fight*
maetha- *to fight*
maethor *fighter*
magol *sword*
magor *swordsman*
mallen *golden*
malu *pale*
mail *dear*
malen *yellow*
man *who?, what?*
man lû *when?, what time?*
man sad *where? what place?*
matha- *to feel, to stroke*
mellon *friend*
men *way, road*
meth *end*
metha- *to end*
methed *end*
mi *in*
mel- *to love*
minna- *to enter*
morchant *shadow*
morn *darkness*

N

na *1) to, towards 2) by, using*
nad *thing*
nadhor *pasture*
naer *sad*
nagol *tooth*
nalla- *to cry*
narn *tale*
naru *red*
nath *web*
naugol *dwarf*
naur *fire*
nautha- *to conceive*
naw *thought, idea*
nedhu *cushion*
nedia- *to count*
nimmida- *to whiten*
nod- *to bind*
nor- *to run*
*nosta- *to smell*
nuithia- *to stunt*

O

ôl *dream*
oltha- *to dream*
orch *orc*
orthor- *to conquer*
osgar- *to amputate*

P

pada- *to walk*
paich *juice, syrup*
pân *plank*
parch *dry*
pathu *level space*
ped- *to speak*
pêl *fenced field*
*pel- *to wither, to fade*
pelia- *to spread*
pen *someone*
penia- *to fix*
peth *word*
*pilin *arrow*
presta- *to affect, to trouble*
*pol- *to be able to*

R

rada- *to find a way*
rain *footprint, track*
ranc *arm*
rath *course, street*
redh- *to sow*
rem *1) net 2) multitude*
*ren- *to remember*
renia- *to stray*
revia- *to wander, to sail, to fly*
rhaw *flesh, body*
rî *crown*
ring *cold*
riss *ravine*

S

salph *soup*

sam *room, chamber*
sarch *grave*
sarn *stone*
seidia- *to lay aside*
sell *daughter*
si *1) here 2) now*
sigil *dagger*
síla- *to shine*
siniath *news tidings*
siria- *to flow*
sirion *river*
sog- *to drink*
sui *as, like*

T

tadol *double*
taen *1) long 2) summit*
talaf *floor*
talath *plain*
talt *loose, slippery*
talu *flat*
tanc *strong*
tang *bowstring*
tangada- *to make fast, to confirm*
tara *stiff*
tathor *willow*
taur *1) forest 2) mighty, vast*
tavor *woodpecker*
tawar *wood*
tawaren *of wood*
telia- *to play*
tellain *sole of foot*
thala *strong*
thalion *hero*
thand *shield*
thêl *sister*
thel- *to mean, to intend*
thela *spearpoint*
thia- *to appear*
thinna- *to grow towards evening*
thôl *helmet*
thôr *eagle*
thora- *to fence*
tinu *spark*
tir- *to watch*
tîr *straight, right*
tíra- *to watch*
tithen *small*
toba- *to roof*
tog- *to bring*
tol- *to come*
toltha- *to fetch, to summon*
tôr *brother*
trasta- *to trouble*
trenar- *to tell, to recount*
*tulu *help*
tulus *poplar*
*tûr *power, strength*

U

úan *monster*
uanui *monstrous*
uial *twilight*
uir *eternity*
um *bad*
úmarth *ill-fate*