

Kekeblin

A Grammatical Sketch

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Kekeblin: An Overview of the People and Purpose

In English it is called Kekeblin, but they refer to their language (and themselves) as [ˈɛts.ɛbv.ˌlin.jy]—**ɛtse-** is a verb prefix that means “to watch”; **blvin** is a noun that means “person, sentient creature”; and **-jy** is a derivational suffix which makes a verb + noun combination that essentially means “a [noun] who [verbs].” This more literally translates to “the ones who watch,” but most translate this to mean “the watchers.”

Kekeblin is a unique language that belongs to a fictional race of creatures created by a wizard. They look somewhat like shaggy-haired, large badgers at first glance; closer inspection reveals that they tend to walk with a hunch, similar to a pangolin; their long, furry tail is thick and prehensile, their front claws sharp; and their eyes are large, colorful, and compounded, much like an insect's. Kekeblin are intelligent, burrowing creatures with a loosely-organized, warriorlike society. They refer to themselves as “watchers” because they watch for the return of the wizard who created them—should he ever return.

Kekeblin began with several design goals in mind: (1) to create a language with no stops and (2) to make almost all verbs in Kekeblin prefixes. Both of these goals were successful, and they directly influenced much of the construction of Kekeblin as a language.

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Kekeblin Simple Sentences

[1] Basic Sentence Structure and Transitivity

“ m:dʌ məɪlɪtsweyndʌn ɛɪ ɪʒi:ɛtʃvɪbvləbvɪj ”

Literal Translation: A uselessly undefined something of the wizard know the humans (perfective).

Meaning Translation: The humans know absolutely nothing of value about the wizard (expressing certainty that this was, is, and will be).

The nucleus of a Kekeblin sentence is the predicate, which term is used slightly differently in Kekeblin than other languages. The predicate consists of the verb prefix and the head noun of the sentence—main verbs are prefixes in Kekeblin, which is described in more detail in “Kekeblin Verbs.”

A simple Kekeblin sentence may be constructed as follows:

Adverb(s) + Direct Object + Indirect Object + Auxiliary Verb + *Adverb(s)* + *Locative Modifier* + Sentence Predicate + *Compositional Modifier* + *Adjectives and Ordinals* + *Genitive Modifier*

Kekeblin is not organized using verb phrases or noun phrases because the primary verb and the head noun combine into one word, forming the predicate. Additionally, some words that come before the predicate modify the head noun—portion of the predicate, making it difficult to cleanly break sentences into phrases. To refer back to the above model, what is underlined usually modifies or is modified by the verb prefix in the predicate, and what is italicized usually modifies the head noun in the predicate.

In Kekeblin, the subject of the sentence is always a head noun and never a clause. Word order is very strict in all instances.

A simple sentence need not fill every position in the above model, but can be as short as a predicate or split predicate¹ alone, or as long as necessary to accommodate for verb valency²

¹ A “predicate” is a verb prefix combined with a head noun. A “split predicate” is a sentence with no verb prefix. In such an instance, a locative modifier sufficiently covers verb action.

² “Valency” and “transitivity” are used synonymously in this text.

and nouns with modifiers. The following glosses will provide examples of an intransitive sentence, a transitive sentence, and a ditransitive sentence.

(1) Intransitive Kekeblin Sentence Example

netsewindzenrai emleisy-xedz

tomorrow to.give.birth-stone

“Tomorrow, the stone will give birth.”

This is a Kekeblin idiom that means magma is going to pour forth from stone. The sentence begins with an adverbial, **netsewindzenrai**, followed by the predicate, **emleisyxedz**.

(2) Transitive Kekeblin Sentence Example

nyts ytsli-mison

sweet.thing eat-we.M

“We eat the sweet thing (a candy).”

The direct object, **nyts**, is followed by the predicate, **ytslimison**. Note that Kekeblin is not a pro-drop language and that pronouns do not receive any different treatment from other words.

The opening quote would be glossed as follows:

(3) Ditransitive Kekeblin Sentence Example

m:dza maɪlitsweyndzʌn ei iji:-etʃvybvlabvɹy

useless.something wizard PFV know-humans

“The humans know a useless something about the wizard.”

In the above sentence, **m:dza** is the direct object, **maɪlitsweyndzʌn** is the indirect object, **iji:-** is a verb prefix, and **etʃvybvlabvɹy** is the head noun (subject). Unlike in English, “to know” in Kekeblin is ditransitive, with the indirect object being what the known thing is about or referring to.

As has been shown above, strict adherence to word order (in sentences and phrases) allows basic Kekeblin sentences to be formed and remain sensible.

[2] Stative Sentences

Kekeblin has three different kinds of stative sentences: copular, locative, and possessive. Kekeblin gets along just fine without existential sentences.

2.1 Copulative

When adjectives or noun phrases are used as objects (or, more accurately, when nouns with adjectival functions or noun with modifiers are used to describe the subject), they may be introduced by one of two verb prefixes: **i.li-** (to be), or **imo-** (to have or possess).

i.li- is used for nouns that must be derived in order to function adjectivally, in addition to noun phrases. See the following two glosses:

(4) Copulative Kekeblin Sentence (Adjective)

solybv-tso ɪli-sʌn
 quality.of.controlled.fire-ADJ to.be-he
 “He is/is like controlled fire.”

(5) Copulative Kekeblin Sentence (Noun Phrase)

itsiney-lɪndzʌ-ɲy ɪli-tʃiz
 to.hunt-something-NMLZ to.be-it
 “It is a hunter.”

imo- is used for nouns that do not need to be derived to function adjectivally (even if they are derived) and permanent adjectives. See the following gloss:

(6) Copulative Kekeblin Sentence (Adjective)

seɪn-tso imo-san
 love-ADJ possess-she
 “She is loving” or “She has loving quality.”

2.2 Locative

A locative modifier can precede a noun, and the two can be considered a sentence without a verb prefix on the noun. See the following gloss:

(7) Copulative Kekeblin Sentence (Locative)

napfrodʌn-pfazi wertʃ
 cart-LOC book
 “The book is in the cart.”

In the above instance, the locative modifier is an incessive modifier.

2.3 Possessive

In addition to marking that a quality belongs to someone, the verb **imo-** (to have or possess) also marks possession. See the following gloss:

(8) *Copulative Kekeblin Sentence (Possessive)*

tsi:ex-ΛV	imo-ʒendʒen
baby-SG	possess-the.pack

The pack has the baby.

The “SG” above is referring to a singulative suffix.

[3] Imperative Sentences

Imperative sentences are marked with the command mood—which, in Kekeblin, requires an auxiliary verb. On a grammatical level, nothing else is done (although, on a tonal level, commands are usually issued very forcefully, with the verb prefix particularly emphasized).

(9) *Imperative Kekeblin Sentence*

laselajɲn-ΛV	Λtsi	itsΛtsa-tʃyjoʃ
sister-dim ³	IMP	to.clean.another’s.fur-father

“Father, clean little sister’s fur.”⁴

[4] Question Sentences

Questions are marked using the word **ǝoz**. The word can be used in two ways, which will be detailed below.

4.1 As a Particle Attached to a Word

While not a true prefix, **ǝoz** can attach to the beginning of words to mark them as the item in question, like a word particle. In Kekeblin writing, this is usually represented with a hyphen.

³ Diminutive

⁴ Remember that Kekeblin are covered in fur.

(10) Kekeblin Question Sentences 1

ðoz-dzryn idzʌ-bvartʃ

q-that do-dog

“The dog did *that*?”

The italics are used in the above example to represent English tone, which would clarify that “that” is what is in question, not “the dog” or “did.” **ðoz** can attach to predicates, but doing so leaves some ambiguity as to what is in question:

(11) Kekeblin Question Sentences 2

dzryn ðoz-idzʌ-bvartʃ

that q-do-dog

“The dog *did* that?”

“The *dog* did that?”

Under most circumstances, the noun would be what is assumed to be in question rather than the verb. If the verb is what is in question, then it will be highly emphasized through tone.

4.2 As a Sentence Modifier

ðoz can also begin a sentence and function as an adverbial, marking the entire sentence as a question.

(12) Kekeblin Question Sentences 3

ðoz, dzryn idzʌ-bvartʃ

q that do-dog

“Question, the dog did that?”

In such a situation, if a specific word is in question then it will be marked tonally, usually by being spoken in a high-pitched or loud voice. Alternatively, the word in question can be replaced by the Kekeblin equivalent of “someone,” “somewhere,” “something,” etc.

(13) Kekeblin Question Sentences 4

ðoz, dzryn idzʌ-lɪndzʌ

q that do-something

“Question, what did that?”

As you'll notice, the sentence doesn't translate to "*Something* did that?" because the use of "something" in a question sentence marks it as what is in question, what is being asked about.

An additional note, **ðoz** never attaches to indefinite pronouns and will always modify the sentence adverbially when the item in question is represented with an indefinite pronoun. (Demonstratives, however, do accept **ðoz**.)

[5] Negative Sentences

Two words are used to create negation in Kekeblin: **ry**, which is used like an adverbial, and **rytso**, which is used adjectivally.

5.1 Sentence Negation

When **ry** is used, it is placed at the beginning of a sentence, just like **ðoz**. At that point, whatever is being negated in the sentence is tonally marked; if nothing is marked tonally, then usually the verb is what is being negated.

(14) *Adverbial Sentence Negation*

ry, zɛyn-li ɛɪθi-saɪn

NEG cave-LOC run-you.F

"You may not run in the cave."

As with questions, tone is handled by speaking in a higher pitch or volume than the rest of the sentence. Using tone, one could say "*You* may not run in the cave" or "You may not run in *the* cave." Not marking anything with tone, as mentioned above, emphasizes the verb instead of the subject or any objects.

5.2 Word Negation

Strictly speaking, **rytso** does not create negation sentences, but it is being included here because it serves a similar function. **rytso** is the adjectival form of **ry**, and follows the rules of adjectives. For example:

(15) *Word Negation*

zɛyn-li ɛɪθi-saɪn rytso

cave-LOC run-you.F ADJ.NEG

"Not-you may run in the cave."

rytso is similar to “not” or “no.” Using it in the above way is another way of saying “*You* may not run in the cave,” but is more likely to be an insult when used this way since a specific person or group is being negated directly. **rytso** is not an inherently offensive word, however.

Kekeblin Complex Sentences

[1] Complex Sentences: Complement and Adverbial Clauses

“ tsɬa mɔɪlɪtsweyndzɬɪn eɪ eɪfɬɪzɪmɛsyn eðene:ɛtsɛbvlɪnɪɟ – zɛɣxloðo mɛsyn ɣtsesɛnɬɪn ”

Literal Translation: We *will* receive the wizard; we prepare to; the wizard left us long ago.

Meaning Translation: The watchers prepare (plan) to receive the wizard who left us long ago.

In Kekeblin, subordinated clauses in a complex sentence are introduced with the particle **tsɬa** (also pronounced **tsɬa**), provided the clause is a complement clause or an adverbial clause.

Indirect objects and direct objects can be subordinated clauses (as well as adverbs); grammatical subjects cannot be subordinated clauses under any circumstances.

Subordinated clauses take the same place in a sentence as a regular noun (or object) would, but preceded by **tsɬa**. The following glosses provide examples of various subordinated clauses:

(1) *Subordinated Object Clause*

tsɬa	mɛɾɬɪɳɟ	eɪ	eðene-nɛɪɛθɪmon	iwɔɪ	eɪtʃɪ-sɛɣn
COMP	freedom	PFV	plot-coward	INPFV	hear-I.F

“I thought I heard that the coward plans certain escape (‘plots freedom’).”

As is exhibited in this sentence, subordinated clauses in Kekeblin may show mood or aspect, and that mood or aspect may be different than that of the main clause. As with main clauses or simple sentences, subordinated clauses require adverbials if they are to denote time.

(2) *Subordinated Indirect Object Clause*

dzɪɹɹɹ	tsɬa	eɪθɪ-ɛtʃɪvɪbvlɔbɪɳɟ	ɣ:ɛtsɛɪ-mɛsyn
DET	COMP	run-human	gave-they

“They gave *that* to the running human.”

Note that while English turns “the human runs” into “the running human” (or “the human who ran”⁵) Kekeblin has no equivalent gerund or participle, so when the clause becomes subordinated it remains unmarked save for the complementizer that precedes the clause.

(3) *Subordinated Adverbial Clause*

tslʌ tsezɛyn-pfazi ɛiθi-sʌn ɪrytsʌ-bvasalɔtʃ
 COMP settlement-LOC run-he do.nothing-brother

“Brother did nothing running through the town.”

The above locative marker is the “incessive” locative marker. In addition to showing how adverbial clauses are marked, this example also shows that subjects tend to be replaced with pronouns in subordinated clauses. Here, “brother” is replaced with “he” in the subordinated clause. In English, the sentence would directly translate to “Through the town ran he (adverbial) doing nothing (main verb) brother (subject).”

Since subjects can never be clauses, Kekeblin often use sentence chaining to state what would be one complex sentence in English. For example, rather than saying “The human who was running was hunted,” the Kekeblin phrase is:

(4) *Un-subordinated Subject Clause*

ɛiθi-ɛtʃvybvlɔbvɪy — aɟɛy itsinɛy-sʌn
 run-human PASS hunt-he

“The human ran, he was hunted.”⁶

Because Kekeblin verb prefixes are never separated from nouns nor conjugated, finiteness and non-finiteness in Kekeblin sentences is a nonissue. Additionally, Kekeblin subjects are never extraposed because they can’t be separated from the verb prefix in the first place.

Clauses cannot be embedded within subordinated clauses.

[2] Complex Sentences: Relative Clauses

Clauses are not relativized in Kekeblin. Instead, clauses are chained together to add additional details to the nouns of a sentence.

When a clause is chained after another clause, they closely follow each other. In English, this would be like putting a half-pause between each sentence, rather than a full pause. For example, the English sentence “The man who drives the cart saw you” would be translated as:

⁵ Relative clauses are normally chained in Kekeblin—see section [2] for more details—but sometimes non-subjects can use complement clauses instead.

⁶ This is a relative clause in English, but a chained clause in Kekeblin (as discussed in section [2]).

(5) Clause Chaining in Kekeblin—Subject/Subject

sain etsɛ-ɲɔf – ɲɔfrodɔn ɔ ɔjelo-sɔn
 you.F see-man cart HAB drive-he.M

“The man saw you, he drives the cart.”

“HAB” stands for “habitual” in the above sentence—it marks that “the man” did not necessarily see “you” while driving the cart, but specifies, essentially, “the man who is a cart driver saw you” or “the man who regularly drives the cart saw you.”

The chained clause in the above sentence also demonstrates two things. First, when misreading pronouns referents would be difficult or impossible, names and nouns tend to become pronouns in chained clauses. “He” can only be understood to refer to “the man” because there’s no other reasonable reference—after all, in Kekeblin, “you” is marked for gender, so the female “you” in the primary clause couldn’t be the referent. Second, auxiliary verbs and adverbs are more common in chained clauses. This assists with clarity, given that the context for the chained clause is often different than the context for the primary clause.

When the referent in a primary clause and a chained clause occupies different sentence roles (such as subject or object), or when the referents are similar enough that using pronouns in the chained clauses could cause confusion, usually the name or noun is used in the chained clause.

(6) Clause Chaining in Kekeblin—Subject/Object

ɲetsɛwinloɔ ɲɔf itsli- tɲyɔf – ɲɔfrodɔn ɔ ɔjelo-ɲɔf
 yesterday man bite-father cart HAB drive.man

“(Yesterday) father bit the man, the man drives the cart.”

A meaning translation of this into English would be “Father bit the cart driver.” In the chained clause, the second one, “the man” is referred to in the same way that he is in the first clause because “he” could refer to “father” or “the man.” Repeating “the man” makes the meaning of the sentences clearer. This is formal Kekeblin usage, and in casual discourse speakers might not be so careful to clearly delineate who or what is being spoken of.

Kekeblin Nouns, Sentence Predicates, and Pronouns

[1] Nouns

“ bvlín dzeĩðotsypfy meynfyvy etsemesyn ”

Literal translation: Land’s people, (from) under mountain we watch.

Meaning translation: Under the mountain, we watch the surface-people.

The majority of words in Kekeblin are nouns or are derived from nouns. Nouns can represent physical things, such as people, places, plants, and animals, as well the metaphysical, such as concepts, ideas, or feelings—just about anything that can be perceived to exist. For example, **blvin** means “person or sentient thing,” and is a noun, as is **seĩn**, “love,” and **tsets.yn**, “the idea or quality of blackness, or black dye.”

Noun roots begin and end with a consonant, but derived and inflected nouns can have a vowel in either position. Noun roots can take a single prefix and multiple suffixes.

This chapter will cover the other qualities of nouns, in addition to inflectional endings, noun compounds and phrases, noun derivations, and pronouns.

[2] Number and Gender

Regular Kekeblin nouns are not marked for gender.

Most Kekeblin nouns are numberless. For example, **'tsi:.ex** (baby) could be one baby or several babies. If the number matters and cannot be derived from context, then the noun will be modified by an exact number or a general statement. See table (1) for examples.

(1) *General examples of number in nouns*

'tsi:.ex	baby or babies	'tsi:.ex seĩ	two babies	'tsi:.ex.lv	one specific baby
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The **-av** in the last example marks the singulative case. While the singulative case can mark a specific member of a noun, it can also be used to make singular the group nouns of Kekeblin. (The singulative case will be discussed in detail later.) Group nouns are nouns that are always plural when used without a singulative. These nouns usually, but don't always, represent nouns that come in pairs or groups. See table (2) for examples.

(2) *Group nouns*

tʃyz	fishes	'xa.leɪdz	trees/forest(s)	'zɛyn.ʒan	horns or claws
mɛð. 'len.ɪf	breasts	bvlɪn. 'y:.an	children	zɛyx	years

Group nouns must take the singulative suffix if someone wants to speak of a specific one of their number. Beyond that, group nouns can refer to any number of that group—from two to two thousand.

[3] Case

Grammatical functions such as “subject” and “object” are not marked by inflections in Kekeblin. Instead, this is handled by a strict word order:

Adverb(s) + Direct Object + Indirect Object + Auxiliary Verb + Sentence Predicate

The sentence predicate is a verb prefix combined with a head noun. Sentences are not required to get as long as this model, and a full sentence in Kekeblin can be as short as a single predicate or a single subject and a locative/genitive modifier (a split predicate). However, since this description has little to do with case directly, no more will be said on this subject here, but more detail is presented in “Verbs” and “Simple Sentences.”

There are two case groups in Kekeblin, with a total of sixteen overall. Each case will be discussed individually. A quick list of the cases in Kekeblin follows: genitive (genitive, compositional); locative (ablative, allative, antessive, benefactive/causal, elative, illative, incessive, instrumental/comitative, general locative, perlativ, postessive, privative, subessive, superessive).

3.1 Locative

The locative case is used to note the spatial relationships of nouns in sentences. All of them can be used literally or figuratively, but some locative inflections—the benefactive/causal, instrumental/comitative, and privative, specifically—are more figurative by definition. All locative inflections are suffixes, and all locative modifiers (nouns with locative inflections) immediately precede the word they modify. For example, **'mɛyn.o:.a sɛyn** ([mountain + elative locative] [feminine “I”]) translates to “I am moving off/out of the mountain.”

Many locative inflections have two or more meanings to them. When which meaning applies is usually determined by the context.

Additionally, sometimes a locative case is used to produce adverbs—for example, **ne.ʼtse.win, loð.o** literally means “before/in front of a day,” but translates to “yesterday.” The logic to these constructions make perfect sense to Kekeblin, but generally need to be memorized by everyone else.

Chart (3) contains all of the locative inflections of Kekeblin. Each inflection is also described in more detail in chart (4).

(3) *Locative inflections of Kekeblin*

Ablative	-tsen.ri	Illative	-mi.ε	Postessive	-dzen.raɪ
Allative	-matf.ʌ	Incessive	-pfaʒ.i	Privative	-men.tsi
Antessive	-loð.o	Instrumental/ Comitative	-leyθ.i	Subessive	-fyv.y
Benefactive/Causal	-bvaɪbv.ɛy	Locative	-li	Superessive	-wo.tsi
Elativ	-no.ɪ.ɑ	Perlativ	-tsim.dze		

(4) *Description of locative inflections*

3.1.1 Ablative

Roughly translates to “away from,” and connotes that the modified noun is distanced from the noun with this inflection. This inflection is not associated with movement.

3.1.2 Allative

Roughly translates to “to/toward,” and indicates that the modified noun is moving toward the noun with this locative inflection.

3.1.3 Antessive

Roughly translates to “before/in front of,” and indicates that the modified noun is in some way near the front of the noun with this locative inflection.

3.1.4 Benefactive/Causal

Roughly translates to “on behalf of/in honor of” or “because of.” For example, the phrase **'maɪ.lits, weyn.dʒʌn, bvaɪbv.ɛy** roughly translates to “on behalf of/for the wizard,” while **'nam.ε, ɬɛf.bvaɪbv.ɛy** roughly translates to “because of hunger.”

3.1.5 Elative

Roughly translates to “moving out/off of.”

3.1.6 Illative

Roughly translates to “moving into.”

3.1.7 *Incessive*

Roughly translates to “within/inside.” This inflection is not associated with movement.

3.1.8 *Instrumental/Comitative*

Roughly translates to “with” in the sense of “using an instrument” or “accompanied by something.” For example, 'zɛyn.ʒan.leyθ.i means that a horn or claw was used to perform whatever action, but 'napf.rod. ʌn.leyθ.i indicates that a cart accompanied the modified noun. This case can be used with living things as well (bvlɪn. 'y:an.leyθ.i means “accompanied by children”).

3.1.9 *Locative (General)*

A general locative inflection. The meaning of -li is usually derived from context. For example, 'zɛyn.li means “inside a cave” because, under most circumstances, that’s where someone is in relation to a cave (zɛyn). -li can also be used in place of a regularly repeated locative inflection—for example, if something is moving into a cave ('zɛyn.mi:ɛ), and several more things are moving into the cave as well, if a locative modifier is used a second time then -li can be used in place of the regular locative inflection. Because many of the other locative inflections take longer to say, the general locative inflection is used very frequently (when context allows).

3.1.10 *Perlative*

Roughly translates to “through,” and requires movement.

3.1.11 *Postessive*

Roughly translates to “behind/after,” and indicates that the modified noun is in some way behind of the noun with this locative inflection, not far off.

3.1.12 *Privative*

Roughly translates to “without/not possessing.” This inflection is, effectively, used as the opposite of the instrumental/comitative inflection.

3.1.13 *Subessive*

Roughly translates to “below.”

3.1.14 *Superessive*

Roughly translates to “above.”

3.2 Genitive

The genitive case has three forms, as is shown in chart (5). A genitive modifier (a noun with a genitive inflection) immediately follows the noun it is modifying (even if the noun is in the sentence predicate). Genitive inflections mark the possessor, not the possessed.

(5) *Genitive case*

Singular possession	-xen.fa	Collective possession	-tsypf.y
Compositional	-θɛyf.sy		

“Singular possession” indicates that each individual involved individually owns whatever is being referenced, while “collective possession” indicates that each individual shares ownership in whatever is being referenced. For example, **'wertf 'mɛs.yn. xen.fa** means “our books,” and indicates that each person owns at least one book. On the other hand, **'wertf 'mɛs.yn. tsypf.y** means “our books,” but the books belong to no single individual.

The genitive case can also be used to mark that one belongs to a race or nation, in which case collective possession is always used (the race or nation being the noun marked with the genitive inflection).

Finally, the genitive case can be used compositionally, and is marked by **-θɛyf.sy**. A compositional modifier (a noun with a compositional inflection) marks that the modified noun is in some way made up of the noun with this case ending. The compositional case is often used figuratively. For example, **'xɑ.lɛɹdz 'xɛdz.θɛyf.sy** literally means “a forest composed of stone,” but is actually used in reference to a cave full of closely-packed stalactites and stalagmites. Such a thing is similar to a forest of stone.

[4] Other Noun Derivations and “m:”

This section will cover the other derivational endings that are used to modify nouns.

4.1 Singulative

The singulative case is marked by **-ɫv** in all instances. The singulative performs two primary functions. Most commonly, it marks a single member of a group noun: **bvlɪn. 'y:.an** (children) becomes **bvlɪn. 'y:.an.ɫv** (child).

Less common, but still very important, the singulative case can mark that a single, specific noun is being spoken of, as in the previous example: **'tsi:.ex** (baby or babies) becomes **'tsi:.ex.ɫv** (the baby). While the singulative can be used to note that a single individual is being spoken of, that function is usually handled by saying “one” after the word: **'tsi:.ex sɛf** (one baby). Using the singulative in this way usually provides emphasis as to *which* individual is being spoken of, not just that *one* individual is being spoken of. A comparable example in English would be the difference between saying (provided with a Kekeblin translation):

(6) *Use of singulative case for emphasis*

(The/a) man is in (the/a) room.	The man is in (the/a) room.	(The/a) man is in the room.
'xlɪdz.ɛn. pfaʒ.i jʌpf	'xlɪdz.ɛn. pfaʒ.i jʌpf. ʌv	'xlɪdz.ɛn. ʌv . pfaʒ.i jʌpf

The left sentence refers to a man (or any man) in a room (or any room). The middle sentence refers to a specific, known man in some room, and the right sentence refers to a specific, known room that a/some man is in.

The singulative marker is considered non-derivational.

4.2 Deriving into Adjectives and Adverbs

Most adjectives and adverbs in Kekeblin have a direct noun equivalent that they are derived from—this is likely because the Kekeblin see the world as a collection of objects and things, of which qualities are representative of.

The derivational suffix **-tso** turns a noun into an adjective or adverb (although adverbs are also commonly derived using locative case). The results of deriving nouns can be more or less literal. For example, **'tsɛr.tso**, derived from the word for “honor,” means “honorable or fair,” but the word **'mɛyn.tso**, derived from the word for “mountain,” means “large/huge” rather than a more literal “mountain-like.”

Any Kekeblin noun can be derived into an adjective or adverb.

4.3 Deriving Verb Prefix + Noun Combinations into Nouns, Adjectives, and Adverbs

The derivational suffix **-ɲy** is added to the end of a verb prefix + noun combination; it combines the two meanings together into a noun. It’s similar to adding **-er** to the end of an English verb (runner, singer), and roughly translates to “[noun] who [verbs]” or “the act of [noun] [verbing].”

Most formal names for races or nationalities are formed this way. For example, the Kekeblin call themselves **'ɛts.ɛbv. lin.ɲy**, which literally translates to “the people who watch,” but more commonly is translated to “the watchers.” The Kekeblin name for humans (as a species) often causes them to chuckle—they call us **'ɛtʃ.vybv. labv.ɲy**, “the mouths that breathe” (mouth breathers).

Formal names derived in this name can be used adjectivally if necessary, but **-tso** can also be added to the end of such words to mark them as adjectives or adverbs.

4.4 Generic Inflection

The generic inflection **-dzʌ** indicates that the noun being referred to is very non-specific. For example, **bvlin** means “person,” but **'bvlin.dzʌ** means, effectively, “somebody/anybody.” The generic modifier is very productive in Kekeblin:

(7) *The generic modifier*

Person	bvlin	Land	'dzeɪð.ots	Thing	lɪn
Someone	'bvlin.dzɐ	Somewhere	'dzeɪð.odz.ɐ	Something (object)	'lɪn.dzɐ

The generic modifier is considered non-derivational.

4.5 m:

m: is technically a noun in Kekeblin, but to use it by itself would be to say “an undefined or unknown something,” essentially. It’s very rarely used as a standalone noun, but is very productive when combined with other affixes. For example, the closest that Kekeblin gets to a gerund is attaching this noun particle to a verb prefix—in such an instance, because the noun is unknown or doesn’t matter, the verb prefix controls the meaning of the word.

It might seem redundant, but **m:** and **-dzɐ** (the generic modifier) are often combined. When this happens, the meaning is usually very derogatory. For example, **'m:.dzɐ ɪ. 'jim.ɐs.ɐn** translates literally to “they know nothing.” However, the meaning is more along the lines of “they know something, but that something is so vague and undefined as to be entirely useless.”

4.6 Diminutive

The diminutive suffix in Kekeblin is **-'y:.ɐn**. It can be used to designate something is smaller or younger than is typical, or affectionately viewed. The word for “children,” **bvlin. 'y:.ɐn**, originally meant “small person,” for example, but eventually became permanently adopted to mean “children.” The diminutive is normally non-derivational.

[5] Compounds

When two words are compounded, if one of the words is only a single syllable then the two words are put together. New compounds usually sound like two different words spoken with no space between them, but as a compound becomes a word in its own right its syllable boundaries and stress will shift to follow the rules of Kekeblin, particularly to obey rules of allophony.

This is complicated a bit when both of the words in a compound have at least two syllables. In such situations the two words are blended together; the left word will lose its right-most consonant, the right word will lose its left-most consonant(s), and the two exposed vowels will become one. If one is a diphthong, that vowel will remain, and the other will vanish. Similarly, front vowels will overpower back vowels, and higher vowels will overpower lower vowels. If the two vowels are the same, then one vowel remains and is lengthened slightly, similar to what happens when two vowels are next to each other with no consonants between them.

For example, consider the word 'xa.leɪ.tʃ.ɛs. The word is a combination of 'xa.leɪdz (forest) and 'seɪtʃ.ɛs (juice from a root). When first coined, the compound probably took the following form: 'xa.leɪdz.ɛɪtʃ.ɛs. Over time, the two separate, compounded words got blended together using the above process.

Compounding is very productive in Kekeblin.

[6] Sentence Predicates and Inflected Nouns

The nucleus of a Kekeblin sentence is the predicate, which term is used slightly differently in Kekeblin than other languages, and which is described in more detail in “Kekeblin Simple Sentences.” In short, the predicate consists of the verb prefix and the head noun of the sentence.

There is a formula for the order and placement of affixes on nouns:

Verb Prefix + Noun Root or Pronoun + Non-derivational Suffixes + Derivational Suffixes

It's preferred, in Kekeblin, for only one modifier or affix to fill any of the above positions at a time, but this is not a hard rule (except for the verb prefix—there can only ever be one verb prefix on a noun at a time). When this rule is broken, it's usually because the noun has several adjectival modifiers or non-derivational suffixes. Verb prefixes always mark a noun as being part of a predicate.

[7] Pronouns

Kekeblin has twenty-one personal pronouns—the Kekeblin are very detailed with the semantic categories of their pronouns. Be very careful of your pronoun use when speaking to a Kekeblin, lest you unintentionally insult him or her. Pronouns are not marked for case, but are sensitive to number and gender—which is odd, given this goes against how nouns operate generally. Pronouns do not have alternative forms for the genitive or reflexive case, instead opting to use inflectional endings.

7.1 Personal Pronouns

There are three categories of personal pronouns in Kekeblin: animate, sentient creatures; animate, non-sentient living things; and inanimate things.

(8) *Animate, sentient creatures pronouns*

I (male)	sɛn	We (male)	'mis.ɔn
I (female)	sɛyn	We (female)	'mɔs.ɛɪn
You (male)	syn	We (neuter)	'mɛs.yn
You (female)	sɔɪn	You All	'mys.yn
He	sɔn	They	'mɔs.ɔn
She	sɔn		

The above is the group of pronouns that the Kekeblin would use to describe themselves, humans, and anything considered to be a “person.” These distinctions are also useful for providing distinctions between characters when telling a story—for example, if a male narrator says **sɛyn**, then he is obviously speaking as a female character and not as the narrator.

(9) *Animate, non-sentient living things pronouns*

I	tʃɛz	He	tʃaz	We	'lɛtʃ.ɔn
You	tʃɔn	She	tʃɛyn	They	'lyts.ɛyn
It	tʃiz				

The above is the group of pronouns that is used to refer to animals, plants, and the like. As the category of things that Kekeblins speak of become less animate and less sentient, the distinctions that (they view) as important start to matter less and less, and pronouns become less and less complicated. Most creatures are referred to as “it,” with gendered pronouns only coming into play in situations where it really matters, such as breeding. “I” is only ever used in this category in story, when a Kekeblin pretends to be an animal or a plant. Finally, powerful acts of nature (such as natural disasters), mountains, and heavenly bodies are sometimes referred to using this group of pronouns.

(10) *Inanimate thing pronouns*

I	ʒYʒ	We	ðɛʒ
You/It	ʒɛɪs	They	θɛʃ

The above is the group of pronouns that is used to refer to things. Rocks, tools, buildings, weather, and so forth. Gender disappears in this category, and even person starts to break down.

7.2 Genitive and Reflexive Pronouns

Pronouns use inflectional endings to mark the genitive and the reflexive case. See chart (10) for these case endings:

(11) *Genitive and reflexive inflectional endings*

Reflexive	-ðo	Genitive (singular)	-xen.ʃa	Genitive (collective)	-tsypf.y
-----------	------------	------------------------	----------------	--------------------------	-----------------

There is nothing different between the above genitive case and the genitive case mentioned previously in this chapter, so it won't be discussed further here.

This reflexive inflectional ending can only be attached to pronouns. It's used whenever a pronoun is being used reflexively, or whenever the pronoun is an object or indirect object in a sentence and in that same sentence its referent is the subject, regardless of whether the pronoun is technically reflexive in that moment.

7.3 Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns are produced by attaching the generic inflection **-dzʌ** to a noun. For example, **'bvlin.dzʌ** (someone/anyone), **'dzeɪð.odz.ʌ** (somewhere/anywhere), and **'lɪn.dzʌ** (something/anything).

7.4 Demonstratives

As with the nouns, Kekeblin demonstratives don't mark for number at all. Instead, demonstratives are only marked by nearness and farness.

(12) *Demonstratives—literal distance*

This (in hand)	tsɹɪm	This (nearby)	tsɹytʃ
That (within view)	dzɹyn	That (unseen)	dzɹɪʒ

As a rule of thumb, if something is within a few steps then the first row of demonstratives should be used, even if the item is unseen. If the item takes more than two or three easy steps to reach, then the second row of demonstratives should be used.

If demonstratives are used to refer to people, or to figuratively refer to the nearness and farness of something, then these demonstratives change meanings a little bit.

(13) *Demonstratives—figurative distance*

Intimate (spouse or family)	tsɹɪm	Friendly (friend)	tsɹytʃ
Neutral, professional, or no relationship	dzɹyn	Poor relationship	dzɹɪʒ

7.5 Interrogatives

Kekeblin doesn't have true interrogatives. Most commonly, a sentence is marked as a question by the opening word **ðoz**, and then the questioned element of the sentence is marked with tone or an indefinite pronoun. For example, **'lɪn.dzʌ**, as an indefinite pronoun, roughly means "something." As an interrogative or in a question sentence, it would be translated to "what thing." Alternatively, **ðoz** can be attached to the beginning of a word (by a hyphen) as a particle, marking that word as the element in question.

The Kekeblin equivalents of "how" are fairly close to being interrogatives. After all, indefinite pronouns have noun referents and can more or less cleanly be related to an interrogative: who, somebody; what, something; when, sometime; where, someplace; why, some reason (**flɛyx.dzrem.dzʌ**). "How," on the other hand, requires a verbal answer, and verbs are always attached to nouns in Kekeblin.

The easiest way to get close to asking "How?" in Kekeblin is **"ðoz idz.ʌm:."** **idzʌ-** is the verb for "do," and **"m:"** is a placeholder for a noun, essentially allowing the sentence to focus on the action, the verb. An alternative to this that isn't used as part of a question (for example, in a rhetorical question) is **ɪdz.'ʌm:.dzʌ**, which is very close to the previous example, minus **ðoz** and with the generic inflectional ending (marking the noun **m:** as even more meaningless).

[8] Numbers

8.1 Cardinals

Table (13) contains a sketch of the cardinal numbers of Kekeblin.

(14) *Cardinal numbers*

1	sɛʃ	Tens	-naɪn
2	sɛʒ	Hundreds	-mlyts
3	sys	Thousands	-tsʌx
4	tsix	Millions	-feθ
5	ðɑɪdz	Zero	xyx
6	lɛym		
7	tʃʌm		
8	wɑɪtʃ		
9	lym		

Words such as 11, 23, 45, and so forth are formed by taking the number from the ones and tens category and connecting them with a **n** (the Kekeblin equivalent of "and"). For example, **sɛʃ n**

'sej.naɪn, seʒ n 'sys.naɪn, and tsix n 'ðaidz.naɪn. Always begin with the “ones” category and work upwards towards larger categories.

8.2 Ordinals and Numerical Adverbs

Ordinals are placed after noun stems in noun phrases and numerical adverbs are placed at the beginning of noun phrases. Both are formed by taking the equivalent cardinal number and adding the adjectival suffix **-tso**. Kekeblin does not distinguish between ordinals and numerical adverbs beyond where the word is placed in the sentence.

Kekeblin Verbs

[1] Introduction to Verbs

Quote: “ neleθimon iwai itsineymison ”

Literal Translation: Coward, (imperfective marker) hunt-we.

Meaning Translation: We hunt cowards. (Action has happened and is unfinished.)

The Kekeblin language emphasizes nouns greatly. Verbs represent the actions of those things, or the state of being of those things; verbs are a quality of the noun they are attached to so long as the verb is relevant.

[2] Verb Prefixes

Almost all Kekeblin verbs exist as prefixes that are attached to the head noun of a sentence or phrase, which creates the sentence predicate.⁷ Kekeblin verbs are not derived in any way—they do not change to represent tense, aspect, mood, or valency. Tense is handled entirely by adverbial phrases (or context) in Kekeblin; mood, aspect, and valency are inherent to the verb, are understood from context, or are grammatically expressed through verb auxiliaries (which go immediately before the verb they modify, and are discussed in more detail in the next section).

For example, consider the following sentence:

bvlɪn.	'y:an	-ɔv	'em.lɛɪs.	y-	s.an
children		singulative marker	to give birth (prefix)		she

This phrase, taken out of its context in Kekeblin, could mean, in English:

- She will give birth to a child.
- She is giving birth to a child (at this moment).

⁷ In Kekeblin, the sentence predicate includes the subject. It is similar to a nucleus from which the sentence is built around. More detail in section [5].

- She gave birth to a child.

But with an adverbial modifier, the tense that English speakers crave is revealed:

'zɛyx.dzʌ	bvlɪn.'y:.an	-ʌv	'em.lɛɪs.y-	s.an
sometime (distant future)	children	singulative marker	to give birth (prefix)	she

Now the sentence, translated to English, definitely means “She will give birth to a child at some point in the future.”

When mood, aspect, or etc. needs to be expressed explicitly in grammar, verb auxiliaries do the heavy lifting.

[3] Verb Auxiliaries

An auxiliary verb, in Kekeblin, is a form of support verb. Kekeblin has eight auxiliaries, which will be discussed in more detail after chart (1):

(1) *Auxiliary Verbs*

Perfective	ɛɪ	Subjunctive	'aɪθ.ey
Imperfective	'i.waɪ	Command	'ʌts.i
Habitual	ɑ	Optional/Ability	'ið.o
Passive	'ɑ.jɛy	Desire/Strong Resolve	'ɪpf.li.jɛ

Auxiliary verbs are Kekeblin’s only source of verbal aspect and mood. They do not convey tense. Auxiliary verbs always immediately precede the verb prefix they modify; only one auxiliary verb can modify a verb prefix at a time. However, auxiliary verbs are never required, and Kekeblin speakers won’t use them if they feel that the speaker should understand their intent.

3.1 Perfective

The perfective aspect represents a view of a verb that encompasses the entirety of the action that occurs. This could mean that an action is completed, beginning to end, but it is also used to express knowledge or certainty that an action *will* complete as predicted. For example:

'las.ɛ.laɪ.jɪn	-.y:.an	ɛɪ	'ɪts.ʌts.ɑ-	tʃ.y.jof
sister	diminutive marker	perfective	to clean another’s fur (prefix)	father

This would roughly translate to English as either “Father will clean little sister’s fur, it is certain,” or “Father has cleaned little sister’s fur,” acknowledging the entirety of the process of grooming another individual. This aspect is regularly used with prophecies.

Remember that tense is not marked in Kekeblin, and that auxiliaries do not have an associated tense, so the above English translation is exuberant in providing a time marker for this sentence. This will be true for the remaining examples of verb auxiliaries as well, and cannot be avoided.

3.2 Imperfective

The imperfective aspect represents a view of a verb that encompasses an unfinished action that is still relevant and happening, somewhat similar to progressive constructions in English. For example:

'las.ɛ.ɬaɪ.jɪn	-y:an	'i.waɪ	'its.ʌts.ɔ-	tʃ.y.jof
sister	diminutive marker	imperfective	to clean another's fur (prefix)	father

This would roughly translate to English as “Father is cleaning little sister’s fur.” The action is not completed, and it is still relevant in whatever time the sentence is referring to.

3.3 Habitual

The habitual aspect represents a view of a verb where the action happens regularly, although isn’t necessarily happening at the moment of reference. For example:

'las.ɛ.ɬaɪ.jɪn	-y:an	ɔ	'its.ʌts.ɔ-	tʃ.y.jof
sister	diminutive marker	imperfective	to clean another's fur (prefix)	father

This would roughly translate to English as “Father cleans little sister’s fur,” meaning that he does it on a regular basis.

3.4 Passive

The passive voice reduces the valency of a verb by one; it causes the subject of the sentence to be the recipient of the verb prefix it is attached to, rather than the agent doing the action. For example:

'a.jɛy	'its.ʌts.ɔ-	'las.ɛ.ɬaɪ.jɪn	-y:an
passive	to clean another's fur (prefix)	sister	diminutive marker

This would roughly translate to English as “Little sister’s fur is (being) cleaned.” In Kekeblin, the agent (doer) of the verb cannot be added back into passive constructions.

3.5 Subjunctive

The subjunctive mood represents a view of the verb where the action is hypothetical, contrary-to-fact, or uncertain. For example:

'las.ɛ.ɿ.laɪ.jɪn	-yɪ.an	'aɪθ.ey	'its.ʌts.ɑ-	tʃ.y.jof
sister	diminutive marker	subjunctive	to clean another's fur (prefix)	father

This would roughly translate to English as “If father were to clean little sister’s fur.”

3.6 Command

While the command form of verbs is not necessarily a mood in English, it is included with them in Kekeblin for convenience. As the name would suggest, a verb prefix modified by this verb auxiliary marks that the subject is commanded to do whatever the action is. Just because an action is commanded does not mean that it is being performed at the time of the command. For example:

'las.ɛ.ɿ.laɪ.jɪn	-yɪ.an	'ʌts.i	'its.ʌts.ɑ-	tʃ.y.jof
sister	diminutive marker	command	to clean another's fur (prefix)	father

This would roughly translate to English as “Father is commanded to clean little sister’s fur.” A different example would more directly correlate to how the command is handled in English:

'las.ɛ.ɿ.laɪ.jɪn	-yɪ.an	'ʌts.i	'its.ʌts.ɑ-	s.ain
sister	diminutive marker	command	to clean another's fur (prefix)	you (female)

Or, in English, “Clean little sister’s fur!”

3.7 Optional/Ability

The Optional/Ability mood represents a view of the verb where the action is optional, or permission is being given to do whatever the action is. This is similar to *can* and *may* in English (or how *can* alone is actually used). For example:

'las.ɛ.ɿ.laɪ.jɪn	-yɪ.an	'ið.o	'its.ʌts.ɑ-	tʃ.y.jof
sister	diminutive marker	optional/Ability	to clean another's fur (prefix)	father

This would roughly translate to English as “Father may (has permission to) clean little sister’s fur,” or “Father can (is capable of) clean(ing) little sister’s fur.” As with many parts of Kekeblin, the difference is derived from context.

3.8 Desire/Strong Resolve

Finally, the Desire/Strong Resolve mood represents a view of the verb where the action is desired, or where the speaker is expressing great confidence that what is being said will happen. For example:

'las.ɛ.ɪaɪ.jɪn	-y:an	'ɪpf.li.jɛ	'ɪts.ʌts.ɔ-	tʃ.y.jof
sister	diminutive marker	desire/strong resolve	to clean another's fur (prefix)	father

This would roughly translate to English as “Father will clean little sister’s fur, I believe it!” or “It is desired that Father clean little sister’s fur.” If Father said this, then father is stating that he wants to clean little sister’s fur.

[4] Derivation

Verbs in Kekeblin do not undergo derivation directly, be they prefixes or auxiliaries. Sentence predicates, verb prefix and head noun combinations, can undergo derivation, and sometimes that derivation affects the verb. For example, *-ɪy* turns a verb prefix + noun combination into a noun that means “a [noun] who [verbs],” essentially.

Verb auxiliaries are not changed through derivation.

[5] Sentence Predicates

The nucleus of a Kekeblin sentence is the predicate, which term is used slightly differently in Kekeblin than other languages. The predicate consists of the verb prefix and the head noun of the sentence—this predicate is described in more detail in “Kekeblin Simple Sentences.”

A Kekeblin sentence may be constructed as follows:

Adverb(s) + Direct Object + Indirect Object + Auxiliary Verb + *Adverb(s)* + *Locative Modifier* + Sentence Predicate + *Compositional Modifier* + *Adjectives and Ordinals* + *Genitive Modifier*

Kekeblin is not organized using verb phrases or noun phrases because, unlike most other languages, the primary verb and the head noun combine into one word, forming the predicate. Additionally, some words that come before the predicate modify the head noun part of the predicate, making it difficult to cleanly break sentences into phrases. To refer back to the above model, what is underlined usually modifies or is modified by the verb prefix in the predicate, and what is italicized usually modifies the head noun in the predicate.

In Kekeblin, the subject of the sentence is always a head noun and never a clause.

This word order is very strict in all instances.

5.1 Participles

Kekeblin doesn’t have a grammatical form directly comparable to the participles of other languages, but it does have a form that comes close (and for which the term is used in

Kekeblin): “[verb prefix] + m:”.⁸ This form comes close because it allows Kekeblin verbs to be used as nominals. However, it is rarely used in Kekeblin. For example, the English phrase “I like eating” would be translated to:

'yts.li-	s.ɛyn	—	tsrytʃ	'ʌdz.ʌtʃ. i-	s.ɛyn
to eat	I (female)	sentence boundary	this	to like or feel appreciation	I (female)

This more literally translates back to English as “I eat. I like this.”

The “participle” in Kekeblin is only used in complicated sentence constructions where workarounds such as the above are just too clunky. However, to provide an example of the participle in use, here is the above example, modified:

'yts.li-	m:	'ʌdz.ʌtʃ. i-	s.ɛyn
to eat	generic, meaningless subject	to like or feel appreciation	I (female)

While the above construction works for all intents and purposes from an English perspective, it’s very rarely used in Kekeblin. It roughly translates to “I like [something that doesn’t matter] to eat,” but Kekeblin speakers would know that, in this construction, the generic noun can be ignored in favor of just the action the verb prefix represents.

⁸ m: is the Kekeblin noun for “a generic something that doesn’t particularly matter.”

Kekeblin Adjectives

[1] Introduction to Adjectives

“ solybvtsɔ ɪlɪsɐn — seɪntso ɪmosɐn ”

Literal Translation: Quality-of-controlled-fire is-he; quality-of-love has-she.

Meaning Translation: He is like controlled fire; she is loving (or lovely).

Adjectives in Kekeblin provide description to nouns. Most “adjectives” are actually nouns, or are derived from nouns; in the above construction, **seɪntso** is “love” with the derivational suffix that turns words into adjectives, **-tso**. However, this derivational suffix is not required in most instances, and the sentence would technically be accurate without it, if a bit ambiguous. (The sentence’s meaning could be interpreted as “She has/possesses love,” which is a little different from the intended meaning. The **-tso** helps to clarify this.)

Take “black” as an example: **'tsɛts.ɣn**. This word means “quality of black, or black dye.” To say “Something is black in color,” most Kekeblin would say:

'tsɛts.ɣn	'ɪm.o-	,ɪn.dzɐ
black (quality of, or dye)	to have or possess	something

This more literally translates to “Something has black.” Wherever possible, adjectives are used in this construction, or a similar one: Adjective + To Have + Subject. This is also an example of how most “adjectives” in Kekeblin are really nouns that function as nouns but can also be used adjectivally.

There are a few words that exist only as adjectives, such as **'satf.am.tso** (more literally, “blood-color”). Many of these began as derived nouns, but ultimately were fully adopted as adjectives.

[2] Deriving Adjectives

The derivational suffix **-tso** can take nouns such as **'so.lybv** (controlled fire; used in the above quote) and turn them into adjectives, or take nouns like **seɪn** (love/great affection) that could

be used as a noun or adjective and clearly marks them as adjectives. Any noun in Kekeblin can be derived in this manner. Derived adjectives follow all the rules presented here.

[3] Adjectives as Objects or Modifiers

As mentioned above, adjectives are mostly used as objects in sentences; as suggested in the introductory quote, there are several verb prefixes that can introduce adjectives into a sentence. But adjectives can also be used as modifiers in noun phrases. These elements will be discussed below.

3.1 Adjectives as Objects (To Be or To Have)

When adjectives are used as objects (or, more accurately, when nouns with adjectival functions are used to describe the subject), they may be introduced by one of two verb prefixes: **i.li-** (To Be), or **imo-** (To Have or Possess).

Nouns that must be derived in order to function adjectivally are always introduced with **i.li-**.

Nouns that do not need to be derived to function adjectivally (even if they are), and permanent adjectives, are always introduced with **imo-**.

3.2 Adjectives as Modifiers

Only derived nouns (using **-tso**) and permanent adjectives may be used as noun modifiers. Nouns that can be used as adjectives without **-tso** must be derived in order to be used as modifiers.

Adjectives follow the noun they modify, including a noun in a sentence predicate. When a noun has multiple modifiers, they are arranged as follows:

Adverb(s) + Locative Modifier + Noun + Compositional Modifier + Adjectives and
Ordinals + Genitive Modifier

Any number of adjectives can modify a noun, but most Kekeblin avoid using any and prefer the construction in 8.1 (except where very clunky). Since Kekeblin avoid using adjectives as modifiers, there aren't any hard rules as to what order adjectives with different qualities must appear in. Adjectives always modify left, however. For example:

((Noun + Adjective) + Adjective)...

... and so forth. To provide an example in Kekeblin:

bvav nyts 'ðeydz.jɛʃ

sheep sweet thick or wide

In English, this would be a "Sweet (kindly) sheep that is also thick." To reverse the order of the adjectives would produce "A thick sheep that is also sweet."

Kekeblin Phonetics and Phonology

[1] Introduction

“ ɛtsɛbvlɪnɔɪ ɪlɪmɛsyn. ”

Literal translation: The people who watch, we are.

Meaning Translation: We are the watchers.

Kekeblin has a distinct set of consistent vowels and consonants, but the language has not been developed enough to show strong allophonic variation; consistency has been valued over regular change. That does not mean that Kekeblin is without rules of phonetics and phonology, of course, hence this chapter.

[2] Consonants

Table (1) presents the phonemes of Kekeblin. Sounds that appear regularly, but only as allophones, are in parentheses.

(1) *Kekeblin Consonant Contrasts*

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal	m			n			
Trill				r			
Tap/Flap				(r)			
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ		x
Affricate		pf bv		ts dz	tʃ		
Approximant	w			(ɹ)			w
Lateral Approximant				l			

It should be noted (though it should be clear from the chart) that Kekeblin is extremely unusual in its complete lack of plosives and its abundance of fricatives and affricates. Beyond that, the

sounds of Kekeblin almost mirror across the alveolar ridge. Examples of consonant contrasts are provided in chart (2).

(2) *Table of words illustrating consonant contrasts*

'bvaɪ.jan	hand	'dzi.ləm	eye	'nam.ɛ.lətʃ	hunger
'bvəm.ɛyn	star	'jaʃ.ɛʃ	torso	'ʃɛx.əl	knee
'ði.li.lɛɪ.ar	road	'mɛs.yn	we	'tsɛn.ym	name
tɕɛr/tɕɛɪ	honor	'tʃabv.rɛm	foreigner	vlin	animal
'nɛ.lɛθ.im.on	coward	'ʒɛ.jon	snout	ɛyx.ɛɪdz.ɑ-	to banish

Most of the allophonic variation in Kekeblin is vowel-related. However, /r/ changes form under several circumstances, as is shown in (3) and (4).

(3) */r/ to /ɹ/ before a /y/*

-ɹy	a prefix comparable to -er	ɹym	a glowing bug	'tsɛn.ɹyʒ	woman/female
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4) */r/ to /ɹ/ or /r/ interchangeably after front vowels*

tɕɛr	honor	'bveɪ.lyr	bed/sleeping spot	'neɪ.lom.nɒs	dusk
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Another important detail of /r/ is that it can never follow an /l/, /j/, or /w/.

Consonants can appear at almost any spot in a word, although /y/ and /w/ will never end a word. Kekeblin rarely borrows words from other languages, and when it does it modifies the words as much as necessary to make the word fit within Kekeblin naturally.

[3] Vowels

Kekeblin has eight distinctive vowels, which are presented in chart (5). A ninth vowel, a common allophone, is present in parenthesis.

(5) *Kekeblin vowel contrasts*

High	i y ɪ (ʏ)		Tense Lax
Mid	e ɛ	o ʌ	Tense Lax
Low		ɑ	

Kekeblin also has three diphthongs, presented in chart (6), and vowel and diphthong contrasts are presented in chart (7).

(6) *Kekeblin diphthongs*

ɑɪ	eɪ	ɛy
----	----	----

(7) *Table of words illustrating vowel and diphthong contrast*

bvlin	person	syn	you	tsɪl	tooth/fang
'ʒɛ.jon	nose/snout	sɛʒ	two	obv.ʌ-	to die
bvaɟ	ear	'sɛs.ɑɪɟ	new	mɛyn	hill or mountain

As far as allophonic variation is concerned, Kekeblin has a small amount. First off, no distinction is made between /a/ and /ɑ/—but the sounds are already quite similar anyway.

Next, all vowels may experience lengthening, including diphthongs. This happens when two vowels are adjacent in the same word with no consonant between them. In these circumstances, the left vowel is always lengthened, as in chart (8). This is an allophonic occurrence, and only occurs within words—never between them.

(8) *Lengthening in Kekeblin*

aʒ.ɑ:ɑɪ-	to rest or sleep	'ðɪ.li.ɪer.ɑr	path/road	'bvy.je:ɛn	friend
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The vowel /y/ is sometimes manifested as /ɣ/. When /y/ follows a sound produced at or before the alveolar ridge, it's a true /y/. However, when /y/ follows a sound produced behind the alveolar ridge, then it becomes a /ɣ/. This is illustrated on the following chart.

(9) */y/ to /ɣ/ following a sound produced behind the alveolar ridge*

jɣbv	tongue	tɣys	water	tɣyz	fish
'mys.yn	you all	syn	you	sys	three

Finally, the stress pattern of Kekeblin may cause tense vowels to lax. Which vowels change, and how, is shown in chart (10). This only occurs when the vowel is in an unstressed word-initial syllable; this usually happens when verb suffixes are combined with nouns. Examples of unfooted noun stems will not be provided below, as it is easier to recognize the change when at the beginning of verb suffixes.

(10) *Laxing in unstressed syllables word-initial*

/i/ → /ɪ/		/e/ → /ɛ/		/o/ → /ʌ/	
i.li-	to be	em.leɪs.y-	to give birth	om.nʌ-	to clean an eye
ɪ.'lis.ɛn	I am.	ɛm.'leɪs.ybʌ.ɑrtʃ	The dog gives birth.	ʌm.'nʌdʒ.i.lɛm	The eye cleans.

[4] Prosody

4.1 Syllable Structure

Kekeblin syllable structure varies slightly according to the grammatical function of the word being formed. In a nutshell, Kekeblin syllable structure is:

$$(C)(l/r)V(C)$$

Approximates—/l/, /j/, and /w/—can never appear in a coda. They can also never precede /r/ or any of its allophones. Aside from those rules, all consonants can appear anywhere in a syllable.

Consonant clusters are acceptable, but there can never be more than two consonants in a row—even between syllables. Because the sonority of all sounds in Kekeblin is pretty high, almost any combination of consonants is theoretically possible. Vowels can be adjacent to each other. When syllabifying, except for when following the above rules, always fill the coda before the onset

Noun stems in Kekeblin cap out at five syllables; verbs, adverbs, and adjectives, three; suffixes, two. This means that the words in Kekeblin are able to get very long.

On to more specific rules, the following must always be taken into account:

- Nouns: while internal syllables can be constructed freely, noun roots (the word itself) always begin and end with a consonant.
- Verbs: while internal syllables can be constructed freely, verb prefixes and auxiliaries always begin and end with a vowel (the prefix/word itself).
- Adverbs and Adjectives: while internal syllables can be constructed freely, adverbs always begin with a consonant and end with a vowel (the word itself). Adjectives are normally derived from nouns, but when an adjective stands on its own as an adjective it follows this structure.
- Suffixes: derivational suffixes always begin with a consonant and end with a vowel (the suffix itself). Non-derivational suffixes always begin with a vowel and end with a consonant (the suffix itself).

Finally, it is possible to have a vowel-less word in Kekeblin—these exist exclusively as single-“syllable” function words and particles.

(11) *Examples of syllable structure in Kekeblin*

	V		CVC		CV
i	an auxiliary verb indicating command mood	tsɛr	honor	-ɟy	a suffix comparable to <i>-er</i>
	VC		CIV		CIVC
-av	Singulative Suffix	'tslo.ɟɟ	mother	bvlin	person

4.2 Stress Pattern

Stressed Kekeblin syllables are louder than their neighboring syllables—the tone and intent of the speaker might raise the pitch of the syllable or lengthen the vowel slightly, but the one universal is that stressed syllables are louder than other syllables.

The Kekeblin stress system is pretty simple, but has a few exceptions. All words with two or more syllables have a primary stress, and most words with four or more syllables have at least one secondary stress. The first syllable of a word receives primary stress; every other following syllable receives secondary stress, but only if it is followed by another syllable to be unstressed. Thus, secondary stress is not possible until a word has at least four syllables.

There are three exceptions to the above rules. First, the first syllable of a word is not stressed if is immediately followed by a syllable with both an onset and a coda (and the first syllable itself doesn't have both an onset and a coda), and the word is at least three syllables long. Instead, the second syllable receives primary stress, and the stress pattern rules treat the second syllable as the first syllable. Third, the exact same exception applies if the first syllable has neither onset nor coda, the second syllable has either, and the word is at least three syllables long. Third, some few words in Kekeblin have lexical stress: **'nɛ.lɛθ.im.on** (a coward) is an example of one. The stress patterns in these words must be memorized, but obey regular stress patterns when given affixes.

Exceptions to the stress rules produce some instances of allophony, which is mentioned earlier in this guide. Additionally, suffixes and prefixes follow regular stress rules, meaning that the stress of a word may change as more syllables are added to it.

Every Kekeblin word in this guide has been marked for primary and secondary stress, with the exception of verbs. Verbs normally exist as prefixes, and thus their stress is heavily dependent on the noun they are attached to—making it nearly useless to mark multi-syllable verb prefixes for stress. For convenience, some examples of stress, regular and irregular, are provided below.

(12) *Regular stress in Kekeblin*

'witf.ɛs.is.in.am	bone	'bvan.abv.ov	the sun	'xa.leɪdz	tree
bvav	sheep	'sɛ.lɛbv	night	'bvy.je:.ɛn	star

(13) Irregular stress in Kekeblin

'nɛ.lɛθ.ɪm.on	a coward	ɪ.'lis.ɛn	I watch.	ɛm.'leɪs.ybv.artʃ	The dog gives birth.
ɑ.'jabv.av	The sheep returns.	ʌm.'nʌdz.i.lɛm	The eye cleans.		

The Beginning of the Stories: A Gloss of a Kekeblin Story

This story is known as “the beginning of the stories.” It is a very, very brief history of how the Kekeblin people came to be.

English Translation

This is the story that I know. These events happened long ago.

The Kekeblin people were not created in the beginning, when the stars were placed in the heavens and when water was pulled from the air to cool the magma below. Many other people began to walk the land at the time—the Humans, the Whispering Wood, and others. They have stories of this time; the Kekeblin do not. My story does not begin here.

The Kekeblin people were not created when magic was discovered. Magic always was; when the people of the land mastered it, they created wizards and war. Eventually, the wizards warred each other into near extinction. Most went into hiding.

The Wizard we know is the greatest of the wizards. He was kindly, and he knew the time of the wizards was soon to be over. In a final display of mighty power, he created the first Kekeblin and granted it both Sight and Intellect.

This is the story that I know, and this is the beginning of our stories.

Kekeblin–IPA Representation

ðɛtslitsɫv tsrytʃ iʝisɛn

zɛyxdzɫoðo aʝɛy opfɫviðɛtslitsɫv

ʝɛyflɫsmɔtʃɫ aʝɛy ɛybnɛmɛɣn n xedzozytsmɔtʃɫ aʝɛy ɛyʝɛyflɫʃys – zi:ɫvo aʝɛy ɣmðɫnoxedzozyts

ry zɛyxdzɫoðo aʝɛy opfɫvi:ɛtsɛbvlɪnɣy

zɛyxdzɫoðo, dzeiðots ɫmpfoblvin: ɛtʃyɣvɫabvɣy, ɛθɛtsɫxaleɪdzɣy, n tsɫɫ:otʃ

ðetslits zeyxdzaloðoxenja imomasan – ry dzrɪɜ imoetsɛbvinɪy
 pflɛts ebvryðetslits sɛnxɛnja
 tsɫa ajɛy ɛtʃɛlitsjɛynɫm ajɛy ɛmlɛɪsyɛtsɛbvinɪy rytso
 ɛɪ ililitsjɛynɫm
 zɛɪs ɛɪ ijɪblvin dzeɪðotsθɛyfsy
 dzɛn maɪlitsweyndzɫn n tsaxɫn opflɫvɪmasan
 zɛxpɾfazi mɫsanðo axɫnɫaɪmaɪlitsweyndzɫn – iwaɪ obvɫmasan
 iwaɪ ɛxɫɪmasan
 tsɛrɛ:ɫm imomaɪlitsweyndzɫnɫv – sɫn ijɪɛtsɛbvinɪy
 tsɛrtso imosɫn n tsɫa nɛtsɛwindzɫ ɛɾfɾyɾmaɪlitsweyndzɫn ijɪsɫn
 tsɫa lɪtsjɛynɫmɛ:ɫm owɪmosɫn ɛɾfɾyɾmaɪlitsweyndzɫnɫv
 ɛtsɛbvinɪy sɛftso opflɫvɪsɫn n dzɪlɛm n bvlin-tso tʃɪz ɣ:ɛtsɛɪ-sɫn
 ðetslitsɫv tsɾyɾtʃ ijɪsɛn n ðetslits mɛsyntsyɾpfy ebvry-tsɾyɾtʃ

Interlinear Gloss

The Leipzig abbreviations were used for this gloss.

ðetslitsɫv tsɾyɾtʃ ijɪsɛn

ðetslits-ɫv tsɾyɾtʃ ijɪ-sɛn

story-SING⁹ this know-I.M

“This is the story that I know.”

zeyxdzaloðo ajɛy opflɫviðetslitsɫv

zeyxdzaloðo ajɛy opflɫvi-ðetslits-ɫv

past.time PASS create-story-SING

“These events happened long ago.”¹⁰

⁹ “SING” refers to the singulative case, used in Kekeblin to mark when something is singular *or* to mark that something is exceptionally important.

¹⁰ More literally, this translation would be “This story was created long ago.” Kekeblins would understand, by convention, this to mean that the things that happened in the story happened long ago, rather than the story literally being made at the time of its events. This would not be spoken in an English telling of the story however, since English has verb tense, letting the hearers know in that way that the story happened in the past.

jeyflatsmatʃa ajey eybνemeyn n xedzozytsmatʃa ajey eyjeyflatʃys
 jeyflats-matʃa ajey ey-bνemeyn n xedzozyts-matʃa ajey ey-jeyflatʃys
 sky-ALL PASS carry-stars and magma-ALL PASS carry-sky.water

— zi:avo ajey ymðlnoxedzozyts . ry zeyxdzaloðo ajey opflvi:etsεbvinʲy
 11 12

— zi:avo ajey ymðlno-xedzozyts . ry zeyxdzaloðo ajey opflvi-etsεbvinʲy

— below PASS cool-magma . NEG past.time PASS create-Kekeblin

“The Kekeblin people were not created in the beginning, when the stars were placed in the heavens and when water was pulled from the air to cool the magma below.”¹³

zeyxdzaloðo, dzeiðots ʌmpfoblvin:¹⁴ εʃvybvlavʲy, εθetslaxaleidzʲy, n tslʌ:otʃ

zeyxdzaloðo dzeiðots ʌmpfo-blvin εʃvybvlavʲy εθetslaxaleidzʲy n tslʌ:otʃ
 past.time land travel-people Humans Whispering Wood and others

“Many other people began to walk the land at that time—the Humans, the Whispering Wood, and others.”

ðetslits zeyxdzaloðoxenʃa imomʌsan — ry dzrɪʒ imoetsεbvinʲy

ðetslits zeyxdzaloðo-xenʃa imo-mʌsan — ry dzrɪʒ imo-etsεbvinʲy

story past.time-POSS¹⁵ have-they — NEG that have-Kekeblin

“They have stories of this time; the Kekeblin do not.”

pflɛts εbvryðetslits sɛnxenʃa

pflɛts εbvry-ðetslits sɛn-xenʃa

here begin-story I.M-POSS

“My story does not begin here.”

¹¹ In writing, Kekeblin sentences that are chained have an en dash between them. Sentence chaining is often used to accomplish what relative clauses do in English.

¹² A period will be used, when necessary, to mark a sentence break. This will only be done when marking a new sentence by beginning a new gloss isn’t reasonable for the translation.

¹³ The equivalent English sentence will sometimes be given after several sections of Kekeblin gloss. This is done to keep the English as comprehensible as possible by keeping thoughts and subordinated clauses together.

¹⁴ This is a colon, not a marker for a lengthened vowel.

¹⁵ This possessive ending marks for singular possession—they each have their own story(ies).

tsl̩ ajɛy ɛtʃɛlitsjɛyn̩l̩m ajɛy ɛmlɛɪsyɛtsɛbvl̩n̩ɟ rytso

tsl̩ ajɛy ɛtʃɛ-litsjɛyn̩l̩m ajɛy ɛmlɛɪsy-ɛtsɛbvl̩n̩ɟ rytso

COMP PASS create-magic PASS born¹⁶-Kekeblin NEG

“The Kekeblin people were not created when magic was discovered.”

ɛɪ ililitsjɛyn̩l̩m . zɛɪs ɛɪ ijiblv̩n̩ dzeɪðots-θɛyfsy

ɛɪ ili-litsjɛyn̩l̩m . zɛɪs ɛɪ iji-blvin̩ dzeɪðots-θɛyfsy

PFV be-magic . it PFV know-people land-GEN

dzen̩ m̩ɪlitsweyndz̩n̩ n̩ tsax̩l̩n̩ ɔp̩fl̩v̩m̩ɪs̩ɪn̩

dzen̩ m̩ɪlitsweyndz̩n̩ n̩ tsax̩l̩n̩ ɔp̩fl̩vi-m̩ɪs̩ɪn̩

then wizard and war create-they

“Magic always was; when the people of the land mastered it, they created wizards and war.”

zɛyxp̩f̩ɪz̩i m̩ɪs̩ɪn̩ðo̩ ax̩l̩n̩l̩ɪm̩ɪlitsweyndz̩n̩ – iwaɪ ɔb̩vl̩m̩ɪs̩ɪn̩

zɛyxp̩f̩ɪz̩i m̩ɪs̩ɪn̩ðo̩ ax̩l̩n̩l̩ɪ-m̩ɪlitsweyndz̩n̩ – iwaɪ ɔb̩vl̩-m̩ɪs̩ɪn̩

in.time themselves war-wizards – IPFV die-they

“Eventually, the wizards warred each other into near extinction.”

iwaɪ ɛx̩ɪm̩ɪs̩ɪn̩

iwaɪ ɛx̩ɪ-m̩ɪs̩ɪn̩

IPFV hide-they

“Most went into hiding.”

tsɛrɛ:l̩m̩ im̩ɔm̩ɪlitsweyndz̩n̩l̩n̩ – s̩l̩n̩ ijiɛtsɛbvl̩n̩ɟ

tsɛr-e:l̩m̩ im̩ɔ-m̩ɪlitsweyndz̩n̩-l̩n̩ – s̩l̩n̩ iji-ɛtsɛbvl̩n̩ɟ

honor- have-wizard-SING – him know-Kekeblin

GIG¹⁷

“The Wizard we know is the greatest of the wizards.”

¹⁶ This is a figurative use of “born.”

¹⁷ This stands for “gigantative.” Essentially the opposite of the diminutive, the gigantative marks a word for being the largest of greatest of its kind.

tsertso imosλn n tsla netsewindzλ epfrymaλlitsweyndzλn ijisλn
 tsertso imo-sλn n tsla netsewindzλ epfry-maλlitsweyndzλn iji-sλn
 fair have-he and COMP near.time end-wizard know-he
 “He was kindly, and he knew the time of the wizards was soon to be over.”

tsλλ litsjeynλme:λm owimosλn epfrymaλlitsweyndzλnλv
 tsλλ litsjeynλm-e:λm owimo-sλn epf.ry-maλlitsweyndzλn-λv
 COMP magic-GIG use-he finish-wizard-SING

εtsebvlινy seftso opflavisλn n dzilem n bvlιν-tso tfiz y:εtsei-sλn
 εtsebvlινy seftso opflavi-sλn n dzilem n bvlιν-tso tfiz y:εtsei-sλn
 kekeblin first create-he and sight and person-ADJ it give-he
 “In a final display of mighty power, he created the first Kekeblin and granted it both
 Sight and Intellect.”

ðetslitsλv tsrytj ijisen n ðetslits mesyntsyphy ebvry-tsrytj
 ðetslits-λv tsrytj iji-sen n ðetslits mesyn-tsypfy ebvry-tsrytj
 story-SING this know-I.M and story we-POSS¹⁸ begin-this
 “This is the story that I know, and this is the beginning of our stories.”

¹⁸ This is in reference to collective possession—“This begins our story” means that the collective story of the Kekeblin people began at this time.

A Kekeblin Dictionary

[1] Nouns, Pronouns, and Some Unsorted

1. A type of glowing, flightless bug bred for light (always plural): **ɣym**
2. A uselessly undefined something: **'m:.dza**
3. And: **n**
4. Animal/nonthinking animate thing; possible food: **vlin**
5. Ant, or small, flightless, crawly bugs in general: **xɛym**
6. Arm or leg: **'wɛ:.yn**
7. Ash: **wɛyθ**
8. Baby: **'tsi:.ex**
9. Back: **wɛɪ.'lim.ʌn**
10. Bat: **'nɛyf.om**
11. Bed or sleeping spot: **'bveɪ.lyr**
12. Bird: **wyts**
13. Bitterness (quality of, or a bitter substance): **'ʒɛɪn.ɛ.lodz**
14. Black (quality of, or black paint or dye): **'tsɛts.yn**
15. Blood: **'satf.am**
16. Bone (as a construction material): **'witf.ɛs. is.in.am**
17. Bone (in a body, or unprepared for construction): **'bvarts.yn**
18. Book: **wertf**
19. Breasts (always plural): **mɛð.'len.ɪf**
20. Brother: **'bvas.ɑ.lartf**
21. Cart or wagon: **'napf.rod.ʌn**
22. Cave: **zɛyn**
23. Children (always plural): **bvlɪn.'y:.ʌn**
24. Coward: **'nɛ.lɛθ. im.on**
25. Day: **'nɛ.tɛɛ.win**
26. Death: **'tʃobv.ɛn**
27. Demonstratives (this/that): see other paper
28. Dog: **bvartf**
29. Dusk: **'neɪ.lom.nʌs**
30. Ears (always plural): **bvaɪf**
31. Eight: **wartf**
32. Enemy or opponent: **'bvlits.ɛn**
33. Eye or visual receptor: **'dzi.lɛm**
34. Father: **'tʃy.jof**
35. Fire or flame (controlled): **'so.lybv**
36. Fire or flame (uncontrolled): **'tʃoz.yts**
37. Fishes (always plural): **tʃvz**
38. Five: **ðardz**
39. Fly (bug): **'li.rim**
40. Foreigner: **'tʃabv.rɛm**
41. Forest or trees (always plural): **'xa.leɪdz**
42. Four: **tsix**
43. Freedom: **'mɛr.ʌn.ɑɪ**
44. Friend: **'bvɪ.jɛ:.ɛn**
45. Good (quality of): **'wyts.ertf**
46. Hair or fur: **mɛð**
47. Hand or paw: **'bvaɪ.jan**
48. Hard (quality of, or small, tough object): **'tʃɛtɪ.ɛm**
49. He (non-sentient): **tʃaz**

50. He (sentient): **sɒn**
51. Heavy (quality of): **'xodz.ɛn**
52. Here: **pflɛts**
53. Hill or mountain: **mɛyn**
54. Honor: **tɛr**
55. Horns or claws (always plural):
'zɛyn.ʒan
56. House: **'tsyn.mits**
57. Hundreds: **-mlyts**
58. Hunger: **'nam.ɛ.lɛtʃ**
59. Hunters: **'its.in.ɛyʒ.ɛn. dzɛn.ɔy**
60. I (inanimate): **ʒyʒ**
61. I (non-sentient): **tʃɛz**
62. I (sentient, female): **sɛyn**
63. I (sentient, male): **sɛn**
64. Inanimate thing: **lɪn**
65. It: (non-sentient): **tʃiz**
66. Juice from a fruit or vegetable:
'xa.lɛr.tʃ.ɛs
67. Juice from a root: **'sertʃ.ɛs**
68. Knee: **'fɛx.al**
69. Land or terrain: **'dzeɪð.ots**
70. Leaves (always plural): **tʃɛtʃ**
71. Liver: **'zadz.jam**
72. Long (quality of): **'ji.litʃ**
73. Love or great affection: **sɛɪn**
74. Magic: **'lits.jɛyn.ɒm**
75. Magma/Lava: **'xedz.oz.yts**
76. Man/male: **jɒpf**
77. Meal: **xats**
78. Meat: **tɛn**
79. Milk: **zɛ. lɛrtʃ.ɛs**
80. Millions: **-fɛθ**
81. Mother: **'tslo.jyʃ**
82. Mouth: **bvlɒbv**
83. Name or title: **'tsɛn.ym**
84. Neck: **rɛyts**
85. New (quality of, or a new object):
'sɛs.ɔrtʃ
86. Night: **'sɛ.lɛbv**
87. Nine: **nlym**
88. Nose or snout: **'ʒɛ.jon**
89. Nothing/void: **'ryts.ɒn**
90. One: **sɛʃ**
91. Other/Another: **'tslɒ.ɔtʃ**
92. Pack or group: **'ʒɛn.dʒɛn**
93. Path: **'ði.li. lɛɪ.ɔr**
94. Pen: **'dzɛyn.lɛs**
95. Person or sapient being: **bvlin**
96. Rain: **rɛyts**
97. Reason: **'flɛyx.dzɛm**
98. Room: **'xlɪdz.ɛn**
99. Root: **'rɛpf.ʃɒm**
100. Rope: **'ryʃ.ʃɒm**
101. Ruler (person): **'zɛtʃ.ɛn. im.ɒbv**
102. Safe (the quality of, or a general thing
that provides protection): **'fið.ɒn**
103. Salt: **'ðyð.ɔɪz**
104. Sameness (quality): **xɛyʒ**
105. Sand: **wy. liθ.mɛn**
106. Seven: **tʃɒm**
107. Shadow: **'tsar.sybv**
108. Shame: **nos. liθ.man**
109. She (non-sentient): **tʃɛyn**
110. She (sentient): **sɒn**
111. Sheep: **bvɒv**
112. Sister: **'las.ɛ. laɪ.jvɪn**
113. Six: **lɛym**
114. Skin: **'sɛs.ɔ.lɛs**
115. Sky Water: **'jɛyf.lɒtʃ.ys**
116. Sky: **'jɛyf.lɒts**
117. Smoke: **'θɛyʒ.ɒn**
118. Soil: **'xɛ.ym**
119. Someone or somebody: **'bvlin.dʒɒ**
120. Someplace or somewhere:
'dzeɪð.ɒdz.ɒ
121. Something (inanimate): **'lɪn.dʒɒ**
122. Stalactite and/or stalagmite forest:
'xa.lɛɪdz 'xedz.θɛyf.sy
123. Star: **'bvɛm.ɛyn**
124. Stomach or navel: **'xɒf.jybv.ɒn**
125. Stone or rock: **xedz**
126. Story/History: **'ðɛts.lits**
127. Sun: **'bvɒn.ɒbv.ɒv**
128. Sweet (quality of, or a thing that
tastes sweet): **nyts**
129. Tail (non-prehensile): **'bvɛɪ.lar**
130. Tail (prehensile): **'tɛɪ.ɔr**

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|--|--|
| 131. Teeth or fangs (always plural): tsɪl | 151. We (inanimate): ðɛʒ |
| 132. Tens: -naɪn | 152. We (non-sentient): 'lɛtʃ.ʌn |
| 133. Then: dzɛn | 153. We (sentient, men): 'mis.on |
| 134. There: tsrɛʃ | 154. We (sentient, neuter): 'mɛs.yn |
| 135. They (inanimate): θɛʃ | 155. We (sentient, women): 'mʌs.eɪn |
| 136. They (non-sentient): 'lyts.ɛyn | 156. What: ntsəɪn |
| 137. They (sentient): 'mʌs.an | 157. Wind: 'fyv.ʌm |
| 138. Thick or wide (quality of): 'ðɛydz.jɛʃ | 158. Wing: dziz |
| 139. Thigh: tseɪs | 159. Wizard: 'maɪ.lɪts. weyn.dzʌn |
| 140. Thousands: -tsʌx | 160. Woman or female: 'tsɛn.ɹyʒ |
| 141. Three: sys | 161. Woman/female: tsapf |
| 142. Tick: xatʃ | 162. Wood: lys |
| 143. Tongue: jvɒv | 163. Years/Time (always plural): zɛyx |
| 144. Torso or Chest: 'jaʃ.ɛʃ | 164. You (non-sentient): tʃʌn |
| 145. Town or Settlement: 'tsez.ɛyn | 165. You (sentient, female): səɪn |
| 146. Traitor: 'nos.rɛʒ.yn | 166. You (sentient, male): syn |
| 147. Traveler: 'aɪbv.lɪn.ɹy | 167. You all (sentient): 'mys.yn |
| 148. Two: sɛʒ | 168. You or it (inanimate): ʒeɪs |
| 149. War: 'tsax.ʌn | 169. Zero: xyx |
| 150. Water: tʃvs | |

[2] Proper Nouns

1. Humans as a general people (mouth breathers): **'ɛtʃ.vybv. labv.ɹy**
2. Kekeblin as a people (the watchers): **'ɛts.ɛbv. lɪn.ɹy**
3. The Whispering Wood as a people (the whisperers): **'ɛθ.ɛts. lʌx.ə. leɪdz.ɹy**

[3] Verb Prefixes

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Banish from family or community
[transitive]: ɛyx.ɛɪdz.ə- | 10. Clean one's eyes (similar to blinking)
[intransitive]: om.nʌ- |
| 2. Be [intransitive or transitive]: i.li- | 11. Come or Return [intransitive or
transitive]: ə.jə- |
| 3. Begin/Start: ɛbv.ry- | 12. Cool/Lose Temperature: ym.ðʌn.ə- |
| 4. Birth (give) [transitive]: em.leɪs.y- | 13. Crush or squish: artʃ.ɛɪ- |
| 5. Bite [transitive]: its.li- | 14. Cry or weep: is.ɛɪx.ʌ- |
| 6. Blow (air) [transitive or intransitive]:
of.ə- | 15. Die [intransitive]: obv.ʌ- |
| 7. Breath [intransitive]: ɛtʃ.vy- | 16. Do: ɪdz.ʌ- |
| 8. Burn [intransitive or transitive]:
om.y- | 17. Drink [intransitive or transitive]: yn.y- |
| 9. Carry or bear: ɛy- | 18. Drive (a cart or animal): ə.je.lo- |
| | 19. Eat [intransitive or transitive]: yts.li- |
| | 20. Fall [intransitive]: ɛrtʃ.yn.i- |

- | | |
|---|--|
| 21. Find/Discover: etf.e- | 38. Receive: εtf.λz.i- |
| 22. Finish/End: εpf.ry- | 39. Rest or Sleep [intransitive]: az.α.αi- |
| 23. Give [transitive or ditransitive]:
y:.εts.εi- | 40. Run [intransitive]: εiθ.i- |
| 24. Go: αi- | 41. Stand or raise oneself [intransitive]:
i.jo- |
| 25. Have [transitive]: imo- | 42. Suck or inhale: λpf.λn.i- |
| 26. Hear [transitive]: ertf.i- | 43. Take or steal: εθ.i.ly- |
| 27. Hide [transitive]: ex.αi- | 44. Talk or communicate [transitive]:
ym.sli- |
| 28. Hit or strike [transitive]: on.tser.i- | 45. Tie (in a knot): εiθ.y- |
| 29. Hunt [transitive]: its.in.ey- | 46. To clean another's fur affectionately
[transitive]: its.λts.α- |
| 30. Ignore [transitive]: εiθ.i- | 47. To do nothing: ir.yts.λ- |
| 31. Know [transitive]: i.ji- | 48. Use: o.wim.o- |
| 32. Laugh [intransitive]: εx.εx.ε- | 49. Walk/Travel: λm.pfo- |
| 33. Leave (formal): yts.e- | 50. War [transitive]: αx.λn.λαi- |
| 34. Like or appreciate: λdz.λtf.i- | 51. Watch or see [transitive]: εts.ε- |
| 35. Live: λθ.los.λ- | 52. Whisper: εθ.ets.λλ- |
| 36. Make/Create: opf.λv.i- | |
| 37. Plan: eθ.en.e- | |

[4] Verb Modals

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Command (You <i>must</i>): 'λts.i | 6. Passive/Indicates the action of the verb is happening to the subject (makes most verbs intransitive):
'a.jey |
| 2. Desire or Strong Resolve (I <i>want</i> or I <i>will</i>): 'ipf.li.jε | 7. Perfective Aspect (a complete or sure action): εi |
| 3. Habitual: α | 8. Subjunctive (also indicates unlikelihood): 'αiθ.ey |
| 4. Imperfective (an unfinished or unsure action): 'i.wαi | |
| 5. Optional or Ability (You <i>can</i> or <i>may</i>):
'iθ.o | |

[5] Derivational Suffixes

1. Ablative case (away from): **-tsen.ri**
2. Allative case (to/toward): **-matf.λ**
3. Antessive case (before/in front of): **-loθ.o**
4. Benefactive/causal case (*for* the king, *because of* the fire): **-bvaibv.ey**
5. Compositional case (what the suffix modifies is what the noun the phrase modifies is made of): **-θeyf.sy**
6. Elative case (moving out/off of): **-no.α**
7. Generic modifier. For example, adding it to “blvin” (person) makes “bvlindzλ” (someone): **-dzλ**
8. Genitive case. Represents group possession (collective ownership): **-tsyph.y**

9. Genitive case. Represents singular possession (“my cave” or “our caves,” meaning each individual has a personal cave): **-xen.ʃa**
10. Illative case (moving into): **-mi.ɛ**
11. Incessive case (within/inside): **-pfaʒ.i**
12. Instrumental/comitative case (*with* a knife, *with* a friend): **-leyθ.i**
13. Locative case (in/around/to/etc.): **-li**
14. Perlative case (through): **-tsim.dʒɛ**
15. Postessive case (behind, after): **-dʒɛn.raɪ**
16. Privative case (without/not possessing): **-mɛn.tsi**
17. Reflexive ending for pronouns. Only attaches to pronouns. Also used if a pronoun is used as an object or indirect object, and the pronoun referent is the same as the subject, regardless of whether the use is actually reflexive: **-ðo**
18. Subessive case (below): **-fyv.y**
19. Superessive case (above): **-wo.tsi**
20. Turns a noun with a verb prefix into a noun with the meaning “[noun] who [verbs]” or “the act of [noun] [verbing].” Comparable to *-er* in English words such as *runner*: **-ɹy**
21. Turns the entire word into an adjective or adverb: **-tso**

[6] Non-derivational Suffixes

1. Singulative. Makes a plural noun singular, or strongly emphasizes a single individual of a particular noun (similar to a definite article): **-ɹv**
2. Diminutive. Marks a smaller or weaker noun: **-y.ɹn**
3. Marks a larger, stronger, or greater noun: **-e.ɹm**

[7] Adverbs

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Below: 'zi.ɹv.o | 4. Sometime (far-present): 'zɛyx.dʒɹ |
| 2. Someday (or near-present
sometime): 'nɛ.tʃɛ. win.dʒɹ | 5. Today: 'nɛ.tʃɛ. win.li |
| 3. Sometime (far-past): 'zɛyx.dʒɹ loð.o | 6. Tomorrow: nɛ.'tʃɛ.win. dʒɛn.raɪ |
| | 7. Yesterday: nɛ.'tʃɛ.win. loð.o |

[8] Adjectives

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Big or large: 'mɛyn.tso | 6. Old: ɑ.'jim.oz. ɛyx.ɹy (literally: the state of having many years) |
| 2. Far: 'lɛ.ɹo | 7. Red: 'satʃ.ɑm.tso |
| 3. Generous: 'y.ɛts. ɛɹm.tso | 8. Small: 'bvətʃ.y.ɑ |
| 4. Honorable or fair: 'tʃɛr.tso | |
| 5. No/not: ɹy (adverbial) or ɹyts.o (adjective) | |

[9] Other (Particles, Determiners, Etc)

1. An unknown something where the noun doesn't matter—can stand on its own as an abstract noun, or can be attached to a verb prefix to create something similar to an infinitive: **m**:
2. And/connective: **n**
3. Negative (not/nor): **ry**
4. Marks the beginning of a subordinated clause: **tsla** or **tsla**