

Lundiyani Grammar Reference

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Overview and principles

Lundiyani is the modern form of Lunde: an isolating lingua franca spoken across the conworld, much later than Old Lundian and very different from it.

- **History.** Many peoples speak it, so it has dialect and register doublets, borrowings, and changes from Old Lundian that aren't always regular. The imperfection is intended.
- **Type.** Verbs never change form. Tense, aspect, mood and negation are separate particles. The only grammatical suffixes are possessive -de and the plurals -i, -en and -nen.
- **Etymology.** Most modern words have no worked-out etymology, and none is needed.
- **Working method.** New forms are checked against the rules below. Only contradictions with a stated rule and real ambiguities get flagged.
- **Sounds.** There is no h sound; Old h is lost (Old hara → ara). x is a different sound.

The full word list is in the Lexicon tab: [Lexicon](#)

Pronouns and possession

Pronouns have one form for subject and object; possessives add -de.

Person	Pronoun	Possessive
1st singular	i	ide (my)
2nd singular	o	ode (your)
3rd singular, animate	a	ade (his, her)
3rd singular, inanimate	ne	nede (its)
1st plural	ilie	iliede (our)
2nd plural	ole	olede (your)
3rd plural, animate	ale	alede (their)

Person	Pronoun	Possessive
3rd plural, inanimate	nilie	niliede (their)

- -de attaches to any word, nouns included: i onde osili (the person's eyes).
- -de is a remnant of the Old Lundian genitive (kide, ude, dade).
- Each other: on-a-oni. ale lau on-a-oni (they love each other).
- Reflexive: amon. a lo kanxi amon (she looked at herself).

Word order

The basic order is subject, verb, object, and modifiers come before what they modify.

- **Before the noun:** articles, demonstratives, possessors and adjectives. nei kawé on (this tall person), ide kora (my cat).
- **Before the verb:** negation and every tense, aspect or mood particle.
- **After the noun:** relative clauses. i on xaon lo lai yada (the person who was singing).
- **At the end:** the question particle me.
- **Prepositions** are separate words. No word attaches to another except the suffix -de and the plural endings.
- **Exceptions:** ta (to have) and commands put the verb before the subject.

Preposition	Meaning	Example
nai	in, at, on	nai ci louba (in the bottle)
an	to, towards	an ci pay (to the village)
de	from, of	de ci kala (from the sea)
am	with	am ide kiwuru (with my dog)
amb	by (the agent)	amb ni wakti (by the warriors)
on	for	on o (for you)
ewa	about	ewa o (about you)
anta	before	anta o lo luran (before you came)

Verbs and particles

Verbs never change form; tense, aspect, mood and negation are separate particles between the subject and the verb, and they combine freely.

Subject	Aspect	Negation	Tense or mood	lai, dei	Verb	Object	End
i	tefri, talei, mai, kiena	lan	lo, na, lei	lai, dei	vera	ne	me

Particle	Meaning	Example
(none)	present	i vera ne (I do it)
lo	past	i lo lau o (I loved you)
na	future	i na lau o (I will love you)
lai + verb	progressive	i lo lai vera ne (I was doing it)
dei + verb	passive	ci pay lo dei raxavi (the village was destroyed)
tefri	perfect	i tefri lo eden (I have eaten)
tefri lo lai	past perfect	i tefri lo lai eden (I had eaten)
talei	habitual, "used to"	i talei lo yada (I used to sing)
mai	just now	ilie mai lo eden (we just ate)
kiena	not yet, with lan	ale kiena lan lo eden (they haven't eaten yet)
lei	conditional	as o lei luran, i lei lai kualo (if you came, I would be happy)
lan	negation	i lan lo lai valia (I wasn't sleeping)

- lai is also the copula (i lo lai kili, I was young) and, at the start of a sentence, means "there is": lai anei nai ci loubu (there is water in the bottle); negated, lan lai anei (there's no water).
- lan comes after kiena and tefri, which work like adverbs: ale kiena lan lo eden (they haven't eaten yet).
- A modal or second verb takes the bare verb: i lan sa valia (I can't sleep), ilie mail kapa (we need to talk).

- **Passive:** tense + dei + verb, with amb for the agent. ci pay lo dei raxavi amb ni wakti (the village was destroyed by the warriors); i lo dei fastixi (I was blinded). dei comes from Old daze (by him or her), the agent in the Old passive of be + participle + ablative.

ta (to have)

ta is the one verb that comes before its subject; particles and the object follow in the normal order.

Lundiyani	Meaning
ta i kora	I have a cat
ta i lo kora	I had a cat
ta i lan kora	I don't have a cat
ta o kora me?	Do you have a cat?
ta nei kawē on ra kiwuri	This tall person has two dogs

Nouns, articles and numbers

Plural nouns take -i, articles come from Old Lundian, and the numbers are the Old Lundian ones, unchanged.

- **Plural -i:** osil → osili (eyes), kiwuru → kiwuri (dogs), kora → kori (cats), on → oni (people). Inanimate nouns take -en after a consonant and -nen after a vowel: skin → skinen (books), loubā → loubanen (bottles). Irregular: yami → yamo (feet). After any number above one the noun is plural: ra kiwuri (two dogs).
- **Articles:** the Old Lundian set without its accents (table below). Many speakers also use i with inanimate nouns.

Article	Animate	Inanimate	Plural
the	i	ci	ni
a, some	ia	an	na

an (a) and an (to) share one form; context tells them apart.

- **Adjectives after lai:** -de marks a permanent quality such as color or size, and only in a plain "X is ADJ" sentence: i onde osili lai lasode (the person's eyes are blue). It never appears before a noun (ko kiwuru, a big dog) or in comparisons. Without -de the word names a state or an impression: i lai kualì, literally "I am happiness" (kuali = happy, happiness).
- **Comparison:** kaw + adjective + da. i wuru lai kaw ko da i kiwuru (the wolf is bigger than the dog).
- **Superlative:** i kaw + adjective. a lai i kaw leia on nai ci payi'an (she is the most beautiful person in the city).

Numbers count in base twelve, as in Old Lundian. Before a noun the bare form is used; when counting, é- goes in front (é-na, é-ra).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
na	ra	ara	du	jayu	java	isa	gvena	fisa	dion	fiú	sión

Powers of twelve: sión (12), igyión (144), galatión (1,728), ayatión (20,736). Numbers are built as in Old Lundian: rasió (24), sión-na (13). The list's re (two) is outdated.

Questions

Yes/no questions end in me; question words stay where the answer would go, or move to the front.

- o lo vera ne me? (Did you do it?)
- o lai vera xa? or xa o lai vera? (What are you doing?) In place is more grammatical; both are common.
- xaon lau o? (Who loves you?) A subject question word is already in place at the start.
- Questions with a question word take no me.

Word	Meaning
xa	what
xaon	who
maxa	where
xar	when (also: near)

Word	Meaning
anxa	why
axla	how
xataw	how many, how much
xati	what kind

Clauses and commands

Subordinate clauses open with a conjunction; relative clauses use *sa* after the noun; commands are *ov* + verb + person.

- **and:** *a* before a consonant, *ad* before a vowel. *ide kora ad ode kiwuru* (my cat and your dog).
- **when:** *xanarya* after the main clause: *a lo lai yada xanarya o lo luran* (she was singing when you came). When the when-clause comes first, *xar*, though *xanarya* also works: *xar i lo lai kili, i talei lo yada* (when I was young, I used to sing).
- **if:** *as*, with *lei* in both clauses. *as o lei luran, i lei lai kuali* (if you came, I would be happy).
- **Other conjunctions:** *ema* (because), *ant* (but), *anta* (before), *nes* (until), *dal* or *ana* (while), *no* (or).
- **Relative clauses:** noun + *sa* + clause, as in Old Lundian, for people and things: *i on sa yada lai ide bana* (the person who sings is my brother). *ci skin sa o lo sila lai leia* (the book that you wrote is beautiful). *xaon* is also used for people: *i on xaon lo lai yada lai kuali* (the person who was singing is happy).
- **That-clauses:** *xa. i so xa o na luran* (I know that you will come).

Command	Meaning
ov lua	go! (formally ov lua o)
ov lua ilie	let's go
ov lua a	let him or her go
ov lua ale	let them go

The person comes after the verb. With singular you it has fallen out of use (ov eden, eat!), but formal writing keeps it (ov eden o). Negation follows ov: ov lan lua ilie (let's not go). ov keeps commands apart from o (you).

Word formation

A few productive suffixes build new words; unlike the particles, they are part of the word.

Pattern	Meaning	Examples
plain verb	experiencing	kana (see), kawa (hear), ampa (feel)
-xi	doing it actively or on purpose	kanxi (look), kawxi (listen), ampxi (touch)
-kai	making someone do it	edenkai (feed), enakai (explain), iloarikai (make cry); works on any verb
-on	person	yadaon (singer), kiliyon (child)
-li	thing	kaxli (name), sipli (end)
xle-	undoing	xlera (forget), from lera (remember)

nia (to make someone feel an emotion) is a separate verb, never a suffix: it can make someone sad, but not make them cry: o lo nia i drese (you made me sad).

The indefinite words form a grid:

	any	every	some	no
person	avon	elion	naon	lanon
thing	avali	eleili	li	lani
place	avama	eleima	nama	lanma
time	avaya (forever)	evai (always)	na-a-nari (sometimes)	levai (never)

Vocabulary decisions

These were settled on 2026-10-14 and override the master vocabulary list.

Word	Decision
keme, kemxi	smell, sniff (were kemekeme, kemxikemxi)
ini	here (was ina)
nama	somewhere (was naoma)
xar	when? and near; xanarya is the conjunction "when"
o, ole	you (singular), you (plural)
ta	to have; ave is dropped
kime	short; size words to revisit
urane	to harm
erane	to kill, from the Old namon irrana (irrasa, to grab)
mana	spiritual energy; lawmana = to marry
na, ra, ara...	numbers are the Old Lundian ones; re is outdated
lurankai	to move someone; -kai and -xi are part of the word
ov	command particle; replaces o so commands don't look like "you"
ara	three; Lundiyani has no h (Old hara)
dei	passive particle
amon	reflexive: herself, himself, itself
adar, idar	to leave, to arrive; idari is outdated
malai	parent (in general); family and animal words vary by region and all stay

Word	Decision
lala, lurani, tu'ali, taluv, tavnei, vantasi, xwitiwi, nivya	the spaces in the master list were typos

- Doublets (resa and akaxl, kaxi and kaxli, dal and ana...) are deliberate dialect or register variants.
- au and aw spell the same sound.
- Final a → ai happened in some words only; it is not a rule.
- Karen is not a word; a → al is not a rule.

Example sentences

The first elicited sentences, glossed word by word with two slips fixed (me in 9, ad in 13).

1. 'I have eaten.'

i tefri lo eden
1SG PRF PST eat

2. 'I had eaten when you came.'

i tefri lo lai eden xanarya o lo luran
1SG PRF PST be eat when 2SG PST come

3. 'When I was young, I used to sing every day.'

xar i lo lai kili i talei lo yada elei teila
when 1SG PST be young 1SG IPFV PST sing every day

4. 'She was singing when you came.'

a lo lai yada xanarya o lo luran
3SG PST be sing when 2SG PST come

5. 'We just ate.'

ilie mai lo eden
1PL REC PST eat

6. 'They haven't eaten yet.'

ale kiena lan lo eden
3PL YET NEG PST eat

7. 'If you came, I would be happy.'

as o lei luran, i lei lai kuali

if 2SG COND come 1SG COND be happy

8. 'I wasn't sleeping.'

i lan lo lai valia
1SG NEG PST be sleep

9. 'Did you have a dog?'

ta o lo ia kiwuru me
have 2SG PST INDF dog Q

10. 'My cat and your dog are small.'

i-de kora ad o-de kiwuru lai ki-de
1SG-POSS cat and 2SG-POSS dog be small-DE

11. 'The person's eyes are blue.'

i on-de osil-i lai laso-de
DEF person-POSS eye-PL be blue-DE

12. 'This tall person has two dogs.'

ta nei kawo on ra kiwur-i
have this tall person two dog-PL

13. 'I saw a cat, and the cat saw me.'

i lo kana ia kora, ad i kora lo kana i
1SG PST see INDF cat and DEF cat PST see 1SG

14. 'Who loves you?'

xaon lau o
who love 2SG

15. 'What are you doing?'

o lai vera xa xa o lai vera
2SG be do what what 2SG be do

16. 'The person who was singing is happy.'

i on xaon lo lai yada lai kuali
DEF person who PST be sing be happy

17. 'Let's eat! Let's go!'

ov eden ilie ov lua ilie
IMP eat 1PL IMP go 1PL

Abbreviations: PRF perfect (tefri), IPFV imperfective (talei), REC just now (mai), YET not yet (kiena), COND conditional (lei), NEG lan, IMP command o, DEF and INDF the articles i and ia, POSS -de, PL plural -i.

Round 2, checked:

1. 'There is water in the bottle.'

lai anei nai ci loubu
be water in DEF.INAN bottle

2. 'Some people came to the village.'

na on-i lo luran an ci pay
INDF.PL person-PL PST come to DEF.INAN village

3. 'I came from the sea with my dog.'

i lo luran de ci kala am i-de kiwuru
1SG PST come from DEF.INAN sea with 1SG-POSS dog

4. 'The wolf is bigger than the dog.'

i wuru lai kaw ko da i kiwuru
DEF wolf be more big than DEF dog

5. 'She is the most beautiful person in the city.'

a lai i kaw leia on nai ci payi'an
3SG be DEF more beautiful person in DEF.INAN city

6. 'They destroyed the village.'

ale lo raxavi ci pay
3PL PST destroy DEF.INAN village

7. 'I made her cry.'

i lo iloari-kai a
1SG PST cry-CAUS 3SG

8. 'I saw the bird, but I didn't look at it.'

i lo kana i kioto, ant i lan lo kanxi a
1SG PST see DEF bird but 1SG NEG PST look 3SG

9. 'Where do you live?'

o nivya maxa
2SG live where

10. 'Why didn't you come?'

o lan lo luran anxa
 2SG NEG PST come why

11. 'How many cats do you have?'

ta o xataw kor-i
 have 2SG how.many cat-PL

12. 'I can't sleep because I'm sad.'

i lan sa valia ema i lai drese
 1SG NEG can sleep because 1SG be sad

13. 'I know that you will come.'

i so xa o na luran
 1SG know that 2SG FUT come

14. 'The book that you wrote is beautiful.'

ci skin sa o lo sila lai leia
 DEF.INAN book REL 2SG PST write be beautiful

15. 'We need to talk.'

ilie mail kapa
 1PL need talk

16. 'They love each other.'

ale lau on-a-oni
 3PL love each.other

17. 'I have twenty-five dogs.'

ta i rasi6n-na kiwur-i
 have 1SG twenty-five dog-PL

New abbreviations: INDEF.PL na (some), CAUS -kai, REL sa. Sentence 6 is the active version; the passive is still being settled.

Round 3, checked:

1. 'The village was destroyed by the warriors.'

ci pay lo dei raxavi amb ni wakti
 DEF.INAN village PST PASS destroy by DEF.PL warrior

2. 'I was blinded.'

i lo dei fastixi
 1SG PST PASS blind

3. 'I bought two bottles and three books.'

i lo dail ra louba-nen ad ara skin-en
1SG PST buy two bottle-PL and three book-PL

4. 'The person who sings is my brother.'

i on sa yada lai i-de bana
DEF person REL sing be 1SG-POSS brother

5. 'You made me sad.'

o lo nia i drese
2SG PST make 1SG sad

6. 'The dog is big.' / 'I saw a big dog.'

i kiwuru lai ko-de
DEF dog be big-DE

i lo kana ia ko kiwuru
1SG PST see INDF big dog

7. 'Open the bottle!'

ov kiaw ci louba
IMP open DEF.INAN bottle

8. 'Let's not go.'

ov lan lua ilie
IMP NEG go 1PL

9. 'There's no water.'

lan lai anei
NEG be water

10. 'Before you came, I was sad.'

anta o lo luran, i lo lai drese
before 2SG PST come 1SG PST be sad

11. 'I did it for you.'

i lo vera ne on o
1SG PST do 3SG.INAN for 2SG

12. 'We talked about you.'

ilie lo kapa ewa o
1PL PST talk about 2SG

13. 'I'll wait until you come.'
 i na dalod nes o luran
 1SG FUT wait until 2SG come

14. 'She looked at herself.'
 a lo kanxi amon
 3SG PST look self

15. 'The cat's eyes are green.'
 i kora-de osil-i lai reiki-de
 DEF cat-POSS eye-PL be green-DE

New abbreviations: PASS dei, DEF.PL ni. Commands in the earlier rounds now use ov.

Open questions

- ☒ ~~Where does lan go next to an aspect particle? Sentence 6 has ale kiena lan lo eden, but the stated rule puts lan right after the subject.~~
- ☒ ~~Sentence 2: does i tefri lo lai eden mean "had eaten" or "had been eating"? How is the other one said?~~
- ☒ ~~Sentence 3 uses xar as the conjunction "when" at the start. Is xar the conjunction when the when clause comes first?~~
- ☒ ~~Sentence 9 (ta o lo ia kiwuru) has no me. Is me optional in yes/no questions?~~
- ☒ ~~Sentence 13 has a i kora, but the a/ad rule gives ad before a vowel.~~
- ☒ ~~-de on predicate adjectives: lai kide, lai lasode, but lai kili, lai kual. Inherent property vs passing state?~~
- ☒ ~~Articles: is the inanimate "a" an (Old án), even though an also means "to"? In the plural, does ni cover both "the" and "some", or is na still "some"?~~
- ☐ ~~Plural rule: does -i replace a final vowel (kiwuru → kiwuri) and get added after a consonant (osil → osili)? Do inanimate nouns pluralize the same way?~~
- ☒ ~~adar / idar or adari / idari (leave, arrive)?~~
- ☐ ~~Still unconfirmed from the first batch: the insults (pana, lande, viade), jos (blood) and kuner (knife).~~
- ☒ ~~Spacing in the master list: la la a, nivv a, t u' ali, talu v, tavne i, vantas i, xwit i wi.~~
- ☒ ~~Passive with dei: is it tense + dei + verb, with amb for the agent (ci pay lo dei raxavi amb ni wakti)?~~

- ☒ ~~Inanimate plural: when is it -ne and when -nen?~~
- ☒ ~~Relative clauses for people: sa, xaon, or both?~~