



Klingon Language Postal Course

A Sponsored Project of the Klingon Language Institute
P.O. Box 634, Flourtown, PA 19031 USA, <http://www.kli.org/>

Lesson 3

created by David Barron

To take the free Postal Course you need to study and answer the review-questions at the end, and then send them by e-mail to postal@kli.org, or by regular mail (along with a self-addressed stamped envelope) to:

Klingon Language Lessons
c/o Eric Andeen
2323 North Central Avenue, 1801
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Be certain you include sufficient postage to cover two ounces of materials. Your answers will be corrected and returned, and you can then move on to the next lesson.

The Klingon Language was developed by Marc Okrand for several *Star Trek* films and has continued to be used in each subsequent series. The Language is described fully in *The Klingon Dictionary* by Okrand and for purposes of these lessons it is assumed you already have a copy. If not, the dictionary may be purchased at your local bookstore or from the KLI itself by visiting our merchant page at <http://www.kli.org/>

Throughout this course references will be made to the dictionary by chapters and sections.

Example: (4,2.7) refers to chapter 4, section 2.7

For more information on the Klingon language:

The Klingon Language Institute publishes a quarterly journal, *HolQeD*, featuring articles on Klingon linguistics and culture. Annual membership includes a four issue subscription and costs \$15 in the U.S., \$18 in Canada, and \$21 to all other countries. All cheques should be in U.S. funds, made payable to KLI, and sent to the address at right. Or visit our merchant page at <http://www.kli.org/kli/Merchant.phtml> and join using your credit card.

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Review

SYNTAX

All Klingon sentences are written and spoken Object-Verb-Subject, quite the reverse of most English sentences.

NOUNS

Nouns have up to 5 suffixes that, when used, *always* occur in order (i.e., noun-1-2-3-4-5).

Suffix Type 1, size

- a' (augmentive)
- Hom (diminutive)

Suffix Type 2, plurals

- pu' (for beings)
- Du' (for body parts)
- mey (all other uses)

Suffix Type 4, possession

- wIj (my)
- Ilj (your)
- Daj (his, her, its)
- maj (our)
- raj (your pl.)
- chaj (their)

VERBS

Verbs sometimes have a prefix that indicates *both* the subject and object when they are pronouns like I, you, us, them, he, she, it, etc.

Prefixes:

| | subject | object | | subject | object |
|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|---------|------------|
| jI- | I | none | bI- | you | none |
| qa- | I | you | cho- | you | me |
| vI- | I | him/her/it | Da- | you | him/her/it |
| mu- | he/she/it | me | ma- | we | none |
| Du- | he/she/it | you | | | |

There are up to 9 suffixes, plus rovers, which like noun suffixes appear in order when used.

Suffix Type 1

-**egh** (oneself) -**chuq** (one another)

Rovers, by definition if not in fact, may appear anywhere in the sequence of a verb and its suffixes. They modify the verb, or suffix that they follow.

-**be'** (not) -**Ha'** (undo)

Lesson 3

NOUNS

Any Verb that takes the Suffix **-wI'** becomes a noun. The noun can be translated as "the thing/person who does this." (3, 2.2)

Examples:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Suv (v) <i>to fight</i> | SuvwI' (n) <i>fighter</i> |
| Qum (v) <i>to communicate</i> | QumwI' (n) <i>communicator</i> |
| So' (v) <i>to hide</i> | So'wI' (n) <i>cloaking device</i> |
| vut (v) <i>to cook</i> | vutwI' (n) <i>a cook</i> |

In lesson 2 we introduced you to the Type 4 possessive suffixes used with things that do *not* use language. Two additional Type 4 suffixes which indicate specification rather than possession are **-vam** which translates as "this/these" and **-vetlh** which translates as "that/those." (3,3.4)

Examples:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| puch (n) <i>toilet</i> | qoH (n) <i>fool</i> | Qapla' (n) <i>success</i> |
| -vetlh (4sfx) <i>that</i> | -pu' (2sfx) <i>plural</i> | -Hom (1sfx) <i>small</i> |
| puchvetlh <i>that toilet</i> | -vam (4sfx) <i>these</i> | -mey (2sfx) <i>plural</i> |
| | qoHpu'vam <i>these fools</i> | -vam (4sfx) <i>these</i> |
| | | Qapla'Hommevam <i>these minor successes</i> |

VERBS

More subject/object Verb prefixes.

| | subject | object | example |
|------------|---------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| pI- | we | you | pIqeS <i>we advise you</i> |
| wI- | we | him/her/it | wIInuQ <i>we annoy him</i> |

Examples: **SuvwI' wInuQ** *we annoy the fighter* **paq wIHaDnIS** *we need to study the book*

Bringing us to Verb Suffix Type 2, which describes the willingness or predisposition to perform an action.

-nIS (needs)

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Examples: | ma- (pfx) we/none | qa- (pfx) I/you |
| | ba' (v) sit | legH (v) see |
| | -nIS (2sfx) need | -nIS (2sfx) need |
| | maba'nIS <i>we need to sit</i> | -be' (Rsfx) not |
| | | qaleghnISbe' <i>I don't need to see you</i> |

-qang (is willing)

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Examples: | ji- (pfx) I/none | pi- (pfx) we/you |
| | Sap (v) volunteer | nep (v) lie |
| | -qang (2sfx) willing | -qang (2sfx) willing |
| | jiSapqang <i>I am willing to volunteer</i> | -be' (Rsfx) not |
| | | pinepqangbe' <i>we are not willing to lie to you</i> |

-vIp (is afraid)

Note: Using **-vIp** in reference to yourself, while grammatically correct, is considered a cultural taboo.

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Examples: | Du- (pfx) he/you | bi- (pfx) you/none |
| | legH (v) see | jatlH (v) speak |
| | -vIp (2sfx) afraid | -vIp (2sfx) afraid |
| | DuleghvIp <i>he is afraid to see you</i> | -be' (Rsfx) not |
| | | biJatlhvIpbe' <i>you are not afraid to speak</i> |

One Type 5 Suffixes indicates the ability to perform an action. **-laH** translates as can/able.

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Examples: | Doch (n) thing | Saj (n) pet |
| | -vam (4sfx) this | -Ilj (4sfx) your |
| | vi- (pfx) I/it | vi- (pfx) I/it |
| | je' (v) purchase | QaH (v) help |
| | -laH (5sfx) can | -laH (5sfx) can |
| | Dochvam vIje'laH <i>I can buy this</i> | SajIlj vIQaHlaH <i>I can help your pet</i> |

'a' is a Type 9 Suffix and indicates that the statement is a Yes or No question.

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Examples: | bi- (pfx) you/none | paq (n) book |
| | QaH (v) help | -vetlH (4sfx) that/those |
| | -qang (2sfx) willing | bi- (pfx) you/none |
| | -'a' (9sfx) interrogative | ghaj (v) own |
| | biQaHqang'a' <i>Are you willing to help?</i> | -'a' (9sfx) interrogative |
| | | paqveth bIghaj'a' <i>Do you own that book?</i> |

To such questions you would respond by saying:

ghobe' no **HISlaH** yes **HIja'** yes

PRONOUNS

Pronouns will be introduced more fully in Lesson 6, but one pronoun, 'e', is particularly valuable to introduce here. 'e' is commonly (but not exclusively) used with the verbs "to know" and "to see" (6,2.5) and refers to the preceding phrase to create complex sentences. Thus:

paqmeyvam DIHaD 'e' DaSov *You know we study these books*

is actually two separate sentences:

paqmeyvam DIHaD *We study these books*

DaSov *You know it*

Examples: **bIlengbe'** *You don't travel* **'e' vIyaj** *I understand it (this)*
bIlengbe' 'e' vIyaj *I understand that you don't travel*

mu'tay' (VOCABULARY)

This is a list of all of the words that have been used up to this point as well as the words that will be used in the Question and Answer section. Practice saying all of your vocabulary words aloud.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| HISlaH yes | HIja' yes | ghobe' no |
| puch toilet (n) | Sov know (v) | Qub think (v) |
| qoH fool (n) | SaH care for/about (v) | qet run (v) |
| Qapla' success (n) | toj trick (v) | leng travel (v) |
| paq book (n) | nuQ annoy (v) | HaD study (v) |
| pa' there, thereabouts (n) | je' buy, purchase (v) | Sap volunteer (v) |
| nej seek, look for (v) | | |

LESSON 3 - QUESTIONS

Answer these questions on a separate piece of paper and send it with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Your answers will be corrected and returned with Lesson 4.

TRANSLATE INTO ENGLISH

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) bIqIp'eghnIS'a' | 7) tlhIngan Hol Dajatlh'a' |
| 2) munuQbe' Qapla'Ilij | 8) tlhIngan Hol vIjatlhlaH |
| 3) puch Danejqang'a' | 9) mu'meyvam DaghItlhlaH'a' |
| 4) DuleghvIp | 10) DuQaHlaH paqvam |
| 5) nuQ'a' 'oy'meychaj | 11) bInep 'e' vISov |
| 6) DuQaHlaH paqHomvam | |

TRANSLATE INTO KLINGON

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 12) I'm not sleeping. | 18) You're not helping our farm. |
| 12) Do you accept my words? | 17) I can't buy those shoes. |
| 13) Can you annoy this trickster? | 18) We are willing to serve you food. |
| 14) I do not trust your chronometer. | 19) These fools have no injuries |
| 15) He isn't willing to visit me. | 20) I want you to sleep. |
| 16) Are they afraid to ask me? | 21) I'm not sleeping. |