

Shalti Grammar

Pronunciation

The order is based on how they are conceptualized in the language rather than the English alphabet.

Letter (Romanization)	Pronunciation (IPA)	Example (Shalti)	Translation
a	/a/	ka	a/the
o	/o/	ko	a/the
e	/e:/ when stressed /ɛ/ when unstressed	kelo (stressed) ke (unstressed)	I have a/the
i	/i/	ki	a/the
u	/u/	luma	night
k	/k ^h /	kalos	fire
t	/t ^h /	tanta	easy
p	/p ^h /	polsha	hot
s	/s/	safa	clean
sh	/ʃ/	shantos	light
m	/m/	malasna	orange
n	/n/	nani	right now
l	/l/	loshta	location/place
r	/ɹ/ syllable final /r/ syllable initial /ɽ/ for emphasis	shalar rusha karsara	to speak four Please stop!
ch	/tʃ/	chalka	ground
x	/x/	huxta	smoke/vapour
g	/g/	ganar	to want
d	/d/	do	no
b	/b/	bursa	sour
z	/z/	fazor	to dry off

zh	/ʒ/	zhanti	person
j	/dʒ/	jarsa	loud

Nouns

Shalti has four grammatical genders of nouns:

1. Atemporal (Atp) – denoted by article “ke,” used for concepts (e.g. honour, desire, adulthood)
2. Radial (Rdl) – denoted by article “ki,” used for people (e.g. person, king, father)
3. Segmental (Seg) – denoted by article “ka,” used generally for countable things (e.g. cup, cloud, land)
4. Cyclical (Cyc) – denoted by article “ko,” used generally for uncountable things (e.g. water, air, light)

Shalti has six grammatical cases:

1. Nominative (NOM) – used to denote the subject
2. Accusative (ACC) – used to denote the object
3. Dative (DAT) – used to denote the indirect object
4. Genitive (GEN) – used for possessives
5. Instrumental (INS) – used for the means of an action
6. Comitative (COM) – used for what accompanies the subject

Nouns have three numbers:

1. Singular (SG) – as shown in dictionary and tables below
2. Dual (DL) – as singular plus suffix -tu
3. Plural (PL) – as singular plus suffix -n
 - a. E.g. mi = I, mitu = we (2 of us), min = we (more than 2)

Grammatical gender, case and number is shown in the article for each noun and agrees with any adjectives in the sentence. Pronouns also show gender, case and number.

The following table shows the singular forms of the article:

	Seg	Cyc	Rdl	Atp
Nom	ka	ko	ki	ke
Acc	i	in	inu	ie
Dat	ika	iko	iku	ike
Gen	sa	so	si	se
Ins	kala	kolo	kili	kele
Com	sala	solo	sili	sele

The following table shows all the singular forms of the determiner “na” meaning “this”

	Seg	Cyc	Rdl	Atp
Nom	na	no	ni	ne
Acc	nai	noi	ninu	naie
Dat	nika	niko	niku	nike
Gen	nasa	naso	nasi	nase
Ins	nala	nolo	nili	nele
Com	nasala	nasolo	nasili	nasele

The following table shows all the singular forms of the determiner “oka” meaning “that”

	Seg	Cyc	Rdl	Atp
Nom	oka	oko	oki	oke
Acc	oi	oin	oinu	oie
Dat	oika	oiko	oiku	oike
Gen	osa	oso	osi	ose
Ins	okala	okolo	okili	okele
Com	osala	osolo	osili	osele

The following table shows the singular forms of pronouns:

	1st Person	2nd Person	3rd Seg	3rd Cyc	3rd Rdl	3rd Atp	Refers to God
Nom	mi	vi	kacha	kocha	kizha	keze	le
Acc	minu	vinu	icha	incha	inuzha	ieze	lie
Dat	miku	viku	ikacha	ikocha	ikuzha	ikeze	like
Gen	misi	visi	sacha	socha	sizha	seze	lese
Ins	mili	vili	kalacha	kolocha	kilizha	keleze	lele
Com	misu	visu	salacha	solocha	silizha	seleze	lesu

The following table summarizes the possessive pronouns in first person singular:

	Seg	Cyc	Rdl	Atp
Nom	ma	mo	mi	me
Acc	mai	moi	minu	maie
Dat	mika	miko	miku	mike
Gen	masa	maso	masi	mase
Ins	mala	molo	mili	mele
Com	masala	masolo	masili	masele

The other forms of the possessive pronoun in the Nominative case are given below:

	Singular	Dual	Plural
First person	ma	matu	man
Second person	va	vatu	van
Third person	sha	shatu	shan
Refers to God	lea	leatu	lean

Several other words follow the same pattern except replace 'ma' with the word given. These are as follows:

- mana - many (countable)
- palsa - a few (countable)
- shomena - all, total, whole, entire
- vea - other
- shomala - a lot (not countable)
- domena - some
- dokan - not much, a bit
- va - your
- sha - its
- la - God's
- ma - my (shown above)
- na - this (shown above)
- oka - that (shown above)

Adjectives

Adjectives change ending to agree with the noun they modify. They are listed in the dictionary with the nominative singular segmental ending "-a" but this is replaced for the ending which matches the article on the noun. Adjectives come after the noun they modify. For example:

- Ka leshintā = drink-NOM.SG = A drink
- Ka leshintā kalshā = drink-NOM.SG cold-NOM.SG = A cold drink
- Lokunasal mi i leshintā = have I-NOM.SG drink-ACC.SG = I have a drink.
- Lokunasal mi i leshintā kalshi = have I-NOM.SG drink-ACC.SG cold-ACC.SG = I have a cold drink.

Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases in Shalti are constructed using a preposition denoting proximity, a specific case for the object of the preposition, and a possible adverbial giving more detail about the position of one object with respect to another. Cases are used as follows:

- Dative - movement towards or away from something
- Genitive - state or stationary
- Comitative - movement among or between
- Instrumental - movement into, out of, or inside of

The following examples illustrate this process:

- Shatapalisal mi o ika lielma natu.
 - go I-NOM to home-DAT towards
 - I'm going home.
-
- Loliotisal mi o sa ker chumansa.
 - live I-NOM by tree-GEN large-GEN.
 - I live by the large tree.

Mode Marking

The purpose or mode of speaking of a sentence in Shalti is marked by a prefix on the first verb. Different modes have different possible tenses and conjugation patterns. The modes may be combined to create complex modes. For example, Inquiry is often combined with Wish/Desire to ask about someone's preferences.

Name	Prefix	Meaning
Plans/Deeds/Doings (PD)	Sha-	Communicates actions intended for the future (plans), done in the past (deeds) and currently in progress (doings). The focus is on the action, who did it, and when. This mode has a very rich array of time and manner specification.
Concepts/Facts (CF)	Lo-	Communicates statements of fact and more general statements than Plans/Deeds/Doings.
Narrative Action (NA)	Panli- Pa- Palipa-	Both forms of narration are used to convey a story or longer description of events. The active form is used for actions that took place in the story, while the descriptive form is used to give background information (including actions that happened before the active narrative), and descriptive details about the scene. The active form is analogous to Plans/Deeds/Doings while the descriptive form is analogous to Concepts/Facts. The first version (Panli-/Elago-) is used the first time the mode changes and the short version (Pa-/Go-) is used after that. The last sentence is signaled by either palipa- or golago-
Narrative Description (ND)	Elago- Go- Golago-	(see above)
Reaction/Acknowledgement (RA)	Zhe-/Do-/Ale-	Used to convey a reaction to a situation/comment/event/etc. The focus here is on the attitude of the speaker toward the information. Zhe- is used for an affirmative reaction (as in saying yes), do- is used for a negative reaction (as in saying no), and ale- is used for a reaction of gratitude (as in saying thanks).

Request (RQ)	Ra-	Used to make a request. Depending on the direction of hierarchy, this form can convey commands or appeals. The focus is on communicating the desire of the speaker for the listener to do something.
Instruction (IT)	Nu-	Used to give explanations about how something is to be done.
Inquiry (IQ)	Ka-	Used to inquire after information.
Wish/Desire (WD)	So-	Used to express a desire to do something or for something to happen.
Moral Obligation (MO)	Ele-	Used to express a moral obligation to some action
Other Obligation (OB)	Zha-	Used to express a need or obligation to some action that is not strictly moral.
Suggestion/Proposal (SP)	La-	Used similar to “let’s” in English. Proposes a possible course of action.
Permission (PM)	Ma-/Doma-	Grants (ma-) or denies (doma-) permission to a course of action.
Possibility (PS)	Ha-	Communicates facts that may or may not be true or things that may or may not happen. Focus is on uncertainty regarding the facts or actions or on multiple possibilities.
Conditional Scenarios (CS)	Xa-	Communicates action that depends on something else, whether known or not. Used for if...then or would...if type sentences
Warning (WR)	Jar-	Conveys a word of caution or information related to safety or a threat.

Verbs

Shalti verbs are not conjugated by the person and number but instead by the relationship between the speaker and the addressee. This relationship is understood along two factors: inclusion and hierarchy. Some forms of inclusion correspond to the case the addressee is in in the sentence. The inclusion/hierarchy relationship is shown by a suffix that replaces the -ir, -or or -ar ending on the verb. The following table shows all the suffixes:

Inclusion	Hierarchy			
	Upwards (U)	Downwards (D)	Level (L)	Unknown (O)
Addressee is the subject (NOM) (S)	-vien	-viu	-vian	-visal
Addressee is the instrument (INST) (I)	-vilen	-vilu	-vilan	-vilsal
Addressee is comitative (COM) (C)	-visen	-visu	-visan	-vissal
Addressee not included (E)	-en	-u	-a	-isal
Written word/Unknown audience (W)	-aen	-au	-an	-asal

Examples:

- Shachomasal tashefata mi i poma.
- PD.to eat.WO F.RSW.SN (today and finished) I-NOM tomato-ACC
- I ate a tomato (today and finished it).

Negation

The prefix 'do-' can be added to the start of the dictionary form of a verb to create the negative form. For example:

- kistar = to know (facts, ideas)
- dokistar = to not know, be ignorant of (facts, ideas)

Irregular Verbs

The verb 'lor' meaning 'to be' is irregular. When combined with the prefix 'lo-' for concepts/facts, the 'lo' is not repeated, and the '-or' is retained. For example:

- Lorasal ki toshani kalshii.
- CF.to be.WO man-NOM old-NOM
- The man is old.

When combined with other prefixes, the 'lo' is maintained. For example:

- Kalorisa ka malani ka marcho?
- IQ.to be.EO animal-NOM dog-NOM
- Is the animal a dog?

Auxiliary Verbs

Elements of tense and manner in Shalti are expressed using an auxiliary verb that comes after the main verb. This only appears in the modes which allow for extra detail in tense and manner such as Plans/Deeds/Doings and Narrative/Action. There are three components to the auxiliary verb: Completion, Time, and Frequency.

The following table shows all the forms of Completion. The vowel is included in the prefix if the base word for Time starts with a consonant to prevent doubling consonants.

Name	Meaning	Shalti Word	Grammatical Form
Beginning (B)	Focus on the start of an action. It may or may not still be true.	masar	m(a)-
Existence (E)	Action is unfinished, in progress or just is. The focus is on the fact something happened or is true rather than when it took place or if it is still the case.	lor dodar	l(o)- dod(a)-

Interrupted (I)	The action was stopped but is expected to continue again.	atar	at(a)-
Ceased (C)	The action has ended and is not expected to resume.	karsir	k(a)-
Finished (F)	The action has resolved and completed and is not expected to resume.	tasir	t(a)-

Time is expressed using a word at the core of the auxiliary verb. It has two sets: one for segmental nouns and the other for radial nouns. The time is referenced with respect to the subject of the sentence, i.e. the noun in the nominative case. The following table shows the times and forms:

Segmental Time	Segmental Shalti Word	Radial Time	Radial Shalti Word
Pre-existent (SPE)	udur	Pre-existent (RPE)	orde
Past (SP)	ama	Before Today (RBT)	igan
Now (SN)	na	Since Waking (RSW)	shefa
Future (SF)	fera	Now (RN)	ni
Post-existent (SPE)	adus	Before Sleeping (RBS)	afa
		After Today (RAT)	intos
		After Death (RAD)	artus
		Immortality (RI)	artie

Finally, the Frequency of an action is expressed with a suffix on the auxiliary verb. The forms are as follows:

Frequency	Meaning	Grammatical Form
State (S)	Used with static verbs or to emphasize actions in progress	-ee
Segmental Normal (SN)	Focus on a single instance of an event	-ta
Segmental Rare (SR)	Focus on a single instance that was surprising or unusual	-zha
Repeated Regular (RR)	Focus on the entire set of an activity that	-CV Reduplicated first

	happened repeatedly in a regular way (in the past tense this corresponds to the English “used to”)	consonant and vowel from the time word (e.g. adus→ du)
Repeated Irregular (RI)	Focus on the entire set of an activity that happened more than once but not as a regular habit or practice	-mata

The auxiliary verb is compiled with a prefix, time element and suffix as in the following examples:

- Existence + Segmental Past + Segmental Normal → I(a)- + ama + -ta → lamata
- This refers to a single event that happened in the past as in the following sentence:
- Shachomasal lamata ki lado i poma.
- PD.eat.WO E.SP.SN RAD.3SG.NOM youth SEG.3SG.ACC tomato
- The youth ate the tomato.

The following tables show all the forms of the segmental past (ama) and the segmental present (na). Note that the final vowel in the time word can be dropped.

Segmental Past	State	Segmental Normal	Segmental Rare	Repeated Regular	Repeated Irregular
Beginning	mamee	mamata	mamazha	mamama	mamamata
Existence	lamee	lamata	lamazha	lamama	lamamata
Interrupted	atamee	atamata	atamazha	atamama	atamamata
Ceased	kamee	kamata	kamazha	kamama	kamamata
Finished	tamee	tamata	tamazha	tamama	tamamata

Segmental Present	State	Segmental Normal	Segmental Rare	Repeated Regular	Repeated Irregular
Beginning	manee	manata	manazha	manana	manamata
Existence	lonee	lonata	lonazha	lonana	lonamata
Interrupted	ataneer	atanata	atanazha	atanana	atanamata
Ceased	kanee	kanata	kanazha	kanana	kanamata
Finished	tanee	tanata	tanazha	tanana	tanamata

Syntax

- Shalti generally follows VSO (verb, subject, object) word order, though the case endings allow for some flexibility
- Adjectives follow the nouns they modify

Some verbs follow a particular pattern with how their arguments are laid out. These are as follows:

- Lor - irregular verb 'to be'
 - [prefix]lor[suffix] [noun A]-NOM [noun B]-NOM
 - This format is interpreted to mean "noun A is noun B"
- Sasar - verb 'to name, call something'
 - [prefix]sas[suffix] [noun A]-NOM [noun B]-NOM
 - This format is interpreted to mean "noun A is called noun B" or "noun B is the name of noun A"
- Kenor - verb 'to be a member of or belong to a group'
 - [prefix]ken[suffix] [noun A]-NOM [noun B]-GEN
 - This format is interpreted to mean "noun A is a member of noun B"