

Influences from Spanish, Yucatan Maya, Hawaiian, Maori, and Russian

Phonetic Inventory/Dictionary Spreadsheets

- Note about IPA versus Phonetic pronunciation: IPA is **far** more accurate, and I would suggest becoming familiar with the sounds. Some of the more foreign sounds aren't able to be accurately transcribed into familiar English sounds.

Various Notes

- Doubling a consonant or vowel at the end of a word forms the plural. Most doubled consonants take on an ejective quality, which means that they sound sharper or more enunciated. ([Explained better here, with voice samples to show how consonants are affected.](#)) Ejection is marked with an apostrophe in the IPA, like this: /k'/. Doubled vowels and nasals (m and n) are lengthened. A doubled r is trilled, as in Spanish.
- In the case of doubled blends (sh, shl, th), or in already-doubled consonants (as in *rass*, *sun*), the suffix -ikk is added.
- If a vowel is already lengthened, as in collective nouns, (-pij) -kk is added.
- Unstressed A's and E's (such as the A in A'vii) are shifted to /ə/ in the majority of dialects.
- When a syllable ending in D is put together with a syllable starting with K, D shifts to T. *Fajd + kat* → *fajtkat*.
- When a Z comes before an H, they combine to make J. *Maz + ha* → *maja*
- If a fricative comes before another fricative, the first one is deleted. *Hheth + 'jje* → *hhe'jje*.
- **Acceptable diphthongs:** *ua, ja, óa, óu, uj, aj, ej*

Diacritics and Similar Marks

- If-Thrikk only has one diacritic: a dot '. The dot is only used for vowels, and indicates an alternate form of the vowel. For example, If-Thrikk "a" is the sound used in father, but "ä" sounds like the A in cat.
- The hyphen and apostrophe are both glottal stops. (The short pause in "uh-oh.") The apostrophe is used as a letter in its own right, but the hyphen is used to mean "of the, or just of." Apostrophes usually mean that the syllable following them is stressed.
- In proper nouns, apostrophes take the place of spaces. *Vj k rua* becomes a place name when spelled *Vj'Krua*.

Sentence Structure

- [Possessive case](#) (John's) is marked with the hyphen, and the object being possessed comes before the thing possessing it. So, *his foot* would be *kua-ne*. If saying something like *his many feet*, you use the apostrophe to delete the space between *many* and *feet*: *kuaa'pa-ne*.

- Ordinal numbers are expressed by using the possessive as well. *First man* would literally be translated as *man of one*, but written in If-Thrikk as *om'nur-du*.
- Word order is SVO, or subject-verb-object.
- Copula dropping (deleting "be" from a sentence) is utilized in the present tense. "He is a man" translates to simply "Ne om'nur," or "he man."
- You do not drop the copula in genitive form. (To be).
- Pronouns are also dropped, (except when dropping the copula) due to every verb having a unique conjugation. (Unlike French, where *chanter* is conjugated as *chante* for both *je* and *il*.) So, instead of saying *I breathe*, *ja ariha*, you could simply say *ariha*, and the *ja* would be implied.
- The proper pronoun *Ma*, used for holy beings, is not dropped, and it's considered irreverent to do so.

Noun Cases

- Prefixed to the noun
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- **Dative/Lative:** *va**. *Hhethalu vana*. (He went **to** her.) // *Krixlu a vaja*. (He gave breath **to** me.) // *Krixlu vaja a*. (He gave (**to**) me breath.)
- **Instrumental:** *kò**. *Hhethalu kôna*. (He went **with** her.) // *Klajlu ke'gaan kôke*. (He created a sail **out of** cloth.) // *Ôx nazu kôKejsj*. (It was written **by** Casey.)
- **Vocative:** *jje**. (**O** God, my strength!) // *Aa, jjeNi'tré*. (Oh, **Ms.** Ni'tré.) // "Jjetik, hheth'jje!" ("You, go!")
- **Ablative:** *if**. *If'Nitré, nuan na?* (**Speaking of** Ni'tré, where is she?) // *Te if'gaan, etahu te zepp va ôxe*. (**Concerning** the ocean, I hate the fish in it.)

Verb Moods

- **Interrogative** is formed by raising the intonation of your voice at the end of a sentence, as in English and many other languages. It also can change the future tense a bit. *E hhethkôa* simply means "she will go," but adding a question mark changes it to "will she go?" Questions, then, are not answered by yes and no, but by repeating the verb in confirmation. "*Hhethé?*" "*Hhethu.*" ("Are you going?" "I go.")
- **Causative** is formed by the prefix *ya**. So *zeda*, to know, becomes *yazeda*, to teach. (Or, more accurately, to cause to know.)
- **Imperative** is formed by a special set of tenses, all involving 'jj.

Articles

- There are only definite articles, no *a/an* or *un/une* equivalent. So, a literal interpretation of *ôth lôkelu*, or *a woman walked*, would be *woman walked*. **Te** and **ta** are used when specifics are needed. Plurals are formed as usual.

Adjectives/Adverbs

- Adjectives must agree with number and gender. A proper If-Thrikk speaker would never say *ôthikk nik*. *Ôthikk nikôô* is correct.
- Both come after the noun or verb being described.
- Comparative is formed by repeating the/part of the first syllable of an adjective. "Than they are/it is" is implied. *Fer - good* → *Fefer - better*
- Superlative is formed by repeating the/part of the last syllable of an adjective. *Fer - good* → *Ferer - best*

Verbs

- Partial reduplication intensifies the verb. The first syllable, minus the ending consonant, is affixed to the beginning of the word. (*Saha - to hate* vs. *sasaha - to despise*.)
- No perfect, only perfect continuous. Perfect tense is covered by perfect continuous. (Have known → have been knowing.)
- Negative is formed by adding *bon* directly after the verb. *Arikôu bon xa*, (they) breathe not air, *they don't breathe air*.
- Optative mood! Vereku → I wish to be
- Ablative mood! → formed like

Prepositions

- Prepositions are located after the verb, but before the object.

Numbers

- Twenty, thirty, etc. are expressed as *ten of twos*, *ten of threes*, etc. So, they're *kj-tuaa*, *kj-ekk*, and so on.
- Twenty three would be expressed *ten of twos three*. An apostrophe is added to make it a singular number, *kj-tuaa'ek*.
- Any number after one hundred is simply *papa*, a huge amount. *Papaa-zepp* is an uncountable amount of fish. For record-keeping purposes, a tally-like system is in place. Once the person counting hits a hundred, they start over. *Pzippa'tua* isn't two hundred, it's two hundreds, similar to how we say two fives when talking about money.

Gender

- Masculine and feminine
- Feminine nouns end in most vowels and fricatives (*φ, φ', β, v, v', θ, s, z, z', j, h, h;* or *f, ff, ss, v, vv, th, s, z, zz, x, h, hh*).
- Masculine nouns end in all other consonants, E, and U.
- Feminine nouns ending in the plural suffix *-ikk* are still feminine
- Nouns' alternate gendered forms are only used when referring to a specific person. When referring to a hero in general, you would use *ferkat*. If referring to a specific female hero, then you would use *ferka*.

Example Sentences/Phrases

- **Vavarị te gaan, tame zepp pa.** *Under the sea, there are many fish. LIT: Under the sea, there fish many.*
- **Pòkat memrịn, dòn Rrịra'ja mememrịn.** *Pòkat is mature, but Rrịra'ja is more mature (than he is). LIT: Pòkat mature, but Rrịra'ja more mature (than he is).*

If-Thrikk Fun Facts

- The word for question, *hehu*, comes from the verb endings used most often when asking questions.
- The very first If-Thrikk sentence was **Sahu lòkeha.** *I hate to walk.*