

The Language of Ônkhemish

Natively known as: ônkhem /ɒn'xem/

...and he stood holding his hat and turned his wet face to the wind...

um tso kyômb mung tso noi um ũmb tso înum nga pipo ngîn

Pronunciation: /um tso kʲɔᵐᵇ muŋ tso no'i um ɯᵐᵇ tso ɐ'num ŋa pi'po ŋɛn/

Ônkhemish word order: and he stood holding his hat and turned his wet face the wind
to

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Spelling & Phonology

Consonant inventory: f j k m n p s t w x ŋ ɬ ʃ ʔ ᵐᵇ ŋᵍ ᵐᵈ

[Click IPA symbols for audio](#)

↓Manner/Place→	Bilabial	Labiodental	Alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m		n			ŋ	
Stop	p ᵐᵇ		t ᵐᵈ			k ŋᵍ	ʔ
Fricative		f	s	ʃ		x	

Approximant					j		
Lateral fricative			ɬ				

Co-articulated phonemes

↓ Manner/Place →	Labial- velar
Approximant	w

Vowel inventory: a e i o u æ ɒ ʊ θ ʈ

	Front	Central	Back
High	i	ʈ	ʊ u
High-mid	e	θ	o
Near-low	æ		

Low	a		ɒ
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Syllable structure: (C)(C)V(C) ?

Stress pattern: Second — stress is on the second syllable ?

Word initial consonants: j k kj kn kf m n p pj s sn tj ts w x ɲ ʈ ʃ ʃn ^mb ɳg ⁿd

Mid-word consonants: f fj fk fn ft fw j jj jn jt jʃ jʔ k kf kk ks m mj mk ms mt mw mʃ mʔ n
nf nm nx p pk pn px s sf sm ss sx t tf tm tn tp ts tw tʃ w wk wm ws x xf xk xn xt xw ɳ ɳf
ɳm ɳp ɳs ɳt ɳx ʈ ʈw ʃ ʃn ʃx ʔ ʔm ^mb ɳg ⁿd

Word final consonants: f m n t x ɲ ʈ ʃ ^mb ɳg ⁿd

Spelling rules:

Pronunciation	Spelling
ⁿ d	nd
ɳg	ng
^m b	mb
ʔ	‘
ɒ	ô

ø	î
u	û
u	ǔ
j	y
x	kh
ŋ	ng
ʃ	sh
ł	l

Grammar

Main word order: Subject Verb Object (Prepositional phrase). “Mary opened the door with a key” turns into Mary opened the door with a key.

Adjective order: Adjectives are positioned before the noun.

Adposition: postpositions ?

Nouns

	Singular	Plural
Definite	If starts with vowel: Prefix ɫ- Else: Prefix ɭw- lũtyæsh /ɭw' tʃæʃ/ <i>the dog</i>	If starts with vowel: Prefix x- Else: Prefix xi- khityæsh /xi' tʃæʃ/ <i>the dogs</i>
Indefinite	Prefix o- otyæsh /o' tʃæʃ/ <i>a dog</i>	No affix tyæsh /tʃæʃ/ <i>some dogs</i>

Articles

Ônkhemish encodes definite article ‘the’, and indefinite article ‘a’ in noun affixes. See Noun section.

Pronouns

1st singular	u /u/ <i>I, me, mine</i>
2nd singular	se /se/ <i>you, yours</i>
3rd singular masc	tso /tso/ <i>he, him, his, it, its</i>
3rd singular fem	î /ø/ <i>she, her, hers, it, its</i>
1st plural	su /su/ <i>we, us, ours</i>
2nd plural	wæ /wæ/ <i>you all, yours (pl)</i>

3rd plural	shang /ʃaŋg/ <i>they, them, theirs</i>
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Possessive determiners

1st singular	u /u/ <i>my</i>
2nd singular	se /se/ <i>your</i>
3rd singular masc	tso /tso/ <i>his</i>
3rd singular fem	î /e/ <i>her</i>
1st plural	su /su/

	<i>our</i>
2nd plural	wæ /wæ/ <i>your (pl)</i>
3rd plural	shang /ʃaŋg/ <i>their</i>

Verbs

	Present	Past
1st singular	Prefix kʃi- kshingûm /kʃi'ŋgum/ <i>(I) learn</i>	Prefix u- ŭngûm /u'ŋgum/ <i>(I) learned</i>

2nd singular	Prefix ʔgə- ngîngûm /ʔgə'ʔgum/ <i>(you) learn</i>	If starts with vowel: Prefix ʃn- Else: Prefix ʃnə- shnîngûm /ʃnə'ʔgum/ <i>(you) learned</i>
3rd singular	If starts with vowel: Prefix ⁿd- Else: Prefix ⁿda- ndangûm /ⁿda'ʔgum/ <i>(he/she/it) learns</i>	If starts with vowel: Prefix m- Else: Prefix me- mengûm /me'ʔgum/ <i>(he/she/it) learned</i>
1st plural	If starts with vowel: Prefix m- Else: Prefix mo- mongûm /mo'ʔgum/	Prefix ju- yungûm /ju'ʔgum/ <i>(we) learned</i>

	<i>(we) learn</i>	
2nd plural	If starts with vowel: Prefix m- Else: Prefix mi- mingûm /mi'ŋgum/ <i>(you all) learn</i>	Prefix tjæ- tyængûm /tjæ'ŋgum/ <i>(you all) learned</i>
3rd plural	If starts with vowel: Prefix ŋn- Else: Prefix ŋna- shnangûm /ŋna'ŋgum/ <i>(they) learn</i>	Prefix o- ongûm /o'ŋgum/ <i>(they) learned</i>

Ônkhemish uses a standalone particle word for future tense:

Future	Particle before the verb: knu - knũ ngũm /knu 'gũm/ <i>will learn</i>
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Progressive aspect

The 'progressive' aspect refers to actions that are happening at the time of speaking, such as *I am learning*.

Ônkhemish uses an affix for progressive:

Progressive	Prefix i- ingũm /i 'gũm/ <i>is learning</i>
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Habitual aspect

The 'habitual' aspect refers to actions that happen habitually, such as *I learn (something new every day)*, as opposed to actions that happen once (*I learned something*).

Ônkhemish uses a standalone particle word for habitual:

Habitual	Particle before the verb: we - we ngûm /we ˈgum/ <i>learns</i>
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Numbers

Ônkhemish has a base-10 number system:

1 - no

2 - snǔ

3 - ũtu

4 - ndo

5 - ngôm

6 - sa

7 - wî

8 - kshæ

9 - o

10 - tsund

11 - tsundno “ten-one”

100 - no mba “one hundred”

101 - no mba no “one hundred one”

200 - snǔ mba

1000 - no lǔn “one thousand”

Derivational morphology

Adjective → **adverb** = Prefix u-

Adjective → **noun (the quality of being [adj])** = Prefix pi-

Adjective → verb (to make something [adj]) = If starts with vowel: Prefix ɪ-

Else: Prefix ɪo-

Noun → adjective (having the quality of [noun]) = If starts with vowel: Prefix p-

Else: Prefix pʌ-

Noun → adjective relating to noun (e.g. economy → economic) = If starts with vowel:
Prefix k-

Else: Prefix ko-

Noun to verb = If starts with vowel: Prefix s-

Else: Prefix sɒ-

Verb → adjective (result of doing [verb]) = If starts with vowel: Prefix j-

Else: Prefix jə-

Tending to = Prefix a-

Verb → noun (the act of [verb]) = Prefix i-

Verb → noun that verb produces (e.g. know → knowledge) = Prefix ɒ-

One who [verb]s (e.g. paint → painter) = If starts with vowel: Prefix ts-

Else: Prefix tsu-

Place of (e.g. wine → winery) = Prefix æ-

Diminutive = Prefix a-

Augmentative = Prefix a-

Ônkhemish - English Dictionary

Key: spelling /pronunciation/ part of speech. definition(s)

adj. adjective | adv. adverb | art. article | conj. conjunction | det. determiner | interj. interjection | n. noun | num. numeral | prep. preposition | pron. pronoun | v. verb

- a /a/ conj. that
- æl /æɫ/ n. conviction
- æu /æ'u/ v. sneeze
- aksim /ak'sim/ v. reflect
- anosh /a'noʃ/ n. crown
- atyæsh /a'tjæʃ/ n. puppy
- e /e/ n. office
- emomso /e'momso/ n. ray, radius
- eytæn /ej'tæn/ adj. cool (fashionable), casual
- ikh /ix/ v. freeze
- ikshî /ik'ʃə/ n. action
- im /im/ n. world
- înael /ə'næɫ/ v. drown, suffocate
- îng /əŋg/ n. axe
- inông /i'nɒŋ/ n. thought
- ipôm /i'pɒm/ adv. somewhere
- ishush /i'ʃuʃ/ n. defense
- iukh /i'ux/ n. movement, motion
- ka /ka/ prep. of
- kam /kam/ n. night
- ke /ke/ adv. how
- kha /xa/ n. god
- khand /xaⁿd/ n. map
- khemb /xe^mb/ n. theater, arena

- khî /xə/ det. every, each
- khôkang /xɒ'kaŋ/ v. regret, lament
- khôn /xɒn/ v. print
- khũ /xu/ adv. back
- khũl /xuɫ/ n. lens
- khung /xuŋ/ n. frame
- ki /ki/ interj. okay
- kîmb /kə^mb/ n. property
- kiwa /ki'wa/ n. tin
- knang /knaŋ/ n. jaw
- knind /kniⁿd/ adj. stubborn
- knu /knu/ v. would
- knũmb /knũ^mb/ n. horse
- knüt /knut/ n. copper, bronze
- kôkh /kɒx/ n. shore, beach
- kombû /ko'^mbũ/ n. mint
- konguf /ko'ⁿguf/ adj. industrial
- koyæwo /ko'jæwo/ adj. cultural
- kshi /kʃi/ n. sky, darling
- kshô /kʃɒ/ adj. right, correct, valid, moral, appropriate
- kshũkh /kʃux/ adv. tomorrow
- kû /kũ/ n. school
- kûkhkôpô /kux'kɒpɒ/ adj. wide, broad
- kum'ô /kum'ʔo/ v. change, vary
- kũnkhî /kun'xə/ n. spoon
- kyakh /kjax/ n. file, folder
- kyeng /kjeŋ/ v. miss (long for)
- kyo /kjo/ n. list, menu
- kyôskha /kjɒs'xa/ n. support
- kyũm /kjum/ n. ear
- læl /læl/ adj. silent
- lasi /la'si/ adj. wrong
- lem /lem/ v. win
- liyya /li'jja/ n. forefather

- lômb /lɒ^mb/ n. fan (enthusiast)
- lopyen /lɒ'pjɛn/ v. complicate
- luksɪ /lʊk'si/ v. lay, fuck
- lũng /lʊŋ/ prep. by (agent performing an action), by (using the means of)
- mæng /mæŋ/ n. sponge
- mamb /ma^mb/ v. live, survive
- mash /maʃ/ n. poem, lyrics
- mbæ /^mbæ/ adj. big, large, huge
- mbakæ /^mba'kæ/ adj. crazy, insane
- mbe /^mbe/ n. research
- mbiytûng /^mbij'tuŋ/ n. vision
- mbotwũ /^mbo'twu/ n. year
- mbun /^mbun/ n. neck, throat
- mbût /^mbʊt/ v. face
- mîm /mɛm/ n. interest
- mise /mi'se/ v. rate
- mofyi /mo'fji/ n. skull
- mokfe /mok'fe/ v. catch
- mômkũ /mɔm'ku/ n. expression
- môskho /mɔs'xo/ adj. bad
- mukhka /mux'ka/ v. masturbate
- mumbe /mu'^mbe/ n. pig
- mŭnga /mu'ŋga/ adj. close, dense, accurate
- muwoksang /mu'woksaŋ/ n. record
- nækh /næx/ n. grace
- nanful /nan'ful/ n. carcass
- ndæsh /ⁿdæʃ/ n. brass
- ndang /ⁿdaŋ/ prep. like
- ndasî /ⁿda'sə/ adv. anyway
- ndeyyi /ⁿde'jji/ n. throne
- ndish /ⁿdɪʃ/ v. meet, encounter
- ndôkh /ⁿdɔx/ v. trick, deceive, distort, bluff
- ndûkh /ⁿdʊx/ n. acid
- ndungfô /ⁿdʊŋ'fɔ/ n. path, track

- nduyyûn /ⁿdu'jjun/ n. mass
- ngæ /ŋæ/ n. flame
- ngæpu /^ŋgæ'pu/ n. anxiety
- ngaskhŭynîť /ŋas'xuɲnet/ v. vomit
- nget /ŋet/ v. report, disclose
- ngîfâf /^ŋgø'fâf/ n. bulb
- ngînd /ŋøⁿd/ n. kettle
- ngo /ŋo/ adj. even, parallel
- ngol /ŋol/ n. chest
- ngôn /ŋon/ n. tax, tariff
- ngosmôsh /ŋos'mɔʃ/ n. coast
- ngôyŭn /ŋo'juun/ n. dictionary
- ngûfnæ /ŋuf'næ/ n. bird
- ngûlungmô /ŋu'luŋmɔ/ num. second
- ngŭnæ /ŋu'næ/ n. bug
- ngusfo /^ŋgus'fo/ v. drag, pull
- nif /nif/ n. plague
- ning /niŋ/ n. place, location, venue
- nô /nɔ/ n. activity
- nonmôsh /non'mɔʃ/ n. plane
- num /num/ adj. cold, crisp
- nut /nut/ adv. together
- ôikh /ɔ'ix/ n. frost
- ômash /ɔ'maʃ/ n. reservation
- ông /ɔ^ŋg/ n. insect
- ôpyof /ɔ'pjof/ n. building
- ôtyend /ɔ'tjeⁿd/ n. abuse
- pa /pa/ adj. fat, big, broad
- pæku /pæ'ku/ n. event, incident
- pang /paŋ/ n. sun, light
- pengôm /pe'ŋom/ n. jewel, gem, prism
- pî'mæsh /pø?'mæʃ/ n. weapon
- pîmba /pø'^mba/ v. request, appeal
- pinôfkûf /pi'noʃkuf/ n. happiness

- pishowmǔng /pi'ʃowmuŋ/ n. perfection
- pof /pof/ v. mention
- pong /poŋ/ n. clay
- pôsh /pɔʃ/ v. like, enjoy
- pǔ /pu/ n. man
- pûkyi /pu'kji/ adj. golden
- pûndosh /pu'ndɔʃ/ adj. dirty
- pûshufwôf /pu'ʃufwɔf/ adj. skilled
- pûtsǔfi /pʊt'sʊfi/ adj. distant
- pyækx /pjæx/ n. tooth, tusk
- pyat khût /pjat xʊt/ n. earthquake
- pyînma /pjən'ma/ v. finish, expire, close, shut
- pyopko /pjop'ko/ v. press, squeeze, clutch
- pyûm kûm /pjum kum/ n. lipstick
- pyûtû /pjʊ'tu/ n. holiday, vacation
- sæyǔ /sæ'ju/ v. arrest, detain
- se /se/ det. your
- shæm /ʃæm/ n. neighbor
- shang /ʃaŋ/ det. their
- sheng /ʃeŋ/ adv. that
- shînd /ʃɛnd/ n. door, gate, port
- shnayî /ʃna'jə/ v. burn, cook (heat food)
- shnokho /ʃno'xo/ v. measure
- shnûkh /ʃnux/ v. enjoy
- shnusin /ʃnu'sin/ n. baby
- shôkh /ʃɔx/ n. pain, wound
- shôsa /ʃɔ'sa/ v. grow up
- shû /ʃu/ n. lot
- shun /ʃun/ n. egg
- shǔpkǔ kǔnkhî /ʃʊp'ku kun'xə/ n. fork
- sîkh /sɛx/ n. button
- snæm /snæm/ adj. neat
- sne /sne/ n. century
- snim /snim/ v. roll, revolve, rotate, spin

- snô'a /snɒ'ʔa/ adv. sometimes
- snŭfwe /snu'fwe/ adj. safe
- snush /snuʃ/ v. mix, blend, combine
- som /som/ v. be (temporary state), be (located)
- sôngûkŭ /sɒ'ŋukʉ/ v. weigh
- sŭ /sʉ/ num. first
- sung /suŋg/ v. reveal, disclose, confess
- sŭya /su'ja/ v. frown
- tsakhwî /tsa'xwə/ n. eye, eyeball
- tsang /tsaŋ/ v. desire
- tsesfikh /tses'fəx/ v. lift, boost
- tso /tso/ pron. he, him, his, it, its
- tsôsh /tsɒʃ/ n. capital
- tsŭkhiľ /tsu'xilʉ/ n. editor
- tsŭkyatu kshô /tsu'kjaɬ kʃɒ/ n. copyright
- tsŭmækh /tsu'mæx/ n. tourist
- tsund /tsuɒd/ num. ten
- tsŭnûng /tsu'nʉŋg/ n. drain
- tsŭshnond /tsuʃ'noɒd/ n. driver
- tyæ /tjæ/ n. head
- tyæsh /tjæʃ/ n. dog
- tyan /tjan/ v. doubt
- tyeshnu /tjɛʃ'nu/ adj. sure
- tyo /tjo/ det. all
- tyongmæ /tjoŋ'mæ/ n. band
- tyumb /tjuɒb/ adv. just, hardly
- tyûshna /tjʉ'na/ pron. anybody
- ufwŭ /u'fwʉ/ pron. anyone
- ŭko /ʉ'ko/ n. column
- ulînul /u'lenul/ adj. able, capable
- ŭn /uɒn/ adj. firm, rigid
- ŭnô /ʉ'nɒ/ n. bit
- uskhet /us'xet/ n. mess, rubble, debris
- ŭtu /ʉ'tu/ num. three

- uyîpyînmā /u'jəpjən,ma/ adv. finally
- wænd /wæⁿd/ n. knee
- wamwam /wa'mwam/ v. control
- watsha /wat'ʃa/ v. improve, refine, amend
- wemb /we^mb/ n. rank (position), hierarchy
- wîl /wəl/ det. both
- wîshnamb /wəʃⁿna^mb/ n. guy
- wol /wəl/ adj. ready, ripe
- wôt /wɒt/ n. brain
- wul /wul/ pron. everyone
- wŭn /wuun/ n. fort, castle
- wŭt /wuut/ v. swim
- yæm /jæm/ n. effort
- yam /jam/ n. stream, creek
- yet /jet/ n. picture
- yîng /jəŋg/ n. tongue, dialect, voice
- yôkh /jɒx/ n. cat
- yŭ /juu/ prep. for (the purpose of)
- yun /jun/ adv. often
- yûtôl /ju'tɒl/ v. analyze, inspect