Alphabet and Pronunciation – Elîfbe û Bilêvkirin

Tîp	Tîpnav	Tîp	Tîpnav
A a	[a]	N n	[ne]
B b	[be]	O o	[o]
C c	[dʃe] as in joke	P p	[pe] stressed and not stressed
Ç ç	[tʃe] as in chat	Q q	[qe] glotteral
D d	[de]	R r	[re] rolled/trilled r
E e	[ə] short, as in accept	S s	[se] voicless
Ê ê	[ê] long, as in tell	Ş ş	[şe] like sh
F f	[fe]	T t	[te] stressed and not stressed
G g	[ge]	U u	[u] short
H h	[he]	Û û	[û] u: long, as in boot
I i	[i] short, as in open	V v	[ve]
Î î	[i] long, as in cheek	W w	[we]
J j	[ʒe] as in judge	X x	[xe] as in chemistry
K k	[ke] as in cold, stressed and not stressed		
Y y	[ye]		
L l	[le]	Z z	[se] voiced, as in zoo
M m	[me]		
xw – an important diphthong in Kurdish			

Notes on Pronunciation

The most commonly used sounds in Kurdish are the sounds x (no equivalent), î (as in seed), the clear and long ê (as in 'aaay') and the diphthong xw (no equivalent). What is difficult for Europeans, is the guttural q, which comes from Arabic. You must draw down the related k deeper into the throat.

Grammatical Information – Pêzaniyên Rêzimanî

In Kurdish, there are male and female, and some neutral nouns. Furthermore, the nominal form is always the same for singular and plural: sêv ('the apple', and also 'the apples'). The gender of the noun (subject) only becomes apparent when one connects it with an adjective, pronoun or a possessive noun.

A brief example:

> **ê** suffix for male subject
>
> **a** suffix in female subject
>
> **mêr** 'man', but at the same time 'men'
> > – with adjective: **merê egît** (the brave man)
> > – with possessive pronouns: **merê min** (my man/husband)
> > – with other nouns: **merê Narinê** (Narin's man)
> > (the suffix **ê** in **Narin** is featuring Case Obliqus)

The ê in Narin in this case has nothing to do with the gender, but with the case. In Kurdish there are only two cases: the Case Rectus and Case Oblique. The Case Rectus corresponds to our nominative, all other cases are characterized in male nouns by the suffix î, in feminine nouns by the suffix ê. It can sometimes be confusing that the suffix ê represents the gender of the male noun in connection with another noun, pronoun or adjective on one hand, and on the other hand, the gender of the female noun in case Oblique.

> **jin** 'woman', but at the same time 'women'
> > – with adjective: **jina egît** (the brave woman)
> > – with possessive pronouns: **jina min** (my wife)
> > – with other nouns: **jina Azadî** (Azad's woman/wife)
> > (the **î** in **Azadî** is featuring a case Obliqus)

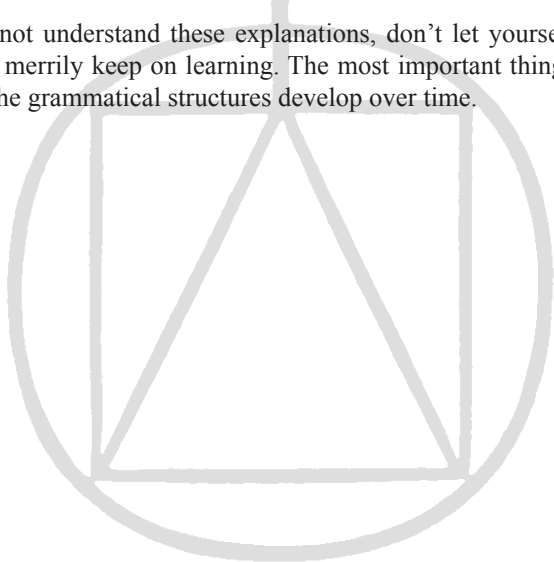A neutral word: doktor (physician)

To keep it short, only with a possessive pronoun as an example (**mînak**) **doktora min** (my doctor *female*), **doktorê min** (my doctor *male*).

Nouns are generally written in lower case (as in English), exceptions being the beginnings of sentences, proper names and titles.

The Kurdish verb can change the verb stem so that only the verb root (often a single letter) remains. Verbs in the present are mostly prefixed with **di-** and a suffix, often **-im**, **-î**, **-e**, **-in**. In the verb table you will find the most important regular and irregular verbs, whose forms are given in the singular (1. pers. Present, 1. pers. Simple Past and 2. Pers. Perfect).

Transitive verbs (verbs that require a direct object) are not formed in Past Tense with the personal pronoun **ez** (I), **tu** (you), **ew** (he/she/it), **em** (we), **hûn** (her), **ew** (it) but with the pronouns **min**, **te**, **wê**, **wî**, **me**, **we**, **wan** of the Case Oblique. Many of the verbs are transitive by the way! (Incidentally transitive!)

If you do not understand these explanations, don't let yourself get confused, just merrily keep on learning. The most important thing is the vocabulary, the grammatical structures develop over time.

Abbreviations – Kurtebêja Peyvan

adj.	adjective/rengdêr	
adv.	adverb/hoker	
conj.	conjunction/gîhanek	
f.	noun female/navê mê	
interj.	interjection/baneşan	
lit.	literally	
m.	noun male/navê nêr	
n.	noun neutral/navê netar	
no.	numeral/hejmar	
pers.	personal pronoun/cînavê kesanî	
poss.	possessive pronoune/cînavê xwemalîn	
prep.	prepostition/daçek	
pron.	pronoun/cînav	
v.	verb/lêker	
v. intr.	intransitive verb/lêkerê negerguhêz	
v. trans.	transitive verb/lêkerê gerguhêz	

1 Interpersonal Relationships – Têkilîyên mirovane

Here you will learn the first words and phrases needed for communicating and also for describing feelings, characteristics and appearances of a person. During the first meeting it is common to find out where a person comes from and whether he/she has family. In the family and among friends you may talk about character traits, tastes and appearances. It is not always common to shake hands when meeting while getting to know each other; in predominantly Muslim countries it is much more common to place ones right hand on ones heart and speak the words: **selam aleykum** (peace be with you), to which the answer is: **aleykum selam** (and also with you). Among more western orientated people, it is more common to shake hands, however most women, especially from rural areas, will not outstretch their hand to shake your hand when welcoming you.

Getting to Know Each Other – Hev û din naskirin

Alo! *interj.*	Hello! (on the telephone)
baş *adj.*	good
Ev baş e!	This is good!
beyan/sibeh *f. f.*	morning
Beyanî baş! *f. adj. interj.*	Good morning!
bûn – e/ye – î/yî[1] *ve. intr.*	be – is – are
Ev nû ye.	This is new.
Ev ne kevn e.	This is not old
çawa *pron.*	how
(Tu) çawa nî?	How are you?
çi *pron.*	what
Ew çi ye?	What is that?
êvar *f.*	evening
Êvar baş! *interj.*	Good evening!

---

1   If the word before the verb ends in a consonant the verb 'bûn' becomes **im** – am, **î** – are, **e** – he/she/it is, **in** – are. If the word before the verb ends in a vowel we say: **me** – am, **yî** – are, **ye** – he/she/it is, **ne** – are.