THE ALPHABET

alphabet	description	example (English)	example (Kurdish)
A – a	long	father	**Aram** (♂)
B – b		**b**all	**Berfîn** (♂)
C – c		**j**ob	**Ciwan** (♂)
Ç – ç	as the aspirated «ch» in English	**ch**eck	**Çetîn** (♂)
D – d		**d**esk	**Dilber** (♀)
E – e	short «e» represents two sounds: 1. as the English «a» as in b**a**t 2. with words that are borrowed from the Arabic language like the Arabic letter ع	a**cc**ept –	**Elîf** (♀) **Emer** (♂)
Ê – ê	long, like «ai» without the y-offglide	**e**levator	**Êzdîn** (♂)
F – f		**f**ruit	**Ferîde** (♀)
G – g		**g**row	**Gulê** (♀)
H – h	«h» represents two sounds 1. like in English 2. with words that are borrowed from the Arabic language like the Arabic letter ح	**h**old –	**Hêlîn** (♀) **Hesen** (♂)
I – i	short as the Turkish letter «ı»	dr**i**nk	**Hisên** (♂)
Î – î	Long, as the English letter combination «ee»	w**ee**k	**Îrfan** (♂)
J – j		plea**s**ure	**Jale** (♀)
K – k		**k**ey	**Kejê** (♀)

L – l		love	**L**eman (♀)
M – m		**m**ouse	**M**elek (♀)
N – n		**n**ight	**N**alan (♀)
O – o	kurz	**o**ften	**O**sman (♂)
P – p		**p**ain	**P**erwîn (♀)
Q – q	no equivalent to the English language, as the Arabic letter ق	–	**Q**asim (♂)
R – r	trilled r	**r**ed	**R**eşat (♂)
S – s	voiceless «s»	**s**tory	**S**emih (♂)
Ş – ş	as the letter combination «sh» in English	**sh**ow	**Ş**emdîn (♂)
T – t		**toy**	**T**ewfîq (♂)
U – u	short	p**u**t	G**u**lê (♀)
Û – û	long	b**oo**t	**Û**sib (♂)
V – v		**v**ery	E**v**în (♀)
W – w	as the Arabic letter و	**w**ater	**W**eysel (♂)
X – x	as the Arabic letter خ	Lo**ch** Ness	**X**ebat (♂)
Y – y		**y**es	**Y**elda (♀)
Z – z	voiced «s»	**z**oo	**Z**eyneb (♀)

♂ = boy names   ♀ = girl names

1. Listen (⊙: 2 / dudi) and repeat the names.

Aram	Gulê	Nalan	Gulê
Berfîn	Hêlîn – Hesen	Osman	Ûsib
Ciwan	Hisên	Perwîn	Evîn
Çetîn	Îrfan	Qasim	Weysel
Dilber	Jale	Reşat	Xebat
Elîf – Emer	Kejê	Sebah	Yelda
Êzdîn	Leman	Şemdîn	Zeyneb
Ferîde	Melek	Tewfîq	

2. Listen (⊙: 3 / sisê) and repeat the names in order to learn the pronunciation of the letters ê, q, x and w.

Ê – ê	Êzdîn, Fatê, Hêlîn, Hêja, Hêvî, Mêrxas, Rênas
Q – q	Qedrî, Qasim, Qulîxan, Qerê, Quto, Qeşeng, Qîmet
X – x	Xêrîya, Xêro, Xanî, Xecê, Xelef, Xwedêda, Xezal
W – w	Wezîr, Wesîla, Ciwan, Cewê, Newzad, Serwet

3. Listen to the names (⊙: 4 / çar) and fill in the missing letters.

___ebat	___elî	Fe ___ î	H ___ lîn
Ce ___ ad	___ eşnav	___ esen	___ ejê
Gul ___	Sil ___ man	___ ezîr	El ___ f
___ elat	Per ___ în	Cî ___ an	Cizir ___
___ akîr	___ edat	___ ahît	E ___ în

4. Fill in the letters in alphabetical order.

Ê
J B F T Ç
O A G
A N Û
U S P Ê
H
W Î
Ş D X Z V
W I
M W
C L Q E
Û
Ş
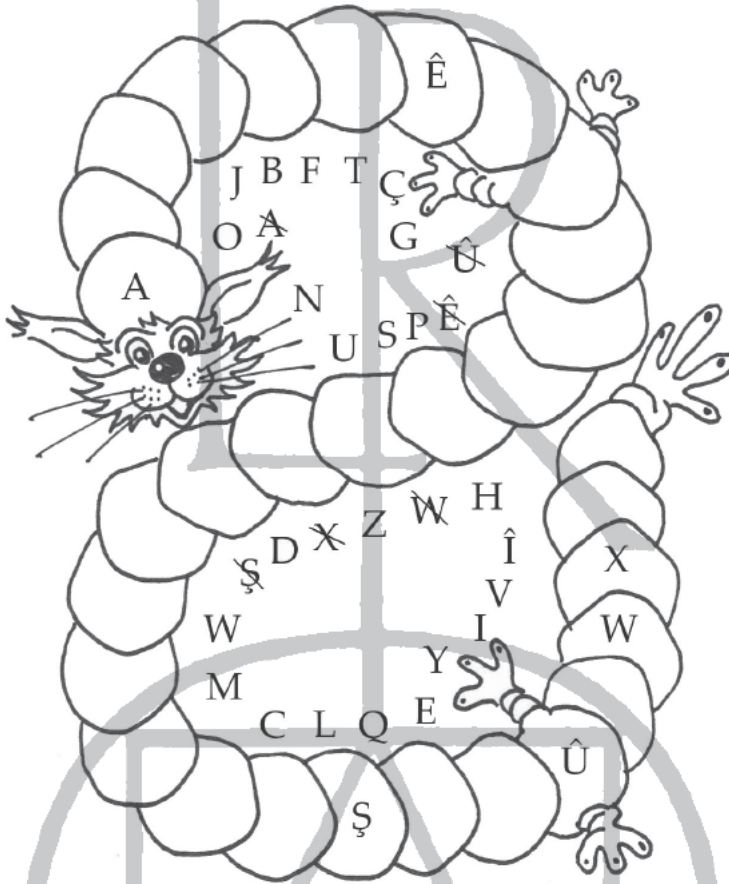
5. a) What letters exist in Kurdish but not in English?

....

b) How many vowels exist in Kurdish? What are they?

....

c) How many consonants exist in Kurdish? What are they?

....

6. Listen (⊙: 5 / pênc) and repeat the names.

C – c	Cemşîd, Cewdet, Casim, Cîhat, Cemîle, Canan, Can
Ç – ç	Çaçan, Çopî, Çîya, Çinar, Çira, Çolo, Çem
I – i	Dirbas, Dildar, Fadil, Filînta, Binefş, Bihar, Dilnaz
J – j	Jale, Jîyan, Rojîn, Rojda, Rojên, Rojbîn, Diljen
S – s	Sêvdîn, Selîm, Silêman, Sûzan, Sitî, Sînemxan, Sosin
V – v	Binevş, Bêrîvan, Dilovan, Evîn, Havîn, Hêvî, Kûvî
Z – z	Zeyneba, Zînê, Zînnet, Zeytûn, Zilkîf, Zozan, Zal

7. Listen to the names (⊙: 6 / şeş) and fill in the missing letters.

Bê __ an	__ îya	Ber __ em	__ îxerxwîn
__ îhan	__ erfînaz	So __ in	__ orgul
__ em	__ eladet	__ ira	C __ wan
Ç __ nar	Gelaw __ j	Hê __ ar	D __ lkanî
D __ lnaz	Ke __ ê	Ro __	__ îno
__ îya	A __ ê	A __ şîn	__ êrrîn
__ akîr	__ edat	__ ahît	E __ în

DÎYALOG YEK

Hecî Mexso û hecî Mûsa sohbet dikin. Sohbet germ e, lê Newzo dikeve odeyê.

Newzo:	Êvara we bi xêr!
Hecî Mexso:	Êvara te jî bi xêr! Merheba.
Newzo:	Hûn baş in, înşaellah?
Hecî Mexso:	Xwedê emrê te dirêj bike! Ez baş im. Tu jî baş î?
Newzo:	Ez jî baş im hecî, destê te radimîsim.
Hecî Mûsa:	Merheba.
Newzo:	Merheba, apo. Tu baş î, înşaellah?
Hecî Mûsa:	Sax bî, birazî. Tu jî rihet î?
Newzo:	Ez baş im, hecî! Destê te radimîsim.
Hecî Mûsa:	Mistefa çawa ye?
Newzo:	Baş e. Destê te radimîsim.
Hecî Mexso:	Îcar hecî em werin ser meşa hespan...

Neue Vokabeln / *Kelîmeyên Nû*

dîyalog *(f)*	dialogue
hecî *(f/m)*	pilgrim / the Hajji
û	and
sohbet dikin	they talk to each other
sohbet *(f)*	conversation
germ	cordial
e	to be (3rd person singular)
lê	but
Newzo dikeve odeyê.	*Newzo enters the room.*
êvar *(f)*	evening
bi xêr	blessed
Êvara te bi xêr!	*Good evening!* (addressed to one person)
Êvara we bi xêr!	*Good evening!* (addressed to several persons)
Êvara te jî bi xêr!	*Good evening!* (response – addressed to one person)
Êvara we jî bi xêr!	*Good evening!* (response – addressed to several persons)

Tu jî bi xêr hatî!	*Welcome!* (literally: And you are very welcome, too!)
hûn	you (2nd person plural)
baş	fine, good
in	to be (2nd person plural)
Hûn baş in?	*Are you well?*
merheba	hello
însaellah	hopefully, God willing
Xwedê emrê te dirêj bike!	*May God give you a long life.*
ez	I
im	to be (1st person singular)
Ez baş im.	*I am doing well.*
tu	you (2nd person singular)
jî	also, too
î	to be (2nd person singular – after a consonant)
Destê te radimîsim.	*Thank you!* (literally: I kiss your hand – sign of modesty / respect; towards elders)
apo	*uncle!* (from the father's side)
sax	healthy, alive
sax bî	*Thank you!* (literally: Be healthy!)
birazî *(m)*	nephew
rihet	fine, pleased
Tu jî rihet î?	*And how are you?* (literally: Are you also fine/ pleased?))
çawa	how
ye	to be (3rd person singular – after a vowel)
ew	he/she/it
îcar	now
Îcar em werin ser meşa hespan.	*Let's get back to the topic of horse-racing.*

In «New vocabulary / *Kelîmeyên Nû*» the definition of newly introduced words is given.

Example sentences are in italics.

Before introducing the present tense, the verbs are indicated in the form in which they appear in the text.

1. Fill in the personal pronouns.

_____ (I)   em (_____)

_____ (you)   hûn (_____)

_____ (he/she/it) ew (_____)

2. Words that follow the word baş in a dialogue, are conjugated forms of the copula (bûn – to be) in the present tense.
Read the dialogue again and underline these words.

3. Complete the sentences.

I am doing well.   –   Ez _____
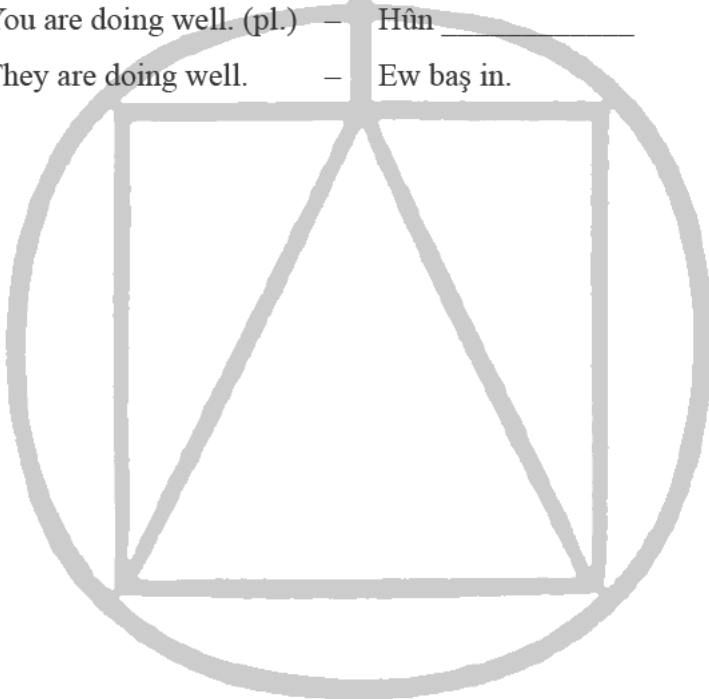
You are doing well.   –   Tu _____

He/She is doing well.   –   Ew _____

We are doing well.   –   Em baş in.

You are doing well. (pl.) –   Hûn _____

They are doing well.   –   Ew baş in.

Grammatical Case

The Kurdish language has three cases: vocative, direct and oblique. The vocative case is easily constructed but is used rarely, in contrast to the other two cases.

In this book we will use the terms direct case, which marks the subject, and oblique case, which marks the object. These Latin terms ensure the grammatical precision in the Kurdish language and will facilitate learning. Correspondingly, these grammatical terms will be described in detail and practised.

Personal Pronouns in the Direct Case

Singular	Plural
ez (I)	*em* (we)
tu (you)	*hûn* (you)
ew (he/she/it)	*ew* (they)

Kurdish uses two types of personal pronouns: personal pronouns in the direct case and personal pronouns in the oblique case.

These two types of personal pronouns as well as how they differ will be explained in detail later.

Since the 3rd person singular is identical to the plural form, their difference can only be spotted by looking at the verb (in the example sentences of the copula forms).

Ew baş e.	–	He is doing well. (literally: He is good.)
Ew baş in.	–	They are doing well. (literally: They are good.)

Copula: *bûn*

The copula verb *to be* is different depending on whether it follows a consonant or a vowel.

After a Consonant

Singular	Plural
*Ez baş **im**.*	*Em baş **in**.*
*Tu baş **î**.*	*Hûn baş **in**.*
*Ew baş **e**.*	*Ew baş **in**.*

After a Vowel

Singular	Plural
*Ez rêwî **me**.*	*Em rêwî **ne**.*
*Tu rêwî **yî**.*	*Hûn rêwî **ne**.*
*Ew rêwî **ye**.*	*Ew rêwî **ne**.*
(*rêwî* – the traveller)	

Bûn is identical in all three plural forms, so the difference is made by adding the corresponding personal pronoun.

> **ORTHOGRAPHY – RASTNIVÎSÎN**
> *Bûn* is written separately.

The Interrogative Sentence

Polar questions (yes–no questions) are formed by stressing the last syllable before the copula verb (*bûn*). In other words, the interrogative sentence differs from the affirmative sentence only through its intonation:

Hûn baş in.	-	You are doing well.
Hûn <u>baş</u> in?	-	Are you doing well?

In probe questions, interrogative words (like *çawa*) are used:
Mistefa çawa ye?
Mistefa baş e.