

Sindarin Lessons

Full Sindarin course from sindarinlessons.weebly.com

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Lesson 1 - Pronunciation

Before you can start learning any vocabulary or syntax, you need to be able to pronounce them.

Vowels

A / Á / Â	Always long, as in 'father', never pronounce it short like the English 'hat'
E / É / Ê	This is always like the e in 'fed' or 'head', never 'feet'
I / Í / Î	If it starts a word, it is a 'y' as in 'yes'. An 'i' without an accent is pronounced short, as in 'sick', or 'hit'. An accented 'i' is a long 'ee' sound, like the 'i' in 'machine'
O / Ó / Ô	A short o is like the 'o' in 'dog' or 'lot'. An accented o should be pronounced like the word 'oh'
U / Ú / Û	Pronounce this like the 'oo' in 'tool'
Y / Ý / ÿ	This should be pronounced like a rounder version of a 'u', as in the French 'lune'

Consonants

C	This is always hard as in 'kite', never soft like the English 'cent'.
F	Beginning of word, soft as in 'father', anywhere else in the word it always becomes a 'v'
G	Always hard, as in 'get', never soft like the word 'edge'
I	As mentioned above, it becomes a 'y' as in 'yacht' if before a vowel or starting a word
L	This is a normal 'L' as in 'let', nothing odd with this one!
R	Pronounced properly, the Sindarin 'r' should roll, it is always trilled.
CH	Never as in 'church', always as in 'loch' or 'bach', it is the gargled sound from Scots/German
DH	Similar to a 'th' sound as in 'these', it should be harder than the Sindarin TH
LH	Pronounce this as if the letters were reversed and written HL
PH	An 'f' sound as in 'phonic' or 'phone'.
RH	This is an un-trilled R, and is written RH to differentiate it from the normal trilled R - this is the only time an R will ever not be trilled in Sindarin
TH	A soft 'th' as in 'thing' or 'thick'
HW	Pronounce this as mostly a 'w', so the h is barely audible, as in 'white'
NG	At the end of a word, as in the English 'ring' or 'sing'. At the beginning of a word, the two letters should be sounded separately

Vowel/Consonant combinations

ER	As in the word 'fair'
IR	As in 'dear' or 'ear'
UR	As in the word 'fur'
	Remember that in all of these, the R is still trilled

Diphthongs

AI	Like the 'i' in 'fine' or 'light', not like the 'ai' in the word 'straight'
AE	Same as for AI, the 'i' in 'fine' or 'bright'
AU	Pronounce like the 'ou' in 'loud'.
AW	Pronounce it as if it were the 'ow' in 'now'
EI	This is like the English 'ay' in 'bray' or 'say'
OE	This is the 'oy' sound in 'boy'
UI	Pronounce this like the word 'whee', not like the 'ui' in the English 'ruin'

A further note on AI and AE

These two sounds are probably two of the hardest to try and describe, although the above is your starting point!

AE and AI should not sound identical to each other - instead the sound should start off as the 'i' in 'light' or 'bright' and then glide onto the second vowel, producing a sound that should sound something like

AE-E = the 'i' in bright followed by a Sindarin 'e' in 'fed'

AE-I = the 'i' in bright followed by a Sindarin 'i' in sick or 'ee' in machine (if accented)

Pronunciation of vowels with accents

As you should have noticed, the vowels have variants with accents: A / Á / Â - these denote the length of the vowel, going from shortest to longest, left to right - an Â should have approximately twice the length of an A.

Pronunciation of i

As you may have noticed the way I have written to pronounce the vowel 'i' is a little different from the usual way people tell you to pronounce it (and the way I used to teach it too), which is to always pronounce it as the long 'ee' sound in 'machine'.

This is because I recently received a book called *The Road Goes Ever On; A Song Cycle*, by Donald Swann, which includes some linguistic notes by Tolkien. Rather unhelpfully, these notes aren't published anywhere else, but due to the date on which they were written, they supersede what was published in the Appendices of the Lord of the Rings. These notes detail how the vowels should be pronounced, and read as follows:

"The short vowels may be rendered as in E. [English] sick, bed, hot, foot (for u), though o is intended to be rounder than in modern E."

Lesson 2 - Greetings

Now that you are able to start pronouncing the Sindarin words properly, let's get started with your first lot of vocabulary; learning how to greet friends and strangers. Let's start with a short Sindarin text... (The audio for this lesson can be found on the forum).

Text One

A: Galu!
B: Ai, mae g'ovannen.
A: Ci maer?
B: Ni maer.
A: Ma. Novaer mellon!
B: Galu!

Now, some of those words might already be familiar to you, or perhaps none of them are. Let's look at the text again, but this time in English.

A: Blessings!
B: Ah, well met.
A: Are you well?
B: I am well.
A: Good. Farewell friend!
B: A blessing!

Let's take a closer look at the vocabulary now. I'm not going to go into the syntax at this stage (word order, mutations etc), this is purely to teach you how to greet someone.

Vocabulary

Galu = literally, 'A blessing'. Used like 'ciao' or 'salut', for both hello, and goodbye.
Ai = an interjection, 'ah'.
mae g'ovannen = Well met (informal). For formal, use the less famous **mae l'ovannen**.
Le maer? = Are you well? (How are you?)
Ni maer = I am well.
Ma = Good
Novaer = Farewell (literally, 'be well')
Mellon = Friend

Text Two

Let's have a look at a second text now; learn how to ask someone their name, and two ways of telling them yours.

A: Len suilon.
B: Suilad. Man i eneth lîn?
A: Im Amdiron eston. A len?
B: I eneth nîn Belegon.

And again, now the same text, in English:

A: I greet you.
B: Greeting. What is your name?

A: I am called Amdiron. And you are?

B: My name is Belegon.

Vocabulary

Len suilon = I greet you (formal). Use Gin suilon for informal.

Suilad = Greetings.

Man i eneth lîn? = What is your name? (use lîn at the end for formal, and gîn for informal).

Im _____ eston = I call myself _____, I am called _____

A len? = And you are?

I eneth nîn _____. = My name is _____

Formal vs. Informal

Until you have learnt about different pronouns, I will list the differences between the formal and informal.

<u>Formal</u>	<u>Informal</u> (someone you know well)	<u>Meaning</u>
Len suilon	Gin suilon	I greet you
Mae l'ovannen	Mae g'ovannen	Well met
Man i eneth lîn?	Man i eneth gîn?	What is your name?
A len?	A gin?	And you are?
Le maer?	Ci maer?	Are you well? How are you?

Lesson 3 - Origins

Being able to say from where you hail is an important part of the first greeting with a stranger. The text in this lesson is a very short one, but introduces a lot of new words and ideas.

Text

A: Mas dorthog?

B: Dorthon mi Lothlorien, ach onnen mi Imladris. A gin?

A: Telin o Lothlorien

And now in English:

A: Where do you live?

B: I live in Lothlorien, but I was born in Imladris. And you?

A: I come from Lothlorien.

Vocabulary

Mas = Where

Mas dorthog? = Where do you live?

Dorthon mi _____ = I live in _____

ach = but

onnen mi _____ = born in _____

A gin = the informal version of a len (which as we know from Lesson 2 means 'and you')

Telin o _____ = I come from (another way to say your origins).

To say 'we live in', use = **Dortham mi** _____. Take note of the different ending, but that is all I will say on the matter now; verbs are a much later lesson. For now you should just notice the different endings.

Formal vs. Informal

Formal	Informal	Meaning
Mas dorthol? A len?	Mas dorthog? A gin?	Where do you live? And you? (Note the difference between A le = And you are, and A len = And you)

Lesson 4 - Questions

The basic question words (Who, What, Why etc.) are very useful in forming sentences, so let's take a look at them. I've split them into sections so it isn't just a massive wall of unfamiliar words, however there is some new vocabulary in this for you to learn.

Man? = What?

Man te? - What is it?

Man sa? - What is that?

Man i lû?- What (is) the time?

Man pen? - What (which) one?

Man sad? - What place? (alternative for 'Where?')

Man agoreg? - What did you do?

Mas? = Where?

Mas agoreg? - Where did you do that?

Mas i adab? - Where is the house?

Mas i ada lîn? - Where is your father?

Mas le? / Mas ci? - Where are you?

Obviously you've already seen this one before from [Mas dorthog?](#) so these are just some more examples.

Mar? = When?

Mar agoreg? - When did you do that?

Mar ci onnen? - When (were) you born?

Mar iavas? - When is autumn?

A man? = Who?

A man sa? = Who is that?

A man na i fend? = Who is at the door?

Manen? = How?

Manen agoreg? - How did you do that?

Manen istog? - How do you know?

Amman? = Why? (For what?)

Amman agoreg? - Why did you do that?

Amman, naneth? - Why, mother?

Am man theled? = For what purpose? (Why?)

Personally I prefer to use this one for its literal meaning of 'For what purpose' rather than 'Why', as there is a shorter version, as above.

Am man theled agoreg? - Why did you do that? (For what purpose did you do that?)

Am man theled anírog istog? - Why do you want to know? (For what purpose do you want to know?)

Lesson 5 - Colours, and an introduction to soft mutation

Translating Sindarin invariably involves descriptions, and the Elves loved to have many words for their colours to describe things, from the colours of snow to falling leaves. Colours are also a good vocabulary to lead from onto an introduction to Soft Mutation; one of the most important concepts you need to grasp when learning Sindarin.

First of all, here is a list of the colours, in both Sindarin and English. The last two are my own constructions/usages, but they are useful for more modern translations.

Sindarin	English
Caran	Red
Luin	Blue
Elu	Pale blue
Malen	Yellow
Calen	Green
Morn	Black
Baran	Brown
Faen, Fain, Nimp	White
Gloss	White as snow
Mith	Grey
Rustui	Coppery
Celeb	Silver
Mallen	Gold(en)
Ling	Purple
Crinth	Pink

The most important thing to understand about Sindarin is that words must flow.

The point of soft mutation is to favour a harder sound over a softer one, and to enable a sentence to do just that.

(N.B - The Sindarin word for Soft Mutation is Prestanneth. Other sites will also call it Vocalic Mutation or Lenition.)

Here is the list of colours again, but this time with their mutated forms next to them, so you can start to see which letters change, and which don't (you will be very pleased to know that not every letter changes).

Sindarin	With soft mutation
Caran	Garan
Luin	Luin (l does not change)
Elu	Elu (vowels do not change)
Malen	Valen
Calen	Galen
Morn	Vorn
Baran	Varan
Faen, Fain, Nimp	Faen, Fain, Nimp (f and n do not change)
Gloss	'loss
Mith	Vith
Rustui	Rustui (r does not change)
Celeb	Geleb
Mallen	Vallen

Ling
Crinth

Ling
Grinth

For now I will teach you how to use mutation in the following ways:

1. When an adjective follows a noun (the rusty nail, the green door etc.)
2. When using the word 'the'
3. When using the word 'and'

The adjective always follows the noun.

Sample sentences:

i iaul vorn = the black cat

i loth grinth = the pink flower

i higil luin = the blue necklace (or 'the blue dagger', sigil is a homophone).

but

sigil luin = blue necklace (without the i you do not need to mutate the word for necklace)

and

sigil garan = red necklace (but you still need to mutate the adjective, luin just doesn't mutate)

hû varan = brown dog

but

i chû fain = the white dog

i annabon vall a gelebren = the gold and silver elephant

but

i annabon vall ah i annabon gelebren = the gold elephant and the silver elephant

Vocabulary Recap

a/ah/adh = and

If the word following 'and' begins with a consonant, you use a

If the word following 'and' begins with a vowel, you can use a, ah or adh

i = the (singular)

annabon = elephant

iaul = cat

loth = flower

sigil = necklace (mutates to higil, I put this in to show you how an 's' mutates).

hû = dog (mutates to chû, put in to show you how an 'h' mutates).

I haven't covered all the letters that change here, as I thought this might be enough to start with, simply to get you thinking about the process of mutation.

Lesson 6 - Buying goods

Something that comes up a lot in table top roleplaying (and indeed real life) is buying items, and to do that, you need to be able to ask for what you would like, and respond to someone else.

Text

A: Man anírol?

B: Aníron aes a nen.

A: Hin?

B: ú, hain aníron. Len hannon!

A: De i 'ell nîn.

And now the text again in English

A: What do you want?

B: I want meat and water.

A: These?

B: No, I would like those. Thank you!

A: It is my pleasure

Vocabulary

Man anírol = What do you want? (Formal, literally, What do you desire)

Aníron = I want (I desire)

aes = Meat

a = and (remember this is before a consonant so it is **a** not **ah/adh**)

nen = Water

Hin = These

ú = No

Hain = Those

Len hannon = Thank you (formal)

De i 'ell nîn = It is my pleasure (my joy)

There isn't really any way of saying 'please' in the way that we would say "Can I have some meat please?" - they just say "I want some meat". You could use **enni** = 'for me', e.g. **Aes a nen, enni** = **Meat and water, for me**

You can also use **Anirog/Anírol** for 'Do you want ___', for example:

Anírog mass? = Do you want bread?

For a longer list of things to ask for, check the vocabulary lists on Sindarin Phrases.

Formal vs. Informal

Again, as I haven't covered verb endings yet, here are the differences between the formal and the informal.

Formal	Informal	English
Man anírol? Len hannon	Man anirog? Gin hannon	What do you want? Thank you

Lesson 7 - Soft mutation continued

Before you learn any more vocabulary, you need to learn some syntax - and the first and most important piece of syntax, is Soft Mutation.

You need to learn when it is used, and know which letters change into what (though I am not expecting you to memorise them instantly, the table is here for you to refer to - though eventually you will know all of them off by heart as they are used so often).

When is soft mutation used?

A word is mutated with soft mutation if:

It follows the word i = the (singular)/that/who

It follows the word a(h/dh) = and

It is an adjective following a noun

It is an adverb following a verb

It is a word that follows a preposition (including verb prefixes)

Soft mutation table

If a letter is not in the table below, *it does not change*. I will explain parts of the table at the bottom.

Original letter	Becomes after mutation
b	v
c	g
d	dh
g	'
h	ch
m	v
p	b
s	h
t	d
gl	'l
gr	'r
gw	'w
hw	chw
lh	l/thl
rh	r/thr
(n)d	n
(m)b	m
(n)g	ng

What does ' mean?

This is a glottal stop, and it simply signifies that the g has been removed from the word.

How do I know when to use l/r and when to use thl/thr?

This depends on the word, and it is something you will learn as you pick up vocabulary.

What do (n)d (m)b and (n)g mean?

When Tolkien invented his many languages, a lot of the words that ended up in Sindarin came from original roots that started with the (n) or the (m). I will give you one of the most common examples:

The word **bar** means house, however it comes from the root **mbar**.
When you want to say *the house*, you do not write **i var**, you write **i mar**.

Unfortunately, the lists of words like these are just something you will have to check and learn for yourself, there is no obvious way to tell a word's root simply by looking at it.
I have written lists of the words that come from a different root, and these can be found underneath the tab Resources on the website.

Soft mutation and 'a'

Although for the most part, **a** follows the rules for letter changes with soft mutation, if you've ever taken a look at Luthien's song, or the Moria gate inscription, you might have noticed that there are a couple of discrepancies:

si loth a galadh, lasto din!

pedo mellon a minno

Surely if **a** is subject to soft mutation, these two lines should be

si loth a 'aladh, lasto din! and **pedo mellon a vinno ?**

This is something that bothered me almost since I started learning Sindarin, as on one hand, people have the blanket 'a uses soft mutation' rule, but on the other, Tolkien's writing wasn't bearing this out. PE17 has the answer, though it looks as if it was rewritten about four times by Tolkien, so it's a little difficult to tell which rule supersedes what, and what we should be using. If you own a copy, have a look at page 41, and I will let you make your own mind up, but this is my take on it:

In older Sindarin, **a** did not change the letters b, d, g, m, n or s (hence the two examples above).
a took the form **ar** in Exilic Sindarin (when the Noldor came back across from Valinor and put a Quenya spin to the language).

a used to take the form **as** before an s and **al** before an l. Probably Doriathrin Sindarin.

a then changed to take the form **adh** before vowels, while remaining **a** before all other letters.

'Modern' Sindarin **a** uses normal soft mutation as above, and takes the form **a** **in all cases**.

Lesson 8 - Plurals (part one)

To be able to write in Sindarin, you need to know and learn the rules that govern the pluralisation of nouns.

I have split it into two parts - one for the single vowels, and the other for diphthongs (ae, ai etc.) with examples for each.

Original vowel	Non-final position in word	Final position in word
a	e	ai
e, ê	e	i, î
i, î	i	i, î
o, ô	e	y, ÿ
u	y	y
û	u	ui
ÿ	Doesn't exist	ÿ

Examples:

Las (leaf) = **Lais** (leaves)

Adan (Man) = **Edain** (Men) - this is the Race of Man, as in "I am a Man, not an Elf" rather than "he's a man, she's a woman". This shows what we mean by 'non-final position' - the first a changes to an e, and the second a changes to an ai as it is the last vowel in the word.

Hên (child) = **Hîn** (children) - the lengthened vowel indicated by the accent stays long

Benn (man) = **Binn** (men)

Leber (finger) = **Lebir** (fingers)

Lim (fish) = **Lim** (fish). Basically, as you can see from the table, i does not change.

Solch (edible root) = **Sylch** (edible roots)

Torog (troll) = **Teryg** (trolls)

Haru (wound) = **Hery** (wounds)

Amlug (dragon) = **Emlyg** (dragons)

Hûn (heart) = **Huin** (hearts)

Hûb (harbour, haven) = **Huib** (harbours, havens)

I've put this one in, but there's only really one example:

Mÿl (gull) = **Mÿl** (gulls)

Lesson 9 - Plurals (part two)

Now, let's look at all the diphthongs and what they change into when you pluralise a noun.

Original vowel	Non-final position in word	Final position in word
ai	Doesn't exist	ei
ae	ae	ae
au	au	oe
ie	Doesn't exist	i
io	Doesn't exist	y
ui	ui	ui

Examples:

Naith (spearhead, promontory) = **Neith** (spearheads, promontories) - both a military word and a word for rock formations.

Taith (mark) = **Teith** (marks)

Gwaew (wind) = **Gwaew** (winds)

Taeg (boundary) = **Taeg** (boundaries)

As you can see, this one doesn't change, but if you didn't know that, you might try and change it.

Naug (dwarf) = **Noeg** (dwarves)

Bauglir (tyrant) = **Boeglir** (tyrants)

Eirien (daisy) = **Eirin** (daisies)

Bior (follower, vassal) = **Byr** (followers, vassals)

Cirion (sailor) = **Cirynd** (sailors)

Duin (river) = **Duin** (rivers)

Again, it doesn't change, but you still need to know that.

Irregular plurals

There are also some (not many!) irregular plurals in Sindarin due to how the word was originally formed. This is a useful list to keep in mind, and as there is no 'rule' as such for these, this is here for you to refer to (and hopefully memorise over time). Please be aware that some of these words have homophones (words that are spelt identically but have a different meaning), and their plurals are regular.

Singular	Plural	Meaning
Ael	Aelin	Pool(s)
Alph	Eilph	Swan(s)
Caun	Conin	Prince(s)
Cef	Ceif	Soil(s)
Doron	Deren	Oak tree
Drú	Drúin	Wose(s), Wild men
Êl	Elin	Star(s)
Fair	Fîr	Mortal(s)
Fela	Fili	Cave(s)
Fêr	Ferin	Beech tree(s)
Naith	Natsai	Promontory(ies)

Nawag	Neweg	Dwarf (one of the many words)
Ôl	Elei	Dream(s)
Orod	Ered	Mountain(s) - also has a regular plural Eryd
Parf	Perf	Book (s)
Pel	Peli	Fenced field (s)

Lesson 10 - 'in', and Nasal Mutation

Now you have all the rules for how to turn a noun into the plural form, let's have a look at how we actually incorporate them into a sentence!

You have already seen that the word *i* means the, however this is only for singular use - The book = *i barf* etc; and you also know that a word following *i* undergoes Soft Mutation.

When we want to write a sentence with a plural, e.g. the books, we need to use *in*, the plural form of the. Any word following *in* undergoes Nasal Mutation.

Some scholars will also advise using nasal mutation for the prepositions 'dan' and 'an', but I see this as more 'pure' Sindarin (Doriathrin Sindarin, as opposed to the Sindarin spoken in the Third Age onwards).

Nasal mutation table

Original letter	Becomes after mutation
b	m
c	ch
d	n
g	ng
h	ch
m	m
p	ph
s	s
t	th
gl	gl
gr	gr
gw	gw
hw	'w
lh	l
rh	r
(n)d	nd
(m)b	mb
(n)g	ng

Examples (these also show again the changes nouns undergo when pluralising them)

i draug = the wolf, but *in droeg* = the wolves

i galadh = the tree, but *i ngelaidh* = the trees

Why is this not *in ngelaidh*? Because that results in a double 'n'. Say it out loud. It sounds odd, and it looks odd, so the Elves just removed that first 'n'.

However! Nasal mutation is not as simple as taking *in* + noun and changing its first letter, oh no! As Elves like their language to flow, you also need to know when *in* takes the form *i*. Confused yet? Take a look at the table below.

'In' or 'I'?

In +	Becomes
b	i m
c	i ch
d	i n
f	i f
g	i ng
h	i ch
l	i l
m	i m
n	i n
p	i ph
s	i s
t	i th
th	i th
gl	in gl
gr	in gr
gw	in gw
hw	i 'w
lh	idh l
rh	idh r
(n)d	i nd
(m)b	i mb
(n)g	in g

If the letter is not in the table above, it takes the form in.

Please note the special case for words beginning with LH or RH, where **in** takes the form **idh**. This is only for words whose modern Sindarin forms begin with an LH or RH, not those whose original Noldorin beginnings were an LH or an RH and are now a modern Sindarin L or R.

Lesson 11 - Talking about the weather

Sindarin has many words for different types of weather, and coming from Britain as I do, one of the first things people often make small talk about is whether it's raining or not!

Text One - Two Elves are conversing via telepathy...

A: Suil, mellonegen.

B: Galu!

A: Man tolthant i 'waew?

B: Aul, ach thî síla i anor. Laug enni.

A: Ma.

B: A gin?

A: Danna loss, de ring.

B: Nae!

And now the text again, in English.

A: Greetings, my friend.

B: Hello! (A blessing!)

A: What is the weather like?

B: It was raining, but now the sun shines. I am warm.

A: Good.

B: And you?

A: Snow falls, it is cold.

B: Alas!

Vocabulary

Mellonegen = My friend (don't use mellon nîn, the reason why is in a later lesson!)

Man tolthant i 'waew? = How is the weather/What is the weather like? (Literally 'what did the wind bring?')

Aul = it was raining (This is the verb 'to rain', note this is the past tense, the present tense is in the text below)

ach = but

si = now (remember soft mutation - it changes to 'hi' because of 'dan').

síla = shines (part of the verb 'to shine')

anor = Sun

Laug enni = I am warm (Laug = (it is) warm, enni = to me)

Danna = falls (part of the verb danna-)

loss = snow

de ring = (it is) cold. You can also say **Ring enni** for 'I am cold'.

Nae = Alas!

Text Two - Two Elves meet on a flet in Lórien.

A: Man tolthatha i 'waew abarad?

B: Alagos tól.

A: Na vedui!

B: Tiro! Ail.

Just a short text, to cover some of the other vocabulary. And again in English...

A: What will the weather be like tomorrow?

B: A storm comes.

A: At last!

B: Look! It is raining.

Vocabulary

Man tolthatha i 'waew? = How will the weather become? (Literally 'what *will* the wind bring?')
Note the different verb ending on toltha- but it's not something you have to memorise or work out right now!

Abarad = tomorrow*

Alagos = storm

Tôl = comes. All I'll say now is that this is the 'he/she/it comes' form of the verb.

Na vedui = At last! (*As in 'ai na vedui Dunadan!' that Glorfindel says in LoTR.*)

Tiro! = Look!

Ail = It is raining (verb 'to rain', present tense this time).

* Reconstructed word

Why can I not just say Im/Ni ring, or Im/Ni laug?

For the same reason that we do not say Ich bin kalt in German, it has a rather different meaning with a sexual undertone (you're saying 'I am frigid' or 'I am 'hot'', basically!)

Lesson 12 - Prepositions

A preposition is, as I remember my English teacher telling me once, 'a joining word'; they are the words that link sentences together.

So before you start to work on writing texts, you need to be know and be able to use these.

Obviously I'm not expecting you to memorise them, I still have to check my lists occasionally (and there are quite a lot of them).

Sindarin has four types of prepositions, I'm going to cover two here.

The letters in brackets are what is deleted or added in if the following word starts with a vowel:

e.g.

N'aur = at day

A Im = and myself

O(h) is a bit special, and I'll cover it in the examples.

The word that follows a preposition is mutated with Soft Mutation

Sindarin	English
A(h/dh)	And
N(a)	At
O(h)	About
Adh	With/By/Near
Adel	Behind
Am	Upon/Up
An	To/For
Athan	Beyond
Be	According to
Bo	On
Dad	Down
Dan	But/Yet/Against
Ed	Out of/Forth
Eng*	Except, save
Egor	Or
Mi	In/Between (not time)
Na	To/Towards/At (when referencing time)
Nan	With/Possessing/Including
Ned	In/During (when referencing time)
Nef	On this side of
Nu	Beneath/Under
Núf*	Before
Od	From/Of
Or	Over/Above
Sui	As/Like
Thar	Across/Over
Trî	Through/Throughout
*This is reconstructed	

When it comes to using adh it can be a little tricky when speaking to someone who also uses this form as 'a' before a vowel, e.g.:

i luin adh i 'wath adh i chemmaid dholl

There are two possible translations for this sentence (it's actually a line of a poem):

- 1) The blue and the dim and the dark cloths *or*
- 2) The blue with the dim with the dark cloths

My general attitude towards using *adh* is that context is everything, and provide an English translation alongside. It is also best to use **ah** for and, if the meaning is unclear and if you are writing an earlier text - see lesson 7 for a discussion on the various forms of 'a'.

Examples:

O heilph = Concerning swans

but

Oh lhing = About a spider/cobweb

With o(h), you attach the h onto the following word *if it begins with a vowel*. If it doesn't, don't!

N'aur = At day

but

Na Imladris = At Imladris

These highlight the difference between at(time) and at(a place).

Le bain sui loth = You are beautiful as a flower

Nu i iant = Under the bridge

Further prepositions

The second set of prepositions I want to cover are ones with the word 'the' combined into them.

Sindarin	English
Anin	To/For the
Ben	According to the
En *	Of the
Erin	Over/Upon the
Min	In the
Nuin	Under the
Uin	From the

***En** is (you will soon start to groan when I write this) a special case.

All of these other prepositions do not change for a plural form, but **En** does.

As you already know, **i** becomes **in** on a plural. **En** also changes to **in** on a plural.

Now you might be thinking "Ah ha, okay, so it will use nasal mutation."

Afraid not, it has its own set of mutations, which I will cover in lesson 14.

Onto some examples:

Uin gobel = From the town

There's nothing to stop you writing **Od i gobel**, they mean exactly the same, the first just looks a little neater perhaps.

Nuin iant = Under the bridge (just to show you the other way to write this sentence).

Lesson 13 - Adjectives

First off, you'd better learn some vocabulary!

Here's a (not exhaustive) list of the most common adjectives, with their soft mutated forms for easy access. There are no 'exceptions' in this list, you'll be glad to know!

English	Sindarin	Soft mutated form
Long	And	And
Strong	Bell	Vell
Great	Beleg	Veleg
Bold, brave	Beren	Veren
Old	Brûn	Vrûn
Tough, hard	Dern	Dhern
Silent	Dinen	Dhinen
Mean, poor, bad	Faeg	Faeg
Dead	Fern	Fern
Slender	Fim	Fim
New	Gwain	'wain
Dirty	Gwaur	'waur
Weary	Lom	Lom
Heavy	Long	Long
Sweet	Melui	Velui
Friendly, lovely	Milui	Vilui
Dear, beloved	Muin	Vuin
Young	Neth	Neth
Small	Niben	Niben
Good	Maer	Vaer
Clean, tidy, neat	Puig	Buig
Wrong	Raeg	Raeg
Straight, right	Tîr	Dir
Tall	Tond	Dond

You only need soft mutation for this lesson, as regardless of whether the noun or subject is plural, the adjective will follow that word, and adjectives use soft mutation.

Example sentences:

i venn veren = the brave man

but

i minn veren = the brave men. As you can see, **benn** (man) has been pluralised to **binn** and mutated to **minn** with nasal mutation, but **veren** has just been changed with soft mutation.

Using more than one adjective in a list:

i orn vrun bell = the old strong tree (brun mutates to vrun and bell stays the same as it is the 2nd word) or **i orn vell brun** = the strong old tree (bell mutates to vell and brun stays the same as it is the 2nd word).

As you can see, if you are writing a list of things, 'the young tall man' etc, then the second adjective (or any thereafter) do not need to change, just the first word in the list needs to mutate.

But when using **a** in a sentence such as this you need to write:

i orn vrun a vell = the old and strong tree, as as you are already aware, any word following 'and' must mutate.

Lesson 14 - Mixed Mutation ('En')

This is the third type of mutation for you to learn - there are a few others, but they're not quite so common - I will cover those in a much later lesson.

Mixed mutation is used for any preposition that includes the word 'the' - i.e. *En*, *Anin*, *Min* etc.

Original letter(s) means 'the first letter(s) of the word following the preposition', e.g.:

en + brun = e-brun, the original letter is 'b', and the 'n' of en does a disappearing act.

The letter changes, i.e c becoming g are the same for all words subject to Mixed Mutation, but the table below also shows you how the preposition *En* changes depending on the word. (It will also teach you some new vocabulary!)

Original letter(s)	With mutation	Example
En + B	E-B	e-brennil = of the lady
En + C	E-G	e-gaun = of the prince
En + D	E-D	e-dae = of the shadow
En + DR	EN-DR	en-drúedain = of the wild men
En + F	E-F	e-falas = of the shore
En + G	E-G	e-gath = of the cavern
En + GL	EN-GL	en-glamor = of the echo
En + GR	EN-GR	en-grond = of the club
En + GW	EN-GW	en-gwaew = of the wind
En + H	E-CH	e-chalf = of the seashell
En + HW	E-'W	e-'wind = of the twirling
En + L	E-L	e-laer = of the song
En + LH	E-'L	e-'loss = of the whisper
En + M	E-M	e-maethor = of the warrior
En + P	E-B	e-beng = of the bow
En + R	EDH-R	edh-rant = of the lode
En + RH	E-'R	e-'rass = of the precipice
En + S	E-H	e-hell = of the daughter
En + T	E-D	e-dachol = of the brooch
En + TH	E-TH	e-thavron = of the carpenter
En + TR	EN-DR	en-drenarn = of the account, tale
En + (m)B	E-MB	e-mbar = of the house
En + (n)D	E-ND	e-ndír = of the man
En + (n)G	E-NG	e-ngolodh = of the Noldo

Lesson 15 - Pronouns (part one)

The basic pronouns that this lesson will cover are indefinite pronouns, nominative pronouns and emphatic pronouns.

Indefinite - Somebody, someone etc.

Nominative - I am, He is, You are etc.

Emphatic - I am, You are, Myself, Yourself, Ourselves, etc.

Indefinite pronouns

I've put these in their pairs of opposites:

Something = **nad** Nothing = **ú-nad**

Someone = **pen** No one = **ú-ben**

Somewhere = **sad** Nowhere = **ú-had**

Where these act as the direct object of a sentence, soft mutation applies, for example:

ed i had hen = out of this place

abrannen ben = after I found a way to someone

Nominative pronouns

Singular		Plural	
I am	ni	We are	me
You are (formal)	le	You are (formal)	le
You are (informal)	ci	You are (informal)	ci
He/She/It is	te	They are	ti
This is	se	These are	si
That is	sa	Those are	sai

Example phrases:

Ni brun = I am old

Le leich = You are sweet

De ithron = He is a wizard

Why is it De ithron, not Te ithron? Because the 'he' being discussed is the subject of the sentence.

Where the pronoun is the subject, it needs to mutate (soft mutation).

Emphatic pronouns

The word that follows an emphatic pronoun does NOT mutate

I am, (I, myself) or Ourselves	Im
You are or Yourself	Ech
He/She/It is or Him/Her/Its self	E or Est

The singular is the same as the plural - the same word is used to signify You are as it is for Yourselfs.

You can use either **E** or **Est**, it isn't a case of one is meant to be before a vowel and one isn't, we just have two options from Tolkien!

So, why would you use an emphatic pronoun over a nominative pronoun?

Im Boromir = I am Boromir egor **Ni Boromir** = I am Boromir?

Using the emphatic to introduce yourself lends an extra something to it - the example of this comes from a text in The Lord of the Rings, which hopefully you might recognise from the inscription on the door that leads into Moria: **Im Narvi, hain echant** which translates as 'I, Narvi, made them', but it is not just 'I made them' it is 'I, myself, made them', there is the extra edge of self importance to it.

Example phrase:

Similarly, you could introduce someone with the emphatic:

E/Est Gandalf, i ithron vith = He is Gandalf, the grey wizard

Lesson 16 - Verbs (Present tense)

Verb endings in Sindarin are by every scholar's admission, a bit of a mess...there are some irregular verbs, and a lot of endings. However! As with most things, start using them and things will start to fall into place.

So, let's start with the Present Tense!

Sindarin has two types of verbs, I stem verbs and A stem verbs.

You can tell which is which simply by looking at a verb in a dictionary. If it ends with an 'a', it's an A stem verb.

A stem verbs are further broken into 'simple' and 'complex'. Complex just means that it has some irregular endings. The verb 'to rain' is a very good example of an irregular verb, but they are in lesson 19.

Lets list out the endings for five (hopefully useful) verbs:

- **Mad** - to eat (I stem)
- **Cen** - to see (I stem)
- **Tol** - to come (I stem)
- **Aníra** - to want (A stem)
- **Ista** - to know (A stem)

This should show you *why* the previously used sentence **Aníron aes** means 'I want meat' and why **Man anírog?** means 'What do you want?'

I have put the different endings in red to show how it changes.

I stem verbs

Mad- to eat			
Infinitive 'to eat'	Medi		
Gerund 'eating'	Maded		
1st person 'I eat'	Medin	Plural 'We eat'	Medim
2nd person formal 'You eat'	Madol	Plural 'You (all) eat'	Medelir
2nd person informal 'You eat'	Madog	Plural 'You (all) eat'	Medegir
3rd person 'He/she/it eats'	Mâd	Plural 'They eat'	Medir
Imperative 'Eat!'	Mado!		

Cen- to see			
Infinitive 'to see'	Ceni		
Gerund 'seeing'	Cened		
1st person 'I see'	Cenin	Plural 'We see'	Cenim
2nd person formal 'You see'	Cenol	Plural 'You (all) see'	Cenelir
2nd person informal 'You see'	Cenog	Plural 'You (all) see'	Cenegir
3rd person 'He/she/it sees'	Cên	Plural 'They see'	Cenir
Imperative 'See!'	Ceno!		

Tol- to come (to a place)			
Infinitive 'to come'	Teli		
Gerund 'coming'	Toled		
1st person 'I come'	Telin	Plural 'We come'	Telim
2nd person formal 'You come'	Tolol	Plural 'You (all) come'	Telelir
2nd person informal 'You come'	Tolog	Plural 'You (all) come'	Telegir
3rd person 'He/she/it comes'	Tôl	Plural 'They come'	Tolir
Imperative 'Come!'	Tolo!		

You might have noticed that the vowels in I stem verbs change in the same way that we change vowels in plurals. This is generally known as I-affection. If you need a reminder on how they change, revisit lesson 8.

A stem verbs

Aníra- to want/desire			
Infinitive 'to want'	Aníro		Aníram
Gerund 'wanting'	Anírad		Anírolir
1st person 'I want'	Aníron		Anírogir
2nd person formal 'You want'	Anírol	Plural 'We want'	Anírar
2nd person informal 'You want'	Anírog	Plural 'You (all) want'	
3rd person 'He/she/it wants'	Aníra	Plural 'You (all) want'	
Imperative 'Want!'	Aníro!	Plural 'They want'	

Ista- to know			
Infinitive 'to know'	Isto		Istam
Gerund 'knowing'	Istad		Istolir
1st person 'I know'	Iston		Istogir
2nd person formal 'You know'	Istol	Plural 'We know'	Istar
2nd person informal 'You know'	Istog	Plural 'You (all) know'	
3rd person 'He/she/it know'	Ista	Plural 'You (all) know'	
Imperative 'Know!'	Isto!	Plural 'They know'	

A stem verbs are not subject to I-affection, making them much more regular.

Examples:

One of the easiest mistakes to make is something like -

Im iston or **Nin iston** to try and say 'I know'.

Because of the way Sindarin verbs are constructed, you do not need the pronoun. Simply say **Iston**.

Im iston actually means 'I know myself'.

Madol lembas = You eat lembas (formal). Again no need for **le** or **ci**.

Here are some examples of sentences where you **would** use a pronoun:

Len cenin = I see you

Nin istog = You know me

Den aníra = He desires it

Another difference between Sindarin and English (and other languages) is that Sindarin only has one present tense.

In English you could say 'I am eating' or 'I eat'. In Sindarin these are both covered by **Medin**.

Similarly 'They are coming' and 'They come' are both **Telir**.

This is an important distinction to make when dealing with Sindarin, as otherwise you are likely to try and make sentences like this:

Ni maded = I am eating

De toled = He is coming

Why is this wrong? Well although written down, 'Ni maded = I am eating' looks exactly the same as 'Medin = I am eating', they have different meanings. **Ni maded** implies that you, personally, are something called 'eating', and that **De toled** is referring to someone who is personally something called 'coming' (no rude comments, please).

Lesson 17 - Verbs (Past tense) Parts 1 & 2

Carrying on with the same I-stem verbs that we looked at for the Present tense (and two different A-stem verbs: **Aníra-** and **Ista-** are irregular in the past tense) let's now look at the past tense.

What's known as the 'passive participle' and 'active participle' are rarely used in practice, but I've included them so you have all of the verb forms.

Bear in mind that the 2nd person verb forms are a tad theoretical, and based off work in PE17, common sense, and Quenya rules. Please take note that these are different to the versions used by David Salo and some other Sindarin scholars, I don't use the -ich ending for the 2nd person. Some translators refuse to use them as they're not attested (neither is -ich, incidentally) but you are rather limiting what you can say and write if you don't.

Remember that you must use I-affection when dealing with I-stem verbs!

Part One - Examples

I stem verbs

Mad- to eat			
1st person 'I ate'	Mennin	Plural 'We ate'	Mennim
2nd person formal 'You ate'	Menninol	Plural 'You (all) ate'	Menninelir
2nd person informal 'You ate'	Menninog	Plural 'You (all) ate'	Menninegir
3rd person 'He/she/it ate'	Mant	Plural 'They ate'	Mennir
Active participle 'having eaten'	Módiel	Plural	Módiel
Passive participle 'having been eaten'	Mannen	Plural	Mennin

Cen- to see			
1st person 'I saw'	Cennin	Plural 'We saw'	Cennim
2nd person formal 'You saw'	Cenninol	Plural 'You (all) saw'	Cenninelir
2nd person informal 'You saw'	Cenninog	Plural 'You (all) saw'	Cenninegir
3rd person 'He/she/it saw'	Cann	Plural 'They saw'	Cennir
Active participle 'having seen'	Cíniel	Plural	Cíniel
Passive participle 'having been seen'	Cennen	Plural	Cennin

Tol- to come (to a place)			
1st person 'I came'	Tellin	Plural 'We came'	Tellim
2nd person formal 'You came'	Tellinol	Plural 'You (all) came'	Tellinelir
2nd person informal 'You came'	Tellinog	Plural 'You (all) came'	Tellinegir
3rd person 'He/she/it came'	Toll	Plural 'They came'	Tellir
Active participle 'having come'	Túliel	Plural	Túliel
Passive participle 'having been come'	Tollen	Plural	Tellin

A stem verbs

Lasta- to listen			
1st person 'I listened'	Last annen	Plural 'We listened'	Last annem
2nd person formal 'You listened'	Last annenol	Plural 'You (all) listened'	Last annenolir
2nd person informal 'You listened'	Last annenog	Plural 'You (all) listened'	Last annenogir
3rd person 'He/she/it listened'	Last ant	Plural 'They listened'	Last anner
Active participle 'having listened'	Last iel	Plural	Lest iel
Passive participle 'having been listened'	Last annen	Plural	Lest ennin

Dartha- to wait			
1st person 'I waited'	Darth annen	Plural 'We waited'	Darth annem
2nd person formal 'You waited'	Darth annenol	Plural 'You (all) waited'	Darth annenolir
2nd person informal 'You waited'	Darth annenog	Plural 'You (all) waited'	Darth annenogir
3rd person 'He/she/it waited'	Darth ant	Plural 'They waited'	Darth anner
Active participle 'having waited'	Darth iel	Plural	Derth iel
Passive participle 'having been waiting'	Darth annen	Plural	Darth annin

Part two - I-stem Consonant changes

As you can see, A-stem verbs have much more regular endings*, it is the same endings added to the stem.

We do however have consonant changes to contend with when it comes to the past tenses of verbs - if you look at **Mad-** you see it becomes **Mennin** in the past tense due to i-affection (the same mutation used to make plurals).

**see part four in lesson 18 for when this is not always the case*

Original consonant (from the stem)	Becomes in 1st person past tense	Becomes in 3rd person past tense
B	-MMIN	-MP
D	-NNIN	-NT
DH	-NNIN	-NT
G	-NGIN	-NC
L	-LLIN	-LL
R	-RNIN	-RN
V	-MMIN	-MP

Examples

First person	Third person
Cab- = Cemmin (I leapt)	Cab- = Camp (He/she/it leapt)
Ped- = Pennin (I spoke)	Ped- = Pent (He/she/it spoke)
Edledh- = Edlennin (I went into exile)	Edledh- = Edlent (He/she/it went into exile)
Dag- = Dengin (I slew)	Dag- = Danc (He/she/it slew)
Tol- = Tellin (I came)	Tol- = Toll (He/she/it came)
Palandir- = Palandirnin (I watched from afar)	Palandir- = Palandirnt (He/she/it watched from afar)
Hav- = Hemmin (I sat)	Hav- = Hamp (He/she/it sat)

Lesson 18 - Verbs (Past tense) Parts 3 & 4

This carries directly on from lesson 17, and examines the irregularities with A-stem verbs.

Part three - A-stem consonant simplification

Although A-stem verbs do not have I-affection and consonant changes to worry about, they do have some simplifications to prevent large groups of repeated consonants.

Consonant cluster	Becomes in the past tense	Example
nna- ida- ada-	-nnen not -nnannen -innen -annen	Penna- = Pennen not Pennannen Nimmida- = Nimminen Gannada- = Gannen Tangada- = Tangannen

Part four - A-stem irregular verbs

And finally, we come to the (small, panic ye not) group of A-stem verbs that have irregular conjugations *in the past tense*. They are regular in the present tense and the future tense, so please do not try and stick random endings on them! For the true irregular verbs that are irregular in most tenses, please see lesson 20.

The reason that these are important is that to make them regular is the equivalent of saying 'I thought' or 'I dranked' in English. You know what the person means, but it isn't the correct formation, and it certainly isn't how a native would say it!

Instead of listing the consonant changes in a little table, I'm going to do each verb individually. As it isn't clear what happens to the 2nd person forms of these verbs, I will treat them as if they were any other A-stem verb, adding the ending onto the 1st person form, so for example:
We take **Ammen** = I refused, and add the second person ending, giving us -
Ammenol = You refused, **Ammenolir** = You all refused, etc.

Aníra- to want			
I wanted He/she/it wanted	Anír en Anír n	We wanted They wanted	Anír em Anír ner

Tíra- to see, to gaze is conjugated identically to **Aníra-**

Ava- to refuse			
I refused He/she/it refused	Amm en Am	We refused They refused	Amm em Am er

Banga- to trade			
I traded He/she/it traded	Bang en Bang c	We traded They traded	Bang em Bang er

Gala- to grow			
I grew He/she/it grew	Gall en Gall	We grew They grew	Gall em Gall er

Gawa- to howl			
I howled He/she/it howled	Gonen Gaun	We howled They howled	Gonem Goner

Groga- to feel terror			
I felt terror He/she/it felt terror	Grungen Grunc	We felt terror They felt terror	Grungem Grunger

Ista- to know			
I knew He/she/it knew	Sinnen or Istassen Sint or Istas	We knew They knew	Istassem Istasser

Laba- to hop			
I hopped He/she/it hopped	Lammen Lamp	We hopped They hopped	Lammem Lamber

Loda- to float			
I floated He/she/it floated	Lunnen Lunt	We floated They floated	Lunnem Lunder

Muda- to labour			
I laboured He/she/it laboured	Mudassen Mudas	We laboured They laboured	Mudassem Mudasser

Pada- to walk (on a path)			
I walked He/she/it walked	Pannen Pant	We walked They walked	Pannem Pander

Sila- to shine with silver light			
I shone He/she/it shone	Sillen Sill	We shone They shone	Sillem Siller

Thora- to fence (in)			
I fenced He/she/it fenced	Thoren Thaur	We fenced They fenced	Thorem Thorer

Toba- to cover, roof over			
I covered He/she/it covered	Tummen Tump	We covered They covered	Tummem Tumber

Lesson 19 - Verbs (Future tense)

Let's now look at the future tense, for the five verbs that we looked at in the present tense.

The future tense is incredibly regular, the endings are the same for I stem and A stem, it's just the initial vowels that you have to still change on the I-stem verbs.

Again, I have marked the verb endings in red.

Although Sindarin doesn't technically have a conditional tense 'I would eat', 'I would see', I have an idea on how this might be constructed (from attested material). This can be found in lesson 19a.

I stem verbs

Mad- to eat			
1st person 'I will eat'	Med ithon	Plural 'We will eat'	Med itham
2nd person formal 'You will eat'	Med ithol	Plural 'You will all eat'	Med itholir
2nd person informal 'You will eat'	Med ithog	Plural 'You will all eat'	Med ithogir
3rd person 'He/she/it will eat'	Med itha	Plural 'They will eat'	Med ithar

Cen- to see			
1st person 'I will see'	Cen ithon	Plural 'We will see'	Cen itham
2nd person formal 'You will see'	Cen ithol	Plural 'You will all see'	Cen itholir
2nd person informal 'You will see'	Cen ithog	Plural 'You will all see'	Cen ithogir
3rd person 'He/she/it will see'	Cen itha	Plural 'They will see'	Cen ithar

Tol- to come (to a place)			
1st person 'I will come'	Tel ithon	Plural 'We will come'	Tel itham
2nd person formal 'You will come'	Tel ithol	Plural 'You will all come'	Tel itholir
2nd person informal 'You will come'	Tel ithog	Plural 'You will all come'	Tel ithogir
3rd person 'He/she/it will come'	Tel itha	Plural 'They will come'	Tel ithar

A stem verbs

Aníra- to want/desire			
1st person 'I will want'	Aníra thon	Plural 'We will want'	Aníra tham
2nd person formal 'You will want'	Aníra thol	Plural 'You will all want'	Aníra tholir
2nd person informal 'You will want'	Aníra thog	Plural 'You will all want'	Aníra thogir
3rd person 'He/she/it will want'	Aníra tha	Plural 'They will want'	Aníra thar

Ista- to know			
1st person 'I will know'	Ista thon	Plural 'We will know'	Ista tham
2nd person formal 'You will know'	Ista thol	Plural 'You will all know'	Ista tholir
2nd person informal 'You will know'	Ista thog	Plural 'You will all know'	Ista thogir
3rd person 'He/she/it will know'	Ista tha	Plural 'They will know'	Ista thar

Lesson 19a - Conditional tense (future unreal)

This lesson was originally written entirely theoretically, based on my own surmisings from Tolkien's work. Since the publication of Vinyar Tengwar #50 however, it looks as if my suppositions about 'aen' have turned out to be correct!

Future unreal = 'could', would'. Obviously we already have the basic conditional tense from the word 'If', this is for more complicated sentences.

This is an idea I had whilst thinking about the King's Letter, the longest Sindarin text, particularly the line:

i sennui Panthael estathar aen = 'who ought to be called Fullwise'.

Now, if we analyse this sentence, we see we have

i = the relative pronoun, 'who'

sennui = instead/rather

Panthael = 'Fullwise'

estathar = 'will be called'

And then we have *aen* at the end, which to my mind can only be to signify the conditional tense, changing *estathar* - 'will be called' into *estathar aen* - 'could be called'.

As I'm sure you're aware, if you've done much research into Sindarin, *aen* is probably the most controversial word in Sindarin, every scholar has their own thoughts on what it means, and some prefer not to use it at all as we don't know for certain Tolkien's intentions.

Usage

As the only example we have is for the future tense, I will not try and extrapolate it into other tenses. In the King's Letter, *aen* is shown to follow the verb, so here are some examples that follow in the same vein:

Medithon aen = I would eat

Cenithol aen = You would see

Istatha aen = He would know

Telithon aen nad i mar gîn = I would come to your house

Aníatham aen lembas = We would want lembas

Lesson 20 - Irregular verbs

N.B - this is for the truly irregular verbs, who like to plague us with their strangeness. For verbs such as *Ista-* etc. which do have changes in their past tense compared to normal A-stem verbs, please see lesson 18.

Part one

Sindarin does not have many (thankfully), but it does have some irregular verbs, which I have listed below in all their forms, as when it comes to these, you cannot rely on the normal rules to conjugate them, you have to look them up!

Anna- = To give	
Infinitive 'to give'	Anno
Gerund 'giving'	Annad
1st person present 'I give'	Annon
3rd person present 'He/she/it gives'	Anna
Imperative 'Give!'	Anno!
1st person past 'I gave'	Onen
3rd person past 'He/she/it gave'	Aun
1st person future 'I will give'	Annathon
3rd person future 'He/she/it will give'	Annatha

Elia- = To rain	
Infinitive	Elio
Gerund	Eliad
3rd person present	Ail
Imperative	Elio!
3rd person past	Aul
3rd person future	Eliatha

Elia- is what is known as an impersonal verb, when we refer to 'it is raining', the 'it' in question is a rather nebulous 'it' (the sky in general). Thus there are no first person forms for this verb, as we only ever refer to weather in such a manner, we do not say 'You are raining'.

Boe- = It is necessary to

(m)boe- is another impersonal verb, but a rather odd one. This verb only has one form regardless of tense, and that is **boe**. (Please note the mb stem for mutation purposes however!)

Examples:

Boe pedim = It is necessary we speak

Boe i pennim = It is necessary that we spoke

Boe i penitham = It is necessary that we will speak

Car- = To do, to make	
1st person past	Agoren
3rd person past	Agor

Car- is only irregular in the past tense, for present and future tenses conjugate it as you would any other I-stem verb.

Part two (theoretical)

The second part of this lesson concerns: I-stem verbs where two verbs of different meanings can end up with the same verb part due to lenition, for example:

Nin cenir

Do they see me, or do they call me? It's a normal sentence, and one you would use in everyday speech. but you can't tell the difference, as **Can-** (to call) due to I-affection, becomes Cen in some of its forms, and thus looks like the verb **Cen-** (to see), which, again, due to I-affection, *does not change*, and remains Cen in all forms.

I thus do not believe for a moment that Elves would conjugate all verbs identically, as they would not be able to differentiate other than through context, and that does not apply in all cases (such as the example above). Homophones for nouns or adjectives are easy to navigate, much as they are in English - we do not get mixed up when someone uses fur/fir or to/too/two while talking, as context always provides the answer.

In much the same way in Sindarin, we would (probably) not confuse *i 'wend vîn* and = 'Our friendship is long' with 'Our maiden is long'!

When it comes to verbs though, particularly in a short sentence, there is little or no context to be able to tell the difference, and so I propose the following -

These are the verbs that this applies to:

Cen- (to see) and **Can-** (to cry)

Gar- (to have, hold) and **Gor-** (to warn, counsel)

Hal- (to lift) and **Hol-** (to close)

Ped- (to speak) and **Pad-** (to step)

My proposal is that of the verbs in these pairs, the first verb listed remains with its normal conjugation (**Cen-** stays as Cen in all forms, **Gar-** still changes to Ger for some forms, and so on), and the second verb in the pairs does not undergo lenition.

For example:

Can- should become **Cenithon** = I will cry out. I propose that it remains **Canithon** = I will cry.

Gor- should become **Gerithon** = I will warn. I propose it remains **Gorithon** = I will warn.

Hol- should become **Helithon** = I will close. I propose it remains **Holithon** = I will close.

And so on, for all other forms of the verb where they would normally mutate, for the other pairs.

A question also arises concerning **Lammen** = I hopped vs. **Lammen** = my tongue, but I believe that context can be applied in this case.

We also have:

Cab- (to leap) and **Caf-** (to bow)

As **Caf-** is a reconstruction of my own I thought it prudent to look at it separately.

In the past tense, I leapt = **Cemmin**, but if we follow the rules of I-stem verbs, I bowed also =

Cemmin.

How could we get round this? There is always of course the option that 'we don't', but what about this instead -

David Salo proposes two options for **Haf-** (we are looking at this as it is an I-stem verb which also ends in **f**) which should according to our rules become **Hemmin** (I sat). He offers both **Hemmin** (I sat), and curiously **Hevennin** (I sat). Perhaps then, (while **Cab-** remains **Cemmin** in the past tense), **Caf-** becomes **Cevennin**.

Lesson 21 - Plurals (part three) - Class plurals

There are four other plurals in Sindarin - being able to say 'all of something' or 'a group of something', and they are all suffixes, (they attach to the end of the word.)

-ath

This plural ending makes the word mean 'all of the x' and can be used on 'things' as well as peoples.

For example:

Elenath = All of the stars

Gaudath = All of the machines

The table below shows you the rules for adding -ath onto a word.

If last letter(s) is/are:	Then turn it into (before adding the suffix):
A	O - This becomes 'oth' not 'oath'.
F	V
LT	L
M (from MB)	MM
N/NN (from ND)	NN
NC	NG
NT	NN
S	SS
OL/EL/OR (from either l or r)	L/R

How do I know if a word 'comes from ND or MB'?

Look it up in the word lists on the website, if you are unsure.

-rim

This suffix means 'a group of'/'some'/'a tribe of' and is used on nouns.

For example:

Onodrim = A group of Ents

However, you cannot simply attach -rim onto the end of any noun; again, it has its own mini set of rules to follow:

If the last letter(s) of the word are a	Then the suffix becomes
L	-lim
N/NN that comes from ND	-ndrim
N (that does not come from a ND root)	-dhrim
NT	-ndrim
S/SS/ST	-thrim

Again, if you are unsure if a word has an ND root or not, check the word lists on the website.

-hoth

This suffix means 'host', and is invariably used for 'evil' peoples.

For example:

Glamhoth = 'noisy host' (orcs).

This suffix you can just add onto the end of the word without worrying about having any rules to follow.

-waith

This suffix simply means 'people' or 'peoples', and can only be used for Free Peoples (Elves, Men, Dwarves etc. - no evil peoples, orcs and the like). It also has no rule to follow, just add the suffix, for example:

Forodwaith = North peoples, (Northmen)

Lesson 22 - Pronouns (part two)

This lesson will cover possessive pronouns, one of the most commonly used pronouns in English. Examples: my book, your pen etc.

The possessive pronoun includes the definite article, *i* (the, singular). This cannot be omitted unless you are using the pronoun to start the sentence, and as always when *i* is used, causes soft mutation in the following word.

Possessive pronouns

Singular		Plural	
My...	<i>i</i> ____ <i>nîn</i>	Our (not your)...	<i>i</i> ____ <i>vîn</i>
		Our (and your)...	<i>i</i> ____ <i>'wîn</i>
Your...(formal)	<i>i</i> ____ <i>lîn</i>	Your...(formal)	<i>i</i> ____ <i>lîn</i>
Your...(informal)	<i>i</i> ____ <i>gîn</i>	Your...(informal)	<i>i</i> ____ <i>gîn</i>
His/Hers/Its...	<i>i</i> ____ <i>dîn</i>	Their...	<i>i</i> ____ <i>dîn</i>
This...	<i>i</i> ____ <i>hen</i>	These...	<i>i</i> ____ <i>hin</i>
That...	<i>i</i> ____ <i>han</i>	Those...	<i>i</i> ____ <i>hain</i>
Reflexive	<i>i</i> ____ <i>în</i>	Reflexive	<i>i</i> ____ <i>în</i>

Those of you that have been paying attention to the earlier lessons may have realised that all of these pronouns have undergone Soft mutation; the original form of 'His/hers/its' for example is *i* ____ *tîn*.

This is however just a note on the formation of the language, as you will never see the possessive pronouns in their 'original' forms, you will always use those in the table above.

Example phrases:

i *iaul nîn* = my cat

i *barf lîn* = your book

i *grist dîn* = his sword

What does reflexive mean?

A reflexive pronoun is one that refers back to the subject of the verb.

For example:

*Fara i aras î*n = He hunts his own deer

*Hevin bo i cham î*n = I sit on my own chair

Lesson 23 - Possessive suffixes (diminutive)

Possessive suffixes

Singular		Plural	
-enin	My	-emen	Our
-egen	Your (informal)	-egenir	Your (informal)
-elen	Your (formal)	-elenir	Your (formal)
-ed	His/her/its	-ent	Their

Examples:

Hervenned = Her husband

Nanethegen = Your mother

Hûemen = Our dog

Ionent = Their son

What is a possessive suffix?

A possessive suffix is an alternative to using the possessive pronouns in Lesson 22, where instead of surrounding the word with the pronoun, the ending is attached to the word.

Attested words with possessive suffixes in Sindarin include:

lammen = my tongue (from Gandalf's invocation outside Moria, '**lasto beth lammen**')
guren = my heart

This is not just an alternative way of writing it however, it gives the sentence a subtly different shade of meaning, as you are using a diminutive.

If Gandalf said 'lammen', why does the table above indicate it should be 'lammenin'?

This is a very good question, and if you own a copy of PE17 I will refer you to page 46.

It seems that Tolkien considered there to be 'older Sindarin' versions of these suffixes, which includes the -en seen in the Lord of the Rings. The table above shows the 'newer Sindarin' equivalents that Tolkien wrote down.

What is a diminutive?

If you want to say something like 'my love' when talking to your partner, then what you wouldn't do in Sindarin is write **i veleth nîn**. Instead, you would write **melethenin**.

Why?

To say **i veleth nîn** implies that you own them (it is after all a possessive pronoun, **my** book, **your** pen).

When would it be used?

The diminutive is the English equivalent of an endearment, and would be most used when talking about family members, or pets (in other words, people or things you care about).

Lesson 24 - 'To be'

The verb 'to be' can be one of the most difficult things to understand when learning Sindarin, as a lot of the time, it is simply left out, for example, when a sentence contains Is or Are - for example:

It is a leaf = **Te lass**

They are leaves = **Ti laiss**

What this actually says if you translate it back into English word for word is "It leaf" and "They leaves".

The 'is (a)' and the 'are' that we use in English are implied, or rather, we put them in when we translate from Sindarin to English.

However. For other sentences, where you're not using a pronoun such as in this case, there is an option for putting the verb 'to be' in. This is the original work of David Salo (the linguist who wrote the Elvish dialogue in the LotR films), but not all linguists use it as it is reconstructed. Personally, I use these quite a lot, as I find it makes translations a lot easier!

<u>Future tense</u>	
Nathon	I will be
Natham	We will be
Natha	He/she/it will be
Nathar	They will be
<u>Past tense</u>	
Nonen	I was
Nonem	We were
Naun/Non	He/She/It was
Noner	They were
Naul	Being
No!	Be!

The difference between Naun/Non and Naw/No is listed by David Salo as the following:

"Naun and Naw are used when the word takes a strong stress in the sentence.

Non and No are used when the word is weakly stressed." (*A Gateway to Sindarin*)

Please note I have removed the present tense form of this verb as it is superfluous (we use nominative pronouns instead).

There is also a possible way of saying **the [noun] is [adjective]** (for example 'the cat is small')

Compare the following sentences:

i iaul vîw = the small cat

i iaul mîw = the cat is small

However, this does run into the obvious problem that it looks as if you've forgotten to apply soft mutation.

By using the following sentence, you bypass this problem completely (if making it a little unwieldy).

i iaul no vîw = the cat (it) is small

Lesson 25 - Relative pronouns

A relative pronoun is 'that/who/whom/which'. Technically 'that' is the subordinate conjunction, but as Sindarin treats it identically to the others, I am not differentiating.

The relative pronoun in Sindarin is **i** for singular, and **in** for plural, exactly like the word 'the'.

For singular, use soft mutation as you would normally for a word following **i** = the.

For plural, you must use nasal mutation as you would for a word following **in** = the.

Here are some examples. The relative pronouns are marked in red:

I see **that** you came to Imladris

Cenin **i** dellinol na Imladris

I will see him **whom** I love

Cenithon de **i** velin

I am she **who** ate it

Ni de **i** de mennin

This is the house in **which** we sleep

Se i mar mi **i** lostam

What stops this i from meaning 'the'?

Well, translate the first sentence back, and you would get 'I see the you came to Imladris', which doesn't make sense! As always, context is everything.

How do I know when to use i for who and when to use a man?

This is a good question, and easily answered. **A man** is an interrogative pronoun, used for asking questions. Here, we are not asking anyone a question, and so we use the relative pronoun, **i**.

When/while

The word for when/while is **ir**.

For example:

Istathon ir tolog na Lothlorien = I will know when you come to Lothlorien

Farathon ir postol = I will hunt while you rest

The word following **ir** is not mutated.

If

There are two options for writing the word 'if', and both of them are reconstructed.

The first is **ae** (reconstructed by David Salo).

Ae nin melog, darthathog = If you love me, you will stay

The second option is **pe**.

If you love me, you will stay

Pe nin melog, darthathog

Neither of these two words cause mutation in the following word.

Where

The word for where is **ias**. Remember this is not for questions, only sentences of the type below!

Examples:

Ias i thÿn, dhûr a chall = Where the pine trees, dark and high

Lesson 26 - Further prepositions: prefixes

Sindarin has several prepositions that are prefixes, that you attach to the front of a noun or a verb. We will also look at a set of adverb prefixes, that alter the verb they attach to.

What is important to realise, particularly when scanning dictionaries, is that just because a word looks like it is made up of one of these prefixes, does not necessarily mean it is! Combinations of letters can occur for other reasons, such as compound mutation, so do not automatically think you have discovered a word's etymology simply because it starts with an oth- or a go-.

Preposition prefixes

Sindarin	English
ab-	After/Later
ath-	On both sides/Across
athra-	Across
di-	Under/Beneath/Sub
nedh-	In/Inside/Mid
os-	Around/About
pen-	Without
per-	Half
thar-	Over/Across
tre-	Through (denotes completeness when attached to a verb)

Examples:

Trenarn (Tre+narn) = Account, tale (literally, to tell a tale through to the end)

Adverb prefixes

Sindarin	English
ad-	Again
al-	Well
an-	Forth
ath-	Easily
(n)dan- /(n)dad-	Redoing something/Undoing something
dír-	With difficulty
dý-	Mistakenly
ein-	To do well (properly)
fer-	Soon/Promptly
go-	Together
(n)gor-	With fear/dread/pain, difficult to do
oth-	Badly (Improperly)
per-	Half
rhae-	Awkwardly
rhu-	Wickedly
thu-	Badly (Incorrectly)
tre-	Thoroughly
ui-	Ever (Forever, always)

Examples:

Uidafnen = Everclosed

Lesson 27 - Comparatives & Superlatives

Comparatives

What is a comparative?

To answer that, let me give you some English examples:

She is taller than her sister.

He is better at football than his friend.

I am more confident than her.

To translate a sentence like this into Sindarin we need to use the preposition word **athan** and create the sentence thusly:

[Pronoun] has [beauty/etc.] beyond [comparative term]

For example:

To translate the sentence '*A woman is more beautiful than an Elf*' you need to first turn it into the Sindarin equivalent, which is:

'A woman has beauty beyond the beauty of an Elf' - **Bess sâf vainas athan i vainas Edhel.**

Superlatives

What is a superlative?

If you wanted to pay a compliment to a craftsman, you could say he is 'very skillful', or you could say he is 'the most skillful' - the latter is a superlative. Let me give you some examples, the superlative is on the right:

Great - Greatest

Good (at something) - Best (at something)

Very - Most

Brave - Bravest

To turn a Sindarin word, such as **beren** (brave/bold) into bravest/boldest, we do the following:

If the word starts with a vowel, **apart from u** we add **Rau-** to the front of the word, and then apply soft mutation to the word.

If the word starts with any other letter, **including u** we add **Ro-** to the front of the word, and then apply soft mutation.

For example:

Ro+Beren = Ro-veren = Bravest/boldest

Ro+Bain = Ro-vain = Most beautiful

Rau+Eden = Rau-eden = Newest

Lesson 28 - Pronouns (part three)

In this lesson we're going to look at the last two sets of pronouns, Object pronouns, and Dative pronouns.

Object (also known as oblique) pronouns act as the direct object, and are generally placed before the verb. Please note soft mutation applies to these pronouns, the table below is of the unmutated forms.

Dative pronouns are the oblique pronouns with **an** = to/for prefixed onto them. They usually come at the end of the sentence.

The first person inclusive forms are Doriathrin Sindarin (for early writings), and would not be used in the Third Age onwards.

Object pronouns

First person exclusive	nin (me)	men (us, not you)
First person inclusive		gwen (us, and you)
Formal second person	len (you)	len (you)
Informal second person	cin (you)	cin (you)
Neutral third person	ten (him/her/it)	tin (them)
Close demonstrative	sen (this)	sin (these)
Far demonstrative	san (that)	sain (those)

Examples:

I orn dannant bo den = The tree fell on him

Goheno men = Forgive us

Gin melathon an-uir = I will love you forever

Han ú-aniron = I don't want that

Dative pronouns

Please note where it says 'to xxx' or 'for xxx' in brackets, this is simply explanatory, each pronoun below can be used to mean both 'to xxx' and 'for xxx'.

	Singular	Reflexive	Plural
First person exclusive	Annin/Enni (to/for me)	Anim (for myself)	Ammen (for us, not you)
First person inclusive			Angwen (for us and you)
Formal second person	Anlen (to/for you)		Anlen (for you)
Informal second person	Angin (to/for you)		Angin (to/for you)
Neutral third person	Anden (to him/her/it)	Anech (to/for yourself)	Andin (to them)
Close demonstrative	Anhen (to this)	Anest (to/for his/her/itself)	Anhin (to these)
Far demonstrative	Anhan (to that)		Anhain (to those)

Examples:

De maer annin = It is good to me

Onen i grist anden = I gave the sword to her

Dengin in yrch angin = I slew the orcs for you

Linno dinen anech! = Sing to yourself quietly!

Lesson 29 - The Abstract Suffix

The abstract suffix is one of the most useful tools I have found for creating non attested words from already existing Sindarin words. It can be used on nouns, adjectives and verbs, and I shall attempt to illustrate the point of it below with some examples.

Sindarin word	With the abstract suffix becomes
Aeg (point)	Aegas (mountain peak)
Bain (beautiful)	Bainas (beauty)
Gala- (to grow)	Galas (growth, a plant)
Ovor (abundant)	Ovras (crowd, heap)
Pent (tale)	Pennas (history)
Rin (remembrance)	Rinas (memory)

Once you get the hang of using it, the abstract suffix is a powerful tool to help you with translations. Adjectives and verbs are relatively straight forward - take an adjective such as **hand** = **intelligent**, and it becomes **hannas** = **intelligence, understanding**.

Nouns are a little less easy to treat. The abstract version of a noun becomes a greater version of the original, for example: **hûb** = **a harbour** becomes **hobas** = **harbourage** or **ind** = **inner thought, meaning** becomes **innas** = **will**.

Creating words with the abstract suffix

The abstract suffix is **-as**. The rules for using it are the same as for the suffix **-ath** (change the last letter if you need to before attaching the abstract suffix). If you have forgotten the rules for **-ath**, check back through to lesson 21.

Lesson 30 - Futher suffixes (-weg, -ui, -ren, -on and -red)

By now (with the aid of a good dictionary to fill in some of your knowledge of vocabulary) you should be able to put sentences together with a degree of competency.

These suffixes help to fill some of the gaps in the attested word lists, and much like the Abstract Suffix in the previous lesson, allow you to use existing rules to do this.

-weg

This suffix is only known to work on I stem verbs, but I have been known to ignore this and use it on other things.

The definition of -weg in PE17 is 'active in doing', or to add the English **-ful or -ive** on the end.

For example:

Carweg = Active, busy (from the I stem verb Car- = to do)

Pedweg = Talkative, active in saying (from the I stem verb Ped- = to talk)

The reason I tend to ignore the I stem verb only part is that the following also works:

Gellweg = Joyful (*Gell* = Joy, + *weg* = -ful)

-ui

This suffix is attested to work with both I stem verbs and nouns, and is the equivalent of the English -able or -ible on the end of a word, or to say 'of xyz'.

For example:

Melui = Loveable

Lithui = Of ash, ashen

Don't forget you can always negate a word to gain its opposite meaning, which gives us:

úvelui = Unloveable

-ren

This is a suffix I worked out from when I was scanning Hisweloke's dictionary and noticed a pattern between some words:

Celebren = Silvery (like silver)

Gondren = Stony (like stone)

Mallen = Golden (like gold) and many other attested words

I propose that this suffix can be used on any noun, but also on verbs, and is the equivalent of -LY or -Y on the end of an English word.

How to add the suffix:

On a noun -

If the word ends in an L, add -LEN

If the word ends in an S, remove it and add -THREN

Otherwise, add -REN

On an I stem verb -

Take the basic stem and add the suffix as above

On an A stem verb -

Remove the vowel and add the suffix as above.

Examples:

Hortha- = To speed, urge on

Horthren = Speedily

Laeg = Keen, sharp

Laegren = Keenly, sharply

Gais = Steel

Gaithren = Of steel, steely

-on

This is a suffix I came across very recently, by a scholar who termed it the 'augmentative suffix'.

The examples we seem to have are:

Ardh = Realm, region, but Ardhon = Great region, great province (the world)

and

Aear = Sea, but Aearon = Ocean

Basically, it takes a noun and makes it bigger! (Do not confuse with the abstract suffix, this suffix is only for making things **physically** bigger.)

-red

This suffix is an attested one (first published in PE17) that I only came across very recently. Although the suffix itself comes from material written by Tolkien, there are unfortunately, no attested words that show its usage, so this is based entirely on the paragraph in PE17 and my surmisings there from.

It is written as 'Ornamentation, highlighting, with the intimation of being fair, used especially on colours and shapes'. This isn't a suffix that exists in English, so I'm afraid I can't show you any easy examples! I believe it would be something like this however:

How to add the suffix:

There are no rules of any sort attached to the information (as there are no words listed using this), but we can make some fairly easy inferences, based on how other suffixes attach to words (such as -rim and -ren).

If the word ends in an L, add -LED

If the word ends in an S, remove it and add -THRED

Otherwise, add -RED

Peng garanred = A bow with red ornamentation/red detail (highlights)

Sigil vorn adh valenred = A black necklace (or dagger) with yellow ornamentation/yellow detail (highlights).

Adab adh rendred = Building with circular detailing (with the intimation of carving)

Hebaid adh glothred = Shoes with white (as snow) ornamentation

Lesson 31 - Sentence order

Compared to English, the sentence structure of Sindarin can take some getting used to. If you already know another language like French or German however, you will find it a lot easier to get the hang of, at least in the first section below.

Adjectives

As you saw in lesson 13, an adjective follows the noun it describes.

To write 'a red book' you write it as [noun] [adjective] - *parf garan*.

This is of course backwards to English, we say 'a red book' not 'a book red', but compare it to other languages and suddenly we find it's not so unusual! (If we look at French for example, we find that it is *un livre rouge* = literally, 'a book red'!)

Verbs

This section will be a little longer as there are a few different cases to discuss.

Imperative

As you should remember, the imperative form is e.g. *Isto!* Know! or *Mado!* Eat!

When using an imperative, the verb comes first, followed by the subject.

For example:

Mado i aes! = Eat the meat!

Isto i vellas in Edhil! = Know the strength of the Elves!

Coming under the umbrella of imperative is also sentences such as 'Be ____' or 'May ____'.

No = Be! *Nai* = May, come before the verb.

(*Nai* is borrowed from Quenya to alleviate using the same word '*No*' to mean both things).

For example:

Nai i had hen no i dhagnir lfn = May this place be your bane

Nai madol = May you eat

No teithad anin, mellon! = Be writing to me, friend!

With pronouns

When you want to say something like 'I see you' or 'I eat it', remember that the first part, 'I see', 'I eat' does not use the first person pronoun, it is part of the verb - *Cenin*, *Medin*.

The second part, the 'you', 'it', is a pronoun, and it goes before the verb, like so:

Len cenin = I see you

Den medin = I eat it

You mutate the pronoun as it is the object of the sentence.

This is why it is *Den medin* not *Ten medin*.

With nouns

For this type of sentence structure, it is like the following: 'A cat sat on a chair'.

'A cat' is the subject, followed by the verb 'to sit', and then the noun, 'a chair'.

I have highlighted the parts of the sentence to illustrate:

Iaul havant bo cham = A cat sat on a chair

Lesson 32 - How to make names and compounds

One thing most people will want to do at some point is make up character names, whether it be for a fan fiction story, online game or anything else, and they would often like to know how to do it themselves, but end up looking through a dictionary and just mashing two words together.

Names derived like this tend to make me wince when I see them, so this lesson will teach you how to put elements together properly! A lot of this is based simply on mutation (usually soft mutation, however with names we have more freedom, and ultimately it is about making the name sound 'good', so if nasal mutation works better with the two elements you have, feel free to use it, Tolkien did!)

First of all we're going to look at the changes that happen to *the first letter of the second element*.

Let me give you an example of what I mean by 'elements':

Elrond is made up of **El** = star and **rond** = dome, two separate words (elements) brought together in a compound.

If the first letter(s) of the second word is:	Then it becomes:
B	V if the first word ends in an R B remains if it follows anything else
C	G
CH	H
D	DH if the first word ends in a vowel or an L and a preceding vowel D remains after other consonants
G	Usually lost (don't bother with putting in a ')
GR	R (G lost)
GL	L (G lost)
GW	W (G lost) UNLESS the word comes from an original GW
H	L
LH	CH if the first word ends in a vowel or after R
M	V or W if the first word ends in a LW or L
ND	NN if the first word ends in a vowel
P	B
R	L if the first word ends in an L
RH	R
S	H
T	D
(m)B	M
(n)D	N

If the last letter(s) of the first word is:	Then it becomes:
B	PH if the second word starts with a S or H
CH	H
D	TH if the second word starts with a S or H
DH	Disappears before M, N, TH. TH if the second word starts with a H
G	D if the second word starts with a C, G or GL
LL	CH if the second word starts with a S or H
MP	L if the second word starts with a consonant
N	M if the second word starts with a B, D, L, T, R DH if the second word starts with a R apart from the word Aran

ND	L if the second word starts with an L N if the second word starts with a consonant <i>apart from B,P,M</i>
OL	M if the second word starts with a B, P or M
S	ND remains if the second word starts with an R LA
ST	SS if the second word starts with a vowel TH if the second word starts with a L or R S if the second word starts with a C, G, F TH if the second word starts with a L or R

Miscellany, and other points to consider when making names and compounds

One that is often missed by people is that an AU should become an O, for example:

Naur + *-iel*, a feminine suffix = *Noriel* not *Nauriel*.

If the last letters of the second word are LL then change it to L

If the last letters of the second word are ND, then change it to NN

If the last letters of the second word are NW then change it to N

If the last letters of the second word are MP then change it to M

If the last letters of the second word are RN then change it to R

If the last letters of the second word are ST then change it to S

Long vowels shorten: â ê î ô û become á é í ó ú (regardless of whether it's in the first word or the second).

Duplicate letters (for example *Calen* + *Nen*) are not repeated. This would give us *Calenen* not *Calemmen*.

Lesson 33 - Negation

This lesson covers some of the finer points of the negative particle *ú*, and another way to use negation in a sentence. As you know by now, *ú* means both 'no' by itself, and it can also turn the meaning of a word around (such as *nad* = something, but *únad* = nothing, from lesson 15, or *beren* = bold, brave, *úveren* = cowardly).

Attached to a verb, it gives the meaning of 'is not', 'did not', or 'will not' depending on the tense, for example:

Gin ú-velon = I do not love you

Gin ú-velannen = I did not love you

Gin ú-velithon = I will not love you

We also have the verb *Ava-* = to refuse, whose irregular past tense was covered in Lesson 18.

This is for sentences of the type 'I will not ...', 'He will not ...', such as:

Avon mado i vant han = I will not eat that food

Ava teilio i 'annel = He will not play the harp

Avar tolo na i mar nîn = They will not come to my house

If you were to use *ú* with the first two sentences, you would get a slightly different meaning:

ú-vadon i vant han = I do not eat that food

ú-deilia i 'annel = He does not play the harp

The third sentence looks as if it might be the same:

ú-delithar na i mar nîn = They will not come to my house

However, the difference comes from looking at what the verb *Ava-* glosses as, which is 'to refuse', thus it is not just 'They will not come', but it is 'They refuse to come'. whereas the second sentence perhaps has more the meaning of 'They will not come because of an external factor', as in 'They are unable to', not 'They do not want to'.

Lesson 34 - Numbers

The Elves themselves used a base 12 system, but to save confusion, I'm going to use the Gondorian decimal system. First of all, let's have a look at the numbers!

Cardinals

Sindarin	English
Min	1
Tâd (Tad in compounds)	2
Neledh (Nel in compounds)	3
Canad (Can in compounds)	4
Leben (Leb in compounds)	5
Eneg	6
Odog	7
Toloth	8
Neder	9
Cae (Caen in compounds)	10
Mimp (Mimm in compounds)	11
Imp (Imm in compounds)	12
Tadchaen	20
Nelchaen	30
Cangaen	40
Lebgaen	50
Enegaen	60
Odoggaen	70
Tolochaen	80
Nederchaen	90
Haran*	100 (to the Elves)
Host	144 (But 100 to the Gondorians)
Meneg	1728 (1,000 to the Gondorians)
*Reconstructed word	
The "x in a compound" will make sense if you then look at how the word Neledh is used in the word thirty - it is Nelchaen not Neledhchaen.	

Ordinals

Sindarin	English
Minui	1st
Taid	2nd
Nelui	3rd
Canthui	4th
Lemui	5th
Enchui	6th
Odothui	7th
Tollui	8th
Nedrui	9th
Caenui	10th

Mimmui	11th
Immui	12th
Tadchaenen	20th
Nelchaenen	30th
Cangaenen	40th
Lebgaenen	50th
Enegaenen	60th
Odoggaenen	70th
Tolochaenen	80th
Nederchaenen	90th

Using numbers

NB - We actually don't know how to say the numbers from 13 - 19, Tolkien never wrote any of them down.

When we use numbers in a sentence, they come before the noun, like so:

Min gaud = One machine

If there's more than one of something, we pluralise the noun as we would normally:

Eneg goed = Six machines

The above are using cardinal numbers. If we're using ordinals (1st, 2nd etc.) then it's an adjective, and is treated as any other adjective:

Gaud vinui = First machine

I 'aud dollui = The eighth machine

A musing on Elven mathematics

Fractions:

The attested words we have are **Perin** = Half and **Canath** = Quarter

We also have some reconstructions by David Salo for some of the other fractions:

Nelest = Third

Lebent = Fifth

Enaith = Sixth

Odost = Seventh

Tolost = Eighth

Nederth = Ninth

Caerth = Tenth

Addition:

This is not attested anywhere, but I imagine it to be as simple as using the word 'and' in the same way that we can say an addition in English:

Min ah eneg anna odog = One and six gives seven

Multiplication:

In Parma Eldalamberon #14, we have the following in Qenya:

Hue yullume i hualqe = Twice nine is eighteen, where -lume is a suffix meaning 'times'.

Qenya is the forerunner of Quenya - if we look at the word **Lume** in Quenya, it means 'time', which led me to the following idea, from a reconstructed word of mine: **minlû** = once (literally, one time).

Perhaps therefore, in Sindarin **lû** could be used as a suffix in the same way as lume:

Tad tadrû anna canad = Two, two times gives four

Shapes

The attested word we have is **Nelthil** = Triangle, which literally means 'three points', **Nel** + **Till**

Using this as a basis, we can reconstruct the following:

Canthil = Quadrilateral

Lebthil = Pentagon

Enethil = Hexagon

Odothil = Heptagon

Tolothil = Octagon

Nederthil = Nonagon

Caenthil = Decagon

Lesson 35 - Further general conversation (Directions.)

N.B - Although this lesson might look as if it belongs earlier on in the lesson scheme, it assumes a good working knowledge of verbs and their endings, as well as pronouns and vocabulary.

When you're learning any foreign language, directions are generally one of the things you will learn, so let's look at how you might ask and give directions in Sindarin.

Text One

A: Galu mellon! Istol mas i varad?

B: Galu! I varad am i amon?

A: Sa i varad.

B: Ledho taer bo i r ad hen, den cenithol.

A: Gin hannon.

And in English:

A: A blessing, friend! Do you know where the tower is?

B: A blessing! The tower upon the hill?

A: That is the tower.

B: Travel straight on this path, you will see it.

A: Thank you.

Text Two

A: Daro mellon, boe hirin i nesor. Mas te?

B: Dortha mi Othrad Aran. Ledho am i charvo i othrad hen, crom dad Othrad Bereth, a Othrad Aran i othrad vinui am i forvo l n.

A: Len hannon!

And in English:

A: Halt friend, I must find the healer. Where is he?

B: He dwells in King Street. Travel upon the left hand side of this street, left down Queen Street, and King Street is the first street upon your right hand side.

A: I thank thee.

Vocabulary

Ledh- = To travel

Crom = Left

Harvo = Left hand side (There are two stems for the word 'left')

Forn = Right

Forvo = Right hand side

Taer = Straight

R ad = Path, track

Othrad = Street

As you might have noticed in your studies, Sindarin doesn't have an attested verb for 'to go', but we can get around that quite easily with **Ledh-**, or by using **Men-** which is the reconstructed verb for 'to go'.

Lesson 36 - Further conversation part two

Ages and professions

Text One:

A: Galu Siron!

B: Suilad! A man mellonegen?

A: Se muindorenin, Amdiron.

B: Man idhrinn cenog, Amdiron?

C: Sevin tadchaen a eneg idhrinn.

English:

A: A blessing, Siron!

B: Greeting! Who is your friend?

A: This is my brother, Amdiron.

B: What years have you seen, Amdiron?

C: I have twenty and six years.

This little chat starts off with some familiar vocabulary, but then B asks C (Amdiron) how old he is. There is no attested way to ask this, but I have come up with a few ideas:

Man idhrinn cenog? = What years have you seen? How old are you?

Man ïn cenog? = What years have you seen? - this uses the other word for year.

Sevin _____ idhrinn/ïn = I have (I possess) _____ years

Asking someone how many years they have 'seen' feels more Elven to me, but there is also this possibility:

Man idhrinn/ïn sevog/sevol? = What years do you have (possess)?

Text Two:

A: Man cerol, mellon?

B: Ni maeron, echedin pith mi 'loer an in erphin. A len?

A: Ni limraedor, raedon lim min dhuin adel gobelenin a mangon si.

English:

A: What do you do, friend?

B: I am a poet, I fashion words in long lays for the nobles. And you?

B: I am a fisherman, I catch fish in the river behind my town and I trade here.

One of the most common things people tend to ask someone is 'what do you do for a living?' - this short text is aimed at giving you a quick overview of how you might ask, and two ideas of what you might reply.

Descriptions

Rather than giving a little text, here are some Sindarin sentences, with vocabulary afterwards. For more practise with descriptions, go to Exercise 9.

1: Sevin hent luin a finnel vorn. Muindorenin sâf hent varan, dan sâf finnel vorn eithro.

2: I thîr dîn crann, dan i thîr dîn nimp.

1: I have blue eyes and black hair. My brother has brown eyes, but he also has black hair.

2: His/her face is ruddy, but his/her face is pale.

Vocabulary:

Sevin hent _____ = I have _____ eyes
finnel = hair
eithro = also
thîr = countenance (face)
crann = ruddy
nimp = pale

Opinions

Text Three:

A: Serog i 'wîn hen?

B: ú, úheron i 'wîn hen. Seron nen adh i vann nîn.

A: Pân i 'wîn anin!

English:

A: Do you like this wine?

B: No, I dislike this wine. I like water with my food.

A: All the wine for me!

Vocabulary:

Seron _____ = I like _____
úheron _____ = I dislike _____
Serog/Serol? = Do you like?
gwîn = wine
mann = food

Text Four:

A: Semog i linnad bain?

B: Semin i lemmaid dîn rovain! A gîn, Siron?

C: Ieston linnathar aen oh i daur a ú i aear! Nae, thî aniron ledhad ennas.

English:

A: Do you think the singing is fair/beautiful?

B: I think their voices are most beautiful! And you, Siron?

C: I wish they would sing about the forest and not the sea! Alas, now I desire travelling there.

Vocabulary:

Semog/Semol? = Do you think?
Semin = I think
Ieston = I wish

These are three more quite general ways of giving your opinion, and very useful for general conversation!

Lesson 37 - Sindarin dialects, and changes over time

No language stays unchanging, even one used by as people as long lived by the Elves.
This lesson details some of the major changes that occurred over time, particularly those made by Men to help them pronounce it more easily.

Mirkwood Sindarin

The first and easiest change to remember is a simple one used by the Elves of Mirkwood, and we know of this due to a letter written by Tolkien in which he details the phonology of Legolas' name.

Diphthong in normal Sindarin AE	in Mirkwood Sindarin E
------------------------------------	---------------------------

As you can see from the table above, in Mirkwood, all words that normally have an AE diphthong, such as:

Laeg, Aeg and Aep are instead spelt and pronounced Leg, Eg and Ep.

CH -> H (Third Age Sindarin, Gondorian Sindarin)

This change is one that happened in the Third Age, and is only for words that had a 'medial' (in the middle of the word) CH. This is not appropriate for words where the CH occurs as a result of mutation, such as amchaled = uplifting (am+haled), nor does it apply to words that have a CH at the end, such as Bach or Hach, for that see CH->C below.

We know this is a late change from the name Elrohir - had he born before the Third Age his name would have been Elrochir. This is listed by some people as a change only used in Gondorian Sindarin as opposed to the Sindarin of the Elves (we know from the appendices to the Lord of the Rings that the Gondorians softened the CH to an H as they found it difficult to pronounce), but Elrohir's name would point against this, given that he was born in the year 130 of the Third Age, only 251 years after the founding of Gondor.

Early form	Later form	English meaning
achad	ahad	Neck
achar-	ahar-	To avenge
acharn	aharn	Vengeance
achas	ahas	Dread, fear
alchor	alhor	Temple, shrine
bachor (mbachor)	bahor (mbahor)	Pedlar
balchas (mbalchas)	balhas (mbalhas)	Cruelty
echad	ehad	Camp
echil	ehil	Follower (human being)
echor	ehor	Outer circle, encircling ring
echui	ehui	Awakening
echuir	ehuir	The beginning of Spring
mirechor	mirehor	Bracelet
orchal	orhal	Superior, lofty, tall
rochir	rohír	Horse lord
rochirrim	rohírrim	People of Rohan
rochon	rohon	Horse rider
tachol	tahol	Brooch

CH -> C (Gondorian Sindarin only)

As we know, the Gondorians struggled with the pronunciation of the Sindarin CH sound, and softened it to an H in the middle of a word (see above). When a CH appeared at the end of a word, such as in **Bach** or **Melch**, the Gondorians hardened the sound to a Sindarin C, giving us **Bac** and **Melc**. This is the full list of the words that this change affects.

Elven form	Gondorian form	English meaning
Ach	Ac	But
Apharch	Apharc	Very dry, arid
Bach	Bac	Item sold by a pedlar
Balch	Balc	Cruel
Carach	Carac	Jaw, row of teeth
Carch	Carc	Tooth, fang
Cerch	Cerc	Sickle
Corch	Corc	Crow
Ech	Ec	Spine
Erch	Erc	Prickle
Falch	Falc	Deep ravine
Hach	Hac	Hams, buttocks
Helch	Helc	Bitter cold
Iach	Iac	Ford, water crossing
Lach	Lac	Leaping flame
Loch	Loc	Ringlet of hair
Melch	Melc	Greedy
Narch	Narc	Biting
Nínholch	Ninholc	Onion
Ninniach	Ninniac	Rainbow
Orch	Orc	Orc
Paich	Paic	Juice, syrup
Parch	Parc	Dry
Rach	Rac	Wagon
Rébroch	Rébroc	Zebra
Rhach	Rhac	Curse
Roch	Roc	Horse
Sarch	Sarc	Grave
Solch	Solc	Edible root
Tarch	Tarc	Stiff, tough
Telch	Tele	Stem (of a plant), leg
Torech	Torec	Lair, excavation

Y -> I (Gondorian Sindarin only)

Another sound that Men as a whole struggled with is the Sindarin vowel Y, so to make life easier for themselves, they changed it to a sound they could pronounce, the Sindarin I.

This includes all words who when pluralised contain a Y, for example:

Emlyg (dragons) becomes **Emlig**

Cyrf (rings) becomes **Cirf**

Doriathrin Sindarin

What is Doriathrin?

Sindarin has a rather complicated history, but Doriathrin Sindarin is one of the most original, pure forms of the language. It stems from the First Age, and was the language of the people of Doriath, the Sindar, who were led by Thingol and Melian the Maia.

You have been taught to use the pronouns **Le**, **Len**, **Lîn** and the verb endings -ol/-olir in this course for the formal second person. This is the 'modern' Sindarin usage, and correct for a speaker from the Third Age onwards. Doriathrin uses the following:

Pronouns

De = You are

Den = You

I ____ **dhîn** = Your ____

Verb endings (using **Aníra-** and **Cen-** to illustrate the differences between I-stem and A-stem)

Singular	Plural
Cenodh = You see Cenninodh = You saw Cenithodh = You will see	Cenedhir = You all see Cenninedhir = You all saw Cenithedhir = You will all see
Anírodh = You desire Anírannenodh = You desired Aníradhodh = You will desire	Anírodhir = You will all desire Anírannenodhir = You all desired Aníradhodhir = You will all desire