

VOCABULARY

IC 20
51 10

which often fill in for pronouns.

20 67
14 58

	high	low	high-low
high	ā /á/	à /â/	
low	á /ă/		â /ã/
creaky	ǎ /ǣ~ǧ~ǧ̃/	a /æ/	

		labial		coronal			dorsal	laryngeal
		bilabial	linguolabial	dental? (do they have tooth or alveo something else?)	inv. retroflex	palatal	velar	glottal
plosive		b /b~ḃ/	bb /ḃ~ḃ̰/	d /ḏ~ḏ̰/	dd /ḏ*~ḏ̰*/	j /ɟ~ʝ/	g /g~ḡ/	' /ʀ/
	implosive							
tap				r /ɽ/				
approximant						y /j/		
	labial						/w/	
click		p /ʘ~ḑ̰/	pp /ḑ̰̰/	t /ʈ/	tt /ʈ̰̰*/		k /ɕ/	

Some specifics about this phonology ::

01 03 09

		Tier	examples			
< Most to least intelligent >	1	Very Smart	Kiểu ("Genius")	Rượu ("Elder")	Rượu ("Supercomputer")	
	2	Smart	Ryá ("Person")	Ryá ("Computer")		
	3	Has potential	Rượu ("Child")	Rượu ("Calculator")	< Oh they've merged into the same word? that's funky, apparently they're spelled differently though	
	4	Directly conveys info	Rễ ("Book")	Pệp ("Map")	Dễ ("Clock")	Rễ ("Animal")
	5	Indirectly conveys info	Tê ("Rock")	'u ("Tree")	Jed'et u ("Bandage")	< ???
	6	Does not convey new info	Bbộ ("Bed")	Bbộu ("Pen")	Keibáp ("Hat")	etc...

All adjectives and articles are inflected to agree with the intelligence level of the noun it modifies. Verbs can also be adjectivized in this way to create certain phrases! Each word is classified using a vowel, its voicing, and its tone patterns. A combination of these three defines which declension pattern to use! Below is a list of declensions and their endings. There are two lists on here, but nearly all words fall under the first set. We'll tackle the second set [in another section of the site!](#)

ARTICLES

There's one indefinite article **Ke** (inflected form K, E2 declension), but two definite articles **Gĩ** (G-, I1) and **Bà** (B-, A3). **Gĩ** is the article used for definite singular nouns, and **Bà** is used for definite plural nouns. Note that the definite article is the only place where plurality is marked

1950

Kép rőp

A book

הכרזת

Gyēp r

The book

3E 2C

Bếp rế

The book

The above, however, are only the forms of the articles that appear when they're at the beginning of a sentence. Each article has a separate version that is used when they're in the middle of a sentence! **Ke** turns to **Ge**, **Gī** turns to **Ī**, and **Bà** turns to **Bâ**. These initially came about as a result of lenition, thanks to how common they are.

9733

Pề gép rẹp

On a book

המלך

Pè yēp re

On the book

1692

Pề bếp rế

On the book

STUDY

Jēp gēp rěp

It is a bool

המחנה

Jēp jē g

It is differen

כח
כח
כח
כח

SPECIAL ADJECTIVES

	a class		e class		i class		o class			1	2	3
	voiced	hypervoiced	voiced	hypervoiced	voiced	hypervoiced	voiced	hypervoiced				
-	-a	-ǣ	-e	-ē	-i	-ī	-o	-ō		-v̥ ^h	-v	-v̥ ^h
Very smart	-ǣ		-ōu	-ōū	-ūu	-ūū	-ou	-ou		-v̥ ^h		-v̥ ^h
Smart	-ǣ		-ē		-ya		-wǣ			-v̥ ^h	-v̥	-v̥
Less smart	-ǣu	-ǣoup	-ōu	-ōoup	-ūu	-ūup	-ou	-oup		-v̥ ^h	-v	-v̥
Direct conveyance	-ēp	-ēp	-ep	-ep	-yep	-yep	-up	-up		-v̥ ^h	-v̥	-v̥
Indirect conveyance	-ē	-ē	-e	-e	-ye	-ye	-u	-u		-v̥ ^h	-v	-v̥
No conveyance	-ǣ		-ē		-i	-i	-o			-v̥ ^h	-v̥	
Very smart	-ēe	-ēē	-e		-ye		-y			-v̥ ^h	-v	-v̥ ^h
Smart	-æp	-æp	-ēep	-ēēp	-yaep	-yaēp	-waep	-wæp		-v̥ ^h		-v̥ ^h
Less smart	-ǣop	-ǣū	-ōop	-ōū	-yop	-yōū	-op	-oū		-v̥ ^h	-v̥	-v̥

Thankfully, these adjectives work very similarly to the normal ones, simply following different declension endings. That being said, these are common words and therefore unfortunately not without their exceptions.

Other than their different endings, the biggest defining characteristic about these special adjectives is how they treat the other half of the intelligence tiers. Tier 1 and tier 4 use the same endings, tier 2 with tier 5, and tier 3 with tier 6. But that's not to say that these pairs are marked identically ; **Tiers 1-3 go directly before the noun it modifies, while tiers 4-6 go before any other adjectives.**

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𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵

Kōu wēe kōu
With a genius

𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵

Kế waep ryđ
With a person

𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵

Kōu wăop rūp
With a child

𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵

Wēe gēp rēp
With a book

𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵

Waep ge ttè
With a rock

𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵

Wăop gē bbō
With a bed

𐌲𐌵 𐌲𐌵 𐌲𐌵

SWITCH REFERENCE

Along with the intelligence hierarchy, Băbbép's switch reference system is another vital part of its grammar structure. These words function as conjunctions between clauses, but also indicate whether the subject in the following clause is the same or different than the previous clause. If different, it also indicates the relative intelligence level of the new subject in relation to the first.

Thanks to all this baked-in information, if the next subject is understood from context, there's no need to specify it after the conjunction! Thus, these words turn into what are effectively pronouns, and can take adjectives like any other subject would.

	same subject	different subject	
		equal or higher int.	lower int.
Simultaneous ("and")	Wà	Dā	Dēip
Sequential ("and then")	Tē	Tē	Bēip
Adversative ("but")	Jì	Jùp	Jyēip
Relativizing ("that")	Bà	Kò	Kwīp
Causal ("because")	Ryà	Ròu	Ttyà
Resultative ("so")	Ryěp	Ryề	Ryộu
Antisequential ("after")	Jì tē	Jùp tē	Jyēip béip
Terminative ("until")	'ěđệ	'èđệ	'èđộoup
(there are probably more, but these are the most common ones.)			

𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵

Yā ddyèup wā teup.

I see and I hear.

𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵
𐌲𐌵

Yā ddyèup dā teup.

I see and you/they/it hear(s).

These switch reference words are used in a lot of grammatical constructions! Here's some examples which may be relevant ::

- The relativizing markers Bà, Kò, and Kwīp are also used for **Infinitives**. Thanks to these acting as subjects, the initial verb preceding them is detransitivized if it isnt already intransitive.
 - "Yā gùp kò bbō." / "I want you to rest."
- To show **Possessives**, the relativizing markers are placed after the possessed noun and followed by either **Ddō**, or less commonly **Kóp** (which is optional, and only used for inalienable possession by intelligence tiers 1-3)
 - In the example **Ttè kò ddō** ("my rock") it can be seen that there isn't any possessor specified due to switch reference markers filling in for pronouns, and therefore, context is often the only determining factor on who the possessor is. They can be optionally added for clarity, so for this instance, it could be **Ttè kò yā ddō**.
 - It is common to see possessed nouns not take any articles, even if they are singular.
 - While pretentious old folk insist that an additional relativizing marker must come *after* Ddō/Kóp in order to return us into the main clause, most speakers now ignore this as an unnecessary extra step, and thus it is implied.

𐌲𐌵 𐌲𐌵

TENSES

For Băbbép speakers, time is interpreted as getting faster the further into the future you go. This is a pervasive aspect of how many tense-related words are formed!

Tense is expressed entirely analytically, either with markers before the verb or adjectives before the subject, and occasionally both. The most simple way to express tense is by not marking the verb at all! This gives a present tense meaning. Past tense is simply marked by putting **Ũ** ("slow") before the verb, and simple future takes the adjective **Yi** ("fast, later", Y-, I2) and inflects it based on the intelligence of the subject. The optional marker **Ja** can replace **Ũ** for a far past meaning, but this isn't too common nowadays.

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၂၁	Jēp	ꨀꨂꨳ	It (DIR, singular) (pn.dir)	
၂၂	Dā	ꨀꨁꨳ	And (sr.ds.eq)	
၂၃	Dā	ꨀꨁꨳ	In (a2.x)	(A1)
၂၄	Dāop	ꨀꨁꨂꨳꨳ	Through (a2.x)	Dāj- (O2)
၂၅	Ddō	ꨀꨁꨳꨳ	Have (tv/iv)	(O1)
၂၆	Ddī	ꨀꨁꨳꨳ	At, To (a2.x)	(I1)
၂၇	Ddī	ꨀꨁꨳꨳ	See (tv)	(I1)
၂၈	Rōu	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Thousand (n.gns/a.x)	Rèbb- (O2)
၂၉	Ră	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Life (SMT) (n.smt)	
၃၀	Ră	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Life (GNS) (n.gns)	
၃၁	Rău	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	Life (MED) (n.med)	
၃၂	Ryōu	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	So (sr.ds.low)	
၃၃	Rěp	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Book, Message (n.dir)	
၃၄	Ryă	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	So (sr.ss)	
၃၅	Rôp	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Building (n.ind)	
၃၆	Rûup	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	Child (n.med)	
၃၇	Ryă	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Adult, Person (n.smt)	
၃၈	Ppĕ	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Metal (n.ind)	
၃၉	Ppăop	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	Pass, More (tv)	Ppap- (O2)
၄၀	Pù	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Mountain (n.ind)	
၄၁	Pòyōop	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳꨳ	Fly, Float (iv)	Pòyēp- (O1)
၄၂	Pē	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	On (a2.x)	(E1)
၄၃	Pē	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Land (n.ind)	
၄၄	Kọ	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Short (a.x)	(Q2)
၄၅	Kò	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	That (relativizer) (sr.ds.eq)	
၄၆	Kòu	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	Genius (n.gns)	
၄၇	Ke	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	A (a.x)	(E2)
၄၈	Kĕōu	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳꨳ	Six (n.med/a.x)	Kĕg- (Q2)
၄၉	Kwíp	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	That (relativizer) (sr.ds.low)	
၅၀	Tō	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Wall (n.not)	
၅၁	Tò-ọ	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	Break, Defeat (tv)	Tōg- (Q2)
၅၂	Tòri	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	Strength, Power (n.dir)	
၅၃	Tĕ	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	And then (sr.ss)	
၅၄	Te	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Hear (tv)	(E2)
၅၅	Tĕ	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	And then (sr.ds.eq)	
၅၆	Ttè	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	Rock, Lump, Pile (n.ind)	
၅၇	ṽ	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	It (NOT, singular) (pn.not)	
၅၈	'yă	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Ten (n.smt/a.x)	'y- (A1) / B- (A1)
၅၉	Bbọ	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Sleep, Rest (iv)	(Q2)
၆၀	BbỖ	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Bed (n.not)	
၆၁	Bbī	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Inverse marker	
၆၂	Bbóip	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	Shadow (n.not)	
၆၃	Wòou	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	River (n.ind)	
၆၄	Wa	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	With (a2.x)	(A2)
၆၅	Wà	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	And (sr.ss)	
၆၆	Wádō	ꨀꨂꨳꨳꨳ	Wide, Vast, Grand (a.x)	Wad- (Q1)
၆၇	Wĩ	ꨀꨂꨳꨳ	Thing (n.not)	

ᱵᱚᱠᱟ	Wáip, Wáyūp	wǎëíṽ	Two (n.dir/a.x)	Wäy- (E1)
ᱵᱟᱹᱴᱟᱹ	Yùtṽp	jûlṽṽṽ	Youtube (n.not)	
ᱵᱟᱠᱟ	Yè	iâ	Place (n.ind)	



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