## 17 Minute Languages

## Albanian Grammar at a Glance



Pronunciation and stressing of the Albanian alphabet

## Pronunciation

In Albanian writing and pronunciation correspond with each other.

## Special characters

There are two special characters:

- «ç» corresponds to 'tch' , e.g. 'match'
- «ё» corresponds to a closed 'e' similar to 'oyster' or the sound in oi (כI) (BE)

Sounds, consisting of two letters:

- «dh» corresponds to 'th' (voiced), e.g. in 'they'
- "gj" is to be pronounced at the same time (simultaneously) «g+j»
- «g» like in 'garage'; «j» is pronounced like the «y» in 'year'
- «ll» corresponds to «l», e.g. English 'bill
- «nj» corresponds to the Spanish letter «ñ» ('eh-nyeh'), e.g. in 'Señor'
- «rr» is pronounced like a rolling «r»
- «sh» is similar to English «sh», it corresponds to 'sh' (unvoiced), e.g. 'shoe'
- «th» corresponds to the English «th» (unvoiced), e.g. 'thunder'
- «xh» is pronounced like a voiced «j» e.g. 'jeans'
- «zh» corresponds to the sound «sh» (voiced), e.g. 'garage'


## Stressing

- In words ending on a vocal, the penultimate syllable is stressed.
- Words ending on a consonant, the last syllable is stressed.


## The definite article

The Albanian language knows many different articles. For English natives this seems a little confusing but don't worry: You got this!
There are two different forms of definitive articles: the determinate form and the indeterminate form.

There are the definite articles «i» (masculine) and «e» (feminine). These are the prefixed articles.

To form a determinate noun, the ending «i(m)/a(f)» is added to the indeterminate form

- this is the suffixed article.

To form the plural simply add «-t» to the end of the noun.

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## The indefinite article

The indefinite article in Albanian is the same for male and female nouns: «një» It stands before the responsive noun.

For example: një mollë - an apple një mur - a wall

## What is essential for Albanian nouns?

## Albanian nouns' gender

In Albanian there are three grammatical genders: the neuter, however, is rarely used. Feminine nouns usually end on a vocal, while masculine nouns have consonant endings.

| The nouns' gender |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| feminine | vajzë/-a | lule/-ja | kokë/-a | mace/-ja |
|  | (the) girl | (the) <br> flower | (the) <br> head | (the) cat |
| masculine | djalë/-i | kalë/-i | malë/-i | qiell/-i |
|  | (the) boy | (the) horse | (the) mountain | (the) sky |
| neuter | djathët |  |  |  |
|  | (the) cheese |  |  |  |

## Building the plural of Albanian nouns

The plural form in Albanian unfortunately has many variations.
The most common endings include «-ё, -a, -e» for masculine words and -e or -a for feminine nouns.
In addition, a word in the plural is accompanied by the definite article «-t(ë)» appended to the word.

| How to form the plural of the determinated form |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| feminine |  | masculine |  |
| singular | plural | singular | plural |
| macja <br> (the cat) | macet <br> (the cats) | qeni <br> (the dog) | qentë <br> (the dogs) |
| vazoja <br> (the vase) | vazot <br> (the vases) | liqeni <br> (the lake) | liqenet <br> (the lakes) |

## Declension of nouns: the cases

## In Albanian there are five cases:

- nominative
- genitive
- dative
- accusative
- ablative

Dative and accusative correspond to the indirect object or the direct object in the sentence.

The ablativ is mainly applied when prepositions are used. A common example for this is the preposition «prej» (of/from/by), which is followed by the ablative form of the noun.

Basically, a distinction must be made between the declension of masculine nouns and feminine nouns. These categories are then further differentiated depending on whether the definite or indefinite noun is used.

## Declension of masculine nouns

## 1. Declension of nouns that end in «e, g, h,i,k»

These nouns contain an «u» as a vocal in their singular nominative, genitive, dative or ablative form. This applies to both the determinant singular form and the indeterminate singular form.

| Declension with final sounds «e, $\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{h}, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{k} »$ <br> Example: zog ('bird') |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | singular |  | plural |  |
|  | indet. <br> ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') | indet. <br> ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') |
| Nominative | zog | zogu | zogj | zogjtë |
| Genitive | i zogu | i zogut | i zogjve | i zogjve |
| Dative | zogu | zogut | zogjve | zogjve |
| Accusative | zog | zogun | zogj | zogjtë |
| Ablative | zogu | zogut | zogjsh | zogjve |

## 2. Regular nouns

This noun group contains all masculine nouns which do not end in «e, $\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{h}, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{k} »$.

| Declension of masculine nouns <br> Example: student ('student') |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | singular |  | plural |  |
|  | indet. <br> ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') | indet. ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') |
| Nom | student | studenti | studentë | studentët |
| Gen | i studenti | i studentit | i studentëve | i studentëve |
| Dat | studenti | studentit | studentëve | studentëve |
| Acc | student | studentin | studentë | studentët |
| Abl | studenti | studentit | studentësh | studentëve |

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## Declension of feminine nouns

Feminine nouns are declined in three different ways. The genitive, dative and ablative (cases), however, mostly are similar to each other.

## 1. Declension for nouns ending in stressed vowels

 (such as «e, i, a»)This declension contains nouns that end in a stressed vowel. It is therefore advisable to learn the stress of the words at the same time as the word itself or to train it by listening.

| Declension with the final vowel «i» <br> Example: fëmijërí ('childhood') |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | singular |  | plural |  |
|  | indet. <br> ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') | indet. <br> ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') |
|  | fëmijërí | fëmijëria | fëmijëri | fëmijëritë |
|  | i fëmijërie | i fëmijërisë | i fëmijërive | i fëmijërive |
| Dat | fëmijërie | fëmijërisë | fëmijërive | fëmijërive |


| Acc | fëmijëri | fëmijërinë | fëmijëri | fëmijëritë |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Abl | fëmijërie | fëmijërisë | fëmijërish | fëmijërive |


| Declension with the final vowel «e» <br> Example: devé ('camel') |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | singular |  | plural |  |
|  | indet. <br> ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') | indet. <br> ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') |
|  | devé | deveja | deve | devetë |
|  | i deveje | i devesë | i deveve | i deveve |
|  | deveje | devesë | deveve | deveve |
| Acc | deve | devenë | deve | devetë |
| Abl | deveje | devesë | devesh | deveve |

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| Declension with the final vowel «a»" <br> Example: pará ('money') |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| singular  plural  <br>  indet. <br> ('a/an') det. <br> ('the') indet. <br> ('a/an') <br> Nom pará paraja para <br> ('the')    | paratë |  |  |  |
|  | i paraje | i parasë | i parave | i parave |
|  | paraje | parasë | parave | parave |
|  | para | paranë | para | paratë |
| Abl | paraje | parasë | parash | parave |

## 2. Declension with the final vowel «ë»

Feminine nouns ending on «ё» are declined by the following system. Genitive, dative and ablative are as usual also declined similarly. The indeterminate form of the ablative plural is the exception: it ends on «-sh».

| Declension with the final vowel «ë» <br> Example: këngë ('song') |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | singular |  | plural |  |
|  | indet. <br> ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') | indet. <br> ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') |
|  | këngë | kënga | këngë | këngët |
|  | i kënge | i këngës | i këngëve | i këngëve |
|  | kënge | këngës | këngëve | këngëve |
| Acc | këngë | këngën | këngë | këngët |
| Abl | kënge | këngës | këngësh | këngëve |

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## 3. Declension with the final vowel being an unstressed «e»

Nouns ending in an unstressed «e» will be declinated according to the scheme shown below.

The difference to the other declensions can also be seen here in the genitive, dative and ablative of the determinate form of the singular. Here, the ending is «-es».

## Note!

In the other two declensions we have already seen, the endings for the 3 cases (genitive, dative and ablative, in each case for the determinate noun singular) were «-ës» or «-së».
If you don't remember this well, maybe go back before you look at the next table.

| Declension with the final vowel «e» <br> Example: mace ('cat') |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | singular |  | plural |  |
|  | indet. <br> ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') | indet. <br> ('a/an') | det. <br> ('the') |
|  | mace | macja | mace | macet |
|  | i maceje | i maces | i maceve | i maceve |
| Dat | maceje | maces | maceve | maceve |
| Acc | mace | macen | mace | macet |
| Abl | maceje | maces | macesh | maceve |

## What is essential to know about Albanian adjectives?

## How Albanian adjectives are used

## 1. Attributive usage

Adjectives can be generally found behind the noun accompanying it.

Adjectives only go before the noun for stylistic reasons. Adjectives adjust to gender and number of the respective nouns.

## Rule of thumb: Syntax

Noun (reference word) + Article + Adjective

## For example:

A janë këto të dhëna të tanishme?

- Are these the latest results?

Unë e adhuroj ëmbëlsirën e shijshme të gjyshes sime. - I love my grandma's tasty cake.

## 2. Predicative usage

A predicatively used adjective is a statement about the nature of the object or subject of the sentence.

## For example:

'The day was beautiful' or 'the children are small'.
It is also important to keep in mind that adjectives in the plural always have «të» as a prefixed article, instead of «e», which would correspond to the common declension. This applies to both the masculine and feminine forms.

## Rule of thumb:

The adjective, together with the auxiliary verb 'to be' = «të», forms the predicate.

[^0]
## Building the superlative:

## Degree of comparison

## Building the comparative:

The comparative form of adjectives or formed by using «më» (en. more) or «shumë» (en. very). This in combination with se or sesa (en. as/ than) forms a comparison.

## For example:

Markus është më i gjatë sesa motra e tij.

- Markus is taller than his sister.
(literally translated: ... more tall than...)

Qeni ynë leh më fortë sesa ai i fqinjëve.

- Our dog barks louder than that of our neighbors.

The superlative does not differ from the comparative.
If you want to say i.e.: the greatest and not greater than, you have to put the adjective in front of the related word.

## (:-) For example:

Sot është dita më e nxehtë e vitit.

- Today is the hottest day of the year.

Qeni ynë mori më të madhen e kockave.

- Our dog got the biggest bone.

When building the superlative it is important to remember that:

1. The noun always stays in det. Nom.
2. The adjective gets the ending instead of the noun

## What is essential about Albanian adverbs?

Albanian adverbs are undeclinable, that means they don't change their form. The placement of adverbs typically follows this rule:

## subject + predicate + adverb + objects

In the following table are some of the most common adverbs:

| keq | bad |
| :--- | :--- |
| sot | today |
| atje | there |
| këtu | here |
| bashkë | together |
| mirë | good |
| fort | strong, very |
| gjithnjë | always |

## What is essential to know about Albanian verbs?

In Albanian verbs need to be conjugated. Usually the personal pronouns can be left out since the conjugated form already reflects all the important information (such as gender, number, etc.). If you are familiar with Spanish you might already know how this system works.

The conjugation of the verbs can be ordered into three groups.

The difference here is marked by the first person singular since the Albanian language doesn't include the infinitive form of the verb:
Whenever you look up the Albanian verbs in the dictionary you are going to find the $\mathbf{1}^{\text {st }}$ person singular listed instead of the infinitive form.

## Good to keep in mind!

The polite form ('you')* is formed in the $2^{\text {nd }}$ person plural. *'you' but in a sense of talking to a higher-ranking personality

The auxiliary verbs «jetë» (to be) and «kanë» (to have)
Two of the most important verbs in the Albanian language are irregular verbs. So it is best to learn them by heart:

| jetë (to be) and kanë (to have) - irregular Auxiliary verbs |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| in present tense |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{1}^{\text {st }}$ sing. | unë | jam / kam | l am / have |
| $\mathbf{2}^{\text {nd }} \boldsymbol{s i n g}$. | ti | je / ke | you are / have |
| $\mathbf{3}^{\text {rd }}$ sing.: | ai, ajo | është / ka | he/she/it is / has |
| $\mathbf{1}^{\text {st }} \mathbf{p l .}$ | ne | jemi / kemi | we are / have |
| $\mathbf{2}^{\text {nd }} \mathbf{p l}$ | ju | jeni / keni | you/You are / have |
| $\mathbf{3}^{\text {rd }} \mathbf{p l .}$ | ata, ato | janë / kanë | they are / have |

## $1^{\text {st }}$ Conjugation

$1^{\text {st }}$ person singular ending in "vowel + $\mathbf{j}$ "
The verbs of the $1^{\text {st }}$ conjugation are characterised by the fact that they have different endings in the first three persons of the singular.
Also characteristic is the ending on a «vowel + $\mathbf{j}$ » in the $1^{\text {st }}$ person singular.

| jetoj ('to live') |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | singular | plural |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ person | jeto-j | jeto-jmë |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ person | jeto-n | jeto-ni |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ person | jeto-n | jeto-jnë |

## $2^{\text {nd }}$ Conjugation

## $1^{\text {st }}$ person singular ending on a consonant

Verbs of this conjugation group share a common feature: they carry a consonant at the end.

## Note!

Please make sure you keep the endings of $1^{\text {st }}, 2^{\text {nd }}$, and $3^{\text {rd }}$ person plural in mind. Verbs of this group don't possess any endings in their singular form.

Within the $2^{\text {nd }}$ conjugation, there are also verbs that undergo a so-called s/t-change in their declension and those that show a vowel change in their stem. In the next table you can take a closer look at both phenomena:

| flas ('to speak') |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
|  | singular | plural |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ person | flas | flas-im |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ person | flet | flis-ni |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ person | flet | flas-in |


| hap ('to open') |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | singular | plural |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ person | hap | hap-im |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ person | hap | hap-ni |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ person | hap | hap-in |

## $3^{\text {rd }}$ Conjugation

## $1^{\text {st }}$ person singular ending on a vowel

The third conjugation group gathers verbs with taciturn word stems.
The singular verbs of the third conjugation group end in a vowel.
Please notice that the forms of the first three persons are identical in singular (as shown in the following table).
Only the forms of the three persons in plural differ from each other and have different endings.

| pi ('to drink') |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | singular | plural |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ person | pi | pi-më |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ person | pi | pi-ni |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ person | pi | pi-në |

## The Albanian verb tenses

## Past tense

Forming the past tense is similar in all three conjugational groups. The only difference can be found in adding «-nte» or «-te» to the $3^{\text {rd }}$ person singular.

## Please note:

If the verb ends in a vowel «-nte» is added.
If the last letter is a consonant the $3^{\text {rd }}$ person singular ends on «-te».

## Past participle

The past participle is necessary to form the perfect tense. It also applies to the conjugation groups explained in the previous chapters. Since there is no infinitive form in the Albanian language, the starting point of forming the past participle is the $1^{\text {st }}$ person singular. Please note that there are exceptions and irregularities in all following groups. We are showing you the most common and used forms to get you started.

| Past participle of the $\mathbf{1}^{\text {st }}$ conjugation group |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Verbs <br> ending in | -oj | -uaj/-yej | stressed <br> vowels $+\mathbf{j}$ |
| Participle <br> ending | -úar <br> instead of-oj | $-r$ <br> instead of-j | -rë <br> instead of j |
| Example | punoj, <br> pun-uar <br> (I work, <br> I worked) | paguaj, <br> pagua-r <br> (I pay, <br> I paid) | bëj, <br> bërë <br> (I make/do, <br> made/ have <br> done) |


| Past participle of the $\mathbf{2}^{\text {nd }}$ conjugation group |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| hap, hapur | I open, opened |
| mbyll, mbyllur | I close, closed |


| Past participle of the 3 $^{\text {rd }}$ conjugation group |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| pi, pirë | I drink, drunk |
| vë, vënë | I put, put |
| fle, fjetur | I sleep, slept |

## The aorist

The aorist describes, similar to the Imperfect, a past tense but the aorist is used more often.
It is built different for the three conjugations:

## Aorist $1^{\text {st }}$ conjugation:

verb stem + ending vowel +«v»+ aorist ending

- Rule 1:

There are differences in the $3^{\text {rd }}$ person singular, whose ending can be «-i» or «-u», depending on the preceding vowel.
After «a, $\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{y}$ », the ending in the $3^{\text {rd }}$ person singular is «-u», otherwise «-i».

- Rule 2:

There are differences in the persons of the plural.
Verbs ending in «-0» or «-e» in the singular change this vowel to «-ua» or «-ye».

| jetoj ('to live') |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | singular | plural |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ person | jeto-j | jeto-jmë |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ person | jeto-n | jeto-ni |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ person | jeto-n | jeto-jnë |

In this verb, the $3^{\text {rd }}$ person singular ends in «-i» because the vowel «0» comes after the stem. (see rule number 1 )
«Jetoj» is a verb whose vowel at the end of the stem is an «0». Therefore, in the plural, this verb changes this vowel to «ua». (see rule number 2)

## Aorist $2^{\text {nd }}$ conjugation:

Verb stem + aorist ending

The main characteristic of the verbs in this group is that the consonant «v» is not inserted between the stem and the ending.
The endings are somewhat different in the plural, but in the
conjugation.
In the following table we compiled some of the most common verbs of the second conjugation and how the aorist is formed:

|  | kam <br> (to <br> have) | jam <br> (to <br> be) | dua <br> (to <br> want) | them <br> (to say) | jap <br> (to <br> give) | vij <br> (to <br> come) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| singular |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ | pata | qeshë | desha | thashë | dhashë | erdha |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ | pate | qe | deshe | the | dhe | erdhe |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ | pati | qe | deshi | tha | dha | erdhi |
| plural |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ | patëm | qemë | deshëm | thamë | dhamë | erdhëm |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ | patët | qetë | deshët | thatë | dhatë | erdhët |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ | patën | qenë | deshën | thanë | dhanë | erdhën |

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Aorist $3^{\text {rd }}$ Conjugation:

For the third conjugation, no scheme can be found so it is best to learn the forms as you learn the verbs.


## Perfect tense

The perfect tense is formed as follows:

Rule of thumb:
auxiliary verbs in their present form + past participle

In Albanian the auxiliary verb «kamë» ('to have') is used to form the perfect.

| Examples: perfect tense |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| unë kam pirë | I have drunk |
| ti ke ngënë | you have eaten (sg.) |
| ne kemi fjetur | we have slept |
| ju keni ngënë | you have seen (pl.) |
| ti ke ardhur | you have come (sg.) |
| ata kanë pyetur | they have asked |

## Pluperfect (past perfect)

In order to describe actions that took place even before past actions the pluperfect (a.k.a. past perfect) is used.
The pluperfect is formed by using the conjugated form of the auxiliary verb «kamë» in past tense.

| Pluperfect |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| kisha ngrënë | I had eaten |
| kishte ngrënë | he/she/it had eaten |
| kishim ngrënë | we had eaten |

## The subjunctive

The formation of the subjunctive in Albanian is based on the forms of the indicative and essential for building the future. To indicate the subjunctive, the particle «të» is placed before the verb.

## Rule of thumb for building the present subjunctive:

«të» + verb as in present indicative except $2^{\text {nd }}$ and $3^{\text {rd }}$ person singular.

Here we display examples of the first conjugation but it works the same way for the other two conjugations as well.

| punoj - to work |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| të punoj | I would work | të punojmë | we would work |
| të punosh | you would <br> work | të punoni | you would work |
| të punojë | he/she/it <br> would work | të punojnë | they would <br> work |

## The future tense

The future tense is formed relatively simply. An invariable form of the auxiliary verb «do», is placed before the respective form of the present subjunctive. This formation method applies to all 3 conjugations.

Rule of thumb for building the future:
«do» + conjugated form of the verb in the present subjunctive tense

Here we display examples of the first conjugation but it works analogously for the other two as well.

| jetoj - to live |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| do të jetoj | I will live | do të jetojmë | we will live |
| do të jetosh | you will live | do të jetoni | you will live |
| do të jetojë | he/she/it will <br> live | do të jetojnë | they will live |

## The passive form

Along with the active form of verbs there is of course a passive version. The passive is used when something is happening to somebody or something.

Rule of thumb for building the present passive:
$2^{\text {nd }}$ person plural active present (+ «h») + passive ending

## Note:

An «h» is added in between, if the verb stem ends on a vowel.

| paguaj - to pay |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| pagua-h-em | I am paid | pagua-h-emi | we are paid |
| pagua-h-esh | you are paid | pagua-h-eni | you are paid |
| pagua-h-et | he/she/it are <br> paid | pagua-h-en | they are paid |

## The passive in different verbal tenses

## Aorist passive:

To form the aorist passive the only thing that changes from the active form is the particle «u» in front of the verb, except $3^{\text {rd }}$ person singular. Here the ending is left out.

## Passiv perfect:

The perfect tense is formed in the passive in the same way as in the active, except that instead of the auxiliary verb «kamë» (I have), the auxiliary verb «jamë» ( 1 am ) is used.
conjugated form of «jamë» in the present tense + past participle

## For example:

jam veshur - I have been dressed është pyetur - it has been asked

## Personal pronouns

In the following table the personal pronouns are displayed in the different cases. The pronouns in columns are short versions, that are being used if the pronoun isn't the subject of the sentence:

| Personal pronouns |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | I | you <br> (sg.) | he/she | we | you <br> (pl.) | they |  |
| Nom | unë | ti | ai, ajo | ne | ju | ata, ato |  |
| Dat | mua <br> (më) | ty <br> (të) | atij, <br> asaj <br> (i) | neve <br> (na) | juve <br> (ju) | atyre <br> (u) |  |
| Acc | mua <br> (më) | ty <br> (të) | atë <br> (e) | ne <br> (na) | ju | ata, ato <br> (i) |  |
| Abl | meje | teje | atij, <br> asaj | nesh | jush | atyre |  |

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## Albanian demonstrative pronouns

There are many short forms and merges with other pronouns but for the moment you're good with just the standard forms.


Typical demonstrative pronouns are «kjo/ky» (en. this) and «ai/ajo» (en. that).
Unfortunately these pronouns have to be declined according to the required case.

| Demonstrative pronouns - kjo, ky (en. this) |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | this <br> (f, Sg) | this <br> (m, Sg) | these <br> (f, Pl) | these <br> (m, Pl) |
| Nom | kjo | ky | këto | këta |
| Gen | i kësaj | i këtij | i këtyre | i këtyre |
| Dat | kësaj | këtij | këtyre | këtyre |
| Acc | këtë | këtë | këto | këta |
| Abl | kësaj | këtij | këtyre | këtyre |


| Demonstrative pronouns - ajo, ai (en. that) |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | that <br> (f, Sg) | that <br> $(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{S g})$ | those <br> $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{P l})$ | those <br> $(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{P l})$ |
| Nom | ajo | ai | ato | ata |
| Gen | i asaj | i atij | i atyre | i atyre |
| Dat | asaj | atij | atyre | atyre |
| Acc | atë | atë | ato | ata |
| Abl | (prej) asaj | atij | atyre | atyre |

## Albanian sentence structure

The syntax order that is commonly used in Albanian is 'Subject - Predicate - Object' - here, the indirect object is followed by the direct object.

## The interrogative sentence

In Albanian a question is introduced/marked by intonation, very much as in English as well.
The speaker changes the intonation at the sentence‘ end by modulating the voice.
Therefore the sentence sounds more like an interrogative sentence rather than a declarative sentence.

Another possibility to mark an interrogative sentence in Albanian is to use the interrogative particle «a».
This particle is put before the verb.

## 〒 For example:

A shkojmë sot në drekë në restorant? / Shkojmë sot në drekë në restorant?

- Are we having lunch in a restaurant?

```
A flasin ata shqip? / Flasin ata shqip?
- Do you speak Albanian?
```


## The negation

By adding the particle «nuk» or «s» a sentence can be negated.
These particles stand directly before the verb that is to be negated.

## For example:

Unë nuk flas shqip. $\rightarrow$ I don't speak Albanian.
Unë s' flas shqip. $\rightarrow$ I don't speak Albanian.

## Prepositions and conjunctions in Albanian

## The conjunctions

In Albanian there are hardly any words that are solely conjunctions. Mainly words that can take on several meanings (depending on the context and the location in the sentence) are used.
Below you find a list containing words that can change their meaning when used as conjugations.

| Conjugations |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | Albanian | English |
| associating, <br> coordinating | dhe, e | and |
|  | dhe ... dhe.../ <br> hem ... hem | both...and.../ <br> $\ldots$..as well as... |
|  | as ... as | neither ... nor |
|  | herë ... herë | sometimes |
|  | qoftë ... qoftë | $\ldots$ as well as... |

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|  | a, o, apo, ose | or |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | a ... a, o ... o, apo ... <br> apo, ose ... ose, ja ... <br> ja | either ... or |
|  | me qëllim që | therefore, so, that |
|  | kështu po, nëqoftëse | if aq sa |
| temporal | kur | so that |
|  | derisa, gjersa | when |
|  | porsa | until |
| causal | sepse | because, since |
| se | se | because, since |
| indirect |  |  |
| question | se ku | whether |
|  | se kur | where |
|  |  | when |


| ind. object <br> clause | se, që | that |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

〒 For example:
Po të kisha pasur kohë do të vija me ju në kinema.

- If I had had time, I would have gone to the cinema with you.

Unë e di, që ti e di. - I know, that you know.

Para se të shkoj në shtëpi, po pi dhe një birrë.
Before leaving the house I'll have a beer.

## Prepositions in Albanian

The major part of Albanian prepositions require the ablative. Only 15 prepositions require the accusative and only two require the nominative.
We therefore suggest you memorise the prepositions that occur together with the accusative and nominative by heart.

| + Nominative |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| nga | from |
| te(k) | at (local) |


| + Accusative |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| deri | to |
| gjer | up (to) |
| mbi | over |
| me | with |
| më | on, to |


| ndaj | at (temporal) |
| :---: | :---: |
| në | in, at |
| ne | to, at |
| nëpër | through |
| pa | without |

## €. For example:

Vajzat shkojnë në shtëpi.

- The girls are going home.* (are on their way* home)

Në dyqan ka shumë klientë.

- There are many customers in the store.

Supermarkata është tek kisha.

- The supermarket is close to the church.
*In Albanian there is a particle that occurs with the noun 'home': në. It demonstrates the directed action of going home.

Albanian cardinal and ordinal numbers from 1 to 10

|  | cardinal numbers <br> (one, two, three,...) | ordinal numbers <br> (first, second,...) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | një | i parë, e para (m,f) |
| 2 | dy | i dytë |
| 3 | tre/tri (m,f) | i tretë |
| 4 | katër | i katërt |
| 5 | pesë | i pestë |
| 6 | gjashtë | i gjashtë |
| 7 | shtatë | i shtatë |
| 8 | tetë | i tetë |
| 9 | nëntë | i nëntë |
| 10 | dhjetë | i dhjetë |

## Days of the week

Maybe you need to schedule a meeting with your Albanian colleagues or with your learning partner?
Let's consult your calendar and learn the names of the days of the week in Albanian.

| Weekdays |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| hëna | Monday |
| marta | Tuesday |
| mërkura | Wednesday |
| enjtja | Thursday |
| premtja | Friday |
| shtuna | Saturday |
| diela | Sunday |

[^1]
[^0]:    For example:
    Këta njerëz janë shumë të arsimuar.

    - These people are well-educated.

    Për momentin nuk jemi të pranishëm.

    - We are currently absent.

    Ata janë të zgjuar. - They are smart.

[^1]:    For example:
    Do të shkoj në kinema të hënën.

    - On Monday l'm going to the cinema.

    Ne nuk duhet të punojmë të shtunave dhe të dielave.

    - We don't have to work on Saturdays and Sundays.

