

The 9 Rules of Vötgil Grammar

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- 1) **PARTS OF SPEECH:** Every word belongs to exactly one of the following four parts of speech: noun, verb, descriptor, or preposition.
- 2) **VERBS:** All verbs are transitive (able to accept a direct object). Word order in a clause is subject-verb-object: first the subject noun, then the verb, then optionally a direct object noun.
- 3) **DESCRIPTORS:** Descriptors encompass both adjectives and adverbs. Descriptors precede the words they modify. A descriptor can modify a word of any part of speech.
- 4) **PREPOSITIONS:** A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition followed by a noun. A prepositional phrase may be placed after a noun to modify it, or at the beginning or end of a clause to modify the clause as a whole.
- 5) **GROUPINGS:** A noun may precede another noun, or a verb before another verb, or a preposition before another preposition. In such a construction, the second word pertains to or is related to the first word.
- 6) **SITUATION NOUNS:** A clause may be enclosed in quotation marks to cause it to function as a noun, forming a "situation noun". Situation nouns encompass subordinate clauses, gerunds, and infinitives. The clause inside a situation noun does not require a subject noun.
- 7) **SUFFIXES:** The following suffixes may be appended to words:
 - a) **-Sis/Zis** forms a plural noun. **-Sis** is used after a voiceless consonant; **-Zis** is used after a voiced consonant or vowel.
 - b) **-Tid/Did** converts a verb into a passive participle descriptor. **-Tid** is used after a voiceless consonant; **-Did** is used after a voiced consonant or vowel.
 - c) **-Niq** converts a verb into a gerund noun (a noun representing the action of the original verb).
 - d) **-Rer** converts a verb into an agent noun (a noun representing the subject of the original verb), or a descriptor into a noun which has the quality of the descriptor.
 - e) **-Rey** converts a verb into a patient noun (a noun representing the direct object of the original verb).
 - f) **-Nis** converts a descriptor or preposition into a noun referring to the quality of the original word.
- 8) **NUMBERS:** Counting is in base 10. Numbers behave as descriptors and are represented as a sequence of digit words, from least significant to most significant.
- 9) **NOUN DROPPING:** In certain specific situations, a noun word may be excluded where one would otherwise be grammatically required:
 - a) The direct object (or multiple direct objects separated by conjunctions) of the following 6 copula verbs may have their noun excluded, leaving behind bare descriptors and/or prepositional phrases: **Viz**, **Bym**, **Sym**, **Fyl**, **Cak**, **Ste**.
 - b) The descriptors **Dis** and **Dat** may be used by themselves as nouns.
 - c) Imperative sentences formed with the descriptor **Ply** do not require a subject.

Special Words

This page describes specific Vötgil words notable for their special grammatical functions, but which nonetheless adhere to the aforementioned 9 core grammar rules.

The descriptor **Nöt** negates a word. The descriptor **Vöt** turns a word into its antonym.

Verb tense is expressed with the descriptors **Wuz** (past tense) and **Wil** (future tense) on the verb. These can be combined to form **WuzWil** (future-in-the-past) and **WilWuz** (future perfect).

The pronouns in Vötgil, which behave exactly the same as nouns, are: **Nuy** (I/me), **Ywn** (you), and **Sef** (self; reflexive pronoun).

Questions with a yes/no answer are formed with the descriptor **Duz** on the verb. Other questions are formed with the descriptor **Wit** (which; what).

Imperative sentences are formed with the descriptor **Ply** on the verb.

Comparisons are formed with the descriptors **Mor** (more), **Mos** (most), and **Vaz** (as), along with the preposition **Dan** (than).

Ordinal numbers are formed with the descriptor **Req**. Fractional numbers are formed with the descriptor **Fre**, which converts a number into its reciprocal; this can then be preceded by another number to multiply it.

The descriptors **Dyt** (the) and **Sum** (a; an; some) serve as optional articles. The descriptors **Dis** (this) and **Dat** (that) serve as demonstratives.

The descriptors **Wis** and **Wim** modify situation nouns to form relative clauses. **Wis** causes a situation noun to refer to its subject; **Wim** causes a situation noun to refer to either its direct object or prepositional object.

The descriptor **Weö** (whether) causes a situation noun to refer to the truth of its contained clause.

Words that would be conjunctions in English are prepositions in Vötgil; these include **Van** (and), **Jor** (or), **But** (but), **Cif** (if).