

Proficiency Testing Project
Structural List (Kurdish/Kurmanji)

Novice 1

1. Oblique pronouns: (min `me/my`, te `you/your`, wê `her`, wî `him/her`, me `us/our`, we `you/your`, wan `them/their`) Ex: navê min “my name”
2. Interrogative: çi “what” Ex: Navê te çi ye? `What is your name?`
3. Alphabet: distinct Kurdish vowels: î,ê,û ; distinct Kurdish consonants: q,x,ç, xw
4. To be Verb in Simple Present Tense: bûn `to be` (-im/me, -(y)î, -(y)e, -in /-ne) Ex: Navê min Mistefa ye.” My name is Mistefa.”
5. Copulative sentences: Ex: Navê wê Eyşan e. “Her name is Eyşan.”
6. Nominal Pronouns: ez `I`, tu `you`, ew `he/she`, em `we`, hûn `you` ew `they`
7. Interrogative particle: ma, gelo, Ex: Ma navê te Ahmed e. `Is your name Ahmed?`
8. Preposition: ji `from` Ex: Ez ji Rihayê me. “I am from Riha.”
9. Demonstrative pronouns: ev “this & these”, ew “that & those” Ex: Ev pênus e. “This is (a) pencil.”
10. Interrogative: kî “who” ku “where” çend “how many” kijan “which”
11. Numerals
12. Pluralization of singular nouns: Ex: Ev pênus e. “This is a pencil.” Ev pênus in.”These are pencils.”
13. Negative marker: ne “not” Ex: Ev ne pênuse. “This is not (a) pen.”
14. Combining conjugations: û `
15. Contrasting conjugation ` lê “but”
16. Derivational suffix –kar: Ex: cot “plow” -- cotkar “farmer”

Common Errors:

- Error in the distinction of letters e and ê: se instead of sê “three” another example is xale min instead of xalê min “my uncle”
- Error in the distinction of i and î: ismail instead of îsmaîl “personal name İsmail; xwişk instead of xwîşk “sister”
- Error in the use of oblique pronouns: Students tend to use nominal pronouns instead of oblique noun: navê hûn instead of navê we “your name”.
- Error in the use of alternative forms of ‘to be Verb in Simple Present Tense’: Ex: Ez xwendekar me. instead of Ez xwendekar im. “I am (a) student.”.

Novice 2

17. Present tense form of the verb hebûn: hebûn “to exist” heye `there is`, hene `there are` / tuneye/tunene “there is not /there not”. Ex: Mase heye. “There is (a) desk.” Mase tuneye. “There is not a desk.”
18. Diminutive suffix: -ik , Ex: kêr “knife” kêrik “little knife”, ,

19. Locative Prepositions: *li* “at” *di...de* “in” Ex: *Di odê de masek heye.* “There is a desk in the room.”
20. Indefinite suffix: *-ek `a/an`* and *-in* (plural) Ex: *pênusek* “a pencil”, *pênusin* “(some) pencils”
21. *Izafe* construction: suffix for masculine nouns *-ê* / suffix for feminine suffix *-a* / suffix for plural nouns *-ên*: Ex: *bavê min* “my father”, *dayika min* “my mother”
22. Oblique case suffix: for masculine nouns *-î* for feminine nouns *-ê* and for plural nouns *-an*: Ex: *bavê Ehmedî* “Ehmed’s father” *bavê Zeynebê* “Zeyneb’s father”
23. *Izafe* with question words: Ex: *Çi yê te heye?* “what do you have?” *Kî yê wî hene?* “Who do you have?”
24. *Izafe* with Adjectives: Ex: “*masê biçuk* “small desk”
25. Present tense form of the verb *hebûn* in possessive construction: *hebûn* “exist”. Ex: *Xwîşka min heye.* “I have (a) sister.”
26. *Izafe* construction with indefinite suffixes: for masculine nouns *-ekî* for feminine nouns *-eke* and for plural nouns *-ine*: Ex: *Xwîşkeke min heye* “I have a sister.”
27. Usage of adverbs with adjectives: Ex: *pir xweş* “very nice” *zehf xizan* “very poor” *gelek dirêj* “very tall”
28. *Izafe* construction with multiple elements: Ex: *Renga caketa bavê Ahmedî* “the color of father of Ahmet”, *pirtûka kesk a min* “my green book”
29. Simple Present Tense: Ex: “*Ez dixwim* “I eat/ am eating”
30. Infinitives with *(-i)n* suffix: Ex: “*kirin* “to buy” *xebitîn* “to work”
31. Irregular verb stems: Ex: *bêj - go* “to say”, *ê - hat* “to come”, *b - dî* “to see”
32. Complex verbs which are formed by insertion non-verbal prefixes: *ra-*, *ve-*, *ra-*, *da-*, Ex: *baz; ketin* “to fall” – *ra-ketin* → *raketin* `to lie down, to sleep`
33. Temporal Adverbs: Ex: “*îro* “today” *îşev* “tonight” *nîvro* “afternoon”

Common Errors:

- Common error in the use of *heye/hene* with Locative prepositions: *Di bin maseyê min de pirtûkên zarokên min in.* instead of *Di bin maseyê min de pirtûkên zarokên min hene.* `My kids` books are under the table`. Another example for this error is: *Di bin maseyê min de zarokên min jî ne.* Instead of *Di bin maseyê min de zarokên min jî hene.* `My kids are also under the table.` Another example: *Li hember maseyê min jî masayek e.* instead of *Li hember maseyê min jî masayek heye.* `There is a desk next to my desk.` (It should be clearly explained to students that, unlike in English, when locative prepositions are used at the beginning of a sentence, *heye/hene* `there is/are` structure should be used rather than the copula to be verb `bûn`).
- Error with use of indefinite suffix: *yek xaltiyek* instead of *xaltiyek* “an aunt”: *yek maseye* instead of *maseyek* `a desk`
- Improper use of *ezafe* suffixes according to gender of the nouns: *bava min* “my father” which should be *bavê min* “my father”
- Error in the use of oblique case suffixes which are confused with *izafe* suffixes. : “*qizê Zeynebê*” instead of “*qîza Zeynebê*”

- Error in the use of *Izafe* construction with indefinite suffixes: “qîzeke Zeynebê” instead of qîzeke Zeynebê”
- Misplacing the subjunctive prefix and present tense prefix when they are both used in a sentence. Ex: Ez bixwezim direvim. instead of Ez dixwezim birevim. ‘I want to run.’

Intermediate I

34. Paired adverbs: Ex: “hêdî hêdî “slowly”, zu zu “quickly”
35. Factitive verb ending –andin : Ex: tirsîn “to fear” tirsandin “to scare, şewitîn “to burn” şewitandin “to set fire”
36. Compound Verbs: Ex: “hişyar bûn “to wake up” hişyar kirin “to wake sb.up”
37. Adverbs of frequency: Ex: “qet “never” carinan “sometimes” pirî caran “often” her tim “always”
38. Vowel deletion and regressive assimilation in the use of oblique case: Ex: “Ez nanê dixwim. → Ez nê dixwim.
39. Reflexive pronoun *xwe*: *xwe* “self” Ex: Ez xwe dişom. “I am washing myself.” (I am taking a shower.)
40. Forming adjectives with suffix -mend: Ex: huner “art” -hunermend “artist”
41. Coordinating conjunctions: Ex: an jî /yan jî `or`, ne....ne `neither nor`
42. Possessive pronoun *xwe*: Ex: Pirtûka xwe wenda kirîye. “He has lost his own book.”
43. Reciprocal pronoun *hev*: Ex: Em hev dibînin. “We see each other”. Em birayên hev in. “We are each other’s brother.” Rojda û Eyş dotmamê hev in. “they are each other’s cousin.”
44. Expressing likes/dislikes: Ex: “hez dikim “I like” hez nakim “I do not like” – kêfa min ji ... re tê. “I like ...” kêfa min ji ... re nayê. “I do not like ...”
45. Transitional signals/words: Ex: ji ber ku “because”, lewma “therefore”, lê belê “however”, her wiha “similarly”, ji ber vê yekê “therefore”
46. Present subjunctive prefix (Imperatives): Ex: “Biçe! “Go!” Neçe/Meçe! “Do not go!”
47. Expressing wishes: *xwestin* “to want” Ex: Ez dixwezim biçim. “I want to go.”
48. Present tense form of the verb hebûn with personal endings: Ex: Tuneme `I do not exist.` Tuneyî `You do not exist.`
49. Optative mood (Expressing requests): bila “let” Ex: Bila ew biçê. “Let him go!”
50. Vocative case: -o for masculine, -ê for feminine, - (i) no for plural. Ex: Hevalo! “Hey (male) friend!” Hevalê! “Hey (female) friend!” Hevalno! “Hey friends!”
51. Derivational suffix –o and ê: Ex: “Xizan “poor” Xizano “Hey you the poor one” bikes “alone” bikesê “ Hey you alone one”
52. Comparatives and Superlatives structure: comp. marker hîn “more” comp. suffix –tir superl. Marker *tevrî* “most” and superl. suffix *terîn* “most”: Ex: “kevē biçuktur “the smaller bird”, kevē *tevrî* biçuk “the smallest bird”
53. Expressing degree of equality: Ex: bi qasi , wek “as....as/ as muc as”

54. Izafe functioning as pronoun: Ex: “Hevala min hat, **a** te li ku derê ye? “My (female) friend is here, where is your (**friend**)? Birayên min biçûk in, **ên** te mezin in. “My brothers are small, your (**brothers**) are big.”
55. Indefinite pronouns: Ex: kesek “someone” tiştek “something” herkes “anyone” “hertişt “anything”
56. Expressing ability/inability: karîn “to be able to” Ex: Ez dikarim birevim. “I can run” Ez nikarim bifirim. “I cannot fly.”
57. Modal verb divê in Present: divê `should/need to` Ex: “Divê ez biçim. “I should go.”
58. Cohesive devices: li alîyê dî- ji layê dî ve “the other hand”; bi kurtasî – bi kurtî ‘in short’; bi rastî ‘in reality’; serda ‘in addition’; bi giştî ‘generally’; mixabin ‘unfortunately’
59. Future Tense :-(y)ê particle: Ex: Ez ê birevim “ I will run.”

Common Errors:

- Error with placing divê in correct place in a sentence. Ex: Ez divê birevim. Instead of Divê ez birevim “I need to run.”
- Error in using Simple Past tense with transitive verbs: Students Show tendency to add personal ending at the end of the verbs where they should not add. Ex: Min nan xwarim. instead of Min nan xwar. “I ate bread. “
- Error in use of Ergative structure. Students Show tendency to use oblique pronouns in the place of nominal pronoun or vice versa. Ex: Te min dîtî. instead of Te ez dîtîm. “You saw me.”

Intermediate II

60. Conjunctions: teva ku/tevî ku/herçiqaş “although”
61. Direct and indirect speech
62. Interjections: lê , lo “hey” Ex: Lo Ehmedo “ Hey Ehmed” Lê Eysê “Hey Eys”
63. Expressing necessity: divê “should/need to” Ex: Divê ez birevim “I need to run.”
64. Conditional: heke, ku “if” Ex: Heke tu biçî, ez ê rakevim. “If you leave, I will sleep.”
65. Modal verb for probability: dibe ku “may be” Ex: Dibe ku ez ê biçim. “I may go.”
66. Conjunction ku: ku “that”
67. The derivational suffix î: Noun; Ex:: azad “free” azadî “freedom”, welat “country” welatî “citizen”
68. Quantitative adjectives: çend “a few”, hindek “few, a little”, pir/zor “ a lot”
69. Prepositional phrases: Piştî ku “after” / Berî ku “before”: Ex: Piştî ku tu biçî, ez ê rakevim. “After you leave, I will sleep.”
70. Expressing possibility in Future: dibe ku `may` Ex: Dibe ku ez dereng bimînim. “I may be late.”
71. Adverb: dema ku “when”
72. Relative Clause: ku `that`
73. Passive voice in Present Tense: Ex: Mal tê pak kirin. “The house is cleaned.”
74. To be Verb in Simple Past Tense: bûn “to be” Ex: Ez xwendekar bûm. “I was a student.”
75. Simple Past tense with intransitive verbs: Ex: Ez çum. “I went. “
76. Past verb stems
77. Participles functioning as adjectives: şuştî “cleaned” Ex: Malê şuştî “the cleaned house”

78. Temporal Adverbs: **dûh** “yesterday” **pêr** “the day before yesterday” **heftê çûyî** “last week”
79. Simple Past tense with transitive verbs: Ex: **Min nan xwar.** “I ate bread.”
80. Simple past tense with nominal pronouns: Ex: **Te ez kuştim.** “You killed me.”
81. Coordinating conjunctions: **an jî /yan jî** or, **ne...ne** either or, neither nor

Advanced I & Advanced II

82. Passive voice in Past Tense: Ex: **Mal hat şuştin.** “the house was cleaned.”
83. Passive voice in Present Perfect Tense: Ex: **Mal hate şuştin.** “the house has been cleaned.”
84. Passive voice in Past Continuous Tense: Ex: **Mal dihat şuştin.** “The house used to be cleaned.”/ “The house was being cleaned.”
85. Future perfect tense: Ex: **Gava ku hun gihêşin, ez ê bikeqedînim.** “When you arrive, I will have finished.”
86. Causative verb dayîn in the past: Ex: **Min erebê xwe da pakij kirin.** “I had my car cleaned.”
87. Omission of masculine oblique suffix: Ex: **Ehmed(i) nan xwar.** “Ehmed ate food.”
88. Present perfect tense with intransitive verbs: **-me, -yî, -ye, -ne;** Ex: **Ez hatime.** “I have come.”
89. Present perfect tense with transitive verbs: **-(iy)e; -(i)ne;** Ex: **Min nan xwarîye.** “I have eaten bread.”
90. Past Continuous tense with intransitive verbs: Ex: **Ez diçum.** “I was going.” / **Ez bûm.** “I was/had been.”
91. Past Continuous tense with transitive verbs: Ex: **Min sêv dixwar.** “I was eating (an) apple.”
92. Past Perfect Tense with intransitive verbs: Ex: **Ez hatibûm.** “I had come.”
93. Past Perfect Tense with transitive verbs: Ex: **Min xaribû.** “I had eaten.”
94. Past subjunctive with intransitive verbs (expressing wish): **bi-, (-ama, -ayî, -a, -ana)** Ex: **Xwezî ez bihatama.** “I wish I came.”
95. Past subjunctive with transitive verbs (expressing wish): **-a, -ana** Ex: **Xwezî min sêv bidîta** “I wish I saw (an) apple.” **Xwezî min sêv bidîtana** “I wish I saw (an) apple.”
96. Past subjunctive with nominal pronouns (expressing wish with **xwezî/bilah-bira**): **bi-, (-ama, -ayî, -a, -ana)** Ex: **Xwezî te ez bidîtama.** “I wish you saw me.”, **Xwezî wan tu bidîtayî** “I wish they saw you.”
97. The model verb **divê** in Past and Past Perfect tense. Ex: **Divê min bixwara** “I should have eaten.” (Past) **Divê min xwarbûma** “I should have eaten.” (Past Perfect)
98. Alternative Infinitive suffix **-îyan**: Ex: **Ez revîm / Ez revîyam.** ‘I ran.’ **Tu meşî/ Tu meşîyayî** ‘I walked.’