

CONSTRUCTED LANGUAGE COURSE

High Valyrian 1

A beginner's guide to High Valyrian, the language of the Targaryens in Game of Thrones: sounds, nouns and cases, pronouns, verbs, and your first sentences.

10 Chapters

Philip Osztromok

Generated with Claude

HIGH VALYRIAN 1

Contents

Chapter 1	Meet High Valyrian	2
Chapter 2	Sounds and Spelling	7
Chapter 3	Gender and Nouns	12
Chapter 4	Cases	16
Chapter 5	Pronouns	20
Chapter 6	Verbs	24
Chapter 7	Tenses	28
Chapter 8	Describing	32
Chapter 9	Sentences	36
Chapter 10	Reading	40

High Valyrian 1

Course 1 · Chapter 1 · What High Valyrian Is

High Valyrian is the old, formal language of the fallen empire of Valyria in *Game of Thrones* and *House of the Dragon*. You met it briefly in Constructed Languages 5 as another language made for a screen. In this course you learn how it works, taking the same route as Dothraki 1: sounds, nouns, cases, pronouns, verbs, adjectives and then whole sentences. High Valyrian is the more heavily inflected of the two, so it rewards slow, careful reading. This first chapter explains where it comes from, how much of it is official and what you can already recognise.

> **THE IDEA IN A BOX**
>
> High Valyrian was built by David J. Peterson, the maker of Dothraki, from a handful of words in George R. R. Martin's novels. In the story it is the learned language of a lost empire, much as Latin is for the modern world. It has four genders, eight cases and a rich verb system.

Where High Valyrian Comes From

HBO chose Peterson for *Game of Thrones* through a competition among language creators and gave him a largely free hand. The novels contain only a few High Valyrian words: *valar morghulis*, *valar dohaeris* and *dracarys*, plus a few more such as *valonqar*. Peterson built the language from those fragments. He also supplied Valyrian translations for lines of Martin's unfinished book *The Winds of Winter*.

Peterson later helped to create a **Duolingo** course in High Valyrian. According to the encyclopedia article on the Valyrian languages, construction began on 31 October 2016 in the Duolingo Language Incubator, the beta was released on 12 July 2017, and the course was updated in April 2019, with audio recorded by Peterson.

High Valyrian and its descendants

In the story, High Valyrian is the old prestige language, and the spoken dialects of the Nine Free Cities are what grew out of it. These are called **Bastard Valyrian**. Examples are the Astapori and Meereenese Valyrian of Slaver's Bay. Peterson compared the relationship to the one between Classical Latin and the Romance languages. Bastard Valyrian simplifies the grammar: Astapori, for example, lost the case system and cut the four genders to two.

How big is it?

The only dated count found for this course is early: at the start of June 2013 there were **667** High Valyrian words. The vocabulary has grown since then, particularly through the Duolingo course and Peterson's other work, but no later count is given in the sources used.

What Counts as Official

As with Dothraki 1, a form can have a different standing, and this course says which kind it is showing wherever it can:

- **From the novels:** *valar morghulis*, *valar dohaeris*, *dracarys* and *valonqar*.
- **Heard on the shows:** lines Peterson wrote for the scripts.
- **Published by Peterson:** the Duolingo course and his own writing.
- **Community-built:** forms invented by learners to fill the gaps.

> **WATCH OUT: THE WIKI IS FAN-MAINTAINED**
>
> Much of the detailed grammar online is on the Language Invention wiki, which is maintained by fans and checked against Peterson's work, but it does not always agree with itself. When this course gives a table it will say if the source is unclear.

A Quick Look at the Grammar

You do not need to learn any of this yet. It is here so you know what the next nine chapters are building:

FEATURE	HIGH VALYRIAN	COMPARE DOTHRAKI 1
Noun classes	four genders (lunar, solar, terrestrial, aquatic), unrelated to sex	two (animate, inanimate)
Number	four: singular, plural, paucal ("a few"), collective	singular and plural (animate only)
Cases	eight	five
Verbs	seven tenses, two voices, three moods	present, past, future, and an imperative

FEATURE	HIGH VALYRIAN	COMPARE DOTHRAKI 1
Word order	strongly verb-final on one account; flexible on another	subject, verb, object in the examples
Subject pronouns	usually left out unless stressed (pro-drop)	usually present

WATCH OUT: WORD ORDER IS DESCRIBED TWO WAYS

The grammar wiki calls High Valyrian "strongly verb-final, subject-object-verb", while the encyclopedia article says word order is flexible, except in relative clauses, which are head-final. This course follows the wiki's examples and notes any case where the order differs.

Your First Phrases

HIGH VALYRIAN	MEANING	NOTE
Valar morghulis	"all men must die"	first in *A Clash of Kings*; the meaning is explained in *A Storm of Swords*
Valar dohaeris	"all men must serve"	the traditional reply in Braavos; the meaning is explained in *A Feast for Crows*
Dracarys	"dragonfire"	Daenerys's command to her dragons
Valonqar	"little brother"	from the prophecy told to Cersei

The Language Invention wiki lists *valar* as the nominative collective of *vala* ("man"), so *valar* means "men" taken together, but it also says there are several ways of parsing these two phrases. Chapter 4 returns to the collective number.

Two glossed sentences

The grammar page gives these example sentences. You cannot read them yet, but notice the **long marks** (macrons) over some vowels, which are part of the spelling:

```
Dohaeriros māzigon!                    May a slave come!
Ābre ūndas lua vala raqiros issa.      The man who saw the woman is a friend.
```

How This Course Is Organised

The ten chapters move from the bottom up: sounds and spelling (Chapter 2), gender and nouns (3), number and cases (4), pronouns (5), verbs (6 and 7), adjectives, numbers and colours (8), sentences and greetings (9), and reading real passages (10). Every example is glossed. Words and forms are marked as sourced or as built by rule, and the end of each chapter lists the forms to check against the dictionary.

Hands-On Exercises

EXERCISE 1

Match each phrase to its meaning: (a) *Valar morghulis*; (b) *Valar dohaeris*; (c) *Dracarys*; (d) *Valonqar*. The meanings are: dragonfire, all men must serve, little brother, all men must die.

View solution

EXERCISE 2

Say who made High Valyrian and from what. Then explain what Bastard Valyrian is and what Peterson compared the relationship to.

View solution

EXERCISE 3

Compare High Valyrian and Dothraki on four points from the grammar table (noun classes, number, cases, verbs) and say which is the more heavily inflected.

View solution

CHAPTER 1 QUICK REFERENCE

- **High Valyrian:** built by David J. Peterson for *Game of Thrones*, from fragments in the novels; 667 words by June 2013; Duolingo course in beta from July 2017

- **In the story:** the old prestige language; the spoken Bastard Valyrian dialects descend from it (Peterson's comparison: Classical Latin and the Romance languages)
- **Grammar overview:** four genders, four numbers, eight cases, seven tenses, two voices, three moods
- **Phrases:** *Valar morghulis* (all men must die), *Valar dohaeris* (all men must serve), *Dracarys* (dragonfire), *Valonqar* (little brother)

COMING NEXT

High Valyrian 1, Chapter 2 takes the spelling apart: the sounds, the long vowels marked with macrons, and stress.

High Valyrian 1

Course 1 · Chapter 2 · Sounds and Spelling

High Valyrian is written in the Latin alphabet with a few extra marks, and its spelling is regular: one letter or letter pair, one sound. This chapter follows David J. Peterson's own pronunciation guide (written in November 2020), so you can read the examples in the rest of the course aloud. Its comparison words are English or other familiar languages; they are guides, not exact matches.

THE IDEA IN A BOX

Six vowels, each short or long (long ones carry a macron and are held twice as long); consonants *p t k* without a puff of air; a trilled *r*; a back-of-the-mouth *q*; and a stress rule that usually puts the stress on the second-to-last syllable.

The Vowels

High Valyrian has six vowel letters. The long version of each is written with a **macron** (a bar over the letter) and is held for about twice as long. The length can change the meaning of a word, so do not skip the marks.

SHORT	LONG	SOUND (PETERSON'S COMPARISON)
a	*ā*	"a" in "father"
e	*ē*	"a" in "gate" (always this sound)
i	*ī*	"i" in "machine"
o	*ō*	"o" in "tote"
u	*ū*	"u" in "ruminate"
y	*ȳ*	"u" in French "rue" or "ü" in German "für"

WATCH OUT: *E* IS NOT "EH" AND *Y* IS NOT "WHY"

The vowel *e* is always like the "a" in "gate", never like "bed". The letter *y* is a vowel in its own right, the rounded sound of French "rue": say "ee" with your lips rounded.

The Consonants

LETTER	SOUND (PETERSON'S COMPARISON)
b, m, n, s, z	as in "bad", "matter", "never", "sad", "zebra"
d	"d" in Spanish "diente" (with the tongue against the teeth)
g	"g" in "goat", never as in "genius"
gh	"r" in French "rouge", never as in "ghost"
h	"h" in "hop"; always pronounced, even after another consonant or at the end of a word
j	"j" in "jam" on its own, but often "g" in "genre" or "y" in "yellow" inside a cluster; a variable sound
k, p, t	as in "sky", "spike", "stake": **no puff of air**
kh	"ch" in German "Buch"
l	"l" in "love"
lj	"lli" in "million"
ñ	"ni" in "onion"; *ñj* is "nj" in "ninja" (also written *nj*)
q	a "k" made further back, with the back of the tongue against the uvula
r	the trilled "rr" of Spanish "perro"; *rh* is the same sound without voicing
th	"th" in "thin", never as in "that"
v	"v" in "van" on its own, but often "w" in "wagon" inside a cluster; a variable sound

WATCH OUT: NO PUFF OF AIR ON *P, T, K*

English *p t k* usually come with a puff ("pike", "take", "kite"). In High Valyrian they never do, as in "spike", "stake" and "sky". Hold a hand in front of your mouth to check.

Long Vowels and Doubled Consonants

A long vowel is held twice as long: compare English "bat" and "bad". A **doubled consonant** is pronounced by lingering on it, like the "s" in "Miss Sally" compared with "Miss Ally". When a digraph is doubled, only the first letter is doubled in the spelling, so it is *kkh*, not *khkh*, but it is still pronounced as one long sound.

```
# long vowels in the sample sentences from Chapter 1
māzigon     ā is held twice as long as a
ābre        ā long
ūndas       ū long

# letters to watch
dracarys    y is the rounded vowel of French "rue"
valonqar    q is a back-of-the-mouth "k"
dohaeris    h is always pronounced
```

Where the Stress Falls

Peterson's guide gives the stress rule in a few lines:

- A **word-final consonant** does not count when working out stress.
- Stress usually falls on the **penultimate** (second-to-last) syllable.
- If the penultimate syllable is short, stress falls on the **antepenultimate** (third-to-last) syllable if that one is heavy.
- Some forms, such as the imperative, have **word-final** stress, but otherwise final stress is unusual.
- A vowel cluster that begins with *i* (*ia*, *ie*, *io*) counts as a single vowel for stress.

The guide does not define "heavy" on that page. A common meaning in other languages is a syllable with a long vowel or one that ends in a consonant, and a Language Invention page uses a similar idea (a syllable is light only if it ends in a short vowel). Treat that as the working definition here.

> **WATCH OUT: THE MACRON CHANGES THE STRESS**

Because long vowels make a syllable heavy, a macron can move the stress. In Peterson's spelling the famous phrase is written *valar morghūlis*, with a long *ū*; the novels print it with no macron. With the long *ū*, the penultimate syllable is heavy, so the stress falls there: *mor-GHŪ-lis*.

Hands-On Exercises

EXERCISE 1

Say each word aloud and name the special letters in it: *dracarys*, *valonqar*, *dohaeris*, *māzigon*, *ūndas*.

View solution

EXERCISE 2

Explain how to pronounce *k* in "sky" versus "kite", and which of the two High Valyrian *k* matches. Then say what *kkh* means and why it is not written *khkh*.

View solution

EXERCISE 3

Apply the stress rule to *valar morghūlis*: for each of the two words, split it into syllables, say which syllable is stressed and why. Treat a syllable with a long vowel or a final consonant as heavy.

View solution

CHAPTER 2 QUICK REFERENCE

- **Vowels:** *a e i o u y*, each long with a macron (*ā ē ī ō ū ȳ*), held twice as long; *e* is "gate", *y* is French "rue"
- **Consonants:** *p t k* without a puff; *kh* "Buch"; *gh* French "rouge"; *q* back-of-mouth *k*; *r* trilled; *th* "thin"; *h* always pronounced
- **Doubling:** linger on a doubled consonant; a doubled digraph is written *kkh*, *ggh*...

- **Stress:** usually the second-to-last syllable; third-to-last if the second-to-last is short and the third is heavy; the imperative is stressed on the last

COMING NEXT

High Valyrian 1, Chapter 3 turns to nouns and their four genders: lunar, solar, terrestrial and aquatic.

High Valyrian 1

Course 1 · Chapter 3 · Gender and Nouns

High Valyrian nouns carry two pieces of built-in information: a **gender** and a **number**. Dothraki 1 (Chapter 3) had two noun classes and two numbers; High Valyrian has four of each. This chapter sets out the four genders, shows how the noun classes (declensions) are organised, and introduces the four numbers in their basic forms. The eight cases come in Chapter 4.

> **THE IDEA IN A BOX**
>
> The four genders are **lunar**, **solar**, **terrestrial** and **aquatic**. They have nothing to do with sex. The gender usually shows in the noun's ending, and the number is shown by changing the ending too: a **paucal** (a few) ends in *-n* and a **collective** (a whole group) ends in *-r*.

The Four Genders

The genders are named after the heavens and the earth, and each tends to hold certain kinds of noun. The grammar wiki gives these tendencies, with a note that there are "a significant number of exceptions":

GENDER	USUAL ENDING	TYPICAL NOUNS AND EXAMPLES
Lunar	a vowel	humans (*vala* "man", *ābra* "woman", *muña* "mother"), nocturnal animals, fruit, tools, military equipment
Solar	*-s*	humans, diurnal animals (*zaldrīzes* "dragon"), occupations (*loktys* "sailor"), body parts
Terrestrial	*-n*	foodstuffs (*havon*), plants (*parmon*), metals
Aquatic	*-r*	liquids (*iēdar*), bodies of water (*embar* "water"), gases (*paghar*)

- **Humans can be lunar or solar.** Words for people appear in both; occupations lean solar.
- **The labels are only labels.** A "solar" noun is not especially sunny. Learn the gender as a property of each noun.

- **Pronouns have no gender of their own.** The speaker picks the gender that fits the person talked about, and lunar is the default for humans (Chapter 5 returns to this).

> **WATCH OUT: THIS IS NOT GRAMMATICAL GENDER LIKE FRENCH**
>
> There is no masculine or feminine. A word for a woman and a word for a man can both be lunar. The four genders sort nouns by kind of thing, and they decide which endings a noun takes.

The Four Numbers

Dothraki has a singular and a plural. High Valyrian has four numbers. The two new ones are the **paucal**, for a small group ("a few", "some"), and the **collective**, for a group taken as a whole. Whatever the gender, **every paucal ends in *-n* and every collective ends in *-r***.

NUMBER	*VALA* "MAN" (LUNAR)	*EMBAR* "WATER" (AQUATIC)	*LOKTYS* "SAILOR" (SOLAR)
Singular	*vala*	*embar*	*loktys*
Plural	*vali*	*embri*	*loktyssy*
Paucal	*valun*	*embrun*	*loktyn*
Collective	*valar*	*embrar*	*loktyr*

- **Paucal:** *valun* is "a few men". It takes plural agreement (a few things are still several).
- **Collective:** *valar* is "men" as a whole, "all men" (the first word of *valar morghulis* and *valar dohaeris* from Chapter 1). A collective takes *singular* agreement, because the group is one unit.
- **Meanings can shift.** The collective of *muña* "mother" is *muñar*, which means "parents".
- **The gender stays.** A paucal or collective keeps the gender of its singular.

> **WATCH OUT: *VALAR* IN THE FAMOUS PHRASE**
>
> This explains the opening word of *valar morghulis* as "all men" (collective) rather than "men" (plural). The wiki itself notes that there are several ways to parse these two phrases, so treat this as the usual reading, not the only one.

The Six Declensions

Nouns fall into classes called **declensions**, named by the vowel the stem ends in. You do not need the details yet; they matter when you learn the case endings in Chapter 4. The overview:

DECLENSION	STEM VOWEL	EXAMPLES
First	*-a*	*vala* (lunar), *dāria* "queen" (subtype), *embar* (aquatic)
Second	*-y*	*trēsy* (lunar), *loktys* (solar)
Third	*-o*	*pēko* (lunar), *ēngos* (solar), *belmon* (terrestrial), *lentor* (aquatic)
Fourth	*-e*	*gelte* (lunar), *zaldrīzes* (solar), *Targārien* (terrestrial)
Fifth	*-i*	*brōzi* (lunar), *tubis* (solar), *rōbir* (aquatic)
Sixth	miscellaneous	foreign words and reanalysed collectives and paucals

Look at the pattern: the first declension has lunar and aquatic nouns but, the wiki says, no attested solar or terrestrial types, while the second has no terrestrial or aquatic types. So the declension narrows down which genders are possible.

WATCH OUT: SOME FORMS IN THE TABLES ARE GUESSES

The wiki's tables mark some forms in grey type as guesses based on parallels with similar nouns. The plural, paucal and collective forms given here should be treated as the standard pattern; for any particular noun the dictionary entry is the check.

Hands-On Exercises

EXERCISE 1

Say which gender each noun is most likely to have, from its meaning and ending: *havon* (a foodstuff), *embar* (water), *loktys* (sailor), *vala* (man), *parmon* (a plant).

View solution

EXERCISE 2

Write the paucal and the collective of *vala*, *embar* and *loktys* from the table. Then say what is always true of a paucal and of a collective, whatever the gender.

View solution

EXERCISE 3

Explain the difference between *vali*, *valun* and *valar*, and what the collective *muñar* shows about the way collectives behave. Why is High Valyrian gender not like French gender?

View solution

CHAPTER 3 QUICK REFERENCE

- **Genders:** lunar (usually a vowel), solar (*-s*), terrestrial (*-n*), aquatic (*-r*); many exceptions
- **Numbers:** singular, plural, paucal (always *-n*, "a few"), collective (always *-r*, "all of them")
- **Agreement:** a collective takes singular agreement, a paucal takes plural agreement
- **Declensions:** six, named by stem vowel (*-a, -y, -o, -e, -i*, miscellaneous)
- **Examples:** *vala / vali / valun / valar*; *embar / embri / embrun / embrar*; *loktys / loktyssy / loktyn / loktyr*

COMING NEXT

High Valyrian 1, Chapter 4 covers the eight cases and the endings that go with them, using the nouns from this chapter.

High Valyrian 1

Course 1 · Chapter 4 · Number and Cases

Dothraki 1 (Chapter 4) had five cases. High Valyrian has **eight**, and in each of four numbers. That sounds like a great deal to memorise, but the system is regular once you see the pattern, and a few cases are rare in practice. This chapter gives the job of each case, with sentences from the grammar wiki, and a complete table for the noun *vala* "man" that you can use as a model.

THE IDEA IN A BOX

A noun changes its ending to show its job in the sentence. The eight cases are: **nominative** (subject), **accusative** (object), **genitive** (of), **dative** (to or for), **locative** (at), **instrumental** (by means of), **comitative** (with) and **vocative** (calling out).

What the Eight Cases Do

CASE	MAIN JOB	EXAMPLE FROM THE WIKI
Nominative	the subject; the dictionary form	*Zaldrīzes buzdari iksos daor.* "A dragon is not a slave."
Accusative	the direct object	*Āeksia ossēnātās, menti ossēnātās!* "Slay the masters, slay the soldiers!"
Genitive	possession and "of"; also material; the object of every postposition	*Āeksio ondos* "Hand of gold"
Dative	the indirect object ("to", "for")	*Voktys Eglie aōt gaomilaksir teptas.* "The High Priest gave you a mission."
Locative	place, and also time	*Kesȳ tubī jemot dāervī tepan.* "On this day I give you freedom."
Instrumental	means ("by means of"), adverbs, "than" with comparatives	*Quptenkos Ēngoso ȳdrassia?* "Do you speak the Common tongue?"
Comitative	accompaniment ("with")	*... zaldrīzesse Daeneromy ēdrusi.* "... the dragons are sleeping with Daenerys."

CASE	MAIN JOB	EXAMPLE FROM THE WIKI
Vocative	calling someone	*Dovaogēdys! Naejot memēbātās!* "Unsullied! Forward march!"

You cannot parse these sentences fully yet; for now look only at the highlighted case word in each. For instance, in *Āeksio ondos* "Hand of gold" the genitive *āeksio* means "of gold", and in *Daeneromy* "with Daenerys" the ending *-omy* is the comitative.

More about some cases

- **Genitive.** It usually comes *before* the thing possessed, and it is the case that every postposition takes. Personal pronouns use a possessive adjective instead of the genitive.
- **Dative.** It is less common than you might expect: a verb prefix (*i-*) often turns a would-be dative into an accusative, and the postposition *syt* usually covers "for the benefit of".
- **Locative.** It also expresses time, as in "on this day" above, and one of the prepositions (*hae*, "as") requires it.
- **Instrumental.** It also makes adverbs, and it is used for "than" after a comparative adjective.
- **Vocative.** With an infinitive it forms a third-person command: *Dohaeriros māzigon!* "May a slave come!", the sentence from Chapter 1.

A Model: the Whole of *vala*

Here is the full paradigm for *vala* "man", a first-declension lunar noun. Learn it as a model, and treat the other first-declension nouns as variations on it.

CASE	SINGULAR	PLURAL	PAUCAL	COLLECTIVE
Nominative	*vala*	*vali*	*valun*	*valar*
Accusative	*vale*	*valī*	*valuni*	*valari*
Genitive	*valo*	*valoti*	*valuno*	*valaro*
Dative	*valot*	*valoti*	*valunta*	*valarta*
Locative	*valā*	*valoti*	*valunna*	*valarra*
Instrumental	*valosa*	*valossi*	*valussa*	*valarza*

CASE	SINGULAR	PLURAL	PAUCAL	COLLECTIVE
Comitative	*valoma*	*valommi*	*valumma*	*valarma*
Vocative	*valus*	*valis*	*valussa*	*valarza*

Patterns to notice

- **Singular endings** on the stem *val-*: accusative *-e*, genitive *-o*, dative *-ot*, locative *-ā*, instrumental *-osa*, comitative *-oma*, vocative *-us*.
- **Merged forms.** In the plural, the genitive, dative and locative are all *valoti*, and context decides which is meant. In the paucal and collective, the instrumental and vocative are identical (*valussa*, *valarza*).
- **The number marker survives.** Paucal forms keep a *-un-* or *-u-* before the case ending (*valuni*, *valunta*), and collectives keep *-ar-* (*valari*, *valarta*), so you can see the number inside the case form.
- **Other nouns follow other models.** The aquatic noun *embar* "water" has the same system with a different stem (*embri*, *embro*, *embrot*...), and the second-declension *loktys* "sailor" has its own set (*lokti*, *lokto*, *loktot*...).

WATCH OUT: SOURCES DIFFER ON SOME FORMS

The wiki prints some forms in grey as guesses, and it is not marked here which cells those are. Another source also gives a different dative plural for *vala* (*valunta*, where this table has *valoti*). Use the table as the pattern and check the dictionary before relying on a rare cell.

Hands-On Exercises

EXERCISE 1

Name the case that does each job: (a) the subject; (b) the object; (c) "of"; (d) "by means of"; (e) "with"; (f) calling someone's name; (g) "on this day".

View solution

EXERCISE 2

Using the table, give these forms of *vala*: the accusative singular, the genitive singular, the dative singular, the comitative plural and the nominative collective.

View solution

EXERCISE 3

Find the three plural forms that are identical, and the two cases that are identical in the paucal and the collective. Why does this not make the language impossible to understand?

View solution

CHAPTER 4 QUICK REFERENCE

- **Eight cases:** nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, locative, instrumental, comitative, vocative
- ***vala* singular:** *vala, vale, valo, valot, valā, valosa, valoma, valus*
- **Plural:** *vali, valī, valoti, valoti, valoti, valossi, valommi, valis*
- **Mergers:** plural genitive = dative = locative; paucal and collective instrumental = vocative
- Genitive before the thing possessed; the vocative with an infinitive makes a command

COMING NEXT

High Valyrian 1, Chapter 5 covers the pronouns, the possessive adjectives and the demonstratives.

High Valyrian 1

Course 1 · Chapter 5 · Pronouns and Demonstrates

High Valyrian is a pro-drop language: the subject pronoun is usually left out unless it is emphasised, because the verb ending already says who is acting. Even so, you need the pronouns, for emphasis, for objects, and because they take case endings like nouns. This chapter gives the personal pronouns, the possessive words ("my", "your"), the "this/that/which" words and the relative word *lua* that you met in Chapter 1.

> **THE IDEA IN A BOX**
>
> High Valyrian pronouns decline for case. The possessives are separate adjectives (*ñuha* "my"), not the genitive. The demonstratives are adjectives with different forms for living and non-living things, and "this" and "that" have a "which" partner, *spare* and *skore*.

The Personal Pronouns

The pronoun table on the grammar wiki's draft page (a user page, not an official reference) lists these forms. The nominative is the subject, the accusative the object, and the genitive "of":

CASE	I	YOU (SG.)	HE/SHE/IT	WE	YOU (PL.)	THEY
Nominative	*nyke*	*ao*	*ziry*	*ūja*	*īlon*	*jeme*
Accusative	*yne*	*avy*	*ziry*	*ūī*	*īlōn*	*jemī*
Genitive	*yno*	*aō*	*zijo*	*ūō*	*īlo*	*jemo*
Dative	*ynot*	*aōt*	*zijot*	*ūjot*	*īlot*	*jemot*
Vocative	*nykys*	*aōs*	*zirys*	*ūjus*	*īlos*	*jemys*

- **No gender in the pronoun itself.** The speaker picks the form of *they* to match the gender of what is meant; the table shows the solar/lunar form (*jeme*), and a separate form (*pōnta*) is listed for terrestrial and aquatic things.
- **Emphatic forms.** The table also lists an emphatic or reflexive row, for example *nykēla* for "I myself".

WATCH OUT: THE SOURCE TABLE IS GARBLED IN PLACES

The wiki's table has seven columns of values but unclear headers, and the locative, instrumental and comitative rows are partly uncertain. This chapter shows only the five rows (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, vocative) whose pattern is clear and gives the columns in the usual order I, you, he/she/it, we, you (plural), they. Check the dictionary before using a pronoun form that is not in this table.

Possessives

A possessive adjective stands before a noun and means "my", "your", "his" and so on. It is not the genitive, which personal pronouns do not use for possession.

PERSON	POSSESSIVE
my	*ñuha*
your (sg.)	*aōha*
his, her, its	*zȳha*

The plural possessives are given as *jāha*, *īlva*, *jeva* and *pōja*, but the wiki places some of them ambiguously, so only the singular set is taught here.

A possessive can stand alone with the ending *-on*: *ñuhon* "mine", *aōhon* "yours", *zȳhon* "his/hers/its". The wiki's example, *Kesy zȳhon issa* "This one is his", is marked there as made up for the page and not an official line.

This, That and Which

The demonstratives are adjectives, with one stem for living (animate) things and one for non-living (inanimate) things:

MEANING	ANIMATE	INANIMATE
this (near me)	*bisa*	*kesa*
that (farther away)	*bona*	*kona*

MEANING	ANIMATE	INANIMATE
which?	*spare*	*skore*

Before a noun, the demonstrative takes an ending that matches the noun's gender: *bisa muña* "this mother" (lunar), *bisys zaldrīzes* "this dragon" (solar), and *kesa brōzi* "this name" (the inanimate stem). With nothing after it, the demonstrative stands for "this one":

	ANIMATE	INANIMATE
this one	*bisy*	*kesy*
that one	*bony*	*kony*
which one? / who? / what?	*sparos*	*skoros*

Place and question words

- *kesīr* "here", *konīr* "there", *skoriot* "where?"
- *Skorȳso?* "why?", *Skorī?* "when?", *Skorkydoso?* "how?"

> **WATCH OUT: ANIMACY AND GENDER ARE SEPARATE**
>
> Animate and inanimate is a separate split from the four genders. The demonstrative has two stems (*bisa* or *kesa*) and also an ending that agrees with the noun's gender, so a noun needs both choices made.

The Relative Word *lua*

Look again at the sample sentence from Chapter 1: *Ābre ūndas lua vala raqiros issa* "The man who saw the woman is a friend." The word *lua* is a **relative adjective** that goes before the noun it refers to and means "who" or "which". Its case comes from the main clause: *lua* as a subject, *lue* as an object.

Hands-On Exercises

EXERCISE 1

Give the nominative, accusative and genitive of "I", "you" (singular) and "we" from the table. Then say why a speaker would use the nominative pronoun at all in a pro-drop language.

View solution

EXERCISE 2

Give the possessives for "my", "your" (singular) and "his/her/its", then the stand-alone forms for "mine" and "yours". Which ending makes a possessive stand alone?

View solution

EXERCISE 3

Choose the right demonstrative stem for "this mother" and "this name" (animate or inanimate), and explain what *sparos* and *skoros* mean. Then say what *lua* does in Chapter 1's sample sentence.

View solution

CHAPTER 5 QUICK REFERENCE

- **Nominative:** *nyke* I, *ao* you, *ziry* he/she/it, *ūja* we, *īlon* you (pl.), *jeme* they
- **Possessives:** *ñuha, aōha, zÿha*; stand-alone *ñuhon, aōhon, zÿhon*
- **Demonstratives:** *bisa / kesa* this, *bona / kona* that, *spare / skore* which
- **Question words:** *sparos / skoros* who/what, *skoriot* where, *Skorÿso* why, *Skorī* when
- **Relative:** *lua* before the noun it refers to

COMING NEXT

High Valyrian 1, Chapter 6 begins the verbs: the stem, the infinitive and the present tense.

High Valyrian 1

Course 1 · Chapter 6 · Verbs 1: The Basics

High Valyrian verbs change their endings for person, number, tense, voice and mood. That sounds like a lot, so this chapter takes just one corner of the system: the **infinitive** and the **present tense**, in the active voice. The past, the future and the commands come in Chapter 7.

The tables in this chapter come from David J. Peterson's own verb sheet, *High Valyrian Reference Grammar and Lexicon*, which is an eight-page working draft. It models the verb *dohaeragon* "to serve" (the same *dohaer-* as *valar dohaeris*, "all men must serve").

> **THE IDEA IN A BOX**
>
> Take the stem (*dohaer-*), add *-agon* for the infinitive ("to serve"), or add a short ending for the present: *-an* (I), *-ā* (you), *-za* (he/she/it), *-i* (we), *-āt* (you all), *-zi* (they).

The Infinitive

A verb is listed in its infinitive. For the verb on Peterson's sheet that ends in a consonant, the infinitive is the stem plus *-agon*:

```
# infinitive = stem + -agon
dohaer- + -agon   →   dohaeragon   "to serve"
ulz-    + -agon   →   ulzagon
```

Other infinitives end in different shapes. The aorist (Chapter 7) has *dohaerigon*, and Chapter 1's *māzigon* "to come" ends in *-igon*. Peterson's sheet lists the irregular verb "to be" as *sagon*.

The Present Active Indicative

The present tense says what is happening now: "I serve" or "I am serving". The verb shows the person, so a pronoun is not needed (Chapter 5 explained that High Valyrian drops it unless it is emphasised).

PERSON	ENDING	*DOHAER-* "SERVE"	*ULZ-*
I	*-an*	*dohaeran*	*ulzan*
you (sg.)	*-ā*	*dohaerā*	*ulzā*
he / she / it	*-za* or *-sa*	*dohaerza*	*ussa*
we	*-i*	*dohaeri*	*ulzi*
you (pl.)	*-āt*	*dohaerāt*	*ulzāt*
they	*-zi* or *-si*	*dohaerzi*	*ussi*

- **Singular and plural.** The plural is shown by the vowel ending: *-an* → *-i* and *-ā* → *-āt*.
- **The third person changes with the stem.** After *r* or *l* it is *-za* / *-zi* (*dohaerza*). After *z* the sound merges, so *ulz-* gives *ussa* and *ussi*, not **ulzza*. A Linguifex dictionary entry gives *tepsa* for the stem *tep-* (a stop consonant), so a stop plus *-sa* is also a pattern.
- **A word you already know.** In the sentence on the Cases page, *Kesȳ tubī jemot dāervī tepan*, the verb *tepan* is the first-person present of *tepagon* "to give": "I give you freedom on this day".

> **WATCH OUT: THIS IS A DRAFT, AND ONE CLASS ONLY**
>
> Peterson's sheet is headed "Ideas" and was never a finished grammar. It also shows only verbs whose stem ends in a consonant. A second group, whose stems end in a vowel, has different endings in other sources (for example *-n* for "I"), and is not covered here. The Duolingo course notes on the same wiki are a good place to check a verb that does not fit.

The Irregular Verb "to be"

The sheet gives "to be" as an irregular verb. Its present forms are:

PERSON	SINGULAR	PLURAL
first	*iksan*	*iksi*
second	*iksā*	*iksāt*
third	*issa*	*issi*

- **The endings are the regular ones.** Only the stem is odd: *iks-* in most forms and *iss-* in the third person.
- **Sentences you have seen.** The sample sentence *Ābre ūndas lua vala raqiros issa* from Chapter 1 ends in *issa*, "is". The sentence *Zaldrīzes buzdari iksos daor* from Chapter 4 uses *iksos*, which is a different (subjunctive) form on the sheet.
- **No "a" or "the".** High Valyrian has no articles, so *issa* alone links the two parts of "the man is a friend".

A Look Ahead

The same sheet shows that nearly every other form is built by adding something to this stem: a passive voice marked with *-ks*, a subjunctive in *-on*/*-os*, and a separate imperative in *-ās*. Chapter 7 returns to these.

Hands-On Exercises

EXERCISE 1

Write the six present forms of *dohaeragon* "to serve" without looking at the table: I, you (singular), he/she/it, we, you (plural), they.

View solution

EXERCISE 2

Find the stem of *ulzagon* and write its present forms. Which two forms differ from the pattern of *dohaeragon*, and why?

View solution

EXERCISE 3

Write the six present forms of "to be", then say which is the verb in *Ābre ūndas lua vala raqiros issa* and which person it is.

View solution

CHAPTER 6 QUICK REFERENCE

- **Infinitive:** stem + *-agon* (*dohaeragon*); "to be" is *sagon*
- **Present endings:** *-an, -ā, -za/-sa, -i, -āt, -zi/-si*
- **Model:** *dohaeran, dohaerā, dohaerza, dohaeri, dohaerāt, dohaerzi*
- **To be:** *iksan, iksā, issa, iksi, iksāt, issi*
- **Limits:** consonant-stem verbs only; the source is a draft

COMING NEXT

High Valyrian 1, Chapter 7 covers the other tenses (past, future, aorist), the moods and the commands.

High Valyrian 1

Course 1 · Chapter 7 · Verbs 2: Tenses, Moods and Commands

Chapter 6 gave the present tense of *dohaeragon* "to serve". High Valyrian has seven tenses in all, and Peterson's verb sheet prints every one of them for this verb. This chapter reads them off the sheet, adds the subjunctive and the imperative, and ends with how to say "not". All forms below are the **active** voice.

> **THE IDEA IN A BOX**
>
> Each tense is the stem *dohaer-* plus a tense marker and a person ending: *-il-* for the imperfect and future, *-t-* for the perfect, pluperfect and past habitual, *-i-* for the aorist. The person endings stay recognisable (*-n, -ā/-ē/-a, -s, -i, -āt/-ēt/-at*).

The Seven Tenses of *dohaeragon*

The sheet pairs each table with an English gloss for the first person; the glosses are shown below.

TENSE (GLOSS)	I	YOU (SG.)	HE/SHE/IT	WE	YOU (PL.)	THEY
Present "I serve, I am serving"	*dohaeran*	*dohaerā*	*dohaerza*	*dohaeri*	*dohaerāt*	*dohaerzi*
Imperfect "I was serving"	*dohaerilen*	*dohaerilē*	*dohaeriles*	*dohaerilin*	*dohaerilēt*	*dohaerilis*
Perfect "I served"	*dohaertan*	*dohaertā*	*dohaertas*	*dohaerti*	*dohaertāt*	*dohaertis*
Pluperfect "I had served"	*dohaerten*	*dohaertē*	*dohaertes*	*dohaertin*	*dohaertēt*	*dohaertis*
Future "I will serve"	*dohaerinna*	*dohaerilā*	*dohaerilza*	*dohaerili*	*dohaerilāt*	*dohaerilzi*
Aorist "I serve" (general)	*dohaerin*	*dohaeria*	*dohaeris*	*dohaeriti*	*dohaeriat*	*dohaerisi*

TENSE (GLOSS)	I	YOU (SG.)	HE/SHE/IT	WE	YOU (PL.)	THEY
Past habitual "I used to serve"	*dohaertin*	*dohaertia*	*dohaertis*	*dohaertiti*	*dohaertiat*	*dohaertisi*

What each tense is for

- **Present.** Something happening right now (Chapter 6).
- **Imperfect and perfect.** The imperfect describes a past action in progress ("was serving"); the perfect describes a completed one ("served").
- **Pluperfect.** An action completed before another past action ("had served").
- **Future.** "Will serve".
- **Aorist.** The sheet glosses it "I serve". A community wiki page says general or timeless statements go in the aorist, not the present. The famous *valar dohaeris* uses the third-person aorist *dohaeris*, from this very table.
- **Past habitual.** A repeated action in the past ("used to serve").

> **WATCH OUT: LOOK AT THE PRINTED ODDITIES**
>
> Several forms are identical across tenses: *dohaertis* is the perfect "they", the pluperfect "they" and the past habitual "he/she/it", and *dohaertin* is both the pluperfect "we" and the past habitual "I". The future "I" is printed *dohaerinna*, not the *dohaeril-* pattern of its other forms. These are printed as on the sheet, a working draft, so context decides, and any form that breaks a pattern is one to check.

The Subjunctive

Each tense also has a subjunctive column. The present subjunctive is built on the same stem with *-o-* where the indicative has *-a-*:

```
# present: indicative → subjunctive
I         dohaeran   →  dohaeron
you       dohaerā    →  dohaerō
he/she    dohaerza   →  dohaeros
we        dohaeri    →  dohaeroty
you all   dohaerāt   →  dohaerōt
they      dohaerzi   →  dohaerosy
```

The sheet does not describe what the subjunctive means. The wiki sentence *Zaldrīzes buzdari iksos daor* "A dragon is not a slave" (Chapter 4) contains *iksos*, which is the subjunctive of "to be" on the sheet, so the mood appears in negative sentences at least.

The Imperative

The imperative is a command. The sheet gives two present forms, one singular and one plural, with the stress on the last syllable (Chapter 2 said the imperative is the exception to penultimate stress):

COMMAND	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Serve!	*dohaerās*	*dohaerātās*
Be! (from "to be")	*sās*	*sātās*

Do not confuse this with the third-person command in Chapter 1, *Dohaeriros māzigon!* "May a slave come!", which uses a vocative noun with an infinitive.

Saying "Not"

The word *daor* means "not". In the wiki sentence *Zaldrīzes buzdari iksos daor* "A dragon is not a slave", it comes after the verb.

The Passive, in One Line

The sheet marks the passive voice with *-ks*: for example the present passive *dohaeraks* and the aorist passive *dohaeriks*. The passive is outside this course, but the pattern is useful to recognise.

Hands-On Exercises

EXERCISE 1

Choose the tense and write the first-person form of *dohaeragon* for: "I was serving", "I served", "I will serve", "I used to serve".

View solution

EXERCISE 2

Write the third-person singular of *dohaeragon* in every tense, and say which one appears in *valar dohaeris*.

View solution

EXERCISE 3

Write the present subjunctive (all six persons) and the imperative (both numbers) of *dohaeragon*. Then explain what *daor* does in *Zaldrīzes buzdari iksos daor*.

View solution

CHAPTER 7 QUICK REFERENCE

- **First person:** present *dohaeran*, imperfect *dohaerilen*, perfect *dohaertan*, pluperfect *dohaerten*, future *dohaerinna*, aorist *dohaerin*, past habitual *dohaertin*
- **Subjunctive (present):** *dohaeron, dohaerō, dohaeros, dohaeroty, dohaerōt, dohaerosy*
- **Imperative:** *dohaerās* (sg.), *dohaerātās* (pl.)
- **Not:** *daor*, after the verb
- **Passive:** marked with *-ks*

COMING NEXT

High Valyrian 1, Chapter 8 covers adjectives and agreement, numbers and colours.

High Valyrian 1

Course 1 · Chapter 8 · Describing: Adjectives, Numbers, Colours

Nouns and verbs are in place; this chapter adds the words that describe them. Adjectives agree with their nouns, which makes them more work than English adjectives, but the numbers and colours are short lists, and adverbs are formed from adjectives with a simple ending. The examples come from the High Valyrian course notes on the Language Invention wiki (the Duolingo tips).

> **THE IDEA IN A BOX**
>
> An adjective agrees with its noun in **gender**, **number** and **case**. It usually comes **before** the noun, but can follow it. The numbers 1 to 9 are adjectives too, and so are the five colour words.

Adjectives

- **Agreement.** An adjective takes the same gender, number and case as the noun it describes. The notes say plainly: "an adjective agrees with the noun it modifies in gender, number, and case".
- **Placement.** They usually come first, but they can follow the noun, for style or to avoid crowding a sentence. *sȳz vala* and *vala sȳz* both mean "good man".
- **Three classes.** The notes sort adjectives into Class I, II and III by their stem ending, and give separate endings for each in each gender. The numerals 1 to 9 are Class I or Class II.
- **Two shapes.** A preposed adjective (before the noun) is shorter than a postposed one (after it): the notes say "those that follow the noun are fuller in form than those that precede it". The dative of a Class I adjective for a lunar, solar or terrestrial noun shows it: *kasto* before the noun, *kastot* after it.

Examples from the notes

```
# before the noun, and after it
ñuhyz jentyssy   "my leaders"
jentyssy ñuhyzy   "my leaders"  # a vowel that is dropped before the noun returns
ñuhys tubissa    "my days"     # z becomes s before k, p, s, t
```

```
# an adjective on a possessor takes the genitive
Sȳro taobo muña ēdrus.   "The good boy's mother is sleeping."
# "Sȳz taobo" would be wrong here
```

WATCH OUT: "GOOD" FOR QUALITY, NOT TASTE

The notes say *sȳz* means good in quality, "how well made". For food that tastes good they use *ēngenka*, as in *ēngenkor averilla* "good wine", where *averilla* "wine" is an aquatic noun and so the adjective ends in *-or*.

Numbers

One is always singular, and **two to nine** are always plural. A number comes before its noun and agrees with it in gender and case. The forms below are the lunar nominative singular, as the notes give them:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
mēre	*lanta*	*hāre*	*izula*	*tōma*	*bȳre*	*sīkuda*	*jēnqa*	*vōre*	*ampa*

- **With a noun.** *mēre zaldrīzes* "one dragon", *lantyz zaldrīzesse* "two dragons", *hāri zaldrīzesse* "three dragons", *ampa zaldrīzesse* "ten dragons". The number takes plural forms for 2 to 9.
- **11 to 19.** The unit number, then *ampā*: *mēri ampā zaldrīzesse* "eleven dragons", *lantyz ampā zaldrīzesse* "twelve dragons".
- **The tens never change:** 20 *lantēpsa*, 30 *hārēpsa*, 40 *izulēpsa*, 50 *tōmēpsa*, 60 *bȳrēpsa*, 70 *sīkudēpsa*, 80 *jēnqēpsa*, 90 *vōrēpsa*. Each is the unit number plus *-ēpsa*.
- **21 to 29.** The unit number, then the ten with a long final vowel: 22 is *lanta lantēpsā*, 29 is *vōre lantēpsā*. The other tens follow the same pattern.

Colours

High Valyrian has only **five basic colour words**, each covering a range, so one word serves for several English colours:

WORD	COVERS
timpa	white, pink, light gray
zōbrie	black, purple, dark gray
qeldlie	yellow, light orange, light brown
mele	red, dark orange, dark brown
kasta	blue, green

Adverbs

- **Time and place.** They usually begin the sentence. Pre-verbal is the next best place. *Ēlī vala taobe ūndas* "First the man saw the boy" and *Vala taobe ēlī ūndas* "The man saw the boy first".
- **Manner adverbs** are made from an adjective stem by an ending that depends on the class: Class I adds *-irī* (*lyk-* "quiet" gives *lykirī* "quietly"), Class II adds *-ī* (*ader-* "quick" gives *aderī* "quickly"), Class III adds *-ī* (*arl-* "new" gives *arlī* "again").
- **Placement** of manner adverbs is flexible: *Taoba aderī havon iprattas* "The boy ate the bread quickly". *Aderī* can also mean "soon".
- **"Now".** *Sīr* means "now", and with the perfect it translates "already".

WATCH OUT: ONLY SOME FORMS ARE TAUGHT HERE

The notes give long tables of adjective endings (dative, locative, instrumental and comitative for each class and gender). This chapter teaches the principle of agreement and the examples above, not the full tables; the nominative and accusative tables did not appear in the part of the notes that was checked.

Hands-On Exercises

EXERCISE 1

Write in High Valyrian: "one dragon", "three dragons", "ten dragons", "twelve dragons", and the numbers 20 and 30.

View solution

EXERCISE 2

Which colour word would you use for "red", "green", "white" and "black"? Then explain why *timpa* can mean both "white" and "pink".

View solution

EXERCISE 3

Make the adverb for "quickly", "quietly" and "again" from the stems *ader-*, *lyk-* and *arl-*. Then say where *ēlī* "first" goes in *Ēlī vala taobe ūndas* and how the meaning shifts if it moves.

View solution

CHAPTER 8 QUICK REFERENCE

- **Adjectives:** agree in gender, number and case; usually before the noun, fuller form after it
- **1 to 10:** *mēre, lanta, hāre, izula, tōma, bȳre, sīkuda, jēnqa, vōre, ampa*
- **Tens:** unit + *-ēpsa*; 11 to 19 with *ampā*
- **Colours:** *timpa, zōbrie, qeldlie, mele, kasta*
- **Adverbs:** *-irī* (Class I), *-ī* (Class II, III); time words come first

COMING NEXT

High Valyrian 1, Chapter 9 puts the pieces together: word order, questions, greetings and sample sentences.

High Valyrian 1

Course 1 · Chapter 9 · Sentences and Phrases

You now have nouns, cases, pronouns, verbs, adjectives and numbers. This chapter puts them into whole sentences: where each part goes, how to say "not", how to ask a question, and a few greetings and polite phrases from the television series and phrasebooks.

> **THE IDEA IN A BOX**
>
> The verb goes last: **subject, object, verb**. The case endings carry the meaning, so the subject and object stay recognisable even when the order shifts. Question words come early, and *daor* after the verb says "not".

Word Order: Subject, Object, Verb

Chapter 1 noted a disagreement between sources about word order. The sentences in this course agree on one thing: in every example below the verb comes at the end.

```
# subject  object  verb
Vala havon nektos.                  "The man cuts the bread."
Nyke dārie ȳdrēlen.                "I will speak to the queen."
Taoba aderī havon iprattas.         "The boy ate the bread quickly."
Ābre ūndas lua vala raqiros issa.   "The man who saw the woman is a friend."
```

- **The cases do the work.** The accusative marks the object (*havon* "bread"), so the order can vary for emphasis and the sentence stays clear.
- **Adverbs of time and place come first.** *Ēlī vala taobe ūndas* "First the man saw the boy" (Chapter 8).
- **Modifying clauses go right before the noun.** A clause that describes a noun sits directly before it. The notes give *Vale tegot ūndan* "I saw the man on the ground", where *tegot* "on the ground" describes *vale*.
- **Passives keep the verb last too.** *Taoba valo ondoso ūndaks* "The boy was seen by the man".

Saying "Not"

Daor follows the verb. Chapter 4's *Zaldrīzes buzdari iksos daor* is "A dragon is not a slave". The notes give a second example inside a subordinate clause with the subjunctive: *Taoba avy urnios daor jaelan* "I hope that the boy doesn't see you". They state that a negative subordinate clause "looks no different from a matrix negative clause".

Questions

A question usually begins with a question word from Chapter 5:

WORD	MEANING	IN A SENTENCE
skoros	what	*Skoros morghot vestri?* "What do we say to the God of death?"
skoriot	where	*Skoriot ñuhyz zaldrīzesse ilzi?* "Where are my dragons?"
skorkydoso	how	*Skorkydoso glaesā?* "How are you?"

- **Question word first.** In each sentence it opens the question, with the verb last as usual.
- **A question without a question word.** *Ao ynoma dīnilūks?* "Will you marry me?" opens with the pronoun *ao* "you" and is a yes/no question, and it contains no question word. The wiki's *Quptenkos Ēngoso ȳdrassia?* "Do you speak the Common tongue?" is another.

> **WATCH OUT: NO RULE FOR YES/NO QUESTIONS WAS FOUND**
>
> The sources checked gave examples but no explicit rule for yes/no questions, and no word for "yes" or "no". The phrasebook sentences above come from a fan guide, not an official source.

Greetings and Courtesies

ENGLISH	HIGH VALYRIAN	NOTES
Hello	*Rytsas*	from *rytsa* "healthy"; said by Talisa in *Game of Thrones* episode 307
Thank you	*Kirimvose* / *kirimvos*	the longer *Kirimvose avy rytsuran* is "thank you, I thank you", "presumably more formal"

ENGLISH	HIGH VALYRIAN	NOTES
Goodbye	*Geros ilas*	fan phrasebook
Please	*Kostilus*	fan phrasebook
I'm fine	*Syrī glaesan*	fan phrasebook
My name is …	*… brōziks*	fan phrasebook
What's your name?	*Skoroso jemēle brōzā?*	fan phrasebook

A line from the series shows the courtesy in use. In episode 410, Fennesz says *Yne urniō syt kirimvose avy rytsuran, Aōhys Eglivys*, "Thank you for seeing me, Your Grace". The wiki gives only the free translation. You can recognise *yne* as the accusative "me" from Chapter 5.

Hands-On Exercises

EXERCISE 1

Put these words in order to make "The man cuts the bread": *nektos*, *havon*, *vala*. Then say which word marks the object and which word is the verb.

View solution

EXERCISE 2

In *Skoriot ñuhyz zaldrīzesse ilzi?* find the question word, the possessive and the noun, and say what each does. Then explain how *daor* would change a sentence.

View solution

EXERCISE 3

Write a short exchange using the phrases in this chapter: greet someone, ask how they are, say you are fine, and thank them.

View solution

CHAPTER 9 QUICK REFERENCE

- **Order:** subject, object, verb; time and place adverbs first; the cases mark the roles
- **Not:** *daor* after the verb
- **Question words:** *skoros* what, *skoriot* where, *skorkydoso* how; yes/no questions have no separate marker found
- **Phrases:** *Rytsas* hello, *Kirimvose* thank you, *Geros ilas* goodbye, *Kostilus* please

COMING NEXT

High Valyrian 1, Chapter 10 is the final chapter: a passage to read, a glossary of the whole course and a look at where to go next.

High Valyrian 1

Course 1 · Chapter 10 · Reading High Valyrian

This last chapter has no new grammar. It gathers real sentences from the series and the wiki, shows what you can now read in them, collects the course vocabulary in a glossary and sends you on. Every sentence below appeared earlier in the course, with the glosses the sources gave.

> **THE IDEA IN A BOX**
>
> You can now read the shape of a High Valyrian sentence: nouns with case endings, pronouns and adjectives that agree, a verb at the end with a person and tense ending, and *daor* for "not".

Reading the Sentences

Famous phrases

```
Valar morghūlis.   "All men must die."
Valar dohaeris.    "All men must serve."
```

- *valar* is the collective of *vala* "man" (Chapter 3): "all men".
- *dohaeris* is the aorist third person of *dohaeragon* "to serve" (Chapter 7).

Sentences from the wiki

```
Dohaeriros māzigon!                  "May a slave come!"
Ābre ūndas lua vala raqiros issa.    "The man who saw the woman is a friend."
Zaldrīzes buzdari iksos daor.        "A dragon is not a slave."
Āeksio ondos                         "Hand of gold"
Kesȳ tubī jemot dāervī tepan.        "On this day I give you freedom."
Dovaogēdys! Naejot memēbātās!        "Unsullied! Forward march!"
```

- **Vocative.** *Dohaeriros* and *Dovaogēdys* are vocative nouns (Chapter 4); with an infinitive the vocative makes a command.
- **Genitive.** *Āeksio* "of gold" comes before the noun it describes, as Chapter 4 explained.

- **Locative of time.** *Kesȳ tubī* "on this day" has the locative ending and the demonstrative *kesa* from Chapter 5. *Jemot* is the dative of the third-person plural pronoun in the Chapter 5 table ("to them"); the wiki's free translation says "you", since the speaker addresses the group. *Tepan* is the present first person (Chapter 6).
- **"Not".** *daor* follows the verb *iksos*, which is the subjunctive of "to be".

Sentences from the grammar notes

```
Vala havon nektos.              "The man cuts the bread."
Ēlī vala taobe ūndas.           "First the man saw the boy."
Taoba valo ondoso ūndaks.       "The boy was seen by the man."
Taoba aderī havon iprattas.     "The boy ate the bread quickly."
```

- **Subject, object, verb.** In each the verb is last (Chapter 9).
- **Case endings.** *vala* becomes *vale* as an object and *valo* in the genitive; *taoba* becomes *taobe* as an object (Chapter 4).
- **Passive.** *ūndaks* ends in *-ks*, the passive marker. The agent is *valo ondoso*: *valo* is the genitive "of the man" and *ondoso* the instrumental of *ondos* "hand", so the phrase reads literally "by the man's hand".

Course Glossary

HIGH VALYRIAN	MEANING	CHAPTER
vala	man	3
muña	mother	3
embar	water	3
loktys	sailor	3
zaldrīzes	dragon	3, 8
taoba	boy	8
havon	bread	9
nyke, ao, ziry	I, you, he/she/it	5

HIGH VALYRIAN	MEANING	CHAPTER
ñuha, aōha, zȳha	my, your, his/her/its	5
bisa / kesa	this (animate / inanimate)	5
skoros, skoriot, skorkydoso	what, where, how	5, 9
dohaeragon	to serve	6
sagon (*iksan, issa*)	to be	6
tepagon (*tepan*)	to give	4, 6
daor	not	7, 9
sȳz	good	8
mēre, lanta, hāre … ampa	one, two, three … ten	8
timpa, zōbrie, qeldlie, mele, kasta	the five colour words	8
aderī	quickly (also "soon")	8
Rytsas	hello	9
Kirimvose	thank you	9

What You Have Learned

- **Chapter 1.** Where High Valyrian comes from and the outline of its grammar.
- **Chapter 2.** Six vowels, long vowels, the consonants and the stress rule.
- **Chapter 3.** Four genders, four numbers and six declensions.
- **Chapter 4.** The eight cases and the paradigm of *vala*.
- **Chapter 5.** Pronouns, possessives, demonstratives and question words.
- **Chapter 6.** The infinitive and the present tense.
- **Chapter 7.** The seven tenses, the subjunctive, the imperative and *daor*.
- **Chapter 8.** Adjectives, numbers, colours and adverbs.
- **Chapter 9.** Word order, questions and greetings.

WATCH OUT: WHAT THIS COURSE LEFT OUT

The sources are partly draft or fan-made. The course taught one verb class, not the vowel-stem verbs, no full adjective tables, no rule for yes/no questions and almost nothing about the passive and the other moods. When a form matters, check it against the dictionary and Peterson's own materials.

Where to Go Next

- **The Duolingo course.** Launched in beta in 2017; its Tips and Notes are the main teaching text.
- **Peterson's reference sheet and the Language Invention wiki** for the complete verb tables, the case endings and the dictionary.
- **Other invented languages in this series,** such as Dothraki 1 and the other constructed-language courses, to compare how each handles cases and verbs.

Hands-On Exercises

EXERCISE 1

Without looking back, say what each means: *Valar dohaeris*, *Rytsas*, *Zaldrīzes buzdari iksos daor*.

View solution

EXERCISE 2

Take *Taoba valo ondoso ūndaks* and name the case of each noun, the verb, and the ending that makes the sentence passive.

View solution

EXERCISE 3

Use *Ēlī vala taobe ūndas* as a model to write "The boy saw the man". Then say which words changed form and why.

View solution

COURSE COMPLETE

- **You can:** read the shape of a sentence, decline *vala* in eight cases, conjugate *dohaeragon* in seven tenses, count to ninety-nine and greet someone.
- **Remember:** the verb goes last, adjectives agree, *daor* follows the verb.
- **Next:** the Duolingo course and Peterson's reference materials.