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SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION

The following remarks on spelling and pronunciation utilize the conventions outlined below for transcribing Estonian phonetically.

When the features of pronunciation which cannot be determined from the spelling system are discussed, a broad phonetic transcription will be given in square brackets.

Short, long, and overlong sounds are indicated respectively by single, double, and triple occurrences of the phonetic symbol concerned. The automatic lengthening of vowels in second syllables associated with words having specific structural characteristics will be indicated by a grave accent [˘] over the vowel.

Our transcription thus differs somewhat from the one traditionally used in Estonia, but it is consistent with the principles of the International Phonetic Association and should thus be more accessible to a non-specialist readership.

ALPHABET AND SOUNDS

Letter	Closest English equivalent	Example
a	palm	<i>abi</i> 'help'
b	<i>spin</i>	<i>banaan</i> 'banana'
	(see below)	<i>tuba</i> 'room'
c	<i>tsetse</i>	<i>Celsius</i>
d	<i>stick</i>	<i>detsember</i> 'December'
	(see below)	<i>voodi</i> 'bed'
e	bet	<i>edu</i> 'success'
f	film	<i>film</i> 'film'
g	skull	<i>gaas</i> 'gas'
	(see below)	<i>mägi</i> 'hill'
	The combination <i>ng</i> is pronounced [Nk], as in English <i>sink</i>	<i>mäng</i> 'game'
h	silent initially	<i>hind</i> 'price'
	<i>ahead</i>	<i>kaheksa</i> 'eight'
	<i>huge</i>	<i>leht</i> 'leaf'
	<i>loch</i>	<i>laht</i> 'bay'
i	its	<i>ise</i> 'self'
j	yet	<i>ja</i> 'and'
k	word initially: <i>skin</i>	<i>kilomeeter</i> 'kilometer'
	word internally: <i>sick kid</i>	<i>piki</i> 'along'
	word finally: (see below)	<i>kokk</i> 'cook'
l	fit	<i>lill</i> 'flower'
m	make	<i>mina</i> 'I'
n	nine	<i>nii</i> 'so'

o	comb	<i>odav</i> 'cheap'
p	word initially: <i>spin</i>	<i>piki</i> 'along'
	word internally: <i>sip please</i>	<i>leping</i> 'contract'
	word finally: (see below)	<i>sepp</i> 'smith'
q	(This letter appears only in proper names, e.g. <i>Malmqvist</i> .)	
r	<i>motto</i>	<i>rand</i> 'shore'
s	<i>sit</i>	<i>saun</i> 'sauna'
	(see below)	<i>isa</i> 'father'
š	<i>shoot</i>	<i>šampoon</i> 'shampoo'
z	(This letter only appears in recent loans, e.g. <i>pizza</i> 'pizza' [-ts-], and in proper names, e.g. <i>Zürich</i> 'Zurich' [ts-], <i>zoologia</i> 'zoology' [s-].)	
ž	<i>television</i>	<i>garaaž</i> 'garage'
t	word initially: <i>stnk</i>	<i>talu</i> 'farm'
	word internally: <i>hit two</i>	<i>sõita</i> 'to travel'
	word finally: (see below)	<i>vett</i> '(any) water'
u	<i>loot</i>	<i>uni</i> 'sleep'
v	<i>very</i>	<i>veri</i> 'blood'
w	(This letter appears only in proper names, e.g. <i>Wiklar</i>)	
õ	no equivalent: lips in the position for <i>pet</i> , tongue in position for <i>caught</i>	<i>võtma</i> 'to take'
ä	<i>sat</i>	<i>ära</i> 'away'
ö	Round and protrude your lips, and say the English word <i>fur</i> ; German <i>schön</i> , French <i>peur</i>	<i>öö</i> 'night'
ü	Round and protrude your lips, and say the English word <i>fee</i> ; German <i>für</i> , French <i>pur</i>	<i>üks</i> 'one'
x	(This letter appears only in recent loan words, such as <i>x-kiir</i> 'X-ray', and in proper names, e.g. <i>Laxman</i> .)	
y	(This letter only appears in proper names, e.g. [j] <i>York</i> 'York', [i] <i>Lydia</i> 'Lydia')	

VOWELS AND DIPHTHONGS

Estonian has nine vowel sounds indicated by the letters *a, e, i, o, u, õ, ä, ö* and *ü*. Their phonetic values are explained above.

Note that the Estonian vowels are **always pronounced distinctly**. Modifications of the type undergone by English vowels in words such as *phóto, photógrapher, fotográphic* do not occur in Estonian.

Particularly difficult for English speakers are the vowels indicated by the letters *ü, õ* and *õ*.

The letter *ü* represents a high, front, rounded vowel. It can be produced by putting the tongue in the position to say the English word *fee*, but simultaneously rounding and protruding the lips: *üks* 'one', *püüdma* 'to try, catch', *sügav* 'deep', *ülemine* 'upper'.

The letter *õ* represents a mid, front, rounded vowel. It can be produced by putting the tongue in the position to say the English word *pet*, but simultaneously rounding and protruding the lips: *töö* 'work', *öö* 'night', *köök* 'kitchen'.

The letter *õ* represents a mid, back, unrounded vowel. It can be produced by putting the tongue in the position to say the English word *caught*, but simultaneously unrounding the lips: *võtan* 'I take', *võõras* 'strange', *õhk* 'air'.

Estonian has a large number of diphthongs: combinations of two vowels within the framework of a single syllable:

<i>haige</i> 'sick'	<i>õige</i> 'correct'
<i>laud</i> 'table'	<i>käes</i> 'in the hand'
<i>aeg</i> 'time'	<i>muinasjutt</i> 'tale'
<i>õed</i> 'sisters'	<i>hoidma</i> 'to keep'
<i>õu</i> 'yard'	<i>eile</i> 'yesterday'

Estonian diphthongs can be pronounced long or overlong: *laulu* 'of the song', with a long diphthong and a slight lengthening of the vowel of the second syllable vs. *laul* 'song', *laulu* 'song (partitive singular)', with an overlong diphthong.

The letters *b, d,* and *g* stand for weak, voiceless stops when they occur between two vowels or word-finally, e.g. *tuba* 'room', *poeg* 'boy', *lugeda* 'to read'. Word-initially they stand for unaspirated [p], [t], and [k], e.g. *baas* 'base', *daam* 'lady', *gaas* 'gas'.

CONSONANTS

The letters *p, t,* and *k* represent short, long, or overlong voiceless stops depending upon where they occur in the word.

Word-initially they represent short sounds, e.g. *palun* 'please, you're welcome etc.', *tänan* 'thank you'.

Word-internally they represent long sounds when written singly, and overlong sounds when written doubly, e.g. *supi* ‘of the soup’, *suppi* ‘into the soup; some soup’, *supid* ‘the soups’ vs. *suppide* ‘in the soups’. Word finally doubly written *p*, *t*, and *k* stand for overlong sounds, e.g. *supp*.

If the Estonian spelling system is consistent in providing clear signals as to what sounds and quantities are represented by the letters *b*, *d*, *g*, *p*, *t*, and *k*, it is deficient in its ability to represent the lengths of other sounds unambiguously. As your knowledge of Estonian grammar increases you will learn to recognize the clues you need to determine the correct alternative when a particular spelling can stand for more than one pronunciation, e.g. *linna* (*nimi*) ‘(the name) of the city’, (*ta läks*) *linna* ‘(he went) into the city’; *saia* (*hind*) ‘(the price) of the loaf’, (*kaks*) *saia* ‘two loaves’.

The letter *s* stands for a voiceless, alveolar, sibilant, word at the beginning of a word e.g. *suur* ‘big’, and for a laxly articulated, sometimes slightly voiced alveolar sibilant when it occurs between syllables, e.g. *isa* ‘father’.

QUANTITY

Estonian makes a strict distinction between *short* sounds, *long* sounds, and *overlong* sounds.

The language uses the length of sounds to distinguish between different words, as well as to distinguish between different forms of the same word:

different words	different forms of the same word
<i>lina</i> ‘linen’	(<i>selle</i>) <i>linna</i> ‘of this city’
(<i>selle</i>) <i>linna</i> ‘of this city’	(<i>seda</i>) <i>linna</i> ‘(this) city’

The difference is a matter of *duration*: long sounds are held for, and thus last in real time, about twice as long as the corresponding short ones; overlong sounds, in turn, last somewhat longer than the long ones. In Estonian grammar *short* sounds are said to be in the *first degree* of length, *long* sounds in the *second degree*, and *overlong* sounds in the *third degree*.

The Estonian spelling system represents sounds in the first degree by a single letter. Sounds in the second and third degrees are both indicated by double letters. Diphthongs, the letters *p*, *t*, *k*, *f*, and *š*, as well as consonant clusters are never used word-internally to indicate sounds, which are in the first degree.

The three-way distinction between short, long, and over-long sounds is complemented by an automatic alternation in the duration of the vowels in the second syllable. If an initial syllable has a vowel which is not in the third degree and is open (does not end in a consonant), the vowel of the second syllable will be automatically slightly lengthened: *isa* ‘father’, *kala* ‘fish’. If, in contrast, an initial syllable has a vowel in the third degree, or ends in a consonant in the third degree, or in a sequence of consonants, one of which is in the second degree, the vowel of the second syllable will be short: *linna* ‘into/some of the city’, *võõrad* ‘the guests’. The interrelationship between these relationships can be seen in the following table:

short sound (1st degree)	long sound (2nd degree)	overlong sound (third degree)
<i>sada</i> 'hundred'	<i>saada</i> (<i>mind</i>) 'accompany (me)'	<i>Saada</i> 'to receive'
<i>lina</i> 'linen'	<i>linna</i> (<i>vaade</i>) '(a view) of the city'	(<i>näen</i>) <i>linna</i> '(I see) the city'
<i>tigu</i> 'clue'	<i>tiku</i> (<i>-karp</i>) 'a match-box'	(<i>näen</i>) <i>tikku</i> '(I see) the match'

PALATALIZATION

Palatalization means that the modification of a sound by adding a short but audible glide ('y'-type) sound to it, compare English non-palatalized *do* with palatalized *due*. In Estonian the consonants *t*, *d*, *n*, *l*, and *s* undergo palatalization in certain words.

Unfortunately, palatalization is not indicated in Estonian spelling. In this book we shall indicate it by placing an apostrophe (') after the palatalized sound, e.g. *pal'k* 'beam' (cf. non-palatalized *palk* 'salary'). Estonian palatalization influences the quality of the vowel preceding the palatalized consonant.

STRESS AND INTONATION

Estonian stress is dynamic: a stressed syllable is pronounced with more intensity and at a higher pitch than an unstressed one. Note that, in contrast to English, the vowels in stressed syllables do not undergo modifications in their duration or quality, while the vowels of unstressed syllables are articulated distinctly.

In general, Estonian words have their main stress on the first syllable, for example *té/re* 'hello', *ól/ge láh/ke* 'please'.

A few exceptions to this pattern are found: *ai/tä^σh* 'thank you', *sõb/rán/na* 'girl friend'.

The main stress can also fall on a non-initial syllable in words taken into Estonian from foreign languages, for example *televíisor* 'television', *metáll* 'metal', *menü[≈]ü* 'menu', *orkéster* 'orchestra', *hotéll* 'hotel'.

Nevertheless, many loan words conform to the Estonian sound system and have their stress on the initial syllable, for example *múusika* 'music', *réstoran* 'restaurant', *ápteek* 'pharmacy'.

Longer Estonian words tend to have secondary stresses on every non-final odd-numbered syllable: *kü[≈]lalistelègi* 'to the guests, too'. If, however, the first syllable is in the third degree, secondary stresses will fall on every even numbered syllable but the last: *káuplùstelègi* 'to the shops, too'.

Generally speaking, Estonian intonation uses a narrower pitch range than English does. Sentences - both declarative and interrogative - tend to start at mid range, with each stressed syllable but the last pronounced on a

progressively lower pitch. The last or logically most important stressed syllable of a sentence is pronounced on a higher pitch than a preceding stressed syllable, but on a lower pitch than the initial stressed syllable of the sentence.

GRADATION

The term *gradation* refers to systematic alternations in quality and quantity in different forms of the same word.

In Estonian the forms of a word can differ from one another:

1) according to the length of specific sounds within syllables of specific structures (quantitative gradation):

weak grade long sound (=2nd degree)	strong grade overlong sound (=3rd degree)
<i>kooli (uks)</i> '(the door) of the school'	<i>(lähen) kooli</i> '(I'm going) to school'
<i>(selle) lille</i> '(of this) flower'	<i>(kastan) lille</i> '(I'm watering the) flower'

2) according to the nature of the sounds (qualitative gradation):

weak grade weakened sound (=1st degree)	strong grade strengthened sound (=2nd degree)
<i>(suured) toad</i> '(the big) rooms'	<i>tuba</i> 'the room'
<i>näen</i> 'I see'	<i>nägin</i> 'I saw'

The most common pattern in **quantitative** gradation is for a sound (or group of sounds) in the second degree to alternate with a sound (or group of sounds) in the third degree. The overall result is a long syllable (2nd grade) alternating with an overlong syllable (3rd grade).

Here are some additional examples of quantitative gradation (given in the order weak/strong) Note that the Estonian spelling system does not indicate these differences clearly. In this course we shall adapt the following convention: in the grammatical discussions and the vocabulary overlong syllables will be indicated by a grave accent (`) place in front of them.

vowels:

keele 'language (gen. sg.) – `keel 'language (nom. sg.)'
hoone 'building (nom. sg.) – `hoone 'building (gen.sg.)'
võõras 'strange (nom. sg.) – `võõras 'in strange'

diphthongs:

laulan 'I sing' – `laulma 'to sing'
koera 'dog (gen. sg.) – `koera 'dog (part./ill. sg.)'

consonants (except p, t, k, f, š):

hallid 'gray (nom. pl.)' – `hall 'gray (nom. sg.)'

the consonants p, t, k, f, š after a short vowel:

supi 'soup (gen. sg.)' – `suppi 'soup (part./ill. sg.)'

pika 'long (gen. sg.) – *pikka* 'long (part./ill. sg.)'

consonant sequences:

silma 'eye (gen. sg.) – *silma* eye (part./ill. sg.)'

ostan 'I buy' – *osta* 'to buy'

arsti 'physician (gen. sg.) – *arsti* 'physician (part./ill. sg.)'

consonant sequences with an alternating p, t, k, or s:

pingi 'bench (gen. sg.) – *pink* 'bench (nom. sg.)'

metsa 'forest (gen. sg.) – *metsa* 'forest (part./ill. sg.)'

kursi 'rate (gen. sing) – *kurssi* 'rate (part./ill. sg.)'

When a long vowel or diphthong is followed by a stop consonant, short and long stops alternate with each other:

seebi 'soap (gen. sg.) – *seepi* 'soap (part./ill. sg.)'

vaadata 'to look' – *vaatan* 'I look'

koogi 'cake (gen. sg.) – *kooki* 'cake (part./ill. sg.)'

Qualitative gradation usually involves alternations between short stops and various weakenings and assimilations (given in the order strong/weak)

The loss of a sound between what was originally two syllables often results in a situation where a stem which is in the **weak** grade with respect to qualitative gradation is in the third degree of length, and thus in the **strong** grade with respect to quantitative gradation. This is a consequence of the merging of what were separate syllables as a result of the loss of intersyllabic consonants (overlong syllables are indicated here by a grave accent):

leib 'bread' – *leiva* 'bread (gen. sg.)'

tuba 'room' – *toa* 'room (gen. sg.)' (Note the accompanying change in the vowels.)

pidu 'holiday' – *peo* 'holiday (gen. sg.)' (Note the accompanying change in the vowels.)

kandma 'to carry' – *kannan* 'I carry'

korda 'order (part./ill.sg.) – *korra* 'order (gen. sg.)'

käsi 'hand' – *käe* 'hand (gen. sg.)'

viga 'mistake' – *vea* 'mistake (gen.sg.)' (Note the accompanying change in the vowels.)

selga 'back (part./ill. sg.) – *selja* 'back (gen. sg.)'

jalga 'leg, foot (part./ill sg.) – *jala* 'leg, foot (gen. sg.)'

kask 'birch' – *kase* 'birch (gen. sg.)'

The above examples illustrate the nature of gradation, but do not treat it exhaustively. Gradation in Estonian, particularly qualitative gradation, is notoriously unpredictable. Nevertheless, if the student focuses attention on the principal parts of any new word learned, the following generalizations can be drawn:

For nouns, adjectives, and numerals:

If a noun, adjective, or numeral undergoes gradation, the nominative and the genitive will be in opposite grades. This is illustrated by the patterns for *pikk* 'long' and *rikas* 'rich':

	Strong	Weak	Strong	Weak
Nominative	<i>`pikk</i>			<i>rikas</i>
Genitive		<i>pika</i>	<i>`rikka</i>	

For verbs:

If a verb undergoes gradation the DA-infinitive and the present tense will be in opposite grades. This is illustrated by the patterns for **õppida** 'to learn' and **hakata** 'to begin':

	Strong	Weak	Strong	Weak
DA-infinitive	<i>`õppida</i>			<i>hakata</i>
Present tense		<i>õpin</i>	<i>`hakkan</i>	

The MA-infinitive (= dictionary form), past tense, and active participle of any verb undergoing gradation will always be in the strong grade: *`õppima, `õppisin, `õppiv; `hakkama, `hakkasin, hakkav.*

The impersonal forms of any verb undergoing gradation will always be in the weak grade: *õpitakse, hakatakse; õpitud, hakatud.*

The -DES form and the -NUD participle will always appear in the same grade as the DA-infinitive: *`õppides, `õppinud; hakates, hakanud.*

The second person singular of the imperative mood will always appear in the same grade as the present tense: *õpi, `hakka.* The other forms of the imperative will appear in the same grade as the DA-infinitive: *`õppigu, hakaku.*

GRAMMAR

GENERAL REMARKS ON ESTONIAN GRAMMAR

Estonian makes use of the following processes in order to produce the forms of words needed to indicate their functions in sentences:

1. **Suffixation.** One or several suffixes are added to the stem of the word:

Examples: *majadele* 'to the houses' (*de* – suffix indicating the plural number, *le* – case suffix indicating direction).

2. **Sound changes within the word stem.** For example: *tuba* 'the room,' *toa* 'of the room'.

In many instances the two strategies are used simultaneously; suffixes are added to a word stem which has been modified by internal sound changes.

Examples: *tuba* 'the room', *toa uks* 'the door of the room', *toas* 'in the room'; *võtta* 'to take', *võtan* 'I take'

3. **Contextual clues.** Some words undergo no changes in certain cases, for which reason their grammatical function can only be determined from the context.

Examples: *maja* 'house', *maja uks* 'the door of the house', *näen maja* 'I see the house'. Compare *kauplus* 'shop', *kaupluse uks* 'the door of the shop', *näen kauplust* 'I see the shop'.

4. **Length contrasts.** Some grammatical forms which are identical in spelling are nevertheless pronounced differently. This difference involves a contrast between the long and overlong lengths of the stressed syllable.

Examples: *kooli uks* 'the door of the school', but *näen kooli* 'I see the school'. The first form, the genitive singular, has a long vowel in the first syllable and a slightly lengthened vowel in the second one; the second form, the partitive singular, has an overlong vowel in the first syllable, and a short vowel in the second one.

5. **Combination of lexical word with grammatical word.**

a) Nouns plus relators (postpositions and prepositions). Estonian expresses many relationships in time, space, and logic by relators: small words placed after or before a noun.

Examples: *laua all* 'under the table', *mööda tänavat* 'along the street'.

Sometimes constructions with relators can be used as alternatives to forms with case suffixes.

Examples:

laua peale ~ lauale 'onto the table'

b) Markers and auxiliaries plus non-conjugated forms of verbs. The negative marker *ei* and the auxiliary *olema* 'to be' enter into several combinations to produce many of the forms of the Estonian verb.

Examples:

ma ei ole näinud 'I haven't seen', *ta olevat saabunud* 'he is said to have arrived'.

THE VERB

Estonian verbs have **four tense forms**:

the present,
the past,
the present perfect, and
the past perfect.

The present tense forms can be used to refer to repeated, ongoing, and future actions and states: *võtan* 'I take, I'm taking, I'll take, I'll be taking'. The case of the direct object, often together with an adverbial particle, often places an action or state in the present or future: *sõön leiba* 'I'm eating the bread' – *sõön leiva ära* 'I'll eat the bread (up)'.

Estonian verbs have **two infinitives**: the **MA-infinitive** and the **DA-infinitive**.

Usage of MA- and DA-infinitive

- 1) **da-** infinitive is being used with the verbs expressing **feelings, attitude towards action, possibility, perception, thinking processes, manifestation of willpower**, for example:

armastama – to love, *kartma* – to be afraid of, *vihkama* – to hate, *häbenema* – to be ashamed, *soovima* – to wish, *tahtma* – to want, *võima* – may, *saama* – to be able to, *nägema* – to see, *märkama* – to notice, *mõtlemata* – to think, *teadma* – to know, *unustama* – to forget, *jaksama* – to be capable of, *püüdma* – try, *proovima* – attempt, endeavour.

Examples:

armastan tantsida "(I) love to dance"
püüan õppida "(I) try to study"

- 2) is used in **impersonal constructions** in combination with the verbs *õnnestub* – manage, succeed, *maksab* – be worth while, *tuleb* – ought to, *ei tarvitse* – shouldn't

Examples:

ei tarvitse karta 'one should't be afraid of'
tuleb tegutseda 'one ought to act'

3) is used in constructions with **on**
(adjective, noun, adverb + **on**)

on raske – (it is) difficult, **on hea** – (it is) good, **on tore** – (it is) fine, **on igav** – (it is) dull, **on huvitav** – it is interesting, **on vaja** – need to, **on tarvis** – must, **on vara** – it is early, **on hilja** – it is late, **on kahju** – it's a pity, **on käsk** – it's an order, **on võimalus** – there is a possibility, **on kavatsus** – there is an intention, **on soov** – there is a wish, **on lootus** – there is hope, **on aeg** – it's time, **ei ole aega** – there is no time, **on luba** – there is a permission, **on tarvidus** – there is a necessity, **on au** – to have the honour, **on õnn** – to have the luck, to be lucky, **on kavatsus** – to have the intention.

Examples:

on aeg minna 'it's time to go'
on vaja mõelda 'need to think'

4) is used in the constructions of intention (purpose) with the conjunction **et**:
selleks, ... et – for the purpose of, in order to...

Ma teen seda ainult selleks, et sind aidata. I'm doing it only in order to help you.

Me ei olnud valmis selleks, et kohe tööle asuda. I was not ready to start working at once.

5) in **impersonal questions**

Mida teha? 'What to do?' *Kuhu minna?* 'Where to go?' *Millest alustada?* 'Where to begin?' *Kuidas elada?* 'How to live?' *Olla või mitte olla?* 'To be or not to be?'

Some verbs may be used both with **da**-infinitive as well as with **ma**-infinitive.

Ma **sain** istuda – ma **sain** istuma.

I could sit – I managed to sit.

ma-infinitive may be used with the verbs of **movement, beginning of action, necessity of action**, for example:

asuma, asuda, asun – to set to, to begin

hakkama, hakata, hakkam – to start

harjuma, harjuda, harjun – to get used

hilinema, hilineda, hilinen – to be late

istuma, istuda, istun – to sit

jooksma, joosta, jooksen – to run

juhtuma, juhtuda, juhtun – to happen

jätma, jätta, jätan – to leave

jääma, jääda, jään – to remain

kutsuma, kutsuda, kutsun – to call, to invite

minema, minna, lähen – to go

panema, panna, panen – to put, to make (smbd do smth)

pidama, pidada, pean – must, should, ought

pääsema, pääseda, pääsen – to get rid of, to get free of, to escape
ruttama, rutata, ruttan – to hurry
saatma, saata, saadan – to send, to see off
sattuma, sattuda, sat(t)un – to get, to fall, to happen
sundima, sundida, sunnin – to make, to force
sõitma, sõita, sõidan – to go, to ride, to drive
tulema, tulla, tulen – to go, to come
tõusma, tõusta, tõusen – to get up, to rise
valmistuma, valmisutda, valmistun – to get ready (for), to prepare (for)
õpetama, õpetada, õpetan – to teach
õppima, õppida, õpin – to study, to learn

Examples:

Ma pean minema. 'I must go.'
Ta hakkas õppima. 'He started to learn.'

Moods of the verb

Estonian has **four moods**:

indicative,
conditional,
imperative, and
narrative.

The narrative mood is used to refer to an action or state, which the speaker knows about only through the words of some other person:

Examples:

sa oled koolis 'you're at school' – *sa oleksid koolis* 'you should be at school' – *ole koolis!* 'be at school!' – *sa olevat koolis* 'you're said to be at school, people say you're at school'.

The Estonian verb has **personal and impersonal forms**.

The impersonal forms are used to refer to an action performed by an unspecified person.

Examples:

Eestis räägitakse eesti keelt. 'In Estonia Estonian is spoken'
(In Estonia people speak Estonian).

The various forms of the Estonian verb are constructed from one of the following four stems:

- the present stem,
- the DA-infinitive stem,
- the MA-infinitive stem, and the
- TUD-participle stem.

The stems concerned are obtained by removing the suffix marking the grammatical form in question.

The indicative mood

The indicative mood refers to a *real action (or state of being)*, which is taking place at the present moment, took place in the past, or, in the opinion of the speaker, will take place in the future.

The indicative mood has no specific grammatical marker.
Estonian verbs have **four tenses** in the indicative mood.

The Present Tense

The **personal forms** of the present tense are formed from the present stem by adding personal suffixes. In the negative forms the negative marker *ei* is used. Use of a personal pronoun is optional in the affirmative but obligatory in the negative.

The **present stem** is obtained by removing the personal suffix *n* from the first person singular present indicative form.

Examples:

saabun → *saabu-*
pakun → *paku-*
tahan → *taha-*

saabuma 'to arrive'

Affirmative:

	-n	<i>mina (ma) saabun</i>
present	-d	<i>sina (sa) saabud</i>
stem +	-b	<i>tema (ta) saabub</i>
personal marker	-me	<i>meie (me) saabume</i>
	-te	<i>teie (te) saabute</i>
	-vad	<i>nemad (nad) saabuvad</i>

Negative:

	<i>mina (ma) ei saabu</i>
ei +	<i>sina (sa) ei saabu</i>
present stem	<i>tema (ta) ei saabu</i>
	<i>meie (me) ei saabu</i>
	<i>teie (te) ei saabu</i>
	<i>nemad (nad) ei saabu</i>

The verb *olema* 'to be' has slight irregularities in its conjugation in the present and past tenses.

***olema* 'to be'**

Affirmative:	Negative:
<i>mina (ma) olen</i>	<i>mina (ma) ei ole</i>
<i>sina (sa) oled</i>	<i>sina (sa) ei ole</i>
<i>tema (ta) on</i>	<i>tema (ta) ei ole</i>
<i>meie (me) oleme</i>	<i>meie (me) ei ole</i>
<i>teie (te) olete</i>	<i>teie (te) ei ole</i>
<i>nemad (nad) on</i>	<i>nemad (nad) ei ole</i>

The **impersonal forms** of the present tense are formed from the TUD-participle stem by addition of the marker -TAKSE (-DAKSE, -AKSE).

The **TUD-participle stem** is obtained by removing the marker -TUD from the participle.

saabutud – **-TUD** → *saabu-*
pakutud – **-TUD** → *paku-*
tahetud – **-TUD** → *tahe-*

	-TAKSE
TUD-participle stem	+ -
DAKSE	
	-AKSE

Examples:

<i>Selles kohvikus pakutakse maitsvaid saiakesi.</i>	In this café they serve tasty buns.
<i>Selles ateljees õmmeldakse ilusaid kleite.</i>	In this fashion house they sew beautiful skirts.

The **negative impersonal forms** for the present tense are constructed from the negative marker *ei*, the stem of the TUD-participle, and the marker -TA (-DA),

<i>ei</i> + TUD-participle stem + -TA (-DA)
--

Examples:

<i>Selles kohvikus ei pakuta teed.</i>	Tea isn't served in this café.
<i>Selles ateljees ei õmmelda kleite.</i>	They don't sew dresses in this fashion house

The Past Tense

The **personal forms** of the past tense are constructed from the stem of the MA-infinitive, the marker of the simple past tense -SI (-I), and the personal endings. The third person forms are exceptions to this pattern.

Stem of the MA-infinitive = MA-infinitive minus -MA

saabuma – **-MA** → *saabu-*
pakkuma – **-MA** → *pakku-*
tahtma – **-MA** → *taht-*

Affirmative:

	-n	<i>mina (ma) saabusin</i>
	-d	<i>sina (sa) saabusid</i>
MA-infinitive stem	-	<i>tema (ta) saabus</i>
+ -SI(-I) +	-me	<i>meie (me) saabusime</i>
	-te	<i>teie (te) saabusite</i>
	-d	<i>nemad (nad) saabusid</i>

The **negative forms** are constructed from the negative participle *ei* and the NUD-participle.

Negative:

	<i>mina (ma) ei saabunud</i>
	<i>sina (sa) ei saabunud</i>
<i>ei</i> + NUD-participle	<i>tema (ta) ei saabunud</i>
	<i>meie (me) ei saabunud</i>
	<i>teie (te) ei saabunud</i>
	<i>nemad (nad) ei saabunud</i>

olema 'to be'

Affirmative:	Negative:
<i>mina (ma) olin</i>	<i>mina (ma) ei olnud</i>
<i>sina (sa) olid</i>	<i>sina (sa) ei olnud</i>
<i>tema (ta) oli</i>	<i>tema (ta) ei olnud</i>
<i>meie (me) olime</i>	<i>meie (me) ei olnud</i>
<i>teie (te) olite</i>	<i>teie (te) ei olnud</i>
<i>nemad (nad) olid</i>	<i>nemad (nad) ei olnud</i>

The **impersonal forms** for the past tense are constructed from the -TUD-participle stem and the marker -TI(-DI).

TUD-participle stem + -TI(-DI)

Examples:

<i>Selles kohvikus pakuti varem maitsvat teed.</i>	They used to serve tasty tea in that café.
<i>Selles ateljees õmmeldi enne ainult kleite.</i>	They used to sew only dresses in that fashion house.

The **negative impersonal forms** for the past tense are constructed from the negative marker *ei* and the -TUD-participle.

ei + TUD-participle

Examples:

<i>Selles kohvikus ei pakutud varem teed.</i>	They didn't used to serve tea in that café.
<i>Selles ateljees ei õmmeldud kleite.</i>	They didn't sell dresses in that fashion house.

The Present Perfect Tense

The present perfect tense refers to an action or situation, which took place in the past viewed from the standpoint of the present. This form is also sometimes used when referring to the result of a completed action.

The **personal forms of the present perfect** are constructed by combining the forms of the verb *olema* with the -NUD-participle; **the impersonal forms** have the -TUD participle.

Affirmative:

mina (ma) olen	<i>mina (ma) olen saabunud</i>
sina (sa) oled	<i>sina (sa) oled saabunud</i>
tema (ta) on + NUD-	<i>tema (ta) on saabunud</i>
meie (me) oleme participle	<i>meie (me) oleme saabunud</i>
teie (te) olete	<i>teie (te) olete saabunud</i>
nemad (nad) on	<i>nemad (nad) on saabunud</i>

Negative:

mina (ma)	<i>mina (ma) ei ole saabunud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>sina (sa) ei ole saabunud</i>
tema (ta) ei ole + NUD-	<i>tema (ta) ei ole saabunud</i>
meie (me) participle	<i>meie (me) ei ole saabunud</i>
teie (te)	<i>teie (te) ei ole saabunud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>nemad (nad) ei ole saabunud</i>

Examples:

<i>Laev on ammu juba saabunud.</i>	The ship has long since arrived.
<i>Rong ei ole veel saabunud.</i>	The train has not yet arrived.

The **impersonal forms** of the present perfect tense:

on + TUD-participle**Examples:**

<i>Kas seda salatit on ka enne selles kohvikus pakutud?</i>	Has this salad been served in this café before?
<i>Kas see kleit on õmmeldud ateljees?</i>	Has this skirt been sewn in this fashion house?

The **negative impersonal forms** of the present perfect tense are constructed according to the following model:

ei ole + TUD-participle**Examples:**

<i>Seda praadi ei ole siin kunagi varem pakutud.</i>	This roast has never been served here before.
<i>See kleit ei ole ateljees õmmeldud.</i>	This dress was not sold in the fashion house.

The Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect tense is used to refer to an action or situation in the past from the standpoint of a less distant past determined by the context or the other parts of the sentence.

Examples:

<i>Laev oli juba kaks tundi tagasi saabunud.</i>	The ship had already arrived two hours ago.
<i>See maja oli ehitatud juba sajandi alguses.</i>	This house had already been built at the beginning of the century.

The past perfect is also used when the speaker him or herself did not directly experience the action or situation referred to.

Examples:

<i>Malle teadis, et tema vanemad olid elanud maal.</i>	Malle knew that her parents had lived in the country.
--	---

The past perfect tense is additionally used to express the result of an action which took place in the past.

Examples:

<i>Hiljem olid tema vanemad asunud elama Tallinna.</i>	Her parents had moved to Tallinn later.
--	---

The **past perfect tense** is constructed using the past tense forms of the verb *olema* and the NUD-participle. The impersonal forms use the TUD-participle.

Affirmative:

mina (ma) olin	<i>mina (ma) olin saabunud</i>
sina (sa) olid	<i>sina (sa) olid saabunud</i>
tema (ta) oli + NUD-	<i>tema (ta) oli saabunud</i>
meie (me) olime participle	<i>meie (me) olime saabunud</i>
teie (te) olite	<i>teie (te) olite saabunud</i>
nemad (nad) olid	<i>nemad (nad) olid saabunud</i>

Negative:

mina (ma)	<i>mina (ma) ei olnud saabunud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>sina (sa) ei olnud saabunud</i>
tema (ta) ei olnud +	<i>tema (ta) ei olnud saabunud</i>
mina (ma) NUD-participle	<i>meie (me) ei olnud saabunud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>teie (te) ei olnud saabunud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>nemad (nad) ei olnud saabunud</i>

<i>Olin just koju jõudnud, kui telefon helises.</i>	I had just arrived home when the telephone rang.
<i>Ma ei olnud veel koju jõudnud, kui algas vihmasadu.</i>	I had not yet arrived home when it began to rain.

The **impersonal forms** of the past perfect are constructed using the past tense forms of the verb *olema* and the TUD-participle.

oli + TUD-participle

Examples:

<i>See džemper oli juba ammu müüdud.</i>	This pullover had already been sold long ago.
--	---

The **negative impersonal forms** of the past perfect tense:

ei olnud + TUD-participle

Examples:

<i>See džemper ei olnud veel müüdud.</i>	This pullover had not yet been sold.
--	--------------------------------------

The conditional mood

The conditional mood indicates a hypothetical action or situation, which could take place under specific circumstances. Additionally, the conditional mood can be used to express varying degrees of politeness, doubt, desire, and reserve.

The Present Tense

The **personal forms** of the present conditional are constructed by adding the marker –KSI- (-KS) to the present stem before the personal endings. The personal endings can also be omitted, particularly when the subject of the verb may be determined by other means.

Affirmative:

present stem	+ -KSI- +	personal endings
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saabuma 'to arrive'

<i>mina (ma) saabuks(in)</i>
<i>sina (sa) saabuks(id)</i>
<i>tema (ta) saabuks</i>
<i>meie (me) saabuks(ime)</i>
<i>teie (te) saabuks(ite)</i>
<i>nemad (nad) saabuks(id)</i>

Negative:

ei +	present stem	+ -KS
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<i>mina (ma) ei saabuks</i>
<i>sina (sa) ei saabuks</i>
<i>tema (ta) ei saabuks</i>
<i>meie (me) ei saabuks</i>
<i>teie (te) ei saabuks</i>
<i>nemad (nad) ei saabuks</i>

Examples:

<i>Oleks hea, kui laev saabuks hommikul.</i>	It would be nice if the boat would arrive in the morning.
<i>Oleks hea, kui rong ei saabuks nii hilja.</i>	It would be nice if the train didn't arrive so late.

The *impersonal forms* of the present conditional:

Affirmative:

TUD-participle stem	+ -TAKS (-DAKS)
----------------------------	------------------------

Examples:

<i>Oleks hea, kui saabutaks enne õhtut.</i>	It would be nice if people would arrive before evening.
---	---

Negative

Ei +	TUD-participle stem	+ -TAKS (-DAKS)
-------------	----------------------------	------------------------

Examples:

<i>Oleks parem, kui ei saabutaks nii hilja.</i>	It would be better if people wouldn't arrive so late.
---	---

The conditional mood is often used to express politeness.

Examples:

<i>Mina paluksin teed.</i>	I'd like some tea.
<i>Kui te tahaksite, võiksime kohe minna.</i>	If You'd like, we could go right away.
<i>Ma võtaksin selle käevõru. Siis tahaksin selle džempri.</i>	I'd like to have this bracelet. And then I'd also like this pullover.

The Present Perfect Tense

The **personal forms** of the present perfect conditional are constructed from the present conditional forms of the verb *olema* and the NUD-participle.

Affirmative:

mina (ma) oleks(in)	
sina (sa) oleks(id)	
tema (ta) oleks	+ NUD- PARTICIPLE
meie (me) oleks(ime)	
teie (te) oleks(ite)	
nemad (nad) oleks(id)	

<i>mina (ma) oleks(in) saabunud</i>
<i>sina (sa) oleks(id) saabunud</i>
<i>tema (ta) oleks saabunud</i>
<i>meie (me) oleks(ime) saabunud</i>
<i>teie (te) oleks(ite) saabunud</i>
<i>nemad (nad) oleks(id) saabunud</i>

Negative

mina (ma)	
sina (sa)	
tema (ta)	+ei oleks + NUD-PARTICIPLE
meie (me)	
teie (te)	
nemad (nad)	

<i>mina (ma) ei oleks saabunud</i>
<i>sina (sa) ei oleks saabunud</i>
<i>tema (ta) ei oleks saabunud.</i>
<i>meie (me) ei oleks saabunud.</i>
<i>teie (te) ei oleks saabunud</i>
<i>nemad (nad) ei oleks saabunud</i>

Examples:

<i>Ma oleksin saabunud juba eile, kui sa ei oleks unustanud mulle helistada.</i>	I would have already arrived yesterday if You hadn't forgotten to call me.
--	--

The *impersonal forms* of the present perfect conditional:

Affirmative:

oleks + TUD-PARTICIPLE	oleks saabutud
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Negative

ei oleks + TUD-PARTICIPLE	ei oleks saabutud
----------------------------------	-------------------

Examples:

<i>Kui mulle oleks õigel ajal helistatud, siis sa ei oleks pidanud nii kaua ootama.</i>	If I had been called at the right time You wouldn't have had to wait for so long.
<i>Kui töötajatega ei oleks kokku lepitud, oleks reis ära jäänud.</i>	If it would not have been agreed with the workers, the trip would have been cancelled.

The imperative mood

The Present Tense

Personal forms:

Affirmative:

Singular:

1st person	–	–
2nd person	present stem	<i>paku!</i> <i>vaata!</i>
3rd person	DA-infinitive stem + -GU (-KU)	<i>pakkugu!</i> <i>vaadaku!</i>
Plural:		
1st person	DA-infinitive stem + -GEM (-KEM)	<i>pakkugem!</i> <i>vaadakem!</i>
2nd person	DA-infinitive stem + -GE (-KE)	<i>pakkuge!</i> <i>vaadake!</i>
3rd person	DA-infinitive stem + -GU (-KU)	<i>pakkugu!</i> <i>vaadaku!</i>

Note that the second person singular affirmative form of the imperative mood appears in the same grade as the present tense: ***paku, vaata*** (compare ***mina pakun, mina vaatan***). The other forms of the imperative appear in the same grade as the DA-infinitive: ***pakkuge, vaadake*** (compare ***pakkuda, vaadata***).

Negative:**Singular:**

1st person

–

–

2nd person

ära + present stem*ära paku!*
ära vaata!

3rd person

**ärgu + DA-infinitive stem + -GU
(-KU)***(ta) ärgu pakkugu!*
*(ta) ärgu vaadaku!***Plural:**

1st person

**ärgem + DA-infinitive stem + -
GEM
(-KEM)***ärgem pakkugem!*
ärgem vaadakem!

2nd person

**ärge + DA-infinitive stem + -GE
(-
KE)***ärge pakkuge!*
ärge vaadake!

3rd person

**ärgu + DA-infinitive stem + -GU
(-KU)***ärgu pakkugu!*
ärgu vaadaku!

Note that the third person forms are identical in the singular and plural.

Examples:*Peeter, paku külalistele teed!*

Peeter, offer the guests some tea!

Ärge jääge lõunale hiljaks!

Don't be late for lunch!

The *impersonal forms* of the present imperative.

Affirmative:**TUD-participle stem
+ -DA (-TA) + -GU***pakutagu!*
*vaadatagu!***Negative****ärgu
+ present impersonal affirmative
imperative***ärgu pakutagu!*
ärgu vaadatagu!

Examples:

Ärgu isegi mõeldagu puududa matemaatika tunnist!

They had better not even think about being absent from the mathematics lesson!

The Present Perfect Tense

The present perfect forms of the imperative mood are rarely used. They have no personal endings, for which reason their subjects must always be expressed. These forms are constructed from the third person imperative forms of the verb *olema* and the NUD-participle; the impersonal forms have the TUD-participle.

Affirmative:

mina (ma)		
sina (sa)		
tema (ta)	olgu +	<i>olgu pakkunud!</i>
meie (me)	NUD-participle	<i>olgu vaadanud!</i>
teie (te)		
nemad (nad)		

Negative

mina (ma)		
sina (sa)		
tema (ta)	ärgu olgu +	<i>ärgu olgu pakkunud!</i>
meie (me)	NUD-participle	<i>ärgu olgu vaadanud!</i>
teie (te)		
nemad (nad)		

Examples:

Ta olgu läinud enne meie tulekut!

He is to have left before our arrival!

Impersonal forms:

Affirmative:

olgu + TUD-PARTICIPLE

olgu pakutud!

Negative

ärgu olgu + TUD-PARTICIPLE

ärgu olgu pakutud!

Examples:

Olgu pakutud parimad road!

May the best dishes be served here!

The narrative mood

The narrative mood has no exact equivalent in English. It refers to an action or situation, the truth of which the speaker is uncertain of because he or she only knows of it through the words of some other person. The narrative mood is often used when quoting someone indirectly. The forms of the narrative mood are best rendered in English using forms of the indicative mood qualified by words and expressions such as 'is supposed to', 'people say', etc.

The marker of the narrative is -VAT. The forms of the narrative mood lack personal endings, for which reason personal pronouns must always be used with them.

The present tense

of the narrative mood is formed from the stem of the MA-infinitive to which is added the marker -VAT with no personal endings.

Affirmative:

mina (ma)	
sina (sa)	
tema (ta)	MA-infinitive stem
meie (me)	+ -VAT
teie (te)	
nemad (nad)	

<i>mina (ma) saabuvat</i>
<i>sina (sa) saabuvat</i>
<i>tema (ta) saabuvat</i>
<i>meie (me) saabuvat</i>
<i>teie (te) saabuvat</i>
<i>nemad (nad) saabuvat</i>

Negative

mina (ma)	
sina (sa)	
tema (ta)	ei +
meie (me)	MA-infinitive stem
teie (te)	+ -VAT
nemad (nad)	

<i>mina (ma) ei saabuvat</i>
<i>sina (sa) ei saabuvat</i>
<i>tema (ta) ei saabuvat</i>
<i>meie (me) ei saabuvat</i>
<i>teie (te) ei saabuvat</i>
<i>nemad (nad) ei saabuvat</i>

Examples:

<i>Rein saabuvat koju homme hommikul.</i>	They say that Rein will be arriving home tomorrow morning.
<i>Riina tahtvat juba koju tulla.</i>	Riina is said to want to come home already.

The **impersonal forms** of the narrative mood are formed from the TUD-participle stem, to which the marker-TAVAT (-DAVAT) is added.

Affirmative:

TUD-participle stem	+ -TAVAT (-DAVAT)
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Examples:

<i>Koju saabutavat hilja.</i>	People are said to arrive home late.
-------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Negative

<i>ei +</i>	TUD-participle stem	+ -TAVAT (-DAVAT)
-------------	---------------------	----------------------

Examples:

<i>Tallinnasse ei saabutavat enne õhtut.</i>	It is said that people won't be arriving in Tallinn before the evening.
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The present perfect tense

of the narrative mood is formed using the present tense forms of the verb "OLEMA" and the NUD-participle, for the impersonal forms the TUD-participle is used.

Affirmative:

mina (ma)	
sina (sa)	
tema (ta)	olevat +
meie (me)	NUD-PARTICIPLE
teie (te)	
nemad (nad)	

Examples:

<i>Sa olevat saabunud juba eile.</i>	You are said to already have arrived yesterday.
<i>Ta olevat ostnud juba selle uue džempri.</i>	She is said to have bought a new pullover.

Negative

mina (ma)	
sina (sa)	
tema (ta)	ei olevat +
meie (me)	NUD-PARTICIPLE
teie (te)	
nemad (nad)	

Examples:

<i>Sa ei olevat veel näinud seda filmi.</i>	They say You haven't seen this film yet.
---	--

The **impersonal forms** of the present perfect tense:

Affirmative:

olevat + TUD-PARTICIPLE

Examples:

<i>Tallinnasse olevat saabusud hommikul vara.</i>	People are said to have arrived in Tallinn early in the morning.
---	--

Negative:

ei olevat + TUD-PARTICIPLE

Examples:

<i>Tookord ei olevat Tallinna-sõidust räägitud.</i>	At that time nobody had said anything about a trip to Tallinn.
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Classifying Estonian verbs

On the basis of the manner in which Estonian verbs undergo internal changes and interact with the various grammatical markers they can be grouped into four groups or conjugations:

GROUP	DISTINCTIVE FEATURES	EXAMPLES
I	No gradation: stem of one syllable ending in a long vowel or diphthong in degree 3	`tooma, `võima

II	No gradation: stem of two or three syllables, no gradation. (Note exceptional forms for verbs like <i>tulema</i> , <i>olema</i> , <i>panema</i> .)	`muutuma, elama, tulema
III	Gradation: MA-infinitive strong grade, present indicative weak grade For verbs like <i>lugema</i> it is the qualitative rather than the (secondary) quantitative gradation which is relevant. Grade of past impersonal participle unpredictable .	`pakkuma lugema, `saatma, `andma, `maksma, `laulma
IV	Gradation: MA-infinitive strong grade, DA-infinitive weak grade, present indicative strong grade. Past impersonal participle in weak grade.	`hakkama (hakata), `õmblema (õmmelda), `vaatama, (vaadata)

Some of the similarities and differences between the groups can be seen by comparing the relationships holding between their principal parts (boldfacing indicates the strong grade):

	MA-infinitive	DA-infinitive	1st pers. sing. pres. ind.	TUD-participle
I	`tooma	`tuua	`toon	`toodud
	`võima	`võida	`võin	`võidud
II	`muutuma	`muutuda	`muutun	`muututud
	elama	elada	elan	elatud
	tulema	`tulla	tulen	`tuldud
III	`pakkuma	`pakkuda	pakun	pakutud
	lugema	lugeda	`loen	`loetud
	`saatma	`saata	saadan	saadetud
	`andma	`anda	annan	`antud
	`maksma	`maksta	maksan	`masked
	`laulma	`laulda	laulan	`lauldud
IV	`hakkama	hakata	`hakkan	hakatud
	`õmblema	õmmelda	`õmblen	õmmeldud
	`vaatama	vaadata	`vaatan	vaadatud

The declined forms of the verb

The declined or non-finite forms of the verb refer to an action or situation in general with no indication of person, number, or mood.

The most important declined forms are:

- the MA- and DA-infinitives
- the V- and -TAV participles

The declined forms of the infinitive

	MA-infinitive		DA-infinitive
-MA	<i>saabuma</i> 'to arrive'	-DA	<i>saabuda</i> 'to arrive'
	<i>pakkuma</i> 'to offer'		<i>pakkuda</i> 'to offer'
	<i>vaatama</i> 'to look'		<i>vaadata</i> 'to look'
-MAS	<i>saabumas</i>	-DES	<i>saabudes</i>
	<i>pakkumas</i>		<i>pakkudes</i>
	<i>vaatamas</i>		<i>vaadates</i>
-MAST	<i>saabumast</i>		
	<i>pakkumast</i>		
	<i>vaatamast</i>		
-MAKS	<i>saabumaks</i>		
	<i>pakkumaks</i>		
	<i>vaatamaks</i>		
-MATA	<i>saabumata</i>		
	<i>pakkumata</i>		
	<i>vaatamata</i>		

-MA: *Ma pean vaatama, kuhu lapsed on läinud.* I must see where the children have gone.

See laev peaks varsti saabuma. This boat is supposed to arrive soon.

-MAS: *Ta on suures toas albumit vaatamas.* She's in the large room looking at the album.

Rong on saabumas jaama. The train is arriving at the station.

MAST: *Ma tulen filmi vaatamast.* I'm coming from having seen the film.

Tänan pakkumast. Thank you for the offer.

-MAKS: *Ta on liiga noor, vaatamaks seda etendust.* He's too young to be watching (= in order to watch) this performance.

-MATA: *Mul on see film vaatamata.* I didn't see the film. (= For me the film is without having been seen.)

-DA: *Ma tahan vaadata albumit.* I want to look at the album.

*Ma kavatsen pakkuda
külalistele saiakesi.*

I'm getting ready to offer the
guests buns.

-DES: *Albumit vaadates läks aeg
märkamatu.*

While (we were) watching the
album time passed by unnoticed.

*Emä käis mööda tuba,
pakkudes külalistele teed.*

Mother walked around the room
offering the guests tea.

The participles

The **V-participle** (present active participle)

MA-infinitive stem + -V

Examples:

saabuma – saabuv
'to arrive – arriving'
vaatama – vaatav
'to look – looking'

If the MA-infinitive stem ends in a consonant, an -E is inserted between it and the marker:

Examples:

laulma – laulev
'to sing – singing'
seisma – seisev
'to stand – standing'

The declension of the V-participle

saabuv rong '(an) incoming train'

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	<i>saabuv rong</i>	<i>saabuvad rongid</i>
Genitive	<i>saabuva rongi</i>	<i>saabuvate rongide</i>
Partitive	<i>saabuvat rongi</i>	<i>saabuvoid ronge</i>
Illative	<i>saabuvasse rongi</i>	<i>saabuvatesse rongidesse</i>
Inessive	<i>saabuvast rongis</i>	<i>saabuvates rongides</i>
Elative	<i>saabuvast rongist</i>	<i>saabuvatest rongidest</i>
Allative	<i>saabuvale rongile</i>	<i>saabuvatele rongidele</i>
Adessive	<i>saabuval rongil</i>	<i>saabuvatel rongidel</i>
Ablative	<i>saabuvalt rongilt</i>	<i>saabuvatelt rongidelt</i>

Translative	<i>saabuvaks rongiks</i>	<i>saabuvateks rongideks</i>
Terminative	<i>saabuva rongini</i>	<i>saabuvate rongideni</i>
Essive	<i>saabuva rongina</i>	<i>saabuvate rongidena</i>
Abessive	<i>saabuva rongita</i>	<i>saabuvate rongideta</i>
Comitative	<i>saabuva rongiga</i>	<i>saabuvate rongidega</i>

Examples:

<i>Saabuva rongi aknad olid avatud.</i>	The windows of the incoming train were open
<i>Lapsed valmistuvad algavaks õppeaastaks.</i>	The children are preparing for the coming school year.

The **TUD-participle** (past passive participle)

marker: -TUD (-DUD)

Examples:

<i>kirjutama – kirjutatud</i>	‘to write – written’
<i>lubama – lubatud</i>	‘to allow – allowed’
<i>õppima – õpitud</i>	‘to learn – learned’
<i>lugema – loetud</i>	‘to read – read’
<i>tegema – tehtud</i>	‘to do – done’
<i>leidma – leitud</i>	‘to find – found’
<i>tootma – toodetud</i>	‘to produce – produced’
<i>laulma – lauldud</i>	‘to sing – sung’
<i>õmblema – õmmeldud</i>	‘to sew – sewn’

The TUD-participle is one of the principal parts of the verb. Many forms of Estonian verbs use the TUD-participle stem.

Examples:

<i>Töö oli tehtud hästi.</i>	The work was completed well.
<i>Auto sõitis lubatud kiirusega.</i>	The car was traveling at the permitted speed.

The **TAV-participle** (present passive participle)

TUD-participle stem + -TAV (-DAV)

Examples:

<i>valima – valitud – valitav</i>	‘to choose’ – ‘(which has been) chosen’ – ‘(which is to be) chosen’
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Declension of the TAV-participle:

valitav ametikoht 'a position which is to be chosen'

	SINGULAR
Nominative	<i>valitav ametikoht</i>
Genitive	<i>valitava ametikoha</i>
Partitive	<i>valitavat ametikohta</i>
Illative	<i>valitavasse ametikohasse ~ ametikohta</i>
Inessive	<i>valitavas ametikohas</i>
Elative	<i>valitavast ametikohast</i>
Allative	<i>valitavale ametikohale</i>
Adessive	<i>valitaval ametikohal</i>
Ablative	<i>valitavalt ametikohalt</i>
Translative	<i>valitavaks ametikohaks</i>
Terminative	<i>valitava ametikohani</i>
Essive	<i>valitava ametikohana</i>
Abessive	<i>valitava ametikohata</i>
Comitative	<i>valitava ametikohaga</i>

	PLURAL
Nominative	<i>valitavad ametikohad</i>
Genitive	<i>valitavate ametikohtade</i>
Partitive	<i>valitavaid ametikohti</i>
Illative	<i>valitavatesse ametikohtadesse</i>
Inessive	<i>valitavates ametikohtades</i>
Elative	<i>valitavatest ametikohtadest</i>
Allative	<i>valitavatele ametikohtadele</i>
Adessive	<i>valitavatel ametikohtadel</i>
Ablative	<i>valitavatelt ametikohtadelt</i>
Translative	<i>valitavateks ametikohtadeks</i>
Terminative	<i>valitavate ametikohtadeni</i>
Essive	<i>valitavate ametikohtadena</i>
Abessive	<i>valitavate ametikohtadeta</i>
Comitative	<i>valitavate ametikohtadega</i>

English expresses the content of the Estonian present passive participle using a relative clause or by lexical means.

Examples:

<i>Vend ehitab köetavat garaaži.</i>	Brother is building a garage, which can be heated.
<i>Kas need seemed on söödavad?</i>	Are these mushrooms edible?
<i>Õpitav laul oli Laine arvates väga ilus.</i>	Laine thought that the song, which is to be learned, is very beautiful.

The **NUD-participle** (the past active participle)

DA-infinitive stem + -NUD

Examples:

<i>saabuda – saabunud</i>	'to arrive – (which has) arrived'
<i>tekkida – tekkinud</i>	'to develop – (which has) developed'

<i>Saabunud linna, helistas ta õele.</i>	Having arrived in the town, he called his sister.
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<i>Tekkinud olukord on keeruline.</i>	The situation, which has developed, is complex.
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NOMINALS

Nominals include:

1. nouns, e.g. *mees* 'man', *vesi* 'water', *juht* 'event'
2. adjectives, e.g. *punane* 'red', *kena* 'nice', *õnnelik* 'happy'
3. numerals, e.g. *kaks* 'two', *teine* 'second'
4. pronouns, e.g. *sina* 'you', *see* 'this'

Estonian has a single system of declension. Most of the case markers apply to all declinable words and are the same in the singular and plural.

Estonian distinguishes between fourteen different cases.

The declension of nouns

maa 'country, land'; *sadam* 'harbor'

CASE AND QUESTION WHICH IT ANSWERS	MARKER	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1. Nominative – <i>kes?</i> 'who?', <i>mis?</i> 'what?'	–	<i>maa</i> <i>sadam</i>	<i>maad</i> <i>sadamad</i>
2. Genitive – <i>kelle?</i> 'whose?', <i>mille?</i> 'of what?'	–	<i>maa</i> <i>sadama</i>	<i>maade</i> <i>sadamate</i>
3. Partitive – <i>keda?</i> 'whom?', <i>mida?</i> '(some) what?'	-t, -d	<i>maad</i> <i>sadamat</i>	<i>maid</i> <i>sadamaid</i>
4. Illative – <i>kellesse?</i> 'into whom?', <i>millesse?</i> 'into what?', <i>kuhu?</i> 'where to?'	-sse	<i>maasse</i> <i>sadamasse</i>	<i>maadesse</i> <i>sadamatesse</i> ~ <i>sadamaisse</i>

5. Inessive – <i>kelles?</i> ‘in whom?’, <i>milles?</i> ‘in what?’, <i>kus</i> ‘where?’	-s	<i>maas</i> <i>sadamas</i>	<i>maades</i> <i>sadamates</i> ~ <i>sadamais</i>
6. Elative – <i>kellest?</i> ‘about whom?’, <i>millest?</i> ‘out of what?’, <i>kust?</i> ‘where from?’ ¹	-st	<i>maast</i> <i>sadamast</i>	<i>maadest</i> <i>sadamatest</i> ~ <i>sadamaist</i>
7. Allative – <i>kellele?</i> ‘to/for whom?’, <i>millele?</i> ‘to/for what?’, <i>kuhu?</i> ‘where to?’	-le	<i>maale</i> <i>sadamale</i>	<i>maadele</i> <i>sadamatele</i> ~ <i>sadamaile</i>
8. Adessive – <i>kellel?</i> ‘at/on/by whom?’, <i>millel?</i> ‘at/on/by what?’, <i>kus?</i> ‘where?’	-l	<i>maal</i> <i>sadamal</i>	<i>maadel</i> <i>sadamatel</i> ~ <i>sadamail</i>
9. Ablative – <i>kellelt?</i> ‘from whom?’, <i>millelt?</i> ‘from what?’, <i>kust?</i> ‘from where?’	-lt	<i>maalt</i> <i>sadamalt</i>	<i>maadelt</i> <i>sadamatelt</i> ~ <i>sadamailt</i>
10. Translative – <i>kelleks?</i> ‘(becomes) who?’, <i>milleks?</i> ‘(becomes) what?’ ²	-ks	<i>maaks</i> <i>sadamaks</i>	<i>maadeks</i> <i>sadamateks</i> ~ <i>sadamaiks</i>
11. Terminative – <i>kelleni?</i> ‘up to whom?’, <i>milleni?</i> ‘up to what?’ ³	-ni	<i>maani</i> <i>sadamani</i>	<i>maadeni</i> <i>sadamateni</i>
12. Essive – <i>kellena?</i> ‘as who?’, <i>millena?</i> ‘as what?’	-na	<i>maana</i> <i>sadamana</i>	<i>maadena</i> <i>sadamatena</i>
13. Abessive – <i>kelleta?</i> ‘without whom?’, <i>milleta?</i> ‘without what?’	-ta	<i>maata</i> <i>sadamata</i>	<i>maadeta</i> <i>sadamateta</i>
14. Comitative – <i>kellega?</i> ‘with whom?’, <i>millega?</i> ‘with what?’	-ga	<i>maaga</i> <i>sadamaga</i>	<i>maadega</i> <i>sadamatega</i>

¹Note also: *mis kellast?* ‘from what time?’

²Note also: *mis kellaks?* ‘at what time?’

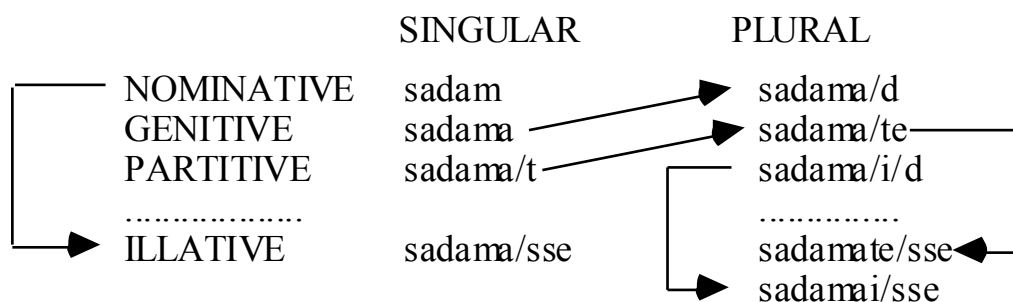
³Note also: *mis kellani?* ‘up until what time?’, *kella kolmest neljani* ‘from three to four o’clock’

The primary cases

The primary cases in Estonian are:

- nominative
- genitive
- partitive

The forms of all the other cases are based on these three primary cases. The relationship between the cases is shown in the following table:



The **genitive singular form** provides the stem for all the **singular case forms**, beginning with the (long) illative, as well as for the **nominative plural**.

The **genitive** and **partitive plural** forms provide the stem for all the remaining **plural case forms**: the genitive plural form provides the stem for the more commonly used long or DE-(TE) -forms, with the partitive plural providing the stem for the parallel short forms for those words which allow them.

Beginning with the **illative plural**, constructing a plural case form simply requires addition of the appropriate case marker onto the genitive plural form. **All Estonian nouns and adjectives have DE- (TE)-forms**, only nouns and adjectives belonging to specific classes have parallel short forms.

The **parallel plural short forms** have the **partitive plural** as their basis.

The stems and markers of the primary cases

Estonian-English dictionaries usually give the nominative and genitive singular forms.

Determining the markers of the partitive singular and plural for words, which are not subject to gradation requires considering the number of syllables in the **genitive singular**. For some words it is also necessary to consider the degree of duration of the stressed syllable.

WORDS NOT SUBJECT TO GRADATION	Partitive singular	Genitive plural	Partitive plural
Monosyllabic genitive singular: `puu `tee `töö	-D `puud `teed `tööd	-DE `puude `teede `tööde	-ID (~SID) `puid `teid ~ `teesid `töid

Bisyllabic genitive singular: in first degree of quantity: <i>vaba</i> <i>kodu</i> <i>ema</i>	(no marker) <i>vaba</i> <i>kodu</i> <i>ema</i>	-DE <i>vabade</i> <i>kodude</i> <i>emade</i>	-SID <i>vabasid</i> <i>kodusid</i> <i>emasid</i>
in second degree of quantity: <i>takso</i> <i>abikaasa</i>	-T <i>taksot</i> <i>abikaasat</i>	-DE <i>taksode</i> <i>abikaasade</i>	-SID <i>taksosid</i> <i>abikaasasid</i>
in third degree of quantity: <i>`aasta</i> <i>`õhtu</i> <i>`mantli</i> <i>`peegli</i>	-T <i>`aastat</i> <i>`õhtut</i> -T <i>`mantlit</i> <i>`peeglit</i>	-TE <i>`aastate</i> <i>`õhtute</i> -TE <i>`mantlite</i> <i>`peeglite</i>	-ID <i>`aastaid</i> <i>`õhtuid</i> -(E)ID <i>`mantleid</i> <i>`peegleid</i>
Three or more syllables in the genitive singular: <i>`meeldiva</i> <i>tänava</i> <i>kardina</i> <i>`kampsuni</i> <i>sidruni</i>	-T <i>`meeldivat</i> <i>tänavat</i> <i>kardina</i> -T <i>`kampsunit</i> <i>sidrunit</i>	-TE <i>`meeldivate</i> <i>tänavate</i> <i>kardinate</i> -TE <i>`kampsunite</i> <i>sidrunite</i>	-ID <i>`meeldivaid</i> <i>tänavaid</i> <i>kardinaid</i> -(E)ID <i>`kampsuneid</i> <i>sidruneid</i>

Words, which are subject to gradation, usually form their basic cases by sound changes within the word stem. Both the quantity and the quality of the sounds may change, in addition to which the addition of the plural marker may bring about some changes in the forms of the case markers in the plural.

Words having a genitive singular form in the **weak** grade usually have partitive singular and plural forms which lack any markers but are in the **strong** grade. The genitive plural of such words has the marker -DE and is also in the **strong** grade.

Partitive singular	Partitive plural	Genitive plural
-i `passi `pruuni `plaati	-e `passe `pruune `plaate	-de `passide `pruunide `plaatide
-e `järve `lehte `kaske `kuuske	-i `järvi `lehti `kaski `kuuski	-de `järvede `lehtede `kaskede `kuuskede
-u `laulu `toitu	-e `laule `toite	-de `laulude `toitude
-a `päeva `metsa `laeva `lauda	-i and -u `päevi `metsi `laevu `laudu	-de `päevade `metsade `laevade `laudade

Note that for words of this type the patterns of grade alternation are predictable. Taking the word *järv* 'lake' as an example, we see that the **genitive singular**, **partitive singular**, and **short (=endingless) illative singular**, are all **spelled** identically: *järve*. The student should know that the **genitive singular** and **long** (ending in -sse) **illative** will be in the **weak** grade: *järve*, *järvesse*; but the **nominative**, **partitive**, and **short illative singular** forms, as well as the **genitive** and **partitive plural** forms will all be in the **strong** grade: *järv*, *järve*, *järve*; *järvede*, *järvi*, *järvesid*. These relationships are easier to understand if presented in tabular form. The strong grade is indicated by a grave accent (`):

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	`järv	<i>järved</i>
Genitive	<i>järve</i>	`järvede
Partitive	`järve	`järvi
Long illative	<i>järvesse</i>	`järvedesse
Short illative	`järve	–
Inessive, etc.	<i>järves</i>	`järvedes

Words having a stem ending in -E and a partitive singular marker in- T constitute an exception. They have -TE as their genitive plural marker and -I as their partitive plural marker.

Partitive singular	Partitive plural	Genitive plural
-t	-i	-te
`keelt `suurt `uut	`keeli `suuri `uusi	`keelte `suurte `uute

Their behavior with respect to grade alternation follows the same pattern as for words like *järv*: Taking *keel* ‘language’ as an example (*`keel* [keel], *keele* [keele]):

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>`keel</i>	<i>keeled</i>
Genitive	<i>keele</i>	<i>`keelte</i>
Partitive	<i>`keelt</i>	<i>`keeli</i>
Long illative	<i>keelesse</i>	<i>`keeltesse</i>
Short illative	<i>`keelde</i>	–
Inessive, etc.	<i>keeles</i>	<i>`keeltes</i>

Words, which have a genitive singular in the strong grade, form the primary cases using a combination of internal changes within the stem and the addition of case and number markers.

Nominative singular	Genitive singular	Partitive singular	Genitive plural	Partitive plural
<i>kaunis</i>	<i>`kauni</i>	<i>kaunist</i>	<i>kauniste ~`kaunite</i>	<i>`kauneid</i>
<i>ehe</i>	<i>`ehte</i>	<i>ehet</i>	<i>ehete</i>	<i>`eheid</i>
<i>maitse</i>	<i>`maitse</i>	<i>maitset</i>	<i>maitsete</i>	<i>`maitseid</i>
<i>kapsas</i>	<i>`kapsa</i>	<i>kapsast</i>	<i>kapsaste</i>	<i>`kapsaid</i>
<i>rõngas</i>	<i>`rõnga</i>	<i>rõngast</i>	<i>rõngaste</i>	<i>`rõngaid</i>
<i>rikas</i>	<i>`rikka</i>	<i>rikast</i>	<i>rikaste</i>	<i>`rikkaid</i>

This, too, is made clearer by a fuller paradigm indicating grade alternation. Taking *kaunis* ‘beautiful’ as an example (*kaunis*, *kauni*):

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>kaunis</i>	<i>`kaunid</i>
Genitive	<i>`kauni</i>	<i>kauniste ~ kaunite</i>
Partitive	<i>kaunist</i>	<i>`kauneid</i>
Long illative Short illative	<i>`kaunisse</i>	<i>kaunistesse ~ kaunitesse ~ kauneisse</i>
Inessive, etc.	<i>`kaunis</i>	<i>kaunistes ~ kaunites ~ kauneis</i>

Examples of the use of the cases

Nominative:

The basic function of the nominative is to indicate the subject of a sentence:

Examples:

<i>Raamatud on laual.</i>	' The books are on the table.'
<i>Õues õitseb õunapuu.</i>	' An apple tree is blooming in the yard.'

The direct object of verbs in the imperative mood is in the nominative case if the verb is affirmative and the noun is definite:

Examples:

<i>Too toit lauale!</i>	'Bring the food to the table!'
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Genitive:

The basic function of the genitive case is to indicate possession:

Examples:

<i>Venna pass on laual.</i>	' Brother's passport is on the table.'
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Many Estonian verbs have their direct object in the genitive case:

Examples:

<i>Kas te ei sulgeks ukse?</i>	'Won't You please close the door .'
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The genitive is the case of many expressions indicating duration in time:

Examples:

<i>Ootasime sind terve päeva.</i>	'We waited for you all day .'
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The genitive case is also used with certain relators:

Genitive + ALL 'under', + PEAL 'on', + KÕRVAL 'next to', + EES 'in front of', + TAGA 'behind', + JUURES 'near'

Examples:

<i>Kass on laua all.</i>	'The cat is under the table .'
<i>Diivani peal on padi.</i>	'There is a cushion on the sofa .'
<i>Kas Riina kõrval istub tema vend?</i>	'Is that Riina's brother sitting next to her?'

Partitive:

The basic function of the partitive case is to indicate an indefinite quantity:

Examples:

<i>Anne toob kohe vett.</i>	'Anne will bring some water soon.'
<i>Meil ei ole vett.</i>	'We don't have any water .'
<i>Palun andke mulle liiter piima.</i>	'Please give me a liter of milk .'

With numerals higher than *üks* 'one' the partitive **singular** form of nouns (and their premodifiers) will be used:

Examples:

<i>kaks odavat raamatut</i>	'two cheap books' (Compare <i>üks odav raamat</i> 'one cheap book')
<i>Mul on ainult kolm krooni.</i>	'I only have three kroons .'

A direct object in the partitive often indicates an ongoing action:

Examples:

<i>Vend parandab ust.</i>	'Brother is repairing the door .'
<i>Anna loeb raamatut.</i>	'Anna is reading a book .'

(Compare *Anna loeb **raamatu läbi***. 'Anna will read **the book** (and finish it).')

The partitive can also serve as the case of an indefinite subject:

Examples:

<i>Laul on toitu.</i>	'There's some food on the table.'
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(Compare ***Toit** on laual*. '**The food** is on the table.')

Some Estonian verbs require a direct object in the partitive.

vaatama 'to look', *märkama* 'to notice', *armastama* 'to love', *huvitama* 'to be interested', *kuulama* 'to listen', *keelama* 'to forbid', *käsutama* 'to dispatch' etc. These are typically verbs denoting an activity, which by its nature does not produce a concrete result.

Examples:

<i>Isa vaatab televiisorit.</i>	'Father is watching the television .'
<i>Peeter armastab muusikat.</i>	'Peeter loves music .'

Some Estonian verbs can differentiate between an indefinite and a definite direct object by opposing the partitive and the genitive cases:

Examples:

<i>Sõin leiba.</i>	'I ate (some) bread [direct object in partitive].'
<i>Sõin leiva.</i>	'I ate the bread (up) [direct object in genitive].'

The direct object of verbs in the imperative mood is in the partitive case if the verb is affirmative and the noun is indefinite:

Examples:

<i>Too toitu lauale!</i>	'Bring some food to the table!'
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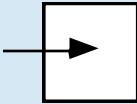
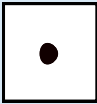
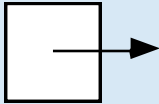
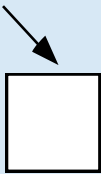
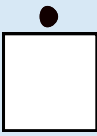
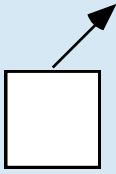
The direct object of a negative verb is regularly in the partitive case:

Examples:

<i>Ma ei ostnud leiba.</i>	'I didn't buy (any) bread. '
<i>Ära too toitu lauale!</i>	'Don't bring (any) food to the table!'

The local cases

The illative, inessive, elative, allative, adessive, and ablative are called local cases. Their basic function is to express spatial relationships.

	motion toward	location at	separation from
interior	 illative	 inessive	 elative
exterior	 allative	 adessive	 ablative

Illative (long form in -SSE; short form with internal changes):

	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>`linn</i>	<i>linnad</i>	<i>tuba</i>	<i>`toad</i>
Genitive	<i>linna</i>	<i>`linnade</i>	<i>`toa</i>	<i>tubade</i>
Partitive	<i>`linna</i>	<i>`linnu ~ linnasid</i>	<i>tuba</i>	<i>tube ~ tubasid</i>
Short illative	<i>`linna</i>	–	<i>`tuppa</i>	–
Long illative	<i>linnasse</i>	<i>`linnadesse</i>	<i>`toasse</i>	<i>tubadesse</i>

The **short illative** can only be formed for nouns and adjectives conforming to specific structural patterns. Short illatives only occur in the singular.

All Estonian nouns and adjectives have **long illatives**. These are formed on the basis of the genitive case forms in the singular as well as the plural.

Nominative	Genitive	Long illative	Partitive	Short illative
<i>`kool</i>	<i>kooli</i>	<i>koolisse</i>	<i>`kooli</i>	<i>`kooli</i>
<i>`linn</i>	<i>linna</i>	<i>linnasse</i>	<i>`linna</i>	<i>`linna</i>
<i>`mets</i>	<i>metsa</i>	<i>metsasse</i>	<i>`metsa</i>	<i>`metsa</i>
<i>`aed</i>	<i>aia</i>	<i>aiasse</i>	<i>`aeda</i>	<i>`aeda</i>
<i>jõgi</i>	<i>`jõe</i>	<i>`jõesse</i>	<i>jõge</i>	<i>`jõkke</i>
<i>tuba</i>	<i>`toa</i>	<i>`toasse</i>	<i>tuba</i>	<i>`tuppa</i>
<i>maja</i>	<i>maja</i>	<i>majasse</i>	<i>maja</i>	<i>`majja</i>
<i>vesi</i>	<i>`vee</i>	<i>`veesse</i>	<i>`vett</i>	<i>`vette</i>
<i>käsi</i>	<i>`käe</i>	<i>`käesse</i>	<i>`kätt</i>	<i>`kätte</i>
<i>tuli</i>	<i>tule</i>	<i>tulesse</i>	<i>`tuld</i>	<i>`tulle</i>
<i>`uus</i>	<i>uue</i>	<i>uuesse</i>	<i>`uut</i>	<i>`uude</i>
<i>`suur</i>	<i>suure</i>	<i>suuresse</i>	<i>`suurt</i>	<i>`suurde</i>
<i>`maa</i>	<i>`maa</i>	<i>`maasse</i>	<i>`maad</i>	<i>maha</i>
<i>`pea</i>	<i>`pea</i>	<i>`peasse</i>	<i>`pead</i>	<i>pähe</i>

Examples:

<i>Läksime sadamasse.</i>	'We went to the harbor .'
<i>Hommikul sõitsime linna.</i>	'In the morning we went into the city .'
<i>Vii külaline vannituppa!</i>	'Show the guest to the bathroom .'
<i>Kuidas sa suhtud minu ideesse?</i>	'How do you feel about my idea ?'

Inessive (-s):

Examples:

<i>Olime sadamas.</i>	'We were at the harbor .'
<i>Õhtul käisime linnas.</i>	'In the evening we were in the city .'

Elative(-st):

Examples:

<i>Tulime sadamast.</i>	'We came from the harbor .'
<i>Krista jutustas õele oma reisist.</i>	'Krista told his sister about his trip .'
<i>Mulle meeldivad nahast ehted.</i>	'I like decorations made of leather '
<i>Esmaspäevast algab koolivaheaeg.</i>	' Starting Monday the school vacation begins.'

Allative(-le):

Examples:

<i>Pane album riiulile!</i>	'Put the album on the shelf! '
<i>Anna see raamat emale!</i>	'Give this book to mother! '

Adessive(-l):

Examples:

<i>Album on riiulil.</i>	'The book is on the shelf .'
<i>Laev saabub hommikul.</i>	'The ship will arrive in the morning .'

Estonian has no verb corresponding to English 'to have'. To express the same idea, the noun indicating the possessor is put into the adessive case, the noun indicating the thing possessed is put into the nominative (= specific) or partitive (= unspecific) case, and the two nouns are linked by a form of the verb *olema*:

Examples:

<i>Emal on kaunis kell.</i>	' Mother has a pretty clock.'
<i>Vennal on postmarke.</i>	' Brother has some stamps.'
<i>Mul ei ole autot.</i>	' I don't have a car.'

Ablative(-lt):

Examples:

<i>Võta riiulilt album!</i>	'Take the album from the shelf .'
<i>Kas ta on rahvuselt eestlane?</i>	'Is he an Estonian by nationality ?'
<i>Võta õelt kohvid!</i>	'Take the suitcases from sister !'

The general cases

Translative(-ks):

The translative case indicates a change of state and various related ideas:

Examples:

<i>Rein tahab saada arstiks.</i>	'Rein wants to become a physician .'
<i>Õppimiseks ei jäänud eile aega.</i>	'No time remained yesterday for studying .'
<i>Remont peaks lõppema sügiseks.</i>	'The renovation should be finished by Autumn .'
<i>Lapsed sõitsid nädalaks vanaema juurde.</i>	'The children went to grandmother's for a week .'

Essive(-na):

The essive case indicates a specific state or status:

Examples:

<i>Rein töötab arstina.</i>	'Rein works as a physician .'
<i>Lapsena elas ema Saaremaal.</i>	' As a child mother lived on Saaremaa.'

Terminative (-ni):

The terminative indicates a goal or limit:

Examples:

<i>Minge selle kõrge majani ja pöörake vasakule!</i>	'Go as far as that high building and turn left!'
<i>Tiina jalutas õhtuni metsas.</i>	'Tiina walked in the forest until evening .'

Abessive (-ta):

The abessive indicates an absence or lack:

Examples:

<i>Väike vend läks täna kooli ilma emata.</i>	'Little brother went to school today without mother .'
<i>Emal ei taha sõita maale kingitusteta.</i>	'Mother doesn't want to go to the country without gifts .'

Comitative(-ga):

The comitative indicates a number of relationships often expressed in English by the preposition 'with':

Examples:

<i>Tiiu sõitis lastega suveks maale.</i>	'Tiiu went to the country with the children for the Summer.'
<i>Palun kohvi koorega!</i>	'Please, coffee with cream!
<i>Külalised tulid laevaga.</i>	'The guests came by ship.
<i>Kas sa jõuad siia poole tunniga?</i>	'Can you be here in half an hour?

Note that the comitative can be used as a noun premodifier in very much the same manner as an adjective.

Examples:

See <i>habemega mees</i> on vist Arvi.	'The man with the beard is possibly Arvi.'
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Adjectives

Adjectives modifying nouns agree with them and take the same markers for number and case except in the **terminative**, **essive**, **abessive**, and **comitative**. In these four cases adjectives modifying nouns appear in the **genitive**.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	<i>ilus linn</i>	<i>ilusad linnad</i>
Genitive	<i>ilusa linna</i>	<i>ilusate linnade</i>
Partitive	<i>ilusat linna</i>	<i>ilusaid linnu</i>
Illative	<i>ilusasse linna ~ linnasse</i>	<i>ilusatesse linnadesse</i>
Inessive	<i>ilusas linnas</i>	<i>ilusates linnades</i>
Elative	<i>ilusast linnast</i>	<i>ilusatest linnadest</i>
Allative	<i>ilusale linnale</i>	<i>ilusatele linnadele</i>
Adessive	<i>ilusal linnal</i>	<i>ilusatel linnadel</i>
Ablative	<i>ilusalt linnalt</i>	<i>ilusatelt linnadelt</i>
Translative	<i>ilusaks linnaks</i>	<i>ilusateks linnadeks</i>
Terminative	<i>ilusa linnani</i>	<i>ilusate linnadeni</i>
Essive	<i>ilusa linnana</i>	<i>ilusate linnadena</i>
Abessive	<i>ilusa linnata</i>	<i>ilusate linnadeta</i>
Comitative	<i>ilusa linnaga</i>	<i>ilusate linnadega</i>

The comparison of adjectives

Estonian adjectives have three degrees of comparison the **positive**, the **comparative**, and the **superlative**.

The comparative degree.

genitive of the positive + -m

Positive degree		Comparative degree
Nominative sg.	Genitive sg.	Nominative sg.
<i>noor</i> 'young'	<i>noore</i>	<i>noore+m</i>
<i>ilus</i> 'beautiful'	<i>ilusa</i>	<i>ilusa+m</i>
<i>pruun</i> 'brown'	<i>pruuni</i>	<i>pruuni+m</i>
<i>suur</i> 'big'	<i>suure</i>	<i>suure+m</i>
<i>väike</i> 'little'	<i>väikse ~ väikese</i>	<i>väikse+m</i>

Adjectives with a genitive singular in -A or -U constitute exceptions. In the comparative degree of such adjectives the -A or -U is replaced by -E.

Positive degree		Comparative degree
Nominative sg.	Genitive sg.	Nominative sg.
<i>must</i> 'black'	<i>musta</i>	<i>muste+m</i>
<i>vana</i> 'old'	<i>vana</i>	<i>vane+m</i>
<i>laisk</i> 'lazy'	<i>laisa</i>	<i>laise+m</i>
<i>halb</i> 'bad'	<i>halva</i>	<i>halve+m</i>
<i>kurb</i> 'sad'	<i>kurva</i>	<i>kurve+m</i>
<i>paks</i> 'fat'	<i>paksu</i>	<i>pakse+m</i>
<i>soe</i> 'warm'	<i>sooja</i>	<i>sooje+m</i>
<i>järsk</i> 'steep'	<i>järsu</i>	<i>järse+m</i>

Note the irregular *hea* 'good': *parem* 'better'.

The relationship between nouns compared is expressed by *kui*:

Examples:

<i>Malle on noorem kui Peeter.</i>	'Malle is younger than Peeter.'
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The forms of the comparative degree are declined for case and number in the same manner as the forms of the positive degree.

Examples:

<i>Vend kolis möödunud aastal suuremasse korterisse.</i>	'Brother moved last year to a larger apartment.' (ill. sg.)
<i>Ma tahaksin värskemät saia.</i> (part. sg.)	'I would like a fresher loaf of white bread.'

The superlative degree

Modern Estonian forms the superlative degree in one of three different ways.

1. All adjectives have a compound form of the superlative degree. This consists of the word **kõige** 'most' followed by the form of the comparative degree.

kõige + comparative degree of an adjective	<i>kõige ilusam</i> <i>kõige targem</i>
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2. A short superlative with the marker -i can be formed in the same manner as plural forms with the marker -i.

Nominative singular	Partitive plural	Superlative degree in -i (nominative sg.)
<i>kaunis</i> 'pretty'	<i>kauneid</i>	<i>kauneim</i>
<i>tore</i> 'wonderful'	<i>toremaid</i>	<i>toredaim</i>
<i>ilus</i> 'beautiful'	<i>ilusaid</i>	<i>ilusaim</i>
<i>väike</i> 'small'	<i>väikseid</i>	<i>väikseim</i>

3. Adjectives having comparative forms ending in -EM form their short superlative forms in -IM.

Nominative singular	Comparative degree	Superlative degree in -i (Nominative sg.)
<i>must</i> 'black'	<i>mustem</i>	<i>mustim</i>
<i>vana</i> 'old'	<i>vanem</i>	<i>vanim</i>
<i>halb</i> 'bad'	<i>halvem</i>	<i>halvim</i>
<i>paks</i> 'fat'	<i>paksem</i>	<i>paksim</i>

Examples of the formation of the degrees of comparison		
Positive degree	Comparative degree	Superlative degree
<i>meeldiv</i> 'pleasant'	<i>meeldivam</i>	<i>kõige meeldivam ~ meeldivaim</i>
<i>lahke</i> 'friendly'	<i>lahkem</i>	<i>kõige lahkem ~ lahkeim</i>
<i>noor</i> 'young'	<i>noorem</i>	<i>kõige noorem ~ noorim</i>
<i>must</i> 'black, dirty'	<i>mustem</i>	<i>kõige mustem ~ mustim</i>
<i>vana</i> 'old'	<i>vanem</i>	<i>kõige vanem ~ vanim</i>
<i>kaunis</i> 'pretty'	<i>kaunim</i>	<i>kõige kaunim ~ kauneim</i>
<i>tähtis</i> 'important'	<i>tähtsam</i>	<i>kõige tähtsam ~ tähtsaim</i>
<i>maitsev</i> 'tasty'	<i>maitsvam</i>	<i>kõige maitsvam ~ maitsvaim</i>
<i>lõbus</i> 'cheerful'	<i>lõbusam</i>	<i>kõige lõbusam ~ lõbusaim</i>
<i>viisakas</i> 'polite'	<i>viisakam</i>	<i>kõige viisakam ~ viisakaim</i>

See ülesanne on palju keerulisem kui eelmine.	'This exercise is much more complex than the previous one.'
See on kõige keerulisem ülesanne.	'This is the most complex exercise.'
Vend on vanem kui õde.	'Brother is older than sister.'
See on linna vanim kool.	'It's the oldest school in the city.'

Numerals

Estonian has cardinal and ordinal numerals.

Cardinal numerals

1–10

21›

1 üks	21 kakskümmend üks
2 kaks	22 kakskümmend kaks
3 kolm	23 kakskümmend kolm
4 neli	24 kakskümmend neli
5 viis	25 kakskümmend viis
6 kuus	26 kakskümmend kuus
7 seitse	27 kakskümmend seitse
8 kaheksa	28 kakskümmend kaheksa
9 üheksa	29 kakskümmend üheksa
10 kümme	30 kolmkümmend
	31 kolmkümmend üks

11–20

10–20→

11 üksteist	10 kümme
12 kaksteist	20 kakskümmend
13 kolmteist	30 kolmkümmend
14 neliteist	40 nelikümmend
15 viisteist	50 viiskümmend
16 kuusteist	60 kuuskümmend
17 seitseteist	70 seitsekümmend
18 kaheksateist	80 kaheksakümmend
19 üheksateist	90 üheksakümmend
20 kakskümmend	100 sada

100→

101 sada üks	901 üheksasada üks
102 sada kaks	902 üheksasada kaks
103 sada kolm...	903 üheksasada kolm...
110 sada kümme	910 üheksasada kümme
111 sada üksteist	911 üheksasada üksteist
112 sada kaksteist...	912 üheksasada kaksteist...
120 sada kakskümmend	920 üheksasada kakskümmend
121 sada kakskümmend üks	930 üheksasada kolmkümmend
122 sada kakskümmend kaks...	931 üheksasada kolmkümmend üks
	932 üheksasada kolmkümmend kaks...

130 sada kolmkümmend	1000 (üks) tuhat
140 sada nelikümmend	2000 kaks tuhat
150 sada viiskümmend...	3000 kolm tuhat
...	4000 neli tuhat
	5000 viis tuhat
100 sada	6000 kuus tuhat
200 kakssada	7000 seitse tuhat
300 kolmsada	8000 kaheksa tuhat
400 nelisada	9000 üheksa tuhat
500 viissada	...
600 kuussada	1001 tuhat üks
700 seitsesada	1002 tuhat kaks
800 kaheksasada	1003 tuhat kolm...
900 üheksasada	...
1011 tuhat üksteist	
1012 tuhat kaksteist	
1013 tuhat kolmteist...	

1021 tuhat kakskümmend üks
1022 tuhat kakskümmend kaks
1023 tuhat kakskümmend kolm...

1100 tuhat ükssada
1200 tuhat kakssada
1210 tuhat kakssada kümme

1220 tuhat kakssada kakskümmend
1221 tuhat kakssada kakskümmend üks
1222 tuhat kakssada kakskümmend kaks...
10 000 kümme tuhat
100 000 sada tuhat
1 000 000 miljon
2 000 000 kaks miljonit
1 000 000 000 miljard
2 000 000 000 kaks miljardit

5 724 355 viis miljonit seitsesada kakskümmend neli tuhat kolmsada viiskümmend viis

Ordinal numerals

The nominative singular forms of the ordinal numerals are formed from the genitive singular forms of the cardinal numerals by adding the marker -s. The genitive singular form of the ordinal numbers as the marker -NDA replace the -s of the nominative: *viis* 'five', genitive singular *viie* + -s → *viies* 'fifth'.

Exceptions: *null* 'zero', *üks* 'one', *kaks* 'two', *kolm* 'three', *miljon* 'million', *miljard* 'billion'.

1. esimene	20. kahekümnes
2. teine	30. kolmekümnes
3. kolmas	31. kolmekümne esimene
4. neljas	40. neljakümnes
5. viies	50. viiekümnes
6. kuues	60. kuuekümnes
7. seitsmes	70. seitsmekümnes
8. kaheksas	80. kaheksakümnes
9. üheksas	90. üheksakümnes
10. kümnes	100. sajas
11. üheteistkümnes	110. saja kümnes
12. kaheteistkümnes	112. saja kaheteistkümnes
13. kolmeteistkümnes	199. saja üheksakümne üheksas
14. neljateistkümnes	200. kahesajas
15. viieteistkümnes	201. kahesaja esimene

16. <i>kuueteistkümnes</i>	1 000. <i>tuhandes</i>
17. <i>seitsmeteistkümnes</i>	1 000 000. <i>miljones</i>
18. <i>kaheksateistkümnes</i>	
19. <i>üheksateistkümnes</i>	

The declension of numerals

Numerals are declined according to essentially the same rules as nouns. The most important exceptions are *üks* and *kaks*.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	<i>üks</i>	<i>ühed</i>	<i>kaks</i>	<i>kahed</i>
Genitive	<i>ühe</i>	<i>ühtede</i>	<i>kahe</i>	<i>kahtede</i>
Partitive	<i>üht ~ ühte</i>	<i>ühtesid</i>	<i>kaht ~ kahte</i>	<i>kahtesid</i>
Illative	<i>ühesse ~ ühte</i>	<i>ühtedesse</i>	<i>kahesse ~ kahte</i>	<i>kahtedesse</i>

All components of compound cardinal numbers are declined individually in the nominative, genitive, and partitive cases. Starting with the illative case only the final component is declined, with the other components appearing in the genitive singular.

	'5897'
Nominative	<i>viis tuhat kaheksasada üheksakümmend seitse</i>
Genitive	<i>viie tuhande kaheksasaja üheksakümne seitsme</i>
Partitive	<i>viit tuhandet kaheksatsada üheksatkümmend (üheksatkümmet) seitset</i>
Illative	<i>viie tuhande kaheksasaja üheksakümne seitsmesse</i>
Inessive	<i>viie tuhande kaheksasaja üheksakümne seitsmes</i>

etc.

For complex ordinal numbers only the final component is declined, with the other components appearing in the genitive singular.

	'675th'
Nominative	<i>kuuesaja seitsmekümne viies</i>
Genitive	<i>kuuesaja seitsmekümne viienda</i>
Partitive	<i>kuuesaja seitsmekümne viendat</i>
Illative	<i>kuuesaja seitsmekümne viendasse</i>
Inessive	<i>kuuesaja seitsmekümne viendas</i>

etc.

Examples:

<i>Raamatus oli tuhat üheksasada seitsekümmend üks lehekülge.</i>	'The book contained 1971 pages.'
<i>Raivo on sündinud tuhande üheksasaja seitsmekümne esimesel aastal.</i>	'Raivo was born in 1971.'
<i>Eksam toimub kolmesaja kolmekümne esimeses auditoriumis.</i>	'The examination is given in the 331st lecture hall.'

Pronouns

Personal pronouns

	'I'	'you SING.'	'he, she'
Nominative	<i>mina ~ ma</i>	<i>sina ~ sa</i>	<i>tema ~ ta</i>
Genitive	<i>minu ~ mu</i>	<i>sinu ~ su</i>	<i>tema ~ ta</i>
Partitive	<i>mind</i>	<i>sind</i>	<i>teda</i>
Illative	<i>minusse</i>	<i>sinusse</i>	<i>temasse</i>
Inessive	<i>minus</i>	<i>sinus</i>	<i>temas</i>
Elative	<i>minust</i>	<i>sinust</i>	<i>temast</i>
Allative	<i>minule ~ mulle</i>	<i>sinule ~ sulle</i>	<i>temale ~ talle</i>
Adessive	<i>minul ~ mul</i>	<i>sinul ~ sul</i>	<i>temal ~ tal</i>
Ablative	<i>minult ~ mult</i>	<i>sinult ~ sult</i>	<i>temalt ~ talt</i>
Translative	<i>minuks</i>	<i>sinuks</i>	<i>temaks</i>
Terminative	<i>minuni</i>	<i>sinuni</i>	<i>temani</i>
Essive	<i>minuna</i>	<i>sinuna</i>	<i>temana</i>
Abessive	<i>minuta</i>	<i>sinuta</i>	<i>temata</i>
Comitative	<i>minuga</i>	<i>sinuga</i>	<i>temaga</i>

	'we'	'you PL.'	'they'
Nominative	<i>meie ~ me</i>	<i>teie ~ te</i>	<i>nemad ~ nad</i>
Genitive	<i>meie ~ me</i>	<i>teie ~ te</i>	<i>nende</i>
Partitive	<i>meid</i>	<i>teid</i>	<i>neid</i>
Illative	<i>meisse</i>	<i>teisse</i>	<i>nendesse ~ neisse</i>
Inessive	<i>meis</i>	<i>teis</i>	<i>nendes ~ neis</i>
Elative	<i>meist</i>	<i>teist</i>	<i>nendest ~ neist</i>
Allative	<i>meile</i>	<i>teile</i>	<i>nendele ~ neile</i>
Adessive	<i>meil</i>	<i>teil</i>	<i>nendel ~ neil</i>
Ablative	<i>meilt</i>	<i>teilt</i>	<i>nendelt ~ neilt</i>
Translative	<i>meieks</i>	<i>teieks</i>	<i>nendeks</i>
Terminative	<i>meieni</i>	<i>teieni</i>	<i>nendeni</i>
Essive	<i>meiena</i>	<i>teiena</i>	<i>nendena</i>
Abessive	<i>meieta</i>	<i>teieta</i>	<i>nendeta</i>
Comitative	<i>meiega</i>	<i>teiega</i>	<i>nendega</i>

The short forms of the personal pronouns are the ones normally used, the long forms being used when the pronoun is stressed..

Examples:

<i>Vabandage, kas teie olete Lauri?</i>	'Excuse me, are You Lauri?'
<i>Vabandage, kas te olete vaba?</i>	'Excuse me, are You free?'
<i>Sa oled ju Hanno?</i>	'You must be Hanno?'
<i>Ja sina Peeter?</i>	'And You (must be) Peeter?'

Reflexive pronouns

'-self'	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	<i>ise</i>	<i>ise</i>
Genitive	<i>enda ~ enese</i>	<i>endi ~ eneste</i>
Partitive	<i>end ~ ennast</i>	<i>endid</i>
Illative	<i>endasse ~ enesesse</i>	<i>endisse ~ enestesse</i>

Examples:

<i>Ta tahab ennast pesta.</i>	'She wants to wash herself .'
<i>Peeter lindistab ise.</i>	'Peeter records (himself).'
<i>Need asjad on tema enda tehtud.</i>	'These things have been made by him himself .'
<i>Seda pead sa ise otsustama.</i>	'This You'll have to decide yourself .'

Demonstrative pronouns

'this, these'	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	<i>see</i>	<i>need</i>
Genitive	<i>selle</i>	<i>nende</i>
Partitive	<i>seda</i>	<i>neid</i>
Illative	<i>sellesse ~ sesse</i>	<i>nendessee ~ neisse</i>
Inessive	<i>selles ~ ses</i>	<i>nendes ~ neis</i>

Examples:

<i>See on minu kodutalu.</i>	' This is my home farmstead.'
<i>Selles metsas on mitmeid puuliike.</i>	' In this forest there are several species of trees.'
<i>Mis need on?</i>	'What are these ?'

Reciprocal pronouns

teineteise 'each other (speaking about two people)'

üksteise 'one another (speaking about two or more people)'

'each ~ one another'	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	--	--
Genitive	<i>teineteise</i>	<i>üksteise</i>
Partitive	<i>teineteist</i>	<i>üksteist</i>
Illative	<i>teineteisesse</i> ^ <i>teineteise</i>	<i>üksteisesse</i> ^ <i>üksteise</i>
Inessive	<i>teineteises</i>	<i>üksteises</i>

etc.

Examples:

<i>Tiit ja Tõnu tunnevad teineteist juba ammu.</i>	'Tiit and Tõnu have already known each other for a long time.'
<i>Tiit, Tõnu ja Toomas tunnevad üksteist juba kooliajast.</i>	'Tiit, Tõnu, and Toomas have known each other since their schooldays.'

ADVERBS

Adverbs of place

In answer to the questions: *kuhu?* 'where (to)?', *kus?* 'where (at)?', *kust?* 'where (from)?'

	'...here'	'...outside'	'...behind'	'...inside'
Illative (‘to...’)	<i>siia</i>	<i>välja</i>	<i>taha</i>	<i>sisse</i>
Inessive (‘at...’)	<i>siin</i>	<i>väljas</i>	<i>taga</i>	<i>sees</i>
Elicative (‘from...’)	<i>siit</i>	<i>väljast</i>	<i>tagant</i>	<i>seest</i>

Examples:

<i>Vaatame, mis siin on.</i>	'Let's look and see what's here .'
<i>Kas astume sisse?</i>	'Should we walk in ?'
<i>Kuhu te soovite sõita?</i>	' Where do You want to go to ?'
<i>Kus on siin lähim toidupood?</i>	' Where (at) is the nearest food store (around) here?'
<i>Kust ma võiksin takso saada?</i>	' Where can I get a taxi from ?'

Adverbs of time

In answer to the questions: *millal?* 'when?', *kui tihti?* 'how often?', *kui kaua?* 'how long?'

täna 'today', *nüüd* 'now', *eile* 'yesterday', *homme* 'tomorrow', *üleeile* 'the day before yesterday', *ülehomme* 'the day after tomorrow', *alati* 'always', *varsti* 'soon', *siis* 'then', *hilja* 'late'.

Examples:

<i>Mis päev täna on?</i>	'What day is today ?'
<i>Eile oli esmaspäev.</i>	' Yesterday was Monday.'
<i>Palun nüüd kõik lauda.</i>	'Everyone please go to the table now .'

Adverbs of manner

In answer to the questions: *kuidas* 'how?'; *mil moel?* 'in what manner?'
Adverbs of manner are formed from adjectives:

genitive singular of adjective + -LT, -STI

ADJECTIVE		ADVERB
Nominative	Genitive sg.	
<i>õnnelik</i> 'happy'	<i>õnneliku</i>	<i>õnnelikult</i>
<i>tegelik</i> 'real, genuine'	<i>tegeliku</i>	<i>tegelikult</i>
<i>kindel</i> 'certain'	<i>kindla</i>	<i>kindlasti</i>
<i>tähelepanelik</i> 'attentive'	<i>tähelepaneliku</i>	<i>tähelepanelikult</i>

Examples:

<i>Oled kindlasti väsinud.</i>	'You are certainly tired.'
<i>Ta jõudis õnnelikult kohale.</i>	'He arrived happily .'
<i>See vaas sobib hästi kingituseks.</i>	'This vase suits well for a gift.'

Adverbs of manner have degrees of comparison:
halvasti 'badly', *halvemini* 'worse', *kõige halvemini* 'worst'
hästi 'well', *paremini* 'better', *kõige paremini* 'best'

Examples:

<i>See vaas sobiks paremini kingituseks.</i>	'This vase suits better as a gift.'
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Adverbs of quantity and degree indicate quantity, degree and amount: *palju* 'much, a lot', *rohkem* 'more', *pisut* 'a little', *vähe* 'little', *üsna* 'rather'

Examples:

<i>Me vaatasime enne pisut ringi.</i>	'We looked around a little .'
<i>Kõige rohkem lauldakse eesti heliloojate laule.</i>	' Most of all songs by Estonian composers are sung.'
<i>Restoranis veedetakse üsna lõbusaid õhtuid.</i>	' Rather merry evenings are spent in the restaurant.'

NOUN RELATORS (POSTPOSITIONS AND PREPOSITIONS)

Relators indicate a spatial, temporal, or logical relationship between a specific noun or noun phrase and the other components of the sentence, as do the case endings. Most Estonian relators come after the noun or noun phrase to which they refer.

A. Spatial relationships:

Examples:

<i>Maja ümbes oli ilus aed.</i>	' Around the house there was a beautiful garden.'
<i>Taksopeatus on sadama ees.</i>	'The taxi stand is in front of the harbor.'

B. Temporal relationships:

Examples:

<i>Ega me enne õhtut tagasi ei jõua.</i>	'We won't be able to return before evening.'
<i>Pärast lõunat lähme jalutama.</i>	' After lunch we're going for a walk.'

C. Logical relationships (purposes, consequences, and goals):

Examples:

<i>Ärge meie pärast muretsege!</i>	'Don't worry about us!'
<i>Üliõpilane puudub haiguse tõttu.</i>	'The student is absent due to illness.'

SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Word order

Estonian word order is relatively free. Generally speaking, the component of the sentence, which contains the most new information from the standpoint of

the context in which the sentence will appear, occurs at the end of the sentence.

Examples:

<i>Mida sa teed? Ma istun.</i>	'What are you doing? I'm sitting.'
<i>Kuhu sa lähed? Lähen kooli.</i>	'Where are you going? I'm going to school.'
<i>Mis põleb tornis? Tornis põleb tuli.</i>	'What is burning in the tower? A fire is burning in the tower.'
<i>Kes olevat Tallinnasse saabunud? Tallinnasse olevat saabunud Michael Jackson.</i>	'Who do people say has arrived in Tallinn? People say that Michael Jackson has arrived in Tallinn.'

A. SENTENCE → (SUBJECT) + PREDICATE VERB + (DIRECT OBJECT)/ (ADVERBIAL COMPLEMENT(S))

(SUBJECT)	PREDICATE VERB	(DIRECT OBJECT)/ (ADVERBIAL COMPLEMENT(S))	
	<i>Istun.</i> I'm-sitting.		
<i>Brigitta</i> Brigitta	<i>mängib</i> is-playing	<i>klaverit.</i> piano	
<i>Ma</i> I	<i>lähen</i> am-going		<i>kooli.</i> to-school.
<i>Malle</i> Malle	<i>küpsetas</i> was-baking	<i>neid</i> them	<i>terve päeva.</i> all day
<i>Nad</i> They	<i>esinevad</i> appear		<i>siin</i> here <i>sageli.</i> often

This is the pattern used when the predicate verb, direct object, or adverbial complement contains the most new information.

B. SENTENCE → ADVERBIAL COMPLEMENT + PREDICATE VERB + SUBJECT

ADVERBIAL COMPLEMENT	PREDICATE VERB	SUBJECT
<i>Tornis</i> in-the-tower	<i>põleb</i> burns	<i>tuli.</i> a-fire
<i>Siin</i> here	<i>on</i> is	<i>käterätik ja seep.</i> a-towel and soap
<i>Tallinnasse</i> into-Tallinn	<i>olevat saabunud</i> people-say-has arrived- PAST	<i>Michael Jackson.</i> Michael Jackson
<i>Peetrile</i> to-Peeter	<i>meeldib</i> is-pleasant	<i>vanalinn.</i> the-old-town

This is the pattern which is used when the subject of the sentence contains more new information than the other components of the sentence.

The word order of an Estonian sentence is also influenced by such factors as phrasal accent and context. A word which is specially emphasized may be placed at the beginning of a sentence.

Examples:

<i>Ühe kampsuni ostan ma kindlasti. (Ma ostan ühe kampsuni.)</i>	'What I'm certainly buying is a pullover.' ('I'm buying a pullover.')
<i>Siin, ema, on sinu tee. (Ema, sinu tee on siin.)</i>	'Here, mother, is Your tea.' ('Mother, here's Your tea.')

As a general rule, the predicate verb of an Estonian sentence will occupy the second position, following either the subject or an adverbial complement. A predicate verb can be emphasized by placing it in sentence final position.

Examples:

<i>Kask, kuusk, mänd, isegi jalakas on.</i>	'There are birch, fir, pine – even elm.'
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Questions

In Estonian questions can be formed in different ways.

A. General questions ask the person to whom they are addressed to respond affirmatively or negatively to a specific statement. In Estonian general questions are formed by placing the word *KAS* at the beginning of the statement concerned.

Examples:

<i>Kas te tunnete Gustav Ernesaksa?</i>	'Do You know Gustav Ernesaks?'
<i>Kas täna on esmaspäev?</i>	'Is today Monday?'

Note that questions of this type are usually answered by saying *Jaa* 'Yes' or *Ei* 'No'. Other possibilities also exist.

Examples:

<i>Kas Pille on kodus?</i>	'Is Pille at home?'
<i>Jaa. (Jaa, on. On küll)</i>	'Yes. (Yes, she is. She is, certainly.)'
<i>Ei. (Ei ole. Pole.)</i>	'No. (No, she isn't.)'

B. Alternative questions provide the person to whom they are addressed with alternative answers. In Estonian these are formed by placing the word *KAS* at the beginning of the statement concerned and separating the alternatives using the conjunction *VÕI*.

Examples:

Kas täna on esmaspäev või teisipäev?	'Is today Monday or Tuesday?'
Kas sa soovid teed või kohvi?	'Do You want tea or coffee?'

C. Specific questions ask the person to whom they are addressed to respond by giving specific information about a situation. This information typically gives semantic content to a subject, direct object, or adverbial complement. Such questions begin with a question word indicating the component of the sentence which lacks semantic content: *kus?* 'where (at)?', *kuhu?* 'where (to)?', *kust?* 'where (from)?', *mis?* 'what?' *kes?* 'who' etc.

Examples:

Mis raamat see on?	'What book is this?'
Kuhu me läheme?	'Where are we going (to)?'
Mida sa kavatsed teha?	'What are You preparing to do?'
Kes helistab?	'Who is calling?'
Kellele sa helistad?	'Who are You calling?'

D. Estonian also allows questions to be formed by placing the predicate verb before the subject and using a rising intonation.

Examples:

<i>On see õun magus?</i>	'Is the apple sweet?'
<i>Sellel tornil seal lava kõrval on vist ka mingi tähendus?</i>	'That tower there next to the stage must also have some purpose?'

SOME IMPORTANT DERIVATIONAL SUFFIXES

Suffixes used to derive nouns:

-LANE	a person of a specific nationality or from a specific place
-LANNA	
	<i>Eesti</i> 'Estonia: <i>eestlane</i> 'Estonian', <i>eestlanna</i> 'Estonian woman'. <i>Pariis</i> 'Paris': <i>pariislane</i> 'Parisian', <i>pariislanna</i> 'Parisian woman'.

-JA	
-JANNA	a person performing a specific activity, a profession
-JATAR	
	<i>laulma</i> 'to sing': <i>laulja</i> 'singer' <i>lauljanna</i> 'female singer' <i>lauljatar</i> 'female singer' <i>lugema</i> 'to read': <i>lugeja</i> 'reader' <i>müüma</i> 'to sell': <i>müüja</i> 'seller, salesperson' <i>müüjanna</i> 'saleswoman' <i>müüjatar</i> 'saleswoman'

-NIK in life	a person of a specific profession or representing a specific situation	
	<i>aed</i> 'garden':	<i>aednik</i> 'gardener'
	<i>kunst</i> 'art':	<i>kunstnik</i> 'artist'
	<i>ratsa</i> 'astride':	<i>ratsanik</i> 'rider, horseman'
	<i>põgenema</i> 'to flee':	<i>põgenik</i> 'fugitive'
	<i>kirjutama</i> 'to write':	<i>kirjanik</i> 'writer, author'
-UR	a person performing a specific activity, a profession	
	<i>rändama</i> 'to travel':	<i>rändur</i> 'traveler'
	<i>kangas</i> 'cloth':	<i>kangur</i> 'weaver'
-LINE	a person engaged in a specific activity and other meanings	
	<i>abi</i> 'help':	<i>abiline</i> 'helper'
	<i>seen</i> 'mushroom':	<i>seeneline</i> 'mushroom picker'
	<i>töö</i> 'work':	<i>tööline</i> 'worker'
	<i>pulmad</i> 'wedding':	<i>pulmaline</i> 'participant at a wedding ceremony'
-US	designation of an action, a process, a symptom, a situation, a result	
	<i>saavutama</i> 'to achieve':	<i>saavutus</i> 'achievement'
	<i>kahtlema</i> 'to doubt':	<i>kahtlus</i> 'doubt'
	<i>küsima</i> 'to ask':	<i>küsimus</i> 'question'
	<i>julge</i> 'bold':	<i>julgus</i> 'boldness'
	<i>haige</i> 'sick':	<i>haigus</i> 'sickness'
-MINE	designation of an action or process	
	<i>üürima</i> 'to investigate':	<i>üürimine</i> 'research'
	<i>liikuma</i> 'to move':	<i>liikumine</i> 'movement'
	<i>käima</i> 'to go, to walk':	<i>käimine</i> 'walking'

Adjectival suffixes:

Note that, unlike English, Estonian makes a strict distinction between adjectives (words answering the question *missugune?* 'what kind of?') and adverbs (words answering questions such as *kuidas?* 'how?', *millal?* 'when?', etc.).

Examples:

<i>Ma loen tänast lehte.</i>	'I'm reading today's (literally 'the todayish') paper.'
<i>Ma lugesin seda täna.</i>	I was reading it today .'

-NE

eile – *eilne* ‘yesterday – yesterday’s’
täna – *tänane* ‘today – today’s’
homme – *homne* ‘tomorrow – tomorrow’s’
hilja – *hiline* ‘late – late’
siin – *siinne* ‘here – local’
päev – *päevane* ‘day – (concerning) day’
hommik – *hommikune* ‘morning – (concerning) morning’
lumi – *lumine* ‘snow – (concerning, made of) snow’
talv – *talvine* ‘winter – (concerning) winter’

-LINE

jõud – *jõuline* ‘strength – strong’
torm – *tormiline* ‘storm – stormy’
ajalugu – *ajalooline* ‘history – historical’
meditsiin – *meditsiiniline* ‘medicine – medical’
matemaatika – *matemaatiline* ‘mathematics – mathematical’

-LIK

riik – *riiklik* ‘state – (concerning the) state’
majandus – *majanduslik* ‘economics – economic’
sõber – *sõbralik* ‘friend – friendly, amicable’
õnn – *õnnelik* ‘happiness – happy’
kiri – *kirjalik* ‘letter – written, in writing’
vale – *valelik* ‘lie – false’

-KAS

tuju – *tujukas* ‘caprice – capricious’
nali – *naljakas* ‘joke – funny’

-LDANE diminutive suffixes

-KAS

punane – *punakas* ‘red – reddish’
hapu – *hapukas* ‘sour – acidic’
lühikene – *lüheldane* ‘short – shortish’
vana – *vanaldane* ‘old – elderly’

-KE diminutive, affectionate suffix

vaene – *vaeseke* ‘poor – poor little’
väike – *väikseke* ‘little – poor little’
rumal – *rumalake* ‘stupid – stupid little’

-TU caritive suffix

süü – *süütu* ‘guilt – guiltless’
kahju – *kahjutu* ‘harm – harmless’
valu – *valutu* ‘pain – painless’

FREQUENT VERBS WITH IRREGULAR CONJUGATIONS

nägema 'to see', *näha, näen*
tegema 'to do, to make', *teha, teen*

INDICATIVE MOOD

Present tense:

mina (ma)	<i>näen</i>	<i>ei näe</i>	<i>teen</i>	<i>ei tee</i>
sina (sa)	<i>näed</i>	<i>ei näe</i>	<i>teed</i>	<i>ei tee</i>
tema (ta)	<i>näeb</i>	<i>ei näe</i>	<i>teeb</i>	<i>ei tee</i>
meie (me)	<i>näeme</i>	<i>ei näe</i>	<i>teeme</i>	<i>ei tee</i>
teie (te)	<i>näete</i>	<i>ei näe</i>	<i>teete</i>	<i>ei tee</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>näevad</i>	<i>ei näe</i>	<i>teevad</i>	<i>ei tee</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>nähakse</i>	<i>ei nähta</i>	<i>tehakse</i>	<i>ei tehta</i>

Past tense:

mina (ma)	<i>nägin</i>	<i>ei näinud</i>	<i>tegin</i>	<i>ei teinud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>nägid</i>	<i>ei näinud</i>	<i>tegid</i>	<i>ei teinud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>nägi</i>	<i>ei näinud</i>	<i>tegi</i>	<i>ei teinud</i>
meie (me)	<i>nägime</i>	<i>ei näinud</i>	<i>tegime</i>	<i>ei teinud</i>
teie (te)	<i>nägite</i>	<i>ei näinud</i>	<i>tegite</i>	<i>ei teinud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>nägid</i>	<i>ei näinud</i>	<i>tegid</i>	<i>ei teinud</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>nähti</i>	<i>ei nähtud</i>	<i>tehti</i>	<i>ei tehtud</i>

The forms of *nägema* and *tegema* differ only with respect to their initial syllable. In the following only the forms of *nägema* will be given.

Present perfect tense:

mina (ma)	<i>olen näinud</i>	<i>ei ole näinud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>oled näinud</i>	<i>ei ole näinud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>on näinud</i>	<i>ei ole näinud</i>
meie (me)	<i>oleme näinud</i>	<i>ei ole näinud</i>
teie (te)	<i>olete näinud</i>	<i>ei ole näinud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>on näinud</i>	<i>ei ole näinud</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>on nähtud</i>	<i>ei ole nähtud</i>

Past perfect tense:

mina (ma)	<i>olin näinud</i>	<i>ei olnud näinud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>olid näinud</i>	<i>ei olnud näinud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>oli näinud</i>	<i>ei olnud näinud</i>
meie (me)	<i>olime näinud</i>	<i>ei olnud näinud</i>

teie (te)	<i>olite näinud</i>	<i>ei olnud näinud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>olid näinud</i>	<i>ei olnud näinud</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>oli nähtud</i>	<i>ei olnud nähtud</i>

CONDITIONAL MOOD

Present tense:

mina (ma)	<i>näeks(in)</i>	<i>ei näeks</i>
sina (sa)	<i>näeks(id)</i>	<i>ei näeks</i>
tema (ta)	<i>näeks</i>	<i>ei näeks</i>
meie (me)	<i>näeks(ime)</i>	<i>ei näeks</i>
teie (te)	<i>näeks(ite)</i>	<i>ei näeks</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>näeks(id)</i>	<i>ei näeks</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>nähtaks</i>	<i>ei nähtaks</i>

IMPERATIVE MOOD

Present tense:

mina (ma)	–	–
sina (sa)	<i>näe</i>	<i>ära näe</i>
tema (ta)	<i>nähku</i>	<i>ärgu nähku</i>
meie (me)	<i>nähkem</i>	<i>ärgem nähkem</i>
teie (te)	<i>nähke</i>	<i>ärge nähke</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>nähku</i>	<i>ärgu nähku</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>nähtagu</i>	<i>ärgu nähtagu</i>

tooma 'to bring', *tuua, toon*
jooma 'to drink', *juua, joon*
sööma 'to eat', *süüa, süün*

INDICATIVE MOOD

Present tense:

Affirmative:

	tooma	jooma	sööma
mina (ma)	<i>toon</i>	<i>joon</i>	<i>süün</i>
sina (sa)	<i>tood</i>	<i>jood</i>	<i>sööd</i>
tema (ta)	<i>toob</i>	<i>joob</i>	<i>sööb</i>
meie (me)	<i>toome</i>	<i>joome</i>	<i>sööme</i>
teie (te)	<i>toote</i>	<i>joote</i>	<i>sööte</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>toovad</i>	<i>joovad</i>	<i>söövad</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>tuuakse</i>	<i>juuakse</i>	<i>süüakse</i>

Negative:

	tooma	jooma	sööma
mina (ma)	<i>ei too</i>	<i>ei joo</i>	<i>ei söö</i>
sina (sa)	<i>ei too</i>	<i>ei joo</i>	<i>ei söö</i>
tema (ta)	<i>ei too</i>	<i>ei joo</i>	<i>ei söö</i>
meie (me)	<i>ei too</i>	<i>ei joo</i>	<i>ei söö</i>
teie (te)	<i>ei too</i>	<i>ei joo</i>	<i>ei söö</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>ei too</i>	<i>ei joo</i>	<i>ei söö</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>ei tooda</i>	<i>ei jooda</i>	<i>ei sööda</i>

Past tense:**Affirmative:**

	tooma	jooma	sööma
mina (ma)	<i>tõin</i>	<i>jõin</i>	<i>sõin</i>
sina (sa)	<i>tõid</i>	<i>jõid</i>	<i>sõid</i>
tema (ta)	<i>tõi</i>	<i>jõi</i>	<i>sõi</i>
meie (me)	<i>tõime</i>	<i>jõime</i>	<i>sõime</i>
teie (te)	<i>tõite</i>	<i>jõite</i>	<i>sõite</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>tõid</i>	<i>jõid</i>	<i>sõid</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>toodi</i>	<i>joodi</i>	<i>söödi</i>

Negative:

	tooma	jooma	sööma
mina (ma)	<i>ei toonud</i>	<i>ei joonud</i>	<i>ei söönud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>ei toonud</i>	<i>ei joonud</i>	<i>ei söönud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>ei toonud</i>	<i>ei joonud</i>	<i>ei söönud</i>
meie (me)	<i>ei toonud</i>	<i>ei joonud</i>	<i>ei söönud</i>
teie (te)	<i>ei toonud</i>	<i>ei joonud</i>	<i>ei söönud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>ei toonud</i>	<i>ei joonud</i>	<i>ei söönud</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>ei toodud</i>	<i>ei joodud</i>	<i>ei söödud</i>

Present perfect tense

The verbs *tooma*, *jooma*, and *sööma* are conjugated identically, the only difference being in the first syllable. In the following only the forms of the verb *tooma* will be given.

	tooma	
	Affirmative:	Negative:
mina (ma)	<i>olen toonud</i>	<i>ei ole toonud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>oled toonud</i>	<i>ei ole toonud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>on toonud</i>	<i>ei ole toonud</i>
meie (me)	<i>oleme toonud</i>	<i>ei ole toonud</i>
teie (te)	<i>olete toonud</i>	<i>ei ole toonud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>on toonud</i>	<i>ei ole toonud</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>on toodud</i>	<i>ei ole toodud</i>

Past perfect tense:

	tooma	
	Affirmative:	Negative:
mina (ma)	<i>olin toonud</i>	<i>ei olnud toonud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>olid toonud</i>	<i>ei olnud toonud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>oli toonud</i>	<i>ei olnud toonud</i>
meie (me)	<i>olime toonud</i>	<i>ei olnud toonud</i>
teie (te)	<i>olite toonud</i>	<i>ei olnud toonud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>olid toonud</i>	<i>ei olnud toonud</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>oli toodud</i>	<i>ei olnud toodud</i>

CONDITIONAL MOOD

Present tense:

mina (ma)	<i>tooks(in)</i>	<i>ei tooks</i>
sina (sa)	<i>tooks(id)</i>	<i>ei tooks</i>
tema (ta)	<i>tooks</i>	<i>ei tooks</i>
meie (me)	<i>tooks(ime)</i>	<i>ei tooks</i>
teie (te)	<i>tooks(ite)</i>	<i>ei tooks</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>tooks(id)</i>	<i>ei tooks</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>toodaks</i>	<i>ei toodaks</i>

Present perfect tense:

mina (ma)	<i>oleks(in) toonud</i>	<i>ei oleks toonud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>oleks(id) toonud</i>	<i>ei oleks toonud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>oleks toonud</i>	<i>ei oleks toonud</i>
meie (me)	<i>oleks(ime) toonud</i>	<i>ei oleks toonud</i>
teie (te)	<i>oleks(ite) toonud</i>	<i>ei oleks toonud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>oleks(id) toonud</i>	<i>ei oleks toonud</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>oleks toodud</i>	<i>ei oleks toodud</i>

IMPERATIVE MOOD

Present tense:

mina (ma)	–	–
sina (sa)	<i>too</i>	<i>ära too</i>
tema (ta)	<i>toogu</i>	<i>ärgu toogu</i>
meie (me)	<i>toogem</i>	<i>ärgem toogem</i>
teie (te)	<i>tooge</i>	<i>ärge tooge</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>toogu</i>	<i>ärgu toogu</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>toodagu</i>	<i>ärgu toodagu</i>

minema 'to go', *minna, lähen*

INDICATIVE MOOD

Present tense:

mina (ma)	<i>lähen</i>	<i>ei lähe</i>
sina (sa)	<i>lähed</i>	<i>ei lähe</i>
tema (ta)	<i>läheb</i>	<i>ei lähe</i>
meie (me)	<i>läheme</i>	<i>ei lähe</i>
teie (te)	<i>lähete</i>	<i>ei lähe</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>lähevad</i>	<i>ei lähe</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>minnakse</i>	<i>ei minda</i>

Past tense:

mina (ma)	<i>läksin</i>	<i>ei läinud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>läksid</i>	<i>ei läinud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>läks</i>	<i>ei läinud</i>
meie (me)	<i>läksime</i>	<i>ei läinud</i>
teie (te)	<i>läksite</i>	<i>ei läinud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>läksid</i>	<i>ei läinud</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>mindi</i>	<i>ei mindud</i>

Present perfect tense:

mina (ma)	<i>olen läinud</i>	<i>ei ole läinud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>oled läinud</i>	<i>ei ole läinud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>on läinud</i>	<i>ei ole läinud</i>
meie (me)	<i>oleme läinud</i>	<i>ei ole läinud</i>
teie (te)	<i>olete läinud</i>	<i>ei ole läinud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>on läinud</i>	<i>ei ole läinud</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>on mindud</i>	<i>ei ole mindud</i>

Past perfect tense:

mina (ma)	<i>olin läinud</i>	<i>ei olnud läinud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>olid läinud</i>	<i>ei olnud läinud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>oli läinud</i>	<i>ei olnud läinud</i>
meie (me)	<i>olime läinud</i>	<i>ei olnud läinud</i>
teie (te)	<i>olite läinud</i>	<i>ei olnud läinud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>olid läinud</i>	<i>ei olnud läinud</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>oli mindud</i>	<i>ei olnud mindud</i>

CONDITIONAL MOOD

Present tense:

mina (ma)	<i>läheks(in)</i>	<i>ei läheks</i>
sina (sa)	<i>läheks(id)</i>	<i>ei läheks</i>
tema (ta)	<i>läheks</i>	<i>ei läheks</i>
meie (me)	<i>läheks(ime)</i>	<i>ei läheks</i>
teie (te)	<i>läheks(ite)</i>	<i>ei läheks</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>läheks(id)</i>	<i>ei läheks</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>mindaks</i>	<i>ei mindaks</i>

Present perfect tense:

mina (ma)	<i>oleks(in) läinud</i>	<i>ei oleks läinud</i>
sina (sa)	<i>oleks(id) läinud</i>	<i>ei oleks läinud</i>
tema (ta)	<i>oleks läinud</i>	<i>ei oleks läinud</i>
meie (me)	<i>oleks(ime) läinud</i>	<i>ei oleks läinud</i>
teie (te)	<i>oleks(ite) läinud</i>	<i>ei oleks läinud</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>oleks(id) läinud</i>	<i>ei oleks läinud</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>oleks mindud</i>	<i>ei oleks mindud</i>

IMPERATIVE MOOD

Present tense:

mina (ma)	–	–
sina (sa)	<i>mine</i>	<i>ära mine</i>
tema (ta)	<i>mingu</i>	<i>ärgu mingu</i>
meie (me)	<i>mingem</i>	<i>ärgem mingem</i>
teie (te)	<i>minge</i>	<i>ärge minge</i>
nemad (nad)	<i>mingu</i>	<i>ärgu mingu</i>
IMPERSONAL	<i>mindagu</i>	<i>ärgu mindagu</i>

FREQUENT NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES WITH IRREGULAR DECLENSIONS

meri 'sea', *tuli* 'wind'

	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>meri</i>	<i>mered</i>	<i>tuli</i>	<i>tuled</i>
Genitive	<i>mere</i>	<i>merede</i>	<i>tule</i>	<i>tulede</i>
Partitive	<i>merd</i>	<i>meresid</i>	<i>tuld</i>	<i>tulesid</i>
Illative	<i>meresse ~ merre</i>	<i>meredesse</i>	<i>tulesse ~ tulle</i>	<i>tuledesse</i>

etc.

hea 'good', **pea** 'head'

	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>hea</i>	<i>head</i>	<i>pea</i>	<i>pead</i>
Genitive	<i>hea</i>	<i>heade</i>	<i>pea</i>	<i>peade</i>
Partitive	<i>head</i>	<i>häid</i>	<i>pead</i>	<i>päid</i>
Illative	<i>heasse</i>	<i>headesse</i>	<i>peasse ~ pähe</i>	<i>peadesse</i>

etc.

juus 'hair', **süda** 'heart'

	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>juus</i>	<i>juuksed</i>	<i>süda</i>	<i>südamed</i>
Genitive	<i>juukse</i>	<i>juuste</i>	<i>südame</i>	<i>südamete</i>
Partitive	<i>juust</i>	<i>juukseid</i>	<i>südant</i>	<i>südameid</i>
Illative	<i>juuksesse</i>	<i>juustesse</i>	<i>südamesse</i>	<i>südamettesse</i>

etc.

uks 'door', **rohi** 'grass'

	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>uks</i>	<i>uksed</i>	<i>rohi</i>	<i>rohud</i>
Genitive	<i>ukse</i>	<i>uste</i>	<i>rohu</i>	<i>rohtude</i>
Partitive	<i>ust</i>	<i>uksi</i>	<i>rohtu</i>	<i>rohtusid ~ rohte</i>
Illative	<i>uksesse</i>	<i>ustesse</i>	<i>rohusse ~ rohtu</i>	<i>rohtudesse</i>

etc.

laps 'child', **mees** 'man'

	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>laps</i>	<i>lapsed</i>	<i>mees</i>	<i>mehed</i>
Genitive	<i>lapse</i>	<i>laste</i>	<i>mehe</i>	<i>meeste</i>
Partitive	<i>last</i>	<i>lapsi</i>	<i>meest</i>	<i>mehi</i>
Illative	<i>lapsesse</i>	<i>lastesse</i>	<i>mehesse</i>	<i>meestesse</i>

etc