

Lesson 9

The past tense

Case marking in the present tense

For nouns:

The subject takes no marking

The (definite) direct object takes the

-á (sg.) -án (pl.) case

Bachak jeneká gendit. 'The boy sees the girl'

Bachak jenekána gendit. 'The boy sees the girls.'

For pronouns, the same thing happens:

Man tará gendán. 'I see you.'

Á mára gendit. 'He sees us.'

Transitive and intransitive verbs

There are two types of verbs:

Transitive verbs and Intransitive verbs

Transitive verbs **CAN** take a direct object:

I see **you**. The boy reads a **book**. We bought a **car**. They had **dinner**.

Intransitive verbs **CANNOT** take a direct object:

We go to school. My friend jumped up from the chair. Our car broke down.

The past tense

The past tense uses another stem than the present tense, the past stem. For all verbs, you get the present stem by removing *-(y)ag* from the infinitive, but you have to learn past stems separately for each verb, since they are normally not regularly formed.

Some verbs with present and past stems

kanag 'to do' (present stem: kan, past stem: kort) TRANS

rawag 'to go' (present stem: raw, past stem: shot) INTRANS

barag 'to take, to carry' (present stem: bar, past stem: bort) TRANS

bayag 'to become' (present stem: b (OBS!), past stem: but) INTRANS

áyag 'to come' (present stem: á, past stem: átk) INTRANS

árag 'to bring' (present stem: ár, past stem: áwort) TRANS

wánag 'to read' (present stem: wán, past stem: wánt) TRANS

warag 'to eat' (present stem: war, past stem: wárt) TRANS

nendag 'to sit' (present stem: nend, past stem: nesht) INTRANS

lóthag 'to want' (present stem: lóth, past stem: lóthet) TRANS

Case marking in the past tense

For INTRANSITIVE verbs there is no difference between the present and past system in the case marking of the subject (there is no direct object). The personal endings are identical to those used in the present tense, except in the 3rd person singular where the past tense has no ending. The personal endings are added to the past stem.

A typical intransitive verb is *rawag* 'to go', past stem: *shot*.

Past tense of *rawag* (past stem: shot) 'to go'

(man) shotán 'I went'

(taw) shotay 'you.SG went'

(á) shot 'he went'

(má) shotén 'we went'

(shomá) shotét 'you.PL went'

(á) shotant 'they went'

Past tense of *rawag* (past stem: shot)
'to go' (negative form)

(man) nashotán 'I didn't go'

(taw) nashotay 'you.SG didn't go'

(á) nashot 'he didn't go'

(má) nashotén 'we didn't go'

(shomá) nashotét 'you.PL didn't go'

(á) nashotant 'they didn't go'

Some example sentences

Kojá shotay? 'where did you go'

Lógá shotán. 'I went home'

Mani brát bázará shot. 'My brother went to the market.'

May Baloch sangat molká shotant. 'Our Baloch friends went to "the land" = Balochistan.'

Case marking in the past tense

For TRANSITIVE verbs the case marking from the present system turns around totally. Now the direct object gets no marking and the subject gets the -á/-án marking :

Present tense:

Bachak jeneká gendit. 'The boy sees the girl.'

Past tense:

Backaká jenek dist. 'The boy saw the girl.'

Singular and plural

In the present system the verb shows singular and plural for the SUBJECT:

Bachak jeneká gendit. 'The boy sees the girl.'

Bachak jenekána gendit. 'The boy sees the girls.'

Bachak jeneká gendant. 'The boys see the girl.'

Bachak jenekána gendant. 'The boys see the girls.'

Singular and plural

In the past system the verb shows singular and plural for the DIRECT OBJECT:

Bachaká jenek dist. 'The boy saw the girl.'

Bachaká jenek distant. 'The boy saw the girls.'

Bachakán jenek dist. 'The boys saw the girl.'

Bachakán jenek distant. 'The boys saw the girls.'

The direct object, if it is a pronoun

If the direct object is a 1st or 2nd person pronoun the OBJECT form is used for the direct object. Here the verb is in the 3rd person singular.

Bachaká maná dist. 'The boy saw me.'

Bachaká tará dist. 'The boy saw you.SG.'

Bachaká mára dist. 'The boy saw us.'

Bachaká shomára dist. 'The boy saw you.PL.'

Taw maná dist? 'Did you.SG see me?'

The direct object, if it is a pronoun

If the direct object is a 3rd person pronoun the NOMINATIVE form is used for the direct object. Singular and plural is shown on the verb.

Bachaká á dist. 'The boy saw him/her.'

Bachaká á distant. 'The boy saw them.'

Past tense of gendag (past stem: dist) 'to see'

man dist(ant) 'I saw'

taw dist(ant) 'you.SG saw'

áiá dist(ant) 'he/she/it saw'

má dist(ant) 'we saw'

shomá dist(ant) 'you saw'

áyán dist(ant) 'they saw'

The subject form of the pronoun is the form used after prepositions (see lesson 3) which in the case of the 1st and 2nd person is the same form as the subject form in the present tense, but in the case of the 3rd person is the same as the object in the present tense.

Here it is not possible to remove the pronouns, since it would then be unclear who is the subject (but see lesson 11 for enclitic pronouns).

Past tense of gendag (past stem: dist) 'to see' (negative)

man nadist(ant) 'I didn't see'

taw nadist(ant) 'you.SG didn't see'

áiá nadist(ant) 'he/she/it didn't see'

má nadist(ant) 'we didn't see'

shomá nadist(ant) 'you didn't see'

áyán nadist(ant) 'they didn't see'

Here it is not possible to remove the pronouns, since it would then be unclear who is the subject (but see lesson 11 for enclitic pronouns).

Some examples

Chokká mára dist. 'The child saw us.'

Taw kay dist? 'Whom did you see?'

Man wati sangat distant. 'I saw my friends.'

Má wati mát nadist. 'We didn't see our mother.'

May brátán mára nadist. 'Our brothers didn't see us.'

Past tense of warag (past stem: wárt) 'to eat'

man wárt(ant) 'I ate'

taw wárt(ant) 'you.SG ate'

áiá wárt(ant) 'he/she/it ate'

má wárt(ant) 'we ate'

shomá wárt(ant) 'you ate'

áyán wárt(ant) 'they ate'

Some more examples

Man tai brát dist. 'I saw your brother.'

Man tai brát distant. 'I saw your brothers.'

Taw ché wárt? 'What did you eat?'

Man batth o máhig wárt. 'I ate rice and fish.'

Má morg wárt. 'We ate chicken.'

Shomá gósht wárt. 'You ate meat.'

Áyán ná wárt. 'They ate dates.'

(Here the verb is not in the plural because the dates are seen as a collective noun. It is not the fact that there are many dates that is in focus.)