

Introduction

This is the third major publication release of the **Complete Zdetl Dictionary**. In this volume you will find the complete collection of 3000+ words developed since the Zdetl project began, along with a basic grammar lesson and some useful (and entertaining) everyday phrases which can be used in your Traveller™ games or just for casual conversation.

Zdetl is the official language used throughout the Zhodani Consulate in the age of the Third Imperium. While its precise origins are unknown, it is commonly accepted that it developed in the wake of the Final War when the surviving humans on Zhdant found themselves bereft of their Ancient masters for the first time. Over the millennia, Zdetl evolved gradually into its modern form, which was universally adopted as the official language in the 300th *Teqozdij*, the Imperial year -6055.

A distinguishing feature of modern Zdetl is its emphasis on standardization in morphology, grammar, syntax, and structure. Zhodani culture is fundamentally assimilative in nature; in other words, the Consulate is not interested in conquest by force but by acculturation. To this end, the Consular language has been simplified over time to make it easy to teach and learn (or at least less difficult than other languages). This does not mean that Zdetl lacks complexity – like the ancient Terran game of Go, its fundamentals can be learned in minutes, but it can take a lifetime to truly master, and few non-native speakers ever reach that level.

This dictionary is not intended to be complete; indeed, this would be an impossible task as words are always being added to the overall Zdetl lexicon. Instead, it is meant to be a starting point for learning the language and vocabulary. As such it is a companion to the Zhdantia Language and Cultural Institute's other publications, **Beginning Zdetl** and **Conversational Zdetl**. The first section contains a brief discussion of the grammar of Zdetl. The rest of the book is a Zdetl-to-Anglic word list, organized by the Zdetl phonemes in approximate Anglic order for easy reference.

While the ZLI research staff have endeavored to produce an accurate and precise publication, errors and inconsistencies are often unavoidable. Questions, requests, and suggestions may be addressed to the ZLI at the link below.



Sample file

Pronunciation Guide

The phonemes (sounds) of Zdetl are differentiated and distinct and follow predictable patterns. Multiple vowels rarely appear together, and syllables consist of *Vowel (V)*, *Consonant-Vowel (CV)*, *Vowel-Consonant (VC)* or *Consonant-Vowel-Consonant (CVC)* groupings.

Words are accented, and the placement is usually predictable. The accent usually falls on the penultimate syllable. If the word is two syllables, the accent falls on the final. In the case of longer words there may be a secondary accent on the first syllable.

Phoneme	Zdetl	English	IPA
B	ᵀ	Boy	b
BL	ᶠ	BLue	bl
BR	ᶞ	BRown	br
CH	ᶫ	CHurch	tʃ
CHT	ᶫᶫ	whiCH Type	tʃt
D	ᵀ	Dog	d
DL	ᵀᵀ	HurDLe	dəl
DR	ᵀᶠ	DRain	dr
F	ᶜ	Fox	f
FL	ᶜᶫ	FLy	fl
FR	ᶜᶞ	FRed	fr
J	ᶫ	Jack	dʒ
JD	ᶫᶫ	charGED	dʒd
K	ᵀ	King	k
KL	ᵀᵀ	knuckLe	kəl
KR	ᵀᶞ	KRinkle	kr
L	ᶫ	Love	l
M	ᶜ	Mark	m
N	ᶫ	Nail	n
NCH	ᶫᶫ	finCH	ntʃ
NJ	ᶫᶫ	niNJa	ndʒ
NS	ᶫᵀ	oNCe	n(t)s
NSH	ᶫᶫ	uNSure	nʃ
NT	ᶫᵀ	paNT	nt
NTS	ᶫᶫ	paNTS	ntʃ
NZ	ᶫᵀ	caNS	nz
NZH	ᶫᶫ	eNGineer	n(d)ʒ
P	ᵀ	Pet	p
PL	ᵀᶫ	PLaid	pl
PR	ᵀᶞ	PRetty	pr
Q	ᶫ	Gown	g
QL	ᶫᶫ	GLad	gl
QR	ᶫᶫ	GRate	gr
R	ᶫ	Raid	r
S	ᵀ	Sing	s
SH	ᶫ	SHut	ʃ

Pronunciation Guide

SHT	±	iSHTar	ft
ST	±	SHTop	st
T	ト	Tool	t
TL	と	TLaloc	tl
TS	と	CaTS	tə
V	ヴ	Victor	v
VL	ヴ	VLand	vl
VR	ヴ	Vroom	vr
Y	ユ	Yellow	j
Z	ヅ	Zing	z
ZD	ヅ	maZDa	zd
ZH	ヅ	TreaSure	ʒ
ZHD	ヅ	ZHDant	ʒd

Phoneme	Zdetl	English	IPA
A	ア	dOck	ɒ
E	エ	gEt	ɛ
I	イ	kIt	i
IA	ア	YAnk	jæ
IE	エ	IAYer	eɪ
O	オ	gO	o
R (semi)	ヱ	wORk	ɜː
' (glottal)	ア	botT'le	ʔ

Sample file

Grammatical Concepts

Sentence Structure

The basic sentence structure of Zdetl is object-leading; in other words, the word order is *Obj - Verb - Subj*.

Fevr`anzh moch`i-tio`d.
(A book is being read by you.)

Adjectives precede the noun they modify: *Adj - Obj - Verb - Adj - Subj*.

Vrien`a ka`fi tla`pa-ens ka`yo-tle ziefr`i.
(Hot coffee is being drunk by the pretty woman.)

The same rule applies to adverbs: *Obj - Adv - Verb - Subj*.

Fevr`anzh a`chan-e mo`chi-tens.
(A book is still being read by her.)

The Indirect object follows the subject: *Obj - Verb - Subj - Ind Obj*.

Tlan`qil ki`lo-ik ai`o`d.
(A letter was written by me to you.)

Sentences using verb infinitives take the following order: *Obj - Verb Inf - Verb - Subj*.

Mi`to-tle` i`ko-tik.
(To dance desire I.)

Prepositions precede the word they modify the same way adjectives and adverbs do: *Prep - Obj - Verb Inf - Verb - Subj*.

Kon`ens mi`to-tle` i`ko-tlik.
(With her/him to dance desire I.)

Interrogative statements are either by the question word **JDO**:

JDO ka`fi i`ko-tlio`d?
(Do you want coffee?)

They can also include the word suffix **AQLE**:

Ka`fi i`ko-tlio`dAQLE?
(Do you want coffee?)

Conjunctions are placed between the nouns they refer to (i.e., Do you want coffee or tea: *O - Con - O - V - S* (JDO Coffe OR tea/desire/you)

Jdo ka`fi pra kotl i`ko-tlia de?
(Do you want coffee OR tea?)

Grammar

Verb Conjugation (basic)

Verb Form	Ending	Zdetl
Infinitive	-e'	<e'
Present tense	-ia	<ia
Past tense	-ie	<ie
Future tense	-ře	<ře
Imperative	-zhda	<zhda
Conditional	-za	<za
Present participle	-iana	<iana
Past participle	-iena	<iena
Future participle	-řena	<řena
Present passive participle	-ianta	<ianta
Past passive participle	-ienta	<ienta
Future passive participle	-řenta	<řenta

Prepositions

ai	ai	to, unto
akom	akom	inside, within
alir	alir	outside, external to
apaz	apaz	in front of
cho	cho	unto, as in "to give"
dlafł	dlafł	beneath
dra	dra	"of" as in possession or relation
edre	edre	near
ichi	ichi	upon
iepri	iepri	after
io	io	to, into
je	je	at
kon	kon	with
nal	nal	across
ok	ok	beside
pe'	pe'	from, away from
taj	taj	from, out of
tfo	tfo	through
vel	vel	behind

Logical Conjunctions

iazh	iazh	and
pra	pra	or
chak	chak	not
plaz	plaz	xor (either is true but not both)
chapra	chapra	nor (neither is true)
plachapra	plachapra	xnor (either both are true or both are false)

Table of Pro-form Constructions		Some (icha-)	What (i-)	That (inin-)	Every (achi-)	None (ayo-)	Any (zi-)
Thing (-teti)		icha-teti	i-teti	inin-teti	achi-teti	ayo-teti	zi-teti
Person (-ad)		icha-ad	i-ad	inin-ad	achi-ad	ayo-ad	zi-ad
Place (-zhia)		icha-zhia	i-zhia	inin-zhia	achi-zhia	ayo-zhia	zi-zhia
Quantity (-gez)		icha-gez	i-gez	inin-gez	achi-gez	ayo-gez	zi-gez
Reason (-patle)		icha-patle	i-patle	inin-patle	achi-patle	ayo-patle	zi-patle
Manner (-genta)		icha-genta	i-genta	inin-genta	achi-genta	ayo-genta	zi-genta
Time (-qik)		icha-qik	i-qik	inin-qik	achi-qik	ayo-qik	zi-qik
Possession (-adl)		icha-adl	i-adl	inin-adl	achi-adl	ayo-adl	zi-adl
Kind (-ochti)		icha-ochti	i-ochti	inin-ochti	achi-ochti	ayo-ochti	zi-ochti

