De Koncis Frenkischgrammatik

by David Parke

The Concise Frenkisch Grammar
Frenkisch needs your help! It is intended that Frenkisch will have an open-ended vocabulary. All words that potentially can meet the entry criteria of Frenkisch should be a part of the vocabulary. This vocabulary size is currently 600 words. It could potentially be expanded far wider, although I am unsure of what the final tally could be; 10 000 words or even 30 000?

Frenkisch needs your suggestions for new words. To propose a new word for Frenkisch, send the author the suggested Frenkisch word, its translation into English, and cognate forms in at least three of the source language units. Frenkisch also needs help with translating the existing Frenkisch–English dictionary into other languages. Fluent and preferably native speakers of any of the Frenkisch source languages, with an interest in conlanging and linguistics, are needed for this task.

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Frenkisch mout have jur help! Ett is wold dat frenkisch schall have en open begренцд wordschatt. All worden dat konde meuglik passe de leuvkriterias af frenkisch scholde wese en deil af de wordschatt. Dis wordschattantal is nou 6000 worden. Ett kond meuglik autbreide ferr wyder, eidoch ick is onseker hwat konde wese de endlik antal; 10 000 worden oder magschej 30 000?

Frenkisch tarv jur forslagen for niew worden. Tou forslaje en niew word for Frenkisch, send de autor de forslagen frenkisch word, de oversetting op Eng’lish, ond kognatformen in toumindest tri af de orsprongspraikeinheiten. Frenkisch tarv help euk tou oversette de bestaiend Frenkisch-Eng’lish wordbouk op ander spraiken. Wellsprechend, inheimisch sprekers af eilk af de Frenkisch orsprongspraiken, mid interesse in konstspraiken ond spraikleir sinde tarv’d for dis opgave.

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Introduction

I would like to present my latest constructed language — Frenkisch. Frenkisch is an outgrowth of my work in the Folkspraak group. It is an attempt to make a Germanic language that is a melding of multiple Germanic languages, but is more focused on artistic and aesthetic considerations. It is less bound by considerations of being simple or strictly pan-Germanic.

My approach in building it started out by applying the Interlingua method to a sample of predominantly Germanic languages (there also some non-Germanic sources — more about that later).

It is formed of common features from a group of source languages. The source languages of Frenkisch are English, Dutch, German, Danish, Norwegian Bokmål, Swedish, French and Russian. English, Dutch and German are treated as one unit each. The three Scandinavian languages are regarded as one unit collectively — that is, on the frequent occasions where the Scandinavian languages share a feature among the three of them, these three languages do not outweigh three other languages. The two non-Germanic sources count as one unit collectively — that is if they share a common feature it only has the weighting of one other language.

Linguistic features (such as vocabulary items, grammatical rules or phonological or orthographic features) will be a part of Frenkisch if they are represented by three (or more) units of my source languages. This could be, for example, Dutch and English and one (or more) Scandinavian language. Or by German and Scandinavian and Russian. For example, as a word for potato, cognate forms exist in the source languages as German Kartoffel, Danish kartoffel, and Russian картофель (kartofel’). This mean that three units (German, Scandinavian and Russian) of the source languages have common cognate form meaning potato. This is the basis of the Frenkisch word kartoffel. Note that the presence of this word does not exclude the possibility of other words meaning potato existing in Frenkisch. It also has potat, based on English potato, Dutch patat, Norwegian potat, Swedish potatis and French patate.

I have also given a some additional weighting to English and German (the two most widely spoken Germanic languages) — features that are shared by these two units gain the weighting of three units rather than two and are thus guaranteed a place of influence over the shape of the language. For example Proto Germanic (PG) *ū has evolved to a [au] sound in both German and English. So in Frenkisch, cognates to PG *ū have evolved to [au] as well, even though this evolution is not shared by any of the other sources. A second example would be PG *sk has evolved to [J] in English and German — this has happened also in Frenkisch. There are also some words represented by cognates only in English and German; Frenkisch lerne is based on English learn and German lernen.

The final form of Frenkisch words is determined by finding the most recent common ancestor of the cognates in the source languages. For example, the sources of Frenkisch haus are the cognates English house, Dutch huis, German Haus and Danish/Norwegian/Swedish hus. The ancestor of these cognates is PG *hūsam. This ancestor is then changed by a regular pseudo-evolution into a modernised form. This evolution is the commonest regular sound changes from earlier forms in the source languages. Like I mentioned before, I’ve decided that the PG *ū phoneme has a regular evolution to [au] in Frenkisch. Initial PG *h tends to remain unchanged, as does PG *s. Early Germanic grammatical suffixes, such as the -am in *hūsam tend to be dropped or generalised to a schwa sound. Thus PG *hūsam pseudo-evolves to Frenkisch haus. Often the ancestral form is assumed to be somewhat later than Proto-Germanic with certain common evolutions having already occurred such as i-mutation, generalisation of unstressed vowels, and loss of distinction between *hr and *r. When words are borrowings from French or Latin, they have applied to them what I consider to be the commonest adaptations that the Germanic source languages do to such words.

It is important to note that any particular word of one language is likely to have multiple meanings, some of them figurative or idiomatic. Some of these meanings might be shared by the cognate words of other languages. But sometimes they are not. Or sometimes a meaning is the primary meaning of a word in one language but in the cognate in another language it is only a secondary, less obvious meaning. Or sometimes a word in one language is the preferred word for a concept. But in a different language, the cognate is a second choice or is (like English thou) virtually obsolete. Just as important
as determining the form of a word in Frenkisch, my word formation methodology must also determine the meaning. For example, it is not sufficient to blandly state that Frenkisch schuve = English shove = Dutch schuiven = German schieben = Danish skubb = Norwegian skyve = Swedish skuffa. These words are all cognate and have all evolved from PG *skeubhan. But they need to be carefully examined and only the common meanings/senses of these words become part of the meaning of schuve. So schuve carries only those meanings/senses that are shared by at least three units of the source languages.

A Frenkisch to English dictionary entry for schuve might look like this:

**schuve** v. = shove, push, thrust, push along.

And a Frenkisch to German dictionary entry would probably look like this:

**schuve** v. = schieben; stoßen; drängeln

Note that the meanings in both dictionaries are not just the cognate, but other words that refine the meaning and in what situations schuve would best be used.

I have tried to make the phonology fairly conservative and rich in phonemes, to retain as much potential information to as many languages as possible. So it retains some distinctions between sounds that some of the source languages may have lost. For example, I still have a difference between PG *w and *hw — So I have hwair (where) and wair (true). In Dutch for example, the cognates to these words are homonyms: waar and waar.

Now comes the reason for the name: I tried to think of an exciting name based on the language’s function, but all the obvious ones are already taken. (eg intergermanisk, teutonish, Folkspraak, Middelsprake). Also I am not exactly sure if this language has a function or a purpose. So the name is based on one of its peculiar features: I’ve attempted to have an orthographic system that is as regular and unambiguous as possible. It also avoids the use of diacritical characters. Having a rich phonology, an etymological orthography but avoiding diacritical characters (restricting it to the basic 26 letters) and yet being regular and unambiguous is a huge challenge. I have even been forced to adapt my phonological system to keep the orthography simpler. It has necessitated using a number of di-graphs and tri-graphs to represent many phonemes. Because I need to represent words from both Germanic and French or Graeco-Romance sources in roughly even amounts, my orthography draws a lot from French orthographic conventions — especially with vowels. The name Frenkisch is intended to convey a sense of the French (and other Romance) influence on the language. The name is intended to look like it is derived from Frank (the Germanic people after whom the France and the French are named) plus the PG *-iskaz suffix. Note that the Frenkisch word for french is not in fact frenkisch but francisch.

Some examples of the French influence on the orthography are: eu = [œ], as in greut (great). ou = [œ], as in bloud (blood), ai = [ɛ:], as in straite (street). u = [u] or [v], as in kuning (king) or tunn (thin). Of course there is much else that is drawn from other languages; sch = [ʃ], as in schyne (to shine), is mainly from German, however German sch very often corresponds to Dutch sch, even if they are pronounced quite differently. The use of y to represent [ai] is English and Dutch influenced (in Dutch y can sometimes be used in place of i). The use of c as [ts] (as in provinc meaning province) even in a word-final position is Russian or generally Slavic inspired.

Some people might find it strange that I have referred to French and Russian, two non-Germanic languages, in creating a Germanic language. My reason for this is because although Frenkisch is intended to be used between speakers of Germanic languages, it is also intended to be useful to speakers from outside this grouping, who wish to communicate with Germanic-speakers. French and Russian were chosen because they are widely spoken as first languages, widely studied as second languages, and are similar to a large group of related Romantic and Slavic languages. So adding them to the mix improves one’s chances of finding something in common. Often within the Germanic languages there is no clear majority form to show the way forward. There might be, for example, a split between English and Dutch on one side, German and Scandinavian on the other. But neither way has enough representation to be a basis for the Frenkisch word. By looking outside this grouping to what is more likely to be internationally recognised, it can clarify the situation. Note that, by my rules, a word still needs to be represented by cognates in at least half of my Germanic source languages before the presence in French or Russian permits it to be a part of Frenkisch.
The two non-Germanic languages that I have chosen are not only widely spoken internationally but are chosen because they either strongly influenced the Germanic languages, are strongly influenced by Germanic languages or both. For example, one often finds features in Russian that are common with German. Sometimes it is because German has borrowed from a Slavic source. Sometimes it is because Russian has borrowed from a Germanic source. Sometimes the two have borrowed from the same Romance source. And sometimes the feature is common because of the common Indo-European source of both language groups. I have chosen one Romance language and one Slavic language, to give a point of access for speakers of these two other great European language families. One other language that I did consider also consulting was Spanish. Spanish has more speakers than French but it has less direct influence over the Germanic languages than French. I didn't want to have to consult three non-Germanic languages, if only because of the increased workload. If, instead of French and Russian, I had chosen different big international languages such as Chinese or Arabic, it would have added very little to my analysis because these languages have so little in common with my Germanic source languages so would very rarely be of help.

Some might also ask why I didn't consult some of the other Germanic languages such as Afrikaans, Low Saxon, Frisian, Norwegian Nynorsk, Yiddish or Icelandic. Speakers of these languages are still likely to find features that are common with their language even if they were not used in the development of Frenkisch. I think I have chosen a representative sampling of Germanic languages which already covers most of the linguistic variation in the Germanic language group. There is little in Low Saxon this is not represented by something similar in Dutch or German or English or Scandinavian. And features that are truly unique to Low Saxon are not going to be appropriate to the nature of Frenkisch in any case. Also, in the case of Frisian or Low Saxon or Nynorsk, speakers of those languages are going to be, of necessity, already fluent in the majority languages of their country, which will be one of the languages that I have consulted. There is also a practical/pragmatic consideration: resources for some of those smaller languages have been for me difficult to find, and every additional language to consult adds to my workload.

As I said earlier, I haven't been restricted particularly by considerations of simplicity. Features that are shared by all or most of the source languages are present in Frenkisch even if they are not necessarily simple. I figure that restricting myself to grammatical or syntactical features that are shared by all four Germanic units of my source languages is a strong enough filter to remove most of the truly difficult grammar. It does leave me with some grammatical cases for pronouns, irregular adjectives, irregular and strong verbs and irregular spellings however.

I can not envision what sort of scenario would enable Frenkisch to become a widely spoken or studied language. It is however intended to be a modern Western language for the communication needs of the 21st Century. Those romantics who are looking for a language to use in tales and sagas of gods and heroes should look elsewhere. Those nationalists who are looking for a purified Germanic language, purged of all un-Germanic “contamination” are strongly encouraged to waste your time elsewhere.

Frenkisch might serve as primer language to introduce the Germanic languages to a student. It has features that would be encountered in most of the natural Germanic languages, only in simpler form. It could serve as an international auxiliary language (IAL), not just between native speakers of Germanic languages, but also “foreigners” from outside this region who wish to have an easy point of access. Although it is simpler than most Germanic languages, it definitely is not a simple as it could be, which admittedly makes the IAL usage problematic. It also could be used a language in fiction to provide a non-specific foreign flavour. (Similar things have been done in films and TV with Esperanto and Interlingua.) It could even be used in Military exercises to give a “foreign” language for the “enemy” side. (Esperanto has also be used this way).

Developing this language has been for me a journey of discovery into the Germanic languages. It's been done for my own amusement but I hope you get some enjoyment and even practical use from the result.
**Pronunciation Guide**

**Generalised Vowel Length:** This is based upon open/closed syllables. An open syllable ends in a single consonant or no consonants. In Frenkisch, an open syllable can also end in a single consonant followed by an apostrophe (’) followed by another consonant. A closed syllable ends in two or more consonants. Vowels are long in most open syllables. Vowels are short in most closed syllables but in closed syllables, a vowel can be long if it is doubled. Example of an open syllable: bris [bris]. Example of a closed syllable with following apostrophe: ad’lig [‘adlig]. Example of a closed syllable: schipp [‘tʃp]. Example of a closed syllable with a doubled vowel: bruust [bry:st].

**Long Final “e”:** Normally a single -e at the end of a word will be an unstressed suffix and should be pronounced as [ə]. But there are words that end in a stressed syllable with a long [eː] sound. In such cases, the e is doubled to indicate it’s not an unstressed [ə]. For examples alle [a’le:] and idee [‘i:deː].

**Suffixes And Compound Words:** For the purposes of determining if a syllable is open or closed, consonants in a following suffix or parts of compound words are not considered. E.g. The e in temlik [‘temlik] is long, even though it is followed by two consonants (m and l), because it is a word formed by adding the suffix -lik to the stem tem. Only the m consonant belongs to the syllable of the e. Likewise the a in glashaus [glas’hauς] is long because the word is a compound of glas and hauς. Only the s counts as being a part of the syllable that the a is in. The a is thus considered to be followed by a single consonant, therefore the syllable is open and the a is long.

**Unstressed Syllables:** Vowels in unstressed syllables are always short, regardless of whether they are open or closed. Often they are also schwä [ɔ]. Normally a final -e will be an unstressed [ə] sound. Frenkisch has a number of common unstressed prefixes and suffixes. These should be learnt and recognized, because recognition of unstressed adfixes will help you identify the stressed syllable and the length of it’s vowel. For example, the final syllables of the following words are unstressed: besem, teiken, luttel, sturing, trucke. The first syllables of the following words are unstressed: geleuve, bereid, ferstand, erfaring.

**Special Monosyllabic words:** These words are almost all prepositions, conjunctions, and pronouns (and some parts of the irregular verb wese). In this group of words, vowels are assumed to be short even in open syllables. Typical Examples are an [an], hwat [‘huat], dat [‘da:t], op [‘ɔp], him [‘him], was [‘wa:s], af [‘af], fon [‘fo:n], is [‘is].

**Multi-syllabic Romance Words:** These words are normally stressed on the syllable before the final consonant. For example in karte [‘karta], the final consonant is s so the stress falls on the a before this. In excellence, the final consonant is c, so the stress falls on the e before that, so the pronunciation is [eksst’eslɛntςa]. In advokat, the final consonant is t so the stress falls on the a before this, so the pronunciation is [advo’kɑt].

The biggest exception to this rule are words that end in -er or -el. These suffixes are unstressed so the stress will fall on the syllable before them. For example cykel [‘tsikəl]; vehikel [‘ve:hi:kəl]; cifer [‘tsi:fi:ɾ]; pulver [‘pvləvər].

The second exception is for ‘Latin’ nouns that retain the original Latin case endings such as -um, -us, -is. For example forum [‘fɔrəm]; museum [‘my’zə:um]; fokus [‘fɔkʊs]; tempus [‘tempəs]; basis [‘bæizis]; genesis [‘genezɪs]. They are also notable in that these endings are modified when they form plurals. Such words are stressed on the syllable before the -us/-um/-is endings. It’s important to note that this does not apply to all Romance words ending in -us, -um or -is: devis [de´vis] and exkus [eks’kys] are stressed on the final syllable as normal because the -is and -us in those words aren’t Latin case-endings.

The vowel length of the stressed syllable follows the open/closed rule. Other unstressed syllables are normally pronounced with short vowels. E.g. charakterisire [‘xarakteːri:ziːɾə]. If the word needs to be slowly pronounced for clarity or to assist spelling, the unstressed vowels can be long or short according to the open/close syllable rule. E.g. [ˈxɑːrakteːri:ziːɾə]

### The Vowel Phonemes

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<thead>
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<th>Spelling</th>
<th>IPA</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Word Examples</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Short Vowels</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>[a]</td>
<td>dat; an; katt; akt; allianc</td>
<td>Like a in German Hand. Like a in Northern or Scots English hand.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>[ɛ]</td>
<td>wedde; reck’ning; ett; agent; direkt</td>
<td>Like e in English bed and e in German Bett</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>[ə]</td>
<td>karte; luttel; cirkel; heupe</td>
<td>Like a in English tuna or alike. Like the final e in German Freude</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>[ɪ]</td>
<td>in; sitte; ick; gift; beginne; bitter</td>
<td>Like i in English sing and i in German singen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
De Koncis Frenkischgrammatik
The Concise Frenkisch Grammar

Spelling | IPA | Pronunciation | Word Examples | Notes
---|---|---|---|---
o | [ɔ] | fon; folk; knopp; koloss; monster; stoff; somp; op; getoldig; | Like o in German hoffen. Like oa in English broad but shorter. Similar to English o in sock but with the mouth slightly more closed.
u | [y] | trucke; kusse; rugg; suster; robust; produkt | Like ü in German Glück and y in Rhythmus. English speakers can say this by saying i as in lift, but holding the lips rounded.

### Long Vowels and Diphthongs

<table>
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<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Word Examples</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>[aː]</td>
<td>have; dag; sak; advokat; normal; resultat</td>
<td>Like a in English path. Similar to a in German Tag and ah in Hahn but said more at the back of the mouth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ai</td>
<td>[æː]</td>
<td>said; traid; befaire; daid; universitait; regulair</td>
<td>Similar to a in English cat but drawn out longer. Similar to ä in German spät or Zähne but said with the mouth more open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>[eː]</td>
<td>wese; temlik; problem; idee</td>
<td>Like ü in German Glück and y in Rhythmus. English speakers can say this by saying i as in lift, but holding the lips rounded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ei</td>
<td>[ɛi]</td>
<td>ein; arbeide; bereid; breid; geist</td>
<td>Like ay in English day or ai in rain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>[iː]</td>
<td>hi; si; ji; frid; nider; smid; etik; aktiv</td>
<td>Like ee in English deep. Like ie in German tief.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>[ai]</td>
<td>wyn; schryve; by; byte; dryve; fynd; hwyt; schyv; myt</td>
<td>Like i in like or y in my. Like ei in German Gleich or ai in Main.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>[ɔː]</td>
<td>bog; open; rotor; pol; station; logisch</td>
<td>Like o in German rot or oh in ohne. Similar to oa in English load.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ou</td>
<td>[uː]</td>
<td>dou; bouk; tou; snour; goud; fount; tour; routine;</td>
<td>Like u in English lunar or oo in mood. Like u in German Fuß or uh in Kuh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eu</td>
<td>[œː]</td>
<td>euve; greun; greu; bereure; seut; beseuke; leun; steute; heuved; greut; reud; interieur; adieu; Europa</td>
<td>Like ö in German König and like eu in French directeur. English speakers can approximate this vowel by saying ur as in burst but keeping the lips rounded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>[juː]</td>
<td>uvel; dur; kuning; fur; flugel; luve; buge; kuse; diktatur; minut; latitud; figur; natur</td>
<td>Like ü in German über or üh in kühn. English speakers can say this by saying ee as in feet, but holding the lips rounded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>au</td>
<td>[au]</td>
<td>aut; braun; haus; auto, pause</td>
<td>Like ou in loud. Like au in German Haus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ie</td>
<td>[iə]</td>
<td>dier; biede; betiene; fliege; brief, Roumainie, Spanie</td>
<td>Like ere in non-rhotic English mere or ia in English Colombia. Like ie in German Linie or Spanien.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iew</td>
<td>[i尤]</td>
<td>niew, triew, spiewe</td>
<td>similar to ew in few or eau in beauty but with the first sound drawn out longer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aj</td>
<td>[aɪ]</td>
<td>majd; hajfisch; ajr; slaje</td>
<td>Pronounced like y. When followed by a vowel, a [j] consonant is added between the [aɪ] and the next vowel. eg slajend [ˈslaɪj@nd]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ej</td>
<td>[ɛj]</td>
<td>fejte; tejn; rejtig; nejt; magschej</td>
<td>Pronounced like ei. When followed by a vowel, a [j] consonant is added between the [ɛj] and the next vowel. eg sejen [ˈsej@n]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pronouncing Consonants**

Most of the consonants are pronounced in a similar way to English. However, the following consonants should be noted:
### Fon David Parke

**Before a front vowel (e, i, y) like ts in itself. Or z in German zehn. At the end of a word like tz in English blitz or German Spitze.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>c</th>
<th>[ts]</th>
<th>decent; excellence; provinc; cement; cifer; centrum; cykel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>[k]</td>
<td>café; computer; curry; clown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ch</td>
<td>[x]</td>
<td>chaos; dochter; heuchest; rauch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ch</td>
<td>[ʃ]</td>
<td>chef, check; revanche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ck</td>
<td>[k]</td>
<td>ackurat; fack; trucke; reck’ne; sack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>[g]</td>
<td>geleuve; gnage; gral; laig; drachtig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>[ʒ]</td>
<td>garage, baggage, genant, orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>[j]</td>
<td>ja; justic; jacht; jucke; jamm’re; just; jong; seije; sejl; gesejt; tejt; judisch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ng</td>
<td>[ŋ]</td>
<td>singe; finger; bang; gang; hengst; jong; messing; Hongarie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qu</td>
<td>[kv]</td>
<td>quick; qualitait; quelle; question; queu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>[r], [r’]</td>
<td>bar; bard; sperre; ferr; hard; kraud; ackurat; reike; rar; rasch; raum; ruin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>[s],</td>
<td>sabel; sack; said; spreke; terasse; presse; last; fals; ys; haus; gras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>[z]</td>
<td>besem; blaise; hausen; charakterisire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sch</td>
<td>[ʃ]</td>
<td>fisch; wunsche; schryve; schipp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tion</td>
<td>[’tsjɔn]</td>
<td>aktion; federation; lektion; nation; station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w</td>
<td>[v]</td>
<td>wade; wagen; wand’re; bewond’re; wyn; wunsche; wasche; gewer; frauw; bauw; blaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wr</td>
<td>[vr]</td>
<td>wreid; wraik; handwrist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hw</td>
<td>[hu]</td>
<td>hwal; h Bair; hwelve; hwyt; hwyl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Frenkisch Alphabet**

When the letters in Frenkisch are sounded out for spelling, they are pronounced as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aa</th>
<th>α:</th>
<th>Bb</th>
<th>bé:</th>
<th>Cc</th>
<th>tse:</th>
<th>Dd</th>
<th>de:</th>
<th>Ee</th>
<th>e:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ef</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gg</td>
<td>ge:</td>
<td>Hh</td>
<td>ha:</td>
<td>li</td>
<td>i:</td>
<td>Jj</td>
<td>je:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kk</td>
<td>ka:</td>
<td>Ll</td>
<td>el</td>
<td>Mm</td>
<td>em</td>
<td>Nn</td>
<td>en</td>
<td>Oo</td>
<td>o:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pp</td>
<td>pe:</td>
<td>Qq</td>
<td>ky:</td>
<td>Rr</td>
<td>er</td>
<td>Ss</td>
<td>es</td>
<td>Tt</td>
<td>te:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uu</td>
<td>y:</td>
<td>Vv</td>
<td>ve:</td>
<td>Ww</td>
<td>‘dspa: ve:</td>
<td>Xx</td>
<td>ıks</td>
<td>Yy</td>
<td>ą:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zz</td>
<td>zet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**When c occurs before a, o, u or a consonant, it is often in a borrowing from French or English and is pronounced in the same way as the English or French word.**

**Like ch in Scots loch or ch in German Bach.**

**Like ck in English thick or German dick.**

**Like j in German ja and like y in yes. At the end of a syllable, see aj, ej in the vowel section.**

**Like ng in singer. Not like ng in finger and definitely not like ng in s inge.**

**Like kv in kvetch but the v is slightly more like a w sound. Like kw in Dutch kwestie.**

**Rolled like in Scots or uvular like in French or German. But always sounded, even after a vowel.**

**Like s as in safe at the start or end of a word or when doubled or when combined with another consonant.**

**When it is between two vowels, like s as in pause or s as in German rasieren**

**Appearing in myriad Romance borrowings, pronounced like -tion in German Station.**

**Halfway between v as in vine and w as in wine. At the end of a syllable, it becomes the vowel [u] and forms a diphthong with the preceding vowel. When between two vowels is pronounced as [w].**

**Combined with r becomes a [v] sound.**

**Like w with h before it.**
Basic Phrases

Hei
Hi, hey
Hallo
Hallo (used on the telephone primarily)
Goud morgen
Good morning
Goud dag
Good afternoon, Good day, G’day,
Goud aivend
Good evening
Goud nacht
Good night
Hou gai ett?
How are you? How’s it going?
Farwell/Adieu
Good bye.
Ick heit…/Myn nam is…
My name is…
Wessogoud (WSG)
Please
Tank di/Tank ju
Thank you
Tanken
Thanks
Gern
My pleasure, you’re welcome, no problem.
Andschulding
Excuse me, pardon, I’m sorry.
Ja
Yes,
Nei
No

Articles

Indefinite Article
The indefinite article for singular nouns is en [ən]. It is used in a very similar way to English a/an. It precedes the noun that is modifies. It is used when first mentioning a noun, that hasn’t been spoken of in conversation before. After it has been mentioned with the indefinite article, the noun becomes known and it is normally then preceded by the definite article. En does not change for gender or case but it is not used for plural nouns. For plural nouns, no article is used or you can use somme [ˈsɔmə], meaning some or any.

Ick fang’d en dauv. = I caught a pigeon.
En tiev ha stolen myn auto. = A thief has stolen my car.
Ick ha eten greun appels. = I have eaten (some) green apples.
Kann dou seje somme appels an de triew. = Can you see any/some apples on the tree?

Definite Article
The definite article for all cases, numbers and genders is de [da]. It is used in a very similar way to English the. It precedes the noun that it modifies.

De dauv was tick. = The pigeon was fat.
De tiev stal de auto. = The thief stole the car.
De appels af dat triew waire seut = The apples off that tree were sweet.

Pronouns

Personal Pronouns
The personal pronouns all have four basic forms; a subjective form, and objective form, a possessive form and a reflexive form. This is similar to the way the English first person singular pronoun, I, becomes me and my and mine. In terms of the old Germanic cases, subjective corresponds to the nominative case, objective to the accusative and dative cases, possessive to the genitive case, and reflexive to the reflexive case. Personal pronouns change form depending on whether they are the subject or object in a sentence. There are pronoun forms for each person (first, second and third) and separate forms for singular and plural. In the third person there are separate forms for masculine,
feminine and neuter nouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Subjective</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Possessive</th>
<th>Reflexive</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Singular</td>
<td>ick [ɪk]</td>
<td>mi [miː]</td>
<td>myn [maɪn]</td>
<td>mi [miː]</td>
<td>I, me, my, mine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Plural</td>
<td>wi [wi]</td>
<td>ons [ons]</td>
<td>onser ['ɔnsɚ]</td>
<td>ons [ons]</td>
<td>we, us, our, ours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Singular</td>
<td>dou [dʊ:]</td>
<td>di [diː]</td>
<td>dyn [dɑn]</td>
<td>di [diː]</td>
<td>you, your, yours*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hi is en goud singer. = He is a good singer.
Si stur de taxi. = She is driving the taxi.
Ick will lerne frenkisch. = I want to learn Frenkisch.
Si ha kuss'd him. = She has kissed him.
Wi scholle meute deim morgen. = We shall meet them tomorrow.
De auto is syn. = The car is his.
De appels sinde myn. = The apples are mine.
Dis haus is onser. = This house is ours.

*Unlike in English, there are both plural and singular forms for the second person pronoun; ji and dou. Ji should always be used when addressing more than one person. When addressing one person in a formal context, ji should also be used. Dou is a more familiar, intimate and informal pronoun than ji. Dou should be used mostly for addressing friends, lovers, family members and young children. It's use may be extended to colleagues and fellow students but then care should be taken to use it only informal situations. Used in the wrong situation, dou can be seen by some to be rude or excessively intimate — the verbal equivalent of invading someone's personal space.

The possessive pronouns can also be used as an article or determiner. That is, it can precede a noun.

Ha hi meuted hirer mouder? = Has he met her mother?
Will dou meute myn uvel elders? = Do you want to meet my horrible parents?
Dat sinde syn reud appels = Those are his red apples.

In English, when the object of a sentence is also the subject, one must change the object pronoun to a reflexive pronoun by using the possessive pronoun plus -self or -selves. You should say I love myself rather than *I love me. In Frenkisch, in most cases, such a change of pronoun is not necessary. Only in the third person are anything equivalent to the English -self pronouns needed. In all numbers and genders in the third person, the reflexive pronoun in Frenkisch is sick.

Ick leire mi frenkisch. = I am teaching myself (learning) Frenkisch.
Hi schall dryve sick wreid! = He will make himself angry!

**Impersonal Pronoun**
The impersonal pronoun is used in situations when you are referring to everyone in general, yet nobody in particular. In formal English, the equivalent to this would be one e.g. One should never burp in the presence of royalty. In less formal English, you or they is more often used e.g. You don't vote for kings! They should lock that lunatic up. In Frenkisch, the impersonal pronoun is menn. Like the personal pronouns, it inflects for case and has an objective, genitive and reflexive form.
De Koncis Frenkischgrammatik

The Concise Frenkisch Grammar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
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<th>Objective</th>
<th>Possessive</th>
<th>Reflexive</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Menn is treated as a plural pronoun for the purposes of verb declension.

Menn stemme nejt op kunings! = You don't vote for kings.
Menn kunne nejt euve heuchest follmacht, bar fordat en wat’rig majd ha smitten en swerd tou ein = You can't exercise supreme executive power, just because some watery tart threw a sword at you.
Infall meuge menn wese en jurist, moust eins ansejing wese absolut rein. When one is a judge, one’s reputation must be absolutely spotless.

**Demonstrative Pronouns**

A few of the basics are:

- **dat** [dat] = that, those. This can also be used as a pronoun and as a determiner/article. Ick will have dat, = I want that. Dat mann is siek. = That man is sick. Wi klimme dat steinen treppen = We climb those stone steps. Onser hausen sind bettar als dat. = Our houses are better than those.

- **dis** [dis] = this/these. This can also be used as a pronoun and as a determiner/article. Dis sind onser hausen. = These are our houses. Dis appel is saur = This apple is sour.

- **dair** [dær] = there
- **her** [hɛr] = here
- **dann** [dan] = then

**Interrogative Pronouns**

- **hwat** [hwat] = what
- **hwair** [hwaɪr] = where
- **hwann** [hwan] = when
- **hwei** [hweɪ] = who
- **hou** [hʊ] = how
- **hwairfor** [ˈhwɑːrfɔr] = why
- **hwik** [huɪk] = which

**Relative Pronouns**

The relative pronoun **dat** is used in places where a relative pronoun such as *who, where* or *that* in English would be used.
Si is de frauw, dat schall werde myn wyv. = She is the woman, who will become my wife.
Dat sinde de tortes, dat ick will ete. = Those are the cakes, that I want to eat.
Dat is de hond, dat probir’d aut tou byte mi. = That's the dog, that tried to bite me!
Michaels haus is de haus, in dat ick won’d. = Michael's house is the house where I used to live.

**Other Pronouns**

- **all** [al] = all, every This can be used as a pronoun and as a determiner/article.
- **eilk** [eɪlk] = each, every. This can be used as a pronoun and as a determiner/article.
- **solk** [sɔlk] = such. This can be used as a pronoun and as a determiner/article.
- **nejts** [neɪts] = nothing
- **nein** [nɛin] = none, not one, not any. This can be used as a pronoun and as a determiner/article. Hi ha
nein = *He has none*. Ick ha nein auto. = *I have no car.*

neimann [neman] = *no one, nobody*

beid [beid] = *both*. This can also be used as a pronoun and as a determiner/article. Beid sinde gelyk = *Both are alike*. Ick will ete beid appels. = *I want to eat both apples.*

**Nouns**

Nouns do not inflect for gender. The only inflection for case is the genitive/possessive -s suffix.

**Plural of Nouns**

There are three possible ways of forming plurals of Frenkisch nouns. All methods make the noun plural by adding a suffix to the noun, either -en or -s. The method of pluralisation is determined by the stress pattern of the noun. In addition, nouns of Greek or Latin origin, with the original language case endings, change the case ending.

Nouns that end in a stressed syllable take -en. This includes all single-syllable nouns. Most multi-syllabic romance borrowings end in a stressed syllable and use this suffix.

Ein bein[bei], twei beinen = One leg, two legs.
Ein universitaït [juni:verzi'tɛt], twei universitaïten = One university, two universities
Ein student [sty'dent], twei studenter = One student, two students
Ein hond [hɔnd], twei honden = One dog, two dogs.
Ein mann [man], twei mannén = One man, two men.
Ein station [sta'tsjo:n], twei stationen = One station, two stations
Ein nunn ['nɔn], twei nunnén = One nun, two nuns.

Nouns that end in a stressed vowel are pronounced with a slight glottal stop between the vowel of the stem and the vowel of the -en suffix

Ein armee [ar'me:], twei armeeen [ar'me:e?an] = One army, two armies
Ein streu [strɔ:], twei streuen ['strɔ:an] = One straw, two straws.

Nouns that take -s are multi-syllable nouns that end in an unstressed syllable. These unstressed syllables are normally a suffix where the vowel has generalised to [ø] or [i]. Such unstressed syllables include -en [-en], -el [-el], -ing [-ɪŋ], -er [-ɔr], -ek [-ɔk], -ed [-ɔd], -et [-ɔt], -e [-ɛ]. Words that end in an unstressed vowel also fall into this category.

Ein meining ['meInIN], twei meinings = One opinion, two opinions
Ein appel ['apɔl], twei appels = One apple, two apples
Ein teiken ['teikan], twei teikens = One symbol, two symbols
Ein brouder ['bru:dɔr], twei brouders = One brother, two brothers
Ein blousem ['blu:zɔm], twei blousemes = one flower, two flowers.
Ein havek ['hauvɔk], twei haveks = one hawk, two hawks
Ein heuved ['heuved], twei heuveds = one head, two heads
Ein schokolade [ʃɔko'la:dɛ], twei schokolades = one chocolate, two chocolates.
Ein auto ['aUtɔ], twei autos = one car, two cars.
Ein parti ['pɔrti], twei partis = one party, two parties.

Nouns with the original Greek or Roman case suffixes: These are -us, -um and -is. For example: museum, fokus, genesis. In these words, the case-suffix changes and uses a -s to make the plural.

Nouns ending in -us form the plural by changing the -us to -is
Nouns ending in -um form the plural by changing the -um to -as
Nouns ending in -is form the plural by changing the -is to -es.

ein fokus ['fokYs], twei fokis = one focus, two foci
ein tempus [ˈtɛmpʏs], twei tempis = one tense, two tenses
ein inkubus [ɪnˈkʏbɪs], twei inkubis = one incubus, two incubi
ein centrum [ˈtsɛntrʊm], twei centras = one centre, two centres
ein visum [ˈvɪzʏm], twei visas = one visa, visas
ein museum [myˈzʊm], twei museas = one museum, two museums
ein basis [ˈbɑːzɪs], twei bases = one basis, two bases
ein krisis [ˈkriːzɪs], twei krises = one crisis, two crises
ein tesis [ˈteːzɪs], twei teses = one thesis, two theses

It’s again important to note that not all words ending in -us, -um or -is take such endings. In many cases such as exkus, kostum and devis, the -us, -um or -is is not a Greek/Latin case-suffix and is in fact the stressed syllable of the word. The correct pluralization for those words is exkusen, kostumen and devisen.

Genitive/Possessive Case
Nouns can take a genitive case with the addition of the -s suffix. This suffix works in a similar way to the ’s suffix in English in phrases such as Ingmar’s computer (the computer belonging to Ingmar) or my father’s tool box (the tool box belonging to my father). In Frenkisch, the genitive suffix should be used only with proper names, not because it would be grammatically incorrect to use it elsewhere, but because it can be confused with the plural noun suffix -s. In other situations, it is better to use as construction such as the paw of the dog rather than the dog’s paw. So in Frenkisch, the dog’s paw would be translated as de peut af de hond.
Pappis tugkist is swair. = Daddy’s tool box is heavy.
Ingmars computer werk langsam. = Ingmar’s computer runs slowly.
Ick residir’d in Michaels haus. = I lived in Michael’s house.
De peut af de hond is hairig. = The dog’s paw is hairy.

Adjectives and Adverbs
Adjectives come before the noun they modify but after any articles or determiners.

En greun appel fall fra de heuch triew. = A green apple is falling from the tall tree.
De greut mann is wreid. = The big man is angry.

Adjectives do not inflect for case, number of gender. The only changes to adjectives are the suffixes which are used to create the comparative and superlative forms.

Adjectives with Abbreviating Stems.
These adjectives have a final syllable in the stem, that is abbreviated when a suffix such as the comparative -er is added. For example luttel, even, seker. In such adjectives, the final syllable has an unstressed schwa [ɑ] vowel. When a suffix (beginning in a vowel) is added to the stem, this final syllable is abbreviated — is not pronounced and in writing is replaced by an apostrophe. For example when -er is added to the stem luttel, it makes lutt’ler. (littler, more little). When -est is added to the stem even, it makes ev’nest. (flattest, most flat). Note that the stem abbreviates only when a suffix beginning in a vowel is applied. When a suffix beginning in a consonant is applied, the full stem is used. eg seker plus -heid makes sekerheid (security).

Comparative
To form a comparative of an adjective, add -er. Unlike in English, for multi-syllable words, you don’t need to use more instead of -er to form the comparative.

Si is greut doch hi is greuter. = She is big, but he is bigger.
Ick is alder doch dou is euk ald. = I am older but you are also old.
De leuven af de triew sinde greun, ond de gras is greuner. = The leaves of the tree are green, and the grass is greener.

Aspirin is effektiv, doch morfin is effektiver = Aspirin is effective, but morphine is more effective.

Jur kucken is nejt hygienisch, myn toilett is hygienischer = Your kitchen is not hygienic, my toilet is more hygienic.

Superlative
To form a comparative of an adjective, add -est. Unlike in English, for multi-syllable words, you need not use most instead of -est to form the superlative.

Dyn elders sinde ryk, doch myn elders sinde de rykest luden in de stad. = Your parents are rich but my parents are the richest people in the city.

Woll is saif stoff, doch koton is saiftest. = Wool is soft material, but cotton is softest.

Timmeren hausen sinde weik, doch streuwen hausen sinde weikest = Wooden houses are weak, but straw houses are weakest.

Deir pylen sinde seir ackurat, doch onser geweren sinde ackuratest = Their arrows are very accurate but our rifles are the most accurate.

Is si genereus? Ja, si is genereusest. = Is she generous? Yes, she is the most generous.

Comparing Things
To express in Frenkisch that something is as big, small etc as something else, use so ... als ...

Dyn mouder is so greut als en hwalfisch. = Your mother is as big as a whale.

De tanden af de hajfisch waire so scharp als klingen. = The shark’s teeth were as sharp as blades.

Dei sinde so arm als kirkmausen. = They are as poor as church mice.

To express that something is bigger or smaller etc than something else, use als ...

De armen af dyn mouder sinde breider als eiktriewtwygen. = Your mother’s arms are broader than oak tree branches.

Ick is ryker als di. = I am richer than you.

To him sinde notten deudliker als cyanid. = To him, nuts are more deadly than cyanide.

Irregular Adjectives
Frenkisch has a small number of irregular adjectives that form the comparative and superlative by other methods. The most common of these is goud (good). Goud follows a very similar pattern to English good:

goud = good, well
better = better, more good
best = best, most good

naij = near, close
nair = nearer, closer
naixt = nearest, next, closest

Adverbs
In Frenkisch, adjectives can be freely used as adverbs without modification. That is, they can modify verbs and other adjectives. This is different from English, where adverbs are normally derived from adjectives by adding the -ly suffix.

Ick leup haastig. = I am running quickly.

Hi gai langsam. = He is walking slowly.

Dei deuj’de bloudig. = They died bloodily.

De leuven sinde siek braun. = The leaves are sickly brown.

In cases when it is necessary for the purposes of avoiding ambiguity, optionally adverbs can be
designated as such by adding the -wis suffix to the stem:

Italies president is gemeinwis welllustig = The president of Italy is wickedly lecherous.
Italies president is welllustigwis gemein = The president of Italy is salaciously nasty.

Although using good as an adverb in English is considered bad form and well is considered the correct
adverb, in Frenkisch goud can be used as an adverb.

Ick kann singe goud. = I can sing well.
Dou sprek frenkisch goud. = You speak Frenkisch well.

Intensive Adverbs
These are used to modify the degree of an adjective to a greater or lesser extent. In Frenkisch, seir and
tou are used in a way similar to English very and too — seir[seir] meaning to a significant or extreme
degree and tou [tu:] meaning to an excessive or undesirable degree.

De weder was gestern seir heit. = The weather was very hot yesterday.
Dyn suster ha wax'd seir heuch. = Your sister has grown very tall.
Ick schold keupe en niew auto doch ick is tou arm. = I should buy a new car but I am too poor.
De weder is tou kald. = The weather is too cold.

Verbs
The verb system of Frenkisch is probably the most complex part of Frenkisch grammar. In addition to a
relatively high number of rules, there are a number of irregular verbs and strong verbs.

Verbs have a basic stem and are modified by additions (mostly suffixs) to that. Infinitive verbs end in
the -e [-@] suffix.

kusse = to kiss
hate = to hate
leupe = to run
singe = to sing
schimm'r = to shimmer
visitir = to inspect, to examine

Finite verbs inflect for number; they have a plural form and a singular form. The past tense is formed by
adding a suffix, other tenses and moods are formed by auxiliary verbs.

Verbs with Abbreviating Stems.
These verbs have a final syllable in the stem, that is abbreviated when a suffix such as the infinitive -e
is added. For example schimm'r, teik'ne, hwirv'le, have the stems schimmer, teiken, and hwirvel. In
such verbs, the final syllable has an unstressed schwa [a] vowel. When a suffix (beginning in a vowel)
is added to the stem, this final syllable is abbreviated — is not pronounced and in writing is replaced
by an apostrophe. For example when -ing is added to the stem schimmer, it makes schimm'ring. (The
action or process of shimmering). When -er is added to the stem teiken, it makes teik'ner. (something
or someone who draws). When -end is added to the stem hwirvel, it makes hwirv'end (which
whirls). Note that the stem abbreviates only when a suffix beginning in a vowel is applied. When a
suffix beginning in a consonant is applied, the full stem is used. eg teik'ne plus -bar makes teikenbar
(drawable). Schimm'r plus -d makes schimmer'd (shimmered)

Present Tense
When the subject of the sentence is singular, finite verbs in Frenkisch are formed with just the stem of
the verb and no suffix.

Ick kuss de baby. = I am kissing the baby.
When the subject of the sentence is plural, finite verbs in Frenkisch are formed by adding a -e suffix to the verb stem. That is, the verb form is identical to the infinitive form.

Unlike in English, there is no grammatical distinction between the continuous and the simple present tense. *I am walking to school* and *I walk to school* are expressed the same way; Ick gai tou schoul. When it is necessary to make such a distinction, use an adverb.

Nou gai ick tou schoul. = I am walking to school (right now, as I speak these words my legs are moving and the school is getting closer).  
Eilk dag gai ick tou schoul. = I walk to school (everyday, yesterday and most likely tomorrow also, but not necessarily at this very minute).

**Present Participle**
The present participle is formed by adding -end [-@nd] to the stem of the verb. It can be used as an adjective or adverb.

Dat jeupend saipen sinde bang. = Those running sheep are afraid.  
Ick sej seven hwirv'lend dansers. = I see seven whirling dancers.  
De brennend haus schyn reud. = The burning house shines redly.  
De bauwers spreke achterd tou deir herr. = The peasants speak respectfully to their lord.

English often uses the verb to be plus the present participle (-ing) as a variation on the present and past tense; note that -end can not be used in the manner of English -ing to form such sentences structures as I was driving to my mother’s house. Or the people are dancing in the street. Or the peasants are speaking to their lord. The present participle in Frenkisch is not used in this manner, instead simple tenses should be used.

**Past Tense**
Unlike in English, there is no grammatical distinction between the continuous and the simple past tense. *She was swimming in the sea, and she swam in the sea* are expressed the same way; Si swamm in de seiw. When it is necessary to make such a distinction, use an adverb.

Gestern swamm si in de seiw. = She was swimming in the the sea yesterday.  
Eilk dag swamm si in de seiw. = Everyday she swam in the sea.

For most regular singular verbs, the past tense is formed by adding -d to the verb stem. This is pronounced as [-d] if it follows a voiced consonant. If it follows an unvoiced consonant, it is pronounced [-t].

stelle = to place. Ick stell’d ['stEl] de kopp op de desch. = I placed the cup on the table.  
teiken'd = to draw. Si teiken’d ['teIk@nd] schreckfoill bilden. = She drew terrifying pictures.  
beve = to shake. De erd bev’d [be:vd] = The earth shook.  
smacke = to taste. Ick smack’d [smakt] seut wyn. = I tasted sweet wine.  
seuke = to seek. Dou seuk’d [s@kt] de heilig gral. = You sought the Holy Grail.  
leupe = to run. Hi leup’d [l@pt] torj de straites. = He ran through the streets.

For regular singular verbs that end in a dental consonant (d or t), the past tense is formed by adding
-ed to the verb stem. This is pronounced as [-ed].

leide = to lead. Hi leied [ˈleɪdəd] syn heren tou en greet seq. = He led his armies to a great victory.
wade = to wade. De fogel waded [ˈvaːdəd] in de poul. = The bird waded in the pond.

For most regular plural verbs, the past tense is formed by adding -de to the verb stem. This is pronounced as [-da] if it follows a voiced consonant. If it follows an unvoiced consonant, it is pronounced [-ta].

stelle = to place. Wi stellde [ˈstɛldə] onser munteren in en flasch. = We put our coins in a bottle.
wex’le = to exchange. Wi wexeld [ˈveksəldə] ponden tou euros. = We converted pounds to euros.
beve = to shake. De bergen bevde [ˈbevədə]. = The mountains shook.
smacke = to taste. Wi smackde [ˈsmɑktə] bitter beres. = We tasted bitter berries.
leupe = to run. Dei leupde [ˈlep子弟ə] nak’d in de wald. = They ran in the woods.

For regular plural verbs that end in a dental consonant (d or t), the past tense is formed by adding -ede to the verb stem. This is pronounced as [-da].

hate = to hate. Wi hatede [ˈhɔtədə] de faul wedder. = We hated the bad weather.
leide = to lead. Dei leidede [ˈleɪdədə] de jonglings tou sekerheid. = They led the children to safety.
wade = to wade. Dei wadede [ˈvaːdədə] in de somp. = The birds waded in the swamp.

**Perfect Tense**

The perfect tense is formed by following the subject of the sentence with the verb have [ˈhʌvə] and then the past participle of the verb. The past participle of regular verbs is formed in exactly the same way as the past tense of singular verbs — it is spelt the same and pronounced the same. Note that have is an irregular verb (see below) and must be conjugated to match the number of the subject.

stelle = to place. Ick ha stell’d [ˈstɛld] de kopp op de tavel = I have put the cup on the table.
riskire = to risk. Dou ha riskir’d [ˈriskiːɾd] dyn lyv = You have risked your life.
beve = to shake. Wi have bev’d [ˈbevəd] = The mountains have shaken.
smacke = to taste. Wi have smack’d [ˈsmɑkt] de seut wyn = We have tasted the sweet wine.
seuke = to seek. Ji have seuk’d [ˈsɔkt] de heilig gral = You have sought the holy grail.
leupe = to run. Hi ha leudp [ˈlɔpt] torj de straites = He has run through the streets.
hate = to hate. Ick ha hat’d [ˈhɔtəd] di myn gansch lyv = I have hated you my entire life.
slute = to close. Dou ha sluted [ˈslʊtəd] de fenzter = You have closed the window.
leide = to lead. Hi ha leied [ˈleɪdəd] sidem mennig jairen = He has led for many years.
wade = to wade. De storken have waded [ˈvaːdəd] in de marsch = The storks have waded in the marsh.

The past participle of verbs can also be used as an adjective;

De sluted deur is reud. = The closed door is red.
Hi is en hated mann. = He is a hated man.

**Past Perfect Tense**

This is formed with the past tense of have. Note that the past tense of have is irregular (see below). Otherwise it works in the same way as the perfect tense.

stelle = to place. Ick hadd stell’d [ˈstɛld] de kopp op de tavel = I had put the cup on the table.
wade = to wade. De fogel hadde waded [ˈvaːdəd] in de somp = The birds had waded in the swamp.
Future Tense
The future tense is formed by following the subject of the sentence with the auxiliary verb *scholle* [ʃˈɔlə] and then the infinitive of the verb. Note that *scholle* is an irregular verb (see below) and must be conjugated to match the number of the subject.

Ick *schall* [ʃal] *sture* = *I will drive.*
Wi *scholle* erinn'ne = *We will remember.*
Dou *schall* fergete = *You will forget.*
Ji *scholle* lige = *You will lie.*
Si *schall* segge = *She will say.*
Dei *scholle* seje = *They will see.*

Imperative Mood
The imperative is used for giving orders or requests. The imperative is formed by using just the stem of the verb and no pronouns.

Stur langsam! = *Drive slowly!*
Gev mi dyn kleiden. = *Give me your clothes.*
Wes nejt so domm! = *Don't be so stupid!*
Fatt en kouke. = *Take a cake.*
Drink dyn milk. = *Drink your milk.*
WSG, stell aut jur passporten. = *Please display your passports.*

Passive Voice
Passive sentences are ones that make the object of the sentence into the subject. Examples of passive sentences in English would be “*the milk was drunk by the cat*” instead of “*the cat drank the milk.*” Passive sentences are most often used when the doer of a deed is not known or to deflect blame away from the perpetrator of a misdeed. In Frenkisch, like English, a passive sentence is created with the verb *wese* followed by the past participle of the verb.

Myn burs was stolen. = *My wallet was stolen.*
Deir haus is brek'd. = *Their house is being destroyed.*
Dyn auto schall wese wegslepp'd. = *Your car will be towed away.*

If it is necessary to put the perpetrator of the act, it is added after the preposition *fon* as an indirect object of the sentence.

Myn burs was stolen *fon* en tiev. = *My wallet was stolen by a thief.*
Deir haus is brek'd *fon* de hwirvelwind. = *Their house is being destroyed by the tornado.*
Dyn auto schall wese wegslepp'd *fon* en slepplastwagen. = *Your car will be towed away by a tow truck.*

Subjunctive Mood
To form conditional or tentative statements, use the auxiliary verb *meuge* and use an appropriate conjunction or adverb (such as *infall*). Note that *meuge* is an irregular verb and must be conjugate to match the number of the subject.

Infall mag myn auto werke morgen, wi *meuge* fare *fon* ett tou arbeid. = *If my car is working tomorrow, we will travel by it to work.*

Infall *mag* ick *wese* en ryk mann, ick *meuge* leve ick in en greut haus mid menning betiener. = *If I were a rich man, I would live in big house with many servants.*

Infall *meucht* ick *have forautsejen* de problem mid myn auto, wi *meuge* gaie nejt heim nou. = *If I had forseen the problem with my car, we would not be walking home now.*
Auxiliary Verbs

These verbs are used to change the mood another verb. They follow the subject of the sentence and are followed by the infinitive verb that they are modifying. Most of these auxiliary verbs are irregular (see below) and have a different singular and plural form.

scholle ['ʃɔlə] = to in the future do, shall, will.
Dou schall flye tou Singapor. = You will fly to Singapore.
Wi scholle swimme in de poul. = We shall swim in the pond.

kunne [ˈkυnə] = to be able to, to know how to, can.
Ick kann [kan] spreke frenkisch. = I can speak Frenkisch.
Honden kunne ete beinen. = Dogs are able to eat bones.

wolle [ˈɔlə] = to want to, to wish to.
Ick will lerne frenkisch. = I want to learn Frenkisch.
Dei wolle heure musik. = They want to hear music.

moute [ˈmuːta] = to be compelled to, to need to, to have to, must.
Ick mout drinke water. = I must drink water.
Dei moute saupe bir. = They need to guzzle beer.

scholde [ˈʃoldtə] = to be supposed to do, to be advised to, to ought to, should.
Dou schold nejt reuke. = You should not smoke.
Dei scholde ete meir breud. = They should eat more bread.

Unlike most English auxiliary verbs, the Frenkisch versions can be used in the past, perfect and future tense like other verbs. They can be freely combined with other auxiliary verbs to create complex moods and tenses.

Ick ha kond leupe haastig. = I have been able to run quickly.
Wi scholde wolle drinke bir. = We should want to drink beer.
Dou schall moute kunne spreke Frenkisch. = You will need to know how to speak Frenkisch.

Irregular Verbs

Some verbs, especially some of the most important and commonly used verbs in Frenkisch are irregular. They don’t exactly follow the rules of past and present tense given above. Luckily they are few in number and there is a good chance that there will be equivalent verbs in your own Germanic language that are similarly irregular. Some of the irregular ones are listed below.

### Table of Frenkisch Irregular Verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>Present Singular</th>
<th>Present Plural</th>
<th>Past Singular</th>
<th>Past Plural</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wese [ˈvesə]</td>
<td>is [ɪs]</td>
<td>sinde [ˈsinda]</td>
<td>was [vəs]</td>
<td>waire [ˈvɔrə]</td>
<td>wes’d [ˈvest]</td>
<td>to be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have [ˈhə:və]</td>
<td>ha [hə:]</td>
<td>have [ˈhə:və]</td>
<td>had [hɑd]</td>
<td>hadde [ˈhɑdə]</td>
<td>hav’d [ˈhɑvəd]</td>
<td>to have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kunne [ˈkυnə]</td>
<td>kann [kan]</td>
<td>kunne [ˈkυnə]</td>
<td>kond [kənd]</td>
<td>konde [ˈkɔndə]</td>
<td>kond [kənd]</td>
<td>to be able to, to know how to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Infinitive, Present, Past, Participle, Translation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>Present Singular</th>
<th>Present Plural</th>
<th>Past Singular</th>
<th>Past Plural</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>witte ['uɪt]</td>
<td>weit [vent]</td>
<td>witte ['uɪt]</td>
<td>wist [vɪst]</td>
<td>wiste ['uɪst]</td>
<td>witted ['uɪtad]</td>
<td>to know or be aware of a situation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Wese [ˈvɛsa] = to be.
Ick will wese ryk = I want to be rich.
Ick is ryk = I am rich.
Dei sinde arm = They are poor.
Dou was gesond = You were healthy.
Wi waire siek = We were sick.
Dei have wes'd altyd arm = They have always been poor.

Have [ˈhavə] = to have
Hi schold have en auto. = He should have a car.
Hi ha twei euges. = He has two eyes.
Ji have tri autos. = You have three cars.
Ick hadd nein auto. = I had no car.
Syn honden hadde en ongeluck. = His dogs had an accident.
Dei have hav'd en ongeluck. = They have had an accident.

Kunne [ˈkʏnə] = to be able to, to know how to
Ji scholde kunne swimme. = You should be able to swim.
Dou kann nejt fliege. = You can not fly.
Wi kunne swimme. = We can swim.
Si kond spreke engelisch. = She could (was able to) speak English.
Ji kond singe goud. = You could (were able to) sing well.
Dei have kond swimme. = They have been able to swim.

Wolle [ˈvɔlə] = to want to, to wish to.
Hi schold wolle ete tortes. = He should want to eat cakes.
Hi will lerne frenkisch. = He wants to learn Frenkisch.
Wolle ji drinke myn wyn? = Do you want to drink my wine?
Ick wold nejt besučyn dyn mouder gestern. = I didn't want to visit your mother yesterday.
Dei wolde deude deir elders. = They wanted to kill their parents.
Ick ha wold besitte en haus. = I have wanted to own a house.

Moute ['mu:ts] = to be compelled to, to need to, must.
Ick schold nejt moute drinke meir bir. = I should not need to drink more beer.
Myn katt mout ete fleisch. = My cat needs to eat meat.
Moute ji kusse myn greutmouder so yverig? = Must you kiss my grandmother so enthusiastically?
Ick moust nejt besučyn dyn mouder. = I didn't need to visit your mother.
Dei elders moust se wese friewdig. = Their parents needed to be happy.
Ick ha mouted deude syn honden. = I have needed to kill his dogs.

scholle [ˈʃɔlə] = to in the future do, shall, will.

Dou schall fliege tou Singapor. = You will fly to Singapore.

Wi scholle swimme in de poul. = We shall swim in the pond.

Si scholde lerne naixt jair engelisch. = She would next year learn English.

Wi scholle swimme in de poul. = We shall swim in the pond.

Si schold lerne naixt jair engelisch. = She would next year learn English.

Wi schold reise latest jair tou de ald land af deir elders .= There were meant to travel to their parents old country last year.

meuge [ˈmœɡə] = would, might, See the subjunctive mood..

Myn katt mag ete fisch, ett mag werde siek = Were my cat to eat fisch, it would get sick.

Infall meuge ji kusse eimail myn greutmouder, si mag wese seir friewdig. = If you ever kissed my grandmother, she would be very happy.

witte [ˈwɪtə] = to know of a situation.

Ick will witte syn nam. = I want to know his name.

Hi weit dat fischen have nein beinen. = He knows that fish have no legs.

Witte ji dat myn greutmouder is deud? = Do you know that my grandmother is dead?

Ick wist nejt dat dyn mouder beseuk morgen. = I didn't know that your mother was visiting tomorrow.

Dei wiste dat deir elders waire deud? = They knew that their parents were dead.

Ick ha witted dat deir elders leve noch. = I have known that their parents are still alive.

gaiə [ˈɡæɪə] = to go, to walk.

Ick will gaie tou de kroug.= I want to go to the pub.

Hi gai fort an de streumkust. = He is walking along the river bank.

Gaie ji tou de haus af jur greutmouder? = Are you walking to your grandmother's house?

Ick ging tou de haus af dyn elders gestern. = I walked yesterday to your parents' house.

De jonglings ginge tou de begraving af deir greutelders. = The children went to their grandparents funeral.

Ick ha gan heim fra de kroug. = I have gone home from the pub.

staie [ˈsteɪə] = to stand, to be in a place.

Si schall staie befor en tribunal. = She will stand in front of a court.

Ick stai auten en boukboutik. = I am standing outside a bookstore.

Hwair staie ji? = Where are you standing?

De ald appeltriew stond allein in de acker. = The old apple tree stood alone in the field.

Wi stonde op de heuchpunkt af de berg. = We stood on the summit of the mountain.

Ett ha standen dair siden mennig jairem. = It has stood there for many years.

**Strong Verbs.**

Frenkisch has a number of strong verbs (approximately 40) that form the past and perfect tense by
changing the vowel sound of the verb stem instead of the regular method of adding a suffix. This process of vowel change is know as ablaut. In addition to ablaut, the past participles of strong verbs take an \[-en\] suffix rather than \'-d\' or \'-ed\'. Strong verbs are divided into seven classes. Each class has the same or similar vowel in the infinitive form and undergoes the same ablaut changes in the past tense and past participle. Each strong verb needs to be learnt. If a verb is strong in Frenkisch there will be a very good chance that your own Germanic language will have a counterpart that is likewise strong and whose vowels change in a very similar way to the Frenkisch one. Rather than learning the individual ablaut for each verb, I recommend you first learn the strong verb classes and the ablaut for each class.

The strong verb classes are as follows:

### Table of Frenkisch Strong Verbs.

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<th>Perfect</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>y</em></td>
<td><em>ei</em></td>
<td><em>i</em>en</td>
<td>(fricative or liquids), *i**en (stops).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>byte</td>
<td>beit-</td>
<td>bitten</td>
<td>to bite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dryve</td>
<td>dreiv-</td>
<td>driven</td>
<td>to drive, to incite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ryde</td>
<td>reid-</td>
<td>ridden</td>
<td>to ride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schyne</td>
<td>schein-</td>
<td>schinen</td>
<td>to shine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smyte</td>
<td>smeit-</td>
<td>smitten</td>
<td>to throw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stryde</td>
<td>streid-</td>
<td>stridden</td>
<td>to fight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class II</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>ie</em> or <em>u</em></td>
<td><em>eu</em></td>
<td><em>o</em>en</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biede</td>
<td>beud-</td>
<td>boden</td>
<td>to offer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fliege</td>
<td>fleug-</td>
<td>flogen</td>
<td>to fly</td>
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<tr>
<td>friese</td>
<td>freus-</td>
<td>frozen</td>
<td>to freeze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schute</td>
<td>scheut-</td>
<td>schoten</td>
<td>to shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class III</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>*i**e</td>
<td><em>a</em>*</td>
<td>*o**en</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>binde</td>
<td>band-</td>
<td>bonden</td>
<td>to bind</td>
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<td>drinke</td>
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<td>to drink</td>
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<td>fand-</td>
<td>fonden</td>
<td>to find</td>
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<tr>
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<td>sang-</td>
<td>songen</td>
<td>to sing</td>
</tr>
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<td>springe</td>
<td>sprang-</td>
<td>sprongen</td>
<td>to jump</td>
</tr>
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<td>stinke</td>
<td>stank-</td>
<td>stonken</td>
<td>to stink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swimme</td>
<td>swamm-</td>
<td>swommen</td>
<td>to swim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class IV</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>e</em>e or <em>o</em>e</td>
<td><em>a</em></td>
<td><em>o</em>en</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>komme</td>
<td>kam-</td>
<td>komen</td>
<td>to come</td>
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<td>stak-</td>
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<td>to stab</td>
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<td>stal-</td>
<td>stolen</td>
<td>to steal</td>
</tr>
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<td>Class V</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>e</em>e or <em>i</em>e</td>
<td><em>a</em></td>
<td><em>e</em>en</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>bidde</td>
<td>bad-</td>
<td>beden</td>
<td>to pray</td>
</tr>
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<td>ete</td>
<td>at-</td>
<td>eten</td>
<td>to eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geve</td>
<td>gav-</td>
<td>geven</td>
<td>to give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lige</td>
<td>lag-</td>
<td>legen</td>
<td>to lie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seje</td>
<td>saj-</td>
<td>sejen</td>
<td>to see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sitte</td>
<td>sat-</td>
<td>seten</td>
<td>to sit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class VI</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>a</em>e</td>
<td><em>ou</em></td>
<td><em>a</em>en</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drage</td>
<td>droug-</td>
<td>dragen</td>
<td>to pull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infinitive</td>
<td>Past</td>
<td>Perfect</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
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<td>---------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slaje</td>
<td>slouj-</td>
<td>slajen</td>
<td>to hit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>falle</td>
<td>fiel-</td>
<td>fallen</td>
<td>to fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>halde</td>
<td>hield-</td>
<td>halden</td>
<td>to hold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laite</td>
<td>liet-</td>
<td>laten</td>
<td>to allow, to let</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the past tense of strong verbs conjugate for number. Singular past tense is the simple stem of the strong verb with the vowel change. Plural past tense is the past stem of the strong verb plus a -e suffix.

Ick dryv, ick dreiv, ick ha driven. = I drive, I drove, I have driven.
Dei dryve, dei dreive, dei have driven. = They drive, they drove, they have driven.
Hi sing, hi sang, hi ha songen. = He sings, he sang, he has sung.
Wi singe, wi sange, wi have songen. = We sing, we sang, we have sung.
Dou sej, dou saj, dou ha sejen. = You see, you saw, you have seen.
Ji seje, ji saje, ji have sejen. = You see, you saw, you have seen.

Prepositions

These little words are used in a similar way as to in English. They come before the noun or pronoun they modify and before any articles, determiners or adjectives. Many are similar in use to their English cognates but there are a few notable exceptions which might trap the unwary English speaker. In particular op which does not mean up but more like English on or upon.

De kopp is op de tavel = The cup is on the table.
Dyn houd is op dyn heuved = Your hat is on your head.
Ick lig op de bedd = I am lying on the bed.
Ji moute arbeide op frydag = You must work on Friday.

An sometimes can be used like English on, but means not on top of something but stuck to or against the side of something. (Like picture on a wall, or a city on a river)

De bild is an de maur = The picture is on the wall.
London lig an de Thames = London lies on the Thames.
Myn hotel was direkt an de strand = My hotel was right on the beach.
Ick slouj an de deur = I banged against the door.

after[ˈaftər] = after, behind
an[ən] = on, against, at
af1[ɑf] = off, off of
af2 [af] = of, belonging to
aut [ɔut] = out, out of, from out of
auten ['autən] = without, except, outside
befor [bəˈfɔr] = before, in front of
by [bai] = by, beside
fon [fɔn] = by (indicating agency)
for [fɔr] = for
fort [fɔrt] = forth, onwards, forward, along
fra[fra] = from
hinden [ˈhɪndən] = behind
in[ɪn] = in, inside
inmidde [ɪnˈmɪd] = between, amidst, among, amongst.
mid [mɪd] = with, accompanied by
Conjunctions

These are the small words that connect the clauses of complex sentences together.

**ond** [ɔnd], [ɔnd] = and. It is normally pronounced unstressed so the vowel becomes [ɔ]

Ick will ete fisch **ond** friten. = I want to eat fish and chips.

Hi will ete perschen **ond** appels. = He wants to eat peaches and apples.

Ick saj ein bischop **ond** fimf presters. = I saw one bishop and five priests.

Wi saje twei monken **ond** acht nonnen. = We saw two monks and eight nuns.

Dei leve mid syn elders **ond** dei geniete dis behaglik tousamenstelling = They are living with his parent and they enjoy this cosy arrangement.

**doch** [dɔx] = but, though

Ick luv myn frau **doch** hirer elders hate mi. = I love my wife but her parents hate me.

Hi saup bir **doch** ett mak him tick = He drinks beer but it's making him fat.

**oder** [ˈɔdər] = or

Ick danc’d mid en heuch frauw **oder** ett was en mann magschej = I was dancing with a tall women or maybe it was a man.

**infall** [ˈɪnfal] = if, in the event of.

Infall beseuke dyn elders, ick gai tou de kroug. = If your parents visit, I will go to the pub.

**of** [ɔf] = whether, if. Only used in the same manner as English *if*, in situations where *if* could be replaced with *whether*. In most situations *if* should be translated as *infall*.

Ick will witte **of** dyn auto is greun oder reud. = I want to know whether your car is green or red.

**fordat** [ˈfɔrdat] = because

Hi was dreurig **fordat** hi was tou tick. = He was unhappy because he was too fat.

**dat** [dɔt] = that. Used to introduce a subordinate clause in exactly the same way English *that* can be used.

Ick weit **dat** dyn auto is greun. = I know that your car is green.

**euk** [ɔk] = also, too. Not used to translate *too* as in excessively.

Dyn auto is luttel euk ett is feralded ond gefairlik = Your car is small, also it is outdated and dangerous.

Dou is ryk doch ick is ryk euk. = You are rich, but I am rich too.

Syntax and Word Order

**The V2 Rule**

The default word order in Frenkisch is subject–verb–object (SVO). The subject of the sentence must be immediately next to the verb and not have any adverbs between it and the verb. But word order is also governed by the rule that the verb comes second (the V2 rule). The V2 rule means the first element of
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the sentence may be the subject, and indirect object or an adverb but the verb must follow it.

Myn doktor visitird mi gestern. = *My doctor examined me yesterday.
In this instance the verb visitird is second following myn doktor, the subject of the sentence.

Gestern visitird myn doktor mi. = *My doctor examined me yesterday.
In this case visitird is second following gestern, an adverb for time.

A sentence may begin with an indirect object, provided that the second element of the sentence is the finite verb

De frauw af de mer smeit en swerd tou Arthur. = The lady of the lake threw a sword to Arthur.
Tou Arthur smeit de frauw af de mer en swerd. = The lady of the lake threw to Arthur a sword.
In the second example the sentence starts with the indirect object, marked as such by the preposition tou. It is more permissible to start a sentence with an indirect object since they are preceded by a preposition and are thus less likely to be mistaken for the subject of the sentence.

Putting the direct object of the sentence first should be avoided as it often will be impossible to tell which is the subject and which is the object of the sentence.

De mann et de fisch = The man is eating the fish.
*De fisch et de mann = *The man is eating the fish.
Inversion of subject and direct object is more permissible in cases where the subject and object are personal pronouns, since these modify for case.

Hi et deim = He is eating them.
Deim et hi = He is eating them.
This would be permissible, because from the case forms of the pronouns, it is clear who is eating whom. But such an arrangement is probably best left for instances where poetic license are needed.

Questions
A sentence is converted from a statement into a question by reversing the order of the subject and verb.

Ick at en appel. = I ate an apple.
At ick en appel? = Did I eat an apple?

Hi heit Thomas. = He is called Thomas.
Heit hi Thomas? = Is he called Thomas?

Dou will gaie tou de kroug. = You want to go to the pub.
Will dou gaie tou de kroug? = Do you want to go to the pub?

A statement can also be made a question, simply by a change in the speaker’s tone of voice. Or in writing, by ending the statement in a question mark.

Hi heit Thomas? = He’s called Thomas?
Dou will gaie tou de kroug? = You want to go to the pub?

Position of Infinitives and Particples
Infinitive verbs and participles normally follow immediately after the finite verb.

Hi will spreke tou mi = He wants to speak with me.
Ick ha sprek’d tou him = I have spoken to him.
De auto af myn elders was stolen fra deir garage = My parents car was stolen from their garage.

In cases of inversion due to the V2 rule or a question, they follow immediately after the subject of the sentence.
Morgen schall ick beseuke myn elders. = Tomorrow I will visit my parents.
Gestern was ick visitir’d fra myn doktor. = Yesterday I was examined by my doctor.
Langsam ha ick stür’d de auto torj de straites av de stadd. = I have driven the car slowly through the streets of the town.
Will dou seje en film? = Do you want to see a movie?

**Position of Adverbs and Particles**
Adverbs of manner go immediately next to the verb they modify. Other adverbs can be freely positioned in the sentence, provided they don’t break the V2 rule.

Seker kann ick swimme. = I can surely swim.
Ick kann swimme seker. = I can swim safely.
Hi swimm nejt in de poul. = He is not swimming in the pond.

**Time**

**Telling the Time**
The Frenkisch word for o’clock is our[ur]. The time of day is normally preceded by the preposition om. The 24 hour clock is the preferred format. In fact Frenkisch has no exact equivalent to English a.m. and p.m.

Om hwat our is ett? = What’s the time?
Ett is om elv our. = It’s eleven o’clock (in the morning).
Ett is om fiewertejn our. = It’s two o’clock (in the afternoon).
Ett is om twentig-tri our. = It’s 11pm.

Times that are not exactly on the hour, are expressed by following the our by the number of minutes since the beginning of the hour.

Ett is om twentig-tri our fimftig-seven. = It’s 11:57pm.
Ett is om acht our fimftejn. = It’s quarter past eight in the morning.

**Some Adverbs of Time**
neimail = never
eins = once, one time
selden = seldom, rarely
sommetyds = sometimes
oft = often, frequently
eimail = ever, at any time
altyd = always
eidoch = even, yet
noch = even, still, yet
allreid = already
niewlik = recently
opniew = again

Unlike in English, in Frenkisch, the names of months, days of the week and seasons need not be capitalised.

**Days of the Week**
sonndag[ˈsɔnˌdaːɡ] = Sunday
mondag[ˈmʊnˌdaːɡ] = Monday
tiewsdag[ˈtjuːəsˌdaːɡ] = Tuesday
wounsdag[ˈvuːnsˌdaːɡ] = Wednesday
tonnersdag[ˈtʊnərsˌdaːɡ] = Thursday
frydag [ˈfraɪdɑɡ] = Friday
saterdag [ˈsatərɑɡ] = Saturday

Months
januari [ˈjanuəri] = January
februari [ˈfebruəri] = February
marc[mæːrs] = March
april[ˈɑːpriːl] = April
mai[mæɪ] = May
juni[ˈjyːni] = June
juli[ˈjyːli] = July
august[aˈʊgst] = August
september[ˈsɛptəmər] = September
oktober[ˈɔktəbər] = October
november[ˈnɔvəmər] = November
december[ˈdɛktəmbər] = December

Seasons of the Year
eirjair[ˈeɪrjər] = Spring.
lent[ˈlɛnt] = Lent is equivalent in meaning to English lent. It only falls during spring in the northern hemisphere. Because this is inaccurate in regard to the southern hemisphere, eirjair should always be used for climes south of the equator.
sommer[ˈsɒmər] = Summer
hervest[ˈhɜrvəst] = Autumn/Fall. This is the same as the Frenkisch word for harvest. When it is necessary to distinguish between Autumn/Fall and harvest, use hervestjairstyId: Wi hadde en goud hervest op dis hervestjairstyId. = We had a good harvest this Autumn.

winter[ˈwɪntər] = Winter

Numbers
Writing Numbers
When using Frenkisch in a localised situation, it may be appropriate and more convenient to use the number conventions of the country in question. But when using Frenkisch for international communication, a more international system, which carries less chance of confusion and incompatibility is recommended. The following is system is calculated to be as internationally compatible as possible.

In Frenkisch the decimal separator can be either a point or a comma (pronounced punkt or komma). Therefore 3.142 = 3,142. Long multi-digit numbers may be grouped into groups of three digits much like in English. But the only group separator that is permitted it a space. Therefore 1 048 576 = 10 048 576. Commas or points may not be used a group separator: 3,142 ≠ 3 142. 3,142 ≠ 3 142

Lists or sequences of numbers should be separated by a semi-colon (;). So zero, one, one, two, three, five, eight, thirteen, twenty-one should be typed as 0; 1; 1; 2; 3; 5; 8; 13; 21.

Small non-integer numbers (i.e. between -1 and +1) are always represented with a preceding zero. So ¾ × 1 is represented as 0,75 or 0.75 but never as *.75.

Negative numbers have the negative sign in front of the number. Therefore negative three point five is represented as -3,5 or -3.5 but never as *3.5-

Currency symbols come before the numerals of the price they are denoting. Thus one euro thirty five cents is written as €1,35 or €1.35 and not *1,35€. Symbols for sub-units of currency, such as cents or
pence are not normally written unless the price is less than one of the major unit. In these cases, the sub-unit is written after the numeral of the price in question. So ninety-nine pence may be written as **99p**. It could also safely be written as **£0.99** or **£0.99**. One dollar and two cents would be written as **$1.02** or **$1.02** but not *$1.02¢*

### Cardinal Numbers
Numbers work in a very similar way to English numbers. For numbers 21–99, they follow the modern English word order for example **tritig-fiewer (34)** and not *fiewer-on'-tritig.*

- **null**[nɪəl] or **zero**['zero] = 0
- **ein**['ein] = 1
- **twei**[twai] or **two** [tuo] = 2
- **tri**[tri:] = 3
- **fiewer**['fiwə] = 4
- **fimf**['fimf] = 5
- **sex**[sekς] = 6
- **seven**['sevn] = 7
- **acht**[axt] = 8
- **niewn**['niun] = 9
- **tejn**['tejn] = 10
- **elv**['elv] = 11
- **twelV**[twelv] = 12
- **tritejn**['triː,tejn] = 13
- **fiewertejn**['fiwər,tejn] = 14
- **fimftejn**['fimf,tejn] = 15
- **sextejn**['sekς,tejn] = 16
- **seventejn**['sevən,tejn] = 17
- **achttejn**['axt,tejn] = 18
- **niewntejn**['niːn,tejn] = 19
- **twentig**['twoŋ] = 20
- **twentig-ein**[twentig'ein] = 21
- **tritig**['tritiŋ] = 30
- **fiewertig**['fiwər,tIg] = 40
- **fimftig**['fimf,tIg] = 50
- **sextig**['sekstIg] = 60
- **seventig**['sevəntIg] = 70
- **achtting**['axttIg] = 80
- **niewntig**['niːntIg] = 90
- **honderd**['hOnd@rd] = 100
- **honderd-ein**[hOnd@rd'eIn] = 101
- **honderd-twentig-ein**[hOnd@rd,twentig'eIn] = 121
- **twei-honderd**[tweɪ,hOnd@rd] = 200
- **niewn-honderd-niewntig-niewn**['niːn,hOnd@rd,niːntIg'niːn] = 999
- **tausend**['taʊsənd] = 1000
- **million**[mɪljən] = 1 000 000 000 (10⁶)
- **milliard**[mɪljərd] = 1 000 000 000 (10⁹)
- **billion**[bɪlljən] = 1 000 000 000 000 (10¹²)
- **trillion**[trɪljən] = 1 000 000 000 000 000 (10¹⁵)

### Ordinal Numbers
Most ordinal numbers are formed by taking the cardinal number and adding the -de suffix. This is pronounced as either [-da] or [-ta] depending on whether the final consonant in the cardinal number is voiced or unvoiced. The exception to this is the ordinal number for **first** and any other ordinal numbers
ending with a final numeral of one (excepting 11), such as twenty-first. Instead of being *einde, it is eirst[erst] or furst[yrst].

eirst[erst] furst[yrst] or = first  
tweide[ˈtweedə] = second  
tride[ˈtrida] = third  
fiewerde[ˈfiːwertə] = fourth  
fimfde[ˈfɪmfə] = fifth  
sexde[ˈsɛksə] = sixth  
sevende[ˈsevənda] = seventh  
achtde[ˈaxtə] = eighth  
niewnde[ˈniːwndə] = ninth  
tejnde[ˈteɪnda] = tenth  

Ick is de tride jongling af myn moider. = I am my mother’s third child.
Morgen is syn twentig-eirst geburtdag = Tomorrow is his 21st birthday.

Ordinals can be written in abbreviated form with the cardinal number followed by a superscript e:

1° = eirst = furst = 1st
2° = tweide = 2nd
3° = tride = 3rd
4° = fiewerde = 4th
82° = achtting-tweide = 82nd

Gestern was de 82° geburtdag af myn greutfader. = Yesterday was my grandfather’s 82nd birthday.

Fractional Numbers

Most fractions are formed by taking the ordinal number and adding the -del suffix. This is pronounced as either [-dəl] or [-təl] depending on whether the final consonant in the cardinal number is voiced or unvoiced. Fractional numbers can be used as adjectives, adverbs or as nouns in their own right. The exception to this is the fractional number for ½, which is a helft as noun and halv as an adjective and ¼ which is not normally considered a fractional number. Fractional numbers which end in the numeral 1 (excepting 11) may be denoted using eirstdel or furstdel as the final part of the number.

halv[ˈhalv] = half, semi-, hemi- ½
helft[ˈhelft] = one half; ½
tridel[ˈtridəl] = third; ½
fiewerdel[ˈfiːwertəl] = one fourth/quarter; ¼
fimfdel[ˈfɪmfəl] = one fifth; ½
sexdel[ˈsɛksəl] = one sixth; ⅙
sevendel[ˈsevəndəl] = one seventh; ⅗
achtde[ˈaxtəl] = one eighth; ⅛
niewnde[ˈniːwndəl] = one ninth; ⅚
tejndel[ˈteɪndəl] = one tenth; ⅕

twentig-eirstdel[ˌtventɪgˌerstəl] = one twenty-first; ⅕

Ick gav hir en halv appel. = I gave her half an apple.
Twei is en achtde af sextejn = Two is one eighth of sixteen.
Ick besitt en fiewerdel deil af de business = I own a quarter share of the business.
Prefixes and Suffixes

Frenkisch has a large number of prefixes and especially suffixes which can be used to change words from one part of speech to another or to modify their meaning. Some of these prefixes have no real independent meaning and are not able to be productively added to existing words, these are ge-, fer-, er-, be-. Many other prefixes are words in their own right and can be used as prepositions, nouns, adjectives etc. Listed here are the productive suffixes and prefixes which are not words in their own right and which may be used to modify existing words for word creation.

Prefixes

- **mis-[mis-]** Modifying nouns and verbs, meaning bad or undesirable. Equivalent to English *mis-*
  
  **misbrauke** = to misuse, violate or abuse. **misdaid** = misdeed or crime

- **on-[on-]** Modifying adjectives and nouns, meaning the opposite of the root. Mostly equivalent to English *un-
  
  **onleir’d** = unlearned, ignorant. **ongeleuver** = unbeliever, infidel.

- **and-[and-]** Modifying verbs to give a meaning of reversing or undoing the original process. Often equivalent to English *un-.*
  
  **andtecke** = to uncover or discover. **andschulde** to excuse, to pardon.

Suffixes Creating Adjectives

- **-ig** Full of a particular noun. Mostly equivalent to English *-y* but only used in this manner. In English, for example *piggy* could mean having the characteristics of a pig. But Frenkisch **swynig** would have to mean literally full of pigs. *Piggy* would be better translated as **swynlik**.
  
  **steinig** = stony; full of stones; **Dis sol is steinig.** = *This soil is stony.* **leuvig** = leafy, full of leaves. **De park ha mennig leuvig triwen.** = *The park has many leafy trees.*

- **-fol** Full of a particular noun. Mostly equivalent to English *-ful* Used in a similar way to **-ig**.
  
  **hopfol** = hopeful, promising.

- **-sam** Having a tendency to be the particular adjective, or do a particular verb. Often equivalent to English *-some*.
  
  **behelpsam** = helpful. **bugsam** = flexible, pliant, supple. **gewaldsam** = violent.

- **-en** Constructed from a particular material noun. Equivalent to English *-en*, (as in golden, wooden, woollen, earthen) but used in many more places, since most Frenkisch nouns may not be freely used as adjectives without an explicit converting suffix.
  
  **steinen** = stone. **Ick klimm de steinen treppen.** = *I am climbing the stone steps.* **Wi wone in en timmeren haus** = *We live in a wood(en) house.* **Syn ring is golden.** = *His ring is golden.*

- **-leus** Having none or a lack of a particular noun. Equivalent to English *-less*.
  
  **inhaldsleus** = empty. **Myn forraidkisten waire alltyd inhaldsleus.** = *My cupboards were always empty.*

- **-lik** Having similar properties or characteristics to a particular noun. Equivalent to English *-like* and sometimes *-ly*.

  **landlik** = rural, rustic; **Menn scholde sture eins auto langsam op landlik straites.** = *You should drive your car slowly on country roads.* **Swynlik** = piggy, piglike, porcine. **Dou et dyn feud swynlik!** = *You eat your food like a pig!* (piggily)

- **-isch** Belonging to the same grouping as a particular group. Similar in usage to **-lik**, but is used more for nationalities and countries. Equivalent to English *-ish*.

  **niderlandisch** = Dutch, of the Netherlands. **portugesisch** = Portuguese, of Portugal.

  It also appears in a myriad of Romance borrowings of adjectives, generally where *-ic* and *-ical* would appearing English
demokratisch = democratic. akademisch = academic. chemisch = chemical

-bar[-bar] Able to be acted upon easily by a particular verb. Equivalent to English -able.
formbar = workable, plastic, malleable. Heit ysren is formbar = Hot iron is malleable.

-ed, -d[-d, -d] The past participle of regular verbs. See the section on verbs.
-end[-end] The present participle of a verb. See the section on verbs.

Suffixes Creating Nouns

-heid[-heid] The condition of being a particular adjective or noun. Often equivalent to English -hood.
smierigheid = dirt, filth, smut. behaglijkheid = comfort, cosiness, snugness

-nis[-nis] The condition of being a particular adjective or noun. Often equivalent to English -ness.
gevangnis = captivity, detention, prison. geheimnis = secrecy, stealth

doum[-dom] The condition of being a particular adjective or noun. Often equivalent to English -dom.

-schap[-sap] The group having a particular characteristic or being a particular adjective. Often equivalent to English -ship.
wittenschap = science, knowledge, learning. eigenschap = quality, aspect, function, characteristic.

-er[er] One who does or is the agent of a particular verb. Equivalent to English -er.
swimmer = swimmer, some one or something that swims. dancer = dancer, one who dances.
This suffix is also used to create the word for somebody who is the a resident of, of the member of an ethnic group of a particular region or country.
englander = English person, Englishman. Niderlander = Dutch person, resident of the Netherlands.
japaner = Japanese person, resident of Japan.

-ing[-in] The process or action of doing a particular verb. Often equivalent to English -ing.
kreiring = creation. overleving = survival.

-de[-da] The condition of being a particular adjective. Not normally productive, this suffix has several fossilised forms which has assimilated to the final consonant of the root adjective. Often equivalent to English -th in breadth or length or -t in English height.
wydde = width, diepde = depth, heucht = height dreuged = drought. joged = youth, boy.

-e [-a] Somebody or something who is the adjective of the root. No direct equivalent in English, but -ie or -y is often used in this manner: E.g. greenie, hottie, oldie
ald = old. alde = old person or thing. scheun = beautiful. scheune beautiful person or thing.

Compound Words
Multiple words may be combined in Frenkisch to make compound words for complex concepts. In compound words, each element of the compound modifies the next element. For example a schouolleirer is a schoolteacher, that is a teacher who teaches in a school. An autosturleirer is a driving instructor, that is a teacher who teaches driving motor vehicles. A leirerschoul is a teachers’ college, that is a school where teachers are trained to teach. Unlike in English, the elements of compound words are not separated by spaces or hyphens. This, in theory can result in quite long words such as asylseukergefangnis (asylum seeker detention centre), benzinstationbrennstoffpomp (petrol station fuel pump) and slepplastwagen (towtruck).
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