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# De Koncis Frenkischgrammatik

von David Parke

# FRENKISCH

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?

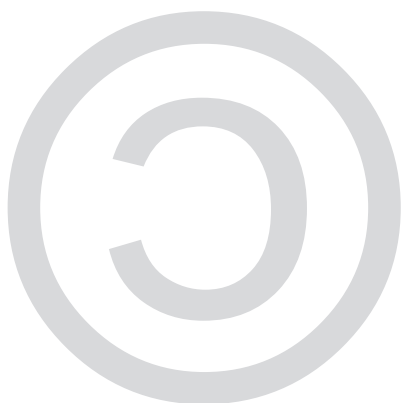
Frenkisch needs your suggestions for new words. To propose a new word for Frenkisch, send the author the suggested Frenkisch word, its translation into English, and cognate forms in at least three of the source language units. Frenkisch also needs help with translating the existing Frenkisch-English 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 begrenc'd 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 nief worden. Tou forslaje en nief word for Frenkisch, send de autor de forslajen 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 wordboek op ander spraiken. Wellsprekend, 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 means 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 *potet*, Swedish *potatis* and French *patate*.

I have also given 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 [ʃ] 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 *skubbe* = 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, teutonisch, 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** = [ø:], as in **greut** (great). **ou** = [u:], as in **bloud** (blood), **ai** = [æ:], as in **straite** (street). **u** = [y:] or [ʏ], 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 [aɪ] is English and Dutch influenced (in Dutch *y* can sometimes be used in place of *ij*). 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 keep looking. 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 as 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 been 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** [bri:s]. Example of an open syllable with following apostrophe: **ad'lig** [ˈa:dlɪg]. Example of a closed syllable: **schipp** [ʃɪp]. 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 [e:] sound. In such cases, the *e* is doubled to indicate it's not an unstressed [ə]. For examples **allee** [a'le:] and **idee** [i'de:]

**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** [ˈte:mlik] 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** [gla:s'haus] is long because the word is a compound of **glas** and **haus**. 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 schwas [ə]. 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** [dat], **op** [ɔp], **him** [him], **was** [vas], **af** [af], **fon** [fɔn], **is** [ɪs].

**Multi-syllabic Romance Words:** These words are normally stressed on the syllable before the final consonant. For example in **karte** [ˈkartə], the final consonant is *t* 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 [ɛkstse'ləntsə]. In **advokat**, the final consonant is *t* so the stress falls on the *a* before this, so the pronunciation is [advə'kɑ:t].

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** [ˈtsaɪkəl]; **vehikel** [ve'hi:kəl]; **cifer** [ˈtsi:fər]; **pulver** [ˈpʊlvər].

The second exception is for 'Latin' nouns that retain the original Latin case endings such as *-um*, *-us*, *-is*. For example **forum** [ˈfo:rʏm]; **museum** [mʏ'ze:rʏm]; **fokus** [ˈfo:kʏs]; **tempus** [ˈtɛmpʏs]; **basis** [ˈbɑ:zɪs]; **genesis** [gɛ'ne:zɪs]. 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** [dɛ'vi:s] and **exkus** [ɛks'ky:s] 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** [χa:ktɛrɪ'zi:rə]. 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. [χɑ:rakte:rɪ:'zi:rə]

## The Vowel Phonemes

Spelling	IPA Pronunciation	Word Examples	Notes
<b>Short Vowels</b>			
a	[a]	<b>dat; an; katt; akt; allianc</b>	Like <i>a</i> in German <i>Hand</i> . Like <i>a</i> in Northern or Scots English <i>hand</i> .
e	[ɛ]	<b>wedde; reck'ning; ett; agent; direkt</b>	Like <i>e</i> in English <i>bed</i> and <i>e</i> in German <i>Bett</i>
e	[ə]	<b>karte; luttel; cirkel; heupe</b>	Like <i>a</i> in English <i>tuna</i> or <i>alike</i> . Like the final <i>e</i> in German <i>Freude</i>
i	[ɪ]	<b>in; sitte; ick; gift; beginne; bitter</b>	Like <i>i</i> in English <i>sing</i> and <i>i</i> in German <i>singen</i>



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

### Long Vowels and Diphthongs

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

### Pronouncing Consonants

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



<b>c</b>	[ts]	decent; excellence; provinc; cement; cifer; centrum; cykel	Before a front vowel ( <b>e, i, y</b> ) like <i>ts</i> in <i>itself</i> . Or <i>z</i> in German <i>zehn</i> . At the end of a word like <i>tz</i> in English <i>blitz</i> or German <i>Spitze</i> .
<b>c</b>	[k]	café; computer; curry; clown	When <b>c</b> occurs before <b>a, o, u</b> 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.
<b>ch</b>	[x]	chaos; dochter; heuchest; rauch	Like <i>ch</i> in Scots <i>loch</i> or <i>ch</i> in German <i>Bach</i> .
<b>ch</b>	[ʃ]	chef, check; revanche	In words of French origin like <i>ch</i> in <i>chateau</i> .
<b>ck</b>	[k]	ackurat; fack; trucke; reck'ne; sack	Like <i>ck</i> in English <i>thick</i> or German <i>dick</i> .
<b>g</b>	[g]	geleuve; gnage; gral; laig; drachtig	Like <i>g</i> in <i>game</i> . Never like <i>g</i> in <i>geriatric</i> .
<b>g</b>	[ʒ]	garage, baggage, genant, orange	In some French derived words, as <i>s</i> in <i>leisure</i> .
<b>j</b>	[j]	ja; justic; jacht; jucke; jamm're; just; jong; slaje; seje; sejl; gesejt; tejt; judisch	Like <i>j</i> in German <i>ja</i> and like <i>y</i> in <i>yes</i> . At the end of a syllable, see <b>aj, ej</b> in the vowel section.
<b>ng</b>	[ŋ]	singe; finger; bang; gang; hengst; jong; messing; Hongarie	Like <i>ng</i> in <i>singer</i> . Not like <i>ng</i> in <i>finger</i> and definitely not like <i>ng</i> in <i>singe</i> .
<b>qu</b>	[kv]	quick; qualitaît; quelle; question; queu	Like <i>kv</i> in <i>kvetch</i> but the <i>v</i> is slightly more like a <i>w</i> sound. Like <i>kw</i> in Dutch <i>kwestie</i> .
<b>r</b>	[r], [ʀ]	bar; bard; sperre; ferr; hard; kraud; ackurat; reike; rar; rasch; raum; ruïn	Rolled like in Scots or uvular like in French or German. But always sounded, even after a vowel.
<b>s</b>	[s],	sabel; sack; said; spreke; terasse; presse; last; fals; ys; haus; gras	Like <i>s</i> as in <i>safe</i> at the start or end of a word or when doubled or when combined with another consonant.
<b>s</b>	[z]	besem; blaise; hausen; charakterisire	When it is between two vowels, like <i>s</i> as in <i>pause</i> or <i>s</i> as in German <i>rasieren</i>
<b>sch</b>	[ʃ]	fisch; wunsche; schryve; schipp	Like <i>sch</i> in German <i>Schuh</i> and <i>sh</i> as in <i>shape</i> .
<b>-tion</b>	[ <sup>1</sup> tsjo:n]	aktion; federation; lektion; nation; station	Appearing in myriad Romance borrowings, pronounced like <i>-tion</i> in German <i>Station</i> .
<b>w</b>	[v]	wade; wagen; wand're; bewond're; wyn; wunsche; wasche; gewer; frau; bauwe; blaw;	Halfway between <i>v</i> as in <i>vine</i> and <i>w</i> as in <i>wine</i> . At the end of a syllable, it becomes the vowel [v] and forms a diphthong with the preceding vowel. When between two vowels is pronounced as [w].
<b>wr</b>	[vr]	wreid; wraik; handwrist	Combined with <i>r</i> becomes a [v] sound.
<b>hw</b>	[hv]	hwal; hwair; hwelve; hwyt; hwyl	Like <i>w</i> with <i>h</i> before it.

## Frenkisch Alphabet

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

<b>Aa</b>	a:	<b>Bb</b>	be:	<b>Cc</b>	tse:	<b>Dd</b>	de:	<b>Ee</b>	e:
<b>Ff</b>	ɛf	<b>Gg</b>	ge:	<b>Hh</b>	ha:	<b>Ii</b>	i:	<b>Jj</b>	je:
<b>Kk</b>	ka:	<b>Ll</b>	ɛl	<b>Mm</b>	ɛm	<b>Nn</b>	ɛn	<b>Oo</b>	o:
<b>Pp</b>	pe:	<b>Qq</b>	ky:	<b>Rr</b>	ɛr	<b>Ss</b>	ɛs	<b>Tt</b>	te:
<b>Uu</b>	y:	<b>Vv</b>	ve:	<b>Ww</b>	<sup>1</sup> dɔpəl ve:	<b>Xx</b>	iks	<b>Yy</b>	aɪ
<b>Zz</b>	zɛt								

## Basic Phrases

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

## 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 it 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** ['sɔmə], 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** [də]. 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.

Person	Subjective	Objective	Possessive	Reflexive	English Equivalent
1st Singular	<b>ick</b> [ɪk]	<b>mi</b> [mi:]	<b>myn</b> [main]	<b>mi</b> [mi:]	<i>I, me, my, mine</i>
1st Plural	<b>wi</b> [vi:]	<b>ons</b> [ɔns]	<b>onser</b> ['ɔnzər]	<b>ons</b> [ɔns]	<i>we, us, our, ours</i>
2nd Singular	<b>dou</b> [du:]	<b>di</b> [di:]	<b>dyn</b> [dain]	<b>di</b> [di:]	<i>you, your, yours*</i>
2nd Plural	<b>ji</b> [ji:]	<b>ju</b> [jy:]	<b>jur</b> [jy:r]	<b>ju</b> [jy:]	<i>you, your, yours*</i>
3rd singular (masculine)	<b>hi</b> [hi:]	<b>him</b> [hm]	<b>syn</b> [sain]	<b>sick</b> [sɪk]	<i>he, him, his</i>
3rd singular (feminine)	<b>si</b> [si:]	<b>hir</b> [hi:r]	<b>hirer</b> ['hi:rər]	<b>sick</b> [sɪk]	<i>she, her, hers</i>
3rd singular (neuter)	<b>ett</b> [et]	<b>ett</b> [et]	<b>etts</b> [ets]	<b>sick</b> [sɪk]	<i>it, its</i>
3rd plural	<b>dei</b> [dei]	<b>deim</b> [deim]	<b>deir</b> [deir]	<b>sick</b> [sɪk]	<i>they, them, their, theirs</i>

**H*i*** is en goud singer. = *H*e* is a good singer.*

**S*i*** stur de taxi. = *S*h*e is driving the taxi.*

**I*ck*** will lerne frenkisch. = *I want to learn Frenkisch.*

**S*i*** ha kuss'd **h*im***. = *S*h*e has kissed him.*

**W*i*** scholle meute **d*eim*** morgen. = *W*e* shall meet them tomorrow.*

De auto is **s*yn***. = *The car is his.*

De appels sinde **m*yn***. = *The apples are mine.*

Dis haus is **o*ns***. = *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. Its 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 h*i*** meuted **h*irer*** mouder? = *Has he met her mother?*

**Will d*ou*** meute **m*yn*** uvel elders? = *Do you want to meet my horrible parents?*

**Dat** sinde **s*yn*** 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**.

**I*ck*** leire **m*i*** frenkisch. = *I am teaching myself (learning) Frenkisch.*

**H*i*** schall dryve **s*ick*** 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.



Person	Subjective	Objective	Possessive	Reflexive	English Equivalent
Impersonal	menn [mɛnn]	ein [ɛin]	eins [ɛins]	sick [sik]	one, you, they

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 sinde better als dat. = *Our houses are better than those*.

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

dair [dæ:r] = *there*

her [he:r] = *here*

dann [dan] = *then*

## Interrogative Pronouns

hwat [hvat] = *what*

hwair [hvæ:r] = *where*

hwann [hvan] = *when*

hwei [hveɪ] = *who*

hou [hu:] = *how*

hwairfor ['hvæ:rfɔ:r] = *why*

hwilk [hʊɪlk] = *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 [neɪn] = *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** [neɪman] = *no one, nobody*

**beid** [beɪd] = *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** [beɪn], **twei beinen** = One leg, two legs.

**Ein universitait** [ynɪvɛrzi'tæ:t], **twei universitaiten** = One university, two universities

**Ein student** [sty'dɛnt], **twei studenten** = One student, two students

**Ein hond** [hɔnd], **twei honden** = One dog, two dogs.

**Ein mann** [man], **twei mannen** = One man, two men.

**Ein station** [sta'tsjɔ:n], **twei stationen** = One station, two stations

**Ein nonn** ['nɔn], **twei nonnen** = 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:ʔɛn] = One army, two armies

**Ein streu** [strø:], **twei streuen** ['strø:ʔɛn] = 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 [ə] or [ɪ]. Such unstressed syllables include **-en** [-ən], **-el** [-əl], **-ing** [-ɪŋ], **-er** [-ər], **-ek** [-ək], **-ed** [-əd], **-et** [-ət], **-e** [-ə]. Words that end in an unstressed vowel also fall into this category.

**Ein meining** ['meɪnɪŋ], **twei meiningen** = One opinion, two opinions

**Ein appel** ['apəl], **twei appels** = One apple, two apples

**Ein teiken** ['teɪkən], **twei teikens** = One symbol, two symbols

**Ein brouder** ['bru:dər], **twei brouders** = One brother, two brothers

**Ein blousem** ['blu:zəm], **twei blousems** = one flower, two flowers.

**Ein havek** ['hɑ:vək], **twei haveks** = one hawk, two hawks

**Ein heued** ['hø:vəd], **twei heueds** = one head, two heads

**Ein schokolade** [ʃokə'la:də], **twei schokolades** = one chocolate, two chocolates.

**Ein auto** ['auto], **twei autos** = one car, two cars.

**Ein parti** ['parti], **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** ['fokʏs], **twei fokus** = one focus, two foci

ein tempus [ˈtɛmpʏs], twei tempis = one tense, two tenses

ein inkubus [ɪnˈky:bʏs], twei inkubis = one incubus, two incubi

ein centrum [ˈtsɛntrʏm], twei centras = one centre, two centres

ein visum [ˈvi:zʏm], twei visas = one visa, visas

ein museum [mʏˈze:ʏm], twei museas = one museum, two museums

ein basis [ˈba:zɪs], twei bases = one basis, two bases

ein krisis [ˈkri:zɪs], twei crises = one crisis, two crises

ein tesis [ˈte:zɪs], 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 [ə] 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 tolett 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 rykeest luden in de stad. = *Your parents are rich but my parents are the richest people in the city.*

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

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

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

Is si genereus? Ja, si is generouseest. = *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 hwalfish. = *Your mother is as big as a whale.*

De tanden af de hajfish 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.*

Tou 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 wellustig** = *The president of Italy is wickedly lecherous.*

Italies president is **wellustigwis 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**[seɪr] 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** [-ə] suffix.

**kusse** = *to kiss*

**hate** = *to hate*

**leupe** = *to run*

**singe** = *to sing*

**schimm're** = *to shimmer*

**visitire** = *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're**, **teik'ne**, **hwirv'le**, have the stems **schimmer**, **teiken**, and **hwirvel**. In such verbs, the final syllable has an unstressed schwa [ə] 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'lend** (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're** 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.*

Dou hat schoul. = You hate school.

Hi leup yv'rig. = He is running zealously.

De fogel sing scheun. = The bird sings beautifully.

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.

Wi kusse onser mouder befor wi ferlaite hir. = We kiss our mother before we leave her.

Ji hate arm folk. = You hate poor people.

Dei leupe at de stad. = They are running ot of the town.

De mannen singe laud = The men are singing loudly.

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; **lck 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** [-ənd] to the stem of the verb. It can be used as an adjective or adverb.

Dat leupend schaipen sinde bang. = Those running sheep are afraid.

**lck sej seven hwirv'lend dansers.** = *I see seven whirling dancers.*

De brennend haus schyn reud. = The burning house shines redly.

De bauwers spreke achtend 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 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*. **lck stell'd** ['stɛld] **de kopp op de desch**. = *I placed the cup on the table.*

**riskire** = *to risk*. **Dou riskir'd** [ris'ki:rd] **dyn lyv**. = *You risked your life.*

**teik'ne** = *to draw*. **Si teiken'd** ['teikənd] **schreckfoll bilden**. = *She drew terrifying pictures.*

**beve** = *to shake*. **De erd bev'd** [be:vd] = *The earth shook.*

**smacke** = *to taste*. **lck smack'd** [smakt] **seut wyn**. = *I tasted sweet wine.*

**seuke** = *to seek*. **Dou seuk'd** [sø:kt] **de heilig gral**. = *You sought the Holy Grail.*

**leupe** = *to run*. **Hi leup'd** [lø: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 [-əd].

**hate** = to hate. **Ick hated** [ˈhɑ:təd] **myn leirers.** = *I hated my teachers.*

**slute** = to close. **Dou sluted** [ˈsly:təd] **de fenster.** = *You closed the window.*

**leide** = to lead. **Hi leided** [ˈleɪdəd] **syn heren tou en greut seg.** = *He led his armies to a great victory.*

**wade** = to wade. **De fogel waded** [ˈvɑ:dəd] **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 [-də] if it follows a voiced consonant. If it follows an unvoiced consonant, it is pronounced [-tə].

**stelle** = to place. **Wi stell'de** [ˈstɛldə] **onser munten in en flasch.** = *We put our coins in a bottle.*

**riskire** = to risk. **Ji riskir'de** [rɪsˈkɪr:d] **jur gesondheid.** = *You risked your health.*

**wex'le** = to exchange. **Wi wexel'de** [ˈvɛksəldə] **ponden tou euros.** = *We converted pounds to euros.*

**beve** = to shake. **De bergen bev'de** [be:vɔdə]. = *The mountains shook*

**smacke** = to taste. **Wi smack'de** [smaktə] **bitter beres.** = *We tasted bitter berries.*

**seuke** = to seek. **Ji seuk'de** [sø:ktə] **de geheimniss af stail.** = *You sought the secret of steel.*

**leupe** = to run. **Dei leup'de** [lø:ptə] **nak'd in de wald.** = *They ran naked 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 [-ədə].

**hate** = to hate. **Wi hatede** [ˈhɑ:tədə] **de faul wedder.** = *We hated the bad weather*

**slute** = to close. **Ji slutede** [ˈsly:tədə] **de deur.** = *You closed the door*

**leide** = to lead. **Dei leidede** [ˈleɪdədə] **de jonglings tou sekerheid.** = *They led the children to safety.*

**wade** = to wade. **De fogels wadede** [ˈvɑ:dədə] **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** [ˈhɑ:və] 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 h̄a stell'd** [ˈstɛld] **de kopp op de tavel** = *I h̄ave put the cup on the table.*

**riskire** = to risk. **Dou h̄a riskir'd** [rɪsˈkɪr:d] **dyn lyv** = *You h̄ave risked your life.*

**beve** = to shake. **De bergen h̄ave bev'd** [be:vɔ] = *The mountains h̄ave shaken.*

**smacke** = to taste. **Wi h̄ave smack'd** [smakt] **de seut wyn** = *We h̄ave tasted the sweet wine.*

**seuke** = to seek. **Ji h̄ave seuk'd** [sø:kt] **de heilig gral** = *You h̄ave sought the holy grail.*

**leupe** = to run. **Hi h̄a leupd** [lø:pt] **torj de straites** = *He h̄as run through the streets.*

**hate** = to hate. **Ick h̄a hated** [ˈhɑ:təd] **di myn gansch lyv** = *I h̄ave hated you my entire life.*

**slute** = to close. **Dou h̄a sluted** [ˈsly:təd] **de fenster** = *You h̄ave closed the window.*

**leide** = to lead. **Hi h̄a leided** [ˈleɪdəd] **siden mennig jairen** = *He h̄as led for many years.*

**wade** = to wade. **De storken h̄ave waded** [ˈvɑ:dəd] **in de marsch** = *The storks h̄ave waded in the marsh.*

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

**De slutede deur is reud.** = *The closed door is red.*

**Hi is en h̄atede 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 h̄add stell'd** [ˈstɛld] **de kopp op de tavel** = *I h̄ad put the cup on the table.*

**wade** = to wade. **De fogels h̄adde waded** [ˈvɑ:dəd] **in de somp** = *The birds h̄ad waded in the swamp.*

## Future Tense

The future tense is formed by following the subject of the sentence with the auxiliary verb **scholle** [ˈʃɔlə] 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're = *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!*

Ge 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 mag leve ick in en greut haus mid mennig betieners. = *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 foreseen 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** [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.

**kunne** [ˈkʏnə] = *to be able to, to know how to, can.*

Ick kann spreke frenkisch. = I can speak Frenkisch.

Honden kunne ete beinen. = Dogs are able to eat bones.

**wolle** [ˈvɔlə] = *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** [ˈmu:tə] = *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** [ˈʃɔldə] = *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

Infinitive	Present Singular	Present Plural	Past Singular	Past Plural	Past Participle	Translation
wese [ˈvɛ:sə]	is [ɪs]	sinde [ˈsɪndə]	was [vɑs]	waire [ˈvæ:rə]	wes'd [vɛ:st]	to be
have [ˈhɑ:və]	ha [hɑ:]	have [ˈhɑ:və]	hadd [had]	hadde [ˈhadə]	hav'd [hɑ:vd]	to have
kunne [ˈkʏnə]	kann [kan]	kunne [ˈkʏnə]	kond [kɔnd]	konde [ˈkɔndə]	kond [kɔnd]	to be able to, to know how to
scholle [ˈʃɔlə]	schall [ʃchal]	scholle [ˈʃɔlə]	schold [ʃɔld]	scholde [ˈʃɔldə]	schold* [ʃɔld]	to do in the future
wolle [vɔlə]	will [vɪl]	wolle [ˈvɔlə]	wold [vɔld]	wolde [ˈvɔldə]	wold [vɔld]	to want to

Infinitive	Present Singular	Present Plural	Past Singular	Past Plural	Past Participle	Translation
witte ['vɪtə]	weit [veɪt]	witte ['vɪtə]	wist [vɪst]	wiste ['vɪstə]	witted ['vɪtəd]	to know or be aware of a situation
moute ['mu:tə]	mout [mu:t]	moute ['mu:tə]	moust [mu:st]	mouste ['mu:stə]	mouted ['mu:təd]	to need to, to have to
meuge ['mø:gə]	mag [ma:g]	meuge ['mø:gə]	meucht [mø:xt]	meuchte ['mø:xtə]	meucht [mø:xt]	would, might
scholde** ['ʃɔldə]	schold [ʃɔld]	scholde ['ʃɔldə]	schold [ʃɔld]	scholde ['ʃɔldə]	schold [ʃɔld]	to be advised to
gaie ['gæ:ʔə]	gai [gæ:]	gaie ['gæ:ʔə]	ging [gɪŋ]	ginge ['gɪŋə]	gan [ga:n]	to go, to walk
staie ['stæ:ʔə]	stai [stæ:]	staie ['stæ:ʔə]	stond ['stɔnd]	stonde ['stɔndə]	standen ['stændən]	to stand

wese [vɛ:sə] = 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 alltyd arm = They have always been poor.

have ['hɑ:və] = 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 ['kʏnə] = 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 konde singe goud. = You could (were able to) sing well.

Dei have kond swimme. = They have been able to swim.

wolle [vɔlə] = 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 beseuke 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:tə] = 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 beseuke dyn mouder. = I didn't need to visit your mother.

Deir elders mouste wese friewdig. = Their parents needed to be happy.



Ick ha mouted deude syn honden. = I have needed to kill his dogs.

scholle ['ʃɔlə] = 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 schold lerne naixt jair engelisch. = She would next year learn English.

Wi scholde singe de gesang goud after mennig singlektionen. = We would sing the song well after many singing lessons.

\*The past participle of scholle is in practise never used and would be impossible to translate into English if it ever were.

scholde ['ʃɔldə] = to be supposed to do, to be advised to, to ought to, should.

\*\*This verb is in fact the past tense of scholle used in a subjunctive mood and can possibly cause confusion since it has two meanings. Care needs to be taken to make sure the two are kept distinct, by, for example, using adverbs of time in addition to schold when it is being used as the past tense of scholle.

Ick schold witte syn nam. = I should know his name.

Hi schold swimme haastiger. = He ought to swim faster.

Scholde wi beseuke dyn siek greutmouder? = Should we visit your sick grandmother?

Ick schold nejt beseuke dyn mouder gestern. = I was not supposed to visit your mother yesterday.

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

meuge ['mø:ɡə] = 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 ['vɪtə] = 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.

gaie ['gæ:ʔə] = 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 ['stæ:ʔə] = 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 heuchtpunkt af de berg. = We stood on the summit of the mountain.□

Ett ha standen dair siden mennig jairen. = 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 known as *ablaut*. In addition to *ablaut*, the past participles of strong verbs take an *-en* [-ən] 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.

Infinitive	Past	Perfect	Meaning
<b>Class I *y*</b>	<b>*ei*</b>	<b>*i*en</b> (fricative or liquids), <b>*i**en</b> (stops).	
byte	beit-	bitten	<i>to bite</i>
dryve	dreiv-	driven	<i>to drive, to incite</i>
ryde	reid-	ridden	<i>to ride</i>
schyne	schein-	schinen	<i>to shine</i>
smyte	smeit-	smitten	<i>to throw</i>
stryde	streid-	stridden	<i>to fight</i>
<b>Class II *ie* or *u*</b>	<b>*eu*</b>	<b>*o*en</b>	
biede	beud-	boden	<i>to offer</i>
fliege	fleug-	flogen	<i>to fly</i>
friese	freus-	frosen	<i>to freeze</i>
schute	scheut-	schoten	<i>to shoot</i>
<b>Class III *j**e</b>	<b>*a**</b>	<b>*o**en</b>	
binde	band-	bonden	<i>to bind</i>
drinke	drank-	dronken	<i>to drink</i>
finde	fand-	fonden	<i>to find</i>
singe	sang-	songen	<i>to sing</i>
springe	sprang-	sprongen	<i>to jump</i>
stinke	stank-	stonken	<i>to stink</i>
swimme	swamm-	swommen	<i>to swim</i>
<b>Class IV *e*e or *o*e</b>	<b>*a*</b>	<b>*o*en</b>	
komme	kam-	komen	<i>to come</i>
stecke	stak-	stoken	<i>to stab</i>
stele	stal-	stolen	<i>to steal</i>
<b>Class V *e*e or *i*e</b>	<b>*a*</b>	<b>*e*en</b>	
bidde	bad-	beden	<i>to pray</i>
ete	at-	eten	<i>to eat</i>
geve	gav-	geven	<i>to give</i>
lige	lag-	legen	<i>to lie</i>
seje	saj-	sejen	<i>to see</i>
sitte	sat-	seten	<i>to sit</i>
<b>Class VI *a*e</b>	<b>*ou*</b>	<b>*a*en</b>	
drage	droug-	dragen	<i>to pull</i>

Infinitive	Past	Perfect	Meaning
slaje	slouj-	slajen	to hit
Class VII *a**e or *ai*	*ie*	*a*en	
falle	fiel-	fallen	to fall
halde	hield-	halden	to hold
laite	liet-	laten	to allow , to let

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 heued = 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[<sup>1</sup>aftər] = after, behind

an[an] = on, against, at

af<sup>1</sup>[af] = off, off of

af<sup>2</sup> [af] = of, belonging to

aut [aʊt] = out, out of, from out of

auten [<sup>1</sup>autən] = without, except, outside

befor [bə<sup>1</sup>fɔ:r] = before, in front of

by [baɪ] = by, beside

fon [fɔn] = by (indicating agency)

for [fo:r] = for

fort [fɔrt] = forth, onwards, forward, along

fra[fra] = from

hinden [<sup>1</sup>hɪndən]= behind

in[ɪn] = in, inside

inmidde [ɪ<sup>1</sup>mɪdə] = between, amidst, among, amongst.

mid [mɪd] = with, accompanied by

naij [naɪ] = *near, next to*  
 niden ['ne:dən] = *down, downwards*  
 om [ɔm] = *around, about, regarding*  
 onder ['ɔndər] = *under, beneath, below*  
 op [ɔp] = *on, upon, on top of*  
 oven ['o:vən] = *above*  
 over ['o:vər] = *over, above, atop, in excess of, on, about*  
 siden [saɪd] = *since, for.*  
 tou [tu:] = *to*  
 tourugg [tu:'rʏg] = *behind, backwards*  
 twischen ['tʷɪʃən] = *between, among, amongst*  
 torj ['tɔrɪ] = *through, by way of, via*

## Conjunctions

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

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

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 ['o:dər] = *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 ['ɪnfal] = *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 ['fo:rdat] = *because*

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

dat [dat] = *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 [ø:k] = *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



the sentence may be the subject, and indirect object or an adverb but the verb must follow it.

**Myn doktor visitir'd mi gestern.** = *My doctor examined me yesterday.*

In this instance the verb **visitird** is second following **myn doktor**, the subject of the sentence.

**Gestern visitir'd myn doktor mi.** = *My doctor examined me yesterday.*

In this case **visitir'd** 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.*

This sentence should be avoided since it looks exactly like the fish is eating the man.

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 Participles

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 stur'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**[u:r]. 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 fewertejn 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

alltyd = always

eidoch = even, yet

noch = even, still, yet

allreid = already

niewlik = recently

opnieuw = 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[ˈsɔn,dɑ:g] = Sunday

mondag[ˈmo:n,dɑ:g] = Monday

tiewsdag[ˈti:ʊs,dɑ:g] = Tuesday

wounsdag[ˈvu:ns,dɑ:g] = Wednesday

tonnersdag[ˈtɔnərs,dɑ:g] = Thursday

frydag[<sup>f</sup>fraɪ,dɑ:g] = *Friday*

saterdag[<sup>s</sup>sa:tər,dɑ:g] = *Saturday*

## Months

januari [janu'a:rɪ] = *January*

februari [febru'a:rɪ] = *February*

marc[marts] = *March*

april[a'pri:l] = *April*

mai[mæ:] = *May*

juni['jy:ni] = *June*

juli['jy:li] = *July*

august[au'gʏst] = *August*

september[sep'tembər] = *September*

oktober[ɔk'to:bər] = *October*

november[no'vembər] = *November*

december[de'tsembər] = *December*

## Seasons of the Year

eirjair[<sup>e</sup>ɪrjæ:r]

lent [lɛnt] = *Spring*. **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[<sup>s</sup>sɔmər] = *Summer*

hervest[<sup>h</sup>hɛrvəst] = *Autumn/Fall*. This is the same as the Frenkisch word for *harvest*. When it is necessary to distinguish between *Autumn/Fall* and *harvest*, use **hervestjairstyd**: **Wi hadde en goud hervest op dis hervestjairstyd.** = *We had a good harvest this Autumn.*

winter[<sup>w</sup>vɪntər] = *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 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 is a space. Therefore **1 048 576** = **1048576**. Commas or points may *not* be used as a group separator: **3,142** ≠ **3 142**. **3.142** ≠ **3142**

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  $\frac{3}{4} \times 1$  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**<sub>[nʏl]</sub> or **zero**<sub>['ze:ro]</sub> = 0

**ein**<sub>[ein]</sub> = 1

**twei**<sub>[tʷeɪ]</sub> or **two** <sub>[tʷo:]</sub> = 2

**tri**<sub>[tri:]</sub> = 3

**fiewer**<sub>[fi:ʊwər]</sub> = 4

**fimf**<sub>[fɪmf]</sub> = 5

**sex**<sub>[seks]</sub> = 6

**seven**<sub>['se:vən]</sub> = 7

**acht**<sub>[axt]</sub> = 8

**niewn**<sub>[ni:ʊn]</sub> = 9

**tejn**<sub>[teɪn]</sub> = 10

**elv**<sub>[ɛlv]</sub> = 11

**twelv**<sub>[tʷɛlv]</sub> = 12

**tritejn**<sub>['tri:,teɪn]</sub> = 13

**fiewertejn**<sub>['fi:ʊwər,teɪn]</sub> = 14

**fimftejn**<sub>['fɪmf,teɪn]</sub> = 15

**sextejn**<sub>['seks,teɪn]</sub> = 16

**seventejn**<sub>['se:vən,teɪn]</sub> = 17

**achttejn**<sub>['axt,teɪn]</sub> = 18

**niewntejn**<sub>['ni:ʊn,teɪn]</sub> = 19

**twentig**<sub>['tʷɛntɪg]</sub> = 20

**twentig-ein**<sub>[,tʷɛntɪg'eɪn]</sub> = 21

**tritig**<sub>['tri:tɪg]</sub> = 30

**fiewertig**<sub>['fi:ʊwɛrtɪg]</sub> = 40

**fimftig**<sub>['fɪmfɪg]</sub> = 50

**sextig**<sub>['seksɪg]</sub> = 60

**sewentig**<sub>['se:vəntɪg]</sub> = 70

**achtig**<sub>['axtɪg]</sub> = 80

**niewntig**<sub>['ni:ʊntɪg]</sub> = 90

**honderd**<sub>['hɔndərd]</sub> = 100

**honderd-ein**<sub>[,hɔndərd'eɪn]</sub> = 101

**honderd-twentig-ein**<sub>[,hɔndərd,tʷɛntɪg'eɪn]</sub> = 121

**twei-honderd**<sub>['tʷeɪ,hɔndərd]</sub> = 200

**niewn-honderd-niewntig-niewn**<sub>['ni:ʊn,hɔndərd,ni:ʊntɪg'ni:ʊn]</sub> = 999

**tausend**<sub>['taʊsənd]</sub> = 1000

**million**<sub>[mɪl'jo:n]</sub> = 1 000 000 (10<sup>6</sup>)

**milliard**<sub>[mɪl'jard]</sub> = 1 000 000 000 (10<sup>9</sup>)

**billion**<sub>[bɪl'jo:n]</sub> = 1 000 000 000 000 (10<sup>12</sup>)

**trillion**<sub>[trɪl'jo:n]</sub> = 1 000 000 000 000 000 (10<sup>15</sup>)

## Ordinal Numbers

Most ordinal numbers are formed by taking the cardinal number and adding the **-de** suffix. This is pronounced as either [-də] or [-tə] 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*[eirst] or *furst*[fyrst].

*eirst*[eirst] *furst*[fyrst] or = *first*

*tweide*['twe:də] = *second*

*tride*['tri:də] = *third*

*fiewerde*['fi:ʊwerdə] = *fourth*

*fimfde*['fimftə] = *fifth*

*sexde*['sekstə] = *sixth*

*sevende*['se:vəndə] = *seventh*

*achtde*['axtə] = *eighth*

*niewnde*['ni:ʊndə] = *ninth*

*tejnde*['teɪndə] = *tenth*

*twentig-eirst*['tventɪg'eirst] = *twenty-first*

*Ick is de tride jongling af myn mouder.* = *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: -<sup>e</sup>

1<sup>e</sup> = *eirst* = *furst* = 1<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>e</sup> = *tweide* = 2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>e</sup> = *tride* = 3<sup>rd</sup>

4<sup>e</sup> = *fiewerde* = 4<sup>th</sup>

82<sup>e</sup> = *achttig-tweide* = 82<sup>nd</sup>

*Gestern was de 82<sup>e</sup> 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 [-də] 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*[halv] = *half, semi-, hemi-* ½

*helft*[helft] = *one half*; ½

*tridel*['tri:dəl] = *third*; ⅓

*fiewerdel*['fi:ʊwərdəl] = *one fourth/quarter*; ¼

*fimfdel*['fimftəl] = *one fifth*; ⅕

*sexdel*['sekstəl] = *one sixth*; ⅙

*sevendel*['se:vəndəl] = *one seventh*; ⅙

*achtadel*['axtəl] = *one eighth*; ⅙

*niewndel*['ni:ʊndəl] = *one ninth*; ⅙

*tejndel*['teɪndəl] = *one tenth*; ⅙

*twentig-eirstdel*['tventɪg'eirstəl] = *one twenty-first*; ⅙

*Dyn appel sej aut kostlik. Gev mi helft.* = *Your apple looks delicious. Give me half.*

*Ick gav hir en halv appel.* = *I gave her half an apple.*

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

**on-**[ɔn-] 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**[-ɪg] 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*. **leuwig** = *leafy, full of leaves*. **De park ha mennig leuwig triewen**. = *The park has many leafy trees*.

**-fol**[-fɔl] Full of a particular noun. Mostly equivalent to English *-ful* Used in a similar way to **-ig**.

**hopfol** = *hopeful, promising*.

**-sam**[-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**[-ɛn] 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**[-lɔ:s] 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*. **lyvleus** *lifeless, dull*. **De kroug was lyvleus op en mondagmorgen** = *The pub was lifeless on a Monday morning*.

**-lik**[-lɪk] 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**[-ɪʃ] 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 appear in 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 ysern is formbar** = *Hot iron is malleable*.

**-ed, -d**[-əd, -d] The past participle of regular verbs. See the section on verbs.

**-end**[-ənd] 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*. **behaglikheid** = *comfort, cosiness, snugness*

**-nis**[-nis] The condition of being a particular adjective or noun. Often equivalent to English *-ness*.

**gefangnis** = *captivity, detention, prison*. **geheimnis** = *secrecy, stealth*

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

**-schap**[-ʃap] 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**[-ər] 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*. **Niederlander** = *Dutch person, resident of the Netherlands*.

**japaner** = *Japanese person, resident of Japan*.

**-ing**[-ɪŋ] The process or action of doing a particular verb. Often equivalent to English *-ing*.

**kreiring** = *creation*. **overleving** = *survival*.

**-de**[-də] 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** [-ə] 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

**schoulleirer** 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 **sleplastwagen** (*towtruck*).

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