Old Ponish Quick Grammar Guide 1.14

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Yes/No

Old Ponish	English
jae (pronounced 'yay')	yes
nae (pronounced 'neigh')	no

Nouns

To Make A Noun Plural

Nouns do not have any particular ending to indicate they're nouns. Because of this, to make a noun plural you add a slightly different ending to make them plural.

If the noun ends in a consonant	add *-i* to it
If the noun ends in a vowel	add -si to it

Plural Noun Examples

Singular (and English Translation)	Plural (and English Translation)
estra (sister)	*estrasi* (sisters)
rijan (friend)	*rijani* (friends)
unikeran (unicorn)	*unikerani* (unicorns)
poni (pony)	*ponisi* (ponies)
nefyl (cloud)	*nefyli* (clouds)

Pronouns

Pony Pronouns

One Pony			Two Ponies	More Than Two Ponies
ight (I/me)			*wit* (we two/us two)	*wier* (we/us)
thou (you)			*jit* (you two)	*jou* (you, you all)
hin (she/her)	*hert* (he/him)	*dae* (it)	*that* (those two, them two)	*thar* (they, them, they all, them all)

*poni can act as a singular, neutral person pronoun as well when the gender is unknown or otherwise doesn't fit.

*oni can act as an impersonal personal pronoun like 'one' in English

Pony Pronoun Sentence Examples

Old Ponish	English Translation
Ight poni.	I am a pony.
Hin poni.	She is a pony.
Thar ponisi.	They are ponies.
Poni rijan.	Pony is a friend.
Oni rijan	One is a friend.

The few number of words in these examples will make sense later in the sections "To Be" and "The Definite Article"!

Possessive Pronouns

The words to say things such as 'my' and 'mine' are identical. That is they can be followed by a word to specify what is being possessed or be used on their own to stand in place for the possession.

One Person			Two People	More Than Two People
ighth (my/mine)			*with* (both our/ both ours)	*ouser* (our/ours)
thouth (your/yours)			*jith* (both your/both yours)	*jouth* (all yours)
hith (her/hers)	*herth (his/his)*	*daeth (its)*	*thath* (both their/both theirs)	*unzer* (their/theirs)

Poni when used as a singular, neutral person possessive becomes *ponith*.
Poni when used as an impersonal, person possessive becomes *onith*.

Possessive Pronoun Example Usage

Old Ponish	English Translation
Ighth Min Poni	My Little Pony
Thouth	Yours
Hert horan	His horn
Unzer aeppalasi	Their apples

Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are used when a person is doing an active to themselves.
"The dishes washed **themselves**."
"I threw **myself** into the trash compactor."

ight (I) -> mese (myself)	wier (we) -> ouse (ourselves)
thou (you) -> thouse (yourself)	ju (you) -> jese (yourselves)
hin (she) -> hirse (herself) hert (he) -> hemse (himself) dae (it) -> daese (itself) poni (pony) -> ponse (ponyself) oni (one) -> onse (oneself)	thar (they) -> umse (themselves)

To Be (Am/Are/Is/Was/Were)

Am/Is/Are

Old Ponish	English Equivalent
am	am (used when the subject is the speaker; 'I')
es	is (used when the subject is singular and not the speaker)
ar	are (used in all cases when the subject is plural)
ama	to be (used when there is no subject)

If you are simply equating one thing to another (X is Y), you can leave out the words am/es/ar between them unless you are emphasizing the relationship between the two things. The examples below demonstrate this.

Am/Is/Are Sentence Examples

Old Ponish	English Translation
Dae es ight!	It is me!
Hin rijan	She is a friend.
Thou ighth rijan.	You are my friend.
Thou es ighth rijan.	You ARE my friend.
Jou ar ighth rijani	You are my friends!
Rijanaft es sael!	Friendship is magic!
Rijanaft sael.	Friendship is magic.
Ama rijani.	To be friends
Ama poni	To be pony

Was/Were

If you need to say 'something was something', you don't use am/ar/es, you use the following:

Old Ponish	English Equivalent
oum	was (when the subject is the speaker; 'I'; past tense of 'am')
ous	was (when the subject is singular and not the speaker; past tense of 'es')
oer	were (in all cases when the subject is plural; past tense of 'ar')

In order to leave out oum/ous/oer like you can leave out *am/es/ar*, it must be understood that the statement is in the past. There is less emphasis when *oum/ous/oer* is left in than am/es/ar.

Was/Were Sentence Examples

Old Ponish	English Equivalent
Ight oum thou.	I was you.
Wier oer hierk	We were here.
Dae ous ighth aeppala.	It was my apple.
Aeppala ous ighth.	The apple was mine.

Will/Will Be

If you need to say 'something will be something', you don't use am/are/is, you use the following:`

Old Ponish	English Equivalent
wyls	will/will be (for all cases no matter if it's the speaker, singular or plural)

Will/Will Be Sentence Examples

Old Ponish	English
Ight wyls kweldestra.	I will be a princess.
Thar wyls kweldestrasi.	They will be princesses.
Thou wyls vaere ighth kweldestra.	You will always be my princess.

The Definite Article (A, An, The)

There are no indefinite articles (a, an) in Old Ponish. Sentences can be translated with or without from context.

Indefinite Article Examples

estra	sister/a sister
poni	pony/a pony

Old Ponish	English Translation
Dae aeppala.	It is an apple.
Dae aeppalasi.	It's some apples.

The

Old Ponish	English Translation
del	the

'Del' is usually left out unless special emphasis or attention needs to be placed on the noun, like how am/ar/es is often left out. Usually when it is a rather specific noun. If it's simply understood to be the one you're talking about, it can be left out.

Del Usage Examples

Old Ponish	English Translation
sollast	a/the sun
del storra	the (specific) star (in question that we're talking about)
kweldestrasi	(the) princesses
del kweldestrasi	THE princesses

Possession / 'Of'

There are three different words that mean 'of':
- *a*
- *se*
- *ulf*

Ulf

Use 'ulf' when you want to say someone or something is 'from' somewhere, the word following it is understood to be a place.

Ulf Examples

Ponisua ulf nefyl	A pegasus of/from the clouds
Koukel ulf Rousa Pie	A cake from Pinkie Pie; a Pinkie Pie cake

Se

Use 'se' when you want to say something "is of" something; or represents something. When it could practically be a name or part of a proper noun, use this.

Se Examples

Elehemi Se Aedesan	The elements of harmony, i.e. the elements that are harmony
Saelfum se Ponehenge	The temple of Ponehenge, i.e. the temple that is known casually as the one that is in Ponehenge
Vier Se Rijanaft	The Fire of Friendship; the fire that is associated with Friendship

A

Use 'a' for a general possession/relationship

A Examples

grimnek a foala firgendork	the base of Foal Mountain
vaengri a ponisua	wings of a pegasus
draome a Ekwostria	a dream of Equestria

"This/That"

vys this	vysi these
tryn that	tryni those

These can be used alone or before a noun.

Old Ponish	Translation
Vys Ekwostria.	This is Equestria.
Tryni ighth bouki	Those are my books.
Vysi rijani estrasi.	These friends are sisters.
Tryn aeppal ighth.	That apple is mine.

Adjectives / Adverbs

Adjectives normally go before the noun they modify.

Adjective Placement Example

Ighth min poni	My little pony
Kult gweftim gwend	A cold wind blowing

Adverbs normally go after the verb they modify.

Adverb Placement Example

Ight trotte alnon.	I walk alone.

Superlatives

To form a superlative you add either -mest (most) or -min (least) to the end of a noun or adjective.

Superlative Examples

Vocabulary Note: alt = age, faer = pretty, rath = red, rijanan = friendly

Old Ponish	English Translation (Literal meaning)
altmin estra	youngest sister (age-least sister)
altmest unikeran	oldest unicorn (age-most unicorn)
faermest	prettiest (pretty-most)
rathmest aeppala	reddest apple
rijananmin	least friendly

Comparatives

To form a comparative you add either -mar (more) or -les (less) to the end of a noun or adjective. Mar is from the word 'maror' meaning 'more, greater, stronger' and Les is from the 'lesen' meaning 'to make less, to diminish, to reduce'.

Comparative Examples

Vocabulary Note: raren = rare, onesctemar = honest

rarenles	less rare
onesctemar	more honest

Verbs

Regular -en Verbs

There are regular verbs and irregular verbs. Regular verbs currently make up slightly more than half of all verbs.

Regular Verb Examples

Old Ponish	English Translation
grazen	to eat
lipken	to drink, to lick, to lap up

Regular verbs change endings based on who is doing the verb. When you change a regular verb you remove the -en before adding the personal ending. Change regular verbs as follows:

Regular -en Verb Ending Changes

-e	when the thing doing the verb is the speaker
-est	when the thing doing the verb is singular and not the speaker (you/she/he/it)
-en	when the thing doing the verb is plural (we/they/things)

Changing Regular -en Verb Examples

vocabulary note: grazen = to eat

Old Ponish	English Translation
Ight graze haeg.	I eat hay.
Thou grazest haeg.	You eat hay.
Wier grazen haeg.	We eat hay.

There is **no** separate present progressive tense ('I'm eating', 'I'm walking').
If a verb is happening in the present it is understood to be taking place now. It can be translated either way. For example:

Ight graze.	I eat/I do eat/I am eating.

Regular -a Verbs

Verbs ending in -a change similarly to how -en verbs change.
Before adding the personal ending remove the -a then add one of the following:

Regular -a Verb Ending Changes

Old Ponish	English Translation
-e	when the thing doing the verb is the speaker
-ast	when the thing doing the verb is singular and not the speaker (you/she/he/it)
-en	when the thing doing the verb is plural (we/they/things)

Regular -a Verb Ending Examples

Vocabulary note: flija = to fly

Ight flije.	I fly.
Hin fijast.	She flies.
Thar flijen.	They fly.

Regular -an Verbs

Verbs ending in -an change similarly to how -en verbs change.
Before adding the personal ending remove the -an then add the following:

Regular -an Verb Ending Changes

Old Ponish	English Translation
-e	when the thing doing the verb is the speaker
-as	when the thing doing the verb is singular and not the speaker (you/she/he/it)
-an	when the thing doing the verb is plural (we/they/things)

Regular -an Verb Ending Examples

Vocabulary note: drawan = to throw, to hurl, to yeet; astandan = to continue

Ight drawe aeppala.	I threw an apple.
Hert drawas aeppala toward hin.	He threw an apple to her.
Thar astandan unzer kwestar.	They continue their adventure.

Past Tense and Future Tense

To make a verb take place in the past you attach the prefix gen- to the front of the verb.

Past Tense Sentence Examples

Ight gengraze.	I ate.
Thu genfinde ight.	You found me.

To make a verb take place in the future you attach the prefix de- to the front of the verb.

Future Tense Sentence Examples

Ight deflije	I will fly.
Wier degrazen koukel.	We will eat cake.

Negating A Verb ('Not')

To say a verb is not happening place the adverb 'naer' in front of it. ('Naer' is pronounced like the hair removal product 'Nair'.)

Negating a Verb Sentence Examples

Vocabulary note: gaet = to go

Ight graze.	I'm eating.
Ight naer graze.	I'm not eating.
Hin degaet.	She will go.
Hin naer degaet.	She will not go.
Hin naer gengaet.	She didn't go.

Negating several words the words in a sentence creates extra emphasis for the negation, it does *not* un-negate the meaning like in English.

Multiple Negative Examples

Old Ponish	Literal Translation	How To Interpret Emphasis
Ight naer gengraze naeraft.	I didn't eat nothing.	"Not only did I not eat, I didn't even eat nothing."
Ight naer nave naeponi.	I don't know nopony.	"I don't know anypony, not even nopony."

Irregular Verb Conjugations

Verbs ending in anything other than -en,-an,-a change differently than the rest of the verbs. They fall into three broad categories.

Irregular Vowel-Ending Verbs

Verbs that end in vowels other than 'a' change the same way except if the one doing the verb is the speaker then the verb doesn't change at all from how it is in the dictionary.

Irregular Vowel-Ending Verb Changes

Old Ponish	English Translation
Dictionary form	Speaker doing the verb
-ast	when the thing doing the verb is singular and not the speaker (sing. you / she / he / it)
-en	when the thing doing the verb is plural (we / they / things)

Examples of Irregular Vowel-Ending Verb Changes

kumo = to come, luvji = to love, kwane = to guide

Ight	*kumo*	*luvji*	*kwane*
Hin / Hert / Thou, etc	*kumast*	*luvjast*	*kwanast*
Wier / Thar / Jou, etc.	*kumen*	*luvjen*	*kwanen*

Irregular Consonant-Ending Verbs

There are two large groups of irregular verbs that change predictably based on their ending consonant. The first group is called "hard consonant ending" verbs and the second are considered "soft consonant ending" verbs. They don't change from how they're found in the dictionary except when the subject is plural.

Consonants are divided between hard consonants and soft consonants as follows:

Hard Consonants	p, b, t, d, k, g, n, th*	add -en ending for plural
Soft Consonants	f, v, s, z, sc, r, l, j, m	add -t ending for plural

*Both sounds th makes (**th**in and **th**en)

As you can see, the majority of hard consonants are sounds that stop the flow of air when produced.

It may help to think of -"mt" like in English "dreamt"

Examples of Irregular Consonant-Ending Verbs Changing

In Dictionary	Meaning	Speaker doing verb	Non-Speaker Singular	Plural
gaet	to go	*gaet*	*gaet*	*gaeten*
trendij	to roll	*trendij*	*trendij*	*trendit*
hiel	to cover	*hiel*	*hiel*	*hielt*
glaem	to gleam	*glaem*	*glaem*	*glaemt*
voagresc	to attack	*voagresc*	*voagresc*	*voagrescen*
ved	to wed	*ved*	*ved*	*veden*
varg	to work	*varg*	*varg*	*vargen*
snikkr	to sneak	*snikkr*	*snikkr*	*snikkrt*
naeg	to speak	*naeg*	*naeg*	*naegen*

Verb Participles (Using Verbs Like Adjectives)

To use a verb like an adjective you turn them into their participle form. Old Ponish verbs have a present, past and future participle form. The past and future participle forms are made from the present participle form the same way past and future forms of verbs are formed: To form the past participle form you prefix the present participle form with *gen-*. To form the future participle form you prefix it with *de-*. Future participles aren't in English. You can think of them as "going to (verb)" or "due to (verb)"
The rules for making them is as follows:

Verb Group	Rule	Examples
Verbs ending in -en, -an	Remove -en/-an, add -et	*grazen->grazet* *astandan->astandet*
Verbs already ends in unvoiced dentals (-t or -th)	Add -et	*gaet->gaetet*
*Verb ending in voiced dentals (-d, -th)	Add -ed	*ved->veded*
Verbs ending in a vowel, -m, -n, -k, -p, -sc, or -ij, -b b = bt, th = thet, r = rt, f = ft, v = vd, w = wt, f = ft, s = st, h = ht, z = zed)	Remove any final -j, add -t	*groma->gromat* *swysti->swystit* *stoarm->stoarmt* *glaem->glaemt* *frolik->frolikt* *voagresc->voagresct* *slaep->slaept* *trendij->trendit*
*Verb ends in voiced consonants (-g, -l, -v, -z)	Add -d	*naeg->naegd* *vall->valld*
*Verb ends in -d, th (voiced)	Add -ed	*ved->veded*

*As you can see, most participle forms of verb participles end in -t, or -et.
The exception is a group of verbs that end in -g, -l, and -d. This group can be remembered with the mnemonic: "If a verb is a **G**o**LD** t's an **Ed**" = -g,-l,-d = -ed.
(If you know what a vocalized consonant is, the reason why these get a -d instead of a -t is because the previous consonant is voiced, the final consonant -t also becomes voiced into -d.)

Verb Participle Phrase Examples

Verb	Verb Meaning	Example Phrase	Phrase Meaning
naeg	to speak	*naegd stallo*	a/the speaking stallion
naven	to know	*navet smighl*	a/the knowing smile
vall	to fall	*devalled stoun*	a/the due-to-fall stone
voagresc	to attack	*voagresct fyfalderi*	a/the attacking butterflies
ved	to wed	*genveded maesi*	wedded mares
astandan	to continue	*astandet kwestar*	a/the continuing adventure
trendij	to roll, to wrap	*trendit nefyli*	rolling clouds
groma	to grow	*gromat treo*	a/the growing tree
floryk	to enjoy	*florykt filli*	a/the enjoying filly

Imperative Mood (How to Make Commands)

To tell someone to do something you put a verb into the Imperative Mood. The general rule to do this is you remove the end of the verb that identifies what verb group it is (i.e. remove the 'en' from the end of -en ending verbs) and leave the root of the verb bare.

Most irregular verbs don't change form if they end in a consonant. Vowel-ending irregular verbs might lose their final vowel (if it's not their only one!).

Imperative Mood Examples

Type of Verb	Verb Example	Verb Meaning	Imperative Mood	Meaning
-en veb	*grazen*	to eat	*Graz!*	Eat!
-an verb	*drawan*	to throw	*Draw!*	Throw!
-a verb	*flija*	to fly	*Flij!*	Fly!
Irregular	*gaet*	to go	*Gaet!*	Go!
Irregular	*klange*	to clang	*Klang!*	Clang!

Perfect Aspect

We put the verb in the Perfect Aspect when we're focusing on the result of the action instead of the action itself. Regardless of the time it happened (past, present, or future) the action happened before that time and now we're talking about the effect of that action upon that time.

For example: "I have made friends."
Although this gives information about a previous action (me making friends), we're focusing on the present effect of that (the fact that I have friends now).

This is different from "I made friends" which is just telling us I made friends at some point in the past. That's not focusing on the effect of the action, just the action.

Another example: "She hasn't eaten." This tells us in the past she didn't eat but the focus is on the present: she still in that state of having not eaten and may be feeling the results of that action (she's hungry, cranky, tired, etc).

To form the Perfect Aspect of a verb, you change the verb 'hathen' (to have) for your person and time (past, present, future) then follow that by the verb in its infinitive (dictionary) form with the past tense *gen-* attached. Don't use the participle form of the verb like in English.

Perfect Aspect Examples

Verb	Old Ponish	Translation
majen (to make, to create)	*Ight hathe genmajen rijani.*	I have made friends.
grazen (to eat)	*Hin naer hathest gengrazen.*	She hasn't eaten.
kumo (to come, to arrive)	*Hert genhathest genkumo gestrindag.*	He had arrived yesterday.

Subjunctive Mood

The subjunctive mood is used to express hypothetical situations that have not or may not have actually happened. They can also be future tense if the emphasis is that it's one possible outcome or only hypothetical, not necessarily a plan or assured. In English we often use 'would' and 'could' for this but there are other cases where this applies. (e.g. "If I were you"). The thing to remember is the subjunctive mood is used for actions that are not necessarily real.

Subjunctive Mood Conjugation Chart

Type of Verb / Example	Speaker	Singular	Plural
-en verbs	*-ien*	*-it*	*-ins*
-an verbs	*-aen*	*-et*	*-ens*
-a verbs	*-aen*	*-at*	*-ans*
irregular consonant-ending verbs	*-oun*	*-ot*	*-ons*
irregular vowel-ending verbs	*-voun*	*-vot*	*-vons*
kounen (can)	*kien*	*kitt*	*kins*
ammar (to be)	*amaen*	*oust*	*oerans*

Subjunctive Mood Example Sentences

- *Ight grazien tryn aeppala eftar.* I would eat that apple later.
- *Hin naegot ymb thou*. She would speak about you.
- *Aeglenleoni scyftovons methans Kweldestra Twighlaet bigh Kanterlot inne jietekta.* The griffons would meet Princess Twilight at Kanterlot in the future.
- *Ight kien ama gothmar thet thou*. I could be better than you.
- *Kweldestra Twighlaet kit majen nawi lagi em vargfumi.* Princess Twilight could make new laws on jobs.
- *Wier kins gaet beld toward Kanterlot.* We could go to Canterlot soon.
- *Jev ight amaen thou, ight amaen lypken mjolk.* If I were you, I would be drinking milk.
- *Thou oust taefen wier Wittaft?* Would you teach us Science?
- *Drakosi oerans natreosten thou ussen parkus thou es poni.* Dragons would not be trusting you just because you're a pony.

Intransitive Form

Some verbs require an object because the subject is doing the verb *to* something, these are transitive verbs. These verbs can take on an intransitive form, meaning that the verb does not take an object (or is done only to the one doing the action.) To do this, a prefix 'a' must be attached to the word like so:

risa - to raise (something)
arisa - to rise (self)
hiel - to hide (something)
ahiel - to hide (self)

Wier gen**risen** stoungescift.	We raised a statue.
Ight **arise** inne marung.	I rise in the morning.
Ight **hiel** ighth byttasi.	I hide my money.
Ight **ahiel** nythra thak.	I hide beneath the cover.

Some verbs are already intransitive (*stoda*, to stand), and wouldn't take an a-.. In addition, some verbs just won't require it and a- might only be used to clear up possible confusion.

'In Order To, So That, To'

In some sentences, you'll have more than one verb. The second verb tells what the subject of the sentence would do should the initial verb succeed. "I went to the store to buy milk." which can also be expressed as "I went to the store so that I can buy milk." The verb following 'tul' is not changed.

In Old Ponish, this is expressed with tul 'to, in order to'.

Ight skrippe tul ama gothar.	I write to be better.
Wier gaet daer tul metha.	We go there to meet.

Forming Questions

To form a question you take a statement, remove the word that you are asking about and place the appropriate question-word at the beginning of the sentence.

Forming Questions Sentence Examples

Old Ponish	English Translation (Literal Translation)
Thou gaet Ponehenge.	You are going to Ponehenge.
Kwar thou gaet?	Where are you going? (Where you are going?)
Hert gengrazest aeppala.	He ate an apple.
Kwa hert gengrazest?	What did he eat? (What he ate?)
Vi thou es?	How are you? (How you are?)

Question Words

kwa	what
kwar	where
kwen	when
kwek	which
vem	who
vi	how
vine	why

Simile Comparisons ("Like A..., As A...") with Vi

Use 'vi' (how) in a construction similarly to how you would use 'like, as'.

Simile Examples

Rijanaft vi raeboga.	Friendship is like a rainbow.
Hin es vi estra vyr ight.	She is as a sister to me.
Kussesi vi fyfalder	Kisses like a butterfly.

How To Make A Polite Request (Please)

The verb 'bidden' means "to plea, beg, beseech, entreat". To make a polite request from yourself you put the phrase "Ight bidde" at the beginning or end of a sentence. Which literally means "I beseech". Please compare:

Informal/Neutral Statement	Polite Request
Thou deseltiest med ight? = Will you dance with me? (Literally: Are you going to dance with me?)	*Ight bidde thou seltiest med ight.* = Please dance with me. (Literally: I beseech you dance with me.)