

# MUNDEZE

## SUMMARY OF GRAMMAR

Mundeze is a constructed IAL (International Auxiliary Language) created in 2012 with the aim of making the language as simple, coherent and instinctive as possible.

### Phonology

Mundeze is pronounced exactly as it is spelled. No letter is silent. There is a nearly one-to-one correspondence of letter to sound.

### Alphabet:

**a** (as in *hat*), **e** (as in *let*), **o** (as in *for*), **i** (as in *machine*), **u** (as in *rude*). The semi-vowels and consonants are pronounced like in English, except: **c** (pronounced **sh** as in *sheep*), **j** (like **-si-** in *vision*) and **r** (which is tap or trilled, like the **-tt-** of *better* in American English)

### Syntax

The allowed word order typologies are:

SVO - **me nyami apole** (I eat apple)

OSV - **apole me nyami** (apple I eat)

### Gender and number

Mundeze doesn't distinguish between masculine and feminine nouns. Gender is indicated by the prefix **ba-** (masculine), **ma-** (feminine) and **za-** (genderqueer).

To put a noun in the plural form, you can add a **-y** at the end of the noun, but it is not mandatory.

Adjectives and adverbs show no agreement.

### Parts of speech

In Mundeze, all words have an invariable root, the radical, from which you can form substantive, verb, adjective and adverb. The nouns end in **-e**, verbs in **-i**, adjectives in **-a** and adverbs in **-o**.

Example with "pel-" (to speak):

**pele** (speech)

**pel*i*** (to speak)

**pela** (oral, verbal, speaking)

**pelo** (orally, verbally)

### Pronouns

The personal pronouns are:

**me** (I, me)

**tu** (you)

**lo** (he, she, him, her, it)

**noy** (we, us)

**voy** (you)

**ley** (they, them)

There is also **ane** (*one*), as indefinite pronoun.

It is of course possible to specify the gender, adding the appropriate prefix: **malo** = she

The adjectives and possessive pronouns are formed by adding the adjectival suffix **-a** to the pronoun: **tua** = your, yours

## Conjugation

Verb conjugation is done optionally with adverbs:

- pretempo** or **preo**: for the past
- nutempo** or **nuo**: for the present
- postempo** or **poso**: for the future

There are also 3 adverbs to precise aspect. They are placed just before the verb:

- jo**: for an accomplished action = perfect aspect
- so**: for an ongoing action = progressive aspect
- vo**: for a planned action = prospective aspect

The jussive mood (imperative) is obtained by placing the stress on the last syllable, the one of the verbal ending.

Example with “pel-” (to speak)

- noy peli** = We speak
- noy pretempo peli** = We spoke
- noy vo peli** = We are going to speak
- preo noy vo peli** = We were going to speak
- noy pelí** = Let's speak

## Morphology

In Mundeze, we can easily create new words by combining roots, using juxtaposition. The root is the part of a word that precedes the grammatical ending. For example, in **buke** (*book*) the root is **buk-**, and the **-e** is the grammatical ending that indicates a noun.

Mundeze is a head-final language, which means that the head precedes its complements. That applies to the words order at the sentence level, but also to word composition (for compound words using more than one lexeme)

Examples

From **anar.e** (*group*) and **of.e** (*work*), we can create:

- anarofe** (**anar-of.e**) = group work
- ofanare** (**of-anar.e**) = working group

In Mundeze, root agglutination allows to create many words, but almost all morphemes have a meaning by their own, so it is almost possible to use Mundeze like an isolating language.

For example, the locative morpheme **en** (*in, at...*) can be used as follows:

- Locative preposition: **en dome** (at home)
- Verb: **eni** (*to be located in/at, to stand in/at*)
- Noun: **ene** (*place, location*)
- Locative suffix: **panene** (*bread's place = bakery*)
- Locative relative pronoun: **premi en ayifi** (*press where it hurts*)
- Locative morpheme: **kien, tien** (*where, there*)

Even grammatical endings have a meaning when isolated:

- swela energie** (*solar energy*) = **energie a swele** (*energy of the sun*)
- tu hwinko nyami** (*you eat “pigly”*) = **tu nyami, o hwinke** (*you eat like a pig*)
- cesi buke** (*take a book*) / **cesi, e tu voli** (*take what you want*)
- foba myawe** (*a frightened cat*) = **myawe, a fobi** (*a cat who is afraid*)
- me analizi** (*I'm analysing*) = **me i analize** (*I'm doing an analysis*)
- etc.

## Article

There is no article

## Interrogation

To form a question (direct or indirect), you can either add “**ki**” (interrogative particle) at the beginning or end of the clause, or use interrogative words (which are also at the beginning or end of the clause). Interrogative words can be preceded by a preposition.

### Examples:

**ki lo nyami?** / **lo nyami ki?** = **Does** he eat?

**kias lo ne nyami?** / **lo ne nyami kias?** = **Why** doesn't he eat?

**kie tu nyami?** / **tu nyami kie?** = **What** do you eat?

**kon kian tu nyami?** / **tu nyami kon kian?** = With **whom** do you eat?

**me tsivoli ki lo nyami** / **me tsivoli, lo nyami ki?** = I wonder **if** she eats / I wonder, **does** she eat?

**me tsivoli kie lo nyami?** / **me tsivoli (ti) lo nyami kie?** = I wonder **what** she eats / I wonder, **what** does she eat?

## Negation and affirmation

To form a negative sentence, we just add “**ne**” (*no, not*) before the word we want to negate. To emphasize an affirmative sentence, we just add “**ha**” (*do, yes, indeed*) before the word we want to emphasize.

### Example:

**me ne kanti** = I don't sing

**ne me kanti** = I am not the one who sings

**me ha kanti** = I do sing

**ha me kanti** = I am really the one who sings

## Vocabulary

**ha / ne** = yes / no, not

**me / tu / lo** = I / you / he, she, it

**salam** = hello, hi

**ples** = please

**name** = name

**danke** = thank you

**eze** = language

**may** = but

**si** = to be

**seti** = to fare

**voli** = to want

**leri** = to learn

**nami** = to be named, to be called

**mundezi** = to speak Mundeze

**mentcesi** = to understand

**repeli** = to repeat

**ki** = interrogative particle (do..?)

**kio** = how

**bono** = well

**nio** = also, too

**jo** = already

**dewayo** = slowly

**mea** = my

**bela** = beautiful

**salam! kio tu seti?** — Hello! How are you?

**me bono seti, danke.** — I'm fine, thank you.

**kio tu nami?** — What's your name?

**me nami kenji, ki tu?** — My name is Kemi, and you?

**mea name si sukina.** — My name is Sukina.

**ki tu mundezi?** — Do you speak Mundeze?

**ne jo, may me voli leri lo.** — Not yet, but I want to learn it.

**me nio, si bela eze.** — Me too, it's a beautiful language.

**me ne mentcesi, ples dewayo repeli.** — I don't understand, please repeat slowly.