

This is intended to be a rough, informal, and unorganized design document for the Syerjchepi language. ~~It is worth noting that while I am working on a method of typing Syerjchepi characters, so far any such characters will need to be handwritten into the printed versions later.~~ As such, one or two letter names (e.g. “b”, “dh”, or “ah”) will be used to show the spelling of Syerjchepi words. The letters will be separated by periods, and the words by spaces. (e.g. eh.k.s.ah.m.p.hl.ay.s.d) if not in the Syerjchepi font. Pronunciations will sometimes be provided using the International Phonetic Alphabet. (e.g. ʒksɒmpʃɛst )

The Syerjchepi writing system is a true alphabet with 43 different letters. There are 12 vowels (of which 2 can represent diphthongs) , 27 consonants (including 4 affricates) and 4 syllabic consonants. The writing system is quite phonetic, one can predict the pronunciation of a word from its spelling, and vice-verse. Words are generally written with their letters from top to bottom, and sentences are formed by placing the words from left to right. Though for ease of typing, longer passages in this document may be typed in the customary horizontal fashion. Additionally things that are supposed to be in the Syerjchepi font will be in brackets like these <⤵ ⚡ ⤵ > ⤵ ∞ ⤵ ⤵ ⤵ ⤵ >. The letters are as follows in alphabetical order:

<∞> (b) /b/	, <∞> (p) /p/	, <∅> (f) /f/	, <∅> (dh) /ð/ ,
<∅> (th) /θ/	, <⊥> (w) /w/	, <⊥> (y) /j/	, <∂> (s) /s/ ,
<∂> (z) /z/	, <+> (g) /g/ + /ŋ/	, <⚡> (k) /k/	, <∂> (h) /h/ ,
<h> (r) /r/	, <∩> (br) /B/	, <∩> (sh) /ʃ/	, <∩> (zh) /ʒ/ ,
<∩> (t) /t/	, <∩> (d) /d/	, <∩> (j) /dʒ/	, <∩> (ch) /tʃ/ ,
<= > (x) /x/	, <∆> (n) /n/	, <∇> (m) /m/	, <∇> (l) /l/ + /ʔ/ ,
<∪> (v) /v/	, <∪> (ts) /ts/	, <∪> (dz) /dz/	, <∩> (hr) /r/ ,
<∆> (hn) /n/	, <∇> (hm) /m/	, <∩> (hl) /l/	, <⤵> (eh) /ɜ/ ,
<⤵> (ah) /v/	, <∩> (ie) /i/	, <∩> (ih) /ɪ/	, <∩> (oy) /oi/ ,
<∅> (ay) /e/	, <∩> (uh) /ə/ + /ʌ/	, <∩> (oo) /u/	, <∩> (ei) /ai/ ,
<∩> (au) /ɔ/	, <∅> (oh) /o/	, <∩> (oe) /ø/	

Punctuation (~~the symbols of which will also need to be handwritten and attached~~) must also be learned. Typical sentences are begun and ended with triangles pointing away from the sentence. Questions are the same, except the markers are half circles. Exclamations don't have dedicated symbols, but an upside down and upside right exclamation mark can be used like in Spanish. Quoting and various contexts with subordinate clauses use other symbols, but these will be covered later.

Syerjchep has 10 basic grammatical persons that are distinct in pronouns and conjugations. First person singular (ex. I,me,my) first person plural inclusive (ex. we,us,our including the speaker and the addressed) first person plural exclusive (ex. we,us,our excluding the addressed yet including the speaker and third parties) second person singular informal (you) , second person singular formal (also you), second person plural (you all) , third person animate singular (he/she), third person inanimate singular (it), third person plural (they), and an auxiliary 2.5 case. The uses for this last 'person' will be explained in depth later.

Exactly what is a verb in Syerjchep might seem a bit different than in English. There are cases where functions handled by other pronouns, adverbs, or even conjunctions use a verb like construction. Verbs in Syerjchep can be divided into two basic groups, infinitive and non-infinitive. The prior do not need to be conjugated, only the correct pronoun is required. This group contains almost all of the verbs in the language, and virtually all of them are regular borrowings from other languages. The second group of verbs is distinguished by the fact that they do not have infinitive forms, no matter what context they are in, they will be conjugated. These verbs take the role of things such as the modal/auxillary verbs in English, possession, existence/copula, and the passive voice, to name a few examples. Temporally Syerjchep distinguishes between future, present, and past tenses, as well as perfect, imperfect and progressive aspects.

Basic unmarked pronouns:

1<sup>st</sup> person:

singular: <ʌ w>

plural inclusive: <ə w>

plural exclusive: <ɔ w>

2<sup>nd</sup> person:

singular informal: <ɛ ʊ>

plural informal: <ɛ ʊ ɔ>

formal: <ɔ ʊ>

3<sup>rd</sup> person:

animate singular: <ɔ ɔ>

inanimate singular: <ɔ ə>

plural: <ɔ ɔ>

Aux: <ʌ ɔ>

Tenses:

(default) (Present) progressive: <ɛ ʌ>

(Present) perfect: <ʌ h ɔ>

(Present) imperfect: <ɔ ʌ ʊ>

Past: <ʌ h ɔ>

Future: <ʌ ɔ>

To build your first sentence, you'll first need a verb. To keep it simple, we'll just borrow the verb "wait" from English. Then let's say we want to write "He has waited." First we choose the perfect aspect prefix, omitting any additional tense since it's technically in the present. The pronouns above are never alone, they are always a suffix of a verb. That said, we choose the third person animate singular since he is alive. Note that when one translates it back into English the result is actually "He/she has waited." since gender has not yet been distinguished. The final result is: <ʌ h ɔ ʌ ɔ ɔ ɔ> This would be pronounced /m.mɔwetin/

Copula:

1<sup>st</sup> person:

singular: <ɔ ʌ>

plural inclusive: <ɔ ə>

plural exclusive: <ɔ ɔ>

2<sup>nd</sup> person:

singular informal: <ɔ ə ɔ>

plural informal: <ɔ ə ɔ ʊ>

formal: <ɔ ə ɔ ɔ>

3<sup>rd</sup> person:

animate singular: <ɔ ə ʊ>

inanimate singular: <ɔ ə ʌ>

plural: <ɔ ɔ>

Aux: <ɔ ʊ>

Now that we have a first verb phrase down, next comes a phrase with an irregular non-infinitive verb. Note the conjugation table above. Much like the pronoun in the example above, these non-infinitive verbs are virtually always suffixes though this isn't a rule unlike the pronouns. We first take our noun, "person", written <ʌ ɔ h ə ɔ ɔ> and add the appropriate ending <ʌ ɔ h ə ɔ ɔ ʌ ɔ>. The first person singular has been chosen. We do not need to add any prefix for time since we are using the default tense/aspect. This says "I am (being) (a) person." Note: the use of articles (a/an/the) will be discussed later.

## Possession:

### 1<sup>st</sup> person:

singular: <chcn>

plural inclusive: <chcd>

plural exclusive: <chc6>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> person:

singular informal: <chd>

plural informal: <chdc>

formal: <chdcΔ>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> person:

animate singular: <ch'ψ>

inanimate singular: <ch>'ψ>

plural: <chcΔ>

Aux: <ch>

Next irregular verb on the list, "to have". The main difference between this and "to have" in English is that there isn't a distinction between active ownership with the verb "I have a cat" and passive ownership with possessive pronouns "my cat". So those two phrases are actually the same in Syerjchep. Same as before, we start with a noun <#>'ψ> "cat" and add the right suffix. In this example, we'll use the third person animate singular. <#>'ψch'ψ> Pronounced /kɔtirut/ We have just said "He/she has a cat" or "His/her cat". Since the default aspect is progressive, one could also translate as "He/she is having a cat" however since this is extremely uncommon form, it is not necessary to specify that it is not progressive.

Let's use both these verbs in a sentence now. We'll say "I have a pet, he/she is a cat." or more simply "My pet is a cat." First we say "my pet" <∞>ψchcn> then we say "is a cat" <#>'ψ0dψ> and put it together <∞>ψchcn #>'ψ0dψ> pronounced /pɜtirif katest/

## To be able to / can:

### 1<sup>st</sup> person:

singular: <3;|.c.ccn>

plural inclusive: <3;|.c.cd>

plural exclusive: <3;|.c.c6>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> person:

singular informal: <3;|ψdc>

plural informal: <3;|ψdcΔ>

formal: <3;|ψcψ>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> person:

animate singular: <3;|ψd'ψ>

inanimate singular: <3;|ψcdψ>

plural: <3;|ψΔw>

Aux: <3;|n>

Here we have the verb "to be able to". This is the first of the verbs to learn that modifies other verbs. Once again the process is very simple except this time, we start with a verb. We'll use "to wait" again <┘0ψ>. Pick our conjugation, in this case we'll use third person animate again, and put it together. We get <┘0ψ3;|ψd'ψ> or "He/she can (is able to) wait". Pronounced /wetɔtsu/ In the next example we'll use a non-infinitive on another non-infinitive.

To want / to like

1<sup>st</sup> person:

singular: <v>·w·c·n>

plural inclusive: <v>·w·c·d>

plural exclusive: <v>·w·c·o>

2<sup>nd</sup> person:

singular informal: <v>·y·c>

plural informal: <v>·w·c·w>

formal: <v>·y·c·d>

3<sup>rd</sup> person:

animate singular: <v>·y·l·>

inanimate singular: <v>·y·c·>

plural: <v>·w·;|·d·w>

Aux: <v>·y·>

This is the verb that means "to want" or "to like". Generally the meaning in the progressive and perfect is closer to "to want" where as the meaning in the imperfect is closer to "to like". This verb is generally only used with other verbs (like the "to be able to" example above) though informally it could also be used with a noun. In this next example we will say "I want to be able to fly." We'll write fly as <f>·z·t>. We append <3;|.c·c·n> to it, then we simply append <v>·w·c·n> to that. So we end up with <f>·z·t·3;|.c·c·n·v>·w·c·n>. This is pronounced /flaɪwɔdʒɪsmɒtɪʃ/ Note that both suffixes must be conjugated.

So far we've only used pronouns and no individual nouns. Specifying the subject isn't much more difficult. The subject case remains unmarked, and in most constructions comes before the verb. While the previous constructions were arguably verb-subject word order, these constructions are subject-verb. Joe, written <.c·o> likes to swim. This can be said with <.c·o·k·l·d·v·v>·y·l·> Pronounced /dʒo kuswɪmɒtsu/ We write "Joe" first, then add the prefix "koo" to put it in the imperfect (so its closer to "to like" than "to want") use our borrowed verb "swim" and lastly use the third person animate singular suffix.

Some regular adpositions:

Agent of passive cons.:	<t>	Prefix	Unmarked case
Direct object:	<o>	Prefix	Unmarked case
Indirect object or genitive:	<o>	Prefix	Unmarked case
In / inside:	<: ·d>	Prefix	Unmarked case
Next to:	<d·s>	Prefix	Unmarked case
About:	<e·w>	Prefix	Unmarked case
On top of:	<·l·u>	Prefix	Unmarked case
Up against:	<·l·w>	Prefix	Unmarked case
Away from:	<·;·∞>	Prefix	Unmarked case

Notice the small table above. In Syerjchep the direct and indirect objects of a verb are expressed with a preposition rather than their own case. If we want to say "Joe gave Bob an apple." we'd put Joe first, as he's the subject, then put the verb (with past tense prefix and 3rd-ani-sing suffix) next, and the objects (in this case Bob and the apple) could pretty much go anywhere. We'll keep them after the verb for now. Bob <∞·o·∞> is the indirect object, so we'll write <o·∞·o·∞> and the apple <·∞·d> is the direct object, so we'll write <o>·∞·d>. The finished sentence is <.c·o·v·h·c·+·c·u·c·d·o>·∞·d·o·∞·o·∞> Pronounced /dʒo mɪgɪvɪn eppl obob/

Passive voice

- 1<sup>st</sup> person:
  - singular: <၎ဝှ>
  - plural inclusive: <၎ဝဝ>
  - plural exclusive: <၎ဝ.ဝ.ဝ>
- 2<sup>nd</sup> person:
  - singular informal: <၎ဝဝ>
  - plural informal: <၎ဝဝ>
  - formal: <၎ဝဝ>။
- 3<sup>rd</sup> person:
  - animate singular: <၎ဝဝ>
  - inanimate singular: <၎ဝဝ>
  - plural: <၎ဝဝ>
- Aux: <၎ဝ>

To form passive constructions one uses that "Agent of passive cons." adposition above, as well as this verb. If we want to say "Joe has been given an apple by Bob." Joe is no longer the one giving the apple. Other than that, not a ton changes. First, we write Joe <၎ဝ> then we write "give" with the past prefix and the suffix of the verb in animate singular. We get <၎ဝှ + ဝှဝှဝှ>. Next comes bob with the preposition <၎ဝှဝှ> and lastly, the apple <ဝှ> The final sentence is <၎ဝှ ဝှဝှ + ဝှဝှဝှ ဝှဝှဝှ ဝှဝှ> Pronounced: /dʒo miɪgrvhəf aɪbɒb eɪpl/

When one says they know something, or they said something, hoped for something, they could very well say "I know it" , "I said it" or "I hoped it" using just the information provided so far. However to say specifically "I hoped that he (she) lived." (because that's the first thing that came to mind) you need a subordinate clause. In syerjchep, whenever a verb or any other word uses a subordinate clause, there is a suffix <ဝှ> which is appended to that word. This functions similar to the word "that" in English, except that it is required even if there's another word with the same or similar function. If one wants to say "I hoped" one can simply write <၎ဝှဝှဝှ> however when one expands on that, it looks like this: <၎ဝှဝှဝှဝှ ဝှဝှဝှဝှ> Pronounced: /mɪhɒpʃlʌvə mɪlɪvɪn/

To ask a question, one often needs the question particle <ဝှ> this is a prefix which is attached to the verb you're asking about. If one wanted to ask if someone else was a teacher, it would look like this <ဝှဝှဝှဝှဝှ> the question particle is first, teacher written <ဝှဝှ> is the core, and in this example the second person formal is used. When using this particle with a tense prefix, choosing whether to place the question particle before the tense or inbetween the tense and the core determines what one is asking about. If we want to ask if in the past, someone was a teacher as opposed to something else <ဝှဝှဝှဝှဝှ> however if we want to ask if someone was a teacher in the past but is no longer <ဝှဝှဝှဝှဝှ> pronounced /mɪjɪtɪtʃrɛsɪn/

The next prefix to learn is <ဝှဝှ> or <ဝှဝှ>. It turns phrases with non-infinitive verbs into subordinate phrases of their own to be used as arguments in a main clause. It could be translated as "that which" or "he or she who(m)". Let's use our verb "to be able to" and put it in the third person inanimate singular ("It can") <ဝှဝှ>. Then we can take the prefix and add it <ဝှဝှဝှ> and we get something along the lines of "What it is able to do." lastly let's say "I understand what it is able to do." by adding in "I understand" as a main clause before it. <ဝှဝှဝှဝှ> ဝှဝှဝှ ဝှဝှဝှဝှ Pronounced /ʌndrɪstɒndʃə kəʒɪbətɪst/ When one uses this prefix, you do not need to also use the subordinate clause particle <ဝှ> before it.

Syerjchep has four cases for nouns. The unmarked is the main case and the only case used so far in this guide. It is by far the most common, and corresponds to most usages of nouns in English. The other three cases are the causitive, partitive, and comparitive. The causitive simply denotes that the noun in question is the cause of the action taking place. Putting, say, the noun "cat" in the causitive is equivalent in English to saying "due to the cat" or "because of the cat". The partitive intuitively enough indicates that we are talking about a part of the noun in question. What exactly this means changes a lot based on context, however in a most basic example putting "cake" into the partitive would mean "some of the/this/a cake". The comparitive case once again is self-explanatory, it shows that a comparison is being made with the declined noun. Just like before, the nature of this comparison changes a lot based on context and modifiers. Putting, for example, the noun "snow" in this case might be like saying "like/as snow is/does". Specifics on each of these cases will be covered later.

Nouns in Syerjchep are also inflected for number. They can be either singular, dual, or plural. Singular and dual nouns use the singular conjugations for verbs, not the plural one. (Think english "There *is* a pair of birds on my porch." not "There *are* a pair of birds on my porch." The declension table for nouns is below:

Noun Declension	Singular	Dual	Plural
Unmarked	N/A	-C.G -> -C.w.eh.Gns -V.G -> -V.n.w.eh.Gns -C -> -C.w.eh -V -> -V.n.w.eh	-C -> -Cv.ie -V -> -V.ie -C.G -> -Cv.ie.C.ie -C.C -> -Cv.Cv.ie
Causitive	-V -> -V.zh.eh.m -V.nG -> -V.Cv.zh.eh.m -V.fricitive -> -V.C.eh.m -V.G -> -V.zh.m.eh.Gns	-V -> -V.zh.w.eh -C -> -C.w.eh.m	-V -> V.zh.ie.m -C -> -Cv.zh.ie.m
Comparitive	-V -> -V.z.ah -C -> -C.ah.z.ah	-V -> -V.z.w.ah -C -> -C.w.ah.z.ah	-V -> -V.z.ie -C -> -C.ah.z.ie
Partitive	-nG -> -Cu.oh -C.G -> -Cu.oh.Gns -V -> -V.l.oh -V.G -> -V.l.oh.Gns	-C -> -C.w.oh -V -> V.n.w.oh	-C -> C.oy.l -V -> V.l.oy

As can be seen on the table, the ending of the noun in question is relevant to the declension. Some notes on the abbreviations: C = Consonant , Cv = Voice version of that consonant, Cu = Unvoiced version of that consonant , V = vowel, nG = not G, Gns = non syllabant version of G if applicable, G = br , x , hn , hm , hl , hr , g (when ng) , j , ch , ts , dz

As an exercise, I'll take "kitten" and put it in the dual, meaning "a pair of kittens". Kitten is being written as <𐌕𐌹𐌳𐌹𐌹>. First we look at the unmarked row, then the dual column and note the forms. As we wrote "kitten" the last letter is 'hn' which is considered one of those "G" letters. So the correct line to reference is "-C.G -> -C.w.eh.Gns". 't' is the consonant before it, and 'hn' is the G. So we take the C, add a 'w', add a 'eh' and then change the 'hn' to its non-syllabant form because it says "Gns" which is 'n'. The final result is <𐌕𐌹𐌳𐌹𐌹𐌵𐌶𐌹𐌹𐌵𐌹𐌹> "kitwen" pronounced /kitwɛn/

Next, let's write "because of these cats". This is actually simpler, we will be using the plural causitive. The reference line is "-C -> -Cv.zh.ie.m". <𐌕𐌹𐌳𐌹𐌹𐌵𐌶𐌹𐌹𐌵𐌹𐌹> The 't' at the end becomes voiced and then we just add the suffix. It is pronounced /kɔdʒim/







To let/allow (someone do something)

1<sup>st</sup> person:

singular: <Δ'θ'>Cν>

plural inclusive: <Δ'θ'>Cδ>

plural exclusive: <Δ'θ'>Cδ>

2<sup>nd</sup> person:

singular informal: <Δ'θ'>CΔ>

plural informal: <Δ'θ'>CΔC>

formal: <Δ'θ'>C>ψ>

3<sup>rd</sup> person:

animate singular: <Δ'θ'>·|>

inanimate singular: <Δ'θ'>Cψ>

plural: <Δ'θ'>CψCΔ>

Aux: <Δ'θ'>ψ>

To use the previous two verbs, one generally must invoke that “Agent of passive cons” preposition from before. The one doing the allowing/letting is the subject, the person being allowed to do something is the object of the preposition <φ> and then the verb that is being suffixed with “to let” or “to make” or any other verb like those two can take its own direct and indirect objects. The sentence <+·CκΔ'θ'>Cν φ>ψ 0∞0∞ 0>∞ϑ> which means “I will let you give Bob an apple.” starts with “Give” with the suffix equating to “I let” then has the formal second person as the object of the preposition, and then has the same two arguments of “give” as before.

The conjunction “and” in Syerjchep can be translated at least two ways. The way to join subjects and entire clauses is <κ> for example <∞0∞ κ .Ḃ.0Δ 10ψΔC> “Bob and John are waiting.” However to join objects together one uses a splitting suffix <ϑ> here is one example <νhCφ>·|Cϑ d0hδCϑ n0+CChCν> (“I had cats and horses and dogs.”) the verb is essentially split. You get the tense prefix and any other prefixes the verb phrase has, then the first noun suffixed with <ϑ> as the first word, then any middle nouns with no suffixes or prefixes except for <ϑ> and then the last (this could be the second if there's only two) noun has the verb suffix and any other suffixes. This can be used on prepositions as well <+·CκνW 0∞0∞ ϑ .Ḃ.0Δ 0>∞ϑ> (“I am giving Bob and John an apple.”) There is also <C> which can only join main clauses / sentences together. It could possibly be translated as “and”, “then” or “and then”. <+·CκνW 0∞0∞ 0>∞ϑ> C zCκνW> would mean "I am giving bob an apple and then I am leaving." <κ> may preform this function as well.

Other regular conjunctions:

However/But

<·|C=>

Or

<ϑ>

(This can be used like <κ> or <ϑ> )

So

<·Ḃ·C>

After

<∞h>=κW>

Before

<3>nκW>

While/As

<δL0κW>

Unless

<Δ>ΔCκW>

Until

<+>δκW>

Those conjunctions are fairly similar to English in use, but examples will be provided later. More importantly subordinating conjunctions such as "who", "when", "how" each have multiple forms and are more different from English. In general, such words have at least three forms, an interrogative form "Who was just here?" a subordinating form "I don't know who was just here." and an independent form "I don't know who."