Śurgeq Saʕweq - Speedlang 22

[ʃʊɾgə̆c seʕwə̆c]

camelCaseCo

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Introduction

There's a lot I wish I had worked more on but alas such is the way of the speedlang. Enjoy!

Phonology

Consonants

Phonemic	Labial		Alveolar		Palatal	Dorsal	Pharyn.	Glottal
	plain	phar.	plain	phar.				
Vl. Stop	p		t	tˤ	c	k		ʔ
V. Stop	b	bˤ	d	dˤ	ɟ	g		
Nasal	m	mˤ	n	nˤ				
Fric.	f		s	sˤ	ʃ	χ	ħ	h
Approx.			l	lˤ	j	w	ʕ	
Trill			r	rˤ				

Ortho-graphical	Labial		Alveolar		Palatal	Velar	Pharyn.	Glottal
	plain	phar.	plain	phar.				
Vl. Stop	p		t	ṭ	q	k		ʔ
V. Stop	b	ḅ	d	ḍ	ǵ	g		
Nasal	m	ṃ	n	ṇ				
Fric.	f		s	ṣ	ś	x	ḥ	h
Approx.			l	ḷ	y	w	ʕ	
Trill			r	ṛ				

All consonants can be geminated, although this is underlyingly a CC sequence and is written that way throughout.

In speech, heaviness (pharyngealization/uvularization) spreads between consonants including across vowels. Pharyngeal (but not pharyngealized) consonants, i.e. /ħ ʕ/, are not considered heavy, although they can have an effect on vowel quality.

A nasal consonant in a cluster preceding another consonant assimilate to the place of articulation of the following consonant.

Vowels

Over-Short Vowel		
	Front	Back
Close		
Mid	/ə/ [ə̆]	
Open		

Short Vowels		
	Front	Back
Close	ɪ	ʊ
Mid		
Open	ɐ	

Long Vowels		
	Front	Back
Close	/i/ iː	/u/ uː
Mid	/e/ eː	/o/ oː
Open	/a/ aː	

Orthography:

Over-Short Vowel		
	Front	Back
Close		
Mid	e	
Open		

Short Vowels		
	Front	Back
Close	i	u
Mid		
Open	a	

Long Vowels		
	Front	Back
Close	í	ú
Mid	é	ó
Open	á	

Emphatic consonants often cause vowel qualities to be pulled down and back - in square brackets this is not usually written even though it is heard in speech.

Syllable Structure and Allophony

The over-short schwa is about half the duration of short vowels, and subsequently short vowels are about half the duration of long vowels. A few dialects have a roundedness distinction in overshort vowels (usually transcribed as /ĭ ŏ/ though this is rapidly becoming less and less common).

Stressed syllables can only contain short and long vowels, while non-stressed syllables can only contain short and over-short vowels. If any long vowels are in a word, stress falls on that syllable. Otherwise, stress falls on the penultimate syllable unless the ultimate syllable ends in a consonant cluster, in which case stress is on the final syllable of the word.

/ɟmaːt/ [ə̆ɟmáːt]

/samt/ [sámɪt]

/samat/ [sámat]

/samat-k/ [samátk]

Cluster Restrictions

Clusters are restricted so that every consonant must be adjacent to a vowel, except word-finally. As a repair strategy, an overshort schwa is epenthesized. Clusters are always resolved CCC > CăCC. This is the general rule, however this can of course vary by speaker and speed of speech, with physically easier to pronounce clusters due to consonant sonority being more likely to have the epenthetic vowel dropped. Epenthetic vowels are always written in orthography.

When sequences of consonants run on for a long time by chance, epenthesis can happen multiple times as a speaker cannot predict far enough forward - epenthesis spreads right to left, but can appear to spread left to right and end up as ...CCăCăCCăCV... as an example.

Morphology

Nominal Inflection

Ģeŗá	Singular	Paucal	Plural
Nominative	-á	-at	-yú
Absolutive	-k	-ket	-qú
Oblique	-ḍŗ	-ṭ	-ḍʕó
Genitive	-ám	-ṃaṭ	-má

Eftí	Singular	Paucal	Plural
Nominative	-í	-in	-imá
Absolutive	-yq	-qen	-nyá
Oblique	-ḅáy	-ḍ	-byé
Genitive	-y	-nnin	-yá

Śurḥeq	Singular	Paucal	Plural
Nominative	-eq	-eq	-yí
Absolutive	-it	-qet	-qí
Oblique	-áy	-a	-aʕ
Genitive	-eṇ	-eṭ	-eṃ

The dictionary form for nouns is the nominative singular, and the stem is formed by removing the case suffix. Suffixes that break phonotactic rules have **e** epenthesized according to normal epenthesis rules. Nouns may be cited in the nominative singular.

When nouns with a long vowel in the stem are suffixed with a long vowel, the stem vowel shortens to compensate - í é > i, ú ó > u, and á > a. For this reason, some nouns also have their nominative paucal in the dictionary listing, to disambiguate ģeŗá and eftí nouns as they have a long vowel in the nominative suffix.

In the colloquial register, suffixes starting with a glide lose the glide when following a consonant.

Pronouns and Demonstratives

Pronouns inflect like nouns with very small stems. The only irregularity is that the third person **h** is deleted when the suffix starts with a consonant, eg. /h-cət/ [cə̆t] <**qet**>.

		Singular	Paucal	Plural
1	Exclusive	m-	m-	
	Inclusive		t-	
2		t-	r-	
3		h-		

Demonstratives have proximal and distal forms, with the distal being much more marked and the proximal being more broadly used. The proximal nominal stem is **tay-** and the distal nominal stem is **dún-**. "Here" is **taqak** and "there" is **dúnak**.

The invariable adverb **tak** means something like "in this way" or "in that manner."

Adjectival Inflection

Adjectives agree with their nouns for number and class.

	Singular	Paucal	Plural
Ǵeṛá	-á	-at	-ú
Eftí	-i	-in	-yá
Śurḥeq	-∅	-yi	-í

The citation form of adjectives is in the Śurḥeq singular, which is the same as the stem except for any epenthetic vowel. Below is an example with the word **ṭayt** *soft*.

ṭayt	Singular	Paucal	Plural
Ǵeṛá	ṭaytá	ṭaytat	ṭaytú
Eftí	ṭayti	ṭaytin	ṭayetyá
Śurḥeq	ṭayt	ṭayetyi	ṭaytí

Verbal Inflection

Verbs can undergo a stem change in a process dubbed lambdation. This surfaces as an l-like affix in all words, and in some words an additional internal vowel change. Words with a vowel change are the minority of

words, however most common verbs have a vowel change. In the dictionary, the lambdated form of a verb is marked with the symbol λ when the form is unpredictable or irregular. For verbs that end in a single consonant, the internal change is as follows:

C / _#	Result
t, d, n, s, l, r [alveolar -heavy]	l
ṭ, ḍ, ṇ, ḍ, ḷ, ṛ [alveolar +heavy]	ḷ
q, ǵ, ś, y [palatal]	yC
p, b, m, f, k, g, x, w, ḥ, ʕ, ʔ, h [!alveolar !palatal -heavy]	lC
[!alveolar !palatal +heavy]	ḷC

For verbs that end in a vowel, **l** is suffixed, and for words that end in a consonant cluster, **el** is suffixed.

Derivational Systems

Derivation through suffixes is a very common way to create new words from existing ones. The suffixes are always applied onto a stem with no inflectional suffixes.

-**smel** n. > adj. — like, similar to

> ṃóqeq *n. "tree, trunk"* > ṃóqesmel *adj. "tree-like, trunk-like, sturdy and upright"*

-**g** n. > adj. — relating to (a people, a place, a concept), from (a place)

-**ḍ** v. — transitivizer/valency increaser (against, with negative affect to)

> saxá *v. "win"* > saxáḍ *v. "defeat"*

-**lg** v. — causative, occasionally an intensive for verbs with a causative-like meaning

-**t** v. — detransitivizer/valency decreaser (doing to ones self)

ADD LOTS OF VALENCY INCREASING (and decreasing) MORPHEMES!!

-**k** n. > adv. — derives adverbs from nouns, -ly

-ín adj. > v. — find to be, think someone is some way, think object seems adjective

-er n. > v. — denominal

Nouns with a verbal-noun like meaning can be derived by using a verb stem as a noun stem, usually surḥeq-class but sometimes others.

pu- — suddenly, quickly, immediately (can imply that it stays that way afterwards)

> **esní** *v. "die"* > **pusní** *v. "up and die"*

ʕis- — (verb) repeatedly, over and over; (adjective, noun) frequently, very often

> **gul** *v. "drink"* > **sergul** *v. "drink a lot"*

yi- — (verb) forever, until the end, until death, for always and never to change; (adjective) always, forever, universally, fatally; (noun) fatal, everlasting, deathly

> **gul** *v. "drink"* > **yigul** *v. "drown"*

Perception Words

fśá — surprisingly, shockingly, interestingly

ywá — hopefully, i wish, god willing

xrá — hopefully not, god forbid

lan — unfortunately, sadly

di — uncertainly, perhaps, its possible

Postpositions

bi — to, towards (a location); until, up until (a time); at, towards, directed towards (somebody or something)

śeʔ — on, on top of; on to; to, for (someone) (like sending or giving to someone); (dialectal **śe**)

gón — because of, since; for the sake of; (dialectal **gó** when consonant cluster after)

nun — with, pertaining to; in, along the lines of; (dialectal **nu** when consonant cluster after)

má — of (partitive)

ʕáwḍ — after

ṇa — into, in, upon, against

Numbers

The oldest form of counting in Śurgeq, called <mark>insert here</mark> (head-counting)

...5+5+2

yiś, kas, rí, xey

The main form of counting, the kusmá śawsimá (bag-counting) system, especially for things like bags that are usually stored and counted in dozens, is base-12. The noun and adjective stems are listed below, with each number having two forms - one for suffixes starting in a vowel, and one for suffixes starting in a consonant, used for both nouns and adjectives, and being shown in the ǵeṛá singular nominative and absolutive respectively.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	10	100	1000
_V	yá	ká	śá	daná	má	ṭá	ḥayá, ḥáyat	ǵá	niyá	giyá, gíyat	fá	rá	qá	liná, lénat
_C	yak	kuk	śik	dank	muk	ṭik	ḥák	ǵak	nék	gík	fak	rók	qák	lénk

Multipliers precede the powers of twelve, with the multiplier form being the stem for consonantal suffixes plus the power of twelve as a suffix (that is, the vowel in the multiplier shortens). When the multiplier is one, no multiplier is used, except for extra clarity when communicating verbally. When used adjectivally, all numbers inflect as adjectives. Used as nouns, the partitive postposition can be used to mean "(number) of...." For regular counting, the adjective forms are used, with a singular noun for one, a paucal noun either up to 11 (B) or when giving an individualized meaning to the noun, and a plural noun for more.

12B1 (decimal 2149)

(ya)-liná	ku-qá	fa-rá	ná	
{(1)-1000	2*100	B*10	9	}-NOM.G.s

Syntax

Sentences

Word Order and Arguments

On a basic level, śurgeq sentences can take any order, with the roles of the consituents being determined by noun case. Word order is determined pragmatically, and changing order stresses some parts of the sentence over others.

Between the nouns in a transitive sentence, the topic goes before the focus. The subject takes the nominative case, and the object takes the absolute case (except for a few verbs where it may take the oblique).

esná mínak sket - esna, they love mina

mínak esná sket - mina, esna loves them

In intransitive sentences, the sole argument can either be in the nominative or the absolute. This is semantically determined, with more volitional actions having their sole argument in the nominative and less volitional actions having their sole argument in the absolute. Some verbs only ever take one or the other, some are more fluid based on the speaker's perception, and some have a more stark difference in meaning depending on the case - **miná wagʕ** in the nominative means "mina kneeled down" but **mínak wagʕ** in the absolute means "mina fell over."

Verbs usually fall last in the sentence. However, they can also be topicalized like nouns can though this is far less common and usually happens in intransitive sentences.

esná mínak pálw - esna kissed mina

pálw esná mínak - as for the kissing, esna kissed mina

miná kál - mina jumped

kál miná - as for jumping, it was mina who jumped

Verbs can also appear in the middle of a sentence in transitive sentences, when what follows the verb is less important than the verb itself, usually when the constituent after the verb is existing or less primary information.

Arguments can readily be dropped, when they can be inferred or are a dummy argument, meaning that verb transitivity is very important. As such, there are many ways to increase and decrease the valency of verbs, often to slightly different effects.

Copula Sentences and Negation

The copula verb **gá** (lambdated past tense form **laʕ**) behaves slightly differently than a regular verb. With a nominative or absolutive argument and another argument with the postposition **bi**, it works to mean something like "become" or "turn into" with volition implied by whether the subject is nominative or absolutive.

ǵamet-yeq	**ǵam-ḍeṛ**	**bi**	**laʕ**
lamb-ABS.E.s	cow-OBL.G.s	in	COP.PST

*the lamb became (*was turned into*) a sheep*

For a copular meaning, both arguments are placed in the absolutive.

m-ek	**ǵamet-yeq**	**gá**	**=lan**
1-ABS.G.s	lamb-ABS.E.s	COP.NPST	unfortunately

*unfortunately i am a lamb (*helpless in this situation*)*

Adjectival complements are used in their nominalized form in the same way.

Multiple negation strategies exist. The particle **tśi** negates adjectives and nouns placed before them. The adjective **blá** meaning "none" or "not any" is often used in a negative-like way with a singular noun.

Verbs are negated with the suffix -**gi**, dialectally often shortened to -**g** and sometimes even -**u** after a consonant cluster.

Double negation (negating the verb and an argument) is often used for emphasis.

Questions

Polar questions are formed with a rising or rising-falling (falling after the verb usually?) intonation. With the perception word **di** can mean something more like "should" or "would."

t-í	**sáʕl?**
2-NOM.E.s	speak.PST

did you say something?

m-eq	**sáʕew**	**=di?**
1-NOM.S.s	speak.NPST	UNCRT

should i say something?

Phrasal polarity

Phrasal polarity is expressed with the adverb **dó**. Combined with a past tense verb it means "already," and combined with a present tense verb it means "still." When negated, it means "not yet" and "no longer" respectively.

(yes this is barely made and not fleshed out. i will flesh this out at some point, oh well. its a fun idea i wish i could have explored it more)

Content Words

All nouns fall into one of three classes - ǵeṛá, eftí, and śurḥeq. These roughly correspond to the three sexes of Śurgeq speakers, referred to by the same name. These also have correspondence to gender, however the lines are much more blurred here - see the culture section on gender.

When referring to mixed gender people any class is appropirate, either based on the majority of the group or the way the group is intended to be perceived, or by default the śurḥeq class. Non-human mixed groups almost always take śurḥeq.

Nouns have three numbers, referred to as singular, paucal, and plural. The paucal is mainly used for counting nouns in small quantities, though can also be used to specify "a few" of something, and is a more individuated plural than the plural is.

ǵaʔá - (singular) a cow

ǵáʔat - (paucal) cows, a few cows, the (individual) cows

ǵaʔyú - (plural) cattle, cows

A verb's dictionary form is its nonpast form, with the past form being formed by lambdation. Derived verbs never have an irregular lambdated form with an internal vowel change.

Postpositions function as clitics, following a noun phrase with its head in the oblique case.

Adverbs are readily derived from nouns and adjectives, and can be placed anywhere in the sentence though prefer to directly precede the verb. They can also be used with postpositions.

Perception Words

These words are used to indicate the speaker's perception of and feelings about a situation. They can be used as independent adverbial words to modify a bigger clause in general, or can be post-cliticized to a verb to modify it more directly.

Modifiers

Adjective phrases are head final, with the adjective preceding the noun.

ṭayti ǵamtí
ṭayt-i ǵamt-í
soft-E lamb-NOM.E.s
the adorable lamb

Noun possession and compounding uses the genitive case applied to the subordinate noun(s) of the clause. This is used for all sorts of posession, both alienable and inalienable.

Things like counting and composition use postpositions instead. Postpositions can freely modify head nouns like "the cow in the field" or "the meal with bread."

Clauses

Complementized clauses are required to be verb-final, with the postclitic **sa** following the clause.

mí hek pálew sa śiktíl
m-i h-k palw =sɐ ʃɪktil
1-NOM.E.s 3-ABS.G.s kiss.NPST =COMP intend.NPST
it is him i plan on kissing

Culture

The three genders are roughly based on the three primary biological sexes that people fall into. The traditional gender roles are as follows:

The **ǵeṛyú** (sg. ǵeṛá) carry children, and are the leaders and planners. The prototypical ǵeṛá is medium-build and somewhat stocky with wide hips and a more compact/less prominent torso.

The **eftimá** (sg. eftí) procreate with the ǵeṛyú and work mainly as craftspeople and laborers, in construction and handiwork and similar fields. The prototypical eftí is tall and muscular and has breasts.

The **śureḥyí** (sg. śurḥeq) are unfertile and work in the arts and agriculture. The prototypical śurḥeq is short and perhaps lanky, however traditionally they were the ones that varied the most in body type.

However, in practice, sex and gender are much more complicated and the lines much more blurry than this rigid set of rules. There is a high rate of intersex individuals - most commonly with ǵeṛá- and śurḥeq-sex individuals being able to impregnate ǵeṛá-sex individuals, as well as śureḥyí sometimes being able to carry children. Biological śureḥyí carrying children is exceedingly rare but not totally unheard of, and these people's children are often revered as good omens.

In addition to physical sex characteristics varying greatly between individuals, it is also quite commonplace for individuals to take on societal roles of a gender that does not match their sex.

All genders participate in child-rearing - the concept of a family is identical to a small community.

The size and shape of people's bodies vary vastly, and for that reason most items of clothing have multiple variations, with a tailor being an important community role. Hosts are expected to accomodate different physical needs as a part of hospitality.

Lexicon Showcase

Color words encode vibrancy/brightness/saturation prominently as well as hue.
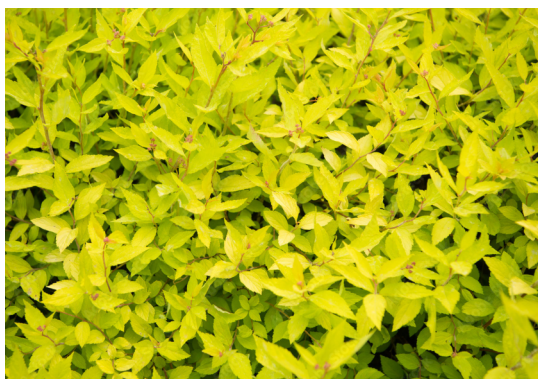
góḷ - a vibrant red-orange

śkús - a less saturated brownish orange

ṭín - a bright yellow-green

ʕaḍr - a dark, deep green

swáy - a light, sky-colored blue

ḥír - a deep blue

Translations

5MOYDs

2090

"They kept calling out to Kama and that's why she came."

kámḍeṛ bi ʕisnád yí yi tkón qál há.

/kam-dˤɾˤ	=bɪ	ʕɪs-nad	h-ji	ɟɪ	tkon	cal	h-a
kama-OBL.G.s	=to	rep-call.NPST	3-NOM.S.p	and	thus	come.PST	3-NOM.G.s

[ˈkaːm.dˤɘ̆ɾˤ bɪ ʕɪs.ˈnaːd jiː ɟi‿t.ˈkoːn cɐ ˈhaː]

they kept calling to kama and because of that she came.

The name "kama" is interpreted as the nominative singular of a ǵeṛá noun.

2000

"i plan on stop smoyds after 2000"

má smóydaʕ nu nté 11ᴀ8áy ʕáweḍ śikté

má smóydaʕ nu nté lináy qáy giráy ǵáy ʕáweḍ śikté

/m-a	smojd-eʕ	nʊn	nte	lɪn-aj	c-aj	gɪ-r-aj	ɟ-aj	ʕawdˤ	ʃɪkte/
1-NOM.G.s	smoyd-OBL.S.p	with	stop.NPST	1000-1	100-1	ᴀ-10-1	1-1	after	plan.NPST

1 OBL.S.s

[ˈmaː‿s.ˈmoːjdeʕ nʊ‿n.ˈteː lɪ.ˈnaːj ˈcaːj gɪ.ˈɾaːj ˈɟaːj ˈʕaːwədˤ ʃɪk.ˈteː]

This is missing the complementizer **sa** after **nté**. A dropped complementizer is not impossible to understand, but is not preferred especially for a more complex sentence like this. Additionally, some dialectal forms are shown with **nu** instead of **nun** before a cluster, making the phrase [nʊ‿n.ˈteː] instead of standard [nʊ‿n.ən.ˈteː].

2103

"Nobody here likes me."

taqak mek bel ʕideq ṣiḍín

/tɐcɐk	m-k	bl-∅	ʕɪd-əc	sˤɪdˤin/
here	1-ABS.G.s	none-S.s	person-NOM.S.s	tolerate.NPST

[ˈtɐ.cɐk mɘ̆k bɘ̆l ˈʕɪ.dɘ̆c sˤɪ.ˈdˤiːn]

here not a single person finds me pleasant company

1948

"The dog having entered an inn, did not see anything, and so he said "Shall I open this?""

ḅuṛeq yóreʕḍeṛ ṇa qál, bel ǵányeq kélgi, yu tak saʕel, má tayit di fḥálg?

/bˤʊɾˤ-əc	jorʕ-dˤɾˤ	nˤɐ	cal	| bl-∅	ɟan-jc	kel-gɪ
dog-NOM.G.s	inn-OBL.G.s	PSTP	come.PST	| none-S.s	thing-ABS.S.s	see.PST-NEG

| jʊ	tɐk	seʕl	| m-a	tɐj-ɪt	dɪ	fħalg/
| and	thus	speak.PST	| 1-NOM.G.s	DEM.PROX-ABS.S.s	UNCRTN	open.NPST

[bˤʊ.ɾˤɘ̆c ˈjoː.ɾɘ̆ʕ.dˤɘ̆ɾˤ nˤɐ caːl \| bɘ̆l ˈɟaːn.jɘ̆c kɘ̆l \| jʊ tɐk ˈsɐ.ʕɘ̆l \| maː ˈtɐ.jɪt dɪ‿f.ˈħaːlg]

a dog came into an inn, didn't see a thing, and said 'should i open it?'

Lexicon

ǵamtí, ǵamtin	n.	1. lamb 2. helpless or innocent person (gón = because of, nun = in a certain situation)
ṃóqeq	n.	1. tree, trunk 2. neck 3. post, pillar, support
ṭayt	adj.	1. soft, cushioned, comfortable 2. gentle, of soft touch 3. melty (like chocolate or ice) 4. endearing, lovable, adorable 5. (of hair, water) free-flowing, softly moving, rippling, dancing
saʕw (λ. sáʕl)	v.	1. (intrans) speak, say, locute
saʕweq	n.	1. language 2. speech, speaking, talking
gúl (λ. gél)	v.	1. (trans) drink
saxá (λ. saxól)	v.	1. (intrans) win, be victorious
saxáḍ	v.	1. (trans) win against, defeat 2. (trans) succeed in, do well at
śíś (λ. śúyś)	v.	1. (intrans) die
paw (λ. pálw)	v.	1. (trans) kiss
kir (λ. kál)	v.	1. (intrans, NOM) jump, jump up, hop
nád (λ. nól)	v.	1. (intrans) call out, cry out (bi = to someone)
kil (λ. kél)	v.	1. (trans) see, notice, look at 2. (trans) sense, feel, note
kil	adj.	1. every, each, all
ǵaʔá, ǵáʔat	n.	1. cow, head of cattle
yu (formal) yi, i (colloquial, after V and C respectively)	conj.	1. and, and so, and also
tkán	adv./ conj.	1. (colloquial) shortening of **tak gán** "because of this..." or "thus..."
qa (λ. qál)	v.	1. (intrans) come 2. (intrans) arrive, get here, get there

		3. (intrans) (of an event) happen, occur
nté (λ. ntíl)	v.	1. (intrans) stop, cease, end (nun = doing/practicing something)
śikté (λ. śiktíl)	v.	1. (trans) plan on, intend on, wish to, hope to
wagʕ	v.	1. (intrans) (NOM) kneel, take a knee 2. (intrans) (ABS) fall over, trip and fall
dí	n.	1. hand, hand and fingers
kusá, kúsat	n.	1. bag, sack (of grain, etc)
śawsí, śáwsin	n.	1. number 2. (in the plural) counting
gá (λ. laʕ)	v.	(word with many functions, primarily a copula. see the grammar section of this document)
ǵamá, ǵamat	n.	1. sheep, adult sheep
ʕideq	n.	1. somebody, anybody; person
ṣiḍ	adj.	1. tolerable, pleasant, good company
ṣiḍín	v.	1. (trans) tolerate, find pleasant, find to be good company
bl	adj.	1. none, not any, not a single (used with a singular noun)
yurʕá, yórʕat	n.	1. inn, hotel, lodging-house
ḅuṛeq	n.	1. dog
ǵaní, ǵánin	n.	1. thing, object 2. something, anything 3. problem, issue, deal
fḥá (λ. fḥál)	v.	1. (intrans) open, part
fḥálg (λ. fḥálgel)	v.	1. (trans) open, part