

## 3. Adjectives

### 3.1 Inflections

When used attributively, adjectives precede the noun to which they refer, and they then inflect, usually by adding *-i* to the adjective.

<i>te fayel jist raft</i>	the bird is early
<i>te rafti fayel</i>	the early bird

In the dictionary, entries for adjectives which do not simply add *-i* give additional information between double square brackets [like this] (see 3.3 IRREGULAR ADJECTIVES); some adjectives add nothing (indicated by = between the brackets):

nüaw [=]
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<i>an nüaw däi</i>	a new day
(not <i>*an nüawi däi</i> )	

Others, such as those with an unstressed final vowel, change that vowel to *i*, shown in the dictionary as follows:

ägnö [ägni]
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<i>an ägni kente</i>	an ill child
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Some adjectives which do not inflect when used attributively are not marked in the dictionary. These belong to the following types:

- Possessive adjectives ending *-ü*: *meü, eü*, etc.  
*meü buhlen*                      my book
- Adjectives of origin ending *-az*: *Britaz, Dänaz*, etc.  
*te Britaz Eylantes*              the British Isles
- Adjectives formed with the suffix *-lauk*: *frosklauk, toldlauk*, etc.  
*toldlauk persones*              tolerant people
- Adjectives ending in *-ifš*: *biledifš, rebelifš*, etc.  
*an rebelifš knap*                  a rebellious boy

- Ordinal numbers: *threntš*, *fěftš*, etc.  
*te threntš dāi*                                    the third day
- Adjectives which end in *-i* or *-ī*: *ėsti*, *miniki*, etc.  
*ėsti tšün*                                        tiny shoes  
*miniki kentes*                                small children
- Past or present participles, ending in *-i* or *-in*  
*an dėklėri data*                               a confirmed date  
*an rinin bek*                                    a trickling stream

### 3.2 Comparatives and superlatives

Comparatives and superlatives are formed with the suffixes *-o* and *-ūt* respectively. They do not inflect when placed before a noun:

*raft*    early  
*te rafti fayel*                                 the early bird

*rafto*    earlier  
*te rafto fayel*                                the earlier bird

*raftūt*     earliest  
*te raftūt fayel*                               the earliest bird

Unlike in English, even multisyllabic adjectives form the comparative and superlative in this way:

*linkwīsem*                                        boring  
*linkwīsemo*                                    more boring  
*linkwīsemūt*                                  most boring

Adjectives that end with an unstressed vowel (usually, but not exclusively, *-a* or *-e*) and that drop said unstressed vowel when inflecting (see 3.1 INFLECTIONS) also drop the vowel before *-o* and *-ūt*:

*faja*    hostile  
*fajo*    more hostile  
*léhe*     shallow  
*lėhūt*     shallowest

### 3.3 Irregular adjectives

Certain adjectives are irregular, and are explained in the dictionary entry, thus:

waa [wi/waato/waatüt]
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This means that the adjective *waa* (“wet”) inflects and becomes *wi* before a noun, and that the comparative and superlative (“wetter” and “wettest”) are *waato* and *waatüt*.

your hair is wet	<i>yeü hīr jist waa</i>
wet hair	<i>wi hīr</i>
wetter hair	<i>waato hīr</i>

### 3.4 Adjectives used as nouns

An inflected adjective on its own can be used as a noun, with “person”, “one”, “thing”, etc. being implicit, as in the following examples (the nominal adjectives are underlined here to aid the reader):

*E hēlta an blindi.*  
He healed a blind man.

*Oberyib te blüi.*  
Pass me the blue one.

*Te yaxi jist tes me na mest zas.*  
The silly thing is that I don’t eat cheese.

A plural form of the nominal adjective can stand for “people”, “ones”, “things”, etc.:

*Te pōnis wā véperi ĩ siuchhomze.*  
The injured were taken to hospital.

*Strani kofē bifröd te Portugazes.*  
The Portuguese like strong coffee.

*Es jolave an tsoirki jors und tī vīsis.*  
She owns a black horse and two white ones.

*Et wés moran gutes bö iet.*

There are several good things about it.

### 3.5 Quantifiers

Quantifiers in Jameld include the following (examples given using the count nouns “crisps” and “biscuits”, and a non-count noun, “chocolate”, as appropriate, plus the pronoun “us”):

- *iğé* (all)  
*Iğé tfsipes ist smezlauk.* All crisps are tasty.  
*Iğé te tfsipes ist smezlauk.* All (of) the crisps are tasty.  
*Iğé fsokolat jist smezlauk.* All chocolate is tasty.  
*Iğé te fsokolat jist smezlauk.* All (of) the chocolate is tasty.  
*Ven iğé liub fsokolat.* All of us (lit. we all) love chocolate.  
(NB: Compare:  
*Tem iğé liub fsokolat.* They all love chocolate.  
*Iğé tem wi liub fsokolat...* Everyone who loves chocolate...  
*Edaran liub fsokolat.* Everyone loves chocolate.  
See also 4.7 INDEFINITE PRONOUNS.)
- *äl* (all)  
*Äl tfsipes ist smezlauk.* All crisps are tasty.  
*Äl te tfsipes ist smezlauk.* All (of) the crisps are tasty.  
*Äl fsokolat jist smezlauk.* All chocolate is tasty.  
*Äl te fsokolat jist smezlauk.* All (of) the chocolate is tasty.  
(NB: *Äl* cannot be used with pronouns.)
- *ans* (some, any)  
*Ans tfsipes ist smezlauk.* Some crisps are tasty.  
*Ans ete tfsipes ist smezlauk.* Some of the crisps are tasty.  
*Ave ye ans tfsipes?* Do you have any crisps?  
*Ans fsokolat jist smezlauk.* Some chocolate is tasty.  
*Ans ete fsokolat jist smezlauk.* Some of the chocolate is tasty.  
*Ave ye ans fsokolat?* Do you have any chocolate?  
*Ans ew iven liub fsokolat.* Some of us love chocolate.
- *wëth* (many, =lots of, =a lot of)  
*Wëth tfsipes ist smezlauk.* Many crisps are tasty.  
*Wëth ete tfsipes ist smezlauk.* Many of the crisps are tasty.  
*Wëth ew iven liub tfsipes.* Many of us love crisps.

- *weth* (much, =lots of, =a lot of)  
*Weth tšokolat jist smežlauk.* Lots of chocolate is tasty.  
*Weth ete tšokolat jist smežlauk.* A lot of the chocolate is tasty.  
*Et wés zo weth tšokolat.* There is so much chocolate.
- *na* (no)  
*Na tšipes ist mögi.* No crisps are soft.  
*Na tšokolat jist ickal.* No chocolate is nasty.  
*Ven ave na tšipes.* We have no crisps.
- *nan* (none)  
*Nan ete tšipes ist mögi.* None of the crisps are soft.  
*Nan ete tšokolat jist ickal.* None of the chocolate is nasty.  
*Nan ew iven hašze tšokolat.* None of us hate chocolate.  
(NB: See also *nan ew béda* below.)
- *ēdar* (every, each)  
*Ēdar kohkja wight bö an onz.* Each biscuit weighs about 30 g.  
*Ēdar dāi m'al ĭ te börg.* Every day I go to the town.  
(NB: Used exclusively with singular nouns.)
- *pağé* (every, each)  
*Kohkjas pağé wight bö an onz.* Each biscuit (lit. biscuits each) weighs about 30 g.  
*Dāis pağé m'al ĭ te börg.* Every day (lit. days every) I go to the town.  
*Ven pağé liub kohkjas.* Each of us (lit. we each) loves biscuits.  
(NB: Used exclusively with plural nouns and plural pronouns.)
- *mor* (more)  
*Mor tšipes ist smežlauk.* More crisps are tasty.  
*Mor ete tšipes ist smežlauk.* More of the crisps are tasty.  
*Mor tšokolat jist smežlauk.* More chocolate is tasty.  
*Mor ete tšokolat jist smežlauk.* More of the chocolate is tasty.  
*Mor ew iven liub tšokolat.* More of us love chocolate.
- *most* (most)  
*Most tšipes ist smežlauk.* Most crisps are tasty.  
*Most ete tšipes ist smežlauk.* Most of the crisps are tasty.  
*Most tšokolat jist smežlauk.* Most chocolate is tasty.

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Most ete fšokolat jist<br/>smezlauk.</i>      | Most of the chocolate is tasty.     |
| <i>Most ew iven liub fšokolat.</i>               | Most of us love chocolate.          |
| <br>   |                                     |
| • <i>pau</i> (few, not many, not much)           |                                     |
| <i>Pau tššipes ist mögi.</i>                     | Not many crisps are soft.           |
| <i>Pau ete tššipes ist mögi.</i>                 | Not many of the crisps are soft.    |
| <i>Pau fšokolat jist ickal.</i>                  | Not much chocolate is nasty.        |
| <i>Pau ete fšokolat jist ickal.</i>              | Not much of the chocolate is nasty. |
| <i>Pau ew iven hafšze fšokolat.</i>              | Few of us hate chocolate.           |
| <br>   |                                     |
| • <i>ans pau</i> (a few, some but not many)      |                                     |
| <i>Ans pau tššipes ist mögi.</i>                 | A few crisps are soft.              |
| <i>Ans pau ete tššipes ist mögi.</i>             | A few of the crisps are soft.       |
| <i>Ans pau ew iven hafšze<br/>fšokolat.</i>      | A few of us hate chocolate.         |
| <i>Me mast ans pau tššipes.</i>                  | I ate a few crisps.                 |
| <i>Me mast ans pau ete tššipes.</i>              | I ate a few of the crisps.          |
| <i>Me mast ans pau ew itemt.</i>                 | I ate a few of them.                |
| <br>   |                                     |
| • <i>moran</i> (several, a few)                  |                                     |
| <i>Moran kohkjas ist smezlauk.</i>               | Several biscuits are tasty.         |
| <i>Moran ete kohkjas ist<br/>smezlauk.</i>       | Several of the biscuits are tasty.  |
| <i>Moran ew iven liub fšokolat.</i>              | Several of us love chocolate.       |
| <i>Me mast moran tššipes.</i>                    | I ate several crisps.               |
| <i>Me mast moran ete tššipes.</i>                | I ate several of the crisps.        |
| <i>Me mast moran ew itemt.</i>                   | I ate several of them.              |
| <br>   |                                     |
| • <i>yüé</i> (any, whichever)                    |                                     |
| <i>Yüé tššipes yanä.</i>                         | Any crisps will do.                 |
| <i>Yüé ete tššipes yanä.</i>                     | Any of the crisps will do.          |
| <i>Yüé fšokolat yanä.</i>                        | Any chocolate will do.              |
| <i>Yüé ete fšokolat yanä.</i>                    | Any of the chocolate will do.       |
| <i>Yüé ew iven fšald mesten te<br/>fšokolat.</i> | Any of us will eat the chocolate.   |
| <br>   |                                     |
| • <i>yanoh</i> (enough)                          |                                     |
| <i>Et na wés yanoh tššipes.</i>                  | There are not enough crisps.        |
| <i>Et na wés yanoh ete tššipes.</i>              | There are not enough of the crisps. |
| <i>Et na wés yanoh fšokolat.</i>                 | There is not enough chocolate.      |

- Et na wés yanoh ete tsokolat.* There is not enough of the chocolate.  
*Yanoh ew iven liub tsokolat.* Enough of us love chocolate.
- *zest* (less, fewer)
    - Et wés jüji zest tfsipes.* There are now fewer crisps.
    - Et wés jüji zest ete tfsipes.* There are now fewer of the crisps.
    - Et wés jüji zest tsokolat.* There is now less chocolate.
    - Et wés jüji zest ete tsokolat.* There is now less of the chocolate.
    - Zest ew iven liub brokoli.* Fewer of us love broccoli.
  
  - *an pär* (a couple, a few)
    - An pär kohkjas, eöx ye will.* A few biscuits, please.
    - An pär ete kohkjas leri, eöx ye will.* A couple of those biscuits, please.
    - An pär ew itemt mest wirmes.* A couple/few of them eat worms.
  
  - *béda* (both)
    - Béda buhlenes ist gut.* Both books are good.
    - Béda ete buhlenes ist gut.* Both of the books are good.
    - Ven béda liub tsokolat.* Both of us (lit. we both) love chocolate.  
 (NB: For *béda* (both) as an adverb, see also 6.4 BOTH, AS WELL AS, ALL OF.)
  
  - *an ew béda* (either)
    - An ew béda buhlenes ist gut.* ) Either book is good.  
 ) Either of the books are good.
    - An ew ven béda tsald mesten iet.* Either of us (lit. one of we both) will eat it.
  
  - *nan ew béda* (neither)
    - Nan ew béda buhlenes ist gut.* ) Neither book is good.  
 ) Neither of the books are good.
    - Nan ew ven béda tsald mesten iet.* Neither of us (lit. none of us both) will eat it.
  
  - *an minik* (a bit, a little)
    - An minik tsokolat jist gut vor iye.* A little chocolate is good for you.
    - An minik ete tsokolat jist gut vor iye.* A little of the chocolate is good for you.