

9. Sentences, clauses and word order

9.1 Main clauses

Broadly speaking, the word order in Jameld is SVO, that is, Subject-Verb-Object. For instance:

<i>Ven mast te kohk.</i>	We ate the cake.
<i>Ven thrü te kohk i Haral.</i>	We threw the cake to Haral.

An indirect object can also come before the direct object:

<i>Ven thrü Haral te kohk.</i>	We threw Haral the cake.
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Adverbs modifying verbs tend to come straight after the verb concerned:

<i>Ven mast naw te kohk.</i>	We ate the cake quickly. (lit. We ate quickly the cake.)
<i>Tšé ven mast té naw iet.</i>	Maybe we ate it too quickly. (lit. Maybe we ate too quickly it.)

Note in that last example that the fronted “maybe” made no difference to the word order elsewhere; also, an adverbial phrase (here: *té naw*) will stick to the end of the verb en bloc and push the object later in the sentence.

Where the phrase involves an auxiliary verb and a verb infinitive, the adverb comes after the infinitive (but see also 6.6 EMPHATIC ADVERBS for an exception):

<i>Me tsald mesten naw te kohk.</i>	I will eat the cake quickly. (lit. I will to-eat quickly the cake.)
<i>E na zicht mesten naw kohk.</i>	He cannot eat cake quickly. (lit. He not can to-eat quickly cake.)

9.2 Relative clauses

Relative clauses are not inverted in Jameld, i.e. the verb does *not* move to the end of the clause. Relative clauses are underlined here as an aid to the reader:

Me jist te monn wi mackta te kohk.
I am the man who made the cake.

Te mazath wi thrü te kohk ğafta för.
The girl who threw the cake ran away.

Te kohk tes es thrü ax Haral wä mackti ük ime.
The cake that she threw at Haral was made by me.

When an adverb is involved, sense determines which verb it adheres to:

Me mackta te kohk tes ven {thrü jister} ax Haral.
I made the cake that we threw at Haral yesterday.
(i.e. it was thrown yesterday – lit. that we threw yesterday...)

Me {mackta jister} te kohk tes ven thrü ax Haral.
I made the cake that we threw at Haral yesterday.
(i.e. it was made yesterday – lit. I made yesterday the cake...)

Note that no comma is required before or after the relative clause in the examples above, all of which feature restrictive relative clauses. However, as noted in 4.6 RELATIVE PRONOUNS, there is a difference with non-restrictive relative clauses, as illustrated below (examples repeated from that section):

Te buhlen tes me rese jist böya üles.
The book [that] I am reading is about owls.

Te buhlen, wist me rese, jist böya üles.
The book, which [incidentally] I am reading, is about owls.

Here we have first a restrictive relative clause, without commas. However, as shown by the second example, with a non-restrictive relative clause a pair of commas are required.

Another example, with an introductory comma for the non-restrictive relative clause, but no closing comma as the end of the clause is coincident with the end of the sentence:

Me büyi zë eü buhlen tess deckes ist röt.
I always buy his books whose covers are red.
(= I always buy those of his books that have red covers.)

Me büyi zë eü buhlen, wis deckes ist röt.

I always buy his books, whose covers are red.

(= I always buy his books, the covers of which are generally red.)

Jameld avoids situations where the antecedent is the whole main clause, such as “He eats with his fingers, which doesn’t look very nice.” Here Jameld would use a different construction and separate the two clauses with a colon, as follows:

E mest met eü fingeres: et n’otvis precht.

He eats with his fingers: it doesn’t look very nice.

Compare the following, where there is a relative clause, and the antecedent is just “his fingers”:

E mest met eü fingeres, wist n’otvis precht.

He eats with his fingers, which don’t look very nice.

9.3 Questions

In forming questions, the verb is moved before the subject:

Mest ye kohk?

Do you eat cake?/Are you eating cake?
(lit. Eat you cake?)

Mest ye na kohk?

Don’t you eat cake?/Aren’t you eating
cake?

Was mest ye?

What do you eat?/What are you eating?
(lit. What eat you?)

Was mest ye na?

What don’t you eat?

Thrü yen jister te kohk ax Haral?

Did you throw that cake at Haral
yesterday?

Note here that the adverb *jister* has not stuck to the verb, which has been fronted. The adverb is in the same place it would have been if this had been a statement rather than a question, i.e. “You threw that cake at Haral yesterday.”

If the question involves a modal auxiliary, the modal is fronted but the infinitive remains where it would have been in a declarative sentence:

Will ye alen?

Do you want to go?
(lit. Want you to-go?)

*Will ye na alen?**

Don't you want to go?
(lit. Want you not to-go?)

In indirect questions, the verb is in the same position that it would be in a declarative sentence:

Es frog umwi ye na mest te kohk. She asked why you are not eating the cake.

Tem will k nnen widar ye  sald alen jexnin. They would like to know whether you will be going tonight.

9.4 Tag questions

In Jameld tag questions may take a number of forms. The first and most common option is a short particle or phrase:

- Negative tags after positive statements: *na* ("not"), *na w r* ("not true")

Ye  sald isten leri, na?) You will be there, won't you?
Ye  sald isten leri, na w r?)

Te kohk eri'st ickal, na?) This cake's horrible, isn't it?
Te kohk eri'st ickal, na w r?)

- Positive tags after negative statements: *zo* ("so")

Et na  sald isten kalt, zo? It won't be cold, will it?
Me na jist t  la, zo? I'm not too late, am I?

These are the most simple forms of tag questions. However, there is another more formal option, involving the use of auxiliary verbs, similar to English "aren't you?", "did it?", "won't I?" and so on. The following examples do not constitute an exhaustive list.

- Negative tags after positive statements, with *isten* ("to be")
Te kohk eri'st ickal, jist et na? This cake's horrible, isn't it?
Te programa w  strelin, w  et na? That programme was brilliant, wasn't it?

* *Na* does not elide before infinitives (compare 4.1 PERSONAL PRONOUNS for a similar case of non-elision).

- Negative tags after positive statements, with *ären* (“to do”)
Me liub tšsipes, äre me na? I love crisps, don’t I?
Tem mest jorse, äre tem na? They eat horses, don’t they?
Yen olt i Lüach, at yen na? You went to Liège, didn’t you?

NB: Where English would use “haven’t you?”, “hasn’t he?”, etc. after perfect forms, Jameld uses *ären*:

Yen alave i Lüach, at yen na? You’ve been to Liège, haven’t you?
(lit. didn’t you?)

- Negative tags after positive statements, with *aven* (“to have”)
Et ave threanuert iys, ave et na? It’s got 300 eyes, hasn’t it?

NB: Where English would use “didn’t you?”, “doesn’t he?”, etc. after “had”, Jameld uses *aven*:

Y’aa an röti Lada, aa ye na? You had a red Lada, didn’t you?
(lit. hadn’t you?)

- Negative tags after positive statements, with *tšald* (“will”)
Ye tšald isten leri, tšald ye na? You will be there, won’t you?
- Positive tags after negative statements, with *isten* (“to be”)
Me na jist té la, jist me? I’m not too late, am I?
Ye na wä te threntš monn, wä ye? You weren’t the third man, were you?
- Positive tags after negative statements, with *ären* (“to do”)
Tem na mest jorse, äre tem? They don’t eat horses, do they?
Es na seta et, at es? She didn’t say that, did she?

NB: Where English would use “have you?”, “has he?”, etc. after perfect forms, Jameld uses *ären*:

Yen n’alave i Lüach, at yen? You haven’t been to Liège, have you?
(lit. did you?)

- Positive tags after negative statements, with *willen* (“to want”)
Ye na will paptšen met ime, will ye? You don’t want to talk to me, do you?
(lit. want you?)
- Positive tags after negative statements, with *aven* (“to have”)
Ye n’ave te grip, ave ye? You haven’t got flu, have you?

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NB: Where English would use “did you?”, “does he?”, etc. after “didn’t have”, Jameld uses *aven*:

Et n’aa grundi dantes, aa et? It didn’t have big teeth, did it?
(lit. had it?)

- Positive tags after negative statements, with *ƒsald* (“will”)
Et na ƒsald isten kalt, ƒsald et? It won’t be cold, will it?

Unbalanced tag questions (positive tags after positive statements) are often used in English for confrontational or ironic effect (“Oh, you do, do you?”) or to confirm new information (“You were there, were you?”). Such tag questions cannot be translated literally into Jameld. Jameld has its own mechanisms for conveying such nuanced meanings; the significant words in the examples below are surrounded by braces to aid the reader.

- Confrontation
Will ye {si} papƒsen met ime? You want to talk to me, do you?
(lit. Want you {indeed} to-speak...)
- Surprise
{Aah welzo}, jist me jüji an kakrelat? Oh, I’m a cockroach now, am I?
(lit. {Ah well then}, am I now...)
- Sarcasm
{Zowér}, jist me an masochist wi fulye an diét? So I’m a masochist on a diet, am I?
(lit. {Actually}, am I a masochist who follows a diet?)
- Confirmation of new information
{Zovor}, bëss e iye? He bit you, did he?
(lit. {Consequently}, bit he you?)
{Zovor}, wä yen leri? You were there, were you?
(lit. {Hence}, were you there?)

Needless to say, the tone of voice will also play a part in each of these cases.