

Verbal Morphology Worksheet

This is where you'll describe how verbs work in your language. Everyone's verbs are going to be different, so this assignment will be a little different. Basically, you're going to choose among the following sections (only the first two are required for everyone) to fill up your verbs. You can choose more if you wish, but not less. At the moment don't worry about polarity (i.e. negation).

Sample Verbs

To get started, list one root each for the following types of verbs (an example is given in parentheses; **you may use that verb as your example verb**): (1) **two** intransitive verbs (like "sleep" and "fall"); (2) **two** transitive verbs with an agent and a patient (like "grab" and "praise"); (3) **two** transitive verbs with an experiencer and a stimulus (like "see" and "love"); (4) **one** ditransitive verb (like "give"); (5) **one** verb with an agent and a goal (like "go"); (6) one verb with an agent and a source (like "come"); and (7) one complex verb (like "say"). Simply list these verbs in their most basic forms (either the root or the infinitive form, whichever's smaller). Use these ten verbs as your example verbs throughout the rest of the assignment.

Copula

Below, detail how your language handles the following copular constructions. It may be with a single copula, like English; it may be with no copula, like Russian; it may be with several different verbs; it may be with predicate adjectives; it may be with a particle or affix. However it is, let me know what your language does for each of the following:

1. Nominal Predicates (e.g. “The boy is a skater.”):
2. Adjectival Predicates (e.g. “The girl is tall.”):
3. Locative Predicates (e.g. “The cat is on the couch.”):

Argument Agreement

Do the verbs in your language agree with any of its arguments in person, number, or gender? Use this section to detail how agreement works. If agreement changes based on tense or aspect, list all patterns here. For each agreement, list the proto-form and the modern form (no need to list each stage, or to list the sound changes). Below are some sample tables. If they’re useful to you, use them; if not, don’t. Take as much space as you need.

	Singular	Plural
1st Person		
2nd Person		
3rd Person		

	1sg	2sg	3sg	1pl	2pl	3pl
1sg						
2sg						
3sg						
1pl						
2pl						
3pl						

Tense

Do the verbs in your language change form based on the tense of the sentence? If so, list all tense distinctions and their forms here. If tense is reified differently depending on verb type, give one type for each unique tense form. If tense interacts with agreement, show how (i.e. we've already seen these forms above: give one example of how your tense morphology interacted historically with your agreement morphology).

Aspect

Do your verbs change form based on the aspect of the sentence? If so, list all aspectual distinctions and their forms here. If aspect interacts with tense or agreement, show how.

Modality

Do your verbs change for some type of modality? Do they change to reflect evidentiality? Do they change to reflect obligation? Or desire? Or hope? For each category, you should list the modern forms with a sample verb, and how the form interacts with other forms in your language (for example, if it's an affix, where does it appear with respect to other verbal affixes? Does it change based on agreement? Etc.).