

# Mennonite Low German Grammar

Molotschna Version



# Plautdietsche Gramatikj

Molotschna Utgow

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Mennonite Low German Grammar  
Plautdietsche Gramatikj  
D. E. Cople  
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Dedication: To the memory of Reuben Epp and of Herman Rempel.

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## **PREFACE**

The intention in this work is to give a brief and precise view of the grammar of Mennonite Low German (MLG), also known as Plautdietsch. It is envisioned that the work will be useful in a first Plautdietsch class to Mennonites who have an oral knowledge of the language and who wish to acquire a literary knowledge. The work may also be helpful for those attempting to learn the language with no prior knowledge. Some students of MLG may have a High German (HG) or English background. Similarities and differences between these languages and MLG are pointed out in this work to help clarify the content. The MLG orthographic systems adopted for this work is that of the E. H. Zacharias dictionary. Some MPD users include the 'terminal **n**' of verbs and other words, but in the present work it is omitted, which makes this a 'Molotschna' version of the grammar.

The subject matter is divided into fourteen chapters, which deal with the MLG language, alphabet and spelling, different parts of speech, numbers, and with MLG sentence structure. Three appendices are given; the first contains basic vocabulary lists, the second gives tables for MLG verbs, and the third lists essential grammar terms and abbreviations.

This work concentrates on grammar, and no comprehensive glossary is given. It is assumed that the student has easy access to the Zacharias dictionary as many of the topics herein are closely related to that work. It is also assumed that the student is using a personal strategy for vocabulary acquisition. To assist in this latter effort, basic lists of common nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and conjunctions are given in Appendix A. As well, word lists are provided in most chapters, mainly to assist in the understanding of the grammatical theory being presented. A further means of vocabulary acquisition open to students is through the study of the bilingual and trilingual books on the Copre-Plautdietsch website.

The basic vocabulary lists of Appendix A provide the MLG counterparts to the most common HG words, with English translations. Students with no prior MLG experience are urged to consult these lists and other appropriate word lists before studying the grammar topics. As well, such students are strongly urged to first study the grammar terminology of Appendix C.

Throughout the work, sample MLG sentences are presented, usually accompanied with full English translations shown in brackets. Exercises are provided at the end of each of the first thirteen chapters, consisting of two types of questions. The first type requires answers in English and serves to test the student's recollection of the grammar topics of the chapter. The second type invites answers in MLG and serves to test the student's comprehension of a Dialog or Text presented in the chapter.

The current work must be considered introductory in nature, providing an expanded view relative to the precise presentation in the Zacharias dictionary. Students are encouraged to consult the MLG dictionaries and grammars listed in the reference section for additional coverage of the subject. A definitive MLG grammar book written by a trained expert is still pending.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, an overview is given of the grammar of the Mennonite Low German (MLG) language. Important features of the alphabet and of nouns, verbs, and other parts of speech are mentioned, as well as sentence structure. The various features are discussed in detail in the following chapters.

The student is encouraged to make serious efforts at vocabulary acquisition while studying the grammar. The word lists in Appendix A give a good start to MLG vocabulary study. Reference to the word list in the various chapters will be of further benefit.

### A. Alphabet

MLG uses mostly the same characters as English. The most notable exception is the use of the umlaut ä, Ä. A detailed coverage of the MLG alphabet is given in Chapter 2.

### B. Capitalization

In MLG, all nouns are capitalized regardless of their place in the sentence. This practice is the same as in HG, but unlike that in English. The personal pronoun **ekj** is not capitalized, unlike the 'I' in English, but the formal (**form**) pronoun, **See**, which signifies 'you' in singular (**sing**) and plural (**plu**) is.

Miene Mutta un mien Voda gone enkjeepe, oba ekj bliew Tus.  
(My mother and father are going shopping, but I am staying home.)

### C. Three genders

In MLG, nouns may be masculine (**masc**), feminine (**fem**) or neuter (**neut**) gender. In the nominative case, the singular definite article for the masculine and feminine is **de**, while **daut** is used for the neuter. Objects which are neuter (it) in English, can be any of the three genders in MLG:

de Hunt (masc)	the dog
de Kaut (fem)	the cat
daut Schop (neut)	the sheep

On learning a new noun in MLG, it is good practice to learn its gender as well. In the listing of nouns the letters **m**, **f**, **n** are used to indicate the masculine, feminine, and neuter gender.

## Vocabulary 1

(nouns:  
f – feminine,  
m – masculine,  
n – neuter)

ät / äte eat

aut / eet ate

best are

Bilt n picture

bitt bites

bitte please

bliewe stay

Brooda m brother

däm the

daut the

de the

die to you

dien your

diene your

dit this

Dochta f daughter

du you

een a, one

eene a, one

ekj I

enkjeepe shop

es is

foa drive

fuaz at once

go/gone go

Goondach Hello

habe have

haft has

haud had

hee he

heet called (I)

heete called

heetst called (you)

## D. Endings of adjectives

In MLG, articles and also adjectives generally have different endings for different genders when they precede the noun:

een kjliena Hunt m	a small dog
eene kjliene Kaut f	a small cat
een kjlienet Schop n	a small sheep.

Hunt m dog  
Hus n house  
jeist go (you)

jejäte eaten  
jinjra younger  
jinjre younger  
jistre yesterday  
jo yes

## E. Cases for nouns

Nouns can perform different functions in a sentence, e.g. serve as subject or object. In MLG, articles that precede the noun indicate the nature of its function, i.e. its case.

De Hunt bitt däm Maun. (The dog bites the man.)

In this sentence, **Hunt** performs the action, and is the subject. **Maun** is the receiver of the action, or object. The subject and object are in different cases, and in MLG the articles are different even though both nouns are masculine.

Jung m boy  
kaun can  
Kaut f cat  
kjeene none  
kjlien small

kome come  
Liera m teacher  
Maun m man  
Mejal f girl  
met with

## F. Word order

The verb is the second word in most MLG sentences:

Hee <b>haft</b> twee Sestre.	(He has two sisters.)
Ekj <b>go</b> wellich no School.	(I willingly go to school.)

mien my  
miene my  
morje tomorrow  
mott must  
Mutta f mother

The verb is the first word in sentences giving orders or questions:

<b>Go</b> fuaz no Hus!	(Go home at once!)
<b>Jeist</b> du werkjlich no Hus?	(Are you really going home?)

nä no  
no towards  
nich not  
nu now  
oba but

The verb goes to the end in a subordinate clause:

Ekj kaun nich met die kome, wiels ekj no Hus **foa**.  
(I can't come with you, because I'm going home.)

Oomkje m mister  
Säns m sons  
School f school  
Schop n sheep  
see she

When there are two verb forms, one of them goes to the end of the clause or sentence:

Nu mott ekj no Hus **foare**. (Now I must drive home.)

See they  
Sesta f sister  
Sestre f sisters  
sie am  
Tus n home

## G. Tenses

In MLG, there are three basic tenses: present (**pres**, Jäajenwuat), **past** (Vegonenheit) and future (**fut**, Tookunft). Associated with each of these is a perfect tense: present perfect (**pres perf**, Foadje Jäajenwuat), past perfect (**past perf**, Foadje Vegonenheit), and future perfect (**fut perf**, Foadje Tookunft).

pres	Ekj ät.	I eat. I am eating.
past	Ekj aut jistre.	I ate yesterday.
fut	Ekj woa morje äte.	I will eat tomorrow.
pres perf	Ekj hab jejäte.	I have eaten.
past perf	Ekj haud jejäte.	I had eaten.
fut perf	Ekj woa jejäte habe.	I will have eaten.

The three basic tenses respectively refer to action occurring now, having occurred in the past, and going to occur in the future. The **present perfect** tense describes an event that happened recently or has a connection to the present. The **past perfect** is used for an event having occurred prior to an event that occurred in the past. The **future perfect** is used for an event that occurred prior to a stated event that is to occur in the future.

### Dialog 1a

Hein	Goondach!	Hello!
Leni	Goondach!	Hello!
Hein	Woo heetst du, bitte?	What's your name, please?
Leni	Ekj heet Leni, un du?	I am Leni, and you?
Hein	Ekj heet Hein, Panasch Hein.	I'm Hein, Hein Penner.
Leni	Ekj sie Rampels Leni.	I'm Leni Rempel.

### Dialog 1b

Leni	Hein, best du een Liera?	Hein, are you a teacher?
Hein	Nä, ekj sie een Student. Un du?	No, I'm a student. And you?
Leni	Ekj sie uk een Student. Best du een Mennonit?	I'm a student too. Are you a Mennonite?
Hein	Jo, ekj sie een Mennonit. Best du von Kanada?	Yes, I'm a Mennonite. Are you from Canada?
Leni	Jo, ekj sie eene Kanadia.	Yes, I'm Canadian.

twee two  
 uk also  
 un and  
 Voda m father  
 von from  
 wää who  
 wellich willingly  
 werkjlich really  
 wiels because  
 woa will  
 woo how

### Vocabulary 2

äajde cultivate  
 Äarport f airport  
 acht eight  
 ajcht authentic  
 am him  
 Ama m pail  
 Anka m anchor  
 auf off  
 aum on the  
 Aunfank m beginning  
 Aunroop m call  
 aunsiedle settle  
 Aupel m apple  
 aus as  
 äwarigj backward  
 Bää f berry  
 bäde pray  
 Bea m beer  
 betta bitter  
 biem by the  
 Bläda n leaves  
 blitze flash  
 Boajch m hill  
 bode bathe  
 Boom m tree  
 Botta f butter  
 Breef m letter

### Dialog 1c

Ana	Peeta, es daut dien Bilt?	Peter, is that your picture?
Peeta	Jo. Dit es mien Voda un miene Mutta.	Yes. This is my father and mother.
Ana	Wää es de Jung?	Who is the boy?
Peeta	Daut es mien jinjra Brooda.	That is my younger brother.
Ana	Es de Mejal diene jinjre Sesta?	Is this girl your younger sister?
Peeta	Nä, see es Oomkje Faulk siene Dochta.	No, she is Mr. Falk's daughter.
Ana	Haft Oomkje Faulk uk Säns?	Does Mr. Falk have any sons?
Peeta	Nä, hee haft kjeene.	No, he doesn't have any.

Brigj	f	bridge
Broot	n	bread
bruck		need
Brut	f	bride
bute		outside
Darp	n	village
deit		does
denkje		think
dia		expensive
Dietsche	m	German
doa		there
Dol	n	glade
doll		angry, hard
doone		do
dort		there
drinkje		drink
drock		busy
Duak	n	kerchief
ducke		duck
dusche		shower
ea		before
eena		one (m)
eewe		practice
eewje		eternal
Eifst	m	harvest
en		in
Enj	n	end
enjekroacht		invited
ennen/bennen		inside
fa		for
Fäla	m	error
fange		catch
Faspa	n	dessert
faust		nearly
Feet	m	feet
fein		fine
Finja	m	finger
finje		find
fot		grasp
frie		free
Frint	m	friend
Frucht	f	fruit
ful		lazy
funk		found
Gauss	f	street
Glauss	n	glass

### Exercise 1.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. What is the rule for capitalization of nouns in MLG?
2. How does the gender system in MLG differ from that in English?
3. What is one factor determining the word ending for adjectives?
4. What is the effect of the case of a noun on the preceding article?
5. What is one important rule for word order in MLG sentences?
6. Give the six tenses of verbs used in MLG.

### Exercise 1.2

Answer briefly in English or MLG.

1. Summarize Dialog 1a.
2. Summarize Dialog 1b.
3. Who is in the picture mentioned in Dialog 1c?
4. Find excerpts in the Dialogs that illustrate a rule of grammar given in this chapter.



## 2. THE MLG ALPHABET (Alfabeet)

The twenty-six letters of the alphabet are pronounced in MLG as: a, bee, cee, dee, ee, ef, gee, ha, ie, jott, ka, el, em, en, oo, pee, q(ku), er, es, tee, u, vau, wee, ix, y(ipsilon), zett. Of these the q, x and y are sparingly used, and c is used mostly in the form ch, ck, and sch.

### A. Vowels (Selfstlud, Vokale) – letters, diphthongs, triphthong

In MLG, there are six basic vowels including the umlaut **ä**. The first two **a, ä** are always long, while the next two **e, i** are always short. The last two **o, u** have both long and short forms. Double vowels appear in eleven major forms, two of which, **ea** and **ia**, mostly appear at the end of the word.

The basic vowels, as well as double and triple vowels of MLG are given in the table below. In this table, the second column gives the **approximate** English pronunciation, while the third gives sample MLG words.

	like English	sample MLG words
a	<u>m</u> ama	am, Ama, Anka, Tala, lache
ä	br <u>a</u> ke	däm, Läwe, Bläda, bäde
äa	<u>a</u> ir	Äarport, Mäa, Bäare, Väajel, äajde
au	l <u>a</u> undry	aum, auf, aus, Aupel, aunsiedle, kaun
e	se <u>t</u>	es, met, betta, sette, selle
ea	se <u>a</u> nce	ea, mea, vea, sea
ee	h <u>e</u> ight	hee, reet, eena, Feet, meent
ei	Rh <u>i</u> ne	rein, fein, Reif, deit, Eifst
i	h <u>i</u> t	dit, witt, nich, kjikj, drinkje
ia	h <u>e</u> ar	hia, dia, Lia, wia, Miagrope
ie	se <u>e</u>	die, mie, Miel, Tiet, Iemäl, hierie
iee	pie <u>r</u> ce	Pieet, Pieed, sieekje, plieeje
o	(long) <u>no</u> te	Dol, Rot, fot, wont, schlope
o	(short) <u>ho</u> t	opp, doll, Holt, Gott, mott, komm
oa	<u>o</u> ar	poa, Oabeit, Hoat, Woage, moak, kloage
oo	<u>o</u> ut	root, woo, Broot, Foot, oolt, hool
u	(long) br <u>u</u> te	ut, ful, bute, Rum, Ru, schuwe
u	(short) p <u>u</u> sh	Punt, Frucht, kunn, rutsche
ua	<u>u</u> al	sua, wua, kluak, Uasoak, Duak, Uage, Ua

glaut smooth  
 Golt n gold  
 Gott m God  
 groot large  
 grunse complain  
 Hallo Hello  
 halpe help  
 Har m Lord  
 haustich suddenly  
 Häw f yeast  
 Heel f cave  
 Henj f hands  
 henje hang  
 hia here  
 hierie hear  
 Hoat n heart  
 Holt n wood  
 hool hold  
 Hunga m hunger  
 ieescht first  
 Iemäl n E-mail  
 irjent any  
 Jefaulle favor  
 jeff give  
 jeit goes  
 Jelt n money  
 Jesank n song  
 jreesse greet  
 jun your  
 junt you  
 Kaun f can  
 kaust can  
 kjane know  
 Kjast f wedding  
 kjeepe buy  
 Kjees m cheese  
 kjikj look  
 Kjrich m war  
 kloage complain  
 kloppe knock  
 kluak intelligent  
 Kluck f hen  
 Koffe m coffe  
 komm come  
 Komputa m computer  
 krank sick

## B. Consonants (Metlud, Konsonante)

The MLG consonants **b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, r, t** are pronounced the same as in English. The table below provides approximate pronunciations and gives some sample words.

	like English	sample MLG words	
b	=	biem, Botta, Boom, Brut, bode	kunn could
ch		acht, nich, noch, Kjrich, lache	kusse kiss
ck	kk	drock, Kluck, bruck, dücke	kuzhle snuggle
d	=	daut, dort, Darpa, denkje	lache laugh
f	=	faust, Fäla, Frint, Breef, finje	lank long
			läse read
g	<b>gl</b> ad	groot, glaut, Golt, grunse	Läwe n life
gj	<b>ridg</b> e	trigj, Rigje, Brigj, äwarigj	leet sorry
h	=	haustich, Hus, Heel, halpe	Leppe f lips
j	<b>y</b> ellow	eewje, junt, jo, Jelt, saje	Lia f teaching
jch	<b>aiy</b> ayay	ajcht, rajcht, Boajch, sajcht	Licht n light
			liere learn
k	=	krank, Komputa, kaun, kloppe	looss wrong
kj	<b>ch</b> astise	Kjast, malkje, pieekje, Kjoakj	orrajcht wrong
l	=	lud, lot, Leppe, Licht, sull	Lost f desire
m	=	met, Maschien, Mutta, komm	lot allow
n	=	en, nä, Noba, Numma, sent	lot late
ng	<b>long</b>	lang, Hunga, sunge, fange	lud loud
nj		Enj, Finja, Henj, Stalinj, henje	Mää n sea
nk	<b>plank</b>	lank, Aunfank, Jesank, funk	malkje milk
			Maschien f machine
p	=	Papia, Piano, Popp, plone	mea more
r	=	rechtich, Rot, Har, rade, rane	meent means
s	with voice: <b>z</b> ero	sea, säwen, Sinja, Kjees, läse	Miagrope m pot
s	w/o voice: <b>s</b> ack	Lost, Wasten, Rausp, jreest, waust	mie me
ss	w/o voice: <b>g</b> asoline	Gausse, kusse, jreesse	Miel f mile
sch	<b>sh</b> arp	schmaul, ieescht, dusche, Varsch	moak make
sp	= <b>schp</b> -	Spos, Sparjel, spatre, speele	Mon f moon
st	= <b>scht</b> -	stell, Stool, Stiern, Stap, stäle	motst must
			nääkjste next
t	=	Tracht, Tiet, trafe, sette	ne/eene a, one
v	<b>f</b> orward	vää, ver, von, vebrukt	Noba m neighbour
w	<b>v</b> an	wada, wajch, Häw, wensche	noch still
z	<b>t</b> sunami	zäwentich, Zelt, Zadel, zanke	Numma n number
tz	<b>p</b> izza	Spetz, spretze, blitze, trotze	Oabeit f work
zh	<b>pleas</b> ure	uzhent, Varzh, Plezhia, kuzhle	oolt old
			opp on top of
			Papia n paper
			Piano f piano
			pieekje speed
			Pieet n horse
			Plezhia f pleasure
			plieeje plow
			plone plan
			poa pair
			Popp f doll

Note 1: **q, x, y, ph, th** may be used in foreign words, but otherwise are used sparingly, if at all.

Note 2: Examples of consonants with voice in English are: **b, d, g, z**.  
 Examples of voiceless consonants are: **p, t, k, s**.

### C. Pronunciation Support

A precise pronunciation may be learned from a teacher, or with the help of on-line readings such as are given for the Plautdietsch Bible on the Bible Gateway website, and for the J. Driedger book "En Bloomenheim Oppjewossen" on the Opening Doors website. Current (2018) addresses for these two sites are found in the Reference section of this book (page 90).

#### Dialog 2a

Peeta	Wää es doa?	Who is there?
Hein	Daut sie ekj, Hein. Leni es uk hia.	It's me, Hein. Leni is here too.
Peeta	Komt doch ennen. Lot mie junt miene Sesta Ana väastale.	Please come in. Let me introduce you to my sister Anna.
Leni	Woo jeit et die, Ana? Daut freit mie die kjane to liere.	How do you do, Anna? Pleased to meet you.
Ana	Mie freit daut uk.	Pleased to meet you, too.
Leni	Jun Hus es sea groot un schmock.	Your home is very big and beautiful.
Peeta	Werkjlich? Sat junt bitte dol.	Really? Sit down, please.
Hein	Ana, wua schaufst du?	Anna, where do you work?
Ana	Ekj sie Lierasche. Waut well jie drinkje? Wie habe Tee, Koffe, un Bea.	I am a teacher. What would you like to drink? We have tea, coffee and beer.
Hein	Ekj woa ne Kaun Bea drinkje.	I'll have a beer.
Leni	Ekj drinkj nich. Ekj well ne Pepsi, kaun ekj?	I don't drink. I'll have Pepsi, can I?
Ana	Daut deit mie leet. Wie habe kjeene Pepsi.	I'm sorry. We don't have Pepsi.
Leni	Dan bitte jeff mie een Glauss Wota.	Then please give me a glass of water.

Proow f test  
 Punt n pound  
 rade save  
 rajcht right  
 rane run  
 Rausp f rasp  
 rechtich right, correct  
 reet rode  
 Reif f tire  
 rein clean  
 Rigje m back  
 root red  
 Rot m advice  
 Ru f rest  
 Rum m space  
 rutsche slide  
 sajcht says  
 saje say  
 sat sit  
 säwen seven  
 schauft works  
 schlope to sleep  
 schmaul narrow  
 schmock nice  
 schuwe push  
 sea a lot, very  
 sechalich certainly  
 selle should  
 sent are  
 sette sit  
 sieekje seek  
 Sinja m singer  
 Sparjel m asparagus  
 spatre splatter  
 speele rinse  
 Spetz f point  
 Spos n joke  
 spretze splash  
 stäle steal  
 Stalinj f barns  
 Stap f fields  
 stell quiet  
 Stiern n star  
 Stool m chair  
 sua sour  
 sull should

## Dialog 2b

Leni	Hallo, es daut Hein?	Hello, is Hein there?	sunge sang
Hein	Jo, daut sie ekj. Es dit Leni? Wauts looss?	This is he. Is this Leni? What's up?	Tala m plate
Leni	Kaust du mie een Jefaule doone?	I'd like to ask you for a favor.	Tee f tea
Hein	Sechalich. Waut kaun ekj fa die doone?	Sure no problem. What is it?	Tiet f time
Leni	Näakjste Wäakj hab ekj ne Dietsche Proow. Kaust du mie halpe Dietsch to eewe?	Next week I have a German exam. Could you help me practice speaking German?	Tracht f outfit
Hein	Jo, oba du motst mie een Koffe kjeepe.	Sure, but you must buy me a coffee.	trafe meet
Leni	Die een Koffe kjeepe? Sechalich. Best du zeowes frie?	Buy you a coffee? No problem. Are you free this evening?	trigj back
Hein	Zeowes haft mie wää toom äte enjekroacht. Ekj weet nich wan ekj trigj sie. Ekj kaun die aunroope wan ekj kom.	This evening someone is taking me to dinner. I don't know when I'll be back. Why don't I call you after I get back.	trotze tease
Leni	Na jo. Ekj woa fa dienen Aunroop wachte.	O.K. I'll wait for your call.	Ua f clock

## Exercise 2.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. Which are the long and short vowels in MLG?
2. Which are the main diphthongs and triphthong in MLG and give one sample word for each.
3. Which consonants present in English are largely absent in MLG?
4. Which are the various *s* sounds in MLG, and cite examples?
5. How is the use of *h* in MLG different from that in HG?
6. Which consonants are pronounced the same in MLG and English?

## Exercise 2.2

Answer briefly in English or MLG.

1. Summarize the conversation of Dialog IIa.
2. Summarize the conversation of Dialog IIb.
3. What drinks do the two visitors request in Dialog IIa?
4. Find excerpts in the Dialogs that contain sounds not found in English.

Uag n eye  
Uasoak f reason  
ut from  
uzhent urgent  
vää/ver before  
Vääjel n birds  
väästale present  
Varsch m verse  
vea four  
vebrukt used  
Wäakj f week  
wachte wait  
wada again  
wajch away  
wan/wanea when  
Waste n west  
wause grow  
waust grows  
waut what  
wauts what is  
weete know  
welst/west want  
wensche wish  
wia was  
witt white  
Woage m wagon  
wont resides  
Wota n water  
wua where  
Zadel m note  
zanke quarrel  
zäwentich seventy  
Zelt f tent  
zeowes evening

### 3. NOUNS (Hauptwheed, Substantiewe)

#### A. Overview

Nouns are the names given to real and abstract objects. A list of common nouns is presented in Appendix A. In MLG, nouns are inflected into two numbers: singular (**sing**) and plural (**plu**); two cases, nominative (**nom**) and oblique (**obl**), and three genders: masculine (**masc**), feminine (**fem**), and neuter (**neut**).

MLG uses the **grammatical gender system** rather than the biological system of English. Nouns which in English are neuter may be any of the three MLG genders, e.g., moon (neut) - de Mon, (fem); tree (neut) - de Boom (masc). The dative and accusative cases for nouns used in High German (HG) are merged into a single one in MLG, referred to herein as the **oblique case**.

The oblique case is distinct from the nominative only in 1) personal pronouns, 2) articles and demonstrative and possessive adjectives in the singular masculine gender, and in 3) proper names. It must be mentioned that some MLG authors use a three case system, with a division of the oblique case into a dative (**däm**) part and an accusative (**dän**) part, resembling the HG. The genitive (possessive) in MLG is expressed using the **'his genitive'** structure, e.g., siene Koa, his car, as is discussed further below.

As in HG, ordinary nouns as well as proper nouns are **capitalized** in MLG, regardless of their position in the sentence.

#### B. Articles (Jeschlajchtsweeed, Artikjels)

In English, the definite article 'the' is used for all genders, numbers, and cases. In MLG, the definite article is inflected, i.e. has different endings. For both the masculine and feminine genders, singular and plural, for the nominative and oblique cases, the definite article **de** is used, with one exception. That exception is the masculine singular oblique case, where **dän** is used. For neuter singular nouns **daut** is used, while for the plural nouns **de** is used. In the table below, the nouns **Maun** (masc), **Fru** (fem), **Kjint** (neut), etc. are inserted to assist with the association of the article with the correct gender.

	sing			plu		
	masc	fem	neut	masc	fem	neut
	(Maun)	(Fru)	(Kjint)	(Mana)	(Frues)	(Kjinja)
nom	de	de	<b>daut</b>	de	de	de
obl	<b>dän</b>	de	<b>daut</b>	de	de	de

### Vocabulary 3

Äte n food  
 Beem m trees  
 Been n leg  
 Beesa m evil one  
 Bejäajnk f meeting  
 Bejäwenheit f event

Bilda n pictures  
 Boaj m hills  
 brinj t brings  
 dän the  
 dee that  
 Dinja n things

Dinkj n thing  
 dis this  
 drift operates

eenem a  
 eenen a  
 Eltesta m elder

Erfoarunge f /  
 experiences  
 Erfoarunk f experience  
 Famielje f family

Feia f feast  
 fief five  
 Foare n driving

Foarm f farm  
 Foarms f farms  
 Frind m friends

Fru f woman  
 Frues f women  
 gauf gave

Goade m garden  
 Goades m gardens  
 Gow gift

De Maun gauf de Fru eene Gow. (The man gave the woman a gift.)

De Maun (nom), de Fru (obl/dative), eene Gow (obl/accusative).

De Mutta brinjt de Kjinja Äte. (The mom brings food to the kids.)

De Mutta (nom), de Kjinja (obl/dative), Äte (obl/accusative).

Heed m hats  
Hoot m hat  
Hopninj f hope

**Indefinite articles** are distinct for the two cases in the masculine gender. For the article one, **een** is used in the nominative case, and **eenen (eenem)** in the oblique. In the other two genders the article is the same for the two cases: **eene** for the feminine gender, and **een** for the neuter. The form of this and other indefinite articles is given as:

article	masc nom	masc obl	fem	neut	plu (all)
one	een	eenen	eene	een	
this	dis	disen	dise	dit	dise
that (near)	dee	dän	dee	daut	dee
that (far)	jan	janen	jane	jan	jane
which	woon	woonen	woone	woon	woone
such a	soon	soonen	soone	soon	soone
my	mien	mienen	miene	mien	miene

Een Liera gauf eenen Jung eene Oppgow.

(A teacher gave a boy an assignment.)

Liera (nom), eenen Jung (obl/dative), eene Oppgow (obl/accus.).

Dee Poliezmaun brinjt daut Kjint no jane Fru.

(That policeman brings that child to that woman.)

Dee Poliezmaun (nom), daut Kjint (obl/accus), jane Fru (obl/dat).

jan that  
Jelenkj n joint  
Jesaze n laws  
Junkjes n little boys  
Kaulf n calf  
Kaut f cat  
Kautje n little cat  
Kjala m cellar  
Kjallasch m cellars  
Kjalwa n calves  
Kjeisa m emperor  
Kjensla m artist

Kjinja n children  
Kjint n child  
Kjintje n little child

Kjoakj f church  
Kjoakjskje n /  
little church  
Koa f car

### C. Possession (Ieejendom)

The possessive is expressed using the **'his genitive'** structure, i. e. naming the possessor in the oblique case followed by the possessive adjective and the possessed object. With proper nouns, and when the possessor is determined by a possessive adjective, the possessor is in the nominative case. For inanimate or generalized constructions, the preposition **von** or a composition are used instead:

dän Jung sien Hoot (the boy's hat);

Karl siene Koa (Karl's car);

mien Voda siene Piep (my father's pipe);

de Lichta von de Staut/ de Stautslichta (the lights of the city).

Korf m basket  
Korfkje n little basket  
Krankensesta f nurse

Läpel m spoon  
Läpels m spoons  
Lied m people

Lierasche f /  
female teacher  
Mana m men  
Mariee f to Marie

Maschienarie f/  
machinery  
Massa n knife

## D. Plurals (Meazol)

The pluralization of nouns in MLG has been discussed by J. Thiessen and others, and the summary below closely follows their work.

In English, the plural of nouns is often formed by adding to the singular form the suffix *-s*. The forming of plurals in MLG can be established by:

- adding no ending at all, or adding the endings *-a*, *-e*, *-s*, *-sch*;
- voice change, e.g.: replacing **t** with **d**, replacing **k** with **g**, palatalization (adding **j** sound);
- or vowel change (e.g. **oo** to **ee**).

### No ending

- No voice nor vowel change: de Feia, de Feia (feast/s); daut Schop, de Schop (sheep, sheep); daut Been, de Been (leg/s);
- Voice change, no vowel change: Frint, Frind (friend/s); Boajch, Boaj (mountain/s);
- No voice change, vowel change: Boom, Beem (tree/s);
- Voice change and vowel change: Hoot, Heed (hat/s).

### -a ending:

- **a** only: Licht, Lichta (light/s);
- with voice change: Bilt, Bilda (picture/s);
- with vowel change: Maun, Mana (man, men);
- voice and vowel change, palatalization: Kaulf, Kjalwa (calf, calves).

### -e ending (the -e ending has no vowel change);

- **e** only: Plot, Plote (plate/s);
- **e** and voice change: de Tiet, de Tiede (time/s); de Erfoarunk, de Erfoarunge (experience/s).

### -s ending (the -s ending has no vowel change);

This class consists mainly of

- a) short masculine and neuter nouns: Park, Parks (park/s); Foarm, Foarms (farm/s);
- b) words related with family members: Sän, Säns (son/s); Fru, Frues (woman, women);
- c) masculine and neuter nouns ending in *-el* and *-e*: Läpel, Läpels (spoon/s); Goade, Goades (garden/s).

Massasch n knives

Meckanika m mechanic

Mejalkjes n little girls

Nobaschoft f/

neighborhood

Oppgow f assignment

Park m park

Parks m parks

Peetre m to Peter

Piep f pipe

Plot f plate

Plote f plates

Poliezmaun m /

policeman

Sän m son

sas six

Stekjskje n little piece

soon such

Späldinkj n toy

Staut f city

Stazion f station

Steela m chairs

Steelakjes n/

little chairs

Stekj n piece

Stoolkje n little chair

Stua n store

Tiede f times

Werkjlichkjeit f reality

woon which

wooväl how many

–**sch ending** (the –**sch** ending has no vowel change);

This class consists of masculine and neuter longer nouns ending with –**a**: de Kjala, de Kjalasch (basement/s); daut Massa, de Massasch (knife, knives).

With some not-so-common words, there is no certainty about the correct plural. Different forms are created by different speakers: the plural of **Jesaz** (law) could be **Jesaza** or **Jesaze** (laws).

### **E. Diminutives (Vekjlandrungsform)**

To form the diminutive form of nouns the suffix –**kje** is added: Hos, Hoskje (rabbit/little rabbit); Korf, Korfkje (basket/little basket).

If a noun ends in –**kj** then an **s** is inserted prior to the –**kje** suffix: Kjoakj, Kjoakjskje (church/little church).

If a noun ends in **t**, then a suffix –**je** is added: Kaut, Kautje (cat/kitten); Kjint; Kjintje (child/little child).

Diminutives in MLG are mostly neuter. The plurals of diminutives are often formed with an –**s** suffix; Junkjes, Mejalkjes. The diminutive process generally follows the pluralization: Stool, Steela (chair, chairs), Stoolkje, Steelakjes (little chair/little chairs.)

### **F. Proper names (Nomes)**

To refer to a married woman in MLG, one may use the surname of the husband and add the suffix –**sche**. Thus Mrs. Koop is referred to as **de Koopsche**, while Mr. Koop simply as **Koop**. The same structure applies to the feminine for professions: Liera, **Lierasche**.

For proper names, the oblique case is derived from the nominative: Peeta frajcht Mariee, Marie auntwuat Peetre (Peter asks Mary, Mary answers Peter).

### **G. Guide to gender specification in MLG**

In MLG, most nouns with a clear inclination to a particular gender belong to that gender. The feminine gender contains the largest number of nouns while the neuter gender the fewest. The gender of a noun in MLG is most often the same as in HG, but exceptions do exist, e.g., MLG Pei is masculine, HG Torte is feminine.



Nouns with suffix **-ie**, **-unk**, **-inj**, **-heit**, **-ion**, **-kjeit**, **-schoft** are often feminine: Maschienarie, Bejäajnunk, Hopninj, Bejäwenheit, Stazion, Werkjlichkjeit, Nobaschoft. Nouns dealing with instruments or with the suffix **-a**, are often masculine: Komputa, Meckanieka, Eltesta, Kjeisa, Kjensla, Beesa. Those nouns formed from infinitives or having suffix **-kj** are often neuter: Stekj, Jelenkj, Späldinkj.

### Dialog 3

Leni	Jasch, wooväl Lied jeft et en diene Famielje?	Jasch, how many people are there in your family?
Jasch	Doa sent sas, mien Voda un miene Mutta, mien Brooda un miene twee Sestre. Un du?	There are six, my mom and dad, my brother and two sisters. What about you?
Leni	Doa sent fief, miene Elre, miene twee Sestre un ekj. Waut schaufe diene Elre?	There are five, my parents, my two sisters and I. What do your parents do?
Jasch	Miene Mutta es Lierasche un mien Voda haft ne Foarm.	My mother is a teacher, and my dad has a farm.
Leni	Miene Mutta es Kranken- sesta un mien Voda drift een Stua.	My mother is a nurse, and my father runs a store.

### Exercise 3.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. Distinguish between the grammatical and biological gender systems.
2. What is special about the treatment of the accusative and dative in MLG?
3. What are the definite articles used in MLG?
4. Give the various forms of any one of the indefinite articles.
5. Describe the **'his genitive'** system for indicating possession.
6. Cite three means of forming the plural for MLG nouns and give examples of each.
7. What are the main means of expressing diminutives in MLG?
8. What are some noun endings that are common for the feminine gender?

### Exercise 3.2

Answer briefly in MLG.

1. In Dialog 3, who are the people in the family of Jasch?
2. Who are the members of the family of Leni?
3. What do the parents of Jasch and Leni do?

#### 4. PRONOUNS (Fawieed, Pronomen)

Pronouns are words that serve as substitutes for nouns, often for a person or inanimate object. A list of common pronouns is presented in Appendix A. Pronouns provide short cuts in writing, serving often to replace long words or even entire phrases. Their use in MLG is similar to that in English.

Miene Saumlunk von Jeltstekja es fuat. **Dee** es sea kostboa.  
(My coin collection is missing. It is priceless.)

##### A. Personal and possessive pronouns

Personal pronouns in MLG are capitalized only when they appear at the beginning of a sentence and when they are used in a formal sense. The formal for ‘you’ in the singular and plural in the nominative case is **See**. In the oblique it is **Junt** in the singular and **An** in the plural.

The third person neuter pronoun **daut** is used at the beginning of a sentence, and may be replaced by **et** in other positions.

The table below presents the personal pronouns in the nominative and oblique cases. The English possessive pronouns and the corresponding pronouns for the plural in MLG are also given.

##### B. Personal pronouns and possessive pronouns (poss pro)

Eng	MLG	Eng	MLG	poss pro	
nom	nom	obl	obl	Eng	MLG (plu)
I	ekj	me	mie	mine	miene
you	du	you	die	yours	diene
	Jie/See		Junt		June
he	hee	him	am	his	siene
she	see	her	äa/ar	hers	äare
it	daut/et	it	am/et	its	siene
we	wie	us	ons	ours	onse
you	jie	you	junt	yours	june
	Jie/See		An		June
they	see	them	an	theirs	äare

**Possessive pronouns** are declined in MLG in number, gender and case, as indicated in the following table. A distinction between nominative and oblique forms appears in MLG only for the masculine gender. In the table below, the nouns **Hunt** (masc), **Kaut** (fem), **Hus** (neut), and **Hiesa** (plu) have been inserted to assist with the association of specific pronouns with their gender.

#### Vocabulary 4

äa/ar her  
äara her/their  
äaren hers/theirs

an them  
An them (form)  
aul already

aule all  
aulahaunt all kinds  
aundre others

aunjeejeja member  
aunkome arrive  
aunfange begin

Aupelsien m orange  
bat until  
Baunt m ribbon

billewää, irjentwää /  
anyone  
binje bind  
Bloome f flowers

Boot n boat  
brinje bring  
dämselwjen same one

deejanja whoever  
diena yours  
diensjlikje like you

disa this one  
dree three  
eenje some

Eisskriem ice cream  
emma always  
emol once

eena one  
entlich finally  
enwoare realize

### Possessive pronouns (Ieejendom aunwiesende Fawieed)

Eng	MLG					
	masc (Hunt)		fem (Kaut)	neut (Hus)	plu (Hiesa)	
	nom	obl				
mine	miena	mienen	miene	mient	miene	et it, that fält lacks fuat gone  gauns completely Goltkjäd f gold chain
yours	diena	dienen	diene	dient	diene	goodet good
his/its	siena	sienen	siene	sient	siene	
hers	äara	äaren	äare	äaret	äare	goot good Hamd n shirt Hoa f hair
ours	onsa	onsen	onse	onst	onse	
yours	juna	junen	june	junt	june	
theirs	äara	äaren	äare	äaret	äare	Hus n house Ieednät f peanuts Ieejendeema m owner

For clarity, the corresponding table for possessive adjectives is also presented. Distinctions between pronouns and adjectives appear in the masculine nominative and in the neuter instances.

### Possessive adjectives (Ieejenschoftswieed)

Eng	MLG					
	masc (Hunt)		fem (Kaut)	neut (Hus)	plu (Hiesa)	
	nom	obl				
my	mien	mienen	miene	mien	miene	irjentwää someone irjentwanea anytime irjentwaut something
your	dien	dienen	diene	dien	diene	jana that one jratste largest jäw give
his/its	sien	sienen	siene	sien	siene	
her	äa	äaren	äare	äa	äare	jeduldich patiently jehaut had jehieet belongs
our	ons	onsen	onse	ons	onse	
your	jun	junen	june	jun	june	jejankat desired jekjamt combed jekoft bought
their	äara	äaren	äare	äat	äare	

Mien Hunt es miena un diene Kaut es diene.  
(My dog belongs to me, and your cat belongs to you.)

De dree Schnäde Pizza sent miene, diene, un siene.  
(The three slices of pizza are mine, yours, and his.)

Daut Boot es onst, junt, un äaret.  
(The boat is ours, yours, and theirs.)

Daut es ons Boot, jun Boot, un äa Boot.  
(That is our boat, your boat, and her boat.)

Von de Hunj, habe see mienen nich jestole.  
(Of the dogs, they have not stolen mine.)

Jeltstekja n coins  
jeluat waited  
Jemeent f congregation

jenuach enough  
jeseene seen  
jestole stolen

jewessa certain one

### C. Demonstrative pronouns (Hanwiesende Fawieed)

Demonstrative pronouns are used where emphasis is warranted. For the pronoun ‘this one (those)’, distinct oblique forms are observed, except for the neuter singular case. For other pronouns, a distinct oblique form appears only in the masculine singular case.

	masc (Maun)		fem (Fru)		neut (Kjint)	plu (Hiesa)	
	nom	obl	nom	obl		nom	obl
that one!	dee	dän	dee	dää	daut	dee	dän
this one	disa	disem	dise	dise	dit	dise	dise
that one	jana	janem	jane	jane	jant	jane	jane

jie you (plu)  
jieda everyone

Jlekj n luck  
Jliet m member  
jun your

Jun your (form)  
juna yours  
Junt you (form)

Kaut f cat  
Kende f candy  
kjeem came

Mank de Frues, haft dee dän schmoksten Hoot, un jane de jratste Goltkjäd.

(Among the women, that one has the nicest hat, and that other one the largest gold chain.)

kjeena no one  
kjrreeje receive  
Klock f clock

Disa haft emma goodet Jlekj; jana velist emma.  
(This one always has good luck; that one always loses.)  
Brinjt däa mea Broot; dee vehungat aul meist.  
(Bring that one more bread; she's almost starving.)

kolt cold  
kostboa expensive  
Kuak f cookie

### D. Interrogative Pronouns (Froagstalende Fawieed)

These are not declined in MLG with the following exception:

	masc (Hunt)		fem (Kaut)	neut (Hus)	plu (Hiesa)
	nom	obl			
which one(s)	woona	woonen	woone	woont	woone

latste last  
luda louder  
Lusch f bag

mank among  
meist almost  
Metz f cap

A single form appears for the other common interrogative pronouns.

mieselfst myself  
miena mine  
miere several  
mol once

who	wää	<b>Wää</b> well ieescht gone? (Who wants to go first?)
whose	wäm (sien, siene, sien)	<b>Wäm sien</b> Jelt es daut? (Whose money is that?)
to whom	wäm	<b>Wäm</b> jehieet dit? (To whom does this belong?)
what	waut	<b>Waut</b> es daut? (What is that?)
which	woon	<b>Woon</b> Hoot es miena? (Which hat is mine?)
whoever	wääemma	<b>Wääemma</b> kolt es, komm ennen. (Whoever is cold, enter.)

nemm take  
nieet new  
niemols never

nohus home  
oam poor  
ons us, our

onsa ours  
Prinz m prince

whatever	wautemma	<b>Wautemma</b> du deist, es goot. (Whatever you do, is good.)	Prograum n program
what kind	waut fa ne	<b>Waut</b> fa ne Sort Koa es daut? (What kind of car is that?)	riede ride rikj rich Saumlunk f collection

### E. Indefinite pronouns (Onbestemde Fawieed)

The table provides inflected forms for indefinite pronouns. Only for the masculine form does the oblique case differ: **-na** becomes **-nem**.

	masc nom	masc obl	fem	neut
one	eena	eenem	eene	eent
no one	kjeena	kjeenem	kjeene	kjeent
such	soona	soonem	soone	soont

Other common indefinite words which may serve as pronouns are:

anyone	irjentwää	Well <b>irjentwää</b> de latste Kuak? (Does anyone want the last cookie?)	Scheens m goodies Schlätel m key Schlips m tie  Schlott n lock schmoksten prettiest Schnäde f slices  Schoo f shoes See you (form) sien his
anytime	irjentwanea	Tol mie daut Jelt <b>irjentwanea</b> trigj. (Pay me the money back anytime.)	siena his sonda instead soogoa even
each	jieda, jiedra	Een <b>jieda</b> nemm een Eiskriem. (Each one take an ice cream.)	soona such one
everyone	jieda eena	<b>Jieda eena</b> jäw waut von Hoaten! (Everybody give from the heart.)	Sort f kind steit stands
someone	irjentwää	Doa steit (irjent) <b>wää</b> vere Dää. (Someone is standing at the door.)	Stoltheit f pride stunt stood trigjehoole / held back
something	irjentwaut	Es doa noch <b>irjentwaut</b> ? (Is there something else?)	
some, many	eenje, väle	<b>Eenje</b> sent rikj; <b>väle</b> sent oam. (Some are rich; many are poor.)	
all, a pair	aule, een poa	<b>Aule</b> habe Schoo; <b>een poa</b> haft Heed. (All have shoes; a few have hats.)	trigjtrole repay tru loyal
many, other	miere, aundre	<b>Miere</b> sent vebiestat; <b>aundre</b> nich. (Several are lost; others are not.)	väle many

### F. Additional Pronouns

MLG contains a rich collection of pronouns as is indicated in the comprehensive lists given in MLG dictionaries. Some of the more colorful ones are presented below.

aunjehieeje (members)	Aule <b>aunjehieeje</b> riede vondoag opp witte Pied. (All members today are riding on white horses.)	vebiestat lost vehungat starves veleicht maybe  velist looses vää/ ea /ver before vewalkje wilt  vondoag today wääemma whoever wäm whom
--------------------------	--	---

irjentwää (anyone)	Jeft daut nich <b>irjentwäm</b> , sonda to äa. (Don't give it just to anyone, but to her.)	waut what, something wautemma whatever weess showed
dämselwjen (same one)	Jeff <b>dämselwjen</b> dän Schlätel fa daut Schlott. (Give the same one the key for the lock.)	welle want weltliche wordly wie we
deejanja (special one)	<b>Deejanja</b> dee mien Hoot naum, jeff däm trigj. (Whoever took my hat, give it back.)	wist knew witte white woon which
diensjlikja (one like you)	Niemols hab ekj een <b>diensjlikja</b> jeseene. (Never have I seen one like you.)	woona which one wort became wudde would
jewessa (certain one)	Een <b>jewessa</b> haft äa Hoat jestole. (A certain one has stolen her heart.)	
mieselfst (I myself)	<b>Mieselfst</b> es de Ieejendeema von dise Insel. (I myself own this island.)	
wua (where)	Hee kaum aun <b>wua</b> de Bloome nich vewalkje. (He arrived at a place where flowers don't wilt.)	

#### Text 4 - Wienachtsprogram<sup>4</sup>

De Kjinja haude sikj aula schmock de Hoa jekjamt. Eensje Mejales haude soogoa een schmocken Baunt enne Hoa. Eensje Junges haude een gauns niet Hamd toom ieeschten mol aun. Wan ekj ne Sesta haud jehaut, wudd Mutta daut jejankat habe, äa een schmocken Baunt enne Hoa to binje. Oba aus een truet, ooltkolonieschet Jemeente Jliet wudd see sikj von soone weltliche Stolt trigjehoole habe. Ons Liera haud eenen schmocken jekoften Schlips aun.

Entlich wees de Klock daut et Tiet wia, daut Prograum auntofange. De Liera stunt nu jeduldich oppem Plautform bat de Lied daut emol enworde, daut hee reed wia, met daut Prograum auntofange. Aus dan aules stell wort, wist wie, daut wie nu daut ieeschte Stekj hiere wudde. De Liera must ons ieremol denkje halpe, daut wie luda råde muste, soo daut de Lied ons hiere kunne.

To gooden latst kjeem daut, wua wie aula no jeluat haude. Wie kjrieje aula ne Lusch met aulahaunt Scheens toom äte: Ieednät, Kende, ne Apelsien un veleicht soogoa ne jekofte Kuak. Un dan wia daut Tiet, de kjliene Kjinja auntotrakje un ons oppem Wajch nohus to brinje.

<sup>4</sup>En *Bloomenheim Oppjewossen* - [www.plautdietsch-copre.ca](http://www.plautdietsch-copre.ca)

### Exercise 4.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. What is the rule for capitalization of pronouns in MLG?
2. When can the neuter pronoun **daut** be replaced by **et**?
3. What are the suffixes used for the possessive pronoun **dien-**?
4. What are the suffixes used for the possessive adjective **jun-**?
5. Give the three singular oblique forms for the demonstrative pronoun **dee**.
6. A pronoun beginning an interrogative sentence is in what case?
7. What are the suffixes used for the indefinite pronoun **soon-**?
8. Distinguish between the pronouns **irjentwää** and **deejanja**.

### Exercise 4.2

Answer the following questions about Text 4 briefly in MLG.

1. What was special about the dress of some boys and girls?
2. If the writer had had a sister, why would his mother not have placed a ribbon in her daughter's hair?
3. About what did the teacher often have to remind his students?
4. During the program, what were all the children waiting for?

## 5. SPELLING (Rajchtschriewe)

This chapter indicates systematically how to form correctly spelled words from the letters given in Chapter 2. The spelling rules cited herein follow closely those formulated by the committee for the translation of the Bible into Low German chaired by E. H. Zacharias.

### A. Vowels

As much as possible, the vowels are spelled as they are pronounced in vernacular speech. The clear shifts in vowel sound, word endings, etc. of the oral language is incorporated in the spelling. E.g.: bliewen, blift; Breef, Breew; Frint, Frind; ekj droag, ekj druach; ekj sinj, ekj sunk; ekj fang aun, ekj funk aun.

### B. Use of ‘ch’ un ‘jch’

a. The **ch** can be soft (palatal): daut **Licht**, or hard (guttural): daut **Loch**.

b. Following **e**, **i** and **äa**, the **ch** is always soft: nich, rechtich, läach, Läächt, seelich.

c. Following **o** and **u**, the **ch** is always hard: doch, Loch, Wucht.

d. Following **a**, the **ch** may be either soft or hard. To distinguish the sounds, for the soft **ch** a **jch** spelling is used (lajcht, trajcht, Boajch, sajcht) and for the hard **ch**, a **ch** spelling is used (lache, wachte, sacht).

### C. Rule for word endings

a. The ending **-ich** is always written as **-ch**, and never as **-ig**: heilich, eewich, frintlich.

b. The ending **-unk** is always written with **k**, and never with **g**: Rechtunk, Bieejunk.

c. The ending **-inkj** is written as **kj**, not as **gj**: hinkj, jinkj.

d. At the end of a word a **-d** or **-t** is written according to the sound that is heard. Many nouns that end in the singular with **t**, have a **d** in the plural: Frint, Frind; Pieet, Pieed.

e. Verbs which in conjugation in the present tense end with a **-t** are written for the past tense with a **-d** when the sound before is voiced,

## Vocabulary 5

Aka m acre, field

Ätwoa n groceries

äwafoare drive over

bake bake

bale bark

bestemda specified

Bibel f Bible

Bieejunk f bend

Biel n hatchet

Binj f bandage

binje binding

blift stays

Blitz m lightning

Bon f track

boolt soon

bose hurry

bromt hums

brucke need

Buck m stomach

Dach m day

Darpa m villager

Deel n deal

deepe baptise

Dien f drift

doarom because

doafäa for that

dobbelt double

doch still

dolste hardest

don/donn then

droag carry

druach carried

eemol once

eewich eternal

Ehe f matrimony

em in the

enlaje can (fruit)

eenmol once

enoajre enrage

Enwona m inhabitant



and with a –t when the sound before is voiceless: du spälst, du spälst; hee staup, hee staup; du rätst, du rätst.

#### D. ‘Un’ and ‘en’

a. **un**, the conjunction ‘and’ is a connecting word: Peeta un Marie; Koffe un Malkj.

b. **en** means inside somewhere: Peeta un Maria en jan Hus; de Malkj en daut Glauss.

#### E. Rules for the writing of double consonants

a) Double consonants are written after the **short** vowels **e, i, o, u**, when another vowel follows, and at the end of a word: senne, sette, welle, ekj well, Blitz, schlemme, erre, Himmel, witzich, rolle, voll, mott, Komm, wudd, Kuss, brucke.

Exceptions are words with a voiced **s**, which are written with a single **s**: Kos, Kose, Schosel, tos, tose.

b) After a short vowel, the consonant does not need to be doubled when another consonant follows immediately: Himmel, but himlisch; vekjillen, hee vekjilt sikj, du vekjilst die; schellen, but hee schelt; rolt, bromt, Solt, Schult. Compound words are exceptions: Blitzstrol, Buckweedoag, Mellklompe, Koppbinj.

c) After double vowels and following long vowels, the consonants are not doubled.

d) The **a** is always considered as long and does not require a double consonant: baken, balen, Aka, waka. Exception: Massa.

#### F. Rules for the writing of ‘s’ and ‘ss’

Instances exist for both a voiced and voiceless **s**.

a. An **s** at the beginning of a word is always voiced: Seel, selle, sient.

b. The voiced **s** is always written with a single **s**: bose, läse, lause, Hos, Reis, Kos.

c. A **double s (ss)** is always voiceless: Russen, Oss.

d. The voiceless **s** is written as a double **s (i.e. ss)** when it stands

erre err  
fäich capable  
fäle lack  
Foatich n vehicle  
Foss m fox  
frintlich friendly  
Fuamaun m driver  
funk aun began

Gruss f greeting  
Heilant m savior  
heilich holy  
himlisch heavenly  
Himmel m heaven  
hinkje limp  
hoade hard  
hole fetch

Hos m rabbit  
huach high  
Ieejendom n property  
Jefenkjnis n jail  
jehuarsom obedient  
Jelieeda m learned  
Jennerazion f generation  
jeweulich usually

jewess certain  
jinkj went  
jlikje sea equally  
jreese greet  
Kalia f color  
Kanol m canal  
Kapitel n chapter  
Kilograum n kilo

Kilomeeta m kilometer  
Kjennichs m kings  
Kjneen f knees  
Klompe m pile  
Kole f coals  
Komm f container  
Kopp m head  
Kos f goat

between two vowels and following a short vowel at the end of a word: jreesse, wausse, pause, Massa, Oss, Foss, Gruss, jewess.

Exception: where the **s** makes a plural: Nome, Nomes; Fru, Frues.

e. The voiceless **s** preceding another consonant is always written with a single **s**: Lost, jreest, waust, maste, Rausp, Weisheit.

f. Where at the beginning of a word it sounds more like a **ts-** or like a voiceless **s**, a **z** is written: Zocka, Zippel, Zoagel, Zelt.

## G. Capitalization

All nouns are capitalized. When verbs, adjectives, pronouns and adverbs serve as nouns, they are nevertheless written **without capitalization**.

## H. Compound words (Toopjesade un Toopjerande Wieed)

a. Words **placed together**: several short nouns may be written together as one word: Tempelplauz, Schreftjelieeda. They can also be written separately, especially if rather long, and then both are capitalized: Stauts Kaussenfiera, Kjennichs Paul aust.

b. Words **run together**: these arise when several words are run together, and letter(s) are lost in the process: **met däm** gives **metem**, **opp de** gives **oppe**, **bie däm** gives **biem**. Running together verbs and articles is to be avoided: **lat daut**, not **latet**.

## I. Exceptions to the rules

a. Short frequently used words do not have double consonants: **met**, **uk**, **un**, **en**, **em**, **es**, **don**, **von**, **vom**, **om**, **doarom**, **dit**, **disa**, **dise**.

b. The prefixes **en-**, **nen-**, **met-**, **om-**, **rom-** do not take the double consonant: enlaje, enoajre, nengone, metkome, omtrakje, omendre, romlaje, romoakre.

c. Words with the prefix **on-** are usually pronounced with the **n** and often also without the **n**, and are written accordingly: onierlich, Onkoste, onneedich, onsennich, ontofräd, onveninflich; ommaklich, orruich, orrajcht, ojjerajcht, ojjewant.

d. The prefixes **opp-** and **nopp-** are written with double **p** (**pp**) even when another consonant follows, in order to distinguish from **op**:

Kuarn n seed

kunne could

Kuss m kiss

lääch low

Läächt f hollow

lajcht lies

langsom slow

leichta easier

Lekzion f lesson

Loch n hole

Mäl f flour

Malkj f milk

maste fatten

meed tired

meene mean

Mell n garbage

metem with the

metkome accompany

mulwre muddle on

muste had to

nengone enter

niece new

nodste nearest

ojjewant not used to

om because

omendre change

ommaklich/

uncomfortable

omtrakje move

onierlich dishonorable

Onkoste m expenses

onneedich needless

onsennich gedankenlos

ontofräd unhappy

onveninflich rude

op open

opgone open up

oppause watch out

oppe on top of

oppgone go up

opmoake open

oppgonen, daut Kuarn jeit opp; opgonen, de Dää jeit op. However, when three p come together as in **opppause**, then just two p's are written: oppausen, ekj paus opp.

e. Words with the voiceless **-dom**, **-som**, **-el**, **-en** don't have a double consonant at the end, nor in an extension: Ieejendom, Rikjdom; langsom, langsome; jehuarsom, jehuarsome; Schosel, Väajel; sellen; stoawen.

f. Some words are said with an **ie**, but are writtten with an **i**: Bibel, Kapitel, Kilomeeta, Kilogram.

## J. Use of special words

a. The pronoun **junt** (you) is used, not ju.

b. **Heilant** (saviour) is used not Heilaunt.

c. **Ehe** (wedlock) is used not Eehe.

d. Acceptable combinations involving **mol** (once) are; **emol**, **eemol**, **een mol** (not eenmol).

e. The adjectives **fäich** (capable), **ruich** (peaceful) are used, not fähich nor ruhich (no silent h as in HG).

f. Triple vowels appear in some words; Kjneeen (knees), Teeen (toes), not Kjneen or Teen.

g. Titles for wives and female professionals are indicated using the appendix **-sche**; Lierasche and Kjennische (from Liera and Kjennich). Lierarin and Kjennijin are also used.

h. The English **-tion** becomes **-zion**; Stazion, Lekzion, Jennerazion.

i. Consonants following **a** are not doubled: Kanol, Kalia.

orrajcht unjust  
 orruich restless  
 Oss m oxen  
 Paulaut m palace  
 pause fit  
 Plauz m square  
 Post m mail  
 rädsd spoke

rätst speak  
 Rechtunk f direction  
 reed wiere were ready  
 Reis f journey  
 Rieej f row  
 riewe rub  
 Rikjdom m kingdom  
 rolle roll

rolt rolls  
 rom around  
 romligje lie around  
 romoakre agitate  
 ruich quiet  
 Russ m Russian  
 sacht soft  
 schelle scold

Schläde m sled  
 schlemme complain  
 Schnee m snow  
 Schosel m idiot  
 Schreft f script  
 Schult f guilt  
 secha certain  
 Seel f soul

seelich holy  
 selle should  
 sient his  
 sinje sing  
 Solt n salt  
 spälsd played  
 spälst play  
 spaund harnessed

Spaunsel n team

## Text 5 - Vestient<sup>5</sup>

Wan daut een mol em Winta een poa Doag stiemd, wiere aule Schlädbone vestient. Opp Städe wia de Bon unja deepe, hoade Schneediene. De notste Staut wia sas Miel auf. Ons wudd boolt de Post, Ätwa, Zocka, Koffe, Mäl, un Kole fäle. Woo wudd wie dan no de Staut kome?

De Darpa haude gooden Rot doafäa. Wan de bestemda Dach doa wia, spaund jieda Enwona een poa Pieed aum Dobbeltschläde. Jeweenlich wiere doa soo tieen Foatieja. Soo boolt aus see aula reed wiere, jinkj et looss. See fuare aula oppe Gauss en eene Rieej. Daut väaschte Spaunsel must aum dolste schaufe, derch de huage Diene mulwre om de Schlädbon optomoake. Ea de Pieed von dit Spaunsel too meed worde, fua de Fuamaun tosied, soo daut de aundre am aula vebiefoare kunne. Nu haude siene Pieed daut een Deel leichta, un

daut niee väaschte Spaunsel must dolla schaufe. Soo deed jieda Fuamaun daut om secha to senne, daut aule Pieed jlikje sea schaufe muste. Wan see dan ieescht entlich aula wada vonne Staut Tus wiere, wia doa ne goode, hoade Bon, wiels dee twintich mol äwajefoare wia.

<sup>5</sup>*En Blumenheim Oppjewossen* – [www.plautdietsch-copre.ca](http://www.plautdietsch-copre.ca)

Städ f place  
staup step, stamp  
stiemd blew  
stoawe die  
Strol f bolt  
sunk sang  
Teen f toes

### Exercise 5.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. Why may the vowel **a** be followed by either **jch** or **ch**?
2. Cite four spelling rules for word endings.
3. Distinguish between **en** and **un**.
4. What are the rules for doubling of consonants?
5. Under what conditions is a double **s** used within a word?
6. At the end of words, when are single and double **s** used?
7. When are non-verbs, which serve as nouns, capitalized?
8. What is the capitalization rule for separated compound nouns?
9. Distinguish between the prefixes **op-** and **opp-**.
10. What are the acceptable forms of **mol**?
11. Which tripling of letters is permitted, vowels or consonants?

### Exercise 5.2

Answer the following questions about Text 5 briefly in MLG.

1. What problem arose in winter in the author's home town?
2. Why was it urgent to solve this problem?
3. How did the village solve this problem?
4. What type of day would best suit the solution?

Tempel m temple  
teen ten  
tos drag  
tose drag  
tosied aside  
twintich twenty  
unja under  
väaschte foremost

vebiefoare /  
drive past  
vebule squash  
vekjille /  
catch a cold  
vestiemt snowed in  
voll full  
vom from the  
wachte wait  
waka awake

Weedoag m ache  
Weisheit f wisdom  
wiere were  
witzich witty  
Wucht f power  
wudd would  
Zippel f onion  
Zoagel m tail  
Zocka m sugar

## 6. VERBS – 1 (Tietwheed)

### A. Overview

Verbs are words in sentences which describe an action, an occurrence, or a state of being. Two lists of common MLG verbs are presented in Appendix B. Verbs often appear as the second entity in a sentence following a noun. Verbs are conjugated through a series of suffixes to indicate who is doing the action and when. The conjugation also indicates plurality of the causer of the action, and the mood, as is explained in the following.

### B. Tenses

Verbs, in MLG, have three primary tenses: present, past, and future. The present (**pres**, Jäajenwuat) refers to what is going on now, the **past** (Vegonenheit) to what went on before, and the future (**fut**, Tookunft) to what will occur later. There are three perfect tenses, one corresponding to each of the primary ones: the present perfect (**pres perf**, Foadje Jäajenwuat), the past perfect (**past perf**, Foadje Vegonenheit), and the future perfect (**fut perf**, Foadje Tookunft). The actions that are described in a perfect tense occur prior to those of the corresponding primary tense.

In MLG, the present and past primary tenses are conjugated, while the other four are formed using the auxiliary verbs **habe** (to have), **senne** (to be), or **woare** (to become). These three verbs are cited here in the infinitive form, a form that defines a given verb. In recognition of the fact that some MLG users omit the ‘**terminal n**’ of verbs, it is herein enclosed in brackets.

### C. Principal parts and conjugation of verbs

Conjugation refers to the modification of verb forms to indicate the person causing the action and the tense. The separate parts of the conjugated verb are obtained from the principal parts of the verb. In MLG, there are **four principal parts**, the infinitive form and three additional ones; the **3rd person singular present tense**, the **3rd person singular past tense**, and the **past participle**. The three additional parts are derived from a **verb stem** which is obtained by dropping the **e** ending from the infinitive. In subsequent full descriptions of a verb, the four principal parts are cited, in the order indicated.

The **principal parts** of the verb **habe** (have) are given as:

infinitive	3 <sup>rd</sup> pers sing pres	3 <sup>rd</sup> pers sing past	past part
habe	haft	haud	jehaut
to have	has	had	had

MLG verbs are conjugated in three persons, both in the singular and plural. General conjugation rules allow for the writing of other verb parts from the four principal parts. It is an unfortunate fact that these rules have numerous special instances and exceptions.

The conjugation in the **present tense** of the verb **habe** (have) are given as:

sing			plu		
ekj hab	du hast	hee/see/daut haft	wie habe	jie habe	see habe
I have	you have	he/she/it has	we have	you have	they have

The formal **See** forms for the singular and plural coincide with those of the third person plural.

#### D. Weak and strong verbs

The verbs of MLG consist of two classes, **weak** and **strong**. Verbs for which the **stem vowel** is the same in the present and the past tenses are labelled as weak. Other verbs, having stem vowels that differ in the two tenses are labelled as strong. The **past participle** of a strong verb normally ends in **e**; if it ends in **t**, the strong verb is classified as **strong irregular**.

Weak: rane, rant, rand, jerant. (to run, runs, ran, ran).

Strong: näme, nemt, naum, jenome. (to take, takes, took, taken).

Strong irregular: brinje, brinjt, brocht, jebrocht. (to bring, brings, brought, brought).

The principal parts of many common weak and strong verbs are listed in Appendix B.

#### E. Voices in verbs

The voice of a verb may be active or passive. For an **active verb** the subject performs the action, whereas for a **passive verb** the action is performed on the subject.

Active: Daut Kjint es goastrich. (The child is unruly.)

Passive: Daut Kjint woat jestroft. (The child is being disciplined.)

#### F. Mood of verbs

The mood may be indicative, imperative or conditional. A verb is in the **indicative** mood if the sentence is used to present facts and in the **imperative** mood if requests or commands are given. The **conditional** mood is used to express conditions of permission, obligation, ability to undertake an action, or to address a hypothetical situation. In MLG, the main verbs expressing mood (modal verbs) are: **derwe, kjenne, mäaje, motte, selle, and welle**; (permitted to, can, like, must, should, want to).

Indicative: Hee jinkj toom Stua om Äte to kjeepe. (He went to the store to buy groceries.)

Imperative: Go toom Stua un kjeep Äte! (Go to the store and buy groceries!)

Conditional: Wan ekj gone wudd, wudd ekj Kende brinje. (If I would go, I'd bring candy.)

#### G. Word building

Standard verbs are often combined with prepositional prefixes such as **auf-, aun-, be-, derch-, en-, ut-, ve-**, etc. to shade their meanings: aufkjeepe, aundreie, bekjane, derchfoare, enkjeepe, utvekoft (buy off, turn on, confess, drive through, shop, sold out).

In the current chapter, the emphasis is on the indicative form of weak verbs in the present and past tenses. In subsequent chapters, strong verbs and other aspects about verbs are considered.

## H. Stem, participles, and imperative of verbs

To obtain the **stem** of a verb, drop the **-e** ending in the infinitive: spēle, **späl** (play).

The **present participle** is formed of the full **infinitive** to which is added a **-t** suffix. It appears occasionally in the form of an adjective, which must be declined for number, gender and case. A **-t** may be voiced into a **-d**. E.g., **koakendet Wota** (boiling water), from koake. The **t** added to the infinitive has been voiced into **d**, and the **-et** suffix added during the declension.

The **past participle (past part)** of a weak verb is formed from the **stem** of the verb by adding a **je-** prefix, and a **-t** suffix, e.g. spēle, späl, **jespält**. There are exceptions as noted below.

To form the **singular imperative** use the **stem** of the verb. Ex: (du): spēle, **späl!** (play!).

To form the **plural imperative** use the **stem+t**, e.g. (jie): spēle, **spält!** (play!).

## I. Conjugation of present and past tenses of weak verbs

The conjugations in the present and past tenses of weak verbs have the form:

<b>present</b>	pattern	rane	späle	meene	schaufe	hole
ekj	stem	ran	späl	meen	schauf	hol
du	stem+st	ranst	spälst	meenst	schaufst	holst
hee,see,daut	stem+t	rant	spält	meent	schauft	holt
wie, jie, see	stem+e	rane	späle	meene	schaufe	hole
<b>past</b>						
ekj	stem+d	rand	späld	meend	schaufd	hold
du	stem+sd	ransd	spälsd	meensd	schaufsd	holstd
hee,see,daut	stem+d	rand	späld	meend	schaufd	hold
wie, jie, see	stem+de	rande	spälde	meende	schaufde	holde
past part	je+stem+t	jerant	jespält	jemeent	jeschauft	jeholt
English		to run	to play	to mean	to work	to fetch

Twee Junges rane enne Wad. (Two boys are racing.)

See meend emma goot un hee jleichd daut. (She always meant well, and he liked that.)

Wan et too heet es, schauf wie nich. (When its too hot we don't work.)

De Voda jinkj de Schrootflint hole. (The father went to get the shotgun.)

If the **inverted word order** is used (fourth example above), the **-e** ending of the plural **wie, jie** (but not **See**) form is dropped, and a root-only form, identical to the 1st per. singular, is used.

Wie loame met weinich Uasoak. **Loam** wie too väl?

(We complain with little reason. Do we complain too much?)

**Welle** See mea Koffe drinkje? (Would you care for some more coffee?)

## J. Modifications to the conjugation of weak verbs

A difficulty in pronunciation arises with the above pattern for first and third person verbs which end in **d** and **t**; e.g., **rade** (save) and **sate** (plant). In the table below the conjugation of these two verbs following the standard pattern appears in the column marked 'unmodified'. Clearly a difficulty arises in distinguishing the **dt**, **td**, **dd**, and **tt** sounds. The difficulty can be avoided by adopting changes as indicated in the 'modified' columns. The difficulty is mainly one of pronunciation, but spelling rules (e.g. involving the long **a** vowel) are also a factor.

		unmodified	modified	unmodified	modified
<b>present</b>	pattern	rade	rade	sate	sate
ekj	stem	rad	rat	sat	sat
du	stem+st	radst	ratst	satst	satst
hee,see,daut	stem+t	radt	<b>rat</b>	satt	<b>sat</b>
wie,jie, see	stem+e	rade	rade	sate	sate
<b>past</b>					
ekj	stem+d	radd	<b>rad</b>	satd	<b>sad</b>
du	stem+sd	radsd	radsd	satsd	satsd
hee,see,daut	stem+d	radd	<b>rad</b>	satd	<b>sad</b>
wie,jie,see	stem+de	radde	<b>rade</b>	satde	<b>sade</b>
past part	je+stem+t	jeradt	<b>jerat</b>	jesatt	<b>jesat</b>
English		to save	to save	to plant	to plant

Two additional modified forms driven by difficulties in pronunciation are presented below.

### a) Stem ending with a voiced consonant

If the stem ends with **d, g, j, soft s, w, zh** (voiced consonants), that consonant is voiceless in the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> persons** of the **present tense**, and the **past participle** (as the voiceless **t** and **st** determine the preceding consonant). A change in consonant(s) may occur for these forms. E.g.: råde, kloage, beruje, hauje, veboaje, vetilje, keiwe, läwe, ruzhe.

<b>present</b>	pattern	råde	kloage	beruje	läwe	ruzhe
ekj	stem	räd	kloag	beruj	läw	ruzh
du	stem+st	rätst	kloachst	beruichst	läfst	ruschst
hee,see,daut	stem+t	rät	kloacht	beruicht	läft	ruscht
wie,jie,see	stem+e	råde	kloage	beruje	läwe	ruzhe
<b>past</b>						
ekj	stem+d	räd	kloagd	beruijd	läwd	ruzhd
du	stem+sd	rädspd	kloagsd	beruijds	läwds	ruzhds
hee,see,daut	stem+d	räd	kloagd	beruijd	läwd	ruzhd
wie,jie,see	stem+de	råde	kloagde	beruijde	läwde	ruzhde
past part	je+stem+t	jerät	jekloacht	beruicht	jeläft	jeruscht
English		to speak	to complain	to comfort	to live	to roar

De Mutta rät stell un beruicht daut Kjint. (The mom speaks softly and comforts the child.)

De Eelefaunte ruzhde biem Riefa. (The elephants roared by the river.)



## b. Stem ending with a voiceless consonant

If the stem ends with **ch, f, jch, k, kj, p, hard s, sch, t** (voiceless consonants), that consonant modifies the **-d, -sd, -d, -de** endings of the **past tense** into **-t, -st, -t, -te** for the reason cited in section a above. E.g.: horche, bake, danke, hoakje, tekje, roope, schempe, staupe, fikse, jripse, berausche, endietsche, forsche, schajchte, sefte, skäte, wensche.

<b>present</b>	pattern	horche	bake	staupe	fikse	wensche
ekj	stem	horch	bak	staup	fiks	wensch
du	stem+st	horchst	bakst	staupst	fikst	wenschst
hee,see,daut	stem+t	horcht	bakt	staupt	fikst	wenschst
wie,jie, see	stem+e	horche	bake	staupe	fikse	wensche
<b>past</b>						
ekj	stem+d	horcht	bakt	staupt	fikst	wenschst
du	stem+sd	horchst	bakst	staupst	fikst	wenschst
hee,see,daut	stem+d	horcht	bakt	staupt	fikst	wenschst
wie,jie, see	stem+de	horchte	bakte	staupte	fikste	wenschte
past part	je+stem+t	jehorcht	jebakt	jestaupst	jefikst	jewenschst
English		to listen	to bake	to step	to fix	to wish

Hee horcht, un see staupt to de Musik. (He listened, and she stepped to the music.)

De Lied wensche fa goodet Wada. (The people wish for good weather.)

## c) Stem ends with two consonants

If the stem ends with two consonants, the second one being a nasal or lateral (**l, m, n**), a short **e** is inserted to ease pronunciation. E.g.: odme, likjne, ordne, räakjne, ieejne, juble, forme, kjamle.

<b>present</b>	pattern	odme	ordne	ieejne	juble	kjamle
ekj	stem	odem	orden	ieeen	jubel	kjamel
du	stem+st	odemst	ordenst	ieeenst	jubelst	kjamelst
hee,see,daut	stem+t	odemt	ordent	ieejent	jubelt	kjamelt
wie,jie,see	infinitive	odme	ordne	ieejne	juble	kjamle
<b>past</b>						
ekj	stem+d	odemd	ordend	ieejend	jubeld	kjameld
du	stem+sd	odemsd	ordensd	ieejensd	jubelsd	kjamelsd
hee,see,daut	stem+d	odemd	ordend	ieejend	jubeld	kjameld
wie,jie,see	stem+de	odemde	ordende	ieejende	jubelde	kjamelde
past part	je+stem+t	jeodemt	ordent	jeieejent	jejubelt	jekjamelt
English		to breathe	to order	to own	to exhalt	to process

See odemde de soltje See Loft. (They breathed the salty sea air.)

Ekj hab miene Koa aul lang jeieejent. (I have owned my car for a long time.)

Hee kjameld de Woll om Dakje to moake. (He processed the wool to make blankets.)

#### d) Stem with a diphthong and/or ending in ‘-re’

Verbs in which the stem ends in a diphthong and **r**, or simply ends in **r**, are given special treatment. The **-re** of the infinitive is dropped and is replaced by **a** to form the stem (unless the **-re** is preceded by **a**). The **-st** suffix of the second person **present** is replaced by **-scht**, while the **-sd** suffix of the second person **past** by **-zhd**. The past participle of these verbs ends with **t**, e.g.: prachre, roare, beduare, bekjemre, näare, beschäare, endre, fiere, iere, liere, knoare, schmuare, vesuare, schedre.

<b>present</b>	pattern	prachre	späare	endre	hiere	buare
ekj	stem	pracha	späa	enda	hia	bua
du	stem+scht	prachascht	späascht	endascht	hieescht	buascht
hee,see,daut	stem+t	prachat	späat	endat	hieet	buat
wie, jie, see	infinitive	prachre	späare	endre	hiere	buare
<b>past</b>						
ekj	stem+d	prachad	späad	endad	hieed	buad
du	stem+zhd/dsd	prachazhd	späazhd	endazhd	hieezhd	buazhd
hee,see,daut	stem+d	prachad	späad	endad	hieed	buad
wie, jie, see	stem+de	prachade	späade	endade	hieede	buade
past part	je+stem+t	jeprachat	jespäat	jeendat	jehieet	jebuat
English		to beg	to feel	to change	to hear	to farm

Späascht du dän kolden Wint? (Do you feel the cold wind?)

Daut Hus sitt sea jeendat. (The house looks very different.)

Hieezhd du mie nich, aus ekj lud roopt? (Didn't you hear me, when I called loudly?)

#### K. Formal See

In MLG, the formal **See** (2nd person formal, singular and plural) is used less frequently than in HG. The conjugation corresponding to **See** are the 3rd person plural entries.

Wan See huach buare, brucke See nich rakre.

(When you're well off, you needn't work so hard.)

Wudde **See** de Gardiene jieren opjemoakt habe?

(Would you like to have the curtains drawn?)

#### Vocabulary 6

Akj f corner	gone go	kunne could	selfst self
aunfange begin	halpe help	laje lay	späare feel
berole cover	Hauls m throat	lote allow	tonicht damaged
besondasch special	hette heat	Mäl n flour	toom to the
Brost f breast	hole fetch	meist almost	toopriere mix

Donst m steam	Hoost m cough	Mensche people	trajcht correct
dree three	ieeschten first	mieeschte most	Twiewel m doubt
eenem to one	jäwe give	Moaka m maker	Uag n eye
emma always	jeholpe helped	nääksten next	väl much
emol once	jelieet learned	neeme took	vea four
enschmäare /	jeschonke given	nuscht nothing	wää whoever
apply grease	Jesuntheitsmeddel /	oajch serious	wan when
erut out	health remedy	onen without	waut what
fa for	jeweenlich usually	oppwoame heat up	wautemma whatever
Fäichkjeit f ability	jeewe believe	Owe m stove	welle want
faule fall	kjeen none	rane run	wesche wipe
Flauss m flax	Kjieena n kernels	Samp m mustard	Wien m wine
fodre request	koake cook	Saulw f ointment	Winta m winter
friewellich voluntary	Kodda n cloth	schlemme complain	woame warm
goanich not at all	kome come	schlope sleep	Wota n water

### Text 6 - Jesuntheitsmeddel<sup>6</sup>

Vekjilt wia meist emma wää, besondasch em Winta. Fa een schlemmen Hauls wia emma Rot. Eena schmäd dän Hauls von bute met Kaumfatsaulw en un berold dän met een oppjeweamdet Kodda. Wie woamde uk selfstjemoakta Wien opp. Dan leet wie däm langsam em Hauls rane. Fa däm Hoost koakt wie een bät Kaumfatsaulw met Wota un holde dän Donst en. Wan daut oajch wia schmäd wie Samp un Mäl met Wota toopjerieet oppen Kodda un woamde daut biem Owe. Dan läd wie ons daut oppe Brost bat ons daut aunfunk to hette.

Wan eena waut em Uag haud waut nich erut kome wull, leet wie dree ooda vea Flausskjieena em Uag faule toom schlope gone. Eena späad daut goanich emol, wan de Flausskjieena em Uag folle. Dän nääksten Morje kunn eena de Flausskjieena ute Uagenakj erutwesche.

Wan eenem waut tonicht wia, jinkj eena nom Trajchtmoaka. De mieeschte Trajchtmoakasch kunne eenem halpe onen daut see daut jelieet haude. Doa es kjeen Twiewel daut dee väl Mensche jeholpe habe. Wiels see jleewde daut Gott an de Fäichkjeit jeschonke haud, foddade de mieeschte kjeen Jelt. Oba jeweenlich neeme see daut, wan eena an waut friewellich jeef.

<sup>6</sup>*En Blumenheim Oppjewossen* – [www.plautdietsch-copre.ca](http://www.plautdietsch-copre.ca)

### Exercise 6.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. Contrast the representation of infinitives in English and MLG.
2. Name the four principal parts of MLG verbs.
3. Give the principal parts of the verb **habe**.
4. Conjugate the verb **habe** in the singular and plural present.
5. Give a distinction between weak and strong verbs in MLG.
6. What is meant by ‘with voice’ and ‘voiceless’ with regard to verbs?

7. Describe the forming of the present and past participles in MLG.
8. Conjugate a weak MLG verb of your choice in the present and past tenses.
9. How is the conjugation changed if the stem ends with a voiced consonant?
10. How is the conjugation changed if the stem ends with a voiceless consonant?
11. What change may be required when the stem ends with two consonants?

### **Exercise 6.2**

Answer the following questions about Text 6 briefly in MLG.

1. What remedy was used for a sore throat?
2. What ailment did home made wine treat?
3. What method was used to remove a speck in the eye?
4. Why were the **Trajchmoakasch** popular with their patients?

## 7. ADJECTIVES (Ieejenschoftswieed, Adjektiwies)

### A. Classification

An adjective is a word that modifies a noun or noun equivalent. A list of common adjectives is given in Appendix A. When an adjective precedes the word it modifies, it is referred to as an **attributive adjective**. E.g.: een **groota** Maun (a large man), eene **kluake** Fru (a clever woman), een **stellet** Kjint (a quiet child).

When an adjective follows the word it modifies, it is known as a **predicate adjective**. De Maun es **groot**. (The man is large.)

In some of the following tables, the nouns **Maun** (masc), **Fru** (fem), **Kjint** (neut), and **Mensche** (plu) are inserted to assist with the association of specific adjective forms with their gender.

### B. Declension

Adjectives in MLG appear customarily in a strong form. For the neuter gender, a ‘strong’ and ‘weak’ form exists, differing only in the word ending. The weak form is used for neuter adjectives that follow the definite article **daut** or the demonstratives **daut** and **dit** (neuter form of that, this). The strong neuter is applied in all other situations.

Adjectives are declined in gender, number, and case in the form:

case	masc (Maun)	fem (Fru)	neut (Kjint) ‘strong’	neut (Kjint) ‘weak’	plu (Menschen)
nom	groota	groote	grootet	groote	groote
obl	<b>grooten</b>	groote	grootet	groote	groote

In the singular, a suffix **-a** is added to the predicate for the masculine nominative; **-en** for the masculine oblique; **-e**, for the feminine; and **-et** for the strong neuter. All three plural forms (masc, fem, neut) and the weak neuter take the form of the feminine singular.

Changes for the **oblique case** occur only for the **masculine singular**. However, if a preposition-article contraction is used with a neuter noun, then the oblique is also used. E.g.: em **grooten** Hus, en **daut groote** Hus, en een **grootet** Hus.

## Vocabulary 7

aufkjeele cool off  
aule all  
aulemaun everyone

Bekauntmoakunk f ad  
benne inside  
Bonkoa f streetcar

Broot n bread  
bute outside  
dartich thirty

doaropp upon  
Dola m dollar  
dolste most

eenmol once  
eensjemol sometimes  
elste oldest

fastlich festive  
Flint f gun  
frintlich friendly

gaufst gave  
groot big  
Han f hen

haulf half  
Haandel m trade  
heet hot

hilt held  
hinjaraun behind  
hoaje haired

Hon m rooster  
hoole hold  
Hos m rabbit

Hunt m dog  
intressaunt interesting  
Jebied n building

### C. Comparative and superlative

The positive (**pos**) form appears when a property of a single item is stated, and no comparison is made. The comparative (**comp**) form appears for situations when two items are compared, and the superlative (**super**) form in comparing more than two. In MLG, inflection takes place for both predicate and attributive adjectives.

Jedäwa n racket  
jekoakt cooked  
jemolda painted  
Jeschaft n business  
jeschote shot  
jestolna stolen

The possible inflection is for the three genders, in the singular and plural, and for the number in the comparison. For the attributive adjectives, a further inflection occurs to account for the part of speech.

jeweenlich usually  
jieda each  
jinja younger

### D. Comparison of predicate adjectives

In MLG, the positive form for predicate adjectives is the same for all genders and numbers. To form the comparative in each, a suffix **-a** is added to the positive, whereas for the superlative a suffix of **-ste**.

jinjste youngest  
jlekjlich happy  
Joa n year

comparison	masc (Maun)	fem (Fru)	neut (Kjint)	plu (Mensche)
pos	stell	stell	stell	stell
comp	stella	stella	stella	stella
super	stelste	stelste	stelste	stelste

junk young  
kjeenem no one  
Kjleeda n clothes

De Maun es stell. (The man is quiet.)  
Daut groote Kjint es stella. (The large child is quieter.)  
Root-hoaje Mensche sent stella. (Redheaded people are quieter.)  
De elste es de stelste. (The oldest is the most quiet.)

Kjleet n dress  
kjrieech received  
kluake clever

### E. Comparison of attributive adjectives

The comparative form for an attributive adjective is formed by adding the suffix **-r-**, while the superlative by adding the suffix **-st-**. For the nominative case, the ending of the suffix for the masculine gender is **a**, while for the feminine, it is **e**. For the neuter gender the ending is **et** in the positive, and **e** for the comparative and superlative. For the oblique case, the ending of the suffix for the masculine is changed to **-en**, but no change is made in the ending for the feminine and neuter.

kolt cold  
Kommarod m comrade  
läse read  
lud loud  
mauncha many a  
Mensche m people

#### nom

	masc (Maun)	fem (Fru)	neut (Kjint)	plu (Mensche)
pos	de stella	de stelle	daut stelle(t)	de stelle
comp	de stelra	de stelre	daut stelre	de stelre
super	de stelsta	de stelste	daut stelste	de stelste

Nokoma m descendant  
Nomes names  
ranent running  
rein clean  
root red  
Sindach m Sunday

sindachsche Sunday  
Somma m summer  
soorajcht really  
stell quiet  
stella quieter

**obl**

	masc (Maun)	fem (Fru)	neut (Kjint)	plu (Mensche)
pos	dän stellen	de stelle	daut stelle	de stelle
comp	dän stelren	de stelre	daut stelre	de stelre
super	dän stelsten	de stelste	daut stelste	de stelste

stellet quiet

stelsta most quiet

strelra quieter

Stund f hour

The plural for all genders follows the feminine singular.

Toobehia n accessories

toopjespoat saved

Trubbel m trouble

**F. Adjectives from present participles**

Adjectives may be formed from present participles of verbs. In English, the suffix *-ing* is added to the infinitive to form the present participle. In MLG, the suffix *-d-* is added. The participle ending is changed according to the gender, number, and case, following the general pattern for adjectives.

de **ranenda** Hunt (the running dog);  
de **ranende** Han (the running chicken);  
daut **ranende** Wota (running water).

vebie past

vebrukt spent

velote depend

weinich little

weinje few

woon which

wutscht raced

**G. Adjectives from past participles**

Adjectives may be formed from past participles of verbs. In MLG, the stem for forming adjectives is the past participle to which is added an ending appropriate to the gender, number and case.

For adjectives formed from particles ending in *-t*, a change in voicing may occur at the end, i.e. the *t* is replaced with a *d*). For adjectives formed from participles ending in *e*, the *e* may be dropped if the preceding consonant is voiced.

koake, koakt, koakd, jekoakt:  
masc - een **jekoakta** Hon (cooked rooster);  
fem - eene **jekoakte** Han (cooked hen);  
neut - **jekoaktet** Wota (cooked water).

mole, molt, mold, jemolt:  
masc - een **jemolda** Boom (a painted tree);  
fem - eene **jemolde** Dää (a painted door);  
neut - een **jemoldet** Bilt (a painted picture).

stäle, stält, stool, jestole:  
masc - een **jestolna** Hunt (a stolen dog);  
fem - eene **jestolne** Koa (a stolen car);  
neut - een **jestolnet** Kjleet (a stolen dress).

## H. Irregular adjectives

The **stem** in the comparison of adjectives may be irregular as indicated in the following examples for predicate adjectives.

	pos	comp	super
young	junk	jinja	aum jinjste
old	oolt	elra	aum elste
large	groot	jrata	aum jratste
small	kjlien	kjlandra	aum kjlanste
cold	kolt	kolda	aum koltste
happy	jlekjlich	jlekjelja	aum jlekjlichste

De Grootvoda es junk, de Voda es jinja, un de Sän es aum jinjste.  
(The grandfather is young, the father is younger, and the son is the youngest.)

## I. Demonstrative adjectives

These adjectives point out the noun referred to. They are declined in gender, number, and case as:

	masc (Maun)	obl	fem (Fru)	neut (Kjint)	plu (Mensche)
this	dis	disen	dise	dit	dise
that	jan	janen	jane	jant	jane
such	soon	soonen	soone	soont	soone
every	jieda	jieden	jiede	jiedet	
which	woon	woonen	woone	woont	woone

Only for the masculine gender does the oblique differ from the nominative. The plural has the same form as the feminine singular.

Woon Maun haft de Flint jeschote? (Which man shot the gun?)

Du gaufst daut to woonen Maun? (You gave that to which man?)

## J. Possessive adjectives

The table presented in Chapter 4 (for possessive pronouns) is repeated here for completeness:



Eng	MLG				
	masc		fem	neut	plu
	(Hunt)		(Kaut)	(Hus)	(Hiesa)
	nom	obl			
my	mien	mienen	miene	mien	miene
your	dien	dienen	diene	dien	diene
his/its	sien	sienen	siene	sien	siene
her	ää	äären	ääre	ää	ääre
our	ons	onsen	onse	ons	onse
your	jun	junen	june	jun	june
their	ää	äären	ääre	ää	ääre

In the form **ää** an **r** is inserted before adding endings; **ääre**, **äären**.

### K. Indefinite Adjectives

Indefinite pronouns may also be used as indefinite adjectives:

<b>aule</b> Kommarode (all comrades)	<b>eenje</b> fule Mensche (some lazy people)	<b>weinje</b> Goltstekja! (few pieces of gold)
<b>aundre</b> Frind (other friends)	<b>miere</b> Niekomasch (several new arrivals)	<b>een poa</b> Jans (a pair of geese)
<b>een</b> bätje Spinnat (a bit of spinach)	<b>väle</b> Nokomasch (many descendants)	<b>weinich</b> Wien (little wine)

### Text 7 - No de Staut Foare<sup>7</sup>

Ekj kunn mie jeeenlich doaropp velote, daut ekj eenmol daut Joa met miene Elre opp dän Model T met no de Staut kunn. Wan wie opp dän Wajch kjeen Trubbel haude, dieed daut ne Stund un ne Haulf, de dartich Miel foare. Daut wia oba intressaunt waut eena aules to seene kjrieech oppem Wajch no de Staut. Eensjemol hupst doa een Hos opp un wuscht auf, aus wan am een Hunt hinjaraun wia.

En de Staut wia aules oba soo schmock rein, un de Lied brukte aula sindachsche Kjleeda, wan et uk nich Sindach wia. Doa wia soo väl to läse, Jeschaftsnomes, Gaussnemes, Haundelsbekaunt-moakunge, un soo wieda. Daut Stua, waut mie daut dolste intressieed, wia daut Dola Stua, wua aules een Dola ooda weinja kost. Jeeenlich vebrukt ekj aul mien Jelt, waut ekj mie toopjespoat haud von daut latste mol en de Staut.

Daut wia en de Staut oba lud. Too de Tiet haude see nich daut Toobehia de Jebieda auftokjeele. Wan daut de Somma dan soorajcht heet wia, haud aulemaun de Dääre op. Daut hilt sikj dan jlikj auf eena bute ooda benne wia. Wan doa eene Gausebonkoa vebie fua, kunn eena sikj met kjeenem vetale bat daut Jedäwa äwa wia.

### Exercise 7.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. Give examples of attributive and predicate adjectives.
2. What suffixes are used to decline an adjective in the nominative singular case?
3. How does the declination in the oblique case differ from the nominative?
4. Distinguish between the ‘strong’ and ‘weak’ neuter forms.
5. How is the comparative and superlative formed for predicate adjectives?
6. How is the comparative and superlative formed for attributive adjectives for neuter singular nouns in the nominative case?
7. How is the comparative and superlative formed for attributive adjectives for masculine singular nouns in the oblique case?
8. How are adjectives formed from present participles?
9. How are adjectives formed from past participles?
10. Give the comparative and superlative forms for the adjectives **groot** and **junk**.
11. Give the neuter singular form in MLG for the following three adjectives - this, many, which.

### Exercise 7.2

Answer the following questions about Text 7 briefly in MLG.

1. How often did the author usually go to town each year?
2. How long did the drive to town take?
3. What impressed the author about the town?
4. How much money did the author usually spend in town?
5. Why did store doors usually stand open during the author’s visits?
6. What was inconvenient about the passage of streetcars?

## 8. ADVERBS (Omstauntswheed)

An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, a participle or another adverb. A list of common adverbs is given in Appendix A.

Hee foat **stoakj**. (He drives fast.)

De Mejal es **sea** krakjt. (The girl is very neat.)

Nodäm see eene Stund **schwind** jerant haud, wia see meed.  
(After she had run quickly for an hour, she was tired.)

De Väajel fluage **sea** huach. (The birds flew very high.)

### A. Positive degree

The positive (**pos**) degree of many adjectives serves also as an adverb.

direkjt (direct, directly)

schwind (quick, quickly)

schmock (fine, well)

betta (bitter, bitterly)

### B. Comparison of adverbs

To form the comparative (**comp**) of adverbs, a suffix **-a** is added, and to form the superlative (**super**) a suffix **-ste**. Some adverbs that require comparative or superlative forms are given in the table below.

MLG			English		
pos	comp	super	pos	comp	super
leicht	leichta	leichtste	light	lighter	lightest
schlajcht	schlajchta	schlajchste	bad	worse	worst
schmock	schmocka	schmokste	nice	nicer	nicest
goot	bäta	baste	good	better	best
ruich	ruja	ruichste	quiet	quieter	quietest

Adverb: Hee schrift schmock, see schrift schmocka, un Marie schrift daut schmokste). (He writes nice, she writes nicer, and Marie writes the nicest.)

Adjective: De Mejal haft eenen schmocken Hoot, de Mutta eenen schmokren Hoot, oba de Oma haft dän schmoksten Hoot. (The girl has a nice hat, the mother has a nicer hat, but the grandma has the nicest hat.)

### C. Exclusive adverbs

Most adverbs double as adjectives but the following adverbs have no adjective counterparts: **doa**, **hia**, **dort**, **nu**, **han**, **aul**, **noch**, **dan**.

## Vocabulary 8

Angst f fear  
aufnäme take away  
aul already

aules all  
aunfange begin  
äwakjriez crossed

baste best  
bäta better  
beduselt fooled

betta bitter  
blooss only  
breet wide

dan then  
dedwää cross-wise  
dichtbie nearby

direkjt directly  
doa there  
dort over there

drinkje drink  
Druck m pressure  
Eelefaunt m elephant

entlich finally  
Farjoa m spring  
Fiawurks n fireworks

Flicht f obligation  
fluage flew  
framd strange

froo happy  
glupe look furtively  
Grose n grazing

grose graze  
Haunschckje f glove  
heede to herd

there	<b>Doa</b> gone de Eelefaunte stoawe. (There elephants go to die.)	hia here
here	<b>Hia</b> wone blooss hoatliche. (Here live only hardy people.)	hinjaraun behind
there	<b>Dort</b> es de Jrens. (Over there is the border.)	Hoad m shepherd
now	<b>Nu</b> es aules ut. (Now everything is finished.)	hoat hard
there	Ekj jinkj <b>doa</b> vejäfs <b>han</b> . (I went there for nothing.)	hoatlich hardy
already	Jistre wist ekj daut <b>aul</b> . (I knew it yesterday already.)	huach high
still	<b>Noch</b> blooss twee Doag! (Only two days more!)	hungre be hungry
then	<b>Dan</b> jeft et Krach. (Then there will be trouble.)	Ieda n udder
		Ieed f earth

#### D. Special adverbs

nich soo?	Daut es kolt, <b>nich soo?</b> (It's cold, isn't it?)	ieejne own
sea schod!	Kjeen Rääjen, <b>sea schod!</b> (No rain, too bad!)	jaumalich pitiful
		jeft gives

#### E. Uses of 'too'

a. As an adverb modifying an adjective:		Jemekja n bleating
too kjlien	De Hautschkje es <b>too kjlien</b> . (The glove is too small.)	jenuach enough
		jeschoare shorn
b. As a prefix:		jeseene seen
toolote	<b>Lot</b> die daut nich <b>too</b> . (Don't put up with that.)	jieren gladly
toosaje	To daut wudd ekj <b>toosaje</b> . (I would agree with that.)	Jrens f border
c. As a compound adjective:		kjane recognize
tooväl	Du jefst ons <b>tooväl</b> Oabeit. (You give us too much work.)	kjeeme came
		kjeen no
d. As a compound noun:		Kjjeedel m guy
Tookjikja	De <b>Tookjikja</b> wia tofräd. (The spectator was satisfied.)	kjlien small
		knaup scarce
e. As a prefix in a past participle:		korten shortly
toojekjikjt	Wää haft doa <b>toojekjikjt?</b> (Who watched that?)	koste cost
toojemoakt	See haft de Dää <b>toojemoakt</b> . (She closed the door.)	Krach m trouble

#### F. Uses of 'to'

a. As a preposition and to form an infinitive:		krakjt neat
to de Kaut	See gauwe Äte <b>to de Kaut</b> . (They fed the cat.)	ladje empty
to halpe	See kaum om an <b>to halpe</b> . (She came to help them.)	Lama n lambs
b. In forming compound verbs or adverbs:		leet appeared
tootomoake	Hee vegaut de Dää <b>tootomoake</b> . (He forgot to close the door.)	leicht light
		lot late
tofoot	Dee kaume aule <b>tofoot</b> . (They all came walking.)	Malkj f milk
tolatst	<b>Tolatst</b> gauf et Fiawoakjs. (At the end came fireworks.)	meed tired

c. As an adjective:  
to Tiet      Wie kaume jrod **to Tiet** aun. (We arrived just in time.)

mekjade bleated

### G. Interrogative adverbs

Interrogative adverbs stand at the beginning of a sentence and are used to form questions.

Muttaschop f /  
mother sheep  
natkjes softly  
nich soo isn't it

how	<b>Woo</b> jeit et?	How is it going?
where	<b>Wua</b> es de Kjieedel?	Where is that guy?
from where	<b>Wuavon</b> stemst du?	Where are you from?
wherever	<b>Wuaemma</b> daut es!	Wherever that may be!
where to	<b>Wuahan</b> jeit de Wajch?	Where does the road go?
why	<b>Wuarom</b> best du lot?	Why are you late?
about what	<b>Wuaraun</b> twiewelst du?	What's your concern?
when	<b>Wanea</b> kjrie wie Koffe?	When do we get coffee?
how much	<b>Wooväl</b> kost daut?	How much does it cost?

noch still  
noch nich not yet  
nodäm after

nohus homeward  
Norecht f news  
nu now

nuscht nothing  
Oabeit f work  
oam poor

### H. Common adverbial phrases

now and then	<b>Auf un too</b> see ekj een Rolls Royce. (Now and then I see a Rolls Royce.)
criss-cross	Doa wiere de Gausse <b>äwakjriez</b> . (There the streets were a maze.)
in the near future	<b>Em korten</b> kjrichst du goode Norecht. (Shortly you will receive good news.)
back and forth	Wie fuare <b>han un häa</b> , oba funge nuscht. (We drove back and forth but found nothing.)
now and then	<b>Han un wada</b> see wie de Sonn em Winta. (Now and then we see the sun in winter.)
back and forth	No väl <b>han un trigj</b> haud ekj mien Wisa. (After much back and forth, I had my Visa.)
come again	Daut wia väl Spos, <b>komt mol wada!</b> (That was fun, come again!)
according to him	<b>No däm no</b> es de Ieed plaut. (According to him the earth is flat.)
far and wide	Ons Launt es <b>wiet un breet</b> , oba sea hoat. (Our land is far and wide but very hard.)

opphiere stop  
opptoo towards  
Papiere n documents

plaut flat  
proowe try  
Rääjen m rain

reed ready  
roope call  
ruich quiet

sachelkjes carefully  
sage saw  
schääre shear

scheene fine  
schlajcht bad  
Schop n sheep

### Text 8 - De Schophoad<sup>8</sup>

Een Dach wia daut miene Flicht de Schop to heede. Opp Bilda haud ekj jeseene, daut Schop dän Hoat hinjaraun jinje. Toom nohus gone wull ekj daut emol met onse Schop proowe. Aus et Tiet wia roopt ekj de Schop natkjes, "Mats, mats, mats," un funk aun nohus

schwind quickly  
sea shod too bad  
Sonn f sun

Spos n fun  
stemme originate  
stoakj fast, strong

opptoo to gone. Ieescht glupte de Schop no mie oba grosde wieda, aus wan see noch nich reed wiere. Ekj jinkj sachelkjes wieda nohus opptoo un roopt an wada. Entlich hieede see opp met Grose, un kjeeme mie schmock hinjaraun.

Schop schääre em Farjoa wia sea intressaunt. Wan de Muttaschop jeschoare wiere, leet et dän soo framd, daut äare ieejne Lama an nich kjande. De oame Muttaschop kunne daut nich vestone, wuarom äare Lama fa an Angst haude. Doa wia vël jaumalichet Jemekja. De Lama mekjade wiels an no Malkj hungad un see beduselt wiere. De Muttaschop wulle soo jieren habe, de Lama sulle kome äare volle Iedasch ladje. Entlich kjeeme de Lama dichtbie jenuach, daut see dee volle Iedasch sage. Oba dan wiere de Muttaschop un de Lama froom, de Muttaschop daut äare Iedasch dän Druck entlich aufjenome wort, un de Lama, daut see nu scheene, woame Malkj drinkje kunne.

<sup>8</sup>*En Blumenheim Oppjewossen* – [www.plautdietsch-copre.ca](http://www.plautdietsch-copre.ca)

### Exercise 8.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. How are adjectives and adverbs similar and different?
2. Name some MLG adjectives that can also serve as adverbs.
3. How is the comparative and the superlative formed for regular adverbs?
4. Give the comparative and superlative forms for the irregular adverbs **goot** and **ruich**.
5. Name some words that serve as adverbs but not as adjectives.
6. Distinguish between the uses of **too** and **to** in both English and MLG.

### Exercise 8.2

Answer the following questions about Text 8 briefly in MLG.

1. What experiment did the author attempt while herding sheep?
2. What was the reaction of the sheep to the experiment?
3. Why was sheep shearing especially interesting?
4. Suggest answers in MLG to the questions posed in section G.

tofräd satisfied  
tolatst at the end  
Tookjikja m spectator

tookjikje observe  
toolote tolerate  
toomoake close

toosaje agree  
tooväl too much  
twee two

twiewle doubt  
vejäfs in vain  
vestone understand

volle full  
wada again  
wieda further

wiere were  
wiet far  
wist knew

wone live  
woo how  
wooväl how much

wua where  
wuaemma wherever  
wuahan where to

wuaraun about what  
wuarom why  
wuavon from where

## 9. VERBS – 2

### A. Conjugation of auxiliary and modal verbs

For the forming of the four compound tenses, other than the simple present and past, the auxiliary verbs **habe**, **senne**, and **woare** are used. To express mood, modal verbs such as **derwe**, **kjenne**, **mäaje**, **motte**, **selle**, and **welle** are used. The conjugation in the present and past of the auxiliary verbs and of three modal verbs is given in the table below.

<b>present</b>	habe	senne	woare	kjenne	mäaje	selle
ekj	hab	sie/senn	woa	kaun	mach	saul
du	hast	best	woascht	kaust	machst	saust
hee, see, daut	haft	es	woat	kaun	mach	saul
wie, jie, see	habe	sent	woare	kjenne	mäaje	selle
<b>past</b>						
ekj	haud	wia	wort	kunn	mucht	sull
du	hautst	wiescht	wurscht	kunst	muchst	sust
hee, see, daut	haud	wia	wort	kunn	mucht	sull
wie, jie, see	haude	wiere	worde	kunne	muchte	sulle
past part	jehaut	jewast	jeworde	(je)kunt	jemucht	sult
English	to have	to be	to become	to be able	to want	to must

Bie diene Oabeit hast du een gooden Loon. (At your work you have a good salary.)

Ekj sie foaken en de Staut. (I am often in the city.)

Daut Voagel woat em Farjoa trigjkome. (The bird will return in spring.)

Jie kjenne junt doaropp velote. (You can depend on that.)

Jie sulle june Heed aufnäme. (You should take off your hats.)

### B. Compound tenses

The four compound tenses used in MLG are: the future (**fut**), the present perfect (**pres perf**), the past perfect (**past perf**), and the future perfect (**fut perf**). These tenses are created using auxiliary verbs, as discussed in detail in Chapter 12. For the verb **späle** (to play) the tenses are:

	fut	pres perf	past perf	fut perf
ekj	woa späle	hab jespält	haud jespält	woa jespält habe
du	woascht späle	hast jespält	hautst jespält	woascht jespält habe
hee,see,daut	woat späle	haft jespält	haud jespält	woat jespält habe
wie, jie, see	woare späle	habe jespält	haude jespält	woare jespält habe
Eng (I)	will play	have played	had played	will have played

Ekj **woa** morje Daumbrat **späle**. (I will play checkers tomorrow.)

Du **hast** met däm Noba väl Tennis **jespält**. (You have played tennis often with the neighbor.)

See **haud** aul twee Joa Piano **jespält** ea see no School jinkj.

(She had already played piano for two years before she started school.)

Wan wie nääjentlich senne woare, **woa** wie aul väl mol Beethoven **jespält habe**.  
(When we will be ninety, we will have played Beethoven many times.)

Some intransitive verbs (needing no object) use **senne** instead of **habe** as the auxiliary if:

- a. they indicate motion from one place to another,
- b. they indicate a change of condition,
- c. or they involve the verbs **senne** and **bliewe**.

Ekj **sie** väl rom jereist, un **sie** ella jeworde, oba **sie** emma tru jebläwe.  
(I have traveled a lot, and have aged, but have always remained loyal.)

### C. Strong verbs

For weak verbs in MLG the stem vowel does not change in conjugation, while for strong verbs it does. The principal parts for many common strong verbs are given in Appendix B. In the conjugation of strong verbs, the same suffixes are used as for weak verbs.

Characteristics of strong verbs are:

- a. The stem vowel of the infinitive changes to form the past tense of the indicative mood: **drinkje**, **drunk** (drink); **aunfange**, **funk** aun (begin); **halpe**, **holp** (help). It is helpful to consider that separate stems are used for the present and past tenses.

In some strong verbs, the stem vowel of the infinitive also changes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> persons of the present tense of the indicative mood, and consonants may also change.

- b. The past participle of many **strong** verbs ends in **e**: jedrunke, aunjefonge, jeholpe (drank, started, helped). When the past participle of a strong verb ends in **-t** the verb is termed as **strong irregular**.

- c. The changes in the stem vowel are to some extent predictable. Some examples of the main types of changes are provided in this chapter, and others in Appendix B.

### D. Conjugation of strong verbs: vowel changes in the past tense

<b>present</b>	drinkje	aunfange	halpe	plekje	jelle	wausse
ekj	drinkj	fang aun	halp	plekj	jell	wauss
du	drinkjst	fangst aun	halpst	plekjst	jelst	waust
hee,see,daut	drinkjt	fangt aun	halpt	plekjt	jelt	waust
wie, jie, see	drinkje	fange aun	halpe	plekje	jelle	wausse



**past**

ekj	drunk	funk aun	holp	plock	golt	woss
du	drunkst	funkst aun	holpst	plokst	golst	wost
hee,see,daut	drunk	funk aun	holp	plock	golt	woss
wie, jie, see	drunke	funge aun	holpe	plocke	golle	wosse
past part	jedrunke	aunjefonge	jeholpe	jeplocke	jegolle	jewosse
English	to drink	to begin	to help	to pick	to count	to grow

Wie drunke Terere. (Wie drank terere.)

Zemorjes funk et aun stoakj to räajne. (In the morning, it began to rain heavily.)

Du holpst ons dan Apel plekje. (You helped us then to pick apples.)

Dien Wuat jelt krakjt soo väl aus mient. (Your word counts as much as mine.)

Ekj wauss nu twee Zoll jieda Joa. (I'm growing two inches every year.)

**E. Conjugation of strong verbs: vowel changes in both present and past tense**

<b>present</b>	bejriepe	doone	gone	schlope	näme	schriewe
ekj	bejriep	doo	go	schlop	näm	schriew
du	bejripst	deist	jeist	schlapst	nemst	schrift
hee,see,daut	bejript	deit	jeit	schlapt	nemt	schrift
wie, jie,see	bejriepe	doone	gone	schlope	näme	schriewe

**past**

ekj	bejreep	deed	jinkj	schleep	naum(neem)	schreef
du	bejreepst	deedst	jinjst	schleepst	naumst	schreefst
hee,see,daut	bejreep	deed	jinkj	schleep	naum	schreef
wie, jie, see	bejreepe	deede	jinje	schleepe	naume	schreewe
past part	bejräpe	jedone	jegone	jeschlope	jenome	jeschräwe
English	to grasp	to do	to go	to sleep	to take	to write

Jie bejriepe aules sea schwind. (You understand everything very quickly.)

Waut deist du vondoag? (What are you doing today?)

Wua best du jistre han jegone? (Where did you go yesterday?)

De Boare schleepe dän gaunsen Winta. (The bears slept all winter.)

De Mutta naum daut Kjint bie de Haunt. (The mother took the child's hand.)

De Liera schreef väl Wieed oppe Tofel. (The teacher wrote many words on the board.)

**F. Strong irregular verbs**

Examples of strong irregular verbs, in which the past particle ends in **-t**, include: weete, jewist; motte, jemust; saje, jesajcht. They follow the conjugation of other strong verbs.

a. Conjugation of strong irregular verbs: no vowel change in the present tense

<b>present</b>	weete	motte	moake	welle	fote	saje
ekj	weet	mott	moak	well	fot	saj
du	weetst	motst	moakst	welst	fotst	sajchst
hee, see, daut	weet	mott	moakt	well	fot	sajcht
wie, jie, see	weete	motte	moake	welle	fote	saje
<b>past</b>						
ekj	wist	must	muak	wull	foot	säd
du	wist	must	muakst	wulst	footst	sädst
hee, see, daut	wist	must	muak	wull	foot	säd
wie, jie, see	wiste	muste	muake	wulle	foote	säde
past part	jewist	jemust	jemoakt	jewult	jefot	jesajcht
English	to know	to must	to make	to want	to grasp	to say

Du weetst daut wie derche Bloom räde motte. (You know that we must speak politely.)

Daut Kjjint moakt Pause wan et well. (The child takes a rest when it wants.)

Ekj kaun goanich fote waut du sajchst. (I can't understand what you are saying.)

b. Conjugation of strong irregular verbs: with change in the present and past tenses (note: begrowe, has two alternate forms for the stem vowel in the present; begrow, bejraf)

<b>present</b>	jäwe	kjeepe	läse	begrowe	derwe	droage
ekj	jäw	kjeep	läs	begrow	doaf	droag
du	jefst	kjafst	last	bejrafst	doafst	drajchst
hee, see, daut	jefst	kjafst	last	bejraft	doaft	drajcht
wie, jie, see	jäwe	kjeepe	läse	begrowe	derwe	droage
<b>past</b>						
ekj	jeef	kofst	laus	begroof	durf	druach
du	jeefst	kofst	laust	begroofst	durfst	druachst
hee, see, daut	jeef	kofst	laus	begroof	durf	druach
wie, jie, see	jeewe	kofte	lause	begroowe	durwe	druage
past part	jejäft	jekoft	jeläst	begroft	(je)durft	jedroacht
English	to give	to buy	to read	to bury	be allowed	to carry

Wie jeewe trigj aules waut wie jekoft haude. (We returned all that we had bought.)

Hee laus, daut Golt opp sien Hoff begroft es. (He read that gold is buried in his yard.)

See durf nich mea aus tien dulent droage.

(She couldn't carry more than ten thousand.)

## G. Compound tenses of strong verbs

Forming of the future, present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect in MLG for strong and strong irregular verbs follows the pattern for weak verbs, i.e., these are also constructed with the

auxiliary words **habe**, **senne**, and **woare** with the past participle and infinitive. The table below shows these four tenses for the verb **doone**.

	fut	pres perf	past perf	fut perf
ekj	woa doone	hab jedone	haud jedone	woa jedone habe
du	woascht doone	hast jedone	hautst jedone	woascht jedone habe
hee,see,daut	woat doone	haft jedone	haud jedone	woat jedone habe
wie, jie, see	woare doone	habe jedone	haude jedone	woare jedone habe
Eng (I)	will do	have done	had done	will have done

See woat morje aul äare Oppgowe doone. (She will do all her work tomorrow.)

Du hast vondoag Nomeddach väl jedone. (You have done a lot this afternoon.)

## Vocabulary 9

Äte f meal	fekjs quickly	Kjätel m boiler	oppwausche /
aula all	fief five	Kjiej f cows	wash the dishes
aundre others	foodre feed	kjlandre smaller	plekje pick
aute ate	Frulied f women folk	kjlanste smallest	schlope sleep
Bad n bed	gauns completely	koake cook	Spikja m granery
Bän m upstairs	Goade m garden	Kopp m head	Stäakja m stoker
bliewe stay	goanich not at all	lota later	Stap f field
dollaje lie down	halpe help	malkje milk	Staul m barn
drasche thresh	haulwe half	Meddach n lunch	stell quiet
drenkje water	Hei n hay	meed tired	Teetich n dishes
drock busy	jejäte eaten	moake make	toonacht for the night
eendoont all right	Jemies vegetables	nohus to home	utnäme gather
Eia n eggs	jeneiw precise	Oabeida m worker	Veautwuatlichkjeit f /
enkaune can	jenome taken	Oabeit f work	responsibility
enschlope sleep	jiedamaun everyone	oppause watch	Vee n cattle
Faspa n vesper	Kauste m box	Owentkost n supper	ziemlich considerable

## Text 9 - Draschtiet<sup>9</sup>

De Draschtiet wia ne drocke Tiet. Wan de Kjätel un Draschkauste met aul de Oabeida kjeem, dan bleewe de Kjinja Tus vonne School. De Kjinja holpe met aul de aundre Oabeit dee emma jedone must: Äte moake un no Stap brinje, Kjiej malkje, Vee drenkje un foodre, Eia utnäme, Goadenjemies plekje un enkaune, un soo wieda. De kjlandre Kjinja muste no de kjlanste Kjinja oppause. Jiedamaun haud et drock.

De Stäakja bleewe aula bie de Lied wua see draschte toonacht. Jeweenlich schleepe see opp Hei em Spikja ooda oppem Staulebän. Daut see nich em Bad schlope kunne, wia de Stäakja gauns eendoont. See wiere goanich jeneiw. Dee wiere soo meed daut wan see sikj dolläde, schleepe see en ea de Kopp oppem Hei lach.

Daut wia ne ziemliche Veantwuatlichkheit, aul de Mana fief mol em Dach foodre. Soo fekjs aus de Mana jejäte haude, muste de Frulied aul daut Teetich oppwausche, un wada Äte koake. Too Meddach stunt de Draschkauste fa ne haulwe Stund stell aus de Mana aute. Dan muste de Frulied wada nohus, fekjs oppwausche un Faspa to Klock dree oppe Stap reed habe. Lota must aul daut Oppwauschtich wada nohus jenome un Owentkost reed jemoakt.

<sup>9</sup>*En Blumenheim Oppjewossen* – [www.plautdietsch-copre.ca](http://www.plautdietsch-copre.ca)

### Exercise 9.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. Give the conjugations of the three auxiliary verbs in the present tense.
2. Conjugate the three modal verbs **kjenne**, **määje**, and **selle** in the past tense.
3. What are the four ‘compound tenses’ in MLG?
4. Which compound tenses are formed using **habe** and which using **woare**?
5. When is **senne** used as the auxiliary word instead of **habe**?
6. What are some characteristics of strong verbs?
7. Give some examples of strong verbs that have a vowel change in the past tense only.
8. Name some strong verbs which have a vowel change in the present and past tenses.
9. What is the distinguishing characteristic of a strong irregular verb?
10. Name some strong irregular verbs that have a vowel change just in the past, and some which have a change in both the past and present.

### Exercise 9.2

Answer the following questions about Text 9 briefly in MLG.

1. Why was threshing time popular with children?
2. During threshing time, what work were children asked to do?
3. When a threshing crew came to harvest a farmer’s fields, where did the men sleep?
4. How many meals were the men of the threshing crew served daily?
5. What was unusual about the meal at midday?

## 10. PREPOSITIONS AND CONTRACTIONS (Veheltniss un Toopjerande Wieed)

### A. Prepositions

Prepositions give the relationship between different words of a sentence. A list of common prepositions is given in Appendix A. Particularly, prepositions serve to connect nouns and pronouns to the rest of a sentence. Often data about **time**, **position**, and **direction** is given.

Whereas prepositions may take different cases in HG, this does not occur in MLG. In MLG, nouns following prepositions always take the oblique case. This requires the use in the singular of **dän** (or **däm**) for the masculine nouns, **de** for the feminine, and **daut** for the neuter, and in the plural of **de** for all genders.

A list of the main prepositions in MLG is available in the dictionary of E.H. Zacharias. The use of these prepositions is illustrated in the following short sentences.

auf - off	De Beisikjel fua <b>auf</b> däm Wajch.	The bicycle drove off the road.
aun - on	Klopt wää <b>aun</b> de Dää?	Is someone knocking on the door?
äwa - 1-above, 2-about	De Himmel es <b>äwa</b> de Ieed. <b>Äwa</b> daut, weet ekj nuscht.	Heaven is above the earth. About that, I know nothing.
bat - until	Na dan <b>bat</b> morje!	Well then until tomorrow!
benna - within	Wie kome <b>benna</b> eene Stund aun.	We'll arrive within an hour.
bie - by, with	Siene Fru es emma <b>bie</b> am.	His wife is always with him.
biesied - beside	Een Ree stunt <b>biesied</b> däm Wajch.	A deer stood beside the road.
delenjd - along	See fuare <b>delenjd</b> de Gauss.	They drove along the street.
derch - through	Hee fua <b>derch</b> daut deepe Wota.	He drove through the deep water.
en - in	Dan wia de Raut <b>en</b> de Faul.	Then the rat was in the trap.
fa - for	Ekj deed daut <b>fa</b> miene Flag.	I did it for my flag.
hinja - behind	<b>Hinja</b> däm Fiera kaum ne Menj.	Behind the leader came a crowd.
jääjen - 1-against, 2-opposed	Hee länd sikj <b>jääjen</b> däm Post. See es <b>jääjen</b> schmieekje.	He leaned against the post. She is opposed to smoking.
mank - among	Een Volkj <b>mank</b> väle.	One people among many.
met - with	<b>Met</b> de Tiet kjemst du han.	With enough time, you'll arrive.
no - toward, after	Jie kjenne <b>no</b> de School späle.	You can play after school.
om - at	Nemm de Pell <b>om</b> dree Ua en.	Take the pill at three o'clock.
one - without	Wie worde <b>one</b> am foadich.	We managed without him.
opp - upon	See reet <b>opp</b> een brunet Pieet.	She rode on a brown horse.
rom - around	De Kjinja rande <b>rom</b> de School.	The kids ran around the school.
runtom - all around	<b>Runtom</b> de Staut sent dree Miel.	All around the town is three miles.
to - to	Wie foare <b>to</b> däm Zoo.	We're driving to the zoo.
trotz - despite	<b>Trotz</b> sienem Oaja, lacht hee.	Despite his rage, he laughed.
tweschen- between	Hee stunt <b>tweschen</b> twee Mejales.	He stood between two girls.

unja - under	Daut Voagel fluach <b>unja</b> de Brigj.	The bird flew under the bridge.
ut - out	Een Deef rand <b>ut</b> de Bank.	A thief ran out of the bank.
velenjd - along	See jinkj <b>velenjd</b> däm Gank.	She walked along the hallway.
vää (ver) - before	<b>Ver</b> äa stunde tieen aundre.	Before her stood ten others.
von - from	<b>Von</b> hia bat doa sent twee Miel.	From here till there are two miles.
wäms - whose	<b>Wäms</b> Jeltbiedel es dit?	Whose wallet is this?

## B. Contractions

Contractions are used widely in MLG to shorten expressions consisting of prepositions and articles. As brevity is the intention, some contractions contravene spelling rules requiring double consonants. A list of common contractions is provided in the Zacharias dictionary. The following sentences illustrate the use of some of these. (m – masc, f – fem, n – neut)

aum - aun däm - m - on the	<b>Aum</b> Kopp wia kjeene Wund to seene. (No wound could be seen on the head.)
aune - aun de - f - on the	Hee rand <b>aune</b> Kaunt vom Ozean. (He ran on the seashore.)
aunt - aun daut - n - at the	Aus de Baul <b>aunt</b> Fensta troff, blood de Maun. (As the ball hit the window, the man shouted.)
äwrem - äwa däm - m - over the	Hee schmeet een Schneeaul <b>äwrem</b> Boom. (He threw a snowball over the tree.)
äwaret - äwa daut - n - over the	<b>Äwaret</b> Stiernemää licht een scheenet Launt. (Over the sea of stars lies a beautiful land.)
batet - bat daut; n - to the	<b>Batet</b> Eewa es et noch 100 Meeta. (It's still a hundred metres to shore.)
bennare - benna de - f - inside the	<b>Bennare</b> Reif wia een Noagel. (Inside the tire there was a nail.)
bennarem - benna däm - m - inside the	<b>Bennarem</b> Park sent väl Ieekjekotasch. (Inside the park there are many squirrels.)
bennaret - benna daut - n - inside the	<b>Bennaret</b> Wotaloch sent kjeene Fesch. (Inside the waterhole there are no fish.)
biem - bie däm - m - by the	Hee kjaft Rintfleesch <b>biem</b> Schlachta. (He buys beef at the butcher.)
butaret - buta daut – n - outside the	De Menj wacht <b>butaret</b> Puat. (The crowd is waiting outside the gate.)
derchet - derch daut - n - through the	De Skäta foll <b>derchet</b> Iess. (The skater fell through the ice.)
em - en däm - m - in the; in; into	<b>Em</b> Waste kjeen Nies. (No news in the west.)
ent - en daut - n - in the	Daut Fat es <b>ent</b> Fia. (The fat is in the fire.)

hinjaret - hinja daut - n - behind the	Hee well an <b>hinjaret</b> Licht fiere. (He wants to fool them.)
jääjenem - jääjen däm - m - against the	De Koa kaum <b>jääjenem</b> Boom stone. (The car came to a stop against the tree.)
manke - mank de - f - among the	<b>Manke</b> Ope spält kjeena Klawia. (Among the apes no one plays the piano.)
mete - met de - f - with the	<b>Mete</b> Tiet kjemt uk de Schildkjrät aun. (With enough time even the turtle will get there.)
nom - no däm - m - to the	De Äarplän fluach jrod <b>nom</b> Siede. (The airplane was then flying to the south.)
omet - om daut - n - around the	De Siedlasch muste <b>omet</b> deepe Wota gone. (The settlers had to go around the deep water.)
oppe - opp de - f - on the	<b>Oppe</b> Stap jeftet nu väle Heischrakje. (On the field there now are many grasshoppers.)
oppet - opp daut - n - on the	Wone Biebasch em Wota ooda <b>oppet</b> Launt? (Do beavers live in the water or on land?)
romet - rom daut - n - around the	De Grupp saut <b>romet</b> Fia un sunk Leeda. (The group sat around the fire singing songs.)
toom - to däm; fa däm - m - to the; at the	Fua de Famielje <b>toom</b> Piknick? (Did the family drive to the picnic?)
unjre - unja de - f - under the	De Jiezhaults vestuak sien Jelt <b>unjre</b> Madrauz. (The miser hid his money under the mattress.)
ute - ut de - f - out of the	<b>Ute</b> Millione kome blooss weinje jreenuagje. (Out of millions come a few with green eyes.)
veret - ver daut - n - before the	De Spälasch wiere narwees <b>veret</b> Spell. (The players were nervous before the game.)
verhää - before that	<b>Verhää</b> wiere see foaken hungrich jewäse. (Before they had often been hungry.)
vere - ver de - f - before the	Kjeen Rana saul <b>vere</b> Tiet looss sate! (No runner leaves before time!)
vom - von däm, von daut - m, n - from the	<b>Vom</b> Holthus toom Paulaut en een Joa! (From a log cabin to a palace in one year!)
vonne - von de - f - from the	<b>Vonne</b> Beatles hieet maun nich mea. (One no longer hears of the Beatles.)

## Vocabulary 10

aunrane / come running	ennen into enwoare realize	Metz f cap muste had to	switsche switch trigj back
Aupel m apple	finje find	nerkje tease	trigjjäwe return
äwa over	froage ask	one without	ver before
Äwarauschunk f / surprise	hinja behind hole hold	ontofräd unhappy	wajchfoare leave
bedanke thank	Huarn f horn	schaftich friendly	wausse grow
		schemma twilight	weifle wave

biesied beside	kaum came	schmiete throw	wesche wipe
biete bite	kjliene small	schmustre smile	wiese point
Bietsels n pieces	kjriee receive	sieekje seek	woascht will
bloose honk	krakjt neat	Sonn f sun	Wutt anger
boaft uncovered	krupe creep	Stia n steering wheel	Zerremonie f/
drooe threaten	lote allow	Stich m sun stroke	ceremony
Enjin n engine	Meiw f sleeve	strikje caress	

### Text 10 - Koop siene Metz<sup>10</sup>

Bua siene Wutt woss jrata aus Wiens un Toews schmustade, un hee wees nu no Koop sienem boaften Kopp. Woascht du nich Sonnestich kjriee one diene Metz? fruach hee. Koop strikjt sien Kopp un wort en daut siene Metz wajch wia. De Maun haud dee nich trigj jejäft! Koop wia sea ontofräd, un säd daut hee one Metz nich foare wudd.

Bua säd daut see nich Tiet haude de Metz to sieekje; see muste en de Nordkolonie verem Schemma senne. Hee säd Koop daut dän Maun haude see woll jenerkjt äwa de Metz, un hee haud dee wajchjeschmäte. Bua wees no de Koa, oba Koop wull nich ennen. Bua kroop nu hinjrem Stia un switscht dän Enjin aun, un drood Koop hia to lote.

Krakjt nu kaum eene kjliene Mejal aunjerant un hilt ver de Koa stell. Bua switscht dän Enjin auf un blodd de Huarn. De Mejal rand no Koop un gauf am siene Metz. Koop bedankt sikj un kroop nu biesied Bua enne Koa. De Mejal weifeld schaftich aus de Koa wajchfua. To siene Äwarauschkunk funk Koop een Aupel en siene Metz. Met groote Zerremonie wescht hee däm Aupel met siene Meiw auf, un dan beet groote Bietsels auf.

<sup>10</sup>Mysteries in Cuauhtémoc – [www.plautdietsch-copre.ca](http://www.plautdietsch-copre.ca)

#### Exercise 10.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. Why is the use of prepositions in MLG simpler than in HG?
2. Which articles are used for the masculine, feminine, and neuter nouns in prepositional phrases?
3. What case of the masculine and feminine pronouns appears in prepositional phrases?
4. Which of the following words are not MLG contractions; beam, aunt, mette, utah, batet, benares?
5. Which noun would take **dän** after a preposition; Aupel, Bietsels, Enjin, Huarn, Kopp, Meiw, Mejal, Metz?

#### Exercise 10.2

Answer the following questions about Text 10 briefly in MLG.

1. What is a likely prerequisite for getting sunstroke, according to Bua?
2. Why did Bua want to drive away, and why did Koop refuse to get in the car?
3. What did the little girl bring to Koop?
4. What did Koop do before starting to eat?



## 11. CONJUNCTIONS AND EXCLAMATIONS (Binjweed un Utdrikj)

### A. Conjunctions

Words that connect together other words are referred to as **conjunctions**. There are three types: coordinating subordinations, subordinating subordinations, and conjunctive adverbs. A list of common conjunctions is given in Appendix A. A conjunction, in particular, serves to connect together a sentence, which contains more than one clause. In English the linking words most often used are ‘and’, ‘but’, ‘or’, ‘because’ and ‘that’. The corresponding MLG words are **un**, **oba**, **ooda**, **wiels**, and **daut**. Examples for sentences with two clauses are:

clause 1	conjunction	clause 2
Ana jeit no School, (Anna goes to school,	<b>un</b> and	Peeta schauft Tus. Peter works at home.)
See sent aul fief Joa befriet, (They are already married five years,	<b>oba</b> but	(see) habe blooss een Kjint. (they) have only one child.)
Kaust du nu noch lenja bliewe, (Can you stay longer	<b>ooda</b> or	motst du no Hus gone? must you go home?)
Hee es nich jekome, (He hasn't come	<b>wiels</b> because	hee oppsorje must. he had to do the chores.)
De Elre velangde, (The parents required	<b>daut</b> that	de Kjinja tiedich Tus wiere. the children be home early.)

### B. Types of conjunctions

In the above sentences, the linked clauses are of different types. One sort of clause is the **main** clause that can exist independently in a sentence. Another sort is the **subordinate** clause, which depends on the main clause. Because the linked clauses are of different types, the conjunction types are also different.

**Co-ordinating conjunctions** connect two main clauses, in which a change is not required in the normal word order, e.g. sentences 1-4 above. Examples of co-ordinating conjunctions in MLG are: **un**, **oba**, **ooda**, **wiels**, **sonda** (and, but, or, because, but (following a negative)).

**Subordinating conjunctions** join a main clause with a subordinate clause and send the verb to the end of the subordinate clause, e.g., sentences 4-5 above. Examples of subordinating conjunctions in MLG are: **daut**, **oppwool**, **obzwoasch**, **wiels**, **wäjens**, **aus**, **wan**, **opp**, **nodäm**, **wäarent** (that, although, although, because, because, as, when, if, after, during.)

### C. Co-ordinating conjunctions

**un** - and. This is used if the second clause adds information to the first one.

Ana jeit no School **un** Peeta schauft Tus. (Anna goes to school, and Peter works at home.)

If the subject is the same in the two clauses, it need not be repeated.

Ana jeit no School un (see) kjaft lota en. (Anna goes to school and (she) later goes shopping.)

**oba** - but. This is used if the second clause has contrasting information relative to the first.

Ekj wudd jieren twee Schaklitz äte, **oba** daut es nich jesunt.

(I would gladly eat two chocolates, but that isn't good for my health.)

**ooda** - or. This is used if the second clause expresses an alternative.

Du kaust twee Doag ensette, **ooda** (du kaust) eene Strof von twintich Dola tole.

(You can sit two days in jail, or (you can) pay a fine of twenty dollars.)

**wiels** - because. This is used to explain the reason for the first clause.

De Kjinja durwe vël Eisskriem äte, **wiels** daut wia sea heet.

(The children were allowed to feast on ice cream, because it was very hot.)

**sonda** - instead. This is used under the conditions of **ooda**, but after a negative main clause.

Jeff mie kjeene Kjoasche, **sonda** lot mie eene Arbus utläse.

(Don't give me cherries, instead let me pick out a watermelon.)

### D. Subordinating conjunctions

In the clause following these conjunctions, the verb in MLG is always at the end.

**daut** - that. This is used after verbs such as jleewe, meene, denkje, saje, berechte (believe, consider, think, say, report).

Jleewst du **daut** et näakjste Wäakj schniee woat? (Do you think it will snow next week?)

De Bootschofta säd **daut** Fräd ommäajlich wia. (The Ambassador said that peace was impossible.)

**oppwool, obzwoasch** - although. This is used to qualify the statement of the main clause.

Wie habe vël beseene, **oppwool** daut goanich billich wia.

(We did a lot of sightseeing, although it was by no means inexpensive.)

**wiels, wäajens** - because, as. This is used to explain the first clause.

Wie kaume lot aun, **wiels** wie ut Gasolien jerant wiere. (We came late, as we ran out of gas.)

Ekj fua nich nom Tänedokta, wäajens ekj Schis haud. (I didn't go to the dentist, as I was afraid.)

**aus** - when, as. This refers to another event occurring at the same time.

Ekj schleep jrod, **aus** the Ieedbäbe kaum. (I was sleeping when the earthquake struck.)

**wan** - if, when.

**Wan** die daut goot es, dan foa wie morje auf. (If you agree, then we'll leave tomorrow.)

Hee es lostich, **wan** de Sonn schient. (He is happy when the sun shines.)

**opp** - whether.

Hee twieweld sea **opp** see jo saje wudd. (He was in great doubt whether she would say yes.)

**nodäm** - following, after.

Aules jinkj goot **nodäm** hee sikj entschulcht haud. (All went well after he had apologized.)

**wäarent** - during, while.

De Hunt juld **wäarent** de Mon schiend. (The dog howled while the moon shone.)

### **E. Two-verb predicate in a subordinate clause**

If a subordinate clause contains two verbs, in MLG the finite verb (which is conjugated) moves to the end. The finite verb is usually a modal or auxiliary verb.

De Kjinja sent auleen Tus, wiels de Elre vereist **sent**.

(The children are home alone because the parents are vacationing.)

### **F. Reversed order of clauses**

If the subordinate clause in MLG begins the sentence, then the finite verb of the subordinate clause goes to the end of its clause, and the finite verb of the main clause goes to the front of its clause. This is in contrast with the verb order when the main clause is first.

**Wiels** hee stoakj es, fercht am aulemaun. (Because he is strong, he is feared by everybody.)

Aulemaun fercht am, **wiels** hee stoakj es. (Everybody fears him, because he is strong.)

### **G. Use of conjunctions in phrases**

Some conjunctions may also be used in phrases. Some examples follow:

aus - 1- as,	Hee es groot <b>aus</b> een Boa.	He is big as a bear.
2- except	Ekj kjeep aule <b>aus</b> dän jreenen.	I'll buy all except the green one.
ei wan - what if	<b>Ei wan</b> hee nich kjemt?	What if he doesn't show up?
ooda - or	Kjeep de Chev <b>ooda</b> dän Ford.	Buy the Chev or the Ford.
un - and	See koft Apel <b>un</b> Aupelsiene.	She bought apples and oranges.
wäajens - because	Hee foat nich <b>wäajens</b> de Jefoa.	He doesn't drive because of the danger.

## H. Exclamations

ach - oh	<b>Ach</b> , jeff mie noch eene Schnäd! (Oh, give me another slice!)
audee - goodbye	<b>Audee</b> , opp wadaseene, bliew jesunt! (Good bye, so long, stay well!)
bitscheen - you're welcome	Dankscheen! <b>Bitscheen</b> ! (Thank-you! You're welcome!)
entwäda ... ooda - either ... or	<b>Entwäda</b> dien Jelt, <b>ooda</b> dien Läwe! (Either your money, or your life!)
fuaz oppe Städ - right away	Roop de Fiawäa, <b>fuaz oppe Städ</b> ! (Call the fire department, right away!)
fujj - phooey!	<b>Fujj</b> , schmiet daut Dinkj wajch! (Phooey, get rid of that thing!)
goondach - hello; good day	<b>Goondach</b> , woo jeit et junt? (Good day, how are you doing?)
Hach hieet - listen to that	<b>Hach hieet</b> , Santa es aul en Winnipeg! (Listen to that, Santa is already in Winnipeg!)
halemass - Holy Moses	<b>Halemass</b> , de Noba haft sien Grauss jeschnäde! (Holy Moses, the neighbor mowed his lawn!)
haregoms - darn, wow	<b>Haregoms</b> , daut Kaulf haft twee Kjap! (Wow, the calf has two heads!)
Heea - dear	<b>Heea</b> du, vondoag mucht ekj Wrenikje äte! (Dear, today I would like to eat dumplings!)
hotsbädel - golly	<b>Hotsbädel</b> , ekj hab zemorjes aule Arbuse vekoft! (Golly, I sold all the watermelons in the morning.)
hotsdrot - golly	<b>Hotsdrot</b> , doa kjemt de Noba met onse Koo. (Golly, there comes the neighbor with our cow.)
leewentiet - for gosh sakes	<b>Leewentiet</b> , trakj de Steewle bie de Däa ut! (For gosh sakes, take your boots off at the door!)
meijeen - dear me, Oh my God	<b>Meijeen</b> , ekj hab däm Owe nich aufjedreit! (Dear me, I forgot to turn off the oven!)
mol hankome - come vist	Wie sent Sindachs Tus, <b>mol hankome</b> ! (We are home Sundays, come and visit some time!)
na hieet - would you believe	<b>Na hieet</b> , vondoag saul de Kjennijin hia vebie kome! (Would you believe, the Queen will pass here today!)
na ja - oh well	<b>Na ja</b> , nu mott wie Strof betole. (Oh well, now we must pay a fine.)
na nu - how come	<b>Na nu</b> , wuarom ritt de Maun, un de Fru jeit tofoot? (How come, the man is riding and the woman walking?)
na oba - oh dear	<b>Na oba</b> , du hast aul wada veschiedne Stremp aun! (Oh dear, you're wearing different socks again!)

schisjat - schucks	<b>Schisjat</b> , ekj wull Schaklitz Eisskriem, nich Vanilla. (Shucks, I wanted chocolate ice cream, not vanilla.)
schoons - really!; already?	Habe see <b>schoons</b> aule Kjieej jemolkje? (Have they milked all the cows already?)
stuckats – let me be!	<b>Stuckats</b> , ekj well kjeen Tuxedo kjeepe! (Let me be, I don't want to buy a tuxedo!)
wäaweet - who knows	<b>Wäaweet</b> , jeft et nu Kjrigh ooda Fräd? (Who knows, will there be war or peace?)

## Vocabulary 11

aundasch other	droage carry	Nomeddach m /	soowaut similar
äwrich to spare	ersaz substitute	afternoon	Strämel n band
bejriepe understand	funge aun began	Noot f need	stritze gush out
beskje a little	Gorjel m throat	nuscht nothing	Toarauss m bog
bespretzt splattered	heemlich secretly	Opfa n sacrifice	Uasoak f reason
beuage inspect	heet hot	oppjäwe surrender	utem out of
biem by the	jebläwe remained	Plak f stain	vääre in front
Blott n mud	jesäajent blessed	Puddel m puddle	Vedakj n hood
bute outside	Joare n years	Reeme m belt	verieescht at first
Daump steam	Kjeelunk f cooling	rut out	vesieekje try
derchrose /	Kjleet n dress	Schea f scissors	weetelote inform
force through	kloare experiment	Schlips m tie	wiels because
diesta dark	Moota m motor	schneiw sharply	Zeich n cloth
doarut from that	needich necessary	schniede cut	Zopp f pigtail
dreie turn	nie new	schoowe pushed	

## Text 11 - Winta sien Schlips<sup>11</sup>

Homez vesocht derch dän Puddel to rose, oba hee bleef fuaz em Toarauss stääkje. Wiels an nuscht aundasch äwrich bleef, schoowe Winta un Emily. Aus see entlich utem Blott bute wiere, wia Emily äa Kjleet gauns met Blottplake bespretzt.

De Nomeddachsonn wia noch emma heet un vääre biem Moota stritst de Daump rut. Homez un Winta muake vääre de Vedakj op un funge aun met däm Moota to kloare. See funge uk fuaz de Uasoak; de Kjeelungsreeme wia wajch! See brukte een nieen Reeme, oba wua wia dee hia to finje?

Homez säd, daut see een langet Strämel Zeich ooda soowaut brukte aus Nootersaz un funk een bät heemlich schneiw aun Winta sien Schlips to beuage. Winta druach emma een Schlips, un hee kijkt aul een beskje diesta, aus hee bejreep, daut een Schlipsopfa needich senne wudd. Winta leet weete, daut hee äwa de Joare väl jesäajent worde wia, oba daut hee mau dän eenen Schlips haud, un daut wia dee om sien Gorjel. Oba hee gauf dän nu opp. Emily haud uk aul eene Schea to Haunt un sneet dän Schlips en lange Strämels. Dan wort doarut eene Zopp jedreit, un opp verieescht jinkj daut met däm Schlipsreeme.

<sup>11</sup>*Mysteries in the Chaco* – [www.plautdietsch-copre.ca](http://www.plautdietsch-copre.ca)

### **Exercise 11.1**

Answer briefly in English.

1. What is the function of a conjunction in a sentence?
2. What are the most common linking words connecting clauses together?
3. Distinguish between co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions.
4. Describe the position of the verbs in an English sentence containing a main and a subordinate clause.
5. Answer question 4 for an MLG sentence.
6. Give some examples of co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions.
7. Describe the word order in English and MLG interrogative sentences.
8. What is the case of a noun which is part of a phrase started by a conjunction?
9. Explain why in the BAM version of example 3 of section A the verb is at the end of clause 2.
10. What would be the proper reply to the statement “Dankscheen, audee”?

### **Exercise 11.2**

Answer the following questions about Text 11 briefly in MLG.

1. What did Emily and Winta not like about getting stuck in the mud?
2. What happened to the car after they had cleared the muddy stretch?
3. What car accessory was needed to allow for normal driving?
4. How did the threesome fabricate a temporary substitute for the missing item?

## 12. VERBS - 3

### A. Impersonal verbs

In MLG, impersonal verbs take **et** or **daut** as the subject. They exist only in the 3rd person singular form.

Daut schniet. (It's snowing).

Enne Boaj räajent et. (It's raining in the mountains).

Daut passieet foaken. (That happens often).

### B. Reflexive verbs

If the subject is acting on itself, then the verb of the sentence is called a **reflexive verb**. In MLG, a reflexive pronoun is customarily used as the object of the sentence. If an auxiliary verb is required, **habe** is used.

Wie sate ons dol. (We sit down.)

See koakte sikj eene scheene Moltiet. (They cooked themselves a nice meal.)

De Maun haft sikj em Foot jeschote. (The man shot himself in the foot.)

### C. Moods of verbs

The **indicative mood** is a grammatical mood in which a statement is made or a question is asked. This mood is commonly used to state facts.

De Kjiej weide en daut jreene Graus. (The cows are grazing on the green grass.)

De Sonn jeit zemorjes opp. (The sun rises in the morning.)

Daut schnied fa vieetich Doag. (It snowed for forty days.)

The **imperative mood** is a grammatical mood in which a command or request is made. It is addressed to **du** (informal singular), **jie** (informal plural) or **See** (formal, singular or plural). The imperative for the informal singular is usually formed from the **stem** of the verb, the informal plural from the **stem+t** or stem+et, and the formal from the **stem +e**.

	gone	kome	stone	sette
du	Go fuaz!	Komm nu!	Sto stell!	Sat die han!
jie	Got fuaz!	Komt nu!	Stot stell!	Sat junt han!
See	Gone See fuaz!	Kome See nu!	Stone See stell!	Sette See sikj han!
you	Go at once!	Come now!	Stand still!	Please be seated!

The **conditional mood** is a grammatical mood dealing with an uncertain event. The mood may be invoked in MLG through use of the word **wan** (if). If a wish, suggestion or desire is expressed it may be invoked through use of the verb **wudde**, the conditional form of **woare**; (ekj wudd, du wurscht, hee / see / daut wudd, wie / jie / see wudde). Alternatively, other verbs such as **hope**, **wensche**, **welle** may be used, or the **word order** of the sentence may be **inverted**.

Wan et räajent, well wie nich Tennis späle. (If it rains, we don't want to play tennis.)  
 Wia de Himmel to Nacht witt, kunn wie kjeene Stierns seene.  
 (If the sky were white at night, we could see no stars.)  
 Ekj hop, daut et boolt opphieet to stieme, un daut wie no Hus finje kjenne.  
 (I hope that the blizzard ends soon, and that we can find our way home.)  
 Wan du daut fa weinja vekjeepe wurscht, wudd wie daut veleicht kjeepe.  
 (If you were to sell it for less, we might buy it.)

#### D. Interrogative sentences

To form an interrogative sentence in MLG, an **interrogative** is placed first, followed by a **predicate**, and then the **subject**. The interrogative may be a word or phrase, a pronoun, adjective, or adverb, etc.

Wan jeist du no School? (When will you go to school?)  
 Wäa es daut? (Who is that?)                      Woone sent fa mie? (Which ones are for me?)  
 Waut fa Jegrusels kome nu noch? (What kind of ghastly things are still to come?)

#### E. Passive voice

When the subject in a sentence performs an action then the verb is said to be in the **active voice**. This form is used in most sentences.

De Polizist jript dän Deef. (The cop catches the thief.)  
 Daut Pieet rant stoakja aus de Maun. (The horse runs faster than the man.)

When the action is performed on the subject of the sentence, then the verb is in the **passive voice**. To form the passive voice in MLG, use is made of the auxiliary verb **woare** (to become) and the **past participle**. The tense of the auxiliary verb indicates the time of the action, whereas the past participle describes the action.

In the **indicative mood**, the passive voice has the same **tenses** as the active voice.

pres	De Eia woare jekoakt.	The eggs are being cooked.
past	De Eia worde jekoakt.	The eggs were being cooked.
fut	De Eia woare jekoakt woare.	The eggs will be cooked.
pres perf	De Eia sent jekoakt worde.	The eggs have been cooked.
past perf	De Eia wiere jekoakt worde.	The eggs had been cooked.
fut perf	De Eia woare jekoakt worde senne.	The eggs will have been cooked.

In the **conditional mood**, the passive voice arises only in the present and past tenses.

pres	Wudde de Eia jekoakt woare, ...	Should the eggs be cooked, ...
past	Wudde de Eia jekoakt woare senne, ...	Should the eggs have been cooked, ...



## F. Transitive and intransitive verbs

These verbs were introduced in Chapter 9. A verb in a sentence containing one or more objects is called a **transitive verb**.

De Benjel bruak daut Fensta. (The urchin broke the window.)

A verb in a sentence that contains no object is an **intransitive verb**.

Hee **jeit** auleen. (He walks alone.)

## G. Tenses of verbs - Form of six tenses

In MLG, there are three primary tenses and three perfect tenses. The present (**pres**) and **past** tenses were covered in Chapter 9. The four other tenses, the future and three perfect tenses, are studied further in this chapter. The future tense covers events which have not yet taken place, while the three past tenses relate to events which occurred prior to the time of observation.

The future (**fut**) tense is formed by taking the conjugated form in the present tense of **woare** + the **infinitive**.

The present perfect (**pres perf**) and past perfect (**past perf**) tenses are formed by taking the conjugated form of an **auxiliary verb** in the present or past tense + the **past participle**. The auxiliary **habe** is used mostly with **transitive** verbs, but also with intransitive verbs for which a second auxiliary verb, **senne**, does not apply. The second auxiliary **senne** is used with **intransitive** verbs when there is motion, change, or when **senne** or **bliewe** are involved.

The future perfect (**fut perf**) tense is formed by taking the conjugated form in the present tense of **woare** + the **past participle** + the **infinitive** of one of the two auxiliary verbs.

In the table below, the six tenses are given in English and MLG for the intransitive verb (with motion) **gone** (go) in the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular, for the transitive verb **jäwe** (give) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular, and in MLG for the transitive verb **jleewe** (believe) in the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural.

	to go	gone	to give	jäwe	jleewe
	(I)	(ekj)	(he, she)	(hee, see)	(wie)
pres	go	go	gives	jeft	jleewe
past	went	jinkj	gave	jeef (gauf)	jleewde
fut	will go	woa gone	will give	woat jäwe	woare jleewe
pres perf	have gone	sie jegone	has given	haft jejäft	habe jejeleeft
past perf	had gone	wia jegone	had given	haud jejäft	haude jejeleeft
fut perf	will have	woa jegone	will have	woat jejäft	woare jejeleeft
	gone	senne	given	habe	habe

Ekj **go** vondoag nom Stua, **jinkj** jistre no School, un **woa** lota no miene Taunte **gone**.  
(I am going to the store today, went to school yesterday, and will go to my aunt later.)

See **haft** de Kjinja de latste Wäakj Kende **jejäft**, **haud** de latste Moonat Schaklitz **jejäft**, un **woat** dee aum enj Joa, aule mäajliche Scheens **jejäft habe**.

(She has given (gave) the children candy last week, had given them chocolates last month, and by the end of the year, will have given them all possible sweets.)

The conjugation in the future and perfect tenses for the **intransitive** verb **gone** (senne) is:

	fut	pres perf	past perf	fut perf
ekj	woa gone	sie jegone	wia jegone	woa jegone senne
du	woascht gone	best jegone	wieescht jegone	woascht jegone senne
hee, see, daut	woat gone	es jegone	wia jegone	woat jegone senne
wie, jie, see	woare gone	sent jegone	wiere jegone	woare jegone senne

The conjugation in the future and perfect tenses for the **transitive** verb **jäwe** (habe) is:

	fut	pres perf	past perf	fut perf
ekj	woa jäwe	hab jejäft	haud jejäft	woa jejäft habe
du	woascht jäwe	hast jejäft	hautst jejäft	woascht jejäft habe
hee, see, daut	woat jäwe	haft jejäft	haud jejäft	woat jejäft habe
wie, jie, see	woare jäwe	habe jejäft	haude jejäft	woare jejäft habe

Ana **woat** äare Sesta een Poa Uarinj **jäwe**. (Anna will give her sister a pair of earrings.)

Äare Sesta **haft** Ana foaken Kjeleeda **jejäft**. (Her sister has often given Anna clothes.)

Latstet Joa **haud** Ana äa een Foon **jejäft**. (Last year Anna had given her a phone.)

Wää **woat** daut mieeschte **jejäft habe**? (Who will have given the most?)

## H. Combinations of prefix - verb

The meaning of a verb can be altered by combining it with a prefix. Shades of meaning can thus be obtained, that are not possible with the stem verb alone. Common prefixes used for this purpose include: **auf-**, **aun-**, **äwa-**, **be-**, **en-**, **je-**, **met-**, **om-**, **rut-**, **ve-**, **wajch-**, etc.

The combination of prefix and stem verb may be **inseparable** or **separable**. In MLG, in the instance of separable combinations, the prefix and verb are interchanged in the **infinitive** and **past participle** of the verb. The conjugation of the combination follows that of the stem in both the separable and inseparable instances.

### I. Inseparable prefix

The prefix-verb combination is kept intact as a single word in all possible forms. The **inseparable prefixes** in MLG are **be-**, **er-**, and **ve-**.

E.g., **vejeete**, **vejitt**, **vegoot**, **vegote**; from **ve-** + **jeete**.

See well aul daut Wien **vejeete**. (infinitive form - combined)

(She wants to pour out all the wine.)

See **vejitt** de Malkj. (She is spilling the milk.) (indicative form - combined)

## J. Separable prefix

The prefix may be detached from the verb in some forms of the verb.

E.g., äwafoare, foat äwa, fua äwa, äwajefoare; from **äwa-** + **foare**.

Hee es däm Riefa bie de niee Brigj **äwajefoare**. (past participle - combined)  
(He drove over the river by the new bridge.)

Hee **foat** de Schlang **äwa**. (He drives over the snake.) (separated)

## K. Additional examples of prefix - verb combinations

auf- + tole: Aum enj Moonat, mott ekj miene Schulde **auf**tole.  
(At the end of the month, I must pay my bills.)

aun- + trakje: Daut Mäakje **trakjt** sikj een nieet Poltoo **aun**.  
(The girl is putting on a new coat.)

be- + haundle: See haft am schljacht **behaundelt**.  
(She treated him badly.)

en- + sette: Hee must dree Moonate **en**sette.  
(He was jailed for three months.)

om- + wakjsle: Aule Kjleeda muste **omjewakjselt** woare.  
(All clothes had to be exchanged.)

rut- + lote: Dee **lote** dän Hunt zemorjes **rut**.  
(In the morning, they let the dog out.)

## Text 12 - Kutsch no Rotterdam<sup>12</sup>

Homez haud de Kutsch no Rotterdam en Ijsselmonde bestäaje. Daut wia em loten Hoafst, met kolden Räajen un een stormja Wint, un doawäajen freid hee sikj, daut hee enne Kutsch benne sette wudd. Hee haud Meddsomma 1538 een eenjoaschet Oppdrach en Rotterdam aunjenome. Dise Strakj haud hee verhää trigjjelajcht, un hee wia reed, met de Schwierichkjeite von de Foat foadich to woare.

Vondoag wia hee äwarauscht, twee Frulied enne Kutsch to seene, dee am jääjenäwa saute. Daut see Odeldaume wiere, wia an lenjdhan auntoseene, un Homez wundad sikj, wuarom see dise Transportoat jewält haude. De Kutsch wia mau afens hinjawäajes aus dee stuckad, un Homez sikj met een aundren Passazhia doabie nauntroff. Aus dee aundra am strenj vemond, sach Homez daut dis groffa Kjjeedel eene jäle Noaw aum Stiern haud. Homez bekjijkt nu de jinjre Fru ver am, dee de Uage too haud, un eene erjriepende Melodie somd.

Aus de Kutsch en Rotterdam nom Reiseziel aunkaum, hoof de junge Fru een Korf opp un naum eene Zeichdakj rauf. Däm Homez to de Äwarauschunk sach hee een Kjint em Korf, daut de gaunse Reis lang stell jeschlope haud. Homez spood sikj, un wia uk boolt en sien Kwatia enne Staut aunjekome.

<sup>12</sup>*Mysteries of the Dutch Anabaptists* – [www.plautdietsch-copre.ca](http://www.plautdietsch-copre.ca)

## Vocabulary 12

afens barely	Foat f ride	Meddsomma m /	somme hum
aunkome arrive	freie rejoice	mid summer	Stiern m tempel
aunnämen accept	gaunse entire	Mellodie f melody	stormja stormy
aunseene look at	groffa rough	nauntrafe jolt	Strakj f stretch
bekjikje inspect	häwe lift	Noaw f scar	strenj stern
bestiee board	hinjawäajes /	Oat f sort	stukre bounce
boolt soon	underway	Odel m aristocrat	Transport m transport
Daume f ladies	Hoafst m autumn	Oppdrach m /	trigjlaje put back
doabie thereby	jäajenäwa across	assignment	vemone scold
doawäaje because	jäl yellow	Passazhia m passenger	verhää before
eenjoasch one-year	Kjieedel m fellow	Reis f trip	vondoag today
erjriepende /	Kutsch f coach	schlope sleep	wäle select
arresting	Kwatia n quarters	Schwierichkjeit f /	wundre wonder
foadich woare /	lenjdhan along	difficulty	Ziel m destination
manage	mau only	sikj spoode hurry	

### Exercise 12.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. What is a major characteristic of impersonal verbs?
2. Which auxiliary verb is used in MLG in forming a sentence containing a reflexive verb?
3. What are characteristic MLG words launching the conditional mood?
4. What are the rules for forming the imperative for the informal singular and plural, and for the formal?
5. In MLG, what is the word order in a typical interrogative sentence?
6. Under what condition is a sentence in the passive voice?
7. Explain how the six tenses for a typical verb are formed in the indicative in the passive voice.
8. In which two tenses will the passive voice arise in the conditional mood in MLG?
9. Distinguish between transitive and intransitive verbs.
10. Describe how the present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect tenses are formed in MLG.
11. Which are the inseparable verb prefixes in MLG?
12. For separable verbs, what is the rule for the placement of the component parts?

### Exercise 12.2

Answer the following questions about Text 12 briefly in MLG.

1. Why was Homez happy to find a seat inside the stagecoach?
2. Had Homez traveled on the route from Ijsselmonde to Rotterdam before?
3. What surprised Homez on entering the coach?
4. What unpleasantness occurred just after the coach set out?
5. Describe the actions in the coach of the younger woman facing Homez.
6. What surprised Homez on leaving the coach?

### 13. SENTENCE STRUCTURE (Sauz Ordunuk)

The study of word order in MLG sentences is a difficult exercise for English speaking students. In MLG, the word order is the same as in English only for the most basic of sentences. For sentences of everyday use in adult speech and writing, the word order is often different. To enable authentic conversation or writing in MLG, this word order must be learned. Some details of grammar are presented first to facilitate understanding of the conventions that are in use.

#### A. Composition of a multi-clause sentence

The simplest sentence consists of a noun and verb (subject and predicate): Tom went. The term predicate herein will be considered to include the verb and its modifiers. A longer sentence may contain also an indirect and direct object: Tom brought Mary chocolates. Subject, predicate, indirect object, direct object.

A more detailed sentence will contain additional words within such four main parts : (The boys) (gladly brought) (three girls) (hot chocolate). (Subject), (predicate), (indirect object), (direct object); or in greater detail: (Article, noun), (adverb, verb), (adjective, noun), (adjective, noun).

The above example is a single clause sentence. Two or multi-clause sentences require additional consideration:

The boys gladly brought three girls hot chocolate, **after** they had finished dinner.

The structure of this two-clause sentence is: Clause 1(main clause), conjunction, clause 2 (dependent clause), in which **after** is the conjunction. Clause 1 contains [(subject), (predicate), (indirect object), (direct object)], and clause 2 [(subject), (predicate), (object)].

The word order in the translation of the examples above to MLG will now be considered.

Tom jinkj. (Tom went.)

Tom brocht Mariechen Schaklitz. (Tom brought Mary chocolates.)

De Junges brochte dree Määkjes wellich heetet Schaklitz.

(The boys gladly brought three girls hot chocolate.)

De Junges brochte dree Määkjes wellich heetet Schaklitz, **nodäm** see Owentkost jejäte haude.

(The boys gladly brought three girls hot chocolate, after they had eaten dinner.)

A major difference in word order in the last sentence of the MLG arises in the second clause. The verbs are shifted to the end of the clause, with the auxiliary word at the very end. A further consideration of grammar is needed to explain this difference.

## B. Positioning of articles, adjectives, adverbs and prepositions in simple English clauses

English sentences or clauses of even moderate complexity contain articles, adjectives, prepositions and adverbs. The articles modify nouns and generally precede them. Adjectives also modify nouns and also generally precede them. Adverbs modify verbs and may often precede them. In more complex sentences, adverbs may also modify adjectives or other adverbs. Prepositions generally precede nouns or pronouns and are used to indicate the relation to other parts of the sentence.

## C. Two and multi-word verb forms

The term “verb forms” is used here to refer to the combination of verbs without modifiers. In the indicative in English and MLG, the verb forms may consist of one, two or three words:

one word	- Ekj <b>kjeep</b> Koffe. (I buy coffee.)	pres
	- Ekj <b>koft</b> Koffe. (I bought coffee.)	past
two words	- Ekj <b>woa</b> Koffe <b>kjeepe</b> . (I will buy coffee.)	fut
	- Ekj <b>hab</b> Koffe <b>jekoft</b> . (I have bought coffee.)	pres perf
	- Ekj <b>haud</b> Koffe <b>jekoft</b> . (I had bought coffee.)	past perf
three words	- Ekj <b>woa</b> Koffe <b>jekoft habe</b> . (I will have bought coffee.)	fut perf

The word order is seen to be the same in the two languages for a one- word verb form. This occurs in the present and past tenses.

For the **future**, **present perfect** and **past perfect** tenses, an auxiliary verb is used with the infinitive or past participle, requiring a two-word verb form. In MLG, the two words are split up with the auxiliary verb in the usual second position of the sentence and the infinitive or participle at the end of the clause/sentence. In English, the two verb parts remain together in the usual position after the subject, with the auxiliary preceding the infinitive or participle. For the **future perfect** in MLG, the auxiliary verb indicating the future appears first, while the auxiliary indicating the past and the past participle appear at the end of the clause/sentence, in inverted order.

## D. The effect of the use of modal verbs

With the use of auxiliary verbs (jankre, kjenne, mäaje, motte, schiene, selle, etc.), as well as habe, senne, and woare, two, three and four-word verb forms arise.

two	- Ekj <b>kaun</b> Koffe <b>kjeepe</b> . (I am able to buy coffee.)	pres
	- Ekj <b>kunn</b> Koffe <b>kjeepe</b> . (I was able to buy coffee.)	past
three	- Ekj <b>woa</b> Koffe <b>kjeepe kjenne</b> . (I will be able to buy coffee.)	fut
	- Ekj <b>hab</b> Koffe <b>kjeepe jekunt</b> . (I have been able to buy coffee.)	pres perf
	- Ekj <b>haud</b> Koffe <b>kjeepe jekunt</b> . (I had been able to buy coffee.)	past perf
four	- Ekj <b>woa</b> Koffe <b>kjeepe jekunt habe</b> . (I will have been able to buy coffee.)	fut perf

Further examples of the word order for multi-word verb forms are given in Appendix B.

## E. Shift of verb location

The normal location of a verb in a MLG sentence is in the second position. For **interrogative** sentences, the word order in MLG generally follows the pattern used in English. Without the use of an interrogative pronoun, the verb is shifted to the beginning of the sentence. When an interrogative pronoun is used, the verb does not shift, as the pronoun is in the first position.

**Hast** du kjeen Beisikjel? (Don't you have a bicycle?)      Verb, noun/pronoun, object.  
Wää **es** de jratsta? (Who is the greatest?)      Interrogative pronoun, verb, object.

For **imperative sentences**, MLG follows the English with the verb at the beginning.

**Go** fuaz nohus! (Go home at once!)  
**Befrie** die morje zemorjes! (Get married tomorrow in the morning!)

For **negative sentences**, MLG follows the English, with the negative usually preceding the word it modifies, but exceptions do arise.

Wan Hein **nich** aun siene Oabeit denkt, dan sent siene Jedanke met siene Brut.  
(When Henry isn't thinking of his work, then his thoughts are with his bride.)  
Ekj mach ruchloose Films **nich**. (I don't care for violent movies.)

If the **inverted word order** is used, with the verb preceding the subject in the clause, the **-e** ending of the verb for the plural **wie, jie** form is dropped, and a root-only form is used.

Wan et räajent, bliew wie Tus. (If it rains, we'll stay home.)

## F. Sentences with main and dependent clauses

Ekj wist, **daut** see de jratste wia. (I knew that she was the greatest.)

[Ekj wist] is the main clause, **daut** is the conjunction, while [see de jratste wia] is the dependent clause. In the dependent clause, the conditional is used, and the verb is placed at the end in MLG.

**Daut** see de jratste wia, haud ekj aul ea jewist. (That she was the greatest, I had known before.)

[see dee jratste wia] is the dependent clause, while [haud ekj aul ea jewist] is the main clause. Although the dependent clause is at the beginning of the sentence, the word order is inverted. For the main clause, which is placed second in the sentence, the conjugated verb is in the first position and the past participle at the end, where it would normally be).

**Daut** see de jratste wia, wist aulemaun. (That she was the greatest was common knowledge.)

[Daut see dee jratste wia] is a **noun clause**, which acts as the subject in the sentence, and thus the verb is second, i.e. is not placed at the end of the sentence.

Noun clauses begin with such words as **woo, daut, waut, wautemma, wan, wua, woon, billewaut, wää, wäaemma, wäm, billewäm, wuarom** (how, that, what, whatever, when, where, which, whichever, who, whoever, whom, whomever, why.)

### G. Examples of three-word verb forms extracted from the literature\*

**Wudd** hee de Mana von dise twee Frulied **jekjant habe**?  
(Would he have known the husbands of these two women?)

Aum näakjsten Dach **sulle** see **friejelote woare**.  
(The next day, they were to be freed.)

Winta sien iernstet Bemieeje **schient** siene oppjerääjde Seel **jetroffe to habe**.  
(Winter's earnest plea appeared to have penetrated his troubled soul.)

In the third sentence [Winta sien iernstet Bemieeje] is a noun clause, the subject of the sentence.

### H. Examples of sentences with two clauses (conjunctions in bold)\*

Hee freid sikj, **daut** hee enne Kutsch benne sette kunn.  
(He was relieved that he could sit inside the coach.)

Ekj fercht, **daut** see faustjenome worde sent.  
(I fear that they have been arrested.)

Marikje habe see faustjenome, **wiels** see vebaunde Leeda jesunge haud.  
(Maritje has been arrested for having sung revolutionary songs.)

Homez erwänd, **daut** de Sach met Anneken jerääjelt woare must.  
(Homez mentioned that the matter of Anneken needed to be settled.)

Alberto un ekj worde benorecht, **daut** jrod een Vebräakje begone wort.  
(Alberto and I were notified that a theft was just in progress.)

\* Stories on website [www.plautdietsch-copre.ca](http://www.plautdietsch-copre.ca)

### I. General remark

A complex sentence structure is not uncommon in MLG literature, and the above treatment is not exhaustive. The complexities in MLG sentences are discussed in the manuscript of W. Cuff.



## Vocabulary 13

aunhole speed up	hole fetch	Läwenskjwal f /	schwamme swim
äwakjrieze cross	Holt n wood	source of income	sprinje jump
bekjikje observe	huaget high	ligje lie	steete jolt
benne inside	hubre shiver	Lomm f boat	straum attractive
bue build	Jefoa f danger	meene mean	Streemunk f stream
Dakjsel n cover	jenjle rock	nolote diminisch	tiedich early
enwekjle wrap	Jennerazione f /	omstelpe tip over	voll full
Famielje f family	generations	opprechte set upright	Werder m /
faust tight	jinjste youngest	opptoo towards	river island
Flaum f flame	kaum came	oppwoame warm up	wonhauft resident
Flucht f flight	Kauste m box	rade save	wort became
hecha higher	Kjleeda n clothes	ragendich very	Wunda n wonder
hechret higher	Kjrebb f crib	rikje rich	
hiele cry	Kopje m mound	Schoot f lap	

## Text 13 - Huaget Wota<sup>13</sup>

Aus daut Wota emma hecha wort, kaum daut Läwe von de Foarma Lied en Jefoa. Eene Famielje, Jennerazione em Werder wonhauft, wia oppe Flucht von äa Heim. De Voda wia von tiedich wajch, daut Vee, äare Läwenskjwal, opp hechret Launt to brinje. Biem Tweediesta kaum hee met eene Lomm trigj om de Famielje to hole. Wan de Elre un de vea Kjinja benne wiere, wia de Lomm ragendich voll. Aus see dan eene Streemunk äwakjriezte, stelpt de Lomm om. De Voda schwomm un recht de Lomm opp, oba kunn blooss de Mutta rade, dee de jinjste faust aunhilt.

Aus de Lomm opp een kjlienen Kopje stad, sprunge de Elre rut. Met de kjliene Dohta oppe Schoot hubbad de Mutta wiel de Voda een Fia bud. Aus see sikj aune Flaume oppwoamde, sage see een kjlienen Holtkauste em Wota opp an tojejenjelt kome. Mutta meend, daut wia eene Kjrebb. Dis Kauste schwomm direkjt no an opptoo. Aus de Wint noleet, hieede see een Kjint hiele. De Voda naum daut Kaustedakjsel auf, un doa em Kauste lach een Kjint. De Mutta bekjikjt sikj daut Kjint en straume, rikje Kjleeda enjewekjelt, un kunn äa Wunda nich lote.

<sup>13</sup>*Mysteries in Danzig* – [www.plautdietsch-copre.ca](http://www.plautdietsch-copre.ca)

## Exercise 13.1

Answer briefly in English.

1. Which word type presents the greatest difficulty in determining MLG word order?
2. What major difference in word order occurs in MLG sentences having a dependent clause?
3. What are the three main auxiliary verbs in MLG?
4. What is the general rule for word order in the perfect tenses for two-word verb forms?

6. In what tense(s) do the three-word verb forms appear and what is the rule for word order?
7. Which MLG tense is probably least used in association with modal verbs?
8. What is the rule for word order for interrogative and imperative sentences? (review)
9. What is the position of **nich** in negative MLG sentences?
10. What change is made in verb ending in the inverted word order involving the plural **wie/jie**?
11. Cite examples of sentences with a main and dependent clause in the Text 13.

### Exercise 13.2

Answer the following questions about Text 13 briefly in MLG.

1. What was the reaction of the family to the rising water in the Werder?
2. What happened to the family as they were fleeing in the boat?
3. What attracted the parent's attention as they were warming up beside the fire?
4. What caused the mother's great wonder?

## 14. NUMBERS AND TIME (Nummasch un Tiet)

The everyday routine of life requires the use of numbers and convenient measures of time. This chapter presents the appropriate numerology and time terminology to navigate life in MLG.

### A. Numerals (Nummasch)

	Kardinalzol		Ordinalzol		Kardinalzol
1	eent	1.	ieeshta	21	eenuntwintich
2	twee	2.	tweeda	22	tweeuntwintich
3	dree	3.	dredda	30	dartich
4	vea	4.	vieeda	40	vieetich
5	fief	5.	fefta	50	feftich
6	sas	6.	sasta	60	zastich
7	säwen	7.	säwenda	70	zäwentich
8	acht	8.	achta	80	tachtich
9	näajen	9.	näajenda	90	näajentich
10	tien	10.	tieenda	100	hundat
11	alf (alw)	11.	alfta	101	hundatuneent
12	twalf	12.	twalfta	110	hundatuntien
13	drettien	13.	drettieenda	200	twee hundat
14	vieetien	14.	vieetieenda	431	veahundateenundartich
15	feftien	15.	feftieenda	1000	dusent
16	sastien	16.	sastieenda	1001	dusent un eent
17	säwentien	17.	säwentieenda	2000	twee dusent
18	achtien	18.	achtieenda	10,000	tien dusent
19	näajentien	19.	näajentieenda	100,000	hundat dusent
20	twintich	20.	twintichsta	1,000,000	eene million

### B. Fractions and decimals (Bruchdeele un Dezimol)

1/4	een viedel	0.1	Punkt 0,1	3''	dree Zoll
1/3	een dreddel	0.12	Punkt 0,12	3°	dree Grod
1/2	een haulf	1.1	Punkt 1,1	1.5%	1 Punkt 5 Prozent
3/4	dree viedel				

### C. Daily Life (Dachdäachlichet Läwe)

Morje De Sonn jeit opp. Wie äte Freestikj un gone schaufe.

Meddach Wie äte Meddach wua wie schaufe, wie gone nich nohus.

Nomeddach Wie sent wada aune Oabeit. Daut es een langa Dach.

Owentkost Wie gone no Hus, ons hungat, un wie äte jieren Owentkost.

Owent De Sonn jeit unja un daut woat dunkel. Wie vereiwe ons.

Nacht Daut Monkje kjemt rut, oba daut es diesta un wie gone schlope.

Klock Tien zemorjes haud wie Koffe jedrunke. Doatoo haud wie blooss tien Minnute.

Fa daut Meddachsäte, soo rom klock Twalf, haud wie ne haulwe Stund frie.

#### **D. Clock Time (Kloketiet)**

8:30 AM	Haulf Näajen zemorjes.
9:45, 10:15	Vieedel ver Tien, vieedel no Tien.
12:00, 12 PM	Klock Twalf, Klock Twalf de Nacht.
1:30 PM	Klock Eent met 30 Minnute nomeddach.
18:18	Klock Sas met achteen Minnute zeowes.
19:30	Klock 7 met 30 Minnute zeowes.
1 ½ hours	Aundathaulf Stund.

#### **E. Days of the week (Doag vonne Wääkj)**

Sindach	Sindach schauf wie nich. Zemorjes go wie to Kjoakj un Nomeddach spazia wie.
Mondach	Wie gone trigj no de Oabeit; aules fangt wada langsam aun.
Dinjsdach	Vondoag jinkj et aul een bät bosja. Wie habe dise Wääkj noch väl to doone.
Medwääkj	Wie sent aul enne Medd Wääkj. Wie habe et drock un sent goot em Schwunk.
Donnadach	Vondoag lot wie nuscht dral dreie. Wie bliewe ruich un schaufe bosich.
Friedach	Dankscheen leewa Gott. Vondoag es Friedach. Zeowes go wie froo no Hus.
Sinnowent	Vondoag lot mie lot schlope! Nomeddach un owent vereiw wie ons goot.

#### **F. Seasons (Joarestiede)**

Winta	De Doag sent kort. Daut schniet foaken, un woat manchmol sea kolt.
Farjoa	Daut woat langsam woama. De Väajel sent trigj un de Bloome blieeje.
Somma	Nu es et scheen woam, aules es jreen, un wie freie ons fa de lange Owende.
Hoafst	De Ferien sent äwa, de Bläda faule vonne Beem, un daut woat kjeela.

#### **G. Months (Moonate)**

<b>Winta</b>	<b>Farjoa</b>	<b>Somma</b>	<b>Hoafst</b>
Jaunewoa	Aprill	Juli	Oktooba
Feebawoa	Mei	August	Nowamba
Moaz	Juni	Septamba	Dezamba

#### **H. Religious Holidays (Relijeese Heljedoag)**

Niejoa	Daut Niejoa es jekome. Vondoag sent de Lied Tus.
Heilje Dree Kjennichs	De 6. Jaunewoa es de latsta von de Heljedoag von Wienachte.
Paulmsindach	De Lied denkje aune Paulme oppe Ieed un de Enfoat en Jerusalem.
Stelle Friedach	De heilichsta Dach vom Kjoakjejoa es vondoag un aules es stell.
Oostre	Väle Lied stone tiedich opp, un gone no de Aundacht biem Riefa.
Pinjste	Dartich Doag no Oostre.
Heljeowent	Dit es de Kjinja äa froosta Dach, un see gone tiedich schlope.
Wienachte	Wienachte trafe sikj de Elre, Kjinja un aundre Vewaunte.
Silvesta Owent	Meddanacht sinje de Lied een Leet un vesprääkje fa näakjstet Joa.

## APPENDIX A - BASIC VOCABULARY

### Most common words\*

Verbs	Nouns	Others	Others
brinje bring denkje think derwe allow doone do fiere lead	Biespel n example Dach m day Deel n deal Enj n end Faul m case	am him an them aul already aule all aulsoo therefore	kjeena no one mea more met with mie me mien my
finje find foare drive froage ask gone go habe have	Froag f question Fru f woman Grunt f reason Haunt f hand Hus n house	aun on aundra other aus as äwa over bat until	miena my one nich not nie new no to noch still
heete be called jäwe give jleewe believe jleiche like kjenne be able to	Joa n year Jelt n money Kjint n child Launt n land Läwe n life	bie with, by blooss just, only dan then daut that de the	nu now oba but ooda or om about ons our
kome come läwe live ligje lie lote allow, appear meene mean	Lied m people Maun m man Mensch m person Million f million Mol f time	denn thin derch through dit this doa there doch though, still	opp upon sea a lot see she sikj self soo so
moake make motte have to näme take nane name opphoole stop	Mutta f mother Oabeit f work Oomkje m man, sir Probleem n problem Prozent m percent	du you een a ekj I emma always en in	to to twee two uk also un and unja below
räde speak saje say seene see selle should senne be	Rajcht n right School f school Sied f side Staut f city, country Tiet f time	fa for gauns totally goot good groot great hee he	ut from, out väl many ver before von from wada again
stone stand weete know welle want wiese show woare become	Uag n eye Voda m father Wäakj f week Welt f world Wuat n word	hia here ieescht first jieda each jo yes junt your	wan when, if wie we wiels because woo how wua where

\*35 verbs, 35 nouns, 70 other parts of speech.

## Common nouns and pronouns\*

Nouns		Nouns		Pronouns	
Biespel Biespels n	example	Moonat Moonate f	month	ää (obl)	her
Bilt Bilda n	picture	Morje Morjes m	morning	ääje	their
Buak Bieekja n	book	Mutta Muttasch f	mother	am (obl)	him
Däa Dääre f	door	Nacht Nachte f	night	an (obl)	them
Dach Doag m	day	Nome Nomes m	name	aulemaan	everyone
Deel (sng) n	part	Oabeit Oabeite f	work	aunjehieeja	member
Dinkj Dinja n	thing	Oomkje Oomkjes m	man, mister	billewää	anyone
Elre (pl)	parents	Oppgow Oppgowe f	assignment	dämselwjen	same one
Famielje Famieljes f	family	Owent Owende m	evening	dautselwje	same thing
Faul Fal m	case	Persoon Persoone f	person	dee	that
Form Forme f	form	Plauz Plaza m	place	die (obl)	you
Frint Frind m	friend	Poa Poare n	pair	diena	your
Froag Froage f	question	Probleem -bleeme n	problem	disa	this one
Fru Frues f	woman	Prozent Prozente m	percent	dit	this
Gauss Gause f	street	Rajcht Rajchte n	right	du (nom)	you
Grunt Jrind f	reason	Rum Rums m	room, space	eena	one
Grupp Gruppe f	group	Sach Sache f	matter	eenatlei	one thing
Haunt Henj f	hand	School Schoole f	school	ekj (nom)	I
Hus Hiesa n	house	Senn Senne m	meaning	et	it
Jebiet Jebiete n	region	Sied Siede f	side	hee (nom)	he
Jelt Jelda n	money	Sort Sorte f	sort	irjentwää	anyone
Jesalschoft -schofte f	society	Sproak Sproake f	language	irjentwaut	anything
Jeschicht Jeschichte f	story	Städ Städa f	place	jana	that one
Jesecht Jesechta n	face	Staut Städen f	city	jeemaunt	someone
Joa Joare n	year	Stund Stunde f	hour	jewessa	a certain one
Kjint Kjinja n	child	Tiet Tiede f	time	jie (nom)	you (pl)
Kopp Kjap m	head	Uag Uage n	eye	jun (obl)	your (pl)
Launt Lenda n	land	Unjanäme (sng) n	undertaking	kjeena	no one
Läwe Läwes n	life	Voda Vodasch m	father	mie (obl)	me
Lied (pl)	people	Wäakj Wäakje f	week	mien	mine
Määjlichkjeit -kjeite f	possibility	Wada (sng) n	weather	ons (obl)	our
Maun Mana m	man	Welt Welte f	world	see (nom)	she, they
Mensch Mensche m	people	Wota (sng) n	water	sien	his
Millionäa -näare f	millionaire	Wuat Wieed n	word	sikj	self
Minnut Minnute f	minute	Ziel Ziels m	destination	wie (nom)	we

\*Nouns given in singular, plural, gender - English meaning.

Gender abbreviations; m - masculine, f - feminine, n - neuter.

Nouns or pronouns used only in plural - (pl), only in singular - (sng).

Pronouns - nominative case (nom), oblique (dative or accusative cases) (obl).

## Common adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and conjunctions

Adjectives	Adverbs	Prepositions	Conjunctions
billich cheap breet broad dia expensive dietsch German einfach simple	aule all aulsoo therefore blooss only boolt soon dan then	auf whether aun at, on äwa over bat until benna within	aus as beid both dan then, next dannooh yet trotdäm despite
entwei broken gauns all, complete goot good groot large heet hot	doa there doch still emma always foaken often hia here	bie by, near biesied beside delenjd along derch through en in	daut that doaderch consequently ei wan what if endäm in that entwäda either ...
huach high ieejen own ieescht first jeneiw exact junk young	ieejentlich actually ieescht first jrod just now langsom slowly leicht lightly	fa for hinja behind jäajen against jäajenäwa versus mank among	fauls in case of no däm no according to oba but, though ooda or oppwool although
kjlien small kolt cold kort short läach low lank long	lostich merry lot late lud loud mea more natieedlich naturally	met along, with no toward om at, around one without opp upon	oppzwoasch although sentemol since sonda instead sooboolt as soon as soolang so long as
latsta last leicht light/not heavy mäajlich possible nie new oolt old	noch still nu now pinkjlich punctual saunft softly schwind swift	rom around runtom all around seit since (time) to to trotdäm despite	soo daut so that soo aus so as un and ver before wäajens because
rajcht right schlajcht bad schmaul narrow schmock lovely schwowa heavy	sea very selden seldom soo thus tiedich early truarich sad	tweschen between unja under ut out, of velenjd along ver before	wan, wanea when, if wiels because
stoakj strong veschieden various wichtich important wiedre additional witt white	uk also veleicht perhaps wiel while wiet far woll probably	von from wäarent during	<b>Articles</b> daut that de the däm (to) him dän (to) him

## APPENDIX B - VERBS

### Principal parts of weak verbs

The four principal parts given are: infinitive, 3rd person singular present, 3rd person singular past, and past participle. The dash represents the prefix of the word. The most common English meaning is provided. These comments apply also to the table of strong verbs, which follows.

#### Principal parts

aunsiedle siedelt - siedeld - -jesiedelt  
 auntwuade –wuat –wuad jeauntwuat  
 bake bakd bakt jebakt  
 beachte beacht beachd beacht  
 bedakje bedakjd bedakjt bedakjt

bediede bediet bedied bediet  
 beduare beduat beduad beduat  
 befriee befriet befried befriet  
 bejreesse bejreest bejreesd bejreest  
 betole betolt betold betolt

betoone betoont betoond betoont  
 bilde bilt bild jebilt  
 blieeje blieecht blieejd jeblicheet  
 brucke brukt brukd jebrukt  
 buare buat buad jebuat

bue but bud jebut  
 daunze daunzt daunzd jedaunzt  
 deele deelt deeld jedeelt  
 doastale stalt – stald – –jestalt  
 enstemme stemt – stemd – –jestemt

entwekjle –wekjelt –wekjeld –wekjelt  
 erkjane erkjant erkjand erkjant  
 erkjlääre erkjlääat erkjlääd erkjlääat  
 erlange erlangt erlangd erlangt  
 erlaube erlaubt erlaubd erlaubt

erre ert erd jeert  
 erwäne erwänt erwänd erwänt  
 fäle fält fäld jefält  
 feele feelt feeld jefeelt  
 fiere fiet fieed jefieet

flickeje flickejt flickejd jeflickejt  
 folje folcht foljd jefolcht  
 foodre foodat foodad jefoodat  
 freie freit freid jefreit  
 grule grult gruld jegrult

#### Principal parts

settle  
 answer  
 bake  
 observe  
 cover

mean  
 worry  
 marry  
 greet, listen  
 pay

emphasize  
 educate  
 bloom  
 need  
 farm

build  
 dance  
 deal, part  
 establish  
 agree

develop  
 recognize  
 explain  
 achieve  
 allow

err  
 mention  
 need, lack  
 feel  
 lead,celebrate

curse  
 follow  
 feed  
 be happy  
 scare

hanstale stalt – stald – –jestalt  
 haundle –delt –deld jehaundelt  
 heete heet heet jeheet  
 hiere hieet hieed jehieet  
 hole holt hold jeholt

hope hopt hopd jehopt  
 horche horcht horchd jehorcht  
 jehiere jehieet jehieed jehieet  
 jleewe jleeft jleewd jelleeft  
 jleiche jleicht jleichd jelleicht

jreble jrebbelt jrebeld jerebbelt  
 jreesse jreest jreesd jereest  
 kjane kjant kjand jekjant  
 kloage kloacht kloagd jekloacht  
 knake knakt knakd jeknakt

koake koakt koakd jekoakt  
 lache lacht lachd jelacht  
 lakje lakjt lakjd jelakjt  
 läwe läwt läwd jeläwt  
 leewe leeft leewd jeleeft

liere lieet lied jelieet  
 meene meent meend jemeent  
 mische mischt mischd jemischt  
 mole molt mold jemolt  
 mostre mostat mostad jemostat

nane nant nand jenant  
 oabeide oabeit oabeid jeoabeit  
 oppducke dukt – dukd – –jedukt  
 passiere passieet passieed passieet  
 plauze plauzt plauzd jplauzt

prachre prachat prachad jprachat  
 proowe prooft proowd jeprooft  
 rade rat rad jerat  
 råde rät räd jerät  
 rane rant rand jerant

place  
 handle  
 be called  
 hear  
 fetch

hope  
 listen  
 belong  
 believe  
 like

ponder  
 greet  
 know  
 tattle  
 split seed

cook  
 laugh  
 drip  
 live  
 love

teach, learn  
 mean  
 mix  
 grind  
 criticize

name  
 work  
 materialize  
 take place  
 split

beg  
 experiment  
 save  
 speak  
 run



## Principal parts of weak verbs (cont.)

### Principal parts

reselwiere –wheet –wheed –wheet  
rikje rikt rikd jerikt  
rue rut rud jerut  
rutsche rutscht rutschd jerutscht  
sate sat sad jesat

schaufe schauft schaufd jeschauft  
schedde schett schedd jeschett  
schedre scheddat scheddad jescheddat  
schekje schekjt schekjd jeschekjt  
schiene schient schiend jeschient

schlenkjre –nkjat –kjad jeschlenkjat  
schmakje –kjt –kjd jeschmakjt  
schmunsle –selt –seld jeschmunselt  
schmustre –stat –stad jeschmustat  
schockle –ckelt –ckeld jeschockelt

resolve  
smell  
rest  
slide  
plant

work  
pour, spread  
shake  
send  
seem

amble, walk  
taste  
smile  
smile  
swing

### Principal parts

spääre späat späad jespäat  
späle spält späld jespält  
stale stalt stald jestalt  
studiere studieet studieed studieet  
tose tost tosd jetost

uthake hakt – hakt – –jehakt  
väästale stalt – stald – –jestalt  
vedeene vedeent vedeend vedeent  
vefiere vefieet vefieed vefieed  
vejlikje vejlikjt vejlikjd vejlikjt

vepuste vepust vepusd vepust  
vetale vetalt vetald vetalt  
wachte wacht wachd jewacht  
wensche wenscht wenshd jewenscht  
wone wont wond jewont

feel  
play  
place  
study  
drag

dig out  
present  
earn  
scare  
compare

rest  
tell  
wait  
wish  
live

## Principal parts of strong and strong irregular verbs

### Principal parts

äte at aut jejäte  
aunbeede bitt – boot – –jebode  
aunfange fangt – funk – –jefonge  
aunjriepe jript – jreep – –jëräpe  
aunseene sitt – sach – –jeseene

auntrakje trakjt – trock – –jetrocke  
bedde bedd boot jebode  
beede bitt boot jebode  
befäle befält befool befole  
behoole behelt behilt behoole

bejäwe bejeft begauf bejäwe  
bejriepe bejript bejreep bejräpe  
besenne –sent –sonn besonne  
besieekje besieekjt besocht besocht  
bestone besteit bestunt bestone

betrafe betrafft betroff betroffe  
bieeje bicht buach jeboage  
biete bitt beet jebäte  
bliewe blift bleef jebläwe  
brinje brinjt brocht jebrocht

eat  
volunteer  
begin  
attack  
inspect

dress  
request  
bid  
command  
remember

experience  
understand  
think  
visit  
exist

meet  
bend  
bite  
stay  
bring

### Principal parts

bräakje brakjt bruak jebroake  
denkje denkjt docht jedocht  
derwe doaf durf (je)durft  
doone deit deed jedone  
drinkje drinkjt drunk jedrunke

dreiwe dreift dreef jedräwe  
droage drajcht druach jedroacht  
enlode lat – loot – enjelode  
ensprinje sprinj – sprunk – –jesprunge  
entstone ensteit enstunt entstone

erfoare erfoat erfua erfoare  
fange fangt funk jefonge  
flajchte flajcht flocht jeflochte  
fote fot foot jefot  
faule felt foll jefolle

finje finjt funk jefunge  
flieeje flicht fluach jefloage  
foare foat fua jefoare  
friere frist frua jefruare  
froage frajcht fruach jefroacht

break  
think  
allowed  
do  
drink

threaten  
carry  
load  
jump in  
establish

experience  
catch  
braid  
grasp  
fall

find  
fly  
drive  
freeze  
ask

## Principal parts of strong and strong irregular verbs (cont.)

### Principal parts

gone jeit jinkj jegone  
growe groft groof jegroft  
habe hast haud jehaut  
halpe halpt holp jeholpe  
häwe häft hoof jehowe

henje henjt honk jehonge  
hinjalote lat – leet – –jelote  
hoole helt hilt jehoole  
jäwe jeft gauf jejäft  
jeete jitt goot jegote

jefaula jefelt jefoll jefolle  
jelle jelt golt jegolle  
jenne jent gonn jegonne  
jewenne jewent jewonn jewonne  
joage jajcht juach jejoacht

kjeepe kjaft koft jekoft  
kjenne kaun kunn jekunt  
kjriee kjricht kjrieech jekräaje  
kome kjemt kaum jekome  
laje lajcht läd jelaicht

läse läst laus jeläse  
ligje licht lach jeläaje  
lote lat leet jelote  
mäaje mach mucht jemucht  
moake moakt muak jemoakt

motte mott must (je)must  
näme nemt naum jenome  
oawe oaft orf jeorwe  
opphäwe häft – hoof – –jehowe  
opphoole helt – hilt – –jehoole

oppstone steit – stunt – –jestone  
plekje plekjt plock jeplocke  
riete ritt reet jeräte  
rode rot root jerot  
saje sajcht säd jesajcht

schääre schäat schäad jeschoare  
schelle schelt schull jeschulle  
schenkje schenkjt schonk jeschonke  
schliepe schliept schliept jeschläpe  
schlone schleit schluach jeschlone

### Principal parts

go, walk  
dig  
have  
help  
heave, lift

hang  
abandon  
hold  
give  
pour

please  
be valid  
concede  
win  
chase

buy  
can, may  
receive  
come  
lay

read  
lie  
allow  
like  
make

must  
take  
inherit  
pick up  
uphold

rise  
pick  
ache  
guess  
say

shear  
scold  
give  
sharpen  
hit

schlope schlapt schleep jeschlope  
schmiete schmitt schmeet jeschmäte  
schriewe schrift schreef jeschräwe  
schwame –amt –omp jeschwomme  
schuwe schift schoof jeschowe

seene sitt sach jeseene  
selle saul sull (je)sult  
senne es wia jewast/jewäse  
sette sett saut jesäte  
sieekje sieekjt socht jesocht

sinje sinjt sunk jesunge  
stäakje stakjt stuak jestoake  
stäle stält stool jestole  
stoawe stoawt storf jestorwe  
steete stat stad jestat

stiee sticht stieech jestäaje  
stone steit stunt jestone  
sue sucht suach jesoage  
supe sipt soop jesope  
tooschlute schlitt – schloot – –jeschlote

trafe traft troff jetroffe  
trakje trakjt trock jetrocke  
utseene sitt – sach – utjeseene  
väafula felt – foll – väajefolle  
väakome kjemt – kaum – –jekome

vebinje vebinjt vebunk vebunge  
vegone vejeit vejinkj vegone  
vekjeepe vekjaft vekoft vekoft  
vejäte vejat vegaut vejäte  
vestone vesteit vestunt vestone

wäaje wajcht wuach jewoage  
wakje wakjt wuak jewakjt  
wause waust woss jewosse  
weete weet wist jewist  
welle well wull (je)wult

wenje wenjt wonk jewonge  
wiese wiest weess jewiest  
woake woakt wuak jewoakt  
woare woat wort jeworde  
wrinje wrinjt wrunk jewrunge

sleep  
throw  
write  
swim  
push

see  
should  
be  
sit  
seek

sing  
poke  
steal  
die  
bump

climb  
stand  
suck  
drink a lot  
lock

meet  
pull  
appear  
occur  
advance

tie together  
pass away  
sell  
forget  
understand

weigh  
wake  
grow  
know  
want

turn  
show  
stand guard  
become  
wring

## Conjugation of strong and strong irregular verbs

Examples of the conjugation in the present and past tenses of strong, and strong irregular verbs (past participle ends in **-e**) with different stem vowels are presented. Special examples of habe, senne, kjenne, motte, selle, gone, doone were given in Chapter 9.

### a. Strong verbs with 'a' and 'ä' in stem

<b>present</b>	benäme <sup>1</sup>	bejäwe	häwe <sup>3</sup>	vejäte <sup>4</sup>	äte <sup>5</sup>	stäle
ekj	benäm	bejäw	häw	vejät	ät	stäl
du	benemst	bejefst	häfst	vejatst	atst	stälst
hee,see,daut	benemt	bejefst	häft	vejat	at	stält
wie, jie, see	benäme	bejäwe	häwe	vejäte	äte	stäle
<b>past</b>						
ekj	beneem(benaum)	begauf(jeef)	hoof	vegaut	aut(eet)	stool
du	beneemst	begaufst	hoofst	vegautst	autst	stoolst
hee,see,daut	beneem	begauf	hoof	vegaut	aut	stool
wie, jie, see	beneeme	begauwe	hoowe	vegaute	aute	stoole
past part	benome	bejäft	jehowe	vejäte	jejäte	jestole
English	to behave	to occur	to lift	to forget	to eat	to steal

Verbs with similar conjugations:

<sup>1</sup>näme - (take); <sup>3</sup>befäle, jäwe, stäle - (command, give, steal);

<sup>4</sup>läse, mäte - (read, measure); <sup>5</sup>fräte - (devour).

### b. Strong verbs with 'a', 'au' and 'äa' in stem

<b>present</b>	trafe <sup>1</sup>	laje <sup>2</sup>	wakje	faule	wausche <sup>5</sup>	bräakje <sup>6</sup>
ekj	traf	laj	wakj	faul	wausch	bräakj
du	trafst	lajchst	wakjst	felst	wauschst	brakjst
hee,see,daut	traft	lajcht	wakjt	felt	wauscht	brakjt
wie, jie, see	trafe	laje	wakje	faule	wausche	bräakje
<b>past</b>						
ekj	troff	läd	wuak	foll	wosch	bruak
du	trofst	lädst	wuakst	folst	woschst	bruakst
hee,see,daut	troff	läd	wuak	foll	wosch	bruak
wie, jie, see	troffe	läde	wuake	folle	wosche	bruake
past part	jetroffe	jelajcht	jewakjt	jefolle	jewosche	jebroake
English	to meet	to lay	to wake	to fall	to wash	to break

<sup>1</sup>flajchte, halpe, kjwale, malkje, schrakje, schwale, schwame -

(braid, help, gush, milk, scare, swell, swim);

<sup>2</sup>saje - (say); <sup>5</sup>wausse - (grow);

<sup>6</sup>spräakje, stäakje - (speak, spear).

### c. Strong verbs with 'e' in stem

<b>present</b>	jenne	denkje <sup>2</sup>	bedde	schelle <sup>4</sup>	besenne	sette
ekj	jenn	denkj	bedd	schell	besenn	sett
du	jenst	denkjst	betst	schelst	besenst	setst
hee,see,daut	jent	denkjt	bedd	schelt	besent	sett
wie, jie, see	jenne	denkje	bedde	schelle	besenne	sette
<b>past</b>						
ekj	gonn	docht	boot	schull	besonn	saut
du	gonst	dochst	bootst	schulst	besonst	sautst
hee,see,daut	gonn	docht	boot	schull	besonn	saut
wie, jie, see	gonne	dochte	boode	schulle	besonne	saute
past part	jegonne	jedocht	jebode	jeschulle	besonne	jesäte
English	to permit	to think	to request	to scold	to remember	to sit

<sup>2</sup>henje, jewenne, schenkje, spenne, wenje;  
(hang, win, give, spin, turn);

<sup>4</sup>derwe, welle - (are permitted, wish).

### d. Strong verbs with 'ee' or 'ei' in stem

<b>present</b>	seene	vekjeepe	jeete <sup>3</sup>	steete <sup>4</sup>	beede	dreuwe
ekj	see	vekjeep	jeet	steet	beed	dreiw
du	sitst	vekjafst	jitst	statst	bitst	dreifst
hee,see,daut	sitt	vekjaft	jitt	stat	bitt	dreift
wie, jie, see	seene	vekjeepe	jeete	steete	beede	dreuwe
<b>past</b>						
ekj	sach	vekoft	goot	stad	boot	dreef
du	sachst	vekofst	gootst	statst	bootst	dreefst
hee,see,daut	sach	vekoft	goot	stad	boot	dreef
wie, jie, see	sage	vekofte	goote	stade	boode	dreeuwe
past part	jeseene	vekoft	jegote	jestat	jebode	jedräuwe
English	to see	to sell	to pour	to bump	to bid	to threaten

<sup>3</sup>scheete, steewe -  
(shoot, blow dust);

<sup>4</sup>bleede - (bleed).

### e. Strong verbs with 'i' and 'ie' in stem

<b>present</b>	ligje	brinje	finje <sup>3</sup>	stiee <sup>4</sup>	wiese <sup>5</sup>	schliepe
ekj	ligj	brinj	finj	stie	wies	schliep
du	lichst	brinjst	finjst	stichst	wiest	schliepst
hee,see,daut	licht	brinjst	finjt	sticht	wiest	schliept
wie, jie, see	ligje	brinje	finje	stiee	wiese	schliepe
<b>past</b>						
ekj	lach	brocht	funk	stieech	weess	schliept
du	lachst	brochst	fungst	stieechst	weest	schliepst
hee,see,daut	lach	brocht	funk	stieech	weess	schliept
wie, jie, see	lääje	brochte	funge	stieeje	weese	schliepte
past part	jeläaje	jebrocht	jefunge	jestäaje	jewiest	jeschläpe
English	to repose	to bring	to find	to climb	to show	to sharpen

<sup>3</sup>binje, drinkje, dwinje, jelinje, kjinje, rinje, schrinje, sinje, sinkje, sprinje, stinkje, veschwinje, wrinje - (bind, drink, compell, succeed, toll, ring, burn, sing, sink, leap, stink, disappear, wring);

<sup>4</sup>kjriee, schriee, spiee - (receive, roar, spit);

<sup>5</sup>kjriesche, schiene - (schriek, seem).

### f. Strong verbs with 'ie', 'ia', 'o (long)' in stem

<b>present</b>	biete <sup>1</sup>	veliere <sup>2</sup>	bliewe <sup>3</sup>	rode <sup>4</sup>	lote <sup>5</sup>
ekj	biet	velia	bliew	rod	lot
du	bitst	velist	blifst	rotst	latst
hee,see,daut	bitt	velist	blift	rot	lat
wie, jie, see	biete	veliere	bliewe	rode	lote
<b>past</b>					
ekj	beet	velua	bleef	root	leet
du	beetst	veluazhd	bleefst	rootst	leetst
hee,see,daut	beet	velua	bleef	root	leet
wie, jie, see	beete	veluare	bleewe	roote	leete
past part	jebäte	veloare	jebläwe	jerot	jelote
English	to bite	to lose	to remain	to guess	to permit

<sup>1</sup>driewe, jriepe, kjniupe, liede, riede, riete, riewe, schmiete, schniede, striede - (drive, catch, pinch, suffer, ride, ache, rub, throw, cut, dispute);

<sup>2</sup>bieeje, friere, flieeje, lieeje, schwiere, velieeje - (bend, freeze, fly, lie, swear, deny);

<sup>3</sup>schriewe - (write);

<sup>4</sup>begrowe, growe, lode - (bury, dig, load);

<sup>5</sup>schlope - (sleep).

### g. Strong verbs with 'o (long)', 'oo' and 'oa' in stem

<b>present</b>	kome	schlone	stone	hoole	joage
ekj	kom	schlo	sto	hool	joag
du	kjemst	schleist	steist	helst	jajchst
hee,see,daut	kjemt	schleit	steit	helt	jajcht
wie, jie, see	kome	schlone	stone	hoole	joage
<b>past</b>					
ekj	kaum	schluach	stunt	hilt	juach
du	kaumst	schluachst	stunst	hilst	juachst
hee,see,daut	kaum	schluach	stunt	hilt	juach
wie, jie, see	kaume	schluage	stunde	hilde	juage
past part	jekome	jeschloage	jestone	jehoolen	jejoacht
English	to come	to hit	to stand	to hold	to hunt, chase

### h. Strong verbs with 'oa' and 'u (long)' in stem

<b>present</b>	foare <sup>1</sup>	oawe <sup>2</sup>	froage	schuwe <sup>4</sup>	sue	supe <sup>6</sup>
ekj	foa	oaf	froag	schuw	su	sup
du	foascht	oafst	frajchst	schifst	suchst	sipst
hee,see,daut	foat	oaft	frajcht	schift	sucht	sipt
wie, jie, see	foare	oawe	froage	schuwe	sue	supe
<b>past</b>						
ekj	fua	orf	fruach	schoof	suach	soop
du	fuascht	orfst	fruachst	schoofst	suachst	soopst
hee,see,daut	fua	orf	fruach	schoof	suach	soop
wie, jie, see	fuare	orwe	fruage	schoowe	suage	soope
past part	jefoare	jeorwe	jefroacht	jeschowe	jesoage	jesope
English	to drive	to inherit	to ask	to push	so suck	to drink a lot

<sup>1</sup>droage, moake - (carry, make);

<sup>2</sup>foawe, stoawe, vedoawe -  
(paint, die, ruin);

<sup>4</sup>schluwe, schruwe - (peel, screw);

<sup>6</sup>krupe - (crawl).

## The six\* tenses – examples using also modal verbs\*\*

Ekj kjeep Koffe. (I buy coffee.)  
Ekj koft Koffe.  
Ekj woa Koffe kjeepe.  
Ekj hab Koffe jekoft.  
Ekj haud Koffe jekoft.  
Ekj woa Koffe jekoft habe.

Ekj kaun Koffe kjeepe.  
Ekj kunn Koffe kjeepe.  
Ekj woa Koffe kjeepe kjenne.  
Ekj hab Koffe kjeepe jekunt.  
Ekj haud Koffe kjeepe jekunt.

Du beakast daut Launt. (You cultivate the land.)  
Du beakazhd daut Launt.  
Du woascht daut Launt beakre.  
Du hast daut Launt beakat.  
Du hautst daut Launt beakat.  
Du woascht daut Launt beakat habe.

Du west daut Launt beakre.  
Du wust daut Launt beakre.  
Du woascht daut Launt beakre welle.  
Du hast daut Launt beakre jewult.  
Du hautst daut Launt beakre jewult.

Hee betolt de Strof. (He pays the fine.)  
Hee betold de Strof.  
Hee woat de Strof betole.  
Hee haft de Strof betolt.  
Hee haud de Strof betolt.  
Hee woat de Strof betolt habe.

Hee mott de Strof betole.  
Hee must de Strof betole.  
Hee woat de Strof betole motte.  
Hee haft de Strof betole must.  
Hee haud de Strof betole must.

Wie läse Bieekja. (We read books.)  
Wie lause Bieekja.  
Wie woare Bieekja läse.  
Wie habe Bieekja jeläst.  
Wie haude Bieekja jeläst.  
Wie woare Bieekja jeläst habe.

Wie jleiche Bieekja läse.  
Wie jleichte Bieekja läse.  
Wie woare Bieekja läse jleiche.  
Wie habe Bieekja läse jejeicht.  
Wie haude Bieekja läse jejeicht.

Ekj woa frintlicha. (I become friendlier.)  
Ekj wort frintlicha.  
Ekj woa frintlicha woare.  
Ekj sie frintlicha jeworde.  
Ekj wia frintlicha jeworde.  
Ekj woa frintlicha jeworde senne.

Ekj saul frintlicha woare.  
Ekj sull frintlicha woare.  
Ekj woa frintlicha woare selle.  
Ekj hab frintlicha woare sult.  
Ekj haud frintlicha woare sult.

Wie kome fuaz. (We come right away.)  
Wie kaume fuaz.  
Wie woare fuaz kome.  
Wie sent fuaz jekome.  
Wie wiere fuaz jekome.  
Wie woare fuaz jekome senne.

Wie mäaje fuaz kome.  
Wie muchte fuaz kome.  
Wie woare fuaz kome mäaje.  
Wie habe fuaz kome jemucht.  
Wie haude fuaz kome jemucht.

\*Present, past, future, present perfect, past perfect, future perfect.

\*\*kjenne, motte, welle, jleiche, selle, mäaje – (can, must, want, like, should, prefer)

Some expressions may have alternate forms.

## APPENDIX C - GRAMMAR TERMINOLOGY AND ABBREVIATIONS

### MLG Adjectives:

**'Strong'** form: adjectives which follow the definite article **daut** or demonstratives **daut** or **dit**.

**'Weak'** form: adjectives which do not follow **daut** or **dit**.

**Case:** indicates function for nouns. In MLG, there are three cases: nominative case, genitive, and oblique. The oblique case includes both direct and indirect objects.

**'His genitive' Structure:** to indicate possession, the possessor is named in the oblique case followed by the possessive adjective and the possessed object. With proper nouns, and when the possessor is determined by a possessive adjective, the possessor is in the nominative case.

**Predicate:** considered herein to consist of a verb and its complements or modifiers, or alternatively the complement of verb forms.

**Mood:** a change in the inflection of a verb which indicates how the speaker conceives the action or state of the verb. The indicative mood states or questions a fact. The imperative mood gives a command or request. The conditional mood considers the actions as possible, doubtful, desired, supposed or unreal.

**Participle:** in MLG, present and past participles are defined respectively from the infinite and verb stem. Participles are used to form compound tenses, or may serve as adjectives.

### Pronunciation guide:

Consonants with voice: e.g. **b, d, g, z**.

Voiceless consonants: e.g. **p, t, k, s**.

**'Soft'**: palatal (tongue placed against the hard palate), e.g., **Licht** in MLG; "yes" in English.

**'Hard'**: guttural (sound from the back of oral cavity), e.g. **Loch** in MLG.

**Verb tense:** the form of a verb, indicating the time of action of a verb. Six tenses are defined in MLG: present, past, future, present perfect, past perfect, future perfect.

### Verb types in MLG:

**Weak** – do not change the stem vowel in conjugation.

**Strong** – the stem vowel changes in the conjugation – the past participle ends with **-e**. If the stem vowel changes in the conjugation but the past participle ends with **-t** the verb is termed **strong irregular**.

**Voice in verbs:** verbal construction that indicates whether the subject acts (**active voice**) or is acted upon (**passive voice**).



**English abbreviations**

Mennonite Low German –  
MLG  
High German – HG  
English – Eng

person - pers  
masculine, feminine, neuter –  
masc, fem, neut (m, f, n)

singular – sing (sgl)  
plural – plu (pl)  
nominative – nom  
oblique – obl  
possessive pronoun – poss pro

present – pres  
simple past – past

future – fut  
present perfect – pres perf

past perfect – past perf

future perfect – fut perf  
past participle – past part

positive – pos  
comparative – comp  
superlative – super

formal – form

**Abreviaturas españolas**

Bajo Alemán Menonita –  
BAM  
Alemán – HD  
español – esp

persona – pers  
masculino, femenino, neutro –  
masc, fem, neut (m, f, n)

singular – sing – (sgl)  
plural – plu (pl)  
nominativo – nom  
oblicuo – obl  
pronomen posesivo – pro pos

presente simple – pres  
pretérito indefinido (pasado) –  
pas

futuro simple – fut  
pretérito perfecto compuesto –  
pret perf

pretérito pluscuamperfecto –  
pluscuam

futuro compuesto – fut comp  
participio pasado – part pas

positivo – pos  
comparativo – comp  
superlativo – super

formal – form

**Deutsche Abkürzungen**

Mennonitisches Plattdeutsch –  
MPD  
Hochdeutsch – HD  
Englisch – Eng

Person - pers  
Maskulin, Feminin, Neutrum –  
mask, fem, neut (m, f, n)

Singular – sing – (sgl)  
Plural – plu (pl)  
Nominativ – nom  
Oblikus – obl  
Possessivpronomen – poss pro

Präsens – präS  
Präteritum – präT

Futur I – fut  
Perfekt – perf

Plusquamperfekt – plus

Futur II – fut II  
Partizip Perfekt – part perf

Positiv – pos  
Komparativ – komp  
Superlativ – super

formell – form

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