

# Simple Grammar

Most words in Temenia are categorized as nouns, verbs, or modifiers. There is no distinction between adjectives and adverbs. (There are a few other small categories of words, such as conjunctions, adjuncts, postpositions and others which are covered fully in the “Full Grammar” document.)

## Word Order

To explain the word order in Temenia it is necessary to explain the meanings of the words “agent” and “patient.” The agent of a sentence is the person or thing which does the action indicated by the verb. The patient of a sentence is the person or thing which undergoes the action indicated by the verb. In the following sentence:

*Paco kicked the ball.*

*Paco* is the agent and *the ball* is the patient.

In many English sentences, the subject of the sentence is the same as the agent, and the object of the sentence is the same as the patient. In the sentence above, *Paco* is the subject and *the ball* is the object. In most transitive sentences (that is, those with an object) this correspondence will be true.

In intransitive sentences, however, this correspondence may not be true. Consider these sentences:

*Paco broke the window.*

*The window broke.*

In the first sentence it is clear that *Paco* is the agent (he performs the action of breaking) and that *the window* is the patient (it undergoes the action of breaking). However, in the second sentence, although *the window* is the subject, it is clearly not the agent. The window is not performing the action of breaking, rather it is undergoing the action of breaking. The agent is not known. Who broke the window? *Paco*? The wind? An unknown force? The second sentence does not specify this.

Similarly, it is possible to have sentences in which the patient is unspecified. Consider:

*Paco paints the window.*

*Paco paints.*

In the second sentence *Paco* is the agent of the sentence, although the sentence does not specify what he is painting.

The basic word order in Temenia is: **Agent-Verb-Patient**. The agent or the patient may be left out if it is unknown or unspecified. These four sentence would be translated as follows into Temenia:

ΠΑΚΟ ΗΛ ΚΟΙΤΕ

*Paco paints the window.*

ΠΑΚΟ ΗΛ

*Paco paints.*

ΠΑΚΟ ΛΟΚΥΤΟΙ ΚΟΙΗ  
*Paco broke the window.*

ΛΟΚΥΤΟΙ ΚΟΙΗ  
*The window broke.*

Unspecified agents or patients are simply omitted. So, sentences in Temenia can start with a verb (as in the last example). As you can see, there are no articles (a, an, the) in Temenia.

When English has a semantically empty subject (for example, “it,” as in “it is raining”), this subject is left out in Temenia:

ΤΕΜΑΕ ΩΕ ΖΥΙΧΟΥΦΟ  
*It is raining and it is thundering*

## Modifiers

Modifiers always follow the words which they modify.

ΩΙΠΕ ΧΙΕΡΥ  
*good man*

ΨΙΤΥΗΙΩΙΛΙΕ ΘΕΤΕ  
*walk slowly*

ΩΙΠΕ ΚΩΑ ΦΥ  
*fatter man*  
[Literally: man fat-more]

## Verbs

Specifying tense (present, past, future) or aspect (perfect, imperfect) or mode (indicative, subjunctive) for verbs is optional and done only sparingly. [This is described in the “Full Grammar” document.] Usually any of these can be communicated in the sentence with words indicating temporality, such as “yesterday,” or “next year.” The verbs in Temenia are not inflectional as verbs are in European languages.

ΘΥ ΡΥΠΕ ΧΑΤΥ  
*He goes today*

ΘΥ ΡΥΠΕ ΚΑΗΕΑ  
*He went yesterday*

ΘΥ ΡΥΠΕ ΠΥΧΙ  
*He will go tomorrow*

## Nouns

Nouns do not have number. That is, there is no distinction between the singular or plural (or dual) of a noun.

ΩΙΠΕ ΩΑΘΙ

*one man*

ΩΙΠΕ ΤΕΚΑ

*ten men*

ΩΙΠΕ ΧΙΕΡΥ ΤΕΚΑ

*ten good men*

There is no gender in Temenia (that is, nouns are not categorized into masculine, feminine, neuter, etc.). The one exception to this is pronouns, where the singular pronouns “he” and “she” do represent the gender of their referent. Those pronouns apply only to humans (or perhaps to animals such as pets). The singular pronoun “it” is used to refer to an object (or any non-human thing). The table below lists the pronouns in Temenia:

μι	I / me
τυ	you (singular and plural)
θυ	he / him
ξι	she / her
λο	it / they / them
ηυ	we / us

Clearly, nouns have additional semantic possibilities than only agent and patient. For example, in the sentence:

*Paco gave the gift to Selena*

*Paco* is the agent, *the gift* is the patient, and *Selena* is neither an agent nor a patient, but rather the recipient of the gift. In English, this is indicated by the preposition *to*.

In Temenia these other semantic relationships of nouns are indicated by suffixes on the nouns. For example:

ΠΑΚΟ ΗΥΠΙ ΨΟΗΟ ΖΕΛΗΑΛΑ

*Paco – give – gift – Selena – to*

These nouns (generally) follow the patient. The different semantic suffixes are shown in this table:

-ζι	Possessive	<i>of</i>
-λα	Recipient	<i>to</i>
-τε	Source	<i>from</i>
-φο	Beneficiary	<i>for</i>

-ωι	Comitative	<i>with</i>
-ρο	Instrumentive	<i>by</i>
-ωα	Locative	<i>at</i>

Examples:

πακο πυθο ξικακοτε ηυφορυκυλα  
*Paco travels from Chicago to New York*

πακο ηυπι ψοηο ζελεηαζι μαμαφο  
*Paco gave the gift for Selena's mother*

μι φοηιωυε φυτυπολαζι ηομυ πακowi ζεκυλαζι ξαεπαθουωα  
 ψιελαπυε  
*I watched the football game with Paco at the new school field*  
 [Literally: I watched the football's game Paco (with) school's field (at) new]

However, these semantic suffixes are optional. If the meaning is clear from the context, then they can be omitted. Consider:

πακο ηυπι ψοηο ζελεηα  
*Paco gave a gift to Selena*

There are two reasons why the suffix λα (after *Selena*) is unnecessary. First, the normal word order is agent-verb-patient followed by nouns in other roles. Thus, one would assume that the *gift* is the patient and that *Selena* is the recipient. Second, from the context (our knowledge of the world), it makes much more sense that the gift was given to Selena than that Selena was given to the gift.

In general, if there is no ambiguity if the suffixes are omitted, then it is preferable to omit them.

## Conjunctions

The conjunctions in Temenia are shown in this table:

ωε	and
ψε	but
θο	or

## Negation

Statements are negated using the negation particle: ηα. The negation particle appears before the verb.

μαρι μαι ραωειηε  
*Mary eats noodles*

μαρι ηα μαι ραωειηε  
*Mary does not eat noodles*

## Questions

A full description of how to form questions in Temenia is rather complex. It is described completely in the “Full Grammar” document. Simple questions, however, are easy. They are formed by prefixing the statement with the interrogative particle: **θα**.

μαρι μαι ραωειηε  
*Mary eats noodles*

θα μαρι μαι ραωειηε?  
*Does Mary eat noodles?*

## Examples

Here are some examples in Temenia that will help you understand the basic language:

ταμαρα ρυπε πυλιλα καηεα  
*Tamara went to the store yesterday*

ξι ζαυ φευζυ ωε ψιρι ωε ηετυμα  
*She bought apples and oranges and eggs*

ξι ξεοτυ ζακο ωιε ξι ψιτυηιωιλιε πυλιτε ζεχυελα  
*She dropped the bag when she walked from the store to the house*

θυαζικυηο ηετυμα ζεζι  
*Six eggs cracked*

ταμαρα κυκο ηετυμα ηεολε ηυφο  
*Tamara cooked scrambled [mixed] eggs for us*

ηυ ηα κοι ηικαεχο ψε ηυ μαι λο  
*We were not hungry but we ate them*

πυχι ξι κοι χυοζοξυχο φυ  
*Tomorrow she will be more careful*