

Jitasama Grammar

Grammar co-written by Andrew Meyer and Vicente Costalago

Jitasama is an international auxiliary language that maximizes ease of pronunciation, simplistic grammar and a vocabulary based on the 15 most spoken and influential languages in the world. Its main structural influences are Interlingua, Toki Pona and the creole languages of the Caribbean.

History

In 2019 Andrew Meyer started working on a language that was published in June 2020 as Jita Ona. In June 2022 Andrew Meyer created the Jitasama Facebook page, and in August 2023, Vicente Costalago created the wiki. Vicente Costalago helped the author reform the grammar to make it a fully functional auxiliary language.

Flag

The Jitasama flag was created by Vicente Costalago in September 2023. It portrays a yellow sun on a blue sky with 16 rays which represent the 15 most important languages of the world which Jitasama takes its vocabulary from, and 1 ray representing all of all other languages Jitasama has and will take influence from. The sun represents the fact that we all live under the same sun. Thus, the language's motto is "toto nus jindat nij solen sama" (We all live under the same sun).

Spelling and Pronunciation

The only 18 Letters in the alphabet are ABDEFGIJKLMNOPRSTU.

	Labial	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Nasal	m	n					
Plosive	p b	t d			k g		
Affricate							
Tap		r					
Fricative	f	s	ʒ				
Approximant		l					

The accent for the consonants (excluding j) is a Nigerian Pidgin English accent.

Comparisons below are based on American English

STOPS

p- voiceless bilabial plosive [p]	peach, apple, cap
b- voiced bilabial plosive [b]	obey, aback
t- voiceless alveolar plosive [t]	tall, internal, light
d- voiced alveolar plosive [d]	dill, adore, kid
k- voiceless velar plosive [k]	kiss
g- voiced velar plosive [g]	gaggle

FRICATIVES

f- voiceless labiodental fricative [f]	phone, raffle, leaf, fill
s- voiceless alveolar fricative [s]	celery, passing, bus
ʒ- voiced postalveolar fricative [ʒ]	genre, measure, rouge

NASALS

m- voiced bilabial nasal [m]	mill, hammer, broom, him
n- voiced alveolar nasal [n]	nickel, sunny, spoon

APPROXIMANTS

l- voiced alveolar lateral approximant [l]	lamb, silly, fall
r- voiced alveolar tap [ɾ]	better (rha)

FRONT VOWELS

a- open central unrounded vowel [ä]	bra, father (ah)
e- mid front unrounded vowel [ɛ]	berry (eh)
i- close front unrounded vowel [i]	see, neat, piece (e)

BACK VOWELS

o- mid back rounded vowel [ɔ]	Cambodia, more (oh)
u- close back rounded vowel [u]	food (oo)

Vowels are pronounced the same as they are in Spanish

Vowel	Pronunciation	Lip position
a	ah	Lips and mouth wide open.
e	eh	Lips slightly open and mouth stretched.
i	e	Lips slightly open and mouth stretched.
o	oh	Lips rounded and opened slightly.
u	oo	Lips rounded and almost fully closed.

Vowel Diphthongs in Jitasama never combine into one sound, but are pronounced as two separate vowels.

Vowel diphthongs	Pronunciation
uo	oo-oh
ui	oo-e
ue	oo-eh
ua	oo-ah
iu	e-oo
io	e-oh
ie	e-eh
ai	ah-e
ou	oh-oo
oi	oh-e
eu	eh-oo

ei	eh-e
au	ah-oo
ia	e-ah

Jitasama is meant to be pronounced by syllable for example, baruda is pronounced Ba-Ru-Da.

Jitasama has double vowels but no triple vowels and no combined diphthongs, each vowel is to be pronounced separately, for example: mie is pronounced Mi-E, and ai is pronounced A-I.

Jitasama has no double consonants; each consonant is to be pronounced separately, for example: anul is pronounced An-Kul, and sinsin is pronounced Sin-Sin.

When the word begins with a vowel, and there is only one consonant in front of it, it will be pronounced separately, for example: aman is pronounced A-Man, and apoi is pronounced A-Po-I.

When there are two vowels before a consonant they will be pronounced separately from that consonant, for example: aide is pronounced A-I-De, and kidaite is pronounced Ki-Da-I-Te.

If a suffix is added to the end of a word the pronunciation will change to reflect that new word, for example: akim is pronounced A-Kim, and when the -at is added it becomes akimat A-Ki-Mat.

The only exception to this is the (al'-) prefix because it ends in a glottal stop and thus can be connected to either a consonant or vowel without breaking the rules.

Morphology

Nouns

Plural

To create the plural, the particle fuju is used after the noun.

kat - cat

kat fuju - cats

When there is an adjective accompanying the noun, the plural particle comes at the end of the noun phrase.

kat bela - a/the beautiful cat

kat bela fuju - beautiful cats

Gender

Generally speaking, Jitasama doesn't mark gender.

espus - spouse, wife, husband.

neti - grandson, granddaughter.

To distinguish the sexes, the adjectives lelaki(male) and feme(female) are used:

uma lelaki – a male horse, a stallion

uma feme – a female horse, a mare

However, there are a few words used differently for the two sexes:

mata, pata - mother, father

tanti, onkil - aunt, uncle

dota, sione- daughter, son

Determiners

Determiners come before the noun, besides the plural marker fuju that comes after any adjectives.

anik indicates a large quantity while poko means a little, few.

mi jana poko ren - I know a few people.

nus na abe anik tem - We don't have much time.

Predeterminers

There are two predeterminers toto "all" and uba "both", which come before any other determiner.

toto tis ren - all these people.

uba manu isti intelij - both men are intelligent.

Demonstratives

tis means "this, these". It refers to something near the speakers.

mi joite tis kitab - I like this book.

tot means "that, those". It refers to something far from the speaker.

tot domo isti nu - That house is new.

Cardinal Numbers

Cardinal numbers can also be used as quantifiers. When we use a number other than zero or one, we don't need to use fuju.

dua domo - Two houses.

ta maliki sabat imbua – she owns seven dogs

Possessives

There are two ways to show possession in Jitasama:

Just using the possessive pronoun before what is possessed:

tis isti mie pata - This is my father.

The possessive pronouns are: mie, tue, tae, nuse, buse, une.

Using the preposition de plus the corresponding pronoun:

tis isti pata de mi - This is my father.

Compound Words

All compound words turn into nouns when combined, when words are modified with a suffix or prefix it will retain their status as a noun, verb, adverb or adjective. Excluding the affixes that change those aspects of the word. The compound word has to follow the pronunciation shown above. If you have two consonants that need two be connected, you can use an (-i-) in between them. You can also have disconnected compound words like dere pino (pine tree).

Predeterminers

Demonstratives or possessives.

Quantifiers

“toto mie dosti da fuju”- All my big friends.

Articles

There are no articles in Jitasama, so there is no word for the, a, an.

Adjectives

Position

Adjective comes after the noun.

Duplication

You can use duplication on adjectives and nouns for dramatic effect, it will always create an adjective

kuela(happy, content) can become kuelakuela(delighted)

joi(joy) can become joiyai(overjoyed)

Comparison

ru... ru - as... as

pir... je - worse... than

mas... je - more... than

mine... je - less... than

betar... je - better... than

maksa... - the most, the best

asua... - the worst

betar... - the better

sejo... - the least

mas... - the more

mine... - the less

“ta puri bili korsi mura maksa a bazar” - She bought the cheapest chair at the market

“ta puri fikir tot ta daro aja pae mas moneta je ajit dolar pur korsi” – She thought she would need to pay more money than eight dollars for the chair.

Pronouns

Personal pronouns

mi - me, I

tu - you

ta - he, she

nus - we

bos - you (plural)

un - they, them

Relative pronoun

The relative pronoun is tot for both things and people (= which, what, who, whom).

Adverbs

There are two types of adverbs: primary adverbs and derived adverbs.

Adverbs can be placed at the beginning of the sentence or phrase, or after the verb.

Primary adverbs

agar - if

a na tem – never

aki - here

alan - now

ama - either

an - on

asi - so, thus, therefore

ata - until

badi - some

daima - always

duara-by, through, across

duara tem - during

ia - yes

kada - each

karib - near, around

adimenta - additionally

kuasi - almost

na - no

nini - any

ofti - often

pia - also

puri - before

jegero - soon

kam - barely, seldom

tam - there

tel - such

tena - again

kuoda - too much, excessive

uba – both

Derived adverbs

Derived adverbs are those that are formed when adding (-ementa,-menta) to the adjective, noun or verb.

silensi – silensimenta

Interrogative and relative adverbs

kia - what

kia estat how(state)

kia metod – how(way, method)

kia jona - where

kia ren - who

kia sabab - why

kia tem – when

pur sabab - because

Verbs

Tense

Tense is marked by particles preceding the verb:

dulu: a long time ago

puri: before, simple past tense

ja: already (preterite tense)

tadi: just recently

sedan: shows that the verb is still happening (continuous tense)

akan: modifies verbs to the future tense

Examples:

mi dulu kula - I had eaten

mi ja kula - I have eaten

mi puri kula - I ate

mi kula - I eat

mi sedan kula - I am eating

mi akan kula - I will eat

mi akan ja kula - I will have eaten

mi puri sedan kula - I was eating

mi daro kula - I would eat

mi daro ja kula - I would have eaten

mi daro abilat kula - I could eat

mi inga kula - I should eat

Passive

For the passive, just add the passive particle (be) before the verb and the modals

“kitab be sedan basa duara mi” - The book is being read by me.

Negation

Verbs are negated with the adverb na, which precedes both the verb and the time modals.

“nus na rabot an nini kitu tis din” - we didn't work on anything today

Prepositions

a - at, to

an - on

atas - above

anti - against

ata – until

aona – even, yet, still

de - of, from, belonging to

duara - through, by

entar - between

in – in, into

inbadal - instead

je - than

ko - with

nij - below, under

sin - without

pos - after, then

pur - for

puri – before

ru - as

miama- however

Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions

There are four coordinating conjunctions:

i – and

o – or

na – not

dan – but, yet, however

Subordinating conjunctions

Pronoun subordinators

The relative pronoun is tot for both things and people (= which, what, who, whom).

Adverb subordinators

tot, estat tot, metod tot, jona tot, ren tot, sabab tot and tem tot are conjunctions that introduce adverbial clauses.

I live in Madrid, where I work. – “mi jindat in maderid, jona tot mi rabot.”

Questions

Yes/no questions

For a yes/no question, we change the intonation of the sentence, with the tone being elevated at the end of the question:

tu jati jitasama - you speak Jitasama.

tu jati jitasama? - do you speak Jitasama?

The answer can be ia (yes) or na (no).

tu jati jitasama? - do you speak Jitasama?

ia, mi jati jitasama. - Yes, I speak Jitasama.

na, mi na jati jitasama. No, I don't speak Jitasama.

Other questions

Other questions use interrogative words such as kia, kia estat, kia metod, kia jona, kia ren, kia sabab and kia tem at the beginning of the sentence.

Numbers

Cardinal numbers

The basic cardinal numbers are:

sifero – zero

ona – one

dua – two

san – three

epat – four

lima – five

sejet – six

sabat – seven

ajit – eight

nue – nine

das – ten

das ona – 11

das dua – 12

etc...

dua das – 20

san das – 30

epat das – 40

etc...

epat epat - 44

lima lima - 55

sejet sejet - 66

etc..

sat – hundred

elfu – thousand

milon – million

bilon – billion

put i(and) after the hundred

dua sat i epat dua - two hundred and forty-two

mil sat i das ona - one thousand one hundred and eleven

Ordinal numbers

For the ordinal number, just put the number after the noun:

ona kitab - one book.

kitab ona - first book.

Affixes

Prefixes:

(al'-): turns adjectives and verbs into nouns

(re-): repeat, repetition

(na-, nan-): without, not having, not doing, un-, in-, non-, -less - e.g. nanalkulij (non-alcoholic)

Suffixes:

(-at, -t, -te): turns adjectives and nouns into verbs

(-i-): connects two words into a compound if there are two consonants where they connect.

(-abil, -bil): shows ability to do something, becomes an adjective

(-ij, -j, -je): turns nouns and verbs into adjectives

(-isti, -sti): person who does: - e.g. siensisti (scientist), kerisotisti (Christian)

(-ementa, -menta): turns adjectives into adverbs

(-ti, iti): diminutive

(-ia, -jia) (place) - e.g. kafijia (café), kitabia (library)

Quasi affixes

Some words can be used as affixes:

a-: (at, to)

adi-: (more)

anti-: (against) - e.g. antikomunisem (anticommunism)

ko-: (with)

sue-: (self, yourself) - e.g. suemanda (self-control)

-loji: (study of) - e.g. farmaloji (agriculture)

entar-: (between) - e.g. entarinajoje (international)

med-: (middle) - e.g. medinokti (midnight)

pos-: (after, post-)

nij-: (below, under, sub-)

-ren: (nationality, doer, agent, -er) - e.g. apoiren (fireman)

puri-: (before, pre-)

both words modified by affixes and quasi-affixes will retain their form as a noun, adjective, or verb after modification unless otherwise specified.

Syntax

The word order in Jitasama is SVO.

References:

English, Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, Arabic, Indonesian, Russian, Bengali, Portuguese, French, German, Japanese, Persian, Swahili and Filipino.