

Lesson 8

Auxiliaries

Time Auxiliaries

[(Auxiliary) Verb (Neg) CP–S]

ril	Auxiliary: present	aríli	Auxiliary: far future
eril	Auxiliary: past	rilrili	Auxiliary: hypothetical
aril	Auxiliary: future	wil	Auxiliary: optative mood (desire): "would that...", "let there be...", "I wish...."
eríli	Auxiliary: far past		

When you need to indicate time in a sentence, put an auxiliary immediately before the verb. Auxiliaries never change their shape in any way, even if the verb itself is made plural.

Absent any auxiliary, present time is assumed. Subsequent to the occurrence of an auxiliary, in connected sentences, that time is assumed until another auxiliary occurs.

Examples

Bíi hal ne wa.	You work (implied present-time).	Bíi rilrili hal ne wa.	Let's suppose you worked....
Bíi ril hal ne wa.	You work now (explicit present-time).		Perhaps you work....
Bíi eril hal ne wa.	You worked.	Bíi wil hal ne wa.	You might work....
Bíi aril hal ne wa.	You will work.		Would that you worked....
Bíi eríli hal ne wa.	Long ago, you worked.		If only you would work....
Bíi aríli hal ne wa.	In the far future, you will work.	Wil hal.	I wish you would work....
	Some day, you will work.		Let there be work.

Vocabulary

den	to help	ná–	Prefix (verb): continue to VERB; keep on VERBing
elash	to play	rado	to be weak [ra– (NON) + do (be strong)]
íthi	to be tall; to be high	sha	harmony
líithi	to be white	waá	Evidence Word: believed to be false because the speaker mistrusts the source
líithin	to be grey		
mazh	car; automobile		

"Wil sha" is the standard greeting in Láadan; it means "Let there be harmony." In speech and informal writing, a heartfelt wish or, as in this case, a greeting may appear without Type-of-Sentence Word or Evidence Word. This is perfectly acceptable because no one is going to be confused about the meaning.

"Aril" (Later) is the standard Láadan leave-taking.

Exercises

Translate the following into English.

1 Búi aríli dathim Elízabeth wí.

E: _____

2 Búi eril thal bal wo.

E: _____

3 Búi aril ralóolohul mazh wa.

E: _____

4 Búi eríli di withid wáa, “Búi aril nahu thosh, id yom rawith wa.”

E: _____

5 Búi rilrili ina ra Máthu wo.

E: _____

6 Wil shóod.

E: _____

In #4, did you note in the final clause of the man’s speech that “...yom rawith...” (no-one is safe) when spoken aloud sounds identical to “...yom ra with...” (a person is not safe)? This kind of ambiguity is common to human languages. Many mechanisms are available to clarify; one of those in Láadan would be to double the negative: “...yom ra rawith....” A single “ra” is all that’s required in Láadan to make a sentence negative, and the “ra-” included in “rawith” suffices; however, it is not a grammatical error in Láadan to include an extra “ra” either for clarity or emphasis.

Set the following in the tense indicated; translate into English before and after.

7 Bii aril thaa ábed wa.

past

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

8 Bii eril dozh zháadin wa.

optative

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

9 Bii rilrili shóod ra Hérel wo.

far future

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

10 Bii melaya áath wi.

hypothetical

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

11 Bii aril melalom thul waa.

far past

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

12 Bii mehóoha omid waá.

future

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

Notice, in #7 (and in #3 above): the Evidence Word “**wa**” (**according to my own perception**) used regarding a future event. In most cases, a human speaker cannot have perceived what will happen in the future; in such a case “**wa**” would be understood to mean “**according to my expectation**,” expectation is a perception, albeit an internal one.

Translate the following into Láadan.

13 The mice ate, long ago.

L: _____

14 The grain will be green.

L: _____

15 A stone clearly might be beautiful.

L: _____

16 Suzette was right; the cat was afraid.

L: _____

17 The beverage might not be hot.

L: _____

18 Let there be wisdom!

L: _____

Answers

- 1 Elizabeth will needlework in the far future, obviously.
- 2 I suppose the bread was good.
- 3 The car will be extremely quick.
- 4 I'm told that long ago a man said, "The sky will begin to open, and then no-one will be safe."
- 5 Matthew might not sleep, I suppose.
- 6 Let there be busy-ness.
- 7 The farm will thrive.
Bíi eril tháa ábed wa.
The farm thrived.
- 8 Menopausal was easy, in my experience.
Bíi wil dozh zháadin wa.
Would that menopausal be easy.
- 9 I suppose Carol may not be busy.
Bíi arili shóod ra Hérel wo.
I suppose Carol will, long hence, not be busy.
- 10 Of course the doors are red.
Bíi rilrili melaya áath wi.
Of course the doors may be red.
- 11 The parents will sing.
Bíi erili melalom thul wa.
Long ago, the parents sang.
- 12 I'm in some doubt that the horses are weary.
Bíi aril mehóoha omid waá.
I'm in some doubt that the horses will be weary.
- 13 Bíi eríli meyod edemid wáa.
- 14 Bíi aril liyen ede wa.
- 15 Bíi rilrili áya ud wi.
- 16 Bíi eril dóon Shuzhéth wa; héeya rul.
- 17 Bíi rilrili owa ra rana wa.
- 18 Wil woth!