1. Nouns

1.1 Types of nouns

Jameld nouns can be divided into common nouns (“things”), abstract nouns (“concepts”) and proper nouns (“names”).

Common: *apel* (apple), *muth* (mouth), *stekfarghja* (hedgehog)
Abstract: *liub* (love), *éas* (requirement), *grauteldarstar* (grandparenthood)
Proper: *Ravtaal* (personal name), *Détši* (Germany), *Zur-aa* (name of river)

There is a further distinction, between count nouns and non-count nouns. Count nouns can be either common or abstract: *hïrdel* (toupee), *mol* (mole), *éannas* (characteristic)

Similarly, although many abstract nouns are non-count nouns, many common nouns (especially substances) are also non-count nouns: *fröda* (happiness), *ät* (air), *selber* (silver), *abfoll* (rubbish)

1.2 Gender

In modern standard Jameld, nouns do not have a grammatical gender. See also 2.1 DEFINITE ARTICLE and 13. SPOKEN JAMELD, INFORMALITY AND DIALECTS.

1.3 Plurals

Nouns that end with a vowel or -y add -s in the plural (always pronounced /s/, not /z/):

- *laame* → *laames*
- *tślaa* → *tślaas*
- *ey* → *eys*

llama → llamas
squinnt → squints
eye → eyes

Most nouns ending in consonants add -es (pronounced as syllabic /s/) to form the plural:

- *dram* → *drames*
- *tśoirkliystar* → *tśoirkliystares*

dream → dreams
blackbird → blackbirds

However, nouns that end with -s, -x or -z just add -e in the plural (pronounced /ə/):
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vias → viase
boix → boixe
spez → speze

...except for the adjectives of origin, formed with -az, when used as nouns; these add -es:

Britaz → Britazes
Römaz → Römazes

The following nouns, ending in -(e)n, may optionally have no change in the plural:

buhlen → book(s)
lungen → lung(s)
nümbren → number(s)
osen → trousers
staden → half-mile(s)
stahlen → chair(s)
tstocken → sock(s)
tsün → shoe(s)
tablen → table(s)
wulken → sky (skies)
züken → chick(s)

an buhlen → auntert buhlen
an züken → ans züken

Abbreviations form their plurals according to the above rules as they apply to the sound of the abbreviation concerned. Hence, abbreviations that are pronounced as if they end with a vowel (those that end in A, B, C, D, E, H, I, J, K, O, P, Q, U, V, W or Y) simply take -s (note the hyphen):

CD → CD-s
TŠ.E. → TŠ.E-s

Those that end with a letter whose name sounds as if it ends with a consonant (i.e. F, G, L, M, N, R, TŠ, T or Z) take -es:

LG → LG-es
LP → LPs

* Possibly a relic of the old dual form.
And those that end with S or X take -e:

\[ PS \rightarrow PS-e \]  \[ PS \rightarrow PSes \]

Acronyms (pronounced as words not initialisms) are simply treated like normal nouns should a plural form be required.

See also 11.9 Dates regarding the names of decades.

### 1.4 Diminutives

Diminutives, indicating small size, endearment, youth, personification, contempt or insignificance depending on the context, are formed with the suffix -ja. For example:

- `buhlen` → `buhlenja`  
  `book` → `booklet`
- `maz(ath)` → `mazja`  
  `girl` → `(little) girl`
- `kohk` → `kohkja`  
  `cake` → `biscuit`
- `ferz+štik` → `ferzštikja`  
  `fire+stick` → `match`
- `biss` → `bissja`  
  `bite` → `snack`
- `sët` → `sëtja`  
  `sweet (adjective)` → `sweet (noun)`

Final unstressed syllabic -a, -e and -i may be dropped before -ja:

- `bloma` → `blomja`  
  `flower` → `little flower`
  (but: `otra` → `otraja`  
  `otter` → `otter pup`)
- `lambe` → `lambja`  
  `lamb` → `lambkin`
- `tšpëke` → `tšpëkja`  
  `fork` → `cake fork`
  (but: `platne` → `platneja`  
  `plate/disc` → `small plate/disc`)
- `mäthi` → `mäthja`  
  `mother` → `little mother (term of endearment)`
- `framki` → `framkja`  
  `friend` → `little friend`
  (but: `langu` → `languija`  
  `language` → `poxo little language`)

Final unstressed -o and -u are not dropped:

- `auto` → `autoja`  
  `car` → `toy car`
- `léu` → `léuja`  
  `lion` → `lion cub`

Nouns ending in -j add -tšja to form diminutives:
1.5 Cases

The old four-case system (nominative, accusative, dative, genitive) has effectively become obsolete in modern standard Jameld. (But see 1.6 POSSESSION.)

For more details of residual features see section 2.1 DEFINITE ARTICLE.

1.6 Possession

Possessives of names are formed with the -ü suffix,* such as:

- Peterü: Peter’s
- Rebekaü: Rebeka’s
- Zuraalantü: of Zuraaland
- te Kraamlepesü: the te Kraamleps’

An apostrophe may precede the suffix in older documents, in formal settings, or following names ending in u or ü:

- Peter’ü
- Sānu’ü
- Jotsü’ü

* This appears to be a development from the Old Jameld genitive ending -us, a combination which has most commonly become ü in modern Jameld, as elsewhere in the superlative suffix -üöt (from OJ -üst), and past-tense forms such as rū and wūk.
This form is required in the following time expressions (see 11.10 TIMES):

vorvormit’ü in the morning
pastšmit’ü in the afternoon
vafsind’ü in the evening

A hyphen followed by the relevant possessive adjective may also be seen in archaic or formal settings:

Peter-eü
Rebeka-esü
Zuraalant-etü
te Kraamlepes-temü

By convention, this form is required when referring to divine beings:

Got-eü
Jésus-eü

Possessives of non-proper nouns are formed in the same way:

te thropü monnes the men of the village
te throp’ü monnes

te throp-etü monnes

or, of course:

te monnes ew te throp