

# 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), *grauteidarstar* (grandparenthood)

Proper: *Ravtaal* (personal name), *Déttši* (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:

*hirdel* (toupée), *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*

*tšlaa* → *tšlaas*

*ey* → *eys*

*llama* → *llamas*

*squint* → *squints*

*eye* → *eys*

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

*dram* → *drames*

*tšoirkliystar* → *tšoirkliystares*

*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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<i>vias</i> → <i>viase</i>	road → roads
<i>boix</i> → <i>boixe</i>	box → boxes
<i>spez</i> → <i>speze</i>	spice → spices

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

<i>Britaz</i> → <i>Britazes</i>	British → British
<i>Römaz</i> → <i>Römazes</i>	Roman → Romans

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

<i>buhlen</i>	book(s)
<i>lungen</i>	lung(s)
<i>nümbren</i>	number(s)
<i>osen</i>	trousers
<i>staden</i>	half-mile(s)
<i>stahlen</i>	chair(s)
<i>t̄stocken</i>	sock(s)
<i>t̄sün</i>	shoe(s)
<i>tablen</i>	table(s)
<i>wulken</i>	sky (skies)
<i>züken</i>	chick(s)

<i>an buhlen</i> → <i>auntert buhlen</i>	a book → one hundred books
<i>an züken</i> → <i>ans züken</i>	a chick → some chicks

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):

<i>CD</i> → <i>CD-s</i>	<i>CD</i> → <i>CDs</i>
<i>T̄S.E.</i> → <i>T̄S.E-s</i>	<i>magazine</i> → <i>magazines</i>

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

<i>LG</i> → <i>LG-es</i>	<i>LP</i> → <i>LPs</i>
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\* Possibly a relic of the old dual form.

And those that end with *S* or *X* take *-e*:

*PS* → *PS-e*

*PS* → *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*

*maz(ath)* → *mazja*

*kohk* → *kohkja*

*ferz+†stik* → *ferz†stikja*

*biss* → *bissja*

*sēt* → *sētja*

book → booklet

girl → (little) girl

cake → biscuit

fire+stick → match

bite → snack

sweet (adjective) → sweet (noun)

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

*bloma* → *blomja*

(but: *otra* → *otraja*)

flower → little flower

otter → otter pup)

*lambe* → *lambja*

*†spēke* → *†spēkja*

(but: *platne* → *platneja*)

lamb → lambkin

fork → cake fork

plate/disc → small plate/disc)

*māthi* → *māthja*

mother → little mother (term of endearment)

*framki* → *framkja*

friend → little friend

(but: *langui* → *languija*)

language → poxy little language)

Final unstressed *-o* and *-u* are not dropped:

*auto* → *autoja*

*léu* → *léuja*

car → toy car

lion → lion cub

Nouns ending in *-j* add *-†sja* to form diminutives:

<i>ij</i> → <i>ijʈsja</i>	yew → small yew bush
<i>chrij</i> → <i>chrijʈsja</i>	cry/shout → (feeble) cry/shout
<i>swij</i> → <i>swijʈsja</i>	silence → short-lived silence

More informally, the prefix *ësti*- (“tiny little”) can be used:

<i>ëstiauto</i>	microcar
<i>ëstikess</i>	peck on the cheek; the briefest of kisses

Compare *rëz*- (“great big”):

<i>rëzsturm</i>	massive storm
<i>rëzfröda</i>	tremendous joy

## 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:

<i>Peterü</i>	Peter’s
<i>Rebekaü</i>	Rebeka’s
<i>Zuraalantü</i>	of Zuraaland
<i>te Kraamlepesü</i>	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*  
*Sänu’ü*  
*Jotšü’ü*

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\* 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 *-üt* (from OJ *-ust*), and past-tense forms such as *rü* and *wük*.

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This form is required in the following time expressions (see 11.10 TIMES):

<i>vorvormit'ü</i>	in the morning
<i>past̄smit'ü</i>	in the afternoon
<i>vaṡsind'ü</i>	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:

<i>te thropü monnes</i>	the men of the village
<i>te throp'ü monnes</i>	
<i>te throp-etü monnes</i>	

or, of course:

*te monnes ew te throp*