

## AN INTRODUCTION TO VOLAPÜK

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This is an introduction to the constructed language Volapük, which was quite popular for a period at the end of the 19th century, until it was eclipsed by Esperanto.

### I. BACKGROUND

Of the more than 1000 constructed language projects which there have been, only 3 ever managed to achieve any real mass following: Volapük, Esperanto, and Ido. Although some people erroneously believe that Volapük died out after the rise of Esperanto, there are still a small number of people who actively use the language today.

Volapük was originally the creation of a German priest, Johann Martin Schleyer (1831-1912), and was published in 1879. It met with immediate success, with Volapük supporters' clubs being formed throughout Europe and the United States, and even as far away as Brazil and China. In its heyday, about 1889, there were dozens of Volapük periodicals, and hundreds of different books had been published in and on the language.

There is much debate about the cause of Volapük's speedy decline. Some put it down to the clamour for reforms to the language, others point to the author Schleyer's proprietorial attitude to his creation, and still others point to the fact of Esperanto being easier to learn. There was a revival of Volapük in the 1930's, principally in the Netherlands, led by Arie de Jong (1865-1957), who also revised the language slightly into the form which is normally used today.

His revised form of Volapük is the one which is described here, but section III below describes where the classical form of the language differs from the modern one.

### II. GRAMMAR

#### a) Pronunciation and Orthography

Volapük uses the Roman alphabet, except for the letters Q and W, which are not used, and with the addition of Ä, Ü and Ö. Rules for capitalisation are much the same as in English.

- a - as **a** in English 'father'.
- ä - as **a** in English 'gate' except a clearer monophthong than in most dialects of standard English.
- c - as **ch** in English 'church'.
- e - as **e** in English 'get'.
- g - always as **g** in English 'get'.
- h - as **h** in English 'house'.
- i - as **ee** in English 'feet'.
- j - as **sh** in English 'shoe'.
- ö - as **eu** in French 'fleur' or **ö** in German 'ökonomisch'.
- u - as **oo** in English 'fool'.
- ü - as **ue** in French 'rue' or **ü** in German 'Büro'.
- z - as **ts** in English 'bats'.

The other letters have their usual values in English. Where a letter only has an unvoiced version, e.g. c, j, s, z, some voicing is permitted.

Stress is always on the last syllable.

#### b) Articles

The article is not normally used. Thus **pod** can mean 'apple', 'an apple' or 'the apple' according to the context.

There is an article **el** which is used with proper nouns which have not been assimilated and other words which for one reason or another are not

declinable. This article is declinable in the same way as nouns (see below). For example:

Kanobs logön eli Sputnik me daleskop. We can see the sputnik with a telescope.

El Paris binon cifazif Fransäna. Paris is the capital of France.

Here the *-i* on the end of *el* signifies the accusative (direct object) case.

Affixes can also be added on to *el*, e.g. you can use *jiel* if you want to indicate that the proper name refers to a female (male: *hiel*), *elep* for a plant etc.:

Elaf Felis Catus lödon valöpo. The (animal) Felis catus lives everywhere.

### c) Nouns

Nouns in Volapük have four main cases. These are the nominative, accusative, genitive and dative cases. The nominative case has no ending and is used for the subject of a sentence or with a preposition, e.g.

Vom binof in dom. The woman is in the house.

Here, both *vom* and *dom* have no ending as they are in the nominative.

The accusative ending is *-i* added on the end of the noun. The accusative in Volapük is not shown by word order as in English. Thus:

Man beitom dogi AND

Dogi beitom man

both mean 'the man bites the dog'.

In some languages, the accusative form of the noun is sometimes used to signify motion after some prepositions. This is not the case in Volapük.

Vom golof ini dom. The woman goes into the house.

Here we see Volapük has a separate preposition (with an accusative ending!) to signify 'in' where motion is involved.

The accusative of motion can also be used with adverbs as in Esperanto, but the accusative ending is added on before the adverb ending in Volapük:

Vom golof domio. The woman is going homewards.

(From home would be *domao*, and at home would be *domo*).

The genitive case ending is *-a*:

Gramat Volapüka. The grammar of Volapük.

Jul hipula. The boy's school.

The dative case ending is *-e*:

Givob buki tidane. I give the book to the teacher (or I give the teacher the book).

The plural ending is *-s* which is added on after any case ending:

Flens binons gebovik. Friends are useful.

No labom flenis mödik. He does not have many friends.

Selidöp flenas. The shop of the friends.

Egivom oni flenes okik. He has given it to his friends.

The fifth case is the vocative, which just means you have to use the word *o* if using a noun as a form of address:

O flens, o Romans, o kelänans! Friends, Romans, countrymen!

There is also a predicative case which is hardly ever used, ending in *u*.

Eköloom yani rediku. He has painted the door red. - As opposed to:  
Eköloom yani redik. He has painted the red door.

#### d) Pronouns

Pronouns are one of the few groups of words in Volapük which are completely *apriori*, i.e. not borrowed from existing languages even in a mutilated form.

The main pronouns are:

ob - I  
ol - you (singular)  
om - he  
of - she  
on - it or he/she  
oy - one  
os - impersonal (null subject), e.g. reinos - it is raining.  
obs - we  
ols - you (plural)  
oms, ofs, ons - they (masc., fem., common/neuter)

These pronouns are also added on the end of verbs:

Golob. I go.  
Golom. He goes.  
Man golom. The man goes.

Pronouns are declined just like nouns.

Other pronouns are *ok*, the reflexive pronoun:

Flapom omi. He hits him (i.e. somebody else).  
Flapom oki. He hits himself.

and *od* the reciprocative pronoun:

Löfons odis. They love each other. - As opposed to:  
Löfons okis. They love themselves.

The 'polite' forms of *ol* and *ols* are *or* and *ors*, but these are hardly ever used except poetically. Part of Arie de Jong's official modern grammar, but never used are *og* (you or me) and *ogs* (you and me/you and us).

Some other pronouns are: *at* (this), *et* (that), *it* (itself), *ot* (the same thing), *ut* (whoever), *kel* (who/which: relative, not question), *kin* (who?), *kis* (what?), *ek* (somebody), *nek* (nobody), *bos* (something), *nos* (nothing).

#### e) Verbs

It has been said that the Volapük verb has more than 500000 forms, but although this is theoretically possible, most of them would never be used in practice. There are four tenses which are commonly used: the present, which is the form used in most of the examples so far, the future, which involves adding the prefix *o-*, the imperfect with prefix *ä-*, and the perfect, which has *e-*. The suffix used is the pronoun involved, or if a noun is the subject, whichever pronoun would be appropriate for that noun.

Fidol. You are eating.  
Man fidom. The man is eating.  
Vom fidof. The woman is eating.  
Cil fidon. The child is eating.

Studans fidons. The students are eating.  
Ofidol. You are going to eat.  
Äfidol. You were eating.  
Efidol. You have eaten.

The prefix for the present tense is *a-*, but this is only used in certain circumstances. One of these is if used with a word other than a verb, because in Volapük, not only verbs can have tenses:

Delo. By day.  
Adelo. Today.  
Odelo. Tomorrow.  
Ädelo. Yesterday.

The other circumstance is in the passive voice:

Pafidol. You are being eaten.  
Pofidol. You are going to be eaten, etc.

which uses the prefix *p-* before the tense prefix.

There are four other tenses which are much less common: the future perfect (prefix *u-*), the pluperfect (prefix *i-*), the future in the past (*ö-*), and the future in the past perfect (*ü-*):

Ufidobs. We will have eaten.  
Ifidobs. We had eaten.  
Öfidobs. We were going to eat.  
Üfidobs. We were going to have eaten.

Questions are constructed by adding the particle *-li* after the verb:

Nolol vegi. You know the way.  
Nolol-li vegi? Do you know the way?

There are four other moods in Volapük: the conditional which uses the ending *öv*, the optative (polite imperative) ending in *ös*, the imperative ending in *öd*, and the subjunctive which uses the particle *-la*. The subjunctive is only used where something ridiculous or unimaginably unlikely is referred to.

Ekömoböv, if ilaboböv moni. I would have come if I had had the money.  
Seilolös! Please be quiet.  
Seilolöd! Be quiet!  
Golobsös! Let's go!  
Ogivob-la dolaris lul? Cogol, no-li? Me, give you five dollars? You're joking, aren't you?

Notice how the pronoun is still inserted in the optative and imperative.

The infinitive form of the verb ends in *ön*. Where the infinitive form actually means 'in order to', we add the word *ad*:

Fidobs ad lifön. We eat to live.

Participles end in *öl*. Participles behave as adjectives (see below).

Ovisitob oli ün vig okömöl. I shall visit you in the coming week.  
Ägolölo ve süt, älogob fleni bäldik oba. While (I was) going along the street, I saw an old friend of mine.

Whether a verb is naturally transitive or intransitive varies from one word to the next. Transitive verbs can be made intransitive by inserting the affix *ik*, and intransitive verbs made transitive by the use of the affix *ük*:

Seadom su stul. He is sitting on the chair.  
Seadükom cili sui stul. He seats the child on the chair.

Eperom moni okik.            He has lost his money.  
Mon omik eperikon.        His money has got lost.

(In the above examples, *oka* and *oma* are acceptable alternatives for the possessive adjectives *okik* and *omik* respectively).

The affix *ik* can be used with intransitive verbs, and *ük* with verbs that are normally transitive. In these cases, they provide a kind of medial voice or causative voice respectively.

Äseadikom sui stul. He sat down on the chair.  
Man päperükom moni oki fa briet. The man was caused to lose his money by drunkenness.

#### f) Adjectives and Adverbs

Adjectives in Volapük end in *-ik*. The normal position for adjectives is after the noun they qualify and if placed there, and there is no ambiguity, they do not need to agree with their noun in case or number. However, if placed before the noun they qualify, or there is ambiguity, they must agree.

The comparative and superlative of adjectives is formed by adding *um* or *ün* respectively after the *ik* and before any case or number agreement. The prepositions used with the comparative and superlative degrees are *ka* and *se* respectively.

Flens gudik.                    Good friends.  
Flens gudikum ka ons.        Better friends than they.  
Flens gudikün se valikans. Best friends of all.

Adverbs end in *o*, and can be formed from adjectives or nouns:

Delo.    By day.  
Deliko. On a daily basis.

There are also a number of common adverbs which are roots in themselves and do not end in *o*: *ai* (always), *ba* (perhaps), *i* (also), *is* (here), *nu* (now), *plu* (more), *te* (only), *ti* (almost), *us* (there), *ya* (indeed), *ye* (however), *kö* (where: relative), *kü* (when: relative), *lio* (how: question), *vio* (how: relative).

(The questions where and when are *kiöpo?* and *kiüpo?* respectively. These are formed from *ki-* then the affix of place or time respectively (*öp* or *üp*), then the adverb ending.

#### g) Numerals

The numerals 1 to 10 are:

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10  
bal, tel, kil, fol, lul, mäl, vel, jöl, zül, deg.

From 11 onwards they go:

11        12        13                    20            21            22                    30  
degbal, degtel, degkil ... teldeg, teldegbal, teldegtel ... kildeg ...

100    101                    123                    234                    1 000  
tum, tumbal, ... tumteldegkil ... teltumkildegfol ... mil ...

1 234                                    2 345                                    10 000  
mil teltumkildegfol ... telmil kiltumfoldeglul ... degmil ...

234 567                                    1 000 000  
teltumkildegfolmil lultumäldegvel ... balion ...

4 876 329  
folbalion jöltumveldegmälmil kiltumteldegzül.

balion = million ( $10^6$ ).  
telion = billion (European)/trillion (US) ( $10^{12}$ ).  
kilion = trillion (European)/quintillion (US) ( $10^{18}$ ) etc.

The key words used in forming decimal fractions are:

0,1 = dim  
0,01 = zim  
0,001 = mim  
0,0001 = dimmim  
0,00001 = zimmim  
0,000001 = balyim

The fractional part should be read as if an integer number, followed by the decimal fraction word to give the order of magnitude. Thus

0,345 = kiltumfoldeglul mim  
0,123456 = tumteldegkilmil foltumluldegmäl balyim

For smaller magnitudes *telyim* ( $10^{-12}$ ), *kilyim* ( $10^{-18}$ ) etc. are formed in the same way as their high magnitude counterparts *telion*, *kilion* etc.

(You probably noticed most of the numerals are *apriori*).

Numerals are placed after their nouns:

Dolars teltumluldeg. \$250.

Ordinal numerals are formed by the suffix *-id*;  
Fractional numerals are formed by the suffix *-dil*;  
Repetition or multiplication is expressed by the suffix *-na*, e.g.:

Binos düp velid soara.	It is 7 o'clock in the evening.
Foldils kil binons veldeglul zim.	3/4 is 0,75.
Ibinos visit folnaik ofa us.	It had been her fourth visit there.
Folna fol binos degmäl.	4 x 4 = 16.

h) Other parts of speech

The other parts of speech are prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

These can exist as roots in themselves, with no particular ending as in the following examples.

Prepositions:

*bü* (before: time), *dis* (under), *fo* (before: place), *ko* (together with), *ma* (according to), *nen* (without), *po* (behind), *su* (on), *sus* (above), *ta* (against), *vü* (between).

Conjunctions:

*ab* (but), *bi* (because), *das* (that), *dat* (so that), *do* (though), *du* (while), *e* (and), *klu* (therefore), *u* (or).

Interjections:

*ag!* (ah!), *he!* (hey!), *o!* (oh!), *sö!* (psst!).

Alternatively, they can be formed from other roots by adding the endings *-ü* for prepositions, *-ä* for conjunctions, and *-ö* for interjections:

Nil. Proximity.  
Nilü. Near.  
Kod. Cause.  
Kodä. Why. (relative; question is *Kikodo?*)  
Seil. Silence.  
Seilö! Silence!

## i) Word formation, Prefixes and Suffixes

Formation of compound words takes place in Volapük in a similar way to English, German, Esperanto, Hungarian, Chinese and many other languages. The main word comes last:

Bödakanit. Birdsong.  
Kanitaböd. Songbird.  
Pokamon. Pocket-money.  
Monapok. Money pocket.

In the above examples, the roots are joined by the genitive ending *-a*. It is also possible to join words using the accusative ending *-i* and the adverbial ending *-o*. This allows subtle differentiation of meaning:

Motalöf. Mother love. (Love by a mother).  
Motilöf. " (Love towards a mother).  
Motolöf. " (Love like a mother).

Numerous prefixes and suffixes also allow Volapük's approximately 3000 root words to be vastly extended. Some of the most important of these are:

### Prefixes:

*be* (see example below), *fi* (to the end), *hi* (male), *ji* (female), *ke* (together), *läx* (ex-), *le* (greatness), *lu* (disparagement or step relationship), *lü* (in-law), *ne* (opposite), *ru* (ancient).

Givön.	To give.	Begivön.	To present with.
	(Makes what was the indirect object		the direct object).
Reidön.	To read.	Fireidön.	To read completely.
Jevod.	Horse.	Hijevod.	Stallion.
Jip.	Sheep.	Jijip.	Ewe.
Men.	Human being.	Kemen.	Fellow human being.
Presidan.	President.	Läxpresidan.	Ex-president.
Kan.	Ability.	Lekan.	Art.
Dom.	House.	Ludom.	Hovel.
Fat.	Father.	Lufat.	Stepfather.
Blod.	Brother.	Lüblod.	Brother-in-law.
Laodik.	Loud.	Nelaodik.	Quiet.
Fot.	Forest.	Rufot.	Primeval forest.

Many prepositions are also used as prefixes.

### Suffixes:

*am* (verbal noun), *ag* (abundance), *an* (person associated), *at* (amount of), *av* (science), *äb* (victim), *äd* (generalisation of effect), *än* (country), *ät* (abstraction), *ed* (particularisation), *ef* (group of people), *el* (maker of), *em* (group of things), *et* (consequential or concrete example), *iäl* (inclination), *il* (diminutive), *im* (philosophy), *od* (softer or less serious example), *ot* (harder or more serious example), *ov* (possibility), *öf* (quality), *öm* (equipment), *öp* (place), *ül* (young of animals, endearment).

Finükön.	To complete.	Finükam.	Completion.
Her.	Hair.	Heragik.	Hairy.
Feil.	Agriculture.	Feilan.	Peasant.
Mäl.	Six.	Mälat.	Half-a-dozen.
Stel.	Star.	Stelav.	Astronomy.
Fan.	Imprisonment.	Fanäb.	Prisoner.
Spik.	Power of speech.	Spikäd.	Lecture.
Deutän.	Germany.		
Men.	Human being.	Menät.	Humanity.
Pen.	Writing.	Pened.	Letter (correspondence).
Reidan.	Reader.	Reidanef.	Readership.
Bod.	Bread.	Bodel.	Baker.
Buk.	Book.	Bukem.	Library.
Jonön.	To show.	Jonet.	(TV) screen.
Ok.	One's self.	Okiäl.	Selfishness.
Dom.	House.	Domil.	Cottage.

Sogäd.	Society.	Sogädim.	Socialism.
Mag.	Image.	Magod.	Illustration.
Mag.	Image.	Magot.	Statue.
Pron.	Pronunciation.	Pronovik.	Pronounceable.
Flen.	Friend.	Flenöfik.	Friendly.
Nün.	Information.	Nünöm.	Computer.
Vob.	Work.	Voböp.	Workplace.
Kat.	Cat.	Katül.	Kitten.

This lists only a proportion of the affixes available.

### III. DIFFERENCES WITH CLASSICAL VOLAPÜK

In 1887 there were also a number of reforms to the original Volapük. These are also outlined here, but the majority of changes refer to those agreed in 1930 and proposed by Arie de Jong.

#### a) Pronunciation and Orthography.

Exactly the same as modern Volapük except that the apostrophe (') was used instead of *h* before 1887.

The letter *r* was much less commonly used in classical Volapük, and a number of new words have been introduced using it. Some of these replace old words which appeared too mutilated as a result of not using an *r*. Many other words, especially the most common ones, still retain their original *l*. Some words crept in classical Volapük where the root began with a vowel. This was standardised to begin with *l*. A very small proportion of words have changed for no other reason than the passage of time or to remove ambiguities. Here are some examples of the changes in vocabulary:

OLD	NEW	
Gletik.	Gretik.	(large).
Flentän.	Fransän.	(France).
Jeval.	Jevod.	(horse).
Ägüptän.	Lägüptän.	(Egypt).
Nelij.	Linglän.	(England).
Lilöm.	Rein.	(rain)
Lilädön.	Reidön.	(to read)
Lemön.	Remön.	(to buy)

Changes to the vocabulary as a result of changes to the affix system and to attitudes to word formation are dealt with later.

#### b) Articles.

The use of *el* and its derivatives occurs only in modern Volapük.

#### c) Nouns.

The predicative case and the modified prepositions to show motion are used only in modern Volapük.

#### d) Pronouns

The pronouns *oy*, *or*, *ors* and *od* do not occur in classical Volapük. Previously *on* was used instead of *oy*, and *om* was used instead of *on* for all common or neuter items as well as masculine ones.

Before 1887, the reflexive pronoun was added to the end of the verb, e.g. modern *lavons okis* (they wash themselves) was *lavomsok* or *lavomoks*.

#### e) Verbs

The future in the past and future in the past perfect tenses do not appear in classical Volapük.



Classical Volapük also had an aorist aspect, which was formed by placing an *-i-* between the tense marker and the verb root, e.g.

Olödob in zif. I shall live in the town.

Oilödob in zif. I shall always live in the town.

Classical Volapük also had a third imperative mood, called the jussive, which was stronger than the other two and ended in *-öz*.

Seilolös! Please be quiet.

Seilolöd! Be quiet!

Seilolöz! Why don't you shut up?!

The subjunctive mood was formerly used more often than it is now.

#### f) Adjectives and Adverbs

No change.

#### g) Numerals

The numbers ten, twenty, thirty etc, which are *deg, teldeg, kildeg* etc. in modern Volapük were previously formed by adding an *s* to the numbers for one, two, three, etc.: *bals, tels, kils*. The units were added on to the tens by the word *e* (and), e.g. *balsebal* (11), *balsetel* (12) etc.

The decimal fractional numerals are also modern.

#### h) Other parts of speech

No major change except that modern *ad* is *al* in classical Volapük.

#### i) Word formation

Modern Volapük uses affixes to form words less than was previously the case. This is largely because of the greater number of roots available.

The modern Volapük affix system is much more systematic and regular than the classical one. A number of the modern affixes did not appear in the classical form of the language.

Some classical affixes have been abolished. Previously *gle-* existed in addition to *le-* as an augmentative prefix, and *sma-* in addition to *-il* as a diminutive affix.

The old suffixes *-lik* and *-nik* are the equivalent of the modern *-öfik* and *-agik* respectively. Previously the affix *-el* covered the meanings of both *-el* and *-an*.

As you can see below, one problem where the word *lemel* previously existed as an isomer (it could be analysed in two different ways: *le-mel* and *lem-el*) has been removed.

Also, Arie de Jong introduced some new words to address the problem of sexism in the affix system. Academy of Esperanto, please take note. It is not too late to catch up with Volapük. And even classical Volapük never said *ji-fat* and *ji-man* for mother and woman.

#### OLD NEW

Ludog.	(dreadful dog)	Lup.	(wolf)
Snekafit.	(snake fish)	Pil.	(eel)
Lemel.	(big sea)	Sean.	(ocean)
Lemel.	(buy-er)	Reman.	(buy-er)
Flenlik.	(friendly)	Flenöfik.	(friendly)
Lutnik.	(airy)	Lutagik.	(airy)
Lezif.	(big town)	Cifazif.	(chief town, i.e. capital)
Glezif.	(big town)	Lezif.	(big town, i.e. city)
Jiblod.	(she brother)	Sör.	(sister)

Jison. (she son) Daut. (daughter)

#### IV. SPECIMEN VOLAPÜK TEXT

Nim Pebuüköl Söla K.

Ven Söl K. päsäkom, nimi kinik gönöm-li mödiküno se ons valik, enemom leefadi, ed ekleilükom atosi so:

Leefad balon käfi me näm. Ye atos no binon käf zesüda, kelos saidikon ad skeapön se dinäd, ud ad kädedön fidi nen paküpön, ab käf lü kel näm gebidön ad dunots gretik. Kö nim at ebinon, dugon veg veitik. To at, binon benovimik, suemon cogi. Binon flen gudik, asä binon neflen gudik. Vero gretik e vetik, binon ya i vo vifik. Probod ona blinon kope levemik ona igo fidotis smalikün, äsi nötis. Lils ona binons mufoviks; lilon te utosi, kelos lönedon one. Vedon i vo bäldik. Binon i sogädik, e no te leefades votik. Valöpo ä palöfon ä padredon. Kodü sot cogiäla, mögoy igo stümön oni. Labon skini bigik, ini kel neifs breikons okis; ab ladälastad ona binon molädik. Kanon vedön lügik. Kanon vedön zunik. Löfilon ad danüdön. Deadon in bimilem. Löfon cilis e nimülis votik. Binon gedik, e paküpon te sekü gretot ona. No binon pafidäbik. Kanon vobön gudiko. Löfilon ad drinön e vedon läbik. Dunon bosi pro lekan: Blünon viori ....

(Translation of *Herrn Ks Lieblingstier* by Bertolt Brecht).

Analysis:

NIM	P-E-BU-ÜK-ÖL	SÖL-A	K.
Animal	pass.-perf.-before-trans.-part.	mister-gen.	K.
Animal	preferred/favourite	of mister	K.

Ven Söl K.	p-ä-säk-om,	nim-i	kin-ik	gön-om-li
When Mr. K.	pass.-imp.-ask-he	animal-acc.	what-adj.	favour-he-qu.
When Mr. K.	was asked	animal	which	he preferred

möd-ik-ün-o	se	on-s	val-ik,	e-nem-om
much-adj.-superl.-adv.	out of	they	all-adj.	perf.-name-he
most	of		all	he named

leefad-i,	ed	e-kleil-ük-om	at-os-i	so:
elephant-acc.	and	perf.-clear-trans.-he	this-neut.-acc.	thus
the elephant	and	explained	this	thus:

Leefad	bal-on	käf-i	me	näm.	Ye
Elephant	one-he/she	cunning-acc.	with	force.	However
The elephant	unites	cunning	with	force.	However

at-os	no	bin-on	käf	zesüd-a,	kel-os	
this-neut.	not	be-he/she	cunning	necessity-gen.	which-neut.	
this	not	is	the	cunning of	necessity	which

said-ik-on	ad	skeap-ön	se	din-äd,	ud	ad
enough-adj.-he/she	to	escape-inf.	out of	thing-der.	or	to
suffices	for	escaping	from	a predicament	or	to

käd-ed-ön	fid-i	nen	p-a-küp-ön,	ab
cash-der.-inf.	eat-acc.	without	pass.-pres.-notice-inf.	but
collect	food	without	being noticed,	but

käf	lü	kel	näm	geb-id-ön	ad	dun-ot-s
cunning	according to	which	force	use-inv.-inf.	to	thing-der.-plur.
cunning	according to	which	force	is used		for deeds

gret-ik.	Kö	nim	at	e-bin-on,	dug-on
greatness-adj.	Where	animal	this	perf.-be-he/she	lead-he/she
great.	Where	animal	this	has been,	leads

veg veit-ik. To at, bin-on  
way width-adj. Despite this, be-he/she  
a path wide. Despite this, he/she is

ben-o-vim-ik, suem-on cog-i.  
blessing-adv.-attitude-adj., understanding-he/she joke-acc.  
good natured, he/she understands a joke.

Bin-on flen gud-ik, as-ä bin-on ne-flen  
Be-he/she friend goodness-adj. as-and be-he/she opp.-friend  
He/she is a friend good as well as an enemy

gud-ik. Ver-o gret-ik e vet-ik, bin-on  
goodness-adj. Truth-adv. greatness-adj. and weight-adj. be-he/she  
good. Truly large and heavy, he/she is

ya i vo vif-ik. Probod on-a blin-on  
indeed also very speed-adj. Trunk he/she-gen. bring-he/she  
indeed also very quick. Trunk his/her he/she brings

kop-e le-vem-ik on-a igo fid-ot-i-s  
body-dat. aug.-expanse-adj. he/she-gen. even eat-der.-acc.-plur.  
to body enormous his/her even the foodstuffs

smal-ik-ün, äs-i nöt-i-s. Lil-s  
smallness-adj.-superl., as also nut-acc.-plur. Ear-plur.  
smallest such as nuts. Ears

on-a bin-on-s muf-ov-ik-s; lil-on te  
he/she-gen. be-he/she movement-der.-adj.-plur.; ear-he/she only  
his/her are adjustable; he/she hears only

ut-os-i, kel-os lön-ed-on on-e.  
that which-neut.-acc., which-neut. own-der.-he/she he/she-dat.  
what suits him/her.

Ved-on i vo bäld-ik. Bin-on i sogäd-ik,  
Becoming-he/she also very age-adj. Be-he/she also society-adj.  
He/she gets also very old. He/she is also sociable,

e no te leefad-e-s vot-ik. Val-öp-o  
and not only elephant-dat.-plur. otherness-adj. All-place-adv.  
and not only to elephants other. Everywhere

ä p-a-löf-on ä p-a-dred-on.  
and also pass.-pres.-love-he/she and also pass.-pres.-fear-he/she.  
both he/she is loved and he/she is feared.

Kod-ü sot cog-iäl-a, mög-oy igo stüm-ön  
Cause-prep. kind joke-inc.-gen. may-one even respect-inf.  
Because of a kind of jovialness one may even respect

on-i. Lab-on skin-i big-ik, in-i  
he/she-acc. Possession-he/she skin-acc. thickness-adj. in-acc.  
him/her. He/she has a skin thick into

kel neif-s breik-on-s ok-i-s; ab  
which knife-plur. break-he/she-plur. self-acc.-plur.; but  
which knives break; but

lad-äl-a-stad on-a bin-on mol-äd-ik.  
heart-der.-gen.-state he/she-gen. be-he/she softness-der.-adj.  
disposition his/her is gentle.

Kan-on ved-ön lüg-ik. Kan-on  
ability-he/she becoming-he/she sadness-adj. Ability-he/she  
He/she can get sad. He/she can

ved-ön zun-ik. Löf-il-on ad danüd-ön.

becoming-inf. anger-adj. Love-dim.-he/she to dance-inf.  
get angry. He/she likes to dance.

Dead-on in bim-il-em. Löff-on cil-i-s e  
Death-he/she in tree-dim.-coll. Love-he/she child-acc.-plur. and  
He/she dies in the thicket. He/she loves children and

nim-ül-i-s vot-ik. Bin-on ged-ik, e  
animal-dim.-acc.-plur. otherness-adj. Be-he/she greyness-adj., and  
young animals other. He/she is grey, and

p-a-küp-on te sek-ü gret-ot  
pass.-pres.-noticing-he/she only following-prep. greatness-der.  
he/she is noticed only because of size

on-a. No bin-on p-a-fid-äb-ik. Kan-on  
he/she-acc. Not be-he/she pass.-pres.-eating-der.-adj. Ability-he/she  
his/her. Not he/she is edible. He/she can

vob-ön gud-ik-o. Löff-il-on ad drin-ön e  
work-inf. goodness-adj.-adv. Love-dim.-he/she to drinking-inf. and  
work well. He/she likes to drink and

ved-on läb-ik. Dun-on bos-i pro  
becoming-he/she happiness-adj. Action-he/she something-acc. for  
he/she becomes happy. He/she does something for

le-kan: Blün-on vior-i ....  
aug.-ability: Supply-he/she ivory-acc.  
art: He/she supplies ivory ....

#### Abbreviations:

acc.: accusative; adj.: adjective; adv.: adverb;  
aug.: augmentative; coll.: collective; dat.: dative; der.: derivative;  
dim.: diminutive; gen.: genitive; imp.: imperfect; inc.: inclination;  
inf.: infinitive; inv.: inversion; neut.: neuter; opp.: opposite;  
part.: participle; pass.: passive; perf.: perfect; plur.: plural;  
prep.: preposition; qu.: question; superl.: superlative;  
trans.: transitive.

#### V. FURTHER INFORMATION

You can get in touch by post with either of the following:

Flenef Bevünetik Volapüka  
(The International Friends of Volapük)  
c/o Ralph Midgley  
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Scunthorpe  
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DN17 1TF  
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Mr. Midgley will provide you with a Volapük course and dictionary for  
a small amount of money.

or

Zänabür Volapüka  
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c/o Brian R. Bishop  
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