

*An introduction to the*  
*Apolian Language*

*By Ben Flythe*

*A description of the grammar and syntax of the  
Apolian language with example paradigms.  
Includes example glosses of the language used  
in 'Soldier of the Republic' and dictionaries*

## Foreword

Aepolian is a fictional, constructed language. It was created for my Republic series of books and in those books it serves as the unofficial language of rebellion against the Republic. The orthography and syntax is derived from English, but the language appears somewhat different as it is slightly inflected for type.

As it's a fictional language there is no native group of speakers, from which to learn, however this introduction to the language will provide an experienced linguist with the relevant information. Additionally the booklet describes elements of the language that have yet to appear in the stories and contains complete glosses of the Aepolian used in the books.

The booklet is derived directly from my notes on the language that form the only official source; these are the notes I used when constructing the Aepolian in the books. While there are elements of the language that are insufficiently developed to be included in this booklet the information contained here, while incomplete, is canon.

This is one of two resources provided in booklet form to the student of Aepolian; I have also prepared a self-study course to introduce the language to the newcomer. Additionally there will be updated resources on the website and a periodic newsletter to introduce any changes or additions as they appear. I intend that the primary booklets should remain the complete functional description of the language and its mastery, none of the other resources will be required.

Ben Slythe - Faversham

# The Alphabet and Pronunciation

The alphabet for Aepolian is generally identical to the English alphabet. There are two additional letters, but these are only used in formal communication, being replaced by digraphs for most purposes. Pronunciation requires special attention as the language is pronounced differently depending on if the speaker is male or female. Names of men are pronounced the male way, even by women, and vice-versa.

Male	Female	Pronunciation
Aa	Aa	Long soft 'a' as in 'father'
Pp	Bb	
Cc	Cc	
Tt	Dd	
Ee	Ee	Short 'e' as in 'bet'
Ff	Vv	
Kk	Gg	
Hh	Hh	
Ii	Ii	Short 'i' as in 'bid'
Jj	Jj	
Ll	Ll	
Mm	Mm	
Nn	Nn	
Oo	Oo	Short 'o' as in 'job'
Qq	Qq	Ejective 'click'
Rr	Rr	
Ss	Zz	
Uu	Uu	Short 'u' as in 'but'
Ww	Ww	
Xx	Xx	Female - Kz
Yy	Yy	
ƆƆ	ƆƆ	Male - hard 'th', Female - soft 'th'
ƆƆ	ƆƆ	Male - 'ch', Female - 'sh' or 'zh'

## Pronouns

There are a larger number of pronouns in Aepolian than in English and they are used more frequently. Pronouns do not differ between nominative and accusative case, but they do take the inflections of genitive, dative, topic and similar. The pronouns also act as prefixes to prepositions. In which case they are the object of the preposition, never the subject.

<b>Pronoun</b>	<b>Male Pron.</b>	<b>Female Pron.</b>
I / Me	Mi	Mi
You (sing)	Fi	Vi
You (dual)	Fiti	Vidi
He / She / It	Si	Zi
We (dual)	Miti	Midi
We (trial)	Tri	Dri
We	Ti	Di
They	Tisi	Dizi
They (dual)	Tisti	Dizdi

## Articles

There is only a definite article in Aepolian and it is undeclined. Where needed it is always 'Se'.

There are distinctive forms for 'this' and 'that', but they are also undeclined and are not modified for quantity. 'Sese' means 'this' or 'these', 'seta' means 'that' or 'those'.

## The Noun

Aepolian nouns generally end in a vowel (though there are a few exceptions). They are partially declined. Inflexions are added as suffixes to the noun stem in entirely regular fashion, there is no strong noun modification.

Suffix	Case
-ḅ	Topic
-ṽ	Genitive
-ḡ	Dative

Unusually the dative is also used to describe motion towards the object, not merely the traditional dative case. Aepolian has no instrumental or ablative case, but see section on verb derivation for details of instrumental and habitual nouns. Plurals are marked by the prefix Pae-, Pael- if the noun begins with a vowel.

## Numbers

Aepolian ordinals are constructed by simply writing out the numerals in order separated by the -ḅ- infix. The exception is the numeral '0', where the normal Aepolian word 'ono' is replaced by the simpler 'o'.

Aepolian cardinals are the ordinal with the -ṽ suffix added (thus making the ordinals appear to be genitive, an easy mistake). In some colloquial phrases the topic marker is used, wrongly. Quantity must match the pronoun associated with the verb in loose amount, but does not have to be specified exactly.

## The Verb

Most Aepolian verb infinitives end in either -ay or -ey. There is no distinction for conjugation and all verbs are regular.

Verbs are always prefixed by the appropriate pronoun, even if the subject of the sentence is explicitly stated by the first noun.

Verbs do not lose any of the letters at the end of the infinitive to form any of the tenses. This formation is regular and is described below.

Present	-a
Present imperfect	-fan
Perfect	-ka
Imperfect	-kan
Future perfect	-sa
Future imperfect	-san
Pluperfect	-sakan
Subj. fut. imperfect	-fon
Subj. fut. perfect	-fonsa
Subj. imperfect	-fonga

Negation is specified by the infix -ae- between the pronoun and the infinitive.

# The Adjective and the Adverb

In Aepolian there is no distinction between these parts of speech. Both follow the noun or verb. Both are susceptible to modification using suffixes in the table below. As there is, for example, no superlative form in English for adverbs care must be taken when translating from Aepolian. Most adjectives end in the letter 'n'. When adding a suffix beginning 'n' a double letter is created. That double is subtly pronounced as in 'pan-national', not as in 'winner'.

Comparative	-er
Superlative	-est
Negative	-ne
Imperative	-sta
Discursive	-ely

The discursive is a form that may be unique to Aepolian. It automatically forms a question, without the introduction of the interrogative 'yesta' and an imperative without the introduction of the imperative word, 'tasta'. Grammatically it forms a pair of words or sentences where the first can only be answered by the second. Often the word is repeated back, as in the English conversation, "Quickly?" "Quickly."

In fact any adjective with the discursive ending is appropriate. The same arrangement is found in colloquial French "Ca va?" Direct equivalents are found in most languages but few, if any, have a special grammatical form to define them.

## More Verbiage

Aepolian has a regular set of nouns that can be derived from each verb linguistically. Of course just because there is a linguistic logical noun it doesn't mean there is necessarily a real concept that it can describe. The full set of suffixes is supplied below, but only a few are very widely used. These are always added to the verb root, removing the '-ay' or '-ey' where it exists.

Suffix	Meaning
<b>-iste</b>	Habitual or notable subject
<b>-eete</b>	Habitual or notable object
<b>-arte</b>	The product of the action
<b>-isse</b>	The tool used to perform the action
<b>-elte</b>	The name of the action
<b>-onte</b>	The beneficiary of the action
<b>-erte</b>	One supporting the action
<b>-aste</b>	One witnessing the action
<b>-ante</b>	One opposing the action
<b>-apte</b>	One learning from the action

The first three in the list are frequently encountered, the others are much less common. Mostly they are found in speeches and literature. For general purposes the nouns formed this way tend to be descriptive of immediate or transitory consequences. In Aepolian slang these suffixes are used on their own as nouns. Commonly the term 'isse' can be used for any tool, the term 'apte' to describe a student.

The motto of the rebellion is '**Aste. Erte. Onte.**' - Loosely it means 'See. Support. Benefit.'

## Prepositions

Prepositions can be used on their own in Aepolian but it is poor form and can lead to a great deal of ambiguity in any complex sentence.

In general prepositions are associated with a pronoun. The pronoun describes the object of the preposition. For example, the phrase "You, with me," is translated "Fi Mikone."

Prepositions can be treated as nouns, once they are bound to a pronoun, they can then be declined as any noun. If one needed to say "From the product of something being attached to me," it could be described as, "mikoneϵ." Equally one could mark the topic of a sentence as being 'that which is with me', "mikoneϕ."

The preposition is one of those examples where Aepolian uses the pronoun much more frequently than English; the other major example being in the verb prefix.

## Subordinate Clauses

In Aepolian the topic of a sentence can cross from one clause to another. In English we might use a clumsy marker such as 'who', 'which' or 'that' to manage the transition but in Aepolian the work is done by the topic marker on the noun.

The topic can only be used to describe one subject in a single sentence. Accordingly it can mark the link between an ordinate and subordinate clause. If the topic marker is used to describe more than one entity then it is very confusing.

### **Paradigms:**

Tiferaya se firap, swakeete sikonep - We see the woman, a drink with he / she / it - As the topic marks 'woman' and the pronoun in the second phrase we can translate the whole as 'We see the woman who is with the drink.'

Tiferaya troskisteth sich, se firath talsan.

We see her killer, the tall woman. - Topic marks 'killer' and 'woman' so the tall woman is the killer. If the meaning was intended as 'We see the killer of the tall woman' then the correct Aepolian is: Tifereya se troskiste firach talsan. This is important because in the first English translation there is ambiguity as to whether the tall woman is the killer or the victim.

## Example Glosses from the Text

### **Fipeya yesta**

*'Be' (v) + 2nd pers sing pn + pres. and interrogative word.*

**You are?**

### **Tisitroskeysa miti yesta**

*'Kill' (v) + 3rd pers plur pn + fut perf & 1st pers dual pn & interrogative word.*

**Will they kill us?**

### **Tisitroskeyfonsa miti.**

*'Kill' (v) + 3rd pers plur pn + subj fut perf & 1st pers dual pn*

**They may kill us**

### **Yesta?**

*Interrogative word only. Slang*

**Huh?**

### **Ana, Aepoliach**

*'No' & 'Aepolia (n) + genitive inflexion*

**No, Aepolian (of Aepolia)**

### **Viladaysa migone**

*'Come' (v) + 2nd pers pn + pres & 'with' (prep) + 1st pers sing pn*

**You will come with me (female voice)**

### **Sipeya lankan yesta**

*'Be' + 3rd pers sing pn + pres & 'far' & interrogative word*

**Is it far?**

### **Milatayka Prosperitiq Republic Infantry tisikone**

*'Come' (v) + 1st pers sing pn + perf & 'Prosperity' + dative inflexion & Republic Infantry & 'with' + 3rd pers plur pn*

**I came to Prosperity with the Republic Infantry.**

### **Miaegondivogayza anuzdi vidiq!**

*'Say' (v) + 1st pers sing pn + negative + fut perf & 'nothing' & 2nd pers dual pn + dative inflexion - female voice*

**I will say nothing to you. (Lit. I will not say nothing to you)**

### **Folisa fertenest**

*'tree' (n) (sing) & 'green' (adj) + superlative inflexion.*

**Greenest tree**

### **Vaeral mich**

*'Vaeral' (n) (name) & 'me' (pn) + genitive inflexion.*

**My Vaeral**

### **Troskisse (also drozgizze, female voice)**

*Kill (v) with 'tool used' inflexion to form noun.*

**Murder-weapon**

### **Se Sismitaya thaetroskarte**

*'The' (implies noun form) 'He' (pn) + 'make' (v) (present) and kill (v) + plural + 'product of' inflexion to form noun.*

**He makes corpses**

### **Izze**

*Unattached verb inflexion 'tool used', slang. Female voice (isse in male)*

**Tool**

# Aepolian-English Dictionary

**Achinnan** (adj) Rough  
**Afistan** (adj) Narrow  
**Afotasan** (adj) Dry  
**Akettan** (adj) Dull, blunt  
**Akrayt** (adj) Small  
**Akuten** (adj) Bad  
**Alankan** (adj) Short (distance), near  
**Alekeran** (adj) Heavy  
**Amaknis** (adj) Little  
**Ampay** (v) Walk  
**Amper** (n) Leg  
**Amperant** (n) Foot  
**Amultis** (adj) Few  
**An** (adj) Now  
**Ana** No  
**Anofan** (adj) Old  
**Anusti** (n) Nothing  
**Asarlan** (adj) Brief, short time  
**Asken** (adj) Blue  
**Astratan** (adj) Bent, twisted, false  
**Atalan** (adj) Short (stature)  
**Atik** (adj) Thin  
**Atorse** (prep) Before  
**Aya** Yes  
**Chalat** (int) Greeting, Hello, Bye  
**Cheka** (n) Sex (act)  
**Chekay** (v) To have sex  
**Chinnan** (adj) Smooth  
**Elan** (adj) Every, all  
**Elanusti** (n) Everything  
**Erta** (n) Planet Earth  
**Felay** (v) Run  
**Farman** (adj) Warm  
**Farmantan** (adj) Hot  
**Fenta** (n) Front, belly  
**Fento** (n) Wind  
**Feray** (v) See

**Ferten** (adj) Green  
**Fi** (pn) You  
**Fiften** (adj) Living  
**Fiftey** (v) Live  
**Fira** (n) Woman  
**Firo** (n) Man  
**Fistan** (adj) Wide  
**Fitayan** (n) Eye  
**Fiti** (pn) You two  
**Folisa** (n) Tree  
**Fotasa** (n) Water  
**Fotasan** (adj) Wet  
**Karota** (n) Neck  
**Keltan** (adj) Yellow  
**Kettan** (adj) Sharp  
**Kone** (prep) With  
**Konsifay** (v) Eat  
**Konsifar** (n) Mouth  
**Kontifokay** (v) Say  
**Krayt** (adj) Big  
**Kristar** (n) Hand  
**Kristay** (v) Hold  
**Krunta** (n) Earth, soil, land  
**Kuten** (adj) Good  
**Lankan** (adj) Long (distance), far  
**Latay** (v) Come  
**Lekeran** (adj) Light (weight)  
**Luna** (n) Moon  
**Maknis** (adj) Much  
**Multis** (adj) Many  
**Mi** (pn) I  
**Mihere** (prep) Here  
**Miti** (pn) We two  
**Mofen** (adj) Purple  
**Nofan** (adj) New  
**Oka** (num) 4  
**Oko** (num) 8

**Ona** (num) 1  
**Onach** (num) 1st  
**Onatho** (num) 10  
**Onathona** (num) 11  
**Onathonatho** (num) 110  
**Onathonathona** (num) 111  
**Onathonathotho** (num) 1100  
**Onathonathonathona** (num) 1111  
**Onathonathothona** (num) 1101  
**Onathotho** (num) 100  
**Onathothona** (num) 101  
**Onathothonatho** (num) 1010  
**Onathothotho** (num) 1000  
**Onathothothona** (num) 1001  
**Onathoti** (num) 12  
**Ono** (num) 0  
**Onu** (num) 9  
**Opa** (num) 5  
**Osa** (num) 6  
**Osi** (num) 7  
**Oti** (num) 2  
**Otich** (num) 2nd  
**Otitho** (num) 20  
**Otithona** (num) 21  
**Otri** (num) 3  
**Panatay** (v) Breathe  
**Pey** (v) Be  
**Planken** (adj) White  
**Plankenana** (adj) Light (hue)  
**Plankenera** (n) Light  
**Plotifan** (adj) Pungent, smelly  
**Plotifay** (v) Smell  
**Plotifer** (n) Nose  
**Rosen** (adj) Red  
**Sarlan** (adj) Long time  
**Se** (article) The  
**Si** (pn) He, She, It

**Sihere** (prep) There  
**Smitay** (v) Make  
**Stratan** (adj) Straight, true  
**Swakay** (v) Drink  
**Swakeete** (n) Drink  
**Swakiste** (n) Drinker  
**Talsan** (adj) Tall  
**Tan** (adj) Some  
**Tanusti** (n) Something  
**Tarken** (adj) Black  
**Tarkenan** (adj) Dark  
**Tasta** (conj) Imperative  
**Tay** (v) Go  
**Thalassa** (n) Sea  
**Ti** (pn) We  
**Tik** (adj) Thick  
**Tisi** (pn) They, those  
**Tisti** (pn) Those two  
**Torsa** (n) Back  
**Torse** (prep) Behind  
**Tri** (pn) We three  
**Troskeete** (n) Victim of killing  
**Troskey** (v) Kill  
**Troskiste** (n) Killer  
**Usti** (n) Thing  
**Yesta** (int) Question

# English-Aepolian Dictionary

**1** (num) Ona  
**10** (num) Onatho  
**100** (num) Onathotho  
**1000** (num) Onathothotho  
**1001** (num) Onathothothona  
**101** (num) Onathothona  
**1010** (num) Onathothonatho  
**11** (num) Onathona  
**110** (num) Onathonatho  
**1100** (num) Onathonathotho  
**1101** (num) Onathonathothona  
**111** (num) Onathonathona  
**1111** (num) Onathonathonathona  
**12** (num) Onathoti  
**2** (num) Oti  
**20** (num) Otitho  
**21** (num) Otithona  
**3** (num) Otri  
**4** (num) Oka  
**5** (num) Opa  
**6** (num) Osa  
**7** (num) Osi  
**8** (num) Oko  
**9** (num) Onu  
**0** (num) Ono  
**All** (adj) Elan  
**Back** (n) Torsa  
**Bad** (adj) Akuten  
**Be** (v) Pey  
**Before** (prep) Atorse  
**Behind** (prep) Torse  
**Belly** (n) Fenta

**Bent** (adj) Astratan  
**Big** (adj) Krayt  
**Black** (adj) Tarken  
**Blue** (adj) Asken  
**Blunt** (adj) Akettan  
**Breathe** (v) Panatay  
**Brief** (adj) Asarlan  
**Bye** (int) Chalal  
**Come** (v) Latay  
**Dark** (adj) Tarkenan  
**Drink** (n) Swakeete  
**Drink** (v) Swakay  
**Drinker** (n) Swakiste  
**Dull** (adj) Akettan  
**Dry** (adj) Afotasan  
**Earth** (planet) (n) Erta  
**Earth** (substance) (n) Krunta  
**Eat** (v) Konsifay  
**Every** (adj) Elan  
**Everything** (n) Elanusti  
**Eye** (n) Fitayan  
**False** (adj) Astratan  
**Far** (adj) Lankan  
**Few** (adj) Amultis  
**1st** (num) Onach  
**Foot** (n) Amperant  
**Green** (adj) Fertan  
**Go** (v) Tay  
**Good** (adj) Kuten  
**Hand** (n) Kristar  
**He** (pn) Si  
**Heavy** (adj) Alekeran

**Hello** (int) Chalat  
**Here** (prep) Mihere  
**Hold** (v) Kristay  
**Hot** (adj) Farmantan  
**I** (pn) Mi  
**Imperative** (conj) Tasta  
**It** (pn) Si  
**Kill** (v) Troskey  
**Killed** (n) Troskeete  
**Killer** (n) Troskiste  
**Leg** (n) Amper  
**Light** (bright) (adj) Plankenana  
**Light** (n) Plankenera  
**Light** (weight) (adj) Lekeran  
**Little** (adj) Amaknis  
**Live** (v) Fiftey  
**Living** (adj) Fiften  
**Long** (adj) Lankan  
**Long** (time) (adj) Sarlan  
**Make** (v) Smitey  
**Man** (n) Firo  
**Many** (adj) Multis  
**Moon** (n) Luna  
**Mouth** (n) Konsifar  
**Much** (adj) Maknis  
**Narrow** (adj) Afistan  
**Near** (adj) Alankan  
**Neck** (n) Karota  
**New** (adj) Nofan  
**No** Ana  
**Nose** (n) Plotifer  
**Nothing** (n) Anusti

**Now** (adj) An  
**Old** (adj) Anofan  
**Pungent** (adj) Plotifan  
**Purple** (adj) Mofen  
**Question** (int) Yesta  
**Red** (adj) Rosen  
**Rough** (adj) Achinnan  
**Run** (v) Felay  
**Say** (v) Kontifokay  
**Sea** (n) Thalassa  
**2nd** (num) Otich  
**See** (v) Feray  
**Sex** (act) (n) Cheka  
**Sex** (to have) (v) Chekay  
**Sharp** (adj) Kettan  
**She** (pn) Si  
**Short** (distance) (adj) Alankan  
**Short** (stature) (adj) Atalan  
**Short** (time) (adj) Asarlan  
**Small** (adj) Akrayt  
**Smell** (v) Plotifay  
**Smelly** (adj) Plotifan  
**Smooth** (adj) Chinnan  
**Some** (adj) Tan  
**Something** (n) Tanusti  
**Straight** (adj) Stratan  
**Tall** (adj) Talsan  
**The** (article) Se  
**There** (prep) Sihere  
**They** (pn) Tisi  
**Thick** (adj) Tik  
**Thin** (adj) Atik

**Thing** (n) Usti  
**Those** (pn) Tisi  
**Those two** (pn) Tisti  
**Tree** (n) Folisa  
**True** (adj) Stratan  
**Twisted** (adj) Astratan  
**Walk** (v) Ampay  
**Warm** (adj) Farman  
**Water** (n) Fotasa  
**We** (pn) Ti  
**We three** (pn) Tri  
**We two** (pn) Miti  
**Wet** (adj) Fotasan  
**White** (adj) Planken  
**Wide** (adj) Fistan  
**Wind** (n) Fento  
**With** (prep) Kone  
**Woman** (n) Fira  
**Yellow** (adj) Keltan  
**Yes** Aya  
**You** (pn) Fi  
**You two** (pn) Fiti

