

# Lesson 23

## Quantifiers & Numbers, Pt 1

This lesson is going to contain a *lot* of vocabulary. But the two types of words we will learn fulfill the same function: they talk about the number of a noun—either amplifying and specifying the plural or standing in where we have no verb to take the plural. Both are used pospositionally (that is, they're place *after* the case phrase (noun + ending) they modify). And, as postpositions, their forms are immutable; they take no affixes.

### Number Vocabulary

raho	zero (0)	Introduced in Lesson 21	thab	ten (10)
nede	one (1)		debe	hundred (100)
shin	two (2)		thob	thousand (1,000)
boó	three (3)		rod	million (1,000,000)
bim	four (4)		merod	billion (1,000,000,000)
shan	five (5)			
bath	six (6)			
um	seven (7)			
nib	eight (8)			
bud	nine (9)			

### Additional Number-Related Vocabulary

lami	number
lamith	to count
elamith	mathematics [ <i>e-</i> (SClof) + lamith (count)]
shinehoberídan	great-great aunt/uncle [shin (two) + hoherídan (great-aunt/uncle)]
shinehoshem	great-grandchild [shin (two) + hoshem (grandchild)]
shinehoshherídan	great-great-niece/nephew [shin (two) + hoshherídan (great-niece/nephew)]
shinehothul	great-grandparent [shin (two) + hohtul (grandparent)]
uzh	symbol (of notation, alphabet, orthography)

### Examples

nedethab	eleven	11
shinethab	twelve	12
bathethab	sixteen	16

Just as in English, the “teen” forms add “**thab**” (**ten**) after the number to be added to ten. This rule applies to numbers from “**nedethab**” (**eleven**) to “**budethab**” (**nineteen**). Remember to insert an “**e**” where needed to separate forbidden consonant clusters.

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thabeshin	twenty	20
thabeboó	thirty	30
debebim	four hundred	400
thobeshan	five thousand	5,000
rodebath	six million	6,000,000
merodum	seven billion	7,000,000,000

In the forms greater than the teens, the base (the ten, hundred, and so on) is presented *first*, followed by the number by which it is multiplied.

thobethabenib	eighty thousand	80,000
thobedebebud	nine hundred thousand	900,000
rodethab	ten million	10,000,000
rodethabeshin	twenty million	20,000,000
rodedebeboó	three hundred million	300,000,000
merodethabim	forty billion	40,000,000,000
merodedebeshan	five hundred billion	500,000,000,000
merodethobebath	six thousand billion	6,000,000,000,000

While numbers on this scale are not really Láadan’s core mission, it is feasible to form them. Just remember that when the bases decrease in magnitude, their values are multiplied—whereas, if the bases’ magnitude increases, their values are added (as in the “teen” forms).

thabeshin i shan	twenty-five	25
debeshan i thabebath i boó	five hundred sixty-three	563
thobenib i debebim i umethab	eight thousand four hundred seventeen	8,417
thobebud i debe i thabeshin	nine thousand one hundred twenty	9,120

To combine elements having different bases, simply place the word “i” (which means “and,” used with numbers to represent addition) between them.

Notice that the base appears without modification if the digit in that place is “1”.

Notice, also, that any place having a zero value is simply omitted.

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## Quantifiers

What can we do when we need to be more specific than merely plural—but we don't want to use a number? Or when we need to make a non-Subject case phrase plural and have no verb to show the plural—and we still don't want to use a number? Our answer is quantifiers.

### Quantifier Vocabulary

menedebe	many	
nedebe	few; several	
woho	all; every	Introduced in Lesson 21
waha	any	

“**Raho**” (zero) can also appropriately be included in this set; in this sense, “**raho**” would mean “**none**.”

In English, we have two distinct modes of discussing plurality: a thing is either *counted* or *measured*. Things such as plates, cups, bowls, flowers, clouds, skirts, and pairs of shoes or gloves or trousers are *counted*; things such as water, flour, dirt, air, cloth, and sand are *measured*. *Counted* things can be said to be “few” or “several” through “many” to “uncountable,” etc. *Measured* things would be said to be “a bit” or “a little” through “some” or “quite a bit” to “a lot” or “a bunch” to “all there is.” This can get a bit confusing because sometimes collections of *counted* things become *measured* and vice versa: eg, *many* skirts, shirts, pants, dresses, socks, shoes, etc could easily be termed *a lot of* clothing. Conversely, *several* beaches may contain *a great deal* of sand or *a few* bolts may hold *a lot of* cloth. Láadan, like many natural languages, does not employ this mechanism; the quantifiers are applicable equally to whatever objects, regardless of whether English would deem them *counted* or *measured*.

When Suzette Haden Elgin first created Láadan, she included a “syllabic n.” As you might glean from the name, it stood as a syllable unto itself (like the final syllable in the English word “**button**”) and required no vowel to separate it from the letter “d” that always followed it. We’ve noted this when pluralizing verbs beginning with “d.” It was problematic in that setting and was no less so among numbers and quantifiers.

There were variant formations for “**nede**,” “**menedebe**” and “**nedebe**,” presented here, incorporating the “syllabic n” in place of the “**ne**” in all these words. “**Mendebe**” (the variant of “**menedebe**”) was still a four-syllable word: **me-n-de-be**. “**Ndebe**” (the variant of “**nedebe**”) was still a three-syllable word: **n-de-be**. “**Nde**,” (the variant of “**nede**”) was a two-syllable word: **n-de**. We won’t be using these variant forms, but you should recognize them if you come across them.

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## Additional Postposition Vocabulary

neda	Postposition: only
nidi	Postposition: additional; more (not comparative) {AB} X nidi: one more X—“one” is assumed. X nidi nede: one more X—“one” is explicit, either for clarity or emphasis. X nidi #: # more X—“#” is a number or quantifier. X nidi # neda: only # more X—# is not optional, even if it is “nede” (one).

### Examples

Bíi hal with wa.	A person works.
Bíi mehal with boó wa.	Three people work.

When a quantifier or a number greater than “nede” (one) is used to modify the Subject, the verb must be plural.

Bíi naya be mideth wi.	Clearly, s/he cares for an animal.
Bíi menaya bezh mideth wi.	Clearly, they-few care for an animal.

There are times when when you need to indicate a plural, but you have no verb to take the plural marker, [as in the third, fourth and fifth sentences above]. You can then put the word “menedebe” (many) immediately after the noun phrase you want to make plural. The same thing is done with numbers, and with the words “nedebe” (few, several), and “woho” (all, every). These words never change their form, never add prefixes or suffixes; thus, if the “animal” up there were “many animals,” you would use “mideth menedebe” (the case marker would never appear on “menedebe”), as below.

Bíi naya be mideth nedebe wi.	Clearly, s/he cares for several animals.
Bíi naya be mideth menedebe wi.	Clearly, s/he cares for many animals.
Bíi naya be mideth nib wi.	Clearly, s/he cares for eight animals.

Bíi lan bath omám.	The six friends are teachers.
Bíi lan bath omám bim i edalahám shin.	The six friends are four teachers and two botanists.

The above examples do not have any Evidence [Word] at the end, and they are not in a series of connected sentences that would indicate what the speaker intended. This is possible in Láadan, but it can mean only one thing: that the speaker does not wish to state the reason why she considers what she says to be true.

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## Exercises

Translate the following into numerals.

- 1 thabum i um
- 2 debeshin i thabeshan i bath
- 3 thobeshan i debeshan i thabeshan i shin
- 4 debebud i thabebath i shin
- 5 thobebath i debeshan i thabebud i bud
- 6 thobenib i debe i thabeshan i nib
- 7 thobebath i debeshin i bim
- 8 debeboó i thabeshan
- 9 thobum i nibethab
- 10 thobeboó i debenib i thabebim

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Form the following numbers in Láadan.

- 11 57
- 12 524
- 13 4,587
- 14 3,605
- 15 6,540
- 16 6,158
- 17 3,651
- 18 6,058
- 19 1,295
- 20 7,854

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**Translate the following into English.**

- 21 Bii eril memii elamithá um waá.
- 22 Báa eril thel hothul déelahátha binith nedebe?
- 23 Bé eril belid beth onidathom nede neda wa.
- 24 Bii shóodehul thul áshemetha bud wi; menin áwith menedebe halehuleth.
- 25 Bii medush mebedi mewothad woyáawith woho elamitheth wo.
- 26 Báa eril menéde mehamedara shinehoberídanizh bebáatha boó?

In #21, did you divine the meaning of the word “**elamithá?**” Derived from “**elamith**” (**mathematics**) and “**-á**” (**DOER**), “**elamithá**” means “**mathematician**.”

In #24, did you notice the word “**áshem?**” It’s made up of “**á-**” (**life-stage: infant**) and “**shem**” (**offspring**), and it means “**infant offspring**.” This form would not usually appear in a dictionary because it’s a regular, derived form whose meaning is transparent from its constituent parts.

In #25, did you notice that the English phrase “**every child**” is singular while the synonymous “**all children**” is plural? In Láadan, “**háawith woho**” is clearly plural.

- 21 **E:** \_\_\_\_\_
- 22 **E:** \_\_\_\_\_
- 23 **E:** \_\_\_\_\_
- 24 **E:** \_\_\_\_\_
- 25 **E:** \_\_\_\_\_
- 26 **E:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Translate the second phrase into Láadan & modify the sentence to include the quantified noun phrase; translate into English before and after.**

- |    |   |                              |
|----|---|------------------------------|
| 27 | Bíi eril yod omid edeth hi wa.  | only six horses              |
| 28 | Bé ril u urahu wa; aril nosháad lalomá.                               | all the gates, three singers |
| 29 | Báa eril an bebáa amedaraháth?  | ten dancers                  |
| 30 | Bíi ril úuya ra héena shonátho; eril dutha sherídanizh betha beth wa. | many heart-siblings          |
| 31 | Báa she wobun wothom beye nath?                                       | sixteen pillows              |
| 32 | Báa eril dibé bud lamithá beyóoth?                                    | any accountants              |

Though the surface shape of the Object forms for “ed” (tool) and “ede” (grain) are indistinguishable, the horse in #27 is probably not eating a “tool” (ed); “grain” (ede) is much more likely.

In #32, did you recognize the sources for the word “lamithá” (accountant) [lamith (to count) + -á (DOER)]?

27 E: \_\_\_\_\_  
 L: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E: \_\_\_\_\_

28 E: \_\_\_\_\_  
 L: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E: \_\_\_\_\_

29 E: \_\_\_\_\_  
 L: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E: \_\_\_\_\_

30 E: \_\_\_\_\_  
 L: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E: \_\_\_\_\_

31 E: \_\_\_\_\_  
 L: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E: \_\_\_\_\_

32 E: \_\_\_\_\_  
 L: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Translate the following into Láadan.**

- 33 The one thousand extremely colorful birds are beautiful.
- 34 Five farmers cannot bring one hundred more large pigs.
- 35 The three low plants have many leaves but few flowers—and only one fruit.
- 36 I doubt they (honored many) counted the million symbols.
- 37 I swear forty animals departed, and twelve more stayed.
- 38 Would that (beloved) Michael's (birth) great-grandchildren break almost no promise.

33 L: \_\_\_\_\_

34 L: \_\_\_\_\_

35 L: \_\_\_\_\_

36 L: \_\_\_\_\_

37 L: \_\_\_\_\_

38 L: \_\_\_\_\_

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1 77. 2 256. 3 5,552. 4 962. 5 6,599. 6 8,158. 7 6,204. 8 350. 9 7,018. 10 3,840.

11 thabeshan ! um. 12 debeshan ! thabeshan ! bim. 13 thobebim ! debeshan ! thabeshan ! um. 14 thobebod ! debebath ! shan. 15 thobebath ! debeshan ! thabebim. 16 thobebath ! debe ! thabeshan ! nib. 17 thobebod ! debebath ! thabeshan ! nede. 18 thobebath ! thabeshan ! nib. 19 thob ! debeshin ! thaddebud ! shan. 20 thobum ! debenib ! thabeshan ! bim.

21 I doubt the seven mathematicians were amazed. 22 Did the gardener's grandparent get several gifts? 23 I swear the house is the home of only one family. 24 The parent of nine infant offspring is, clearly, extremely busy; many babies cause an immense amount of work. 25 I theorize every child who is able (all children who are able) must learn mathematics. 26 Whose three great-great-aunts wanted to dance?

27 The horse eats this grain. Bii meyod omid bath neda edeth hi wa. Only six horses eat this grain. 28 On my oath, the gate is open; the singer will arrive. Bé ril mehu urahu woho wa; menosháad lalomá bod. On my oath, all the gates will be open; three singers will arrive. 29 Who knew the dancer? Baa eril an bebáa ameddaraháth thab? Who knew the ten dancers? 30 The peace-maker's heart-sibling isn't in pain now; her niece healed her. Bii ril mehuuya ra heena shonátho mendedbe; eril duttha sheridanzh betha beneth wa. The peace-maker's many heart-siblings aren't in pain; her niece healed them. 31 Does some new pillow comfort you (beloved)? Baa meshe mewobun wothom beyen bathethab nath? Do some sixteen new pillows comfort you (beloved)? 32 Did the accountant promise to clothe her/himself? Baa eril medibe mebud lamithá waha beyóoth? Did any accountants promise to clothe themselves?

33 Bii meháya mewolirihul wobabi thob wa. 34 Bii merathad mebel ábedá shan meworahíya womudath nidi debe wa. 35 Bii methi meworahithi wodala bod with mendedbe izh mahinath nedebe—! yuth nede neda wa. 36 Bii melamith bin uzheth rod wa. 37 Bé eril menasháad mid thabebim wa, ! mebenem mid nidi shinehab. 38 Bii wil methen shinehoshem Máyel bittha dibeth raho rano wa.