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 like other postpositions, their forms are immutable; they take no affixes.

Number Vocabulary

raho	zero (0)	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)		

Previously seen in earlier lesson

Additional Number Vocabulary

lami	number
lamith	to count
elamith	mathematics
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 eleven to nineteen. Remember to insert an "e" where needed to separate forbidden consonant clusters.

thabeshin	twenty	20
thabeboó	thirty	30
debeshan	five hundred	500
thobebath	six thousand	6,000
rodum	seven million	7,000,000
merodebud	nine billion	9,000,000,000

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.

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.

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.

Non-Number 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."

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 quanitifiers.

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.

Additional Non-Number Vocabulary

beróo	Conjunction: because
dalel	object; made-thing [dal (thing) + el (make)]
lam	health
neda	Postposition: only
nidi	Postposition: additional; more (not comparative). When used alone, "one more X" is assumed (though "nede" (one) can be stated for clarity or emphasis), for more than one X, the phrase is "X nidi #" where # is a number or a quantifier. In the case of "only # more X" the phrase is "X nidi # neda" with the # not optional—even if it is "nede" (one). {AB}
shinehothul	great-grandparent [shin (two) + hothul (grandparent)]

> The word "beróo" (because) was originally formed as "bróo" utilizing a forbidden consonant cluster, "br." This was considered an historical accident (occasioned by the fact that, linguistically, "r" is a different class of consonant from "b") and corrected by the second generation developing Láadan. We won't use the "bróo" form, but you should recognize it if you should happen upon it.

> The word "dalel" (object) was originally formed as "dale" with the only feature that distinguished it from "dal" (thing) being an "e" that looks and sounds just like the "e" that is inserted to separate consonants. The result was that, any time either of them received a suffix that began with a consonant (and almost all of them do), it was impossible to determine whether a "thing" or an "object/made-thing" was being discussed. The second generation changed it to "dalel" to solve this problem—and made its etymology transparent at the same time!

Examples

Bíi aril bel be mideth róomathedim wáa.   She will take the animal to the barn.

Bíi aril mebel bezh mideth róomathedim wáa.

        They (few) will take the animal to the barn.

Bíi aril bel be mideth róomathedim nedebe wáa.

        She will take the animal to several barns.

Bíi aril bel be mideth róomathedim menedebe wáa.

        She will take the animal to many barns.

Bíi aril bel be mideth róomathedim nib wáa.   She will take the animal to eight barns.

> 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 aril bel be mideth nedebe róomathedim.   She will take several animals to the barn.

Bíi aril mebel bezh mideth menedebe róomathedim.

        They (few) will take many animals to the barn.

Bíi aril bel be mideth shan róomathedim nedebe.

        She will take five animals to several barns.

> 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.

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   _____

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	_____

Translate the following into English.

21 Bíi eril memíi omá um waá.

22 Báa mehim mewolawida wowith nedebe bodim?

23 Bíi menédeshub meshumáad Méri i edin betha bath womodi womiwithede wowam womeladim wáa.

24 Báa eril thel hothul déelahátha binith nedebe dimede?

25 Bíi eril bel Ána daleleth raho belid onidathode nedebe wa.

26 Bíi shóodehul thul áshemetha nib beróo menin áwith menedebe halehuleth wi.

Note that, as in #21 and #22, when a quantifier or a number greater than "nede" (one) is used to modify the Subject, the verb must be plural.

In #25, did you notice that the phrase "belid onidathode nedebe" is ambiguous? It's impossible to tell without more information whether the "nedebe" refers to "belid" or to "onida"—that is, whether no objects were taken out of "several houses belonging to one family" or "one house belonging to several families"—or, indeed, "several houses belonging to several families".

In #26, did you notice the word "áshem?" It's made up of "á–" (life-stage: infant) and "shem" (offspring), and it means "infant offspring."

21 En: _____

22 En: _____

23 En: _____

24 En: _____

25 En: _____

26 En: _____

Notes

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 Bíi eril néde ban loshá wolaya wohesh lan nathodim wáa.   several more red boats

29 Bóo medibé mewida nezh bodeth sheni wethethudim.   almost all the dishes

30 Bé aril u urahu wa; nosháad lalomá déela lethodim.   all the gates, three singers

31 Báa eril an bebáa amedaraháth?   ten dancers

32 Bíi ril úuya ra héena shonátho beróo eril dutha sherídanizh betha beth wa.   many heart-siblings

    Though the surface shapes of the Object form 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.

27 En: _____

  La: _____

  En: _____

28 En: _____

  La: _____

  En: _____

29 En: _____

  La: _____

  En: _____

30 En: _____

  La: _____

  En: _____

31 En: _____

  La: _____

  En: _____

32 En: _____

  La: _____

  En: _____

Notes

Translate the following into Láadan.

33 The many extremely colorful birds are beautiful.

34 They (few) will buy many tools from the storekeeper.

35 Prithee teach (you many) a few of your songs to all our grandchildren.

36 A few farmers can move one hundred large pigs to five farms.

37 The three small plants have few flowers but many leaves—and no fruit.

38 Many animals come from the forest to the creek; Mary cares for them all.

33 La: _____

34 La: _____

35 La: _____

36 La: _____

37 La: _____

38 La: _____

Notes

Notes

33 Bii meháya meworirihul wobáí menedebe wa. 34 Bíi aril mehéb bezh edéth menedebe wehéháde wáa. 35 Bóo mehom nen lom neráthoth nedebe hoshem lezháthadim woho. 36 Bíi methad memina dbedá nedebe meworahíya womudath debe dbededim shan wáa. 37 Bíi methi meworáhíya wodala boó mahínath nedebe izh meworáhíya womudath debe dbededim shan wáa. 37 Bíi methi meworáhíya wodala boó mahínath nedebe izh mith menedebe—i yuth raho wa. 38 Bíi meshdad mid menedebe olinede wilidim; naya Méri beneth woho wa.

siblings don't hurt because her niece healed them.

heena shonátho menedebe beráo eril duthá sheridanizh bethá beneth wa. The peace-maker's many heart-

dancers? 32 The peace-maker's heart-sibling doesn't hurt now because her niece healed her. Bíi ril mehúya ra

will arrive in my garden. 31 Who knew the dancer? Báa eril an bebáa amedaradáth tháb? Who knew the ten

mehu uráhu woho wa; menoshdad lalomá boó déela lethodim. I promise all the gates will be open; three singers

to the intersection of the paths. 30 I promise the gate will be open; the singer will arrive in my garden. Bé aril

nazh bodeth woho rano sheni wethethudim. Prithee promise (you few, beloved) to carry almost all the dishes

29 Prithee promise (you few, beloved) to carry the dish to the intersection of the paths. Bóo medibé mewida

nidi nedebe lan nathodi wáa. The banker wanted to give your (you, beloved) friend several more red boats.

banker wanted to give your (you, beloved) friend the red boat. Bíi eril néde ban loshá mewolaya wohesh

27 The horse eats this grain. Bíi meyod omid bath neda edéth hi wa. Only six horses eat this grain. 28 The

of work.

26 The parent of eight infant offspring is extremely busy because many babies clearly cause an immense amount

grandparent get several gifts from the container? 25 Anna took none of the objects from several families' houses.

mountain? 23 Mary and her six cousins intend to fly from the ugly city to the calm ocean. 24 Did the gardener's

21 The seven teachers were amazed (I don't believe it). 22 Are the several pregnant women traveling to the

20 thobum i debenib i thabeshan i bim.

i debebath i thabeshan i nede. 18 thobebath i thabeshan i nib. 19 thob i debeshin i thadebud i shan.

debebath i shan. 15 thobebath i debeshan i thabebim. 16 thobebath i debe i thabeshan i nib. 17 thobeboó

11 thabeshan i um. 12 debeshan i thabeshin i bim. 13 thobebim i debeshan i thabenib i um. 14 thobeboó i

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.