

Lesson 67

Numbers, Pt 2

This lesson is actually more about some number-related idioms than any new grammatical features of Láadan. The vocabulary section of the lesson will, therefore, be atypical; no list of words will be presented; rather, we'll see instructions on how to apply the various idiomatic models addressed.

Vocabulary

Fractions

This one is, actually, a new vocabulary item. To form a fraction, we insert the infix “-yi-” between the numerator (the top number) and the denominator (the bottom number). So, **one-half** would be **nedeyishin** [**nede** (one) + **-yi-** (FRAC) + **shin** (two)]. Similarly, **two-thirds** would be **shineyiboó** [**shin** (two) + **-yi-** (FRAC) + **boó** (three)].

As we've come to expect, numbers and quantifiers are postpositional to the noun-phrase they modify; this expectation is equally valid for fractions which are merely another form of number/quantifier.

Bíi thi le thuzheth nedeyishin wa.

I have half a cake.

Interrogative Quantifier

We've had occasion to notice the lack of any mechanism to ask “**How many...?**” We now have one: **lamiba** (**interrogative quantifier**) [**lami** (number) + **-ba** (**interrogative inspired by “báa”**)]. It is used just like any other quantifier, but rather than meaning “**several**” or “**many**” or “**all**,” “**lamiba**” means “**how many**”—of course, it's used only in interrogative settings.

Báa thi ne thuzheth lamiba wa.

How much(many) cake(s) do you have?

Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal numbers (in English, “**first**,” “**second**,” “**third**,” etc.) are formed in Láadan by adding “**-ya**” (**TIME**) to a number. In English, it's always best to be first; to be second is not nearly so good (the English idioms “**second-best**,” “**second-rate**,” “**second fiddle**,” and “**second-class**,” among a host of others, all illustrate this), and to be third is to be woefully deficient. In Láadan, on the other hand, “**nedeya**” simply means the first in time; it carries no “**baggage**” of “**best**,” “**most proficient**,” “**most laudable**.” And “**shineya**,” “**boóya**,” and so on, carry none of the inverse baggage of “**lacking**,” or “**deficient**.”

Bé aril thi ne thuzheth nedeya wa.

[promise] You will have the first cake.

It's also possible to pose a question using “**lamiba:**”

Báa aril thi Méri thuzheth lamibaya wa.

At what point in the sequence will Mary have cake?

Notes

Frequency Numbers

We've seen the idioms “**hath nedebe**” (**seldom**) and “**hath menedebe**” (**often**). Well, if we want to speak or write about “**once**” meaning “**on one occasion**” in Láadan, we can use the same structure: “**hath nede**.” Likewise, “**twice**” meaning “**on two occasions**” becomes “**hath shin**.” And “**thrice**” or “**three times**” meaning “**on three occasions**” is “**hath boó**.” This can continue through all the numbers and quantifiers all the way to “**hath wohe**” (**always; every time; on every occasion**) or “**hath raho**” (**never; on no occasion**). Did you notice that “**hath wohe**” and “**hath raho**” are synonyms for “**hadihad**” (**always**) and “**rahadihad**” (**never**), respectively?

Bíi eril thi le thuzheth hath shin sháaleya eril wa. I had cake twice yesterday.

We could, of course, also pose the question “**how often**” meaning “**on how many occasions**” with the phrase “**hath lamiba**”.

Bíi aril thi ne thuzheth hath lamiba sháaleya aril wa.
How many times will you have cake tomorrow?

Factors of Comparison

[(Aux) + **hesho** [verb:**surpass**] + (Neg) + Subject + (**#nal**)]

A very different use of the English words “**twice**” or “**thrice**” or “**three times**” or their ilk is in comparisons, to mean “**double**” or “**treble/triple**.” The idiom above, “**hath #**” (**on # occasion(s)**), is not appropriate for this use. There is another idiom altogether that fills this need, which would be used in the explicit comparison structure—the one that uses “**hesho**” (**to surpass, in comparisons**).

The new element in this structure is **#nal** (**factor of surpassing**) [**#** (a number word or quantifier) + **-nal** (**Manner case**)]. The use of the Manner case on the number is saying that the one that surpasses does so “**two-ly/twofold**” (**shinenal**) or “**three-ly/threefold**” (**boónal**) or “**four-ly/four-fold**” (**bimenal**)—or, indeed, “**several-ly/several-fold**” (**nedebenal**) or “**many-ly/manifold**” (**menedebenal**).

Bíi methi le i ne thuzheth; hesho le shinenal wa. I have twice as much cake as you do.

Of course, the interrogative can be used in this setting, too:

Bíi methi Ána i le thuzheth wa; baa hesho Ána lamibanal?
How many times as much cake does Anna have than I do?

Notes
Notes
Notes
Notes

Examples

Báa eril yod Méri doyuth lamiba?

How many apples did Mary eat?

Bíi eril yod be doyuth boóyibim neda wa.

She only ate three quarters of an apple.

Bíi eril yod le doyuth nede i nedeyishin wa.

I ate an apple and half.

Báa eril yod Méri doyu bethoth nedeya e shineya?

Did Mary eat her apple first or second?

Bíi eril yod Méri doyu bethoth nedeya; yod le hi lethoth shineya wa.

Mary ate her apple first; I ate mine second.

Báa yod ne doyuth hath lamiba?

How often (on how many occasions) do you eat apples?

Bíi yod le doyuth hath menedebe; eril yod le doyuth hath bim sháaleya eril wa.

I eat apples often; I ate apples four times yesterday.

Bíi eril meyod Méri i le doyuth; hesho le wa.

I ate more apple than Mary.

Báa hesho ne lamibanal?

How much more?

Bíi hesho le shinenal wa.

Twice as much.

Notes
Notes
Notes
Notes
Notes
Notes
Notes
Notes
Notes
Notes

Exercises

Translate the following into English.

- 1 Bii háya sháal ril i háya sháal eril; hesho sháal ril nedebenal wa.
- 2 Báa thi ni mideth lamiba?
- 3 Bii wéedan Bétheni Zháabazh áabeth hi hath menedebe; dódelishe wud umeya bath hath woho wáa.
- 4 Bii eril ban Máthu Hothul dalathameth ledim wa; yod le bineth nede i shineyiboó.
- 5 Bii eril mesháad le i lan letho shan elaheladim híyahatheya shin eril; nosháad Máyel batheya wa.
- 6 Bii mesho rul i omid; hesho omid wi; báa hesho omid lamibanal?
- 7 Báa mahinin Mázhareth hath nede neda sháaleya woho?
- 8 Bóo dóham ne womileth ábedunesha nedeyishin hiwethasha; bii ham ede hiwethosha wa.
- 9 Bii Méri shem nitham nedeya, i Ánetheni nibeya wáa; báa Shuzhéth lamibaya?
- 10 Bii merahíya áwith i sháawith; hesho sháawith thabeshin i shanenal wa.

1 En:

2 En:

3 En:

4 En:

5 En:

6 En:

7 En:

8 En:

9 En:

10 En:

N

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Translate the following into Láadan.

- 11 Each year the farmer uses only six-sevenths of his fields.
- 12 If Monday is the first day of the week, then which is Wednesday?
- 13 Stephen attends church three times each week.
- 14 February is half-again as cold as November.
- 15 How many times were the fish fed yesterday?
- 16 Many flowers bloomed last spring; the jonquils bloomed first.
- 17 Thunder is many times as loud as the wind.
- 18 The drinker drank three-fifths of the coffee that was in the cup [I dreamed].
- 19 Marsha knows how much vegetable the tortoise ate.
- 20 Will Elizabeth fast eight times this year?

In #15, do you remember the formation for “to feed”? Consider that to feed someone/something, you cause her/it to eat. Also remember that the Object of “dóyod” (feed) is the food provided; the person/thing to whom/which the food is given is rendered in the Goal case.

- 11 La: _____
- 12 La: _____
- 13 La: _____
- 14 La: _____
- 15 La: _____
- 16 La: _____
- 17 La: _____
- 18 La: _____
- 19 La: _____
- 20 La: _____

Notes _____

Notes _____

11 Bii duth ábedá dun betho(th) batheyihum neda hathóolethameya woho wá. 12 Bá bere Hesháal sháal hiyahathethum nedeya, ébere Hunesháal lamibaya? 13 Bii ham Thiben áthamesha hath boó hiyahatheya woho wá. 14 Bii merahowa Ashin í Anedethab; hesho Ashin boóyishinenal (—or—nede í nedeyishinenal) wá. 15 Báa eril thilidim dóyodeshub hath lamiba sháleya eril? 16 Bii eril memahina mahina menedebe wemeneya eril; memahina léeli nedeya wá. 17 Bii mezhó yul í lorolo; hesho lorolo menedebenal wí. 18 Bii eril rílin ranahá ham yob nishaháa(th) boóyishan we. 19 Bii lothel Másha eril yod balinemid medath lamibahéé wá. 20 Báa aril dod Elizabeth hath nib hathóolethameya ril?

10 An adult is twenty-five times as large as an infant.

9 Mary is your (honored you) first child, and Anthony is your eighth; which number is Suzette?

8 Prithee put (cause to be present/cause there to be) the livestock in the left half of the pasture; there's day? 6 A horse is clearly heavier than a cat; by how much? 7 Does Margaret cook only once each day? 5 Five friends of mine and I went to the celebration two weeks ago; I ate a bowl and two-thirds. 4 Grandpa Matthew gave me berries; I ate a bowl and two-thirds. 3 Dear Old Miss Bethany reads this book often; the seventh part makes her (beloved) cry every time. 2 How many animals do you (honored) have? 1 Today is several times more beautiful than yesterday.