

(THE LANGUAGE OF THE GARGOYLES)

Introduction

"Gargoyle" is an English corruption of *gargl*, the Gargoyles' name for themselves and their language. An informal word for *gargl* as the name of the Gargoyle language is "Gargish".

Spoken Gargish is grammatically rather flexible. Distinctions between nouns, adjectives, and verbs are indicated by gestures and intonations. This flexibility is also apparent in the names of magic spells derived from Gargish phrases. "Vas Sanct Lor", for instance, is derived from the Gargish *vas saengkt lor*, but it is equally correct to say *saengkt vas lor* or even *lor saengkt vas*. Gargoyles tend to omit words they consider to be unnecessary complications, like pronouns, and they often speak in infinitives. While a Human attempting to speak Gargish might come up with something like *í est ker í le vid ú prae*, "I'm certain that I've seen you before", a Gargoyle would simply say *ker le vid prae* (or more idiomatically, *ker prae vid le*), "to be certain having seen before". With practice, it's possible to deduce the implied pronouns in a Gargoyle sentence, but it's not always easy.

Unlike spoken Gargish, the written language has no way to mark the intonations and gestures that make the speech intelligible, so there are suffixes that mark words as being verbs, nouns, or adjectives, and also indicate the tense and aspect of verbs. In many cases, these are words which are meaningful by themselves, such as the adjectival suffix *-de*, which means "of" in isolation. Here is a list of the most common suffixes:

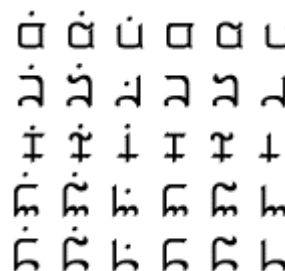
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|-------|--|
| -char | "part" (names a tool used for doing a certain action, such as <i>agrachar</i> "weapon") |
| -de | "of" (marks adjectives or adverbs formed from nouns, verbs, and other words) |
| -ku | "with" (forms adjectives, such as <i>mirku</i> "watery") |
| -le | "end" (marks past tense or perfective aspect of verbs) |
| -lem | "one" (similar to English -er in <i>baker</i> , <i>writer</i> , <i>miner</i> , etc.) |
| -re | "begin" (marks future tense of verbs) |
| -sa | "able" (similar to English -able, -ible) |
| -tas | "quality" (marks abstract nouns, such as <i>ámotas</i> "love", vs. <i>ámo</i> "to love") |
| -te | "in" (marks present tense or imperfective aspect of verbs) |
| -ve | "like" (forms adjectives, such as <i>misve</i> "similar") |

Names:

Most gargoyles have names that describe their profession. Lensmaker (*Lorrelinlem*) is an example of that type of name. Other names are meaningful, like *Behlem*, the Just One. But many gargoyles, particularly the elite, have names which are meaningless in themselves, like *Draxínusom*. A number of these names are listed in the vocabulary.

Writing

Gargoyles have an alphabet of 30 characters, arranged in a 5x6 pattern. Similar sounds are grouped together by rows and columns. For instance, the first row, transcribed as *p b m f v u*, represents sounds that are produced with the lips, and the *s* sounds in the first column, *p t ch kl k*, are all voiceless stops. (The remaining rows are: *t d n s z e*, *ch j ny sh zh i*, *kl gl nl hl l o*, and *k g ng h r a*.) The letter *u* also serves to represent *w* at the beginning of a syllable when followed by a vowel. The sequence *k-u* is sometimes pronounced *ku*, as in *kuante*, but more frequently *kw* (traditionally transcribed as *qu*), as in *quas*. Three of the letters (*ny*, *nl*, and *hl*) serve only to complete the chart, and are not found in contemporary spoken Gargish.



The Gargish language has long and short vowels. They are not normally distinguished in spelling, except where this would cause confusion. For example, *uus* means "up," but *us* means "diligence." In this document, long vowels are marked with an accent: *us* vs. *úus*, *súm* vs. *summ*.

Samples

Here are a few samples of Gargish sentences translated literally, then into more idiomatic English.

Teresta sit lem antende nóm.

place-that lie ones not-have-of name

Here lie those that had no names.

Estatim i perle lorrel re inwíslor kódex ad quad.

that-time I used light-change begin make-know-light codex upon cube

Then I used the lens to form an image of the Codex upon the cube.

Ánte esta terreg máníte múr anísh zen.

in that place-home living number strange creature

In that land live many strange creatures.

A qua lemmúr wíste, an zen anku vol verde wís.

but what ones-number knowing, not creature not-with wing true-of knowledge.

But as everyone knows, no creature without wings is truly intelligent.

Ánte kódex skríle prí ben esh ver res quí quae.

in codex written one well and true answer any problem

Within the Codex is written the one right and true answer to any problem.

Anvolde lem ansa lók, esh anten skítas de volde lem.

not-wing-of ones not-can speak, and not-have know-ness of wing-of ones

The wingless ones cannot speak, and lack the intelligence of the winged ones.

Tú rete ku klí axi: ún, or, esh us.

all beginning with three principle: control, passion, and diligence

All begins with the three principles: Control, Passion and Diligence.

Ita anai de axi vidúkte trak semde bentas, ord.

thus not-there-is of principle see-guiding toward seven-of well-quality, order

Thus the absence of the principles points toward the seventh virtue, Order.

Vocabulary

Want to see something cool? Download the [Gargish Font](#). Unzip it and drop it into your Windows font directories (in Windows 95 this is normally C:\WINDOWS\FONTS). Then restart your web browser to this page and you should see the words below in Gargish!

a (a) but; yet

ad (ad) upon

ade (ade) however

a{o (aglo) armor

agra (ágra) attack; hit

ágra-char: weapon

ágra-char-in-lem: weaponsmith

ágra-lem: fighter; guard; warrior

ágra-tas: struggle

ah (áh) sixty-four

ai (ai) there is; there are

ai-re: there will be

ailem (áilem) matter; thing

áilem-de: solid

ak (ak) sharp

aki (aki) hawk

alb (alb) white

aksi (axi) principle

axi-múr: the three principles

ali (ali) (an)other

alt (alt) deep

am (am) honesty; honest

amo (ámo) love

ámo-lem: friend; loved one

an (an) negate; negative; not; none; no

an-ai: absence

an-áilem: nothing

an-ámo: hate; hatred

an-ámo-lem: enemy

an-bal-sil-fer: False Prophet

an-ben: sick; ill

an-ex: slave; enslave

an-ex-por: lock; locked; closed

an-flam: cold; douse; put out

an-húr: calm

an-in: destroy

an-jux: safe; untrap; remove danger

an-kad-sa: infallible

an-kal: banish

an-kans: famine

an-kred: discredit

an-ku: without

an-lor: dark; darkness

an-lor-tim: night

an-mání: hurt; harm
 an-múr: few
 an-múr-de: countless
 an-nax: cure poison
 an-nax-áilem: antidote
 an-ord: chaos
 an-ort: negate magic
 an-por: still; motionless; stop; lock; rest
 an-quas: real; reality
 an-rel: static; constant; unchanging
 an-sá: cannot
 an-saengkt: unprotected; curse(d)
 an-ten: lack
 an-tim: never
 an-vol-de: wingless
 an-wís: foolish; unwise; forget
 an-zen: inanimate
 an-zú: awake; wake up, awaken
 aniw (anísh) strange
 anmanivas (anmánívas) Anmanivas (name)
 ansikart (ansikart) Ansikart (name)
 ante (ánte) enter; in; into; within
 aper (apér) open
 apér-ter: door; gate
 apta (ápta) proper; correct
 ápta-de: properly
 arb (arb) bush; vegetation
 arb-flam: forest fire
 arc (arch) bow
 arg (arg) silver
 ari (arí) berserk
 ark (ark) hide; keep (away)
 art (art) master
 atri (átri) hall
 au (au) or
 aud (aud) hear; listen; ear
 aud-char: song
 aur (aur) gold
 aurvidlem (aurvidlem) Aurvidlem (name)
 auks (aux) help
 avatar (áavatar) Avatar
 bal (bal) evil; bad; doom
 bal-lem: Evil One
 bal-sil: prophecy
 bal-sil-fer: prophet
 bal-zen: monster
 beh (beh) justice
 beh-de: proper
 beh-lem: just one; judge
 ben (ben) well
 ben-de: properly; well
 ben-fin: success
 ben-in: craft
 ben-in-áilem: artifact
 ben-in-lem: goodscrifter
 ben-in-tas: precision
 ben-mon-tas: administration
 ben-om-mání: prosperity
 ben-tas: virtue
 bet (bet) small
 bet-lem: child
 bet-ter-mír: well

bet-tim: young; new
 bet-zen: insect
 betra (betra) Betra (name)
 bolew (bólesh) Bolesh (name)
 brak (brák) arm
 can (chan) allow
 chan-por: admit
 chan-por-tas: admittance
 car (char) part
 char-zen: member
 daemon (dáemón) daemon
 de (de) belong; possess; of; from; than; like
 delsa (delsa) soft
 des (des) reduce; lower; down
 des-áilem: hail; meteor storm
 des-de: below
 des-in-tas: foundation; underpinning
 des-lem: Gargoyle worker
 des-por: descend
 des-ter: valley
 des-ter-múr: underworld
 dig (dig) finger
 dis (dis) apart; asunder
 don (don) give; drop; yield
 draksinusom
 (draxínusom) Draxinusom (name)
 duk (dúk) guide
 dur (dur) for (period of time)
 drak (drak) dragon
 ek (ek) six
 ekui (equi) horse
 er (er) so
 ew (esh) and
 est (est) be; exist; is; are
 esta (esta) that; those
 esta-de: thereby; therewith
 esta-tim: then
 eks (ex) freedom; free; release
 ex-por: open; unlocked
 fel (fel) wrong
 fel-tas: error
 fel-wís: false; falsehood; lie; fable
 feluka (felúka) Felucca (the moon)
 fer (fer) bring; bear
 fin (fin) end
 firm (fírm) close; shut
 flam (flam) flame; fire; heat
 flam-tim: summer
 fodus (fódus) Fodus (name)
 for (for) strong
 foranamo (foranámo) Foranamo (name)
 forbrak (forbrák) Forbrak (name)
 forlem (forlem) Forlem (name)
 forskis (forskis) Forskis (name)
 ful (ful) brown
 gar{ (gargl) Gargoyle; Gargish
 {or (glór) glory
 grat (grat) thank(s)
 grav (grav) energy; power
 gres (gres) out; exit; way (out)
 gres-por: exit; leave; go out; hatch; begone
 harm (harm) harmony

hiuman (hiúman) human
 horffe (horffé) Horffe (name)
 hori (hori) gray
 hur (húr) wind; air
 i (í) I, me
 ide (íde) my
 ilem (ílem) we, us (he/she/they and I)
 in (in) make; create; cause; form; become
 in-bet: shrink; focus
 in-des: reduce
 in-ex: free; release
 in-flam: ignite; burn
 in-húr: blow
 in-jux: threaten; endanger
 in-korp: die; kill
 in-lor: illuminate
 in-mání: heal
 in-mání-lem: healer
 in-nax: poison (v)
 in-ort: enchant
 in-ten: maintain
 in-por: go; come
 in-por-dis: avert
 in-saengkt: protect
 in-vas: grow; enlarge
 in-wís: learn; teach; study
 in-wís-lók: interpret
 in-wís-lor: create an image
 in-zen: born; birth
 in-zú: fall asleep
 inforlem (inforlem) Inforlem (name)
 init (init) begin
 inmanilem (inmánílem) Inmanilem (name)
 int (int) join
 inuisloklem
 (inwíslóklem) Inwíslóklem (name)
 ista (ista) this
 ita (ita) thus; so
 jur (júr) oath
 juks (jux) danger; harm; damage
 jux-ark: protect (from harm)
 jux-wís: alert
 kad (kad) fail; collapse
 kah (kah) sacrifice
 kah-mání-zen-de: sacrificial
 kans (kans) use; consume; eat
 kans-in-lem: foodmaker
 kal (kal) summon; call; greet; hello; usher in
 kal-ort: cast (a spell)
 kas (kas) helm
 kat (kat) fall
 ker (ker) sure; certain
 ker-de: to be sure; certainly
 kir (kír) circle
 qar (klár) bright
 qau (klau) chamber
 qep (klep) take; get; steal
 klep-lem: thief; pirate
 qi (klí) three
 klí-tim: thrice
 kodeks (kódex) book; codex
 kor (kor) courage

korp (korp) death; dead
 kred (kred) believe; think; consider
 kredon (kred-don): entrust
 krill (krill) Krill (name)
 ku (ku) with
 ku-ánte: within
 ku-por: combine
 kul (kul) knife
 lai (lai) joy
 lap (lap) stone; rock
 laplem (laplem) Laplem (name)
 le (le) end; action completed; could
 le-in: achieve
 le-in-tas: achievement
 leg (leg) read
 lem (lem) he, she, it, they; him, her, it, them; one;
 those
 lem-de: his, her, its, their
 lem-múr: everyone; those
 len (len) gentle
 len-tas: gentleness
 librum (líbrum) librum
 liy (ling) language
 lok (lók) say; speak; tell
 lók-de: talking
 lor (lor) light
 lor-rel: lens
 lor-rel-in-lem: lensmaker
 lor-tim: day; daytime
 lum (lum) humility
 lup (lup) wolf
 mag (mag) important
 man (mán) remain
 mán-char: remains
 mani (mání) life; healing; live
 mání áilem: food
 manu (mánu) hand
 mar (mar) sea
 mek (mek) sword
 mek-lem: swordsman; fighter
 mel (mel) black
 min (min) less
 mir (mír) water
 mír-mání: healing potion
 mír-sarp: sea serpent
 mis (mis) same; too
 mis-tas: balance
 mis-tim: also
 mis-ve: similar
 mon (mon) to lead
 mon-wís: advice
 mont (mont) mountain
 mu (mú) compassion
 mul (mul) pride
 mur (múr) number; multiple; group; many
 múr-om: society
 naks (nax) poison (n); poisonous
 naksatilor
 (naxátilor) Naxatilor (name)
 naw (násh) Nash (name)
 neb (neb) mist
 nes (nes) require; must; has to

ni (ni) no; neither
 nom (nóm) name
 o (o) by
 ok (ok) eight
 ok-de: eighth
 om (om) spirituality
 om-de: sacred; holy
 om-jux: desecrate
 or (or) passion
 orb (orb) moon
 orb-lap: moonstone
 orb-rel: phase of moon
 ord (ord) order
 ort (ort) magic
 ort-lem: mage
 ort-mír: magical potion
 os (os) bone
 ov (ov) egg
 pa (pa) by
 pal (pál) pale
 par (par) equal
 par-de: equally
 ped (ped) foot
 pen (pen) five
 per (per) use; function
 per-sa: valuable
 pisk (pisk) fish
 plu (plú) more; most
 plú ben: better
 por (por) move; movement; moving; bring
 por-áilem: take; remove
 por-char: leg
 por-mír: stream; river
 pos (pos) follow; after
 pos-tim: future; will; shall
 prae (prae) before; precede
 prae-tim: past; was; ago
 prae-tim-de: ancient
 pri (prí) one; unity; first
 prí-de: single
 prí-in: unify
 prí-lem: lord; king; ruler
 prí-tas: singularity
 kua (qua) what; which; as
 qua-lem: who; some
 qua-ter: where
 qua-tim: when
 qua-wís: why; because; reason
 kuad (quad) cube
 kuae (quae) problem
 kuaeven (quaeven) Quaeven (name)
 kuan (quan) Quan (name)
 kuar (quar) four
 kuas (quas) illusion; illusionary
 quas-korp: fear; illusion of death
 quas-zen: clone
 quas-áilem: duplicate
 kui (quí) any; anything
 kuo (quó) how
 ra (ra) valor
 rap (rap) quick; urgent; now
 rap-tim: quickly approaching; nigh

re (re) (in order) to; to begin; will; shall
 re-in: begin
 reg (reg) home
 rel (rel) change; changing
 rel-por: moongate; moongate travel
 res (res) answer
 reski (reskí) remember
 rit (rit) ritual
 rot (rót) turn
 ru (rú) red
 rune (rúne) Rune (name)
 sa (sá) can; able; may
 sadis (sadis) pain; torture
 sadis-túrn: dungeon
 saeykt (saengkt) protection
 saengkt-grav: force field
 saengkt-lor: invisible; invisibility
 sal (sal) spring (forth)
 sarp (sarp) serpent; snake
 sarp-an-zen-ex-lem: snakecharmer
 sarp-arí-lem: berserker
 sarpliy (sarpling) Sarpling (name)
 sek (sek) two; both; second
 sek-de: other
 sel (sel) choose; select
 sem (sem) seven
 sem-de: seventh
 semi (semi) half
 sent (sent) feel; feeling
 si (si) if; whether
 sik (sik) dry
 sil (sil) star; astrology; prediction
 silamo (silámo) Silamo (name)
 sini (síní) blue
 sinvraal (sinvráal) Sin'Vraal (name)
 sit (sit) lie; rest
 ski (skí) know; knowledge; tell
 skí-tas: intelligence; knowledge
 skis (skis) cut; tear apart; separate
 skri (skrí) write; writing
 skrí-lem: writer
 sku (sku) shield
 sol (sol) only; but
 son (son) sound
 sum (súm) suppose
 summ (summ) honor
 sur (súr) sun
 ta (ta) shoot
 ta-re-por: boomerang
 tablap (tablap) slab
 tan (tan) touch
 tas (tas) quality
 te (-te) present tense of verbs; action in progress; in
 te-in: continue
 te-mání: survive
 te-mání-tas: survival
 te-per-tas: persistence
 tem (tem) storm
 ten (ten) have
 ter (ter) place
 ter-alt: interior; bowels (of earth)
 ter-áilem: plane

ter-ánte: entrance; mouth (of cave)
 ter-ark: hiding place
 ter-esta: there
 ter-flam: fireplace
 ter-húr: sky
 ter-init: original(ly)
 ter-ista: here
 ter-ista-por: come
 ter-mír: lake
 ter-múr: world
 ter-ort: temple; shrine
 ter-por: reach
 ter-reg: land
 ter-vas-arb: forest
 ter-zú: bed
 teregus (teregus) Teregus (name)
 tim (tim) time; wait
 tim-por: arrive; come
 trak (trak) to; toward; for; unto
 trak-por: pull; draw
 trak-tas: direction
 tramel (trámel) Trammel (the moon)
 tri (trí) interesting
 tu (tú) all
 tú-tas: whole
 tú-tim: always; forever
 turn (túrn) cave
 u (ú) you
 ul (ul) final; last
 ul-tim: ultimate
 ulem (úlem) you (pl): you and they; "you-all"
 um (um) shadow
 un (ún) control
 uy (ung) claw
 urs (urs) bear
 us (us) diligence
 us-ágra-lem: troop-leader
 us-arb-vas-lem: leader of farmers
 uus (úus) increase; raise; up
 úus-lem: Gargoyle leader
 úus-por: ascend
 vaglem (vaglem) wanderer
 valkadew (válkadesh) Valkadesh (name)
 vas (vas) great; big; long; ultimate
 vas-áilem: everything
 vas-an-ben: plague
 vas-an-lor: eclipse
 vas-arb: tree
 vas-arg-sarp: silver serpent
 vas-des: bottom

vas-korp-ágra: battle; war
 vas-mír: ocean
 vas-por-áilem: tremor
 vas-quas: confusion
 vas-tim: old; age; epoch; great time
 vas-úus: top
 vas-wís: (great) knowledge; (ultimate) wisdom
 ve (ve) like; as
 vel (vel) even
 ven (ven) find
 ver (ver) true; truth; right
 ver-de: truly
 ver-in-de: perfect
 ver-vid: heed; respect
 vers (vers) all right
 vest (vest) search
 vestas (vest-tas): quest
 via (vía) path; course; road
 vid (vid) see; look; view; eye
 vid-lem: seer
 vidúk (vid-dúk): point
 vidúk-tas: sign
 vir (vír) green
 vír-mír: swamp
 vit (vit) glass
 vol (vol) fly; wing
 vol-de: winged
 vorteks (vórtex) vortex
 ui (wí) we, us (you and I/me)
 uide (wíde) our
 uilem (wílem) we, us; all of us (you, they, and I)
 uis (wís) know; knowledge; wise; wisdom;
 intelligent
 wís-char: head
 wís-de: wisely
 wís-lem: scholar
 wís-lor: see; vision; image
 uislem (wíslem) Wislem (name)
 uissur (wíssúr) Wis Sur (name)
 zaw (zash) something; somewhat
 zen (zen) creature; being; animal
 zen-korp: undead; daemon
 zen-múr: race; people
 zen-tú: body
 xel (zhel) iron
 xen (zhen) family
 zu (zú) sleep
 zú-áilem: sleep dust
 zú-tim: winter