

# **"THE LANDING"**

## Meldarian Language Guide

### FOREWORD

This language guide takes you through the process of learning to pronounce/speak Meldarian, the language I created for "The Landing", my "UFO movie". As you will see, it is NOT any kind of gibberish as it has distinctive sound patterns and a dictionary. Now, on with the show...

#### 1.0: Pronunciation.

If you think the Meldarian language is unpronounceable gibberish, take another look. Try this:

Ka Piikasaiixuu vaxa Mlhtaxja-ti. Lhii^ajng-pa Xalhs-ti, ka xuuv pxang ssii'ajlh n'puulh nax kalhna.

(Excerpted from "The Landing: First Draft. Written by Michael Robson. Story by Lisa Traclet and Michael Robson.")

Look daunting? Now try this. Same phrase, different spelling.

Kah Peeka sigh hoo vaha Mull tah eeya tee. Lee eye ying pah halls tee, kah hoove pong see aisle napool na koll nah.

(Excerpted from "The Landing: Revised Fourth Draft. Written by Michael Robson. Based on a story by Lisa Traclet and Michael Robson.")

But that's just a vague pronunciation guide. Here are the keys to deciphering that phrase, and speaking it like a true Meldarian...

#### 2.0: Vowels.

Meldarian has only three vowels, as opposed to English's five. Comparison:

English: A E I O U (ey ee ai oh yoo, ah eh ih aw uh, etc)

Meldarian: A II U (ah yee ooh)

You may see just a single I in the text sometimes instead of II. That's an inconsistency. It should be II, but to me, it's fine the way it is. So:

A - **ah** as in father

II / I - **ee** as in **beet** OR **ee-yih** OR **yee**

UU - **oo** as in **boot** OR **oo-wh** (say oo-what without the "at")

#### 2.2: Consonants.

Rather easy, really; you can see I didn't want this stuff to be spelled like English, though.

##### 2.2.1: Plosives.

t - as in type.

p - as in pal.

k - as in kite.

##### 2.2.2: Fricatives.

lh - Does not exist in English. Put your tongue in the same position used to say an "l" sound (as in light) and blow air through it.

v - as in vice.

x - Does not exist in English. This is the ch sound in Scottish loch or German nacht.

s, ss - a hissing 's' sound that is ALWAYS pronounced as in sigh, NEVER as in dogs.

### 2.2.3: Nasals.

n - as in nice.

m - as in might.

ng - always as in sing.

### 2.2.4: Everything else.

^ - a clicking noise. In the movie, it is produced by tapping two pieces of metal together, but it can be replaced by doing something akin to clucking one's tongue.

j - pronounced as English y as in yipe.

' - a glottal stop. This is the dash (-) in uh-oh, or the sound produced when trying to say "bottle" without the T.

## 3.0. Grammar.

Although I usually create simple grammars for my languages, I decided not to go into much detail here. I instead have a bunch of word endings and a special way to use the verb "to be".

### 3.1. Suffixes.

#### 1. Past tense (-vii)

The past tense suffix is placed at the end of a verb to indicate that it has happened in the past. Examples:

Ka pavuulh-vii vuung.

I believe-did you.

I believed you.

#### 2. Future tense (-juu)

The future tense suffix is placed at the end of a verb to indicate that it will happen in the future. Examples:

Vuung vuuxii-juu xanlhii.

You understand-will someday.

You will understand someday.

#### 3. Genitive (-ti)

Placing the genitive suffix at the end of a word indicates a sense of possession. It also replaces the word "of" and eliminates the 's structure. Examples:

vaxa Mlhtaxja-ti.

Planet Meldaria-of.

of the planet Meldaria.

kanta Piikasaiixu-ti.

apprentice Pegasyro-of.

Pegasyro's apprentice.

lhii^ajng Xalhs-ti.

citizen Earth-of.

citizen of Earth or Earthling citizen.

#### 4. Plural (-pa).

This suffix indicates that a noun is plural or multiple. Examples:

Taxa-pa - aliens

Lhii^ajng-pa - citizens  
Axiita^lhiit-pa - languages  
Lhii-pa - nations  
Vaxa-pa - planets  
Xuuvsiiiv-pa - travelers

5. That which does, one who does (-xuun)

This suffix takes the place of English -er in *writer*, "one who writes", or *toaster*, "thing which toasts". Examples:

Kxav-xuun - speaker  
Vuutsa-xuun - translator  
Ktii'ssan-xuun - keeper

### 3.2. Verbs.

Verbs are never conjugated. In Meldarian, they would say "I have, you have, he have, we have, you have, they have." No verb is irregular. There is no "I am, you are, he is, we are, you are, they are", just the verb "to be."

#### 3.2.1. "To be".

"To be" is the exception to the norm in Meldarian. To illustrate its complexities, here is a conjugation table:

I am	Ka ----
You are	Vuung ----
He/she/it is	---- viis
We are	Vuu^an ----
You (pl) are	Vuung-pa viis
They are	---- viis-pa

Let us put an adjective on that:

I am good	Ka xuulh
You are good	Vuung xuulh
He/she/it is good	Viis xuulh
We are good	Vuu^an xuulh
You (pl) are good	Vuung-pa viis xuulh
They are good.	Viis-pa xuulh

To use "be" in a sentence, follow these rules:

- Drop "be" from the first person pronouns (I, we)
- Drop "be" from the second person singular (you)
- Drop the he, she, it, or they from the third person. If the pronoun dropped is "they", tack -pa onto the "viis" (be)
- Leave the plural "you" unchanged.

### 3.3. Pronouns.

I/me	Ka
you	vuung
he	suuv
she	suuviit
it	suuvuupat
we	vuu^an
you (pl)	vuung-pa
they	suuv-pa

These pronouns are used with any verb except "to be". See section 3.2.1.

## 4.0. English-Meldarian Dictionary

(See the HTML file containing the latest dictionary.)

## 5.0. Meldarian Alphabet

The Meldarian Alphabet is as follows:

'	—	M	▼	V	◆
A	◇	N	▣	X	■
ll	◆	NG	▣	^	◇
J	:	P	▽		
K	□	S	▲		
L	●	T	△		
LH	○	UU			

Write it left to right, like English.

## 6.0. A Linguistics Glossary.

conjugate - to join verbs with pronouns.

genitive - A type of word modifier that replaces the word "of". The ending in English is a genitive suffix.

irregular verb - a verb that does not conjugate like other verbs do.

noun - a word for a thing.

pronoun - a word like I, me, you, we, they, etc.

suffix - a word modifier that comes at the end of a word.

verb - a word for an action.

## 7.0. Afterword.

I hope this book gives you a sense of what Meldarian is and how to speak it. The dictionary will be updated in the future to give more words. Until then, good-bye!

Michael Robson

February 9th, 2002

The movie "The Landing" was shot one day before.