

(0) **au huʃ i-tias**
I know ACC-*tias*
'I speak *tias*'

My language's name is pronounced **tias**. It is spoken by a human-like species living in the country of **t^hau** on a planet with two moons.

Grammar Review

Phonetics: **tias** has twenty-five consonants (including two clicks) and eight vowels. The complete phonetic inventory of **tias** is given below.

Consonants		Bilabial		Alveolar		Post-alveolar		Palatal		Uvular		Glottal	
Plosive		p	b	t	d			c		q		ʔ	
		p^h		t^h									
Nasal			m		n					ɴ			
Trill			ʙ		r					ʀ			
Fricative		ɸ	β	s	z	ʃ	ʒ					h	
Lateral approximant					l								
Click			ǀ		ǃ								

Vowels		Front	Central	Back unrounded	Back rounded
High		i	ɨ		u
		e			ɔ
Mid					
Low		æ		a	ɒ

Phonology: Although **tias** has a rich phonetic inventory, its phonology is quite restricted. Some phonological rules in **tias** include the following:

- Only the final syllable in a word is allowed to have a final consonant, and the final consonant cannot be a stop. Furthermore, if that final consonant is not followed by a click suffix, it must be devoiced.
- Non-click consonants can only occur one at a time, and click consonants only appear at the end of a word as a suffix. If two morphemes are put together in a way such that there would be two consonants in a row, then one of the two consonants is dropped, though which specific consonant gets dropped varies in a case-by-case basis.

Case: As seen in (0), **tias** has a nominative-accusative case system. Nouns and pronouns in **tias** can take four distinct cases: nominative, accusative, genitive, and dative. There is also a distinction between singular and plural nouns, where the morpheme **æ** is used to mark plurality.

Phonological rules prohibit having two consecutive consonants in a row, nouns starting with a vowel and with a consonant behave differently. In particular, if a noun starts with a consonant then syncretism often occurs between the (singular) genitive and dative cases, and between all non-nominative plural forms. The table below lists the cases for the regular nouns **e** ‘truth’ and **qus** ‘eye’.

Case	Regular prefixes/suffixes		e truth		qus eye	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-	-æ	e	eæ	qus	quzæ
Accusative	iʃ-	æʃ-	ife	æfe	iqus	æqus
Genitive	es-	æs-	ese	æse	equs	
Dative	el-	æl-	ele	æle		

Agreement: **tias** does not have an agreement system.

Word order: In **tias** the most common word order for simple sentences is SVO. However, word order is reasonably free—SOV or OSV sentences are also allowed as long as the sentence-part-marker **na** is used, as shown in examples (2),(3).

- (1) **au** **qɔ** **æ-ʃ-erɪʃ**
 I see PL-ACC-river
 ‘I see rivers’
- (2) **au** **æ-ʃ-erɪʃ** **qɔ-na**
 I PL-ACC-river see-NA
 ‘I see rivers’
- (3) **æ-ʃ-erɪʃ** **au** **qɔ-na**
 PL-ACC-river I see-NA
 ‘I see rivers’

Embedded clauses: In embedded clauses, however, the verb always comes last, and is therefore marked with the morpheme **na**.

- (4) **au** **huʒ-θ** **i-nɪ-!** **ba** **es** **e-tɪn-!** **mɪ-!** **qɔna**
 I know-NOT ACC-man-SPEC who in GEN-house-SPEC woman-SPEC see-NA
 ‘I do not know the man the woman saw in the house’

In **tias** there are both prepositions and postpositions, but prepositions are far more common. Here is another example sentence using the preposition **es** ‘in’.

- (5) **mɪ-!** **qɔ** **i-nɪ-!** **es** **e-tɪn-!**
 woman-SPEC see ACC-man-SPEC in GEN-house-SPEC
 ‘The woman sees the man in the house’

In both (4) and (5) we see that the morpheme **!** is used to mark specificity of a noun or pronoun.

Derivational morphology: As seen in (4), negation of verbs is done using the morpheme 0 ‘not’. This morpheme can also be added to adjectives to negate them or added to nouns to turn them into adjectives meaning ‘lack of <noun>.’ A sampling of other patterns of derivational morphology is given in the following table.

Pattern	Effect	Examples
-0	Turns adjectives into their negations Turns nouns into adjectives meaning ‘lack of <something>’	bɔɟ ‘round’ → bɔɟ0 ‘jagged’ lɔn ‘water’ → lɔn0 ‘drought’
nu-	Softens an adjective	tar ‘big’ → nutar ‘rather big’
Reduplicating last syllable	Turns adjectives into nouns	se ‘good’ → sese ‘goodness’
Reduplicating first consonant/vowel pair	Turns nouns into adjectives meaning ‘possessing/full of <something>’	lɔn ‘water’ → lɔlɔn ‘wet/soaked’ sese ‘goodness’ → sesese ‘extremely good’
-(e)ɸ	Turns verbs into nouns/adjectives representing state of completion	ɸiɪ ‘die’ → ɸiɪɸ ‘death’ βaun ‘eat’ → βauneɸ ‘full (not hungry)’

Tense: Past and future tenses are marked with specific morphemes as shown in the following examples.

(6) ama βal-ɒ i-βu
Ama eat-PAST ACC-fish
‘Ama ate fish’

(7) ama βal-is i-βu
Ama eat-FUT ACC-fish
‘Ama will eat fish’

Aspect: verbs in **tias** can take on various aspects including perfect, continuous, and habitual. Aspects of intransitive verbs are marked by a prefix to the verb. When the verb is transitive, however, the end-of-sentence-part marker **na** is inserted to allow the aspect prefix to attach.

(8) au qɔ-ɔɒ æ-βu-! es e-beirɪn-! du-na
I eat-PAST PL-(ACC)-fish-SPEC in GEN-icebox-SPEC PERFECT-NA
‘I have eaten the fish that were in the icebox’

The perfect aspect is marked by the prefix **du-**.

(9) nɪ zɪdɔ i-nɪ-ɔe hɔ-na
He criticize ACC-him-RFLX HABITUAL-NA
‘He criticizes himself constantly’

The habitual aspect is marked by the prefix **hɔ-**. Reflexive pronouns are formed by adding the suffix **-e**.

(10) pe hel iɟ-ezi tʰe-βa be-na
You read ACC-book POSS-who CONTINUOUS-NA
‘Whose book are you reading?’

The continuous aspect is marked by the prefix **be-**.

Possession: In **tias**, possession is usually marked by the prefix **t^hes-**. In the example above, the consonant **s** collides with the consonant **β** and hence is dropped. This prefix can be analyzed as a variant of the genitive prefix **es-**.

Questions: As seen in (10), **tias** creates *wh*-questions by using *wh* words in-situ.

- (11) **au** **re-ʔo** **βæ-!** **i-naφo** **t^he-βæ** **muir-na**
 I make-PAST children-SPEC ACC-homework POSS-children write-NA
 'I made the children do their homework'

Pronouns: **tias** has a rich class of words for types of people, which also double as pronouns. In this case, **βæ** 'children' is also a pronoun, so **βæ** is used instead of **næ** 'they' for 'children' in 'children's homework'.

- (12) **mɿ** **muir-o** **i-ʃeʃu** **pɿn** **e-ʃɿ-!**
 She write-PAST ACC-poem for DAT-lover-SPECIFIC
 'She wrote her sweetheart a poem'

The word **mɿ** 'woman' doubles as a third person singular feminine pronoun, and the word **ʃɿ** 'lover' is also a pronoun.

- (13) **nezo** **βos** **t^he-ʔau** **e**
 Car purple POSS-I exists
 'I have a purple car'

Adjectives go after the nouns they are describing. Statements of possession ('have' statements) is done by stating that the possessed item exists.

- (14) **mɿ!** **qu-heza** **pe**
 She is.more-smart you
 'She is smarter than you'

Adjectives also double as verbs meaning 'is adjective', and these verbs can be converted into verbs meaning 'is more [adjective]' by adding the prefix **qu**. Comparisons are done using these **qu** verb forms.

Additional topic: Numbers

tias has a base-nine number system. It has unique words for numbers 1-9 as well as $81=9^2$. The words for powers of 9 from 9^3 to 9^9 are derived from the main words by adding the suffix **ɪʃ**. The word for 0 is literally ‘not one’.

number (digit)	word	number (power of 9)	word
1	ɪ	9	ʒɔ
2	æ	$81 = 9^2$	ræβ
3	ʃæ	$729 = 9^3$	ʃæʔɪʃ
4	bæn	$6561 = 9^4$	bænɪʃ
5	pɑʃ	9^5	pɑʃɪʃ
6	βæn	9^6	βænɪʃ
7	qɪ	9^7	qɪʃ
8	tɔm	9^8	tɔmɪʃ

In a multiple-digit number, the largest (leftmost) digit is said first, followed by smaller digits in decreasing order, with **u** separating each digit except between the nines and the ones. Numbers are always adjectives.

- (15) **au hel-ɒ æ-ʃæʔɪʃ-u-βæ-ræβ-u-tɔ-ʒɔ-ʃæ** **ɪʃ-ezi** **du-na**
 I read 2 x 729 + 6 x 81 + 8 x 9 + 3 (=2019) books PERFECT-NA
 ‘I have read 2019 books’

Translation of MIT Hacking Code of Ethics

- (15) **pe! heciʒ-θ ra pe βiru**
 You-SPEC hack-NOT when you drunk
 ‘Do not hack while drunk’
 (Never drink and hack)

Imperatives: In **tias**, imperatives are created by adding the specificity marker to a sentence directed to the second person.

- (16) **pe! re qɒ næ heʒa na-ʔe!**
 You-SPEC do as people smart NA-IMPORTANT
 ‘Important: do as smart people do.’
 (Above all, exercise common sense)

- (17) **pe! ce i-huʒai tʰe-pe pɪn e-heciʒ-on-æ**
 You-SPEC give ACC-knowledge POSS-your for DAT-hack-AGENT-PL
 ‘Give your knowledge to hackers’
 (Share your knowledge and experience with other hackers)

- (18) **pe! loʃ qɒ e ʃua**
 You-SPEC move as true wind
 ‘Move like the true wind’ (Idiom)
 (Be subtle; leave no evidence that you were there.)

Dictionary

English	tias	English	tias	English	tias
I	au	one	ĩ	eat	βal
you	pe	two	æ	see	qɔ
we	ui	three	ʃæ	know	huʃ
this	!	four	bæn	read	hel
that	a	many	qeʃ	write	muir
who	ba	all	niu	die	φĩi
what	ra	sun	tʰɔʃ	give	ce
not	0	moon1	pʰin	say	zĩ
person, they (sg.)	nĩ	moon2	len	kill	βɔR
people, they (pl.)	næ	day	sæm	move	lɔʃ
man, he	Nĩ	night	ʃɔN	fly	tɔʃ
woman, she	mĩ	sky	hæm	walk	dɔʃ
child	βĩ	hot	hæn	swim	niʃ
lover	ʃĩ	cold	bei	head	has
true, exists	e	water	lɔn	mouth	βeas
good	se	fire	tʰiφ	eye	qus
bad	dɔ	earth	dɔn	red	can
big	tar	wind	ʃua	green	mæu
small	cim	mountain	dæmin	yellow	bir
round	bɔʃ	river	erĩʃ	black	qa
name	ben	ocean	lemir	purple	βɔS
new	sal	tree	dær	city	ʒɔφe
box	rɪn	fish	βu	train	qur
book	ezi	pig, pork	bem	car	nezɔ
poem	efu	cow, beef	tʰɔn	house	tɪN
smart	hezɑ	do, make	re	homework	naφɔ
like, as	qɔ	hack (MIT sense)	heciz	drunk (intoxicated)	βĩru