

Grammar of the Kabardian-Cherkess Language

Edited by Amjad Jaimoukha

The Kabardian-Cherkess language (henceforth referred to only as Kabardian, since both the Kabardians and Cherkess use the same official and literary language) is structurally part of the Apswa-Adiga group of the Ibero-Caucasian languages. Literary Kabardian is based on the Kabardian dialect spoken in Greater Kabarda (part of country to the west of the Terek river), in the environs of the capital Nalchik. Lesser Kabarda is on the right bank thereof. Kabardian has one dialect, namely Beslanay, and many sub-dialects (Malka, Bakhsan, Terek, Mozdok, Lesser Kabardian, and others).

The following short treatise is based on many works, but mainly on the short grammatical work in Qarden (Kardanov), B. M. and Biysch'ew (Bichoev), A. T. (compilers), Schojents'ik'w (Shogantsukov), A. O. (editor-in-chief), *УРЫС-КЪЭБЭРДЕЙ-ШЭРДЖЭС СЛОВАРЬ. РУССКО-КАБАРДИНСКО-ЧЕРКЕССКИЙ СЛОВАРЬ. Russko-kabardinsko-cherkesski slovar'* [Russian-Kabardian-Cherkess Dictionary], Kabardian Science and Research Institute, Moscow: State Press of Foreign and National Dictionaries, 1955, pp 993-1054. [A full bibliography](#) is provided. The illustrative examples will be given first in Cyrillic (current) and then transcribed in a new [Latinized Kabardian Alphabet](#). It is recommended that you make a print-out of this booklet and study the contents very carefully.

Stress

The stress depends on the character of the word: whether it has an open or closed syllable. The following rules govern the stress pattern of Kabardian words:

1. If a word ends in a schwa э, e, the stress falls on the penultimate syllable, ex.: **дадэ**, *dade* grandpa; **лъашэ**, *lhashe* lame, limping; **дахэ**, *daxe* beautiful; **етхуанэ**, *yetxwane* (ordinal numeral) fifth; **лажьэ**, *lazche* working; defect, drawback.
2. If a word ends in any vowel apart from the schwa э, e, or in the semi-vowel й, y, the stress falls on the last syllable, ex.: **хьэмбылу**, *hembilu* lung; **гьуэжькуий**, *ghwezchkwiy* whirlwind; **кIэфий**, *ch'efiy* whistle; **балий**, *baliy* cherry.
3. In loan words (for the most part of Turkish and Arabic origin), which end in a schwa э, e, the stress falls on the ultimate syllable and acts significantly on the penultimate, ex.: **мыхэнэ**, *mihene* meaning, significance; **тэрэээ**, *terezee* balance; **арэзы**, *arezi* satisfied; **къамышы**, *qamishi* lash, whip.
4. As a rule, words with closed syllables (that end with a consonant) have the stress on the last syllable, ex.: **джэдэщ**, *jedesch* hen-coop; **къамыл**, *qamil* reed, rush; **хьыбар**, *x'ibar* news; **дыжьын**, *dizchin* silver; **хьэшын**, *hepship* article, item; **дэрбээр**, *derbzer* dressmaker, taylor.
5. Verbs in the past tense with the suffix а, a have the stress on the last syllable, ex.: **жыIа(щ)**, *zhi'a(sch)* he/she said; **дылэжьа(щ)**, *dilezcha(sch)* we (have) worked; **уеджа(щ)**, *weija(sch)* you (have) studied.
6. Words adopted from Russian preserve their original stress patterns, ex.: **къэбыстэ**, *qebista* cabbage; **лошкэ**, *loshke* spoon.

7. Case endings and the index of plurality **хэ**, *xe*, do not affect the original stress pattern of the word, ex.: **үнэ**, *wine* house, **үнэр**, *winer*; **хьыджэбз**, *x'ijebz* girl, **хьыджэбзыр**, *x'ijebzir*. With other suffixes the stress pattern changes as if these were integral parts of the words, ex.: **щлалэ**, *sch'ale* child, **щлалагьэ**, *sch'alaghe* childhood, youth; **лшыхуэ**, *l'ishxwe* big man, **лшыхуашэ**, *l'ishxwasche* huge man.
-

Cases

There are four cases in Kabardian: nominative, ergative-oblique, instrumental-directional and specific.

1. The Nominative Case

The nominative case responds to the question **хэт?**, *xet?* who?, or **сыт?**, *sit?* what? The affix associated with this case is **-р**, *-r*. The substantive in the nominative case acts as the subject of the sentence, ex.: **щIалэр йоджэ**, *sch'aler yoje* the boy is reading, or as the direct object, ex.: **сэ тхылъыр къэсщтащ**, *se txilhir qesschtasch* I took the book.

2. The Ergative-Oblique Case

The ergative-oblique case is associated with the affix **-м**, *-m*, ex.: **сэ егъэджакIуэм унщIэ естащ**, *se yeghejak'wem wipsch'e yestasch* I asked the teacher a question (literally: I gave the teacher a question); **дэ абыхэм дытепсэлыхьащ**, *de abixem diteipselhihasch* we talked about them; **сэ къалэм сыщыIащ**, *se qalem sischi'asch* I was in town.

As is obvious from these examples, the ergative-oblique case includes some meanings of dative, genitive, accusative and prepositional cases of English. Substantives in the ergative-oblique case act as subjects, oblique objects and adverbial modifiers of place.

3. Instrumental-Directional Case

The instrumental-directional case responds to the questions **хэткIэ?**, *xetch'e?* who by?, **сыткIэ?**, *sitch'e?* with or by what?; **дэнэкIэ?**, *denech'e?* where?, in what direction? The affix associated with this case is **-кIэ**, *-ch'e*.

As is obvious from its name, this case has two meanings: instrumental and directional. The instrumental meaning corresponds to the non-prepositional form of the instrumental case: **(сэ) къэрэндащкIэ сотхэ**, *(se) qerendaschch'e sotxe* I am writing with a pencil.

As far as the directional case is concerned, the meaning associated with it is of an indication of direction of an action without precise specification of the end destination, ex.: **дэ къуажэмкIэ докIуэ**, *de qwazhemch'e dok'we* we are going in the direction of the village. In some instances, this case can designate movement or action directed specifically to some object, ex.: **Сэнджэлей, нобэ ди еджапIэмкIэ ныщIыхэ**, *Senjeley, nobe diy yejap'emch'e nisch'ihе* Sanjalay, come to our school today.

The substantive in the instrumental-directional case acts as oblique object or an adverbial modifier of place.

Applications: directional meanings of accusative case frequently correspond to the ergative case of Kabardian. See examples above.

4. The Specific Case

The specific case responds to the questions **хэту?**, *xetu?* Who?; **сыту?**, *situ?* What? It is associated with the affixes **-у**, **-уэ**, **-u**, **-ue**. This case indicates the choice of some part from a whole, ex.: **комбайным гуэдзу гектар щэщI Iухаш**, *kombaynim gwedzu geiktar schesch'wiyxasch* the combine harvested thirty hectares of wheat; **фошыгъуу зы килограмм къэсщэхуаш**, *foshighwu zi kiylogramm qesschexwasch* I bought one kilogram of sugar.

The specific case corresponds to the genitive case in English. The substantive in this case plays the role of the oblique object.

Note: it is essential that this case is not confused with other applications of the suffix **-кІэ**, *-ch'e*, such as when it is used as a post-positional suffix, ex.: **сэ адыгэбзэкІэ экзамен сот**, *se adigebzech'e ekzamein sot* I am sitting an exam in Kabardian. In the word **адыгэбзэкІэ**, *adigebzech'e*, the affix **-кІэ**, *-ch'e*, does not give the word an instrumental or directional meaning, but merely adds the meaning 'in' to the sentence.

Numerals (numbers)

Kabardian has the following kinds of numbers: cardinal, ordinal, distributive, fractional and indefinite-cardinal.

Cardinal Numbers

зы, *zi* one; **тӀу**, *t'u* two; **шы**, *shi* three; **плӀы**, *pl'i* four; **тху**, *txw* five; **хы**, *xi* six; **блы**, *bli* seven; **и**, *yi* eight; **бгъу**, *bghw* nine; **пщӀы**, *psch'i* ten; **пщыкӀуз**, *pschik'wz* eleven; **пщыкӀутӀ**, *pschik'wt'* twelve; **пщыкӀуц**, *pschik'wsch* thirteen, **пщыкӀуплӀ**, *pschik'wpl'* fourteen, ...; **тӀощӀ**, *t'osch'* twenty; **тӀощӀрӀэ зырӀэ**, *t'osch're zire* twenty one; **тӀощӀрӀэ тӀурӀэ**, *t'osch're t'ure* twenty two; **щӀщӀ**, *schesch'* thirty; **щӀщӀрӀэ зырӀэ**, *schesch're zire* thirty one...

The cardinal number **зы**, *zi* one, is placed before the substantive, and is sometimes written separately of it, at others it is fused with it, ex.: **зыш**, *zish* one horse (**шы**, *shi* horse); **зы жэм**, *zi zhem* one cow. As a rule, the cardinal numbers from two to ten are placed after the substantive and are fused with it, ex.: **унищ**, *winiysch* three houses (**унэ**, *wine* house); **цӀыхуипщӀ**, *ts'ixwiypsch'* ten persons. In some instances these numbers are written separately and the substantive assumes the suffix **-у**, **-w**, **-u**, ex.: **унэу – пщӀы**, *wineu - psch'i* ten houses.

The number **зы**, *zi* one, can also be placed after the substantive, in which case the suffixes **-у**, **-уэ**, **-w**, **-we** are affixed to the noun, ex.: **унэу – зы**, *wineu – zi* one house; **хъэуэ – зы**, *heweu – zi* one dog.

The numbers from eleven to nineteen are formed by the combination of prime numbers, ex.: **пщыкӀуз**, *pschik'wz* eleven (literally: ten (and) one); **пщыкӀубл**, *pschi-k'w-bl* seventeen (literally: ten (and) seven). In these numbers, prime numbers are combined by the connective **-кӀу-**, **-k'w-**.

The numbers **тлощI**, *t'osch'* twenty, **щэщI**, *schesch'* thirty, **плыщI**, *pl'isch'* forty, **тхущI**, *txwsch'* fifty, **хыщI**, *xisch'* sixty, **блыщI**, *blisch'* seventy, **ищI е пщей**, *yisch' ye psch'ey*, eighty and **бгъущI**, *bghwsch'* ninety, are formed by adding the roots of the simple numbers: **тIу пщIыуэ**, *t'u psch'iwe* two ten times (two times ten); **тху пщIыуэ**, *txw psch'iwe* five ten times (five times ten); **блы пщIыуэ**, *bli psch'iwe* seven ten times (seven tens). The numbers representing whole hundreds are formed by the simple number to the root **щэ**, *sche* hundred, ex.: **щитI**, *schiyt'* two hundred; **щитху**, *schiytxw* five hundred; **щибл**, *schiybl* seven hundred.

The numbers from twenty to thirty, thirty to forty, etc., are formed by combining the elements using the conjunction **-рэ**, *-re-*, ex.: **тлощIрэ зырэ**, *t'osch're zire* twenty one; **щэщIрэ блырэ**, *schesch're blire* thirty seven; **бгъущIрэ тхурэ**, *bghwsch're txwre* ninety five.

As a rule, the numbers eleven and above are placed after the substantive and are written separately, ex.: **унэ пщыкIутху**, *wine pschik'wtxw* fifteen houses; **къалэ хыщI**, *qale xisch'* sixty towns.

The number **щэ**, *sche* hundred, combines with the substantive just like simple numbers from two to ten, ex.: **унищэ**, *winiysche* hundred houses, **унэу - щэ**, *winew - sche* hundred houses. **Мин**, *miyn* thousand; **мелуан**, **миллион**, *meilwan, miylliyon* million; **минитI**, *miyniyt'* two thousands; **мелуанищ**, *meilwaniysch* three millions.

Ordinal Numbers

Япэ(рей) , <i>yape(rey)</i> , езанэ(рей) , <i>yezane(rey)</i>	first.
ЕтIуанэ(рей) , <i>yet'wane(rey)</i>	second.
Ещанэ(рей) , <i>yeschane(rey)</i>	third.
Еянэ(рей) , <i>yeyane(rey)</i>	eighth.
ЕпщIанэ(рей) , <i>yepsch'ane(rey)</i>	tenth.
ЕпщыкIузанэ(рей) , <i>yepschik'wzane(rey)</i>	eleventh.
ЕпщыкIуханэ(рей) , <i>yepschik'wxane(rey)</i>	sixteenth.

The first ordinal number has four variants, the rest have two. All these variants are equivalent and in their meaning and usage they do not differ significantly. Ordinal numbers are formed by the addition of the prefix **е-**, *ye-*, and one of the suffixes **-анэ**, **-анэрей**, *-ane*, *-anerey*, ex.: **е-пщI-анэ(рей)**, *ye-psch'-ane(rey)* tenth; **е-бл-анэ(рей)**, *ye-bl-ane(rey)* seventh. Ordinal numbers in whole tens and hundreds are formed just as the numbers to twentieth, ex.: **етхущIанэ(рей)**, *yetxwsch'ane(rey)* fiftieth; **ещитхуанэ(рей)**, *yeschiytxwane(rey)* five hundredth.

The ordinal numbers between twenty and thirty, thirty and forty, etc., are formed by using the conjunction **-рэ**, *-re*, ex.: **тIощIрэ еханэрэ**, *t'osch're yexanere* twenty sixth.

Note: ordinal number **ещанэ(рей)**, *yeschane(rey)* hundredth, cannot be morphologically (from its appearance) differentiated from the ordinal number **ещанэ(рей)**, *yeschane(rey)* third. They can only be distinguished from the context.

Ordinal numbers, as distinct from attributes, can be placed either before or after the substantives or attributes, ex.: **еханэ классыр**, *yexane klassir* (the) sixth grade, or **класс еханэр**, *klass yexaner* (the) sixth grade. The order of appearance of case endings and indices in the combination of ordinal numbers and substantives is the same as in the combination of adjectives and substantives.

Distributive Numerals

Зырыз , <i>ziriz</i>	in ones, one by one
ТурьтI , <i>t'writ'</i>	in twos, two by two
Щырыш , <i>schirisch</i>	in threes, three by three
ПлырыплI , <i>pl'iripl'</i>	in fours, four by four
Тхурьтху , <i>txwritxw</i>	in fives, five by five
Хырых , <i>xirix</i>	in sixes, six by six
Блырыбл , <i>bliribl</i>	in sevens, seven by seven

Ири , <i>yiry</i>	in eights, eight by eight
Бгъурыбгъу , <i>bghwribghw</i>	in nines, nine by nine
ПщырыпщI , <i>psch'ripsch'</i>	in tens, ten by ten

Distributive numerals are formed by combining the roots of the cardinal numbers by means of the connective syllable **-ры-**, *-ri-*, ex.: **щы-ры-щ**, *schiri-sch* in threes, three by three (**щы**, *sch* three). Distributive numbers from eleven to nineteen and those in whole tens and hundreds are formed by repeating the corresponding cardinal number without using any affixes, ex.: **пщыкIутху-пщыкIутху**, *pschik'wtxw-pschik'wtxw* in elevens, eleven by eleven; **тIощI-тIощI**, *t'osch'-t'osch'* in twenties, twenty by twenty; **щэныкъуэ-щэныкъуэ**, *scheniqwe-scheniqwe* in fifties, fifty by fifty; **щик-щик**, *schiyx-schiyx* in six hundreds, six hundred by six hundred. Numbers between twenty and thirty, thirty and forty, etc., are formed by combining the lower whole ten number with the required number using a dash, ex.: **тIощI-тIощIрэ тхурьтхурэ**, *t'osch'-t'oschre txwritxwre* in/by twenty fives, twenty five by twenty five.

Distributive numerals are usually placed after the substantive, ex.: **тхыль тIощI-тIощI**, *txilh t'osch'-t'osch'* books ... in/by twenties.

Fractional Numbers

Ныкъуэ , <i>niqwe</i> , тIуанэ , <i>t'wane</i>	1/2	бгъуанэ , <i>bghwane</i>	1/9
Щанэ , <i>schane</i>	1/3	пщIанэ , <i>psch'ane</i>	1/10
ПлIанэ , <i>pl'ane</i>	1/4	пщыкIузанэ , <i>pschikwzane</i>	1/11
Тхуанэ , <i>txwane</i>	1/5	тIощIанэ , <i>t'osch'ane</i>	1/20
Ханэ , <i>xane</i>	1/6	плIанищ , <i>pl'aniysch</i>	3/4
Бланэ , <i>blane</i>	1/7	тхуаниплI , <i>txwaniypl'</i>	4/5
Янэ , <i>yane</i>	1/8	ханитху , <i>xaniytxw</i>	5/6

Fractional numbers are formed from cardinal numbers with the help of the suffix **-анэ**, *-ane*, ex.: **ханэ**, *xane* 1/6 (**хы**, *xi* six), **тлощанэ**, *t'osch'ane* 1/20. The fractional number is placed after the substantive.

Ныкъуэ, *niqwe* 1/2, half, is placed after the substantive and is written separately. This number is placed before an adjective and is fused with it, ex.: **ныкъуэделэ**, *niqwedeile* half-witted, stupid (**делэ**, *deile* stupid). It is also placed before verbal stems and is adjoined to them, ex.: **ныкъуээльэс**, *niqwelhes* half-washed (**лэсын**, *lhesin* to wash), **ныкъуэзэлылх**, *niqwezeli'wx* half-tidy (**зэлылхын**, *zelhi'wxin* to tidy up, ex.: a room).

Indefinite-Cardinal Numbers

These numbers are used for approximation. They are formed by the combination of three cardinal numbers, the first of which is always **зы**, *zi* one, and the next two are consecutive numbers, the lower one coming first, ex.: **зытхух**, *zitxwx* five or six (**тху**, *txw* five, **хы**, *xi* six); **зытлуш**, *zit'usch* two or three (**тлу**, *t'u* two, **шы**, *sch* three); **зыбгъупщI**, *zibghwpsch'* nine or ten (**бгъу**, *bghw* nine, **пщIы**, *psch'i* ten). Indefinite-cardinal numbers can either be placed before or after the substantive, but more often they are placed after, ex.: **цыху зыибгъу**, *ts'ixw ziyibghw* eight or nine persons (**и**, *yi* eight, **бгъу**, *bghw* nine).

Pronouns

Pronouns in Kabardian are divided into the following: personal, personal-demonstrative, demonstrative, possessive, interrogative, relative, definite, indefinite and negatory.

Personal and personal-demonstrative pronouns

Declension of personal pronouns:

First-person singular

nominative	сэ, <i>se</i>	I
ergative-oblique	сэ, <i>se</i>	I, me
instrumental-directional	сэркIэ, <i>serch'e</i>	by/with/to me
specific	сэpy, <i>seru</i>	of me

Second-person singular

nominative	yэ, <i>we</i>	you
ergative-oblique	yэ, <i>we</i>	you
instrumental-directional	yэркIэ, <i>werch'e</i>	by/with/to you
specific	yэpy, <i>weru</i>	of you

First-person plural

nominative	дэ, <i>de</i>	we
ergative-oblique	дэ, <i>de</i>	we, us
instrumental-directional	дэркIэ, <i>derch'e</i>	by/with/to us
specific	дэру, <i>deru</i>	of us

Second-person plural

nominative	фэ, <i>fe</i>	you
ergative-oblique	фэ, <i>fe</i>	you
instrumental-directional	фэркIэ, <i>ferch'e</i>	by/with/to you
specific	фэру, <i>feru</i>	of you

As is obvious from these tables, in contradistinction from substantives, personal pronouns of the 1st and 2nd person singular and plural are not declined in the nominative and ergative-oblique cases – the pronomial root is unchanged (refer to sections on nominative and ergative-oblique cases above).

As for the third-person singular and plural, Kabardian does not furnish distinct pronouns, instead the pronomial functions are implemented by the demonstrative pronouns. To distinguish these particular applications, these pronouns are dubbed ‘personal-demonstrative’. Their declension is as follows:

Third-person singular

nominative	ар, <i>ar</i>	he, she, it
ergative-oblique	абы, <i>abi</i>	he, she, it, him, her, it
instrumental-directional	абыкIэ, <i>abich'e</i>	by/with/to him, her, it
specific	ару, <i>aru</i>	of him, her, it

Third-person plural

nominative	ахэр , <i>axer</i>	they
ergative-oblique	абыхэм , <i>abixem</i>	them
instrumental-directional	абыхэмкIэ , <i>abixemch'e</i>	by/with/to them
specific	ахэру , <i>axeru</i>	of them

ар, *ar*, is used as subject with intransitive verbs, ex.: **ар матхэ**, *ar matxe* he/she is writing, or writes; **ар мэлажэ**, *ar melazche* he/she is working; **ар кызыуаш**, *ar qizewasch* he/she hit me (**уэн**, *wen* to hit, is an intransitive verb). **абы**, *abi* is used as the subject with transitive verbs, ex.: **абы адыгэбзэр едж**, *abi adigebzer yej* he is studying Circassian.

Note: at this stage, it is worthwhile to realize that classification of high order Kabardian verbs (other than the very simplest: subject+verb) into transitive and intransitive is somewhat more complex than in the English equivalents. It is perhaps counter-intuitive that **уэн**, *wen* to hit, is intransitive in Kabardian, whereas **укIын**, *wich'in* to kill, should be considered transitive. The moral of the note: you have to prepare yourself to memorize the categorization of the Kabardian verb (in addition to its meaning). Perhaps if ever the question of simplification of the grammar of Kabardian is considered, this aspect should be placed high on the agenda.

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns in Kabardian express various spatial indications. **мыр**, *mir* this, indicates an object found in direct proximity of speaker. **мор**, *mor* that, indicates a visible object at a known distance from the speaker (object is visible and far). **а**, *a* that, indicates a distant and invisible object.

Declension of visible demonstrative pronouns

Singular

nominative	МЫ, МОР , <i>mi, mor</i>	this, that
ergative-oblique	МЫБЫ, МОБЫ , <i>mibi, mobi</i>	this, that
instrumental-directional	МЫБЫКІЭ, МОБЫКІЭ , <i>mibich'e, mobich'e</i>	by/with/to this/that
specific	МЫРУ, МОРУ , <i>miru, moru</i>	of this, of that

Plural

nominative	МЫХЭР, МОХЭР , <i>mixer, moxer</i>	these, those
ergative-oblique	МЫБЫХЭМ, МОБЫХЭМ , <i>mibixem, mobixem</i>	these, those
instrumental-directional	МЫБЫХЭМКІЭ, МОБЫХЭМКІЭ , <i>mibixemch'e, mobixemch'e</i>	by/with/to these/those
specific	МЫХЭРУ, МОХЭРУ , <i>mixeru, moxeru</i>	of these, of those

In combination with substantives, these demonstrative pronouns have also syntactical functions, but they never act as attributes.

Invisible demonstrative pronouns without definite words - substantives - cannot exist independently, but must always come before definite words, in which position they act as attributes, ex.: **МЫ УНЭХЭР**, *mi winexer* these houses; **МО ЖЫГЫР**, *mo zhigir* that tree.

Possessive Pronouns

There are two forms of possessive pronouns in Kabardian: dependent and independent.

Dependent possessive pronouns

си , <i>siy</i>	my
уи , <i>wiy</i>	your (sing.)
и , <i>yi</i>	his/her/its
ди , <i>diy</i>	our
фи , <i>fiy</i>	your (pl.)
я , <i>ya</i>	their

Dependent possessive pronouns are not declined and, like invisible demonstrative pronouns, are meaningless if not associated with a substantive, which always comes afterwards.

Independent Possessive Pronouns

In contradistinction to dependent possessive pronouns, independent ones are declined and have case endings just like substantives.

Declension of independent possessive pronouns:

First-person singular

nominative	сысей(р) , <i>sisey(r)</i>	mine
ergative-oblique	сысейм , <i>siseym</i>	mine
instrumental-directional	сысей(м)кIэ , <i>sisey(m)ch'e</i>	by/with/to mine
specific	сысейуэ , <i>siseywe</i>	of mine

Second-person singular

nominative	ууей(р), <i>wiwey(r)</i>	yours
ergative-oblique	ууейм, <i>wiweym</i>	yours
instrumental-directional	ууей(м)кІэ, <i>wiwey(m)ch'e</i>	by/with/to yours
specific	ууейуэ, <i>wiweywe</i>	of yours

Third-person singular

nominative	ей(р), <i>yey(r)</i>	his/hers/its
ergative-oblique	ейм, <i>yeym</i>	his/hers/its
instrumental-directional	еймкІэ, <i>yey(m)ch'e</i>	by/with/to his/hers/its
specific	ейуэ, <i>yeywe</i>	of his/hers/its

First-person plural

nominative	дыдей(р), <i>didey(r)</i>	ours
ergative-oblique	дыдейм, <i>dideym</i>	ours
instrumental-directional	дыдей(м)кІэ, <i>didey(m)ch'e</i>	by/with/to ours
specific	дыдейуэ, <i>dideywe</i>	of ours

Second-person plural

nominative	фыфей(р), <i>fifey(r)</i>	yours
ergative-oblique	фыфейм, <i>fifeym</i>	yours
instrumental-directional	фыфей(м)кІэ, <i>fifey(m)ch'e</i>	by/with/to yours
specific	фыфейуэ, <i>fifeywe</i>	of yours

Third-person plural

nominative	яй(р) , <i>yay(r)</i>	theirs
ergative-oblique	яйм , <i>yaym</i>	theirs
instrumental-directional	яй(м)кIэ , <i>yay(m)ch'e</i>	by/with/to theirs
specific	яйуэ , <i>yaywe</i>	of theirs

Note: the plurals of independent possessive pronouns are generally formed by adding the suffix **-хэ**, *-xe*, ex.: if I refer to one of my books, **сысейр**, *siseyr* mine, to a number of my books, **сысейхэр**, *siseyxer* mine; for the 2nd-person plural, **фыфейр**, *fifeyr* (one object), **фыфейхэр**, *fifeyxer* (more than one object).

Interrogative Pronouns

Kabardian has the following interrogative pronouns: **хэт?**, *xet?* who?, **сыт?**, *sit?* what, **дэтхэнэ?**, *detxene?* what?, **хэт ей?**, *xet yey?* whose? to whom?, **дара?**, *dara?* what, **дапшэ?**, *dapsche?* how many?, how much?, **дапхуэдэ?**, *dapxwede?* what?

хэт?, *xet?* is used to refer to people, and **сыт?**, *sit?* is used for other entities (animals, plants, inanimate objects, concepts, etc.).

Declension of interrogative pronouns

Pronoun referring to persons

nominative	ХЭТ(ЫР) , <i>xet(ir)</i>	who, whom
ergative-oblique	ХЭТ(ЫМ) , <i>xet(im)</i>	who, whom
instrumental-directional	ХЭТ(ЫМ)КІЭ , <i>xet(im)ch'e</i>	by/with/to whom
specific	ХЭТУ , <i>xetu</i>	of whom

Pronoun referring to all other things

nominative	СЫТ(ЫР) , <i>sit(ir)</i>	what
ergative-oblique	СЫТ(ЫМ) , <i>sit(im)</i>	what
instrumental-directional	СЫТ(ЫМ)КІЭ , <i>sit(im)ch'e</i>	by/with/to what
specific	СЫТУ , <i>situ</i>	of what

The rest of the interrogative pronouns (except **дара?**, *dara?* what?, and **хэт ей?**, *xet yey?* whose?, to whom?) are not distinguished by anything special. The pronoun **дара?**, *dara?* what?, is indeclinable. The pronoun **хэт ей?**, *xet yey?* whose?, to whom?, is declined according to whether it has a definite or indefinite form.

Verb conjugation

Example to get a feel of the complexity involved:

Лэжьэн: to work.

Сэ солажьэ	(I work, I am working)
Уэ уолажьэ	(You work, you are working)
Ар мэлажьэ	(He/she works, he/she is working)
Дэ долажьэ	(We work, we are working)
Фэ фолажьэ	(You (pl.) work, you are working)
Ахэр мэлажьэ, or Мэлажьэхэр	(They work, they are working)

Present tense:

Transitive verbs

Джын: to study, learn (smth).

Сэ адыгэбзэ грамматикэр содж	(I study Circassian grammar)
Уэ адыгэбзэ грамматикэр уодж	(You study Circassian grammar)
Абы адыгэбзэ грамматикэр едж	(He/she studies Circassian grammar)
Дэ адыгэбзэ грамматикэр додж	(We study Circassian grammar)
Фэ адыгэбзэ грамматикэр фодж	(You (pl.) study Circassian grammar)
Абыхэм адыгэбзэ грамматикэр ядж <i>or</i> Адыгэбзэ грамматикэр яджхэр	(They study Circassian grammar)

The negative forms are as follows:

Сэ адыгэбзэ грамматикэр зджыркъым grammar)	(I don't study Circassian
Уэ адыгэбзэ грамматикэр бджыркъым grammar)	(You don't study Circassian

Абы адыгэбзэ грамматикэр иджыркъым (He/she doesn't study Circassian grammar)
Дэ адыгэбзэ грамматикэр дджыркъым (We don't study Circassian grammar)
Фэ адыгэбзэ грамматикэр вджыркъым (You (pl.) don't study Circassian grammar)
Абыхэм адыгэбзэ грамматикэр яджыркъым (They don't study Circassian grammar)

Intransitive poly-personal verbs

Еджэн: to read (smth).

Сэ тхылым соджэ (I read the book, I am reading the book)
Уэ тхылым уоджэ (You read the book, you are reading the book)
Абы тхылым йоджэ (He/she reads the book, he/she is reading the book)
Дэ тхылым доджэ (We read the book, we are reading the book)
Фэ тхылым фоджэ (You (pl.) read the book, you are reading the book)
Абыхэм тхылым йоджэ (They read the book, they are reading the book)
or **Тхылым йоджэхэр**

Note: henceforth, only translation to English for the first person will be included.

Negative forms of above:

Сэ тхылым седжэркъым (I don't read the book, I am not reading the book)
Уэ тхылым уеджэркъым
Абы тхылым еджэркъым
Дэ тхылым деджэркъым
Фэ тхылым феджэркъым
Абыхэм тхылым еджэркъым
or **Тхылым еджэхэркъым**

Intransitive mono-personal verbs

Сэ сотхэ (I write, I am writing)

Уэ уотхэ

Ар матхэ

Дэ дотхэ

Фэ фотхэ

Ахэр матхэ

Negative forms:

Сэ сытхэркыым (I don't write, I am not writing)

Уэ утхэркыым

Ар тхэркыым

Дэ дытхэркыым

Фэ фытхэркыым

Ахэр тхэркыым

Щылын: to lie, recline.

Сэ сыщоль, сэ сыщыльщ (I recline, I am reclining)

Уэ ущоль, уэ ущыльщ

Ар щоль, ар щыльщ

Дэ дыщоль, дэ дыщыльщ

Фэ фыщоль, фэ фыщыльщ

Ахэр щоль, Ахэр щыльщ, or Щыльщхэш

Negative forms:

Сэ сыщылькбым, сэ сыщыльщ (I don't recline, I am not reclining)
Уэ ущылькбым
Ар щылькбым
Дэ дыщылькбым
Фэ фыщылькбым
Ахэр щылькбым, or Щыльхэкбым

Future tense

Сэ сылэжьэнуш (I will [definitely] work)
Уэ улэжьэнуш
Ар лэжьэнуш
Дэ дылэжьэнуш
Фэ фылэжьэнуш
Ахэр лэжьэнуш

Future tense indicating some uncertainty:

Сэ сылэжьэнщ (I will/may work)
Уэ улэжьэнщ
Ар лэжьэнщ
Дэ дылэжьэнщ
Фэ фылэжьэнщ
Ахэр лэжьэнщ, or Лэжьэнщхэщ

Negative forms:

Сэ сылэжьэнкбым (I won't work)
Уэ улэжьэнкбым
Ар лэжьэнкбым

Дэ дылэжээнкыым
Фэ фылэжээнкыым
Ахэр лэжээнкыым, or Лэжээнхэкыым

Past tense

Group 1:

The past tense of verbs of group 1 are formed by adding **а** and **ш**, the stative form of the affirmative verbal suffix, to the end of the stem. Intransitive verbs indicate that the action took place, but with no indication as to the duration, instant nor completeness of the action, e.g.:

Сэ тхылым седжаш (I [have] read the book)
Уэ тхылым уеджаш
Ар тхылым еджаш
Дэ тхылым деджаш
Фэ тхылым феджаш
Ахэр тхылым еджаш
or Тхылым еджахэш

Transitive verbs convey more specific information as regards to completeness of the action, and therefore they indicate some certainty as to the outcome of the action, e.g.:

Сэ тхылыр зджаш (I have read the book, I have finished reading the book)
Уэ тхылыр бджаш
Абы тхылыр иджаш
Дэ тхылыр дджаш
Фэ тхылыр вджаш
Абыхэм тхылыр яджаш

Negative forms:

Сэ тхыльым седжакъым (I didn't read the book)
Уэ тхыльым уеджакъым
Ар тхыльым еджакъым
Дэ тхыльым деджакъым
Фэ тхыльым феджакъым
Ахэр тхыльым еджакъым
or **Тхыльым еджахэкъым**

Group 2:

This is the past perfect tense. It is formed as in group one but with the addition of the infix -гъ-, e.g.:

Сэ сытхагъаш (I wrote once upon a time, or formerly)
Уэ утхагъаш
Ар тхагъаш
Дэ дытхагъаш
Фэ фытхагъаш
Ахэр тхагъаш

Negative forms:

Сэ сытхагъакъым (I didn't write once upon a time)
Уэ утхагъакъым
Ар тхагъакъым
Дэ дытхагъакъым
Фэ фытхагъакъым
Ахэр тхагъакъым

Group 3:

Verbs of this group designate repetition of action in a vividly expressed manner. They are formed by adding the suffix –т, e.g.:

Сэ жысІэрт	(I kept saying)
Дэ дылажъэрт	(We worked repeatedly)
Ар еджэрт	(He read many times)

Negative forms:

Сэ жысІэртэкъым	(I did not keep saying)
Дэ дылажъэртэкъым	(We did not work repeatedly)
Ар еджэртэкъым	(He did not read many times)

In modern Kabardian (also in poetical speech) verbs without the infix -p- may be encountered, e.g., сэ абы сыщылажъэт (as opposed to сыщылажъэрт), I worked there. However, this form is usually ignored.