

What is Ruritanian ?

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The language the Ruritanians speak is a very simple one, it has been to some extent influenced by early contact with visitors from Europe and Polynesia. For example they say "Loho!" for "Hello!" which clearly comes from the Hawaiian "Aloha!". The word for "run" is "corni", which has obvious links with the word "courir" in French and with the word "correre" in Italian, There have also been some Hungarian, German and English visitors, some explorers, some missionaries, who have left some words behind!

During the years of its history, much has been done to simplify the language, thus making it easy for anyone to learn. Below you will see some Ruritanian texts, with the English translation underneath, later you will find a very basic grammar.

Bruce et Alice vitan ad Ruritan

(Bruce and Alice come to Ruritania)

Bruce et Alice vitpan de mur ad prad in Ruritan in peka bark

(Bruce and Alice came from the sea to a beach in Ruritania in a small boat)

Bapan tra nini ruritanika ad prad ka bespan ad Bruce et ad Alice in englik.

(There were three Ruritanian children on the beach who spoke to Bruce and Alice in English)

Nini ruritanika akpan ku nini stra vitpyan kom dant ad pan kaz.

(The Ruritanian children wanted the foreign children to come with them to their house)

Tod nini itpan ad kaz der tra nini ruritanika et kronapan pan mat.

(All the children went to the house of the three Ruritanian children and met their mother)

"Loho!", bespa mat der nini.

(Hello, said the mother of the children)

"Esti nini ne potan besni ruritanikan", bespan nini.

(These children can't speak Ruritanian, said the children)

"Dozam besni englikan ver esti nini ban kom damt!"

(We must speak English, while these children are with us!)

"Dam pesam nini stra dozyan esni dol", bespan nini Ruritanika.

(We think the foreign children must eat something, said the Ruritanian children)

Nimi der nini ruritanika bapan Ata, Unta et Alo.

(The names of the Ruritanian children were Ata, Unta and Alo)

Bruce et Alice imapan ruritanik mul velan, ke grammatik ruritanika ba mul sima.
(Bruce and Alice learned Ruritanian very quickly, because Ruritanian grammar is very simple)

Itpan ad solo kom pan ami sinka dizi der semo.
(They went to school with their friends five days of the week)

Por dva dizi potban jogni, ke ne dozpan itni ad solo.
(For two days they could play, as they did not have to go to school)

Tod nini ruritanika akpan imani matematik, ke imapan jogi erdeka ver lezi der matematik.
(All Ruritanian children wanted to learn mathematics, because they learned interesting games during lessons in mathematics)

Akpan jogni esti jogi as in kaz.
(They wanted to play these games also at home) (in kaz = in house)

Platban itni in Dvaland, ke potban balni bali erdeka, ka ne potban balni in Traland ke bapan defta.
(They liked to go to Twoland, because they could dance interesting dances which they could not dance in Threeland because they were forbidden)

Bruce et Alice kvan hapan boritta ad pan kaz, akpan imani matematik ko dat hapan imata in Ruritan.
(Bruce and Alice when they had gone back to their own home, they wanted to learn mathematics as they had learned it in Ruritania)

Tennis bapa jog mul bona, nini platban jogni tennis, ke dozpan pesni, nini ruritanika platban pesni!"
(Tennis was a very good game, the children liked playing tennis, because they had to think, Ruritanian children liked thinking!"

"Di plati pesni?" Ti!"Di plati jogni?" Ta!
(Do you like thinking? No!)(Do you like playing? Yes!)

Kvan jogi jogi matematika, dozi pesni kan et imai kan.
(When you play mathematical games, you have to think a lot and you learn a lot)

Des kapi ruritanik mul bonan?
(Now do you understand Ruritanian very well?)

Si ne kapi, dozi imani mes!
(If you don't understand, you must learn more!)

Bruce pota besni ruritanik mes bonan ka Alice?

(Can Bruce speak Ruritanian better than Alice?)

Alice hapa imata mes matematik ka Bruce?

(Had Alice learned more mathematics than Bruce?)

Bruce pota imani ota doli mes velan ka Alice?

(Can Bruce learn other things more quickly than Alice?)

Alice ba raga mul bona.

(Alice is a very good girl)

Bruce plata rage krina; plata balni kom dant.

(Bruce likes pretty girls; he likes dancing with them)

Alice plata nini erdeka, ne nini krina.

(Alice likes interesting children, not pretty children)

Here is some more Ruritanian, more together. See if you can make it out. You will see the translation below if not!

Bruce et Alice bespan ad mat der nini ruritanika:

"Kvan potam itni jogni kom pam ami?"

"Kvan hapat funta pat rob!", bespa mat.

"Si robam por tra ori, potam jogni?" kespan nini.

"Ta, potat", bespa mat.

Kvan nini hapan robta mul bonan, bespan ad mat:

"Des potam itni jogni?"

"Konat tod ka dozpat imani?", bespa mat.

"Ta!", velpan nini.

"Des potat jogni kom pat ami!"

Tod nini itpan jogni tennis der Traland.

Here it is now in English:

[Bruce and Alice said to the mother of the Ruritanian children

"Can we go and play with our friends?"

"When you have done your work", said the mother.

"If we work for three hours, can we play?" said the children.

"Yes, you can", said the mother.

When the children had worked very well, they spoke to the mother:

"Now can we go and play?"

"Do you know all that you had to learn?", said the mother.

"Yes", said the children.

"Now you can play with your friends!"

All the children went to play THREEELAND tennis]

Ruritanian Grammar.

1. Pronouns.

Here are some pronouns that you will need to know:

do = I dot or bot = me

di = you dit = you

da = he, she, it dat = him, her, it.

dam = we damt = us

dat = you datt = you

dan = they dant = them.
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You might want to know why Ruritanians have four words for our one word "you". Let me explain with an example:

di bi in kaz = you are in the house, you are at home

dit ako = I want you (you I want, as they say)

Then dat and datt as used when you are speaking to more than one person.

For example

dat bat in kaz = you (several) are at home

datt ako = I want you (several of you)

Then you will want to know these pronouns as well (known as "possessive pronouns"):

po = my, mine, pam = our, ours,
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pi = your, yours, pat = your, yours,

pa = his, her, hers pan = their(s)

again pi being "yours" when you speak to just one person and pat is "yours" when you are speaking to more than one person.

The word "pat" also means "father", so it could be confusing to see

Pat pat ha advitta = your father has arrived (speaking to several children!)

The pronouns **dot, dit, dat, damt, datt, dant** usually come before the verb to which they refer, or if there are two, sometimes between them.

**For example "Si ne dot kapi, dot dozi besni"
 or "Si ne dot kapi, dozi dot besni"
 (If you don't understand me, you must tell me)
 (literally: If not me understand, me must tell)**

The forms **do, di, da, dam, dat, dan** can usually be "left out" as the endings in the verbs already express the person involved, whether it is "first person", or I, "second person" or you or "third person" or he, she or it. There is no distinction in Ruritanian between he or she, or even between a person and an inanimate object. If there is any ambiguity, the subject of the verb must be inserted, or repeated, if necessary.

2. The verbs "to be" and "to have" (bani and hani)

bo = I am	bi = you (just one) are	ba = he, she, it is
bam = we are	bat = you (more than one) are	ban = they are
	bata = been (past participle)	

ho = I have	hi = you (one) have	ha = he, she, it has
ham == we have	hat = you (more than one) have	han = they have
	hata = had (past participle)	

3. The forms of other verbs.

Ruritanians handle all their verbs in the same way. There are very few "exceptions" in Ruritanian grammar. Below you will find how to handle the present, past, future and conditional of the verb

"corni" which means "to run"

Present	Past
Coro = I run	Corpo = I ran
Cori = you (one) run	Corpi = you (one) ran
Cora = he, she it runs	Corpa = he, she, it ran
Coram = we run	Corpam = we ran
Corat = you (more than one) run	Corpat = you (more than one) ran
Coran = they run	Corpan = they ran

Future	Conditional
Corfo = I'll run	Corko = I would run
Corfi = you (one) will run	Corki = you (one) would run
Corfa = he, she, it runs	Corka = he, she, it would run
Corfam = we 'll run	Corkam = we would run
Corfat = you (several) will run	Corkat = you (several) would run
Corfan = they'll run	Corkan = they would run

If you want to say something about "not running", then you just put the word "ne" in front. For example:

ne coran = they don't run, or they are not running

ne corfi = you won't run, ne corpa = he didn't run, etc.

If you want to use a verb with another verb such as in "I can learn", you say "**poto imani**", where the second verb always just has a "ni" placed at the end of it. For example:

dozi vitni = you must come

platam balni = we like dancing

Krai ne potfam vitni jogni = tomorrow we can't come to play.

Note that "potfam" is in the future, since "tomorrow" is in the future. It is easy to remember. The Ruritanians use the letter "p" to show "past" and the letter "f" to show "future" and "k" for the conditional (konditional!)

Words that can be made out of a verb.

You can use the "stem" of a verb as a noun, for example

jogni = to play but jog = game

If you want to express who or what does what the verb says, you put "et" after the "stem", as in

jogni = to play and joget = player, or dezni = to draw, dezet = artist

The ending "ta" is used for the "past participle", like

Nini han vitta ad pam kaz = The children have come to our house

The subjunctive.

The subjunctive is formed by inserting the letter "y" after the "stem" of the verb. There is a present subjunctive and a past subjunctive. Here are the various forms of the verb "corni" as they appear in the subjunctive:

Present subjunctive	Past subjunctive
Coryo = (that) I run	Corpyo = (that, or if) I ran
Coryi = (that) you (one) run	Corpyi = (that, or if) you (one) ran
Corya = (that) he, she it run(s)	Corpya = (that, or if) he, she, it ran
Coryam = (that) we run	Corpyam = (that, or if) we ran
Coryat = (that) you (several) run	Corpyat = (that, or if) you (several) ran
Coryan = (that) they run	Corpyan = (that, or if) they ran

The subjunctive is used in Ruritanian to express emotion, doubt, uncertainty, hope and such like. It is also used as an imperative and to express "let us" do something. Naturally the subjunctive can be in the present or in the past. For example

Bo trara ku nini ne vityan = I am sad that the children are not coming
Bapo trara ku nini ne vitpyan = I was sad that the children were not coming
Plato ku bayi in pam kaz = I like it that you are in our house

Or you can use the "perfect tense" with the verb "hani" and say :

Bo trara ku nini ne hayan advitta = I am sad that the children have not arrived
Bapo trara ku nini ne hapyan advitta = I was sad that the children had not arrived
Plato ku hayi vitta ad pam kaz = I like it that you have come to our house

The past subjunctive is used in a conditional sentence, as for example:

Bako trara si nini ne vitpyan = I would be sad if the children did not come
Bako trara si nini ne hapyan vitta = I would be sad if the children had not come
Platko ku vitpyat jogni kom dot = I would like you (several) to come play with me

An imperative would be:

Vityi ad dot et spekyi po kadar = Come to me and see my picture!

An example for "let us" might be:

Ityam ad fusu et kartayam = Let us go to the river and swim!

The passive is formed as in English, but the word "by" is rendered with the word "de"
For example:

"Lupu ha esta safko" becomes in the passive "safko ba (bapa) esta de lupu"

"The wolf has eaten the lamb" becomes "the lamb is (was) eaten by the wolf"

The "present participle", formed in English by using the ending "-ing" is rendered in Ruritanian by using the ending "-and".

"Nini bapan jogand kvan advitpo" = "the children were playing when I arrived"

4. The numbers.

Ruritanians numbers only go up as far as eleven, since there are no States higher than ELEVENLAND. So here they are:

zera = 0	kvara = 4	okta = 8	In THREELAND
jeda = 1	sinka = 5	novra = 9	jeda jeda = 4
dva = 2	sisa = 6	dexa = 10	dva jeda = 7
tra = 3	seta = 7	unxa = 11	and so on.

In base ten, in normal "counting" we use the word dexa preceded by jeda, dva, tra, etc, to denote multiples of ten, so that

dvadexa = twenty, tradexa = thirty, then zenta = hundred,

dvazenta = twohundred, trazenta = threehundred and so on.

5. Prepositions.

in = in der = of, about de = from voru = towards

kom = with ad = at, to sudu = under baf = before

por = for ver = during sufu = over kara = after

If you use a proposition with a pronoun, you must use its form with a "t" at the end. For example:

"vito kom dit" = "I am coming with you"

6. Nouns and adjectives.

Nouns can end in any letter. The plural of a noun always has an "i" at the end of the word. For example:

"amo" = "friend" but "ami" = "friends"

"kaz" = "house" but "kazi" = "houses"

respectively.

Exceptionally the plural of "raga" is "rage", but the plural of "rago" is "ragi"
The plurals of the names for measure also end in "e".

Adjectives always end in the letter "a" and usually are placed after the noun to which they refer. You can always make an adjective out of a noun by putting an "a" at the end. For example

"amo" = friend, but "ama" = friendly.

In some cases it is better to put the adjective before the noun as for example in

"peka raga", a little girl, or "bona nini", good children.

Adjectives do not have plurals, unless they are used as nouns.

pam nini ban bona = our children are good, but
boni vitfan ad kaz = the good ones will come to the house

"esta" (this) and "eta" (that) have two kinds of plurals, depending on whether they refer to boys of girls.

"esti ragi" = these boys, "este rage" = these girls

"eti ragi" = those boys, "ete rage" = those girls

but the "feminine plurals" are not mandatory, "esti" and "eti" can also be used for girls.

You can make an adverb out of an adjective by putting the letter "n" at the end. For example:

bona = good, but bonan = well
erdeka = interesting, but erdekan = interestingly

You can make a noun out of an adjective with the ending "-tu" For instance:

zika = certain, and zikatu = certainty

7. Composite words out of basic words.

Ruritanians have always been fond of using words, made up out of other words, so as to make communication easier. A set of "basic" words is sufficient, out of which other "composite" words can be made, and in this way the meaning of the composite word can be gleaned from the meanings of the words out of which it is made up.

Here are some examples:

zika = sure, dol = thing, zikadol = fact (namely a sure thing)

vuz = water, col = place, so vuzcol = pool (namely water place)

vulu = world, mitni - to send, so vulumitni = to e-mail (to world-send)

uzta = used, dol = thing, lul = down, it = goes, so uztadollulit = drain

semlo = person, rob = work, jedan = together, so semrobjedan = society

clazni = to do, to make, egek = sky, itni = to go, clazegitni = to throw

cro = what, dozni = to have to, torni = to happen, so crodoztor = fate

cro = what, besni = to say, crobesu = meaning (what it says)

geg = against, pesni = to think, so gegpesni = to disagree (to against think)

nini = children, clazni = to make, niniclazet = parent (children maker)

erdeku = interest, doli = things, kaz = house, erdekdolikaz = museum

obratni = to solve, kan = a lot, obratkana = intelligent (solves a lot)

su = self, ferpa = stopped, so su dat ferpa = he, she, it stopped

su dit rizi! = get up!, su dot fero = I stop (myself!)

You can see that "reflexives" are expressed by means of "su", in all persons!

Sometimes a word might not be found in the dictionary. If this happens, you have to think of the bits out of which the word is made up, look up those bits and construct the meaning that way. In this way the language is very flexible, as an indefinite number of words can be constructed, all with fairly obvious meanings which can be understood by knowing the meanings of the component words

8. Ruritanian pronunciation/

The tonic stress is nearly always on the first syllable. Nouns ending in -tu tend to be stressed on this last syllable. The vowel sounds are the same, as described below, whether they occur in a stressed syllable or in an unstressed one. In Southern English there are only two unstressed vowel sounds, so for speakers of that type of English it might prove difficult to sound every vowel by giving it its true value, whether stressed or unstressed.

(a) Vowels.

The letter "a" sounds as it does in German or Italian, or as in Southern English in the word "but".

The letter "e" has a sound somewhere between the vowel sounds in the English words "bet" and "bat", as pronounced in Southern English. Or as the French pronounce the letter "ê", except that it is usually short.

The letter "i" sounds like "ee" in "feet", but shorter, or somewhat like "i" in French, German or Italian.

The letter "o" sounds like the English vowel sound in "or", but shorter. Somewhat like the Italian or the German sound for "o" in those languages.

The letter "u" sounds like the vowel sound in the English word "boon", but shorter, or like the Northern English sound in "love".

There are no diphthongs in Ruritania.

(b) Consonants.

The following consonants are sounded much as they are in English:

b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, qu, t, v, w (only in the word "awa"), x, y, z

c is always hard as in "cut" If a hard sound is needed before an "e" or an "i", the letter "k" is used.

g is always hard as in "get", never soft as in "gem"

j is sounded as y in "yellow"

r is not "slurred" as in most versions of English (except Scottish), but it is rolled, not as in Northern French, more like the Italian or the Scottish pronunciation.

s is always pronounced as in "sun", never as a "z" sound as in "easy"