A Complete Grammar of the Tristano Language

Tristano is an artificial language designed as a potential evolution of Esperanto, modified to be more naturalistic and expressive. Its grammar is regular and logical, prioritizing clarity while allowing for nuanced, context-driven expression.

I. Orthography and Phonetics

1. Alphabet: Tristano uses 20 letters of the Latin alphabet:
`A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M, N, O, P, R, S, T, U, X`

2. Pronunciation: The language is phonetic. Vowels are pure. Consonants often represent a range of related sounds.

- **a:** as in f**a**ther | **e:** as in p**e**t | **i:** as in mach**i**ne | **o:** as in f**o**rce | **u:** as in fl**u**te
- **b:** as **b** or **v** | **d:** as **d** or voiced **th** | **j:** as **j**am or plea**s**ure | **s:** as **s** or **z** | **x:** as **sh** or **ch**

3. Accent (Stress):

- Stress is on the second-to-last syllable for words ending in a vowel, **-n**, or **-s**. (e.g., `**DO**-mo`, `ho-**MUN**-don`).
- Stress is on the final syllable for words ending in any other consonant (e.g., infinitives in `-ar`) or when the final vowel is elided with an apostrophe (e.g., `a-**MAR**`, `be-no-**NTA'**`).

4. Vowel Consolidation: When a prefix ending in a vowel is joined to a root beginning with the same vowel, the vowels merge.

- `ne-` + `ebla` → `nebla` (impossible) | `re-` + `esaminar` → `resaminar` (to re-examine)

II. Core Components (Parts of Speech)

1. Nouns:

- Singular nouns end in **-o** (`domo`). Plural nouns end in **-i**, which replaces the `-o` (`domi`).
- Gender is neutral by default. Suffixes **-ixo** (male) and **-ino** (female) specify gender.

2. Adjectives:

- End in **-a** and do not change for number or case (`granda domo`, `granda domi`).
- **Placement:** Placed before a noun for neutral description (`bela domo`). Placed after a noun for special emphasis on the quality (`domo bela`).

- Comparison: `pli` (more), `min` (less), `tan` (as). Superlative: `plei` (most), `mein` (least).

3. Adverbs:

- Typically end in **-e** (`rapide` - quickly).

4. Verbs:

- Do not change for person or number (`me amas`, `li amas`).
- **Tenses:** Infinitive **-ar** (`amar`), Present **-as** (`amas`), Past **-is** (`amis`), Future **-os** (`amos`).
- **Stress:** Verb infinitives (`-ar`) are stressed on the final syllable. All conjugated forms (`-as`, `-is`, `-os`) are stressed on the second-to-last syllable.
- **Moods:** Imperative uses the infinitive form (`Amar!`). No conditional/subjunctive tense exists.
- **Passive Voice:** Formed with `sar` + a passive participle (`le sas amata`) or with the infix **-es-** (`le amesas`).
- **The Verb `sar` (to be):** The present tense form, `sas`, is frequently elided to **`'s`** after a pronoun ending in a vowel (`me's`, `te's`, `le's`).

III. Syntax & Function

1. Sentence Prefixes: The mood and intent of a sentence can be set by a prefix.

- **Intention:** `cu` (question), `xal` (wish), `uol` (request), `ten` (warning).
- **Truth/Belief:** `con` (known fact), `pen` (opinion), `dub` (doubtful), `foi` (hypothetical).

2. Word Order: Standard order is Subject-Verb-Object (SVO), but can be altered for emphasis.

3. Definiteness (Zero-Article System): Tristano has no mandatory articles ('the', 'a').

- **Default:** Definiteness is primarily understood from context. If a noun has been mentioned, it is assumed to be definite. No article-like word is used. (`Un biro eniras domo. Biro bidas tablo.` -> "A man enters a house. The man sees a table.")
- **Clarity/Emphasis:** The demonstrative adjectives `ta` (that/the) and `ita` (this) are used sparingly to avoid ambiguity or for emphasis. `ta` is the general-purpose clarifier.

4. Cases:

- **Nominative:** Standard form for the subject.
- **Accusative (-n):** Used **only** to mark the direct object when the word order is non-standard (e.g., OVS, OSV) for emphasis. It is never used in a standard SVO sentence.
- **Genitive (-ua / -ia):** Shows possession ("of"). Replaces the noun's final vowel. **-ua** for one possessor, **-ia** for multiple possessors (`domua pordo` - the house's door).

IV. Key Word Systems

1. Personal Pronouns: `me` (I), `te` (you sing.), `le` (he/she/it), `ni` (we), `bi` (you pl.), `li` (they).

- Possessive Adjectives add **-a** (`mea`). Possessive Pronouns add **-o** (`meo`).

2. Numerals:

- **Cardinal:** `nul, un, du, tri, cuar, cin, sis, sep, oc, nau, dec`. Tens and hundreds are joined (`dudec` - 20).
- **Ordinal (-a):** `una` (first), `dua` (second).
- **Multiple (-oblo):** `duoblo` (double).
- **Fractional (-imo):** `triimo` (a third).

3. Correlatives:

	cu- (question)	**t-** (that)	**ig-** (any/some)	**xi-** (every)	**n-** (no)	**ali-** (other)
-o (thing)	cuo	to	igo	xio	nulo	alio
-a (kind)	cua	ta	iga	xia	nula	alia
-e (manner)	cue	tie	ige	xie	nule	alie
-en (place)	cuen	tien	igen	xien	nulen	alien
-am (time)	cuam	tam	igam	xiam	nulam	aliam
-al (reason)	cual	tal	igal	xial	nulal	alial
-ua (possessor)	cuoa	tua	igua	xiua	nulua	alua

- *Note: `cuoa` retains the `-oa` ending to avoid confusion with `cua`.*
- The `t-` series can be prefixed with `i-` (this/near) or `o-` (that/far).

V. Word Formation (Morphology)

New words are formed by joining roots with standard prefixes and suffixes.

Prefix	Meaning	Suffix (Noun Form)	Meaning
arci-	arch-	**-ado**	repeated action
bo-	in-law	**-ajo**	thing, stuff
des-	direct opposite	**-ano**	member, inhabitant
mal-	opposite	**-aro**	collection, group
ne-	un-, non-	**-eio**	place for an action
re-	again	**-estro**	leader, chief
ecs-	former	**-ido**	descendant
dis-	separation	**-ilo**	instrument, tool
		-ino	female
		-isto	professional person
		-ixo	male

VI. The 16 Foundational Rules of Tristano

1. **Sentence Prefixes:** The overall mood of a sentence (question, wish, opinion, etc.) is established by an initial prefix.
2. **No Articles:** Tristano is a zero-article language. Definiteness is primarily indicated by context. The demonstratives `ta` and `ita` are used sparingly for clarity or emphasis.
3. **Nouns:** End in `-o` (singular) and `-i` (plural, replacing the `-o`).
4. **Cases:** The subject is in the nominative. The accusative `-n` is used on the object only for non-SVO word order. Possession is shown with the genitive `-ua` or `-ia`.
5. **Adjectives:** End in `-a` and do not change. Placed before a noun for neutral description, after for emphasis.
6. **Verbs:** The verb undergoes no change with regard to person or number. Tenses are `-as` (present), `-is` (past), `-os` (future), `-ar` (infinitive/imperative). The verb `sar` has a common elision (`'s`).
7. **Participles:** A full system of active and passive participles exists.
8. **Adverbs:** Derived words end in `-e`.
9. **Pronouns and Correlatives:** Personal pronouns are fixed. A systematic table of correlatives provides function words.
10. **Syntax:** Standard word order is Subject-Verb-Object (SVO), but is flexible.
11. **Word Formation:** Words are built from roots using a rich system of prefixes and suffixes.
12. **Pronunciation:** Words are pronounced as spelled.

13. **Accent:** Word stress is regular and determined by the word's ending.
14. **Vowel Consolidation:** Identical adjacent vowels between a prefix and root are merged.
15. **Negation:** The word `ne` (not) negates a word or clause.
16. **Foreign Words:** Words from other languages are adapted to Tristano's phonetic spelling (e.g., Esperanto `ŝarĝo` → `xarjo`).