

# Introduction to Lojban

*By La Gleki, 2014*

We will construct and explain simple dialogues in Lojban language.



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# Select a dialogue.

View them starting from the first one.

1. [I am talking about movies](#)
2. [Hello, my name is ...](#)
3. [“Good evening” and “goodbye”](#)
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# 1. A dialogue.

**mi ca'ò tavla do lo pa skina**

I am talking to you about a movie.

**i lo se skina cu mutce cinri ui**

The plot of the movie is very interesting!

**i xu do tugni**

Do you agree ?

**je'u**

Yes.

# The structure of our dialogue.

<b>mi</b>	<b>ca'o</b>	<b>tavla</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>pa</b>	<b>skina</b>
I	progressive tense	talk to	you	makes a noun:	one	...is a movie, film

<b>i</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>se skina</b>	<b>cu</b>	<b>mutce</b>	<b>cinri</b>	<b>ui</b>
sentence separator	makes a noun:	is the plot, action of a movie	main verb follows:	is very	is interesting	Yay! (interjection)

<b>i</b>	<b>xu</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>tugni</b>		<b>je'u</b>
sentence separator	yes/no particle	you	agree		Yes (True)

**Now let's learn  
the structure of the dialogue.**

<b>mi</b>	<b>ca'o</b>	<b>tavla</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>pa</b>	<b>skina</b>
I	progressive tense	talk to	you	makes a noun:	one	is a movie

# Verb

**ca'o tavla** = *to be talking*

**tavla** = ... *talk to ... (someone) about ...*

**tavla** is a verb. Verbs are basic words in Lojban.

They express relations, actions. Verbs like all words never change their form.

Special particles can be placed before the verb to specify its “contour” or tense.

The particle **ca'o** denotes progressive tense.

**tavla** = *to talk*

**ca'o tavla** = *to be talking*

**ba tavla** = *will talk*

**pu tavla** = *talked*

# Some examples of verbs

**rinsa** = *to greet ... (someone)*

**ciska** = *to write or type ... (something)*

**tadni** = *to study ... (something)*

**prami** = *to love ... (someone)*

**cadzu** = *to walk*

# Nouns

Nouns are made out of verbs by placing **lo** in front of them:

**prami** = *to love*

**lo prami** = *a lover, the lover*

**gerku** = *is a dog, to be a dog*

**lo gerku** = *a dog, the dog*

**skina** = *is a movie, film with plot/theme/action ...*

**lo skina** = *a movie (film), the movie*

Don't be surprised! In "It is a movie", the part "is a movie" acts like a verb so movies and dogs can be verbs in Lojban!



<b>mi</b>	<b>ca'o</b>	<b>tavla</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>pa</b>	<b>skina</b>
I	progressive tense	talk to	you	makes a noun:	one	is a movie

## **mi - I**

Here are personal pronouns:

**mi** = *I, me*

**do** = *you*

**mi'o** = *we with you*

**mi'a** = *we without you*

<b>mi</b>	<b>ca'o</b>	<b>tavla</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>pa</b>	<b>skina</b>
I	progressive tense	talk to	you	makes a noun:	one	is a movie

## mi - I

Like other words personal pronouns don't change their form.

They can be placed before a verb:

**mi prami** = *I love.*

After a verb:

**prami do** = *love you, someone unspecified loves you.*

Combining those two we get:

**mi prami do** = *I love you.*

After prepositions:

**mi catlu fa'a do** = *I look towards you.*

<b>mi</b>	<b>ca'o</b>	<b>tavla</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>pa</b>	<b>skina</b>
I	progressive tense	talk to	you	makes a noun:	one	is a movie

# Numbers

**lo skina** can mean either *movie* or *movies*.

The number is usually clear from context but you can specify it if you need it.

**lo pa skina** = *one movie*

**lo za'u skina** = *movies*

**lo ro skina** = *all movies*

**ro lo skina** = *each movie*

**lo so'i skina** = *many movies*

Place a number after **lo**:

**pa** = 1, **re** = 2, **ci** = 3, **vo** = 4, **mu** = 5, **xa** = 6, **ze** = 7, **bi** = 8, **so** = 9

**no** - 0 (zero). **za'u** - more than one, plural number. **so'i** - many

**ro** - all, each, every. Notice that to say *each* you put **ro** before **lo**.

<b>mi</b>	<b>ca'o</b>	<b>tavla</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>pa</b>	<b>skina</b>
I	progressive tense	talk to	you	makes a noun:	one	is a movie

## Arguments of verbs

Each verb has a sequence of arguments that describe all participants of an action or event.

... **tavla** ... = ... *talks to ... about ...*

You just put a noun onto each “...” mark.

Here we get:

**mi tavla do lo skina** = *I talk to you about a movie/movies.*

By adding a tense for the verb and a numbers for the last noun we get a richer sentence:

**mi ca'o tavla do lo pa skina** = *I am talking to you about a movie (one movie).*

**Let's make our first sentence  
a bit more interesting.**

<b>ca</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>prulamdei</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>tavla</b>	<b>do</b>
during	convert to noun:	...is yesterday	I	talk	you

**ca lo prulamdei mi tavla do**

Yesterday I was talking to you.

## Time prepositions

Time prepositions add additional meanings to the phrase:

**ca** = *during ...*

**pu** = *before ... (in time)*

**ba** = *after ... (in time)*

They are followed by a noun.

**ca lo prulamdei** = *Yesterday, during yesterday*

<b>ca</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>prulamdei</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>tavla</b>	<b>do</b>
during	convert to noun:	...is yesterday	I	talk	you

**ca lo prulamdei mi tavla do**

Yesterday I was talking to you.

# Yesterday, today, tomorrow

**ca lo prulamdei** = *Yesterday, during yesterday*

**cabdei** = *occur today*

**ca lo cabdei** = *Today, during this day*

**bavlamdei** = *occur tomorrow*

**ca lo bavlamdei** = *Tomorrow, the next day*

<b>ca</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>prulamdei</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>tavla</b>	<b>do</b>
during	convert to noun:	...is yesterday	I	talk	you

**ca lo prulamdei mi tavla do**

Yesterday I talked to you.

## Prepositions and tenses

Without a noun after them time prepositions immediately turn into tenses!

**ca** without a noun denotes present tense.

**pu** without a noun denotes past tense.

**ba** without a noun denotes future tense.

**mi ca viska do** = *I see you.*

**mi ba rinsa do** = *I will greet you.*

**mi pu prami do** = *I loved you.*



<b>mi</b>	<b>tavla</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>pa</b>	<b>skina</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>xrula</b>
I	talk	you	noun:	one	movie	and	noun:	flower

**mi tavla do lo pa skina e lo xrula**

I talk to you about a movie and flowers.

## Conjunctions

Conjunctions connect nouns:

**e** - *and*.

**a** - *or*.

**onai** - *either ... or ... (not both)*.

**lo skina e lo xrula** - *movies and flowers (number not specified)*.

**lo pa skina e lo xrula** - *a movie and flowers (number of flowers not specified)*.

**lo pa skina a lo pa xrula** - *a movie or a flower (or both of them)*.

**lo pa skina onai lo pa xrula** - *either a movie or a flower (but not both of them)*.

<b>i</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>se skina</b>	<b>cu</b>	<b>mutce</b>	<b>cinri</b>	<b>ui</b>
sentence separator	makes a noun:	is a plot, action of a movie	main verb follows:	is very	is interesting	Yay! (interjection)

**i lo se skina cu mutce cinri ui**

The plot of the movie is very interesting :-) !

**i**

**i** separates sentences so that we know when a new utterance is started.

<b>i</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>se skina</b>	<b>cu</b>	<b>mutce</b>	<b>cinri</b>	<b>ui</b>
sentence separator	makes a noun:	is a plot, action of a movie	main verb follows:	is very	is interesting	Yay! (interjection)

## se skina

**se** exchanges the order of the first and the second place of **skina**

**skina** = ... *is movie with work/content* ...

So

**se skina** = ...*is the work/content of movie* ...

And by prefixing it with **lo** we get a noun:

**lo se skina** = a plot, action of a movie

Another example of **se**:

**mi prami do** = *I love you.*

**do se prami mi** = *You are loved by me.*

<b>i</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>se skina</b>	<b>cu</b>	<b>mutce</b>	<b>cinri</b>	<b>ui</b>
sentence separator	makes a noun:	is a plot, action of a movie	main verb follows:	is very	is interesting	Yay! (interjection)

## Compound verbs

Two or more verbs words one after another compose a compound verb:

**cinri** = *is interesting*

**mutce** = *is extreme, of high degree*

**mutce cinri** = *is very interesting*

Thus the verb word to the left modifies the verb to the right.

**lo skina** = *a movie*

**lo cinri skina** = *an interesting movie*

<b>i</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>se skina</b>	<b>cu</b>	<b>mutce</b>	<b>cinri</b>	<b>ui</b>
sentence separator	makes a noun:	is a plot, action of a movie	main verb follows:	is very	is interesting	Yay! (interjection)

## **cu** separates the following verb

As **se skina** is a verb it could be merged into the following verb **mutce** so we prefix the verb with **cu**:

**lo se skina cu mutce cinri**

It's no mistake to always put it:

**mi cu prami**

but pronouns don't merge into verbs so you can omit **cu** there.

<b>i</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>se skina</b>	<b>cu</b>	<b>mutce</b>	<b>cinri</b>	<b>ui</b>
sentence separator	makes a noun:	is a plot, action of a movie	main verb follows:	is very	is interesting	Yay! (interjection)

## ui - interjection

**ui** is an interjection word.  
It denotes happiness and is applied to the word before it.  
**cinri ui** means ... *interesting, yay!*

Interjections modify the whole sentence  
when put just after **i** or  
in the beginning of a sentence if **i** is omitted:  
**ui mi prami** = *Yay, I love (I'm in love)*

<b>i xu do tugni</b>		<b>je'u</b>
Do you agree ?		Yes.

<b>i</b>	<b>xu</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>tugni</b>		<b>je'u</b>
sentence separator	yes/no particle	you	agree		Yes (True)

<b>i</b>	<b>xu</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>tugni</b>		<b>je'u</b>
sentence separator	yes/no particle	you	agree		Yes (True)

## **xu** - yes/ no question

**xu** is also an interjection. It asks a yes/no question.  
To reply for a question use any interjection appropriate:

**je'u** - Yes (true).

**je'unai** - No (wrong, false).

**tugni** = ... agrees with ... (somebody) about ... (something)

Question, exclamation marks and other punctuation marks are optional in Lojban.

We can as well write “**xu do tugni ?**” although **xu** already denotes a question.



# We've covered this dialogue:

**mi ca'ò tavla do lo pa skina**

I am talking to you about a movie.

**i lo se skina cu mutce cinri ui**

The content of the movie is very interesting!

**i xu do tugni**

Do you agree ?

**je'u**

Yes.

## 2. A dialogue.

**coi do mi se cmene zo gleki. i do se cmene ma**

Hello! My name is Gleki. What is your name?

**i mi se cmene zo alis. i mi se pluka lo nu mi penmi do**

My name is Alice. It's a pleasure to meet you.

**go'i ra'o**

Me too.

# The structure of our dialogue.

<b>coi</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>se cmene</b>	<b>zo</b>	<b>gleki</b>
Hello	you	I	is named	Quote one word:	Gleki (literally “to be happy”)

<b>i</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>se cmene</b>	<b>ma</b>
sentence separator	you	is named	what?

# The structure of our dialogue.

<b>i</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>se cmene</b>	<b>zo</b>	<b>alis</b>
sentence separator	I	is named	Quote one word:	Alice

<b>i</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>se pluka</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>nu</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>penmi</b>	<b>do</b>
sentence separator	I	...feels pleasure of ... (event)	noun:	phrase starts	I	meet	you

<b>go'i</b>	<b>ra'o</b>
previous phrase	, in which pronouns are applied to the speaker

**Now let's learn  
the structure of the dialogue.**

<b>coi</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>se cmene</b>	<b>zo</b>	<b>gleki</b>
Hello	you	I	... is named	Quote one word:	Gleki (literally "to be happy")

## Vocatives

**coi do** = Hello!

**do** = you

**coi** is a vocative particle. Vocative particles require a noun, name or pronoun after them.  
In the simplest case you just say **coi do** - "Hello you!"

<b>coi</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>se cmene</b>	<b>zo</b>	<b>gleki</b>
Hello	you	I	is named	Quote one word:	to be happy

# Quoting one word

**zo** quote one next word.

In this case it's a verb

**gleki** = ...is happy because of ... (event)

Thus

**zo gleki** = “Happy” (a personal name)

If your name is not a Lojban word it must end in a consonant.

Also use only Lojban letters and Lojban literal pronunciation of letters for your name.

For example,

**alis, robin, robert** are fine Lojban names.

*Mary* will become **meris** because this is how it sounds in English.

Plus we added a consonant in the end.

# Using names

**zo** quote one next word.

**la** marks the next construct as a name.

Compare:

**mi penmi la gleki** = *“I met Gleki”*

**mi tavla la alis** = *“I talk to Alice”*

**la alis cu tavla la robert** = *“Alice talks to Robert”*

but

**mi se cmene zo gleki** = *“My name is ‘Gleki’ ”*

**la gleki** is someone or something with the name ‘Gleki’.

**zo gleki** is just a quoted text.

In defining names with **cmene** we use **zo**.



<b>i</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>se cmene</b>	<b>ma</b>
sentence separator	you	is named	what?

# What?

**ma** asks a question requiring to fill a place of a verb,  
in this case the second place of **se cmene**  
**se cmene ma** = is named what?  
**do se cmene ma** = *You are named what?, What is your name?*

<b>i</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>se pluka</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>nu</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>penmi</b>	<b>do</b>
sentence separator	I	...feels pleasure of ... (event)	noun:	phrase starts	I	meet	you

**I am pleased.**

**se pluka** = ... *is pleased because of* ...  
**mi se pluka** = *I am pleased.*

<b>i</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>se pluka</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>nu</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>penmi</b>	<b>do</b>
sentence separator	I	...feels pleasure of ... (event)	noun:	phrase starts	I	meet	you

## to meet

**penmi** = ... meets ... (whom or what)  
**penmi do** = ... *meets you, to meet you*

<b>i</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>se pluka</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>nu</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>penmi</b>	<b>do</b>
sentence separator	I	...feels pleasure of ... (event)	noun:	phrase starts	I	meet	you

**I am pleased.**

**se pluka** = ... *is pleased because of* ...

**mi se pluka** = *I am pleased.*

**mi penmi do** = *I meet you / I met you / I will meet you.*

The second place of **se pluka** requires adding a whole phrase.  
Add **lo nu** and then the phrase: the reason why you are pleased.

**mi se pluka lo nu mi penmi do** = I am pleased that I met you.

<b>i</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>se pluka</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>ka</b>	<b>penmi</b>	<b>do</b>
sentence separator	I	...feels pleasure of ... (event)	noun:	infinitive	meet	you

# Infinitive

**mi se pluka lo ka penmi do** = *I am pleased to meet you.*

**mi se pluka lo nu mi penmi do** = *I am pleased that I meet you.*

Both sentences mean the same.

**lo ka** states that the place (pronoun, noun, name) on the left does the action on the right.

In other words,  
the first place (**mi**) of the main verb (**se pluka**)  
is applied to the event to the right of **lo ka**.

# Examples of event places

**do zukte ma** = You are doing what? What are you doing?

The answer might be:

**lo ka lumci lo kumfa** = cleaning the room

**zukte** = ... *does ... (event) with goal ...*

The second place of the verb **zukte** requires adding either the questions word **ma**, or

**lo ka** and then a phrase describing that event.

**mi zukte lo ka lumci lo kumfa** = I am occupied with cleaning the room.

**lumci** = ... *cleans ... using ...*

**lo kumfa** = *a room, the room*

**lo ka** starts a place with a phrase inside.

**lo ka lumci lo kumfa** = *cleaning the room*

The second place of **gleki** is similar to **se pluka**:

**mi gleki lo nu do klama mi** = *I am happy that you come to me.*

*(came, will come depending on context)*

**mi gleki lo ka klama** or **mi gleki lo nu mi klama** = *I am happy of coming.*

**klama** = ... *comes to ... from ...*

# 3. A dialogue.

**vanci coi la alis**

Good evening, Alice!

**coi la gleki i do klama ma**

Hello, Gleki! Where are you going?

**i ei mi ca gunka bu'u lo briju**

I have to work at the office.

**co'o**

Good-bye.

**co'o**

Good-bye.

# The structure of our dialogue.

<b>vanci</b>	<b>coi</b>	<b>la</b>	<b>alis</b>	<b>coi</b>	<b>la</b>	<b>gleki</b>
... is an evening	hello	name follows:	Alice	hello	name follows:	... is happy

<b>i</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>klama</b>	<b>ma</b>	<b>i</b>	<b>ei</b>
sentence separator	you	... goes to ...	what ?	sentence separator	obligation interjection

<b>mi</b>	<b>ca</b>	<b>gunka</b>	<b>bu'u</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>briju</b>		<b>co'o</b>
I	present tense	work	at	noun follows:	... is an office		Good-bye



<b>vanci</b>	<b>coi</b>	<b>la</b>	<b>alis</b>
... is an evening	hello	name follows:	Alice

# Good evening!

**vanci** = ... *is an evening*

**coi** is a vocative. Like interjections

vocatives are attached to the preceding verb words, names and pronouns.

**vanci coi** means *Good evening!*

Vocatives require a noun, pronoun or name after them.

Names are formed by prefixing them with **la**.

**la alis** = *Alice*

**la gleki** = *Gleki* (literally *Happy*)

Compare it with

**lo gleki** = happy, a happy person (not a name)

**coi la alis** = *Hello, Alice!*

**coi la gleki** = *Hello, Gleki!*

<b>i</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>klama</b>	<b>ma</b>
sentence separator	you	... goes to ...	what ?

# Where are you going?

**klama** = ... goes to ... from ...  
**do klama ma** = You go where? Where do you go?

<b>i</b>	<b>ei</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>ca</b>	<b>gunka</b>	<b>bu'u</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>briju</b>
sentence separator	obligation interjection	I	present tense	work	at	noun follows:	... is an office

## I should ...

**ei** is an interjection of obligation.  
It translates to English as (*I should, one should ...*)

<b>i</b>	<b>ei</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>ca</b>	<b>gunka</b>	<b>bu'u</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>briju</b>
sentence separator	obligation interjection	I	present tense	work	at	noun follows:	... is an office

**bu'u = at**

The preposition **bu'u** = *at, at location of ...*

**gunka** = *... works on ... (activity)*

**lo briju** = *an office, the office*

<b>i</b>	<b>ei</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>ca</b>	<b>gunka</b>	<b>bu'u</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>briju</b>
sentence separator	obligation interjection	I	present tense	work	at	noun follows:	... is an office

**i ei mi ca gunka bu'u lo briju**

I should work at the office.

**coi**

Hello

**co'o**

Good-bye.

**Good-bye!**

**co'o** is a vocative just like **coi**.

**coi la alis** = Hello, Alice!

**co'o la alis** = Good-bye, Alice!

Nouns after vocatives can be omitted when vocatives are at the end of phrase.

# 4. Useful phrases

<b>cerni coi</b>	<b>donri coi</b>	<b>vanci coi</b>	<b>nicte di'ai</b>
Good morning!	Good day!	Good evening!	Good night!

<b>ki'e</b>	<b>je'e</b>
Thank you!	You are welcome!

**cerni coi**

Good morning!

**donri coi**

Good day!

**vanci coi**

Good evening!

**nicte di'ai**

Good night!

# Hello!

**coi** means *Hello!*, it is a vocative of greeting.

**cerni** = ...*is a morning*

**donri** = ...*is a daylight time*

**vanci** = ...*is an evening*

When putting a vocative after a verb it is applied to that verb.



<b>cerni coi</b>	<b>donri coi</b>	<b>vanci coi</b>	<b>nicte di'ai</b>
Good morning!	Good day!	Good evening!	Good night!

# Good night!

*Good night!* has a different meaning.  
Thus a different vocative is used.

**di'ai** - a vocative of well-wish.  
**nicte** = ...*is a night*

<b>ki'e</b>	<b>je'e</b>
Thank you!	You are welcome!

# Thank you!

**ki'e** is a vocative that means *Thanks!*

**ki'e do** = Thank you!

The usual reply is:

**je'e**. It is a vocative that means *You are welcome!*

# 5. Your city and job.

<b>do xabju ma poi tcadu</b>		<b>la losanjeles</b>
What city do you live in?		Los-Angeles

<b>do se jibri lo ka mo</b>		<b>sanga</b>
What is your job?		I am a singer.

<b>tigni</b>	<b>sampla</b>	<b>dansu</b>	<b>na'i</b>
I am an actor.	I am a programmer.	I am a dancer.	nothing (I don't have a job).

# The structure of our dialogue.

<b>do</b>	<b>xabju</b>	<b>ma</b>	<b>poi</b>	<b>tcadu</b>		<b>la</b>	<b>losanjeles</b>
you	... inhabits	what?	that	... is a city		name follows:	Los-Angeles

<b>do</b>	<b>se jibri</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>ka</b>	<b>mo</b>		<b>sanga</b>
you	... is employed in...	a noun follows	infinitive	... what (a question verb)		... sings

<b>tigni</b>	<b>sampla</b>	<b>dansu</b>		<b>na'i</b>
... plays (about an actor)	... programs	... dances		The question can't be answered.

<b>do</b>	<b>xabju</b>	<b>ma</b>	<b>poi</b>	<b>tcadu</b>		<b>la</b>	<b>losanjeles</b>
you	... inhabits	what?	that	... is a city		name follows:	Los-Angeles

## That which

**poi** means “that” in the sense  
*the one that is something or does something.* For example:  
**lo prenu poi melbi** = *the person who is beautiful*

**do xabju ma poi tcadu** literally means *You live in what that is a city?*  
 thus restricting the answer with cities only.  
**tcadu** = *... is a city*

<b>do</b>	<b>se jibri</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>ka</b>	<b>mo</b>		<b>sanga</b>
you	... is employed in...	a noun follows	infinitive	... what (a question verb)		... sings

## Job

**se jibri** = ... *is employed in ... (job as an action follows)*

Job in Lojban is described as an action of what you are doing on that job.

**mo** is a question verb.

The listener is supposed to answer with a verb, for example:

**sanga** = ... *sings*

## 6. Seasons and taking rest

**ca ma do surla**

When do you take rest?

**lo crisa**

In summer.

**lo citsi zo'u mi traji nelci lo vensa e lo crisa**

As for seasons, I like spring and summer most.

**mi nelci lo ka litru lo ropno tumla**

I like travelling to Europe.

**mi ji'a nelci**

I like it too.

# The structure of our dialogue

<b>ca</b>	<b>ma</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>surla</b>		<b>lo</b>	<b>crisa</b>
During	what?	you	... takes rest		noun follows:	... is a summer

<b>lo</b>	<b>citsi</b>	<b>zo'u</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>traji</b>	<b>nelci</b>
noun follows:	... is a season	separates topic	I	... is an extreme	... likes

<b>lo</b>	<b>vensa</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>lo</b>	<b>crisa</b>
noun follows:	... is a spring	and (connects nouns)	noun follows:	... is a summer



**ca ma do surla**

When do you take rest?

**lo crisa**

In summer.

# When?

**ca** before a verb denotes present tense.

Before a noun it means *during...*, *at the same time as ...*

**ma** is a question particle asking for a noun (pronoun, name).

**ca ma** = *When? (during what?)*

**surla** = *... rests, relaxes by doing ... (action)*

**ca ma do surla** = *When do you relax, take rest?*

The listener substitutes this **ma** with an appropriate noun.

**lo crisa** = *a summer*

**ca lo crisa mi surla lo ka litru** = *In summer I relax by travelling.*

<b>lo</b>	<b>citsi</b>	<b>zo'u</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>traji</b>	<b>nelci</b>
noun follows:	... is a season	separated topic	I	... is an extreme	... likes

## Topic and comment

“As for ...” is used in English to denote the topic of a sentence.  
 In Lojban we separate the topic from the rest of the sentence using **zo'u**.

**traji** = ... is an extreme  
**traji nelci** = ... likes ... most

# lo citsi zo'u mi traji nelci lo vensa e lo crisa

As for seasons, I like spring and summer most.

## Seasons

**mi traji nelci lo vensa e lo crisa** = I like spring and summer most.

**vensa** = ... *is a spring*

**crisa** = ... *is a summer*

**critu** = ... *is an autumn*

**dunra** = ... *is a winter*

# Surprise!

A bonus

## More pronouns: this, that

**ti** = *here: this one near me or this place near me*

**ta** = *there: that one near you or that place near you*

**tu** = *over there: that one over there or the place over there*

**ti gerku** = *This is a dog.*

**ta verba** = *That is a child near you.*

**tu cmana** = *That is a mountain.*

**verba** = *... is a child*

**cmana** = *... is a mountain*

# More pronouns: he, she, it

**ra** = *he/she/it*

**lo gerku pei** = *Dog?*

**ra zvati ti** = *It is here.*

**zvati** = ... *is present/located at ...*

**zvati ti** = ... *is present here*

# More pronouns: they, oneself

**le za'umei** = *they/them*

**mi viska le za'umei** = *I see them.*

**viska** = ... *sees ... (something or someone)*

**lo nei** = *oneself*

**do lumci do** or **do lumci lo nei** = *You wash yourself.*

**More info on Lojban?**

**Visit**

**[mw.lojban.org](http://mw.lojban.org)**