

The Bridgian Herald



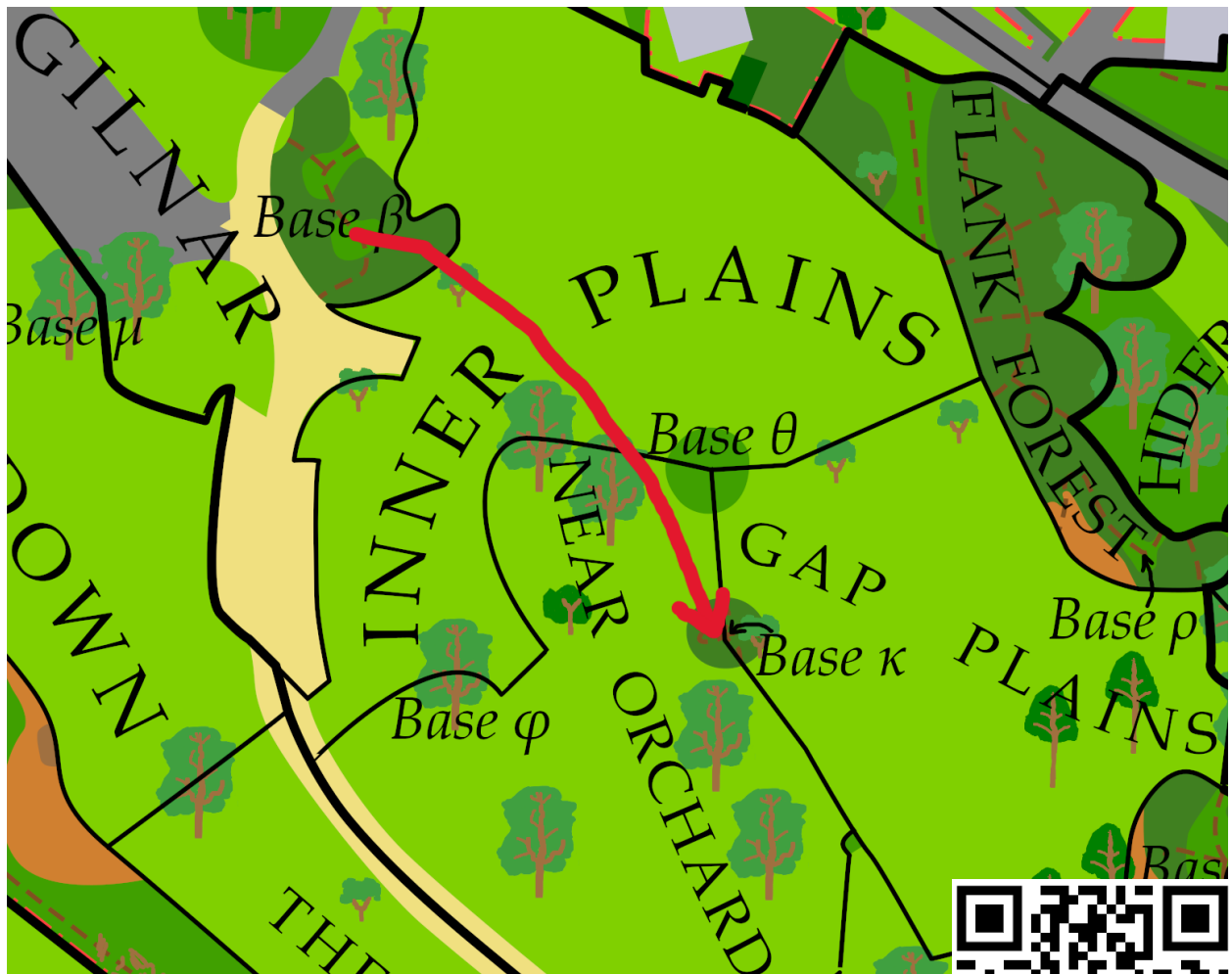
Highlights

Moving to Base κ – page 2

A Beryllian competitor – page 3

Bridgian syntax and forms – page 4

Activities – page 7



(Me when almost nobody else writes for the *Herald*...)

Contents

Bridgian News

To Domebush! – page 2

School News

Playground – page 3

Nexus News – page 3

Guides

Bridgian syntax – page 4

Activities

Crossword – page 7

Kakuro – page 7

Colouring – page 8

Cartoon



Onsín shae taí pe Kai téchá doísau.
(In other words, no cartoon.)

Credits

Activities: Tim, Zachery

Articles: Tim, Zachery

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The *Bridgian Herald*

Initiated in November 2024 by the Bridge Base Foundation to “improve social cohesion and understanding in the School through the collectivisation of information.” *Bíshbés nádoíðà!*

While measures have been taken to ensure content-accuracy, it is possible that errors or omissions have been made. Feedback would be greatly appreciated to improve the *Herald* for all.

Any correspondence should be sent to:
Domebush Treehouse,
Domebush Base / Base κ,
Near Orchard,
Ephkaí (Senkaí),
Unsted Park School.

Bridgian News

Domebush Reborn

The Foundation's move to Domebush

BRIDGE BASE'S history has been filled with moves. The very first was to Bridgehaven, and thence the theme has continued – as the BridgeCon sonnet says in its second line, ‘The new Foundation moving ov’r again’.

The newest is now from Gilnar’s Base β to Base κ , or Domebush Base, on the Gap Plains–Near Orchard border. It promises the greatness of a Bridgian Renaissance, stemming from the past grandeur of the Base. This period changed it from an undistinguished Ephkaían¹ bush to a place synonymous with Bridgianism and the Foundation.

A brief history

The first Bridgian inhabitation of Base κ began on the 20th of February 2024, although it was briefly used as an outpost during our time in Gilnar. This period was known as the [now First] Domebush Era – or “mid- κ ”, depending on who you ask. It showed the true *nádoídaí* (resilience) of the Bridgian people after the Second β -Collapse.

We made many technological advances during the Domebush Era, such as the elevating pulley, the portcullis, the workshop, and even an entire upper floor: Domebush Treehouse, with all its adjacencies. Near the end, the Cargo Bay was formed to store our resources.

Base κ was the third time we ever had a truly productive base with lots of planks, pallets, and tyres, each used for their own sets of purposes. It succeeded Bridgehaven and Base β as the main post for the Bridge Base Foundation, but, as before, it

could not last indefinitely. The Base was lost on the 15th of May, the “Domebush Demise”.

In this interlude, we have variously occupied Bases β , γ , ν , and ρ – Base ν being where BridgeCon was held in November, on the ruins of the Twinside Treehouse. It has been less eventful than the Abandoned Era, near the start of Bridge Base’s history, despite continuing to garner high membership.

The Plan: Domebush ‘25

Your correspondent believes that returning to Domebush is crucial to the continued development of Bridgianiity. He has already constructed a successor to the Treehouse, evaluating the suitability of plain, simple sticks for building. So far, it has worked reasonably well – despite other members’ attempts to “test” it rather violently.

The main problem with the modern Foundation is its lack of resources; sticks are in plentiful supply, even across Senkaí, so this should alleviate the issue. (Æthûsa, Dthenden, and Fälea are always options in case stocks run low.)

While optimistic in sticks’ effectiveness, however, our Head Guard understands that traditional materials still hold places in construction. (A stick-wall sounds complex and ineffective compared to one of tyres.) This means resource-gathering – a.k.a. raiding – will remain necessary, although to a lesser extent, if these innovations are to be fully capitalised upon.

Base κ is good regardless due to its dense branches, which make beam-setup much simpler than the nightmare of Gilnar. Large structures should be more easily created and supported here, facilitating faster Bridgian growth.

Finally, let us hope that this stay will be a long one, compared to the past few months’ volatility; let us hope that development really does run as expected, despite the Bridgians’ eternal uncommitment; and let us hope that Bridge Base really does stay to be forever, in Domebush or otherwise.

¹Ephkaían meaning “relating to the plant-land”: the area containing Beryl, Flank Forest, Gilnar, *et cetera*.

School News

Play Goes On

An update on playground-plans

NEW HOPE IS GIVEN to Entékaí. Action has duly come from promises of old. The petition has worked, to some extent. A previous *Herald*-article (“William Strikes Back”, Issue 1) discussed the plans – or, rather, lack thereof – for the playground in western Lintæa.

Before William’s petition, the School had managed to avoid rebuilding the Lintæan playground by, essentially, ignoring the issue entirely. It was almost entirely forgotten after three years of inactivity. Entirely, except for William, who rekindled the topic by forming said petition, against all the odds of failure.

Since then, however, some steps have been taken in the right direction. Your correspondent worked with the petitioner himself to create a design using a *Group*-supplied catalogue, prioritising the needs of those who will use it. Measurements were taken in mid-January to support development, and the *Group* appears to believe in its benefits.

Hopefully (for this still requires a great deal of hope from all), the School shall regain a key space for many of its students, as they already have for Extèria’s KS2-students. It seems odd that a far larger demographic should be provided with not one scrap of a climbing-frame – not one piece of a swing – not one fragment of gym – when they are clearly active enough to warrant one.

Lunch-clubs go some way to relieving this’ problem, but still some students complain that they have nothing to do. Break is an equal problem, due to the complete lack of clubs. A physical, but easy and uncompetitive, activity-set would cater well to the student base. If Bridge Base literally started as an alternative to a playground, why can we not get one? It has been three years, after all.

Nexus News

A Beryllian news-publication?

THE ALARM-BELLS rang at the *Herald*. For a millisecond, maybe less, that is. The Beryllians – known as such for their occupancy of Base γ – have announced a newspaper in direct reaction to this *Bridgian* one.

‘Introducing a non-bias newspaper,’ say the advertisements for the publication, *Nexus News*. Some would say the word “non-bias” is evidence of poor literacy. In contrast, and impartiality, we say that only the best can invent their own words and have the courage to use them, irretractably, in a public-facing text.

It was planned to begin, ‘at the start of the new year’, but evidence shows that it has been delayed somewhat: not one issue had come out when this issue went to print. The mysterious, and only, “Chip Chuffly” has worked weakly, not weekly, although this may only be a short-term problem.

The *Herald* releases monthly because there is simply not enough news generated by the School in that time – at least, nothing which anybody will care about. *Nexus* plans to fix this by focusing more on external themes such as, according to the same advertisement, ‘car of the week’.

However, we really need to see what the Beryllians produce in their true publications, before we can say much more about it. Your correspondent expects it will be written rather differently – not worse, necessarily, but differently. (The hyphen-demon must consume them eventually...)

“Rest, Play, Culture, and Arts” event

An event is being held on Tuesday the 11th of February, with activities in the afternoon themed around play, leisure, and cultural activities. Students should select between them as provided.

The event aims to raise awareness for Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), a landmark agreement from 1989 which sets standards for the rights of children across the world. See you there!

Guides

Whilst a “How To Raid, part 2” was promised, it was not delivered in time for this issue of the Herald. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Bycbeys nedoyda?

On Bridgian syntax and writing-forms

SAL, FAE SHE-BÍSHBÉS-SÀ. (Hello, non-Bridgians.) The Bridgian language still lies shrouded in mystery, as last issue’s article raised more questions than it answered – a deeper explanation is clearly required.

The previous article went through the translation of the phrase *kas gè Bìshkai là thensà endol delde tae le Dìvyùswon sil Bìshbésental*, a description of 2024’s School Map. While not a terrible introduction, it brought ideas almost out of thin air, when they were required. It skipped over a lot of the working behind the language – the hardest part: making up spellings for words is easy, but forming coherent meaning is harder.

Bridgian Phonetics is used in the Bridgian language because it provides a precise relationship between written words and the sounds they represent. This makes it far easier to learn, as knowing a word’s spelling defines its pronunciation, and *vice versa*. But, more Bridgianly, such a language should ideally utilise a Bridgian writing-system, especially when it already exists.

Phonetics was originally developed to indicate the pronunciations of place-names, which were often ambiguous from their English spelling. – how, for instance, is “Ephälæ” supposed to be pronounced? It was thence refined and expanded to the form it holds today, becoming known as Bridgian Phonetics midway through. Previously, it was just a small project by the Devious One, created with minimal reason – rather like this language...



Access to Phonetics- and language-documentation, following the QR-code in the middle of this page, would be greatly helpful when reading this article. So, the explanation shall start.

Writing-forms

The Bridgian language can be written in three different ways – in “anglicised”, “traditional”, or “syllabic” form. All Bridgian terms in the *Herald* are written in anglicised form – including this article’s section on syntax. It is easier for English-speakers to understand, but suffers from poor logicity and messy definitions.

The traditional form of Bridgian Phonetics was the first to be created, being solely designed to provide a logical backing for pronunciation. Its alphabet contains 24 letters, mostly from Latin, which each represent a single sound. Accents are used to modify them in specific ways – for example, lengthening vowel-sounds.

Most of the traditional letters’ sounds are reasonably self-evident – just read them very, very literally – however, there are a few to be careful around. *E/ə* represents “er” or “ur”; *V/v* for “ar”; *C/c* for “sh”; *P/p*, the Greek letter rho, for untrilled “r”; *D/ð*, Old English thorn, for “th”; and *V/v* for “ph” or “f”. The dot on “i” also disappears, inexplicably. (There are more vowels in Bridgian than in English, especially considering accented forms. Usually, we get away with it by using sequences like “ough” to synthesise vowel-sounds at will, but this cannot be done in Bridgian. This is why *ə*, *v*, and *ρ* – yes, phonetically a vowel – were plucked out of the aether to fill this gap.)

The benefit of traditional form is that it allows an easy correspondence between the pronunciation and spelling of a word. Have you ever tried, and verily failed, to spell an illogical word like “efficiency”? Well no longer with Phonetics. It can now be spelt, and pronounced, effectively as *evicən’sy* – or *ephishùn’sí* in anglicised form. That is right: anglicised form retains this letter–sound correspondence, although it is much more complex than traditional form’s.

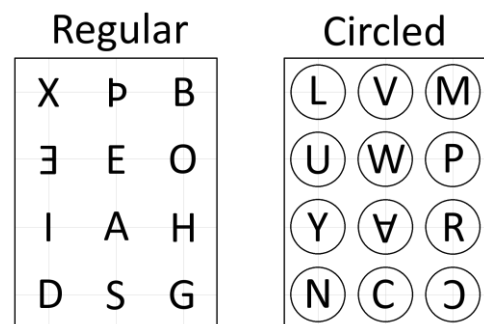
For a more Bridgian example, *entae*, meaning “building”, would be spelt *endbey* in traditional form. →

Note the “t” turning into “dh” – this happens with “p” to “bh” and “k” to “gh” as well. Just to emphasise English’s lack of vowels, the ending *ae* turns into *ey*: a true diphthong (two-sound vowel) which is usually undistinguished.

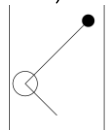
Traditional form – more specifically, the Bridgianisation thereof – also spawned the newest Phonetical writing-form, devised by Kai and Zachery before 2024’s BridgeCon.

Syllabic form. These two words would instil fear into any non-Bridgian who heard them, if they knew what it referred to. (Which they will most certainly not, so this is a moot point.) It is a truly Bridgian way of writing, using both positive and negative connotations of the word.

Syllabic form works by drawing lines between traditional-form letters arranged in a grid, with various shapes (overlays, as they are technically known) being placed on top of the letters to alter them. A circle means that the letter is from the “circled grid”; a triangle represents an accent on the letter; and a filled circle indicates the first letter in a word.

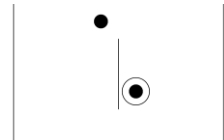


The traditional-form word *bey*s (settlement or, yes, base) would be represented thus:



The line goes from the *b*-position (the filled circle in the top-right), through *e*, to circled *t* – which becomes *y*. Finally, it goes to *s*, at the bottom of the grid. Joining these up yields the full word *bey*s.

However, note that there was no marking on the *e*-position to indicate that it was a letter. If the word *by* (south) was being represented instead, it would have to be split across two grids as follows:

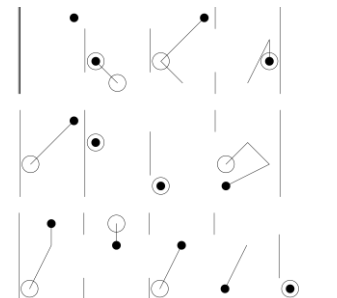


(It looks bad, but it’s honestly the best way of doing it...)

The line between the grids is shorter to indicate the continuation of a morpheme (definition: a bit of text that means something; a root word or affix). Different versions of these lines indicate word-level syntax. Only the top quarter of the line is used after prefixes, only the bottom quarter before suffixes, and both end-quarters for hyphenation. A double line is used at the start and end of full sentences.

Currently, punctuation like commas and dashes are not supported in syllabic form. This may be solved in future through similar techniques as above – i.e., expanding the syntactic system or putting symbols above, below, or in the middle of the syllable-lines.

But syllabic form works effectively enough that some Bridgian writing (most relevantly, the last *Herald*-issue) is done in it already. Most importantly, it looks cooler writing your Bridgian like this:



than like this:

Bycbeys-ros bey undbey pen-evenden.

Hopefully this explains everything to do with the writing – but there is more...

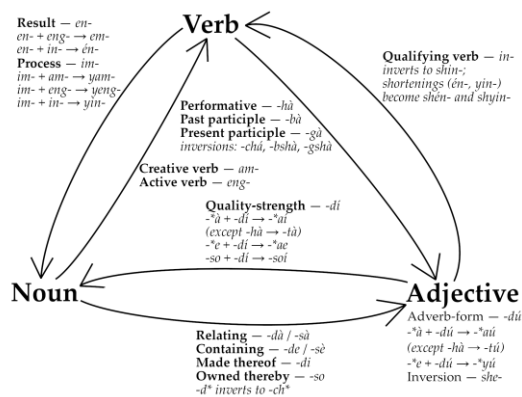
Syntax

The Bridgian language’s syntax was briefly mentioned in the previous *Herald*, but was described as ‘largely the same as English’. While not wrong, this misses some important aspects of Bridgian which are often overlooked in English.

Firstly, affixes. Prefixes and suffixes convert words between types – e.g., from a verb to a noun, or a noun to an adjective – allowing easy expression of common word-forms. These are used in both English and Bridgian, but the precise effects are different.

The Bridgian suffix *-dà* turns a noun into its relative adjective, replacing many different →

English suffixes: “-y”, “-ic”, “-al”, *et cetera*. Sometimes, Bridgian affixes are hard to express in terms of English ones – for example, *eng-*, which applies to a noun to yield a verb, to perform the function of said noun. In English, this is usually the same word as the noun; consider “hook”, both a noun and a verb.



Now for some examples of affixes in action. To express the result of building (*tae*) the prefix *en-* would be added to make *entae*. The verb “to settle” takes the root word *bés* would add *am-* to produce *ambés*.

Two successive affixes can often be combined into one shortened affix, such as *yambés*: the process of settlement. The prefixes *im-* and *am-* are combined to yield *yam-*, the process of creating a noun. They usually make some sense, but be careful of ones like *em-*, the combination of *en-* and *eng-* – apparently, the “action-product”. (Explanation coming soon?)

Finally for the topic of affixes, inversions. The quality described by an adjective can be “inverted” with the prefix *she-*, similarly to “non-” or “un-” in English. Affixes which generate adjectives, such as *-hà* or *-de*, can also be inverted, as an extension of the previously mentioned shortening-system. For example, *-dà* can be turned into *-chà*, producing an adjective which means the exact opposite – impersonal instead of personal, turning *fédà* into *féchà*.

Affixes are the largest syntactic difference between English and Bridgian, but there are other, smaller ones. Adjectives can be placed either before or after a noun – this makes them “prescriptive” and “descriptive”, respectively. The same applies for adverbs and verbs (almost as in English, in fact) and a system for prepositions is in the works but not finalised.

Hyphenation follows slightly different rules – hyphens, en-dashes, or nothing (!) will be used variously – but the construction of compound words is very similar. So similar, in fact, that there is no point reiterating them here.

Lists are interesting. In English, they might be written as *a, b, c*, and/or *d* – the last comma is optional. In Bridgian, this would be represented as *a ,fâ/là/nà , b , c , d*, where italicised single letters indicate nouns, verbs, or other lexical objects. (The word in the middle depends on the meaning of the list – *là* is typically used, *fâ* and *nà* representing logical “or” and “and”.)

The use of a reversed comma *ç* to open extra information, is the possibly the most impactful punctuative change. Along with the low vertical line used in lists, this effectively distinguishes the three places where commas are used in English. (This is despite Unicode forcing us to use a weird character, as there is no “reversed comma” there.)

This concludes the syntax of the Bridgian language compared to English, as currently designed.

Am I done yet?

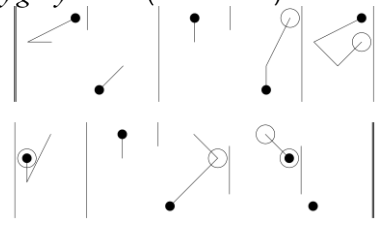
No! If you have read this far (or, more likely, have just skipped through to the end and saw this header), you clearly have an impossibly great commitment to Bridgianity, and should research further using the documentation on the website. Try to translate some easy phrases into Bridgian, before working up to more complex ideas.

Some examples to translate into English:

Bishkat-sà eph pégà le thensà ros. (anglicised)

Thang bae fain fis Bishbés-impae sèl den fe lidà kai. (anglicised)

Endheyghèy-vey bhèy Bycbeys-sa dendha sil imghèy ge cyda ros. (traditional)



(syllabic)

If you wish to contribute to the Bridgian language, please speak to the *Herald's* Devious One, also boringly known as Zachery. As always, *Bishbés nádoidà!*

Colouring

