

**“ SUNOP ”**

**SonaUiki Notes on the Particles  
from SonaUiki.org (2004)**

SonaUiki.org was a wiki (user-editable website) devoted to the language Sona. The wiki was organized and mostly written by Evan Prodromou. Additional contributions were made by Royce Miller, Paul Bartlett, “Charles” and “unknown.” Apologies if I have failed to credit any contributors. All content on this wiki was available under the [Creative Commons Attribution license](#).

This document contains SonaUiki’s guide to 12 of the 15 Particles in Sona. (To the best of our knowledge SonaUiki never got around to writing descriptions of e, u, ua.)

# A

Meaning: *at, fixed place.*

Type: [PrimarilyParticular](#).

Indicator: yes.

Compare: [ma?](#) place, [li?](#) to, [ca](#) area.

## Usage

- On its own, to indicate being at a place or event.
  - **a kayosakan** at the university.
  - **a karipa** at lunch.
  - **tu sake a ci ti pato.** Do you know where they ate?
- As a prefix, makes adverbs or pronouns of place, but at rest.
  - **a + fu** exterior → **afu** outside.
  - **a + za** back → **ayeza** in the rear.
  - **a + aka** high → **ayaka** above.
- As a suffix, makes a place noun.
  - **di** part + **a** → **dia** room.
  - **dan** money + **a** → **danya** bank.
  - **he** public + **pa** eat + **a** → **hepaya** restaurant.
- With [ci](#), makes the suffix **cia**, a place of business.
  - **bo** meat + **cia** → **bocia** butcher shop.
  - **so** associate + **cia** → **socia** club.

## Examples

- **lenocia** post office.
- **pia** nest.
- **inya** here.
- **unya** there.
- **keya** where.
- **cia** somewhere.
- **a ci** where (conjunction).
- **aure** on the right.
- **ayeze** on the left.
- **auli** beside.

## Discussion

- When joining a word ending in this radical with another radical starting with a consonant, **ci** must be interposed to avoid confusion with another radical. For example, **dia** room + **gi** group → **diacigi** suite. **diagi** could be confused with **di** + **agi**.
- **a** seems to be the only of the three vowels that make two-syllable radicals that is also commonly used as a suffix to make a noun; thus the above rule.
- The difference between **a**, **ma?**, **ca** (as **area**) and **kan** can be pretty confusing.

Page last modified on April 04, 2004, at 01:00 AM.

## I

Meaning: *while, when*.

Type: [PrimarilyParticular](#).

Indicator: yes.

Compare: [ci](#) actor.

## Usage

- As a suffix, makes gerunds (*right terminology? -editor*); like English "-ing".
  - **ru** go + **i** → **rui** going.

## Examples

- **zii jun mi akasi ki**. Being young I rise early.
- **hasanii inya mi nali ru**. Being known here I can't go.

## Discussion

- Note that **ci** is used for present continuous action, not **i**.
  - **ti ruci li lenocia**. They are going to the post office.
  - **rui li lenocia ti layisi**. Going to the post office, they talk to each other.
  - **mi seto boratu unruci**. I saw your brother as he was leaving.
  - **mi seto boratu unrui**. I saw your brother as I was leaving.

Page last modified on March 17, 2004, at 09:16 PM.

## O

Meaning: *honorific, quality*.

Type: [PrimarilyParticular](#).

Indicator: yes.

Compare: [ha](#) name, [vi?](#) nature, [hi?](#) class.

## Usage

- As an honorific article, making a statement more polite or respectful.
  - **o + hara** Mr. → **o hara** sir.
  - **o + min** enter → **o min** please come in.
  - **o + san** health + **tu** you → **o santu** to your health, cheers.
- As a suffix, makes an adjective out of a noun; indicates having the quality of something.
  - **van** darkness + **o** → **vanyo** dark.
  - **je** stone + **o** → **jeyo** stony, stern.
  - **asi** like + **o** → **asio** similar.
  - **fen** error + **o** → **fenyo** wrong.
- As a suffix, makes a number ordinal.
  - **tin** three + **o** → **tinyo** third.

## Examples

- **o toru** please pass.

- **o tu** Yours truly (to end a letter).
- **o inno di zoje** Please bring some coal.
- **junyo** young.

## Discussion

- **o** is borrowed from Japanese.
- It seems from the examples that when using **o** for "please", you don't also use **ha** imperative.
- When to use **o** as a suffix, rather than having a noun modify another noun, seems to depend mostly on being clear. For example, **aro don** could mean either "A beautiful gift" and "Beauty is rewarding." **aroyo don** makes this more clear.
- There are several radicals (**ci**, **li**, **ki**, **bi**) that when combined with **o** form a more specific adjective. The descriptions of each can be found on those pages.

Page last modified on March 10, 2004, at 01:52 PM.

## An

Meaning: *she, her*.

Type: [PrimarilySubstantive](#).

Indicator: no.

Compare: zan? woman, [on](#) he, him, si? one, [en](#) it.

## Usage

- As the third person feminine pronoun; like "she" or "her" in English.
  - **an ruto li heibia**. She went to the market.
  - **mi abu an**. I love her.
  - **donha gapotu li an**. Give her your coat.
- As a possessive pronoun; like English "her". Goes either before or after the thing possessed.
  - **an kadi** her head.
  - **zanpoyan** her skirt.

- With suffix **e**, forms **anye**, they (feminine); like French *elles*.
  - **anye aro**. They are beautiful.

## Examples

- **an na sa laba ci Ruso**. She does not speak any Russian.

## Discussion

- **ti** seems more generally used than **anye**.
- Being that Sona normally doesn't concern itself too much with number, it would be interesting to see if **an** could be used like **anye** where the meaning is clear.

Page last modified on March 17, 2004, at 08:27 PM.

## En

Meaning: *it, its, the*.

Type: [PrimarilySubstantive](#).

Indicator: yes.

Compare: [in](#) this, [un](#) that.

## Usage

- As "it" in English; singular third-person neuter pronoun.
  - **en ta**. It is big.
  - **mi cu en**. I want it.
- As "the" in English; definite article, for any gender or number. (see discussion below)
  - **en ra unru**. The man left.
  - **en zane foni**. The women were scared.
- As number one (1).
  - **en + na** neuter → **enna** one.
  - **en + o** ordinal → **enyo** first.
- To distinguish superlatives (biggest, fastest, strongest) from comparatives (bigger, faster,

stronger).

- **en** + **eta** more → **en eta** the most.
- **en** + **eyaka** taller → **en eyaka** the tallest.
- **on zi en eyira di adacie**. He was the strongest of the workers.

## Examples

- **cien** a certain ...
- **enari** always.
- **enyu** firstly, to start with.
- **engiu** separately.
- **fimeyen** forget it, don't mention it.

## Discussion

- The use to distinguish superlatives is similar to usage in French (*meilleur* vs. *le meilleur*) and other Romance languages.
- The definite article form is rarely used. **en ra** the man is more like "indeed the very man himself".
- Usage in **enari**, **engiu** is not clear.

Page last modified on March 02, 2004, at 12:00 PM.

## In

Meaning: *this, the latter*.

Type: [PrimarilySubstantive](#).

Indicator: yes.

Compare: [un](#) that, [uli?](#) near, [en](#) the.

## Usage

- As a pronoun, "this", "this one".
  - **in xa**. This is good.

- **on donto in li mi.** He gave this to me.
  - **in zi en eko di gi.** This one is the smallest of the group.
- With **e**, makes **inye** these, these ones.
  - **inye na ipa.** These won't suffice.
  - **tu ni ima inye.** You can have these instead.
- As a pronoun, "this X", "these X".
  - **in kan tayato.** This house is very old.
  - **in peginye na asiyisi.** These socks don't match.
- As a pronoun, meaning "the latter".
  - **ra ge zan ruto alukan ge in ineni.** A man and a woman went to the hotel. The latter (the woman) slept.
- As prefix, to show proximity.
  - **in + a** at → **inya** here.
  - **in + u** manner → **inyu** thus, in this way.
  - **in + ri** time → **inri** now.
- As prefix, to show direction towards the speaker or subject.
  - **in + ru** motion → **inru** come.
  - **in + ibi** trade → **inyibi** buy.
  - **in + no** carry → **inno** bring.

## Examples

- **indan** credit.
- **insa** learn.
- **inte** receive.
- **indiri** today.
- **invandi** tonight.

## Discussion

- This is a well-defined and well-used radical.

Page last modified on March 02, 2004, at 01:02 PM.



# On

Meaning: *he, him, his*.

Type: [PrimarilySubstantive](#).

Indicator: no.

Compare: [an](#) she, [en](#) it, si? one.

## Usage

- For the third person singular masculine pronoun; like English "he" or "him".
  - **on boci**. He is a butcher.
  - **mi ui hasayon**. Yes, I know him.
  - **atiha fuzo li on**. Throw the gun to him.
- As a possessive pronoun, before or after the possessed thing; like English "his".
  - **on pece** his boot.
  - **parayon** his father.
- With **e** plural, forms **onye**, they (masculine), like French *ils*.
  - **onye bayisi**. They fight among themselves.

## Examples

- **mi na sa ci on**. I don't know who he is.

## Discussion

- A well-defined and narrow radical.

Page last modified on March 17, 2004, at 08:58 PM.

# Un

Meaning: *that, the former*.

Type: [PrimarilySubstantive](#).

Indicator: yes.

Compare: [in](#) this, [en](#) it, the, uti? far.

## Usage

- As a pronoun, "that", "that one".
  - **un udeni.** That is broken.
  - **na tesen ha un.** Don't touch that.
  - **un zi eyato ne miena.** That one is older than ours.
- With **e**, forms "those", "those ones".
  - **unye ta uto.** Those are too big.
  - **kesi unye.** Whose are those?
- As a pronoun, "that X", "those X"
  - **un zan aroui.** That woman is quite beautiful.
  - **mi zokato un pa.** I burnt that bread.
  - **un koye fon.** Those children are loud.
- As a pronoun, meaning "the former".
  - **mi ariseto Paris ge London ge un ju.** I visited Paris and London and the former (Paris) was delightful.
- As a prefix, to show distance from the speaker.
  - **un + a** at → **unya** there.
  - **un + li** direction → **unli** away.
  - **un + ri** time → **unri** then.
- As prefix, to show direction towards the speaker or subject.
  - **un + ru** motion → **unru** go away.
  - **un + ibi** trade → **unyibi** sell.
  - **un + no** carry → **unno** take away.

## Examples

- **po un fa** In that case.
- **undiua** on the other hand.
- **neunli** thence.

## Discussion

- **in** and **un** aren't perfectly symmetrical, but they're close. It's an elegant system.

# Ue

Meaning: *ought, duty, oblige*.

Type: [PrimarilyParticular](#).

Indicator: no.

Compare: [uo](#) must, [alo?](#) may, [ni?](#) can.

## Usage

- Like the English word "should" or "ought"; to indicate strong requirement.
  - **tu ue ari**. You should come.
  - **ena ue insa Sona**. Everyone should learn Sona.
  - **si ue me kiva la**. One should think before speaking.
- To express duty, obligation, or propriety.
  - **ue + ne** abstract → **uene** duty.
  - **ue + u** manner → **ueyu** duly, due.

Page last modified on March 17, 2004, at 07:52 PM.

# Ui

Meaning: *yes, assent*.

Type: [PrimarilyParticular](#).

Indicator: no.

Compare: [ha](#) imperative, [o](#) please, [na](#) no, [ua?](#) as for.

## Usage

- As an affirmative response; like English "yes".
- As an emphatic particle; to underscore a point. Like English "indeed", "quite", "really".
  - **sameni** understood + **ui** → **sameniui** of course!

- **cu** want + **ui** → **cu ui** with pleasure.
- As an encouragement or exhortation.
  - **lakamiui**. Do tell! Tell me now!

## Examples

- **geui** and yet...
- **eui** certainly.
- **siui** even.
- **naui** however, nevertheless, notwithstanding.
- **anaui** in spite of.
- **fiui** merely, barely.
- **ikaui** exactly.
- **itaui** quite so.
- **riui** still.

## Discussion

- Derives from the French *oui*.
- The use is somewhat similar to Japanese *yo*.
- This radical seems to be quite useful for common turns of phrase, but the colloquial usage is a little hard to understand.
- The relation with polite **o** seems to be the difference between friendly exhortation and polite request.
  - **o min**. Please come in.
  - **min ui**. Come on in, now!

Page last modified on March 18, 2004, at 02:14 PM.

## Uo

Meaning: *must, necessity*.

Type: [PrimarilyParticular](#).

Indicator: no.

Compare: [ue](#) should, [o](#) polite, [ha](#) imperative.

## Usage

- Like English "must".
  - **tu uo ari.** You must come.
  - **an na uo kasani.** She must not be informed.
- As a suffix, a military word of command.
  - **bazo uo.** Fire!
  - **ureli uo.** Right face!
  - **ase uo.** Attention!

## Examples

- **mi uo ru li lenocia.** I must go to the post office.
- **uo** necessary.
- **po uo** of necessity.

## Discussion

- **uo** seems to parallel English "must" in that it describes both things one is obligated to do (because someone commands or desires it), and things one has to do from necessity (circumstances and not orders).
- Note meaning as "necessary"; compare **bezi** need.

Page last modified on March 17, 2004, at 07:27 PM.

## Au

Meaning: *but, alternative.*

Type: [PrimarilyParticular](#).

Indicator: no.

Compare: ana? opposite.

## Usage

- As the conjunction "but".
  - **mi cu arisetu au mi zen.** I want to visit you but I am ill.
  - **ti ibato au fi.** They tried but failed.

## Examples

- **na ... au ...** not only... but...

## Discussion

- This particle is extremely strange. Although it's a major conjunction, it's not attested in the examples in the [SonaBook](#).
- There's room for confusion with using **a** as a prefix to a radical starting with "u". For example, **auli** beside is **a uli**, not **au li**. **aude** is **a ude** not **au de**.

Page last modified on March 17, 2004, at 07:18 PM.