

## GOBAYABBER FOR BEGINNERS

Through the magic of the omniscient narrator (that's me), the goblin language (or *Gobayabber*, as goblins call it) in *The Goblin Crown* has been translated into more or less recognizable English. However, efforts have been made to maintain an authentic goblin accent. This means that it has been necessary to use a few untranslated bits of *Gobayabber*.

Goblin verbs are regular and undeclined. To approximate *Gobayabber* grammar, the author (still me) has used the third person plural case for all verbs in spoken *Gobayabber*, regardless of the gender or number of the subject. Also, when an English verb is irregular, the narrator has made it regular. So for example, while an English speaker would decline the verb "to swim" as follows: *swim, swam, have swum, will swim*, a goblin would decline it as *splurshur, splursht, artsplursht, nursplursh*. This has been translated into English as *swim, swimmmed, have swimmmed, will swim*. Likewise, *to see* is declined *see, seed, have seed, will see*.

Following is an index of the *Gobayabber* terms found in *The Goblin Crown*:

<i>Ahka</i>	"Look here." An expression of alarm or excitement or interest.
<i>Bokrum</i>	A giant mountain sheep. Domesticated <i>bokrumen</i> are used by goblins as riding animals and to pull plows and carts.
<i>Bosh</i>	A lie. Falsehood. Excrement. An expletive. The plural, <i>boshen</i> , is also used.
<i>Chom</i>	"Good," "well done." Literally "tasty." Instead of applauding, Goblins chant " <i>Chom-Chom! Chom-Chom!</i> "
<i>Derijinta</i>	"Little one." A term of endearment used for goblin children.
<i>Drak</i>	The unusable bits left over once ore is smelted to metal. Junk. A mild expletive. Can also be used as an adjective, <i>drakik</i> , meaning "junky" or "worthless."

<i>Drakbonch</i>	Someone with a head full of junk. An idiot.
<i>Drogob</i>	An adult male goblin. “He-goblin.”
<i>Duen</i>	Silver, both the metal and the color. Also the nickname for a silver coin used by the goblins as currency. Officially a Kiranok Regent (a <i>vikrek Kiranoki</i> ), sometimes also called a “snowcap” from the image of the Mother Mountain on its face, a <i>duen</i> is enough to buy a decent meal or child’s toy or piece of simple clothing. A <i>duen</i> is worth eight <i>jegen</i> . Fifty <i>duenen</i> equal a gold <i>krogn</i> .
<i>Duenshee</i>	Literally “silver stranger.” A tall thin, magically powerful humanoid. <i>Duensheen</i> are dangerous, unpredictable, and, from a goblin perspective, quite insane, hence the goblin saying “mad as a <i>duenshee</i> .” Humans call the <i>duensheen</i> “elves.”
<i>Enik, menik, mynta, mogh, katcha</i>	“One, two, three, four, five.” The first five numbers in <i>Gobayabber</i> . Also the goblin words for “thumb, index finger, middle finger, ring finger, little finger.”
<i>Ganzi</i>	“Thanks.” Literally “I balance.” See <i>nurganzit</i> .
<i>Genzirjad</i>	“Come Cold Day.” The Autumn Equinox. The first day of fall, when the Sunchase is run. <i>Genzirjad</i> is sometimes called “Balance Day”— <i>Ganzirjad</i> —since the two words are similar.
<i>Glinkspangen</i>	“Copperplates,” the Goblin nickname for the Kiranok City Guards, after their copper-embossed breastplates. Sometimes shortened to <i>Glink</i> .
<i>Gob</i>	A goblin. Plural <i>goben</i> . <i>Goben</i> also use the word <i>gob</i> colloquially the way humans use “guy,” “fellow,” or “man.”
<i>Gobayabber</i>	The goblin language.
<i>Graznak</i>	An “empty jar”—a wizard who has lost his or her soul to magic. A <i>graznak</i> is like a zombie powered by magic, constantly casting spells to survive.
<i>Hanoryabber</i>	Hanorian. The language of the humans from the empire bordering Goblin lands.
<i>Jeg</i>	A large milled steel bead used as currency. A <i>jeg</i> is enough money to buy an apple, a handful of mushrooms, or a hot tea. Goblins use <i>jegen</i> , half <i>jegen</i> , quarter <i>jegen</i> , and eighth <i>jegen</i> . See also <i>krogn</i> and <i>duen</i> .

<i>Jintagob</i>	An unusually small Goblin. Plural = <i>jintagoben</i> . Humans sometimes call <i>jintagoben</i> “kobolds” or “gnomes.”
<i>Kijakgob</i>	An unusually large Goblin. Plural = <i>kijakgoben</i> . Humans sometimes call <i>kijakgoben</i> “trolls” or “ogres.”
<i>Kijakhof</i>	A giant rabbit-like herbivore. <i>Kijakhofen</i> may be found both in the wild and as domesticated livestock on goblin farms. Some breeds of <i>kijakhofen</i> are also raised as house pets.
<i>Kiranok</i>	“City of Stone.” The largest goblin city in the world, located under Mother Mountain. The full name of the city is actually “ <i>Kijakkiranokzargroztormemegeshkarbeniknirtghulkt</i> ,” which means “Great City of Stone under the Soaring Mountain Mother Blessed by the Divine Night.”
<i>Krogn</i>	A gold coin. A <i>krogn</i> is worth fifty silver <i>duenen</i> or four hundred steel <i>jegen</i> . A <i>krogn</i> is enough to buy a fine steel sword or a riding <i>bokrum</i> . Most goblins never see a <i>krogn</i> in their entire lives.
<i>Maja</i>	“Very,” “a lot,” “much,” “more.” Goblins sometimes repeat this word for emphasis, so <i>majamaja</i> means “a large amount” and <i>majamajamaja</i> means “a very large amount.” Also used as an emphatic prefix. So <i>majanai</i> means “very much no” and <i>majazaj</i> means “absolutely yes”
<i>Nai</i>	“No,” “not,” “none.” Often used as an interjection at the end of a sentence.
<i>Naizaj</i>	“Maybe,” “could be.” Literally “no-yes.” Sometimes used as an interjection at the end of a sentence, but more often as an uncertain response to a question. For example, if asked, “Are you eating that?” a goblin might respond, “ <i>Naizaj</i> ,” which in this case would mean “Maybe yes, maybe no.” Goblins use <i>zajnai</i> and <i>naizaj</i> interchangeably.
<i>Nurganzit</i>	The future form of the verb <i>ganzir</i> , meaning “to balance.” Goblin for “Thank you,” <i>nurganzit</i> is both an expression of gratitude and a promise for future reciprocation. “I will balance your gift with a gift in the future.” Informally sometimes shortened to <i>ganzi</i> .
<i>Pizkret</i>	A goblin insult. Literally “wayside,” which implies something you’d throw away along the road. Trash or night soil. Also a rude or stinky person. A jerk. Sometimes used among very close friends as a term of camaraderie.

<i>Prenir y'biben</i>	An impolite way of saying “be quiet” or “leave me alone.” The goblin equivalent of “shut up” or “bug off.” Literally: “Clean my socks.” Can be further shorted to <i>y'biben</i> .
<i>Skerbo</i>	A human. Literally “Tiny Ear.” Derogatory.
<i>Svagob</i>	An adult female goblin. “She-goblin”
<i>Vargar</i>	A large carnivore native to the Ironspine Mountains and the surrounding woodlands. <i>Vargaren</i> resembled huge wolves with lion-like manes and one or two prominent rhinoceros-like horns growing from their snouts. Goblins use domesticated <i>vargaren</i> as pets, hunting animals, and mounts.
<i>Veshakorz</i>	“Very quick.” An idiomatic expression that translates literally as “Death’s whisper” or more roughly as “fast as death.”
<i>Vikrek Kiranoki</i>	A “Kiranok Regent,” a common silver coin. Better known as a snowcap or a <i>duen</i> . See <i>duen</i> .
<i>Wazzer</i>	An expression of excitement. Sometimes used as a way to draw attention to oneself. Roughly equivalent to “Wow!” or “Yo!” or “Hey!”
<i>Yabber</i>	To talk. Language. A conversation.
<i>Yob'rikrit</i>	“Excellent!” “Wonderful!” An exclamation of excitement. A clipped version of the goblin expression <i>Yob ir ikit</i> , which means, roughly, “Smells like breakfast!” Goblins really like breakfast.
<i>Zaj</i>	“Yes.” Often used as an interjection at the end of a sentence.
<i>Zajnai</i>	“Maybe.” See <i>naizaj</i> .
<i>Zeesnikken eger zapergritten</i>	A fatalistic goblin aphorism that translates literally as “Bee stings on top of mosquito bites.” It has roughly the same meaning as the human expressions “If it’s not one thing, it’s another” and “Out of the frying pan, into the fire.”
<i>Zigpar</i>	Roughly translated, “hindquarters.” Colloquially a stupid or rude person. An insult. Derogatory.
<i>Zobjepa</i>	A mildly alcoholic beverage brewed from honey and mushroom juice and flavored with red pepper.