

Noun

The plural marker is *-sem/-sen*: e.g. *xula* 'town', *xulasem* (no vowel harmony).

DECLENSION

Nominative = base form + eight cases; dative and accusative have fused.

genitive: *-Ÿn*

dative/accusative: *-(n)al/-(n)e*

locative: *-ral/-re, talte*

ablative: *-ranl/-ren, tanlten*

instrumental: *-pal/-pe, palalpele*

privative: *-sarl/-ser*

benefactive: *-šanl/-šen*

Examples: *pürte* 'in the house'; *xulana kaj-* 'to go to town'; *šančaksar* 'hopeless'; *Aval traktor.pa ežleme pultarat* 'He can work with the tractor.'

POSSESSIVE AFFIXES

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
1	<i>-am/-em/-m</i>	<i>-amar/-emər</i>
2	<i>-u/-ü</i>	<i>-ar/-ər</i>
3	<i>-e/-i</i>	<i>-e/-i</i>

Examples: *tusa.m* 'my friend'; *tusa.m.sem* 'my friends'; *tuse* 'his, her, their friend'. Possession can also be indicated by use of genitive case of personal pronoun (see below) either with or without possessive affix: e.g. *piren yal Ø* = *piren yal.amar* = *yal.amar* 'our village'.

Adjective

As attribute, adjective precedes noun and is invariable. A comparative is made with *-(ta)raxl/-(te)rex*: e.g. *ilemlə.rex* 'more beautiful'; *pişak.rax* 'bigger'.

These are fully declined: e.g. *manran* ‘from me’; *manšan* ‘for me’; *sireŋpe* ‘by you (pl.)’ *manan va.xat ž’uk* ‘I have no time’.

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN

ku ‘this’; *ž’ak* ‘that’; fully declined, with plural forms.

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUN

kam ‘who?’; *mən* ‘what?’

Verb

The Chuvash verb has four voices: active, reflexive–passive, causative, and reciprocal. There are five moods: indicative, imperative, optative, subjunctive, and concessive. The tense structure distinguishes present/future, future, and past. Aspect is not a feature of the Chuvash verb.

VOICE

Here, standard Turkic markers appear: refl./pass. in *-V//*-*Vn*, causative in *-tar/-ter*, reciprocal in *-Vs/-Vš*.

INDICATIVE MOOD

The present/future tense endings are: sing. 1 *-t.ap*, 2 *-t.ən*, 3 *-t’*; pl. 1 *-t.p.ar*, 2 *-t.ar*, 3 *-ž’/ž’e*. This tense is negated by *-mas /-mes*: thus *tavrana.t.ap* ‘I (shall) return’; *tavrən.mas.t.ap* ‘I do/shall not return’.

The past tense has the marker *-t/r* plus a slightly different set of endings: e.g. *tavrən.t.əm* ‘I returned’; *tavrən.ma.t.əm* ‘I did not return’.

IMPERATIVE

Here there are forms for all three persons and numbers, with the verbal stem providing the second person singular form: *ež’le!* ‘work!’; *ež’le.ter* (3rd p.). The first person negative form has the particle *mar*: e.g. *ež’le.m mar* ‘let me not work’. The second person uses the particle *an*: e.g. *an ež’le* ‘don’t work’.

The use of a prohibitive particle is alien to Turkic, though it is found in both Mongolian and Uralic.

PARTICIPIAL FORMS

Broadly divided into those with temporal significance and those with modal significance. Examples of the former are: *ež'le.ken* '(who is) working'; *ež'le.ne* '(who) having worked'; *ež'le.s* 'who will work'.

MODAL FORMS

E.g. with *malla*, giving necessitative sense; negated by *mar*: e.g. *kay.malla ž'in* 'the man who must go'; *kay.malla mar ž'in* 'the man who must not go'.

AUXILIARY VERBS

Used to express such modalities of action as suddenness, motion towards or away from speaker, upwards or downwards, etc.

Postpositions

Postpositions and auxiliary nouns are used, the latter declined.

Word order

SOV