MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX

Noun

There is no grammatical gender. Armenian has two numbers. The definite article is affixed to the noun: -ə/-n: e.g. *ţun* 'house', *ţunə* 'the house'; *gini* 'wine'; *ginin* 'the wine'. In Eastern Armenian, the indefinite article is *mi* preceding the noun; in Western it follows in the form *mə*: thus, EArm. *mi mard* = WArm. *mard mə* 'a man'. The plural marker is -*er* for monosyllables, -*ner* for polysyllables: e.g. *ţun.er* 'houses'; *ţun.er.ə* 'the houses'; *kayak.ner* 'towns', *kayak.ner.ə* 'the towns'.

DECLENSION

There are seven cases. Various types of declension are distinguished in the singular, differing mainly in the formation of the genitive and dative cases. There are no irregularities in the plural, as all nouns take -(*n*)*er*. Specimen declensions: *banvor* 'worker'; *gari* 'barley'; *or* 'day'.

	Singular	Singular	Singular
nom.	banvor	gari	or
gen.	banvor**i**	gar**u**	or**va**
dat.	banvor**i**	gar**u**	or**va**
acc.	banvor	gari	or
abl.	banvor**ic**	gar**uc**	orvan**ic**
instr.	banvor**ov**	gar**ov**	or**ov**
loc.	—	gar**um**	or**um**

Examples of anomalous genitive formation: *hayr* 'father' – *hor*; *kuyr* 'sister'

– *kroč*. All nouns in -*tyun* have a genitive in -*tyan*. Very many Armenian nouns are formed from two root words linked by -*a*-: e.g. *mayr* 'mother' + *kayak* 'town': *mayrakayak* 'capital city'; *hay* 'Armenian' + -*stan* 'place': *Hayasţan* 'Armenia'.

Adjective

As attribute, adjective precedes noun and is invariable: e.g. *lav barekam* 'good friend'; *lav barekam.ner.i* 'of good friends'.

COMPARATIVE

With *aveli* 'more than': e.g. *spiţak* 'white': *aveli spiţak* 'whiter'. The compared nominal is in the ablative: e.g. *Yerevan.ic* (*aveli*) *meç* 'bigger than Yerevan'.

Pronoun

PERSONAL
The independent forms of the personal pronouns, with accusative case:

| | *Singular* | | *Plural* | |
	Nom.	*Acc.*	*Nom.*	*Acc.*
1	yes	inj	menk	mez
2	du	kez	duk	jez
3	na	nran	nrank	nranc
	ink	iren	irenk	irenc

The full declension of *yes* 'I', for example, is: *yes – im – inj – inj – injnic – injnov – injnum*: *asek inj* 'tell me'; *inj asacin, vor...* 'they told me that...'.

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES
These are provided by the genitive forms of the above listed personal pronouns (*im – ko – ir*, etc.) and are paralleled by a series of personal possessive affixed markers for first, second, and third person: *-s, -d, -n*. Thus, **im** *anunə* = *anunəs* 'my name' (in both cases, with the definite article).

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN/ADJECTIVE
Three forms closely connected with the personal endings: *ays/sa* 'this' (Lat. *apud me*), *ayd/da* (Lat. *apud te*), *ayn/na* (Lat. *apud eum*). These have plural forms: *srank, drank, nrank*; as adjectives they are invariable: e.g. *ayd čašaran.ner.um* 'in these restaurants'.

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUN
vov 'who?'; *inč* 'what?'

RELATIVE PRONOUN
Sing. *vor*, pl. *vronk*: e.g. *duk, vor uzum ek sovorel hayeren* 'you who wish to learn Armenian'. Relative clauses may also be made with participles (see below): e.g. *ayn gnacoγ usanoγ* 'the student who is walking over there' (*gnal* 'to go, walk').

Verb

The Armenian verb has active and passive voices and four moods: indicative, optative, conditional–subjunctive, and imperative. Only the indicative mood has a full set of tenses.

The infinitive ends in *-el/al*; as in Old Armenian, two bases are formed from the infinitive:

(a) The present base, formed by dropping the *-el/al*: e.g. *grel* 'to write': present base *gr-*; *kardal* 'to read': present base *kard-*; *mṭnel* 'to go': *mṭn-*.

(b) The aorist base: *-l→ač* or *-acač*: *grel*: aorist base *graç*; *kardal*: *kardacač*.

From the present base are formed the optative, the subjunctive, the conditional, the imperfective participle in *-um*, and the future participle in *-u*. From the aorist base are formed the simple past tense and the participle in *-o*. The past participle is identical with the second base: *graç, ḳardacaç*.

The main auxiliary used in conjugation is *yem* = I am:

> present sing.: 1 *em*, 2 *es*, 3 *ē*; pl. 1 *enk*, 2 *ek*, 3 *en*; *y-* anlaut if necessary
> past sing.: 1 *ēi*, 2 *ēir*, 3 *ēr*; pl. 1 *ēink*, 2 *ēik*, 3 *ēin*

Specimen conjugation: *grel* 'to write'; indicative mood (main forms):

> present: *grum em, e*s, etc.
> past imperfect: *grum ēi, ēir*, etc.
> future: *grelu yem, ye*s, etc., or with particle *ḳə: ḳə grem* (optative)
> preterite: *grel em*, etc.
> pluperfect: *grel ēi*, etc.
> perfect: *graç em*, etc.
> simple aorist: sing. *greci, grecir, grec*; pl. *grecink, grecik, grecin*
> optative: sing. *grem, gres, gri*; pl. *grenk, grek, gren*

GERUNDS

The present gerund ends in *-um* (the form used in the present and imperfect tenses above) or in *-elis/alis*; the latter form is used to denote action upon which a second action is contingent: e.g. *Senyaḳ mṭnelis girkəs hanum em* 'Upon entering the room, I take my book.' The future gerund is seen as a tense formant in the future: *grelu yem*, etc. It can also be used as an infinitive of purpose: e.g. *Gnaci gradaran girk ḳardalu* 'I went to the library to read a book'; and attributively: e.g. *ḳardalu girk* 'a book to be read'.

IMPERATIVE

Sing. *grir!* 'write!', pl. *grecek!*

HORTATIVE

Optative form preceded by *ḅiṭi*: e.g. *ḅiṭi grem* 'I am to/have to write'.

PASSIVE

The marker is *-v-*: e.g. *sirel* 'to love'; passive, *sirvel* 'to be loved'; *Vočnčacvec meḳ řmbaḳoçič* 'One bomber was destroyed.'

-V*cn*-: e.g. *nsṭel* 'to sit', *nsṭecnel* 'to ask someone to be seated'.

NEGATIVE
The negative particle *čə* is prefixed to the auxiliary if there is one; the auxiliary then precedes the sense verb: e.g. *grum ēi* 'I was writing', *čei grum* 'I wasn't writing'; *grelu e* 'he will write': *čigrelu* 'he will not write'. The negative particle for the imperative mood is *mi*.

Prepositions and postpositions

Armenian uses both.

PREPOSITIONS
With genitive case: *aṙanc* 'without': e.g. *aṙanc ḳasḳaçi* 'doubtless'; and with accusative case: *depi* 'towards': e.g. *gnum em depi hyusis* 'I am going northwards'.

POSTPOSITIONS
Usually follow the genitive case: e.g.

hamar 'for': e.g. *hayreniki hamar* 'for the motherland';
masin 'about': e.g. *Xosum enk girki masin* 'We're talking about the book';
heṭ 'with': e.g. *nra heṭ gnaci* 'I went with him';
vra 'on': e.g. *seγani vra* 'on the table'.

Word order

SVO is basic; can be altered for emphasis.