



Lojban Through Dialogues

Immersive situational dialogue course with Koshon and
Sora — learn Lojban through conversations, context, and
built-in spiral review

Characters



Koshon

I'm **Koshon** (.kocon. in Lojban). I speak Lojban pretty well and I'll be guiding you through these conversations.



Sora

And I'm **Sora** (.soran.). A complete beginner – so anything I find confusing, you probably will too. Good luck to us both!

Lesson 1. First Words



Koshon

Every Lojban conversation starts with **coi** – the universal greeting. Let's listen to a short exchange and see how much you can pick up just from context.



Sora

I like that it doesn't have a "good morning" vs "good evening" distinction yet. Just... hello!

Opening exchange

Lojban	English
coi do .i xu do se bangu le glico	Hello. Can you speak English?
na go'i .i xu do se bangu la .lojban.	No. Can you speak Lojban?
go'i .i mi milxe se bangu	Yes. I can speak a little.
xu do merko	Are you American?
go'i .i mi merko	Yes. I'm American.

New words

Lojban	Meaning
milxe	mildly, a little
merko	American (from the USA)
se bangu	to speak / know a language



Sora

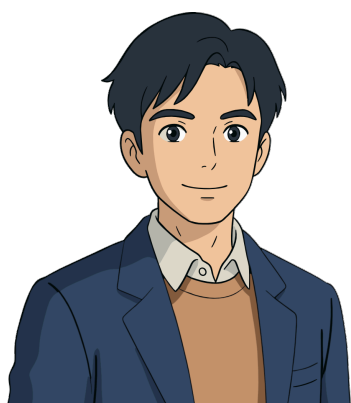
Oh – **go'i** is just "yes, what you said is true." And **na go'i** means "no, it isn't." That's elegant.

Continuing the conversation

Lojban	English
coi do .i do mo	Hello – how are you?
le tcima cu zabna vi mi	The weather is nice at my place.
do zabna se bangu la .lojban.	You speak Lojban well.
mi na'e zabna se bangu la .lojban.	I don't speak Lojban very well.
ki'e do	Thank you.
co'o do .i mi cliva	Goodbye – I'm leaving.
co'o do	Goodbye.

New words

Lojban	Meaning
tcima	weather
zabna	nice, pleasant
vi	at / near (here)
ki'e	thank you
cliva	to leave
do mo	how are you? (lit. "you – what predicate?")



Koshon

Notice **na'e** – it softens a negation: not "I speak Lojban badly" but "I speak Lojban *not-well*." A more nuanced shade of no.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: I can speak a little.
(*go'i .i mi milxe se bangu*)

Say in Lojban: The weather is nice.
(*le tcima cu zabna*)

Say in Lojban: Goodbye, I'm leaving.
(*co'o do .i mi cliva*)

Lesson 2. Rain and Plans



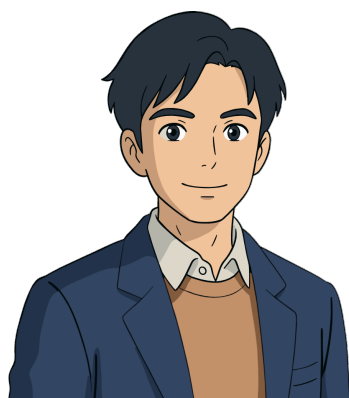
Koshon

We'll expand weather talk and add the three most useful Lojban time markers: **ca** (now), **ba** (future), **pu** (past). And our first verb of intention: **.ai**.



Sora

Wait — **.ai** is a word? It doesn't look like one.



Koshon

Lojban has a whole class of one-syllable "attitude words." **.ai** means "I intend to / I'm going to." You'll meet many more.

Lojban	English
le tcima cu zabna vi mi ji'a	The weather is nice at my place too.
le tcima ca ku vi mi na'e zabna	The weather here now is not really nice.
ca carvi	It's raining now.
.i ku'i mi na nelci le nu glare	But I don't like it when it's hot.
mi mutce nelci le nu mi tavla do	I really like talking to you.
.ai mi citka	I'm going to eat.
do ba citka ma	What will you eat?
mi na djuno	I don't know.
co'o cliva	Goodbye (from the one who is leaving).

New words

Lojban	Meaning
ji'a	also, too
ca	now (current tense marker)
carvi	to rain
ku'i	but
nelci	to like
glare	to be hot
mutce	very, a lot
tavla	to talk to
citka	to eat
ba	future tense marker (will)
ma	what? / which? (question word)
djuno	to know (a fact)



Sora

So **do ba citka ma** is literally "you – will – eat – what?" The question word just slots in where the answer would go?



Koshon

Exactly right. **ma** is a slot-holder for the unknown. Put it anywhere you'd put a noun and you've asked about that noun.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: It's raining now.
(*ca carvi*)

Say in Lojban: But I don't like heat.
(*ku'i mi na nelci le nu glare*)

Say in Lojban: I don't know.
(*mi na djuno*)

Recycle – Lesson 1 vocabulary

Lojban	English
mi milxe se bangu la .lojban.	I speak Lojban a little.
le tcima cu zabna vi do	The weather is nice at your place.
co'o .i mi cliva	Goodbye – I'm leaving.

Say in Lojban: Thank you – the weather is nice.
(*ki'e do .i le tcima cu zabna*)

Lesson 3. Going to the Park



Koshon

Now we'll meet names – **la** introduces proper names – and learn to say where you are, where you're going, and how far things are.

Lojban	English
la gleki cu zvati ma	Where is Happy (Gleki)?
mi'e la rozgu	I'm Rose.
xu do ca gleki	Are you happy now?
mi gleki le nu mi tavla do vau .e le nu mi tadni la .lojban.	I'm happy that I talk to you and that I study Lojban.
mi ba klama le panka	I will go to the park.
xu le panka cu darno le zdani be do	Is the park far from your home?
le panka cu jibni mi	The park is near me.
le panka cu jibni mi .i na darno	The park is near me. Not far.

New words

Lojban	Meaning
la	name-tag (introduces a proper name)
zvati	to be at / present at
mi'e	I am (introducing oneself: "I'm...")
gleki	to be happy
tadni	to study
klama	to go / come (to a place)
panka	park
darno	to be far
zdani	home / dwelling
jibni	to be near / close
le zdani be do	your home
le zdani be mi	my home



Sora

So **le panka** is "the park" and **le zdani be do** is literally "the home of you" — possessives are just **be**?



Koshon

Right. **be** links a place-slot to a specifier. **le zdani be mi** = the home of me, i.e. my home.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: I will go to the park.
(*mi ba klama le panka*)

Say in Lojban: The park is near me.
(*le panka cu jibni mi*)

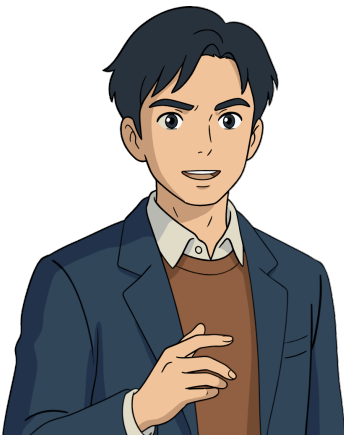
Say in Lojban: I'm studying Lojban.
(*mi tadni la .lojban.*)

Recycle – Lessons 1–2

Lojban	English
xu do ca gleki	Are you happy now?
mi mutce nelci le nu mi klama le panka	I really like going to the park.
le tcima cu zabna .i na carvi	The weather is nice. It's not raining.

Say in Lojban: Are you going to eat now?
(*xu do ba citka ca*)

Lesson 4. Soup and Intentions



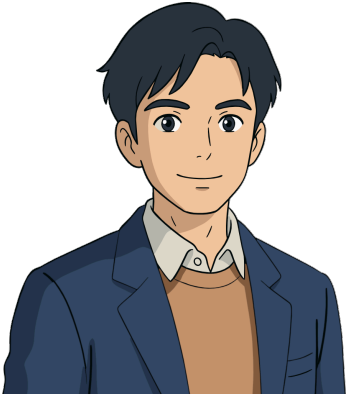
Koshon

This lesson focuses on expressing **intention and willingness**: **.au** (I want), **.ai** (I intend), **.ainai** (I don't intend). You'll also get your first taste of **zi** — "soon."



Sora

And what's **pei** doing at the end of **.au pei**?



Koshon

pei turns any attitude word into a question. **.au pei** = "do you want to?" **.ai pei** = "are you going to?" You'll see it a lot.

Lojban	English
.au pei do retsku	Do you want to ask something?
fanva zoi gy.pretty.gy. la .lojban. fu ma	How does one translate "pretty" into Lojban?
xu do ba zi citka	Will you eat soon?
.ainai mi citka	I'm not going to eat.
.ai mi ba citka	I'm going to eat in a while.
mi ba zi klama le panku	I'll go to the park soon.
do ba citka ma	What will you eat?
le stasu	Soup.
.ai mi pinxe	I'm going to drink something.

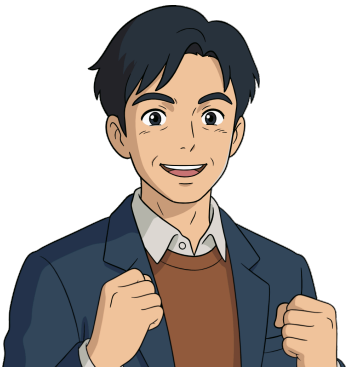
New words

Lojban	Meaning
.au	I want / I wish (attitudinal)
pei	makes an attitudinal into a question
retsku	to ask a question
fanva	to translate
zi	soon / in a short time
.ainai	I don't intend to
stasu	soup
pinxe	to drink



Sora

So **.ai** and **.ainai** are like an intention switch – on and off. And **zi** just tacks "soon" on without any verb tense complexity?



Koshon

Exactly. **ba zi** = "will, soon." Time markers stack naturally in Lojban.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: I'm not going to eat.
(*.ainai mi citka*)

Say in Lojban: Will you eat soon?
(*xu do ba zi citka*)

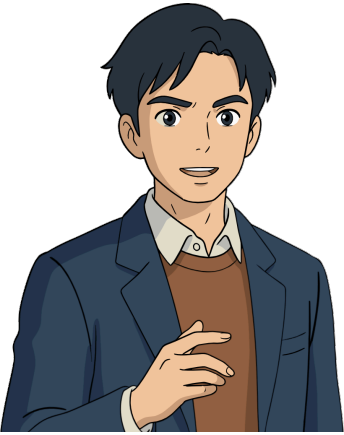
Say in Lojban: I'm going to drink something.
(*.ai mi pinxe*)

Recycle – Lessons 1–3

Lojban	English
mi na djuno le du'u .au pei do klama le panku	I don't know if you want to go to the park.
mi ba zi klama le zdani be mi	I'll go home soon.
xu le panku cu darno le zdani be do	Is the park far from your home?

Say in Lojban: I want to talk to you.
(.au mi tavla do)

Lesson 5. Juice or Water?



Koshon

Now the conversation gets into daily preferences. You'll encounter **lo** (some / an instance of) vs **le** (the specific...), and **lo'e** which refers to a type in general – like "juices in general," not a specific glass.



Sora

Three articles already? **le, lo, lo'e**...



Koshon

Just note the pattern for now: **le** = the one(s) I have in mind; **lo** = some; **lo'e** = the typical kind. You'll get it from context.

Lojban	English
.ai mi zukte lo ka tavla da vau le nu mi se bangu la .lojban.	I plan to talk to someone so that I can speak Lojban.
.ai mi pinxe lo jisra	I'm going to drink some juice.
.ai mi pinxe lo djacu	I'm going to drink some water.
je'e do	Got it. / Roger that.
xu do nelci lo'e jisra	Do you like juices (in general)?
mi ji'a nelci lo'e jisra	I like juices too.
ui	Yay!
mi gleki le nu ge do gi mi nelci lo'e jisra	I'm glad that both you and I like juices.
mi gleki le nu ge do gi mi se bangu la .lojban.	I'm glad that both you and I speak Lojban.
.au mi ba za tavla do	I want to talk to you later.
.au mi cliva	I want to leave.
do ba klama le panku ca ma	When will you go to the park?
ca le vanci	In the evening.

New words

Lojban	Meaning
zukte	to act / do (intentionally)
lo ka	property of / in order to
da	something / someone (existential)
jisra	juice
djacu	water
je'e	understood / roger
lo'e	the typical / generic kind
ui	yay! (attitudinal: happiness)
vanci	evening
ca ma	when?
za	after a medium time



Sora

ge ... gi ... – "both ... and ..."! That's a neat coordinating construction.



Koshon

And **ui** on its own is a complete sentence. Lojban attitudinals can stand alone as emotional punctuation.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: I'm going to drink some water.
(*ai mi pinxe lo djacu*)

Say in Lojban: I like juices too.
(*mi ji'a nelci lo'e jisra*)

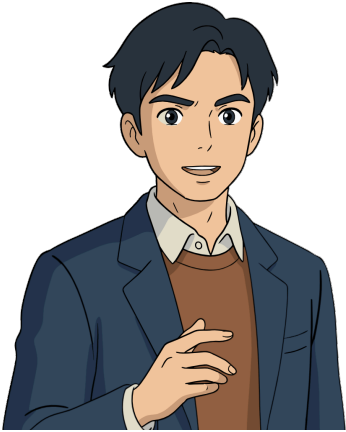
Say in Lojban: When will you go to the park?
(*do ba klama le panka ca ma*)

Recycle – Lessons 2–4

Lojban	English
mi mutce nelci le nu mi pinxe lo jisra	I really like drinking juice.
.au mi ba za klama le panka	I want to go to the park later.
xu do ba zi citka le stasu	Will you eat the soup soon?

Say in Lojban: I don't know if she likes juices.
(*mi na djuno .i xu le prenu cu nelci lo'e jisra*)

Lesson 6. At the Restaurant



Koshon

This lesson introduces **location questions** with **bu'u ma** (where?), and the important **.aunai** – "I don't want to."



Sora

I feel like I've been eating and drinking for three lessons straight. When do we get to grammar?



Koshon

This *is* the grammar. You already know tense markers, attitudinals, articles, question words, and the verb-first sentence shape – you just learned them through soup and juice.

Lojban	English
.au pei do ca citka	Would you like to eat now?
.au mi ca citka	I'd like to eat now.
.aunai .i ba za go'i	I don't want to. I'll eat in a while.
.ai mi pinxe	I'm going to drink something.
bu'u ma	Where?
mi na djuno	I don't know.
.ai mi klama lo gusta	I'm going to go to some restaurant.

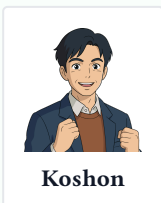
New words

Lojban	Meaning
.aunai	I don't want to
go'i	(repeat of the previous sentence's predicate — here: eat)
bu'u	at (location tense marker)
bu'u ma	where?
gusta	restaurant



Sora

So **.aunai .i ba za go'i** = "I don't want to. In a while I will [do the same thing again]." **go'i** is an incredible shortcut.



Koshon

It echoes the last predicate. Very natural in rapid Lojban conversation.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: I don't want to eat now.
(.aunai mi ca citka)

Say in Lojban: Where?
(bu'u ma)

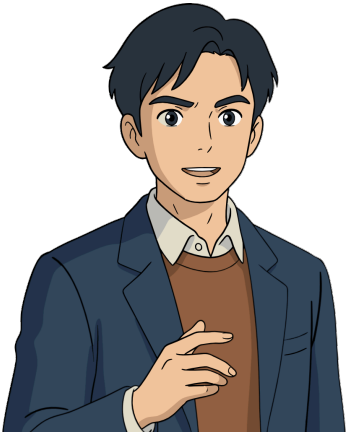
Say in Lojban: I'm going to go to some restaurant.
(.ai mi klama lo gusta)

Recycle – Lessons 3–5

Lojban	English
mi na djuno le du'u do ba klama ma	I don't know where you will go.
.ai mi pinxe lo jisra ca le vanci	I'm going to drink some juice in the evening.
xu do nelci lo gusta	Do you like restaurants?

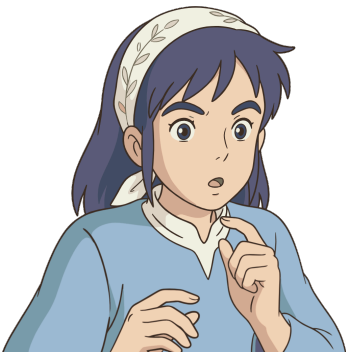
Say in Lojban: I want to eat soup at the restaurant.
(.au mi citka le stasu lo gusta)

Lesson 7. Shopping for Snacks



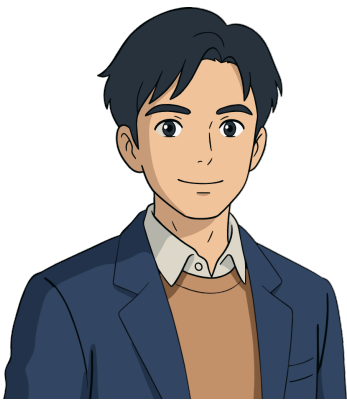
Koshon

Now we're buying things. **te vecnu** is "to buy" — literally the third place of **vecnu** (to sell): the buyer's role. And **je'i** is an or-question: "A or B?"



Sora

And **su'o da** — is that "something" like a quantity?



Koshon

su'o = at least one; **da** = some thing. Together: "at least one thing" – natural Lojban for "something."

Lojban	English
.ai mi te vecnu su'o da	I'm going to buy something.
do ba te vecnu ma	What will you buy?
.ai mi ba te vecnu lo titnanba .e lo jisra	I'm going to buy some cookies and some juice.
do djica lo nu do pinxe ma	What do you want to drink?
.au pei do pinxe lo jisra je'i lo djacu	Are you going to drink juice or water?

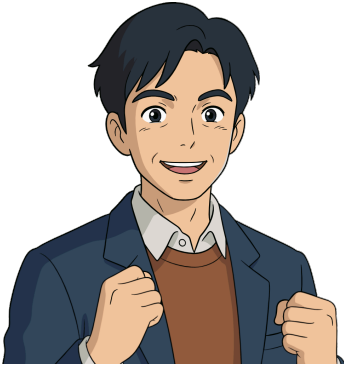
New words

Lojban	Meaning
te vecnu	to buy (lit. third place of "sell")
su'o	at least one
lo titnanba	cookies / sweet baked goods
djica	to desire / want (an event)
je'i	or (choice question)



Sora

The **A .e B** structure for "A and B" – is that the same **.e** that means "and"?



Koshon

Exactly. **.e** connects noun-phrases: **lo titnanba .e lo jisra** = "cookies and juice." For connecting sentences you'd use **.i je**. Lojban keeps those roles distinct.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: I'm going to buy some cookies.
(*.ai mi te vecnu lo titnanba*)

Say in Lojban: What do you want to drink?
(*do djica lo nu do pinxe ma*)

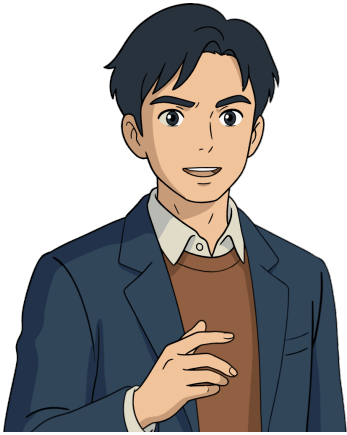
Say in Lojban: Juice or water?
(*lo jisra je'i lo djacu*)

Recycle — Lessons 4–6

Lojban	English
.au mi ba zi te vecnu lo titnanba	I want to buy cookies soon.
mi ba klama lo gusta .i mi ba te vecnu le stasu	I'll go to a restaurant. I'll order the soup.
xu do djica lo nu do pinxe lo djacu	Do you want to drink some water?

Say in Lojban: I'm not going to buy anything.
(*.ainai mi te vecnu su'o da*)

Lesson 8. Telling the Time



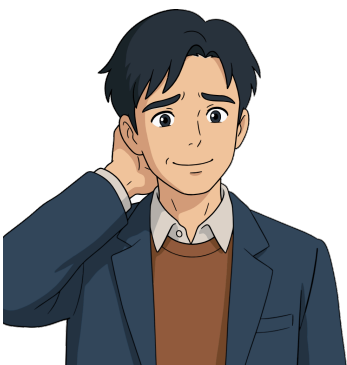
Koshon

Clocks! **ti'u li cacra bu N** is the formula: **ti'u** = at the time; **li** = number; **cacra bu** = o'clock; **N** = the digit. So **ti'u li cacra bu pa** = "at 1 o'clock."



Sora

That's a lot of machinery for a single clock time. Can't we just say "pa tcika"?



Koshon

The full form is precise – you're saying "at the hour marked by the number one." In conversation people do shorten it, but knowing the full form means you always understand others.

Lojban	English
.ai mi citka da .i do mo	I'm going to eat something. What about you?
ra'a mi zo'u .ai mi te vecnu lo titnanba	As for me, I'm going to buy some cookies.
.i'e	I approve of that!
ti'u li cacra bu pa	At 1 o'clock.
ti'u li cacra bu re	At 2 o'clock.
mi citka ti'u li cacra bu so	I eat at 9 o'clock.
mi pu pinxe le jisra ti'u li cacra bu bi	I drank the juice at 8 o'clock.
xu do ba citka ti'u li cacra bu mu	Will you eat at 5 o'clock?
.ai mi klama le panka ti'u li cacra bu vo	I'm going to go to the park at 4 o'clock.
ti'u li cacra bu ze mi tavla le pendo	At 7 o'clock I talk to a friend.
mi pu te vecnu le ci botpi	I bought the 3 bottles.
lei xa botpi cu kargu	The 6 bottles are expensive.
no da zvati ti	Nobody is here.
mi ba klama ti'u li cacra bu pa no	I'll come at 10 o'clock.
do ba klama ti'u li cacra bu pa no je'i li cacra bu pa re	Will you come at 10 or at 12?

New words

Lojban	Meaning
ti'u	at (a clock time)
li	introduces a number
cacra bu	o'clock (lit. "hour mark")
pu	past tense marker (did)
ra'a ... zo'u	as for ... (topic marker)
.i'e	I approve / that's good
botpi	bottle
kargu	expensive
pendo	friend
no da	nobody / nothing
zvati	to be present at
lei	the mass of (collective)



Sora

Numbers: **pa re ci vo mu xa ze bi so pa no** – one through ten. And they just slot into **li**?



Koshon

Yes. **li pa no** = the number 10. **li pa re** = 12. **pa, re, ci...** are standalone number words.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: At 3 o'clock.
(*ti'u li cacra bu ci*)

Say in Lojban: I drank water at 7 o'clock.
(*mi pu pinxe lo djacu ti'u li cacra bu ze*)

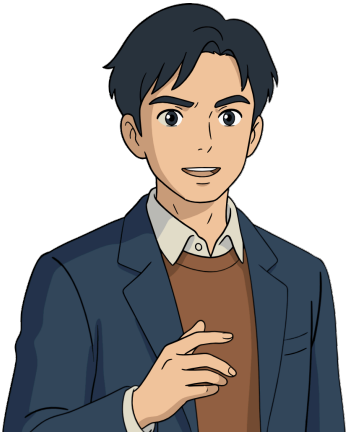
Say in Lojban: Nobody is here.
(*no da zvati ti*)

Recycle – Lessons 5–7

Lojban	English
.ai mi ba za te vecnu lo titnanba .e lo jisra	I'm going to buy cookies and juice later.
mi ba klama le pankka ti'u li cacra bu xa	I'll go to the park at 6 o'clock.
xu do nelci lo'e jisra je'i lo'e djacu	Do you like juice or water (in general)?

Say in Lojban: I'll buy 3 bottles of juice at 5 o'clock.
(*mi ba te vecnu le ci botpi lo jisra ti'u li cacra bu mu*)

Lesson 9. Morning and Evening



Koshon

This lesson introduces greetings by time of day and the question **ma ca tcika** – "what time is it now?" You'll also meet **xukau**, the indirect question marker.

Lojban	English
xu do djica le nu do citka	Do you want to eat?
.i ku'i do ba citka ca ma	But when will you eat?
mi na djuno le du'u xukau ti kukte	I don't know whether this is tasty.
ku'i mi ba citka ti'u li pa pa	But I'll eat at 11 o'clock.
do xu ji'a	You too?
mi citka ca le vanci ce'e ti'u li cacra bu pa no	I eat in the evening, specifically at 10 o'clock.
cerni coi	Good morning!
vanci coi	Good evening!
ma ca tcika	What time is it now?
li cacra bu mu	Five o'clock.

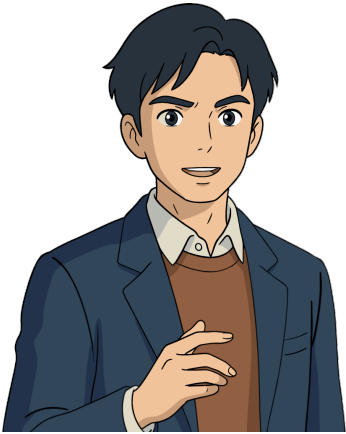
New words

Lojban	Meaning
du'u	that (indirect statement)
xukau	whether (indirect yes/no question)
kukte	tasty, delicious
cerni	morning
ce'e	and specifically / that is
tcika	time (clock time)



Sora

cerni coi – "morning hello"! So you just put the time word in front of **coi**?



Koshon

Right. **cerni coi** and **vanci coi** are the standard greetings. You can build others: **nicte coi** for "good night," **donri coi** for "good day."

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: Good morning!
(*cerni coi*)

Say in Lojban: I don't know whether this is tasty.
(*mi na djuno le du'u xukau ti kukte*)

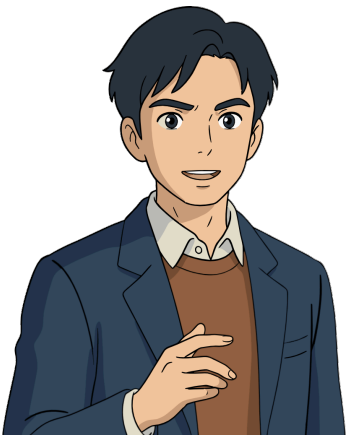
Say in Lojban: What time is it now?
(*ma ca tcika*)

Recycle – Lessons 6–8

Lojban	English
mi ba klama lo gusta ti'u li cacra bu ze	I'll go to a restaurant at 7 o'clock.
xu do djica le nu do citka lo titnanba ca le cerni	Do you want to eat cookies in the morning?
mi na djuno le du'u no da zvati le gusta	I don't know if nobody is at the restaurant.

Say in Lojban: I'll eat at the restaurant in the evening.
(*mi ba citka lo gusta ca le vanci*)

Lesson 10. Arranging a Call



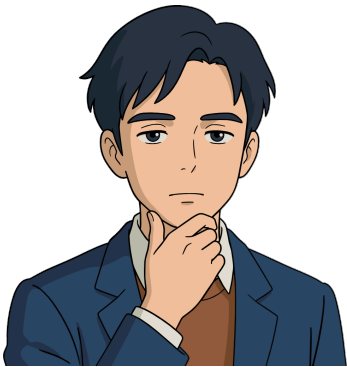
Koshon

In this lesson two people negotiate a convenient time for a voice conversation. Key word: **kufra** – "convenient, comfortable." And **ja'o** for drawing a conclusion: "so, therefore."



Sora

The line "your voice is beautiful" – how flattering is that in Lojban?



Koshon

About as flattering as in English. Though in Lojban you're technically saying the speaker has a "pretty voice property," which is somehow even more formal and therefore funnier.

Lojban	English
do se voksa le melbi	Your voice is beautiful.
pei do tavla mi	How about talking to me?
pei do se voksa tavla mi	How about talking to me in a voice chat?
.i'a .i ti'u ma	I accept. At what time?
ti'u li cacra bu mu veti'u la .nuiork.	At 5 o'clock New York time.
lo ka ca tavla do cu kufra mi	Talking to you now is convenient for me.
u'u tu'a li cacra bu mu na'e se kufra mi	I'm sorry, 5 o'clock isn't really convenient for me.
xu tu'a li cacra bu xa cu se kufra do	Is 6 o'clock convenient for you?
ie kufra mi	Yes, that's convenient for me.
ja'o .ai tavla ti'u li cacra bu xa	So let's talk at 6 o'clock.

New words

Lojban	Meaning
voksa	voice
melbi	beautiful, pretty
.i'a	I accept / okay
veti'u	timezone (time zone marker)
kufra	convenient, comfortable
tu'a	as for... / regarding (sumti raising)
u'u	I'm sorry / I apologize
ie	yes / agreed
ja'o	therefore / so (attitudinal: inference)
se voksa	having as voice / speaking via voice



Sora

u'u – apologetic, **.i'a** – accepting, **ja'o** – inferring. These little words do so much.



Koshon

They're Lojban's emotional layer. Drop them in freely – they don't change the truth of a sentence, only the speaker's attitude toward it.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: Is 8 o'clock convenient for you?
(*xu tu'a li cacra bu bi cu se kufra do*)

Say in Lojban: I'm sorry, I don't know.
(*u'u mi na djuno*)

Say in Lojban: So I'll go to the park.
(*ja'o .ai mi klama le panku*)

Recycle — Lessons 7–9

Lojban	English
xu tu'a ti'u li cacra bu so cu se kufra do	Is 9 o'clock convenient for you?
cerni coi .i ma ca tcika	Good morning! What time is it?
mi pu tavla le pendo ti'u li cacra bu ze	I talked to my friend at 7 o'clock.

Say in Lojban: I don't want to eat at 5 o'clock — 7 is more convenient.
(*.aunai mi citka ti'u li cacra bu mu .i ti'u li cacra bu ze cu kufra mi*)

Lesson 11. Today, Tomorrow, Yesterday



Koshon

The three essential day-words: **le cabdei** (today), **le bavlamdei** (tomorrow), **le prulamdei** (yesterday). And **birti** — to be certain.



Sora

bavlamdei — "the day that arrives after" and **prulamdei** — "the day that passed." The words describe themselves!



Koshon

That's what a logical language does — roots combine in ways that describe their own meaning. Once you learn enough roots, new words become guessable.

Lojban	English
xu do djica lo nu do tavla mi ti'u li cacra bu ze	Do you want to talk to me at 7 o'clock?
.u'u tu'a li cacra bu ze milxe na'e se kufra mi	Sorry, 7 o'clock is a little inconvenient for me.
pei do tavla mi ca le bavlamdei	How about you talk to me tomorrow?
pei mi'o casnu ca le bavlamdei	How about you and I have a discussion tomorrow?
tu'a le bavlamdei cu zabna	As for tomorrow — that works fine.
pei ca le cabdei	How about today?
mi pu tavla la gleki ca le prulamdei	I talked to Gleki yesterday.
ca le xu cabdei	Today?
ca le xu cabdei .i mi na birti	Today? I'm not sure.

New words

Lojban	Meaning
cabdei	today's day
bavlamdei	tomorrow
prulamdei	yesterday
casnu	to discuss
mi'o	you and I (we two, the pair of us)
birti	to be certain / sure
ca le xu ...	as for today/tomorrow/... (questioning the specific day)



Sora

mi na birti — so the negation goes right after **mi**, before the verb? Not at the end?



Koshon

na always comes after the subject and before the selbri (main verb). Never at the end – that's an English habit to unlearn.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: I'm not sure.
(*mi na birti*)

Say in Lojban: I talked to Happy yesterday.
(*mi pu tavla la gleki ca le prulamdei*)

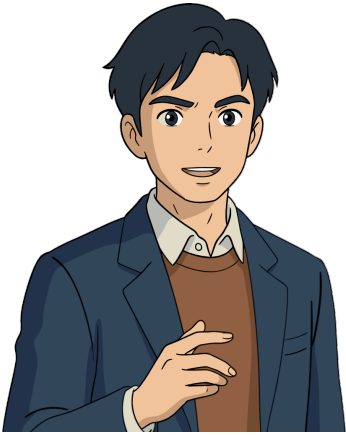
Say in Lojban: How about tomorrow?
(*pei ca le bavlamdei*)

Recycle – Lessons 8–10

Lojban	English
xu tu'a le bavlamdei cu se kufra do	Is tomorrow convenient for you?
mi pu klama le panka ca le prulamdei	I went to the park yesterday.
vanci coi .i pei mi'o casnu ca le cabdei	Good evening! How about we discuss today?

Say in Lojban: I'll talk to my friend at 9 o'clock tomorrow.
(*mi ba tavla le pendo ti'u li cacra bu so ca le bavlamdei*)

Lesson 12. Prices and Money



Koshon

Money! **meryru'u** is "US dollar" (from *merko* + *rupnu*, the Lojban currency word). Prices use **li** for the number. Very large numbers use **gei** – scientific notation.



Sora

Scientific notation for car prices?



Koshon

Cars are expensive. **li vo gei mu** = $4 \times 10^5 = 50,000$. Logical, if a little alarming when you're shopping.

Lojban	English
.ai mi te vecnu su'o da	I'm going to buy something.
xu kargu	Is it expensive?
ti meryru'u li pa ci	This costs 13 US dollars.
le karce cu meryru'u li ji'i gei vo	The car costs approximately 10,000 dollars.
le karce cu meryru'u li vo gei mu	The car costs 50,000 dollars.
mi na ponse lo jdini	I don't have money.
mi na ponse lo jdini meryru'u	I don't have US dollar money.

New words

Lojban	Meaning
meryru'u	US dollar(s)
kargu	expensive
karce	car
ji'i	approximately
gei	scientific notation multiplier ($\times 10^N$)
ponse	to own / possess
jdini	money



Sora

mi na ponse lo jdini – "I don't possess money." Story of my life in Lojban and in life.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: Is it expensive?
(*xu kargu*)

Say in Lojban: I don't have money.
(*mi na ponse lo jdini*)

Say in Lojban: This costs 20 dollars.
(*ti meryru'u li re no*)

Recycle – Lessons 9–11

Lojban	English
xu le karce cu kargu	Is the car expensive?
mi pu te vecnu le karce ca le prulamdei	I bought the car yesterday.
mi na birti le du'u kargu	I'm not sure whether it's expensive.

Say in Lojban: I don't know whether the car costs 50,000 dollars.
(mi na djuno le du'u le karce cu meryru'u li vo gei mu)

Lesson 13. Speak Slower!



Koshon

A practical lesson about pace and shopping. **sutra** = fast, **masno** = slow. **du'enzu** = too (excessively). **raunzu** = enough, sufficiently. These four make a complete speed dial.



Sora

Finally – I can tell you to slow down!

Lojban	English
do ba zukte ma ca le cabdei	What will you do today?
.ai ca le cabdei mi klama lo zarci	Today I'm going to go to a shop.
xu do ponse lo jdini	Do you have money?
go'i .i mi ponse loi jdini meryru'u be li pa no no	Yes. I have 100 US dollars.
mi ponse loi meryru'u be li so'o	I have some US dollars.
mi ponse loi meryru'u be li so'u	I have a few US dollars.
.ai mi te vecnu lo cidja	I'm going to buy some food.
xu le jisra cu kargu	Is the juice expensive?
le jisra cu du'enzu kargu	The juice is too expensive.
do sutra tavla	You speak fast.
do du'enzu sutra tavla	You speak too fast.
do masno tavla	You speak slowly.
do raunzu masno tavla	You speak slow enough.
do du'enzu masno tavla	You speak too slowly.
.ai mi masno tavla	I'll speak slowly.
.ai mi masno tavla seva'u do	I'll speak slowly for your benefit.

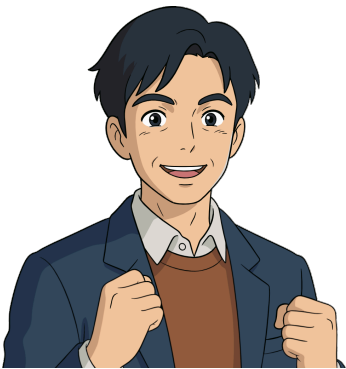
New words

Lojban	Meaning
zarci	shop, store
cidja	food
sutra	fast, quick
masno	slow
du'enzu	too, excessively
raunzu	enough, sufficiently
seva'u	for the benefit of
so'o	some (medium quantity)
so'u	a few (small quantity)
loi	the mass of (collective lo)



Sora

seva'u do – "for your benefit." I'm going to use that one constantly.



Koshon

Good. It's also a polite softener: "I'll do X for you" reads more considerately than just "I'll do X."

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: You speak too fast.
(*do du'enzu sutra tavla*)

Say in Lojban: I'll speak slowly for your benefit.
(*ai mi masno tavla seva'u do*)

Say in Lojban: I have a few dollars.
(*mi ponse loi meryru'u be li so'u*)

Recycle – Lessons 10–12

Lojban	English
xu le zarci cu darno le zdani be do	Is the shop far from your home?
mi ponse loi jdini meryru'u be li pa no	I have 10 US dollars.
le jisra cu kargu .i mi na ponse lo jdini	The juice is expensive. I don't have money.

Say in Lojban: Please speak slowly.
(*ko masno tavla seva'u mi*)

Lesson 14. Tea Time with Family



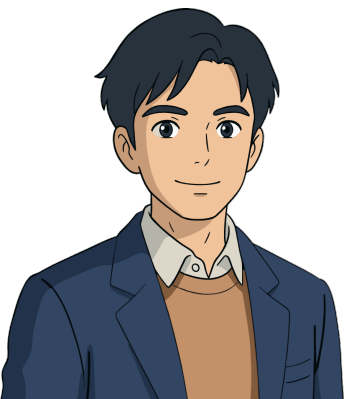
Koshon

Comparisons – **nesemau** (more than) and **tolkargu** (cheap, lit. opposite-of-expensive) – plus your first family vocabulary: **le speni** (spouse).



Sora

Opposite-of-expensive is literally *cheaper*?



Koshon

tol- is a prefix meaning "the opposite of." It's a systematic way to derive antonyms. **tolkargu** = not-expensive = cheap. **tolmasno** = not-slow = fast (another way to say **sutra**).

Lojban	English
.au mi te vecnu so'o da	I want to buy several things.
do djica lo nu do te vecnu ma	What do you want to buy?
mi djica lo nu mi te vecnu lo tcati	I want to buy some tea.
ma jdima	What is the price?
le meryru'u be li pa pi mu no	1.50 US dollars.
tu'a le meryru'u be li pa pi mu no cu jdima le tcati	1.50 dollars is the price of the tea.
na kargu	Not expensive.
le xindo tcati ne semau le merko tcati cu tolkargu	The Indian tea is cheaper than the American tea.
ti nesemau tu kargu	This is more expensive than that.
do nesemau mi sutra lo ka tavla	You talk faster than I do.
le speni be mi ca djica lo nu ri joi mi klama le panku	My spouse now wants the two of us to go to the park.
le speni be mi ca djica lo nu ri pinxe lo tcati	My spouse now wants to drink tea.
xu le speni be do cu tadni la .lojban.	Does your spouse study Lojban?

New words

Lojban	Meaning
tcati	tea
jdima	price
pi	decimal point (for numbers: pa pi mu no = 1.50)
tolkargu	cheap (opposite of expensive)
nesemau	more than / -er than (comparative)
xindo	Hindu / Indian
speni	spouse
ri	the previous noun (pronoun: "she/he/it" for last mentioned)
joi	together with (mass union)



Sora

ri replaces the last mentioned noun. So **ri joi mi** = "she and I together." That's elegant – no gender, no case.



Koshon

And **joi** forms a joint mass – the two act as one unit. Different from **.e** which lists independently.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: Tea is not expensive.
(*le tcati na kargu*)

Say in Lojban: What is the price?
(*ma jdima*)

Say in Lojban: Does your spouse study Lojban?
(*xu le speni be do cu tadni la .lojban.*)

Recycle – Lessons 11–13

Lojban	English
le tcati cu du'enzu kargu ca le cabdei	The tea is too expensive today.
.ai mi ba te vecnu lo tcati ca le bavlamdei	I'm going to buy some tea tomorrow.
xu do sutra tavla ne semau le speni be do	Do you speak faster than your spouse?

Say in Lojban: I want to buy cheap tea.
(.au mi te vecnu lo tolkargu tcati)

Lesson 15. Travel Stories



Koshon

Geography! **xabju** = to live in / inhabit; **litru** = to travel; **gugde** = country; **tcadu** = city. And we introduce the welcome word **fi'i** and a suggestion: **.e'u**.



Sora

Moscow, Washington, Big Apple – suddenly we're globetrotting!

Lojban	English
coi do mi'e la .alis.	Hello, I'm Alice.
fi'i do	Welcome!
fi'i do .i mi'o casnu ma .ei	Welcome! What shall we discuss?
.e'u mi'o casnu lo'e tcima	I suggest we talk about weather.
.e'u mi'o casnu lo'e djalitki	I suggest we talk about drinks.
xu do nelci lo'e vanju	Do you like wine?
na go'i .i mi nelci lo'e jisra	No. I like juices.
le speni be mi ca litru lu'i le drata gugde	My spouse is now travelling in another country.
xu do pu'i litru lu'i le ropno	Have you ever travelled in Europe?
mi pu'i litru lu'i le merko	I have travelled in the USA.
.i ku'i mi ca xabju le xazdo	But now I live in Asia.
mi xabju la .moskov.	I live in Moscow.
xu do xabju la .uocinton.	Do you live in Washington?
la .moskov. cu barda tcadu	Moscow is a big city.
mi xabju la barda plise	I live in Big Apple (New York).

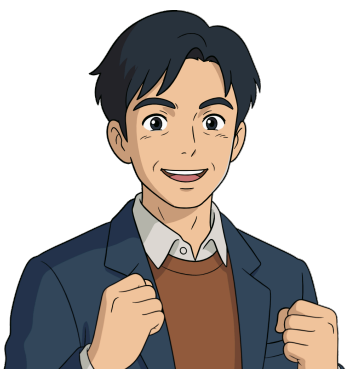
New words

Lojban	Meaning
fi'i	welcome! (attitudinal: hospitality)
.e'u	I suggest / let's (attitudinal: suggestion)
djalitki	beverages
vanju	wine
litru	to travel
lu'i	in the domain of / as a set member
gugde	country
drata	other, different
pu'i	have ever (experiential past)
ropno	European
xabju	to live in / inhabit
xazdo	Asian
barda	big
tcadu	city



Sora

pu'i – you've *done* it at least once before. A "have you ever" past. That's subtle but useful.



Koshon

It marks that the experience has occurred at some point. You'll find it in "have you ever tried X?" questions constantly.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: I live in Moscow.
(*mi xabju la .moskov.*)

Say in Lojban: Have you ever travelled in Asia?
(*xu do pu'i litru lu'i le xazdo*)

Say in Lojban: I suggest we discuss the weather.
(*.e'u mi'o casnu lo'e tcima*)

Recycle – Lessons 12–14

Lojban	English
la .moskov. cu barda tcadu .i na kargu	Moscow is a big city. Not expensive.
le speni be mi pu litru lu'i le ropno	My spouse has travelled in Europe.
mi nelci lo'e tcati ne semau lo'e vanju	I like tea more than wine.

Say in Lojban: Welcome! Does your spouse live in Moscow?
(*fi'i do .i xu le speni be do cu xabju la .moskov.*)

Lesson 16. Families and Fears



Koshon

Family vocabulary: **panzi** (child/offspring), **bersa** (son), **tixnu** (daughter), **nanla** (boy), **nixli** (girl). Plus an emotional moment: **xanka** – to be nervous.



Sora

Oh, this one starts with someone being afraid to speak!



Koshon

A very relatable opening. Nervousness is universal in language learning – and Lojban has a word for it.

Lojban	English
ju'i do	Hello? (getting attention)
xu su'o da tirna mi	Can anyone hear me?
mi tirna do	I can hear you.
coi do mi'e .djan.	Hello, I'm John.
fi'i la .djan.	Welcome, John!
.e'ei do cusku su'o da	Say something!
ko na xanka	Don't be nervous!
mi xanka lo nu mi na se bangu la .lojban.	I'm nervous because I don't speak Lojban.
.i ku'i do ca je'a se bangu la .lojban.	But you do speak Lojban now.
xu do se panzi su'o da	Do you have children?
mi se panzi re da	I have two children.
mi se panzi le pa nanla .e le pa nixli	I have a boy and a girl.
le tixnu be mi ca tadni le saske be lo ka skami	My daughter is now studying computer science.
le bersa be mi cu se esporte	My son is a sportsperson.
mi ji'a se esporte	I'm a sportsperson too.
mi se cuntu la .baskedbol.	I play basketball.
mi se cuntu la .soker.	I play soccer.

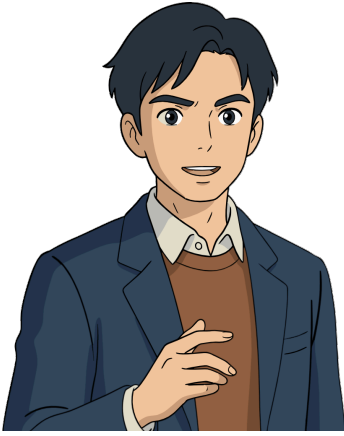
New words

Lojban	Meaning
ju'i	hey / attention (vocative particle)
tirna	to hear
.e'ei	I urge / come on! (attitudinal)
cusku	to express / say
xanka	to be nervous / anxious
je'a	indeed / yes (emphatic affirmation)
panzi	offspring / child
se panzi	to have as offspring
nanla	boy
nixli	girl
tixnu	daughter
bersa	son
saske	science
skami	computer
se esporte	to be athletic / a sportsperson
se cuntu	to play a sport



Sora

se panzi = "to be offspring-had-by." The **se** swaps the x1 and x2 slot. So **mi se panzi re da** = "two children have me as parent." Very logical.



Koshon

And **ko na xanka** – **ko** is the command form ("you, do this"). Here **ko na** = "you, don't..."

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: Don't be nervous!
(*ko na xanka*)

Say in Lojban: I have two children.
(*mi se panzi re da*)

Say in Lojban: Can anyone hear me?
(*xu su'o da tirna mi*)

Recycle – Lessons 13–15

Lojban	English
le tixnu be mi ca xabju la .moskov.	My daughter now lives in Moscow.
xu le bersa be do cu tadni le saske be lo ka skami	Does your son study computer science?
mi pu litru .i ku'i mi ca xanka lo nu mi tavla	I have travelled. But I'm nervous when I talk.

Say in Lojban: My daughter is a sportsperson and studies in the city.
(*le tixnu be mi cu se esporte .e tadni le tcadu*)

Lesson 17. Grown-Up or Baby?



Koshon

makcu means grown-up / mature; **cifnu** means baby / infant. Two ends of the life-stage spectrum – and both come up in family conversation constantly.



Sora

Short lesson this time?



Koshon

Short but dense. Four sentences to lock in **bersa**, **tixnu**, **makcu**, **cifnu**, and **zabju** – that's five words in eight lines. Efficient.

Lojban	English
xu do se panzi su'o da	Do you have children?
go'i .i mi se panzi ci da	Yes, I have three children.
xu le bersa be do cu makcu	Is your son grown-up?
le bersa be mi ca cifnu	My son is a baby.
le tixnu be mi ca makcu	My daughter is grown-up.
le tixnu be mi ca zabju la barda plise	My daughter now lives in New York.

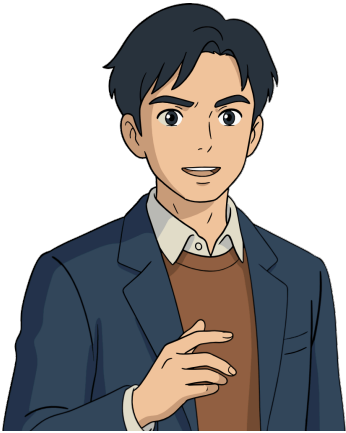
New words

Lojban	Meaning
makcu	grown-up, mature, adult
cifnu	baby, infant
zabju	to reside / to live (long-term dwelling)



Sora

xabju vs **zabju** – are those different?



Koshon

xabju is broader: to inhabit a region. **zabju** implies more settled residence, often used for an address. In practice they overlap – most speakers use them interchangeably for "lives in."

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: My son is grown-up.
(*le bersa be mi cu makcu*)

Say in Lojban: Is your daughter a baby?
(*xu le tixnu be do cu cifnu*)

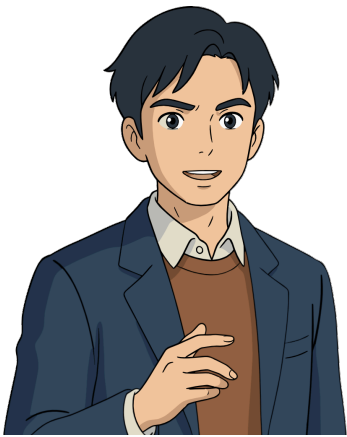
Say in Lojban: I have three children.
(*mi se panzi ci da*)

Recycle – Lessons 14–16

Lojban	English
le bersa be mi cu se esporte .i ku'i le tixnu be mi cu tadni la .lojban.	My son is athletic. But my daughter studies Lojban.
xu le tixnu be do cu makcu je'i cifnu	Is your daughter grown-up or a baby?
le speni be mi pu xabju la .moskov. .i ca ri zabju la barda plise	My spouse used to live in Moscow. Now she lives in New York.

Say in Lojban: Welcome – is your son grown-up or still a baby?
(fi'i do .i xu le bersa be do cu makcu je'i cifnu)

Lesson 18. How Many? How Far?



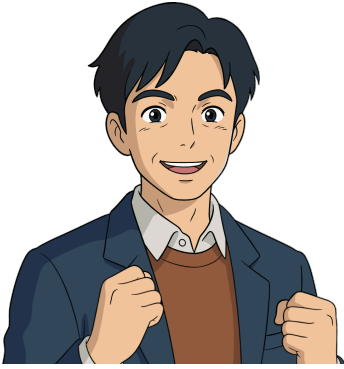
Koshon

xo is the quantity question word – "how many?" And we get distance vocabulary: **sepli** (separated/apart), **ki'otre** (kilometer), **cmalu** (small).



Sora

Oh! So **xo da** = "how many somethings"?



Koshon

Exactly – **xo** slots in where a number would go. "You-have-how-many-children?" → **do se panzi xo da**.

Lojban	English
do se panzi xo da	How many children do you have?
mi se panzi re da	I have two children.
xu le panzi be do cu makcu	Are your children grown-up?
le bersa be mi ca makcu .i ku'i le tixnu be mi ca cifnu	My son is grown-up. But my daughter is a baby.
le bersa be do ca zvati ma	Where is your son now?
le bersa be mi ca zvati la .moskov.	My son is now in Moscow.
le tixnu be mi ca xabju le zdani be mi	My daughter now lives in my house.
.ue	Oh, what a surprise!
mi ponse le pa cmalu karce	I own a small car.
.ai mi klama le tcadu ca le bavlamdei	I'm going to the city tomorrow.
xu le tcadu cu darno	Is the city far?
go'i .i le tcadu cu darno	Yes, the city is far.
le tcadu cu sepli mi le ki'otre be li mu no	The city is 50 kilometres from me.
tu sepli mi lo barda	That is a large distance from me.
lo'e dikca ca kargu	Electricity is expensive now.

New words

Lojban	Meaning
xo	how many? (quantity question)
panzi	child / offspring (here used for the group)
.ue	surprise! (attitudinal: unexpected)
cmalu	small
sepli	to be separated / apart
ki'otre	kilometre
dikca	electricity



Sora

tu sepli mi lo barda — "that is separated from me by a large amount." A relative-clause-free way to say "that's far from me."

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: How many children do you have?
(*do se panzi xo da*)

Say in Lojban: The city is 50 kilometres away.
(*le tcadu cu sepli mi le ki'otre be li mu no*)

Say in Lojban: Oh, what a surprise!
(*.ue*)

Recycle – Lessons 15–17

Lojban	English
la .moskov. cu barda .i ku'i mi xabju lo cmalu tcadu	Moscow is big. But I live in a small city.
xu le bersa be do cu zabju la .moskov.	Does your son live in Moscow?
go'i .i ri ca makcu	Yes. He is grown-up now.

Say in Lojban: My daughter lives in my home – not far from the city.
(*le tixnu be mi ca zabju le zdani be mi .i na darno le tcadu*)

Lesson 19. Where's Home?



Koshon

A short but warm exchange about where people live and who lives with them. **lanzu** = family.



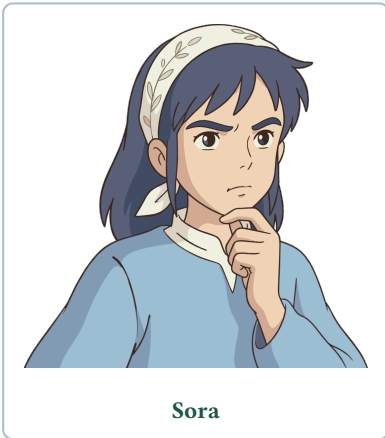
Sora

Nice and compact after the last couple of heavy ones!

Lojban	English
do xabju ma	Where do you live?
mi xabju la bersi trutca	I live in Northern Capital City.
xu do se panzi	Do you have children?
mi se panzi xa da	I have 6 children.
le lanzu be do cu barda	Your family is big.
xu le panzi be do ca xabju le zdani be do	Do your children live in your home?
go'i .i le panzi be mi ca xabju le zdani be mi	Yes. My children live in my home.

New words

Lojban	Meaning
lanzu	family
bersi trutca	Northern Capital City (a place name)



Sora

le lanzu be do – "your family" just like **le zdani be do** is "your home." The **be do** possessive chain works the same everywhere.



Koshon

Every relational noun in Lojban takes **be** for the related person. Very consistent once you see the pattern.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: Where do you live?
(*do xabju ma*)

Say in Lojban: Your family is big.
(*le lanzu be do cu barda*)

Say in Lojban: My children live in my home.
(*le panzi be mi ca xabju le zdani be mi*)

Recycle – Lessons 16–18

Lojban	English
mi se panzi xa da .i le lanzu be mi cu barda	I have 6 children. My family is big.
le tcadu cu sepli le zdani be mi le ki'otre be li re no	The city is 20 kilometres from my home.
xu do pu litru lu'i le drata gugde	Have you ever travelled in another country?

Say in Lojban: Does your big family live in a small home?
(*xu le barda lanzu be do cu xabju lo cmalu zdani*)

Lesson 20. Bills and Utilities



Koshon

pleji = to pay; **detma'i** = calendar month; **kagni** = company / organization. And a lovely compound: **jo'u** = together with (both participate equally).



Sora

Monthly electricity bills in Lojban. I feel very adult.



Koshon

Congratulations. You also now know how to form "every X" using **ca ro**.

Lojban	English
xu lo'e dikca ca kargu	Is electricity expensive now?
mi na djuno .i mi na pleji	I don't know. I don't pay.
xu do pleji su'o da le kagni tu'a lo'e dikca	Do you pay anything to the company for electricity?
ca ro detma'i mi pleji	Every calendar month I pay.
mi pleji tu'a le meryru'u be li pa no	I pay 20 US dollars.
ca ro detma'i mi pleji tu'a le meryru'u be li pa no le kagni tu'a lo'e dikca	Every month I pay 10 dollars to the electricity company.
mi zukte fi lo nu mi jo'u le speni be mi cu klama le tcadu	I'm working toward the goal of going to the city with my spouse.

New words

Lojban	Meaning
pleji	to pay
detma'i	calendar month
kagni	company, organization, firm
jo'u	together with (mutual participation)
ro	every / all
ca ro	every (recurring time)
zukte fi	to do something toward (a goal)



mi jo'u le speni be mi = "me together with my spouse." Different from **mi joi le speni be mi** which is "me-and-spouse as a single mass entity."



Koshon

Good distinction. **jo'u** = side by side, parallel. **joi** = merged into one unit. For travel companions, **jo'u** is usually right.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: Every month I pay.
(*ca ro detma'i mi pleji*)

Say in Lojban: I don't know – I don't pay.
(*mi na djuno .i mi na pleji*)

Say in Lojban: Do you pay the company?
(*xu do pleji le kagni*)

Recycle – Lessons 17–19

Lojban	English
le lanzu be mi cu xabju lo barda zdani .i ku'i lo'e dikca ca kargu	My family lives in a big home. But electricity is expensive now.
mi jo'u le speni be mi ba klama le tcadu ca ro bavlamdei	My spouse and I are going to the city every tomorrow (i.e. every day).
xu do pleji tu'a lo'e dikca ca ro detma'i	Do you pay for electricity every month?

Say in Lojban: My spouse and I are going to the city because the children are there.
(*mi jo'u le speni be mi ba klama le tcadu ki'u le nu le panzi be mi cu zvati ti*)

Lesson 21. Evening Routines



Koshon

Winding down for the night. **sipna** = to sleep; **lerci** = late; **nitcu** = to need; **jibri** = job/occupation; **finti** = to author/program.



Sora

Finally, the lesson where people admit they need to sleep. Relatable.

Lojban	English
ca vanci fi mi	It's evening in my timezone.
.ai mi sipna	I'm going to sleep.
ca vanci fi mi .i .ai mi sipna	It's evening at my place. I'm going to sleep.
ca lerci	It's late now.
mi ca te vanci	I'm in the evening zone now.
co'o te vanci	Goodbye, evening-person!
xu ca na lerci	Is it not late now?
mi nitcu lo nu mi gunka ca le bavlamdei	I need to work tomorrow.
ma jibri do	What is your job?
lo ka finti lo proga cu jibri mi	Writing programs is my job.

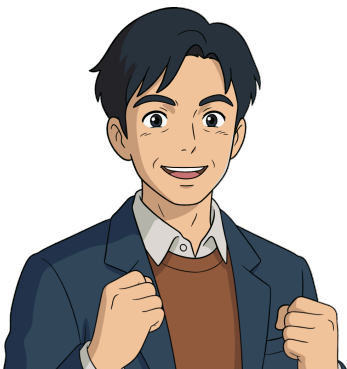
New words

Lojban	Meaning
sipna	to sleep
lerci	late
te vanci	person in the evening / evening zone
fi mi	at my place (location: for me)
nitcu	to need
gunka	to work
jibri	job, occupation
finti	to author, create, write (a work)
proga	program, software



Sora

lo ka finti lo proga — "the property of creating programs" — used as a noun-phrase for "programming." That's a flexible construction.



Koshon

lo ka [verb] turns any verb into a property-noun. "The-being-of programming" = programming. You can use it wherever a noun fits.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: It's late now.
(*ca lerci*)

Say in Lojban: I'm going to sleep.
(*.ai mi sipna*)

Say in Lojban: What is your job?
(*ma jibri do*)

Recycle – Lessons 18–20

Lojban	English
ca lerci .i no da zvati le zarci	It's late. Nobody is in the shop.
mi nitcu lo nu mi pleji le kagni ca ro detma'i	I need to pay the company every month.
vanci coi .i .ai mi sipna .i ca lerci	Good evening! I'm going to sleep – it's late.

Say in Lojban: I need to work tomorrow because my family needs money.
(*mi nitcu lo nu mi gunka ca le bavlamdei ki'u le nu le lanzu be mi nitcu lo jdini*)

Lesson 22. Morning Errands and Taxis



Koshon

Duration vocabulary: **ze'a** (for a while), **ze'u** (for a long time), **ze'i** (for a short time). And **kanpe** – to expect. Plus **taksi** for taxi, and **stali** for staying somewhere.



Sora

When do you use **ze'a** vs **ze'u**?



Koshon

ze'u = for a long time (longer than expected); **ze'a** = for a moderate while; **ze'i** = for a short time.
Like spatial markers **vi** / **va** / **vu** but for duration.

Lojban	English
.ai mi te vecnu su'o da ca le cerni be le bavlamdei	I'm going to buy something tomorrow morning.
.ai mi te vecnu su'o da ca le cabvanci bu'u le tcadu	I'm going to buy something this evening in the city.
ca lerci .i no da zvati le zarci	It's late. Nobody is in the shop.
no da zvati le zarci .i ki'u bo ca lerci	Nobody is in the shop, because it's late.
.ai mi klama le tcadu fu tu'a le taksi	I'm going to go to the city by taxi.
.ai mi klama le tcadu fu tu'a le karce pe mi	I'm going to go to the city in my car.
xu do djica lo nu do vitke le pendo le tcadu	Do you want to visit a friend in the city?
.ai mi ze'a gunka	I'm going to work for a while.
xu do pu ze'u gunka	Did you work for a long time?
na go'i .i mi pu ze'i gunka	No. I worked for a short while.
do kanpe lo nu do stali le tcadu ze'a ma	How long do you expect to stay in the city?
mi kanpe lo nu mi stali le tcadu ze'a le masti be li re	I expect to stay in the city for two months.
la'a mi stali le tcadu ze'a le jeftu be li pa	I'll probably stay in the city for one week.
mi ba surla ze'a le djedi be li ci	I'll rest for three days.

New words

Lojban	Meaning
cerni	morning (here in le cerni be le bavlamdei = tomorrow's morning)
cabvanci	this evening
taksi	taxi
fu tu'a	by means of / using
vitke	to visit
ze'a	for a while (moderate duration)
ze'u	for a long time
ze'i	for a short time
kanpe	to expect
stali	to stay / remain
masti	month
jeftu	week
djedi	day
surla	to rest / take a break
ki'u bo	because (causal compound)



Sora

le masti be li re = "the month of number 2" = two months. The **be li** construction attaches a number to any time unit.



Koshon

le djedi be li ci = three days. **le jeftu be li pa** = one week. Same pattern for **masti**, **nanca** (year) – all the time units.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: I worked for a short while.
(*mi pu ze'i gunka*)

Say in Lojban: I'll go by taxi.
(*.ai mi klama fu tu'a le taksi*)

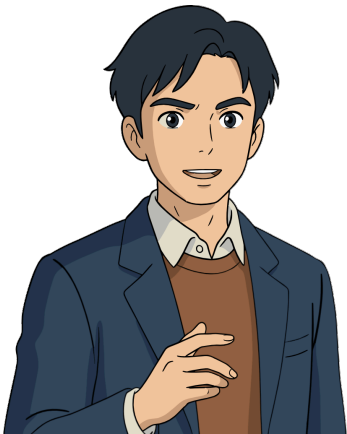
Say in Lojban: I expect to stay for one week.
(*mi kanpe lo nu mi stali ze'a le jeftu be li pa*)

Recycle — Lessons 19–21

Lojban	English
ca lerci .i no da zvati le zarci .i ku'i mi nitcu lo nu mi te vecnu lo cidja	It's late. Nobody's in the shop. But I need to buy food.
mi ba stali le tcadu ze'a le djedi be li re	I'll stay in the city for two days.
mi kanpe lo nu mi sipna ca le cerni be le bavlamdei	I expect to sleep tomorrow morning.

Say in Lojban: I'll rest for three days, then go to work.
(*mi ba surla ze'a le djedi be li ci .i ba bo mi gunka*)

Lesson 23. A Day in the City



Koshon

di'a means "resuming / going back" – here it's used for returning. Combined with **klama** it gives you "to come back / return."



Sora

So **di'a klama ti** = "go back here" = "return here." **ti** is just "here"?



Koshon

Yes – **ti / ta / tu** are spatial demonstratives: here / there / way over there. Same distance scale as **vi / va / vu** but pointing at objects rather than marking locations.

Lojban	English
mi ba klama le tcadu	I'll go to the city.
xu do ba klama fu tu'a le karce pe do	Will you go in your own car?
na go'i .i mi ba klama fu tu'a le taksi	No. I'll go by taxi.
do djica lo nu do zukte ma bu'u le tcadu	What do you want to do in the city?
.ai mi te vecnu su'o da bu'u le tcadu	I'm going to buy something in the city.
.ai mi vitke le re pendu be mi le tcadu	I'm going to visit my two friends in the city.
.i .ai ba le nu vitke kei mi di'a klama ti	After the visit, I'm going to come back here.
xu do ca le cerni be le cabdei di'a klama ti	Will you return here today in the morning?

New words

Lojban	Meaning
di'a	resuming / going back to
ba le nu ... kei	after (something happens)
re pendu be mi	my two friends



Sora

ba le nu vitke kei – "after visiting." So **ba le nu [clause] kei** is the formula for "after doing something"?



Koshon

Exactly. **le nu** turns a verb into an event-noun; **ba** puts it after that event; **kei** closes the clause cleanly. You'll see this pattern constantly in storytelling.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: I'll visit my two friends in the city.
(.ai mi vitke le re pendo be mi le tcadu)

Say in Lojban: After eating, I'll return here.
(ba le nu citka kei mi di'a klama ti)

Say in Lojban: Will you go by taxi or in your car?
(xu do ba klama fu tu'a le taksi je'i le karce pe do)

Recycle — Lessons 20–22

Lojban	English
mi ba vitke le pendo ca le bavlamdei .i mi ba di'a klama le zdani ba le nu vitke kei	I'll visit a friend tomorrow. I'll return home after the visit.
xu do ba stali le tcadu ze'a le jeftu be li pa	Will you stay in the city for one week?
mi kanpe lo nu mi di'a klama ti ca le cerni be le bavlamdei	I expect to return here tomorrow morning.

Say in Lojban: I need to return home after buying food in the city.
(mi nitcu lo nu mi di'a klama le zdani ba le nu te vecnu lo cidja bu'u le tcadu kei)

Lesson 24. Before You Go



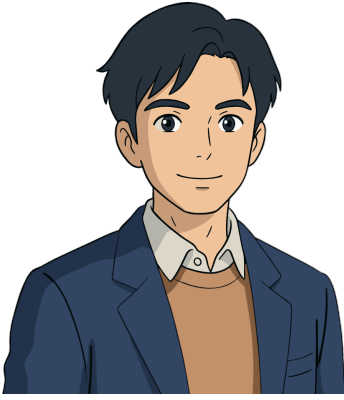
Koshon

Winding down: **pu'o** = about to (imminent future); **pluka** = pleasant; **kansa** = to accompany. And a beautiful parting phrase: **pu'o nictu co'o do** — night is coming, goodbye.



Sora

I love that one. It's almost poetic.



Koshon

Lojban is full of these. **pu'o nictē** — "night is about to happen" — is compressed and evocative. Worth memorising for its own sake.

Lojban	English
mi ba zi co'a sipna	I'll go to sleep soon.
ca vanci fi mi .i .ai mi ba zi co'a sipna	It's evening here. I'll fall asleep soon.
lo ka tavla do kei pu pluka mi	Talking to you was a pleasure.
pu'o nictē co'o do	Night is coming — goodbye!
ca le bavlamdei mi klama le tcadu	Tomorrow I'll go to the city.
xu do kanpe lo nu do ze'u stali le tcadu	Do you expect to stay in the city for a long time?
la'a mi ba stali ze'a le djedi be li vo	I'll probably stay for 4 days.
ca ma do di'a klama le zdani	When are you returning home?
mi na djuno le du'u ca makau mi di'a klama le zdani	I don't know when I'm returning home.
mi na djuno le du'u ca makau mi co'e	I don't know when I'll do it.
xu le speni be do cu kansa do lo ka litru	Does your spouse accompany you when you travel?
na go'i .i mi kansa no da lo ka litru	No. I travel without company.
.ei mi ki'u klama le zdani	I must go home — for a reason.
mi klama le zdani ki'u le nu le speni be mi cu nitcu su'o da	I'm going home because my spouse needs something.

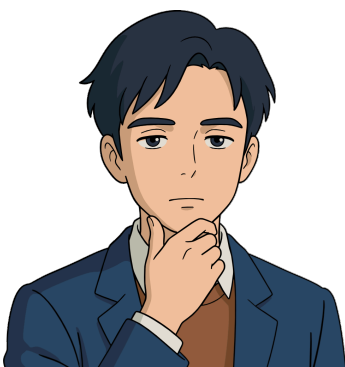
New words

Lojban	Meaning
co'a	to begin / start (event inchoative)
pu'o	about to / imminently
nicte	night
pluka	pleasant
la'a	probably / I expect (attitudinal)
makau	when-specifically (indirect question for time)
co'e	does the contextually obvious thing (dummy predicate)
kansa	to accompany
.ei	I should / obligation (attitudinal)
ki'u	because (causal marker)



Sora

co'e – a wild card predicate meaning "does whatever the context implies." I can see that saving a lot of circumlocution.



Koshon

It's Lojban's "thing" or "do." When you can't remember a word or the context makes it obvious, **co'e** fills in. Speakers use it all the time.

Written prompts

Say in Lojban: Talking to you was a pleasure.
(*lo ka tavla do kei pu pluka mi*)

Say in Lojban: Night is coming — goodbye!
(*pu'o nicta co'o do*)

Say in Lojban: I must go home.
(*.ei mi klama le zdani*)

Recycle — Lessons 21–23

Lojban	English
mi ba zi co'a sipna .i lo ka tavla do kei pu pluka mi	I'll sleep soon. Talking to you was a pleasure.
la'a mi ba stali le tcadu ze'a le jeftu be li re	I'll probably stay in the city for two weeks.
xu le speni be do cu kansa do lo ka vitke le pendo	Does your spouse accompany you when visiting friends?

Say in Lojban: I'm going home because I need to sleep.
(*mi klama le zdani ki'u le nu mi nitcu lo nu mi sipna*)

Lesson 25. Tasty Yesterday, Plans Today



Koshon

The final lesson of the core course — and a deliberate spiral. Almost every word here has appeared before. Read it through and notice how much you understand without looking at the English column.



Sora

Oh — I actually do recognise most of this. That's satisfying.



Koshon

That's what the Recycle blocks have been building toward. Let's confirm it.

Lojban	English
mi pu citka su'o kukte ca le prulamdei	I ate something tasty yesterday.
.ai mi citka su'o titnanba ca le cabdei	I'm going to eat some cookies today.
xu do nelci le titnanba	Do you like cookies?
mi nelci .i ie mi nelci	I like them. Yes, I like them.
do pu klama ma ca le cerni be le cabdei	Where did you go this morning?
do ba klama ma ca le vanci be le cabdei	Where will you go this evening?

New words

No truly new vocabulary – this lesson recycles the whole course. Here is a compact **cumulative reference** of the core lemmas you now know:

Lojban	Meaning
coi / co'o	hello / goodbye
.ai / .ainai	I intend / I don't intend
.au / .aunai	I want / I don't want
go'i / na go'i	yes (it's true) / no (it isn't)
ma / xo	what? / how many?
ca / ba / pu	now / future / past
le / lo / lo'e	the specific / some / the typical
ku'i / je'a / .ue	but / indeed / surprise
tavla / citka / pinxe	talk / eat / drink
klama / cliva / stali	go / leave / stay
djuno / birti / kanpe	know / be certain / expect
kargu / tolkargu / jdima	expensive / cheap / price
cerni / vanci / nicta	morning / evening / night
cabdei / bavlamdei / prulamdei	today / tomorrow / yesterday
ze'a / ze'u / ze'i	for a while / long / short time
jibni / darno / sepli	near / far / separated by



Sora

From "can you speak English?" to "I ate something tasty yesterday" – I feel like I've actually been somewhere.



Koshon

You have. And this is only the beginning of the path – every lesson here opened a door that goes much deeper. Keep going!

Final written prompts

Say in Lojban: I ate something tasty yesterday.
(*mi pu citka su'o kukte ca le prulamdei*)

Say in Lojban: Where will you go this evening?
(*do ba klama ma ca le vanci be le cabdei*)

Say in Lojban: I like cookies. I'm going to buy some today.
(*mi nelci le titnanba .i .ai mi te vecnu lo titnanba ca le cabdei*)

Full spiral review

Lojban	English
coi do .i xu do se bangu la .lojban.	Hello. Can you speak Lojban?
go'i .i mi milxe se bangu	Yes. I can speak a little.
mi pu citka le stasu ca le vanci .i ku'i mi na nelci le nu glare	I ate soup in the evening. But I don't like heat.
mi ba klama le panku ti'u li cacra bu vo ca le bavlamdei	I'll go to the park at 4 o'clock tomorrow.
lo ka tavla do kei pu pluka mi .i pu'o nicta co'o do	Talking to you was a pleasure. Night is coming — good-bye!