

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Compound Nouns.....	2
Abbreviated Compound Nouns.....	7
Honorific Nouns.....	8
Wall of Syllables.....	11
Terminating Particles.....	13
<i>La Dön</i> Particles.....	16
The Second Case (Accusative).....	19
The Fourth Case (Dative).....	21
The Seventh Case (Locative).....	23
Non-case-marking Applications.....	26
Fifth Case (Ablative).....	30
Non-case-marking Uses of Particles.....	34
Verbs: A Preview.....	38
Vocabulary.....	41
Glossary: Tibetan - English.....	61
Glossary: English - Tibetan.....	75
Homework.....	81



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Level III* of the Tibetan Language Institute's *Introduction to Tibetan Language*. In *Level I* of this series we learned the Tibetan alphabet, the spelling and reading of the Tibetan *U-chen* script, the use of the Tibetan-English dictionary, and 120 basic vocabulary words. In *Level II* we built on the knowledge gained in *Level I* by learning how words are formed and how phrases and then simple sentences are formed with the verbs ཡིན་ and ཡོད་, and also learned 155 more vocabulary words. In addition, we introduced the concept of grammatical particles and learned several, both lexical (word-building) and syntactical (word-organizing) particles and how these particles are used. In studying the syntactic particles we learned about the eight grammatical cases. Of the Eight Cases, only six employ particles. We covered two of those cases in *Level II*: the Third Case (the instrumental), and Sixth Case (the genitive). The remaining four cases that take particles will be our primary subject here in *Level III*. In addition, we will be exploring some other aspects of Tibetan grammar and continuing our study of vocabulary.

Our goal in these three first levels of language study is to prepare students to become readers of Tibetan literature by providing a clear exposition of the some of the most important elements of Tibetan. With the completion of *Level III*, the student's understanding of the grammar and the syntax will be significantly enhanced. With this increased knowledge and skill, the student will be able to begin reading and translating Tibetan texts.

For me, learning Tibetan has been a marvelous, on-going journey into a sacred, enchanted landscape. It has been a great joy. I feel twice blessed and extremely grateful that I have been able to share some of its wonders with so many remarkable people over the last two decades. I hope the journey evokes the same feelings in you as we travel together through the next passage--this latest installment of the Tibetan Language Institute's *Introduction to Tibetan Language: Level III*.

David Curtis, President *TLI*

A different language is a different vision of life.— Federico Fellini

COMPOUND NOUNS

In *Level II* we discussed the formation of Tibetan words and phrases through the addition of particles such as ལ་, ལྱི་ and ལྱིས་. With the exception of such particles, every syllable in the Tibetan language has a meaning or function, and therefore each is considered to be a meaningful unit. For this reason Tibetan is sometimes called a monosyllabic language. This contrasts with English. In English there are many two or more syllable words where the individual syllables are words themselves (for example

bookstore), however we also have many words wherein the individual syllables are *not* words in themselves. As an example, *table* is a two syllable word but neither of the individual syllables is a word in itself.

Ways of Making Compound Nouns in Tibetan

1. Compounding a noun with a noun
 - (a) synonym compounds;
 - (b) genitive compounds;
 - (c) conjunctive compounds
2. Compounding an adjective with a following noun
3. Compounding a noun with a following adjective
4. Compounding 2 adjectives that are antonyms (opposites)

Tibetan single-syllable words can be combined (or compounded), often in pairs, to form new words with new meanings. In this case the original meanings of the single-syllable words are carried forward into the new word. New words formed in this way are called compound nouns. Here we will explain four principle ways that Tibetan words can be compounded to form nouns.

These are as follows:

- (1) Compounding a noun with a noun
- (2) Compounding an adjective with a following noun
- (3) Compounding a noun with a following adjective
- (4) Compounding two adjectives that are antonyms

