

JENA-BAMBERG IRANIAN LIST (JBIL):
ENGLISH TERMS WITH EXPLANATIONS, AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR INVESTIGATORS

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This document provides a **list of English meanings**, together with **standardized explanations and examples sentences** for individual items. The list includes all the 200 items from the CoBL-list (based at the MPI in Jena), items from the Atlas of the Languages of Iran (ALI), and other items deemed of interest for comparative Iranian studies.

Investigators enter the actual data into **JBIL Data Entry Form**, available from the website.

The numbers in the right hand columns provide a reference to the Jena/CoBL and ALI-lists respectively; these numbers are not relevant for field researchers, but solely for sorting purposes later.

Instructions for Investigators when filling out the Data Entry Form:

1. Wherever possible, interviews should be recorded in WAV-quality (non-compressed) sound format. Break up the interview into approximately even sections (e.g. every 15 minutes), as this makes handling the sound files much easier later.
2. For the data entry we require an **orthographic version**, i.e. one that uses the orthography most widely used in the written form of the language (if available), or in the Roman-script based linguistic literature on that language, **and a phonemic transcription**, that uses the symbols of the IPA, and records additional phonetic information that the orthographic transcription might ignore (for example Northern Kurdish orthography ignores aspiration distinctions on some consonants; this should be included in the phonemic transcription). The Data Entry Form also provides fields for metadata regarding the background of the interviewee, and the interview setting etc.

JBIL #	Meaning	Instructions / Explanations / Example sentences	JENA #	ALI#
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3. For each item, wherever possible choose **one** equivalent in the target language. It should be the most natural term, i.e. the one used by the majority of people in everyday speech, and in the majority of contexts, rather than in more formal speech situations, or specialized contexts.
4. For many items, finding the equivalent word in the target language is straightforward, and we provide no additional explanations. In other cases, the English word may be open to different interpretations; in these cases we have provided additional explanations in this document, mostly in the form of a sample sentence that helps the investigator decide which meaning is intended. We recommend getting the consultant to translate the entire sentence, and then identify the specific word.
5. When using the example sentences, please make sure that the word you are interested in is spoken clearly; ideally you can ask the consultant to repeat the sentence speaking slowly word-for-word, so that we get at least one good recording of the target word.
6. Items 182-297 are **verbs**, for **which special instructions are necessary**:
For each verb, we provide one sentence in the past tense, and one in the present tense, with subjects that are third person singular, masculine. This is necessary due to the fact that verbs in Iranian typically have distinct stems in the present and past tenses. We have generally chosen a subject such as ‘my brother’, because this is often a natural kind of utterance, but it could of course be replaced by e.g. appropriate proper names, if that seems more natural. Remember, it is the verb form itself that we are interested in, and only this needs to be transcribed; the sentence is simply intended to provide an easier means of eliciting the intended meaning.

If the target language has a generally accepted citation form for verbs, and your consultant is comfortable using it, then you may enter this into the first line for each verb, while entering the third person singular present into the second line. Otherwise enter the third person singular past tense form that was provided in the sentence into the first line, and the present tense form into the second line.

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1.	one	Let speakers give a complete run through of the sequence of numbers first, to get them warmed up. Then ask them to repeat the entire list, with a pause between each numeral, and saying each numeral slowly and clearly.	115	N01
2.	two		178	N02
3.	three		170	N03
4.	four		57	N04
5.	five		50	N05
6.	6		0	N06
7.	7		0	N07
8.	8		0	N08
9.	9		0	N09
10.	10		0	N10
11.	11		0	N11
12.	12		0	N12
13.	13		0	N13
14.	14		0	N14
15.	15		0	N15
16.	16		0	N16
17.	17		0	N17
18.	18		0	N18
19.	19		0	N19

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20.	20		0	N20
21.	21		0	N21
22.	30		0	N30
23.	40		0	N40
24.	50		0	N50
25.	60		0	N60
26.	70		0	N70
27.	80		0	N80
28.	90		0	N90
29.	100		0	N100
30.	200		0	N200
31.	head		71	0
32.	hair	She is combing her hair	68	1
33.	eye		40	2
34.	nose		112	3
35.	ear		36	4
36.	mouth		103	5
37.	tooth		174	0
38.	tongue		173	6

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39.	neck		109	0
40.	throat	He has got a bad cold, he has a sore throat	0	7
41.	arm		0	8
42.	hand		69	9
43.	elbow		0	0
44.	finger	There are five fingers on a hand	0	10
45.	nail		104	0
46.	chest		18	0
47.	stomach (belly)	My little sister punched me in the stomach	6	11
48.	stomach (organ)	When my father eats too late, he has stomach pains	0	12
49.	guts		67	0
50.	navel		107	0
51.	back		3	0
52.	leg		92	13
53.	thigh		166	0
54.	knee		86	14
55.	foot		55	15
56.	skin		141	0
57.	bone		14	16

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58.	blood		12	17
59.	urine	It is relatively straightforward to elicit a verb here, as in: <i>A person urinates a couple of times each day.</i> However, ideally a noun is required, which may need an alternative formulation: <i>The there is urine on the ground, the ground smells of urine</i>	0	18
60.	heart	His heart was beating fast	73	19
61.	liver		95	20
62.	person	A person needs to sleep 7-8 hours each day	116	0
63.	man		98	21
64.	husband		0	22
65.	woman	most generic term for adult female person. Avoid kinship or relationship terms ('wife', 'mother' etc.).	194	23
66.	wife		0	24
67.	child		19	25
68.	boy		0	26
69.	son		0	27
70.	girl		0	28
71.	daughter		0	29
72.	father		44	0
73.	mother		101	0
74.	brother		0	0
75.	sister		0	0
76.	groom		0	30

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77.	bride		0	31
78.	name		105	0
79.	dog		32	32
80.	cat		0	33
81.	horn (cow)		78	0
82.	tail		160	0
83.	claw		20	0
84.	feather		46	0
85.	wing		192	0
86.	lion		0	0
87.	wolf		0	34
88.	fox		0	35
89.	snake		148	0
90.	worm		195	0
91.	fish		49	36
92.	bird		8	0
93.	ant		1	0
94.	fly (n.)		52	0
95.	scorpion		0	37

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96.	louse		97	0
97.	tree		175	38
98.	forest		56	0
99.	wood (substance)	This table is made of wood	0	39
100.	branch		0	40
101.	stick	He picked up a stick to hit the dog with	153	41
102.	leaf		90	42
103.	bark		5	0
104.	root	They took the root of the tree out of the ground	124	0
105.	flower		51	0
106.	seed	In spring we plant the seeds in the earth	134	0
107.	grass	The cows are eating the grass	64	0
108.	sky		142	0
109.	cloud		21	0
110.	shadow		136	0
111.	sun	The sun was covered by clouds	156	43
112.	day		27	44
113.	moon	The moon was covered by clouds	100	0
114.	night		111	45

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115.	star		152	46
116.	wind	The wind blew the leaves off the tree	191	0
117.	dirt, earth (material)	He's taking the earth out of the hole / we covered the seeds with earth	37	0
118.	mountain		102	0
119.	stone	The boy threw a stone at the dog.	154	0
120.	sand		129	0
121.	dust		35	0
122.	water		182	47
123.	ice	The water turned to ice in the freezer.	84	0
124.	snow		149	0
125.	fog		54	0
126.	rain		120	0
127.	river (-course)		123	0
128.	lake		88	0
129.	sea		132	0
130.	fire		48	0
131.	smoke	Smoke was rising from the chimney	146	0
132.	ash		2	0
133.	year		196	0

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134.	summer		0	0
135.	winter		0	48
136.	house		80	49
137.	meat		99	0
138.	rice	Generic term for uncooked rice (e.g. 'how much is a kilo of rice?')	0	50
139.	salt (eating)		128	0
140.	fat (n.)	This meat has a lot of fat.	43	0
141.	egg (e.g., chicken)		39	51
142.	milk		0	0
143.	honey		0	0
144.	walnut		0	52
145.	fruit		59	0
146.	hungry		0	53
147.	thirsty		0	54
148.	bitter		10	55
149.	fresh	The bread is fresh (we just bought it from the bakers)	0	56
150.	good		63	0
151.	bad		4	0
152.	rotten	The apples on the ground are rotten	125	0

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153.	old (thing)		114	0
154.	new		110	0
155.	sweet		157	0
156.	hot	Don't touch the kettle – it's hot!	79	0
157.	cold		22	0
158.	long (thing)	I need a long rope	96	57
159.	short (length)	I need a short rope	138	0
160.	wide	A wide alley	190	0
161.	narrow	A narrow alley	106	0
162.	thick	We need a thick rope	165	0
163.	thin	We need a thin rope	167	0
164.	heavy		74	0
165.	full	The glass is full	60	0
166.	dirty		30	0
167.	dry		34	58
168.	wet		184	0
169.	big		7	59
170.	small		144	0
171.	round	That plate is round (circular)	126	0

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172.	hard		70	0
173.	sharp		137	0
174.	smooth		147	0
175.	straight		155	0
176.	true	This answer is true	176	0
177.	green		65	0
178.	yellow		197	0
179.	red		121	60
180.	black		11	0
181.	white		188	61
182.	go	My brother went to school late yesterday	62	MS
183.	go_prs.3sg	My brother is going to school for the first time today		
184.	come	My brother came to our house last night	23	62, MS
185.	come_prs.3sg	My brother comes to our house today		
186.	turn (tr.)	The stone was so heavy, but my brother managed to turn it	177	0
187.	turn_prs.3sg	This stone is too heavy, my brother can only turn it with force		
188.	stand	The teacher was standing in front of the blackboard	151	0
189.	stand_prs.3sg	The teacher is standing in front of the blackboard		
190.	sit	My brother was sitting at the back of the class	140	0

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191.	sit_prs.3sg	My brother is sitting at the back of the class		
192.	lie, be in the state of lying	My brother was lying on the bed	93	0
193.	lie_prs.3sg	My brother is lying on the bed (e.g. because he is ill)		
194.	fall	My brother fell out of the tree yesterday	41	63, MS
195.	fall_prs.3sg	If he's not careful he will fall out of the tree		
196.	walk	My brother walked to school yesterday	180	0
197.	walk_prs.3sg	My brother walks to school every day		
198.	run	My brother ran to catch the bus yesterday	127	0
199.	run_prs.3sg	My brother is running to catch the bus		
200.	swim	Last year my brother swam in the river	159	0
201.	swim_prs.3sg	Every summer my brother swims in the river		
202.	fly (bird)	The pigeon was flying around the house	53	0
203.	fly_prs.3sg	The pigeon is flying around the house		
204.	see	My brother saw your house	133	MS
205.	see_prs.3sg	My brother sees your house		
206.	hear	My brother heard the children's voices	72	0
207.	hear_prs.3sg	My brother hears the children's voices		
208.	smell (a scent)	My brother said there was a smell yesterday in the yard. (Note: Persian avoids a personal subject with smell, so the experiencer must be inferred)	145	0

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209.	smell_prs.3sg	My brother says there is a smell in the yard (let's see what it is)		
210.	do	What did your brother do yesterday?	31	0
211.	do_prs.3sg	What is your brother doing?		
212.	live	My grandfather was alive three years ago	94	0
213.	live_prs.3sg	Is your grandfather alive?		
214.	die	His grandfather died last year	28	0
215.	die_prs.3sg	His grandfather is very ill, he will die		
216.	sleep	When I came back my brother was sleeping	143	64, MS
217.	sleep_prs.3sg	My brother sleeps till noon		
218.	breathe	My brother had a fever, he was breathing with difficulty	15	0
219.	breathe_prs.3sg	My brother has a fever, he is breathing with difficulty		
220.	blow (on)	My brother blew on the wood to light the fire	13	0
221.	blow_prs.3sg	He is blowing on the wood to light the fire		
222.	swell	His hand swelled (because of the bee sting)	158	0
223.	swell_pres.3sg	His hand is swelling (because of the bee sting)		
224.	spit	My brother spat on the ground because he was angry	150	0
225.	spit_pres.3sg	When my brother gets angry he spits on the ground		
226.	vomit	My brother vomited everything he had eaten	179	0
227.	vomit_pres.3sg	My brother is sick, he vomits all the time		

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228.	bite (animals)	The dog went wild and bit my brother	9	0
229.	bite_prs.3sg	Our neighbour's dog bites strangers		
230.	eat	My brother ate a big lunch today	38	65
231.	eat_prs.3sg	My brother eats bread and cheese every evening		
232.	drink	My brother drank a lot of tea last night	33	0
233.	drink_prs.3sg	My brother drinks a lot of water every day		
234.	fear	My brother was afraid of that snake	45	0
235.	fear_prs.3sg	My brother is afraid of cockroaches		
236.	know (something)	My brother knew that you came here	87	66
237.	know_prs.3sg	My brother knows when I get home from school		
238.	think	My brother was thinking about this problem	168	67
239.	think_prs.3sg	My brother is thinking about this problem		
240.	count	My brother counted the stones	24	0
241.	count_prs.3sg	My brother is counting the stones		
242.	laugh	My brother laughed a lot last night	89	0
243.	laugh_prs.3sg	My brother laughs a lot		
244.	cry	When my brother heard the news he cried	25	0
245.	cry_prs.3sg	My brother is crying (because of the bee sting)		
246.	say	What did my brother say?	130	0

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247.	say_prs.3sg	What is he saying? (about this person)		
248.	sing	My brother was singing in the bathroom	139	0
249.	sing_prs.3sg	My brother sings in the bathroom		
250.	play (child)	My brother played in the garden	117	0
251.	play_prs.3sg	After school my brother plays in the garden (with other children)		
252.	give	My brother gave me this book	61	0
253.	give_prs.3sg	My brother gives books to me		
254.	fight	My brother was fighting with the neighbour's son	47	0
255.	fight_prs.3sg	My brother is always fighting with the neighbour's son		
256.	kill	My brother killed the snake	85	0
257.	kill_prs.3sg	My brother kills snakes		
258.	take	My brother took my mobile	161	0
259.	take_prs.3sg	My brother always takes my mobile		
260.	push	My brother was pushing the car onto the street	119	0
261.	push_prs.3sg	My brother is pushing the (because it broke down)		
262.	pull	My brother pulled the rope	118	0
263.	pull_prs.3sg	My brother is pulling the rope		
264.	close (e.g., door)	My brother closed the door quietly	0	68
265.	close_prs.3sg	My brother usually closes the door quietly		

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266.	tie (e.g., rope)	My brother tied the rope together	172	69
267.	tie_prs.3sg	My brother ties the rope together		
268.	carry	My brother carried the bag to the car	17	0
269.	carry_prs.3sg	My brother carries the bags to the car		
270.	hit	My brother hit the dog with a stick	77	70, MS
271.	hit_prs.3sg	My brother hits the neighbour's dog with a stick		
272.	cut	My brother cut the rope (or string, or thread)	26	0
273.	cut_prs.3sg	My brother is cutting the rope (string, thread etc.)		
274.	scratch	My brother scratched his hand	131	0
275.	scratch_prs.3sg	My brother is scratching his hand (because of flea bite)		
276.	wash (thing)	My brother washed his clothes	181	0
277.	wash_prs.3sg	My brother is washing his clothes		
278.	sew	The taylor sewed some cloth for me	135	0
279.	sew_prs.3sg	The taylor sews the cloth for me		
280.	burn (intr.)	The wood was burning well	16	71
281.	burn_prs.3sg	The wood burns well		
282.	freeze (intr.)	The water froze in the puddle last night	58	0
283.	freeze_prs.3sg	The water freezes in the freezer		
284.	throw	My brother threw a stone at the dog	171	0

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285.	throw_prs.3sg	My brother throws stones at the dogs		
286.	hunt (v.)	also (less formal): could be zadan My brother hunted birds near the village last year. (there are no other generally common animals that are hunted throughout Iran)	82	0
287.	hunt_prs.3sg	My brother is hunting now		
288.	pour	My brother poured water into the kettle	0	0
289.	pour_prs.3sg	My brother is pouring water into the kettle		
290.	grind	My brother ground all the wheat by himself	66	0
291.	grind_prs.3sg	My brother is grinding the wheat		
292.	dig	My brother dug a hole in the ground	29	0
293.	dig_prs.3sg	My brother is digging a hole		
294.	hide (thing)	My brother hid his money under the mattress	76	0
295.	hide_prs.3sg	My brother hides his money (I don't know where)		
296.	sweep	My brother swept the room yesterday	0	72
297.	sweep_prs.3sg	My brother is sweeping the room now		
298.	this		169	MS
299.	that		162	0
300.	here		75	73
301.	near		108	0
302.	there		163	74

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303.	far	My uncle's house is far from here	42	0
304.	(to the) right	Go straight, then turn right	122	0
305.	(to the) left	Go straight, then turn left	91	0
306.	under	My pencil is under the paper	0	75
307.	with	Come to school with your money tomorrow I cut the meat with a knife	193	MS
308.	not	I didn't eat the fish / I don't eat fish (there may be minor changes in negation according to tense)	113	MS
309.	today		0	76
310.	yesterday		198	77
311.	two days ago		0	78
312.	tomorrow		0	79
313.	the day after tomorrow		0	80
314.	where		187	0
315.	when		186	0
316.	how		81	0
317.	who		189	0
318.	what		185	0
319.	I	Ask for a simple sentence in the present tense, with an intransitive predicate in the first person singular, e.g. 'I am a teacher', or 'I am smiling'. Then ask for a simple sentence in the present tense with a transitive verb, and a first person object ('he is hurting me' etc.).	83	MS

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		Proceed in the same way for the other pronouns.		
320.	you (sg.)		200	MS
321.	we		183	MS
322.	you (pl.)		199	MS
323.	they		164	MS