Lojban grammar primer

There are two sets of Lojban grammar terms. One borrows directly from Lojban, the other uses the closest English equivalent. I use the English terms here, but also include the Lojban terms so you can read sources using either terminology.

1. Word types:

krici

lojbo

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has consonant cluster
  sfaile
                     (or two consonants separated by y)
  reisku
                     in first five letters
  detydei
   .i
                     particles (= cmavo):
   .ui
                     starts with one or zero consonant
  10
                     followed by one or more vowels or
  ka'ai
  .lojban.
                     foreign names (= cmevla):
                     ends with a consonant
  .alis.
                                                         X<sub>1</sub> predicate
3. Making nouns from predicates:
Put an article (= gadri) before a predicate to turn it to a noun.
 lo — Someone/something that ...
cukta = (x_1) is a book...
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verbs (= brivla):

2. Place Structure:

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Every verb is a predicate (= selbri). It takes multiple nouns (= sumti) to form a clause (= bridi).
 penmi — x_1 meets/encounters x_2 at/in location x_3. We fill the x_1, x_2, x_3 with nouns.
Some particles are by themselves nouns:
                                            do — You; the listener(s)
                                                                              ti — This here
 mi — I, me, we, us; the speaker(s)
A clause has the following structure: x_1 [predicate] x_2 x_3 ...
We fill the nouns into the predicate:
                                                        mi penmi do ti
                                                               predicate
                                                     I meet you at this = I meet you here.
We can leave some spaces (x_1, x_2, x_3...) blank. By doing so, some nouns become unspecified:
   cukta — x_1 is a book containing work x_2 by author x_3 for audience x_4 preserved in medium x_5.
ti cukta = This is a book containing ... (the others are all unspecified) = This is a book.
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la — Someone/something named ...
     lo cukta = something that is a book... = a/the/some book(s)
     la cukta = someone/something named "is a book" = Book (proper noun)
ctuca = x_1 teaches audience x_2 ideas x_3 about subject(s) x_4 by method x_5.
     lo ctuca = someone that teaches... = a/the/some teacher(s)
When used in a clause, use cu to separate the noun from the predicate.
lo ctuca cu penmi mi = A/the teacher(s) meet me. (location unspecified)
               predicate X<sub>2</sub>
                                               dunda — X_1 gives X_2 to recipient X_3.
Multiple clauses are separated with .i.
lo ctuca cu penmi mi .i mi dunda lo cukta lo ctuca
Note: la can also go before foreign names to make nouns.
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la .lojban. = someone/something named "lojban" = Lojban (proper noun)

4. Attitudinals:

.i .ei mi cliva

Attitudinals are words expressing emotion and attitudes on what is said. They have a free grammar, so you can attach them to whatever you want to express your feelings about. .ei — Feeling oblidged .ui — Happiness .a'o — Hopeful .i .ui lo ctuca cu dunda lo cukta mi = A teacher gives a book to me:) (Happiness applies to whole clause) .i lo .ui ctuca cu dunda lo cukta mi = A teacher: gives a book to me (I'm happy because it's a teacher that gives) .i lo ctuca cu dunda .ui lo cukta mi = A teacher gives:) a book to me (I'm happy because it's an act of giving) Another example:

= I should leave. You can append **nai** after an attitudinal to express the opposite feeling. .i .ui nai lo ctuca cu dunda lo cukta mi

cliva — X_1 leaves X_2 via route X_3 .

= A teacher gives a book to me :(

i la nalvai cu ciska ti .i do .ui tcidu ti .i lo jbobau cu banli .i .a'o mi penmi do la roljbogu'e