# Basic Tamil

# BASIC TAMIL

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# FOREWORD

Basic Tamil is developed with Michigan State University Libraries' Open Educational Resources (OER) at Michigan State University. This resource is an online, interactive theme-based textbook for true beginners in the Tamil language that promotes communicative, linguistic, and cultural competence. It has a mixture of pedagogical approaches to fit all types of learning, and teaching, philosophies, and styles to achieve the intermediate low- to mid-ACTFL proficiency level within two sequence semester.

The book aims to cater to different learning and teaching styles, so the learners can go through the reading/listening sections, then the grammar section—or the other way around—to develop linguistic competence. Vocabulary in reading/listening is built in the conversation with the English meaning so that learners can infer the meaning in the given context. Activities in reading/listening and grammar have been developed by using H5P so that learners can get immediate constructive feedback. Cultural notes have been given wherever necessary to help the new learner understand the reason for some uses of the language.

Lastly, this book is the beginning of the journey and not the end of it. I promise to keep this book updated and revised based on the users, and experts' feedback. So, if you find something, any error, and/or have suggestions, please do not hesitate to write to mohanvid@msu.edu

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

For teachers and students using this book for your class and to learn on your own,

This book is a mixture of teaching and learning styles. It is meant to be used over two semesters as per the University schedules in the USA. The aim is to archive novice mid to novice high proficiency as per ACTFEL levels. There are interactive H5P activities and printable worksheets provided in each chapter. There are audio clips for students to listen to and learn vocabulary; these are sometimes presented as video clips with the vocabulary words as a slide and the audio of those words being read aloud. I use this material in my class, but supplement it with extra worksheets and activities on the D2L platform used by Michigan State University, which is very interactive and fun to use. Not all of these can be produced as H5P activities due to technical issues.

I encourage teachers to create and use more worksheets and other interactive activities in class to make the learning of Tamil more fun and easy for the students. The first chapter on alphabets and numbers itself will take three to four weeks to complete when complemented with the Conversation chapter. Vocabulary learning usually takes longer for the Novice learner. I encourage the teachers to accept the limitations of the student and help them be better learners. Wherever possible, both the written and spoken form of the language are given. As the students learn to read and write the language, it is essential that they learn the spoken form as well. Being a diglossic language, I encourage teachers to work on the spoken language at this level. Being inclusive of all kinds of dialects spoken in Tamil is necessary to include students from all walks of life and from all over the globe.

This book can be used in any order seen fit by the teacher and the students using this book. The first two parts of Chapter 6 can be taught/learnt after Chapter 1.

## How I use this book:

I personally work on having my students gain reading, writing/typing, listening, and speaking skills. I also add cultural competence to this so that students travelling to Tamil Nadu and other Tamil speaking areas are aware of the cultural context and behaviors. I use the material covered in this book to teach two semesters of Basic Tamil. The semesters in the Universities in the USA are generally 15 to 17 weeks. This includes breaks, holidays, and exam weeks where there is no class. The classes usually meet anywhere between two-to-four times a week, and the progress on the class depends on these meetings. The rule of thumb in the USA is that if it is a three credit course, the students have three hours of meeting time with the teacher/instructor/professor and three hours of homework or assignments outside of class hours. Fully online classes, like the one I teach at MSU, are tech-enhanced and the students have activities to complete that are created on learning platforms like D2L or Canvas. I create and use a multitude of worksheets and interactive activities

in class that cannot be included in this book as it will make it too long. I have given a breakdown of how long each chapter takes and the skills the students gain in each chapter.

This is my fifteen-week lesson plan for the novice learner in Basic Tamil 1.

The first chapter for alphabets and numbers takes three-to-four weeks to complete. I use various worksheets and D2L activities to make sure the students understand the different "N"s, "R"s, and "L"s in Tamil. It is important to teach the ழ ,ல ள variation as the meaning of the word changes if the wrong letter is used. The students are learning a new script that is different from English (Latin script) or Devanagari script, so it takes a while to make them comfortable in hand writing the letters and to get them started on typing them using a Tamil keyboard. I introduce a few parts from chapter 2 in week three and four to keep the class interesting and for the students to make progress in language learning. Depending on the students, I sometimes teach the first two parts of Chapter 6, telling time, including weeks, days, and months, at the end of this lesson plan.

The second chapter on Tamil conversation takes four-to-five weeks as we cover basic conversation skills. There is a lot of vocabulary learning involved in this part. I introduce lots of interactive activities as well as presentational activities as the students learn the basic speaking skills. Learning how to add suffixes and how case suffixes work in Tamil will take two weeks by itself. The use of "iru" takes one or two weeks depending on the students.

The third chapter on verbs is the most fun and usually takes only three weeks for the students to understand the tense rules in Tamil. I include various spoken, reading, writing, and listening activities in this lesson as well as some presentational activities.

The fourth chapter on family takes two weeks. That makes it 15 weeks. I usually keep aside a week for review before our final exam/presentation. At this point, students are able to make simple sentences and communicate at a novice level using vocabulary and learnt sentences.

I prefer to use weekly presentations and speaking activities in class to evaluate the students rather than texts.

This is my fifteen-week lesson plan for the novice learner in Basic Tamil 2.

Week one to three, we review material learnt in Semester 1. Week four, we start with Chapter 5. This chapter takes three weeks. Expressing likes and dislikes has a lot of cultural nuances that the students learn.

Week seven to nine are spent learning Chapter 6, everyday activities, and schedules. This chapter is filled with new vocabulary and differences in spoken and formal Tamil. Students practice all four skills and do interactive activity of sharing and receiving information from each other. They plan events comparing schedules and make up daily schedules that work for them in practical life.

Week ten to fourteen are used to learn about adverbs, adjectives and how to describe things. They learn about locations and giving directions. I use many interactive and presentational activities and many worksheets for this part. Week 15 is for review before finals.

# Important note on spoken Tamil:

Spoken Tamil has various dialects that vary vastly from region to region. Socio-economic background, education, caste, and influence of language in neighboring states and in the country of the diaspora influence the spoken Tamil. A person who has lived in Tamil Nadu all their life and has not studied formal reading and writing will not know anything about the grammar of the language. There is a difference between a person who is fluent in the language and one who is educated in the language, a uneducated poor daily wage manual laborer from Tamil Nadu may be fluent in the dialect of Tamil he is grown up in, but will have no knowledge about the grammar or any reading and writing skills.

The spoken Tamil we learn in this book is the common dialect that we see in Movies, Television, and other official platforms. Social media now has multitude of dialects represented. Please remember that no one dialect is superior or inferior to another. Spoken Tamil in heritage families stems from the cultural practices and history of that family and must be respected and encouraged. No heritage student must be forced to speak a dialect that they are not comfortable with be it a personal or political reason. Especially heritage learners from Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and other South East Asian countries have been persecuted for their language in the county the are from since they were a linguistic minority, it is essential to support these learners and keep this spoken dialect of their heritage alive. With the advent of English and modernization, many dialects of Tamil are dying very quickly. It is indeed our duty to preserve the oral history and the cultural importance of these.

It is impossible to cover all the dialects of Tamil in a text book. Due to the diglossia in Tamil, we will need a separate book for spoken Tamil even to explain the small changes in the word and sentence patterns to students. I have provided this where ever I can. I have a chapter that explains the basic rules of morphology in spoken Tamil for the novice learners.

# INTRODUCTION

Tamil is part of the Dravidian language family. It is mainly spoken in South Asia. It is the official language of the state of Tamil Nadu in India, Sri Lanka, and Singapore. It is spoken in Malaysia, Mauritius, Fiji, and South Africa. The diaspora is now spread all around the world making the number of Tamil speakers well over 66 million.

The Tamil civilization has a very ancient history, and settlements have been found in Tamilnadu that date back to 500 BCE. The recent excavations at Keezhadi in the Vaigai river valley has pushed the timeline of this even further. Tamil as a language has a rich literary history. The earliest known inscriptions in Tamil date back to about 500 BCE. Tamil literature started to appear in 300 BCE, and the language used until the 700 AD is known as Old Tamil. From 700-1600 AD the language is known as Middle Tamil, and since 1600 AD, the language has been known as Modern Tamil.

Tamil was originally written with a version of the Brahmi script known as Tamil Brahmi. By the 5th century BCE this script had become more rounded and developed into the Vaṭṭeḻuttu script. In the 6th century during the Pallava dynasty (275-897 AD), a new script for Tamil, known as the Chola-Pallava script, was devised. It also used some letters from Vaṭṭeḻuttu in Sanskrit loanwords. By the 8th century, the Chola-Pallava script was used instead of Vaṭṭeḻuttu in the northern part of the Tamil-speaking area, although Vaṭṭeḻuttu continued to be used in the south until the 11th century. During the next few centuries, the modern Tamil script evolved from the Chola-Pallava script.

During the 19th century, the Tamil script was simplified to make it easier to typeset. Further simplifications in the 20th century included the regularization of vowel markers.

The Tamil alphabet is well suited to writing literary Tamil, centamiḻ (செந்தமிழ்). However it is ill-suited to writing colloquial Tamil, koṭuntamiḻ (கொடுந்தமிழ்). During the 19th century, attempts were made to create a written version of the colloquial spoken language. Nowadays, the colloquial written language appears mainly in school books and in passages of dialogue in fiction.

Spoken Tamil has changed substantially over time, including changes in the phonological structure of words. This has created diglossia—a system in which there are distinct differences between colloquial forms of a language and those that are used in formal and written contexts.

# TAMIL LITERATURE

An introduction to Tamil is never complete without learning the ancient Tamil literature. We must first understand that the prose form of writing evolved in Tamil only in the 17th century CE. Before that, everything was written in metered poetry. This was because it was easier to remember and pass down by word of mouth.

In ancient times, the poetry was written on palm leaf manuscripts with a sharp tool called "ezhuthani" (writing nail). Many of these have been lost and destroyed by time and by invading forces. We owe it to U.Ve. Saminatha Iyer and the great Tamil scholars of the 19th century who worked hard to collect and publish all these books in print form.

## Sangam Period:

The oldest books were written in what is called the "Sangam" period. There are said to have been three Sangams which were academies or gatherings of poets where the poets presented their work and the "senate" approved them. Scholars place the timeline of these Sangams from 250 BCE to 300 CE. The first two Sangams were destroyed by tsunamis that swallowed parts of the peninsula of the Indian subcontinent. No books survived from the first Sangam. The only book that survived the second sangam is Tholkappiyam which is a detailed grammar book.

In this book, the author references many books that existed before his time. Just the thought that the language needed such a rich grammatical book tells us how developed the language was.

Many anthologies survive from the third Sangam. Given below are the names of the books.

The following are known as Pathuppattu.

1. Thirumurugatrupadai
2. Porunararruppadai
3. Perumpanarruppadai
4. Sirupanarruppadai
5. Mullaippattu
6. Maduraikanchi
7. Nedunalvadai
8. Kurinchi Pattu
9. Pattinappalai
10. Malaipadukadam

The following are known as Ettuthokai.

1. Narrinai

2. Kurunthogai
3. Ainkurunuru
4. Pathitrupathu
5. Paripadal
6. Kalithogai
7. Agananuru
8. Purananuru

In addition to these, there is another set of poems known as Pathinenkilkanakku that includes the following:

1. Naladiyar
2. Nanmanikkatigai
3. Iniyavai Narpathu
4. Inna Narpathu
5. Kar Narpathu
6. Kalavazhi Narpathu
7. Thinai Mozhi Emathu
8. Thinai Malai Nurrayamathu
9. Ainthinai Aymathu
10. Ainthinai Ezhupathu
11. Thirikadugam
12. Thirukkural
13. Asara Kovai
14. Pazhamozhi Nanuru
15. Sirupanchamoolam
16. Mudumozhikkanci
17. Elathi
18. Kaynnilai

Note: Many of the poems in this last collection seem to belong to the post-Sangam Age.

## The Epics:

In Tamil, we have the five great epics and the five lesser epics. The timeline of the Epic ranges from 1st to 10th century CE.

The five great epics are:

Cilappatikāram, Manimekalai, Cīvaka Cintāmaṇi, Valayapathi, Kundalakesi.

The five lesser epics are:

Neelakesi, Naga kumara kaviyam, Udhyana kumara Kaviyam, Yasodhara Kaviyam and Culamani.

Note: Some of the epics are available only in part because the rest of the text was destroyed or never found.

## Bhakti literature:

Most of the Tamil epics were written by Jain and Buddhist poets, these were the principal religions of that time. Starting from the 5th or 6th century CE, there was a great battle between the Jain and Buddhist and the Shaivite and Vaishnavite poets and philosophers. The Nayanmars, who were devotees of the God Shiva, and the Alwars, who were the devotees of Vishnu, composed many texts ultimately won over the masses from the Buddist and Jain faith.

Works of bhakti literature from this period included the anthology Four Thousand Sacred Hymns (Nalayiram Divyaprabandham), revered today by the Vaishnavite as much as the Vedas, and Twelve Sacred Collections (Panniru Thirumurai), most of whose material was compiled by Nambiyandar Nambi approximately in the 11th century. Similar works were the poetry of Sambandar (7th century) and of Appar and Cuntarar (8th century), the poetry collection Sacred Words by Manikkavacakar (9th century), and Periyapuranam by Cekkilar (12th century), the Ramayana of Kambar (12th century) and other outstanding religious poets included Arunakirinatar (15th century), Sivaprahasar (17th century), and Tayumanavar (18th century).

## Christian and Islamic Tamil Literature:

The Tamil Bhakthi literature does not end with Hindu literature alone. With the Mugal invasions, Islam became a prominent religion in Tamil Nadu and many pieces of literature were written. With the coming of the Europeans, many Christian devotional texts were written in Tamil. The 17th-century altruist Syed Khader, known colloquially as Seethakaathi, was a great patron of all Tamil poets. He commissioned Umaruppulavar to pen the first biography of Nabi. The collection of poems was called Seerapuranam. The 17th century also saw for the first time literary works by Christian authors. Costanzo Giuseppe Beschi (1680–1746), better known as Veeramamunivar, compiled the first dictionary in Tamil. His Chathurakarathi was the first to list the Tamil words in alphabetical order.

## Modern Period:

The literature of the modern period is divided into prose and poetry.

It was in the 19th century that novels and short stories gained popularity and the use of prose to write became common. Periodicals and Tamil journalism took center stage. The authors like Kalki Krishnamurthy, Chandliyan, and Jayakanthan wrote many books. In recent times, many amazing feminist writers and Dalit voices are being heard in the Tamil literary front.

The first Dalit novel in Tamil written by a woman Dalit writer, Sivakami, was published in 1989. The novel, Pazhiyana Kazhidalum (1989), discusses the issue of Dalit leadership and

point out pitfalls inherent in an imitative model wherein Dalit leaders duplicate corruption and manipulative politics prevalent among empowered, upper caste politicians

The works of writers like Poomani, Ambai (C.S. Lakshmi) Perumal Murugan, Kutti Revathy, Bama ,Meena Kandasamy, Praveena and others have broken the glass ceiling of casteism and patriarchy in literature.

PART I

# CHAPTER 1: TAMIL ALPHABETS AND NUMBERS



Ancient Tamil Script engraved on granite temple wall. Picture by Premnath Thirumalaisamy.CC BY-NC

The Tamil script is written left to right and in rows that are also read from left to right. It has 12 vowels, 18 consonants, 216 consonant + vowel combinations and one ayudha ezthu. In this chapter, we will learn the Tamil alphabets as well as the Tamil numbers. The current Tamil script descended from the Tamil Brahmi (Thamizi) script and the Pallava Grantha script. It is sometimes called Vattezhuthu.

## Goals of this Chapter:

- To learn to identify the Tamil alphabets.
- To learn to read, write and pronounce the Tamil letters.
- To learn the difference between many same sounding letters in Tamil.
- To read simple words in Tamil.
- To learn the basic Tamil numbers.

# CHAPTER 1.1 VOWELS

## Introduction to Alphabets

Tamil has 12 vowels and 18 consonants and one special alphabet. The rest of the letters are made out of the combination of the 12 vowels and the 18 consonants.

So the total number of alphabets is 12+18+216+1=247

### Vowels:

The vowels are called **Uyir ezhuthukaL** (Ezhuththu is singular, EzhuthukaL is plural)

The Tamil vowels are :

**அ, ஆ, இ, ஈ, உ, ஊ, எ, ஏ, ஐ, ஒ, ஓ, ஔ, ஃ**

Learn to pronounce the vowels by listening to this audio file

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📄 *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=5#h5p-4*

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அ, இ, உ, எ, ஒ are called short vowels (Kuril)

ஆ, ஈ, ஊ, ஏ, ஐ, ஓ, ஔ are called long vowels (Nedil)

ஃ is the special letter. It is called the Ayutha ezhuthu. It is neither a consonant nor a vowel. However, it is listed at the end of the vowel set.

Tamil vowels poster. Image by Charath Mohan.

## Learn the Vowels with These Activities:

[Tamil Vowels Worksheet (PDF)](Tamil Vowels Worksheet (PDF))

### Put the Vowels in Order Activity

> *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=5#h5p-1*

### Short and Long Vowel Identification Activity

> *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
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### Vowel Identification Activity

*An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
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# CHAPTER 1.2 CONSONANTS

## Tamil Consonants

In this chapter we will learn the Tamil consonants and learn to identify, write and pronounce them.

The consonants are are called Mei ezhuthukaL. They are listed below.

**க், ங், ச், ஞ், ட், ண், த், ந், ப், ம், ய், ர், ல், வ், ழ், ள், ற், ன்.**

Learn the Tamil consonants using this video

> *One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/ basictamil/?p=43#video-43-1*

Video for pronouncing Tamil consonants created by Vidya Mohan. 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

## Notes on Consonants

They always have a dot (puLLi/புள்ளி) on top.

They always start with the "e" sound.

It is interesting to note that some of the consonants are called a family (inam) and will appear together in words. These pairs are க்-ங், ச்-ஞ், ட்-ண், த்-ந், ப்-ம் and ற்-ன்.

There are some consonants that sound alike ந்,ண,ன், ல்,ள்,ழ் and ர்,ற்.

These consonants that sound alike are differentiated by whether the sound arises from the nose, throat or chest.

The consonants are further divided into soft, hard and medium (Vallinam, Mellinam and Idaiynam).

வல்லினம்(Hard/Vallinam) க், ச்,ட், த்,ப், ற்
மெல்லினம்(Soft/Mellinam) ஞ், ங், ண,ந்,ம்,ன்
இடையினம் (Medium/Idaiynam) ய், ர், ல்,வ்,ழ்,ள்

## Pronunciation of Consonants

This chart below shows how to pronounce the consonants with simple English examples.

| Consonant | Group | Pronunciation Help |
|-----------|-------|-------------------|
| க் | vallinam | k as in **k**ing |
| ங் | mellinam | ng as in kin**g** |
| ச் | vallinam | ch as in mat**ch** |
| ஞ் | mellinam | ng as in plu**nge** |
| ட் | vallinam | t as in **t**op |
| ண் | mellinam | n as in ci**n**der |
| த் | vallinam | th as in ba**th** |
| ந் | mellinam | n as in pa**n** |
| ப் | vallinam | p as in **p**uck |
| ம் | mellinam | m as in fro**m** |
| ய் | idaiyinam | y as in **y**ak |
| ர் | idaiyinam | r as in fu**r** |
| ல் | idaiyinam | l as in **l**ump |
| வ் | idaiyinam | v as in vice |
| ழ் | idaiyinam | tongue retracted to produce "zh" |
| ள் | idaiyinam | l as in marb**l**e |
| ற் | vallinam | tr as in **tr**ick |
| ன் | mellinam | n as in fi**n** |

## Pronouncing the Consonants Activity

*An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=43#h5p-6*

## Writing the Consonants Activity

Consonant writing worksheet is given below for you to print and practice writing the consonants by hand.

[Tamil consonant handwritten worksheet (PDF)](#)

Here is a complete image of all the alphabets we have learnt so far.



உயிர் எழுத்துக்கள்

அ ஆ இ ஈ உ ஊ

எ ஏ ஐ ஒ ஓ ஔ

ஆய்த எழுத்து

ஃ

மெய் எழுத்துக்கள்

க் ங் ச் ஞ் ட் ண்

த் ந் ப் ம் ய் ர்

ல் வ் ழ் ள் ற் ன்
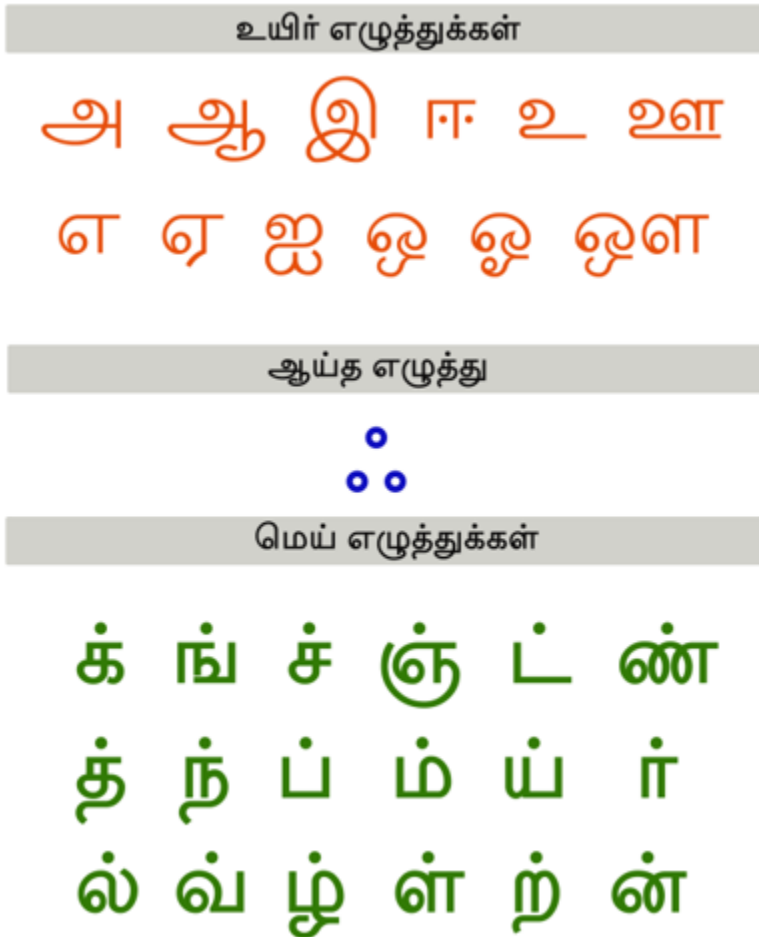
Tamil Vowels and Consonants. Used with permission from noolagam.com.

# CHAPTER 1.3 CONSONANT + VOWEL

## Consonants + Vowels or Uyirmei EzhuthukaL (உயிர்மெய் எழுத்துகள்)

The rest of the Tamil alphabets are called uyirmei ezhuthukaL. These alphabets are made by adding the vowel markers to the consonants. They are a combination of the vowels and the consonants we have learnt so far. The vowels become companion letters or vowel markers called uyir kuriyeedugal. The vowel sound always comes at the end of the letter. Once we start adding the consonants to the vowels, the dot on top of the consonant is removed and other vowel markers are added.

Let us take the example of க் and add it to each of the vowels and see what happens. The same rule applies to all the other alphabets.

| Consonant + Vowel | Uyirmei EzhuthukaL | What Changed |
|---|---|---|
| க்+அ | க | The dot on top of the consonant is removed |
| க்+ஆ | கா | The ா sign is added after the consonant |
| க்+இ | கி | The ி sign is added on top of the consonant |
| க்+ஈ | கீ | The ீ sign is added on top of the consonant |
| க்+உ | கு | When உ is added with the consonant one of the following will happen, it will curve, have a aerial root or a seat |
| க்+ஊ | கூ | When ஊ is added one of the following will happen, accession, curled curve, legged seat or crest |
| க்+எ | கெ | The ெ sign is added in front of the consonant |
| க்+ஏ | கே | The ே sign is added in front of the consonant |
| க்+ஐ | கை | The ை sign is added in front of the consonant |
| க்+ஒ | கொ | The ொ signs are added in front of and behind the consonant. |
| க்+ஓ | கோ | The ோ signs are added in front of and behind the consonants. |
| க்+ஒள | கெள | The ௌ signs are added in front of and behind the consonants. |

# The Rules of Adding உ and ஊ to Consonants:

The companion letters are attached as extensions of the consonant itself. Here are the rules for this.

1. A short vertical line is drawn below with five consonants **ப, ய, ச, ங, வ** when short **உ** is added to them. The line gets a curve with a loop at the end for long **ஊ.**
2. A curved line that wraps around the consonant starting on the right and moving left is used for **க, ட, ம, ர, ழ, எ** when short short **உ** is added . For long **ஊ,** the curve ends with a loop; க is an exception to this rule and the loop is at the beginning of the curve and is straightened horizontally to the right at the end.
3. For the consonants **த, ந, (ஞ, ண, ன, ல, ற.** when added to the short **உ**, a curved line makes a loop is at the bottom and is straightened upwards. the straightened up line is replicated and bridged to the right side like the companion letter used when adding +ஆ.

கு, ஙு, சு. ஞு, டு, ணு, து, நு, பு,மு, யு, ரு, லு, வு, ழு, ஞு, று, னு.
 கூ, ஙூ, சூ, ஞூ, டூ, ணூ, தூ, நூ. பூ,மூ, யூ, ரூ, லூ, வூ, ழூ, ஞூ, றூ, னூ.

# Alphabet Chart

The chart below shows all the alphabets in a matrix form with an English pronunciation guide. The vowels are on the top row and the consonants on the leftmost column.

| | அ | ஆ | இ | ஈ | உ | ஊ | எ | ஏ | ஐ | ஒ | ஓ | ஔ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| க் | க<br>Ka | கா<br>Kaa | கி<br>Ki | கீ<br>Kii | கு<br>Ku | கூ<br>Kuu | கெ<br>Kay | கே<br>Kaay | கை<br>Kai | கொ<br>Ko | கோ<br>Koo | கௌ<br>Kau |
| ங் | ங<br>Nga | ஙா<br>Ngaa | ஙி<br>Ngi | ஙீ<br>Ngii | ஙு<br>Ngu | ஙூ<br>Nguu | ஙெ<br>Nge | ஙே<br>Ngee | ஙை<br>Ngai | ஙொ<br>Ngo | ஙோ<br>Ngoo | ஙௌ<br>Ngau |
| ச் | ச<br>Sa | சா<br>Saa | சி<br>Si | சீ<br>Sii | சு<br>Su | சூ<br>Suu | செ<br>Se | சே<br>Say | சை<br>Sai | சொ<br>So | சோ<br>Soo | சௌ<br>Sau |
| ஞ் | ஞ<br>Nja | ஞா<br>Njaa | ஞி<br>Nji | ஞீ<br>Njii | ஞு<br>Nju | ஞூ<br>Njuu | ஞெ<br>Nje | ஞே<br>Njee | ஞை<br>Njai | ஞொ<br>Njo | ஞோ<br>Njoo | ஞௌ<br>Njau |
| ட் | ட<br>Ta | டா<br>Taa | டி<br>Ti | டீ<br>Tii | டு<br>Tu | டூ<br>Tuu | டெ<br>Te | டே<br>Tay | டை<br>Tai | டொ<br>To | டோ<br>Too | டௌ<br>Tau |
| ண் | ண<br>Na | ணா<br>Naa | ணி<br>Ni | ணீ<br>Nii | ணு<br>Nu | ணூ<br>Nuu | ணெ<br>Ne | ணே<br>Nee | ணை<br>Nai | ணொ<br>No | ணோ<br>Noo | ணௌ<br>Nau |
| த் | த<br>Tha | தா<br>Thaa | தி<br>Thi | தீ<br>Thii | து<br>Thu | தூ<br>Thuu | தெ<br>The | தே<br>Thee | தை<br>Thai | தொ<br>Tho | தோ<br>Thoo | தௌ<br>Thau |
| ந் | ந<br>n-a | நா<br>n-aa | நி<br>n-i | நீ<br>n-ii | நு<br>n-u | நூ<br>n-uu | நெ<br>n-e | நே<br>n-ay | நை<br>n-ai | நொ<br>n-o | நோ<br>n-oo | நௌ<br>n-au |
| ப் | ப<br>Pa | பா<br>Paa | பி<br>Pi | பீ<br>Pii | பு<br>Pu | பூ<br>Puu | பெ<br>Pe | பே<br>Pee | பை<br>Pai | பொ<br>Po | போ<br>Poo | பௌ<br>Pau |
| ம் | ம<br>Ma | மா<br>Maa | மி<br>Mi | மீ<br>Mii | மு<br>Mu | மூ<br>Muu | மெ<br>Me | மே<br>Mee | மை<br>Mai | மொ<br>Mo | மோ<br>Moo | மௌ<br>Mau |
| ய் | ய<br>Ya | யா<br>Yaa | யி<br>Yi | யீ<br>Yii | யு<br>Yu | யூ<br>Yuu | யெ<br>Ye | யே<br>Yee | யை<br>Yai | யொ<br>Yo | யோ<br>Yoo | யௌ<br>Yau |
| ர் | ர<br>Ra | ரா<br>Raa | ரி<br>Ri | ரீ<br>Rii | ரு<br>Ru | ரூ<br>Ruu | ரெ<br>Re | ரே<br>Ree | ரை<br>Rai | ரொ<br>Ro | ரோ<br>Roo | ரௌ<br>Rau |
| ல் | ல<br>La | லா<br>Laa | லி<br>Li | லீ<br>Lii | லு<br>Lu | லூ<br>Luu | லெ<br>Le | லே<br>Lee | லை<br>Lai | லொ<br>Lo | லோ<br>Loo | லௌ<br>Lau |
| வ் | வ<br>Va | வா<br>Vaa | வி<br>Vi | வீ<br>Vii | வு<br>Vu | வூ<br>Vuu | வெ<br>Ve | வே<br>Vee | வை<br>Vai | வொ<br>Vo | வோ<br>Voo | வௌ<br>Vau |
| ழ் | ழ<br>Zha | ழா<br>Zhaa | ழி<br>Zhi | ழீ<br>Zhii | ழு<br>Zhu | ழூ<br>Zhuu | ழெ<br>Zhe | ழே<br>Zhee | ழை<br>Zhay | ழொ<br>Zho | ழோ<br>Zhoo | ழௌ<br>Zhau |
| ள் | ள<br>La | ளா<br>Laa | ளி<br>Li | ளீ<br>Lii | ளு<br>Lu | ளூ<br>Luu | ளெ<br>Ley | ளே<br>Laay | ளை<br>Lai | ளொ<br>Lo | ளோ<br>Loo | ளௌ<br>Lau |
| ற் | ற<br>Ra | றா<br>Raa | றி<br>Ri | றீ<br>Rii | று<br>Ru | றூ<br>Ruu | றெ<br>Ray | றே<br>Raay | றை<br>Rai | றொ<br>Ro | றோ<br>Roo | றௌ<br>Rau |
| ன் | ன<br>Na | னா<br>Naa | னி<br>Ni | னீ<br>Nii | னு<br>Nu | னூ<br>Nuu | னெ<br>Ne | னே<br>Nay | னை<br>Nai | னொ<br>No | னோ<br>Noo | னௌ<br>Nau |

# Things to Know About the Tamil Alphabets

## 1. The "R" Sound in Tamil

There are two "R" letters in Tamil. They are ர and ற.
 The ர is a flapped sound while the ற is a trilled sound.
 ர is a medium consonant and ற is a hard consonant.
 [Watch this video to understand the difference between ர & ற](#)
 Video by Vidya Mohan 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0.

## 2. The "La" Sound in Tamil

There are two "La" letters in Tamil: the ல and the ள
 The ல is a dental sound, ள is a retroflex sound.

## 3. The 'Zha" Letter in Tamil

The letter ழ is produced by sliding the tongue from the middle of the mouth through the upper palate.
 Please watch this video and complete the activity at the end to understand how ல, ள and ழ work.

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> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=45#h5p-48*

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## 4. The "Na" Letters in Tamil

There are three "na" letters in Tamil: ன,ண, and ந.
 The consonant "ந்" will come in the middle of the words only.
 The consonant "ண்" and the consonant "ன்" will come at the middle and at the end of words.
 When the consonant "ண்" becomes a uyirmei it will not come in the beginning of any word.
 When the consonant "ந்" becomes a uyirmei it will only come at the beginning of the word. It will not come at the end of any word.
 When the consonant "ன்" becomes a uyirmei it will not come in the beginning of any word.
 Please watch this video to understand the three "Na"s in Tamil.
 Please watch this video and answer the questions that appear at the end of it to understand the three "Na" letters.

> *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=45#h5p-28*

## 5. Difference Between இ and ய்

While இ is a vowel, ய் is a consonant. When added to the vowels the ய் letter takes on the sound of "ya".

## 6. The Hard Consonant Pronunciation

The hard consonants when the are between two vowels, along with their family (inam) letters and when doubled in a word change their sound.

They are nasalised when they are with their family letters, that is க்-ங், ச்-ஞ், ட்-ண், த்-ந், ப்-ம் and ற்-ன். This is a good reference for spelling words also. Thus, 'k' (க) will be 'ga', 'ch' (ச) will be 'ja', 't' (ட) will be 'da', 'p' (ப) will be 'ba'.

## Activities:

> *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=45#h5p-7*

> *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=45#h5p-23*

Tamil Consonant plus vowel matrix for handwritten practice (PDF)

# CHAPTER 1.4 GRANTHA LETTERS

The Grantham script was developed in Southern India in the Pallava period during the 5th century CE. There are a few that are still used in Tamil. These are mainly used to spell words of Sanskrit origin. They combine with the vowels just like the other consonants do. With the "Thani Tamil" (pure Tamil) movement the Grantham words are written using the closest Tamil alphabets. For example, ஜ is a nasal pronunciation of ச, so the Tamil ச is used in the place of the Grantham letter ஜ

The Grantham letters are:

ஜ், ஷ், ஸ், ஹ், க்ஷ் and ஸ்ரீ. These combine with the Tamil vowels just like the other consonants.

| Grantham Consonant | English Pronunciation | Consonant Plus அ | Consonant Plus ஆ | Consonant Plus இ | Consonant Plus ஈ | Consonant Plus உ | Consonant Plus ஊ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ஶ | ś | ஶ | ஶா | ஶி | ஶீ | ஶு | ஶூ |
| ஜ | j | ஜ | ஜா | ஜி | ஜீ | ஜு | ஜூ |
| ஷ | ṣ | ஷ | ஷா | ஷி | ஷீ | ஷு | ஷூ |
| ஸ | s | ஸ | ஸா | ஸி | ஸீ | ஸு | ஸூ |
| ஹ | h | ஹ | ஹா | ஹி | ஹீ | ஹு | ஹூ |
| க்ஷ | kṣ | க்ஷ | க்ஷா | க்ஷி | க்ஷீ | க்ஷு | க்ஷூ |

| Grantham Consonant | English Pronunciation | Consonant Plus எ | Consonant Plus ஏ | Consonant Plus ஐ | Consonant Plus ஒ | Consonant Plus ஓ | Consonant Plus ஔ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ஶ | ś | ஶெ | ஶே | ஶை | ஶொ | ஶோ | ஶௌ |
| ஜ | j | ஜெ | ஜே | ஜை | ஜொ | ஜோ | ஜௌ |
| ஷ | ṣ | ஷெ | ஷே | ஷை | ஷொ | ஷோ | ஷௌ |
| ஸ | s | ஸெ | ஸே | ஸை | ஸொ | ஸோ | ஸௌ |
| ஹ | h | ஹெ | ஹே | ஹை | ஹொ | ஹோ | ஹௌ |
| க்ஷ | kṣ | க்ஷெ | க்ஷே | க்ஷை | க்ஷொ | க்ஷோ | க்ஷௌ |

Examples of words with these letters:
Raja ராஜா
Saraswathi சரஸ்வதி
Srinivasan ஸ்ரீநிவாசன்
Jannal ஜன்னல்
Pusthakam புஸ்தகம்

# CHAPTER 1.5 READING IN TAMIL: EASY WORDS

## Reading in Tamil

The goal of this chapter is to help the student read and pronounce simple Tamil words. The meaning of the words are given along with the audio for the students to listen to. This is just a basic step to building our vocabulary. Students do not have to remember the meaning of every word given here. This is just to build the reading skill of the students.

Once you learn the Tamil alphabets, it is quite easy to read in Tamil. There are no silent letters and each of the letters are pronounced in the exact duration of the vowels that they end with.

There are many schools of thought when it comes to teaching how to read in Tamil. What you see in this book is the method I have used in my classrooms. We will start with single alphabet words and make our way up to multi syllable words.

## Some Rules in Tamil Pronunciation

"க" is pronounces as "gh" when in-between vowels and after ய் and ர்.

"ச" is pronounced as "ja" after nasal consonants.

"ட" is pronounced "da" after nasal consonants and between vowels.

"ப" is pronounced "ba" after nasal consonants and between vowels.

This video shows you examples of how this pronunciation difference is used in Tamil.

Given below is the pdf of the slides in the video for reference. You may also reference the Appendix.

க,ச,ட,த,ப pronunciation in Tamil words (PDF)

## Single Letter Words in Tamil

| Tamil Word | English Meaning |
|------------|-----------------|
| வா | Come |
| நீ | You |
| ஈ | Fly (insect) |
| தா | Give |
| தை | Tamil Month (Jan–Feb) |
| வை | Keep |
| போ | Go |
| தீ | Fire |
| பூ | Flower |
| கை | Hand |

Audio of words given above:

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> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=92#h5p-34*

## Two Letter Words in Tamil

In this set it is important to pronounce the ட் and த், ல்,ள் and ழ் sounds correctly as well as the short and long sounds. The length of the vowel added to the consonant is also important. The meaning of the word will change if these rules are not followed.

| Tamil Word | English Meaning |
|---|---|
| அது | That |
| இது | This |
| எது | Which |
| ஊது | Blow |
| காது | Ear |
| பல் | Teeth |
| பால் | Milk |
| கல் | Stone |
| கால் | Leg |
| காடு | Forest |
| மாடு | Cow |
| படு | Lie down |
| பாடு | Sing |
| கண் | Eye |
| என் | My |
| எண் | Number |
| ஓடு | Run |
| ஓது | Recite |
| வால் | Tail |
| வாள் | Sword |
| வாழ் | Live |

Audio of two letter words:

An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:
https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=92#h5p-35

# Three Letter Words

| Tamil Word | English Meaning |
|---|---|
| **பல்லி** | Lizard |
| **பள்ளி** | School |
| **கல்வி** | Education |
| **பாடம்** | Lesson |
| **படம்** | Picture |
| **அம்மா** | Mother |
| **அப்பா** | Father |
| **கிழமை** | Weekday |
| **மாதம்** | Month |
| **ஆண்டு** | Year |
| **கிழவி** | Old lady |
| **குழவி** | Pestle/ Infant (old Tamil) |
| **நன்றி** | Thank you |
| **காற்று** | Wind |
| **அவன்** | He |

Audio of three and letter words:

An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=92#h5p-36*

## Speaking Activity:

Please read these words aloud and record it in this audio recorder for your teacher to grade.

*An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*

*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=92#h5p-18*

# CHAPTER 1.6 NUMBERS IN TAMIL

## பதினைந்து NUMBERS IN TAMIL Enngal (எண்கள்)

In this chapter, we will learn Tamil numbers so we can use them in daily life, like telling phone numbers, time and date and schedules. We are going to learn the regular Arabic numerals with equivalent Tamil words. The goal of this chapter is to be able to tell time, date, and year in any conversation. This will be useful in giving personal information like age, phone number, and address.

## Numbers From 1 to 10

| Arabic Numeral | Tamil Numerals | Tamil | Spoken Tamil | Transliteration of Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | ௦ | பூஜியம்/சுழியம் | பூஜியம் | Pujiyam |
| 1 | க | ஒன்று | ஒன்னு | Onnu |
| 2 | உ | இரண்டு | ரெண்டு | Rendu |
| 3 | நு | மூன்று | மூனு | Moonu |
| 4 | சு | நான்கு | நாலு | Naalu |
| 5 | ரு | ஐந்து | அஞ்சு | Anju |
| 6 | சூ | ஆறு | ஆறு | Aru |
| 7 | எ | ஏழு | ஏழு | Yelu |
| 8 | அ | எட்டு | எட்டு | Ettu |
| 9 | கூ | ஒன்பது | ஒம்போது | Onpathu |
| 10 | ௰ | பத்து | பத்து | Pathu |

Note: In Tamil Nine, Nineteen, Ninety, and Nine Hundred are all considered as "one less" So they are called Onpathu (ஒன்பது), Pathuonpathu (பத்தொன்பது), Thonnooru (தொன்னூறு) and Tholayiram (தொள்ளாயிரம்). These can be taken to mean one less than the next complete number.

## Audio for Counting to 10 in Tamil

Audio for counting to 10 in formal Tamil

An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=97#h5p-32*

Audio for counting from 0 to 10 in spoken Tamil

An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=97#h5p-33*

# Numbers From 11 to 19

When you get to the "teen" numbers, you just add "padhi" to the front of the numbers above till you hit nineteen, they are as follows:

## பதிமூன்று

| Arabic Numeral | Formal Tamil | Translation |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | **பதினொன்று** | Pathinoru |
| 12 | **பன்னிரெண்டு** | Pannirendu |
| 13 | **பதிமூன்று** | Pathumoonu |
| 14 | **பதிநான்கு** | Pathinalu |
| 15 | **பதினைந்து** | Pathanju |
| 16 | **பதினாறு** | Pathinaru |
| 17 | **பதினேழு** | Pathinezu |
| 18 | **பதினெட்டு** | Pathientu |
| 19 | **பத்தொன்பது** | Pathombathu |

## Audio/Video for Counting to 20 in Tamil

> *One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/ basictamil/?p=97#video-97-1*

Audio by Vidya Mohan 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

Then 20 is 'irubathu" or "iruvathu" all the numbers that start with twenty have "irubathu"+"thi" then the numbers from one to nine get added to the end of it, like so:

20. இருபது
21 இருபத்தி ஒன்று
22 இருபத்தி இரண்டு
23 இருபத்தி மூன்று
24 இருபத்தி நான்கு
25 இருபத்தி ஐந்து
26 இருபத்தி ஆறு
27 இருபத்தி ஏழு
28 இருபத்தி எட்டு
29 இருபத்தி ஒன்பது

30 is "Mupadhu" all the numbers in the thirties have 'mupa-thi' in front of them, like so:

30. முப்பது
31 முப்பத்தி ஒன்று
32 முப்பத்தி இரண்டு
33 முப்பத்தி மூன்று
34 முப்பத்தி நான்கு
35 முப்பத்தி ஐந்து
36 முப்பத்தி ஆறு
37 முப்பத்தி ஏழு
38 முப்பத்தி எட்டு
39 முப்பத்தி ஒன்பது

**Can you see the pattern now?**

40 is "Narpadhu" so all the numbers in the forties start with "narpathi".

50 is "Aipadhu" all the numbers in the fifties start with 'aibathi'.

This is how the numbers are added to each other to make bigger numbers.

## Now Let Us Learn Counting by 10's till 2000

We are learning this because this will help us say the years.

10 = **பத்து** (pathu)
20 = **இருபது** (iruvathu)
30 = **முப்பது** (mupathu)

40 = **நாற்பது** (napathu)

50 = **ஐம்பது** (aibathu)

60 = **அறுபது** (aruvathu)

70 = **எழுபது** (ezuvathu)

80 = **எண்பது** (enpathu)

90 = **தொண்ணூறு** (thonooru)

100 = **நூறு** (nooru)

1000 = **ஆயிரம்** (aiyaram)

2000 = **இரண்டாயிரம்** (iradaiyram)

2023 = **இரண்டயிரத்தி இருவத்தி மூன்று** (Iradayirathi trivathi mondru)

## Video for Counting by 100's to 2024 in Tamil

*One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=97#video-97-2*

# Ordinal Numbers in Tamil

Ordinal numbers in Tamil are made by adding the suffix "ஆவது" to the number.

For example :

first – muthalaavathu – முதலாவது

second – irandaavathu – இரண்டாவது

third – moonraavathu – மூன்றாவது

fourth – naankaavathu – நான்காவது

# Activities for Number Learning:

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*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=97#h5p-13*

*An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*

*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=97#h5p-15*

# PART II
# CHAPTER 2 TAMIL CONVERSATION



Tamil women talking. Tamil women talking. Image by Harini Calamur, CC BY NC-ND.

Tamil is a language with many dialects that vary in each geographical location. It also differs based on caste and socio-economic status of the people. In Tamil Nadu people call the dialects as "slang". We will learn the most common dialect that is spoken in Tamil Nadu that we see in television and main stream movies.

In this chapter, we will learn some easy and essential conversations in Tamil. We will learn how to converse with people and exchange basic information and how to understand classroom expressions. We will learn some basic form that is essential to communicate and to learn Tamil.

It is essential to note the sentence structure in Tamil is different from English as we go through this chapter. The structure is **Subject-Object-Verb** for the most part. In spoken Tamil, certain words morph and are even completely replaced according to the dialect spoken.

I encourage all my heritage learners to learn the dialect of their family and ancestors as a tribute to them and to honor your heritage. Please remember no dialect is inferior or superior to another. Each and every dialect of Tamil needs to be preserved in the oral tradition. We are losing many dialects due to social and political reasons.

In this chapter, when we learn certain functions we will look at both the spoken and written aspect of the same. This will help learners who what to learn wither or both the skills better.

# Goals of This Chapter:

- To learn how to greet and introduce oneself.
- To learn how to exchange basic information during a conversation.
- To learn basic classroom requests, commands and communication skills.
- To learn how suffixes work in Tamil.
- To learn to change from singular to plural in Tamil using suffixes.
- To learn case suffixes in Tamil.
- To learn the various uses "iru" (to be) in Tamil.

# CHAPTER 2.1 TAMIL CONVERSATION: INTRODUCTION AND GREETING

In the Tamil conversation lessons, we will learn how to speak in Tamil. We will use the most popular dialect that is used in Tamil Nadu for this. This is the dialect you will hear on TV and in the movies.

It is important to note that the sentence structure of Tamil is "subject-object verb + tense + gender/number".

## Tamil Honorifics

Tamil honorifics usually are suffixes, although prefixes are not uncommon. Tamil honorifics govern daily speech and register of both written and spoken communication. The word choice plays an important role in Tamil culture and has different colloquial, low, standard and high equivalents. Not all words have these differences. The following table shows an example of the English word to eat in different honorific levels in Tamil.

| English | Tamil Colloquial | Tamil Impolite | Tamil Standard | Tamil Official |
|---------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| To eat | கொட்டிக்க (koṭṭikka) | தின்ன (tiṇṇa) | சாப்பிட (cāppiṭa) | உண்ண (uṇṇa) |

In this lesson, we will use the standard Tamil words and learn to speak respectfully. That is, we will use plural form of verbs and pronouns by adding "nga" which makes them respectful.

## Vocabulary

"Vanakkam" is used to greet any one at any time in any occasion be it formal or informal. When addressing older people usually the word "sir" or "Mam" is used. Their Tamil equivalents are "Aiyya" (ஐயா) and "Amma" (அம்மா). The "nga" the request suffix is added to any verb to make it a polite form of the word. We will see this system in detail in the next chapter on Tamil pronouns.

| Tamil Word | Transliterated in English | English Meaning |
|---|---|---|
| வணக்கம் | Vanakkam | Greetings |
| எப்படி | Eppadi | How |
| இரு + க்கீங்க | irukeenga | Are (being) |
| இரு + க்கேன் | Iruken | I am (being) |
| நீங்க | Neenga | You (with respect) |
| என் | En | My |
| பேரு | Peru | Name |
| உங்க | Unga | Your |
| என்ன | Enna | What |
| யாரு | Yaaru | Who |
| நான் | Naan | I |

Learn the vocabulary by these activities:

> 🖳 An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:
> https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=36#h5p-11

Situation: Two people are meeting each other for the first time. One is named Mala and the other is named Selvi. We will see three ways that they can introduce themselves. All the three conversations are the different kinds of ways people can introduce themselves when they first meet. These are all in spoken Tamil.

## Conversation 1:

Mala: Vanakkam en peru Mala, unge peru enna?
    Selvi: Vanakkam, en peru Selvi, eppadi irukeenga Mala?
    Mala: Naan, nalla irrukkeen, neenga eppadi irkeenga?
    Selvi: Naan nalla irrukeen.

> 🎵 One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=36#audio-36-1

Conversation 1 © Vidya Mohan and Samyukta Iyer, 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0
Activity for Conversation 1

## Conversation 2:

Mala: Vanakkam, naan Mala, neenga Selvi ya?
    Selvi: Vanakkam Mala, naan Selvi. Neenja eppadi irrukeenga?
    Mala: Naan nalla irruken, neenga eppadi irukeenga Selvi?
    Selvi: Naan nalla irruken Mala.
    Audio for conversation 2:

> ♫ One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: _https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=36#audio-36-2_

Conversation 2 © Vidya Mohan and Samyukta Iyer, 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

## Conversation 3:

Mala: Vanakkam, En peru Mala, neenga Yaaru?

Selvi: En peru Selvi

Mala: Eppadi irrukeenga Selvi?

Selvi: Naan nalla irruken Mala, Neenga eppadi Irukeenga?

Mala: Naan nalla iruken Selvi!

Audio for conversation 3:

> ♫ One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: _https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=36#audio-36-3_

Conversation 3 © Vidya Mohan and Samyukta Iyer, 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

# CHAPTER 2.2 PRONOUNS AND QUESTION WORDS

## Personal Pronouns

In this lesson, we will learn the Tamil pronouns and their oblique forms as well as the question words that are used.

First person plural pronouns in Tamil, distinguish between inclusive and exclusive "we". In Tamil, the plural pronoun is used for honorific addressing. There are seven types of pronouns in Tamil. These are formed by adding the case suffixes to the oblique form of the personal pronoun.

## Note on Inclusive Pronouns in Tamil:

The Idea of LGBTIQIA+ is not a new Idea to Tamil or the people of India. It was a accepted part of the society and in Sangam literature we see that trans people held many positions of power in the king's court from head of armies to protector of the harem. Ancient Tamil in Tholkappyam also acknowledges the in-between genders and used specific pronouns for them. With the invasion of the European powers many western thoughts and beliefs from Abrahamic religions were introduced into Indian culture and Homosexuality and Transgender were deemed wrong. People have to be addressed with their preferred pronouns. It is best to address people as நிங்கள்/ அவர்கள்/ அவர் /அவங்க/ அவரு with respect until you are sure how they want to addressed.

On Aug 20, 2022, the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette published a glossary of LGBTIQIA+ Tamil-English terms through G.O.(Ms).No.52, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment [SW3(1)] Department, dated 20.08.2022.

| Pronoun | English Equivalent | Oblique Form | Class | Spoken Form |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| நான்/ Naan | I | என் | First person singular | |
| நாம்/Naam | We | நம் | First person inclusive | நம்ம |
| நாங்கள்/Neengal | Us | எங்கள் | First person exclusive | எங்க |
| நீ/ Nee | You | உன் | Second person singular | |
| நீங்கள்/Neengal | You | உங்கள் | Second person plural/respectful | நீங்க/உங்க |
| அவன்/Avan | He | அவன் | Third person singular (male) | அவே |
| அவள்/Aval | She | அவள் | Third person singular (female) | அவ |
| அவர்கள்/Avargal | They | அவர்கள் | Third person singular feminine/masculine plural/respectful | அவுங்க |
| அது/Athu | That | அதன் | Neutral | அதோட |
| இது | This | இதன் | Neutral | இதோட |
| அவை | Those | | Neutral | |

# Prefixes Titles in Tamil Honorifics

| English | Tamil |
|---|---|
| Mister/Mr. | Thiru திரு |
| Missus/Mrs. | Thirumathi திருமதி |
| Miss/Ms. | Selvi செல்வி |
| Master | Selvan செல்வன் |
| Honorable | Mānpumiku மாண்புமிகு |

# Suffixes in Tamil Honorifics and Speech When Referring to People of Different Levels

| English Equivalent | Tamil Suffix |
|---|---|
| Sir | Ayya, ஐயா |
| Madam/Mam <br><br> (Honorific suffix to show respect to an elderly or middle-aged female of higher social order). | Amma, அம்மா |
| Respectful suffix for older people and people in high position in society | Avargal, அவர்கள் |
| "Lady" younger female | Amani, அம்மனி |
| Honorific suffix to refer to a single collective noun (male) | -Karar, காரர் (கடைக்காரர்/Shopkeeper பூக்காரர்/flowerseller,பால்காரர்/milk man) |
| Suffixes used to referring male and females of equal or lower (younger) social order | Da, Di, டா, டி |
| Dear | Kannu, கண்ணு |
| Child/Young one(usually female) | Kutti, குட்டி |
| Suffix colloquially between friends as an expression of familiarity or fraternity. | Machan, Machi, Bro, மச்சான், மச்சி, பொரோ |
| Endearing suffix in colloquial Tamil when referring to females and males, | Ma, Pa, ம, ப |
| Child/Young one (usually male) | Payan, Pillai பயையன், பிள்ளை |

It is normal to refer to men a little older to them as "Anna" (அண்ணா), older females as "Akka" (அக்கா), Younger females as "Thangachi" (தங்கச்சி), and younger males as "Thambi"

(தம்பி). Even if they are strangers. It is always best to refer to anyone with respect and use the plural format when speaking.

Please read the PDF given below for more on Tamil pronouns. You may also reference the [Appendix](). 
 [More about Tamil pronouns (PDF)]()
 Activities to learn Tamil pronouns:

> ⊞ *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=56#h5p-25*

# Question Words in Tamil

'ஆ','எ','ஏ','ஒ','யா' are called the "question letters: or Vinna ezhuthukaL.

1. Any noun can be made into a question by adding the letter "ஆ" to the end of the word.

When added to a word depending on the letter it is added to it will take on the sound of ஆ, யா, வா, மா, and other nedil ஆ alphabet sounds.
 Example:
 நீயா –  Is it you?
 அவனா – Is it him?
 அது புத்தகமா? – Is that a book?

2. இ, அ, எ are called deictic sets. In English, demonstrative determiners also make a distinction between proximal and distal: "this" and "these' refer to things that are closer to the speaker, and that and those refer to things that are farther away. The same is done in Tamil using these letters.

Example : We know the Pronouns அவன், அவள், அவர், அது, Let us see how these function in the table below.

| Proximal | Distant | Question |
|---|---|---|
| **இவன்** (This man) | **அவன்** (that man) | **எவன்** (which man) |
| **இவள்** (this woman) | **அவள்** (that woman) | **எவள்** (which woman) |
| **இவர்** (This man respectful) | **அவர்** (that man respectful) | **எவர்** (which man respectful) |
| **இது** (this ) | **அது** (that) | **எது** (which) |

3. Let us now learn the rest of the question words that are commonly used in Tamil.

| Question Word | English Equivalent | Spoken Form |
|---|---|---|
| **யார்** | Who | யாரு |
| **என்ன** | What | என்ன |
| **எது** | Which (noun) | எது |
| **எந்த** | Which (adjective) | எந்த |
| **ஏது** | What source | ஏது |
| **ஏன்** | Why | ஏன் |
| **எங்கே** | Where | எங்க |
| **எப்படி** | How | எப்டி |
| **எப்பொழுது** | When | எப்போ |
| **எத்தனை** | How many (countable) | எத்தனெ |
| **எவ்வளவு** | How much | எவ்வளவு |

## Activity to learn question words:

*An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=56#h5p-24*

# Extra Information about Tamil Questions:

There are different types of questions in the Tamil language. Here are the basic categories:

| English | Tamil | Pronunciation |
|---|---|---|
| Questions to clarify doubts | ஐயவினா | Aiya Vina |
| Questions for answers that are already known | அறிவினா | Ari Vina |
| Questions for answers that are unknown | அறியாவினா | Ariyaa Vina |
| Inquiry questions | கொளல்வினா | Kolal Vina |
| Questions for needs | கொடைவினா | Kodai Vina |
| Questions for giving direction | ஏவல் வினா | Aeval Vina |

# CHAPTER 2.3 TAMIL CONVERSATION: EXCHANGING BASIC INFORMATION

In this chapter, we are going to learn some important words and phrases in Tamil that can be used for daily conversations.

The aim of this chapter is to help the novice learner memorize a few sentences and their meanings that will help them in casual conversation. We are learning casual spoken Tamil in this unit. This is different from the formal/written Tamil.

Note: I have not added the words and phrases that I have covered in the previous chapters.

| Tamil Word | English Meaning |
|---|---|
| **ஆமாம்** | Yes |
| **இல்லை** | No |
| **சரி** | Okay |
| **நன்றி** | Thank you |
| **வாங்க** (வாங்க வாங்க) | Welcome (please come) |
| **ஊர்** | Place you come from/city/town |
| **போ** | Go |
| போயிட்டு வரேன் | Taking leave/Bye/I will be back/I will go and come |
| அப்புறம் பார்க்கலாம் | See you latter |
| **சிக்கரம்** | Soon |
| **நாளை**க்கு | Tomorrow |
| இன்னைக்கு | Today |
| நேத்து | Yesterday |

| | |
|---|---|
| **கைபேசி** எண் (தொலைபேசி எண்) | Cell Phone number |
| வீட்டு **முகவரி** | House address |
| நீங்க என்ன படிக்கிறீங்க? | What are you studying |
| **பல்கலைக் கழகம்** | University |
| **அப்படியா**? | Is that so? |
| **செய்** | to do |
| **மகிழ்ச்சி** | Happy |

Audio for words and phrases given above.

> 🎵 *One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/ basictamil/?p=101#audio-101-1*

Audio for Tamil conversation, Basic information vocabulary © Vidya Mohan, 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

## Conversation:

Mala : வணக்கம் செல்வி, எப்படி இருக்கீங்க?

செல்வி: நான் நல்லா இருக்கேன் Mala, நீங்க நல்லா இருக்கீங்களா?

Mala: அம்மாம், நான் நலம், நீங்க எந்த பல்கலிகழகத்தில் படிக்கிறீங்க?

செல்வி: நான் எம்.எஸ்.யு-லே படிக்கிறேன்.

Mala: ஓ, அப்படியா. என்ன படிக்கிறீங்க?

செல்வி: நான் கணினி அறிவியல் படிக்கிரேன். Mala, நீங்க என்ன செய்யரீங்க?

Mala: நான் எம்.எஸ்.யு-லே இன்ஜினியரிங் படிக்கறேன்.

செல்வி: Mala, உங்க கை பேசி இளன் என்ன?

Mala: என் கை பேசி எண் 123-456-7890

செல்வி: நன்றி! நீங்க எந்த ஊர்?

Mala: நான் சான் டியாகோ, கலிபோர்னியா. நீங்க எந்த ஊர்?

செல்வி: நான் மிச்சிகன்.

Mala: செல்வி, உங்க கைபேசி எண் என்ன?

செல்வி: என் கைபேசி எண் 012-345-6789

Mala: நன்றி, நாளுக்கு என் வீட்டுக்கு வாங்க.

செல்வி: செரி, உங்க வீட்டு முகவரி என்ன?

Mala: என் வீட்டு முகவரி, 123, 4வது தெரு, அபார்ட்மெண்ட் 5. கிழக்கு லான்சிங், MI 48823.

செல்வி: நன்றி, எத்தனை மணிக்கு வரணும்?

Mala: மாலை, 5:30க்கு வாங்க. நாம இரவு உணவு சாப்பிடலாம்.

செல்வி: ரொம்ப நன்றி, நாளைக்குப் பாக்கலாம்.

Mala: நான் போயிட்டு வரேன் செல்வி.

செல்வி: அப்புரம் பார்கலம், Mala.

Transliteration in English of the conversation above:

Mala : Vanakkam Selvi, eppadi irukeenga?

Selvi: Naan nalla irrukEn Mala, Neenga nalla irukingala?

Mala: Ammam, naan nalam, neenga entha palgalikazagathil padikereenga?

Selvi: Naan MSU- le padikkiren.

Mala: O, appadiya . Enna padikkreenga?

Selvi: naan computer science padi keren. Mala, neenga enna seireenga?

Mala: Naan MSU-le Engineering padikereen.

Selvi: Mala, unga kai pesi eN enna?

Mala : en kaipEsi eN 123-456-7890

Selvi: Nandri! Neenga entha oor?

Mala: Naan San Diego, California. Neenga entha oor?

Selvi: Naan Michigan.

Mala: Selvi unge kaipEsi eN enna?

Selvi: en kaipesi eN 012-345-6789

Mala: Nandri, naalikku en veetukku vaange.

Selvi: Seri, Unga veetu mukavari enna?

Mala: en veetu mugavari, 123, 4th street,Apartment 5. East Lansing, MI 48823.

Selvi: Nandri, ethanai maNikku varaNum?

Mala: maalai, 5:30kku vange. naama dinner sapidalam.

Selvi: Romba nandri, naalaikku paakkalaam.

Mala: naan poitovarEn selvi.

Selvi: appuram parkalam, nandri.

Audio of the conversation:

*One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/ basictamil/?p=101#audio-101-2*

Conversation exchanging basic information © Vidya Mohan and Samyukta Iyer, 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

Activity for the conversation:

*An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=101#h5p-58*

# CHAPTER 2.4 PLURALS AND CASE SUFFIXES

## Suffixes in Tamil

In this chapter, we will learn how to add suffixes to words in Tamil. We will learn how to make a singular word into a plural and how case suffixes work in Tamil.

Adding suffixes is one of the most common and important things in Tamil language. Multiple suffixes are added to a word (usually a verb) to make a sentence meaningful. There are some basic rules as to how the suffix is added to a word depending on the ending letter of the word that it is being added to, as well as the beginning letter of the suffix itself.

### Basic Rules to Add Suffixes to Words

1. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word ends in an இ, ஈ, ஏ, or ஐ, insert a ய் in between.
2. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word ends in an அ, ஆ, ஊ, ஒ, ஓ, or ஔ, insert a வ் in between.
3. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word ends in an உ sound, and...
   a. If the word is made of 2 short letters, insert a வ் in between.
   b. If the word is not made of 2 short letters, drop the -உ and add the suffix.
4. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word is made of 2 short letters, with the 2nd letter being a consonant, then double the 2nd letter and add the ending.
5. Otherwise, join the word and suffix as they are.

Here are some examples of how this conjugation happens:

| Tamil word | +Suffix | Completed word |
|---|---|---|
| கல் | ஐ | கல்லை |
| கண் | க்கு | கண்ணுக்கு |
| பழம் | கள் | பழங்கள் |
| வீடு | இல் | வீட்டில் |
| ஆறு | க்கு | ஆற்றுக்கு |
| பசு | ஓடு | பசியோடு |
| தெரு | இல் இருந்து | தெருவில்லிருந்து |
| தீ | ஆல் | தீயால் |
| தம்பி | உடன் | தம்பியுடன் |
| கதவு | ஆ | கதவா |

# Singular and Plural in Tamil (ஒருமை & பன்மை)

In Tamil, the suffix +கள்/+க்கள்/+ங்கள் is added to a noun to make it a plural.

1. If the word ends in -ம், drop the -ம் and add +ங்கள்
2. If the word is one syllable and ends in a long vowel sound, add +க்கள்
3.  If the word has a short vowel sound and ends in -ல், drop the -ல் and add +ற்கள்
4. If the word ends in ள், drop the ள் and add +ட்கள்
5. For all other nouns, add +கள்

Singular and Plural in Tamil. Used with permission from noolagam.com.

Examples:

**மரம்** + -கள் = **மரங்கள்**

**பழம்** + -கள் = **பழங்கள்**

**ஈ** + -கள் = **ஈக்கள்**

**பூ** + -கள் = **பூக்கள்**

**கல்** + -கள் = **கற்கள்**

**பந்து** + -கள் = **பந்துகள்**

**நூல்** + -கள் = **நூல்கள்**

**முள்** + -கள் = **முட்கள்**

Activity to learn plural in Tamil

# Case Suffixes in Tamil (வேற்றுமை உருபுகள்)

Tamil nouns are divided into two groups: The "high class" (உயர்திணை uyartiṇai), and the "lower class" (அஃறிணை aḵṟiṇai). Humans and gods make the higher group and all other animate and inanimate objects make the second group. These are added to the noun in order to modify the noun to explain its function.

In Tamil, we use the word **திணை** to mean division. The case suffixes are attached to the end of nouns to express the case in the sentence. Variations in dialects and accents can influence the way these cases are used.

According to Tholkappiyam, the oldest Tamil book on grammar, there are eight kinds of case suffixes in Tamil. Each has a certain suffix attributed to it. This original grammatical form has changed over the centuries and with the need for more accessible way of communication for people of various language backgrounds the number of case suffixes change from author to author. This is what I have found to be the most useful for my students. The table below shows the case and the suffix that is added to change the noun.

| Written | Spoken | Grammatical Function |
|---------|--------|----------------------|
| ஐ | எ | Object/accusative (acc) suffix |
| ஆல் | ஆலெ | Instrumental (instr) suffix |
| உக்கு | உக்கு | Dative (dat) suffix |
| இன் or உடைய | ஓட | Possessive (poss) suffix |
| இல் | இலெ | Locative suffix |
| இலிருந்து | இலெருந்து | Ablative suffix |
| இடம் | கிட்டெ | Human locative suffix |
| இடமிருந்து | கிட்டெருந்து | Human ablative suffix |
| ஒடு/உடன்/கூடெ | ஓட/கூடெ | Sociative suffix |
| க்காக. | க்காக. | Benefactive case |

## Adding Case Suffix to Pronouns:

Pronouns change quite a bit before the case suffixes can be added to them.

| Pronoun | Change |
|---|---|
| நான் | என்- |
| நீ | உ_ன் |
| நீங்கள் | உ_ங்கள்- |
| அவன் | அவன்- |
| அவள் | அவள்- |
| அவர் | அவர்- |
| அது | அத்-/அதன்- |
| நாம் | நம்- |
| நாங்கள் | எங்கள்- |
| நீங்கள் | உங்கள்- |
| அவர்கள் | அவர்கள்- |
| அவை | அவற்று- |

Given below is a PDF of the complete conjugations of case suffixes to the pronouns. You may also reference the Appendix.

Tamil pronouns and Case suffixes. (PDF)

## Nominative Case

The nouns in Tamil function as the subjects of the sentences and indicate what or who is performing the action. In Tamil, the nominative case has no suffix.

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| அவன் வந்தான் | Avaṉ vantāṉ | He came | அவவெ வந்தா<br>Avaṉ vantā |
| செல்வி சாப்பிட்டாள் | Selvi cāppiṭṭāḷ | Selvi ate | செல்வி சாப்டா<br>Selvi cāpṭā |
| மாலா போவாள் | Mala pōvāḷ | Mala will go | மலா போவா<br>Mala pōvā |
| நாய் கடிக்கும் | nāy kaṭikkum | The dog will bite | நாய் கடிக்கும்<br>nāy kaṭikkum |

Note for spoken Tamil: Since the noun does not take on any suffix in this case, it will stay the same. The verb that takes on the pronoun/gender/number/tense suffixes will change in spoken Tamil. Usually the last syllable is nasalized or dropped based on certain rules.

## Accusative Case

This is also called the object case. It is used to indicate the direct object of a verb. In Tamil, we use +ஐ to express the accusative case. In spoken Tamil, எ is used instead of ஐ.

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| என்னை பார் | Eṉṉai pār | Look at me | என்ன பாரு<br>Eṉṉa pāru |
| புத்தகத்தை படி | puttakattai paṭi | Read the book | புஸ்தகத்த படி<br>pustakatta paṭi |
| கதவைத் திற | katavait tiṟa | Open the door | கதவ தொற<br>katava toṟa |
| அவளைப் பார்த்தேன் | katavait tiṟa | I saw her | அவனெ பாத்தேன்<br>avaṉe pāttēṉ |

Practice adding +ஐ to words :

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## Instrumental Case

Instrumental case, Tamil is used to express "because of" or "with the use of". The suffix used is +ஆல் or + ஐக் கொண்டு. In spoken Tamil +ஆலெ (ale) is used.

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| என்னால் செய்ய முடியும் | Eṉṉāl ceyya muṭiyum | I can do it | என்னாலெ செய்ய முடியும்<br><br>Eṉṉāle ceyya muṭiyum |
| அவன் அருவாளைக் கெண்டு மரத்தை வெட்டினான் | avaṉ aruvāḷaik koṇṭu marattai veṭṭiṉāṉ | He cut the tree with an ax | அவெ அரிவாலாலெ மரத்த வெட்டினா<br><br>ave arivālāle maratta veṭṭiṉā |
| மேசை மரத்தால் செய்யப்பட்டது | mēcai marattāl ceyyyappaṭṭatu | The table is made with wood | மெச மரத்தலெ செஞ்சது<br><br>meca marattale ceñcatu |
| அவனால் நடனம் ஆட முடியும் | avaṉāl naṭaṉam āṭa muṭiyum | He can dance | அவனால நடனம் அட மெடியும்<br><br>avaṉāla naṭaṉam aṭa meṭiyum |

Practice adding +ஆல் to words:

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## Socitive Case

The socitive case is used to express "with" in Tamil. We use the suffix +ஓடு or + உடன். In spoken Tamil + ஓட, +கூட are used.

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| நான் அவளுடன் போனேன் | Nāṉ avaḷuṭaṉ pōṉēṉ | I went with her | நா அவளொட போனெ<br><br>Nā avaḷoṭa pōṉe |
| மாலா, செல்வியுடன் சாப்பிட்டாள் | Mālā, celviyuṭaṉ cāppiṭṭāḷ | Mala ate with Selvi | மாலா, செல்வியோட சாப்பிட்டா<br><br>Mālā, celviyōṭa cāppiṭṭā |
| அவன் என்னுடன் வந்தான் | avaṉ eṉṉuṭaṉ vantāṉ | He came with me | அவெ என்கூட வந்தான்<br><br>ava eṉ kūṭa vantāṉ |
| அவள், அம்மாவுடன் போனாள் | avaḷ, am'māvuṭaṉ pōṉāḷ | She went with her mother | அவ அம்மாகூட போனா<br><br>va am'mā kūṭa pōṉā |

Practice adding +ஓடு to pronouns:

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## Dative Case

Dative case is used to express "to" "for" and "for the sake of". We use the suffix +கு . In spoken Tamil +க்கு, +உக்கு are added.

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| நான் கடைக்கு போகவேண்டும் | Nāṉ kaṭaikku pōkavēṇṭum | I have to go to the store | நா கடைக்கு போகனும் <br><br> Nā kaṭaikku pōkaṉum |
| வகுப்பு முடிந்து அவன் வீட்டுக்கு போவான் | vakuppu muṭintu avaṉ vīṭṭukku pōvāṉ | He will go home after class | வகுப்பு முடிஞ்சதும் அவெ வீட்டுக்கு போவா <br><br> vakuppu muṭiñcatum ave vīṭṭukku pōvā |
| எனக்கு தண்ணீர் வேண்டும் | eṉakku taṇṇir vēṇṭum | I want water | எனக்கு தண்ணி வேணும் <br><br> ṉakku taṇṇi vēṇum |
| அந்த புத்தகங்கள் அவனுக்கு | anta puttakaṅkaḷ avaṉukku | Those books are for him. | அந்த புஸ்தகங்கள் அவனுக்கு <br><br> anta pustakaṅkaḷ avaṉukku |

Practice adding +கு to words:

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## Ablative Case

This is also sometimes called locative case and are used to express "in", "at", or "on". We use the suffix + இல். The suffix +இடம் is used for "with". It takes on a few specific meanings each of which are different. The suffix +இலிருந்து is used to express "from". In spoken Tamil we use + லெ, and +லெந்து for +il and + illunthu and use + கிட்டெ to mean with.

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| அவன் வீட்டில் இருக்கிறான் | Avaṉ vīṭṭil irukkiṟāṉ | He is at home | அவெ வீட்லெ இருக்கான்<br><br>Ave vīṭle irukkāṉ |
| புத்தகம் அவனிடம் இருக்கிறது | puttakam avaṉiṭam irukkiṟatu | The book is with him | புஸ்தகம் அவர்கிட்டெ இருக்கு<br><br>pustakam avarkiṭṭe irukku |
| அவன் மரத்தில்லிருந்து விழுந்தான் | avaṉ marattilliruntu viḻuntāṉ | He fell from a tree | அவெ மரத்லெந்து விழுந்தா<br><br>ave maratlentu viḻuntā |
| இது பழத்தால் செய்தது | itu paḻattāl cytatu | This is made of fruits | இது பழத்தாலெ செஞ்சது<br><br>itu paḻattāle ceñcatu |

Practice adding + இல் to words to make a complete sentences, submit them to your teacher once you are done.

புலி காடு+இல் இருக்கும்
பழம் கடை +இல் கிடைக்கும்
அவன் மரம் +இல் ஏறினான்

## Genitive Case

This shows possession. In Tamil, the suffix + உடைய is used. The rules for adding this suffix are:

1. In nouns ending in -ம், -டு, or -று , it is formed by adding the case suffix -இனுடைய
2. All other nouns by adding the case suffix -உடைய
3. In spoken Tamil, we use + ஓட.

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| இது என்னுடைய புத்தகம் | Itu eṉṉuṭaiya puttakam | This is my book | இது என்னோட புஸ்தகம்<br><br>Itu eṉṉōṭa pustakam |
| விட்டினுடைய கூரை உடைந்தது | viṭṭiṉuṭaiya kūrai uṭaintatu | The roof of the house broke | வீட்டோட கூரை உடைஞ்சுது<br><br>Vīṭṭōṭa kūrai uṭaiñcutu |
| அது அவளுடைய பை | atu avaḷuṭaiya pai | That is her bag | அது அவளோட பை<br><br>atu avaḷōṭa pai |
| அது செல்வியுடைய வீடு | atu celviyuṭaiya vīṭu | That is Selvi's house | அது செல்வியோட வீடு<br><br>atu celviyōṭa vīṭu |

Activity to check your understanding of + உடைய and -இனுடைய :

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## Benefactive Case

This is used to mean "for", "for the benefit of", or "intended for". In Tamil, we use the suffix + க்காக.

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| அவன், அம்மாவுக்காக சமைத்தான் | Avaṉ, am'māvukkāka camaittāṉ | He cooked for his mother | அவெ, அம்மவுக்காக சமைச்சான்<br><br>Ave, am'mavukkāka camaiccāṉ |
| அவர்கள் அவனுக்காக பொம்மை வங்க்கினாற்கள் | avarkaḷ avaṉukkāka bommai vaṅkkiṉāṟkaḷ | They bought the toy for him | அவங்க, அவனுக்காக பொம்மை வங்கினாங்க<br><br>avaṅka, avaṉukkāka bommai vaṅkiṉāṅka |
| நான் உனக்காக வருவேன் | nāṉ uṉakkāka varuvēṉ | I will come for you | நா ஒனக்காக வரே<br><br>nā oṉakkāka varē |
| சிதா, ராமனுக்காக காத்திருந்தாள் | citā, rāmaṉukkāka kāttiruntāḷ | Sita waited for Rama | சிதா, ராமனுக்காக காத்திருந்தாள்<br><br>citā, rāmaṉukkāka kāttiruntāḷ |

Practice + க்காக. with this activity:

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You can lean more about case suffixes by reading the document given below. This document contains detailed information about the usage of the Tamil case suffixes. It was created at Carnegie Melon university. The author is not known and it is available freely on the web. You may also reference the Appendix.

Tamil Case suffixes (Prepositions) with examples. (PDF)

# CHAPTER 2.5 "TO BE" IN TAMIL

## The Various Aspects of "To Be" in Tamil – "இரு"

The verb இரு in Tamil has many functions and needs a separate chapter to understand it. We are going to look at the various aspects of this verb and what they represent in this lesson. The word இரு means: to be, to stay, to remain, to wait, etc. It is also used as an auxiliary verb and to express progressive tense and perfect tense. It is used as a suffix for dative and locative cases also. We will be using the case suffixes we learnt in the previous lesson in most of the examples here. The spoken form of these sentences are also given to help the students learning that skill.

### First Usage and Meaning

| Tamil Phrase | Transliteration | English | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| எப்படி இருக்கீங்க? | eppadi irukeenga? | How are you? | This is a question |
| நல்ல இருக்கேன் | nalla iruken | I am well. | This is a common answer. |

Here "iru" means "to be", which is the most basic meaning of the word. This is the first thing we learn in our conversation where we greet and introduce ourselves to a person.

### Second Usage and Meaning

| Tamil Phrase | Transliteration | English | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| எங்கே இருக்கீங்க? | enga Irukeenga? | Where are you? | This is a question |
| நான் வீட்டில் இருக்கேன் | naan vetil iruken | I am at home | வீடு/Vedu means House.<br><br>வீடு+இல்=வீட்டில் In spoken Tamil இல் becomes லெ. நான் விட்லெ இருகேன்.(naan vetle irruken) |

Here, it is used to denote location as in "to be" in a location. To indicate "to be" in a location, it is used with the proper tense and gender/number marker. Here, the locative case suffix இல் "il" (it is லெ "le" in spoken Tamil) is used to express the location in the answer.

## Third Usage and Meaning

| Tamil Phrase | Transliteration | English | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| அவன் எப்படி இருப்பான்? | avan eppadi irrupan? | How will he be (how does he look) | This is a question |
| அவன் உயரமாக இருப்பான் | avan uyaramaga iruppan | He is tall | உயரம்/uyaram is tall/height<br><br>உயரம்+ஆக=உயரமாக<br>In spoken Tamil it is உயரமா the end க is dropped<br>அவன் உயரமா இருப்பான் (avan urarama irrupan) |

Here, it is used as an adverb meaning to possess an attribute or feature. To indicate the specific description, it is used with the proper tense and gender/number marker.

## Fourth Usage and Meaning

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Notes | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| புத்தகம் யாரிடம் இருக்கிறது? | puththagam yaaridam irukkirathu? | Who has the book? | புத்தகம்/puththagam book. This is a question. | புத்தகம் யார் கிட்ட இருக்கு?<br><br>puthagam yarkitta irruku? |
| புத்தகம் செல்வியிடம் இருக்கிறது | Puththagam Selvi idam irukkirathu | The book is with Selvi. | Selvi is a name used for females in Tamil.<br><br>செல்வி+இடம்=செல்வியிடம் | புத்தகம் செல்வி கிட்ட இருக்கு.<br><br>puththagam Selvi kitta irruku |

Here, it is used to indicate possession. To indicate "to have" will emphasize the possessed object rather than the person. Here the locative case suffix "Idam" இடம் (கிட்ட/kitta in spoken Tamil) is used along with the object.

## Fifth Usage and Meaning

It is used to indicate progressive tense. Here, another auxiliary verb Kondu (கொண்டு) is also added in front of iru (இரு). Kondu (கொண்டு) becomes kittu (கிட்டு) in spoken Tamil.

| Tense | Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Past Progressive | நான் வந்து கொண்டு இருந்தேன் | naan vandhu kondu irunthen | I was on my way (I was coming) | நான் வந்துகிட்டிருந்தேன். <br><br> Naan vandhukitu irunthen |
| Present Progressive | நான் வந்துக் கொண்டு இருக்கிறேன் | naan vandhu kondu irukiren | I am on my way (I am coming) | நான் வந்துகிட்டு இருக்கேன் <br><br> Naan vandhukittu iruken |
| Future Progressive | நான் வந்துக் கொண்டு இருப்பேன் | naan vandhu kondu iruppen | I would be on my way (I will be coming) | நான் வந்துகிட்டு இருப்பேன் <br><br> Naan vandukitu iruppen |

Note that the verb in progressive tense takes on the the past tense form and "iru" that is added after it and it takes on the pronoun/gender/number marker.

## Sixth Usage and Meaning

Here, it is used to mean "had" in past tense. The verb takes on the past tense form since it had to denote "had". As we progress, we will see how two words combine to make a compound word in Tamil.

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| நான் வந்திருந்தேன் | Naan vanthu irunthen | I had come | Note how the verb and "iru" combine to make a compound word. வந்து+இரு= வந்திரு. All gender/number suffixes are added after this |
| அவர்கள் போயிருந்தார்கள் | Avargal poyirundargal | The had gone (there) | போய் + இரு = போயிரு |
| அது தூங்கியிருந்தது | Athu tungi irunthathu | That has slept | தூங்கு + இரு+ தூங்க்கியிரு |

| Spoken Tamil | Transliteration |
|---|---|
| நா வந்திருந்தேன் | Naa vandhutirukken |
| அவங்க பொய்யிருந்தாங்க | Avanga poyi irunnathaanga |
| அது தூங்கிடுச்சு | Athu thoongiruchu |

## Seventh Usage and Meaning

Here, it is used as a perfective verb to mean "would have", to denote any event that would happen but is current/relevant at the time of speaking. Here the suffix podhu (போது), meaning when/ at that time, is used along with "iru".

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| நான் வீட்டுக்கு போகும் போது, அம்மா கடைக்கு போய் இருப்பார்கள் | Nāṉ vīṭṭukku pōkum pōtu, am'mā kaṭaikku pōy iruppārkaḷ | When I go home, mother would have gone shopping | நா வீட்டுக்கிபோகும் பொது அம்மா கடைக்கு பொய்யிருப்பாங்க<br><br>Nā vīṭṭukkipōkum potu am'mā kaṭaikku poyyiruppāṅka |
| நான் வந்து சேரும்போது, அவள் கிளப்பியிருப்பாள் | Nāṉ vantu cērumpōtu, avaḷ kiḷappiyiruppāḷ | She would have left when I arrive (there) | நா வந்து சேரும்போது அவ கெளம்பியிருப்பா<br><br>Nā vantu cērumpōtu ava keḷampiyiruppā |
| நான் செய்திருப்பேன் | Nāṉ ceytiruppēṉ | I would have done it | நா செஞ்சிருப்பேன்<br><br>Nā ceñciruppēṉ |

## Eighth Usage and Meaning

Doubtful past, to mean "had I", here ஆல் (Aal) is used to mean "if". Note that "iru" is used twice in these sentences once for "had" and once for "would have" or "would have not".

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| எனக்கு தெரிந்திருந்தால் நான் உதவி செய்திருப்பேன் | Eṉakku terintiruntāl nāṉ utavi ceytiruppēṉ | Had I known, I would have helped you | எனக்கு தெரிஞ்சிருந்தா நா உதவி செஞ்சிருப்பே<br><br>Eṉakku teriñciruntā nā utavi ceñciruppē |
| நான் அவளை பார்த்திருந்தால், அவனிடம் சொல்லியிருப்பேன். | Nāṉ avaḷai pārttiruntāl, avaṉiṭam colliyiruppēṉ. | Had I seen him, I would have told him. | நா அவள பாத்திருந்தா அவகிட்ட சொல்லி இருப்பே<br><br>Nā avaḷa pāttiruntā avakiṭṭa colli iruppē |
| நான் பசித்திருந்தால்,சாப்பிட்டிருப்பேன் | Nāṉ pacittiruntāl,cāppiṭṭiriruppēṉ | Had I been hungry I would have eaten | நா பசிச்சிருந்தா சாபிட்டிருப்பேன்<br><br>Nā paciccviruntā cāpiṭṭiruppēṉ |

## Ninth Usage and Meaning

It is used as perfect tense in future time. It is used in the meaning of "would have". These can be used in negation as well as "would not have".

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| அடுத்த மாதம் நான் இத்தாலிக்கு போய்யிறுப்பேன் | Aṭutta mātam nāṉ ittālikku pōyyiṟuppēṉ | I would have gone to Italy next month | அடுத்த மாசம் நா இதலிக்கு போய்யிருப்பேன்<br><br>Aṭuta mācam nā italikku pōyyiruppēṉ |
| நாளைக்கு 6:00 மணிக்குள் நான் வீட்டுக்குப் போயிருப்பேன் | Nāḷaikku 6:00 Maṇikkuḷ nāṉ vīṭṭukkup pōyiruppēṉ | I would have gone home by 6:00 tomorrow | நாளக்கு ஆறு மணிக்குள்ள நா விட்டுக்கு போய்யிருப்பேன்<br><br>Nāḷakku āṟu maṇikkuḷḷa nā viṭṭukku pōyyiruppēṉ |
| அவன் மே 2024க்குள் பட்டம் பெற்றிருப்பான். | Avaṉ mē 2024kkuḷ paṭṭam peṟṟiruppāṉ. | He would have graduated by May 2024. | அவ்வெ மே 2024க்குள்ள பட்டம் வாங்கிருப்பான்<br><br>Avaṉ mē 2024kkuḷḷa paṭṭam vāṅkiruppāṉ |

## Tenth Usage and Meaning

It can be used to describe someone's experience. This meaning is very similar to the present perfect forms, the meaning of habituality can be understood only through the context. The negation of the perfect when used to describe an experience takes a different form than the present perfect.

| Tamil | Transliteration | English | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|
| அவள் இந்த புத்தகத்தை படித்திருக்கிறாள் | Avaḷ inta puttakattai paṭittirukkiṟāḷ | She has read this book | அவ இந்த புஸ்தகத்த படிச்சிருக்கா<br><br>Ava inta pustakatta paṭiccirukkā |
| அவர் சிகாகோவுக்கு போய்யிருக்கிறார் | Avar cikākōvukku pōyyirukkiṟār | He has been (gone) to Chicago | அவரு சிகாகோவுக்கு போய்யிருகார்<br><br>Avaru cikākōvukku pōyyirukār |
| நான் இந்தியா சென்றிருக்கிறேன் | Nāṉ intiyā ceṉṟirukkiṟēṉ | I have been to India | நா இந்திய போயிருக்கேன்<br><br>Nā intiya pōyirukkēṉ |

These sentence tells that something happened at some point in the past.

## Eleventh Usage and Meaning:

To mean "even though", "although", "even if". It is used as இருந்தும் , இருந்தபோதிலும், இருந்தாலும் and இருந்தும் கூட. This usage will be explained in detail in the intermediate level lessons. These can be used interchangeably in a sentence as per its context.

| Tamil | Transliteration | English |
|---|---|---|
| நான் படித்திருந்தும் சரியாக பரிட்சை எழுதவில்லை | Nāṉ paṭittiruntum cariyāka pariṭcai eḻutavillai | Even though I studied I did not write the exam well |

## Activities for Learning the Usage of "இரு":

> An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=105#h5p-61*

Write five sentences using "kondu" and "Iru" in all three progressive tense along with these verbs and read them aloud.

வா/வந்து Come (vaa/ vandu)

போ/போய் Go (poo/poai)

பார்/பார்த்து See(paar/parthu)

படி/படித்து Read/Study (padi/padiththu)

பேசு/பேசி Talk (pesu/pesi)

> An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=105#h5p-62*

## Cultural Note on Spoken Tamil:

There are many dialects of spoken Tamil in India and across the globe. The spoken sentences given in this book are of the common dialect generally seen on television, movies, and social media. I encourage heritage students to speak in the dialect of their ancestors and honor their lineage. It is important to note that no dialect in Tamil is lesser than the other. They are all equally beautiful and need to be preserved in spoken history. So please do not give up or change your heritage dialect for any one for any reason.

Please watch this video to understand the concept better

# CHAPTER 2.6 CLASSROOM EXPRESSIONS

In this chapter, we are going to learn some of the common classroom expressions and requests.

## Classroom Expressions:

| English | Tamil | Transliteration |
|---|---|---|
| Please could you repeat that? | திரும்ப சொல்லுங்க | Tirumpa colluṅka |
| Speak slowly. | மெதுவா பேசுங்க | metuvā pēcuṅka |
| Speak up/speak more loudly/please speak louder. | சத்தமா பேசுங்க | cattamā pēcuṅka |
| I don't understand. | எனக்கு புரியலை | eṉakku puriyalai |
| What's this? | இது என்ன? | itu eṉṉa? |
| What do you call this in Tamil? | இதை தமிழில் எப்படி சொல்லனம்? | Itai tamiḻil eppaṭi collaṉam? |
| Is this correct? | இது செரியா? | Itu ceriyā? |
| That's right! | ஆமாம், அது செரி | Āmām, atu ceri |
| No, that's wrong. | இல்லை, அது தப்பு | illai, atu tappu. |
| I can't remember. | எனக்கு நியாபகம் இல்லை | Eṉakku niyāpakam illai |
| I don't know. | எனக்கு தெரியாது. | eṉakku teriyātu. |
| Say the answer. | பதில் சொல்லுங்க. | Patil colluṅka. |

.

This video contains the same sentences given above being read by the author.

One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=115#video-115-1

Video with audio for classroom expressions by Vidya Mohan 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=115#h5p-17

# Classroom Commands and Requests

| English | Tamil | Notes (Verb) | Transliteration |
|---|---|---|---|
| Come | வாங்க | In spoken Tamil this is doubled when inviting someone in as வாங்க.. வாங்க.. | Vāṅka |
| Please sit | உக்காருங்க. | உட்கார் – to sit. In spoken Tamil is உக்காரு | ukkāruṅka |
| Please stand | நில்லுங்க | நில் – Stand | Nilluṅka |
| Please open | திறங்க | திற- open | tiṟaṅka |
| Book | புத்தகம் | | Puttakam |
| Please open the book | புத்தகத்த திறங்க | | puttakatta tiṟaṅka |
| Door | கதவு | | katavu |
| Open the door | கதவ திறங்க | | katava tiṟaṅka |
| Please take | எடுங்க | எடு – take | eṭuṅka |
| Please take the pen | பேனாவ எடுங்க | | pēṉāva eṭuṅka |
| Please take the book | புத்தகத்த எடுங்க | | puttakatta eṭuṅka |
| Please close | மூடுங்க | மூடு – Close | mūṭuṅka |
| Please close the book | புத்தகத்த மூடுங்க | | puttakatta mūṭuṅka |
| Please read | படிங்க | படி – read | mūṭuṅka paṭiṅka |
| Please listen | கேளுங்க. | கேள்.. To listen or ask | kēḷuṅka. |
| please listen to what I say | நான் சொல்வத கேளுங்க | | Nāṉ colvata kēḷuṅka |
| question | கேள்வி . | | Kēḷvi. |
| Please ask a question. | கேள்வி கேளுங்க | | Kēḷvi kēḷuṅka |

Learn these classroom requests and commands by watching these videos and answering the question that pops up in the end.

*An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=115#h5p-29*

# CHAPTER 2.7 IMPORTANT NOTES ON SPOKEN TAMIL

In this chapter we are going to look at some common morphology from written to spoken Tamil. This is just an introduction to this topic.

## 1. Phonological Changes:

If a word ends in a consonant +ஏ , it changes to consonant +அ .

**எங்கே** – எங்க
**இங்கே** – இங்க
**அங்கே** – அங்க

If the word ends consonant +ஐ it changes to consonant + எ. This rule applies to consonant +ஐ letters in all parts of the word except the beginning position.

**கதை** – கதெ
**பச்சை** – பச்செ
**சமை** – சமெ
**அலைச்செல்** – அலெச்சல்

If the final letter of a word is in the த் family and preceded by a short (kuril) letter the that ending letter changes to +ச்

**புதிது** – புதுசு
**பழயது** – பழசு
**புதியது** – புதுசு

The ending து of a word is dropped if the letter before it is a long (nedil) letter.

**அப்போது** – அப்போ – அப்ப
**இப்போது** – இப்பொ – இப்ப
**எப்போது** – எப்போ- எப்ப

The final ம் and ன் are not pronounced, they are nasalized instead.

வந்தோம் – வந்தோ(ம்)
**பாடம்** – பாட(ம்)
**அவன்** – அவ – அவெ
வந்தான் – வந்தா(ன்)

The ending letters of words in ல், ள், ர், ய் are dropped.

**அவள்**= அவ
**மாங்காய்** – மாங்க
**தண்ணீர்** – தண்ணீ
**ஆனால்** – ஆனா

In a single syllable word formed with a long letter (nedil) and ending in a consonant the consonant takes on the + உ sound.

**பால்** – பாலு

**பார்** – பாரு

**யார்** – யாரு

**ஊர்** – ஊரு

**கால்** – காலு

**தேள்** – தேளு

In a single syllable word formed with a short letter (kuril) and ending with a consonant the consonant is doubled and the +உ is added to the final sound.

**பல்** – பல்லு

**கல்** – கல்லு

**சொல்** – சொல்லு

**கண்** – கண்ணு

**தள்** – தள்ளு

If a multi syllable word ends in ர் or ல் the last letter has a + உ added to it.

**அவர்** – அவரு

வருவார் – வருவாரு

போனார் – போனாரு

In words where there is doubling of ற்ற it becomes த்த.

**காற்று** – காத்து

**மாற்று** – மாத்து

**மற்ற** – மத்த

**சாற்று** – சாத்து

In words with ன்ற in the middle it becomes ண்ண (+ ending vowel of original word) if the preceding letter is short (kuril).

**ஒன்று** – ஒண்ணு

**பன்றி** – பண்ணி

கொன்று – கொண்ணு

In words with ன்ற in the middle it becomes ண (+ ending vowel of original word) if the preceding letter is long (nedil).

**மூன்று** – மூணு

தோன்று – தோணு

# 2. Changes in Number, Pronoun, Case Suffixes

## Number

When changing from singular to plural the +கள் becomes +ங்க. However, in some cases the plural is the same in formal and spoken Tamil.

**அசிரியர்கள்** – ஆசிரியருங்க

**பழங்கள்** – பழங்க
**மாடுகள்** – மாடுங்க

## Pronouns

**நாம்** – நாம
  **நம்** – நம்ம
  **நாங்கள்** – நாங்க
  **எங்கள்** – எங்க
  **இவர்** – இவரு
  **அவர்** – அவரு
  **நீங்கள்** – நீங்க
  **உங்கள்** – உங்க
  **அவள்** – அவ
  **அவன்** –அவெ
  **அவர்கள்** – அவங்க

## Case suffixes:

| Written | Spoken | Grammatical Function |
|---------|--------|----------------------|
| ஐ | எ | Object/accusative (acc) suffix |
| ஆல் | ஆலெ | Instrumental (instr) suffix |
| உக்கு | உக்கு | Dative (dat) suffix |
| இன் or உடைய | ஓட | Possessive (poss) suffix |
| இல் | இலெ | Locative suffix |
| இலிருந்து | இலெருந்து | Ablative suffix |
| இடம் | கிட்டெ | Human locative suffix |
| இடமிருந்து | கிட்டெருந்து | Human ablative suffix |
| ஓடு/உடன்/கூடெ | ஓட/கூடெ | Sociative suffix |

# 3. Verb Tense Marker Changes

|  | Past | Present | Future |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Type 1** | ஞ்ச் | ற் | வ் |
| **Type 2** | ந்த் \| ஞ்ச் | ற் | வ் |
| **Type 3** | உன் | ற் | வ் |
| **Type 4** | Ending consonant doubling | ற் | வ் |
| **Type 5** | ட் | ற் | ப் |
| **Type 6** | த்த் | க்கிற் | ப்ப் |
| **Type 7** | ந்த் \| ndh | க்கிற் | ப்ப் |

## Past Tense Examples:

விற்றேன் – வித்தேன்
   பார்த்தேன் – பாத்தேன்
   படித்தேன் – படிச்சேன்
   வாங்கினேன் – வாங்குனேன்
   சாப்பிட்டேன் – சாப்டேன்

## Present Tense Examples:

போகிறேன் – போகறேன்
   எழுதுகிறேன் – எழுதுறேன்
   செய்கிறேன் – செய்றேன்
   செய்கிறது – செய்து (செய்யிது)

## Future Tense Examples:

Ending is nasalized.
   போவேன் – போவெ

## Progressive Tense:

The progressive form கோண்டு இரு becomes கிட்டு இரு (கொண்டிரு – கிட்டிரு)

சாப்பிட்டுகொண்டு இருக்கிராள் – சாப்பிடிகிட்டிருக்கா

# 4. Adverb Marker

ஆக/ ஆய் become +ஆ
   அழகாக/ அழகாய் – அழகா
   உயரமாக/ உயரமாய் – உயரமா

# PART III
# CHAPTER 3 TAMIL VERBS

In Tamil, a verb mostly ends a sentence by taking on a variety of suffixes. The verb itself takes on different forms by changing the way it ends in order to take on auxiliary verbs and other suffixes. The Tamil verb system is based on addition of suffixes of tense, pronoun, gender and number. The system of auxiliary verbs in Tamil that is very interesting to learn about. The verb expresses the mood whether it is indicative, imperative or operative. The verbs in their infinitive form when used along with an axillary verb to form negation in Tamil.

In this chapter, we will learn the most commonly used verbs and how they conjugate in past, present and future tense.

## Goals of This Chapter:

- To learn about different kinds of Tamil verb categories.
- To learn about the Tamil verb classes.
- To understand Tamil sentences always end with a verb.
- To learn some common verbs used in daily life.
- To learn how to morph the verb and add the tense marker before adding the pronoun/number/gender markers.
- The present, past and future tense verbs and how they are formed.

# CHAPTER 3.1 VERB CLASSES AND VERB ENDINGS

## Verbs in Tamil – வினைச்சொற்கள் (vinnai sorkkal)

All Tamil verbs exist in the command form. Suffixes of tense, gender and number are added to the end of them to change them. The rule is **Verb + tense marker + pronoun/gender/number marker**. How these are added are based on what class the verb belongs to depending on its ending letter. Adding "nga" to the end of a verb makes it a request. The plural marker is also used to denote "please".

## Pronoun, Number, and Gender Markers for Ending a Verb in Tamil:

| Gender/Number Marker | Pronoun/English |
|---|---|
| ஏன் | நான்/1st person |
| ஓம் | நாம்/நாங்கள் 1st person, plural (inclusive and exclusive) |
| ஈர்கள் | நீங்கள் 2nd person, respectful |
| ஆய் | நீ 2nd person, impolite |
| ஆன் | அவன் 3rd person, singular, masculine |
| ஆர் | அவர் 3rd person, singular, male, polite |
| ஆள் | அவள் 3rd person, singular, female |
| ஆர்கள் | அவர்கள் 3rd person, singular, female, respectful OR 3rd person, plural |
| அது | அது/இது 3rd person, other than humans, including all animate and inanimate objects (Neuter) |

Please use this activity to learn the verb endings for First, second, third and neuter endings. In this activity please concentrate on the ending letters of the verbs alone. The list of verbs are given further down in this chapter.

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*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=49#h5p-19*

# Tamil Verb Classes

The Tamil verbs are divided into seven classes depending on the ending letter of the word. The verbs in classes 1-4 are called weak verbs and 6 and 7 are called strong verbs. Class 5 verbs are divided individually.

Class General Pattern Example:

1a One syllable, short vowel, ends in ய் eg: செய்

1b One syllable, short vowel, ends in ள் eg: ஆள்

1c One syllable, short vowel, ends in ல் eg: செல்

2 Two syllables, ends in -ய், -ர், -ழ், -இ, -ஐ eg: வளர்

3 Ends in -உ (exception -டு, -று ) eg: பேசு

4 Ends in -டு, -று eg:போடு

5 Irregular verbs – see separate chart for this given below (tends to end in ல் or ள்)

6 Combination of Class 2 and Class 4 patterns eg:கொடு

7 Ends in -அ e.g.: நட

# Types of Forms Taken on by Tamil Verbs:

The Tamil verb takes on many forms as it morphs to give the correct meaning to a word.
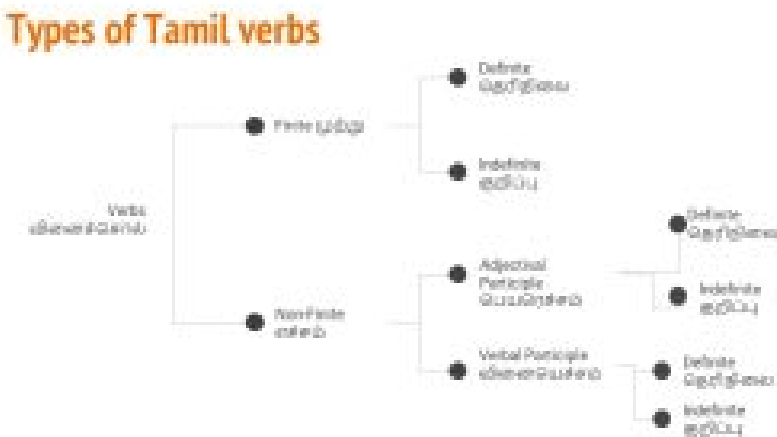
Flow diagram of different forms of Tamil verbs, created by Vidya Mohan 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

Given below is a PDF of the types of Tamil verbs and how they morph in detail. You may also reference the Appendix.

Tamil Verbs and its different forms (PDF)

## List of 25 Verbs for Novice Tamil Learner

Before we learn about how the verbs morph in Tamil for each tense, let us learn the following basic verbs that are essential for common conversations at a beginner level. The verbs are given with their English meaning, transliteration, and to which of the seven classes they belong to.

| Number | Tamil Verb | Transliteration | English Equivalent | Type |
|--------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|------|
| 1 | வா/வரு | Vaa | come | 2 |
| 2 | சாப்பிடு | Saapidu | eat | 4 |
| 3 | போ | Poh | go | NA |
| 4 | பண்ணு | Pannu | do | 3 |
| 5 | செய் | Sei | do | 1 |
| 6 | நட | Nada | walk | 7 |
| 7 | உட்கார் | Utkaar | sit down | 2 |
| 8 | திற | Thira | open | 7 |
| 9 | மூடு | Moodu | close | 3 |
| 10 | எழுது | Ezhuthu | write | 3 |
| 11 | வாங்கு | Vaangu | buy | 3 |
| 12 | பேசு | Paesu | speak | 3 |
| 13 | கேளு | Kaelu | listen | 5 |
| 14 | மன்னி | Manni | forgive | 6 |
| 15 | கொண்டாடு | Kondadu | celebrate | 3 |
| 16 | முடி | Mudi | complete | 6 |
| 17 | சொல் | Sol | say | NA |
| 18 | ஆரம்பி | Arambi | start | 6 |
| 19 | காட்டு | Kaattu | show | 3 |
| 20 | பார் | Paar | see | 6 |
| 21 | ஓடு | Odu | run | 3 |
| 22 | கற்றுக்கொள் | Katrukol | learn | NA |
| 23 | நில் | Nil | stand | 5 |
| 24 | படி | Padi | read/study | 6 |
| 25 | இரு | Iru | be | 7 |

# Activity for Learning the Verbs

*An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*

*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=49#h5p-52*

# CHAPTER 3.2 PRESENT TENSE IN TAMIL

## Present Tense in Tamil: Nigazkalam/நிகழ்காலம்

The tense marker for the present tense is as follows for each verb class. The gender/number markers are added after the tense marker.

| Class | Tense Marker | Example/Note |
|---|---|---|
| 1a to 4 called weak verbs | +கிற் | அவன் விளையாடுகிறான் |
| 6–7 called strong verbs | +க்கிற் | அவள் கொடுக்கிறாள் |
| 5 | Either +கிற் or +க்கிற் | |
| Neuter | +கின்ற் | அது இருக்கின்றது. |

Present tense example for verbs with different gender/number endings and spoken Tamil guide.

## Verb: செய் (To Do)

| Verb | Tense marker | Gender/Number | Written | Spoken |
|------|--------------|---------------|---------|--------|
| செய் | கிற் | ஏன் | செய்கிறேன் | செய்யறேன் |
| செய் | கிற் | ஓம் | செய்கிறோம் | செய்யறோம் |
| செய் | கிற் | ஈர்கள் | செய்கிறிர்கள் | செய்யறீங்க |
| செய் | கிற் | ஆய் | செய்கிறாய் | செய்யறெ |
| செய் | கிற் | ஆன் | செய்கிறான் | செய்யறா(ன்) |
| செய் | கிற் | ஆர் | செய்கிறார் | செய்யறாரு |
| செய் | கிற் | ஆள் | செய்கிறாள் | செய்யறாள் |
| செய் | கிற் | ஆர்கள் | செய்கிறார்கள் | செய்யறாங்க |
| செய் | கின்ற் | அது | செய்கின்றது | செய்யிது |

In this activity, highlight all the present tense verbs you find:

An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:
https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=51#h5p-20

## Reading Practice:

Read these phrases aloud to practice present tense conjugation:

**நான் படி**க்கிறேன்
**அவள்** வருகிறாள்
**அவன்** போகிறான்
அவர் நிர்கிறார்
**அவர்கள்** நடக்கிறார்கள்
**அது** சாப்பிடுகிரது
**நீங்கள் பார்**க்கிறீர்கள்

## Writing Practice:

Conjugate the following verbs with the given pronoun to form a present tense phrase and submit it to your teacher:

**அவன்**

| Tamil Verb | Pronoun |
|---|---|
| உட்கார் | நீங்கள் |
| திற | நான் |
| எழுது | நீ |
| சொல் | அவள் |
| கேள் | |

# CHAPTER 3.3 PAST TENSE IN TAMIL

## Past Tense in Tamil: Kadantha Kalam/கடந்தகாலம்

The tense marker for past tense in Tamil is as follows for each class of verb. The gender/number marker is added after the tense marker.

| Class | Tense marker | Note/Example |
|-------|--------------|--------------|
| 1a | +த் | நான் செய்தேன் |
| 1b | Drop the ள் add +ண்ட் | அவன் ஆண்டான் |
| 1c | Drop the ல் add + ன்ற் | அவள் சென்றாள் |
| 2 | +ந்த் | நீ வளர்ந்தாய் |
| 3 | +இன் | அவன் பேசினான் |
| 4 | Drop the உ and double +ட், +ற் | நான் போட்டேன் |
| 5 | There are a few variations to this class. | Tend to end in ல், ள் <br><br> நான் நின்றேன் |
| 6 | +த்த் | அவள் கொடுத்தாள் |
| 7 | +ந்த் | அவன் நடந்தான் |

## Activities to Learn Past Tense in Tamil:

Learn the past tense by dragging the correct past tense verb to suit the pronoun/gender/number in the sentences given.

*An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=217#h5p-21*

## Reading Practice:

Read these common phrases in the past tense to understand the conjugation.

நான் படித்தேன்
அவள் வந்தாள்
அவன் போனான்
அவர் நின்றார்
அவர்கள் நடந்தார்கள்
அது சாப்பிட்டது
நீங்கள் பார்த்தீர்கள்

## Writing Practice:

Conjugate the following verbs with the given pronoun to form a past tense phrase and submit it to your teacher.

| Tamil Verb | Pronoun |
|------------|---------|
| உட்கார் | நீங்கள் |
| திற | நான் |
| எழுது | நீ |
| சொல் | அவள் |
| கேள் | அவன் |

# CHAPTER 3.4 FUTURE TENSE IN TAMIL

## Future Tense in Tamil : Ethirkalam/எதிர்காலம்

The tense marker for future tense in Tamil is as follows for each class of verb. The gender/number marker is added after the tense marker.

Note: In Tamil, habitual tense is shown using the future tense. The future tense is also used to express habitual tense in Tamil.

| Class | Tense Marker | Example/Note |
|---|---|---|
| 1a to 4 called weak verbs | +வ் | நீங்கள் செய்வீர்கள் |
| 6-7 called strong verbs | +ப்ப | அவன் சமைப்பான் |
| 5 | +வ் and + ப்ப depending on the verb | |
| Neuter | Differs for each verb | அது குடிக்கும்/ அது சாப்பிடும் |

The following table shows all the three tense suffixes for different verb classes in written Tamil.

## Tense Suffixes for Written Tamil

| Type | Past | Present | Future |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type 1 | த் | கிற் | வ் |
| Type 2 | ந்த் | கிற் | வ் |
| Type 3 | இன் | கிற் | வ் |
| Type 4 | Ending consonant is doubled | கிற் | வ் |
| Type 5 | ட் | கிற் | ப் |
| Type 6 | த்த் | க்கிற் | ப்ப |
| Type 7 | ந்த் | க்கிற் | ப்ப |

This next table gives you the tense suffixes for spoken Tamil.

## Tense Suffixes for Spoken Tamil

| Type | Past | Present | Future | Example |
|------|------|---------|--------|---------|
| Type 1 | ஞ்ச் | ற் | வ் | செய் |
| Type 2 | ந்த் \| ஞ்ச் | ற் | வ் | அறி |
| Type 3 | உன் | ற் | வ் | வாங்கு |
| Type 4 | Ending consonant doubling | ற் | வ் | விடு |
| Type 5 | ட் | ற் | ப் | உண் |
| Type 6 | த்த் | க்கிற் | ப்ப் | படி |
| Type 7 | ந்த் \| ndh | க்கிற் | ப்ப் | நட |

## Activities for Learning Future/Habitual Tense:

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https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=219#h5p-57

### Reading Activity:

Read these common phrases in the future tense to understand the conjugation:
நான் படிப்பேன்
அவள் வருவாள்
அவன் போவான்
அவர் நிற்பார்
அவர்கள் நடப்பார்கள்
அது சாப்பிடும்
நீங்கள் பார்ப்பீர்கள்

### Writing Practice:

Conjugate the following verbs with the given pronoun to form a future tense phrase and submit it to your teacher.

| Tamil Verb | Pronoun |
|------------|---------|
| உட்கார் | நீங்கள் |
| திற | நான் |
| எழுது | நீ |
| சொல் | அவள் |
| கேள் | அவன் |

# PART IV
# CHAPTER 4 FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS



Tamil multigenerational family. Image by Madapi, CC by attribution

The Tamil family system is very ancient and based on many generations of family living under one roof. It is based on the patriarchal system. The nuclear family system is on the rise in the metropolitan areas on Tamil Nadu and the traditional joint family system is slowly dying out due to westernization and people moving out of their place of birth for better jobs.

## Goals of This Chapter:

- To learn the specific Tamil name for relationships.
- To understand the extended family system in Tamil Nadu and the names for those relationships.
- To understand the traditions based on religion, caste and community in Tamil Nadu.
- To understand the traditional marriage system in Tamil Nadu.
- To be able to communicate about one's family using the vocabulary learnt in this chapter.

# CHAPTER 4.1 REVIEW OF CONCEPT FROM PREVIOUS LESSON

Let us review some of the concepts we learnt in the last chapter.

## "To be" In Tamil

The word இரு means many things. "To be", "to stay", "to remain", "to wait", "to sit", and "to have". It is also used as an auxiliary verb and to express progressive tense and perfect tense. It is used as a suffix for dative and locative cases also.

## "To Be" Activity

Please do this activity to refresh the concept of "to be" in Tamil:

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*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=395#h5p-40*

# Case Suffixes in Tamil: வேற்றுமை உருபுகள்

| Written | Spoken | Grammatical function |
|---------|--------|----------------------|
| ஐ | எ | Object/accusative (acc) suffix |
| ஆல் | ஆலெ | Instrumental (instr) suffix |
| உக்கு | உக்கு | Dative (dat) suffix |
| இன் or உடைய | ஒட | Possessive (poss) suffix |
| இல் | இலெ | Locative suffix |
| இலிருந்து | இலெருந்து | Ablative suffix |
| இடம் | கிட்டெ | Human locative suffix |
| இடமிருந்து | கிட்டெருந்து | Human ablative suffix |
| ஒடு/உடன்/கூடெ | ஒட/கூடெ | Sociative suffix |

## Case Suffix Activity

Please do these activities for case suffixes in Tamil:

> An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=395#h5p-41*

# CHAPTER 4.2 FAMILY RELATIONSHIP VOCABULARY

In this lesson, we are going to learn the vocabulary that is used for family members in Tamil. Tamil is very unique when it comes to identifying paternal and maternal relations. In English, we use the terms "Uncle" and "Aunt" for the siblings on both sides of the family, in Tamil there are specific names for each. There are also specific terms for older and younger siblings. We will also learn about the culture and traditions in some families based on religion, caste, and community.

## Vocabulary:

The term for relationship is "Uravu" (உறவு). The Family is called "Kudumbam" ( குடும்பம்). We will cover only the most-used family terms in this lesson. The spoken Tamil and the attached names for family members changes with the caste and location of each family.

# Immediate Family:

| English | Formal Tamil | Spoken Tamil (Various Dialects) |
|---|---|---|
| Father | **தந்தை** | **அப்பா** |
| Mother | **தாய்** | **அம்மா** |
| Son | **மகன்** | **பையன்** |
| Daughter | **மகள்** | பெண்/ **பொண்ணு** |
| Older brother | **அண்ணன்** | **அண்ணா** |
| Younger brother | **தம்பி** | தம்பி |
| Older sister | **அக்கா**/ தமக்கை | அக்கா |
| Younger sister | **தங்கை** | **தங்கச்சி** |
| General term for siblings | உடன்பிரத்தவர்கள் | கூட பிறந்தவங்க, அண்ணன்- தம்பி/அக்கா- தங்கச்சி |
| General term for brother | சகோதரன் | n/a |
| General term for sister | சகேதரி | n/a |
| Grandfather | **தாத்தா** | தாத்தா, ஐயா, பெரியையா, பாட்டன் and many more. |
| Grandmother | **பாட்டி** | பாட்டி, அப்பத்தா, அம்மம்மா, அத்தா, ஆச்சி and many more |
| Great Grandfather | கோள்ளுத் தாத்தா | |
| Great Grandmother | கோள்ளுப் பாட்டி | |

## Relationship by Marriage:

| English | Formal | Spoken Tamil (Various Dialects) |
|---|---|---|
| Husband | **கணவன்** | **புருசன்** |
| Wife | **மனைவி** | **பெண்டாட்டி** |
| Son-in-law | **மாப்பிள்ளை** | மாப்ள/ மருமகன் |
| Daughter-in-law | **மருமகள்** | மருமக |
| Mother-in-law | **மாமியார்** | மாமி/அத்தை |
| Father-in-law | **மாமனார்** | மாமா |
| Older brother's wife | **அண்ணி** | அண்ணி |
| Sister's husband | மாப்பிள்ளை/ மாமா | மாமா,அத்தான், அதிம்பேர், மச்சான் |
| Husband's brothers | மைத்துனன் | மூத்தார், மச்சான் |
| Husband's sisters | நாத்தனார் | நாத்தி, அக்கா |
| Wife's brothers | மச்சான் | |
| Wife's sisters | மச்சினி | |
| Relationship among the parents of the married couple | சம்பந்தி | |

## Parent's Siblings (Uncles and Aunts):

| English | Tamil |
|---|---|
| Father's older brother | பெரியப்பா |
| Father's older brother's wife | பெரியம்மா |
| Father's younger brother | சித்தப்பா |
| Father's younger brother's wife | சித்தி/சின்னம்மா |
| Father's sister | அத்தை |
| Father's sister's husband | மாமா/ அத்திம்பேர் |
| Mother's older sister | பெரியம்மா |
| Mother's older sister's husband | பெரியப்பா |
| Mother's younger sister | சித்தி |
| Mother's younger sister's husband | சித்தப்பா |
| Mother's brother | மாமா |
| Mother's brother's wife | மாமி /அத்தை |

## Extended Relationship Words for Non-Traditional Families:

| English | Tamil | Spoken (Also Used) |
|---|---|---|
| Stepmother | மாற்றாந்தாய் | சித்தி |
| Stepfather | மாற்றாந் தகப்பன்/தாயின் கணவன் | அப்பா |
| Stepbrother | மாற்றாந்தாயின் மகன் | மகனுமான |
| Stepsister | மாற்றாந்தாய் மகள் | |
| Adopted son | தத்து பிள்ளை | வளைப்பு மகன் |
| Adopted daughter | தத்து பெண்/மகள் | வளர்ப்பு மகள் |
| Stepson | மாற்றுரிமை மகன் | |
| Stepdaughter | மாற்றாம் புதல்வி | |
| Adopted sister | வளர்ப்பு சகோதரி | |
| Adopted Brother | வளர்ப்பு சகோதரன் | |
| Half-Brother | ஒன்று விட்ட (அண்ணன்/ தம்பி) | ஒன்று விட்ட is used for cousins also |
| Half-Sister | ஒன்று விட்ட ( அக்கா/ தங்கை ) | |

# Family Traditions and Culture in Tamil Nadu:

Cultural note: This is just for the student to know the facts. This does not reflect the opinion of the author

The history of Tamil Nadu goes back to the Iron age and beyond. The Tamil people have their own unique culture and traditions. These are still practiced to this day, we see the practices intermingled with the newer religions that came into the land 2,000 years ago. In this part we will take an overall look at the various practices and traditions followed by the Tamil people as well as some holidays and observances unique to them.

## Religion in Tamilnadu:

The majority of people in Tamil Nadu follow the Hindu religion, Muslims make about 6% of the population and Christins about 5%. Buddhism, Jains, Sikhs, and other religions also exist in a small amount. We will see great unity among the people as they participate in each other's festivals and celebrations.

## Tamil Festivals and Calendar:

Tamil people follow the lunar calendar and their new year falls in mid-April. They follow the lunar cycle and the presence of the moon in each constellation to determine days, months, and years. Each of the twelve months are marked with festivals and religious observances from all the three main religions. The festival of Pongal in mid January is the Thanksgiving festival to celebrate Nature. Karthigai deepam, Dweepawali, Navratri and other festivals are celebrated by the Hindus. Easter and Christmas are celebrated widely by the Christian people. Ramazan, Eid, Moharram, and other festivals are celebrated by the Muslims.

## Tamil Marriage:

Traditionally people married only inside one's own caste. The practice of cross-cousins marrying still exists among the people of Tamil Nadu. The marriages were arranged by the elders of the family after comparing socio economic status, education, wealth, and horoscope compatibility of the families and the bride and groom. In modern times, people finding their own spouse has become common and the caste system has loosened in the urban areas.

The weddings are conducted by a priest following the traditions of each caste. They are not as flamboyant as the north Indian weddings seen in Bollywood movies. Importance is given to extended family and the coming together of two families. The small differences in the rituals of each caste and community are very beautiful and have a connection to the ancestral practice of those people.

Divorce was frowned upon and slowly has found acceptance in society. Widows were shunned as inauspicious and bad luck and, thankfully, today they are allowed to remarry and live a dignified life.

## Tamil Men and Women

Traditional roles are still a part of Tamil family life. Even if both the spouses work these days, the woman takes on the work of household maintenance. You will see that most men wear western pants and shirts as their daily attire whereas the women will be seen in a traditional Sari or North Indian salwar kameez. Inheritance is based on the male bloodline. Women are expected to go to their parents to give birth and come to their marital home after three months of having the baby.

## DEI Statement on Families

A family can be any numbers of people of any gender, race, or identity. A family need not be just a traditional house hold of male and female parents and their biological children. In my class, we learn the vocabulary and how to talk about all different kinds of families. No student is forced to share information on their family if they do not want to. The teacher provided a diverse selection

of pictures and note cards for the students to pick from to learn to use the vocabulary in this chapter.

## Learn the Tamil Relationship Vocabulary With These Activities

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# CHAPTER 4.3 FAMILY UNIT ACTIVITIES

## Activities to Learn and Talk About Family

### Reading Activity:

Read the following paragraph about the family of Raja and answer the questions below:

வணக்கம், என் பெயர் ராஜா நான் டெட்ராய்டில் (Detroit) இருக்கிறேன். என் அம்மா பெயர் மாலா , என் அப்பா பெயர் செல்வா. எனக்கு ஒரு அக்காவும் ஒரு தம்பியும் இருக்கிறார்கள். என் அக்கா பெயர் ராணி. என் தம்பி பெயர் இளவரசன். என் தாத்தாவும் பாட்டியும் சென்னையில் இருக்கிறார்கள் எனக்கு சென்னைக்கு போய் அவர்களைப் பார்க்க ரொம்ப பிடிக்கும். நன்றி

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### Listening Activity

Listen to this conversation between Mala and Selvi and answer the questions below:
Audio:

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Conversation, family unit © Vidya Mohan and Samyukta Iyer, 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

Read the questions and record your answers in the recorder below.

Where does Mala's family live?

What is Mala's mother and Father's Name?

How many siblings does Mala have? Write the correct Tamil word to address each sibling.

Where is Selvi's family from?

What is Selvi's mother and father's name?

How many siblings does Selvi have? Write the correct Tamil word to address each sibling.

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## Presentation Activity

Record five sentences of audio about your family. You can make up a imaginary family or have your teacher give you a card/picture for an imaginary family. I have added few below, if you choose to use it. Please pick one of the person in the picture as the speaker/main character and then talk about the relationship terms in Tamil. Feel free to give names and ages to all people in your sentences (family). these can be made up or real.



Three Generations of family having dinner together. Image designed by Freepik.



Multi racial family with two dads. Image designed by Freepik.

Picture of family : single father and child with grandparents. Image designed by Freepik.

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PART V
# CHAPTER 5 EXPRESSING LIKES AND DISLIKES



Like and Dislike shown as thumbs up and thumbs down as used in social media. Image by ArtsyBee on Pixabay.

Language is all about communication and expressing one's thoughts. Expressing one's likes and dislikes is an essential part of language learning and communication. In this chapter, we will learn about negation in Tamil language and how to express our likes and dislikes politely.

## Goals of This Chapter:

- To learn how to communicate preferences.
- To learn how negation in Tamil language works.
- To learn the vocabulary for expressing likes and dislikes.
- To understand the sentence structure to express oneself.
- To understand the cultural expectation while expressing dislikes.

# CHAPTER 5.1 NEGATION IN TAMIL

Negation can happen as a question, a command, or as a negative sentence. We will take a look at each of these separately. As we have seen so far the verb takes on the suffixes to denote negation in Tamil. The tense of the sentence decides the kind of suffix used for the negation. In Tamil, the infinitive form of a verb is formed in one of two ways, according to whether a verb is 'strong' or 'weak.' In forming the infinitive, the 'strong' verbs normally take the suffix க்க whereas weak verbs take அ.

In Tamil there are different ways to express negation. Let us look at these one at a time. We are only learning what is essential for the novice level in this chapter.

The word for "NO" in Tamil is இல்லை (illai).

Any sentence can be negated by adding this to the end of it. Here the English equivalent is "not".

| English | Written Tamil | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|
| I am not her | நான் அவள் இல்லை | நான் அவ இல்லை |
| He is not a teacher | அவர் ஆசிரியர் இல்லை | அவர் ஆசிரியர் இல்லை |
| That is not mine | அது எனுடையது இல்லை | அது என்னுது இல்லை |

இல்லை also means "did not". Note that this is when it is used in past tense. In spoken Tamil, the word இல்லை gets shortened to "லெ" (le) when used in past tense

| English | Written Tamil | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|
| He did not come | அவன் வரவில்லை | அவன் வரலெ |
| They did not eat | அவர்கள் சாப்பிடவில்லை | அவங்க சாப்பிடலெ |
| She did not sing | அவள் பாடவில்லை | அவ பாடலெ |

Note: Here, the spoken 'le" for negation should not be confused for the case suffix "LE" to mean "in".

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For future tense negation "will not", we use the infinitive form of the verb along with +மாட்ட + gender/number suffix.

| English | Written Tamil | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|
| He will not come | அவன் வரமாட்டான் | அவன் வரமாட்டன் |
| I will not let him talk | நான் அவனை பேச விடமாட்டேன் | நா அவனே பேச விடமாட்டேன் |
| She will not do it | ஆவள் அதை செய்யமாட்டாள் | அவ அத செய்ய மாட்டா |

For expressing "should not" and "must not" we use the suffix கூடாது. This is actually an auxiliary verb. It is the negative of the word கூடும் that means it is possible. The suffix +ஆது is added to it to make it a negation meaning "should not". Here the word ends with கூடது; there are no other suffixes added to it.

| English | Written Tamil | Spoken Tamil |
|---|---|---|
| You should not eat that | நீங்கள் அதை சாப்பிடக்கூடாது | நீங்க அதெ சாப்பிடக்கூடாது |
| She should not scold him | அவள் அவவை திட்டக்கூடாது | அவ, அவனெ திட்டக் கூடாது |
| I should not say this | நான் இதை சொல்லக்கூடாது | நான் இதெ சொல்லக்கூடாது |
| You must not go there | நீ அங்கே போகக்கூடாது | நீ அங்க போகக்கூடாது |
| They must not run | அவர்கள் ஓடக்கூடாது | அவங்க ஓடக்கூடாது |

For commands and requests depending on a verb and saying "do not", we add +அதே for singular without respect +ஆதீர்கள்(ஆதீங்க spoken) respective plural/request to the infinitive verb. This is explained by the following examples.

| Verb | Respectful Negation | Spoken Negation | Singular/command |
|---|---|---|---|
| வா to come | வராதீர்கள் | வராதீங்க | வராதே |
| போ to go | போகாதீர்கள் | போகாதீங்க | போகாதே |
| சொல் to say | சொல்லாதீர்கள் | சொல்லாதீங்க | சொல்லாதே |

The suffix +ஆது added to verbs express the inability to do that action. This can be used in all three tenses and also sometimes a secondary verb is added to convey a different meaning.

முடியாது (I cannot) is the opposite of முடியும் (can).

தெரியாது (do not know) is the opposite of தெரியும் (know).

பிடிக்காது (do not like) is the opposite of பிடிக்கும் (like).

These three words are important in expressing likes and dislikes.

# Cultural Note About Expressing Dislikes:

Tamil culture is based on humbleness. You will see many people who are wealthy and hold high positions be very humble and not show their status. Though status is important in society, the Tamil people do not like to show off. One must be very careful when expressing one's dislikes or while refusing hospitality. In Tamil culture, guests are akin to gods. Understanding the difference between hospitality and invasion of privacy can be difficult if you are from the western culture. The rules of privacy are quite different in Tamil Nadu. Refusing to eat or to drink when visiting a family can be seen as snobbish. Explaining why you are doing so is essential. Stating "I have already eaten" when being offered food when you visit someone or saying "I will eat next time" is better than refusing to do so. Instead of simply stating "I do not like this". It is best to be quiet unless it is something that will harm you in any way. This rule does not apply to shops and restaurants where you can state what you think in an appropriate way.

## Activities for Learning Negation in Tamil:

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*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=221#h5p-31*

Read these Tamil phrases aloud and record them into the box below.

நான் அவள் இல்லை
அவர் ஆசிரியர் இல்லை
அது எனுடையது இல்லை
அவன் வரவில்லை
அவர்கள் சாப்பிடவில்லை
அவள் பாடவில்லை
அவன் வரமாட்டான்
நான் அவனை பேச விடமாட்டேன்
ஆவள் அதை செய்யமாட்டாள்
நீங்கள் அதை சாப்பிடக்கூடாது
அவள் அவவை திட்டக்கூடாது
நான் இதை சொல்லக்கூடாது
நீ அங்கே போகக்கூடாது
அவர்கள் ஓடக்கூடாது
வராதீங்க
போகாதீங்க
சொல்லாதீங்க

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## Writing Practice:

Look at the table below, each row has one verb, one pronoun, one negative form and a verb. Use these three to make 10 negation phrases in Tamil. Write these sentences and turn them in to your teacher.

| Tamil Verb/Morphed Form To Use | English | Negative Form in Tamil To Use in Sentence | Negative Form in English | Pronoun to Use in Sentence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| வா/ வர | Come | இ(வி)ல்லை | Did not | அவன்/ |
| போ/ போக | Go | கூடாது | Should not | அவள் |
| தா/ தரக்க | Open | மாட்டா | Will not | அவர் |
| செய்/ செய்ய | Do | ஆதே | Don't | நீ |
| குளி/ குளிக்க | Shower/ Bathe | இ(வி)ல்லை | Did not | அவன் |
| நட/ நாடக்க | Walk | கூடாது | Should not | அவர் |
| படி/ படிக்க | Study/ Read | இ(வி)ல்லை | Did not | நான் |
| எழுது/ எழுத | Write | ஆதீர்கள் | Don't | நீங்கள் |
| கொடு/கொடுக்க | Give | கூடாது | Should not | அவன் |
| சிரி/சிரிக்க | Laugh | மாட்டா | Will not | அவர் |
| Example : அவர் சிரிக்க மாட்டார். | | | | |

# CHAPTER 5.2 ACTIVITIES FOR EXPRESSING LIKES AND DISLIKES

## Listening and Speaking Activity:

Listen to the audio of the person stating their likes and dislike and answer the questions given below by recording your answer using the microphone on your computer into the box/area provided.

> *One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/ basictamil/?p=316#audio-316-1*

Rani's likes and dislikes © Vidya Mohan , 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

Questions for the students to record their answer in the recorder box below.

1. What are the four things the speaker Rani likes?
2. What are the two things that the speaker dislikes?

> *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=316#h5p-53*

## Reading Activity:

Read the given paragraph about the likes and dislikes of the person named and answer the questions below by picking the right answer.

வணக்கம், என் பெயர் மாலா. நான் மிச்சிகனில் இருக்கிறேன். எனக்கு மிச்சிகன் ரொம்ப பிடிக்கும், ஆனால் குளிரான வானிலை பிடிக்காது. எனக்கு புத்தகம் படிக்க பிடிக்கும். எனக்கு தமிழ் வகுப்பு பிடிக்கும். எனக்கு சூடான காபி குடிக்க பிடிக்காது. எனக்கு பச்சை நிறம் பிடிக்காது எனக்கு தமிழ் படம் பார்க்க பிடிக்கும்.

Question 1: What are things Mala likes? For example, in the statement "I like pink colors", click on "pink". Some likes may be two or three words like "Tamil class".

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> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=316#h5p-43*

Question 2: What are things Mala dislikes? For example, in the statement "I dislike pink colors", click on "pink". Some likes may be two or three words like "Tamil class".

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> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=316#h5p-44*

## Written Activity:

Please write and upload six sentences that state your likes and dislikes using the vocabulary we have learnt so far, three stating your likes and three stating your dislikes. Please upload it to the dropbox/file sharing provided for your classroom as a clear photo of scan/pdf. In the box below please read the sentences you wrote aloud.

> *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=316#h5p-45*

# PART VI
# CHAPTER 6 EVERYDAY SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES



Weekly class schedule of grade 1 in Tamil and English. Image by Kalviseithi. Used with permission.

Learning to express oneself in any language starts with being able to convey and understand the basic wants, needs, and everyday schedules and activities of others so you can make plans and socialize with each other. In this lesson, we are going to learn the days of the week, the months of the year and verbs and sentences related to everyday activities and schedules.

## Goals of This Chapter:

- How to ask for and tell time.
- The days of the weeks and months in Tamil.
- Typical daily activities in Tamil.
- Explaining your daily schedule to someone and understanding theirs.

# CHAPTER 6.1 WEEK DAYS AND MONTHS IN TAMIL

## Tamil Weekdays (Thamil Vaara Nalkal) தமிழ் வார நாள்கள்

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | SUNDAY | ஞாயிறு |
| 2 | MONDAY | திங்கள் |
| 3 | TUESDAY | செவ்வாய் |
| 4 | WEDNESDAY | புதன் |
| 5 | THURSDAY | வியாழன் |
| 6 | FRIDAY | வெள்ளி |
| 7 | SATURDAY | சனி |

Short form of Tamil weekdays. Image by Charath Mohan. Used by permission

Weekdays in Tamil full form. Image by Charath Mohan. Used by permission

| English | Transliteration | Tamil |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday | Nyaayitru-kizhamai | ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமை |
| Monday | Thingat-kizhamai | திங்கட்கிழமை |
| Tuesday | Sevvaai-kizhamai | செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை |
| Wednesday | Budhan-kizhamai | புதன்கிழமை |
| Thursday | Vyaazha-kizhamai | வியாழக்கிழமை |
| Friday | Velli-kizhamai | வெள்ளிக்கிழமை |
| Saturday | Sani-kizhamai | சனிக்கிழமை |

Here is the audio for learning to pronounce the Tamil week days. This teaches you how to say the name of the day , followed by formal and spoken pronunciation.

> *One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=318#audio-318-1*

# Tamil Months (Tamil Mathamkal) தமிழ் மாதங்கள்



Tamil Months. Image by Charath
Mohan. Used by permission

| Tamil Month | Transliteration | Duration of Month Compared to English Months |
|---|---|---|
| சித்திரை | Chitthirai | mid-April to mid-May |
| வைகாசி | Vaikāsi | mid-May to mid-June |
| ஆனி | Āani | mid-June to mid-July |
| ஆடி | Āadi | mid-July to mid-August |
| ஆவணி | Āavaṇi | mid-August to mid-September |
| புரட்டாசி | Puraṭṭāsi | mid-September to mid-October |
| ஐப்பசி | Aippasi | mid-October to mid-November |
| கார்த்திகை | Kārthigai | mid-November to mid-December |
| மார்கழி | Mārgaḻi | mid-December to mid-January |
| தை | Thai | mid-January to mid-February |
| மாசி | Maāsi | mid-February to mid-March |
| பங்குனி | Panguni | mid-March to mid-April |

Here is the audio for learning the Tamil months.

> 🎵 One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=318#audio-318-2

Tamil months © Vidya Mohan 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

# Activity for Tamil Weekdays:

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> https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=318#h5p-46

# Spoken/Pronunciation Activity for Tamil Months:

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> https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=318#h5p-49

# CHAPTER 6.2 TELLING TIME

In this lesson, we are going to practice using our number skills to tell time and parts of the day.

The word for "o'clock" in Tamil is "mani" (மணி). We add the number before this word to say time. Two o'clock would be "Irandu mani" "இரண்டு மணி".

## List of Time:

Note: Only the number one changes from 'Ondru" to "oru"

| Time/Hour | Tamil | Time/Hour | Tamil |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1:00 | ஒரு **மணி** | 7:00 | **ஏழு மணி** |
| 2:00 | **இரண்டு மணி** | 8:00 | எட்டு மணி |
| 3:00 | மூன்று மணி | 9:00 | ஒன்பது மணி |
| 4:00 | நாங்கு மணி | 10:00 | பத்து மணி |
| 5:00 | ஐந்து மணி | 11:00 | பதினொன்று மணி |
| 6:00 | ஆறு மணி | 12:00 | பனிரெண்டு மணி |

The word for minute is நிமிடம். To say the correct time, we add the "Mani" followed by the "nimidam" Two twenty (2:20) will be இரண்டு மணி இருவது நிமிடம். It is acceptable to just say "இரண்டு இருவது" in a conversation about time.

## Parts of the Day:

### இரவு

| English | Formal Tamil | Spoken Tamil | Also Used |
|---------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Morning | **காலை** | காத்தல | |
| Afternoon | **பிற்பகல்** | மதியம் | மத்யானம் |
| Evening | **மாலை** | சய்ந்திரம் | சாயங்க்கால்ம் |
| Night | **இரவு** | **ராத்திரி** | |

In spoken Tamil we say:
காலை மணி எட்டு பத்து (Morning eight ten)

மதியானம் 1:00 மணி (afternoon one o'clock)
சாய்திரம் 5:00மணி (evening 5:00 o'clock)
ராத்திரி பத்து மணி (night 10:00 o'clock)

> ♫ *One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=538#audio-538-1*

Telling time in spoken Tamil © Vidya Mohan 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

## Activity for telling time: H5P

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> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=538#h5p-54*

> *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=538#h5p-55*

# CHAPTER 6.3: EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES AND COMMON SCHEDULES

In this lesson, we are going to learn the common verbs and vocabulary needed to describe our daily activities and schedules. This lesson is going to use spoken Tamil for most of the sentences.

The action verbs that we are going to learn are given in the plain "command" form. The students are going to learn to add the proper suffixes to make them meaningful in their sentences.

## Common Vocabulary List for Talking About a Student's Schedule

1. **வகுப்பு** – Class
2. **பாடம்** – Lesson
3. **நன்பன்** – Male friend
4. **தோழி** – Female friend
5. **நன்பர்கள்** – Plural and includes all genders
6. **ஆசிரியர்** – Teacher
7. **பேராசிரியர்** – Professor
8. **நேர் நிகர்** – Virtual
9. **பதிவேற்றாம்** – Upload
10. **சந்திப்பு** – Meeting
11. **நேரம்** – Time

Learn these vocabulary words with this activity:

*An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=321#h5p-50*

## Everyday University Student Activity Verbs

**Action verbs and action verb phrases for everyday activities for a regular university student.**

| No | English Verb | Transliteration | Tamil |
|----|--------------|-----------------|-------|
| 1 | Study/Read | **படி** | padi |
| 2 | Write | **எழுது** | ezhuthu |
| 3 | Do Research | **ஆராய்ச்சி** செய் | Aaraichi sei |
| 4 | Take notes | **குறிப்பு எழுது** | Kurippu ezhuthu |
| 5 | Submit assignments | **வகுப்பு** பணி சப்மிட் செய் | Vakuppu pani submit sei |
| 6 | Work | **வேலை** | velai |
| 7 | Commute/Travel | **பயணம்** | payanam |
| 8 | Exercise | **உடல் பயிர்ச்சி** | Udarpayirchi |
| 9 | Play sports | _____விலையாடு | (Name of sport) vilaiyaadu |
| 10 | Play an musical instrument | _____ வாசி | (Name of instrument) Vaasi |
| 11 | Eat | **சாப்பிடு** | saapadu |
| 12 | Sleep | **தூங்கு** | thungu |
| 13 | Take a shower | **குளி** | kuli |
| 14 | Brush/ Comb your hair | **தலை வாறு** | Thali vaaru |
| 15 | Brush your teeth | **பல் தேய்** | Pal thei |
| 16 | Rest | **ஓய்வு** | oivu |
| 17 | Sing | **பாடு** | paadu |
| 18 | Dance | **நடனம் ஆடு** | Nadanam aadu |
| 19 | Meet friends | நண்பர்களை சந்தி | Nhanbarkalai sandhi |
| 20 | Watch TV shows/ Movies | திரைப்படங்கள்/டிவி நிகழ்ச்சிகளைப் பார் | thiraipadangal/ TV nigalchi paar |
| 21 | Cooking (to cook) | சமையல் செய் | Samayal sei |
| 22 | Wash dishes | பாத்திரம் கழுவு | Patiram kazuvu |
| 21 | Clean the house | வீட்டை சுத்தம் செய் | Vittai sutham sei |
| 22 | Wash the cloths | **துணி** துவை | Thuni thivai |
| 23 | Get ready | தயார் ஆகு | Thayar agu |
| 25 | Wake up | எழுந்திரு | Ezhinthiru |

# Morning Schedule Activity:

In this activity, we are using first-person habitual tense to make sentences to describe the morning routine of a student. This is an example for you to learn to do the activity that is provided after this table. Look at the picture in the first column that gives you the verb, the second column gives you the time and the third column gives you the sentence to read.

| Picture of Verb To Use | Part of Day and Time | Completed Sentence in Tamil |
|---|---|---|
| Ringing alarm waking a girl up from sleep. Image by brgfx on freepik | காலை 6:30 | நான் காலை ஆறு முப்பதுக்கு எழுந்திருப்பேன் |
| Girl brushing teeth. Image by brgfx on freepik | காலை 6:35 | காலை ஆறு முப்பதியைந்துக்கு பல் தேய்பேன் |
| Girl getting dressed. Image by brgfx on freepik | காலை 6:45 | காலை ஆறு நாப்பத்தி ஐந்துக்கு தரார் ஆவேன் |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A boy eating breakfast at the table. Image by brgfx on freepik | காலை 7:00 | காலை ஏழு மணிக்கு காலை உணவு சாப்புடுவேன் |
| Cheerful Young Girl going to school. Image by brgfx on freepik | காலை 7:30 | காலை ஏழு முப்பதுக்கு பள்ளிக்கு போவேன் |

## Evening Schedule:

Now use this example to fill out the following schedule in first person habitual tense. Look at the picture in the first column that gives you the verb, the second column gives you the time, and in the third column you will write one sentence describing what you are doing at that given time as shown in the example above.

Discribing daily activities worksheet with CC for pictures

# Listening Activity:

Listen to this audio and answer the questions in the interactivity below.

*One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=321#audio-321-1*

Raja's schedule © Vidya Mohan 2024, CC BY-NC 4.0

Listen to this audio of a persons schedule and answer the questions below.

*An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=321#h5p-56*

PART VII
# CHAPTER 7: DESCRIBING THINGS AND PLACES



A collection of random objects. Image by Jill Clards on Flickr. CC by attribution.

One of the main skills needed for communication is the ability to describe things. Even when you do not know the proper word to use we can always get around it by describing it in a roundabout way. Knowing the directions and how to understand the way to get to and from a place is an important skill for anyone, even a casual tourist. Descriptions are what make a normal book a great book. Language develops and mesmerizes when descriptive words are used.

## Goals of This Chapter:

- To learn adjectives and adverbs in Tamil.
- To understand how adjectives and adverbs are made from Verbs and Nouns in Tamil.
- To learn how to use language to describe things you see in daily life to another person.
- To learn basic skills of understanding your own location and understand basic directions as a traveller.

# CHAPTER 7.1 ADJECTIVES IN TAMIL

## Tamil Adjective

In Tamil adjectives are made of adding suffixes to nouns. All words are either verbs or nouns and suffixes are added to make the nouns into adjectives and adverbs. We add "ஆன" to make a noun into a adjective in Tamil.

Example using +அன make adjectives In the following table look at the first column.

The suffix ஆன is added to the words to make it an adjective. We will see how this works in a sentence.

| Adjective | English | Noun | English |
|-----------|---------|------|---------|
| அழகான | beautiful | அழகு | beauty |
| நீலமான | blue | நீலம் | blueness |
| பச்சையான | green | பச்சை | green-ness |
| உப்பான | salty | உப்பு | salt, |
| உயரமான | Is tall | உயரம் | Tall |

தாமரை அழகான பூ – Lotus is a beautiful flower.
நீளமான கயிறால் கட்டினான் – He used a long rope to tie.
அது பச்சையான சட்டை – That is a green shirt.
கடல் நீர் உப்பானது – Seawater is salty
அவர் உயரமான ஆள் – He is a tall man.

In nouns ending with ம் can be used as an adjective with the final ம் removed:
மர நாற்காலி wooden chair (மரம் = மர).
பணக்காரர் rich person (பணம் =பண).

## Common Words

Here is a list of common words that are used with the proper suffix as adjectives in Tamil. You will notice that some of them have the suffix added to it already.

**Colors**

| English Adjectives | Tamil Adjectives |
|---|---|
| Colors | nirangal – நிறங்கள் |
| black | karuppu – கருப்பு |
| blue | neelam – நீலம் |
| brown | pazhuppu – பழுப்பு |
| gray | saambal – சாம்பல் |
| green | pachchai – பச்சை |
| orange | semmanjal – செம்மஞ்சள் |
| purple | oothaa – ஊதா |
| red | sikappu – சிகப்பு |
| white | vellai – வெள்ளை |
| yellow | manjal – மஞ்சள் |

**Sizes**

| English Adjectives | Tamil Adjectives |
|---|---|
| Sizes | parimaanangal – பரிமானங்கள் |
| big | periya – பெரிய |
| deep | aazhamaana – ஆழமான |
| long | neelamaana – நீளமான |
| narrow | kurukalaana – குறுகலான |
| short | kuttaiyaana – குட்டையான |
| small | siriya – சிறிய |
| tall | uyaramaana – உயரமான |
| thick | thadiyaana – தடியான |
| thin | olliyaana – ஒல்லியான |
| wide | akalamaana – அகலமான |

**Shapes**

| English Adjectives | Tamil Adjectives |
|---|---|
| Shapes | vadivangal – வடிவங்கள் |
| circular | vattamaana – வட்டமான |
| straight | neraana – நேரான |
| square | sathuramaana – சதுரமான |
| triangular | mukkonamaana – முக்கோணமான |

**Tastes**

| English Adjectives | Tamil Adjectives |
|---|---|
| Tastes | suvaikal – சுவைகள் |
| bitter | kasappaana – கசப்பான |
| fresh | uvarppatra – உவர்ப்பற்ற |
| salty | uppu karikkira – உப்பு கரிக்கிற |
| sour | pulippaana – புளிப்பான |
| spicy | kaarasaaram aana – காரசாரமான |
| sweet | inippaana – இனிப்பான |

**Qualities**

| English Adjectives | Tamil Adjectives |
|---|---|
| Qualities | tharangal – தரங்கள் |
| bad | mosamaana – மோசமான |
| clean | suththamaana – சுத்தமான |
| dark | karu niramaana – கரு நிறமான |
| difficult | kadinamaana – கடினமான |
| dirty | azhukkaana – அழுக்கான |
| dry | kaaindha – காய்ந்த |
| easy | yelithaana – எளிதான |
| empty | kaliyana – காலியான |
| expensive | kiraakkiyaana – கிராக்கியான |
| fast | vekamaana – வேகமான |
| foreign | ayalaana – அயலான |
| full | niraindha – நிறைந்த |
| good | nalla – நல்ல |
| hard | kettiyaana – கெட்டியான |
| heavy | kanamaana – கனமான |
| inexpensive | malivaana – மலிவான |
| light | ilesaana – இலேசான |
| local | oritaththirkuriya – ஒரிடத்திற்குரிய |
| new | puthiya – புதிய |
| noisy | saththamaana – சத்தமான |
| old | pazhaya – பழைய |
| powerful | sakthi ulla – சக்தியுள்ள |
| quiet | asaiyaatha – அசையாத |
| correct | sariyaana – சரியான |
| slow | methuvaana – மெதுவான |
| soft | miruthuvaana – மிருதுவான |
| very | mikavum – மிகவும் |
| weak | valukkuraindha – வலுக்குறைந்த |
| wet | eeramana – ஈரமான |

| English Adjectives | Tamil Adjectives |
|---|---|
| wrong | thavaraana – தவறான |
| young | ilamaiyaana – இளமையான |

## Quantities

| English Adjectives | Tamil Adjectives |
|---|---|
| Quantities | alavukal – அளவுகள் |
| few | kuraivaana – குறைவான |
| little | sirithalavaana – சிறிதளவான |
| many | yeraalamaana – ஏராளமான |
| much | mikundha – மிகுந்த |
| part | pakuthi – பகுதி |
| some | konjam – கொஞ்சம் |
| a few | sila – சில |
| whole | muzhumaiyaana – முழுமையான |

# CHAPTER 7.2 ADVERBS IN TAMIL

## Tamil Adverbs

In Tamil, most nouns can be made into adverbs by adding the suffix "ஆக". Let us look at the use of the same words that we used as adjectives in their adverbial form. We will also use the same kind of sentence for this part. Here, you will see the use of "இரு" in the sentences.

| Tamil Adverb | English | Tamil Noun | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| அழகாக | beautifully | அழகு | beauty |
| மெலிதாக | softly | மெலிது | softness |
| நீலமாக | blue-ly | நீலம் | blueness |
| பச்சையாக | green-ly | பச்சை | green-ness |
| உப்பாக | saltily | உப்பு | salt, saltiness |

For reference, here are the sentences using the adjectives again:

தாமரை அழகான பூ – Lotus is a beautiful flower.

நீளமான கயிறால் கட்டினான் – He used a long rope to tie.

அது பச்சையான சட்டை -That is a green shirt.

கடல் நீர் உப்பானது – Seawater is salty.

அவர் உயரமான ஆள் – He is a tall man.

Now let us look at the adverbial forms of the same sentences:

தாமரை அழகாக இருக்கிரது The lotus is beautiful.

அவன் கட்டும் கயிறு நீளாமக இருக்கிரது The rope he is tying is long.

ஆந்த சட்டை பச்சையாக இருக்கிரது That shirt is green.

கடல் நீர் உப்பாட இருக்கும் Sea water will be salty.

அவர் உயரமாக இருக்கிரார் He is tall.

## Common Adverbs

Here is a list of common adverbs that are used in conversations.

**Adverbs of time**

| English Adverbs | Tamil Adverbs |
|---|---|
| yesterday | netru – **நேற்று** |
| today | inru – **இன்று** |
| tomorrow | naalai – **நாளை** |
| now | ippozhuthu – **இப்பொழுது** |
| then | appozhuthu – **அப்பொழுது** |
| later | piraku – **பிறகு** |
| tonight | inriravu – **இன்றிரவு** |
| right now | ippozhudhe – **இப்பொழுதே** |
| last night | netriravu – **நேற்றிரவு** |
| this morning | inru kaalai – **இன்று காலை** |
| next week | aduththa vaaram – **அடுத்த வாரம்** |
| already | yerkenave – **ஏற்கெனவே** |
| recently | anmaiyil – **அண்மையில்** |

| English Adverbs | Tamil Adverbs |
|---|---|
| lately | sirithu kaalaththirku mun – சிறிது காலத்திற்கு முன் |
| soon | viraivil – **விரைவில்** |
| immediately | udanadiyaai – உடனடியாய்**உடனடியாய்** |
| still | innum – **இன்னும்** |
| yet | aayinum – **ஆயினும்** |
| ago | munnar – முன்னர் |

**Adverbs of place**

| English Adverbs | Tamil Adverbs |
|---|---|
| here | ivvidam – இவ்விடம் |
| there | avvidam – அவ்விடம் |
| over there | atho tholaivilulla – அதோ தொலைவிலுள்ள |
| everywhere | yella idankalilum – எல்ல இடங்களிலும் |
| anywhere | yendha idaththilaavathu – எந்த இடத்திலாவது |
| nowhere | yenkumindri – எங்குமின்றி |
| home | veedu – வீடு |
| away | tholaivil – தொலைவில் |
| out | veliye – வெளியே |

**Adverbs of manner**

| English Adverbs | Tamil Adverbs |
|---|---|
| very | mikavum – **மிகவும்** |
| quite | murrilum – முற்றிலும் |
| pretty | azhaku vaaindha – அழகு வாய்ந்த |
| really | unmaiyaaga – உண்மையாக |
| fast | vekamaaga – வேகமாக |
| well | nanku – நன்கு |
| hard | kadinamaaga – கடினமாக |
| quickly | vekamaaga – வேகமாக |
| slowly | medhuvaaga – மெதுவாக |
| carefully | kavanamaaga – கவனமாக |
| hardly | apoorvamaaga – அபூர்வமாக |

| | |
|---|---|
| barely | pothum pothaamal – போதும் போதாமல் |
| mostly | perumpaalum – பெரும்பாலும் |
| almost | anekamaaka – அநேகமாக |
| absolutely | murrilumaaga – முற்றிலுமாக |
| together | onraai – ஒன்றாய் |
| alone | thannanthaniyaaga – தன்னந்தனியாக |

**Adverbs of frequency**

| English Adverbs | Tamil Adverbs |
|---|---|
| always | yeppozhuthum – எப்பொழுதும் |
| frequently | adikkadi – அடிக்கடி |
| usually | vazhakkamaaga – வழக்கமாக |
| sometimes | sila samayam – சில சமயம் |
| occasionally | yeppozhuthaavathu – எப்பொழுதாவது |
| seldom | apoorvamaai – அபூர்வமாய் |
| rarely | arithaai – அரிதாய் |
| never | yenrum illaadha nilaiyil – என்றும் இல்லாத நிலையில் |

# CHAPTER 7.3 PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions of location in Tamil are used along with the proper case suffixes. Pakkam/**பக்கம்** is used to describe the side. Right side would be **வலது பக்கம்**/Valathu pakkam and Left side would be **இடது பக்கம்**/Idathu pakkam.

| English Preposition | Tamil Preposition |
|---|---|
| And | மற்றும் [matrum] |
| Above/Over | மேலே [mele] |
| Under/Below | கீழே [keezhe] |
| Before | முன்பு [munpu] |
| After | பின்பு/பின்னால்/பிரகு [pinpu] |
| In front of | முன்னால் [munnāl] |
| Behind | பின்னால் [pinnāl] |
| Far from | தூரம் [thooram] |
| Near | பக்கம்/அருகில் [pakkam] |
| In/at | +இல் [il] (use as suffix) |
| Inside | உள்ளே [ulle] |
| Outside | வெளியே [veliye] |
| With | +உடன் [utan] (use as suffix) |
| Without | இல்லமல் [illāmal] |
| About | ஏறத்தாழ [eraththāzha] |
| Between | இடையே [itaiye] |
| But | ஆனால் [ānāl] |
| For | +க்கு [ikku] (use as suffix) |
| From | +இல்லிருந்து [Il irundhu] (use as suffix) |
| To | வரை [varai] |
| Next to | அடுத்து [aduthu] |

This is a video of the words in the table above being read

# CHAPTER 7.4 DESCRIBING THINGS

## Review of Basic Vocabulary for Describing Things:

### Colors

| English | Tamil with Transliteration |
|---------|----------------------------|
| Colors | nirangal – **நிறங்கள்** |
| black | karuppu – **கருப்பு** |
| blue | neelam – **நீலம்** |
| brown | pazhuppu – **பழுப்பு** |
| gray | saambal – **சாம்பல்** |
| green | pachchai – **பச்சை** |
| orange | semmanjal – **செம்மஞ்சள்** |
| purple | oothaa – **ஊதா** |
| red | sikappu – **சிகப்பு** |
| white | vellai – **வெள்ளை** |
| yellow | manjal – **மஞ்சள்** |

# Size

| English | Tamil with Transliteration |
|---------|---------------------------|
| Measure | alavu – **அளவு** |
| Sizes/ Dimension | parimaanangal – **பரிமாணங்கள்** |
| big | periya – **பெரிய** |
| deep | aazhamaana – ஆழமான ( **ஆழம்** +ஆன) |
| long | neelamaana – நீளமான (**நீளம்** + ஆன) |
| narrow | kurukalaana – குறுகலான (**குறுகல்** + ஆன) |
| short | kuttaiyaana – குட்டையான (**குட்டை** +ஆன) |
| small | siriya – சிறிய |
| tall | uyaramaana – உயரமான (**உயரம்** + ஆன) |
| thick | thadiyaana – தடியான (**தடி** + ஆன) |
| thin | olliyaana – ஒல்லியான (**ஒல்லி** + ஆன) |
| wide | akalamaana – அகலமான (**அகலம்** + ஆன) |

# Prepositions (Location)

| English Preposition | Tamil Preposition With Transliteration |
|---|---|
| And | **மற்றும்** [matrum] |
| Above/Over | **மேலே** [mele] |
| Under/Below | **கீழே** [keezhe] |
| Before | **முன்பு** [munpu] |
| After | **பின்பு/பின்னால்/பிரகு** [pinpu] |
| In front of | **முன்னால்** [munnāl] |
| Behind | **பின்னால்** [pinnāl] |
| Far from | **தூரம்** [thooram] |
| Near | **பக்கம்/அருகில்** [pakkam] |
| In/at | +**இல்** [il] (use as suffix) |
| Inside | **உள்ளே** [ulle] |
| Outside | **வெளியே** [veliye] |
| With | +**உடன்** [utan] (use as suffix) |
| Without | **இல்லமல்** [illāmal] |
| About | **ஏறத்தாழ** [eraththāzha] |
| Between | **இடையே** [itaiye] |
| But | **ஆனல்** [ānāl] |
| For | +**க்கு** [ikku] (use as suffix) |
| From | +**இல்லிருந்து** [Il irundhu] (use as suffix) |
| To | **வரை** [varai] |
| Next to | **அடுத்து** [aduthu] |

## Simple Sentences to Learn:



Road with long yellow line. Image by 316pixel on Freepik

That is a long line: அது ஒரு நீளமான கோடு (கோடு (Kōṭu)- Line)

That is a yellow line: அது ஒரு மஞ்சள் கோடு

That is a long yellow line: அது ஒரு நீளமான மஞ்சள் கோடு

The yellow line is in the middle of the road: மஞ்சள் கோடு சாலையின் நடுவில் இருக்கிரது



White dog sitting in grass. Picture by Salima Senyavskaya. CC by attribution.

That is a white dog: அது ஒரு வெள்ளை நாய்

The dog is outside: நாய் வெளியே இருக்கிரது

Dog sitting under chair. From Brown Vectors by Vecteezy. CC by attribution.

The brown dog is sitting below the purple chair: பழுப்பு நிற நாய் ஊதா நிற நாற்காலியின் கீழே அமர்ந்திருக்கிறது



Image by © Aleksey Vanin| Dreamstime.com. CC by attribution.

The chair is next to the table: நாற்காலி மேசைக்கு அருகில் இருக்கிறது
The table is under a tall tree: உயரமான மரத்தடியில் மேஜை இருக்கிறது

## Activity One:

Listen to the description and pick the correct item described:

## Activity Two:

Describe one of the pictures in three sentences. Upload the audio of yourself reading the three sentences into the box provided below. The three written sentences have to be submitted to your teacher as per your class rules.



Children playing 1. Image by Matthew Cole on Alamy Stock Vector. CC by attribution.

Children playing 2. Image by Matthew Cole on Alamy Stock Vector. CC by attribution.

Some words to help you make the sentences : மரம் – Tree, குழந்தைகள் – Children, பெண் – girl, பையன் – boy, மரவீடு – tree house, கணினி – computer, ஐஸ் கிரீம் – ice cream, ஓவியம் – art/painting, விளையாட்டு – play, பச்சை – green, சிவப்பு – red, இளம் சிவப்பு – pink, மஞ்சள் – yellow, நீலம் – blue , பழுப்பு – brown, சட்டை – shirt, உடை – dress, தொப்பி – hat, பலூன் – baloon.

An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=232#h5p-51*

# CHAPTER 7.5 DESCRIBING LOCATION

## Basic Vocabulary for Describing Places:

### Directions and Location/திசைகள் மற்றும் இடங்கள்

| Direction in English | Direction in Tamil | Transliteration |
|---|---|---|
| North | **வடக்கு** | Vaṭakku |
| South | **தெற்கு** | Teṟku |
| East | **கிழக்கு** | Kiḻakku |
| West | **மேற்கு** | Merku |
| Northeast | **வடகிழக்கு** | Vaṭakiḻakku |
| Northwest | **வடமேற்கு** | Vaṭameṟku |
| Southeast | **தென்கிழக்கு** | Teṉkiḻakku |
| Southwest | **தென்மேற்கு** | Teṉmēṟku |
| Right | **வலது** | Valatu |
| Left | **இடது** | Iṭatu |
| Up | **மேலே** | Mele |
| Down | **கிழே** | Kil |
| Front | **முன்**/முன்னால் | Muṉ |
| Back | **பின்**/பின்னால் | Piṉ |
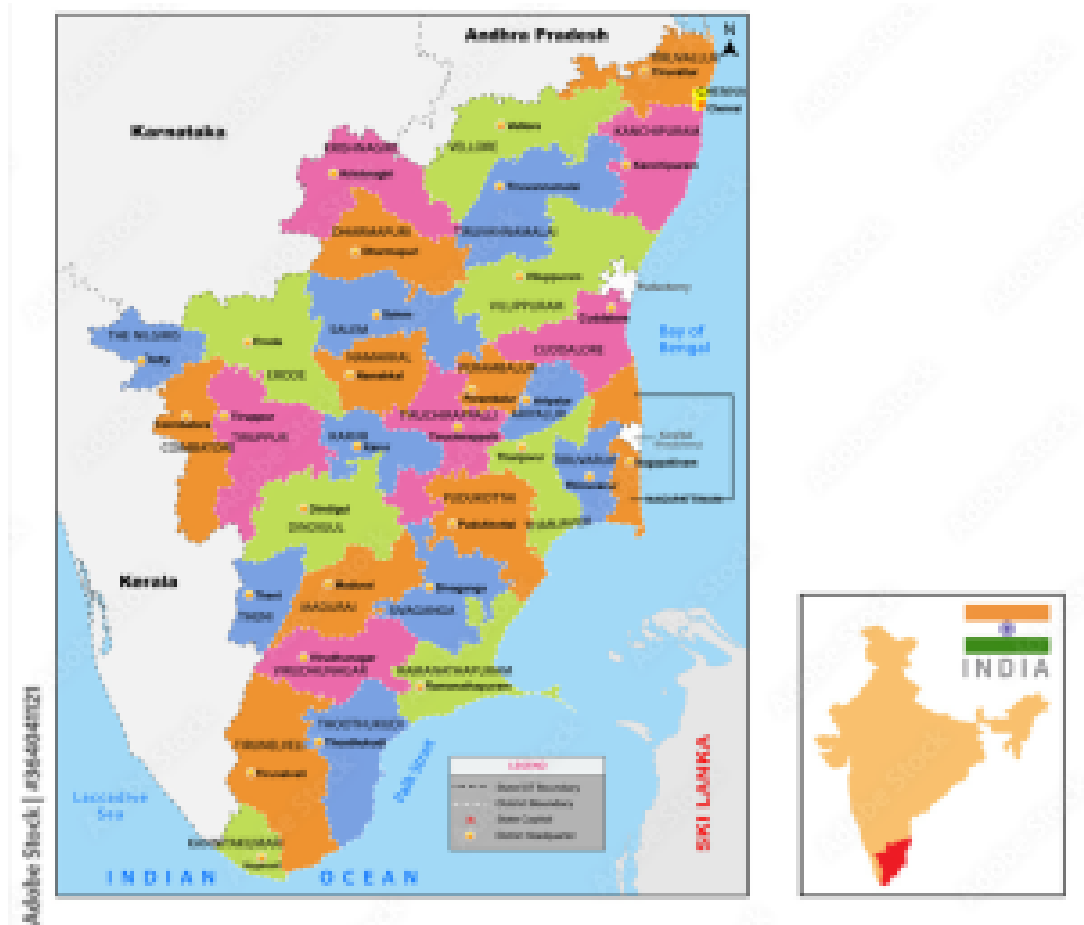
Map of Tamilnadu by awesome artt on Adobe stock. Standard license Sentences to learn to talk about location using the map of Tamil Nadu shown above.

New Vocabulary in the sentences:

Bay of Bengal – Vangala Virigida/ வங்காள விரிகுடா

State – Manilam/மாநிலம்

Sri Lanka – Ilangai/இலங்கை

Karnataka – Karnatakam/கர்நாடகா

Andhra Pradesh – Andra Pradesham/ஆந்திரப் பிரதேசம்

Strait – Jala chandi/ஜலசந்தி

| English Sentence | Tamil Sentence | Transliteration |
|---|---|---|
| Tamil Nadu is in the South of India. | தமிழ்நாடு இந்தியாவின் தென்பகுதியில் உள்ளது. | Tamiḻnāṭu intiyāviṉ teṉpakutiyil uḷḷatu. |
| The Bay of Bengal is to the East of Tamil Nadu | வங்காள விரிகுடா தமிழ்நாட்டின் கிழக்கே உள்ளது | Vaṅkāḷa virikuṭā tamiḻnāṭṭiṉ kiḻakkē uḷḷatu |
| Sri Lanka is to the South East of Tamil Nadu. | இலங்கை தமிழ்நாட்டின் தென்கிழக்கில் உள்ளது. | ilaṅkai tamiḻnāṭṭiṉ teṉkiḻakkil uḷḷatu. |
| The Indian Ocean is to the South of Tamil Nadu | இந்தியப் பெருங்கடல் தமிழ்நாட்டின் தெற்கே உள்ளது | Intiyap peruṅkaṭal tamiḻnāṭṭiṉ teṟkē uḷḷatu |
| The State of Kerala is to the West of Tamil Nadu. | கேரள மாநிலம் தமிழ்நாட்டின் மேற்கில் உள்ளது. | kēraḷa mānilam tamiḻnāṭṭiṉ mēṟkil uḷḷatu. |
| The State of Karnataka is to the North west of Tamil Nadu. | கர்நாடகா மாநிலம் தமிழ்நாட்டின் வடமேற்கே உள்ளது. | Karṇāṭakā mānilam tamiḻnāṭṭiṉ vaṭamēṟkē uḷḷatu. |
| Andhra Pradesh is to the north of Tamil Nadu | ஆந்திரப் பிரதேசம் தமிழ்நாட்டின் வடக்கே உள்ளது | Āntirap piratēcam tamiḻnāṭṭiṉ vaṭakkē uḷḷatu |
| The Palk Strait is in between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka | பாக் ஜலசந்தி தமிழகத்திற்கும் இலங்கைக்கும் இடையில் உள்ளது | pāk jalacanti tamiḻakattiṟkum ilaṅkaikkum iṭaiyil uḷḷatu |

Listen to the same sentences in spoken Tamil:

🎵 *One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/ basictamil/?p=365#audio-365-1*

## True/False Activity:

Pick out the true and false sentences in the H5P activity below based on the information in the table above:

📰 *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
*https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=365#h5p-71*

## Picture and Description Activity:



Cityscape with buildings and roads. By Kristina on Adobe stock. Standard license,.

Look at the picture above and write five sentences describing the location and description of the buildings. Read them aloud and record them in the audio bar provided below. The compass on the bottom gives you the directions.

> 📄 *An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*
> *https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/basictamil/?p=365#h5p-70*

# Chapter 1.5

[Transcription of slides in video](#)

## Slide 1

Examples for pronouncing
க, ச, ட, த, ப in Tamil words

## Slide 2

"க" is pronounces as "gh" when in between vowels and after ய் and
ர்

- "ச" is pronounced as "ja" after nasal consonants
- "ட" is pronounced "da" after nasal consonants and between vowels
- "ப" is pronounced "ba" after nasal consonants and between vowels
- The examples in this video are taken from the book "Tamil Language in context" By Professor. Vasu Ranganathan

## Slide 3

க is pronounced 'gh' between vowels and after ர் and ய்

- பகல் (paghal) 'day'
- மகன் (maghan) 'son'
- மகள் (mashal) 'daughter'
- ஊர்கள் (Urghal) 'towns'
- நாய்கள்(naai-ghal) 'dogs'

க is pronounced 'k' in word initial position and in clusters

- கப்பல் (kappal) 'ship'
- கடல் (kaDal) 'ocean'
- பக்கம் (pakkam ) 'side'
- தூக்கம் (tuukkam ) 'sleep'

## Slide 4

ச is pronounced 'j' after nasal consonants:

- பஞ்சு (anjcu) 'cotton'
- நஞ்சு (nanjcu)'poison'
- அஞ்சு (anjcu) 'fear'

ச is pronounced 'sa' between vowels and optionally in word initial position

- தோசச (toosai)'dosa'
- ஆசை (aasai) 'desire'
- மாசம் (maasam)'month'
- சனி (sani) 'Saturday'
- செவ்வாய் (cevvaay) 'Tuesday'

ச is pronounced 'ch' in word initial position and in clusters:

- சக்கரம் (cakkaram) 'wheel'
- சனி (cani) 'Saturday'
- செவ்வாய் (cevvaay) 'Tuesday'
- பச்சை (paccai) 'green'
- எச்சில் (eccil) 'saliva'

## Slide 5

ட is pronounced "da"after nasal consonants and between vowels:

- துண்டு (tuNdu) 'towel'
- கரண்டி (karaNDi) 'spoon'
- நண்டு (naDu) 'crab'
- படம் (paDam)'picture'
- ஓடம் (ooDam) 'boat'
- நாடு (naaDu) 'country'

ட is pronounced "ta" in word initial position and in clusters

- டமாரம் (Tamaaram) 'a drum'
- டீ (Tii) 'tea'
- டைம் (Taim) 'time'
- பட்டு (paTTu) 'silk'
- பூட்டு (puuTTu) 'lock'

- காட்டு (kaaTTu) 'show'

# Slide 6

த is pronounced "dh" after nasal consonants and between vowels:

- பந்து (pandu) 'ball'
- இந்த (inda) 'this – adjective'
- அந்த (anda) 'that-adjective'
- அது (adu) 'that'
- பாதை (paadai) 'route/way'
- மோது (moodu) 'dash/strike'

த is pronounced "th" in word initial position and in clusters

- தமிழ் (tamizh) 'Tamil'
- தண்ணீர் (taNNiir) 'water'
- திங்கள் (tingaL) 'Monday'
- பத்து (pattu) 'ten'
- கத்து (kattu) 'scream'
- எழுத்து (ezhuttu) 'letter/script'

# Slide 7

ப is pronounced "ba" after nasal consonants and between vowels:

- தம்பி (tambi) 'younger brother'
- திரும்பு (tirumbu) 'turn'
- எண்பது (eNbadu) 'eighty'
- கோபம் (kooba~) 'anger'
- அபாயம் (abaaya~) 'danger'
- சாபம் (caaba~) 'curse'

ப is pronounced "pa" in word initial position and in clusters

- படி (paDi) 'study'
- பழம் (pazha~) 'fruit'
- பணம் (paNa~) 'money'
- அப்பா (appaa) 'father'
- தப்பு (tappu) 'mistake'
- துப்பு (tuppu) 'spit'

# Chapter 2.2

More about pronouns

1. Subject Pronoun
    1. First Person – I நான் and We நாம்/ நாங்கள்
    2. Second Person – You நீ/ நீங்கள்
    3. Third Person – He, She, It, They, அவன் , அவள் , இது , அது , அவர், அவர்கள் , அவை
2. Object Pronoun
    1. First Person – Me என்னை , Us நம்மை / எங்களை
    2. Second Person – You உன்னை / உங்களை
    3. Third Person – Him, Her, It, Them, That அவனை , அவளை , இதை/ அதை , அவர்களை , அவற்றை
3. Indirect Object Pronoun
    1. First Person – To me, To us ,எனக்கு , நமக்கு/எங்களுக்கு
    2. Second Person – To you உங்களுக்கு
    3. Third Person – To him, To her, To it , To them , அவனுக்கு/அவருக்கு , அவளுக்கு , அதற்க்கு , அவர்களுக்கு/அவற்றிற்கு
4. Possessive Pronoun
    1. First Person – Mine, Ours, என்னுடையது , நம்முடையது
    2. Second Person – Yours, உங்களுடையது
    3. Third Person – His, Her, Its, Their , That, அவனுடையது / அவருடையது , அவளுடையது , அதனுடையது , அவர்களுடையது , அவற்றின்
5. Pronoun with Ablative Cases
    1. First Person – From me, From us, என்னிடமிருந்து , நம்மிடமிருந்து / எங்களிடமிருந்து
    2. Second Person – From you, உங்களிடமிருந்து
    3. Third Person – From him, From her , From it , From them, அவனிடமிருந்து / அவரிடமிருந்து , அவளிடமிருந்து , ஐனிடமிருந்து , அவர்களிடமிருந்து.
6. Pronouns with Associative cases
    1. First Person – With me, With us, என்னுடன் , நம்முடன் /எங்களுடன்
    2. Second Person – With you , உங்களுடன்
    3. Third Person – With him, With her , With them , With that, அவனுடன் , அவளுடன் , ஐனுடன் , அவருடன் , அவர்களுடன் , அவற்றுடன்
7. Pronouns with Locative cases
    1. First Person – in / on me, in /on us, என்னிட்த்தில் , நம்மிட்த்தில் , எங்களிடம்
    2. Second Person – in / on you உங்களிடம்.
    3. Third Person – in / on him, in / on her, in / on it , in / on them , in / on that, அவனிடம் , அவளிடம் , அதனிடம் , அவரிடம் , அவர்களிடம் ,

அவற்றிடம்.

# Chapter 2.4 Pronouns and Case Suffixes

| Pronoun | Change (nominative form) | + Accusative ஐ | +Instrumental ஆல் | + Socitive ஓடு | + Dative க்கு | + Ablative and Locative இடம் | + Possessive உடைய | + Benefactive க்காக |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| நான் | என் | என்னை | என்னால் | என்னோடு | எனக்கு | என்னிடம் | என்னுடைய | எனக்காக |
| நீ | உன் | உன்னை | உன்னால் | உன்னோடு | உனக்கு | உன்னிடம் | உன்னுடைய | உனக்காக |
| நீங்கள் | உங்கள் | உங்களை | உங்களால் | உங்க(ளோ)டு | உங்க(ளுக்கு) | உங்களிடம் | உங்க(ளு)டைய | உங்க(ளு)க்காக |
| அவன் | அவன் | அவனை | அவனால் | அவ(னோ)டு | அவனுக்கு | அவனிடம் | அவனுடைய | அவனு)க்காக |
| அவர் | அவர் | அவரை | அவரால் | அவ(ரோ)டு | அவருக்கு | அவரிடம் | அவருடைய | அவரு)க்காக |
| அவள் | அவள் | அவளை | அவளால் | அவ(ளோ)டு | அவளுக்கு | அவளிடம் | அவ(ளு)டைய | அவ(ளு)க்காக |
| அது | அத-/அதன் | அதனை | அதனால் | அதோடு | அதற்கு | அதனிடம் | அதனுடைய | அதுக்காக |
| அவர்கள் | அவர்கள் | அவர்களை | அவர்களால் | அவர்க(ளோ)டு | அவர்க(ளுக்கு) | அவர்களிடம் | அவர்க(ளு)டைய | அவர்க(ளு)க்க |
| நாம் | நம் | நம்மை | நம்மால் | நம்மோடு | நமக்கு | நம்மிடம் | நம்முடைய | நமக்காக |
| நாங்கள் | எங்கள் | எங்களை | எங்களால் | எங்க(ளோ)டு | எங்க(ளுக்கு) | எங்களிடம் | எங்க(ளு)டைய | எங்க(ளு)க்காக |
| நீங்கள் | உங்கள் | உங்களை | உங்களால் | உங்க(ளோ)டு | உங்க(ளுக்கு) | உங்களிடம் | உங்க(ளு)டைய | உங்க(ளு)க்காக |
| இது | இத/இது ன | இதனை | இதனால் | இதோடு | இதுக்கு | இதனிடம் | இதனுடைய | இது)க்காக |
| இவை | இவை/இ வற்ற- | இவற்றை | இவற்றால் | இவைகோடு | இவைகளுக்கு | இவைகளிடம் | இவ(ளு)டைய | இவைக(ளு)க்காக |
| அவை | அவை/அ வற்று- | அவற்றை | அவற்றால் | அவைகோடு | அவைகளுக்கு | அவைகளிடம் | அவ(ளு)டைய | அவைக(ளு)க்காக |

# Chapter 2.4 Prepositions

## Prepositions – 2nd Type

vEtRumai – 2 (ai)

வேற்றுமை – 2 (ஐ)

**Usage**: The 2nd vEtRumai is used when you apply an action on an object or person. (English does not have any explicit preposition that is used in this context. Only some pronouns seem to follow Tamil like pattern. For example, "Call him / Call her" – note that we do not say "Call he / Call she". However, we say "Call Raman / Call it").

**Note**:

1.  In Tamil, the preposition is not written separately. It is invariably merged with the associated object as a suffix.
2.  There are rules and conventions that may cause some additional letters to get inserted before the preposition.

| எழுதும் முறை | பேச்சு வழக்கு | Formal | Colloquial | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| மரம் + ஐ = மரத்தை | மரத்த | maram+ai = maraththai | maraththa | |
| நகம் + ஐ = நகத்தை<br>பழம் + ஐ = பழத்தை<br>படம் + ஐ = படத்தை | நகத்த<br>பழத்த<br>படத்த | ~nagam + ai = ~nagaththai<br>pazham + ai = pazhaththai<br>padam + ai = padaththai | ~nagaththa<br>pazhaththa<br>padaththa | |
| மரத்தை நடு | மரத்த நடு | maraththai ~nadu | maraththa ~nadu | plant (the) tree |
| நகத்தை வெட்டு | நகத்த வெட்டு | ~nagaththai vettu | ~nagaththa vettu | cut (the) nail |
| பழத்தை உரி | பழத்த உரி | pazhaththai uri | pazhaththa uri | peel (the) fruit |
| படத்தை மாட்டு | படத்த மாட்டு | padaththai mAttu | padaththa mAttu | hang (the) picture |
| | | | | |
| கார் + ஐ = காரை | கார | kAr + ai = kArai | kAra | |
| தேர் + ஐ = தேரை<br>பெயர் + ஐ = பெயரை<br>தயிர் + ஐ = தயிரை | தேர<br>பேர<br>தயிர | thEr + ai = thErai<br>peyar + ai = peyarai<br>thayir + ai = thayirai | thEra<br>pEra<br>thayira | |
| காரை ஓட்டு | கார ஓட்டு | kArai Ottu | kAra Ottu | drive (the) car |
| தேரை இழு | தேர இழு | thErai izhu | thEra izhu | pull (the) chariot |
| பெயரைச் சொல் | பேரச் சொல்லு | peyaraic col | pErac collu | tell (the) name |
| தயிரைக் குடி | தயிர குடி | thayiraik kudi | thayira kudi | drink (the) yogurt |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| மாடு + ஐ = மாட்டை | mAdu + ai = mAttai | மாட்ட | mAtta | |
| கூடு + ஐ = கூட்டை<br>வீடு + ஐ = வீட்டை<br>காடு + ஐ = காட்டை | kUdu + ai = kUttai<br>vIdu + ai = vIttai<br>kAdu + ai = kAttai | கூட்ட<br>வீட்ட<br>காட்ட | kUtta<br>vItta<br>kAtta | |
| மாட்டைக் கட்டு | mAttaik kattu | மாட்ட கட்டு | mAtta kattu | tie (the) cow |
| கூட்டைப் பார் | kUttaip pAr | கூட்ட பார் | kUtta pAr | look (at the) nest |
| வீட்டைக் கட்டு | vIttaik kattu | வீட்ட கட்டு | vItta kattu | build (the) house |
| காட்டைக் காப்பாற்று | kAttaik kAppAtRu | காட்ட காப்பாத்து | kAtta kAppAththu | save/protect (the) forest |
| | | | | |
| புலி + ஐ = புலியை | puli + ai = puliyai | புலிய | puliya | |
| துணி + ஐ = துணியை<br>விலை + ஐ = விலையை<br>கடலை + ஐ = கடலையை<br>வடை + ஐ = வடையை | thuNi + ai = thuNiyai<br>vilai + ai = vilaiyai<br>kadalai + ai = kadalaiyai<br>vadai + ai = vadaiyai | துணிய<br>வெலய<br>கடலய<br>வடய | thuNiya<br>velaya<br>kadalaya<br>vadaya | |
| புலியைப் பிடி | puliyaip pidi | புலிய பிடி | puliya pidi | catch (the) tiger |
| துணியை மடி | thuNiyai madi | துணிய மடி | thuNiya madi | fold (the) clothes |
| விலையைக் கேள் | vilaiyaik kEL | வெலய கேள் | velaya kEL | ask (the) price |
| கடலையைக் கடி | kadalaiyaik kadi | கடலய கடி | kadalaya kadi | bite (the) peanut |
| வடையைத் தின் | vadaiyaith thin | வடய தின்னு | vadaya thinnu | eat (the) vadai |
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| பேச்ச + ஐ = பேச்சை<br>பாட்டு + ஐ = பாட்டை<br>பருப்பு + ஐ = பருப்பை | pEccu + ai = pEccai<br>pAttu + ai = pAttai<br>paruppu + ai = paruppai | பேச்ச<br>பாட்ட பருப்ப | pEcca<br>pAtta<br>paruppa | |
| பேச்சை நிறுத்து | pEccai ~niRuththu | பேச்ச நிறுத்து | pEcca ~niRuththu | stop (the) talk |
| பாட்டைப் பாடு | pAttaip pAdu | பாட்ட பாடு | pAtta pAdu | sing (the) song |
| பருப்பைச் சாப்பிடு | paruppaic cAppidu | பருப்ப சாப்பிடு | paruppa sAppudu | eat (the) lentils |
| | | | | |
| சோறு + ஐ = சோற்றை<br>கயிறு + ஐ = கயிற்றை<br>சேறு + ஐ = சேற்றை<br>கிணாறு + ஐ = கிணற்றை | sORu + ai = sOtRai<br>kayiRu + ai = kayitRai<br>sERu + ai = sEtRai<br>kiNaRu + ai = kiNatRai | சோத்த<br>கயத்த சேத்த கெணத்த | sOththa<br>kayaththa<br>sEththa<br>keNaththa | |
| சோற்றைப் பிசை | sOtRaip pisai | சோத்த பெச | sOththa pesa | mix (the) rice |
| கயிற்றை இழு | kayitRai izhu | கயத்த இழு | kayaththa izhu | pull (the) rope |
| சேற்றை மிதிக்காதே | sEtRai midhikkAdhE | சேத்த மிதிக்காத | sEththa midhikkAdha | do not step on the mud |
| கிணற்றை வெட்டு | kiNatRai vettu | கெணத்த வெட்டு | keNaththa vettu | dig (the) well |
| | | | | |

| 2 எழுத்து வார்த்தை குறில் – (ண,ய்,ல்,ள்) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 ezhuththu vArththai kuRil + (N, y, l, L) | | | | |
| கண்ண + ஐ = கண்ணை<br>பெண்ண + ஐ = பெண்ணை<br>நெய்ய + ஐ = நெய்யை<br>கல் + ஐ = கல்லை<br>கள் + ஐ = கள்ளா | kaN + ai = kaNNai<br>peN + ai = peNNai<br>~ney + ai = ~neyyai<br>kal + ai = kallai<br>kaL + ai = kaLLai | கண்ணை<br>பெண்ணை<br>நெய்யய<br>கல்லை<br>கள்ளா | kaNNa<br>peNNa<br>~neyya<br>kalla<br>kaLLa | |
| கண்ணைத் திற | kaNNaith thiRa | கண்ணை தெற | kaNNa theRa | open (the) eye |
| பெண்ணைக் கூப்பிடு | peNNaik kUppidu | பெண்ணைக் கூப்பிடு | peNNaik kUppidu | call (the) woman |
| நெய்யைக் கல | ~neyyaik kala | நெய்யை கல | ~neyya kala | mix (the) ghee |
| கல்லை நகர்த்து | kallai ~nagarththu | கல்லை நகத்து | kalla ~nagaththu | move (the) stone |
| பல்லைத் தேய் | pallaith thEy | பல்லை தேய் | palla thEy | brush (the) teeth |
| கள்ளைக் குடிக்காதே | kaLLaik kudikkAdhE | கள்ளா குடிக்காதே | kaLLa kudikkAdhE | do not drink wine |
| (3+ எழுத்து வார்த்தை / 2 எழுத்து வார்த்தை நெடில்) – (ண,ய்,ல்,ள்) | (3+ ezhuththu vArththai / 2 ezhuththu vArththai ~nedil) + (N, y, l, L) | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| அரண் + ஐ = அரணை<br><br>மகள் + ஐ = மகளா<br>உரல் + ஐ = உரலை<br>காய் + ஐ = காய<br>பால் + ஐ = பாலை<br>கால் + ஐ = காலை<br>ராமன் + ஐ = ராமனை | araN + ai = araNai<br><br>magaL + ai = magaLai<br>ural + ai = uralai<br>kAy + ai = kAyai<br>pAl + ai = pAlai<br>kAl + ai = kAlai<br>rAman + ai = rAmanai | அரண<br><br>மகள<br>உரல<br>காய<br>பால<br>கால<br>ராமன | araNa<br><br>magaLa<br>urala<br>kAya<br>pAla<br>kAla<br>rAmana | build (the) fort |
| அரணைக் கட்டு | araNaik kattu | அரண கட்டு | araNa kattu | build (the) fort |
| மகளைக் கூப்பிடு | magaLaik kUppidu | மகளா கூப்பிடு | magaLa kUppudu | call (the) daughter |
| உரலைத் தூக்கு | uralaith thUkku | உரல தூக்கு | urala thUkku | lift (the) mortar |
| காயை நறுக்கு | kAyai ~naRukku | காய நறுக்கு | kAya ~naRukku | cut (the) vegetable |
| பாலைக் குடி | pAlaik kudi | பால குடி | pAla kudi | drink (the) milk |
| காலை மடக்கு | kAlai madakku | கால மடக்கு | kAla madakku | bend (the) leg |
| ராமனைக் கூப்பிடு | rAmanaik kUppidu | ராமன கூப்பிடு | rAmana kUppudu | call Raman |

# Word List

| Word | Transliteration | Meaning | Word | Transliteration | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| மரம் | maram | 1. n. tree<br>2. n. wood | பாட்டு | pAttu | n. song/poem |
| நடு | ~nadu | 1. v. plant (a tree)<br>2. adj. center; middle | பாடு | pAdu | v. sing |
| நகம் | ~nagam | n. (finger/toe) nail | பருப்பு | paruppu | n. lentils |
| வெட்டு | vettu | 1. v. cut;<br>2. dig (i.e. 'cut' the earth) | சாப்பிடு | sAppidu | v. eat |
| பழம் | pazham | n. fruit | சோறு | sORu | n. cooked rice |
| உரி | uri | 1. v. peel<br>2. n. skin (archaic) | பிசை | pisai | v. knead; mix |
| படம் | padam | n. picture | கயிறு | kayiRu | n. rope |
| மாட்டு | mAttu | 1. v. hang (a picture);<br>2. v. hook up | சேறு | sERu | n. mud |

| Tamil | Roman | English | Tamil | Roman | English |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ஒட்டு | Ottu | 1. v. drive 2. v. shoo away | மிதி | midhi | v. step on |
| தேர் | thEr | n. chariot | கிணறு | kiNaRu | n. (open) well |
| இழு | izhu | v. pull | வெட்டு | vettu | v. cut; dig |
| பெயர் | peyar | n. name | பால் | pAl | n. milk |
| சொல் | sol | 1. v. say 2. n. word | கூப்பிடு | kUppidu | v. call |
| தயிர் | thayir | n. yogurt | கண் | kaN | n. eye |
| குடி | kudi | 1. v. drink 2. n. citizen/subject | திற | thiRa | v. open |
| மாடு | mAdu | n. cow/cattle | பெண் | peN | n. woman; girl |
| கட்டு | kattu | 1. v. tie (rope, etc.); 2. v. build 3. n. bundle | நெய் | ~ney | n. ghee |

| Tamil | Romanization | Meaning | Meaning | Romanization | Tamil |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| கூடு | kUdu | 1. n. nest<br>2. v. assemble together | v. mix | kala | கல |
| பார் | pAr | 1. v. see; look<br>2. n. world | 1. n. stone<br>2. v. learn | kal | கல் |
| வீடு | vIdu | 1. n. house<br>2. n. nirvana/ mOksham | n. move; shift | ~nagarththu | நகர்த்து |
| காடு | kAdu | n. forest | n. tooth | pal | பல் |
| காப்பாற்று | kAppAtRu | v. save; protect | 1. v. brush; rub<br>2. v. diminish / wear out | thEy | தேய் |
| புலி | puli | n. tiger | n. wine | kaL | கள் |

| Tamil | Translit. | Meaning | Tamil | Translit. | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| பிடி | pidi | 1. v. catch<br>2. v. like<br>3. n. a measure of quantity (handful)<br>4. n. female elephant (archaic) | குடிக்காதே | kudikkAdhE | v. do not drink |
| துணி | thuNi | 1. n. clothes<br>2. n. cloth<br>3. v. act bravely; act decisively<br>4. v. cut (archaic) | அரண் | araN | n. fort |
| மடி | madi | 1. n. fold<br>2. v. die | கட்டு | kattu | 1. v. build<br>2. v. tie<br>3. n. bundle;<br>4. n. bandage; |
| விலை | vilai | n. price | மகள் | magaL | n. daughter |
| கேள் | kEL | 1. v. ask<br>2. v. listen | உரல் | ural | n. mortar |

| Tamil | Translit. | Meaning | Tamil | Translit. | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| கடலை | kadalai | n. peanut | துக்கு | thUkku | 1. v. lift; raise<br>2. n. a vessel with a carrying handle<br>3. n. a hanging noose |
| கடி | kadi | v. bite | காய் | kAy | 1. n. vegetable<br>2. n. game piece |
| வடை | vadai | n. vadai | கால் | kAl | 1. n. leg; foot<br>2. n. quarter |
| தின் | thin | v. eat | மடக்கு | madakku | v. bend; fold |
| பேச்சு | pEccu | n. talk/speech | | | |

## Prepositions – 3rd Type

vEtRumai – 3 (Al, Odu, udan)

   வேற்றுமை – 3 (ஆல், ஓடு, உடன்)

   **Usage**: The 3rd vEtRumai is used when you do something using or with an object / person.

| English | Some Examples |
|---|---|
| This is usually 'by / using' | |
| Sometimes, "with" is used in English. | "Eat with a spoon" = "eat using a spoon". <br><br> "Eat with us" = "eat together". |

**Note**:

3. In Tamil, the preposition is not written separately. It is invariably merged with the associated object/person as a suffix.
4. There are rules and conventions that may cause some additional letters to get inserted before the preposition.

| எழுதும் முறை | Formal | பேச்சு வழக்கு | Colloquial | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ஆல் | Al | ஆல | Ala | **by** (i.e. by using something)<br><br>(Sometimes in English, we use '**with**' in this context) |
| ஓடு | Odu | ஓட | Oda | **with** (i.e. together);<br><br>(other meanings: run; roof tile, etc) |
| உடன் | udan | ஓட | Oda | **along with**; together;<br><br>(other meanings: as soon as; immediately; etc) |
| மரம் + ஆல் = மரத்தால்<br>நகம் + ஆல் = நகத்தால்<br>பழம் + ஓடு = பழத்தோடு<br>படம் + உடன் = படத்துடன் | maram + Al = maraththAl<br>~nagam + Al = ~nagaththAl<br>pazham + Odu = pazhaththOdu<br>padam + udan = padaththudan | மரத்தால<br>நகத்தால<br>பழத்தோட<br>படத்தோட | maraththAla<br><br>~nagaththAla<br>pazhaththOda<br>padaththOda | by the tree; by wood;<br><br>by the (finger) nail<br>with the fruit<br>with the picture |
| மரத்தால் நாற்காலி செய் | maraththAl ~nARkAli sey | மரத்தால நாற்காலி செய் | maraththAla ~nARkAli sey | make (the) chair with wood |
| இந்த நாற்காலி கண்ணனால் செய்யப்பட்டது | i~ndha ~nARkAli kaNNanAl seyyappattadhu | இந்த நாற்காலி கண்ணனால செய்யப்பட்டது | i~ndha ~nARkAli kaNNanAla seyyappattadhu | this chair was made by Kannan |

| நகத்தால் கிளளினான் | ~nagaththAl kiLLinAn | நகத்தால கிளளினான் | ~nagaththAla kiLLinAn | (he) pinched with (his) nails |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| பழத்தோடு வந்தார் | pazhaththOdu va~ndhAr | பழத்தோட வந்தார் | pazhaththOda va~ndhAr | he/she (respect) came with fruit |
| படத்துடன் வருவேன் | padaththudan varuvEn | படத்தோட வருகேன் | padaththOda varuvEn | (I) will come with the picture |
| ஊர் + உடன் = ஊருடன் | Ur + udan = Urudan | ஊரோட | UrOda | with the town |
| பால் + ஒடு = பாலோடு<br>வாள் + ஆல் = வாளால் | pAl + Odu = pAlOdu<br>vAL + Al = vALAl | பாலோட<br>வாளால | PalOda<br>vALAla | with milk<br>by the sword |
| ஊருடன் பகைக்காதே | Urudan pagaikkAdhE | ஊரோட பகைக்காத | UrOda pagaikkAdha | do not fight with the town |
| பாலோடு தயிராக் கலக்கு | pAlOdu thayiraik kalakku | பாலோட தயிர கலக்கு | pAlOda thayira kalakku | mix yogurt with milk |
| வாளால் வெட்டு | vALAl vettu | வாளால வெட்டு | vALAla vettu | cut with the sword |
| குறடு + ஆல் = குறட்டால் | kuRadu + Al = kuRattAl | குறட்டால | kuRattAla | by the pliers |
| வீடு + ஒடு = வீட்டோடு | vIdu + Odu = vIttOdu | வீட்டோட | vIttOda | with the house |
| குறட்டால் ஆணியைப் பிடுங்கு | kuRattAl ANiyaip pidu~ngu | குறட்டால ஆணிய பிடுங்கு | kuRattAla ANiya pidu~nggu | pull the nail with the pliers |
| வீட்டோடு இரு | vIttOdu iru | வீட்டோட இரு | vIttOda iru | stay with the house |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| கத்தி + ஆல் = கத்தியால் | kaththi + Al = kaththiyAl | கத்தியால | kaththiyAla | by the knife |
| வண்டி + ஒடு = வண்டியோடு | vaNdi + Odu = vaNdiyOdu | வண்டியோட | vaNdiyOda | with the cart |
| கத்தியால் வெட்ட முடியும் | kaththiyAl vetta mudiyum | கத்தியால வெட்ட முடியும் | kaththiyAla vetta mudiyum | (one/we) can cut with knife |
| வண்டியோடு காரும் வந்தது | vaNdiyOdu kArum va~ndhadhu | வண்டியோட காரும் வந்தது | vaNdiyOda kArum va~nththu | the car also came with the cart |
| பேச்சு + ஆல் = பேச்சால் | pEccu + Al = pEccAl | பேச்சால | pEccAla | by talk |
| தட்டு + ஒடு = தட்டோடு | thattu + Odu = thattOdu | தட்டோட | thattOda | with plate |
| வெட்டிப் பேச்சால் என்ன லாபம்? | vettip pEccAl enna lAbam? | வெட்டிப் பேச்சால என்ன லாபம்? | vettip pEccAla enna lAbam? | What is the benefit (obtained) by useless talk? |
| தட்டோடு தா | thattOdu thA | தட்டோட தா | thattOda thA | (you) give with the plate |
| கயிறு + ஆல் = கயிற்றால் | kayiRu + Al = kayitRAl | கயத்தால | kayaththAla | by the rope |
| சோறு + ஒடு = சோற்றோடு | sORu + Odu = sOtROdu | சோற்றோட | sOtROda | with the (cooked) rice |
| சோற்றோடு உப்பைக் கல | sOtROdu uppaik kala | சோற்த உப்பக் கல | sOththa uppak kala | mix salt with (cooked) rice |

| கயிற்றால் கட்டு | kayitRAl kattu | கயத்தால் கட்டு | kayaththAla kattu | tie with (the) rope |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| கண் +ஆல் = கண்ணால் | kaN + Al = kaNNAl | கண்ணால் | kaNNAla | by the eye |
| செங்கல் + ஆல் = செங்கல்லால் பல் + ஆல் = பல்லால் | se~nggal +Al = se~nggallAl pal + Al = pallAl | செங்கல்லால் பல்லால் | se~nggallAla pallAla | by the brick by the tooth/teeth |
| கண்ணால் பார்க்கிறோம் | kaNNAl pArkkiROm | கண்ணால் பாக்கேறாம் | kaNNAla pAkkaROm | we see with eyes |
| செங்கல்லால் வீடு கட்டு | se~nggallAl vIdu kattu | செங்கல்லால வீடு கட்டு | se~nggallAla vIdu kattu | build (the) house with bricks |
| பல்லால் கடிக்க முடியும் | pallAl kadikka mudiyum | பல்லால கடிக்க முடியும் | pallAla kadikka mudiyum | (one/we) can bite with teeth |
| (அதை) என்னால் தூக்க முடியாது | (adhai) ennAl thUkka mudiyAdhu | (அது) என்னால தூக்க முடியாது | (adha) ennAla thUkka mudiyAdhu | (it) can not be lifted by me. (i.e. I can not lift (it)). |

# Word List

| Word | Transliteration | Meaning | Word | Transliteration | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| நாற்காலி | ~nARkAli | n. chair | வண்டி | vaNdi | n. cart |
| செய் | sey | v. do; make | வெட்டி | vetti | adj. useless |
| கிள்ளு | kiLLu | v. pinch | பேச்சு | pEccu | n. talk; speech; |
| ஊர் | Ur | n. town / place where people live together; | என்ன | enna | what |
| பகை | pagai | 1. v. fight; 2. n. enmity | லாபம் | lAbam | n. benefit; profit; |
| பால் | pAl | n. milk | காடு | kAdu | forest |
| கலக்கு | kalakku | v. mix | தட்டு | thattu | 1. n. plate; 2. n. shelf 3. v. tap; knock; 4. v. clap; |
| வாள் | vAL | 1. n. sword 2. adj. shiny (archaic) | தா | thA | v. give |
| குறடு | kuRadu | n. pliers | உப்பு | uppu | 1. n. salt; 2. v. bloat; become big |

| Tamil | Translit. | Meaning | Tamil | Translit. | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ஆணி | ANi | n. nail (fastener – not finger nail) | கல | kala | v. mix |
| பிடுங்கு | pidu~nggu | v. pull | கட்டு | kattu | 1. v. build<br>2. v. tie<br>3. n. bundle<br>4. n. bandage; |
| இரு | iru | v. stay; be; | கண் | kaN | n. eye |
| கத்தி | kaththi | n. knife | பார் | pAr | 1. v. see;<br>2. n. world |
| முடியும் | mudiyum | adv. can; it is possible | செங்கல் | se~nggal | n. brick |
| முடியாது | mudiyAdhu | adv. can not be; it is not possible | | | |

## Prepositions – 4th Type

vEtRumai – 4 (ku)

வேற்றுமை – 4 (கு)

**Usage**: The 4th vEtRumai is used when you do something to an object/person.

| English | Some Examples |
|---|---|
| This is usually 'to' | "Go to Madras" |
| However, in English, there are some instances where 'for' is used. | "A sheath is needed for the sword" = "The sword needs a sheath" |
| Also, there are some instances where no preposition is explicitly used in English. | "Water the plant" means "pour water to the plant". <br> "Paint the wall" means "apply paint to the wall". <br> "Raman wants a banana" |

**Note**:

5. In Tamil, the preposition is not written separately. It is invariably merged with the associated object/person as a suffix.
6. There are rules and conventions that may cause some additional letters to get inserted before the preposition.

| எழுதும் முறை | Formal | பேச்சு வழக்கு | Colloquial | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| கு | ku | கு | ku | to; for; |
| மரம் + கு = மரத்துக்கு<br>நகம் + கு = நகத்துக்கு<br>படம் + கு = படத்துக்கு | maram+ku = maraththukku<br>~nagam+ku = ~nagaththukku<br>padam + ku = padaththukku | மரத்துக்கு<br>நகத்துக்கு<br>படத்துக்கு | maraththukku<br>~nagaththukku<br>padaththukku | to the tree; to wood;<br>to the (finger) nail<br>to the picture |
| மரத்துக்கு நீர் விடு | maraththukku ~nIr vidu | மரத்துக்கு தண்ணீ விடு | maraththukku thaNNi vidu | pour water to the tree (i.e. water the tree) |
| நகத்துக்கு நிறம் பூசினாள் | ~nagaththukku ~niRam pUsinAL | நகத்துக்கு நிறம் பூசினா | ~nagaththukku ~neRam pUsinA | she painted color to the nail (i.e. she put nail polish on her nails) |
| படத்துக்கு சட்டம் போட வேண்டும் | padaththukku sattam pOda vENdum | படத்துக்கு சட்டம் போடணும் | padaththukku sattam pOdaNum | (we) need to put (a) frame to the picture (i.e. we need to frame the picture) |
| ஊர் + கு = ஊருக்கு<br>பால் + கு = பாலுக்கு<br>வாள் + கு = வாளுக்கு | Ur + ku = Urukku<br>pAl + ku = PAlukku<br>vAL + ku = vALukku | ஊருக்கு<br>பாலுக்கு<br>வாளுக்கு | Urukku<br>PAlukku<br>vALukku | to / for the town<br>to / for milk<br>to / for the sword |
| ஊருக்குப் போ | Urukkup pO | ஊருக்குப் போ | Urukkup pO | go to town |

| Tamil (literary) | Transliteration | Tamil (spoken) | Transliteration | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| பாலுக்குச் சர்க்கரா வேண்டும் | pAlukkuc carkkarai vENdum | பாலுக்கு சக்கரா வேண்டும் | pAlukku sakkarai vENum | need sugar for milk (i.e. milk needs sugar) |
| வாளுக்கு உறை தேவை | vALukku uRai thEvai | வாளுங்கு ஓற தேவ | vALukku oRa thEva | sheath needed for sword (i.e. sword needs a sheath) |
| தோடா + கு = தோடாட்டுக்கு<br>வீடு + கு = வீட்டுக்கு | thOdu + ku = thOttukku<br>vIdu + ku = vIttukku | தோடாட்டுக்கு<br>வீட்டுக்கு | thOttukku<br>vIttukku | to / for the ear ring<br>to / for the house |
| தோடாட்டுக்குத் தங்கம் வேண்டும் | thOttukkuth tha~nggam vENdum | தோடாட்டுக்குத் தங்கம் வேண்டும் | thOttukkuth tha~nggam vENum | need gold for the ear ring |
| வீட்டுக்கு கூகார உண்டு | vIttukku kUrai uNdu | வீட்டுக்கு கூர உண்டு | vIttukku kUra uNdu | there is roof to the house (i.e. the house has roof) |
| கத்தி + கு = கத்திக்கு<br>வண்டி + கு = வண்டிக்கு | kaththi + ku = kaththikku<br>vaNdi + ku = vaNdikku | கத்திக்கு<br>வண்டிக்கு | kaththikku<br>vaNdikku | to / for the knife<br>to / for the cart |
| கத்திக்குக் கூர்மை வேண்டும் | kaththikkuk kUrmai vENdum | கத்திக்குக் கூர்மை வேண்டும் | kaththikkuk kUrmai vENum | sharpness needed for the knife. (i.e. the knife needs sharpness) |
| வண்டிக்கு மாடி இல்லை | vaNdikku mAdu illai | வண்டிக்கு மாடு இல்ல | vaNdikku mAdu illa | there is no bull for the cart |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| பேச்சு + கு = பேச்சுக்கு | பேச்சுக்கு | pEccu + ku = pEccukku | pEccukku | to / for talk |
| தட்டு + கு = தட்டுக்கு | தட்டுக்கு | thattu + ku = thattukku | thattukku | to / for plate |
| என் பேச்சுக்கு நல்ல கைதட்டல் | என் பேச்சுக்கு நல்ல கைதட்டல் | en pEccukku ~nalla kaidhattal | en pEccukku ~nalla kaidhattal | there was great applause for my speech |
| தட்டுக்கு என்ன விலை? | தட்டுக்கு என்ன வேல? | thattukku enna vilai? | thattukku enna vela? | what is the price for the plate? |
| | | | | |
| கயிறு + கு = கயிற்றுக்கு | கயிற்றுக்கு | kayiRu + ku = kayitRukku | kayitRukku | to / for the rope |
| சோறு + கு = சோற்றுக்கு | சோற்றுக்கு | sORu + ku = sOtRukku | sOtRukku | to / for the (cooked) rice |
| சோற்றுக்குப் பஞ்சம் | சோத்துக்குப் பஞ்சம் | sOtRukkup pa~njam | sOththukkup pa~njam | scarcity exists for food (i.e. food is scarce) |
| கயிற்றுக்கு என்ன குறை? | கயத்துக்கு என்ன கொற? | kayitRukku enna kuRai? | kayaththukku enna koRa? | what shortcoming exists for the rope? (i.e. what is wrong with this rope?) |
| | | | | |
| கண் + கு = கண்ணுக்கு | கண்ணுக்கு | kaN + ku = kaNNukku | kaNNukku | to / for the eye |
| கண்ணுக்கு மருந்து விடு | கண்ணுக்கு மருந்து விடு | kaNNukku maru~ndhu vidu | kaNNukku maru~ndhu vidu | pour medicine to the eye |

# Word List

| Word | Transliteration | Meaning | Word | Transliteration | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| நீர் | ~nIr | 1. n. waterr<br>2. n. you (respect) (archaic) | கூர்மை | kUrmai | n. sharpness |
| விடு | vidu | 1. v. pour;<br>2. v. leave;<br>3. v. release | மாடு | mAdu | 1. n. cattle/cow/bull<br>2. n. wealth (archaic) |
| கிள்ளு | kiLLu | v. pinch | இல்லை | illai | v. there is no / it does not have |
| நிறம் | ~niRam | n. color | நல்ல | ~nalla | adj. good |
| பூசு | pUsu | v. apply. by spreading (paint, etc.) | கை | kai | n. hand |
| சட்டம் | sattam | 1. n. frame;<br>2. n. law; | கைதட்டல் | kaidhattal | n. applause |

| Tamil | Transliteration | Meaning | Tamil | Transliteration | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| போடு | pOdu | 1. v. put; 2. v. drop; 3. v. to make (noise, etc.) | விலை | vilai | n. price |
| போ | pO | v. go | பஞ்சம் | pa~njjam | n. scarcity; famine; |
| சர்க்கரை | sarkkarai | n. sugar | குறை | kuRai | 1. n. shortcoming; 2. n. flaw; defect; 3. v. to reduce / decrease |
| உறை | uRai | 1. n. cover; sheath; 2. v. freeze 3. v. live/stay | மருந்து | maru~ndhu | 1. n. medicine; 2. n. immortal nectar (archaic) |
| தேவை | thEvai | n. need/want | | | |
| தோடு | thOdu | n. ear ring | | | |
| தங்கம் | tha~nggam | n. gold | | | |
| கூரை | kUrai | n. roof | | | |
| உண்டு | uNdu | v. there is/it has | | | |

## Prepositions – 5th type

vEtRumai – 5 (il, in, ai vida, inindRu, iliru~ndhu)

வேற்றுமை – 5 (இல், இன், ஐ விட, இனின்று, , இலிருந்து)

**Usage**: The 5th vEtRumai is used when you compare something to another. It is also used when something is separated from another.

| English | Some Examples |
|---------|---------------|
| than | |
| from | |

**Note**:

7.  The preposition for comparison in current usage is "ai vida" (ஐ விட).
8.  The preposition for 'from' in current usage is "iliru~ndhu" (இலிருந்து).

| எழுத்து முறை | Formal | பேச்சு வழக்கு | Colloquial | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| இல், இன் | il, in | இல், இன் | il, in | than (comparison) |
| இலிருந்து | iliru~ndhu | உலேந்து | ulE~ndhu | from |
| ஐ விட | ai vida | அ விட | a vida | than (comparison) |
| கிருஷ்ணனின் பெரியவன் ராமன் | kirushNanin periyavan rAman | கிருஷ்ணனின் பெரியவன் ராமன் | kirushNanin periyavan rAman | Raman is older than Krishnan |
| கிருஷ்ணனை விடப் பெரியவன் ராமன் | kirushNanai vidap periyavan rAman | கிருஷ்ணனா விட பெரியவன் ராமன் | kirushNana vida periyavan rAman | Raman is older than Krishnan |
| பூனையின் வலியது நாய் | pUnaiyin valiyadhu ~nAy | பூனையின் வலியது நாய் | pUnaiyin valiyadhu ~nAy | (the) dog is stronger than (the) cat |
| பூனையை விட வலியது நாய் | pUnaiyai vida valiyadhu ~nAy | பூனைய விட வலியது நாய் | pUnaiya vida valiyadhu ~nAy | (the) dog is stronger than (the) cat |
| மரம் + இலிருந்து = மரத்திலிருந்து | maram + iliru~ndhu = maraththiliru~ndhu | மரத்துலேந்து | maraththulE~ndhu | from the tree |
| மரத்திலிருந்து கீழே இறங்கு | maraththiliru~ndhu kIzhE iRa~nggu | மரத்துலேந்து கீழ இறங்கு | maraththulE~ndhu kIzha eRa~nggu | get down from the tree |
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ஊர் + இலிருந்து = ஊரிலிருந்து<br>பால் + இலிருந்து = பாலிலிருந்து | ஊர்லேவந்து<br>பால்லேவந்து | UrlE~ndhu<br>PAllE~ndhu | Ur + iliru~ndhu = Uriliru~ndh<br>pAl + iliru~ndhu = PAliliru~ndhu | from the town<br>from milk |
| ஊரிலிருந்து பாட்டி வந்தார் | ஊர்லேவந்து பாட்டி வந்தா | UrlE~ndhu pAtti va~ndhA | Uriliru~ndhu pAtti va~ndhAr | Grandma came from (her) town |
| பாலிலிருந்து வெண்ணெய கிடைக்கும் | பால்லேவந்து வெண்ணெண கெடைக்கும் | pAllE~ndhu veNNa kedaikkum | pAliliru~ndhu veNNey kidaikkum | (we) get butter from milk |
| | | | | |
| தோடு + இலிருந்து = தோட்டிலிருந்து<br>வீடு + இலிருந்து = வீட்டிலிருந்து | தோட்டிலேவந்து<br>வீட்டிலேவந்து | thOttulE~ndhu<br>vIttulE~ndhu | thOdu + iliru~ndhu = thOttiliru~ndhu<br>vIdu + iliru~ndhu = vIttiliru~ndhu | from the earring<br>from the house |
| தோட்டிலிருந்து மணி விழுந்தது | தோட்டிலேவந்து மணி விழுந்தது | thOttulE~ndhu maNi vizhu~nththu | thOttiliru~ndhu maNi vizhu~ndhadhu | the gem fell from the earring |
| வீட்டிலிருந்து கோயில் ஆறு மைல் | வீட்டிலேவந்து கோயில் ஆறு மைல் | vIttulE~ndhu kOvil ARu mail | vIttiliru~ndhu kOyil ARu mail | the temple is six miles from the house |
| | | | | |
| வண்டி + இலிருந்து = வண்டியிலிருந்து | வண்டாலேவந்து | vaNdllE~ndhu | vaNdi + iliru~ndhu = vaNdiyiliru~ndhu | from the cart |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| வண்டியிலிருந்து மாட்டைட அவிழ் | vaNdiyiliru~ndhu mAttai avizh | வண்டிலேருந்து மாட்டை அவு | vaNdIIE~ndhu mAtta avu | untie the bull from the cart |
| பேச்ச + இலிருந்து = பேச்சிலிருந்து<br>தட்டு + இலிருந்து = தட்டிலிருந்து | pEccu + iliru~ndhu = pEcciliru~ndhu<br>thattu + iliru~ndhu = thattiliru~ndhu | பேச்சிலேருந்து<br>தட்டிலேருந்து | pEcculE~ndhu<br>thattulE~ndhu | from the speech<br>from the plate |
| அவர் பேச்சிலிருந்து என்ன தெரிந்துகொண்டாய்? | avar pEcciliru~ndhu enna theri~ndhukoNdAy? | அவர் பேச்சலேருந்து என்ன தெரிஞ்சுகண்ட? | avar pEcculE~ndhu enna theri~njiuNda? | What did you learn from his/her (respect) speech? |
| தட்டிலிருந்து பருக்கை கீழே விழுந்தது | thattiliru~ndhu parukkai kIzhE vizhu~ndhadhu | தட்டிலேருந்து பருக்க கீழ விழுந்தது | thattulE~ndhu parukka kIzha vizhu~nththu | (a) morsel of rice fell down from the plate |
| கிணறு * இலிருந்து = கிணற்றிலிருந்து | kiNaRu + iliru~ndhu = kiNatRiliru~ndhu | கிணத்துகேவந்து | kiNaththulE~ndhu | from the well |
| கிணாற்றிலிருந்து தண்ணீரா இறை | kiNatRiliru~ndhu thaNNIrai iRai | கிணத்துகேவந்து தண்ணீரிய ஏற | kiNaththulE~ndhu thaNNiya eRa | draw and pour water from the well |
| கண் * இலிருந்து = கண்ணிலிருந்து | kaN + iliru~ndhu = kaNNiliru~ndhu | கண்ணுகேவந்து | kaNNulE~ndhu | from the eye |
| கண்ணிலிருந்து கண்ணீர் வழிகிறது | kaNNiliru~ndhu kaNNIr vazhigiRadhu | கண்ணுகேவந்து கண்ணீர் வழியறது | kaNNulE~ndhu kaNNIr vazhiyaRadhu | tears flow from the eye |

# Word List

| Word | Transliteration | Meaning | Word | Transliteration | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| கீழே | kIzhE | below; | கோயில் | kOyil | n. temple |
| இறங்கு | iRa~nggu | v. get down; climb down | அவிழ் | avizh | v. untie |
| பாட்டி | pAtti | n. grandmother | பருக்கை | parukkai | n. morsel of rice |
| வெண்ணெய் | veNNey | n. butter | கிணறு | kiNaRu | n. (water) well |
| மணி | maNi | 1. n. jewel<br>2. n. hour / time | இறை | iRai | 1. v. draw and pour; bale out;<br>2. n. lord / god |
| விழு | vizhu | v. fall | கண்ணீர் | kaNNIr | n. tears |

## Prepositions – 6th Type

vEtRumai – 6 (adhu, Adhu, a, udaiya)

வேற்றுமை – 6 (அது, ஆது, அ, உடைய)

**Usage**: The 6th vEtRumai is used to indicate possession / ownership / association.

| English | Some Examples |
|---|---|
| of | height of that tree |
| —'s (mine, his, etc) | that tree's height |

**Note**:

9.  The preposition for possession/ownership in current spoken usage is "udaiya" and "inudaiya" (உடைய, இனுடைம்).

| எழுதும் முறை | Formal | பேச்சு வழக்கு | Colloquial | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| அது (இஅது) | adhu (inadhu) | adhu (inadhu) | adhu (inadhu) | of (indicates ownership and possessiveness) – singular |
| அ | a | a | a | of (indicates ownership and possessiveness) – plural |
| உடைய (இஅுடைய) | udaiya (inudaiya) | udaiya (inudaiya) | udaiya (inudaiya) | of (indicates ownership and possessiveness) |
| மரம் + உடைய = மரத்திஅுடைய | maram + udaiya = maraththinudaiya | | | tree's |
| அந்த மரத்திஅுடைய உயரம் என்ன? | a~ndha maraththinudaiya uyaram enna? | a~ndha maraththOda oyaram enna? | a~ndha maraththOda oyaram enna? | what is the height of that tree? |
| பால் + உடைய = பாலிஅுடைய | pAl + udaiya = PAlinudaiya | PAlOda | PAlOda | milk's |
| பாலிஅுடைய நிறம் வெண்மை | PAlinudaiya ~niRam veNmai | PAlOda ~neRam veLLai | PAlOda ~neRam veLLai | milk's color is white |
| இது என்அுடைய பை | idhu ennudaiya pai | idhu ennOda pai | idhu ennOda pai | this is my bag |
| வீடு + உடைய – வீட்டிஅுடைய | vIdu + udaiya = vIttinudaiya | vIttOda | vIttOda | house's |
| வீட்டிஅுடைய என் என்ன? | vIttinudaiya eN enna? | vIttOda eN enna? | vIttOda eN enna? | what is the house's number? |
| வண்டியிஅுடைய அச்ச முறிந்தது | vaNdiyinudaiya accu muRi~ndhadhu | vaNdiyOda accu muRi~njudhu | vaNdiyOda accu muRi~njudhu | the cart's axle broke |
| | | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| அவனுடைய பேச்சு சரி இல்லை | avanudaiya pEccu sari illai | avanOda pEccu sari illa | his speech is not proper |
| அவர்களுடைய வீடு பெரியது | avargaLudaiya vIdu periyadhu | ava~nggaLOda vIdu perusu | their house is large |
| என்னுடைய பெயர் ராமன் | ennudaiya peyar rAman | ennOda pEr rAman | my name is Raman |
| எனது பெயர் ராமன் | enadhu peyar rAman | en pEr rAman | my name is Raman |
| கிணற்றினுடைய ஆழம் அதிகம் | kiNatRinudaiya Azham adhigam | keNaththOda Azham adhigam | the depth of the well is great (i.e. it is a deep well) |
| சர்க்கரையினுடைய விலை என்ன? | sarkkaraiyinudaiya vilai enna? | sakkarai enna vela? | What is the price of sugar? |

# Word List

| Word | Transliteration | Meaning | Word | Transliteration | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| அந்த | a~ndha | that | பெரிய | periya | adj. big |
| உயரம் | uyaram | n. height | பெயர் | peyar | n. name |
| வெண்மை | veNmai | n. white | ஆழம் | Azham | n. depth |
| பை | pai | n. bag | அதிகம் | adhigam | big/great/a lot |
| எண் | eN | n. number | சர்க்கரை | sarkkarai | n. sugar |
| சரி | sari | adv. proper; appropriate; OK | விலை | vilai | n. price |

# Prepositions – 7th Type

vEtRumai – 7 (il, idaththil, kaN, mEl, kIzh)

வேற்றுமை – 7 (il, idaththil, kaN, mEl, kIzh)

**Usage**: The 7th vEtRumai is used to indicate location.

| English | Some Examples |
|---|---|
| in | in my house |
| on | on the table |
| above / over | above the clouds; over the fence |
| below / under / beneath | below the surface; under the table; |
| among, amongst | |
| inside | |

| எழுதும் முறை | Formal | பேச்சு வழக்கு | Colloquial | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| இல் | il | உல | ula | in |
| இடத்தில் | idaththil | டெத்துல | edaththula | in |
| மேல் (இன்மேல்) | mEl (inmEl) | மேல (கு மேல) | mEla (ku mEla) | on |
| கீழ் (இன்கீழ்) | kIzh (inkIzh) | கீழ (கு கீழ) | kIzha (ku kIzha) | below |
| உள் (கு உள் = குள்) | uL (ku uL = kuL) | உள்ள (கு உள்ள = குள்ள) | uLLa (ku uLLa = kuLLa) | inside |
| அடியில் (கு அடியில். இன் அடியில்) | adiyil (ku adiyil. in adiyil) | கு அடல | ku adIla | under, beneath |
| மரம் + இல் = மரத்தில் | maram + il = maraththil | | | |
| மாமரத்தில் பழங்கள் இருக்கின்றன | mAmaraththil pazha~nggaL irukkindRana | மாமரத்துல பழம் இருக்கு | mAmaraththula pazham irukku | there are fruits on the mango tree |
| பாலில் சர்க்கரை போடு | pAlil sarkkarai pOdu | பால்ல சக்கர போடு | pAlla sakkara pOdu | put sugar in the milk |
| மரத்தின்கீழ் உட்கார்ந்தான் | marathinkIzh utkAr~ndhAn | மரத்துக்கு கீழ ஒக்காரந்தான் | maraththukku kIzha okkA~ndhAn | (he) sat under the tree |
| புத்தகத்தின் அடியில் பென்சில் இரு~ந்தது | puththagaththin adiyil pensil iru~ndhadhu | புஸ்தகத்துக்கு அடல பென்சில் இருந்தது | pusthagaththukku adIla pensil iru~nththu | (the) pencil is under (the) book |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| சுவரின்மேல் படம் வரைந்தேன் | suvarinmEl padam varai~ndhEn | சுவருத்து மேல படம் வரைஞ்சேன் | sevuththu mEla padam vara~njEn | (I) drew a picture on the wall |
| கையில் காசு இருக்கிறது | kaiyil kAsu irukkiRadhu | கைகல காசு இருக்கு | kaila kAsu irukku | (I) have money in (my) hand |
| மலையின்மேல் ஏற முடியவில்லை | malaiyinmEl ERa mudiyavillai | மலை மேல ஏற முடியல | malai mEla ERa mudiyala | (I) could not climb on the hill |
| உங்களில் யார் அண்ணன்? | u~nggaLil yAr aNNan? | உங்கள்ள யாரு அண்ணா? | u~nggaLLa yAru aNNA? | Who amongst you is (the) older brother? |
| உங்க(ளு)க்(கு)ள் என்ன சண்டை? | u~nggaLukkuL enna saNdai? | ஓங்க(ளு)க்(கு)ள்ள என்ன சண்ட? | o~nggaLukkuLLa enna saNda? | What is (the) fight among you? |
| கிணற்றில் பந்து விழுந்தது | kiNatRil pa~ndhu vizhu~ndhadhu | கெணாத்துல பந்து விழுந்தது | keNaththula pa~ndhu vizhu~nththu | (The) ball fell in the well |
| பூவில் வண்டு மொய்க்கும் | pUvil vaNdu moykkum | பூவுல வண்டு மொய்க்கும் | pUvula vaNdu moykkum | Bees buzz in (the) flowers |

# Word List

| Word | Transliteration | Meaning | Word | Transliteration | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| மாமரம் | mAmaram | n. mango tree | அண்ணன் | aNNan | n. older brother |
| பழம் | pazham | n. fruit | சண்டை | saNdai | n. fight |
| உட்கார் | utkAr | v. sit | பந்து | pa~ndhu | n. ball |
| சுவர் | suvar | n. wall | பூ | pU | n. flower |
| வரை | varai | v. draw; paint<br>n. mountain | வண்டு | vaNdu | n. bee; beetle; |
| காசு | kAsu | n. money | மொய் | moy | v. to flock in large number |
| மலை | malai | n. hill; mountain;<br>v. amaze; shock | | | |
| ஏறு | ERu | v. climb<br>n. bull; lion; | | | |

## Prepositions – 8th Type (Calling Someone)

vEtRumai – 8 (thani urubu kidaiyAdhu)

வேற்றுமை – 8 (தனி உருபு கிடையாது)

**Usage**: The 8th vEtRumai is used when you call someone. Depending on whether the person is near or far, the last vowel in the name may be short or long. If the name has any masculine suffix like 'an', then the 'n' will be dropped. If the name has respectful ending like 'ar', 'gaL', then a long vowel 'E' is appended.

| English | Some Examples |
|---|---|
| In English, the word 'O' is added before the name. | O lord! |
| But, normally we just call out the name with some extra stress and loudness | |

**Note:**

10. In Tamil, the preposition is not written separately. It is invariably merged with the associated object/person as a suffix.
11. There are rules and conventions that may cause some additional letters to get inserted before the preposition.

| எழுத்தும் முறை | Formal | பேச்சு வழக்கு | Colloquial | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ராமா, இங்கே வா. | rAmA, i~nggE vA | ராமா, இங்க வா | rAmA, i~ngga vA | Raman, come here |
| லக்ஷ்மி! நீ எங்கே இருக்கிறாய்? | lakshmI! ~nI e~nggE irukkiRAy? | லக்ஷ்மி! நீ எங்க இருக்க? | lakshmI! ~nI e~ngga irukka? | O Lakshmi, where are you? |
| குருக்களே, இங்கே வாருங்கள் | gurukkaLE, i~nggE vAru~nggaL | குருக்களோ, இங்க வாங்கோ (/ வாங்க) | gurukkaLE, i~ngga vA~nggO (/ vA~ngga) | O gurukkaL, come (respect) here. |

# Chapter 3.1

Tamil Verbs and its different forms slides
வினைச்சொற் களின் வகைகள்

## The Role of Tamil Verbs

- The verbs take on suffixes and change their form to explain the gender/number/tense and mood of the action.
- The mood is weather it is Indicative,Imperative or operative.
- In the next slide we will look at the kinds of Tamil verbs

## Types of Tamil Verbs

Verbs வினைச்சொல்:

- Finite முற்று
  - Definite தெரிநிலை
  - Indefinite குறிப்பு
- Non-Finite எச்சம்
  - Adjectival Participle பெயரெச்சம்
    - Definite தெரிநிலை
    - Indefinite குறிப்பு
  - Verbal Participle வினையெச்சம்
    - Definite தெரிநிலை
    - Indefinite குறிப்பு

## 1. Finite Verb – வினைமுற்று

The verb will be completed giving the action, the tense, the gender and number.
அவன் செய்தான் /Avan ceytāṉ (He did )
This gives us the following information:
அவன் – masculine, third person, singular,
செய்தான் – past tense, (he did)
The finite verb is divided into two let us see this in the next two slides

## 1.1 Definite Verb – தெரிநிலை வினைமுற்று

These give us the subject, gender, tool, place, act, tense and object.

செல்வி பாடம் படித்தாள் /Celvi pāṭam paṭittāḷ (selvi studied/read the lesson)

Subject: Selvi (ள் female, singular tense marker name of female)

Tool: Eye (needed for reading traditionally)

Act: Read (படி/pati)

Tense : Past (த்தா tense marker)

Objective : Studying (reading)

## 1.2 Indefinite verb குறிப்பு வினைமுற்று

These do not show the tense it describes only the subject.

அவன் உழவன் (avan uzhavan) (He is a farmer)

அவன்: Male singular

உழவன் = உழவு (farming) + வன் (male singular used to indicate profession)

The verb shows the noun as masculine. There is no other suffix attached showing that this could he in all three tense. He was a farmer, he is a farmer and he will be a farmer.

## 2. Non-Finite Verb வினையெச்சம

These verbs do not give us the complete meaning of the action clearly. There is something that is left out and this is called "echam" எச்சம் in Tamil.

செய்தான் – Finite (he did)

செய்த – Non –Finite (did)

Here the first word gives us all the information but the second word is incomplete. This is further divided into two kinds Adjectival and verbal participles. Let us see that in the next slide.

## 2.1 Adjectival Participle பெயரெச்சம்

When an non-finite verb is followed by a noun that completes it becomes a "peyarecham" பெயரெச்சம் or Adjectival participle.

செய்த பெண் /seitha pen, Here we see that the verb is now complete. Giving the meaning "The woman/girl that did it" .

This is further divided into Definite and Indefinite.

## 2.1a Definite Adjectival Participle தெரிநிலை பெயரெச்சம்

When a non finite verb ends with a noun and it shows the tense it is called a definite participle.

செய்த பெண் This same example we saw in the last slide, tells us that this is past tense.

செய் – to do

த – past tense marker

பெண் – Female (women/girl)

## 2.1b Indefinite Adjectival Participle குறிப்பு பெயரெச்சம்

When the Non finite verb that is completed with a noun does not show us the tense then it is a குறிப்பு பெயரெச்சம் or Indefinite adjectival participle.

அழகிய வீடு azhakiya veedu/ beautiful house

Here we do not have tense shown. We assume this is for all the three tense.

## 2.2. Verbal Participle வினையெச்சம்

When a nonfinite verb ends with another finite verb (auxiliary verb) it is called a Verbal Participle or வினையெச்சம். This second verb will complete the first one and give all the meaning needed.

பார்க்க வந்தான் Paarka vandan, he came to see

This is again divided into two Definite and indefinite verbal participle.

## 2.2a Definite Verbal Participle தெரிநிலை வெனையெச்சம்

When the verb that ends the non finite verb compleats it by showing the tense/gender/number it is called a Definite Verbal Participle or தெரிநிலை வெனையெச்சம். The way the first verb ends indicated the tense for the next verb to follow and complete it.

வந்து போனான் vandhu nindran (he came and stood)

Shows us the tense/gender and number and completes the meaning that this phrase conveys.

## 2.2b Indefinite Verbal Participle குறிப்பு வினையெச்சம்

When the added verb does not show the tense but gives us a meaning through an attribute it is called a indefinite Verbal Participle ஒர் குறிப்பு வினையெச்சம்.

மெல்ல நடந்தான் mella nadanthan (He walked slowly)

Here it does not specify when he walked slowly.

## Affirmative and Negation

All of the Finite and Non finite verbs as well as the Adjectival participle and the verbal participle can be a affirmative or a negation. The suffixes of negation like + ஆத, + ஆமல், +ஆதே, + வில்லை can be added to make them into negation.

## Other Suffixes a Verb Can Take On

The Tamil verb takes on the following suffixes

1. Conditional – affirmative and negation
2. Immediate
3. Cohesiveness of fact
4. Concessiveness of supposition

In the mood form it can take on suffixes for

1. Imperative – Affirmative and negation
2. Permissive
3. Potential

The ending of these differ based on the number/gender/polite/impolite