

# (R) Changing the Subject (1/2)

Somali is a Cushitic language spoken by approximately 16.6 million speakers, of which about half live in Somalia, the remainder living in Djibouti (where it is an official language), Ethiopia, and in the Somali diaspora.

**R1.** In the table below are given the inflected forms of 1st conjugation verbs in the 1st person ('I') and 3rd person singular ('he/she/it') past tense. Fill in the missing words.

Pronunciation: Vowel sounds are much like in English. A double vowel indicates that the vowel is long. Consonants are also as in English except as follows:

dh: a retroflex 'd' pronounced with the tongue tip curled backward like the 'dr' in *drive*

q: a voiced uvular plosive, like a 'g' but pronounced at the back of the throat like the sound of drinking water

kh: a bit like the 'ch' in Scottish *loch* but pronounced at the back of the throat

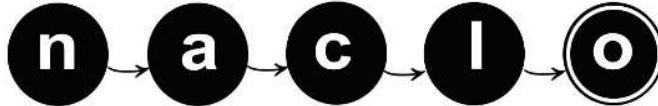
x: a voiceless pharyngeal fricative, like an 'h' pronounced deep in the throat

c: same as 'x', but voiced

r: a rolled 'r' as in Italian

': the consonant sound in the middle of *uh-oh*

1st person		3rd person singular	
Somali word	English translation	Somali word	English translation
akhriyay	I read	akhriday	He read
aragay	I saw	aragtay	He saw
	I taught	bartay	He taught
ba'ay	I was destroyed	ba'day	He was destroyed
baajiyay	I prevented		He prevented
baaqay	I announced	baaqday	He announced
baxay	I left	baxday	He left
bi'iyay	I destroyed		He destroyed
bilaabay	I began		He began
	I ate	cuntay	He ate
cabay	I drank	cabtay	He drank
cararay	I ran away	carartay	He ran away



## (R) Changing the Subject (2/2)

1st person	
Somali word	English translation
daaqay	I grazed
dhacay	I fell
dhisay	I built
diiday	I refused
dilay	I killed
faraxay	I was happy
gaadhay	I reached
galay	I entered
go'ay	I cut
	I found
horjeeday	I opposed
kacay	I rose
keenay	I brought
korodhay	I increased
qaaday	I took
tagay	I went
xidhay	I closed
walaaqay	I stirred

3rd person singular	
Somali word	English translation
	He grazed
	He fell
dhistay	He built
diiday	He refused
dishay	He killed
	He was happy
gaadhay	He reached
	He entered
	He cut
heshay	He found
horjeeday	He opposed
	He rose
keentay	He brought
korodhay	He increased
	He took
tagay	He went
	He closed
	He stirred

