



Now that you have learnt how to say "hello" and "goodbye", we will learn a few other common words and phrases which you will use on a daily basis.

THANK YOU

Person 1: MISAOTRA (thank you)

Person 2: TSIY FISAORANA (not at all)



Although misaotra is sufficient, saying MISAOTRA BETSAKA is more polite

EXCUSE ME/PLEASE/PARDON/SORRY

You will invariably hear the word "azafady" used a lot. It is a very useful word that can mean different things depending on the context:

1. when walking past someone, you say:

Person 1 walking: AZAFADY

Person 2 stationary: NDAO (go ahead)



2. To say sorry for a mistake or error.

Person 1: AZAFADY

Person 2: TSY MANINONA ("no problem")



3. used the same way as "excuse me" at the start of a sentence.

AZAFADY, AIZA IANAO? (Excuse me, where are you?)



BON VOYAGE

To wish someone a safe journey, you can say "soava dia".

Person 1: SOAVA DIA

Person 2: MISAOTRA BETSAKA



WELCOME

To say "welcome", you combine the words "arrived" and "well" - Tonga Soa.

Person 1: TONGA SOA

Person 2: MISAOTRA BETSAKA



HAVE A GOOD DAY / KEEP IT UP

Mazotoa is another very versatile word, a bit like Azafady. You can be used to say "enjoy", "have a good day", "keep it up" etc.

PERSON 1: MAZOTOA

PERSON2: MISAOTRA, IANAO KOA



COME IN/JOIN ME

You will have encountered the word "MANDROSO" in lesson 1a, which is what you say to a guest when they arrive at your house.

However, if you are having a meal or a drink, and someone walks past, you can also say "mandroso" as a polite way of inviting him or her to join you. The person is definitely not obliged to sit down and eat, and he/she can simply respond by saying, "Misaotra, mazotoa".

Body language:

When giving or receiving something, one usually stretches out both hands to express politeness.

Especially in Mandritsara, when what gives something or says "misaotra", one usually bends the knee slightly as a sign of respect.

Body language:

This is accompanied by stooping down a little and stretching out

Saying "sorry"

MIALA TSINY is another way of apologising over something trivial. But if it's a serious offence, you would be literally asking for forgiveness, i.e. MIFONA. This is the term used in the Bible.

Vocabulary:

Fisaorana = gratitude

Betsaka = many

Ndao = go ahead

Soa = good

Soava = have a good...

Tonga = come



MALAGASY HOSPITALITY

There is a Malagasy proverb, “Valala iray ifanapahana”, which literally means, “we can share a cricket between us.”

Not every Malagasy is into exotic delicacies, so that’s okay if you’re not! And even if you are, it’s not about how delicious it is, rather, it’s simply an expression of joy in sharing food.

Another proverb goes like this, “Hani-masaka tsisy tompony”, which means, “the meal is ready for everyone”.

Imagine you are having a meal with your family, and some guests arrive unexpectedly. It doesn’t matter if you haven’t prepared enough food. This proverb expresses the idea of sharing with everyone regardless of the quantity.

Hospitality is very much part of Malagasy culture, and often surpasses the expectation of foreigners.

Meal sharing goes even further than this:

- if the host has just finished his meal, and visitors arrived unexpectedly, he/she will still cook a meal for them.
- If the host is still eating and visitors arrive unexpectedly, he/she will share his/her meal with them.
- If the visitors are just about to leave before the meal is ready, they are told to wait for the meal. In Malagasy, you will say “Miandrasa sakafo”^{off} or “Mandesa hagniny”^{tsm}.

This practice is much more common in the villages. You will find that in general, it is very much in decline, particularly in the cities and among young people. However, it is still good to be aware of the strong emphasis on food and sharing in Malagasy culture.