

Malagasy-Tsimihety with Bako

Introduction-Lesson 1a: Greetings
(Appendix: Pronouns, Question words)



Hello! Welcome to our first lesson. My name is Bako. I have been a language tutor in Mandritsara since 2008, teaching missionaries and visitors to the Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly project.

The dialect spoken in Mandritsara is called Tsimihety, but official Malagasy is widely spoken here as well.

Through these lessons, I hope to introduce you to the language, culture and values of the people here in Mandritsara.

Let's begin by learning how to say hello.

In Mandritsara, the most common way of greeting each other is by saying

"SALAMA TOMPOKO"

which is literally, "hello, sir".

Here is an example of a typical exchange:

Person 1: Salama Tompoko!

Person 2: *Salama Tompoko!*

Person 1: Manakory ianao? (*how are you*)

Person 2: *Tsara fa misaotra. (fine, thank you)*

Person 1: Ino vaovao? (*What's new?*)

Person 2: *Tsisy vaovao. (nothing's new)*



Another example of a greeting is when one arrives at a friend's house. The guest would initiate the greeting at the door by saying out loud, "HAODY!", much like a knock on the door.

Guest: Haody!

Host: Mandrosoa. Mipetrapetraha.
(*the guest takes a seat*)

Guest: Salama tompoko.

Host: Salama tompoko. Manakory ianao?

Guest: Tsara fa misaotra.

At this point you could either say the following:

Host: Ino vaovao?

Guest: Tsisy vaovao.

Or give a kabary



A "KABARY" is where both the guest and host take turns to give a short speech.

It is important to note that, if a guest is invited to a meal, the host never asks "in vaovao", as the intention for the visit is obvious.

That's it for our first lesson!

To end a conversation, or to say goodbye, we will look at the next lesson.

Mazotoa!

There are 18 tribes spread across 22 regions in Madagascar.

Other ways of saying hello in Madagascar are:

Manao ahoana (Central, e.g. Tana)
Salama (North / Central)
Akory (East / South)
Miarahaba (Central)

Tsy = no, Tsisy = nothing. Tsy precedes verbs/adjectives, whereas tsisy is usually preceded by a noun. You will encounter more grammar rules in subsequent lessons.

Malagasy Kabary originated as a highly poeticised speech performed in front of an audience. Today, it is an integral part of social life, used in social events like festivities, ceremonies and funerals. Informally, people use it to convey thanks or welcome at dinner parties or gatherings.

Vocabulary:

Salama = hello

Tompoko = sir

Tsara = good

Fa = but

Misaotra = thank you

Vaovao = new

Tsisy = no

Haody = hello

Mandrosoa = come in

Mipetrapetraha = have a seat

Mazotoa = enjoy

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APPENDIX (Introduction-Lesson 1a)



PRONOUNS



English	Official	Tsimihety	
I	Aho	Zaho	
You (singular)	Ianao	Ianao	→ Pronounced "Ana" or "Anao"
You (plural)	Ianareo	Areo	→ Pronounced "Ar-é"
He/She/It	Izy	Izy	
They	Izy ireo	Zareo	→ Pronounced "Zar-é"
Includes addressee ← We (inclusive)	Isika	Antsika	
Excludes addressee ← We (exclusive)	Izahay	Zahay	

QUESTION WORDS



English	Official	Tsimihety
What	Inona	Ino
Who	Iza	Zovy
When (past)	Oviana	Tafiriana
When (future)	Rahoviana	Hafiriana
Where	Aiza	Aiza
How much	Ohatrinona	Ohatrino
How	Ahoana	Akory
How many	Firy	Firy
What time	Amin'ny firy	Amin'ny firy
Why	Fa maninona	Fa manino