



The structure of a Malagasy sentence is "PREDICATE - SUBJECT." In this lesson, the predicate is a VERB, more precisely an 'Intransitive Verb', which is a verb that does not require a complement.

In Malagasy, verbs always remain the same, while the subject changes. Since there is no gender or number, there is no need for agreement between the verb and the subject, unlike European languages in general.

However, verbs do undergo a bit of a change to help provide a sense of time - you may have noticed that most indicative verbs start with the letter 'M.' We change 'M' to 'N' to denote the past and 'H' for the future.

The subject can be a pronoun or a noun.

Example 1:



Miasa izy: He/she works

Niasa izy: He/she worked

Hiasa izy: He/she will work

Example 2: (Official Malagasy in parentheses)



Miasa zaho (aho): I work

Miasa anao (ianao): You work

Miasa izy: He/she works

Miasa antsika (isika): We work

Miasa zahay (izahay): We work

Miasa areo (ianareo): You work

Miasa zareo (izy ireo): They work

Miasa I Soa: Soa works

Miasa ny vitsika: The ants work

To form questions to the sentences examples 1 and 2: (official Malagasy in parentheses)

Manino (Maninona) = What are we doing?

Zovy (iza no) = Who is?

Ino (inona no) = What is?

Ve = Is it / Do...?





Example 3:

Miasa ny vitsika

- Manino ny vitsika ? - miasa
- Ino miasa ? - ny vitsika

- Miasa ve ny vitsika ? - la, miasa izy

Niasa izy

- Nanino ny vitsika ? - niasa
- Zovy niasa ? - izy

- Niasa ve izy ? - la, niasa izy

Hiasa i Soa

- Hanino i Soa ? - hiasa
- Zovy hiasa ? - i Soa

- Hiasa ve I Soa ? - la, hiasa

For negation, add "TSY" before the verb.



Miasa izy -> Tsy miasa izy: He works / He does not work

Niasa zaho -> Tsy niasa zaho: I worked / I did not work

Hiasa I Soa -> Tsy hiasa I Soa: Soa will work / Soa will not work

Some common intransitive verbs:



Miasa: To work

Misoma: To play

Mitsangana: To get up

Mantotry: To sit

Mionjogno: To wake up

Mandry: To sleep

Mihomehy: To laugh

Mitomany: To cry

Mivavaka: To pray

Mampianatra: To teach

Mianatra: To study

Mandihy: To dance

Mihira: To sing

Milomano: To swim



Exercises:

A - Try to say the following sentences in Malagasy:  

1. I dance
2. You sing
3. He swims
4. She prays
5. We cried
6. You will sit
7. They laughed
8. The children play
9. Soa is getting up
10. Soa will swim

B - State the opposite using the negation 'Tsy':  

- Miasa zaho
- Hisoma ny ankizy
- Nitomany izy
- Mianatra zahay
- Nilomano zareo
- Mihira ianao
- Hivavaka antsika
- Mitsangana areo
- Mantotry I Soa