



It is important to know how to introduce yourself when you arrive in Madagascar. Let us see how it is done in Mandritsara:

One can talk about anything, but in practice, there are some things that are essential, like saying your name, where you are from and what you do for a living.

Anaroko ..... (name).....

Avy any ..... (place of origin)..... zaho

Asako .....(job)..... OR .....(job)..... zaho



Note that in official Malagasy, saying “my name is .....” and “my job is.....” are inverted.

Anaroko .....(name)..... (Tsm)

vs  
....(name)..... no anaroko (Off)

Asako .....(job)..... (Tsm)

vs  
....(job)..... no asako (Off)

You might get a reply that sounds like the following:

Tonga soa eto .....(insert destination).....



Or

Faly mahafantatra anao

Or

Faly mandray anao

After this obligatory introduction, you can talk about anything you like.

For example, you can talk about your family or your spouse and children.

Manambady zaho (I am married)



Mananjanaka ....(insert number of children)....zahay

....(number).... Lalahy .....(number).... Vaiavy

Malagasy society generally favours marriage and having children. If you are in neither of these categories, it might be difficult to avoid feeling a bit second-class.

So, if you don't know someone that well, it's probably not a good idea to ask if they are married or how many children they have!

VADY means spouse. To say that you are married, you say, “manambady zaho”.

To say that you are single or not married, you add the word “TSY” to the start of the sentence.

TSY MANAMBADY ZAHO.

This is a very useful tip. To express the negative form of any sentence, all you need to do is to add “tsy” at the beginning.

Do beware that “tsy” is not the same as “tsisy”. “Tsy” means *not*, whereas “tsisy” means *nothing*.

Similary, the word for children is “zanaka”. To say that you have children, you say MANANJANAKA ZAHO.

Now, try saying that you don't have children.....simple isn't it?

If you have lots of children, you can then elaborate by saying how many sons and daughters you have. The word for boy is lehilahy<sup>off</sup>/lalahy<sup>tsm</sup>, and girl is vehivavy<sup>off</sup>/vaiavy<sup>tsm</sup>. In Malagasy, the word for boy, man and male are the same, likewise for girl/woman/female.

There are two words for children. If you are referring to children in relation to their parents, you will use the word “zanaka”.

If not, you will use the word “zaza” to refer to children in the general sense.

#### Vocabulary:

Anarana = name

Avy = come

Any = there

Asa = work

Faly = happy

Mahafantatra = to know

Mandray = receive

Manambady = married

Mananjanaka = have children

Vady = spouse

Zanaka = child

Lehilahy/lalahy = boy/man/male

Vehivavy/vaiavy = girl/woman/female

# Malagasy-Tsimihety with Bako

## APPENDIX Introduction-Lesson 3)



### Basic Grammar rules

1. The subject of the sentence is at the end instead of the beginning.



2. "to be" or "to have" does not exist in the Malagasy language.



3. Nouns do not have singular/plural forms.

have one <u>child</u>	vs	I have two <u>children</u>
<u>Mananjanaka</u> <u>ray</u>	vs	<u>Mananjanaka</u> <u>roa</u>



4. Similar to English, and unlike French, grammatical gender does not exist—no struggling with masculine and feminine forms!

5. Malagasy uses possessive suffixes. When connected to a noun or adjective, they give a sense of possession.

Anarana (which means "name")

Asa (which means "work" or "job")



Anara ko	My name	Asa ko	My job
nao	Your name	nao	Your job
ny	His/her its name	ny	His/her its job
ntsika	Our (inclusive) name	ntsika	Our (inclusive) job
nay	Our (exclusive) name	nay	Our (exclusive) job
nareo	Your (plural) name	nareo	Your (plural) job
n'izy ireo <sup>off</sup> /njareo <sup>tsm</sup>	Their name	n'izy ireo <sup>off</sup> /njareo <sup>tsm</sup>	Their job

5. Unlike French, there are no complex verb conjugations in Malagasy, no "être" and "avoir" conjugaisons!

6. Like English, there are verb tenses, but it's much simpler.

In Malagasy, most verbs begin with the letter "m". For the past tense, "m" is replaced with "n". For the future tense, "m" is replaced with "h".

Tense	English	Malagasy
Present	I am working	<u>M</u> iasa zaho
Past	I worked	<u>N</u> iasa zaho
Future	I will be working	<u>H</u> iasa zaho



7. If you recall from this lesson, TSY means "no", and TSISY means "nothing", which can be quite confusing.

To combine it with another word, the rule is:

Tsy	+	verb / adjective	e.g.	Tsy miasa (not working)
Tsisy	+	noun	e.g.	Tsisy asa (no work)

