

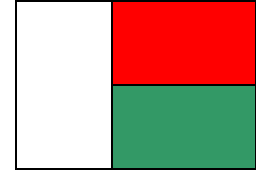
Peace Corps

An introduction to the Malagasy language





MADAGASCAR



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MALAGASY LANGUAGE

Malagasy is the only language spoken in all of Madagascar, while there are eighteen dialects spoken in different regions, for instance Sakalava, Tsimihety, Betsimisaraka, Betsileo, Antandroy, Antanosy, Antesaka, Antemoro, Bara, and Standard Malagasy. It's emphasized that the basic grammatical structure is the same for all dialects. They mostly differ in terms of vocabulary. As for the Malagasy alphabet, there are some vowels and consonants that do not exist such as "u,c,q,x,w." In fact the Malagasy language is close to Arabic in pronunciation. This short introduction is designed to give you a glimpse of what the Malagasy language is like before you arrive in Madagascar.

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Lesson 1: MALAGASY ALPHABET

VOWELS

The Malagasy language has only 4 vowel sounds: **a**, **e**, **i**, and **o**, pronounced as follows:

A Sounds [æ] as in the English word: Father.

Examples: Salama (Hello), Manana (to have).

E sounds [ei] as in the English word; made, pay.

Examples: Veloma (Bye!), teny (language/words), enina (six).

I / Y (Ending) sounds [i:] as in the English word; Keep, leek.

Examples: Misy (there is), mipetraka (to live/to sit), tsja (no)

O sounds, [u] as in the English word: Pool, Sue.

Examples: Aho (I), Voky (full)

DIFFICULT SOUNDS

ao vaovao (new)	tr tratra (chest)	dr drafitra (draft)	nj onja (wave)
oa soa (good)	ts tsotra (simple)	ndr Indrindra (especially)	z Zaza (baby)

Lesson 2: GREETINGS

MALAGASY	ENGLISH
Manahoana?	Hello!
Salama!	Hi!
Inona no vaovao?	What's up?
Tsy misy!	Nothing special!
Fahasalamana?	How are you?
Tsara fa misaotra!	I'm OK. Thanks.
Tonga soa!	Welcome!
Veloma!	Bye!
Misaotra!	Thanks!
Azafady!	Please/sorry!
Miala tsiny!	Please/sorry!
Tsy misy olana!	No problem!

Lesson 3: INTRODUCTIONS

MALAGASY	ENGLISH
Iza no anaranao?	What is your name?
_____ no anarako, ary ianao?	My name is _____, and yours?
Faly mahalala anao!	Happy to meet you!
Faly mahalala anao koa!	Happy to meet you too!
Avy aiza ianao?	Where are you from?
Avy any Etazonia aho.	I am from USA.
Avy any Boston aho.	I am from Boston.
Inona ny asanao?	What is your job? /What do you do?
Mpiofana aho.	I am a trainee.
Mianatra teny Malagasy aho.	I learn Malagasy.
Hipetraka aiza ianao?	Where will you stay?
Mandrapihaona!	See you later!
Veloma!	Bye!

Lesson 4: FAMILY

MALAGASY	ENGLISH
Fianakaviana	Family
Dada	Father
Neny	Mother
Zoky	Older siblings
Zandry	Younger siblings
Dadabe	Grand father
Nenibe	Grand mother
Zanaka	Children
Manam-bady	To be married
Zaza tokana	Single child
Kambana	Twins
Sipa	Boy/girlfriend
Namana	Friend
Nisaraka	To be separated
Manana	To have

Lesson 5: BASIC SENTENCE STRUCTURES

PERSONAL PRONOUN SUBJECT

MALAGASY	ENGLISH
Aho	I
Ianao	You
Izy	He/She
Isika	We (inclusive)
Izahay	We (exclusive)
Ianareo	You
Izireo	They

• The verb "to be" doesn't exist in Malagasy. The subject pronouns: "aho", "ianao", "izy", "isika", "izahay", "ianareo", "izireo" can be translated as "I" or "I am", "you" or "you are", "he" or "he is"...

AFFIRMATIVE SENTENCE STRUCTURE

First (verb)		Second (object)		Third (subject)		Put it together	
Mihinana	eat	vary	rice	aho	I	Mihinana vary aho	I eat rice

Misotro	drink	rano	water	ianao	You	Misotro rano ianao	You drink water
Tia	like	dite	tea	izy	He	Tia dite izy	He likes tea

- A sentence consists of a **predicate** and a **subject** or a predicate, object and subject. A predicate can be a verb or an adjective.
- Because there is no verb “to be” in Malagasy, adjectives imply the use of “to be” indirectly.

Example:

Adjective		Subject		Put it together	
Mangatsiaka	cold	izy	He/she	Mangatsiaka izy	She/he is cold

NEGATIVE SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Negation		Add it on	
tsy	Negative	Tsy mihinana vary aho	I don't eat rice
		Tsy misotro rano ianao	You don't drink water
		Tsy tia koka izy	He doesn't like coke
		Tsy faly izy	She is not happy

CONJUGATION

Verb: Mihinana (to eat)

Mihinana (Present tense: eat)

Hihinana (Future tense: will eat)

Nihinana (Past tense: ate)

Lesson 6: BASIC NEEDS

MALAGASY	ENGLISH
Reraka aho.	I am tired.
Noana aho.	I am hungry.
Voky aho.	I am full.
Mangetaheta aho.	I am thirsty.
Aiza ny kabone?	Where is the toilet?
Te hisotro rano aho.	I want to drink water.
Te hatory aho.	I want to sleep.
Te hisakafo aho.	I want to eat.
Te hivoaka aho.	I want to go out.
Mafana aho.	I am hot.
Mangatsika aho.	I am cold.
Kabone	Toilet
Ladosy	Shower
Pô	Pee pot (bed-pan)
Tsy tia hena aho.	I don't like meat.

Lesson 7: QUESTION WORDS

MALAGASY	ENGLISH
Ve?	Yes or no question
Iza?	Who?
Aiza?	Where?
Inona?	What?
Firy?	How many?
Amin'ny firy?	What time?
Oviana?	When?
Hoatrinona?	How much?
Fa maninona?	Why?
Ahoana?	How?

- "Ve" and "angaha" are used to form a "yes" or "no" question. They may be replaced by rising intonation.
- Oviana is only used in interrogative sentence. When in affirmative sentence, use *rehefa*.

EXPRESSIONS

MALAGASY	ENGLISH
Amerikana ve ianao?	Are you American?
Iza i TIM?	Who is TIM?
Mipetraka aiza izy?	Where does he/she live?
Manao inona ianareo?	What are you doing?
Manana zoky firy ianao?	How many older siblings do you have?
Amin'ny firy izao?	What time is it?
Oviana ianao no tonga?	When did you arrive?
Hoatrinona ny papier hygienique?	How much is a roll of toilet paper?
Fa maninona no mianatra Malagasy ianareo?	Why do you study Malagasy?
Ahoana ny weekend?	How was the weekend?

Lesson 8: COMMANDS AND REQUESTS

MALAGASY	ENGLISH
Eny	Yes
Tsia	No
Avia aty!	Come here!
Andraso!	Wait!
Ndao handeha!	Let's go/come on!
Diso	False / untrue
Marina	True
Ampy izay!	That is enough!
Azo?	Understand?
Mila__(koka)__ aho azafady.	I need_(coke)_ please.
Omeo_(rano)_ aho azafady.	Give me _(water)_ please.
Mba omeo_(Sokola)_ aho azafady.	Give me _(Chocolate)_ please.
Afaka mahazo_(vera)_ve aho azafady?	Can I have_(a glass)_ please?

Lesson 9: NUMBERS

NUMBERS	MALAGASY	ENGLISH
1	Iray	One
2	Roa	Two
3	Telo	Three
4	Efatra	Four
5	Dimy	Five
6	Enina	Six
7	Fito	Seven
8	Valo	Eight
9	Sivy	Nine
10	Folo	Ten

- Malagasy numbers are read from right to left.
- “amby” is used to connect numbers with one digit to two and three digits until 199. “Sy” is used after 199 and more.

10– Folo (Ten)

40– Efaolo (Fourty)

90– Sivifolo (Ninety)

100– Zato (Hundred)

300– Telonjato (Three hundred)

900– Sivinjato (Nine hundred)

1,000– Arivo (A thousand)

5,000– Dimy arivo (Five thousand)

7,000– Fito arivo (Seven thousand)

10,000 Iray alina (Ten thousand)

20,000 Roa alina (Twenty thousand)

60,000 Enina alina (Sixty thousand)

100,000 Iray hetsy (Hundred thousand)

400,000 Efaatra hetsy (Four hundred thousand)

800,000 Valo hetsy (Eight hundred thousand)

Lesson 10: FOOD

MALAGASY	ENGLISH
Sakafo	Food
Vary	Rice
Laoka	Side-dishes
Mofy	Bread
Hena	Meat
Henakisoa	Pork
Henomby	Beef
Akoho	Chicken
Trondro	Fish
Atody	Eggs

Episy	Spices
Menaka	Oil
Siramamy	Sugar
Sira	Salt
Sakay	Chili
Poavra	Pepper
Legume	Vegetable
Anana	Greens
Ovy	Potatoes
Voatabia	Tomato
Karoty	Carrot
voanjobory	Round beans
Tsaramaso	Beans
Voankazo	Fruit
Papay	Papaya
Mananasy	Pineapple
Manga	Mango
Voasary	Orange

Haninkotrana	Snack
Mangahazo	Cassava
Katsaka	Corn
Vomanga	Sweet potato
Zava-pisotro	Drink
Rano	Water
Ranon'ampango	Rice-water
Limonady	Lemonade
Jus	Juice
Kôka	Coca-cola
Dite	Tea
Kafe	Coffee
Ronono	Milk

Lesson 11: DAYS OF THE WEEK AND PARTS OF THE DAY

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Alatsinainy	Monday
Talata	Tuesday
Alarobia	Wednesday
Alakamisy	Thursday
Zoma	Friday
Sabotsy	Saturday
Alahady	Sunday
Omaly	Yesterday
Androany	Today
Rahampitso	Tomorrow

PARTS OF THE DAY

Maraina	Morning
Atoandro	Noon
Tolakandro	Afternoon
Hariva	Evening
Alina	Night

Lesson 12: FEELINGS

VOCABULARY

Mahafaly ahy izany	That makes me happy.
Mampalahelo izany	That's sad.
Mahagaga izany	That's surprising.
Mahasosotra izany	That's shocking!
Mandreraka izany	It's tiring.
Mampatahotra izany	That's frightening!
Mahakamo izany	That's annoying!
Mampiahiahy izany	That's doubtful.
Mampihomehy izany	Amusing! Hilarious!

SENTENCES (no recording)

Faly izy.	He/She is happy.
Gaga ianao.	You are surprised.
Malahelo aho.	I am sad.
Sosotra izahay.	We are shocked.
Matahotra izireo.	They are afraid.
Kamo izy.	He/she is lazy.
Halako	I hate it.
Matoky anao aho	I trust you.

Lesson 13: COLORS

MALAGASY	ENGLISH
Loko	Colors
Miloko	To be colored
Manga	Blue
Mangamanga	Bluish
Manga antitra	Dark blue
Manga tanora	Light blue
Mena	Red
Fotsy	White
Mainty	Black
Maintso	Green
Mavokely	Pink
Mavo	Yellow
Volom-boasary	Orange
Volon-tsokolà	Brown
Volon-davenona	Grey

Lesson 14: FURNITURE IN THE HOUSE

MALAGASY	ENGLISH
Seza	Chair
Latabatra	Table
Farafara	Bed frame
Kidoro	Mattress
Ondana	Pillow
Bodofotsy	Blankets
Servieta	Towel
Jiro	Light
Varavarana	Door
Varavarankely	Window
Lay	Mosquito net
Zinga	Plastic mug
Sio	Bucket