

Gaahmg

Consonant & Vowel Book

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This book is used to teach how to better read and write Gaahmg.

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Introduction

This book shows how to write words so that readers can more easily know the correct meaning. We will learn five spelling rules that help reading and writing, as well as all the sounds that join together to make words. This book is for all Gaahmg readers. It is especially important for those writing books to understand the lessons of this book.

Each of the Gaahmg words in this book are listed in the Alphabet Word List at the end of the book. If you need to check the correct spelling of a word, you can look for the word at the end of this book.

There are English words in this book that may be new to you. Each new word is underlined and explained when it is first used. If you later see the word and forget what it means, you can also find it explained in the glossary at the back of the book.

This book can be taught to participants in a workshop. A person can also use this book to teach himself/herself without a workshop or instructor. You should read each lesson and then immediately do the exercise following the lesson. The exercise will help you test your understanding of the lesson. The answers to the exercises are in the back of the book. After completing an exercise, immediately check your answers to see how well you have understood. For each of your incorrect answers, try to understand the correct answer. Ask other Gaahmg if you need help.

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Gaahmg Alphabet

The first step in learning to read and write Gaahmg is learning the alphabet. The Gaahmg language has 28 letters, as shown in the following list of words.

Gaahmg Alphabet

A a	[a]	aam	<i>bone</i>
Ah ah	[ə]	aahr	<i>sheep</i>
B b	[b]	buur	<i>gourd pot</i>
C c	[c]	cawr	<i>hare</i>
D d	[d]	daahr	<i>snake</i>
Dh dh	[d̥]	dhagar	<i>tortoise</i>
E e	[ɛ]	eed	<i>eye</i>
F f	[f]	fodor	<i>nose</i>
G g	[g]	gaam	<i>mountain</i>
I i	[i]	idig	<i>eyes</i>
J j	[j]	jaa	<i>boy, son</i>
K k	[k]	kolg	<i>eggs</i>
L l	[l]	lew	<i>grain storage</i>
M m	[m]	mas	<i>spear</i>
N n	[n]	naand	<i>day</i>
Ng ng	[ŋ]	ngahw	<i>cat</i>
Ny ny	[ɲ]	nyaang	<i>crocodile</i>
O o	[ɔ]	ool	<i>head</i>
P p	[p]	pahnyu	<i>porcupine</i>
R r	[r]	ruusu	<i>tail</i>
S s	[s]	saaw	<i>grass cutter</i>
T t	[t]	tel	<i>sun</i>
Th th	[t̥]	thoogeel	<i>grass cutter</i>
U u	[u]	uud	<i>wasp</i>
W w	[w]	wee	<i>house</i>
Y y	[y]	yoo	<i>old person</i>
Z z	[ʔ]	aza	<i>dog</i>
'	[ʔ]	pa'an	<i>was guarding</i>

The Gaahmg word list at the end of this book has the same order as the list above.

Exercise 1

Write each of the words in the list above next to the letters below. Say each word as you write them. Listen to the sound each letter makes.

a _____ i _____ p _____

ah	_____	j	_____	r	_____
b	_____	k	_____	s	_____
c	_____	l	_____	t	_____
d	_____	m	_____	th	_____
dh	_____	n	_____	u	_____
e	_____	ng	_____	w	_____
f	_____	ny	_____	y	_____
g	_____	o	_____	z	_____
				,	_____

Syllables

Now we learn how Gaahmg letters are joined together in words. Words can be divided into syllables, or beats [darba]. Each of the words below have *three* syllables. They can be divided into three separate beats as shown.

Three-syllable words

tasame	ta sa me	<i>grass</i>
kangarany	ka nga rany	<i>jackal</i>
saranyda	sa rany da	<i>tree type</i>
tunduli	tun du li	<i>elbow</i>
sandalany	san da lany	<i>tree type</i>

Each of the words below have *two* syllables. They can be divided into two separate beats as shown.

Two-syllable words

ufu	u fu	<i>tree type</i>
orond	o rond	<i>fermented milk</i>
onso	on so	<i>cooking plate</i>
amsad	am sad	<i>dryness</i>
andars	an dars	<i>insect type</i>
kusah	ku sah	<i>grass type</i>

talam	ta lam	<i>malnutrition</i>
dufurd	du furd	<i>dust</i>
celda	cel da	<i>charcoal</i>
kagdar	kag dar	<i>food type</i>
bagdars	bag dars	<i>lizard</i>

Each of the words below have *one* syllable. They cannot be divided into more than one beat.

One-syllable words

u	<i>you (sg)</i>
il	<i>horn</i>
ald	<i>fox</i>
wa	<i>no</i>
fol	<i>hole</i>
culd	<i>birth sack</i>
uu	<i>air</i>
aam	<i>bone</i>
eelg	<i>stomach</i>
waa	<i>pond</i>
deer	<i>leach</i>
jeers	<i>hippo</i>

Exercise 2

Say each word below and listen to the number of beats in each word. Write the number of syllables (1, 2, or 3) in the blank to the left of each word. Then divide the word into syllables in the blanks to the right of each word. Write one syllable on each blank. Do not fill more blanks than the number of syllables. The first one has been done as an example.

number of syllables		divided into syllables			
<u> 2 </u>	weleny	<u>we</u>	<u>leny</u>	___	<i>sour taste</i>
___	kor	___	___	___	<i>word, speech</i>
___	bimirij	___	___	___	<i>bird type</i>
___	kahrngahl	___	___	___	<i>grass type</i>
___	garnye	___	___	___	<i>dung</i>
___	ronyd	___	___	___	<i>mud</i>
___	malo	___	___	___	<i>beeswax</i>
___	fodor	___	___	___	<i>nose</i>

___	jinyjil	___	___	___	<i>bird type</i>
___	lold	___	___	___	<i>blemish on face</i>
___	luny	___	___	___	<i>boomerang</i>
___	dahlgah	___	___	___	<i>drum</i>
___	nams	___	___	___	<i>food</i>
___	bolnge	___	___	___	<i>medical tool</i>
___	dogolja	___	___	___	<i>ankle</i>
___	kasa	___	___	___	<i>boy</i>
___	kabar	___	___	___	<i>wing, armpit</i>
___	bamalja	___	___	___	<i>morning star</i>

Consonants and Vowels

Some letters are consonants and some letters are vowels. In the word **mahnyil** ‘rainbow’, the letters **m**, **ny** and **l** are consonants and **ah** and **i** are vowels.

Consonants can begin and end syllables. Vowels are in the middle of syllables, and sometimes begin or end syllables. In the syllable **mah**, the consonant **m** begins the syllable, and the vowel **ah** ends the syllable. In the syllable **nyil**, the consonant **ny** begins the syllable, the consonant **l** ends the syllable, and the vowel **i** is in the middle of the syllable.

In words such as **ange** ‘elephant’, the first vowel **a** is a syllable by itself. A vowel can be a syllable by itself, but a consonant cannot be a syllable by itself.

In a few words such as **buah** ‘tree name’, there are two vowels **u**, **ah** in the syllable. The entire word is only one syllable.

The following 21 letters are Gaahmg consonants:

Gaahmg consonants

B b	J j	Ng ng	T t
C c	K k	Ny ny	Th th
D d	L l	P p	W w
Dh dh	M m	R r	Y y
F f	N n	S s	Z z
G g			'

The following 6 letters are Gaahmg vowels:

Gaahmg vowels

A a E e O o
Ah ah I i U u

In this lesson, we learn about Gaahmg consonants. In other lessons, we learn about Gaahmg vowels.

The list below has Gaahmg words with each of the consonants. Most consonants can be at the beginning or end of words, or inbetween vowels. But the consonants **p, t, th, c, k** can only be at the beginnings of words. The consonant **z** cannot be at the beginning of words¹.

	Word beginning		Between vowels		Word end	
P p	pur	<i>flower</i>				
	pada	<i>rope material</i>				
T t	teed	<i>road, path</i>				
	teer	<i>carving tool</i>				
Th th	theend	<i>riddle</i>				
	theel	<i>anchor</i>				
C c	ceew	<i>lame person</i>				
	caa	<i>cooking stone</i>				
K k	kabar	<i>wing</i>				
	kaal	<i>house fence</i>				
B b	baaw	<i>father</i>	lahbu	<i>navel</i>	jilahb	<i>water spring</i>
	bada	<i>gourd bowl</i>	kabar	<i>wing</i>	karaab	<i>troublemaker</i>
D d	dii	<i>rat</i>	fodor	<i>nose</i>	dahid	<i>scorpion</i>
	door	<i>animal fence</i>	kaadel	<i>bull</i>	jid	<i>husband</i>
Dh dh	dhoolafaa	<i>wolf</i>	cedhang	<i>sickness</i>	dhodh	<i>bird type</i>
	dhoor	<i>hammer</i>				
J j	jid	<i>husband</i>	ciji	<i>diarrhea</i>	bimirij	<i>bird type</i>
	jaa	<i>boy, son</i>	pajo	<i>star</i>	bulij	<i>worm</i>
G g	gahmur	<i>dove</i>	dhagar	<i>tortoise</i>	gaag	<i>bird type</i>
	gaal	<i>falcon</i>	bogo	<i>cream</i>	iig	<i>milk</i>
F f	feg	<i>water</i>	afad	<i>blood</i>	gaf	<i>gives</i>
	fiid	<i>feather</i>	puufah	<i>leprosy</i>	daf	<i>beat, kill</i>
S s	siind	<i>guest</i>	kasa	<i>boy</i>	kahs	<i>chair</i>
	seen	<i>ruler</i>	aasa	<i>basket</i>	mas	<i>spear, war</i>
M m	malo	<i>beeswax</i>	lamany	<i>knot</i>	aam	<i>bone</i>
	maang	<i>disagreement</i>	gahmur	<i>dove</i>	nyaahm	<i>chin</i>
N n	nahrnah	<i>saliva</i>	gahbahnid	<i>area name</i>	seen	<i>ruler</i>

¹ Word-initial /p/, /t/, /th/, /c/, /k/, as well as intervocalic and word-final /b/, /d/, /dh/, /j/, /g/ are underlyingly doubled (geminate) plosives. Word-initial /b/, /d/, /dh/, /j/, /g/, as well as intervocalic /w/, /d/, /dh/, /y/, Ø (elided /g/) and word-final /o, u/, /d/, /dh/, /e, i/, Ø (elided /g/) can be analyzed as single plosives. Therefore, there is no underlying voice contrast for plosives, but only a length contrast.

	naand	<i>day</i>	dini	<i>life, world</i>	fidin	<i>perfume</i>
Ny ny	nyaang	<i>crocodile</i>	kanyaad	<i>bowl</i>	luny	<i>boomerang</i>
	nyaafar	<i>mustache</i>	mahnyil	<i>rainbow, spirit</i>	weleny	<i>sour taste</i>
Ng ng	ngaangaad	<i>thigh</i>	ange	<i>elephant</i>	dang	<i>courtyard</i>
	ngaasa	<i>tree type</i>	bungur	<i>young person</i>	nyaang	<i>crocodile</i>
R r	raahwah	<i>net</i>	kuuri	<i>circle</i>	daar	<i>throne</i>
	raay	<i>quarrel</i>	mora	<i>governor</i>	deer	<i>leech</i>
L l	lofo	<i>magic</i>	bulij	<i>worm</i>	baal	<i>instrument</i>
	laal	<i>pumpkin type</i>	jilabh	<i>water spring</i>	deel	<i>lake</i>
W w	wee	<i>house</i>	raahwah	<i>net</i>	baaw	<i>father</i>
	waar	<i>insect type</i>	awe	<i>bird type</i>	ceew	<i>lame person</i>
Y y	yaam	<i>bride</i>	ahyah	<i>oil, fat</i>	kaay	<i>witch doctor</i>
	yaaz	<i>sister</i>	ceyam	<i>aged tobacco</i>	tay	<i>giraffe</i>
Z z			aza	<i>dog</i>	taaz	<i>door</i>
			mezan	<i>youth leader</i>	yaaz	<i>sister</i>

Many consonants can be either before or after another consonant.

	Before another consonant	After another consonant
D d		mofdee <i>snake type</i>
J j	bajwaar <i>bird type</i>	dogolja <i>ankle</i>
G g	bagdars <i>lizard type</i>	jorgaal <i>bird type</i>
F f	mofdee <i>snake type</i>	saarfaa <i>rat</i>
S s	rahsluamaa <i>praying mantis</i>	dhersa <i>sweat</i>
M m	simdahg <i>relief</i>	gahrmud <i>insect type</i>
N n	onso <i>plate</i>	nahrnah <i>saliva</i>
Ny ny	tuguunyfaa <i>tree type</i>	bernyaw <i>tomato</i>
Ng ng	bongma <i>insect type</i>	tilngah <i>seed, chain</i>
R r	ahrngahd <i>insect type</i>	tegrelfaa <i>bird type</i>
L l	wiilmaa <i>ant type</i>	kuurluug <i>rodent</i>
W w	lewda <i>animal</i>	bajwaar <i>bird type</i>
Y y	kayma <i>lucky stone</i>	
Z z	gaahzg <i>thief</i>	

Exercise 3

In each word below, circle each consonant. The first one has been done as an example.

(c) e (y) a (m)	<i>tobacco</i>
k ah l f ah	<i>jaw</i>
d ah r s ah	<i>tumor</i>
k a g d a r	<i>food type</i>
th e e l	<i>anchor</i>

b a j w a a r	<i>bird type</i>
t i l n g a h	<i>seed, chain</i>
k a n g a r a n y	<i>jackal</i>
y a a z	<i>sister</i>
p a d a	<i>rope material</i>
n a h n d	<i>demon</i>

Consonant Sequences

In the last lesson, we learned that consonants can come before or after another consonant. When two consonants are next to each other, we call it a consonant sequence. Consonant sequences can be in the middle of words, or at the end of words.

Consonant sequences in the middle of words

nd	theendas	<i>bird type</i>	nyd	saranyda	<i>tree type</i>
ndh	kandhal	<i>tree type</i>	nyj	jinyjil	<i>bird type</i>
ns	tinsahg	<i>asking</i>	nyf	tuguunyfaa	<i>tree type</i>
nf	raanfaa	<i>covering</i>	ngm	bongma	<i>insect type</i>
ms	amsad	<i>dryness</i>	lm	koolmaa	<i>tree type</i>
rn	ngarna	<i>leach</i>	lng	bolnge	<i>medical tool</i>
rm	gahrmud	<i>tree type</i>	rng	kahrngahl	<i>grass type</i>
rny	garnye	<i>dung</i>	ym	kayma	<i>lucky stone</i>
sl	rahsluumaa	<i>praying mantis</i>	ld	celda	<i>charcoal</i>
fd	mofdee	<i>snake type</i>	lj	bamalja	<i>morning star</i>
rd	ordaa	<i>army</i>	lg	dahlgah	<i>drum</i>
rs	dahrsah	<i>tumor</i>	lf	kahlfah	<i>jaw</i>
rl	kuurluug	<i>rodent</i>	rj	kahwrjah	<i>tree type</i>
jw	bajwaar	<i>bird type</i>	rg	tirgah	<i>nature</i>
gd	bagdars	<i>lizard type</i>	rf	saarfaa	<i>rat</i>
gr	tegreelfaa	<i>bird type</i>	wd	kawda	<i>ear wax</i>
			yd	tayda	<i>strainer</i>

Consonant sequences at the end of words

ms	nams	<i>food, eating</i>	rd	bahrd	<i>lion</i>
nd	fand	<i>cheek</i>	rs	jeers	<i>hippo</i>
ngg	ungg ²	<i>tear of eye</i>	ld	lold	<i>blemish of face</i>
ns	wilahns	<i>hunting</i>	lj	falj	<i>tree type</i>
nyd	ronyd	<i>mud</i>	zg	gaahzg	<i>thief</i>
nyj	benyj	<i>upper hip</i>	wd	dawd	<i>fertile soil</i>
ngd	lahngd	<i>tree type</i>	yd	kayd	<i>cup, spoon</i>

² The plural is *uniig* 'tears', so the underlying consonant sequence is /n-g/.

yn	goyn	metal worker	wr	cawr	hare
yl	bayl	grass	wl	dhewl	jackal

Exercise 4

Circle consonant sequences in the words below. Do not circle any consonants that are not in a sequence. The first one has been done as an example.

k ah(l f) ah	<i>jaw</i>
d ah r s ah	<i>tumor</i>
a l d	<i>fox</i>
n ah r n aah	<i>saliva</i>
b aa l a n d	<i>stripe</i>
t e g r e l f aa	<i>bird type</i>
b a n dh a l	<i>weak, unhealthy</i>
l o n d o r	<i>knot</i>
k u ny j	<i>cough</i>

Consonants b, d, dh, j, g at the End of Words

In this lesson, we learn why it is best to write the consonants **b, d, dh, j, g** at the end of words instead of **p, t, th, c, k**.

The consonants **p, t, th, c, k** can be at the beginning of words, but never anywhere else in the word. The consonants **b, d, dh, j, g** can be at the beginning, middle and end of words.

	Word beginning	Between vowels	Word end
P p	pur <i>flower</i>		
T t	teed <i>road, path</i>		
Th th	theend <i>riddle</i>		
C c	ceew <i>lame person</i>		
K k	kabar <i>wing</i>		
B b	baaw <i>father</i>	lahbu <i>navel</i>	jilahb <i>water spring</i>
D d	dii <i>rat</i>	fodor <i>nose</i>	dahid <i>scorpion</i>
Dh dh	dhoolafaa <i>wolf</i>	cedhang <i>sickness</i>	dhodh <i>bird type</i>
J j	jaa <i>boy, son</i>	pajo <i>star</i>	sij <i>tree type</i>
G g	gahmur <i>dove</i>	dhagar <i>tortoise</i>	gaag <i>bird type</i>

Readers would have more difficulty if we wrote **p** at the ends of words instead of **b**. In **jilahb** 'springs', there is the sound [b]. So, we write it with the letter **b**. Since we

write **b** in **jilahbahg**, we should also write a **b** in **jilahb** ‘spring’. The words **jilahb** ‘spring’ and **jilahbahg** ‘springs’ have the same meaning except that **jilahbahg** is more than one. So, we should write these words with the same letter **b**. Readers may think the words have different meaning if we write a **p** in **jilahp** ‘spring’ and a **b** in **jilahbahg** ‘springs’.

Correct		Wrong	
jilahb	<i>spring</i>	jilahp	<i>spring</i>
jilahbahg	<i>springs</i>	jilahbahg	<i>springs</i>

Readers would also have more difficulty if we wrote **t, th, c, k** at the ends of words instead of **d, dh, j, g**. In **dahidahg** ‘scorpions’, we write the second sound [d] with the letter **d**. So, we should also write **dahid** ‘scorpion’ with a final letter **d**. In **dhodhog** ‘storks’, we write the second sound [dh] with the letter **dh**, so we should also write **dhodh** ‘stork’ with a final letter **dh**. In **siijahg** ‘trees’, we write the sound [j] with the letter **j**, so we should also write **siij** ‘tree’ with the letter **j**. In **gaagaad** ‘birds’, we write the second sound [g] with the letter **g**, so we should also write **gaag** ‘bird’ with a final letter **g**.

	Correct		Wrong		
b	jilahb	jilahbahg	jilahp	jilahbahg	<i>spring, springs</i>
d	dahyd	dahidahg	dahyt	dahidahg	<i>scorpion, scorpions</i>
	fand	fandag	fant	fandag	<i>cheek, cheeks</i>
dh	dhodh	dhodhog	dhoth	dhodhog	<i>stork, storks</i>
j	siij	siijahg	siic	siijahg	<i>type of tree, trees</i>
	bahnyj	bahnyjahg	bahnyc	bahnyjahg	<i>pulp, pulps</i>
g	gaag	gaagaad	gaak	gaagaad	<i>type of bird, birds</i>

In summary, we have the following spelling rule:

Spelling Rule 1: Write **b, d, dh, j, g** at the end of words and not **p, t, th, c, k**.

Exercise 5

Carefully read and say each test word below. Each test word may or may not be written correctly. Write the word correctly in the space given. The first one is done as an example.

Test Word	Write correctly	Test Word	Write correctly
eet <i>his eye</i>	<u>eed</u>	bahrt <i>lion</i>	_____
talngej <i>tree type</i>	_____	gaahzk <i>thief</i>	_____
unk <i>tear</i>	_____	karaap <i>troublemaker</i>	_____
benyc <i>upper hip</i>	_____	pebeec <i>tree type</i>	_____

miid *stone* | _____ | afat *blood* | _____

Heavy and Light Vowels

The words **waa** ‘pond’ and **waah** ‘shade, help’ have different vowel sounds. In **waa** ‘pond’, the vowel **a** is light (harf mutharrik xafiif). In **waah** ‘shade, help’ the vowel **ah** is heavy (harf mutharrik tagiil).

There are 6 vowels in Gaahmg, as shown in the list below.

Vowels

Light	Heavy
A a	Ah ah
E e	I i
O o	U u

The following words have the light vowel /a/ or the heavy vowel /ah/. Say each of these words. Listen to the difference in sound between the vowels /a/ and /ah/.

A a		Ah ah	
waa	<i>pond</i>	waah	<i>shade, help</i>
daar	<i>eagle</i>	daahr	<i>snake type</i>
kaal	<i>house fence</i>	gaahl	<i>shield</i>
nyaang	<i>crocodile</i>	nyaahm	<i>chin</i>
mas	<i>spear, war</i>	mahl	<i>straw</i>
yaam	<i>bride</i>	saahm	<i>hunter</i>
nams	<i>food, eating</i>	nahnd	<i>demon</i>
aal	<i>calf fence, pen</i>	aahl	<i>hyena</i>
aam	<i>bone</i>	aahz	<i>tree type</i>
talam	<i>malnutrition</i>	gahmahl	<i>forest</i>

The following words have the light vowel /e/ or the heavy vowel /i/.

E e		I i	
wer	<i>look, watch</i>	wir	<i>slaughter, cut</i>
dheel	<i>collar bone</i>	jiil	<i>cricket</i>
ceer	<i>singer</i>	wiid	<i>breast</i>
jeers	<i>hippo</i>	ilj	<i>beeswax</i>
eed	<i>eye</i>	iig	<i>milk</i>
eez	<i>water-carrying net</i>	fiid	<i>feather</i>
eeny	<i>back</i>	tiil	<i>tree type</i>
nyee	<i>drawing, colour</i>	mii	<i>goat</i>
ree	<i>cotton, thread</i>	dii	<i>rat</i>
weleny	<i>sour taste</i>	fidin	<i>perfume</i>

The following words have the light vowel /o/ or the heavy vowel /u/.

O o		U u	
moo	<i>gunfire</i>	muu	<i>face, forehead</i>
kool	<i>snake type</i>	kuul	<i>clan type member</i>
door	<i>animal fence</i>	luung	<i>water pot</i>
bool	<i>ground crack</i>	duud	<i>year</i>
kor	<i>word, speech</i>	luny	<i>boomerang</i>
dhodh	<i>stork</i>	pur	<i>flower</i>
ool	<i>head</i>	uud	<i>wasp</i>
kord	<i>bird type</i>	uld	<i>grinding stone</i>
lold	<i>blemish on face</i>	culd	<i>birth sack</i>
fodor	<i>nose</i>	bungur	<i>young person</i>

Exercise 6

Carefully read and say the test words between the lines below. The **bold** vowels in each test word may or may not be written correctly. Test the sound of the bold vowels by comparing them with the vowel sound in the words on the left and right. If the sound for the bold vowel is light as in the word on the left, write the word correctly with a light vowel. If the sound for the bold vowel is heavy as in the word on the right, write the word correctly with a heavy vowel. The first one has been done as an example.

Light	Test Word	Heavy	Write correctly
waa <i>pond</i>	ra awa <i>net</i>	waah <i>shade</i>	<u>raahwah</u>
waa <i>pond</i>	a za <i>dog</i>	waah <i>shade</i>	_____
waa <i>pond</i>	ta ahz <i>door</i>	waah <i>shade</i>	_____
waa <i>pond</i>	ba hrd <i>lion</i>	waah <i>shade</i>	_____
waa <i>pond</i>	ga azg <i>thief</i>	waah <i>shade</i>	_____
wer <i>look</i>	liil <i>grass</i>	wir <i>cut</i>	_____
wer <i>look</i>	feg <i>water</i>	wir <i>cut</i>	_____
wer <i>look</i>	miid <i>stone</i>	wir <i>cut</i>	_____
wer <i>look</i>	se end <i>guest</i>	wir <i>cut</i>	_____
moo <i>gunfire</i>	un gg <i>tear of eye</i>	muu <i>face</i>	_____
moo <i>gunfire</i>	runyd <i>mud</i>	muu <i>face</i>	_____
moo <i>gunfire</i>	tu u <i>cow</i>	muu <i>face</i>	_____
moo <i>gunfire</i>	bu ul <i>bread</i>	muu <i>face</i>	_____

Single and Doubled Vowels

The words **mahl** ‘straw’ and **maahl** ‘fighting’ have two different **ah** sounds. The word **mahl** has a short **ah** sound. We call the **ah** in **mahl** ‘straw’ a single vowel and write the **ah** once. The word **maahl** has a long **aah** sound. We call the **aah** in **maahl** ‘fighting’ a doubled vowel and we write it twice or long as in **aah**.

As shown below, vowels can be short or long at the beginning, middle or end of words.

Single vowels			Doubled vowels		
a	araad	lake	aa	aare	grass type
	saw	shoe		saaw	grass cutter
	celda	charcoal		aldaa	earth, dust
ah	ahmii	ant type	aah	aahmaah	liver
	mahl	straw		maahl	fighting
	gahmah	ant type		rimaah	star
e	eg	they (pron)	ee	eed	eye
	sen	skin sickness		seen	ruler
	maase	root type		masee	illness type
i	ilj	beeswax	ii	iig	milk
	cil	instrument type		tiil	tree type
	kuuri	circle		siirii	smudge
o	ony	meat	oo	ool	head
	kor	word, speech		kool	snake type
	malo	beeswax		meloo	sugar cane
u	uld	grinding stone	uu	uud	wasp
	luny	boomerang		luung	water pot
	gahyu	grass type		ahyuu	tooth brush

Exercise 7

Carefully read and say the test words between the two lines below. The **bold** vowels in each test word may or may not be written correctly. Test the sound of the bold letter by comparing it with the word on the left and right. If the sound for the bold vowel is short like in the word on the left, write the word correctly with a single vowel. If the sound for the bold vowel is long like in the word on the right, write the word correctly with a doubled vowel. The first one has been done as an example.

Single	Test words	Doubled	Write correctly			
kor	word, speech	por	boat	kool	snake type	<u>poor</u>
kor	word, speech	dhodh	stork	kool	snake type	_____
luny	boomerang	buul	bread	luung	water pot	_____
saw	shoe	daal	pot	saaw	grass cutter	_____
saw	shoe	bal	cave	saaw	grass cutter	_____
saw	shoe	bard	abdomen	saaw	grass cutter	_____

sen	skin sickness	celd	broom	seen	ruler	
ilj	beeswax	iil	horn	iig	milk	
araad	lake	aald	fox	aare	grass type	
eg	they (pron)	eelg	stomach	eed	eye	
celda	charcoal	maa	house	aldaa	earth, dust	
sen	skin sickness	peram	flag	seen	ruler	
sen	skin sickness	teefa	leaf, sickness	seen	ruler	
kor	word, speech	foodor	nose	kool	snake type	
kor	word, speech	boongma	insect type	kool	snake type	
cil	instrument type	tifaahng	bird type	tiil	tree type	
cil	instrument type	fiidin	perfume	tiil	tree type	
saw	shoe	baland	stripe	saaw	grass cutter	
mahl	straw	mahnimah	vegetable type	maahl	fighting	
sen	skin sickness	awees	bird type	seen	ruler	
mahl	straw	gahmaahl	forest	maahl	fighting	
mahl	straw	bahzaahl	business	maahl	fighting	
kor	word, speech	maroos	spider	kool	snake type	
luny	boomerang	bulurs	bird type	luung	water pot	
luny	boomerang	bungur	young person	luung	water pot	
saw	shoe	jorgal	bird type	saaw	grass cutter	
araad	lake	asa	basket type	aare	grass type	
araad	lake	aree	grass type	aare	grass type	
ahmii	ant type	aahmahng	yawns	aahmaah	liver	
celda	charcoal	ordaa	army	aldaa	earth, dust	
maase	root type	mofdee	snake type	masee	illness type	
gahmah	ant type	gahmah	ant type	rimaah	star	
gahmah	ant type	ungurah	pumpkin	rimaah	star	
kuuri	circle	kusumi	knee	siirii	smudge	

Mixed Vowels

There are not usually both light and heavy vowels in the same word. In the following words, there are only the **light** vowels /a/, /e/, /o/.

Light vowels together in the same word

a, e	kaadel	bull
------	--------	------

a, a	talam	<i>malnutrition</i>
a, o	pajo	<i>star</i>
e, e	weleny	<i>sour taste</i>
e, a	cedhan	<i>sickness type</i>
e, o	meloo	<i>sugar cane</i>
o, e	bored	<i>eye matter</i>
o, a	moraa	<i>governor</i>
o, o	fodor	<i>nose</i>

In the following words, there are only the **heavy** vowels /**ah**/, /**i**/, /**u**/.

Heavy vowels together in the same word

ah, i	mahnyil	<i>rainbow, spirit</i>
ah, ah	gahmahl	<i>forest</i>
ah, u	gahmur	<i>dove</i>
i, i	fidin	<i>perfume</i>
i, ah	jilahb	<i>water spring</i>
i, u	jiiguul	<i>afternoon</i>
u, i	bulij	<i>worm</i>
u, ah	buusah	<i>stone type</i>
u, u	bungur	<i>young person</i>

When two vowels are next to each other, we call it a vowel sequence. Light and heavy vowels are not mixed together in the following vowel sequences.

Heavy vowel sequences

iah	diahrmah	<i>centipede</i>
uah	buah	<i>tree type</i>

In summary, we have the following spelling rule.

Spelling Rule 2: Only write the light vowels (harf mutharrik xafiif) **a, e, o** together in the same word. Only write the heavy vowels (harf mutharrik tagiil) **ah, i, o** together in the same word. Light and heavy vowels are usually not mixed in the same word.

Exercise 8

Carefully read and say each test word below. The vowels of each test word may or may not be written correctly. Write the word correctly in the space given. The first one is done as an example.

Test Word	Write correctly	Test Word	Write correctly
celdah <i>charcoal</i>	<u>celda</u>	jorgaal <i>bird type</i>	_____
gayu <i>grass type</i>	_____	iyah <i>oil, fat</i>	_____

aaree	<i>grass type</i>		peerahm	<i>flag</i>	
kozil	<i>baboon</i>		orii	<i>ostrich</i>	
guad	<i>excrement</i>		kua	<i>foam, bubbles</i>	
maruus	<i>spider</i>		gamiil	<i>tree type</i>	
bunyja	<i>developed, finished</i>		leeroo	<i>reed</i>	

Write w, y, i after vowels

In this lesson, we learn when to write the consonant **w** instead of the vowel **o** or **u**. We learn when to write the consonant **y** instead of the vowel **e**. We learn when to write the vowel **i** instead of **y**.

The word **nyaang** ‘crocodile’ is in each of the sentences below.

- (1) **Nyaang** een tu. *There is a crocodile.*
- (2) Jaan leen e **nyaange**. *The person came with a crocodile.*
- (3) **Nyaanga** wedan. *The crocodile is good.*
- (4) **Nyaangeeg** egen tu. *There are crocodiles (more than one).*

In (1), **nyaang** means ‘a crocodile’. In (2), the final letter –**e** on **nyaange** means ‘with a crocodile’. In (3), the final letter –**a** on **nyaanga** means ‘the crocodile’. In (4), the –**eeg** on **nyaangeeg** means ‘more than one crocodile’. The consonant **ng** at the end of **nyaang** does not change in any of these sentences.

The words below can take the place of **nyaang** in sentences (1-4) above. The consonant **l** at the end of **laal** ‘pumpkin type’ does not change in any of the sentences with letters added to **laal**. The consonant **m** at the end of **kaam** ‘nyala’ does not change either.

	(1) <i>a . . .</i>	(2) <i>with a . . .</i>	(3) <i>the . . .</i>	(4) <i>more than one . . .</i>	
ng	nyaang	nyaange	nyaanga	nyaangeeg	<i>crocodile</i>
l	laal	laale	laala	laaleeg	<i>pumpkin type</i>
m	kaam	kaame	kaama	kaamg	<i>nyala</i>

The words below can also take the place of **nyaang** in sentences (1-4) above. The vowels **a, ah, u, e, o, i** at the end of words do not change in any of the sentences.

	(1) <i>a . . .</i>	(2) <i>with a . . .</i>	(3) <i>the . . .</i>	(4) <i>more than one . . .</i>	
a	waayaa	waayaane	waayaan	waayaag	<i>bird type</i>
ah	buah	buahni	buahn	buahg	<i>tree type</i>
u	buu	buuni	buun	buug	<i>roof for chickens</i>
e	ree	reene	reen	reeg	<i>cotton</i>
o	too	toone	toon	tog	<i>cow</i>
i	jii	jiini	jiin	jiig	<i>turkey</i>

The words below can also take the place of **nyaang** in sentences (1-4) above. The consonants **w**, **y** and the vowel **i** at the end of words do not change in any of the sentences.

Correct (Consonants w , y and vowel i after vowels)					
	(1) <i>a . . .</i>	(2) <i>with a . . .</i>	(3) <i>the . . .</i>	(4) <i>more than one . . .</i>	
w	maaw	maawne	maawan	maaweeg	<i>gazelle</i>
	daw	dawne	dawan	daweeg	<i>monkey</i>
	ceew	ceewne	ceewan	ceewaag	<i>lame person</i>
	bew	bewne	bewan	bewg	<i>type of tree</i>
y	kaay	kaayne	kaayan	kaayeeg	<i>witch doctor</i>
	tay	tayne	tayan	tayg	<i>giraffe</i>
i	nyui	nyuini	nyuin	nyuig	<i>leopard</i>
	mui	muini	muin	muig	<i>wildebeest</i>

We don't spell these words with **o**, **e** or **u** at the end. For example we don't spell **maao** (wrong) 'gazelle' with the vowel **o** at the end. When we add the letters **-eeg** for more than one gazelle, there are too many vowels together **maaoeeg** (wrong) 'gazelles'. Also, there is the sound of the letter **w** in this word, so we should write **maaweeg** 'gazelles' with a **w**. However, when we add the letter **-g** for more than one leopard, there are not too many vowels together **nyuig** 'leopards' (correct). After **a**, **o**, **e** we write **w** or **y** (and not **o**, **u**, **e**, **i**). After **ah**, **u** we write **i** (and not **y**).

Wrong				
(1) <i>a . . .</i>	(2) <i>with a . . .</i>	(3) <i>the . . .</i>	(4) <i>more than one . . .</i>	
maao	maaone	maaoan	maaoeeg	<i>gazelle</i>
dao	daone	daoan	daoeg	<i>monkey</i>
ceo	ceeone	ceoan	ceoag	<i>lame person</i>
beo	beone	beoan	beog	<i>type of tree</i>
kaae	kaaene	kaaeen	kaaeeg	<i>witch doctor</i>
tae	taene	taean	taeg	<i>giraffe</i>
nyuy	nyuyni	nyuyn	nyuyg	<i>leopard</i>
muy	muyni	muyn	muyg	<i>wildebeest</i>

We write a word the same way in every sentence. That is, we don't write a word with a consonant in one sentence, and with a vowel in another sentence. For example, the words **maaw** 'gazelle' and **maaweeg** 'gazelles' have the same meaning except that **maaweeg** is more than one. So, we should write these words with the same letter **w**. Readers may think the words have different meaning if we write **o** in **maao** 'gazelle' and **w** in **maaweeg** 'gazelles'.

The word **nyam** 'break' is in each of the sentences below. The consonant **m** at the end of **nyam** does not change in any of these sentences. In commands to more than one person, there are always two consonants in the middle, such as **md** in **nyahmdah** 'break' of sentence (7).

<u>Infinitive</u>	(5) Jaan e doos e nyam jeg.	<i>The person began to break something.</i>
<u>Command</u>	(6) Jaa, nyam jeg!	<i>Person, break something!</i>
<u>Command Plural</u>	(7) Jog, nyahmdah jeg!	<i>People, break something!</i>
<u>Subjunctive</u>	(8) Jaan leen a nyamda jeg.	<i>Person comes in order to break s.t.</i>
<u>Completive</u>	(9) Jaan nyamsa jeg kayn.	<i>The person broke something yesterday.</i>
<u>Continuous Past</u>	(10) Jaan nyamăn jeg kayn.	<i>The person continues to break s.t. yest.</i>

The words below can take the place of **nyam** in sentences (5-10) above. The consonant **ny** at the end of **guny** ‘agree’ does not change in any of the sentences with letters added to **guny**. The consonant **l** at the end of **mal** ‘gather’ does not change either.

	(5) Inf	(6) Comd	(7) Comd Pl	(8) Subj	(9) Comp	(10) Cont	
m	nyam	nyam	nyahmdah	nyamda	nyamsa	nyaman	<i>break</i>
ny	guny	gunyu	gunydu	gunydu	gunysu	gunyahn	<i>agree</i>
l	mal	mal	mahldah	malda	malda	malan	<i>gather</i>

The words below can also take the place of **nyam** in sentences (5-10) above. The consonants **w, y** at the end of words do not change in any of the sentences.

Correct (Consonants **w, y** and vowel **i** after vowels)

	(5) Inf	(6) Comd	(7) Comd Pl	(8) Subj	(9) Comp	(10) Cont	
w	law dhiw	lawna dhiw	lahwwah dhiwdah	lawwa dhiwdah	lawsa dhiwsah	lawăn dhiwăhn	<i>move fast</i> <i>plow, plant</i>
y	koy	koyna	kuyyu	koyda	koyso	koyăn	<i>cook</i>
i	bui	buinah	buyyu	buidah	buisah	buinăhn	<i>cultivate</i>

We don’t spell these words with **o** or **e** at the end. That is, we don’t spell **lao** (wrong) ‘move fast’ with the vowel **o** at the end. When we add the letters **-ăn** for continuous action, there are too many vowels together in **laoăn** (wrong) ‘move fast’. Also, there is the sound of the letter **w** in this word, so we should write **lawăn** ‘move fast’ with a **w**. However, when we add **-ăn** to **buy** ‘cultivate’, there are not too many vowels together **buinăn** ‘cutivating’ (correct). On the other hand, we write commands to more than one person with two **yy** after the vowel **u** (**buyyu** ‘cultivate!’). The double consonant **yy** helps to separate the vowels.

Wrong

(5) Inf	(6) Comd	(7) Comd Pl	(8) Subj	(9) Comp	(10) Cont	
lao	laona	lahuuah	laooa	laosa	laoăn	<i>move fast</i>
dhiu	dhiu	dhiudah	dhiudah	dhiusah	dhiuăhn	<i>plow, plant</i>
koe	koena	kuiiu	koeda	koeso	koeăn	<i>cook</i>
buy	buynah	buiiu	buydah	buysah	buynăhn	<i>cultivate</i>

After **a, o, e** we write **w** or **y** (and not **o, u, e, i**). But after **ah, u** we write **i** (and not **y**) unless doubled in a plural command (**buyyu** ‘cultivate!’). After **ah, i** we write **w** (and not **u**).

Below are more words with **w, y, i** after vowels. In **cawr** ‘hare’, we write **w** after **a** (and not **o**). In **kayn** ‘yesterday’, we write **y** after **a** (and not **e**). In **tahil** ‘tree type’, we write **i** after **ah** (and not **y**). In **kahwrjah** ‘tree type’, we write **w** after **ah** (and not **u**).

Consonants **w, y** and vowel **i** after vowels

	Correct		Wrong	
w	cawr	<i>hare</i>	caor	<i>hare</i>
	dawd	<i>fertile soil</i>	daod	<i>fertile soil</i>
	dhewl	<i>jackal</i>	dheol	<i>jackal</i>
	tews	<i>sorghum seed type</i>	teos	<i>sorghum seed type</i>
	awrg	<i>priest, chief</i>	aorg	<i>priest, chief</i>
	kawda	<i>ear wax</i>	kaoda	<i>ear wax</i>
	lewda	<i>animal</i>	leoda	<i>animal</i>
y	kayn	<i>yesterday</i>	kaen	<i>yesterday</i>
	kayd	<i>cup, spoon</i>	kaed	<i>cup, spoon</i>
	goyn	<i>metal worker</i>	goen	<i>metal worker</i>
	tayda	<i>strainer</i>	taeda	<i>strainer</i>
	foyda	<i>planting seed</i>	foeda	<i>planting seed</i>
i	tahil	<i>tree type</i>	tahyl	<i>tree type</i>
	dahid	<i>scorpion</i>	dahyd	<i>scorpion</i>
	kuir	<i>leaf for mats</i>	kuyr	<i>leaf for mats</i>
	ahild	<i>cold, sickness</i>	ahyld	<i>cold, sickness</i>
w	kahwrjah	<i>tree type</i>	kahurjah	<i>tree type</i>
	gahwldaah	<i>fish</i>	gahuldaah	<i>fish</i>
	gahwrđ	<i>stomach pouch</i>	gahurd	<i>stomach pouch</i>

In summary, we have the following spelling rule with three parts:

<p>Spelling Rule 3: (3a) After a, o, e write y or w and not e, i, o, u. (3b) After ah, u write i and not y, unless doubled in a plural command (buyyu ‘cultivate!’) (3c) After ah, i write w and not u.</p>

Exercise 9

Carefully read and say each test word below. The **bold** letter in each test word may or may not be written correctly. Write the word correctly in the space given. The first one is done as an example.

Test Word		Write correctly	Test Word		Write correctly
ruyd	<i>dirt</i>	<u>ruid</u>	boydaa	<i>tree type</i>	_____
mahyd	<i>old person</i>	_____	fandaomo	<i>upward, in front of</i>	_____
taor	<i>lizard</i>	_____	gaahi	<i>illiterate, can't read</i>	_____

buil	<i>fog</i>		koe	<i>rain</i>	
bayl	<i>grass</i>		kuydahg	<i>welcome</i>	
taw	<i>up</i>		ahyld	<i>cold, sickness</i>	
rahi	<i>late</i>		kayma	<i>good luck stone</i>	
uui	<i>squirrel</i>		muguui	<i>burning wood</i>	
gahwldaah	<i>fish</i>		gaae	<i>tree name</i>	
fahi	<i>strength</i>		fuui	<i>male</i>	
baaw	<i>father</i>		boy	<i>fat</i>	
bae	<i>jug</i>		aay	<i>honey</i>	

The apostrophe consonant '

The apostrophe consonant ' is only in the middle of words such as **pa'an** 'guarding' and other words below.

Word middle apostrophe '

pa'ǎn *guarding*
ko'ǎn *crying, calling*
ci'ǎhn *wearing*

The consonant ' is always between two vowels and always begins a new syllable. So, ' always separates two vowels with their own beat. The two vowels are in different syllables. In **ko'ǎn** 'crying', both **o** and **a** have their own beat. The vowel **o** is in the first syllable **ko** and the vowel **a** is in the second syllable **'ǎn**.

Consonant ' separates 2 vowels in different syllables

ko'an	ko	'ǎn	<i>crying, calling</i>
pa'an	pa	'ǎn	<i>guarding</i>

This is different than the vowels in **buah** 'tree type'. In **buah**, both **u** and **ah** are in the same beat or syllable. So the vowels **u** and **ah** are not separated with the consonant ' in **buah**.

2 vowels in the same syllable

buah *tree type*
buu *chicken coop roof*

The consonant ' is also different than the consonant **y**. The consonants ' and **y** can both begin a new syllable, and they separate vowels in different syllables. However, ' sounds different than **y** in the words **ci'ǎhn** 'wearing' and **biyǎhn** 'leaving'. So they should be written differently—each with their own letter.

Consonants ' and y separate 2 vowels in different syllables, but sound differently

ci'ahn	ci	'ahn	<i>wearing</i>
biyahn	bi	yahn	<i>leaving, letting</i>

The consonant ' is also different than the consonant w. The consonants ' and w can both begin a new syllable, and they separate vowels in different syllables. However, ' sounds different than w in the words **ma'ǎn** 'drinking' and **lawǎn** 'moving fast'. So they should be written differently—each with their own letter.

Consonants ' and w separate 2 vowels in different syllables, but sound differently

ma'an	ma	'ǎn	<i>drinking</i>
lawan	la	wǎn	<i>moving fast</i>

In summary, we have the following spelling rule:

Spelling Rule 4: Write the apostrophe consonant ' between vowels if both vowels get a beat (if the vowels are in different syllables). Do not write ' if both vowels are in the same beat (syllable) or if the sounds [y] or [w] separate the vowels.

Exercise 10

Carefully read and say each test word below. The **bold** letters of each test word may or may not be written correctly. Write the word correctly in the space given. The first one is done as an example.

Test Word	Write correctly	Test Word	Write correctly
ku'ah <i>foam, bubble</i>	<u>kuwah</u>	di'ahrmah <i>centipede</i>	_____
naan <i>sleeping</i>	_____	fean <i>sweeping, cleaning</i>	_____
ka'ah <i>bringing</i>	_____	cuahn <i>sending, going</i>	_____
buwah <i>tree type</i>	_____	dhi'ahn <i>planting, cultivating</i>	_____
lahwahn <i>surrounding</i>	_____	bayan <i>throwing, hitting</i>	_____

Single and Doubled Consonants

Sometimes different words sound the same except for the tone—the high or low, falling or rising sound of a word.

The word **nyam** 'want' has a *High* tone in sentence (1). The word **nyamm** 'break' has a *Mid* tone in sentence (2).

<u>High</u>	E doos e nyam jeg. <i>He begins to want things.</i>
<u>Mid</u>	E doos e nyamm jeg. <i>He begins to break things.</i>

These words sound the same except for the difference in tone. We want to make it easier for the reader to understand these verbs correctly. So, we write **nyamm** ‘break’ with double **mm**.

Below there are a three other words with doubled consonant (itneen harf saakin). The doubled consonants help us know the difference in meaning in words that sound the same except for tone.

Words with doubled consonants

High-Mid	bel	<i>name, call</i>
Mid	bel	<i>have, possess</i>
Low	bell	<i>beat, hit</i>
High	nyam	<i>want, love</i>
Mid	nyamm	<i>break</i>
High	pal	<i>cut</i>
Low	pall	<i>fall, get down</i>
High	cag	<i>bathe, wash</i>
Low	cagg	<i>finish, complete</i>

There is also the words **mii** ‘chicken’ and **mii** ‘goat’ that sound the same except for tone. We write **miah** ‘goat’ as in the *Buwahg* dialect instead of **mii** ‘goat’ as in the *Taw* dialect. This will help readers know the correct meaning of these words.

Similar nouns

	Correct	Wrong
MH	mii <i>chicken (Taw dialect)</i>	
M	miah <i>goat (Buwahg dialect)</i>	mii <i>goat (Taw dialect)</i>

In summary, we have the following spelling rule

Spelling Rule 5 (page): Write **miah** ‘goat’ instead of **mii** ‘goat’ so that it is different than **mii** ‘chicken’.

Write **bell** ‘beat, hit’, **nyamm** ‘break’, **cagg** ‘finish, complete’ **pall** ‘fall, get down’ with two final consonants (itneen harf saakin) so that they are different than other verbs¹.

Exercise 11

Carefully read each test word below. The **bold** letters in each test word may or may not be written correctly. Write the word correctly in the space given. The first one has been done as an example.

Test Word	Write Correctly
-----------	-----------------

bel	<i>beat, hit</i>	<u>bell</u>	nyamm	<i>want, love</i>	_____
pal	<i>cut</i>	_____	cag	<i>finish, complete</i>	_____
mii	<i>chicken</i>	_____	pall	<i>fall, get down</i>	_____
bell	<i>have, possess</i>	_____	bel	<i>name, call</i>	_____
nyam	<i>break</i>	_____	cagg	<i>bathe, wash</i>	_____
mii	<i>goat</i>	_____			

Spelling Rules Reviewed

In this book, we have learned four spelling rules that help reading and writing. We now review these rules. There are examples after each rule. The page number is shown where the rule is further explained.

Spelling Rule 1 (page 13): Write **b, d, dh, j, g** at the end of words and not **p, t, th, c, k**.

	Correct	Wrong	
b	jilah b jilahbahg	jilah p jilahbahg	<i>spring, springs</i>
d	dahy d dahidahg	dahy t dahidahg	<i>scorpion, scorpions</i>
dh	dhod dh dhodhog	dhod th dhodhog	<i>stork, storks</i>
j	sii j siijahg	siic siijahg	<i>type of tree, trees</i>
g	gaag g gaagaad	gaak gaagaad	<i>type of bird, birds</i>

Spelling Rule 2 (page 18): The light vowels **a, e, o** and the heavy vowels **ah, i, o** are not usually mixed in the same words.

Light vowels			Heavy vowels		
a, e	kaadel	<i>bull</i>	ah, i	mahnyil	<i>rainbow, spirit</i>
a, o	pajo	<i>star</i>	ah, u	gahmur	<i>dove</i>
e, a	cedhan	<i>sickness type</i>	i, ah	jilahb	<i>water spring</i>
e, o	meloo	<i>sugar cane</i>	i, u	jiiguul	<i>afternoon</i>
o, e	bored	<i>eye matter</i>	u, i	bulij	<i>worm</i>
o, a	moraa	<i>governor</i>	u, ah	buusah	<i>stone type</i>

Spelling Rule 3a (page 22): After **a, o, e** write **y or w** and not **e, i, o, u**.

	<u>Correct</u>			<u>Wrong</u>			
	<i>a . . .</i>	<i>the . . .</i>	<i>more than one</i>	<i>a . . .</i>	<i>the . . .</i>	<i>more than one</i>	
w	maaw	maawan	maaweeg	maa o	maa o an	maa o eeg	<i>gazelle</i>
	ceew	ceewan	ceewaag	cee o	cee o an	cee o aag	<i>lame person</i>
y	kaay	kaayan	kaayeeg	kaa e	kaa e an	kaa e eeg	<i>witch doctor</i>
	<u>Correct</u>			<u>Wrong</u>			

	Inf	Comd Pl	Cont Past	Inf	Comd Pl	Cont Past	
w	law	lahwwah	lawan	lao	lahodah	laoan	<i>move quickly</i>
	dhiw	dhiwdah	dhiwahn	dhiu	dhiudah	dhiuahn	<i>plow, plant</i>
y	koy	kuyyu	koyan	koe	kuiiu	koean	<i>cook</i>

	Correct			Wrong		
w	kawda	<i>ear wax</i>		kaoda	<i>ear wax</i>	
	lewda	<i>animal</i>		leoda	<i>animal</i>	
	cawr	<i>hare</i>		caor	<i>hare</i>	
	tews	<i>sorghum seed type</i>		teos	<i>sorghum seed type</i>	
y	tayda	<i>strainer</i>		taeda	<i>strainer</i>	
	foyda	<i>planting seed</i>		foeda	<i>planting seed</i>	
	kayn	<i>yesterday</i>		kaen	<i>yesterday</i>	
	goyn	<i>metal worker</i>		goen	<i>metal worker</i>	

3b: After **ah**, **u** write **i** and not **y**, unless doubled as in a plural command (**buyyu** 'cultivate!')

	Correct			Wrong			
	<i>a . . .</i>	<i>the . . .</i>	<i>more than one</i>	<i>a . . .</i>	<i>the . . .</i>	<i>more than one</i>	
i	nyui	nyuin	nyuig	nyuy	nyuyahn	nyuyg	<i>leopard</i>
	mui	muin	muig	muy	muyahn	muyg	<i>wildebeast</i>

	Correct			Wrong			
	<u>Inf</u>	<u>Comd Pl</u>	<u>Cont</u>	<u>Inf</u>	<u>Comd Pl</u>	<u>Cont</u>	
i	bui	buyyu	buinahn	buy	buiiu	buynahn	<i>cultivate</i>

	Correct		Wrong	
i	dahid	<i>scorpion</i>	dahyd	<i>scorpion</i>
	ahild	<i>cold, sickness</i>	ahyld	<i>cold, sickness</i>
	kuir	<i>leaf for mats</i>	kuyr	<i>leaf for mats</i>

3c: After **ah**, **i** write **w** and not **u**.

	Correct			Wrong			
	<u>Inf</u>	<u>Comd Pl</u>	<u>Cont</u>	<u>Inf</u>	<u>Comd Pl</u>	<u>Cont</u>	
w	dahw	dahwwah	dahwahn	dahu	dahuuah	dahuahn	<i>follow</i>
	dhiw	dhiwdah	dhiwahn	dhiu	dhiudah	dhiuahn	<i>plant, plow</i>

	Correct		Wrong	
w	gahwrd	<i>stomach pouch</i>	gahurd	<i>stomach pouch</i>
	gahwldaah	<i>fish</i>	gahuldaah	<i>fish</i>

Spelling Rule 4 (page 23): Write an apostrophe consonant ' between vowels if both vowels get a beat (darba) (if the vowels are in different syllables). Do not write ' if both

vowels are in the same beat or if the sounds [y] or [w] separate the vowels.

2 syllables	'	pa'an	<i>was guarding</i>
		ci'ahn	<i>was wearing</i>
1 syllable	y	biyahn	<i>was leaving, letting</i>
	w	lawan	<i>was moving quickly</i>
		buah	<i>tree type</i>
		buu	<i>chicken coop roof</i>

Spelling Rule 5 (page 25): Write **miah** 'goat' instead of **mii** 'goat' so that it is different than **mii** 'chicken'.

Similar nouns

	Correct	Wrong
Mid-High	mii <i>chicken (Taw dialect)</i>	
Mid	miah <i>goat (Buwahg dialect)</i>	mii <i>goat (Taw dialect)</i>

Write **bell** 'beat, hit', **nyamm** 'break', **cagg** 'finish, complete' **pall** 'fall, get down' with two final consonants (itneen harf saakin) so that they are different than other verbs³.

High-Mid	bel	<i>name, call</i>
Mid	bel	<i>have, possess</i>
Low	bell	<i>beat, hit</i>
High	nyam	<i>want, love</i>
Mid	nyamm	<i>break</i>
High	pal	<i>cut</i>
Low	pall	<i>fall, get down</i>
High	cag	<i>bathe, wash</i>
Low	cagg	<i>finish, complete</i>

Exercise 12

Carefully read and say each test word below. Each test word may or may not be written correctly. Write the word correctly in the space given. The first one is done as an example.

Test Word	Write correctly	Test Word	Write correctly
miit <i>stone</i>	_____	talngec <i>tree type</i>	_____
cak <i>bathe, wash</i>	_____	karaab <i>troublemaker</i>	_____
aahree <i>grass type</i>	_____	jurgaal <i>bird type</i>	_____
bunyja <i>finished</i>	_____	liiro <i>reed</i>	_____
buyl <i>fog</i>	_____	tao <i>up</i>	_____

³ There is no phonetic consonant length distinction in Gaahmg, so it should not be confusing to use doubled consonants in the orthography to help distinguish meaning.

bayl	<i>grass</i>		rahi	<i>late</i>	
uuy	<i>squirrel</i>		gahuldaah	<i>fish</i>	
baaw	<i>father</i>		boedaa	<i>tree type</i>	
lah'ahn	<i>surrounding</i>		layan	<i>throwing, hitting</i>	
naan	<i>sleeping</i>		cuahn	<i>sending, going</i>	
mii	<i>goat</i>		bel	<i>name, call</i>	
nyam	<i>break</i>		bel	<i>beat, hit</i>	

Alphabetical Word List

The following singular (one) and plural (more than one) words are in alphabetical order. There are nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and verbs. We learn about these types of words in the Gaahmg Grammar Book.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>		
A a			
aam	aamg	<i>noun</i>	<i>bone</i>
aare	aareg	<i>noun</i>	<i>grass type</i>
aasa	aasag	<i>noun</i>	<i>basket</i>
aay	aayg	<i>noun</i>	<i>honey</i>
afad	afaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>blood</i>
ald	aldag	<i>noun</i>	<i>fox</i>
aldaa	aldaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>earth, dust</i>
amsad		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>dryness</i>
andars	andarsag	<i>noun</i>	<i>insect type</i>
ange	angeeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>elephant</i>
araad	araag	<i>noun</i>	<i>lake</i>
awees	aweesag	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
awrg	awreeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>priest, chief</i>
aza	azag	<i>noun</i>	<i>dog</i>
Ah ah			
aahl	aahliig	<i>noun</i>	<i>hyena</i>
aahmaah	aahmaahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>liver</i>
aahm	aahmahng	<i>noun</i>	<i>yawn</i>
aahr	aahriig	<i>noun</i>	<i>sheep</i>
aahz	aahziig	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
ahild		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>cold, sickness</i>
ahmii	ahmiig	<i>noun</i>	<i>ant type</i>
ahrngahd	ahrngahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>insect type</i>
ahyah	ahyahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>oil, fat</i>
ahyuu	ahyuug	<i>noun</i>	<i>tooth brush</i>

B b

baal	baalg	<i>noun</i>	<i>instrument</i>
baal	baalgiilg	<i>noun</i>	<i>cave</i>
baaland		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>stripe</i>
baam	baameeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
baard	baareeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>abdomen</i>
baaw	baawaad	<i>noun</i>	<i>father</i>
bad		<i>verb</i>	<i>throw, hit</i>
bada	badag	<i>noun</i>	<i>gourd bowl</i>
bagdars	bagdarsag	<i>noun</i>	<i>lizard</i>
bajwaar	bajwaarg	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
bamalja	bamaljag	<i>noun</i>	<i>morning star</i>
bandhal	bandalg	<i>adjective</i>	<i>weak</i>
bay	bayg	<i>noun</i>	<i>jug</i>
bayl	baylg	<i>noun</i>	<i>grass type</i>
ba'an	ba'an	<i>verb continuous</i>	<i>throwing, hitting</i>
bahnyj	bahnyjahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>pulp</i>
bahrd	bahraahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>lion</i>
bahzahl	bahzahlg	<i>noun</i>	<i>profit-making business</i>
bel		<i>verb</i>	<i>name, call</i>
bel		<i>verb</i>	<i>have, possess</i>
bell		<i>verb</i>	<i>beat, hit</i>
benyj	benyaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>upper hip</i>
bernyaw	bernyawg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tomato</i>
bew	bewg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
bij		<i>verb</i>	<i>leave, let</i>
bimirij	bimirijahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
biyahn		<i>verb continuous</i>	<i>leaving, letting</i>
bool	booleeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>ground crack</i>
bogo	bogog	<i>noun</i>	<i>cream</i>
bolnge	bolngeeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>medical tool</i>
bongma	bongmad	<i>noun</i>	<i>insect type</i>
bonyja	bonyja	<i>derived adjective</i>	<i>developed, finished</i>
bored	boreg	<i>noun</i>	<i>eye matter</i>
boydaa	boydaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
boy	boyg	<i>adjective</i>	<i>fat</i>
buu	buug	<i>noun</i>	<i>roof for chickens</i>
buul	buulg	<i>noun</i>	<i>bread</i>
buur	buurg	<i>noun</i>	<i>gourd pot</i>
buusah	buusahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>stone name</i>
buah	buahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
bui		<i>verb</i>	<i>cultivate, farm</i>
buil		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>fog</i>
bulij	buliig	<i>noun</i>	<i>worm</i>
buluurs	buluursig	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
bungur	bungurg	<i>noun</i>	<i>young person</i>

C c

caa	caag	<i>noun</i>	<i>cooking stone</i>
cag	cag	<i>verb</i>	<i>bathe, wash</i>
cagg	cagg	<i>verb</i>	<i>finish, complete</i>
cawr	cawreeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>hare</i>
ceer	ceereeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>singer</i>
ceew	ceeweeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>lame person</i>
cedhang		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>rash</i>
celd	celdag	<i>noun</i>	<i>broom</i>
celda	celdag	<i>noun</i>	<i>charcoal</i>
ceyam	ceyamg	<i>noun</i>	<i>aged tobacco</i>
ciji	cijaahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>diarrhea</i>
cil	cilg	<i>noun</i>	<i>instrument type</i>
cil	cilg	<i>noun</i>	<i>spine</i>
cug		<i>verb</i>	<i>send, go to</i>
culd	culdug	<i>noun</i>	<i>birth sack</i>
cu'ahn		<i>verb continuous</i>	<i>sending, going to</i>

D d

daar	daarg	<i>noun</i>	<i>throne</i>
daar	daareeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>eagle</i>
daf		<i>verb</i>	<i>beat, kill</i>
dal	dalg	<i>noun</i>	<i>pot</i>
dang	dangg	<i>noun</i>	<i>courtyard</i>
daw	daweeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>monkey</i>
dawd	dawdag	<i>noun</i>	<i>fertile soil</i>
daahr	daahriig	<i>noun</i>	<i>snake</i>
dahid	dahidahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>scorpion</i>
dahlgah	dahlgahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>drum</i>
dahrsah	dahrsahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tumor</i>
deel	deelg	<i>noun</i>	<i>lake</i>
deer	deerg	<i>noun</i>	<i>leech</i>
dii	diig	<i>noun</i>	<i>rat</i>
diahrmah	diahrmahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>centipede</i>
dini		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>life, world</i>
door	doorg	<i>noun</i>	<i>animal fence</i>
dogolja	dogoljag	<i>noun</i>	<i>ankle</i>
duud	duug	<i>noun</i>	<i>year</i>
dufurd		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>dust</i>

Dh dh

dhagar	dhagarg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tortoise</i>
dheel	dheelg	<i>noun</i>	<i>collar bone</i>
dhersa	dhersag	<i>noun</i>	<i>sweat</i>
dhewl	dhewlg	<i>noun</i>	<i>jackal</i>

dhiw		<i>verb</i>	<i>plow, plant</i>
dhiwahn	dhiwahn	<i>verb continuous</i>	<i>planting, cultivating</i>
dhoolafaa	dhoolafaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>wolf</i>
dhoor	dhooreeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>hammer</i>
dhodh	dhodhog	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
E e			
eed	idig	<i>noun</i>	<i>(his) eye</i>
eelg	iilg	<i>noun</i>	<i>(his) stomach</i>
eeny	iiny	<i>noun</i>	<i>(his) back</i>
eez	eezag	<i>noun</i>	<i>water-carrying stick</i>
eg		<i>pronoun short subject</i>	<i>they</i>
F f			
falj	faljag	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
fand	fahndahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>cheek</i>
fandawmo		<i>adverb</i>	<i>upward, in front of</i>
fahi		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>strength</i>
feg		<i>noun plural</i>	<i>water</i>
fej		<i>verb</i>	<i>sweep, clean</i>
feyan	feyan	<i>verb continuous</i>	<i>sweeping, cleaning</i>
fiid	fiig	<i>noun</i>	<i>feather</i>
fidin	fidingg	<i>noun</i>	<i>perfume</i>
fodor	fodorg	<i>noun</i>	<i>nose</i>
fol	fulg	<i>noun</i>	<i>hole</i>
foyda	foydaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>planting seed</i>
G g			
gaag	gaagaad	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
gaal	gaaleeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>falcon</i>
gaam	gaamg	<i>noun</i>	<i>mountain</i>
gaay	gaayg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree name</i>
gaf		<i>verb</i>	<i>gives</i>
garnye		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>dung</i>
gaahi	gaahig	<i>adjective</i>	<i>illiterate, can't read</i>
gaahl	gaahliig	<i>noun</i>	<i>shield</i>
gaahzg	gaahziig	<i>noun</i>	<i>thief</i>
Gahbahnid		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>area name</i>
gahmah	gahmahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>ant type</i>
gahmahl	gahmahlg	<i>noun</i>	<i>forest</i>
gahmiil	gahmiilg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
gahmur	gahmurg	<i>noun</i>	<i>dove</i>
gahrmud	gahrmud	<i>noun</i>	<i>insect type, tree type</i>
gahwldaah	gahwldaahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>fish</i>
gahwrđ	gahwrg	<i>noun</i>	<i>stomach pouch</i>
gahyu	gahyug	<i>noun</i>	<i>grass type</i>

goyn	goyngg	<i>noun</i>	<i>metal worker</i>
guny		<i>verb</i>	<i>agree</i>

I i

iig		<i>noun plural</i>	<i>milk</i>
il	ilaahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>horn</i>
ilj	iljahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>beeswax</i>

J j

jaa	jaalge	<i>noun</i>	<i>boy, son</i>
jeers	jeersag	<i>noun</i>	<i>hippo</i>
jii	jiig	<i>noun</i>	<i>turkey</i>
jiiguul		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>afternoon</i>
jiil	jiilg	<i>noun</i>	<i>cricket</i>
jid	jiig	<i>noun</i>	<i>husband</i>
jilahb	jilahbahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>water spring</i>
jinyjil	jinyjilg	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
jorgaal	jorgaalg	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>

K k

kaadel	kaadelg	<i>noun</i>	<i>bull</i>
kaal	kaalg	<i>noun</i>	<i>house fence</i>
kaam	kaamg	<i>noun</i>	<i>nyala, cow type</i>
kaay	kaayg	<i>noun</i>	<i>witch doctor</i>
kabar	kabarg	<i>noun</i>	<i>wing</i>
kagdar	kagdarg	<i>noun</i>	<i>food type</i>
kaj		<i>verb</i>	<i>bring</i>
kandhal	kandhalg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
kangarany	kangaranyg	<i>noun</i>	<i>jackal</i>
kanyaad	kanyaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>bowl</i>
karaab	karaabeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>troublemaker</i>
kasa	kasag	<i>noun</i>	<i>boy</i>
kawda	kawdaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>ear wax</i>
kayan		<i>verb continuous</i>	<i>bringing</i>
kayd	kayg	<i>noun</i>	<i>cup, spoon</i>
kayma		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>lucky stone</i>
kayn		<i>adverb</i>	<i>yesterday</i>
kahlfah	kahlfahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>jaw</i>
kahrngahl	kahrngahlg	<i>noun</i>	<i>grass type</i>
kahs	kahsahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>chair</i>
kahwrjah	kahwrjahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
kool	koolg	<i>noun</i>	<i>snake type</i>
koolmaa	koolmaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
kolod	kolg	<i>noun</i>	<i>egg</i>
kor	koreeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>word, speech</i>
kord	korooog	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>

koy	koyg	<i>noun</i>	<i>rain</i>
koy		<i>verb</i>	<i>cook</i>
kozel	kozelg	<i>noun</i>	<i>baboon</i>
Kuul	Kuulaahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>clan type member</i>
kuuri		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>circle</i>
kuurluug	kuurluugig	<i>noun</i>	<i>rodent</i>
kuidahg	kuidahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>welcome</i>
kuir	kuirg	<i>noun</i>	<i>leaf for mats</i>
kunyj	kunyiig	<i>noun</i>	<i>cough</i>
kusah	kusahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>grass type</i>
kusumii	kusumiig	<i>noun</i>	<i>knee</i>
kuwah	kuwahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>foam, bubble</i>

L l

laal	laalg	<i>noun</i>	<i>pumpkin type</i>
lamany	lamanyg	<i>noun</i>	<i>knot, shell of nut</i>
law		<i>verb</i>	<i>move fast, make comotion</i>
lawan	lawan	<i>verb continuous</i>	<i>moving fast</i>
lahbu	lahbuug	<i>noun</i>	<i>navel</i>
lahngd	lahngdahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
lahw		<i>verb</i>	<i>surround, circle</i>
lahwahn	lahwahn	<i>verb continuous</i>	<i>surrounding</i>
leel	leelg	<i>noun</i>	<i>grass</i>
leero	leerog	<i>noun</i>	<i>reed</i>
lew	lewg ?	<i>noun</i>	<i>grain storage</i>
lewda	lewdag	<i>noun</i>	<i>animal</i>
lofo		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>magic</i>
lold	loldog	<i>noun</i>	<i>blemish on face</i>
londor	londorg	<i>noun</i>	<i>knot</i>
luung	luungiig	<i>noun</i>	<i>water pot</i>
luny	lunyiig	<i>noun</i>	<i>boomerang</i>

M m

maa	maag	<i>noun</i>	<i>house</i>
maang		<i>noun plural</i>	<i>disagreement</i>
maase	maaseg	<i>noun</i>	<i>root type</i>
maaw	maaweeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>gazelle</i>
mad		<i>verb</i>	<i>drink</i>
mal		<i>verb</i>	<i>gather</i>
malo		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>beeswax</i>
maroos	marooseg	<i>noun</i>	<i>spider</i>
mas	maasag	<i>noun</i>	<i>spear</i>
masee	maseeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>illness type</i>
ma'an		<i>verb continuous</i>	<i>drinking</i>
maahl	maahliig	<i>noun</i>	<i>fighting</i>
maahnimah	maahnimahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>vegetable type</i>

mahid	mahiaahd	<i>noun</i>	<i>old person</i>
mahl	mahlg	<i>noun</i>	<i>drinking straw</i>
mahnyil	mahnyilg	<i>noun</i>	<i>rainbow, spirit</i>
meloo	meoog	<i>noun</i>	<i>sugar cane</i>
mezan	mezangg	<i>noun</i>	<i>youth leader</i>
mii	miig	<i>noun</i>	<i>chicken</i>
miid	miidahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>stone</i>
miah	miahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>goat</i>
moo	moog	<i>noun</i>	<i>fire, gun</i>
mofdee	mofdeeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>snake type</i>
moraa	moraag	<i>noun</i>	<i>governor</i>
muu	muug	<i>noun</i>	<i>face, forehead</i>
muguui	muguuig	<i>noun</i>	<i>burning wood</i>
mui	muig	<i>noun</i>	<i>wildebeest</i>

N n

naand	naag	<i>noun</i>	<i>day</i>
nag		<i>verb</i>	<i>sleep</i>
nams	namsag	<i>noun</i>	<i>food, eating</i>
na'an		<i>verb continuous</i>	<i>sleeping</i>
nahnd	nahngg	<i>noun</i>	<i>demon</i>
nahrnah	nahrnahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>saliva</i>

Ng ng

ngaangaad	ngaangaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>thigh</i>
ngaasa	ngaasag	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
ngarna	ngarnag	<i>noun</i>	<i>leech</i>
ngahw	ngahweeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>cat</i>

Ny ny

nyaafar	nyaafarg	<i>noun</i>	<i>mustache</i>
nyaang	nyaangeeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>crocodile</i>
nyam		<i>verb</i>	<i>want, love</i>
nyamm		<i>verb</i>	<i>break</i>
nyaw		<i>verb</i>	<i>request, ask</i>
nyaahm	nyaahmg	<i>noun</i>	<i>chin</i>
nyee	nyeeeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>drawing, colour</i>
nyui	nyuig	<i>noun</i>	<i>leopard</i>

O o

ool	uulg	<i>noun</i>	<i>(your) head</i>
onso	onsog	<i>noun</i>	<i>cooking plate</i>
ony	onyg	<i>noun</i>	<i>meat</i>
ordaa	ordaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>army</i>
orond	orondog	<i>noun</i>	<i>fermented milk</i>

P p

pada	padaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>rope material</i>
pajo	pajog	<i>noun</i>	<i>star</i>
pal		<i>verb</i>	<i>cut</i>
pall		<i>verb</i>	<i>fall, get down</i>
pa'an		<i>verb continuous</i>	<i>was guarding</i>
pahnyu	pahnyuug	<i>noun</i>	<i>porcupine</i>
peeram	peeramg	<i>noun</i>	<i>flag</i>
pebeej	pebeeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
poor	poorg	<i>noun</i>	<i>boat</i>
puufah		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>leprosy</i>
pur	puriig	<i>noun</i>	<i>flower</i>

R r

raanfaa	raanfaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>covering</i>
raay	raayg	<i>noun</i>	<i>quarrel</i>
raahwah	raahwahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>net</i>
rahsluumaa	rahsluumaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>praying mantis</i>
rahi		<i>derived adjective</i>	<i>late</i>
ree	reeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>cotton, thread</i>
rimaah	rimaahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>star</i>
ronyd	ronyg	<i>noun</i>	<i>mud</i>
ruusu	ruusug	<i>noun</i>	<i>tail</i>
ruid	ruig	<i>noun</i>	<i>dirt</i>

S s

saarfaa	saarfaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>rat</i>
saaw	saaweeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>grass cutter</i>
saranyda	saranydag	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
saw	sawg	<i>noun</i>	<i>shoe</i>
saahm		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>hunter</i>
saahm	saahmg	<i>noun</i>	<i>medicine, tree root</i>
seen	seengg	<i>noun</i>	<i>ruler</i>
sen		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>skin sickness</i>
siij	siijahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
siind	siindahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>guest</i>
siirii	siiriig	<i>noun</i>	<i>charcoal smudge</i>
simdahg		<i>noun plural</i>	<i>relief for pain, recovery</i>

T t

taaz	taazg	<i>noun</i>	<i>door</i>
talam	talamg	<i>noun</i>	<i>malnutrition</i>
talngej	talngejag	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
taw		<i>adverb</i>	<i>up</i>
tawr	tawreeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>lizard</i>
tay	tag	<i>noun</i>	<i>giraffe</i>

tayda	taydaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>strainer</i>
tahyl	tahylg ?	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
teed	teeg	<i>noun</i>	<i>road, path</i>
teefa	teefag	<i>noun</i>	<i>leaf, sickness</i>
teer	teerg	<i>noun</i>	<i>carving tool</i>
tegrelfaa	tegrelfag	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
tel		<i>noun singular ?</i>	<i>sun, god</i>
tiifaahng	tiifaahngg	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
tiil	tiilg	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
tilngah	tilngaahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>seed, chain</i>
tins	tinsahg	<i>verbal noun</i>	<i>asking</i>
tirgah	tirgahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>nature</i>
too	tog	<i>noun</i>	<i>cow</i>
tuguunyfaa	tuguunyfaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>

Th th

theel	theelaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>anchor</i>
theend	theengg	<i>noun</i>	<i>riddle</i>
theendas	theendasag	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
thoogeel	thoogeelg	<i>noun</i>	<i>grass cutter</i>

U u

uu		<i>noun singular</i>	<i>air</i>
uud	uug	<i>noun</i>	<i>wasp</i>
uui	uuiig	<i>noun</i>	<i>squirrel</i>
u		<i>pronoun short subject</i>	<i>you (sg)</i>
ufu	ufug	<i>noun</i>	<i>tree type</i>
uld	uldug	<i>noun</i>	<i>grinding stone</i>
ungg	uniig	<i>noun</i>	<i>tear of eye</i>
unguraah	unguraahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>pumpkin</i>
urii	uriig	<i>noun</i>	<i>ostrich</i>

W w

waa	waag	<i>noun</i>	<i>pond</i>
waar	waarg	<i>noun</i>	<i>insect type</i>
waayaa	waayaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>bird type</i>
wa		<i>adverb</i>	<i>no</i>
waah	waahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>shade, help</i>
wee	wisahg	<i>noun</i>	<i>house</i>
weleny	welenyg	<i>noun</i>	<i>sour taste</i>
wiid	wiig	<i>noun</i>	<i>breast</i>
wiilmaa	wiilmaad	<i>noun</i>	<i>ant type</i>

Y y

yaam	yaamaag	<i>noun</i>	<i>bride</i>
yaaz	yaazaad	<i>noun</i>	<i>sister</i>

yoo

yoog ?

noun

old person

Glossary

Word	Example	Definition
syllable	ta sa me in tasame 'grass'	The parts of a word that can be divided according to beats (darba).
consonant	m, ny, l in mahnyil 'rainbow'	Letter sounds that begin or end syllables; a consonant cannot be a syllable by itself (harf saakin).
vowel	ah, i in mahnyil 'rainbow'	Letter sounds in the middle and sometimes beginning or end of a syllable; a vowel can be a syllable by itself (harf mutharrik).
consonant sequence	nyd in saranyda 'tree type'	Two different consonants next to each other, either in the middle or end of a word.
doubled consonant	mm in word nyamm 'break'	The same consonant written twice (itneen harf saakin).
single consonant	m in nyam 'want, need'	A consonant written once.
doubled vowel	aah in maahl 'fighting'	A vowel written twice or long (harf mutharrik tawiil). A long vowel.
single vowel	ah in mahl 'straw'	A vowel written once. A short vowel.
heavy vowel	aah in waah 'shade, help'	Vowel letters ah, i, u (harf mutharrik tagiil).
light vowel	aa in waa 'pond'	Vowel letters a, e, o (harf mutharrik xafiif).
vowel sequence	uah in buah 'tree type'	Two different vowels next to each other.
tone	nyam 'want' has a <i>High</i> tone, nyamm 'break' has a <i>Mid</i> tone	The high or low sound, or the falling or rising sound of a word.

Answers to Exercises

Exercise 1

a	<u>aam</u>	i	<u>idig</u>	p	<u>pahnyu</u>
ah	<u>aahl</u>	j	<u>jaa</u>	r	<u>ruusu</u>
b	<u>buur</u>	k	<u>kolg</u>	s	<u>saaw</u>
c	<u>cawr</u>	l	<u>lew</u>	t	<u>tel</u>
d	<u>daahr</u>	m	<u>mas</u>	th	<u>thoogeel</u>

dh	<u>dhagar</u>	n	<u>naand</u>	u	<u>uud</u>
e	<u>eed</u>	ng	<u>ngahw</u>	w	<u>wee</u>
f	<u>fodor</u>	ny	<u>nyaang</u>	y	<u>yoo</u>
g	<u>gaam</u>	o	<u>ool</u>	z	<u>aza</u>
				'	<u>pa'an</u>

Exercise 2

number of syllables	divided into syllables	
<u>2</u>	wel <u>e</u> ny	<u>we</u> <u>leny</u> —
<u>1</u>	kor	<u>kor</u>
<u>3</u>	bi <u>m</u> iri <u>j</u>	<u>bi</u> <u>mi</u> <u>rij</u>
<u>2</u>	ka <u>h</u> r <u>n</u> ga <u>h</u> l	<u>kahr</u> <u>ngahl</u>
<u>2</u>	ga <u>r</u> nye	<u>gar</u> <u>nye</u>
<u>1</u>	rony <u>d</u>	<u>ronyd</u>
<u>2</u>	ma <u>l</u> o	<u>ma</u> <u>lo</u>
<u>2</u>	fo <u>d</u> or	<u>fo</u> <u>dor</u>
<u>2</u>	ji <u>n</u> y <u>j</u> il	<u>jiny</u> <u>jil</u>
<u>1</u>	lo <u>l</u> d	<u>lold</u>
<u>1</u>	lu <u>n</u> y	<u>luny</u>
<u>2</u>	da <u>h</u> lga <u>h</u>	<u>dahl</u> <u>gah</u>
<u>1</u>	na <u>m</u> s	<u>nams</u>
<u>2</u>	bo <u>l</u> nge	<u>bol</u> <u>nge</u>
<u>3</u>	do <u>g</u> o <u>l</u> ja	<u>do</u> <u>gol</u> <u>ja</u>
<u>2</u>	ka <u>s</u> a	<u>ka</u> <u>sa</u>
<u>2</u>	ka <u>b</u> ar	<u>ka</u> <u>bar</u>
<u>3</u>	ba <u>m</u> alja	<u>ba</u> <u>mal</u> <u>ja</u>

Exercise 3

Consonants are underlined instead of circled.

<u>c</u> e <u>y</u> a <u>m</u>	<i>tobacco</i>
<u>k</u> ah <u>l</u> f <u>ah</u>	<i>jaw</i>
<u>d</u> ah <u>r</u> s <u>ah</u>	<i>tumor</i>
<u>k</u> a <u>g</u> <u>d</u> a <u>r</u>	<i>food type</i>
<u>th</u> e <u>e</u> <u>l</u>	<i>anchor</i>
<u>b</u> a <u>j</u> <u>w</u> a <u>a</u> <u>r</u>	<i>bird type</i>
<u>t</u> i <u>l</u> <u>ng</u> ah	<i>seed, chain</i>
<u>k</u> a <u>ng</u> a <u>r</u> a <u>ny</u>	<i>jackal</i>
<u>y</u> a <u>a</u> <u>z</u>	<i>sister</i>
<u>p</u> a <u>d</u> a	<i>rope material</i>
<u>n</u> ah <u>n</u> <u>d</u>	<i>demon</i>

Exercise 4

Consonants are underlined instead of circled.

k ah <u>l</u> f ah	<i>jaw</i>
d ah <u>r</u> s ah	<i>tumor</i>
a <u>l</u> d	<i>fox</i>
n ah <u>r</u> <u>n</u> aah	<i>saliva</i>
b aa l a <u>n</u> d	<i>stripe</i>
t e <u>g</u> r e <u>l</u> f aa	<i>bird type</i>
b a <u>n</u> <u>dh</u> a l	<i>weak</i>
l o <u>n</u> <u>d</u> o r	<i>knot</i>
k u <u>ny</u> j	<i>cough</i>

Exercise 5

Test Word	Write correctly	Test Word	Write correctly
eet <i>his eye</i>	<u>eed</u>	bahrt <i>lion</i>	<u>bahrd</u>
talngej <i>tree type</i>	<u>talngej</u>	gaahzk <i>thief</i>	<u>gaahzg</u>
unk <i>tear</i>	<u>ungg</u>	karaap <i>troublemaker</i>	<u>karaab</u>
benyc <i>upper hip</i>	<u>benyj</u>	pebeec <i>tree type</i>	<u>pebeej</u>
miid <i>stone</i>	<u>miid</u>	afat <i>blood</i>	<u>afad</u>

Exercise 6

Light	Test Word	Heavy	Write correctly
waa <i>pond</i>	raawa <i>net</i>	waah <i>shade</i>	<u>raahwah</u>
waa <i>pond</i>	aza <i>dog</i>	waah <i>shade</i>	<u>aza</u>
waa <i>pond</i>	taahz <i>door</i>	waah <i>shade</i>	<u>taaz</u>
waa <i>pond</i>	bahrd <i>lion</i>	waah <i>shade</i>	<u>bahrd</u>
waa <i>pond</i>	gaazg <i>thief</i>	waah <i>shade</i>	<u>gaahzg</u>
wer <i>look</i>	liil <i>grass</i>	wir <i>cut</i>	<u>leel</u>
wer <i>look</i>	feg <i>water</i>	wir <i>cut</i>	<u>feg</u>
wer <i>look</i>	miid <i>stone</i>	wir <i>cut</i>	<u>miid</u>
wer <i>look</i>	seend <i>guest</i>	wir <i>cut</i>	<u>siind</u>
moo <i>gunfire</i>	ungg <i>tear of eye</i>	muu <i>face</i>	<u>ungg</u>
moo <i>gunfire</i>	runyd <i>mud</i>	muu <i>face</i>	<u>ronyd</u>
moo <i>gunfire</i>	tuu <i>cow</i>	muu <i>face</i>	<u>too</u>
moo <i>gunfire</i>	buul <i>bread</i>	muu <i>face</i>	<u>buul</u>

Exercise 7

Single	Test words	Doubled	Write correctly
kor <i>word, speech</i>	por <i>boat</i>	kool <i>snake type</i>	<u>poor</u>
kor <i>word, speech</i>	dhodh <i>stork</i>	kool <i>snake type</i>	<u>dhodh</u>
luny <i>boomerang</i>	buul <i>bread</i>	luung <i>water pot</i>	<u>buul</u>
saw <i>shoe</i>	daal <i>pot</i>	saaw <i>grass cutter</i>	<u>dal</u>
saw <i>shoe</i>	bal <i>cave</i>	saaw <i>grass cutter</i>	<u>baal</u>

saw	shoe	bard	abdomen	saaw	grass cutter	baard
sen	skin sickness	celd	broom	seen	ruler	<u>celd</u>
ilj	beeswax	iil	horn	iig	milk	<u>il</u>
araad	lake	aald	fox	aare	grass type	<u>ald</u>
eg	they (pron)	eelg	stomach	eed	eye	<u>eelg</u>
celda	charcoal	maa	house	aldaa	earth, dust	<u>maa</u>
sen	skin sickness	peram	flag	seen	ruler	<u>peeram</u>
sen	skin sickness	teefa	leaf, sickness	seen	ruler	<u>teefa</u>
kor	word, speech	foodor	nose	kool	snake type	<u>fodor</u>
kor	word, speech	boongma	insect type	kool	snake type	<u>bongma</u>
cil	instrument type	tifaahng	bird type	tiil	tree type	<u>tiifaahng</u>
cil	instrument type	fiidin	perfume	tiil	tree type	<u>fidin</u>
saw	shoe	baland	stripe	saaw	grass cutter	<u>baaland</u>
mahl	straw	mahnimah	vegetable type	maahl	fighting	<u>maahnimah</u>
sen	skin sickness	awees	bird type	seen	ruler	<u>awees</u>
mahl	straw	gahmaahl	forest	maahl	fighting	<u>gahmahl</u>
mahl	straw	bahzaahl	business	maahl	fighting	<u>bahzahl</u>
kor	word, speech	maroos	spider	kool	snake type	<u>maroos</u>
luny	boomerang	bulurs	bird type	luung	water pot	<u>buluurs</u>
luny	boomerang	bungur	young person	luung	water pot	<u>bungur</u>
saw	shoe	jorgal	bird type	saaw	grass cutter	<u>jorgaal</u>
araad	lake	asa	basket type	aare	grass type	<u>aasa</u>
araad	lake	aree	grass type	aare	grass type	<u>aare</u>
ahmii	ant type	aahmahng	yawns	aahmaah	liver	<u>aahmahng</u>
celda	charcoal	ordaa	army	aldaa	earth, dust	<u>ordaa</u>
maase	root type	mofdee	snake type	masee	illness type	<u>mofdee</u>
gahmah	ant type	gahmah	ant type	rimaah	star	<u>gahmah</u>
gahmah	ant type	ungurah	pumpkin	rimaah	star	<u>unguraah</u>
kuuri	circle	kusumi	knee	siirii	smudge	<u>kusumii</u>

Exercise 8

Test Word	Write correctly	Test Word	Write correctly
celdah charcoal	<u>celda</u>	jorgaal bird type	<u>jorgaal</u>
gayu grass type	<u>gahyu</u>	iyah oil, fat	<u>ahyah</u>
aaree grass type	<u>aare</u>	peerahm flag	<u>peeram</u>
kozil baboon	<u>kozel</u>	orii ostrich	<u>urii</u>
maruus spider	<u>maroos</u>	gamiil tree type	<u>gahmiil</u>
bunyja developed, finished	<u>bonyja</u>	leeroo reed	<u>leero</u>

Exercise 9

Test Word	Write correctly	Test Word	Write correctly
ruyd dirt	<u>ruid</u>	boydaa tree type	<u>boydaa</u>
mahyd old person	<u>mahid</u>	fandaomo upward, in front of	<u>fandawmo</u>
taor lizard	<u>tawr</u>	gaahi illiterate, can't read	<u>gaahi</u>

buil	<i>fog</i>	<u>buil</u>	koe	<i>rain</i>	<u>koy</u>
bayl	<i>grass</i>	<u>bayl</u>	kuydahg	<i>welcome</i>	<u>kuidahg</u>
taw	<i>up</i>	<u>taw</u>	ahyld	<i>cold, sickness</i>	<u>ahild</u>
rahi	<i>late</i>	<u>rahi</u>	kayma	<i>good luck stone</i>	<u>kayma</u>
uui	<i>squirrel</i>	<u>uui</u>	muguui	<i>burning wood</i>	<u>muguui</u>
gahwldaah	<i>fish</i>	<u>gahwldaah</u>	gaae	<i>tree name</i>	<u>gaay</u>
fahi	<i>strength</i>	<u>fahi</u>	fuui	<i>male</i>	<u>fuui</u>
baaw	<i>father</i>	<u>baaw</u>	boy	<i>fat</i>	<u>boy</u>
bae	<i>jug</i>	<u>bay</u>	aay	<i>honey</i>	<u>aay</u>

Exercise 10

Test Word	Write correctly	Test Word	Write correctly		
ku'ah	<i>foam, bubble</i>	<u>kuwah</u>	di'ahrmah	<i>centipede</i>	<u>diahrmah</u>
naan	<i>sleeping</i>	<u>na'an</u>	fean	<i>sweeping, cleaning</i>	<u>feyan</u>
ka'an	<i>bringing</i>	<u>kayan</u>	cuahn	<i>sending, going</i>	<u>cu'ahn</u>
buwah	<i>tree type</i>	<u>buah</u>	dhi'ahn	<i>planting, cultivating</i>	<u>dhiwahn</u>
lahwahn	<i>surrounding</i>	<u>lahwahn</u>	bayan	<i>throwing, hitting</i>	<u>ba'an</u>

Exercise 11

Test Word	Write Correctly				
bel	<i>beat, hit</i>	<u>bell</u>	nyamm	<i>want, love</i>	<u>nyam</u>
pal	<i>cut</i>	<u>pal</u>	cag	<i>finish, complete</i>	<u>cagg</u>
mii	<i>chicken</i>	<u>mii</u>	pall	<i>fall, get down</i>	<u>pall</u>
bell	<i>have, possess</i>	<u>bel</u>	bel	<i>name, call</i>	<u>bel</u>
nyam	<i>break</i>	<u>nyamm</u>	cagg	<i>bathe, wash</i>	<u>cag</u>
mii	<i>goat</i>	<u>miah</u>			

Exercise 12

Test Word	Write correctly	Test Word	Write correctly		
miit	<i>stone</i>	<u>miid</u>	talngec	<i>tree type</i>	<u>talngej</u>
cak	<i>bathe, wash</i>	<u>cag</u>	karaab	<i>troublemaker</i>	<u>karaab</u>
aahre	<i>grass type</i>	<u>aare</u>	jurgaal	<i>bird type</i>	<u>jorgaal</u>
bunyja	<i>finished</i>	<u>bonyja</u>	liiro	<i>reed</i>	<u>leero</u>
buyl	<i>fog</i>	<u>buil</u>	tao	<i>up</i>	<u>taw</u>
bayl	<i>grass</i>	<u>bayl</u>	rahi	<i>late</i>	<u>rahi</u>
uuy	<i>squirrel</i>	<u>uui</u>	gahuldaah	<i>fish</i>	<u>gahwldaah</u>
baaw	<i>father</i>	<u>baaw</u>	boedaa	<i>tree type</i>	<u>boydaa</u>
lah'ahn	<i>surrounding</i>	<u>lahwahn</u>	bayan	<i>throwing, hitting</i>	<u>ba'an</u>
naan	<i>sleeping</i>	<u>na'an</u>	cuahn	<i>sending, going</i>	<u>cu'ahn</u>
mii	<i>goat</i>	<u>miah</u>	bel	<i>name, call</i>	<u>bel</u>
nyam	<i>break</i>	<u>nyamm</u>	bel	<i>beat, hit</i>	<u>bell</u>