THE SYAN LANGUAGE

For Beginners

The Syan Language: For Beginners

Contents:

What Is Syana?

Syana is a nation made up of five islands located in the southern Pacific Ocean. The north of Syana is generally more agriculture focused and relatively sparsely populated, whilst the south is much more urban and densely populated. This can be seen in the map of all cities and large towns in Syana, with most towns being located in the south of the nation. Although, cities are evenly distributed across Syana as a whole, which means the population is spread out aross all five islands.

The Syan islands and the 5 largest cities

Tradition and culture are both seen as important to Syan society, especially the native religion of Raa-Dyanism as well as the traditional ninaasa poetry and bajaari theatre. The symbolism and metaphors of these cultural landmarks have large impacts not only on Syan society but also the Syan language itself.

This is because, as with any language, the origins and meanings of many words not only have deep historic roots but also cultural and even mythological ones too. However, this can lead some words to be confusing for learners of Syan to understand when reading a text or attempting a translation.

Words of this nature that are used in this guide will be explained so that you can better understand other vocabulary with similar origins.

Brief History Of The Syan Language

For most of Syana's history, tribal nations inhabited the five islands. These tribes spoke a language that is now known as Syan, however they had no form of written language. Instead they recorded history and information using oral traditions or rudimentary picture and symbol carvings into rocks and wood. Special round stones called *dyans* were carved specifically for images that told religious stories and folktales.

a dyan stone found buried in someone's garden that bares the symbol for Goa, the god of death

All this changed though, when the islands were invaded and colonised by the British Empire in 1710. This period is known in Syan history as The Great Enslavement, and lasted for a century before the Kaan-daal revolt in 1813. Along with permanently altering the course of Syana's history, this period also deeply affected the Syan language.

The most influential way probably being the introduction of written language to the native Syan people, which led to the latin alphabet being adapted for the Syan language. Further impacts upon Syan include: a shifting of vowels to sound more like English, word order becoming more rigid and many loan words being introduced.

Although some words and phrases are seen as archaic or old-fashioned, the grammar of Syan has remained the same since the early 1800s, this means that texts written over two centuries ago are still easily understandable to a modern reader.

The Alphabet

The Syan alphabet was created from the latin alphabet, with the Syan people modifying the letters that best represented the sounds of the native language.

∪ = o[əʊ]	⫛ =k[k]
⋏ =aa[ɑː]	⟨ =l[l]
ɩ =i[iː]	⁊=m[m]
⋀ =a[æ]	⋂ =n[n]
⋞ =y[aɪ]	Ɉ =r[ɹ]
ß=b[b]	Ⅎ =s[s]
ⅅ=d[d]	⁻ = -
⌣=g[g]	ɬ = '
⨩=j[ʤ]	/.../ = "..."

Syan is phonetically consistent and so the sounds shown on this page are the sounds these letters make any time they are used. Punctuation is also quite simple. Only full stops and commas are used to end sentences (no question or exclamation marks), and dashes and apostrophes are used to join compound words or for affixes.

This book will use the Latin script for writing Syan, although keep in mind that almost all text in Syana is written using the Syan alphabet.

Affixes

A lot of grammar in Syan is in the form of different affixes that attatch to words to change their meaning, or the meaning of the sentence as a whole. There are two types: regular affixes and special affixes. Most affixes in Syan are regular, whereas certain prefixes that add contextual information are special affixes.

Regular Affixes:
These affixes can be either a prefix or a suffix, and are shown by a dash separating the affix and the base word.

<div align="center">

goa -> **il-**goa
(death -> to die)

</div>

These affixes are able to be "stacked", which means that regular affixes can be added to the beginning or end of a word that already starts/ends with any affix.

<div align="center">

laas -> **bia-**laas -> **il-**bia-laas
(good -> great -> to excel)

</div>

Most affixes change the meaning of the word in some way, such as the affix *gi-* which shows that something is increasing in amount or value and the affix *bi-* which shows that something is decreasing in amount or value.

<div align="center">

biaa -> **gi-**biaa   biaa -> **bi-**biaa
(big -> getting bigger)   *(big -> getting smaller)*

</div>

5

Some regular affixes that may be common are the pairs *bia- / naal-* and *-saa / -sila*. These respectively mean the pair of *very / not* and the pair of *maybe / definitely*.

<p style="text-align:center">ganaa-> bia-ganaa / naal-ganaa
<i>(bad -> very bad / not bad)</i></p>

<p style="text-align:center">aasa -> aasa-saa / aasa-sila
<i>(new -> maybe new / definitely new)</i></p>

Special Affixes:
These affixes are always prefixes, and are shown by an apostrophe separating the affix and the base word.

<p style="text-align:center">lili -> o'lili
<i>(bird -> birds)</i></p>

Special affixes are always <u>contextual/informational</u> affixes. This means their use doesn't majorly change the meaning of the word, instead only adding more context and information to the word.
These affixes cannot be "stacked", which means they **can't** be added to words that already begin with a special affix, however they can be added to words that begin with a regular affix.

<p style="text-align:center">o'syanisa -> kasaa'o'syanisa
<i>(snakes -> last ever snakes)</i></p>

<p style="text-align:center">an-ryda -> dara'n-ryda
<i>(printer -> first ever printer)</i></p>

There are only a small handful of special affixes and although they are a small group they are very common in the Syan language. All of the special affixes and their meanings/uses are listed below:

Special affixes

- O'... *(to make plural)*
- Oaa'... *(to turn into simile)*
- Dara'... *(first ever)*
- Kasaa'... *(last ever)*
- Gagaana'... *(more than)*
- Mamilaa'... *(less than)*

It is important to remember these due to the different rules of each type of affix. Since these are the basic building blocks of the Syan language any sentences you write will be grammatically incorrect if the affixes are not used correctly!

Changing Word Class

A large part of Syan grammar is the ability to change the class of a word. This is done through affixes, which can be applied to any word (as long as no other grammatical rules are broken).

Changing to a noun:
To turn a word into a noun, the affixes *an-* or *-akaado* are used.

- **an-** is used when turning a word into an <u>abstract noun</u>.
  This includes: objects, abstract concepts and spiritual beings

- **-akaado** is used when turning a word into a <u>human noun</u>.
  This includes: jobs, types of people and surnames

<p align="center">lodis -> an-lodis
(to create -> creator)</p>

<p align="center">lodis -> lodis-akaado
(to create -> craftsperson)</p>

Changing to a verb:
Verbs are usually created through compounding, however words can become a verb by using the prefix *-il.*

<p align="center">saanan -> il-saanan
(light -> to shine)</p>

Changing to an adjective:

To turn a word into an adjective, the prefixes *di-* and *oaa'* are used.

- **di-** is used when you want to say that something is related to the following word in some way

- **oaa'** is used for turning the following word into a simile

<div align="center">

saalin -> di-saalin

(fear -> scared)

</div>

The word for scary in Syan is literally translated as "like fear", since the object being called scary has the same properties as the emotion of fear.

<div align="center">

saalin -> oaa'saalin

*(fear -> scary)***

</div>

Examples:

<div align="center">

oda -> an-oda

(birth -> pregnant person)

oda -> il-oda

(birth -> to give birth)

oda -> oda-'kaado

(birth -> midwife)

oda -> oaa'oda

(birth -> very difficult task)

</div>

9

Word Construction

Syllable Structure:

Words in Syan follow a (c)v(c) syllable structure. This means that the smallest possible syllable (and therefore shortest possible word) can be a single vowel, and the longest syllable can be one vowel sandwiched between two consonants. Some examples of possible and impossible syllables are listed below:

:)	X
a	m
li	ng
mo	ols
aas *(remember that aa is one letter!)*	bri
lod	krand

Two vowels can go together (but no more), however two consonants are never allowed to touch. This means that all syllables in Syan contain at least one vowel.

Compounding:

A <u>pure root</u> word in Syan is a word that is not made up of any smaller root words or affixes, whereas a <u>compound</u> is a word made up of two or more root words joined by a dash. A <u>grammatical root</u> is a root word with grammatical affixes added on, but only contains one root word, and a <u>grammatical compound</u> is a compound word with grammatical affixes attached.

<u>maani</u> *(green)* = **pure root**

<u>il-</u>maani *(to plant)* = **grammatical root**

<u>mia-</u>maani *(blade of grass)* = **compound**

<u>o'mia-</u>maani *(blades of grass)* = **grammatical compound**

Omissions:

When two words combine to make a compound, or an affix is added to a word, sometimes the letters on either side of the dash are the same.

This is not allowed in Syan and so the letter immediately after the dash is omitted and replaced with an apostrophe.

naal + lyan -> naal**-l**yan
(not + up -> "under")

naal + lyan -> naal**-'**yan
(not + up -> under)

Complex words:

Whilst most pure root words are relatively short, they can chain together with other roots and affixes to produce complicated and sometimes quite long compounds.

Below is a worked through example dissecting a complex word:

$$\text{Mia-}^{2}\text{oka-dilaana}^{1}\text{-di-}^{3}\text{'naak}^{4} \quad (pen)*$$

1. oka + dilaana -> oka-dilaana
   (tree + arm -> branch)

2. mia + oka-dilaana -> mia-oka-dilaana
   (small + branch -> stick)

3. + di-... -> mia-oka-dilaana-di-...
   (+ of… -> stick of…)

4. + inaak -> mia-oka-dilaana-di-'naak
   (+ to write -> stick of writing [pen])

> Long words like this, especially for such common items, can seem very daunting. However, complex forms such as this are rarely used.
>
> In the case of the word pen, most use the shortened form **di-'naak**

12

The grammatical rules and phonology of Syan are constant in almost all circumstances, however there are two major exceptions.
These are known as r endings and the ns rule.

r endings:
This is a phonological rule which applies to words ending in the letter r.
A soft schwa sound always follows the r ending (this sound being similar to the final sound of the word 'teacher' in english).

<div align="center">

Jaa**r** = [dʒɑːɹ**ᵊ**]

(ruler)

</div>

This only applies to the end of the word as a whole, roots within a compound that end with an r do not follow this rule.

the ns rule:
Whilst overall the rule that two consonants cannot touch is a constant, there is one specific exception.

The consonant cluster of "...ns…" is allowed but only in proper nouns (the names of places or people). However, this can only occur if the n is the end of one syllable and the s is the beginning of the next syllable.
The schwa sound is also found in-between the letters n and s, meaning the word gains an extra unstressed syllable.
This can be seen in the name of the city of Saansan.

<div align="center">

Saa**ns**an = [sɑːn**ᵊs**æn]

</div>

Sentence Structure

Sentences in Syan usually follow a SVO (subject verb object) structure, however this can sometimes change. Tenses and the purpose of the sentence can re-arrange the syntax of sentences into different word orders entirely. As well as this, some word classes have rules as to how they behave within a sentence.

Syan text reads left to right and top to bottom like in western languages. It is most common for Syan to be written in blue ink, since that is the most common colour of pen sold in Syana.
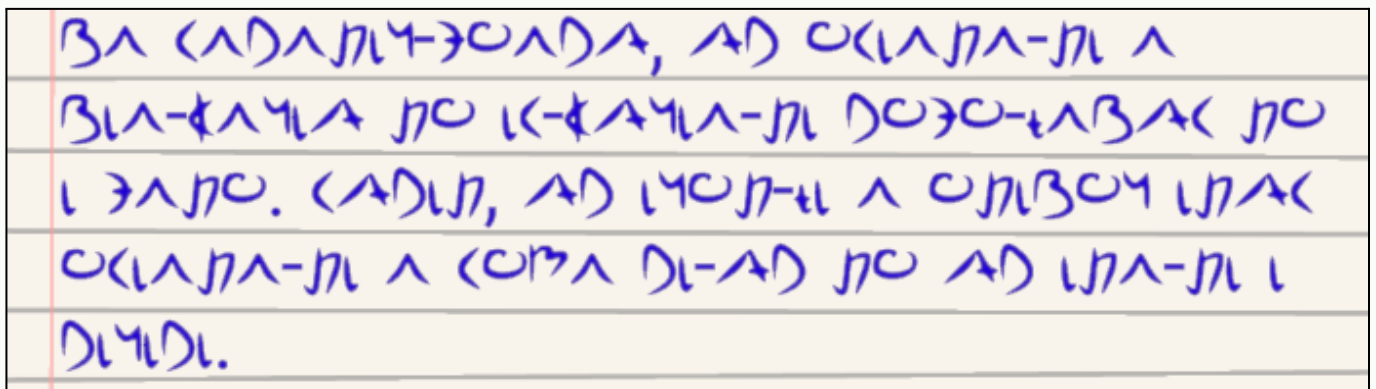
Some writing in a Syan student's workbook

Sentence punctuation:
Capital letters are never used in Syan, since the Syan script does not feature them. Additionally, the only punctuation found in a sentence are full-stops, commas and speech marks (which in Syan look like /.../).

Adjectives:

In most cases, the adjective in a noun phrase comes before the noun. With the amount of the noun coming before the adjective.

<div align="center">

article   adjective

a lid kara o'loma.

quantity   noun

(The three red houses.)

</div>

However, this isn't the case for adjectives beginning with the prefix *di-*. These adjectives always come <u>after the noun</u>, since the literal translation would be "noun of-adjective".

<div align="center">

article   adjective

i amaasonaa **di-**jaana.

noun

(A formal shirt.)

</div>

It is important to remember that not all words beginning with this prefix are adjectives, it is commonly found in nouns as well. This rule only applies to adjectives, nouns beginning with *di-* are unaffected.

Time phrases:

In Syan, time phrases always start the sentence, followed by a comma. This is a rule that is not affected/changed by any other grammatical feature and so is a constant across the whole language.

<div align="center">

ly il-goa-ni anis-roadaa.
(it died yesterday.)

anis-roadaa, ly il-goa-ni.
(yesterday, it died.)

</div>

15

Questions:
A sentence in Syan can be turned into a question by adding the prefix *ni-* to the <u>inquiry word</u>. This is the specific word that is forming the question. In other words, the aspect of the sentence that is the focus of the question.

<div style="text-align:center; color:purple;">

moa ki laas -> moa ki **ni-**laas

(you are good -> are you <u>good</u>?)

</div>

The inquiry word is always put at the very end of the sentence, meaning the word order of the sentence is often disrupted.

<div style="text-align:center; color:purple;">

a silyna ki siaa -> a ki siaa **ni-**silyna

(the cat is black -> the <u>cat</u> is black?)

a silyna ki siaa -> a silyna ki ni-siaa

(the cat is black -> the cat is <u>black</u>?)

</div>

Here you can see how emphasising different aspects of the sentence changes the word order.
When asking whether or not it is the cat that is black, the word "cat" ends the sentence. When asking whether the cat is black or not the word "black" is at the end.

Possession:
To show a word is belonging to something, you add the prefix *di-* to the subject and remove any articles, then place the subject after the object and the article *a* (the) before the object. This can be stacked as many times as necessary.

<div style="text-align:center;">

[*article*] [*object*] [*subject*]

a gomi **di-**onikaan

(~~the~~ dog's leg)

</div>

16

Plural agreement:
When a verb is being done by more than one person/object, the verb is also made plural. This also applies to nouns relating to a plural subject (for example: the colour of the birds). However, this rule does not affect adjectives.

Ii simi-a -> **o'**lo **o'**simi-a
(she is flying -> they are flying)

a ima di-lili -> a **o'**ima di-**o'**lili
(the colour of the bird -> the colour of the birds)

"Lonely" Adjectives:
Within the Syan language, a "floating" adjective is an adjective that is not attached to any noun, which is not allowed in Syan. All adjectives must be part of a noun phrase,or being used to describe a noun.

The following exchange shows a reply that is grammatically incorrect since it contains a lonely adjective. Beneath is the correct version:

A: /a o'ima di-o'bonobon ni-ki./
(A: "the colours of the candies are?")

B: /o'aad o'rila-' **lynaali** no **dokaara**./
*(B: "we have **white** and **yellow**.")*

B: /o'aad o'rila-' **lynaali o'bonobon** no **dokaara o'bonobon**./
*(B: "we have **white candies** and **yellow candies**.")*

Tenses

Syan has 12 tenses, divided into 4 categories: abstract, present, past and future. This may seem overwhelming at first but most of the tenses are easy to master and are shown through simple affixation.

Broad Abstract Tense:
This is used to describe facts and general/vague statements as well as to show apathy about something that is currently happening. This tense is completely unmarked and so all words within the sentence are kept in their infinitive (original) form.

> The formal form of the verb to cry is:
> "il-daala-niaan-ola-kamisaal"
>
> This is long and impractical, so most people use the informal "il-ola-kamisaal".

a ola ki kaa.
(the sky is blue)

a mia-do il-ola-kamisaal.
(the boy is crying [apathetic]) *

Poetic Abstract Tense:
This tense has a very specififc use, which is for traditional *ninaasa* poetry. However it is sometimes used as a form of the broad abstract tense, but for events and statements that are of significant (and often religious or spiritual) importance.

This tense is marked by each word gaining one of the three suffixes *-(i)li*, *-(a)ka* or *-(o)saa*. The suffix gained depends on the first vowel of the word. If the word ends with a consonant, the suffix begins with a vowel, and if the word ends with a vowel the suffix begins with a consonant.

- if the first vowel of the word is <u>aa or o</u> then add suffix *-(a)ka*
- if the first vowel of the word is <u>a or i</u> then add suffix *-(i)li*
- if the first vowel of the word is <u>y</u> then add suffix *-(o)saa*

dokaara -> dokaara-ka
(yellow)

kamisaal -> kamisaal-ili
(water)

lynaali -> lynali-saa
(white)

It is unlikely you will ever have to use this tense when speaking Syan, but it is useful to know what it is and how it works since you may have to translate text that uses the poetic abstract.

Abstract present tense:
Despite having the word 'abstract' in its name, this tense is actually the base form of the present. It is used in sentences that describe something as it is in the present, or sentences where no physical actions take place yet still occur within the present.

This tense is marked by verbs gaining the suffix *-a*. All other words in the sentence are unaffected.

ly ki**-a** bia-mia**.**
(it is tiny.)

doro-'akaado o'liana**-'.**
(some people <u>are</u> going.)*

*Syan does not use auxiliary verbs and so the verb directly follows the noun in all of Syan's tenses.

Real/Physical Present Tense:
This tense is similar to the abstract present tense, but is used for sentences which contain a physical action that takes place in the present tense. This means that, generally speaking, sentences in the abstract present only have a subject, whereas sentences in the real/physical present always have a subject <u>and</u> object.

This tense is also marked using the suffix -*a*, however it also changes the word order of the sentence. Instead of having an SVO structure, sentences follow the formula of Object -> Verb -> (filler) -> Subject. The filler word is almost always the word *adaa*, meaning "by".

Below is a sentence in the broad abstract tense, which is then turned into the real/physical present tense.

do aasin a bia-biaa balisaa.
(he climbs the huge mountain.)

a bia-biaa balisaa aasin-**a** adaa do.
*(the huge mountain **is being** climbed by him.)*

Simple Past Tense:
The base form of the past tense is used for sentences that take place within the (usually recent) past. It is marked by the suffix -*ni* being added to all verbs, with all other words unaffected. This tense does not change the word order of the sentence.

kiki i lili ba a ola. -> kiki-**ni** i lili ba a ola.
*(there is a bird in the sky. -> there **was** a bird in the sky.)*

o'lo o'mok sabagaadi. -> o'lo o'mok-**ni** sabagaadi.
*(they eat spaghetti. -> they **ate** spaghetti.)*

20

Distant Past Tense:
This is a variant of the past tense that is used for sentences that take place far into the past. It is marked similarly to the past tense, with the suffix *-ni* becoming the suffix *-nini*.

ly ki-ni ganaa. -> ly ki**-nini** ganaa.
*(it was bad -> it was bad **[distant]**)*

do li ni-disalaana-ni. -> do li ni-disalaana**-nini**.
*(he found her? -> he found her? **[distant]**)*

Narrative Past Tense:
This tense is used to describe events in the past, as they happened. It is marked with the suffix *-ani* being added to verbs and has the unique feature of all verbs having the word *ani* placed in front of them.

do dolaaly-ni -> do **ani** dolaaly**-ani**
*(he walked -> he **was walking**)*

There is also a distant form of this tense, with the suffix *-ani* becoming the suffix *-anini* and the word *anini* being placed before all verbs. However, this tense is very old-fashioned and is rarely used in modern speech or writing.

do ani dolaaly-ani -> do **anini** dolaaly**-anini**
*(he was walking -> he was walking **[distant]**)*

Simple Future Tense:
This is the base form of the future tense and is used in sentences that take place in the near future. It is marked with verbs gaining the suffix *-min* with word order and other words being unaffected.

o'lo o'ririla ly -> o'lo o'ririla-**min** ly
*(they keep it -> they **will keep** it)*

a li-akaado il-oda -> a li-akaado il-oda-**min**
*(the lady gives birth -> the lady **will give birth**)*

Distant Future Tense:
This form of the future tense is used in sentences that take place in the distant future. It is marked with verbs gaining the suffix *-mimin* with word order and other words being unaffected.

o'lo o'ririla-min ly -> o'lo o'ririla-**mimin** ly
*(they will keep it -> they will keep it **[distant]**)*

a li-akaado il-oda-min -> a li-akaado il-oda-**mimin**
*(the lady will give birth -> the lady will give birth **[distant]**)*

Narrative Future Tense:
This tense is used to describe events in the future, as they are going to happen. It is marked with the suffix *-amin* being added to verbs as well as all verbs having the word *amin* placed in front of them.

a li-akaado il-oda-min -> a li-akaado **amin** il-oda-**'min**
*(the lady will give birth -> the lady **will be giving birth**)*

*There are two more future tenses (formal future + distant formal future) that are not included here since they are not required in everyday speech

Numbers

Until the release of Alan Sasaani's book *A Maadamadika Di-Syana* in 1831, only the numbers one to one-hundred were standardized and agreed upon. It was this book that also led to the Arabic numerals (which were already widely used in Syana) to become the official numerals of Syan.

The number system is almost certainly a product of the number of digits humans have, twenty in total spread out in fives across four limbs. This is reflected in the "core" 20 digits of Syan.

1 = lod	11 = rod
2 = laad	12 = raad
3 = lid	13 = rid
4 = lad	14 = rad
5 = lya	15 = rya
6 = gon	16 = kon
7 = gaan	17 = kaan
8 = gin	18 = kin
9 = gan	19 = kan
10 = gya	20 = kya

The ten-times-table in Syan also follows a pattern, with the multiples of twenty being labelled as such and each multiple of ten in-between being shown by the use of the words *-no-gya* (-and-ten).

10 = gya
20 = kya
30 = kya-no-gya
40 = laad-kya
50 = laad-kya-no-gya
60 = lid-kya
70 = lid-kya-no-gya
80 = lad-kya
90 = lad-kya-no-gya
100 = da

Individual numbers such as 67 are shown as their multiple of ten followed by the word *no* (and) anf then the multiple of one.

67 = lid-kya no gaan
(67 = sixty and seven)
^(three-twenty)

Colours

Colours in Syan are split up in different ways than in English. The primary differences being the distinction between light and dark brown as well as light and dark grey.

🔴	Kara	🟢	babi	🩷	doro-kara
🔵	Kaa	🟤	di-maraas-lalin	⚪	doro-lynaali
🟢	maani	🟤	oaa'omaamia	⚫	doro-siaa
🟡	dokaara	🟣	karakaa	🟠	di-doara-sinaa
⚫	siaa	⚪	lynaali		

Although the colour turquoise is its own colour, the colours pink and both types of grey are seen as variations of other colours. The word *doro* (meaning "half") is used to show this.

Colours in Syan are classified as adjectives and so follow the same rules when being used to describe a noun.

<div align="center">

a **kara** loma
*(the **red** house)*

Iya o'balanid **di-doaro-sinaa**
*(five **orange** planets)*

</div>

Personal Descriptions

Appearance + Characteristics

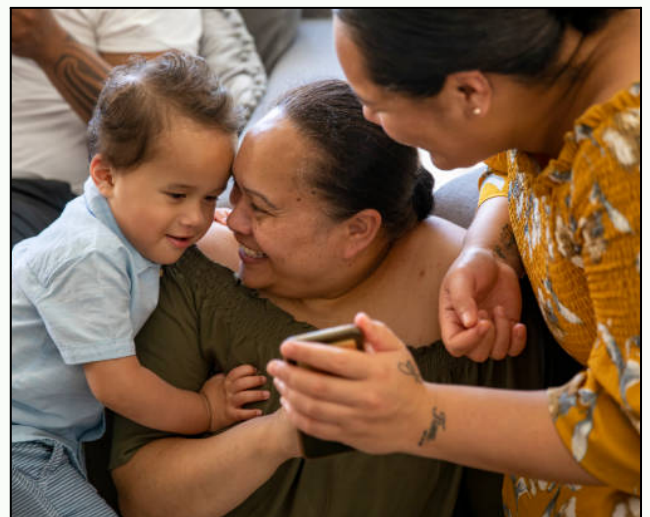tall / big   -   biaa
short / small -   mia
fat   -   oaa'biaa
skinny   -   oaa'mia
old   -   biaa-amo
young   -   mia-'mo

… eyes   -   … o'daala-niaan
… hair   -   … o'sisin

Emotions + Feelings

happy   -   di-ola-karaaka
sad   -   maalaal
angry   -   kanadaa
confused   -   di-saa
scared   -   di-saalin

I am…   -   aad ki-a …
I feel…   -   aad il-daalidaa-a …

Personality Traits

nice   -   laasaa
kind   -   di-laas
mean   -   naal-'aasaa
generous   -   di-laas-kaasi
selfish   -   di-naal-kaasi

Directions + Locations

Directions

left	-	lylya
right	-	gogon
north	-	di-adaad
south	-	di-laka
East	-	isad
west	-	naal-isad
turn left/right	-	moaal lylya/gogon

Locations

bus stop	-	san-dora di-onibos
train station	-	san-dora di-lokomodisa
metro station	-	san-dora di-madaro
shops	-	o'kasiaa
supermarket	-	bia-kasiaa
museum	-	loma-di-roadaa
cinema	-	sinima
theater	-	bajaari-loma

Days + Months

Days of the week

monday	-	moanis
tuesday	-	doanis
wednesday	-	adanis
thursday	-	daaranis
friday	-	ryanis
saturday	-	sadanis
sunday	-	saananis
on ___ …	-	ba ___, …

Months of the year

january	-	janaari
february	-	sabaari
march	-	maak
april	-	abaril
may	-	my
june	-	jon
july	-	joli
august	-	ogaas
september	-	sadamabaa
october	-	odobaa
november	-	nosabaa
december	-	disabaa
in ___ …	-	ba ___, …

Keep in mind that there is also a calendar made up of 14 "months" called o'di-rad which is also used in Syana.

The *o'di-rad* are usually used for religious purposes, however many rural regions of Syana use this calendar as their primary way to keep track of time.

28

Conversational Vocabulary

Questions

what is your name?	- a baasil di-moa ni-ki-a.
how are you?	- moa ki ni-ola-karaaka.
how old are you?	- a o'larina di-moa ni-ki.
where are you from?	- a dora di-moa ni-ki.
what are your hobbies?	- a aamiaami di-moa ni-ki-a.

Introductions

hello	- kiaa
hi (friendly)	- kikiaa
my name is…	- a baasil di-aad ki-a …
I am ___ years old	- aad rila-ni ___ o'larina
I am from…	- a dora di-aad ki…
my hobbies are…	- a aamiaami di-aad ki-a…
goodbye	- naal-kiaa
bye (friendly)	- kadaa-moa

Common Phrases

where is…?	- … ki ni-jal.
how much is…?	- … ki-a ni-'sa.
I can't…	- aad ki naal-saan inaal…
do you know…?	- … moa ni-nolisaa.
can I have…?	- …aad ni-rila-min.
sorry	- ganya
thank you	- similaa
please*	- similaa-min
I do not speak Syan.	- aad naal-daani di-syana.
Do you speak english?	- moa daani ni-di-'nagaalan.

When you say please to someone in Syan, you are actually adding the future tense suffix (*-min*) to the word thank you (*similaa*).

This means that you are essentially thanking the person in advance for fulfilling your request.