

**TAM\_1**

**Beginners’ Tamil: a taster course**

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[Beginners’ Tamil: a taster course](https://www.open.edu/openlearn/languages/beginners-tamil-taster-course/content-section-0?LKCAMPAIGN=ebook_&amp;MEDIA=ol)

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## Introduction

This free course, Beginners’ Tamil: a taster course, introduces Tamil society and culture, Tamil scripts, and common phrases that will allow you to start having simple conversations in the language. You will also have plenty of opportunities to practise Tamil throughout the course with activities and quizzes.

## Learning outcomes

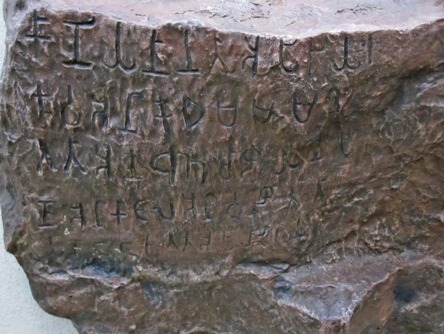
After studying this course, you should be able to:

* demonstrate an awareness of the Tamil alphabet and sound, and a basic understanding of the Tamil language
* count up to 10 in Tamil
* name some of the traditional musical instruments used by Tamils
* name some of the fruits grown in Tamil Nadu
* greet a person in Tamil, and say simple phrases related to numbers, musical instruments and fruits with confidence.

## 1 The Tamil language

Tamil is one of the oldest languages in the world, and can be dated back to around 400 BC (Violatti, 2016). It is spoken by more than 85 million people (Ethnologue, 2021), most of them in Tamil Nadu (meaning ‘The Tamil Nation’), a state in southern India. Tamil is a language rich in literature, philosophy and music, and thus of interest to many people. It is one of the 22 official languages of India.

Start of Figure



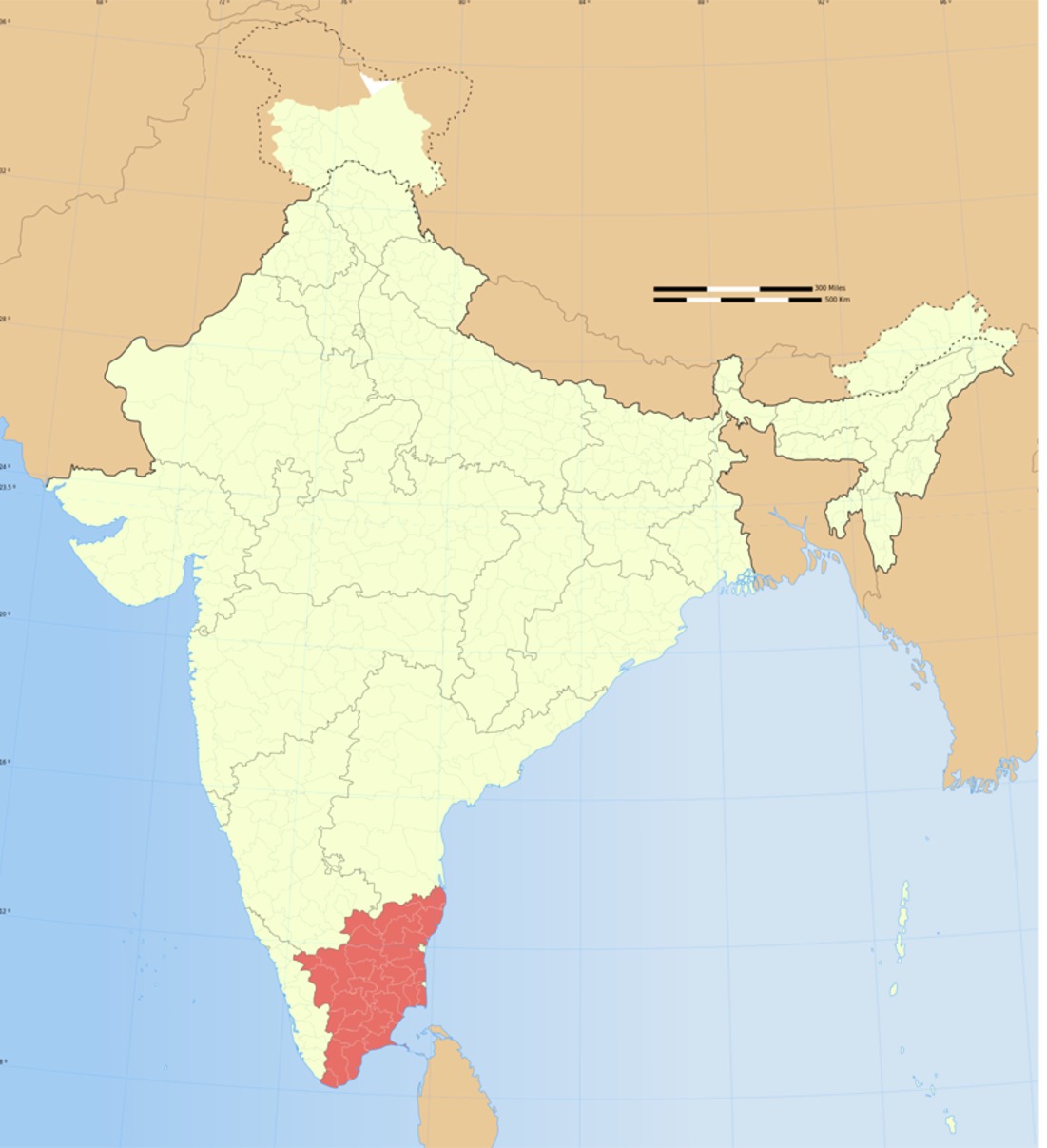
**Figure 1** Tamil Brahmi inscription in Mangulam, Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, dated to c. 400 BC to c. 200 AD (Violatti, 2016)

[View description - Figure 1 Tamil Brahmi inscription in Mangulam, Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, dated ...](" \l "Session1_Description1)

[View alternative description - Figure 1 Tamil Brahmi inscription in Mangulam, Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, dated ...](" \l "Session1_Alternative1)

End of Figure

Start of Figure



**Figure 2** A map of India, with Tamil Nadu in red

[View description - Figure 2 A map of India, with Tamil Nadu in red](" \l "Session1_Description2)

[View alternative description - Figure 2 A map of India, with Tamil Nadu in red](" \l "Session1_Alternative2)

End of Figure

Tamil is the official language of Tamil Nadu and the Indian territory of Puducherry, and is one of the official languages in Sri Lanka and Singapore.

As well as in Singapore and Sri Lanka where Tamil is particularly prominent in Jaffna in the north of the island, and in the Vanni in the east, there are also large numbers of Tamil speakers in the diaspora in Malaysia, Mauritius, Fiji, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Australia and the USA. Significant Tamil minorities in the Indian states of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana, and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, also speak the language.

Tamil is also used as a language of education in Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore.

In England and Wales in 2011, the Tamil speaking-population was said to be 100 689 (Gopal and Matras, 2013) while Dissanayake some years earlier (2008) quoted a community estimate of 150 000.

The majority of Tamils are Hindus, with a smaller proportion being Christians and Muslims. Tamils tend to live in extended families, with the elderly often living with their adult children.

Start of Figure



**Figure 3** Three generations of a Tamil family – the women are wearing saris (saylay, in Tamil), while the patriarch is wearing a vertti, and the young girl in the front is wearing a pavaadai.

[View description - Figure 3 Three generations of a Tamil family – the women are wearing saris (saylay, ...](" \l "Session1_Description3)

[View alternative description - Figure 3 Three generations of a Tamil family – the women are wearing saris (saylay, ...](" \l "Session1_Alternative3)

End of Figure

Start of Activity

**Activity 1**

Start of Question

True or false. Tamil is an official language only in India.

End of Question

True

False

[View answer - Part](" \l "Session1_Interaction1)

[View discussion - Part](" \l "Session1_Discussion1)

Start of Question

True or false. Tamil is an ancient language.

End of Question

True

False

[View answer - Part](" \l "Session1_Interaction2)

[View discussion - Part](" \l "Session1_Discussion2)

Start of Question

True or false. The majority of Tamils are Buddhists.

End of Question

True

False

[View answer - Part](" \l "Session1_Interaction3)

[View discussion - Part](" \l "Session1_Discussion3)

End of Activity

## 2 Tamil script

The current Tamil script consists of 12 vowels (Table 1), 18 consonants (Table 2) and one special character, the āytam. The vowels and consonants combine to form 216 compound characters (see Section 2.1 for examples), giving a total of 247 characters. There are also Grantha letters originating from the 4th century, which are used with Sanskrit words, usually in religious contexts.

All consonants have an inherent vowel a, as with other Indic scripts. This inherent vowel is removed by adding a tittle called a pulli, to the consonantal sign. For example, ன  is ṉa (with the inherent a) and ன் is ṉ (without a vowel).

The direction of writing is from left to right, in horizontal lines. The alphabet was originally written on palm fronds. As a result, the letters are made up mainly of curved strokes which would not have ripped the fronds.

Start of Table

Table 1 The 12 Tamil vowels

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| அ | a | எ | e |
| ஆ | aa | ஏ | ee |
| இ | i | ஐ | ai |
| ஈ | ii | ஒ | o |
| உ | u | ஓ | oo |
| ஊ | uu | ஔ | au |

End of Table

Start of Table

Table 2 The 18 Tamil consonants, with the Grantha letters

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| க்  k  [k], [ɡ], [x], [ɣ], [ɦ] | ங்  ṅ  [ŋ] | ச்  c  [t͡ɕ], [d͡ʑ], [s], [ɕ] | ஞ்  ñ  [ɲ] | ட்  ṭ  [ʈ], [ɖ], [ɽ] | ண்  ṇ  [ɳ] |
| த்  t  [t̪], [d̪], [ð] | ந்  n  [n̪] | ப்  p  [p], [b], [β] | ம்  m  [m] | ய்  y  [j] | ர்  r  [ɾ] |
| ல்  l  [l] | வ்  v  [ʋ] | ழ்  ḻ  [ɻ] | ள்  ḷ  [ɭ] | ற்  ṟ  [r], [t], [d] | ன்  ṉ  [n] |
| **Grantha letters** |  |  |  |  |  |
| ஜ  ja | ஷ  sha | ஸ  sa | ஹ  ha | க்ஷ  kṣha |  |

End of Table

## 2.1 The sound of Tamil

As mentioned in Section 2, the 12 vowels and 18 consonants in Tamil combine to form 216 compound characters. Listen to the two audios below for some examples and to hear how the sounds are pronounced.

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

க,கா,கி,கீ,கு,கூ,கெ,கே,கை,கொ,கோ,கௌ

[View transcript - க,கா,கி,கீ,கு,கூ,கெ,கே,கை,கொ,கோ,கௌ](" \l "Session2_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

ச,சா,சி,சீ,சு,சூ,செ,சே,சை,சொ,சோ,சௌ

[View transcript - ச,சா,சி,சீ,சு,சூ,செ,சே,சை,சொ,சோ,சௌ](" \l "Session2_Transcript2)

End of Media Content

Now listen to the pronunciation of some of the new words you have been introduced to so far in this course.

Start of Study Note

**New vocabulary**

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Tamil | தமிழ்

[View transcript - Tamil | தமிழ்](" \l "Session2_Transcript3)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Tamil Nadu | தமிழ் நாடு

[View transcript - Tamil Nadu | தமிழ் நாடு](" \l "Session2_Transcript4)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Saylay | சேலை

[View transcript - Saylay | சேலை](" \l "Session2_Transcript5)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Vertti | வேட்டி

[View transcript - Vertti | வேட்டி](" \l "Session2_Transcript6)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Pavaadai | பாவாடை

[View transcript - Pavaadai | பாவாடை](" \l "Session2_Transcript7)

End of Media Content

End of Study Note

Start of Activity

**Activity 2**

Start of Question

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

End of Question

End of Activity

## 3 Tamil greetings

Unlike many other languages where there are multiple ways of greeting, in Tamil there is just one way of greeting others. To greet someone in person or whilst on the telephone or internet, you would say ‘Vanakkam’ and, if meeting in person, you would say this with palms pressed against each other facing the person.

The word ‘Vanakkam’ implies respecting the person who comes in front of another person. This is just like the word ‘Namaste’ which is used in Northern India, Nepal, and in other regions where Hindi is spoken.

Start of Figure



**Figure 4** A couple saying ‘Vanakkam’ - (வணக்கம்).

[View description - Figure 4 A couple saying ‘Vanakkam’ - (வணக்கம்).](" \l "Session3_Description1)

[View alternative description - Figure 4 A couple saying ‘Vanakkam’ - (வணக்கம்).](" \l "Session3_Alternative1)

End of Figure

When saying goodbye to someone or leaving a gathering, Tamils will say, ‘Naan poyitu vaarein’ meaning ‘I’ll go and come back’. This is an indication of being in constant connection with people.

Table 3 lists some useful phrases to use when greeting others and when saying goodbye. Read through the table and then listen to how each phrase is pronounced in the study note that follows. You will then have a chance to practise saying some of the expressions in Activity 3.

Start of Table

Table 3 Greetings and essential expressions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Phrase in English** | **Phrase in Tamil** | **Pronunciation** |
| Hello | வணக்கம். | Vanakkam |
| Are you well? | நீங்கள் நலமாக இருக்கிறீர்களா? | Neenkal Nalamaka Erukkirirkala? |
| Yes, I’m fine | ஆம், நான் நலமாக இருக்கிறேன். | Aam, naan nalamaka erukkiren |
| Thank you | நன்றி. | Nandhri |
| You are welcome | நீங்கள் வரவேற்கப்படுகிறீர்கள். | Neenkal varavetkappadukireerkal |
| I’m sorry | நான் வருந்துகிறேன் |  |
| Forgive me (this is a more common way of apologising in day-to-day communications) | என்னை மன்னித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். | Ennai manniththukollunkal |
| It doesn’t matter | அது ஒரு விடயம் இல்லை. (அது பறவாயில்லை) | Athu oru vidayam ellai (Athu paruvaayillai) |
| Goodbye | நான் போயிற்று வாறேன். | Naan poyitu vaarein |
| I have to leave now, as I have to fetch my son from school | நான் எனது மகனை பள்ளியில் இருந்து எடுக்கவேண்டி இருப்பதால், நான் இப்பொழுது போகவேண்டி இருக்கிறது. | Naan enathu makanai palliyil erunthu edukka vendi eruppathaal naan eppoluthu pokavendi erukkirathu |

End of Table

Start of Study Note

**New vocabulary/phrases**

Click on ‘Show transcript’ to reveal the transliteration (Tamil words using the English alphabet) of the vocabulary/phrases.

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Hello | வணக்கம்.

[View transcript - Hello | வணக்கம்.](" \l "Session3_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Are you well? | நீங்கள் நலமாக இருக்கிறீர்களா?

[View transcript - Are you well? | நீங்கள் நலமாக இருக்கிறீர்களா?](" \l "Session3_Transcript2)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Yes, I’m fine | ஆம், நான் நலமாக இருக்கிறேன்.

[View transcript - Yes, I’m fine | ஆம், நான் நலமாக இருக்கிறேன்.](" \l "Session3_Transcript3)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Thank you | நன்றி.

[View transcript - Thank you | நன்றி.](" \l "Session3_Transcript4)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

You are welcome | நீங்கள் வரவேற்கப்படுகிறீர்கள்.

[View transcript - You are welcome | நீங்கள் வரவேற்கப்படுகிறீர்கள்.](" \l "Session3_Transcript5)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Forgive me | என்னை மன்னித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள்

[View transcript - Forgive me | என்னை மன்னித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள்](" \l "Session3_Transcript6)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

It doesn’t matter | அது ஒரு விடயம் இல்லை. (அது பறவாயில்லை)

[View transcript - It doesn’t matter | அது ஒரு விடயம் இல்லை. (அது பறவாயில்லை)](" \l "Session3_Transcript7)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Goodbye (literally, ‘I will go and come back’) | நான் போயிற்று வாறேன்.

[View transcript - Goodbye (literally, ‘I will go and come back’) | நான் போயிற்று வாறேன்.](" \l "Session3_Transcript8)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

I have to leave now, as I have to fetch my son from school | நான் எனது மகனை பள்ளியில் இருந்து எடுக்கவேண்டி இருப்பதால், நான் இப்பொழுது போகவேண்டி இருக்கிறது.

[View transcript - I have to leave now, as I have to fetch my son from school | நான் எனது மகனை பள்ளியில் ...](" \l "Session3_Transcript9)

End of Media Content

End of Study Note

Now have a go at speaking Tamil yourself.

Start of Activity

**Activity 3**

Start of Question

Record yourself saying the following statements and questions. Once you have recorded yourself, compare your recording with the model answer given.

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

End of Question

End of Activity

## 4 Tamil names and introductions

Tamils usually only have one name, but it can be quite long, for example, ‘Sivaloganathan’ (a male name, usually shortened, amongst family and friends, to ‘Siva’, or ‘Loga’, or ‘Nathan’). The first letter of the father’s name is then put as an initial. So, if the father of Sivaloganathan was named ‘Sriskantharajah’, Sivaloganathan would be known as ‘S. Sivaloganathan’.

Female names tend to be shorter than male names, for example, Saraswathi or Lakshmi, the name of two Hindu Goddesses. If you imagine Saras (the shortened form of Saraswathi, but which would never be used in a religious setting) to be Siva’s brother, she would go as ‘S. Saraswathi’ when filling in any paperwork.

In Tamil, as in many Asian languages, older people are addressed in respectful ways and suffixes for different categories of relatives are used. For example, your mother’s eldest brother would be your ‘Peria Maama’ (‘Peria’ means ‘most senior’; and ‘Maama’ means ‘paternal uncle’).

Start of Figure



**Figure 5** The Goddess Saraswathi, the provider of knowledge (left) and the Goddess Lakshmi, the provider of wealth (right)

[View description - Figure 5 The Goddess Saraswathi, the provider of knowledge (left) and the Goddess ...](" \l "Session4_Description1)

[View alternative description - Figure 5 The Goddess Saraswathi, the provider of knowledge (left) and the Goddess ...](" \l "Session4_Alternative1)

End of Figure

Now study Table 4 alongside the audios that follow in the study note. These are some useful phrases to use when introducing yourself, such as saying where you live, where you were born and a bit about your family. Once you have listened to the phrases, have a go at Activity 4.

Start of Table

Table 4 Introducing yourself

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Phrase in English** | **Phrase in Tamil** | **Pronunciation** |
| My name is Siva | எனது பெயர் சிவா. | Enathu peyar Siva |
| I live in Milton Keynes | நான் மில்டன் கீன்ஸ் இல் வாழ்கிறேன். | Naan Milton Keensil Vaalkiren |
| I was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka | நான் இலங்கையின் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் பிறந்தேன். | Naan Elankaiyin Yalpanathil piranthen [Here, Sri Lanka (Elankai) comes before Jaffna (Yalpanam)] |
| I am married | நான் திருமணம் ஆனவர். | Naan thirumanam aanavar |
| I am single | நான் திருமணம் ஆகாதவர். | Naan thirumanam akathavar |
| I have two children, a boy, and a girl | எனக்கு இரண்டு குழந்தைகள், ஒரு ஆணும்,ஒரு பெண்ணும். | Enakku erandu kulanthaikal, oru aanum, oru pennnum |
| My son’s name is … | எனது மகனின் பெயர் ... | Enathu makanin peyar … |
| My daughter’s name is … | எனது மகளின் பெயர் ... | Enathu makalin peyar … |

End of Table

Start of Study Note

**New vocabulary/phrases**

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

My name is Siva | எனது பெயர் சிவா.

[View transcript - My name is Siva | எனது பெயர் சிவா.](" \l "Session4_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

I live in Milton Keynes | நான் மில்டன் கீன்ஸ் இல் வாழ்கிறேன்.

[View transcript - I live in Milton Keynes | நான் மில்டன் கீன்ஸ் இல் வாழ்கிறேன்.](" \l "Session4_Transcript2)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

I was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka | நான் இலங்கையின் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் பிறந்தேன்.

[View transcript - I was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka | நான் இலங்கையின் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் பிறந்தேன்.](" \l "Session4_Transcript3)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

I am married | நான் திருமணம் ஆனவர்.

[View transcript - I am married | நான் திருமணம் ஆனவர்.](" \l "Session4_Transcript4)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

I am single | நான் திருமணம் ஆகாதவர்.

[View transcript - I am single | நான் திருமணம் ஆகாதவர்.](" \l "Session4_Transcript5)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

I have two children, a boy, and a girl | எனக்கு இரண்டு குழந்தைகள், ஒரு ஆணும்,ஒரு பெண்ணும்.

[View transcript - I have two children, a boy, and a girl | எனக்கு இரண்டு குழந்தைகள், ஒரு ஆணும்,ஒரு ...](" \l "Session4_Transcript6)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

My son’s name is … | எனது மகனின் பெயர் ...

[View transcript - My son’s name is … | எனது மகனின் பெயர் ...](" \l "Session4_Transcript7)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

My daughter’s name is … | எனது மகளின் பெயர் ...

[View transcript - My daughter’s name is … | எனது மகளின் பெயர் ...](" \l "Session4_Transcript8)

End of Media Content

End of Study Note

Start of Activity

**Activity 4**

Start of Question

Select one. In what situation(s) would ‘Vanakkam’ be used?

End of Question

When speaking on the telephone

When meeting someone face-to-face

When communicating by electronic media

All of the above.

[View answer - Part](" \l "Session4_Interaction1)

Start of Question

Unlike in many other societies, Tamils often just have one name.

End of Question

True

False

[View answer - Part](" \l "Session4_Interaction2)

Start of Question

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

End of Question

End of Activity

## 5 Numbers

In this section you will learn how to count from zero to ten. Study Table 5 alongside the audio that follows to help you become familiar with numbers in Tamil.

Start of Table

Table 5 Numbers in Tamil

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Number** | **Tamil script** | **Pronunciation** |
| 0 | பூச்சியம் | Poochchiam |
| 1 | ஒன்று | Ondru |
| 2 | இரண்டு | Erandu |
| 3 | மூன்று | Moondru |
| 4 | நான்கு | Naanku |
| 5 | ஐந்து | Ainthu |
| 6 | ஆறு | Aaru |
| 7 | ஏழு | Erlu |
| 8 | எட்டு | Ettu |
| 9 | ஒன்பது | Onpathu |
| 10 | பத்து | Paththu |

End of Table

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Numbers 0–10

[View transcript - Numbers 0–10](" \l "Session5_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

## 5.1 Using numbers

Giving your telephone number or saying your age are just two examples of when you might need to use numbers. How about giving your work identification number or your house number? Listen to the audios that follow to hear how you would say these two examples.

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

My work identification number is 1148 | எனது வேலை அடையாள இலக்கம் ஒன்று ஒன்று நான்கு எட்டு.

[View transcript - My work identification number is 1148 | எனது வேலை அடையாள இலக்கம் ஒன்று ஒன்று நான்கு ...](" \l "Session5_Transcript2)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

My house number is 7 | எனது வீட்டு இலக்கம் ஏழு.

[View transcript - My house number is 7 | எனது வீட்டு இலக்கம் ஏழு.](" \l "Session5_Transcript3)

End of Media Content

Now have a go at using numbers yourself in Activity 5.

Start of Activity

**Activity 5**

Start of Question

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

End of Question

Start of Question

If someone tells you their locker code is ‘ettu, poochiam, ondru, onpathu’, what is their locker number?

End of Question

*Provide your answer...*

[View discussion - Part](" \l "Session5_Discussion1)

Start of Question

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

End of Question

End of Activity

## 6 Food and drink

In Tamil culture, it is common to offer visitors a drink and some snacks soon after they arrive. The snacks are usually savoury for adults, and sweet for children.

Listen to the audios to hear how to offer someone a drink and also accept an offer for a tea.

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

What would you like to drink? Tea, coffee, a soft drink? | உங்களுக்கு என்ன குடிக்க விருப்பம்? தேநீர்,காப்பி,குளிர்பானம்.?

[View transcript - What would you like to drink? Tea, coffee, a soft drink? | உங்களுக்கு என்ன குடிக்க ...](" \l "Session6_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Tea would be nice, thank you | தேநீர் நன்றாக இருக்கும், நன்றி.

[View transcript - Tea would be nice, thank you | தேநீர் நன்றாக இருக்கும், நன்றி.](" \l "Session6_Transcript2)

End of Media Content

(NB: Tea in Tamil culture comes automatically with milk and sugar!)

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

I have some nice murukku. I’ll bring it | நான் நல்ல முறுக்கு வைத்திருக்கிறேன். அதை நான் கொண்டு வருவேன்.

[View transcript - I have some nice murukku. I’ll bring it | நான் நல்ல முறுக்கு வைத்திருக்கிறேன். அதை ...](" \l "Session6_Transcript3)

End of Media Content

Murukku (Figure 6), which was mentioned in the last audio, is a savoury, crunchy Indian snack, typically made from rice and urid (also called ‘urad’) daal flour, along with water, salt, chilli powder, asafoetida and either sesame seeds or cumin seeds. Once mixed together the ingredients are kneaded into a spiral or coil-shaped dough, either by hand or with a mould, before being deep-fried in vegetable oil.

Start of Figure



**Figure 6** (முறுக்கு)

[View description - Figure 6 (முறுக்கு)](" \l "Session6_Description1)

[View alternative description - Figure 6 (முறுக்கு)](" \l "Session6_Alternative1)

End of Figure

Start of Activity

**Activity 6**

Start of Question

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

End of Question

End of Activity

## 6.1 Fruits

Tamil Nadu is blessed with a tropical climate (though there are hilly areas, like Kodaikanal where it can get as cool as 2.7 oC). The warm climate in Tamil Nadu favours the growth of several fruits, some of the most popular of which are shown in Table 6.

Start of Table

Table 6 Fruits grown in Tamil Nadu

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fruit** | **Illustration** | **Name in Tamil** | **Pronunciation** |
| Papaya | Papaya | பப்பாளி | Pappaali |
| Jackfruit | Jackfruit | பலாப்பழம் | Palaappalam |
| Wood apple | Wood apple | விளாம்பழம் | Vilaampalam |
| Jambu | Jambu | ஜம்பு | Jambu |
| Nungu | Nungu | நுங்கு | Nungu |

End of Table

Now listen to how to pronounce the names of the fruits given in Table 6 before testing your knowledge in Activity 7.

Start of Media Content

Video content is not available in this format.

**Video 1** Fruits

[View transcript - Video 1 Fruits](" \l "Session6_Transcript4)

Start of Figure



[View alternative description - Uncaptioned Figure](" \l "Session6_Alternative7)

End of Figure

End of Media Content

Start of Study Note

**Vocabulary**

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Papaya | பப்பாளி

[View transcript - Papaya | பப்பாளி](" \l "Session6_Transcript5)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Jackfruit | பலாப்பழம்

[View transcript - Jackfruit | பலாப்பழம்](" \l "Session6_Transcript6)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Wood apple | விளாம்பழம்

[View transcript - Wood apple | விளாம்பழம்](" \l "Session6_Transcript7)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Jambu | ஜம்பு

[View transcript - Jambu | ஜம்பு](" \l "Session6_Transcript8)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Nungu | நுங்கு

[View transcript - Nungu | நுங்கு](" \l "Session6_Transcript9)

End of Media Content

End of Study Note

Start of Activity

**Activity 7**

Start of Question

Match the images of the fruit with the correct script.

End of Question

Wood apple







Jackfruit

விளாம்பழம்

நுங்கு

ஜம்பு

பப்பாளி

பலாப்பழம்

[View answer - Activity 7](" \l "Session6_Interaction1)

End of Activity

## 7 Music

Classical Tamil music belongs to the Carnatic school of music. Carnatic music is traditional to South India, whilst Hindustani music is associated with North India. Modern Tamil songs, particularly from films, are very popular in Tamil-speaking societies.

Figure 7 illustrates some of the instruments used in both traditional and modern Tamil music. Take a look at the different instruments and then move on to Section 7.1 where you will hear some of the instruments being played.

Start of Figure



**Figure 7** Instruments used in Carnatic music

[View description - Figure 7 Instruments used in Carnatic music](" \l "Session7_Description1)

[View alternative description - Figure 7 Instruments used in Carnatic music](" \l "Session7_Alternative1)

End of Figure

## 7.1 Examples of Tamil music

In this section you will have the opportunity to listen to some of the instruments used in Tamil music. In Video 2 a musical trio can be seen playing the mirdangam, electric violin, and morsing. The video is a recording from the national sadhana for the 95th Advent of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. You should watch the video from 45:07 to 47:17 to hear the music.

Start of Media Content

Watch the video at [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGuq3dG_8E8&hl=en&fs=1&rel=0).

**Video 2** Tamil music

End of Media Content

Did you notice the bond between the musicians? For example at 47:08, when the violin player is pleasantly surprised by a note that the morsing player generates!

The vocabulary box below lets you hear how to pronounce these three instruments being played. Listen and practise the pronuniciation yourself and then continue on to hear the harmonium and morsing being played.

Start of Study Note

**Vocabulary**

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Mirdangam | மிருதங்கம்

[View transcript - Mirdangam | மிருதங்கம்](" \l "Session7_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Electric violin | மின்சார வயலின்

[View transcript - Electric violin | மின்சார வயலின்](" \l "Session7_Transcript2)

End of Media Content

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

Morsing | முகச்சங்கு

[View transcript - Morsing | முகச்சங்கு](" \l "Session7_Transcript3)

End of Media Content

End of Study Note

The morsing is a type of ‘jaw harp’, seen in many cultures, and known by various names, such as the Jew’s harp, mouth harp, gewgaw, guimbard, khomus, trump, Ozark harp, Galician harp, or murchunga.

Now watch Video 3, which gives a detailed explanation of the morsing, as well as a demonstration of how it is used.

Start of Media Content

Watch the video at [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H25eHABxf5c&hl=en&fs=1&rel=0).

**Video 3** What is a morsing?

End of Media Content

Finally, before having a go at the last activity in the course, watch Video 4.

Start of Media Content

Watch the video at [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2VbCDPkbqg&hl=en&fs=1&rel=0).

**Video 4** Harmonium recital

End of Media Content

Start of Activity

**Activity 8**

Start of Question

Match the images of the musical instruments with the correct word.

End of Question









Nadaswaram

Ghatam

Harmonium

Thavil

[View answer - Part](" \l "Session7_Interaction1)

Start of Question

Name three stringed instruments used in Tamil music.

End of Question

*Provide your answer...*

[View discussion - Part](" \l "Session7_Discussion1)

End of Activity

## Conclusion

We hope you found this short course interesting and enjoyable! You should now have some knowledge of the history of the Tamil language, together with an understanding of the Tamil script and numbers. You will have acquired some familiarity with commonly used Tamil phrases, including the concept of ‘Vanakkam’, and you’ve also been introduced to some fruits from Tamil Nadu and instruments used in Tamil music.

If you enjoyed this taster in Tamil and would be interested in a longer, paid-for version of the course, you can express you interest by e-mailing [oclc@open.ac.uk](mailto:oclc@open.ac.uk). Please provide your name and contact email address. Your contact details will be kept for the sole purpose of contacting you should a longer version of the course be produced in the future and will not be used for any other purpose.

If you change your mind and wish for your contact details to be deleted you can do this at any time by emailing again to [oclc@open.ac.uk](mailto:oclc@open.ac.uk). Your details will be kept for a maximum of two years.

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Violatti, C. (2016). Brahmi Script. World History Encyclopedia.online. Available at https://www.ancient.eu/Brahmi\_Script/ (Accessed 22 March 2021).

## Acknowledgements

This free course was prepared by Suresh Nesaratnam and Senathirajah Muthaiya. It was first published in July 2021.

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Course Image: © sabirmallick/Getty Images

Figure 1: sodabottle https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mangulam\_inscription.jpg <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en>

Figure 2: planeMad/Wikimedia [https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:India\_Tamil\_Nadu\_locator\_map.svg](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/https:/en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:India_Tamil_Nadu_locator_map.svg)

Figure 3: madpai https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tamil\_Family.jpg <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en>

Figure 4: VSanandhakrishna/Getty Images

Figure 5: Left: The Goddess Saraswathi, the provider of knowledge; Right: The Goddess Lakshmi, the provider of wealth. © unknown

Figure 6: <https://www.utkaltoday.com/mullu-murukku-recipe/>

Figure 7: ghatam: Sven.petersen placed in public domain; cymbals: bayshev/Getty Images; nadaswaram: By Rahdisas - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=92503798>; violin: yarn/Getty Images; harmonium: ajaykampani/Getty Images; thambura: Martin Spaink <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>; khanjira: image: brian@silverbushmusic.com <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>; flute: Kanags <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>; sruthi: image from <https://www.shrutibox.co.uk>; mridangam: © unknown; morsing: © unknown; thavil: image from <https://saraswathymusicals.com/thavil/> ; veena: Veena.svg: Sreejithk2000 derivative work: Gringer (talk) - Veena.svg <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>

Table 6 and Activity 7: Papaya: varintorn/Pixabay; Jackfruit: lilimey /Pixabay; Wood Apple: (c) unknown; Jambu: <https://www.bfnsrilanka.org/>; Nungu: Bernard DUPONT from FRANCE <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/deed.en>

Activity 8: top image: Nadaswaram: Gwengoat/Getty Images; second image: ghatam: Sven.petersen placed in public domain; third image: harmonium: ajaykampani/Getty Images; bottom image: thavil: image from <https://saraswathymusicals.com/thavil/>

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## Solutions

## Activity 1

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

False

**Wrong:**

True

[Back to - Part](" \l "Session1_Part1)

#### Discussion

False. As well as in India, Tamil is also an official language in Sri Lanka and Singapore.

[Back to - Part](#Session1_Part1)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

True

**Wrong:**

False

[Back to - Part](" \l "Session1_Part2)

#### Discussion

True. Tamil is an ancient language, dating back to around 400 BC.

[Back to - Part](#Session1_Part2)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

False

**Wrong:**

True

[Back to - Part](" \l "Session1_Part3)

#### Discussion

False. The majority of Tamils are Hindu.

[Back to - Part](#Session1_Part3)

## Activity 4

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

All of the above.

**Wrong:**

When speaking on the telephone

When meeting someone face-to-face

When communicating by electronic media

[Back to - Part](" \l "Session4_Part1)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

True

**Wrong:**

False

[Back to - Part](" \l "Session4_Part2)

## Activity 5

### Part

#### Discussion

8019

[Back to - Part](" \l "Session5_Part2)

## Activity 7

#### Answer

**The correct matches are:**

Wood apple

விளாம்பழம்



நுங்கு



ஜம்பு



பப்பாளி

Jackfruit

பலாப்பழம்

[Back to - Activity 7](" \l "Session6_Activity2)

## Activity 8

### Part

#### Answer

**The correct matches are:**



Nadaswaram



Ghatam



Harmonium



Thavil

[Back to - Part](" \l "Session7_Part1)

### Part

#### Discussion

From Figure 7, you could have said the veena, thambura, and violin.

[Back to - Part](" \l "Session7_Part2)

# Figure 1 Tamil Brahmi inscription in Mangulam, Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, dated to c. 400 BC to c. 200 AD (Violatti, 2016)

## Description

A model of the Mangulam Tamil Brahmi inscription at Dakshin Chithra, Chennai.

[Back to - Figure 1 Tamil Brahmi inscription in Mangulam, Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, dated to c. 400 BC to c. 200 AD (Violatti, 2016)](" \l "Session1_Figure1)

# Figure 2 A map of India, with Tamil Nadu in red

## Description

A map of India. A small section in the bottom right (south east of India) is coloured red to mark out Tamil Nadu.

[Back to - Figure 2 A map of India, with Tamil Nadu in red](" \l "Session1_Figure2)

# Figure 3 Three generations of a Tamil family – the women are wearing saris (saylay, in Tamil), while the patriarch is wearing a vertti, and the young girl in the front is wearing a pavaadai.

## Description

A photo of eleven members of a Tamil family from three generations sat on three rows of steps. The women are wearing saris (saylay, in Tamil), while the patriarch is wearing a vertti, and the young girl in the front is wearing a pavaadai.

[Back to - Figure 3 Three generations of a Tamil family – the women are wearing saris (saylay, in Tamil), while the patriarch is wearing a vertti, and the young girl in the front is wearing a pavaadai.](" \l "Session1_Figure3)

# Figure 4 A couple saying ‘Vanakkam’ - (வணக்கம்).

## Description

A cheerful South Indian couple greeting the camera with their hands pressed together and held up by the middle of their chests.

[Back to - Figure 4 A couple saying ‘Vanakkam’ - (வணக்கம்).](" \l "Session3_Figure1)

# Figure 5 The Goddess Saraswathi, the provider of knowledge (left) and the Goddess Lakshmi, the provider of wealth (right)

## Description

Two posters side by side. The poster on the left is of the Goddess Saraswathi, the provider of knowledge. She is sat down on a white lotus flower playing the veena. A swan is also beside her. The poster on the right is of the Goddess Lakshmi, the provider of wealth. She is sat on a pink lotus flower with a bowl of coins in front of her. Coins are pouring out from one of her hands as well as a pot that she has on her lap. Two white elephants are either side of her.

[Back to - Figure 5 The Goddess Saraswathi, the provider of knowledge (left) and the Goddess Lakshmi, the provider of wealth (right)](" \l "Session4_Figure1)

# Figure 6 (முறுக்கு)

## Description

A dish of murukku. The murukku are spiral-shaped and light beige.

[Back to - Figure 6 (முறுக்கு)](" \l "Session6_Figure1)

# Figure 7 Instruments used in Carnatic music

## Description

A poster showing different carnatic musical instruments. It shows a ghatam, nadaswaram, violin, harmonium, flute, sruthi, mridangam, thambura, morsin, thavil, khanjira, veena and cymbals.

[Back to - Figure 7 Instruments used in Carnatic music](" \l "Session7_Figure1)

# க,கா,கி,கீ,கு,கூ,கெ,கே,கை,கொ,கோ,கௌ

## Transcript

ka, kaa, ki, kii, ku, kuu, ke, kaay, kai, ko, koo, kow

[Back to - க,கா,கி,கீ,கு,கூ,கெ,கே,கை,கொ,கோ,கௌ](" \l "Session2_MediaContent1)

# ச,சா,சி,சீ,சு,சூ,செ,சே,சை,சொ,சோ,சௌ

## Transcript

sa, saa, si, sii, su, suu, se, see, sai, so, soo, sow

[Back to - ச,சா,சி,சீ,சு,சூ,செ,சே,சை,சொ,சோ,சௌ](" \l "Session2_MediaContent2)

# Tamil | தமிழ்

## Transcript

Thamil

[Back to - Tamil | தமிழ்](" \l "Session2_MediaContent3)

# Tamil Nadu | தமிழ் நாடு

## Transcript

Thamil naadu

[Back to - Tamil Nadu | தமிழ் நாடு](" \l "Session2_MediaContent4)

# Saylay | சேலை

## Transcript

Saylay

[Back to - Saylay | சேலை](" \l "Session2_MediaContent5)

# Vertti | வேட்டி

## Transcript

Vertti

[Back to - Vertti | வேட்டி](" \l "Session2_MediaContent6)

# Pavaadai | பாவாடை

## Transcript

Pavaadai

[Back to - Pavaadai | பாவாடை](" \l "Session2_MediaContent7)

# Hello | வணக்கம்.

## Transcript

Vanakkam.

[Back to - Hello | வணக்கம்.](" \l "Session3_MediaContent1)

# Are you well? | நீங்கள் நலமாக இருக்கிறீர்களா?

## Transcript

Neenkal Nalamaka Erukkirirkala?

[Back to - Are you well? | நீங்கள் நலமாக இருக்கிறீர்களா?](" \l "Session3_MediaContent2)

# Yes, I’m fine | ஆம், நான் நலமாக இருக்கிறேன்.

## Transcript

Aam, naan nalamaka erukkiren.

[Back to - Yes, I’m fine | ஆம், நான் நலமாக இருக்கிறேன்.](" \l "Session3_MediaContent3)

# Thank you | நன்றி.

## Transcript

Nandhri.

[Back to - Thank you | நன்றி.](" \l "Session3_MediaContent4)

# You are welcome | நீங்கள் வரவேற்கப்படுகிறீர்கள்.

## Transcript

Neenkal varavetkappadukireerkal.

[Back to - You are welcome | நீங்கள் வரவேற்கப்படுகிறீர்கள்.](" \l "Session3_MediaContent5)

# Forgive me | என்னை மன்னித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள்

## Transcript

Ennai manniththukollunkal.

[Back to - Forgive me | என்னை மன்னித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள்](" \l "Session3_MediaContent6)

# It doesn’t matter | அது ஒரு விடயம் இல்லை. (அது பறவாயில்லை)

## Transcript

Athu oru vidayam ellai. (Athu paruvaayillai)

[Back to - It doesn’t matter | அது ஒரு விடயம் இல்லை. (அது பறவாயில்லை)](" \l "Session3_MediaContent7)

# Goodbye (literally, ‘I will go and come back’) | நான் போயிற்று வாறேன்.

## Transcript

Naan poyitu vaarein.

[Back to - Goodbye (literally, ‘I will go and come back’) | நான் போயிற்று வாறேன்.](" \l "Session3_MediaContent8)

# I have to leave now, as I have to fetch my son from school | நான் எனது மகனை பள்ளியில் இருந்து எடுக்கவேண்டி இருப்பதால், நான் இப்பொழுது போகவேண்டி இருக்கிறது.

## Transcript

Naan enathu makanai palliyil erunthu edukka vendi eruppathaal naan eppoluthu pokavendi erukkirathu.

[Back to - I have to leave now, as I have to fetch my son from school | நான் எனது மகனை பள்ளியில் இருந்து எடுக்கவேண்டி இருப்பதால், நான் இப்பொழுது போகவேண்டி இருக்கிறது.](" \l "Session3_MediaContent9)

# My name is Siva | எனது பெயர் சிவா.

## Transcript

Enathu peyar Siva.

[Back to - My name is Siva | எனது பெயர் சிவா.](" \l "Session4_MediaContent1)

# I live in Milton Keynes | நான் மில்டன் கீன்ஸ் இல் வாழ்கிறேன்.

## Transcript

Naan Milton Keensil Vaalkiren.

[Back to - I live in Milton Keynes | நான் மில்டன் கீன்ஸ் இல் வாழ்கிறேன்.](" \l "Session4_MediaContent2)

# I was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka | நான் இலங்கையின் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் பிறந்தேன்.

## Transcript

Naan elankaiyin Yalpanathil piranthen.

[Back to - I was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka | நான் இலங்கையின் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் பிறந்தேன்.](" \l "Session4_MediaContent3)

# I am married | நான் திருமணம் ஆனவர்.

## Transcript

Naan thirumanam aanavar.

[Back to - I am married | நான் திருமணம் ஆனவர்.](" \l "Session4_MediaContent4)

# I am single | நான் திருமணம் ஆகாதவர்.

## Transcript

Naan thirumanam akathavar.

[Back to - I am single | நான் திருமணம் ஆகாதவர்.](" \l "Session4_MediaContent5)

# I have two children, a boy, and a girl | எனக்கு இரண்டு குழந்தைகள், ஒரு ஆணும்,ஒரு பெண்ணும்.

## Transcript

Enakku erandu kulanthaikal, oru aanum, oru pennnum.

[Back to - I have two children, a boy, and a girl | எனக்கு இரண்டு குழந்தைகள், ஒரு ஆணும்,ஒரு பெண்ணும்.](" \l "Session4_MediaContent6)

# My son’s name is … | எனது மகனின் பெயர் ...

## Transcript

Enathu makanin peyar …

[Back to - My son’s name is … | எனது மகனின் பெயர் ...](" \l "Session4_MediaContent7)

# My daughter’s name is … | எனது மகளின் பெயர் ...

## Transcript

Enathu makalin peyar …

[Back to - My daughter’s name is … | எனது மகளின் பெயர் ...](" \l "Session4_MediaContent8)

# Numbers 0–10

## Transcript

Poochchiam, Ondru, Erandu, Moondru, Naanku, Ainthu, Aaru, Erlu, Ettu, Onpathu, Paththu.

[Back to - Numbers 0–10](" \l "Session5_MediaContent1)

# My work identification number is 1148 | எனது வேலை அடையாள இலக்கம் ஒன்று ஒன்று நான்கு எட்டு.

## Transcript

Enathu velai adaiyala elakkam ondru ondru naanku ettu.

[Back to - My work identification number is 1148 | எனது வேலை அடையாள இலக்கம் ஒன்று ஒன்று நான்கு எட்டு.](" \l "Session5_MediaContent2)

# My house number is 7 | எனது வீட்டு இலக்கம் ஏழு.

## Transcript

Enathu veeddu elakkam erlu.

[Back to - My house number is 7 | எனது வீட்டு இலக்கம் ஏழு.](" \l "Session5_MediaContent3)

# What would you like to drink? Tea, coffee, a soft drink? | உங்களுக்கு என்ன குடிக்க விருப்பம்? தேநீர்,காப்பி,குளிர்பானம்.?

## Transcript

Unkalukku enna kudikka viruppam? Theneer, kaappy, kulirpaanam?

[Back to - What would you like to drink? Tea, coffee, a soft drink? | உங்களுக்கு என்ன குடிக்க விருப்பம்? தேநீர்,காப்பி,குளிர்பானம்.?](" \l "Session6_MediaContent1)

# Tea would be nice, thank you | தேநீர் நன்றாக இருக்கும், நன்றி.

## Transcript

Thenir nandraha erukkum, nandhri.

[Back to - Tea would be nice, thank you | தேநீர் நன்றாக இருக்கும், நன்றி.](" \l "Session6_MediaContent2)

# I have some nice murukku. I’ll bring it | நான் நல்ல முறுக்கு வைத்திருக்கிறேன். அதை நான் கொண்டு வருவேன்.

## Transcript

Naan nalla murukku vaithirukkirein. Athey naan konduvarukkirein.

[Back to - I have some nice murukku. I’ll bring it | நான் நல்ல முறுக்கு வைத்திருக்கிறேன். அதை நான் கொண்டு வருவேன்.](" \l "Session6_MediaContent3)

# Video 1 Fruits

## Transcript

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SENATHIRAJAH MUTHAIYA:

Vanakkam. Welcome to my shop.

This is wood apple. It comes from India and Sri Lanka. It is called in Tamil Vilaampalam.

This is papaya. It comes from India and Sri Lanka. It is called in Tamil Pappaali.

This is palmyra fruit. It comes from India and Sri Lanka. It is called in Tamil Nungu.

This is jackfruit. It comes from India and Sri Lanka. It is called in Tamil Palaappalam.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[Back to - Video 1 Fruits](" \l "Session6_MediaContent5)

# Papaya | பப்பாளி

## Transcript

Pappaali

[Back to - Papaya | பப்பாளி](" \l "Session6_MediaContent6)

# Jackfruit | பலாப்பழம்

## Transcript

Palaappalam

[Back to - Jackfruit | பலாப்பழம்](" \l "Session6_MediaContent7)

# Wood apple | விளாம்பழம்

## Transcript

Vilaampalam

[Back to - Wood apple | விளாம்பழம்](" \l "Session6_MediaContent8)

# Jambu | ஜம்பு

## Transcript

Jambu

[Back to - Jambu | ஜம்பு](" \l "Session6_MediaContent9)

# Nungu | நுங்கு

## Transcript

Nungu

[Back to - Nungu | நுங்கு](" \l "Session6_MediaContent10)

# Mirdangam | மிருதங்கம்

## Transcript

miruthangam

[Back to - Mirdangam | மிருதங்கம்](" \l "Session7_MediaContent2)

# Electric violin | மின்சார வயலின்

## Transcript

Minsara violin

[Back to - Electric violin | மின்சார வயலின்](" \l "Session7_MediaContent3)

# Morsing | முகச்சங்கு

## Transcript

Muha changgu

[Back to - Morsing | முகச்சங்கு](" \l "Session7_MediaContent4)

# Figure 1 Tamil Brahmi inscription in Mangulam, Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, dated to c. 400 BC to c. 200 AD (Violatti, 2016)

## Alternative description

A model of the Mangulam Tamil Brahmi inscription

[Back to - Figure 1 Tamil Brahmi inscription in Mangulam, Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, dated to c. 400 BC to c. 200 AD (Violatti, 2016)](#Session1_Figure1)

# Figure 2 A map of India, with Tamil Nadu in red

## Alternative description

Map of India, with Tamil Nadu highlighted

[Back to - Figure 2 A map of India, with Tamil Nadu in red](#Session1_Figure2)

# Figure 3 Three generations of a Tamil family – the women are wearing saris (saylay, in Tamil), while the patriarch is wearing a vertti, and the young girl in the front is wearing a pavaadai.

## Alternative description

A tamil family

[Back to - Figure 3 Three generations of a Tamil family – the women are wearing saris (saylay, in Tamil), while the patriarch is wearing a vertti, and the young girl in the front is wearing a pavaadai.](#Session1_Figure3)

# Figure 4 A couple saying ‘Vanakkam’ - (வணக்கம்).

## Alternative description

A couple greeting each other

[Back to - Figure 4 A couple saying ‘Vanakkam’ - (வணக்கம்).](#Session3_Figure1)

# Figure 5 The Goddess Saraswathi, the provider of knowledge (left) and the Goddess Lakshmi, the provider of wealth (right)

## Alternative description

The Goddess Saraswathi and the Goddess Lakshmi

[Back to - Figure 5 The Goddess Saraswathi, the provider of knowledge (left) and the Goddess Lakshmi, the provider of wealth (right)](#Session4_Figure1)

# Figure 6 (முறுக்கு)

## Alternative description

Murukku

[Back to - Figure 6 (முறுக்கு)](#Session6_Figure1)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Papaya

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](" \l "Session6)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Jackfruit

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session6)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Wood apple

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session6)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Jambu

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session6)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Nungu

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session6)

# Uncaptioned Figure

## Alternative description

[Back to - Uncaptioned Figure](" \l "Session6_Figure2)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Wood apple

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session6)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Nungu

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session6)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Jambu

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session6)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Papaya

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session6)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Jackfruit

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session6)

# Figure 7 Instruments used in Carnatic music

## Alternative description

Poster showing carnatic musical instruments.

[Back to - Figure 7 Instruments used in Carnatic music](#Session7_Figure1)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Nadaswaram

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](" \l "Session7)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Ghatam

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session7)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Harmonium

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session7)

# Uncaptioned InlineFigure

## Alternative description

Thavil

[Back to - Uncaptioned InlineFigure](#Session7)