

Pronouns / Simple Sentences

Pronouns

	Singular		Plural	
1st Person	ehd;	I	ehk;	we (listener included)
			ehq;fs;	we (listener not included)
2nd Person	eᵖ	you	eq;fs;	you
	eq;fs;	you (with respect)		
3rd Person	mtd;	he	mtu;fs;	they
	mts;	she		
	mtu;	he/she (respect)		
	mJ	it	mi t	they ("those things")

Singular / Plural

Singular means that a word refers to only 1 thing. Plural means that a word refers to more than 1 thing.

1st, 2nd, & 3rd Person

First person speech means the person speaking is talking about him/herself as an individual ("I...") or in a group ("we..."). In Tamil, ehk; is used when the person who is being spoken to is included in the group. ("Are we there yet?") ehq;fs; is used when the person who is being spoken to is not included. ("We saw a bear! You missed it.")

Second person speech means that the person being spoken to is being spoken about. ("Who are you?") eq;fs; is used for a group of people, as well as for just one person who receives respect.

Third person speech means that the speaker is talking with someone about someone else. ("He is good." "They are smart.") $m\acute{t}u$ is used when talking about a person who receives respect. $m\acute{J}$ refers to anything that is not a person (place, thing, idea). $m\acute{i} \acute{t}$ is used to refer to more than 1 place, thing, or idea, such as 9 dogs or 5 tables.

Simple Sentences

There is no way to translate "is" in Thamil, and there is no translation for "is" in making simple sentences. So if you want to make a simple, informative statement, just put the two words together without a verb. Ex:

- $m\acute{t}u; fh\acute{t}y;fhud;$ = "He is a police officer."

Also, you can use numbers to describe what is being referred to. There is a word for "a"/"an", which is xU , which is used. Ex:

- $m\acute{t}u;fS; \acute{l}e;J \acute{M}r\acute{p}pau;fS;$ = "They are 5 teachers."
- $ehd; xU \acute{i} gad;$ = "I am a boy."

Technicalities

If you want to say something like "It is red", you will have to wait until you get to [Adjectives & Adverbs](#). In English, the words "is" and "are" are called linking verbs. A linking verb restates the subject ($m\acute{t}u$) with the predicate noun ($fh\acute{t}y;fhud$). In other words, $m\acute{t}u; = fh\acute{t}y;fhud;$. The word "red" in "It is red" is a predicate adjective, and is said differently in Thamil.

Negatives / Questions

Negatives

A negative sentence is a sentence where you say "no" or "not". The word for "no" is , $y\acute{i} \acute{y}$.

Simple Sentence - Negative

To make a simple sentence negative (reverse the meaning), add , y_i y to the end of the sentence

Ex:

- mtu; fh_ty;fhud; , y_i y = "He is not a police officer."
- mtu;fs; l e;J Mr_pau;fs; , y_i y = "They are not 5 teachers."
- ehd; xU i gad; , y_i y = "I am not a boy."

Questions

Forming Questions

To turn a sentence into a question, add - M to the end of the sentence.

Ex:

- mtu; fh_ty;fhudh = "Is he a police officer?"
- mtu;fs; l e;J Mr_pau;fsh = "Are they 5 teachers?"
- ehd; xU i gadh = "Am I a boy?"

For rules on adding suffixes, [go here](#)

Verb Roots / Verb Suffixes

Verb Roots

A verb root is just that -- the basic form of a verb to which suffixes are added. By adding suffixes, you can create all the different tenses in Thamil.

Verbs roots, by themselves, can be used as commands. A command is a statement requesting something to be done.

Weak / Strong Verbs

Tamil verbs have been organized into 7 classes based on the changes made when adding suffixes. Weak verbs refer to verbs in classes 1-4. Strong verbs refer to verbs in classes 6-7. There are no more than 10 or so verbs in class 5, so we'll leave it alone.

Verb Suffixes

When verbs show action in a sentence, a suffix is added to the verbs that match up with the subject of the sentence. Each pronoun is associated with a verb suffix. This means that if a pronoun appears in a sentence, then its corresponding verb suffix is added to the end of the verb. (Verb suffixes are also known as PGN or PNG suffixes.) The table below shows pronouns and the corresponding verb suffixes:

	Singular		Plural	
	Pronoun	Verb Suffix	Pronoun	Verb Suffix
1st Person	ehd;	-Vd;	ehk;	-Xk;
			ehq;fs;	-Xk;
2nd Person	eᵖ	-Ma;	eb;fs;	-<u;fs;
	eb;fs;	-<u;fs;		
3rd Person	mtd;	-Md;	mtu;fs;	-Mu;fs;
	mts;	-Ms;		
	mtu;	-Mu;		
	mJ	-mJ (past/present tense) -C K; (future tense)	mi t	N/A* (past/present tense) -C K; (future tense)

*Present tense verbs used with mi t are made differently. Since mJ and mi t present quite a few exceptions, verbs with mJ, mi t will be

taught later.

If the subject of the sentence isn't a pronoun, then the subject will have a related pronoun. Then the verb suffix corresponding to the related prnoun is added to the verb. Ex:

- verb suffix for fkyh = Ms;
- verb suffix for mts; = Ms;
- verb suffix for kz p = Md;
- verb suffix for mtd; = Md;

Some Weak Verbs	
tpi sahL	play
J }q;F	sleep
cI ,fhu;	sit
thq;F	buy, receive
XL	run

Some Strong Verbs	
gb	read
nfhL	give
ghu;	see
epi d	think

Verbs - Present Tense

Present Tense

The present tense refers to a sentence where the action is currently taking place. Examples of present tense sentences are "He runs", "She reads", and "They play".

Turning a verb root into a present tense verb depends on if the verb is a weak or strong verb:

Present Tense - Weak Verbs

verb root + ஃஹ; + verb suffix

Ex:

- eha; J }q;ஃஹJ = "The dog sleeps."
- mtu;fs; tpi sahLஃஹu;fs; = "They play."
- mtd; thq;ஃஹhd; = "He buys."

Present Tense - Strong Verbs

verb root + ஃஃஹ; + verb suffix

Ex:

- fkyh gbஃஃஹs; = "Kamala reads."
- eb;fs; ghu;ஃஃஹu;fs; = "You watch."
- ehd; epi dஃஃஹwd; = "I think."