

Peace Corps

*The Gambia Pre-service Training
Mandinka Language Tape Script*



Greetings – General

Salalmamleekum -

Peace be upon you

Maleekumsalaam

Peace be upon you too

Suumoolu lee?

Where are the people of the compound?

I be jee

They are there.

Koritana te jee?

Hope there is no trouble there?

Tana te jee.

There is no trouble there.

Dindiḡolu be dii?

The Children are how?

I bee be jee.

They are all there.

Dookuwo be dii?

How is the work?

Dookuwo be jaḡ doronj.

Work is here only.

Mbaa kaḡ domain domain

I am on it slowly - slowly

Specific Greetings

Morning

I saama

Good morning

I saama / last name

Good morning

Kayira laa ta?

Did you sleep in peace?

Kaira doronj

Peace only

Kori I siinoota?

I hope you slept well?

Haa dee, n siinoota baake.

Yes, I slept very well.

Somandaa be dii?

How is the morning?

Somandaa be jaḡ doronj

The morning is here only

Afternoon

I tiiḡaḡ

Good afternoon

I tiiḡaḡ / last name

Good afternoon

Kayira tiiḡanta?

Did you spend the afternoon in peace?

Kayira doronj

Peace only

Tilibuloo be dii?

How is the afternoon?

Tilibuloo be jaḡ doronj.

The afternoon is here only.

Evening

I wulaara

Good evening

I wulaaraa /last name

Good evening

Wulaaroo be dii?
This is the afternoon?

Wulaaroo be jaŋ doron
The afternoon is fine.

Night
Suutoo be dii?
How is the night?

Suu too be jaŋ doron
The night is here only

Leave Taking
I yoo, n ka sey le
Alright, I am going home

I si ila moolu konton nñe
You can greet your people for me.

Iyoo Isaa mooy
Alright, they will hear it.

Fo Saama, fo soomandaa, fo wuraaro, fo tilibuloo
Till tomorrow, till tomorrow morning, till evening, till afternoon

Alamaa nga laa kayira la
May we sleep in peace.

Kayira niŋ Kayira.
Peace and peace

Personal Identification
I tondii?
What is your name?

N too mu Omar le ti.
My name is Omar.

I kontonjo dung?
What about your last name?

N kotongo mu Saye le ti.
My last name is Saye.

I bota banku jumaa le?
Which country do you come from?

M bota Gambia le.
I come from the Gambia

I be sabatirij mintoo le saayij?
Where do you live now?

M be sabatirij Bakau le saayij.
I live in Bakau now.

I be sabatirij mintoo le Gambia kono?
Where do you live in the Gambia?

M be sabatirij Bakau le.
I am living in Bakau

Mune mu ila dookuwo ti?
What work do you do?

M mu Peace Corps Volunteer le ti.
I am a Peace Corps Volunteer

I ye sanji jelu le soto?
What is your age?

Nga sanji tang saba niŋ kononto le soto
I have 39 years.

I ye kewo soto le bang?
Do you have a husband?

Haa dee, ngaa soto le.
Yes, I have one.

I ye musoo soto le bay?

Do you have a wife?

I ye dingolu soto le bay?

Do you have children?

Introducing someone

ñij mu n teerimaa le ti.

This is my friend

A bota Bakau le

He is from Bakau

A be tara la jay fo lookuy kilij.

He will stay here for one week

Shopping

I be dii?

How are you?

I ye bayoo soto le bay?

Do you have fabric?

I mañ borodewo soto bay?

You don't have lace right?

Meetaroo mu jelu le ti?

The meter is how much?

Hee! Wo daa koleyaata baake.

What! That is too expensive.

Dukare a talaa. N si kemoo joo noo le.

Please reduce it. I can pay a hundred

N lafita meetari tay ne la.

I want 10 meters

Hani, maa soto

No I don't have one.

Haa, ña diyo soto le.

Yes, I have children.

A too mu Musaa le ti.

His name is Musa

A ka dookuwo ke MRC le. A mu dokitaroo le ti

He works with MRC. He is a doctor.

M be jay doroy.

I am here only.

Haa bayoo be jay ne.

Yes, fabric is there.

I lafita bayi siifaa juma le la? ña

Waksoo, popliinoo anij mbaseño soto le.

Which type of fabric do you want? I have wax, Popline and damask.

Haa, ñaa soto le. ña kulooru buluuriño, jambakeroo anij wuleeringo soto le.

Yes, I do have it. I have blue, green and red colours.

Meetaroo mu dalasi keme kiling nij tay luulu le ti.

The meter costs D150.00

I be jelu le joo noo la.

How much can you pay?

Saayij dalasi keme kilij nij muway nij luulu joo

Now you can pay D125

A fele. A baraka. Ila faliño fele.

It's here. Thank you. Your change is here.

Abaraka. fo waati doo
Thank you. Till next time.

Common Conversation

I be dii?
How are you?

I ka taa mintoo le?
Where are you going?

Mune be jee?
What is there?

Alamee ñimma futa la
May you get there in peace

Tenses

M mu Karandiño le ti
I am a student

A mu nuñ naakadookuulaa le ti
He was a gardener

I be ke la PCV ti nyiñ Kari naalaa
You will be a PCV next month

Verbs

M be kuuroo ke kañ
I am doing laundry

A be benekini taboo la
She is cooking Benechin

Transportation

Bansañ gaaraasoo be mintoo le?
Where is the Bansang car park?

Moto jumaa le ka taa Brikamabaa?
Which vehicle is going to Brikamabaa?

Apparantee, ñin gele-gele ka taa Brikamabaa le bañ?
Apprentice, is this the vehicle going to Brikamaba?

M be jañ doronj
I am here only

N ka taa Basse le
I am going to Basse

Maaño bitoo. N teerima le be fuutuu la
Marriage ceremony. My friend is getting married

Amiin
Amen

A be nuñ laariñ
He was lying down

A be kontonj na talañ saba le
He will have lunch at 3 O'clock

A ñaa be tilindiñj marsewo la
It is opposite the market.

Wo gelegele Koymaa niñ buluriño meñ be looriñ woo yiroo koto.
That white and blue bus under that tree.

Haa dee, ñiñ ne ka ta Brikamabaa.
Yes, this is the one going to Brikamabaa

Paasoo mu je lu le ti?
How much is the fare?

Dukare, a ke ñe dalasi tañ ti.
Please make it D10 for me.

N jindi Jonsoŋooto, Bantabaa daa la.
Drop me at the Junction, by the sitting place

Counting

<i>1 – kiliŋ</i>	<i>20 – muwaŋ</i>
<i>2 – fula</i>	<i>30 – tañ saba</i>
<i>3 - saba</i>	<i>40 – tañ naani</i>
<i>4 - naani</i>	<i>100 - keme</i>
<i>5 -luulu</i>	<i>200 – keme fula</i>
<i>6 -wooro</i>	<i>300 – keme saba</i>
<i>7 - wooro wula</i>	<i>1000 – wuli kiliŋ</i>
<i>8 - Sey</i>	<i>2000 – wuli fula</i>
<i>9 - kononto</i>	<i>3000 – wuli saba</i>
<i>10 - tañ</i>	

Adjectives

Jaŋ niŋ Basse jamfata baake
From here to Basse is very far

Wo kee kotoo jaŋayaata le
That old man is tall

Tilo be kandiŋ ne
The sun is hot.

Fatou le sutuyaata Sarjo ti
Fatou is shorter than Sarjo.

Kara maloo be fanuriŋ baake
The moon light is bright

Duutoo mooto le
The mango is ripe

Lemunoo timiyaata
The orange is tasty

ñiŋ siijuloo kuliyaata bake
This bucket is very heavy

*Paasoo mu dalasi tañ wooro niŋ luulu leti anduŋ ila
baakoo mu dalasi muwaŋ ne ti.*
The fare is D65 and your bag is D20

Bula, taa ñaato, I ye palaaso taa
Enter, go in front, you take a seat.

Jaŋ niŋ Soma maŋ jaŋfa
From here to Soma is not far

Sunkutundiŋo ñiiñaata le
The girl is beautiful

I ye jii sumaya soto le baŋ?
Do you have cold water?

Saŋo be findiŋ
The sky is dark.

Ataaya kuniyaata le
The ataya is bitter

Kaanoo fatiyaata le
The pepper is spicy

I maŋ nna murundiŋo je baŋ?
Do you see my small knife?

Moo jamaa le be jee
A lot of people are there

A be nooriŋ ko koo bootoo
He is as dirty as a bag of salt

Laaraŋo be fooyaariŋ
The bed is soft

Ila diyaamoo tariyaata
The way you talk is quick

Weather

Bari, kunuŋ kandoo warabaata le
Yesterday, it was very hot

N wulita suutoo ka n kuu
I got up at night to bath

I yaa mira a koyta ka siinoo banta le bay?
Do you think its safe to sleep outside?

Hani foŋondiy maŋ soto nuŋ
Even a small breeze was not available

Weather Words

Kandoo -heat	kaykayo -dust	minaayoo-clouds	sumayaa-cold
Foŋoo -wind	sanjoo -rain	waamoo-unfavourable weather condition	tiloo-sun
Karamaloo -full moon	karidiboo -no moon	tilikandoo -dry season	sanjaanoo - harvest season
Samaa -rainy season	baafaa -high tide	baajaa -low tide	

Tailoring

N lafita I ye sipaa kara nŋe, jelu le mu?
I want you to sew a skirt for me, how much will it cost?

Meetari jelu le be jaŋ?
How many meters are here?

I yoo! Wo be sii la le
Alright! That will be enough

Saama wuraaroo
Tomorrow evening

A be warariŋ ko faloo
He is as fat as a donkey

A be findiy ko kemboo
He is as dark as coal

Mandinka kaŋo koleyaata/diyaata le
Mandinka language is difficult/easy

N nene maŋ wo siifaa je
I have never seen that type

M maŋ siinoo noo. ŋan laa banta le
I could not sleep. I slept outside

ŋan laa benteŋo le kay , m maŋ laa baykoo to
I slept on a platform , I didn't lie down on the ground

Dalasi muwaŋ ne mu
Its D20.00

Meetari fula
Two meters

A be pare la muntumaa le?
when will it be ready?

I yoo abaraka n ka taa le fo saama wuraaroo
alright thank you I am going back till
tomorrow evening

Vocabulary

Bayoo-fabric *kararlaa*-tailor *staayloo*-style *tikoo*-head-tie *kurtoo*-pants
Dendikoo-shirt/dress *siipaa*-skirt *a niinaata le*-it is beautiful *a deteta le*-it is tight
A warata baake-its very big

A niinaata le-it beautiful *A beteyaata le*-its good/good *A deteta le*-its tight
A warata baake le-its very big

General Complements

Ila siimaño diyaata baake le
Your dinner is very delicious

Ila kontoño diyaata baake le
Your lunch is very delicious

I kuño beteyaata baake le
He is very clever

I mañ ñoñ soto
You are the best

I beteyaata baake le
You are a good person

I hadamayaata baake le
You are very polite

Dookuu kendo
Good work

Abaraka/ yaa ke kuu
Thank you/you did the right thing

Family/friend vocabulary

Baamaa-mother *faamaa*-father
Binky-aunt *bariñ*-uncle
brother
Dokomaa musoo-younger sister
Jaati-host *deenaanoo*-baby
Musoo/musoo-woman/wife
Alikaaloo-village head
Saatee dokitooroo-village doctor

bandiñ-step-mother *fandiñ*-step-father
kotomaa musoo-elder sister *dokomaa kewo*-younger
mama musoo-grand mother *mama kewo*-grand father
teerimaa/kafuñoo-friend *dimbaayaa*-family
kewo/kee-man husband *kambaanoo*-boy/boyfried
almaamoo-muslim leader *timmatalaa*-traditional birth att.

Noticing if someone is sick

Faatu, mune keta?
Fatou what happened?

N saasaata le
I am sick

Mune kee dimiñ?
What is aching you?

N kono
My stomach

Kabiriñ muntumaa?
Since when?

Kabiriñ kunuñ suutoo
Since last night

I taata lopitaanoo to le bañ?
You went to the hospital right?

Haadee
Yes

I ye booroo soto le bañ?
You had medicine right?

Haadee
Yes

N saa jee noo le ban?
I can see it right?

Haadee
Yes

Alamaa fiseyaa la
May it get better

aamiin
A men

Common phrases

Naa jaŋ-come here

I be siirij ne-you are seated

mune mu?-what is it?

Mune keta-what happened

I keemaa lee-where is your husband?

I be mune na?-what are you at?

N ka taa le-I am going

I lafiita mune la?-what do you want?

m bula-leave me alone

Mune mu ñij ti?-what is this?

N so jiyoo la-give me some water

I ye mune fo?-what did you say?

I bota mintoo le?-where did you come from

Naa domoroo la-come eat

M bee lipa la-I will beat you

Akaañanta-it's OK (enough)

N konoo faata-my stomach is full

I ka taa mintoo le-where are you going.

Abaraka-thank you

A koo-he/she said

N ka sey le-I am going home

m baamaa ko-my mother said

Mune ketee la? - what happened to you?

Question words and Responses

Ila saatewo be dii?

How is your village?

A kandita baake

Its very hot

Nna bukoo lee?

Where is my book?

A be taabuloo kan

Its on the table

I be muru la nan muntumaa le?

You are coming back when?

M be muru la nan saama tilibuloo

I am coming back tomorrow afternoon

Jumaa le mu I baamaa ti?

Who is your mother?

Fatou le mu n baamaa ti

Fatou is my mother

Jumaa le be buŋo kono?

Who is in the house?

M mama musoo be buno kono

My grand mother is in the house

jumaañoolu le be buno kono?

Who are those in the house?

Nna luntañoolu le be buŋo kono

My guests are in the house

I bota bayku jumaa le?

Which country do you come from?

M bota Gambia le

I came from the Gambia

Muneyaatina I ka mandinka kaŋo karaŋ?

Why are you learning to speak mandinka language?

Kaatu m be sabatirij mandinka saatewo le kono

Because I am living in a mandinka village

Expressing Sympathy

Moo le banta somita

Someone died in somita

Alamaa laa jaŋo sooneyaa la

May his soul rest in peace

Offering Prayers

Journey

Alamaa silo ye diyaa

May God grant you a joyful journey

Alamaa Ala yee tanka silo kaŋ

May God protect you on the way

New Baby

Alamaa deenaanoo baluu la

May the baby have a long live

Alamaa a ye doko jamaa soto

May the baby have younger siblings

Sickness

Alamaa saasaa feseyaa la

May God make you get better

Jaata kendeyaa-health

booroo-medicine

Dokitooroo-doctor

kono baayoo-diarrhoe

Boori kesoo-tablets

sankewo-mosquito net

Alamaa neema niŋ kafar ke la a ye

May God forgive his sins

I muña, Alla la baaroo le mu

Be patient its God's will

Alamaa I ye futa kayira kono

May you arrive in peace

Alamaa a baraka la

May the baby be blessed

Alamaa deenaanoo ye diinoo soto

May God make the baby a good Muslim

Kori I ka fiseyaa le?

I hope you are getting better?

seneyaa-clean

suusuulaa-mosquito

suusuulaa kuuraŋo-malaria

fresh kool-common cold

Tobaski/Koriteh Prayers

Alamaa m bee maabee la jaari

May God make us witness next year

N yanfa tee ye

I have forgiven you

Yanfa m ma

Forgive me

Alamaa ala ye yanfa n ñe

May God forgive us

Charity

Abaraka, Alamaa sadaa jaabi la

Thank you may God accept this charity

Alamaa Ala yee takandi seytaanoo ma

May God protect you from satan

Expressing Needs

N suulata kodoo la bii

I need money today

N suulatee je la

I need to see you

I suulata mune la?

What do you need?

I suulata jumaa le je la?

Who do you need to see?

M maŋ nna suula feŋoolu soto
I haven't got all my needs

N si ıla muroo fuu noo le baŋ?
Can I borrow your knife

N see maakoy noo le baŋ?
Can I help you?

Location

M be GPI le
I am at GPI

Wo lookuŋ tambilaa m be nuŋ America le
Last week I was in America

Jonkoŋo-toilet/bathroom ***kuu***-wash ***fita***-sweep ***suntukuŋo***-trash dump

Jonkoŋo be mintoo le?
where is the toilet?

Naa m maakoy dukare
Please come and help me

M maŋ maakoyirilaa soto
I don't have a helper

Saama m be tara la kiaŋ ne
Tomorrow I will be in kiang