FOR ADMIN PAGE: GRAMMAR TO INCLUDE AS YOU FIND A SPOT

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**Here, there, over there**

In Warlpiri there are 3 words to refer to the distance of something from the speaker. The ju/ji can be left off, depending on the flow of the sentence.

Nyampu(ju) – here/this

Yalumpu(ju) – there/that

Yali(ji) – over there (in the distance)

Class examples:

(Go around the room saying sentences about people/things, starting with those at the table)

**Nyampuju wati**

**Nyampuju karnta**

**Nyampuju Japaljarri**

**Yalumpuju jiya (chair)**

**Yalumpuju tawu (door)**

**Yalumpuju Napanangka**

**Yaliji mailki**

**Yaliji pirli**

**Yaliji marlu**

Word order is not important in these sentences, so it can equally be

Wati nyampuju etc.

**Who/what Question words**

Ngana? – Who?

Nyiya? – What?

Nyarrpa jarrimi? – Doing what/what’s happening?

Class examples:

(Go around the class asking questions below)

**Ngana nyampuju/yalumpuju/yaliji?**

* **Nyampuju Japangardi**

**Nyiya nyampuju/yalumpuju/yaliji?**

* **Nyampuju pipa**
* **Yalumpuju tawu**

**Nyarrpa-jarrimi ka (Japaljarri)?**

* **Nyinami ka**

**Nyarrpa-jarrimi kanpa?**

* **Nyinami karna**

You can also use nyiya at ask what words mean, by adding ‘ju’ or ‘ji’.

(Practise asking each other ‘What is [Warlpiri word]?’ (literally :What does [word] mean?))

**Nyiya watiyaju?**

**Nyiya jurlpuju?**

**Nyiya malikiji?**

**Nyiya pirliji?**

Etc

**Doing and not doing something – ka/ kulaka**

Warlpiri uses the auxiliary ‘ka’ in a similar way to ‘is’, to supplement the meaning of a sentence.

Eg. Wati ka parnkami – The man is running.

In this present tense sentence ‘ka’ is positive. If you want to say a negative you add ‘kula’ before the ‘ka’.

Eg. Wati kulaka parnkami – The man is not running.

Practise these simple sentences using the positive and negative:

**Kurdu ka parnkami**

**Kurdu kulaka parnkami**

**Wati ka wapami**

**Wati kulaka wapami**

**Mailki ka nyinami**

**Maliki kulaka nyinami**

Note 1: Usually it is not correct to start a sentence with ‘ka’; it must come 2nd in a sentence. However, ‘kulaka’ is an exception.

Eg. Kulaka wangkami – (He/she is) not speaking

Note 2: You will often hear people use ‘nuu’ instead of ‘kula’. This comes from the English ‘no’ or ‘not’.

**Is it? - -mayi and –nya**

The particles –mayi or –nya can be added at the end of sentences to indicate a question. –mayi is more commonly used today but you will hear both.

Examples:

**Nyampuju Japaljarri mayi?**

**Yuwayi, nyampuju Japaljarri.**

**Karnta ka nyinami mayi?**

**Lawa, karnta ka karrimi.**

However they can also be added to any word in the sentence, to focus the question on that part of the sentence.

Eg.

**Karnta mayi ka nyinami?**

**Lawa, Wati ka nyinami.**

**Kurdu mayi ka parnkami?**

**Yuwayi, kurdu ka parnkami.**

You can also use ‘-mayi’ to mean ‘is it?’ along with specific question words.

**Eg.**

**Ngana mayi?**

**Nyiya-mayi?**

**Nyarrpara-mayi?**

Note: Don’ t be confused but you can also use the above, with a flat intonation, to answer the question using the same words! The word ‘karija’ meaning ‘Search me/I don’t know’ is often added before the answer.

**Eg.**

**Ngana mayi ka wangkami?**

**Karija, ngana mayi.**

**Nyiya-mayi nyampuju?**

**Karija, nyiya-mayi.**

**Nyarrpara-mayi kurdu?**

**Karija, nyarrpara-mayi**

**Suffix: Locative –ngka; -rla**

The suffixes –ngka, or –rla are added to words to indicate the location referred to in a sentence. They translate as in/on/at or by. Word of 2 syllables use the –ngka ending. Words of 3 or more syllables use the –rla ending.

Eg.

**Pirli-ngka – On the hill**

**Yirdiyi-rla – On the road**

**Yurntumu-rla – At Yuendumu**

**Japi-ngka – At the shop**

These endings always go on the place/thing that IS the location referred to in the sentence.

**Wati ka nyinami pirli-ngka**

**Turaki ka parnkami yirdiyi-rla**

Note: As with other Warlpiri sentences, it doesn’t matter where the locative ending comes in the sentence, as long as it is attached to the ‘location’.

Eg. All the below are correct:

**Nyinami ka wati pirli-ngka.**

**Pirli-ngka ka nyinami wati.**

**Wati ka pirli-ngka nyinami.**

Further examples:

**Ngana ka pirli-ngka nyinami?**

**Wati ka pirli-ngka nyinami.**

**Karnta-mayi ka pirli-ngka nyinami?**

**Lawa, wati ka pirli-ngka nyinami.**

**Nyiya ka ngunami ngapa-ngka yaliji?**

**Nantuwu ka ngunami ngapa-ngka yaliji.**

**Pronouns:**

English has one type of pronoun: These are words like ‘I, you, he, she, it, they’

Warlpiri has two types of pronouns:

1. Word pronouns like ‘I, you, he, she, it, they’, and also many more, such as ‘you two’, ‘them all, not you’, ‘him and I’.
2. Ending pronouns which go on the end of the ‘ka’ auxiliary. These also refer to ‘I, you, he, she etc as above.

You can leave out the word pronoun and still be understood, and this is commonly done.

LINK: See pronoun charts for more details