

25. Clicks can replace certain sounds:

c replaces the suffix **-zi**

ç replaces the suffixes **-ze** and **-zu** and the word **ndi**

μ replaces the suffix **-ma** and the word **ñepi**

ø replaces the suffix **-ñi**

qa replaces the suffix **-di** when used for a past verb form

qo replaces the suffix **-di** when used for a past participle verb form

qa replaces **á** in a diphthong when it is the second element

qo replaces **ó** in a diphthong when it is the second element

These changes with clicks are optional.

15. English *j* becomes Mamdi **y**. If in English the letter is spelled *j* the Mamdi may be **j** instead.

judge = **juye**

16. English *x* becomes Mamdi **x** or **ɬ**. At the beginning of a word, when the letter is pronounced *z*, **z** or **ɬ** is used.

axe = **ñaxe** or **ñale**
xylem = **zülemi** or **ɬülemi**

17. English *ng* when pronounced as in *hang* becomes Mamdi **ñg**. English *ng* as in *finger* follows rule 4.

singer = **siñgeri**
longer = **lonageri**

A Guide to Mamdi (pronounced MUM-dee)

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2. English words beginning with a vowel add **ñ** to the beginning. **ñ** is also put in between separate vowels.

on = **ñoni**
lion = **liñoni**

3. English words ending in a consonant sound add **i** to the end. Words ending in silent *e* may add **e** instead.

man = **mani**
mane = **mane**

4. English consonant clusters are separated by **a**.

blink = **balinaki**
truck = **tarukxi**

20. Plurals in Mamdi are the singular + **zi**, though this rule may be ignored for irregular plurals. The English suffix *'s*, used to indicate possession by a singular noun, becomes Mamdi **-ze**. The English suffix *'s*, used to indicate possession by a plural noun, becomes Mamdi **-zu**; Irregular plurals add **-ze** instead.

eggs = **ñegyzi**
men = **meni** or **mani-zi**
man's = **mani-ze**
books' = **boóxi-zu**
men's = **meni-ze** or **mani-zu**

21. The third person singular verb form (in English, *-s*) is indicated by **-zi**. The present participle verb form (in English, *-ing*) is indicated by **-ñi**.

sings = **siñgi-zi**
singing = **siñgi-ñi**

9. English double fricatives become nasal + stop + fricative in Mamdi.

ff = **mpf** *office* = **ñompfisi**
vv = **mbv** *savvy* = **sambvü**

10. English double consonants other than stops and fricatives may be indicated either with a double consonant or with **n** + consonant.

ball = **banli** or **balli**
banner = **banneri**

11. English *w* becomes Mamdi **v**. English *wh* becomes Mamdi **w**.

water = **vaperi**
what = **wapi**

a is pronounced as in *father*
e is pronounced like *a* in *name*
i is pronounced as in *machine*
o is pronounced as in *home*
u is pronounced as in *tune*
ä is pronounced like *a* in *hat* [æ]
ø is pronounced as in G. *böse* [ø]
ü is pronounced as in G. *Frühling* [y]

y is a voiced x [g]
ð is pronounced like *th* in *this*
x is pronounced like *ch* in G. *ich* [ç]
þ is pronounced like *th* in *thick* [θ]
ñ is pronounced like *ng* in *hang* [ŋ]
š is pronounced like *sh* in *ship* [ʃ]
ž is pronounced like *g* in *beige* [ʒ]
j is pronounced like *y* in *yes*
w is pronounced like *wh* [w] [w]
ɬ is a voiceless lateral fricative [ɬ]
c is a dental click [t̪]
ç is an alveolar click [t̪ç]
μ is a bilabial click [ɓ]
ø is a lateral click [l̪]
q is a retroflex click [q̠]

ie = **ié** *friend* = **mpariénadi**

oa = **óa** *broad* = **baróadi**
oi = **oi** *boil* = **boili**
oo = **oó** *food* = **mpoóði**
ou = **uó** *cloud* = **kaluóði**
ow = **ö** *how* = **hó**
oy = **öi** *toy* = **tói**

ue = **ue** *hue* = **hué** or **húe**
ye = **üi** *bye* = **büi**

aa = **aá** *salaam* = **salaámi**
ae = **aái** *praetor* = **paraáipori**
ao = **aáu** *baobab* = **baáuvavi**
oe = **oói** *amoeba* = **ñamoóiva**

Some letters have alternate forms:

ä = A
ö = O
ü = U
ð = D dh
f = P ph
v = B bh
y = G gh
x = K kh
þ = T th
ñ = N
š = S sh
ž = Z zh
ç = C ch
μ = M mh
ø = X xh

The letter **m** before **b p v** or **f** may be written **n**. The letter **ñ** before **g k y** or **x** may be written **n**.

The order of the letters is **aeiouäöü bgdpktmnnñlrssžžjhwł**. The letters **vyðfxþ** are interspersed with **bgdpkt**. The clicks have no alphabetic value.

6. English fricative sounds become nasal + stop in Mamdi.

f = **mp** *fish* = **mpiši**
th = **nt** *think* = **ntínaki**
v = **mb** *van* = **mbani**
dh = **nd** *this* = **ndisi**

7. English stops may become fricatives in Mamdi. This rule is usually ignored at the beginning of a word, or when the second consonant in English is part of a cluster. In the case of *g* the rule is also usually ignored.

p = **f** *map* = **mafi**
 pig = **piyi**
 spin = **sapini**

k = **x** *sac* = **saxi**
 cab = **kavi**
 skin = **sakini**
 sink = **sinaki**

18. Words are usually accented on the penultimate syllable, but this may shift to the antepenult, especially when the vowel of the penult is a added according to rule 4. The accent may shift to the end in the case of final **ue**. The use of the acute accent indicates variation of stress as well as the stress within a diphthong (e.g. **éó** vs. **eó**). This latter usage is not necessary for all diphthongs. If necessary, the grave accent can be used as a secondary stress.

trickle = **taríkkxale** or **tarikxále**
blue = **balúe**, **balué**, **bálùe**, or **báluè**

19. Special words are as follows:

and = **ñeþi**
the = **ndi**
Mamdi = **Mandi**

t = **þ** *rot* = **roþi**
 tin = **tini**
 start = **satarati**

b = **v** *cub* = **kuvi**
 but = **buþi**

d = **ð** *mad* = **maði**
 dark = **daraxi**

g = **y** *rag* = **rayi** or **ragi**
 gum = **gumi**
 finger = **mpinageri**

8. English double consonants (according to spelling) become stop + fricative in Mamdi.

pp = **pf** *happy* = **hapfü**
bb = **bv** *hubbub* = **hubvuvi**
tt = **tþ** *hatter* = **hatþeri**
dd = **dð** *ladder* = **ladðeri**
ck = **kx** *sack* = **sakxi**
gg = **gy** *dagger* = **dageri**

1. The Mamdi alphabet has 37 letters. Capitalization for beginnings of sentences or proper nouns is optional.

a e i o u ä ö ü (vowels)

b g d p k t (stops)

v y ð f x þ (fricatives)

m n ñ (nasals)

s š z ž (sibilants)

j l r (liquids)

h ł w (spirants)

c ç μ q ø (clicks)

Below are the letters with an equivalent and an IPA symbol (if different from the Mamdi letter). The second is slightly more accurate than the first.

The letters **c ç ł μ q ø** are optional.

The letters **b d f g k m n p s t v z** are self-explanatory.

l is pronounced clear.

r is usually flapped or trilled [r] [r̥].

h sometimes approaches [x].

5. Consonants are put into Mamdi according to sound. Vowels, however, are according to English spelling.

a = **a** *man* = **mani**
e = **e** *pen* = **peni**
i = **i** *him* = **himi**
o = **o** *home* = **home**
u = **u** *tug* = **tuyi**
y = **ü** *my* = **mü**

ai = **ai** *said* = **saiði**
au = **au** *fault* = **mpaulaþi**
aw = **ä** *saw* = **sä**
ay = **äi** *say* = **säi**

ea = **éa** *eat* = **ñeáþi**
ee = **eó** *feet* = **mpeóþi**
ei = **eá** *weigh* = **veáyi**
eo = **éó** *people* = **péopale**
eu = **eu** *feud* = **mpeuði**
ew = **ía** *few* = **mpia**
ey = **öu** *they* = **ndöu**

22. The English past or past participle form of the verb (usually ending in *-ed*) becomes Mamdi **-di**. This rule may be ignored for irregular forms.

laughed = **lauyi-di** or **laumpi-di**
sang = **sañgi** or **siñgi-di**
done = **done**

23. One dot (. or ·) is used for the English comma. Two dots (:) replaces an English colon, semicolon, period, or question mark. A space may or may not be put before punctuation.

24. Exclamations end in the suffix **-qa**. Questions end in the suffix **-ma**, not necessarily rising pitch. The suffix **-qa** may be omitted if the punctuation mark ! is used instead of : .

What is it? = **wapañisiñiþi-ma** :
Wow! = **vö-qa**: or **vö!**

12. English *gh* becomes Mamdi **y**. This rule may be ignored if the *gh* is not silent.

light = **liyapa**
ghoul = **guóli** or **yuóli**

13. English *s* when pronounced *z* becomes either **s** or **z** in Mamdi.

easy = **ñeásü** or **ñeazü**

14. English *ch* becomes Mamdi **ñk**. At the beginning of a word **x** is used instead.

chick = **xikxi**
hitch = **hiñki**

