

Table of Contents
Mando'a Language Dictionary

#1 Mando'a Alphabet and pronunciation

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

MANDOR (Mando'a Alphabet)

The Mando'a alphabet consists of thirty-two letters in the following sequence:

Ḃ, Ḅ, Ḇ, Ḉ, Ḋ, Ḍ, Ḏ, Ḑ, Ḓ, Ḕ, Ḗ, Ḙ, Ḛ, Ḝ, Ḟ, Ḡ, Ḣ, Ḥ, Ḧ, Ḩ, Ḭ, Ḱ, Ḳ, Ḵ, Ḷ, Ḹ, Ṁ, Ṃ, Ṅ, Ṇ, Ṉ, Ṫ, Ṷ

MANDO'A VOWELS

The Mando'a vowels are Ḃ, Ḅ, Ḇ, Ḉ, Ḋ, Ḍ, Ḏ, Ḑ, Ḓ, Ḕ, Ḗ, Ḙ, Ḛ, Ḝ, Ḟ, Ḡ, Ḣ, Ḥ, Ḧ, Ḩ, Ḭ, Ḱ, Ḳ, Ḵ, Ḷ, Ḹ, Ṁ, Ṃ, Ṅ, Ṇ, Ṉ, Ṫ, Ṷ. The sounds of the Mando'a vowels are:

Ḃ	sounds like	g <u>a</u> rden and b <u>a</u> t	Ḅ	sounds like	b <u>y</u> e, <u>e</u> ye
Ḅ	sounds like	o <u>r</u> ange, o <u>o</u> pen	Ḇ	sounds like	s <u>o</u> up and b <u>oo</u> k
Ḇ	sounds like	d <u>a</u> y, gr <u>ey</u>	Ḉ	sounds like	p <u>u</u> n, <u>u</u> nder
Ḋ	sounds like	y <u>e</u> s, y <u>a</u> rn	Ḑ	sounds like	r <u>i</u> b, s <u>i</u> p
Ḍ	sounds like	s <u>t</u> ep, m <u>e</u> n	Ḓ	sounds like	t <u>o</u> y, b <u>oy</u>
Ḏ	sounds like	f <u>lee</u> , s <u>ee</u>	Ḕ	sounds like	b <u>uo</u> y, ch <u>ew</u> y

MANDO'A CONSONANTS

The sounds of Mando'a consonants are:

Ḃ	sounds like	<u>m</u> ake	Ḅ	sounds like	<u>l</u> ost
Ḅ	sounds like	<u>n</u> ot	Ḇ	sounds like	<u>s</u> ap
Ḇ	sounds like	<u>d</u> ad	Ḉ	sounds like	<u>v</u> ery
Ḋ	sounds like	<u>r</u> un	Ḑ	sounds like	<u>p</u> an
Ḍ	sounds like	<u>h</u> unt	Ḓ	sounds like	<u>z</u> ap
Ḏ	sounds like	<u>b</u> all	Ḕ	sounds like	<u>g</u> all
Ḑ	sounds like	<u>t</u> ap	Ḗ	sounds like	<u>ch</u> air
Ḓ	sounds like	<u>sh</u> ake	Ḙ	sounds like	<u>w</u> ise
Ḕ	sounds like	<u>j</u> ust	Ḛ	sounds like	<u>f</u> unk
Ḗ	sounds like	<u>c</u> urse	Ḝ		glottal stop

SPELLING

As a result of Mando'a primarily being a spoken language, spelling in Mando'a is based on phonetics. This means that Mando'a words are spelled just like they sound.

DIPHTHONGS

The Mando'a diphthongs are complex sounds which are combinations of simple vowel sounds and semi vowels. Some English diphthongs are represented in Mando'a by a single letter.

LETTER NAMES

As with the English Alphabet, the letters of the Mando'a have names. Listed below are the Mando'a letters along with their English equivalents and the name of each letter.

ᄁ	m	mo	ᄂ	ai	ae-e-ah
ᄃ	a	ah	ᄄ	l	leh
ᄅ	n	ne	ᄆ	s	sah
ᄇ	d	da	ᄈ	oo/uu	oon
ᄉ	o	ohn	ᄊ	v	voh
ᄋ	r	ra	ᄌ	p	peh
ᄍ	ay/ey	ay	ᄎ	u	uhn
ᄏ	h	hah	ᄐ	z	zhar
ᄑ	b	be	ᄒ	g	ghar
ᄓ	y	ye	ᄔ	i	in
ᄕ	t	tah	ᄖ	ch	chah
ᄗ	sh	sheh	ᄘ	w	wen
ᄙ	e	en	ᄚ	f/v	fhar
ᄛ	ee	een	ᄜ	oy	oyv
ᄝ	j	jah	ᄞ	uy	uyn
ᄟ	c/k	kah	ᄠ	'	beten

GRAMMAR GUIDE

WORD ORDER

The word order of mando'a is in AVOL format the same as with English.

A = Actor

V = Verb

O = Object

L = Location

Example:

ጸደግ	ጸደግ	ጸደግ	ጸደግ	ጸደግ	ጸደግ.
He	will	take	(the) weapon	to	(the) battlefield.
ACTOR		VERB	OBJECT		LOCATION

VERBS

Mando'a verbs can be made from a nouns by adding the appropriate conjugation. In formal Mando'a there is only one verb conjugation. This is for the infinitive and command forms. The infinitive and formal command forms end in two ways. With a word that ends in a consonant a vowel and the ጸ must be added to produce the verb. With words that end in a vowel only the ጸ must be added.

Example:

ጸደግ	noun	pride
ጸደግጸ	verb(inf./cmd.)	pride/take or have pride
ጸደግ	noun	grenade
ጸደግጸ	verb(inf./cmd.)	grenade/throw or use grenade

In informal Mando'a there are additional words that allow distinction between other verb forms. The command verb form is formed by using the word ጸጸ before the verb or the prefix ጸጸ when the verb starts with a vowel.

Example:

ጸጸ ጸደግ ጸደግጸ. Carry the flag. Command Tense

The informal future tense is formed by adding the word ጸጸጸ in from of the verb.

Example:

ፈገገ ጸዳብ ገብረገብ ይከብራል።

I will carry the flag.

Future Tense

The informal present tense is formed simply by using the root verb without additional words, prefixes, or suffixes.

Example:

ፈገገ ገብረገብ ይከብራል።

I am carrying the flag.

Present Tense

The past tense of a verb is formed by adding the word ነፈ in front of the verb.

Example:

ነፈ ፈገገ ገብረገብ ይከብራል።

I carried the flag.

Past Tense

To create the negative form of a verb add the prefix ነፍ, ነፍ፣ ነፍ፣, or ne before either the whole sentence or the negative phrase.

Examples:

ነፍ ነፍ ገብረገብ ይከብራል።

I don't want to carry the flag.

Negative Infinitive

ነፍ ፈገገ ገብረገብ ይከብራል።

Don't carry the flag.

Negative Command

ነፍ ነፍ ጸዳብ ገብረገብ ይከብራል።

I won't carry the flag.

Negative Future

ነፍ ነፍ ገብረገብ ይከብራል።

I don't carry the flag.

Negative Present

ነፍ ነፍ ነፍ ገብረገብ ይከብራል።

I didn't carry the flag.

Negative Past

OTHER VERB NOTES

The verb ንገገ, to be, is frequently dropped and indicated by word order.

Example:

ፈገገ (ንገገ) ጸዳብ

I (am) a warrior.

When saying something to describe the word b&k, it the correct Mando'a form is to just say the word ገገ, good or the full form with the verb, ንገገ ንገገ ገገ.

Example:

CORRECT

ገገ.

(It is) good.

INCORRECT

ንገገ ገገ.

It (is) good.

CORRECT

ንገገ ንገገ ገገ.

It is good.

FORMING QUESTIONS

The addition of the prefix word ረገሳ፣ turns a statement into a question.

Example:

የህፃናት ይህን ይህን.

He is walking.

ረገሳ፣ የህፃናት ይህን ይህን?

Is he walking?

There are also specific question words that can be used when making a question. They are:

ረገሳ፣ ሆኖ

who

ገንዘብ

which, what(before a vowel)

ገንዘብ

which, what(before a consonant)

ረገሳ፣ ሆኖ

when

የዚህ

where

ረገሳ፣ ሆኖ

why

ረገሳ፣ ሆኖ

how many, how much

NOUNS

Gender nouns are the same for masculine, feminine, and neuter. Gender is implied contextually, if relevant. Where gender clarity is necessary, the adjectives ገንዘብ, male, or ሆኖ, female, are added.

PLURALS

Plurals are formed by adding ኛ to the end of the noun.

Example:

የህፃናት

parent

የህፃናቶች

parents

PRONOUNS

Pronouns have no gender. Some pronouns are also possessives. Below is a list of Mando'a pronouns:

ኛ

I/me

ህሳስ

we/us

ህሳብ you

ህሳብ he/she

ህሳብ it

ህሳብ you(plural)

ህሳብ they/them

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

Adjectives and adverbs are formed by the addition of one of two suffixes. The suffix -ኛ should be added when the root word ends a vowel. The suffix -ኛ should be used when the root word ends in a consonant.

Example:

ህንጻ ነገር noun water

ህንጻኛ adjective watery

ጊዜ ነገር noun time

ጊዜኛ adjective timely

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

Comparatives and superlatives are constructed from adjectives with a specific suffix for each. The suffix -ኛ for the comparative. The suffix -ኛ for the superlative.

Example:

ከግዴታ ነገር happy

ከግዴታኛ happier

ከግዴታኛኛ happiest

ግልጽ ነገር funny

ግልጽኛ funnier

ግልጽኛኛ funniest

NUMBERS

I	ኅዳዳህ	one	፲፬	፲፻፶፯	fifty
II	ረፍሳ።	two	፲፭	፲፻፶፯ ፳፻፳፫	fifty-four
III	፳፻	three	፲፮	፳፻፶፯	sixty
IV	፳፻፳፫	four	፲፯	፳፻፶፯ ፳፻፲፩፻፶፯	sixty-five
V	፳፻፲፩፻፶፯	five	፲፱	ረፍሳ። ፶፯	seventy
VI	፳፻፶፯	six	፳፻	ረፍሳ። ፶፯ ፳፻፶፯	seventy-six
VII	፶፻፶፯	seven	፳፻፲	፲፻፶፯ ፶፯	eighty
VIII	፲፻፶፯	eight	፳፻፲፲	፲፻፶፯ ፶፯ ፶፯	eighty-seven
IX	፲፻፶፯ ፶፯	nine	፳፻፲፮	፲፻፶፯ ፶፯	ninety
X	ረፍሳ። ፳፻፶፯	ten	፳፻፲፯	፲፻፶፯ ፶፯ ፲፻፶፯	ninety-eight
XI	ረፍሳ። ፳፻፶፯ ኅዳዳህ	eleven	፳፻፲፱	ዳዳህ	one hundred
XII	ረፍሳ። ፳፻፶፯ ረፍሳ።	twelve	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	ዳዳህ ፲፻፶፯	one hundred fifty
XIII	ረፍሳ። ፳፻፶፯ ፳፻፶፯	thirteen	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	ሳፊ ፶፯	two hundred
XIV	ረፍሳ። ፳፻፶፯ ፳፻፶፯	fourteen	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	፳፻፶፯ ፶፯	three hundred
XV	ረፍሳ። ፳፻፶፯ ፳፻፲፩፻፶፯	fifteen	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	፳፻፶፯ ፶፯ ፳፻፶፯ ፳፻፲፩፻፶፯	three hundred thirty-five
XVI	ረፍሳ። ፳፻፶፯ ፳፻፶፯	sixteen	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	፳፻፶፯ ፶፯ ፶፯	four hundred
XVII	ረፍሳ። ፳፻፶፯ ፶፯	seventeen	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	፳፻፲፩፻፶፯ ፶፯	five hundred
XVIII	ረፍሳ። ፳፻፶፯ ፲፻፶፯	eighteen	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	፳፻፶፯ ፶፯ ፶፯	six hundred
XIX	ረፍሳ። ፳፻፶፯ ፲፻፶፯ ፶፯	nineteen	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	፳፻፶፯ ፶፯ ፶፯ ፳፻፶፯	six hundred nine
XX	ሳፊ ፶፯	twenty	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	ረፍሳ። ፶፯	seven hundred
XXI	ሳፊ ፶፯ ኅዳዳህ	twenty-one	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	፲፻፶፯ ፶፯	eight hundred
XXII	፳፻፶፯ ፶፯	thirty	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	፲፻፶፯ ፶፯ ፶፯	nine hundred
XXIII	፳፻፶፯ ፶፯ ረፍሳ።	thirty-two	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	፲፻፶፯ ፶፯ ፶፯ ፳፻፶፯ ፳፻፲፩፻፶፯	nine hundred ninety-five
XXIV	፳፻፶፯ ፳፻፶፯	forty	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	፳፻፶፯ ፶፯ ፶፯ ፶፯	one thousand
XXV	፳፻፶፯ ፳፻፶፯ ፳፻፶፯	forty-three	፳፻፲፱፻፶፯	ረፍሳ። ፳፻፶፯ ፶፯ ፶፯ ፶፯	one thousand

COMMON VERBS

accept	ጸባቱቱ
act(do)	ተሳታ
add	ገባልገባል
adopt	ጻጸቱገባል
allow	ጠቅል
apologize	ጸንባቱጸን ረባጻጸረረ
approach	ባቱገባል
attack	ጽንጽን
attack(threaten)	ገታጻጻ
avenger	ጸንባቱረባ
bear arms(carry something)	ገታል
beat(heart)	ጽንጽን