

## Adding Suffixes

### Adding Suffixes

Adding suffixes is one of the most important things in Thamil grammar. The rules for adding suffixes will be used in a large majority of the remaining lessons. The rules presented below aren't all the rules, but they are the more commonly used ones.

#### Suffix Addition Rules

1. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word ends in an  $\text{,}$   $\text{<}$ ,  $\text{V}$ , or  $\text{I}$  , insert a  $\text{a}$  in between.
2. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word ends in an  $\text{m}$ ,  $\text{M}$ ,  $\text{C}$ ,  $\text{x}$ ,  $\text{X}$ , or  $\text{XS}$ , insert a  $\text{t}$  in between.
3. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word ends in an  $\text{C}$  sound, and...
  - a. If the word is made of 2 short letters, insert a  $\text{t}$  in between.
  - b. If the word is not made of 2 short letters, drop the  $\text{-C}$  and add the suffix.
4. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word is made of 2 short letters, with the 2nd letter being a consonant, then double the 2nd letter and add the ending.
  - o Otherwise, join the word and suffix as they are.

So far, we've come across 2 instances of adding suffixes. The first time was forming a question. Not coincidentally, each sentence ended in a consonant, so the last rule was used. Then came **present tense** verbs, where a verb suffix was added to "verb root +  $\text{f}\text{w}$ / $\text{f}$ / $\text{f}\text{w}$ ". Since  $\text{f}\text{w}$  and  $\text{f}$ / $\text{f}\text{w}$  both end in a consonant, the last rule was used again.

These rules for adding suffixes will always apply unless otherwise specified.

### Compound Subjects

Now let's try examples using the ending for compound subjects.

## Compound Subjects

For each member of a compound subject, the suffix - C k; is added to each word.

Since compound subjects refer to more than 1 person or thing, the subject thus becomes plural.

## Suffix Examples:

1. j kgpAk; j qi fAk; nfhLf;f;fwhu;fS; = "Younger brother and younger sister give."
  - j kgp -a; -C k;= j kgpAk;
  - j qi f -a; -C k;= j qi fAk;
2. mk;khTk; ehDk; c l ;fhu;f;fNwhk; = "Mother and I sit."
  - mk;kh - t; -C k;= mk;khTk;
  - ehd; -C k;= ehDk;
3.
  - a. ehDk; khLk; XLf;f;fNwhk; = "The bull and I run."
    - ehd; -C k;= ehDk;
    - khL -C k;= khLk;
  - b. eAk; gRTk; ghuf;f;fwhu;fS; = "You and the cow see."
    - e<sup>p</sup> -a; -C k;= eAk;
    - gR - t; -C k;= gRTk;
4. MZ k; ngz ;Z k; c l ;fhu;f;fwhu;fS; = "The male and the female sit."
  - Mz ; -C k;= MZ k;
  - ngz ; -C k;= ngz ;Z k;

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## Verbs - Future Tense

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### Future Tense

Once you have a handle on which verbs are strong and which verbs are

weak, putting verbs into the future tense shouldn't be too hard.

### Future Tense - Weak Verbs

For pronouns (other than  $mJ$  /  $mi$  /  $t$ ), verb root +  $t$ ; + verb suffix

Ex:

- $eq;fs; XL t;fs;$  = "You will run."
- $mtd; J }q;F thd;$  = "He will sleep."
- $mtu;fs; NgRthu;fsh?$  = "Will they speak?"
- $eha; ehi sf;F cI ;fhUk;$  = "The dog will sit tomorrow."

### Future Tense - Strong Verbs

For pronouns (other than  $mJ$  /  $mi$  /  $t$ ), verb root +  $gg$ ; + verb suffix

Ex:

- $eP nfhLgghah?$  = "Will you give?"
- $mi t Fbf;Fk;$  = "They will drink."
- $eq;fs; vqNf trgg;fs;?$  = "Where will you live?"
- $ehq;fs; ri kgNghk;$  = "We will cook."

## More Verbs

More Weak Verbs	
$NgR$	talk
$cZ > rhggpL$	eat
$tpUkG$	like
$vOJ$	write

More Strong Verbs	
el	walk
Fb	drink
ri k	cook
trp	live
, U	be

## "All" / Listing Subjects / "Or"

### "All"

For the English word "all", there are two words. One word is used for people, and one word is used for non-people things.

"All"	
vyNyhUk;	everyone
vyyhk;	everything

To translate the word "all" when it is used as an adjective in English, insert one of the two words above after the things/people it describes. Ex:

- mej khLfS; vyyhk; J }q;F k; = "All of those cattle will sleep."
- Foei j fs; vyNyhUk; , dW tpi sahLthu;fs; = "All of the kids will play today."

### Listing Subjects

When the subject of a sentence is a compound subject, 2 things or people are referred to. To refer to many things at the same time, you put the words in a list.

### Forming A List

1. Separate each item with a comma, then place "vynyhUk;"/"vyyhk;" at the end.
2. Separate each item with a comma, then insert "kwwk;" before the last word.

### Other Meanings Of -ck;

The suffix -ck; can also be used to mean "even" or "also". Ex:

- mtufSk; j kpo; gbffpwu;fsh? = "Do they too read Tamil?"
- mej rpd;d ngz ;Z k; gbffpwsh; = "Even that little girl reads."

### "Or"

To use the word "or" in the subject of the sentence is easy. To do that, just insert the word "myyJ " between the two words. Ex:

- rejµd; myyJ Nfhghy; ri kgghd; = "Chanthiran or Gopal will cook."

It is probably more proper to use "myyJ " in a compound sentence, especially if the 2 subjects take differently verb suffixes. Ex:

- mts; el gghs> myyJ mtd; el gghd; = "She will walk, or he will walk."

"myyJ " can also be used with verbs. Ex:

- mtufS; el gghu;fS; myyJ xLthu;fS; = "They will walk or run."

## Ordinal Numbers / Dates

### Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal numbers are used to describe something's position relative to others. In other words, these are an object's rankings or placings.

### Ordinal Numbers

To turn a number into an ordinal number, add the ending -**ṢṭṢ**.

The only exception is the ordinal number for 1, which is **Ḳṡ ṡṡṭṢ**. Here are the first 10 ordinal numbers:

Ordinal Numbers 1-10	
<b>Ḳṡ ṡṡṭṢ</b>	first
<b>, ṡṡ ṡṡṭṢ</b>	second
<b>%ḍṡṡṭṢ</b>	third
<b>ehḍṡṡṭṢ</b>	fourth
<b>l eṡ ṡṡṭṢ</b>	fifth
<b>ṢṡṡṭṢ</b>	sixth
<b>ṢṡṡṭṢ</b>	seventh
<b>ṡṡ ṡṡṭṢ</b>	eighth
<b>xḍṡṡṭṢ</b>	ninth
<b>ḡṡ ṡṡṭṢ</b>	tenth
<b>.</b>	= irregular

### Dates

The only exception to using ordinal numbers, as they are, is when naming dates such as "February 29th" or "August 13th".

### Naming A Date

When naming a date, the suffix "-**ṢḲ**" is added to the number. The word "**Ṣṡ ṡṡ**"

follows the number.

The word  $\text{Nj j p}$  means "date". Click learn about Thamil months and seasons.

Some examples of dates (using English months):

- $\text{nggp\& t up , U gj nj hdgj hk; Nj j p = "February 29th"}$
- $\text{Mf r l ; gj p \% dwhk; Nj j p = "August 13th"}$