

Possessive / Instrumental Cases

Possessive Case

The possessive case is added to nouns to indicate that the noun has ownership or possession of something. It is something like the "--'s" that is added to the end of a word in English for the same purpose.

Possessive Case

The possessive case is formed for

- nouns ending in -k; -L, or -W by adding the case suffix - , Di | a
- all other nouns by adding the case suffix -Ci | a.

The possessive case may also be formed by adding the suffix - , d;. It is equivalent to -Ci | a except that it is not typically added to pronouns.

Instrumental Case

The instrumental case is added to nouns to mean "with the use of", "because of", or "by means of".

Instrumental Case

The instrumental case is formed by adding the suffix -My;

Examples

- mtd; fj j pahy; khkgoj j pDi | a Nj hi y ntl bdhd; = "He cut the mango's skin with a knife"
- mtSi | a fi j nraj j j hsp; tUkh? = "Will her story appear in the newspaper?"

Verbs And Case Forms Of mJ ,mi t

For many different forms, Tamil verbs are formed irregularly for the inanimate *mJ*, *mi t* (and nouns that could be replaced by these 2 pronouns). The following is a summary of how *mJ* and *mi t* are dealt with for verbs and cases.

Verb Endings

	Class	Past Tense	Present Tense	Future Tense
<i>mJ</i>	1-4	past tense stem + - <i>mJ</i> *	verb + <i>f;w;</i> + - <i>mJ</i>	verb + - <i>C k;</i> **
	6-7		verb + <i>f;f;w;</i> + - <i>mJ</i>	verb + <i>f;f;</i> + - <i>C k;</i>
<i>mi t</i>	1-4	past tense stem + - <i>md</i> *	verb + <i>f;pd;wd</i>	verb + - <i>C k;</i> **
	6-7		verb + <i>f;f;pd;wd</i>	verb + <i>f;f;</i> + - <i>C k;</i>

* There are 2 extra ways to make the past tense for *mJ* for class 3 verbs, while the past tense for *mi t* for class 3 verbs is irregular.

** Verbs which are 2 short syllables and end in -*C* drop the final -*C* before adding -*C k;*

Past Tense For mJ ,mi t Class 3 Verbs

The past tense of class 3 verbs for *mJ* can also be formed as

- o verb + , *aJ*
- o verb + , *w;w;*

The past tense of class 3 verbs for *mi t* is verb + , *d*

Note: the information in the chart above completes the missing information from Lesson 3 on [Verb Roots / Verb Suffixes](#).

Cases

From background information about [Tamil cases](#), we saw that *mi t*

changes to $m\ t\ w;W$ - before adding cases. But $m\ J$ changes to one of two possibilities. Sometimes, $m\ J$ changes to $m\ j\ d_i$ - before adding the case suffix. Other times, $m\ J$ just adds the case suffix. And the dative is just $m\ j\ w;F$

Case Suffix / Case	$m\ J$	$m\ i\ t$
- (Accusative)	$m\ i\ j$	$m\ t\ w; i\ w$
- $f;F$ (Dative)	$m\ j\ w;F$	$m\ t\ w;W f;F$
- $c\ l\ d_i$ (Sociative)	$m\ j\ D\ l\ d_i$	$m\ t\ w;W l\ d_i$
- $X\ L$ (Sociative)	$m\ N\ j\ h\ L$	$m\ t\ w;N\ W\ h\ L$
- , $l\ k_i$ (Locative)	$m\ j\ d\ l\ k_i$	$m\ t\ w;w\ l\ k_i$
- , y_i (Locative)	$m\ j\ y_i$	$m\ t\ w;w\ y_i$
- , $y\ p\ Ue;J$ (Ablative)	$m\ j\ y\ p\ Ue;J$	$m\ t\ w;w\ y\ p\ Ue;J$
- $c\ i\ l\ a$ (Possessive)	$m\ j\ D\ i\ l\ a$	$m\ t\ w;W\ i\ l\ a$
- $M\ y_i$ (Instrumental)	$m\ j\ d\ h\ y_i$	$m\ t\ w;w\ h\ y_i$
. = word changes with case suffix		

Verbs Of The Dative Case

Some thoughts, such as "want"/"need", "know", "understand", etc. can be expressed in Thamil only using the dative case and a certain set of verbs. Sentences that use these verbs will be a little different from the sentences we

have seen so far. The way the verbs are used will be different, and some verbs have certain peculiarities.

Understanding this type of sentence entails understanding the particulars of each verb. To say the least, this lesson may be challenging and a bit tricky, but hopefully it will seem easier over time.

The Verbs

Positive Verbs					
Past Tense		Present/ Future Tense			
~		NghJ k;		enough	
~		Ntz ;Lk;		want / need	
Past Tense		Present Tense		Future Tense	
gpbj ;j J	liked	gpbf;fpwJ	like	gpbf;Fk;	will like
Kbej J	was able	KbfpwJ	is/ am/ are able	KbAk;	will be able
nj upe;j J	knew	nj upfpwJ	know	nj upAk;	will know
Gupe;j J	understood	GupfpwJ	understand	GupAk;	will understand
fpi j ;j / fpi j ;j d	received	fpi f;fpwJ / fpi f;fpdwd	receive	fpi f;Fk;	will receive
, Ue;j J / , Ue;j d	existed	, Uf;fpwJ / , Uf;fpdwd	exist(s)	, Uf;Fk;	will exist

Negative Verbs						
Past Tense		Present/ Future Tense				
Nghj tpy;i y		was not enough		Nghj hJ		is not/ will not be enough
~		did not want / need		Ntz ;l hk;		do not/ will not want / need

<i>Past/ Present Tense</i>		<i>Future Tense</i>	
gpb;ft;yi y	did/ do not like	gpb;fhJ	will not like
Kbat;yi y	was/ is not able	KbahJ	will not be able
nj upa;ft;yi y	did not/ do not know	nj upahJ	will not know
Gupa;ft;yi y	did not/ do not understand	GupahJ	will not understand
fpi l;ft;ft;yi y	did not/ do not receive	fpi l;fhJ	will not receive
, yi y	did/ do not exist	, U;fhJ	will not exist

From the chart of the positive verbs, we can see that the verbs can be put into groups:

- NghJ k; Nt z ;Lk;
- gpb, Kb, nj up, Gup
- fpi l, , U

This might help in understanding the verbs.

Verb Usage And Notes

Verbs With Dative Case

In dative-case sentences, the subject is put into the dative case and comes at the beginning, while the verb comes at the end of the sentence.

For the positive forms of some verbs, there is a past, present, and future tense. However, the group of verbs gpb, Kb, nj up, Gup express ideas that don't change from one moment to the next. For example, we reasonably assume that knowledge or understanding of something is retained indefinitely. The same idea applies to gpb and Kb. The constant action of these verbs is a common usage of the [habitual tense](#). Remember that the habitual tense is expressed in Thamil by whatever the future tense is. This also applies to the other verbs, but especially NghJ k; and Nt z ;Lk; and their negatives.

, U⁷, has appeared before in creating a particular **simple sentence**. There, it means something like the verb "be". Here, when used with the dative case, , U means something like "be" or "exist" in a literal translation. However, in a practical translation of the entire sentence, , U might be translated as the verb "have".

, U With The - , I k; Case Suffix

For sentences where , U is the verb (and the objects are tangible), the case suffix - , I k; should be used instead of the dative case suffix - C f;F for the subject

For example, "I have a plate" would be vd;dpl k; j I ;L , Uf;f;wJ . But emotions and ideas are expressed using the usual - C f;F for the dative case.

K b With The - My; Case Suffix

For sentences where K b is the verb, the case suffix - My; should be used instead of the dative case suffix - C f;F for the subject

We can't say "was enough", "wanted", or "did not want" with types of sentences found in this lesson yet. If we use the verb N t z ;L³ in our standard type of sentences, then we can express "wanted". We will soon get to Negative Verbs which will allow us to say "did not want". There is no simple verb to say "enough", however.

Examples

- mtu;fSf;F , ej ghl k; GupAkh? = "Do they understand this lesson?"
- mtu;fSf;F mLj;j ghl q;fs; GupAk; = "They understand the next lessons"
- vdf;F mej j pi uggl j;i j gpb;f;f;ty;i y = "I did not like that movie"

- vdf;F gi oa jpi uggl q;fi s gpb;Fk; = "I like old movies"
- mtSf;F xU guR fpi ljj J = "She received a prize"
- mtSf;F eyy kj p;ngz ;fs; fpi ljj d = "She received good grades"
- vq;fsp l k; gz k; , yi y = "We have no money"
- ahUf;fhtJ , J nj upAkh? = "Does anyone know this?"
- cq;Sf;F cz T Nghj tpyi y = "The food is not enough for you"