

**PULAAR**  
**INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL**

ENGLISH	PULAAR	PULAAR PHONETIC
I am an American and I need your help, but I do not speak your language. I'll point to the question in your language and you can point to the answer in your language.	Ko mi ameriknaajo. MbiDa sokli ballal maa kono mi nanaani Demngal maa. Ma mi holl-e naamnal binndaangal e Demngal mon, kollaa kam jaabawol binndaangol e Demngal mon.	Koh mee ah-meh-reek-NAH-joh. Mbee-dah SOH-kee BAHl-lahl mah koh-noh mee nah-NAH-nee DEHM-ngahl mohn. Mah mee HOHL-lay NAHM-nal BEE-ndahn-gahl ay DEHM-ngahl mohn, KOHL-LAH kahm JAH-bah-wohl BEE-ndahn-gohl ay DEHM-ngahl mohn.

**COMMUNICATION**

ENGLISH	PULAAR	PULAAR PHONETIC
Will you help me?	Tinno wallam.	TEEN-noh WAHL-lahm.
Is there someone that speaks English?	Won nanDo Doo angle?	Wohn NAHN-doh doh AHN-glay?
Are they willing to help me?	Mbele o jaBat kam wallude?	MBEH-leh oh JAH-baht kahm WAHL-loo-day?
Can they come here?	Mbele omo waawi Doo arde?	MBEH-leh oh-moh WAH-wee doh AHR-day?
I must go now but, I want to thank you for your help.	MbiDa foti yahde jooni, kono on njaaraama sabaabu ballal mon.	Mbee-dah FOH-tee YAH-day JOH-nee, koh-noh ohn njah-RAH-mah sah-BAH-boo BAH-lahl mohn.
My government will repay you for your kindness.	Laamu amen ma yoB moYYere mon.	LAH-moo ah-men mah YOHB MOH-jeh-ray mohn.
I greatly appreciate your assistance.	Mi weltaama e ballal mon.	Mee WEHL-TEE-mah eh BAHl-lahl mohn.

**BASIC NEEDS**

ENGLISH	PULAAR	PULAAR PHONETIC
May I have some water?	Ndokkaa kam ndiyam.	Ndoh-KAH kahm NDEE-yahm.
May I have some food?	Ndokkaa kam faamri.	Ndoh-KAH kahm NYAHM-ree.
I am injured. Is there someone that can help me?	Ko mi gaafiiDo. Mbele cafroowo nani Doo?	Koh mee gah-NYEE-doh. MBEH-leh cha-FROH-woh nan DOH?
Do you have any bandages?	Mbele oDon njogii bandaas?	MBEH-leh oh-dohn njoh-GHEE bahn-DAHS?
Can you contact someone to help me?	Mbele oDon mbaawi noddude baawDo wallude kam?	MBEH-leh oh-dohn MBAH-wee NOH-doo-day BAHW-doh WAHL-loo-day kahm?
Where is the latrine?	Holto duus oo woni?	HOHL-toh DOOS OH WOH-nee?
I am very tired. Is there a place I can sleep?	MbiDa tampi no feewi. Holto mbaaw-mi Daanaade?	MBEE-dah TAHM-pee noh FAY-wee. HOHL-toh MBAH-mee dah-NAH-day?
May I have a blanket, or more clothing?	Ndokkon kam mbajju walla Beydanon kam comci.	NDOH-kohn kahm MBAH-joo wahl-lah BAY-dah-NOHN kahm CHOHM-chee.

**UNFRIENDLY**

ENGLISH	PULAAR	PULAAR PHONETIC
What types of troops are in the area?	Hol sifaa haBateeBe nani Doo?	Hohl SEE-fah hah-bah-TAY-bay nan DOH?
Are they army troops?	Ko Be militeer'en?	Koh bay mee-lee-TAYR-en?
Are they militia?	Ko Be haBateeBe woDBe?	Koh bay hah-bah-TAY-bay WOHT-bay?
Have you noticed any increase of troops or patrolling?	Mbele on tini Beydugol militeer De balDe?	MBEH-leh ohn TEE-nee BAY-doo-gol mee-lee-TAYR DAY BAHl-day?
When do they patrol?	Holnde Be njeertoytoo?	HOHL-nday bay NJAYR-toy-toh?
Are you aware of others like me?	On meedi Doo yiide wayBe no am ni?	Ohn MAY-dee doh YEE-day WHY-bay noh AHM NEE?
Can you take me to them?	Nawon-am to Be ngoni too.	Nah-won-ahm toh bay ngoh-nee toh.

TRAVEL

ENGLISH	PULAAR	PULAAR PHONETIC
Can you show me my location on a map?	Mbele oDon mbaawi hollude kam e kart (walla kartal) holto ngon-Den?	MBEH-leh oh-dohn MBAH-wee HOHL-loo-day kahm ay KAHRT (wahl-lah KAHR-tahl) HOHL-toh NGOHN-den?
Can you send word that I am alive?	Mbele oDon mbaawi tintinde sehilaaBe am mbiDa wuuri?	MBEH-leh oh-dohn MBAH-wee teen-TEEN-day say-hee-LAH-bahm mbee-dah WOO-ree?
How far is it to friendly territory?	Mbele Doo haa nokku kolniiDo ina woDDi?	MBEH-leh DOH hah NOHK-koo kohl-NEE-doh ee-nah WOHT-dee?
Can you take me there?	ADa waawi nawde mi toon?	Ah-dah WAH-wee NAHW-day mee TOHN?
If you cannot take me, will you give me directions?	So a waawaa kam nawde, mbele aDa waawi sifanaade kam laawol?	Sah WAH-wah kahm NAHW-day, ah-dah WAH-wee see-fah-NAH-day kahm LAH-wohl?
Is it safe to travel now?	Jooni ina hoolnii yahde?	JOH-nee ee-nah HOHL-nee YAH-day?
Which way do you advise me to travel?	E miijo maa, hol laawol pot-mi rewde?	Ay MEE-joh mah, hohl LAH-wohl POHT-mee REHW-day?
How can I travel?	Holno mbaaw-mi yahrude?	HOHL-noh MBAHW-mee YAH-roo-day?
Automobile	Oto	OH-toh
Train	Tren	TREN
Boat	Laana	LAH-nah
Cart/Wagon	Saret	Sah-REHT
Pack Animal	Mbabba	MBAHB-bah
On Foot	KoyDe	KOY-day

Notes on pronunciation

Pulaar has a phonetic alphabet; each letter corresponds to a sound. In almost all cases, the letters are pronounced just as they are in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The only exceptions are the letter *Y*, which is an implosive palatal stop corresponding to the letter *ñ*, which is a palatal nasal corresponding to Spanish *ñ*. Double vowels, e.g. *aa*, *ee* indicate longer duration of the vowel. Double consonants, e.g. *dd* or *ll*, indicate longer duration of the consonant. Implosive consonants – indicated as *B D Y* – are not transcribed in the English columns since English has no way to represent implosives. They are represented as a regular *b*, as a regular *d* or *t* depending on context, and as a *j* as the closest possible approximations.

Some words and syllables in Pulaar start with *mb*, *nd*, *nj*, or *ng*. The *m* in *mb* should be pronounced like the *m* in *prism* or *racism*; the *n* in *nd*, *nj*, or *ng* should be pronounced like the final sound in *button*, *listen*, etc. when spoken quickly. Note, that *mb*, *nd*, etc. are considered to be, and pronounced as, a single letter – that is, the *m* and *n* in these combinations should be very short, not pronounced as a separate syllable.

Stressed syllables are indicated with capitalization, e.g. Pulaar *yahde* ‘to go’, which is stressed on the initial syllable, is transcribed as “YAH-day.”

The vowels are transcribed as follows:

Pulaar	English transcription	Pronunciation as in the English words...
a, aa	ah	<i>father, shah</i>
e, ee	ay or eh	<i>hay, day or ten, hen</i>
i, ii	ee	<i>see, free</i>
o, oo	oh	<i>show, know, loan</i>
u, uu	oo	<i>broom, zoom</i>

\* Adjectives agree with their nouns, so there are actually multiple forms of the adjective depending on what noun it is modifying.

Note: these are the cardinal numbers. To count people, use *gooto* “goh-toh” for 1; for all other numbers, when counting people, replace the final vowel with *-o* “-oh,” e.g. *yimBe DiDo* “yeem-bay dee-doh” for ‘2 people’. When things that aren’t people are being counted, the ending of the number changes depending on the noun class of the thing you’re counting.

VOCABULARY

ENGLISH	PULAAR	PULAAR PHONETIC
Hello	assalam alekum.	ah-sah-LAHM ah-lay-KOOM.
Goodbye	In the morning: mbeeten e jam In the midday to afternoon: ñallen e jam In the evening: kiiren e jam At night: mbaalen e jam	In the morning: MBAY-ten ay JAHM In the midday to afternoon: NYAHL-len ay JAHM In the evening: KEE-ren ay JAHM At night: MBAH-len ay JAHM
Thank you	To one person: a jaaraama To >1 person: on njaaraama	To one person: ah jah-RAH-mah To >1 person: ohn jah-RAH-mah
Please	To one person: njaafo-Daa To >1 person: njaafo-Don	To one person: NJAH-foh-dah To >1 person: NJAH-foh-dohn
Ammunition	kute	KOO-tay
Armed Vehicle	oto kaBirDe	OH-toh kah-BEER-day
Checkpoint	nokku Yeewtagol	NOH-koo JAYW-tah-gohl
Day	ñalawma	nyah-LAHW-mah
Danger	bone	BOH-nay
Desert	leydi yoorndi	LAY-dee JOHRN-dee
East	fuDnaange	food-NAH-ngay
Evening	kikiiDe	kee-KEE-day
Food	ñaamri	NYAHM-ree
Good	moYYo (adjective, human)* moYYere (noun)	MOH-joh MOH-jeh-ray
Bad	bonDo (adjective, human)* bone (noun)	BOHN-doh BOH-nay
Here	Doo	doh
Hour	eer/waktu	AYR <i>or</i> WAHK-too
Kilometer	Kilomeetar	kee-loh-MEH-tahr
Knife	laBi	LAH-bee
Leader	maawDo jom wuro (='village chief')	MAHW-doh johm WOO-roh
Medicine	lekki	LEHK-kee
Men	gorko ('man') worBe ('men')	GOHR-koh WOHR-bay
Women	debbo ('woman') rewBe (='women')	DEHB-boh REHW-bay
Minute	minit	mee-NEET

Morning	subaka	SOO-bah-kah
Mountain	tulde	TOOL-day
Night	jamma	JAHM-mah
North	rewo	REH-wo
Pass	yawtude (verb) laawol (noun)	YAHW-too-day LAH-wohl
Pistol	fetel	feh-TEHL
Radio	radjo	RAH-joh
River	maayo	MAH-yoh
Road	laawol (unpaved); keli/gudron (paved)	LAH-wohl KEH-lee <i>or</i> goo-DROHN
Shelter	Duhorde	doo-HOHR-day
South	worgo	WOHR-goh
There	toon	TOHN
Valley	hakkunde tulDe	hahk-KOON-day TOOL-day
Village	wuro/saare	WOO-roh <i>or</i> SAH-ray
Water	ndiyam	NDEE-yahm
Weapon	kaBirDe	kah-BEER-day
West	hiirnaange	heer-NAHN-gay
Yes	eey	AY (the vowel in <i>hay</i> )
No	alaa	ah-LAH
1	goo	goh
2	DiDi	dee-dee
3	tati	tah-tee
4	nayi	nah-ee
5	joyi	joy-ee
6	jeegom	jay-gohm
7	jeeDiDi	jay-dee-dee
8	jeetati	jay-tah-tee
9	jeenayi	jay-nah-ee
10	sappo	sahp-poh
20	noogaas	noh-gahs
30	cappanDe tati	chahp-pahn-day tah-tee
40	cappanDe nayi	chahp-pahn-day nah-ee
50	cappanDe joyi	chahp-pahn-day joy-ee
60	cappanDe jeegom	chahp-pahn-day jay-gohm
70	cappanDe jeeDiDi	chahp-pahn-day jay-dee-dee
80	cappanDe jeetati	chahp-pahn-day jay-tah-tee
90	cappanDe jeenayi	chahp-pahn-day jay-nah-ee
100	teemedere	teh-meh-deh-ray
500	temeeDe joyi	teh-meh-day joy-ee