LESSON 6

Verbs: Y class ‘future’ and ‘past’

In this lesson, we look in some more detail at Y class verbs. In the last lesson, we saw the ‘simple command forms’ of the verbs. In this lesson, we consider the ‘future’ and ‘past’ forms.

Vocabulary

Play audio: GGU 6.1.mp3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garay</th>
<th>Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ngarriya!</td>
<td>sit!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warnaya!</td>
<td>stand!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dbuliya!</td>
<td>bend/stoop!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ginyi*</td>
<td>happened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dhalaa?*</td>
<td>where?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dhalaaugu?*</td>
<td>where to?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barriyay</td>
<td>window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wilbaarr</td>
<td>car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dhulu</td>
<td>tree, stick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yanawaanha*</td>
<td>am/is/are walking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There is no English close equivalent of this verb. It sometimes translates become or get, and at other terms is a way of signalling tense. Minya ginyi? ‘What happened?’ is a recently developed phrase.

*Note that the English ‘where’ must be translated with dhalaaugu (where to) if the question implies movement to somewhere, and with dhalaa if not. For ‘Where are you going?’ you must use dhalaaugu. For ‘Where are you?’ use dhalaa.
*The ‘present continuous’ form of the verbs is complicated, so just one example is given here. This structure will be covered later.

## Grammar

### Past and future forms of Y class verbs

![Audio](GGU 6.2.mp3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Future*</th>
<th>Past*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yananga!</td>
<td>yanay</td>
<td>yananhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk!</td>
<td>will walk</td>
<td>walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>banagaya!</td>
<td>banagay</td>
<td>banaganhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run!</td>
<td>will run</td>
<td>ran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baraya (hop!)</td>
<td>baray</td>
<td>baranhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barraya (fly!)</td>
<td>barray</td>
<td>barranhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waraya (stand!)</td>
<td>warray</td>
<td>warranhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ngarriya (sit!)</td>
<td>ngarriy</td>
<td>ngarrinyi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gubiya (swim!)</td>
<td>gubiy</td>
<td>gubinyi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dhuliy (bend down!)</td>
<td>dhuliy</td>
<td>dhulinyi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In the early stages, we will treat the past and future forms as if they had the same uses as English past (walk-ed, ate, did eat, etc.) and future (will walk, will eat, am going to eat). In reality, Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay past and future have a number of differences from the English versions. For instance, what is labelled ‘future’ here actually means something like: ‘this will likely happen’. GY future can be translated ‘may x’, as well as ‘will x’. It is likely that future verbs in revived Gamilaraay will be used the same way as future English verbs are.

It is easy to form the **future** forms of Y class Gamilaraay verbs. If you know the command form, just leave the final ‘a’ off, and you have the ‘future’ form (except for yananga). For example, banagaya is a command, ‘run!’ , and banagay means ‘will go’. Gubiya is the command ‘swim’ and gubiya is ‘will swim’.
A useful concept is the ‘verb stem’. That is the part of the verb that is found in all verb forms. For ‘go’ the stem is yana-. The stem is never found by itself, there is always something following, but this bit of ‘go’ never changes.

An alternative way of thinking of future of Y class verbs is ‘to form the future add “y” to the verb stem’.

The idea of a stem is also helpful when forming the past tense forms. The Y class rule for past tense is:

If the stem ends in a:

- add - nhi to the stem
- yana-nhi went
- banaga-nhi ran

If the stem ends in i:

- add - nyi to the stem
- gubi-nyi swam
- dhuli-nyi bent over / did bend over

(No Y (or L) class verb stems end in u.)

Example sentences

👩‍🎓 Play audio: GGU 6.3.mp3

Yana-nhi ngaya.
walk-PAST I
I walked.

Banagay buruma.
The dog will run.

Banaganhi miyay.
The girl ran.

Bandaarr baranhi.
The kangaroo hopped.

Barranhi dhigaraa, galigu.
The bird flew to the water.
Bubaagu ngaya yananhi.
dad-TO I walk-PAST
I walked to dad.

Yananhi ngaya bubaagu.
walk-PAST I dad-TO
I walked to dad.

Guniigu ngaya yanay.
mum-TO I walk-FUT
I will walk to mum.

Yanay ngaya guniigu.
walk-FUT I mum-TO
I will walk to mum.

Ngaya yanay guniigu.
I will walk to mum. (Having ngaya first is rare, and so creates a very strong emphasis.)

Birray miyaygu banaganhi.
The boy ran to the girl.

Miyaygu birray banaganhi.
The boy ran to the girl.

Banaganhi miyaygu birray.
The boy ran to the girl.

Birraygu miyay banagay.
The girl will run to the boy.

Miyay birraygu banagay.
The girl will run to the boy.

Banagay miyay birraygu.
The girl will run to the boy.
Lesson 6. Verbs: Y Class ‘Future’ and ‘Past’

Questions

Questions are formed by tone of voice or using *yaama*.

*Play audio: GGU 6.5.mp3*

*Yananhi ngaya?*
walk-PAST I
Did I walk?

*Yaama ngaya bubaagu yananhi?*
question I dad-TO walk-PAST
Did I walk to dad?

*Bubaagu ngaya yananhi?*
dad-TO I walk-PAST
I walked to dad?

*Yaama ngaya yanay guniigu?*
question I walk-FUT mum-TO
Will I walk to mum?

*Yanay ngaya guniigu?*
walk-FUT I mum-TO
I will walk to mum?

*Yaama birray miyaygu banaganhi?*
Did the boy run to the girl?

*Birray miyaygu banaganhi?*
The boy ran to the girl?

*Yaama miyaygu birray banaganhi?*
Did the boy run to the girl?
(Was it the girl the boy ran to?)

*Miyaygu=bala birray banaganhi?*
Was it the girl, the boy ran to?

*Yaama banaganhi miyaygu birray?*
Did the boy run to the girl?

*Banaganhi miyaygu birray?*
The boy ran to the girl?
Pronunciation

For this lesson focus on *ng* at the start of a word. There are lots of words like that on *Gayarragi, Winangali* – use the option ‘search for word starting’ and then type in ‘ng’. You can practise word-initial ‘ng’ by saying ‘singing.ing.ing.ing’ and then starting without the ‘si’.

Practice

Individually/in pairs.

Give a command: While not moving use the future verb; move, use the past tense.

**Play audio:** GGU 6.6.mp3

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A: *B, banagaya.*
B: *run.*

B: *Banagay ngaya.*
A: *I will run.*  
B: *Banaganhi ngaya.*
A: *I ran.*

A: *Gaba, banaganhi nginda.*
B: *Good, you ran.*

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A does action, e.g. sits, then asks question:

A: *Minya ginyi?*  
B: *What happened.*
A: *Ngarrinyi nginda.*  
B: *You sat (down).*

---

A does action, e.g. sits, asks question:

A: *Banaganhi ngaya?*  
B: *I ran?*  
A: *Gamilbala. Ngarrinyi nginda.*  
B: *No, you sat (down).*

A: *B, gubiy nginda?*  
B: *B, will you swim?*  
A: *Yawu, gubiy ngaya.*  
B: *Yes, I’ll swim.*  
A: *Gubinyi ngaya.*  
B: *I swam.*  
A: *Yawu, girrinilgu nginda gubinyi.*  
B: *You swam to the door.*

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Repeat using different verbs and locations.
In a group of three or more.

A:  
B, banagaya.  

B:  
Banagay ngaya.  [runs] Banaganhi ngaya.

C Adha:  
Ngamila, B banaganhi.  
(Adha, speaking to A)

A Cdha:  
Yawu, banaganhi. //  
Yawu, banaganhi=nha.

Yes, she ran.

With -gu.

A:  
B, girrinil-gu baraya.  

B:  
Girrinilgu ngaya baray.  
Girrinilgu ngaya baranhi.

I will hop to the door.  
I hopped to the door.

A:  
Gaba, baranhi nginda.  Good, you hopped.

Follow the previous conversation with:

C:  
A, yananhi B girrinilgu.  

A:  
Yawu, giirrnha girrinilgu yananhi.  
(A has seen the event so can use giirr)

Yes, she walked to the door.

A Bdha:  
Dhalaagu nginda yanay?  
Where will you go?

B:  
Wilbaarrgu. Wilbaarrgu ngaya yanay.  
To the car. I’ll go to the car.

You can emphasise what you are asking about by putting it first after yaama.

A:  
B, yaamanda girrinilgu baray?  
B, yaamanda barray girrinilgu?  
B, will you fly to the door?
Winangala, garay guwaala, yawala. Listen, say and read.

You can do the exercises below in groups or pairs, or even by yourself. Then repeat the exercises using the verbs and nouns you have learnt so far. This will help you remember them. If you are by yourself you can take both roles in the conversation, perhaps using a doll or picture to do the actions of the other person.

**Play audio:** GGU 6.9.mp3

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**Kim:** *Kath, girrinilgu banagaya.*
Kath, run to the door.

**Kath:** *Ngaayaybaay, girrinilgu ngaya banagay.*
Okay, I will run to the door.

(runs to door)

*Kirrinilgu ngaya banaganhi. Yinggil ngaya.*
I ran to the door. I’m tired.

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**Kim:** *Kath, dhalaagu ngaya baray?*
Kath, where will I hop to?

**Kath:** *Man.gagu. Baraya man.gagu.*
To the table. Hop to the table.

**Kim:** *Ngaayaybaay, Man.gagu ngaya baray.*
Okay, I will hop to the table.

**Kath:** *Giirr maaru Kim, baranhi nginda man.gagu.*
Well done Kim, you hopped to the table.

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