LESSON 17

Verbs: Continuous – moving

This lesson introduces the continuous moving suffix. Any continuous verb in Gamilaraay has either this suffix or the continuous non-moving suffix.

Vocabulary

Play audio: GGU 17.1.mp3

In previous vocabularies verbs have been given in command form. In this and subsequent lessons they are given in future form. This is the citation form found in the Dictionary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garay</th>
<th>Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>giiri-gi</td>
<td>itch int</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dhurra-li*</td>
<td>come int</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gambaay</td>
<td>sweetheart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walgan</td>
<td>aunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>garruu</td>
<td>uncle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wiibi-li</td>
<td>be sick int</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>balu-gi</td>
<td>die int</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wuru-gi*</td>
<td>go in; set (sun/moon) int; + Ablative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yaraay</td>
<td>sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gilay</td>
<td>moon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dhurra-li – see the Dictionary – it has many uses, including of ‘sun rising’.

*Wuru-gi – Note that the location entered is in Ablative case.
Grammar

The table below sets out the suffix for each verb class.

![Play audio: GGU 17.2.mp3](image)

### Moving continuous verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Future</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Past</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Y Class</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>yana-waa-ya</em></td>
<td><em>yana-waa-y</em></td>
<td><em>yana-waa-nha</em></td>
<td><em>yana-waa-nhi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep walking</td>
<td>will be walking</td>
<td>is/am/are*</td>
<td>was walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>gubi-yaa-ya</em></td>
<td><em>gubi-yaa-y</em></td>
<td><em>gubi-yaa-nha</em></td>
<td><em>gubi-yaa-nhi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep swimming</td>
<td>will be swimming</td>
<td>is swimming</td>
<td>was swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>L Class</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>dhurra-laa-ya</em></td>
<td><em>dhurra-laa-y</em></td>
<td><em>dhurra-laa-nha</em></td>
<td><em>dhurra-laa-nhi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep coming</td>
<td>will be coming</td>
<td>is coming</td>
<td>was coming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NG Class</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>gaa-waa-ya</em></td>
<td><em>gaa-waa-y</em></td>
<td><em>gaa-waa-nha</em></td>
<td><em>gaa-waa-nhi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep bringing</td>
<td>will be bringing</td>
<td>is bringing</td>
<td>was bringing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>gi-yaa-ya</em></td>
<td><em>gi-yaa-y</em></td>
<td><em>gi-yaa-nha</em></td>
<td><em>gi-yaa-nhi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep getting</td>
<td>will be getting</td>
<td>is getting</td>
<td>was getting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RR Class</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>dhuu-rraa-ya</em></td>
<td><em>dhuu-rraa-y</em></td>
<td><em>dhuu-rraa-nha</em></td>
<td><em>dhuu-rraa-nhi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep crawling</td>
<td>will be crawling</td>
<td>is crawling</td>
<td>was crawling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Play audio: GGU 17.3.mp3](image)

The ‘continuous moving’ verb suffixes have two main uses. The first use is to show ‘linear motion’, ‘moving along’. Look at some *Y* class examples:
Lesson 17. Verbs: Continuous – Moving

Yana-waa-nha ngaya.
I am walking.

Banaga-waa-nha buruma.
The dog is running.

Bara-waa-nha bandaarr.
The kangaroo is hopping.

Gubi-yaa-nha guduu.
The cod (guduu) is swimming.

Examples from other verb classes include:

Dhurra-laa-nha gilay.
The moon is coming/rising.

Gabi nginda gaa-waa-nha.
You(1) are bringing the coffee.

Dhuu-rraa-nha birraliiddhuul.
The baby is crawling.

These sentences all involve words where ‘moving along’ is a normal part of the meaning of the verb.

As with other verb suffixes, the word used to describe it does not convey the full use of the form. While the -nha suffix on verbs is called present tense, it is likely that these forms can also be used to indicate future action in some circumstances (yet to be carefully described). For instance, it seems likely that the present continuous yana-waa-nha ngaya ‘I am going’, can refer to future action, as it can in English (‘I am going to Goodooga (tomorrow).’).

Note: all the continuous moving suffixes have a double ‘a’ (aa) (-laa-, -waa-, -yaa-, -rraa-) and all the continuous non-moving suffixes have a single ‘a’ (-lda, -yl-,-gil-, -dha-).

If you are finding this pretty strange it is okay – it probably indicates your mind has been strongly influenced by English. You may be like lots of monolingual people and not used to languages doing things very differently from English.
The continuous moving suffixes can be used on ‘non-movement’ verbs. Look at the examples below.

**Play audio:** GGU 17.4.mp3

*Miyay bubaaga ngarri-yaa-nha.*
The girl is ‘sitting(-moving)’ on her father.

(Said, in Yuwaalaraay, of a girl sitting on dad’s shoulders as he walks. You would use the same suffix if talking about someone sitting in a moving car.)

*Maridhu dha-laanha.*
The man is eating(-moving).

(Arthur Dodd said this when asked to translate: ‘The man is eating while walking along’.)

Fred Reece (tape 2439, in Giacon, 2017) describes a dog (*maadhaay* in Yuwaalaraay) chasing a goanna:

*Maadhaay dhaay banaga-waa-nha, gula-laanha.*
The dog is running here and barking.

*Ngaarrima ngu (GR nguru) gula-laanha.*
He’s barking over there now (at the base of the tree the goanna ran up).

The verb *gula-li* ‘bark’, has the continuous moving form when the dog is running and the continuous non-moving form when it is standing.

So, one use of the continuous moving suffix on **non-movement** verbs is to show that there is ‘linear’ movement. The other use shows a different kind of movement. Look at the next sentences, all with ‘moving’ suffixes.

*Buruma balu-waa-nha.*
The dog is dying.

*Gaba ngaya gi-yaa-nha.*
I am getting good.

*Giirr nginda wiibi-laanha.*
You(1) are getting sick.
All three sentences indicate a kind of movement: from alive to dead, from bad to good, from healthy to sick. This ‘movement’ is shown by the use of the continuous-moving suffix.

Compare the following sentences, which use the ‘non-moving’ suffix.

\textit{Gaba ngaya gi-gi.la-nha.}
I am (always/often) good.

\textit{Giirr nginda wiibi-lda-nha.}
You(1) are (always/often) sick.

Finally, a different use for the \textbf{non-moving} continuous suffix with verbs that usually show ‘movement along’. On the Yuwaalaray tapes there are many examples of kangaroos hopping: \textit{bara-waa-nha}. But when Arthur Dodd talks of fish flopping in the bottom of the canoe he uses \textit{bara-y.la-nha} – same verb root (\textit{bara-} ‘hop’), but different suffix – because the fish is not going anywhere. (The Gamilaraay version of the verb has been used here.) This use of the non-moving suffix is not all that common. Below are some further examples.

\begin{itemize}
\item \textbf{Play audio:} GGU 17.5.mp3
\end{itemize}

\textit{Birralii burumaga baraylanha.}
The kid is jumping on the dog.

\textit{Banagaylanha nhama baawul-guwaay gawugaa-dhalibaay-guwaay.}
\textit{(gawugaa ‘head’)}
He’s running around like a headless chook.
(I wonder what the Gamilaraay simile was.)

\section*{Practice}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textbf{Play audio:} GGU 17.6.mp3
\end{itemize}

You can follow the patterns used in Lesson 16.

Perform a ‘moving’ action, and describe it.

\textit{Yanawaanha ngaya, yanawaanha nginda, yanawaanha=nha.}
I am walking, you are walking, she is walking.
Use other verbs: *gubi-y, banaga-y, bara-y, barra-y*, etc.

Give a command, then use a range of verb forms.

A:  \textit{B, banagawaaya}.
    B, run (and keep running).
B:  \textit{Banagay ngaya, banagawaanha ngaya, banaganhi ngaya}.
    I will run, I am running, I ran.

Expand the range of verb forms to include:

\textit{Banagawaay ngaya} and \textit{Banagawaanhi ngaya}.
I will be running, … I was running, (while pointing to the place of the action)

A:  \textit{Minya nhalay}.
    What is this?
B:  \textit{Gubiyaanhi nginda}.
    You were swimming.

Perform action while still and then while moving.

A:  \textit{Dhaldanha ngaya, dhalaanha=nga ngaya}.
    I am eating (standing), I am eating (walking along) now.

Commands.

A:  \textit{Gamilaraay guwaaldaya}.
    Talk (and keep talking) Gamilaraay.
B:  \textit{Gamilbala ngaya Gamilaraay guwaaldanha}.
    I can’t speak Gamilaraay.
C:  \textit{Giirrbala ngaya maaru Gamilaraay guwaaldanha}.
    But I talk Gamilaraay well.
C:  \textit{Giirr ngaya Gamilaraay guwaalaanha}.
    I am talking Gamilaraay (while walking).

Do something complex.

A:  \textit{Wuudhanha ngaya nginu gali}.
    I am giving you some water.
B:  \textit{Yawu, Wuudhanha nginda ngay gali}.
    Yes, you are giving me water.
A: *Gamilaraay ngaya nginunda guwaalaanha.*
   I am talking Gamilaraay to you (while walking).

B: *Yawu, Gamilaraay nginda nganunda guwaalaanha.*
   Yes, you are talking Gamilaraay to me.

B: *Winangalaanhabala=nga ngaya nginunha bamba.*
   And I am listening carefully to you now (while walking).

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**Winangala, garay guwaala, yawala.**
Listen, say and read.

You can read further examples for Lesson 17 and listen to them, and again there are lots of Yuwaalaraay examples in *Gayarragi, Winangali.*

![Audio](GGU_17.7.mp3)

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A: *Giirr burruluu nginunda yanawaanha.*
   There are flies (walking) on you.

   *Gamil, giidjaabala nganunda banagawaanha.*
   No, there are ants running on me.

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*Minya dhaldanha nhama birraydhu?*
What is that boy eating?

*Gamil dhaay barrawaanha dbigaraa.*
The bird is not flying here.

*Dhuludhi ngindaali gubiyanhi?*
Were you(2) swimming away from the tree?

*Yaamandaali gubiylanha? (=ndaali – short for ngindaali)*
Do you(2) swim?

*Minyangay burruluu girrinili galiyawaanha?*
(previous versions had girrinila)
How many flies are climbing on the door?)
Dhalaagu barawaay bandaarr?
Where will the kangaroo be hopping to?

Giirr nginaayngundi banagawaanhi buruma.
The dog was running from you(3+).

Garay nhama guwaalaanhi giwiirru.
The man was talking. (as he walked)

Ngaandi yuruunda dhuurraanha?
Who is crawling on the road?

Wiibilaanha gaayli dhinggaadhi.
The kid is getting sick from the meat.

Ngarrriyay nginda wilbaarra ngay?
Will you sit in my car? (while it is still)

Gamil, ngarriyaaybala ngaya wilbaarra nginu.
No, but I will go for a drive. (sit in it while it moves)

Ngamila, yaraay dhuurralaanha, wuuwaanhabala gilay.
Look, the sun is rising, but the moon is setting.