

# *Peace Corps*

*The Gambia Pre-service Training  
Mandinka Language Tape Script*



## Greetings – General

**Salalmamleekum** -

Peace be upon you

**Maleekumsalaam**

Peace be upon you too

**Suumoolu lee?**

Where are the people of the compound?

**I be jee**

They are there.

**Koritana te jee?**

Hope there is no trouble there?

**Tana te jee.**

There is no trouble there.

**Dindijolu be dii?**

The Children are how?

**I bee be jee.**

They are all there.

**Dookuwo be dii?**

How is the work?

**Dookuwo be jay doronj.**

Work is here only.

**Mbaa kaŋ domaŋ domaŋ**

I am on it slowly - slowly

## Specific Greetings

### Morning

**I saama**

Good morning

**I saama / last name**

Good morning

**Kayira laa ta?**

Did you sleep in peace?

**Kaira doronj**

Peace only

**Kori I siinoota?**

I hope you slept well?

**Haa dee, n siinoota baake.**

Yes, I slept very well.

**Somandaa be dii?**

How is the morning?

**Somandaa be jay doronj**

The morning is here only

### Afternoon

**I tiiňay**

Good afternoon

**I tiiňay / last name**

Good afternoon

**Kayira tiiňanta?**

Did you spend the afternoon in peace?

**Kayira doronj**

Peace only

**Tilibuloo be dii?**

How is the afternoon?

**Tilibuloo be jay doronj.**

The afternoon is here only.

### Evening

**I wulaara**

Good evening

**I wulaaraa / last name**

Good evening

**Wulaaroo be dii?**  
This is the afternoon?

**Wulaaroo be jay doroy**  
The afternoon is fine.

**Night**  
**Suutoo be dii?**  
How is the night?

**Suu too be jay doroy**  
The night is here only

**Leave Taking**  
**I yoo, n ka sey le**  
Alright, I am going home

**I si ila moolu kontonj nñe**  
You can greet your people for me.

**Iyoo Isaa mooy**  
Alright, they will hear it.

**Fo Saama, fo soomandaa, fo wuraaro, fo tilibuloo**  
Till tomorrow, till tomorrow morning, till evening, till afternoon

**Alamaa nga laa kayira la**  
May we sleep in peace.

**Kayira niy Kayira.**  
Peace and peace

**Personal Identification**  
**I tondii?**  
What is your name?

**N too mu Omar le ti.**  
My name is Omar.

**I kontoyo dung?**  
What about your last name?

**N kotoŋgo mu Saye le ti.**  
My last name is Saye.

**I bota banku jumaa le?**  
Which country do you come from?

**M bota Gambia le.**  
I come from the Gambia

**I be sabatiriŋ mintoo le saayiŋ?**  
Where do you live now?

**M be sabatiriŋ Bakau le saayiŋ.**  
I live in Bakau now.

**I be sabatiriŋ mintoo le Gambia kono?**  
Where do you live in the Gambia?

**M be sabatiriŋ Bakau le.**  
I am living in Bakau

**Mune mu ila dookuwo ti?**  
What work do you do?

**M mu Peace Corps Volunteer le ti.**  
I am a Peace Corps Volunteer

**I ye sanji jelu le soto?**  
What is your age?

**Nga sanji tang saba niy kononto le soto**  
I have 39 years.

**I ye kewo soto le bang?**  
Do you have a husband?

**Haa dee, ngaa soto le.**  
Yes, I have one.

**I ye musoo soto le bay?**  
Do you have a wife?

**I ye dingolu soto le bay?**  
Do you have children?

**Introducing someone**  
**ňiŋ mu n teerimaa le ti.**  
This is my friend

**A bota Bakau le**  
He is from Bakau

**A be tara la jay fo lookuŋ kiliŋ.**  
He will stay here for one week

**Shopping**  
**I be dii?**  
How are you?

**I ye bayoo soto le bay?**  
Do you have fabric?

**I may borodewo soto bay?**  
You don't have lace right?

**Meetaroo mu jelu le ti?**  
The meter is how much?

**Hee! Wo daa koleyataa baake.**  
What! That is too expensive.

**Dukare a talaa. N si kemoo joo noo le.**  
Please reduce it. I can pay a hundred

**N lafita meetari taj ne la.**  
I want 10 meters

**Hani, maa soto**  
No I don't have one.

**Haa, ya diyo soto le.**  
Yes, I have children.

**A too mu Musaa le ti.**  
His name is Musa

**A ka dookuwo ke MRC le. A mu dokitaroo le ti**  
He works with MRC. He is a doctor.

**M be jay doronj.**  
I am here only.

**Haa bayoo be jay ne.**  
Yes, fabric is there.

**I lafita bayi siifaa juma le la? ya**  
**Waksoo, popliinoo aniŋ mbaseňo soto le.**  
Which type of fabric do you want? I have wax,  
Popline and damask.

**Haa, yaa soto le. ya kulooru buluuriyo,**  
**jambakeroo aniŋ wuleeringo soto le.**  
Yes, I do have it. I have blue, green and red colours.

**Meetaroo mu dalasi keme kiling niŋ taj luulu le**  
**ti.**  
The meter costs D150.00

**I be jelu le joo noo la.**  
How much can you pay?

**Saayiŋ dalasi keme kiliŋ niŋ muwanj niŋ**  
**luulu joo**  
Now you can pay D125

**A fele. A baraka. Ila falijo fele.**  
It's here. Thank you. Your change is here.

**Abaraka. fo waati doo**  
Thank you. Till next time.

### Common Conversation

**I be dii?**  
How are you?

**I ka taa mintoo le?**  
Where are you going?

**Mune be jee?**  
What is there?

**Alamee ŋimma futa la**  
May you get there in peace

**M be jay doroy**  
I am here only

**N ka taa Basse le**  
I am going to Basse

**Maaño bitoo. N teerima le be fuutuu la**  
Marriage ceremony. My friend is getting married

**Amiin**  
Amen

### Tenses

**M mu Karandiyo le ti**  
I am a student

**A mu nuŋ naakadookuulaa le ti**  
He was a gardener

**I be ke la PCV ti nyiŋ Kari naalaa**  
You will be a PCV next month

### Verbs

**M be kuuroo ke kaj**  
I am doing laundry

**A be benekini taboo la**  
She is cooking Benechin

**A be nuŋ laarij**  
He was lying down

**A be kontoy na talay saba le**  
He will have lunch at 3 O'clock

### Transportation

**Bansay gaaraasoo be mintoo le?**  
Where is the Bansang car park?

**Moto jumaa le ka taa Brikamabaa?**  
Which vehicle is going to Brikamabaa

**A ŋaa be tilindinj marsewo la**  
It is opposite the market.

**Wo gelegele Koymaa niŋ buluriyo mey be looriŋ  
woo yiroo koto.**  
That white and blue bus under that tree.

**Apparantee, ŋin gele-gele ka taa Brikamabaa le bay?**  
Apprentice, is this the vehicle going to Brikamabaa?

**Haa dee, ŋiŋ ne ka ta Brikamabaa.**  
Yes, this is the one going to Brikamabaa

**Paasoo mu je lu le ti?**  
How much is the fare?

**Dukare, a ke ſe dalasi tay ti.**  
Please make it D10 for me.

**Njindi Joysoyooto, Bantabaa daa la.**  
Drop me at the Junction, by the sitting place

### Counting

<b>1 - kiliŋ</b>	<b>20 – muway</b>
<b>2 - fula</b>	<b>30 – tay saba</b>
<b>3 - saba</b>	<b>40 – tay naani</b>
<b>4 - naani</b>	<b>100 - keme</b>
<b>5 - luulu</b>	<b>200 – keme fula</b>
<b>6 - wooro</b>	<b>300 – keme saba</b>
<b>7 - wooro wula</b>	<b>1000 – wuli kiliŋ</b>
<b>8 - Sey</b>	<b>2000 – wuli fula</b>
<b>9 - kononto</b>	<b>3000 – wuli saba</b>
<b>10 - tay</b>	

### Adjectives

**Jay niŋ Basse jamfata baake**  
From here to Basse is very far

**Wo kee kotoo jaŋayaata le**  
That old man is tall

**Tilo be kandiriŋ ne**  
The sun is hot.

**Fatou le sutuyaata Sarjo ti**  
Fatou is shorter than Sarjo.

**Kara maloo be fanuriŋ baake**  
The moon light is bright

**Duutoo moota le**  
The mango is ripe

**Lemunoo timiyaata**  
The orange is tasty

**niŋ siijuloo kuliyaata bake**  
This bucket is very heavy

**Paasoo mu dalasi tay wooro niŋ luulu leti anduŋ ila baakoo mu dalasi muway ne ti.**  
The fare is D65 and your bag is D20

**Bula, taa ŋaato, I ye palaaso taa**  
Enter, go in front, you take a seat.

**Jay niŋ Soma maŋ janfa**  
From here to Soma is not far

**Sunkutundiyo ŋiiňaata le**  
The girl is beautiful

**I ye jii sumaya soto le bay?**  
Do you have cold water?

**Sajo be findiŋ**  
The sky is dark.

**Ataaya kuniyaata le**  
The ataya is bitter

**Kaanoo fatiyaata le**  
The pepper is spicy

**I maŋ nna murundiyo je bay?**  
Do you see my small knife?

**Moo jamaa le be jee**  
A lot of people are there

**A be nooriy ko koo bootoo**  
He is as dirty as a bag of salt

**Laarayo be fooyaarij**  
The bed is soft

**Ila diyaamoo tariyaata**  
The way you talk is quick

### Weather

**Bari, kunuy kandoo warabaata le**  
Yesterday, it was very hot

**N wulita suutoo ka n kuu**  
I got up at night to bath

**I yaa mira a koyta ka siinoo banta le bay?**  
Do you think its safe to sleep outside?

**Hani foñondiy may soto nuy**  
Even a small breeze was not available

### Weather Words

<b>Kandoo</b> -heat	<b>kaykayo</b> -dust	minaayoo-clouds	sumayaa-cold
<b>Foñoo</b> -wind	<b>sanjoo</b> -rain	waamoo-unfavourable weather condition	tiloo-sun
<b>Karamaloo</b> -full moon	<b>karidiboo</b> -no moon	<b>tilikandoo</b> -dry season	<b>sanjaanoo</b> - harvest season
<b>Samaa</b> -rainy season	<b>baafaa</b> -high tide	<b>baajaa</b> -low tide	

### Tailoring

**N lafiti I ye sipaa kara nñe, jelu le mu?**  
I want you to sew a skirt for me, how much will it cost?

**Meetari jelu le be jay?**  
How many meters are here?

**I yoo! Wo be sii la le**  
Alright! That will be enough

**Saama wuraaroo**  
Tomorrow evening

**A be wararij ko faloo**  
He is as fat as a donkey

**A be findij ko kemboo**  
He is as dark as coal

**Mandinka kayo koleyata/diyaata le**  
Mandinka language is difficult/easy

**N nene may wo siifaa je**  
I have never seen that type

**M may siinoo noo. yan laa banta le**  
I could not sleep. I slept outside

**yan laa benteyo le kay , m may laa baykoo to**  
I slept on a platform , I didn't lie down on the ground

**Dalasi muway ne mu**  
Its D20.00

**Meetari fula**  
Two meters

**A be pare la muntumaa le?**  
when will it be ready?

**I yoo abaraka n ka taa le fo saama wuraaroo**  
alright thank you I am going back till tomorrow evening

## Vocabulary

*Bayoo*-fabric      *kararlaa*-tailor      *staayloo*-style      *tikoo*-head-tie      *kurtoo*-pants  
*Dendikoo*-shirt/dress      *siipaa*-skirt      *a niinaata le*-it is beautiful      *a deteta le*-it is tight  
*A warata baake*-its very big

*A niinaata le*-it beautiful      *A beteyaata le*-its good/good      *A deteta le*-its dight  
*A warata baake le*-its very big

## General Complements

*Ila siimayo diyaata baake le*  
Your dinner is very delicious

*Ila kontoyo diyaata baake le*  
Your lunch is very delicious

*I kuyo beteyaata baake le*  
He is very clever

*I may ŋoy soto*  
You are the best

*I beteyaata baake le*  
You are a good person

*I hadamayaata baake le*  
You are very polite

*Dookuu kendo*  
Good work

*Abaraka/ yaa ke kuu*  
Thank you/you did the right thing

## Family/friend vocabulary

*Baamaa*-mother      *faamaa*-father  
*Binky*-aunt      *barij*-uncle  
brother  
*Dokomaa musoo*-younger sister  
*Jaati*-host      *deenaanoo*-baby  
*Musoo/musoo*-woman/wife  
*Alikaaloo*-village head  
*Saatee dokitooroo*-village doctor

*bandij*-step-mother      *fandiij*-step-father  
*kotomaa musoo*-elder sister      *dokomaa kewo*-younger  
*mama musoo*-grand mother      *mama kewo*-grand father  
*teerimaa/kafuňoo*-friend      *dimbaayaa*-family  
*kewo/kee*-man husband      *kambaanoo*-boy/boyfried  
*almaamoo*-muslim leader      *timmatalaa*-traditional birth att.

## Noticing if someone is sick

*Faatu, mune keta?*  
Fatou what happened?

*N saasaata le*  
I am sick

*Mune kee dimij?*  
What is aching you?

*N kono*  
My stomach

*Kabiriј muntumaa?*  
Since when?

*Kabiriј kunuy suutoo*  
Since last night

*I taata lopitaanoo to le bay?*  
You went to the hospital right?

*Haadee*  
Yes

*I ye booroo soto le bay?*  
You had medicine right?

*Haadee*  
Yes

**N saa jee noo le ban?**  
I can see it right?

**Haadee**  
Yes

**Alamaa fiseyaa la**  
May it get better

**aamiin**  
A men

### Common phrases

<b>Naa jay</b> -come here	<b>I be siiriŋ ne</b> -you are seated	<b>mune mu?</b> -what is it?
<b>Mune keta</b> -what happened	<b>I keemaa lee</b> -where is you husband?	<b>I be mune na?</b> -what are you at?
<b>N ka taa le</b> -I am going	<b>I lafita mune la?</b> -what do you want?	<b>m bula</b> -leave me alone
<b>Mune mu ŋiy ti?</b> -what is this?	<b>N so jiyyoo la</b> -give me some water	
<b>I ye mune fo?</b> -what did you say?	<b>I bota mintoo le?</b> -where did you come from	
<b>Naa domoroo la</b> -come eat	<b>M bee lipa la</b> -I will beat you	<b>Akaaňanta</b> -it's OK (enough)
<b>N konoo faata</b> -my stomach is full	<b>I ka taa mintoo le</b> -where are you going.	<b>Abaraka</b> -thank you
<b>A koo</b> -he/she said	<b>N ka sey le</b> -I am going home	<b>m baamaa ko</b> -my mother said
<b>Mune ketee la?</b> - what happened to you?		

### Question words and Responses

**Ila saatewo be dii?**  
How is your village?

**A kandita baake**  
Its very hot

**Nna bukoo lee?**  
Where is my book?

**A be taabuloo kan**  
Its on the table

**I be muru la nan muntumaa le?**  
You are coming back when?

**M be muru la nay saama tilibuloo**  
I am coming back tomorrow afternoon

**Jumaa le mu I baamaa ti?**  
Who is your mother?

**Fatou le mu n baamaa ti**  
Fatou is my mother

**Jumaa le be buyo kono?**  
Who is in the house?

**M mama musoo be buno kono**  
My grand mother is in the house

**jumaaňoolu le be buno kono?**  
Who are those in the house?

**Nna luntayoolu le be buyo kono**  
My guests are in the house

**I bota banku jumaa le?**  
Which country do you come from?

**M bota Gambia le**  
I came from the Gambia

**Muneyaatina I ka mandinka kayo karaj?**  
Why are you learning to speak mandinka language?

**Kaatu m be sabatiriŋ mandinka saatewo le kono**  
Because I am living in a mandinka village

### **Expressing Sympathy**

**Moo le banta somita**

Someone died in somita

**Alamaa laa jajo sooneyaa la**

May his soul rest in peace

**Alamaa neema niy kafar ke la a ye**

May God forgive his sins

### **Offering Prayers**

#### **Journey**

**Alamaa silo ye diyaa**

May God grant you a jouful journey

**I muña, Alla la baaroo le mu**

Be patient its God's will

**Alamaa Ala yee tanka silo kay**

May God protect you on the way

**Alamaa I ye futa kayira kono**

May you arrive in peace

#### **New Baby**

**Alamaa deenaanoo baluu la**

May the baby have a long live

**Alamaa a baraka la**

May the baby be blessed

**Alamaa a ye doko jamaa soto**

May the baby have younger siblings

**Alamaa deenaanoo ye diinoo soto**

May God make the baby a good Muslim

#### **Sickness**

**Alamaa saasaa feseyaa la**

May God make you get better

**Jaata kendeyaa**-health

**booroo**-medicine

**Dokitooroo**-doctor

**kono baayoo**-diarrhoe

**Boori kesoo**-tablets

**sankewo**-mosquito net

**Kori I ka fiseyaa le?**

I hope you are getting better?

**seneyaa**-clean

**suusuulaa**-mosquito

**suusuulaa kuurayo**-malaria

**fresh kool**-common cold

### **Tobaski/Koriteh Prayers**

**Alamaa m bee maabee la jaari**

May God make us witness next year

**Yanfa m ma**

Forgive me

**N yanfa tee ye**

I have forgiven you

**Alamaa ala ye yanfa n ſe**

May God forgive us

#### **Charity**

**Abaraka, Alamaa sadaa jaabi la**

Thank you may God accept this charity

**Alamaa Ala yee takandi seytanoo ma**

May God protect you from satan

### **Expressing Needs**

**N suulata kodoo la bii**

I need money today

**N suulatee je la**

I need to see you

**I suulata mune la?**

What do you need?

**I suulata jumaa le je la?**

Who do you need to see?

**M may nna suula fejoolu soto**  
I haven't got all my needs

**N si ila muroo fuu noo le bay?**  
Can I borrow your knife

**N see maakoy noo le bay?**  
Can I help you?

#### **Location**

**M be GPI le**  
I am at GPI

**Wo lookuj tambilaa m be nuj America le**  
Last week I was in America

**Jonkoyo**-toilet/bathroom      **kuu**-wash      **fita**-sweep      **suntukujo**-trash dump

**Jonkoyo be mintoo le?**  
where is the toilet?

**Naa m maakoy dukare**  
Please come and help me

**M may maakoyirilaa soto**  
I don't have a helper

**Saama m be tara la kiaj ne**  
Tomorrow I will be in kiang