



## Some Common Yolŋu Terms

<b>Bäpi</b> Snake	<b>Njänitji or Manha</b> Alcohol
<b>Bäru</b> Crocodile	<b>Njapaki</b> Non-Yolŋu person, white person.
<b>Bathi</b> Dilly bag	<b>Njarali</b> Tobacco, cigarette
<b>Bayŋu</b> None, I don't have any	<b>Njatha</b> Food
<b>Bilma</b> Rhythm sticks (clap sticks)	<b>Nhämirri nhe</b> How are you?
<b>Buŋgawa</b> Boss, leader (can be a derogatory term)	<b>Nhulunbuy</b> The hill around which the township is located.
<b>Buŋgul</b> Dance not necessarily Traditional ceremony (corroboree)	<b>Rrupiya</b> Money (Macassan introduced word)
<b>Buŋgul djäma</b> Ceremony business or work is considered important work in Yolŋu society	<b>Wäwa</b> Brother
<b>Dhuwa, Yirritja</b> Everything in the world belongs to one of these two named social moieties or categories. Yolŋu marry into their opposite moiety.	<b>Yaka</b> No
<b>Dirramu</b> Man, male	<b>Yaka manymak</b> I am not good
<b>Djäma</b> Work, business	<b>Yalala</b> Later
<b>Ga'</b> Give it here!	<b>Yapa</b> Sister (it's common to refer to a female you don't know as yapa)
<b>Galpu</b> Spear launcher	<b>Yatj</b> Bad
<b>Gara</b> Spear	<b>Yidaki</b> Didgeridoo (The Miwatj region is recognised as the home of Yidaki. You are on yidaki country)
<b>Gapanj</b> White clay used for ceremony purposes, dancing and painting.	<b>Yolŋu</b> The peoples of the north-east Arnhem Land region call themselves Yolŋu. Different from other tribes around Australia Koori, Noongah, and Murri for example
<b>Gapu</b> Water	<b>Yo</b> Yes
<b>Qurtha</b> Fire, lighter, match, firewood	<b>Yo manymak</b> Yes, good, thanks. A positive response/ acknowledgement
<b>Ma</b> Okay! Do it!	<b>Yolŋu matha</b> A general term for the many Yolŋu languages of north-east Arnhem Land
<b>Manymak</b> Good, okay	
<b>Miyalk</b> Female	
<b>Miwatj Region</b> You are in Miwatj or sunrise country	

## Yolŋu Matha - The Language

Yolŋu Matha means Yolŋu language. It refers to Yolŋu languages in general. There are over 40 Yolŋu languages. Most Yolŋu speak multiple Yolŋu languages. The following explanation may help you to pronounce the words.

### Vowels

There are three pairs of vowels.

#### Short vowels

a as in about

i as in bin

u as in put

#### Long vowels

ä as in father

e no equivalent in English - try lengthening the i in bin

o as in pore

### Consonants

b, g, k, l, p, m, n, t, w, y are like the English equivalents

dh, th, nh pronounced with the tongue between the teeth

d, t, n, l, r pronounced with the tongue curled back

dj as with jug

tj somewhat similar to the ch in church

ny as with news

ŋ as in song

If you want to learn more about Yolŋu language and culture,

go to <http://learnline.cdu.edu.au/yolngustudies>

# Garma

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## SITE MAP

