



all yours

Indigenous Language Wordlists Indigenous Numbers

This Indigenous language wordlist highlights numbers recorded from over seventy (70) Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages or dialects!

Queries regarding Indigenous numbers are a common request at the State Library of Queensland. These queries are from a number of sources, but especially schools and kindergartens wanting to add Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages into their curriculum programs. With the advent of the Australian Curriculum and the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, teachers are seeking advice on counting systems and use of 'mathematical concepts in Australian Indigenous societies'.

This content description applies to Foundation through to Year 7 in the Australian Curriculum and encourages students to research and explore traditional Indigenous knowledges around number, space, measurement and time. Number and counting systems is often seen as a good starting point as it can lead to counting rhymes, number games and other learning activities in the early years.

It is envisaged that this compilation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander words for numbers can be used in schools and communities as a tool to raise awareness and learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Wordlists

The following list identifies words from historical sources for a selection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages across Queensland.

Note: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages were oral-based; there may be several variations in spelling and pronunciation. The following list should be seen as a guide – check with local language speakers as to the local preference.

Language and Location	1 (one)	2 (two)	3 (three)	4 (four)	5 (five/hand)	Many
Angkamuthi (Cape York)	Ipima	Udhima	Wuchama	-	-	Makyan
Badjirri (Tinnenburra)	Garritja	Bulanha	Bulanha-garritja	Bulanha-bulanha	Marra	-
Baradha (Nebo)	Warba	Bularu	Bularu-Warba	Bularu-bularu	Mala	Dalmarri
Barrungam (Dalby)	Wengge or Pia	Coloomboola	Coloomboola-pia	Kangooi	Maa	Toogool-gurra
Bayali (Keppel Bay)	Webben	Booli	Koorel	-	Moolloom	-
Bidjara (Charleville)	Wangarra	Bularu	Bularu Wangarra	Bularu-bularu	Mara	Banya Banya
Bigambul (South-West Queensland)	Bardja	Boolul	Boolul-bardja	Goonimbilla	Marr	Mayburra
Biri (Bowen River)	Warba	Bularu	Gudbaru	Bularu Bularu	Bularu Gudbaru	Dalgay
Biri (Burdekin River)	Warba	Bularu	Gulbara	Bularu Bularu	Bularu Gulbara	Moorgi
Biyay (Herbert River)	Yunegal	Yugga	Karrbo	Yugga-Yugga	Mundi	Kundil
Biyay (Hinchinbrook Island)	Yoongool	Yekka	Kurrboo	Tukkin	Munndai	Duckin
Butchulla (Fraser Coast)	Garalin	Bula	Bula-galin	Bula-bula	Bi	Banggan
Darumbal (Rockhampton)	Werpa	Bullari	Bullari-werpa	Kangoondie	Illy	Woorrain

Language and Location	1 (one)	2 (two)	3 (three)	4 (four)	5 (five/hand)	Many
Duungidjauw (Kilcoy)	Garu	Biyaiyu	Goromda	-	-	Yoiran
Gamilaraay (South-West Queensland)	Maal	Bulaarr	Gulibaa	Buligaa	Maa	Burrulaa
Ganggalida (Gulf)	Jathara	Giyarrngga	Burldamurra	Wawurlda (few, not many)	Marlda	Jardi
Gangulu (Dawson River)	Warbur	Bularu	Bularu Warbur	Bularu Bularu	Gagun	Dalgay
Garrwa (Gulf)	Yingamali	Kujarra	Yingamali- Kujarra	Murrku (a few, not many – can refer to 3, 4 or 5)	Mani	Kaja
Gayiri (Emerald)	Wungara	Boolaroo	Boolaroo-wungara	Boolaroo-boolaroo	Marra	Yangier
Giabal (Toowoomba)	Yabul	Bula	Bula-yabul	Bula-bula	Maa	
Gidhabal (Warwick)	Yabur	Bulah	Bulah-yabur	Bulah-bulah	Danggan	Gumbi
Goa (Diamantina River)	Koornbo	Orra	Koorborra	Nadera	Murra	Toona
Goreng Goreng (Baffle Creek)	Neula	Boola	Boola-neula	Bomboin	Birroo	Yingatho
Goreng Goreng (Bundaberg)	Neular	Boolar	Neularboolar	Boolar-boolar	Boolar Boolar Neular	Yingarloo
Gudang (Tip of Cape York)	Pirman	Ilabiu	Dhama	-	Ata	Buta
Gudjal (Charters Towers)	Nyunkal	Bulari	Gudbara	Marrgabala	Mara	Guybaguyba

Language and Location	1 (one)	2 (two)	3 (three)	4 (four)	5 (five/hand)	Many
Gungadidji (Diamantina River)	Matina	Barcoola	Barcoola matina	Barcoola barcoola	Murra	Mirty
Gunggari (Mitchell)	Wongarra	Bularu	Bularu-wongarra	Bularu-bularu	Marda	Yangarra-yangarra
Gunya (Warrego River)	Wanggara	Bulardi	Bulardi-wanggara	Bulardi-Bulardi	Marda	Mulla-mulla
Guwamu (Cunnamulla-Bollon)	Wanggara	Balardii	Balardii-wanggara	Balardii-Balardii	Marda	Mulla-mulla
Guyambul (Stanthorpe)	Tonway	Boobia	Boobiatha	Boobia-boobia	Yambia	Wolligooki
Jandai (North Stradbroke Island)	Kunara	Boodla	Boodla kunara	Boodla Boodla	Murra	Munyal
Jarowair (Toowoomba)	Wombarah	Bular	Bular-wombarah	Bular-bular	Maa	Murung
Kabi Kabi (Sunshine Coast)	Kalim	Bula	Bula-kalim	Bula-bula	Pirri	Bungan
Kala Lagaw Ya (Western Torres Strait)	Urapon	Ukusal	Ukasar-urapon	-	-	Gorsar
Kalali (Thargomindah)	Tharranya	Barcoola	Barcoola gowarra	Barcoola-barcoola	Mara	Warno
Kalkadoon (Mt Isa)	Ayat	Lyuati	Kurrapai		Makathi	Maltha
Koa (Winton)	Kurunyu	Wurra	Kurrapara	Wurrapanta	Marapithuru	Thunga
Kukatj (Gulf)	Wongarri	Kurbayia	Matta	Murgoo	Malla	

Language and Location	1 (one)	2 (two)	3 (three)	4 (four)	5 (five/hand)	Many
Kuku Yalanji (Weary Bay)	Nobin	Mummera	Kollur		Murra	Kokara
Kuku Yalanji (Wujal Wujal)	Nyubin	Jambul	Kulur	Jambul-Jambul	Murra	Wubul
Kungkari (Barcoo River)	Wongara	Muta	Our	Adava	Murra	Mooral
Kungulburra (Port Mackay)	Warpur	Boolera	Boolera-warpur	Boolera-boolera	Mulla	Lumburra
Kuuk Thaayorre (Pormpuraaw)	Thono	Kuthirr	Pinalam	Mong yuur kolele	Yuur	Mong
Lardil (Mornington Island)	Warngé	Kiyan	Mungkalan	Kiyan Bana Kiyan	Marlda	Jika
Mandandanji (Roma)	Wongara	Bullardoo	Bullardoo-wongara	Bullardoo-bullardoo	Marda	Bunyarie
Mandanjali (Beaudesert)	Yabar	Bula	Bulayabar	Bulabula	-	Wallul
Mayi-Thakurti (Cloncurry)	Ingomar	Blagura	Muda Nuda	Cudgello	Mullero	Cudgello
Meriam (Eastern Torres Strait Islands)	Netat	Neis	Neis-netat	-	-	Gaire
Mingin (Gulf)	Tualna	Digana	Tangilla	Ticantallio duallio	Nungurra	Yonkoona
Miyan (Belyando River)	Whychen	Bullaroo	Bullaroo-whychen	Bullaroo-bullaroo	Malla	Talgai

Language and Location	1 (one)	2 (two)	3 (three)	4 (four)	5 (five/hand)	Many
Nyawaygi (Halifax Bay, North Queensland)	Yunggul	Yaga	Gaabu	Gaabugaabu (few can refer to four or five)	Gaabugaabu (few can refer to four or five)	Balar
Pitta Pitta (Bouliá-Bedourie)	Ngururu	Parrhkula	Parrhkulanguru	Parrhkulaparrkhula	Mara	Punhi
Thaynakwith (Weipa)	Pim	Udhwith	-	-	'a	Urri
Torres Strait Creole (Torres Strait Islands, Mainland)	Wan	Tu	Tri	Po	Paib	Plenti
Turrubul (Brisbane Area)	Ganar	Burla	Burla Ganar	Burla Burla	Marra	Korumba
Uradhi (Cape York)	Ngipima	Udhyama	Wuchama	-	-	Makyan
Wakka Wakka (South Burnett)	Kumbe	Booa	Kuram	Bogo	Na	Bogo
Waluwarra (Georgina River)	Ooroo	Barkoola	Barkooleroo	Barkoola-Barkoola	Marrkana	Murrtoo
Wangkumarra (Nockatunga)	Watjuwarli	Parrkulu	Parrkuwatju	Parrkuluparrkulu	Mara	Warndru
Wik Mungkan (Western Cape York)	Thonam	Kucham	Ko'alam	Kuchamkucham	Ma'	Yot
Wirri (Mackay)	Wadyin	Bularu	Bularu-wadyin	Bularu-bularu	Mara	Dalgay
Yambina (Peak Downs)	Warba	Bularu	Gargun	Gungu	Mala	Mulea

Language and Location	1 (one)	2 (two)	3 (three)	4 (four)	5 (five/hand)	Many
Yandruwandha (Innamincka, Cameron Corner)	Kurnu	Parrku	Parrku-kurnu	Parrku-Parrku	Mara	Nunka
Yanyula (Borroloola)	Aalkula	Kanmada	Liikanmarra-alkula	Leekanmaraalkula	Liijakara	Liikanmaraalkula
Yetimarala (Broadsound, Central Queensland)	Warba	Bularu	Bulara-Warba	Bularu-Bularu	Mara	Mandya (also used for five or few)
Yidinj (Cairns)	Guman	Jamula	Dagul	Yunggan-gunyjii	Mala	Ngabi
Yilba (Cape River, Pentland)	Wadyin	Bularu	Bularu-wadyin	Bularu-bularu	Mala	Murga
Yir-Yiront (Kowanyama)	Yirr	Koyrr	Wapayrr	Morr-maq	Yorthelemrr	Yamar
Yugambeh (Logan River)	Yabru	Bula	Bulayabru	Bulabula	Dunngunn	Wallul
Yugarabul (Ipswich-West Moreton)	Kunnar	Budela	Mudden	Budela-budela	Mudden-budela	Millen
Yuggera (Brisbane Area)	Kunnar	Budela	Mudden	Budela-budela	Mudden-budela	Millen
Yulluna (Dajarra)	Ngururu	Palaru	Kulpai	Katjimba	Mampunu	Yikarra
Yuwaalaraay (South-West Queensland)	Milan	Bulaarr	Gulibaa	Buligaa	Maa	Burrulaa
Yuwibara (Mackay)	Warpur	Boolera	Boolera-warpur	Boolera-Boolera	Mulla	Lumburra

Sources and Further Reading

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SLQ Indigenous Languages Blog: <http://blogs.slq.qld.gov.au/ilq/>

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