



Indigenous Language Wordlists

Kuku Yalanji Body Parts

all yours

KuKu-Yalanji language is spoken by approximately 500-600 speakers on the coast of south eastern Cape York between Cooktown and Mossman and inland to Chillagoe and includes the community of Wujal Wujal. It is also written as Gugu Yalanji, Kokoyellanji, Gugu Yalandyi, etc.

The following KuKu-Yalanji language words are included on the *Gambara Gamu Biyu* body chart poster – use the language pen to hear and practise saying the words.

Aboriginal sounds

In pronouncing Aboriginal words, there are some sounds which are quite different to English and require practice.

'dh' is different to English - it is pronounced with the tongue at back of teeth.

'dj' is similar to English - it can be between 'j' and 'ch'.

'ng' is one sound in Aboriginal languages and is different to the 'n' sound in English - it is closest to the 'ng' sound found in singer.

'nh' is different to English - it is pronounced with the tongue at back of teeth.

'ny' is one sound in Aboriginal languages and is different - it is closest to the 'n' sound found in onion.

'rr' is a rolled 'r' sound similar to a Scottish 'r'; at the end of a word it may sound like 'd'.

This wordlist is drawn from historical and published sources and identifies language words for the parts of the body and their suggested pronunciation.

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/custodians as to the preferred local pronunciation.

| English | Kuku Yalanji |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Arm | daki |
| Belly | waral |
| Blood | ju-ju |
| Bottom/bum | bun-ni |
| Chest | du-mu |
| Chin | bari |
| Ear | milka |
| Elbow | juril |
| Eyebrow / eyelash | nyinki |
| Eyes | myil |
| Face | walu |
| Foot | jina |
| Finger / hand | mara |
| Forehead | munju |
| Hair | malka-bu |
| Head | dukul |

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| Heart | wudal |
| Hip | waba |
| Kidney | ngun-gum-urr |
| Lip | yimbi |
| Liver | jiba |
| Mouth | ngan-dal |
| Neck | jakay |
| Shoulder | binda |
| Skin | yulban |
| Teeth | ditha |
| Thumb | mula |
| Toes | durra |
| Tongue | nyabil |
| Wrist | jinbar |

Learn more about the Kuku Yalanji language!

Watch a digital story from Wujal Wujal “Adventures at Thompson’s Creek” featuring KuKu Yalanji language: <http://vimeo.com/66614532>

For items in the State Library collections relating to Kuku Yalanji, click [here](#).

Further information

To discover more about the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages on the Body Chart, contact your local Library or Indigenous Knowledge Centre.

Community Organisations

There are several local community groups working with KuKu Yalanji language – contact the Indigenous Knowledge Centre at Wujal Wujal.

Language Centre

The North Queensland Regional Aboriginal Corporation Language Centre (Cairns) centre looks after languages within North Queensland from Cooktown to Sarina and West to the Gulf. For more information visit their website www.nqraclc.com.au

Further Details

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SLQ Indigenous Languages Webpages: www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages

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

This initiative, as part of State Library of Queensland’s Indigenous Language Project, is supported by funding from the Indigenous Languages Support Program (ILS) from the Australian Government’s Attorney-General’s Department, Ministry for the Arts.



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