

UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
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We offer [net-based courses](#) in Somali
free of charge for citizens of the EU and EEA

BEGINNER'S SOMALI WORKBOOK PART 3

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This is work in progress. Read it critically!
Feel free to contact me with comments.

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Abbreviations

Ar.	(borrowing from) Arabic	(lånord från) arabiskan
BSG	Beginner's Somali Grammar	
BSR	Beginner's Somali Reader	Beginner's Somali Reader
En.	(borrowing from) English	(lånord från) engelskan
Hi.	(borrowing from) Hindi	(lånord från) hindi
It.	(borrowing from) Italian	(lånord från) italienskan
^N	more common in the north	vanligare i norr
N		någon / något
Pe.	(borrowing from) Persian	(lånord från) persiskan
^S	more common in the south	vanligare i söder
S	someone / something	
SNG		Somalisk nybörjargrammatik
Sw.	(borrowing from) Swahili	(lånord från) swahili

Cutubka 1aad

Word order

Review § 12 on page 140 in *Beginner's Somali Grammar*.
(Only that first paragraph, not the whole chapter.)

The verb 'yahay'

Review the forms of the verb **yahay** in § 11.13.1.

Also notice that many forms of this verb are contracted with adjectives.
See § 11.13.2.

The Subjunctive

The **full subjunctive** inflection ends in **-o** or **-aan** instead of ordinary present tense **-aa** or **-aan**.

The main usages of the full subjunctive are:

- in positive present/future subordinate clauses with a subject word:
Wáxaan rabaa ín aad tagto. *I want you to go.* (lit. ...*that you go*)
- in negative present/future main clauses:
Má rabo. *I don't want it.*
- in positive optative clauses (§ 11.10.3):
Aan eégo. *Let me see.*

The Conditional

Somali has a conditional construction consisting of the infinitive followed by the auxiliary **lahaa, lahayd, lahayn, lahaydeen, lahaayeen** *had*.

In sentences expressing a hypothetical condition that does not (any longer) constitute a real possibility, the conditional is used in both the main clause and the subclause.

The auxiliary in the main clause is usually translated as *would* or *would have* (Sw. *skulle* eller *skulle ha*), whereas in the subclause it is usually translated as *had* (Sw. *hade*).

Maxaa aad *samayn lahayd* haddii aad la *socon lahayd* Maxamed iyo Nuur maalintaas? *What would you have done if you had walked with Mahamed and Nur on that day?* | *Vad skulle du ha gjort om du hade gått med Mahamed och Nur den där dagen?*

The Infinitive

See § 11.4. The infinitive ends in **-i** or **-n**. and it is only used together with a small number of auxiliary verbs. In this text we find the infinitive in the above mentioned conditional constructions as well as with a couple of other auxiliaries.

carari maayo (= ma cararayo) *I am not running away*
dili waayey *failed to kill*

For the negative present progressive auxiliary, see § 11.10.1.

Minor comments to the text

Nuur ◇ waxa uu ◇ noqday ◇ mid baqdin badan.

Nuur ◇ he ◇ became ◇ (a) very frightened (one)

Nuur ◇ han ◇ blev ◇ (en) mycket rädd (en).

The last phrase is an adjective phrase in English and Swedish. In Somali a adjective phrase cannot occur on its own as a sentence constituent. Only noun phrases are allowed. Therefore, the adjective needs a “dummy” head word in Somali, which in this sentence is **mid one**.

Nuur ayaa **ku jawaabay** *NUR replied to him, NUR answered him*

The preposition **ku** *to* indicates the recipient of the answer, the person that receives the answer. With a number of abstract verbs the proposition **ku** is used, not **u**. Since Somali doesn't have object pronouns in the 3rd person, the preposition on its own indicates *to him, to her or to them*.

markii uu dhex marayo *when he was passing the middle, when he was half way*

This is the progressive present subjunctive /mar-ay-o/, but it is best translated into English with a past tense form. The reason that it is the present progressive is that this subclause is SIMULTANEOUS with the main clause. Simultaneity is expressed in Somali by the present progressive, but in English it is expressed through the same tense form as that of the main clause verb.

oo ... in ... oo

When the sentences are long things can get complicated. Therefore it is important to look out for the boundaries between clauses. They are often marked by conjunctions, such as **oo** and **in**.

Waxa uu ku fekerey oo uu ku tashaday in uu jiifsado

FOC he about thought and he on decided that he lies.down

FOC han över funderade och han för beslutade.sig att han lägger.sig

oo uu iska dhigo meyd.

and he himself.of makes corpse

och han sig.själ.v.av gör lik

*He gave it some thought **and** decided **that** he would lie down **and** fake a dead body. | Han funderade över det **och** beslutade sig för **att** han skulle lägga sig ner **och** spela död.*

u malaynaysaa (you) are thinking, (you) think

The verb **u maleeyaa** *thinks* is always accompanied by the preposition **u**. It's impossible to translate the preposition separately, it just has to be there in Somali.

This kind of "mental activity" verbs are quite seldom used in the progressive form in English, but in Somali they are very common in the progressive.

koox-koox

This is not an ordinary plural form. The plural of **koox -da** *group* is **kooxo -ha**. Repetition of a whole noun occur quite often in certain adverbial phrases.

U shaqeeya kooxo! *Work in groups. Arbeta i grupper.*

Koox-koox u shaqeeya! *Work groupwise. Arbeta gruppvis.*

Exercises

Exercise 1. Use the correct present tense forms of the verb *yahay*. Translate the sentences into English.

1. Haa, waa
2. Adigu ma jirran?
3. Arday baan
4. Waxa uu arday.
5. Waxa aad arday.
6. Wiil fiican baad
7. Maxaa ay iyagu?
8. Waxa ay ardayad.
9. Soomaali baynu
10. Soortu way fiican
11. Waxa aan sideed jir.
12. Magaciisu muxuu?
13. Maroodigu wuu yar
14. Waxa aan toban sano.
15. Dugsigu waa ii dhow
16. Adigu ma hooyadey?
17. Idinkuse sidee baad?
18. Khadiija waa faraxsan
19. Idinku waxa aad sagaal.
20. Waxa aan qof muslim ah.
21. Farteedu aad bay u fiican
22. Cumar dadku way neceb
23. Waxaan macallinkii Cumar.
24. Qof kasta cunto ayuu u baahan
25. Kubbadda cagta ayuu jecel
26. Xisaabta wuu ku wanaagsan
27. Kalluunku xaggee ku badan?
28. Cuntadu waxay saaran dabka.

29. Dawacadu waxa ay u eg eyga.
30. Carruurtaydu aad bay u fiican
31. Sidaas waa sida aynu ku nool
32. Cali wuxu fuushan baaskiilka.
33. Webiga Jubba waa biyo badan
34. Muxuu gabaygani ku saabsan?
35. Nibirigu badahee buu ku nool?
36. Kuwaasina aad bay u waaweyn
37. Kabahayguna kuwaaga ayay u eg
38. Waa aad salaaman dhammaantiin.
39. Immisa gabdhood ayaad walaalo?
40. Yaa na siiya waxa aynu u baahan?
41. Anigu waxa aan Faadumo hooyadeed.
42. Riyuhu intooda badan waa ay cadcad
43. Aniga iyo idinkuba magaaladan deggan
44. Maxaa dadku u jecel cunidda kalluunka?
45. Xoolaha iyo dadku maxay ku kala duwan?
46. Waxa aynu barannaa hadalka marka aynu yar
47. Berbera way fog, Afgooyese way dhow
48. Buuggani waxa uu ka kooban saddex qaybood.
49. Dhammaanteen waxa aynu u baahan saaxiibbo.
50. Faarax iyo Sulaymaan waxa ay jecel in ay wadajir u shaqeeyaan.
51. Adiga iyo waalidkaagu waxa aad xubno ka tirsan deegaanka dugsiga.

Exercise 2. Put the same sentences, except no 1, in the past tense.

Check your solutions:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hUSxl6tf16Uld9fmFoFIWfLfNguoLYRm1SNsavI89g/edit?usp=sharing>

Cutubka 2aad

The reduced subjunctive

The **reduced subjunctive** inflection ends in **-in** or **-n(in)** (simple aspect) or **-ayn** (progressive aspect), and there is only one form for all persons.

The main usages of the reduced subjunctive are:

- in negative past tense main clauses:

Má rabin. *X didn't want it.*

- in negative subclauses:

Inta aadan^S/aanad^N akhrin ka hor... *Before you read...*
the.time you.not read from front

- in prohibitive clauses (§ 11.11.1):

Ha raácin Áxmed. *Don't accompany/go with Ahmed.*

The past habitual construction

The past habitual is formed by using the infinitive and the auxiliary **jiray** in the past tense. In the negative the past subjunctive form is of course **jirin**. See § 11.6.

raáci jiray *use to accompany*

ilaalín jiray *used to guard, watch*

taxaddári jiray *used to beware, pay attention*

má oggolaán jirin *didn't use to allow*

Two modifiers

In Somali, a conjunction is necessary to connect two modifiers that refer to the same head noun.

If the head noun is indefinite, the conjunction is practically always **oo**.

daanyeer yar oo dhallaan ah

a small monkey being a youngster, a small monkey kid (en liten apunge)

If the head noun is definite, the conjunction is mostly **ee**.

carruurta yaryar ee ku nool deriskeenna
the small children living in our neighbourhood
the small children that live in our neighbourhood

Subordinate clauses

si + u means *so that, in order to*

Ninkii waxa uu daanyeerkaa u qaatay gurigiisii si uu u xannaanaysto. *The man took the monkey to his house in order to care for it. / ... so that he could care for it.*

The word **inta** (literally *the amount*) introduces many types of temporal subclauses.

inta means *while (when)*

Haramcadkaa inta uu Maxamed dul yimid ayaa uu meel waliba ka ursaday. *While the cheetah came above Mahamed it sniffed everywhere.*

inta + aan (+ ka hor) means *before* (i.e. as long as you have not done X)

Inta aadan/aanad akhrin ka hor... *Before you read...*

Word order

There is a regional variation in the word order concerning the short subject pronouns and the negative **aan** *not* (used in subclauses and clauses with focus). In the north the negation has a tendency to precede the subject pronoun (**aanan** *I/we not*, **aanad** *you not*, **aanu** *he not*, **aanay** *she/they not*), whereas in the south the tendency is for the pronoun to precede the negation (**aanan** *I/we not*, **aadan** *you not*, **uusan** *he not*, **aysan** *she/they not*).

Double negation in the past tense

ma uusan oggolaan jirin *he didn't use to allow, he wouldn't allow*

ma uusan doonayn *he didn't want to*

In the past tense, you often find this kind of "double negation" with both **ma** and **aan**. The latter is shortened and contracted with the subject pronoun, and a buffer **-s-** is inserted between the vowels: **uusan** < *uu+aan *he not*. The same is true for **aysan** < *ay+aan *she not*.

The verb is in the past subjunctive due to the negation, and the ending is **-in** after a consonant stem, and **-n** or **-nin** after a vowel stem. There is only this one form for all persons.

Word formation

Almost all Somali adjectives be changed into a verb meaning *to become X*. Such verbs are formed with the suffix **-adaa**, and these verbs belong to group 3, so that the feminine form will end in **-taa**. See § 11.13.3.

weyn <i>big</i>	weyn yahay M <i>is big</i>	weynaadaa M <i>becomes big</i>
	weyn tahay f	weynaataa F

There is however only one infinitive and one imperative for both these meanings. **weynaan** *to be/become big* **weynow!** *be/become big!*

Other such verb forms in this lesson are

oggol <i>approving</i>	oggolaadaa, oggolaataa <i>accepts, allows</i>
	oggolaan jirin subj <i>used to accept, allow</i>
dhow <i>close</i>	dhowaadaa, dhowaataa <i>gets close kommer nära</i>
	dhowaado SUBJUNCTIVE <i>comes close</i>
jecel <i>fond</i>	jeclaadaa, jeclaataa <i>becomes fond of fattar tycke för</i>
	jeclaan waayeen <i>failed to (wouldn't) get fond of</i>

Another type of verb derivation are pairs of verb where a basic verb denotes that someone does something and a derived verb means that someone make somebody else do something. Such derived verbs are called causative verbs. See § 11.13.5.

BASIC VERB CAUSATIVE VERB WITH **-I-**

koraa *grows (up)* **koriyaa** *makes someone grow up = raises someone*

Daanyeerkaa waa uu koray. Waxa uu aad iyo aad u jeclaa ninka koriyey. *The monkey grew up. It very much liked the man who brought him up.*

Another verb is derived in two steps:

xoog *strength*

adding **-ee/ey-** **xoogee-yaa** M *makes strong, strengthens*

xoogey-saa F

adding **-s-t-** **xoogey-staa** M *make oneself stronger, become stronger*

xoogey-sataa F

Wadahadallada 56–57

In the dialogues, many optional contractions typical to colloquial Somali occur. In written Somali there are usually much fewer such contractions. Especially the contractions where a short subject pronoun is directly attached to a preceding focused noun are avoided. The more standard and formal the language is, the fewer contractions you will find, similarly to the situation concerning contractions in English of the type *it's* versus *it is*, or Swedish *stan* versus *staden*.

Word choices often give indications about the region of origin of a text. Words like **immika** *now*, **hadma?** *when?* as well as numbers, such as **laba iyo labaatan** *twenty-two* give a northern touch to the dialogues.

In some regions it is very common that /n/ disappears before another consonant, cf. **daanyeer** / **daayeer** *monkey*, **mind** / **middi** *knife*, **imminka** / **immika** *now* etc.

intay is an optional contraction of **intee + baa + ay**.

intee literally means *what amount*, but here rather *what distance*.

Cadan intay u jirtaa Berbera?

= Cadan intee baa ay u jirtaa Berbera?

Aden what-amount FOC it to lies Berbera?

Aden, at what distance does it lie (in relation) to Berbera?

At what distance from Berbera does Aden lie?

What is the distance from Aden to Berbera?

How far is Aden from Berbera?

In a question that requires an answer containing some new information, a so called content question, there will always be a question word, **maxay**, **ayo** or a noun with one of the suffixes **-ee** or **-ma**, e.g. **qofkee** *which person* or **goorma** *what time*.

Past dates and years and other expressions of time are expressed as something that is supposed to be known, i.e. with the ending **-ii**, e.g.

sagaashankii *(in the) the ninties*

labaatankii *(in the) the twenties.*

kun iyo sagaal boqol iyo laba iyo siddeetankii *in nineteen eighty-two*

The ending **-ii** is added both to the number of the day and the number of the year, when both are mentioned.

Waxaan dhashay shan iyo tobankii Sebteembar kun iyo sagaal boqol iyo sidded iyo sagaashankii.

Present and future dates are given in the plains definite form.

laba kun iyo laba iyo soddonka *in twenty thirty-two*

When the month precedes the number of the day, the number takes a possessive ending that refers back to the month.

Muqdishna waxaan tagayaa bishan toddoba iyo tobankeeda. *And I'm going to Mogadishu this month, on the seventeenth **of it** (or ... its 17th day).*

Invisible focus marker. When a subject pronoun attaches to a preceding noun, that noun is focused: Burcay = Burco FOC ay. It is generally explained as a contraction of Burco baa ay or Burco ayaa ay... which is what one would find in written standard Somali.

Haa. Laakiin Burcay tagaysaa immika.

Yes. But she is going to Burao now.

Normally “waryaa” is only used when addressing men.

Waryaa!

One thing that complicates sentences that talk about distances between places is the fact that in English one usually says that one city lies at a certain distance **from** another city, whereas in Somali the phrase is **u jirtaa**, i.e. one city 'lies (at a certain distance in relation) **to**' another city.

Markaa ma waxay u jirtaa intay Hargeysa u jirto Ceerigaabo mise intay Bulaxaar u jirto Boorame?

= Markaas ma waxa ay u jirtaa inta ay Hargeysa u jirto Ceerigaabo mise inta ay Bulaxaar u jirto Boorame?

Då är-det-så-att det på ligger avståndet det-där HArgeysa till ligger Erigavo eller avståndet det(där) Bulahar till ligger Borama?

Then is-it-true-that it at lies the-distance it=Hargeysa to lies Erigavo or the-distance it=Bulahar to lies Borama?

Är det i så fall så att det ligger på samma avstånd som Hargeysa ligger från Erigavo eller samma avstånd som Bulahar ligger från Borama?

Is it then the case that it lies at the same distance that Hargeysa lies from Erigavo or the same distance that Bulahar lies from Borama?

**Boorame Hargeysa ma waxay u jirtaa intay Bulaxaar u jirto halkaa.
= Boorame Hargeysa ma waxa ay u jirtaa inta ay Bulaxaar u jirto halkaas?**

Borama Hargeysa is-it-true it to lies the-distance it=Bulahar to lies that-place

*Is it true Borama lies from Hargeysa at the distance Bulahar lies from there?
Does Borama lie at the same distance from Hargeysa that Bulahar lies from it?*

Waxa ay u jirtaa inta ay Hargeysa Ceerigaabo u jirto.

It is located at the distance (that) Hargeysa (it) is located from/to Erigavo.

When there are two cities at the beginning of the sentence you can't be completely sure which city the subject of the clause and which one is the object of comparison. But in general the first one is most probably the subject, the one that you compare, and the second one would be the adverbial, the one you compare it to. But on the other hand, most of the time it doesn't really matter very much. You are comparing them to each other and saying something about the distance between them.

Hargeysa Ceerigaabo ma waxay u jirtaa intay Bulaxaar u jirto halkaa?

*Is Hargeysa located from Erigavo at the distance that Bulahar is from here?
≈ Are Hargeysa and Erigavo at the same distance from each other as Bulahar is from here?*

2. Exercises

2.1 Draw a circle around the head noun and underline the modifiers. Then insert the correct conjunction. Finally translate the phrases.

miis yar ... wanaagsan

miiskayga yar ... wanaagsan

wiil yar ... toban jir ah

waxyaalaha yaryar ... aan arki karo

wiilka yar ... sariirta ku jiifa

in yar ... biyo ah

qol yar ... mugdi ah

wax yar ... biyo ah

tiro yar ... digaag ah

Waa naag hadal yar ... hawl badan.

Yaa ku noolaa qolka yar ... Cabdulle dhisay?

Dhilmaanyadu (*malaria*myggor) waa cayayaan yaryar ... habeenkii duula.

Bisadda immisa eray ... kale ayaad u taqaan?

Waxyaalaha kale ... aan Muqdisho ku soo arkay waxa ka mid ah:...

Qor shan eray ... hamsa leh. (*hamsa* = the sign ' denoting the glottal stop)

Waa in god dheer ... ballaaran la qodaa.

Haddii aad nin miskiin ah ... baahan aragtid, maxaad samayn doontaa?

Waxa aan tegay masaajiddada waaweyn ... taariikhda leh.

2.2 Move the focused NP to another position in the clause and adjust the focus particle to the new position so that focus remains on the same NP.

Ninkii waxa uu daanyeerkaa u qaatay gurigiisii.

Daanyeerku waxa uu aad u jeclaa ninka.

Ninkii iyo daanyeerkaa waxa ay noqdeen saaxiibbo isku fiican.

Daanyeerku waxa uu ilaalin jirey ninkii.

Daanyeerkaa waxa uu ka caroodey duqsiga.

Waxa uu doontay dhagax weyn.

2.3 Move the focus to the subject NP and make all other necessary adjustments to these clauses. Translate the new sentence with subject focus into English, using the phrase *It was X who...* to put similar focus on the subject in English.

Ninkii waxa uu daanyeerkaa u qaatay gurigiisii.

Daanyeerku waxa uu aad u jeclaa ninka.

Ninkii iyo daanyeerkaa waxa ay noqdeen saaxiibbo isku fiican.

Daanyeerku waxa uu ilaalin jirey ninkii.

Daanyeerkaa waxa uu ka caroodey duqsiga.

Compare your solutions to the solutions in this GoogleDoc:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O67m3Taf_vZIItSyvyRS2h50csuU88hXYQ3xlxN7IE0/edit?usp=sharing

Cutubka 3aad

Morphology

The verb *yahay* 'is', see BSG § 11.13.1

Syntax

Focused subject, see BSG § 13.1.3

Word formation

far -ta finger, *faraa* gives advice, sends a message

Layliyo ku saabsan naxwaha

1. Find all sentences in this unit with the reflexive pronoun **is**. How is it used? Does it have a reflexive (*oneself*) or a reciprocal meaning (*each other*).
2. Find all verbs in the plural form of the imperative.
3. Find all prepositions in this unit. Explain for each preposition to which noun it relates.

Marka ay dugsiga ka timaaddo waxa ay kubbadda kolayga la ciyaartaa saaxiibteed.

ka + dugsiga = from school

la + saaxiibteed = with her friend

[Suggested solutions](#)

3. New Exercises

1. Focus

Translate these questions. Then write an answer to each question.

Write full sentences.

Notice that the question word has to be focused, and that the corresponding answer word(s) also must be focused.

Give two versions of each answer, one with the focused word(s) at the beginning of the answer, and one with the focused word(s) at the end.

Also remember that **if the subject is focused**, then:

- the subject noun phrase is not marked with any subject ending,
- the short subject pronouns cannot be used,
- the predicate verb has to be in the reduced form.

1. What is Safiya reading? > a new book
2. Who has written this book? > Safiya
3. Where does Hassan live? > this big house
4. Who lives in this big house? > Hassan
5. Where does your father work? > the new hospital
6. Who works here? > my mother
7. What are you studying? > mathematics
8. Who teaches mathematics in this school? > Cumar Rooble
9. What did you buy in the shop? > bread and oil
10. Who brought this bread? > I

2. The verb *yahay*

Cutubka 4aad

Word formation

In Somali, there is often both a noun and a verb based on the same root morpheme.

saaxiib -ka *friend (male)*

saaxiib -ta = saaxiibad -da *friend (female)*

la saaxiibaa, saaxiibtaa *becomes friends with*

ciyaar -ta *game, play, dance*

ciyaaraa, ciyaartaa *plays*

hadal -ka *speech, talk*

hadlaa, hadashaa *speaks, talks*

bilow -ga *beginning, start*

bilaabaa, bilowdaa *begins, starts*

quraac -da *breakfast*

quraacaa, quraacdaa *eats breakfast*

dareen -ka *feeling, sense*

dareemaa, dareentaa *feels, senses*

dood -da *discussion*

doodaa, dooddaa *discusses*

salaan -ta *greeting*

salaamaa, salaantaa *greet*

jawaab -ta *answer*

jawaabaa, jawaabtaa *answers*

Contractions

The obligatory contraction **ugú** has three possible interpretations.

ugú ← **u + u** *to + to*

ugú ← **u + ku** *to + in / on / with (tool)*

ugú particle expressing the superlative degree

If there is more than one preposition, they must obligatorily be contracted. Between vowels /k/ changes to /g/ and between two instances of ú an extra /g/ is added as "buffert".

Daanyeerkaa waxa uu soo qaaday dhagax si uu ugu dhufte duqsigii.

The monkey picked up a stone in order to hit the fly with it.

ugu < *u+ku

u + si *in order to*

ku *with it (referring back to dhagax a stone)*

Maryan aabbaheed iyo hooyadeed aad bay Sahro ugu mahad celiyeen.

Maryan's father and mother expressed a lot of gratitude to Sahra.

ugú ← **u + u**

u + aad *a lot, much*

u + Sahro *to Sahra*

Buurta waddankeenna ugu dheer waa buurta Surad.

The highest mountain in our country is mount Surad.

ugu + dheer *highest*

Here **ugu** expresses the superlative degree and is best interpreted as a non-divisible particle.

ugá ← **u + ka** *to + about*

Sahro markii ay salaantey Maryan ka dib, ayaa waxa ay uga warrantay dugsiga iyo casharradii maalintaa la soo dhigtay.

After Sahra had greeted Maryan, she reported to her (i.e. Maryan) about the school and the lessons one had studied that day.

Dabadeed waxa ay Alle **uga** bariday in uu siiyo caafimaad degdeg ah. Then (*for*) her she asked (*from*) God to give quick health (i.e. recovery).

Yaa ay Sahro **uga** bariday caafimaad Maryan?
(*From*) whom did Sahra ask for health (*for*) Maryan?

isu ← is + u

Mar kasta waxa ay **isu** raaci jireen dugsiga.
They always used to accompany *each other to* school.

Morfosyntax

The Subjunctive

The Past Subjunctive is used in negative main clauses.

Qofna kama aysan **aqoon** dugsigeeda cusub.

Gabadhii cusbayd ma aysan **dareemin** cidlo mar dambe.
The new girl did not feel alone again.

Maxaa aysan u **lahayn** carruurta qaar saaxiibbo?
Why do a part of the children not have friends?

Present subjunctive in positive subclauses with a subject word.

Ma isku dayday in aad la **saaxiibto**?
Have you tried to become friends with them?

Aad uma aysan aqoon sida wax loo **qoro** ama loo **akhriyo**.

Carruurta kale waxa ay bilaabeen in ay ka **maadaystaan**.

Faadumo waxa ay goosatay in ay la **hadasho** gabadha cusub.

Si aad u **yeelataan** saaxiibbo maxaa aad samayn kartaan?

Marka loo **baxo** fasaxa quraacda, gabdhuhu waxa ay dheelaan kala-xanteysi (taabasho).

Aniga iyo Mahad marka aan dugsiga ka **imaanno** ka dib, waxa aan ciyaarnaa kubbadda cagta.

Haddii aad **jirrato**, maxaa ay sameeyaan saaxiibbadaa?

Waxa ay ogaatey in ay Maryan **bugto**...

Dabadeed waxa ay Alle uga bariday in uu **siiyo** caafimaad degdeg ah.

Waxaan jeclahay in aan Soomaaliya ku **noolaado**.

However, the ordinary present tense forms of the verb yahay are also used in subclauses with a subject word.

Haddii uu saaxiibkaa jirran **yahay** maxaa aad samayn lahayd?

The reduced subjunctive is used in negative subclauses. There is no difference between present and past tense. The verb always ends in **-(i)n**.

Inta aadan **akhrin** ka hor...

Before you read...

The Infinitive

The infinitive ends in **-i** or **-n**.

If the verb stem ends in a consonant, the infinitive ends in **-i**.

If the verb stem ends in a vowel, the infinitive ends in **-n**.

It is only used together with a handful of auxiliary verbs.

Daanyeerku waxa uu ilaalin jirey ninkii oo uu ka **taxaddari jirey**.

cuni doonaa *will eat*

heesi lahaa *would sing*

baran karaa *can learn*

ciyaari jirey *used to play*
carari maayo *will not run away*

The Conditional Construction

The construction INFINITIVE + AUXILIARY **lahaa/lahayd** is called the conditional construction.

Haddii uu saaxiibkaa jirran yahay maxaa aad **samayn lahayd?**

If your friend were ill what would you do?

It expresses that something is not reality, but might, under certain (less probable) circumstances, become reality.

Modifiers with *ah*

Ah *being* is the reduced form of **yahay**.

Sahro iyo Maryan waa laba gabdhood oo saaxiibo **ah.**

*Sahra and Maryan are two girls **that are** friends.*

It's is mostly used in this type of relative clauses, and such relative clauses are often used in Somali, where English and Swedish would have an adjective.

surwaal buluug **ah** *blue trousers* (trousers that are a blue thing)

saaxiib run **ah** *a true friend* (a friend that is a real thing)

daanyeer dhallaan **ah** *a young monkey* (a monkey that is a youngster)

It is also used when a preposition would be used in English and Swedish.

meel kayn **ah** *a place in the woods* (a place that is a forest)

Finally the reduced form **ah** is also used when the subject of the clause is focused.

YAA **ah saaxiibbadaa?** WHO are your friends?

Yaa is the focused subject, an obligatory contraction of **ayo?+baa**.

Minor comments to the texts

Faadumo saaxiibteeda cusub

Maalin ayaa ardayad **cusubi** oo ka timid xaafad kale ku soo biirtay dugsiga.

Adjectives take the subject case ending **-i**. If the subject is just a definite noun it ends in **-u**, but if it's a noun phrase ending with an adjective it ends with an **-i**.

Wiilka **dheeri** waa Cali. *The tall boy is Ali.*

Buugga **cusubi** waxaa uu yaal miiska korkiisa.

The new book lies on top of the table.

saaxiibteeda cusub *her new friend*

Even though nouns like **saaxiib** *friend* that denote family and friend, do not take the full possessive ending when they occur on their own, e.g., **saaxiibteed** *her friend*, they do take the full ending when they are followed by a modifier such as an adjective.

isku dayday *you have tried, she has tried*

This is the simple past tense with the morpheme /t/ expressing the second person singular or the feminine 3rd person singular or. **dayday** < /day/-/t/-ay/

ahaan jireen *they used to be*

This is the infinitive **ahaan** *to be* + the auxiliary **jireen** *they used*.

kuwo faraxsan *happy ones, lucky ones*

Kuwo is an indefinite pronoun in the plural. The singular forms are **ku, tu**. There is also a corresponding definite pronoun: **ka, ta, kuwa**, e.g., **kuwa faraxsan** *the happy ones*.

qofna *nobody, anybody*

The noun **qof** *person* with the "negative" particle **-na** is used more or less as a "negative" indefinite pronoun in negative clauses. The corresponding word about things is **waxna** *nothing, anything*.

ma aysan aqoon *she didn't know*

ma aysan dareemin *she didn't feel*

In the past tense Somali often uses "double negation", i.e., both **ma** and **aan**. An **-s-** is inserted as a buffer between the vowels of **ay** and **aan**, and the vowel of **aan** is shortened in this obligatory contraction: **aysan** < *ay+aan.

Aqoon *knew* and **dareemin** *felt* are past subjunctive forms due to the negation. The past subjunctive always ends in **-n**.

had iyo jeer *alltid, ständigt, ständigt och jämt*

This phrase is somewhat similar to Swedish *jämt och ständigt* which also consist of two parts that basically mean the same thing. **Had** means *time, moment* och **jeer** *time, instance*. It might also be compared to English *over and over*.

gabadha cusub *the new girl* (that we don't really know yet)

gabadhii cusbayd *the new girl, that new girl you know*

In Somali, the speaker very often points out that certain persons, objects or notions are expected to be known from before. Then the demonstrative **-ii** is added to the noun instead of the definite article's **-a**. Doing so, one also has to alter the form of any adjective following the noun by adding the verb suffix **-aa** (from **ahaa** *(that) was*) to

masculin singular nouns as well as plural nouns, and **-ayd** (from **ahayd** (*that*) *was*) to feminine singular nouns.

Some adjectives also contain an inserted vowel copy between two consonants at the end of the stem, e.g. **cusub** based on the stem /cusb/. Such an inserted vowel will disappear when the verb suffixes are added, since two consonants between vowels are allowed: **cusbaa**, **cusbayd**.

Waxa ay bartay Faadumo gabadhii walaasheed iyo saaxiibbadeed.

Fadumo introduced the girl to her sister and her friends.

Besically, this sentence could have two different interpretations. The subject might be **Faadumo** or **gabadhii**. But on the other hand, just like in English or Swedish, if there is no special reason to interpret the sentence otherwise, the most natural thing is that the subject comes first and then the object, which would mean that it is probably Faadumo that introduces her sister and her friends to the girl. The other way around wouldn't make much sense either in this text, since the girl didn't have any friends.

Saaxiibbo wanaagsan

uusan

uusan < uu+aan

he.not

iska

iska

oneself.from

isle'eg

(< is + la + eg) = equal/likadan

is + la + eg lik med varandra

dayday

ordet **dayday** är slang ord på somaliska som betyder någon som är fattig.

Ma isku dayday in aad la saaxiibto? = Har du försökt bli vän med henne?

isku dayday = försökte

Inta aadan akhrin ka hor:

The subjunctive is used under two important circumstances: in subclauses and with negation. Here we have both, and that's why we need the reduced subjunctive. This verb form, the reduced subjunctive, is not inflected for person. It always ends in **-(i)n**.

Inta aadan akhrin ka hor:

(inta aad+aan akhrin ka hor)

the-moment you not read from before

Before you read = When you still haven't read

The person is expressed through the subject pronoun which is contracted with the negation **aan**, which is used in subclauses instead of **ma**. In the north the order of these two elements is the opposite.

SOUTH	NORTH	
aanan	aanan	<i>I/we not</i>
aadan	aanad	<i>you not</i>
uusan	aanu	<i>he not</i>
aysan	aanay	<i>she/they not</i>

In all these contractions, the second element has a shortened vowel.

*Sahro markii ay salaantey Maryan ka dib **ayaa waxa** ay **uga** warrantay dugsiya iyo casharradii maalintaa **la soo dhigtay**.*

Sometimes there is focus on two different constituents in the same sentence. *Ayaa/baa* and *waxa* will then occur together.

uga ← u + ka

Maryan + u warrantay ‘she reported to Maryan’

ka warrantay + dugsiya iyo casharradii ‘she reported about school and the lessons...’

Soo expresses that the action had been completed, i.e. ‘the lessons that they had studied that day (lit. that one had completed studying that day)’.

Wadahadallada

Tre platser jämförs.

Ma intay **Burco Hargeysa** u jirto ayay **iyana** u jirtaa?

Ligger **den** på samma avstånd som **Hargeysa** är ifrån **Burco**?

Berbera ma waxay **ka xigtaa** Hargeysa xaggay Burco **ka xigto**?

ku xigaa *is related to*

Berbera ma waxay **ka xigtaa** Hargeysa xaggay Burco **ka xigto**?

Is Berbera situated in the direction from Hargeysa that Burao is situated?

= Is Berbera in the same direction from Hargeisa that Burao is?

Boorame ma waxa ay ka xigtaa Hargeysa xagga ay Burco ka xigto?

Xabashi

Are **Xabasha** and **Itoobiya** (Ethiopia) interchangeable when referring to the country itself? If you are referring to the Ethiopian people, can you only say Xabashi/Xabashiyad (male/female)?

Xabasha ‘Abyssinia’ is the historical name for Ethiopia. The word is borrowed from Arabic (al-xabasha الحبشة). It refers to the people. Somalis, including Somalis in Ethiopia, refer to non-Somali Ethiopians when using **Xabasha**.

A modern word for the Ethiopian people is **Itoobiyaan -ka**.

Layliyo ku saabsan naxwaha

4.1. Inflection of some tricky verbs

Change the gender of the subject in the following sentences, e.g. *Sahro* > *Axmed*.

Then change the sentence into the future tense with the auxiliary *doonaa/doontaa*.

Yaa ay Sahro uga bariday caafimaad Maryan?

Waxa ay ogaatey in ay Maryan bugto.

Axmed waxa uu dhigtaa dugsi xaafaddooda ku yaal.

Waxa ay u hadashaa si ka duwan carruurta kale.

Sahro waxa ay salaantey Maryan.

Waxa ay wax ka warsatay qoyskooda iyo xaafaddooda.

4.2 Change these sentences into negative ones without any focus.

Remember

1. Use the subjunctive. The verb *yahay* has special negative forms.
2. The root /ah/ in the verb *yahay* is lost after adjectives, if there is no prefix between the adjective and the verb.
3. The negative particle *ma* goes before the verb, right after the prepositions. Any short subject pronoun goes with *ma*.

Faadumo waxa ay qortay qoraalkan gaaban.

Waxa ay dugsi u qaadataa cambuur buluug ah.

Waxa ay jeceshahay xisaabta.

Waxa ay ku fiican tahay akhriska iyo qorista.

Saaxiibkayga cusub magaciisu waa Mahad.

Waxa uu ku nool yahay meel ii dhow.

Mahad waxa uu dhigtaa fasalka afraad,

Aniguna waxa aan dhigtaa fasalka afraad.

Aniga iyo Mahad waxa aan ciyaarnaa kubbadda cagta.

Mahad waxa uu iga caawiyaa layliyada shaqo-guriga ah.

Waxa uu ku fiican yahay sayniska.

Compare your solutions to the suggestions in this Google document

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XA_3cXDRLL4v5YhFOIEd_E-bWIMI8IUHdwMimTNIxHM/edit?usp=sharing

More will follow...

The following units will be revised and updated during the autumn term of 2023. Meanwhile, an older version is available at

<https://morgannilsson.se/BeginnersSomaliWorkbook3.2022.pdf>