

Conversation Story1 - Yukal-pula (two friends)

Nyenggən wuthu nyuwa werrpanakata. Nyakin wuthuka tyerrikang ngakata piyal. Tyerrikin yanggin kila kiyin.

A man sat near the Fishing Lagoon. He saw someone standing in the shade of a Red Gum. He stood up, walked closer and spoke.

G'day or Hullo

Puthekinarr telkuk.

(or simply - Putheka telkuk)

Is your name Kungaya?

Nyarringin Kungaya?

Yes. My name is Kungaya

*Nongwe. Nyarrendek
Kungaya.*

I thought it was.

Nyumilinanda yumin.

My name is Warrangila.

Nyarrindek Warranggila.

It's good to see you.

*Nyakanda walanggin
telkuk-min.*

Where have you been?

Windyarr yumin?

Near Kerang.

Nyuwa Kiranyuk.

You're OK?

Telkayarr?

Yes, I am well.

Nongwe, telkayanda.

Your wife?

Mathimin?

She is sick. She wants to lie down and sleep.

Tyileka. Wantima kumba.

I'm sorry she is feeling sick.

Kuthanda tyileka.

Where will you sleep?

Windya kumbinyarr?

At my mother's house.	<i>Kuyinggurekity lanuk.</i>
Do you have any children?	<i>Pembengguk?</i>
Yes. Two. A girl and a boy.	<i>Nongwe. Puletya. Lerrk payingkuk. Wuthu payingkuk.</i>
They're playing over there.	<i>Nyetenyangbula nyula.</i>
When will you go home?	<i>Nyatyærruwarr withəwiny?</i>
Five days time.	<i>Kepin manyə kiluwity.</i>
I'm going fishing tomorrow. Do you want to come?	<i>Werrpaninyanda perrpuk. Wantimarr nyuka-wara?</i>
Yes. I love the river.	<i>Nongwe. Kalinanda Kolety.</i>
We'll cook Murray Cod in the ashes. You'll see.	<i>Pawinyangalang pandyil. Nyakinyarr.</i>
Great. You're a real friend.	<i>Telkuk-min. Yukal-kata.</i>
See you tomorrow.	<i>Nyakinyandarr perrpuk.</i>

Wamba Wamba Language Resource
- Conversation Story 1
'Yukal-pula'

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(See over for word bank.)

Word Bank - Words in story order, **first** in 'display form' that can be found in the **Word Search** at https://culture.yarkuwa.org.au/words/word_search and **secondly** with the word endings used in the story. Details on endings can be found in the 'Bound Forms' documents at : culture.yarkuwa.org.au/documents

Putheka (to come into e.g. a camp)

- puthekarr (come-in-you)
- telkuk (good, beautiful)
- **puthekinarr telkuk** (in - past tense - you've arrived, good) or (g'day, hullo)

Kungaya (to keep quiet) (he/she/it is quiet)

- name of one of our characters

Nyarringin (name-yours?, your name is?)

Nongwe (yes)

Nyarrindek (my name is ..)

Warrangga (to sing)

- Warranggila (always singing)
- name of one of our characters

Nyaka (to see)

- nyakanda (I see)

Walanggin (you)

Telkuk (good, beautiful)

- telkuk-min (very good)

Yuma (to be) or (he/she/it is)

- yumin (he/she/it was)

- **Windyarr yumin** (where-you?) or (where have you been?)

Windya (where)

Nyuwa (here, near)

Kiranyuk (name for Kerang)

Telkaya (to be well) or (he/it/is well)

- telkayarr (you are well) or (You're OK?)
- telkayanda (I am well)

Mathimuk (his wife)

- mathimin (your wife)

Tyileka (to be sick) or (he/she/it is sick)

Wantima (to want) or (he/she/it wants)

Kumba (to lie down, to sleep)

Kumbinyarr (you will sleep) or (will you sleep)

Kuyinggurin (mother - your)

- kuyinggurek (my mother)
- kuyinggureity (my mother's)

Lar - (camp, home, bark shelter)

- lanuk (he/she/it's home)

Pembengguk (children)

Puletya (two)

Lerrk payinguk (girl)

Wuthu payingkuk (boy)

Nyentenya (to play, to run around)

- nyentenyang (playing)
- nyentenyangbula (those two/they are playing)

Nyatyerruwa (when?)

Withawa (to go home)

Kiluwity (today, day)

- kepin manya kiluwity (five days)

Werrpana (to pull in a fish, to fish)

- werrpaniny (he/she/it will fish)
- werrpaninyanda (I will fish, I will go fishing)

Perrpuk (tomorrow)

Wantima (to want)

- wantimarr (you want)

Nyuka-wara - to come

Kalina (to love)

- kalinanda (I love)

Kolety (Edward River)

Pawa (to cook in ashes)

- pawiny (will cook in ashes)
- pawinyangalang (we two will cook in ashes)

Pandyil (Murray Cod)

Nyakinyarr (You will see)

Yukal-kata (Friends)

Nyakinyandarr (See-will-I-you)

Yukal-pula (two friends) - Pronunciation Guide

1st line - Wamba Wamba, 2nd line (red text) - guide with 'sounds like' spelling, 3rd line - English.

Pronunciation Guide includes:

- underlining of emphasised syllable, usually first syllable of word,
- italicised - consonants needing care eg 'ny', 'rr', 'ng' (keep them as one sound, role the 'rr')
- spelling that suggests a different sound to everyday English
eg 'wuthu' is put as 'wuudh-uu' because - the 'th' is a hard sound like 'dh', and the 'u' is not 'u' as in 'club' but like the 'oo' in 'foot',
and 'nyuu-wah' indicates the ending 'a' is the standard Wamba Wamba 'a' as in 'Ah!'

Although this guide splits words up into syllables to make the pronunciation guide clearer, readers are reminded that fluent speakers speak quite quickly and word sounds normally run together more than this guide below might suggest.)

Nyenggen wuthu nyuwa werrpanakata.
Nyeng-gən wuudh-uu nyuu-wah wurr-pahn-ah-kah-tah
 (A man was sitting near the Fishing Lagoon.)

Nyakin wuthuka tyerrikang ngakata piyal.
Nyah-kin wuud-uu-kah tyerr-ii-kahng ngah-kah-tah pji-yahl
 (He saw someone standing in the shade of a Red Gum.)

Tyerrikin yanggin kila kiyin.
Tyurr-ii-kiin yahng-giin kiil-ah kii-yiin
 (He stood up, walked closer and spoke.)

"Puthekinarr telkuk. Nyarringin Kungaya?"
Puudh-eh-kiin-arr tel-kuuk. Nyarr-iing-iin Kuung-ai-yah
 (G'day or Hullo Is your name Kungaya?)

"Nongwe. Nyarrendek Kungaya." "Nyumilinanda yumin".
Nong-weh. Nyarr-end-ek Kuung-ai-yah Nyuu-miil-in-ahn-dah yuu-miin
 ("Yes. My name is Kungaya". "I thought it was.")

"Nyarrindek Warranggila." "Nyakanda walanggin telkuk-min."
Nyahrr-iin-dek Warr-ahng-giil-ah. Nyah-kahn-dah warlahng-gin telkuk-min
 (My name is Warranggila. It's good to see you.)

Windyarr yumin? Nyuwa Kiranyuk.
Wiind-yahrr yuu-miin Nyuu-wah Kiir-ahny-uuk
 (Where have you been? Near Kerang.)

Telkayarr? Nongwe, telkayanda.
Tel-kai-ahrr? Nong-weh, tel-kai-ahn-dah
 (You're OK? Yes, I am well.)

Mathimin? Tyileka. Wantima kumba.
Mahd-ii-miin? Tyil-eh-kah. Warn-tih-mah kuum-bah
 (Your wife? She is sick. She wants to lie down and sleep.)

Kuthanda tyileka. Windya kumbinyarr? Kuyinggurekity lanuk.
Kuuhd-ahn-dah tyil-ek-ah. Wiind-yah kuumb-iny-ahrr? Kuuh-ying-guur-eh-kity lah-nuuk
 I'm sorry she is feeling sick. Where will you sleep? At my mother's house.

Pembengguk? Nongwe. Puletya. Lerrk payingkuk. Wuthu payingguk.
Pem-beng-guuk? Nong-weh Puul-ety-ah Lerrk pai-ing-kuuk. Wuud-hu pai-ing-guk
 (Do you have any children? Yes. Two. A girl and a boy.)

Nyetenyangbula nyula.
Nyet-eny-ahng-buul-ah nyuul-ah
 (They're playing over there.)

Nyatyerruwarr withewiny? Kepin manyə kiluwity.
Nyah-tyərr-uu-warr widh-ə-wiiny? Kehp-iin mahn-yə kiil-uu-witiy
 (When will you go home? Five days time.)

Werrpaninyanda perrpuk. Wantimarr nyuka-wara?
Werr-pahn-iny-ahndah perr-puuk. Warn-tii-mahrr nyuu-kah-war-ah?
 I'm going fishing tomorrow. Do you want to come?

Nongwe. Kalinanda Kolety.
Nong-weh. Kah-liin-ahn-dah Kol-ety.^(etch)
 (Yes. I love the river.)


Pawinyangalang pandyil. Nyakinyarr.
Paou-wiiny-ahng-ah-lahng pahnd-yiil. Nyahk-iny-arr
 We'll cook Murray Cod in the ashes. You'll see.)

Telkuk-min. Yukal-kata. Nyakinyandarr perrpuk.
Tel-kuuk-miin. Yuu-kahl-kah-tah Nyah-kiiny-ahn-darr purr-puuk
 Great. You're a real friend. See you tomorrow.

(See over for more general Wamba Wamba pronunciation information.)

Pronunciation of Wamba Wamba Vowels and Consonants

- based on - 'WembaWemba Dictionary': Hercus L.A., 1992, pages 5 - 8

(select  icons to listen to recorded examples)

Wamba Wamba is one of over 500 Indigenous Languages spoken through Australia. It is one of the Kulin languages of South West and North West Victoria and South West New South Wales. Like all Indigenous Languages it has different rules of pronunciation and grammar from English. See - <https://culture.yarkuwa.org.au/> for more information.

Standard Wamba Wamba Vowels

- | | |
|--|--|
| 'a' as in 'path' or 'car' | - 'ka li ' (dog), 'ka na ka'  (heel), 'ka ka ti' (white ibis), |
| 'e' as in 'pet' or 'shed' | - 'ke n '  (frilled neck lizard), 'ke pi n'  (one), 'ke na ' (to tie up), |
| 'i' as in 'sit' or 'pit' | - 'ki ki '  (here, now), 'mi tyu k'  (skin), 'ki lu wi ty ' (today), |
| 'u' as in 'put' or 'foot' | - 'ku rru lu k '  (magpie), ka pe l-ku p  (river mint), 'mu m ' (bottom) |
| 'o' as in 'on' | - 'ko le ty'  (Edward R.), 'po ty ' (grass), no ng we (yes), 'mo w e' (nest) |
| 'ə' a neutral vowel as in 'the' | - 'ka pe l'  (river), 'wi thə n' (feather), 'wi lə k-wi lə k' (galah), |

Vowel Variations

(Like most languages, there are variations to the standard sounds.)

'a' 1 - when 'a' follows an initial 'w' and is followed by an 'r', 'm', 'ng', 'ny', or 'n' ,

the 'a' is pronounced as in 'water' or 'war'

eg 'wa~~ri~~pa' (to dance), 'wa~~rra~~nga' (to sing), 'wa~~na~~p' (fire), 'wa~~m~~' (idiot), wa~~ng~~gəl (cumbungi), 'wa~~ny~~' (egret), 'wa~~n~~' (boomerang)

(the second or third 'a' in each of the words above is pronounced 'a' as in 'path')

- as well, this 'a' as in 'water' sound variation may also be optionally used in those words where an 'a' just follows a 'w' eg in 'wa~~tha~~' (brown sand goanna) the first 'a' can be the standard 'a' as in 'path' or the 'a' as in 'water'. The second 'a' in 'watha' is always the standard 'a' sound ('a' as in 'path')

2 - when 'a' is followed by 'w'

the 'a' is pronounced as the diphthong 'au' sound as in 'ground' or 'owl'.

eg 'ta~~wa~~' (to hit) is 'ta~~ou~~-wah', 'ka~~w~~enda' (to crawl) is 'ka~~ou~~-wend-ah'

(the second 'a' is pronounced 'ah' or the 'a' as in 'path')

3 - when 'a' is followed by 'y' and another vowel esp. 'a'

the 'a' is pronounced as the diphthong 'ai' sound as in 'ice' or 'buy'



eg 'telka~~ya~~' (to be well) is 'tel-kai-ya', 'ka~~la~~ya' (to ask a question) is 'kal-ai-ya',

4 - 'a' as in 'man' or 'bat'

eg 'ma~~y~~oma~~nda~~' (over there) is 'mai-o-ma~~nda~~'. This phrase comes from tape 998A with Nancy Egan speaking with Louise Hercus. Nancy Egan pronounces 'mayomanda' with three 'a' variations - v3 the diphthong, v4 'a' as in 'man' and finally the stdt 'a' as in 'path'. (not common, the stdt 'a' as in 'car' is fine)

'e' 1 - when 'e' is followed by 'l' or 'r'

the 'e' is pronounced as in 'fern' (or the last sound in 'apple')

eg 'ka~~pe~~l-kuk'  (river mint), 'pe~~r~~t-pe~~r~~t'  (needle), 'Pe~~rə~~pa~~pə~~pe~~rə~~pa'

2 - when 'e' is followed by a nasal consonant eg 'm', 'ng', 'ny' 'n' in the same syllable

the 'e' is long and slightly nasalised

eg 'we~~m~~ba' (no), 'pe~~m~~benggu~~k~~'  (children), 'pe~~ng~~' (man), 'we~~ny~~-we~~ny~~' (clothes), 'pe~~n~~' (hollow tree)

'i' 1 - when 'i' follows a 'p' an 'm' or a 'w' and is followed by 'r', 'rn' or 'rt' (not a 'rr')

the 'i' is rounded off like 'tu' in French. (top of the tongue touches the back of the palate)

- 'mi~~r~~nu~~k~~' (his eye) is pronounced 'mo~~or~~n-uk', 'pi~~r~~na' (appear, to rise) is pronounced 'po~~or~~n-ah,

Vowel Sounds to Avoid

'a'	avoid - 'a' as in 'pay'	'e'	avoid - 'e' as in 'she' or 'e' as in 'hey'
'i'	avoid - 'i' as in 'hi'	'o'	avoid - 'o' as in 'oh' or 'go'
'u'	avoid - 'u' as in 'bucket' or 'putt'		

Wamba Wamba Consonant Sounds¹

The 17 main consonant sounds are:

- p, k, th, ty, t, rt	(stops)
- m, ng, ny, n, rn	(nasals)
- l, rl	(laterals)
- w, y	(semivowels)
- rr, r	(r-sounds)

Mostly the single letter consonants above are pronounced similar or the same as English consonants.

The double letter consonants, eg 'ty' or 'ny', are quite different to English.

Keep the 'ty', 'ny' and 'ng' together as one sound. As Hercus says on p.6. 'the final of the word 'purtity' (cumbungi root) is **not** pronounced as in the English word 'purity', but as 'ty'. This is closer to the final of the English 'stitch' though by no means identical to it. Similarly the final of 'katy-katy' (evil magic) is **not** pronounced as in 'Cathy', but more like the final of 'much', though not identical to it.)

- 'rr' - roll or trill double 'rr's (if you can) but not single 'r',

- 'ty' is a palatal stop - say 'ty' with your tongue touching your palate (e.g. Pirndety, Kolety.) (If you are having trouble with the 'ty' sound then 'tch' as in 'fetch' is close.)

- 'ny' is a palatal and nasal sound. It is made by touching the top of the tongue to the top of the mouth behind your teeth and adding some nasal vibration while saying 'ny'. Eg Nyakili

- 'th' is a hard sound like the English 'd' eg kuthanganda (say kuud-ahn-gahndah)

- 'ng' is a soft sound as in the English 'song'

- 'ngg' soft 'ng' followed by a hard 'g'

In the pronunciation guide below the words have been spelt phonetically to encourage English speakers to pronounce the sounds more like Wamba Wamba. Eg 'uu' is used instead of 'u' to encourage the long 'u' sound as in 'put'. 'ah' is used to encourage the 'a' as in 'car' and 'ii' to encourage the 'i' as in 'sit'. Underlining indicates which syllables to emphasise - usually the first. *Italics indicate sounds that need care* - such as 'ty', 'ng', 'ny' and 'rr'. The hyphen is included to emphasise where the syllable break occurs.

Emphasis

In normal Wamba Wamba speech, we usually place the emphasis on the first and third syllables with the first being strongest. In day to day speech, traditional fluent speakers speak and pronounce sounds quite quickly and don't normally draw out sounds.

All languages take time and practice to learn. You can get some help at:

<https://culture.yarkuwa.org.au/documents> and '[Wamba Wamba Verbs and Sentences](#)'

Don't forget to use the [Word Search](#) & [Category Browse](#) on Wurrekangurr - Wamba Wamba website.

¹ (See pages 5,6,7 in 'WembaWemba Dictionary', Hercus: L.A., 1992)