

‘Waripangarr?’ (Are you dancing?)

- Learning resource story for conversation & writing in Wamba Wamba

Puletya karri-kurk yanggin paring-tawa Kolety-tawa Deniliquin-kata.

Two teenage girls were walking along the path beside the Kolety in Deniliquin.

Kepin karndin, “Putheka telkuk. Nyakilanda waripang?”

One called out, “Hello. I’m looking for the dancing.”

“Putheka telkuk. Manyanda yangga. Yanggarr yandin.”

‘Hi. I’m going there. You can walk with me.

“Waripangurr kurrakal McLeans Beach-kal. Waripangarr?”

“We are all dancing on the sand at McLean’s Beach. Are you dancing?”

“Nongwe. Nyarrindek Kama. Murrendanda Wanilukata. Nyarringin?”

“Yes. My name’s Kama. I live in Swan Hill. What’s your name?”

“Nyarrindek Tilip. Murrendanda kiki Deniliquin-kata Ngalukity kuyintyi”

“My name is Tilip. I live here in Deniliquin in my Aunt’s house.”

“Kalinanda nyarringin. Wembarr tulaya.”

“I love your name. You aren’t small though.”

“Wemba. Nyetenyananda footy nyarri.”

‘No. I play footy now.”

Kama karndin, “Tilip katimarr malka-pula katimityanda ?”

‘Kama said, “Tilip do you have clap sticks I can use?”

Tilip karndin, “Kuka katima parruk. Wawi. Nyuka.”

Tilip said, “Grandma has lots. Come on. This way.”

Tyeminbula lerrk-mul nyenga kurrakal ngakata piyal wurrekangurr, wekangurr, tyipenangurr.

They found the group of women sitting on the sand in the shade of the Red Gums all talking and laughing and happy.

Kilangurr waripən. Kathangan nyenggin, tyakin, wurrekintyerra.

Soon they were all dancing. Later they sat and ate and talked together.

‘Waripangarr?’ (Are you dancing?)

- Wamba Wamba, pronunciation, English

Puletya karri-kurk yanggin paring-tawa Kolety-tawa Deniliquin-kata.

Puul-eh-tyah karr-i-kuurk yahng-gin pahr-ing-taou-wah Kol-ety-taou-wah Den-il-ih-kwin-kah-tah
(Two teenage girls were walking along the path beside the Kolety in Deniliquin.)

Kepin karndin, “Putheka telkuk. Nyakilanda waripang?”

Kehp-in karn-din, Puuth-eh-kah terl-kuuk. Nyah-kil-ahnd-ah war-i-pahng?
(One called out, “Hullo. I’m looking for the dancing.”)

“Putheka telkuk. Manyanda yangga. Yanggarr yandin.”

Puuth-eh-kah terl-kuuk. Mahny-ahn-dah yahng-gah. Yahng-garr yahn-din
‘Hi. I’m going there. You can walk with me.

“Waripangurr kurrakal McLeans Beach-kal. Waripangarr?”

War-ih-pahng-uurr kuurr-ə-kahl McLayns Beech-kahl. War-ih-pahng-arr?
“We are all dancing on the sand at McLean’s Beach. Are you dancing?”

“Nongwe. Nyarrindek Kama. Murrendanda Wanilukata. Nyarringin?”

Nong-weh. Nyarr-ind-ek Kah-mah Muurr-en-dahn-dah Warn-il-uu-kat-ah Nyarr-ing-in?
“Yes. My name’s Kama. I live in Swan Hill. What’s your name?”

“Nyarrindek Tilip. Murrendanda kiki Deniliquin-kata Ngelukity kuyintyi”

Nyarr-in-dek Til-ip. Muurr-en-darn-dar ki-ki Den-il-i-kwin-kart-tar Ngah-luu-kity kuu-yin-tyi
“My name is Tilip. I live here in Deniliquin in my Aunt’s house.”

“Kalinanda nyarringin. Wembarr tulaya.”

Kahl-in-ahn-dah nyarr-ing-in. Wehm-barr tuul-laiy-ah.
“I love your name. You aren’t small though.”

“Wemba. Nyetenyanda footy nyarri.”

Wem-bah. Nyet-eny-ahn-dah foot-ee nyarr-i
‘No. I play footy now.”

Kama karndin, “Tilip katimarr malka-pula katimityanda?”

Kam-ah karn-din, Til-ip kart-im-arr mahl-kah-puul-ah kart-i-mity-ahnd-ah?
‘Kama said, “Tilip do you have clap sticks I can use?”

Tilip karndin, “Kuka katima parruk. Wawi. Nyuka.”

Til-ip karn-din, Kuuk-ah kart-im-ar parr-uuk. Wau-wi. Nyuuk-ah
Tilip said, “Grandma has lots. Come on. This way.”

Tyeminbula lerrk-mul nyenga kurrakal ngakata piyal

Tyem-in-buul-ah lerrk-muul nyeng-ah kuurr-ə-kahl ngah-kart-ar piiy-ahl
They found the group of women sitting on the sand in the shade of the Red Gums

wurrekangurr, wekangurr, tyipenangurr.

wuurr-ek-ahng-uurr, wek-ahng-uurr, tyip-en-ahng-uurr.
all talking and laughing and happy.

Kilangurr warripən. Kathangan nyenggin, tyakin, wurrekintyerra.

Kil-ahng-uurr warr-ip-ən Karth-arng-arn nyeng-gin, tyahk-in, wuurr-ek-in-tyerr-ah
Soon they were all dancing. Later they sat and ate and talked together.

Word Bank

- Words in story order, **first** in 'display form' that can be found in the [Dictionary Word Search](#) and **secondly** with the word endings used in the story. (Details on word endings can be found in the '[Bound Forms](#)' resource.)

[Waripa](#) (to dance, to corroboree)

- waripangarr (dance-you?)

- waripən (were dancing)

[Puletya](#) (two)

[karri-kurk](#) (teenage girl)

[yangga](#) (to walk) - yanggin (walked, were walking)

[paring](#) (track, path)

- paring-tawa (path-along)

[Kolety](#) (name of Edward River)

- Kolety-tawa (Edward R. along or beside)

[Deniliquin-kata](#) (in Deniliquin)

[kepin](#) (one)

[Karnda](#) (to shout, to yell)

- karndin (shouted, called out)

[Putheka telkuk](#) (hello)

- lit. 'you have arrived, good'

[Manyu](#) (there, further away)

- manyanda (there-I)

('anda' (I) has been added to 'manyu')

[yangga](#) (to walk) - yangarr (walk you)

[yandin](#) (me)

[Waripa](#) (to dance or he/she/it dances)

- warilpangurr (we are all dancing)

[kurrek](#) (sand) - kurrekal (on the sand)

[Nongwe](#) (yes)

[nyarrindek](#) (my name is)

[Kama](#) (swamp wallaby), character's name

[Murrenda](#) (to be alive) - murrendanda (live-I)

[Wanilu](#) (name of Swan Hill) - wanilukata (in Swan Hill)

[Nyarringin](#) (what is your name?)

[Tilip](#) - (little waterhen, swamphen)

- name of character

[kiki](#) (here)

[Ngaluk](#) (Aunt) - ngalukity (aunt-owns)

[Kuyintyi](#) (house)

[Kalina](#) (to love) - kalinanda (I love)

[Wemba](#) (no) - wembarr (you're not)

[tulaya](#) (to be small)

- tulayarr (you are small) the 'arr' (you) ending has been transferred to 'wemba' to give 'wembarr'

[Nyetenya](#) (to play) - nyetenyanda (I play)

[nyarri](#) (now) (ADV)

[katima](#) (to have) - katimarr (you have)

- katim-ity-anda (have-can-I)

[malka-pula](#) (clap sticks)

[Kuka](#) (grandmother)

[parruk](#) (lots)

[wawa](#) (to follow) - wawi (you follow!)

[nyuka](#) (this way) (ADV)

[Tyema](#) (to find) - tyem-in-bula (found they 2)

[lerrk-mul](#) (women in a group)

[nyengga](#) - (to sit) - nyenggin (sat)

[ngak](#) (shade) - ngakata (in the shade)

[piyal](#) (Red Gum tree)

[wurreka](#) (talking) - wurrekangurr (all talking)
wurrekintyerra (talked together)

[weka](#) (to laugh) - wekangurr (all laughing)

[tyipən](#) (to be happy) - tyipenangurr (all happy)

[kila](#) (soon) - kilangurr (soon they all)

[kathang](#) (later) - kathangan (later they)

[tyaka](#) (to eat) - tyakin (ate)

Pronunciation of Wamba Wamba Vowels and Consonants

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

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'** - **'kali'** (dog), **'kanak'** (heel), **'kakat'** (white ibis),
'e' as in **'pet'** or **'shed'** - **'ken'** (frilled neck lizard), **'kepin'** (one)
'i' as in **'sit'** or **'pit'** - **'kiki'** (here, now), **'mityuk'** (skin)
'u' as in **'put'** or **'foot'** - **'kurruluk'** (magpie), **'mum'** (bottom)
'o' as in **'on'** - **'Kolety'** (Edward R.), **'poty'** (grass)
'ə' a neutral vowel as in **'the'** - **'kapəl'** (river), **'kərəm'** (spear shield)

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 **'waripa'** (to dance), **'warrangga'** (to sing), **'wanap'** (fire), **'wam'** (idiot), **'wanggel'** (cumbungi),
'wany' (egret), **'wan'** (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 **'watha'** (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 **'tawā'** (to hit) is **'taou-wah'**, **'kawenda'** (to crawl) is **'kaou-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 **'telkaya'** (to be well) is **'tel-kai-ya'**, **'kalaya'** (to ask a question) is **'kal-ai-ya'**,

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

eg **'mayomanda'** (over there) is **'mai-o-mānda'**. 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 **'kapəl-kuk'**  (river mint), **'pərt-pərt'**  (needle), **'Pərapəpəpə'**

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 **'wamba'** (no), **'pembengguk'**  (children), **'peng'** (man), **'weny-weny'** (clothes), **'pen'** (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)
 - 'mirnuk' (his eye) is pronounced 'moorn-uk', 'pirna' (appear, to rise) is pronounced 'poorn-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 'stich' 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 help online at '[Wurrekangurr](#)'. Find individual Wamba Wamba words in '[Dictionary Word Search](#)' and Word Detail View. There are downloadable resources in '[Resources](#)' such as [Pronunciation of Vowels and Consonants](#). You can learn lists of Wamba Wamba words in '[Leaning Lists](#)'.

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

Some language learning exercises for ‘Waripangarr’

(Print out and fill in and practise saying)

List the verbs (action words) write Wamba Wamba and English

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.....

List the words describing places

.....

.....

List words describing/naming people

.....

.....

List verbs with tense endings

.....

.....

List verbs with person endings

.....

.....

List adverbs with transferred endings

.....

.....

Who is having the conversation? where? (answer in Wamba Wamba)

.....

.....

What will they do? (answer in Wamba Wamba)

.....

.....

List sentences begin with a verb?

.....

.....

Which conversation greeting is in the story?

.....

.....

How would Kama say goodbye to Tilip? (tip search in phrases)

.....

.....