

100 Essential Malayalam Phrases

Romanised Malayalam + English — speak from day one, no script needed
A free starter pack from **Dr. Reshmi R Nair** · RRN Colloquial Malayalam

Welcome! These are the phrases my international learners use first — with family, while travelling in Kerala, and in everyday conversation. Everything is written in easy Romanised Malayalam, so you can start speaking right away. Practise a few each day, say them out loud, and they'll quickly become natural. Wherever you see ____, just slot in your own word.

Greetings & Politeness

Say this (Malayalam)	It means
Namaskaram	Hello / Greetings
Suprabhaatham	Good morning
Shubha sandhya	Good evening
Shubha raathri	Good night
Sukhamaano?	How are you?
Enikku sukham aanu	I'm fine
Ningalkko?	And you?
Nandi	Thank you
Valare nandi	Thank you very much
Kshamikkanam	Sorry / Excuse me
Saaramilla	It's okay / No problem
Veendum kaanaam	See you again

Introducing Yourself

Say this (Malayalam)	It means
Enikku santhosham	Nice to meet you
Ningalude per enthaanu?	What is your name?
Ente per ___ aanu	My name is ___
Ningal evideninnaanu?	Where are you from?
Njaan ___ ninnaan	I'm from ___
Ningalkku Malayalam ariyaamo?	Do you know Malayalam?
Enikku kurachu Malayalam ariyaam	I know a little Malayalam
Njaan Malayalam padikkukayaanu	I'm learning Malayalam
Ningalkku ethra vayassaayi?	How old are you?
Enikku ___ vayassaayi	I'm ___ years old

Asking Questions

Say this (Malayalam)	It means
Enthaanu?	What is it?
Evide?	Where?
Eppol?	When?
Engane?	How?
Enthukondu?	Why?
Aaraanu?	Who?
Ethra?	How much / how many?
Ithu enthaanu?	What is this?
Athu enthaanu?	What is that?
Ningal enthaanu cheyunnathu?	What are you doing?

Everyday Essentials

Say this (Malayalam)	It means
Athe	Yes
Alla	No
Ariyilla	I don't know
Manassilaayi	I understand
Manassilaayilla	I don't understand
Onnukoode parayaamo?	Can you say that again?
Pathukke parayaamo?	Can you speak slowly?
Dayavaayi	Please
Sahaayikkaamo?	Can you help me?
Onnu nilkku	Wait a moment
Vegam	Quickly / fast
Sariyaanu	That's right / okay

Family

Say this (Malayalam)	It means
Amma	Mother
Achchan	Father
Sahodaran	Brother
Sahodari	Sister
Makan	Son
Makal	Daughter
Bhaarya	Wife
Bharthaavu	Husband
Kuttikal	Children
Kudumbam	Family

Food & Eating

Say this (Malayalam)	It means
Enikku vishakkunnu	I'm hungry
Enikku daahikkunnu	I'm thirsty
Vellam	Water
Chaaya	Tea
Kaapi	Coffee
Bhakshanam	Food
Ithu ruchikaramaanu	This is tasty
Enikku ___ venam	I want ___
Enikku ___ venda	I don't want ___
Sasyaaharam undo?	Do you have vegetarian food?
Bill taraamo?	Can I have the bill?
Innu enthaanu bhakshanam?	What's for food today?

Shopping & Money

Say this (Malayalam)	It means
Ithinte vila enthaanu?	What's the price of this?
Valare vila kooduthal	Too expensive
Vila kurakkaamo?	Can you lower the price?
Enikku ithu venam	I want this
Panam	Money
Card edukkumo?	Do you take card?
Baaki taroo	Please give the change
Kada	Shop

Getting Around

Say this (Malayalam)	It means
___ evideyaanu?	Where is ___?
Valathottu	To the right
Idathottu	To the left
Neere pokuka	Go straight
Ethra dooram?	How far?
Enikku ___ pokanam	I want to go to ___
Auto vilikkaamo?	Can you call an auto?
Ivide nirthoo	Stop here

Time & Days

Say this (Malayalam)	It means
Samayam ethrayaayi?	What time is it?
Innu	Today
Naale	Tomorrow
Innale	Yesterday
Ippol	Now
Pinne	Later
Raavile	Morning
Vaikunnam	Evening

Feelings & Small Talk

Say this (Malayalam)	It means
Enikku santhoshamaanu	I'm happy
Enikku sankadamaanu	I'm sad
Enikku ksheenam undu	I'm tired
Kollaam!	Nice! / Good!
Adipoli!	Awesome! (very Kerala-style)
Sammadham	Agreed / Okay
Valare nallathu	Very good

Help & Emergencies

Say this (Malayalam)	It means
Sahaayikku!	Help!
Enikku oru doctore venam	I need a doctor
Police-ne vilikkoo	Call the police

Want to actually *speak* Malayalam — not just read phrases?

Book a free trial lesson with me. We'll have you building real sentences from the very first class.

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