



# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Language Wordlists Yidiny Everyday Words

**Yidiny** is the name of one of the languages spoken in the Cairns region extending to Gordonvale and along the tablelands to Kairi. The language was spoken and understood by Aboriginal groups in the region, including neighbouring groups of Djabugay, Dyirbal and Yalanji.

Yidiny is also written as Yidinji, Yidinj, Idindji, Yettingie, Mulgrave River dialect, etc. AIATSIS have identified Dyirbal as the standardised spelling and assigned it Language Code Y117 which is used by many collecting institutions in their catalogue descriptions.

The following list identifies Yindiny everyday words and their suggested pronunciation. Some of these words may still be used in North Queensland communities.

**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 as to the preferred local pronunciation.

English	Yindiny	Pronunciation
Arm	<i>Girril</i>	Gi-ril
Barramundi	<i>Djilibirri</i>	Jill-ee-beer-ee
Beach	<i>Dabul</i>	Dah-bull
Bird (generic)	<i>Djaruy</i>	Jar-oi
Child	<i>Djadja</i>	Jar-jar
Crocodile	<i>Ganyar</i>	Ga-nyah
Death Adder	<i>Bima</i>	Bee-mah
Ear	<i>Bina</i>	Bin-ah
Eel (freshwater)	<i>Djaban</i>	Jar-bun
Eye	<i>Djili</i>	Jill-ee
Father	<i>Bimbi</i>	Bim-bee
Foot	<i>Djina</i>	Jin-na
Frog (generic)	<i>Manggum</i>	Mun-gum
Green Frog	<i>Girragunydjij</i>	Gear-a-gun-gee
Ground	<i>Djabu</i>	Jah-boo
Hand	<i>Mandi</i>	Man-di
Head	<i>Dungu</i>	Dun-goo
Kangaroo (black)	<i>Kankula</i>	Kan-ku-la
Mountain	<i>Bunda</i>	Bun-dah
People	<i>Bama</i>	Bum-ah

## Need further information?

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Rain	<i>Gaban</i>	Gar-bun
<b>English</b>	<b>Yidiny</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
Sun	<i>Bungan</i>	Boon-gun
Two	<i>Djambul</i>	Jam-bull
Wind	<i>Yiway</i>	Yee-way
Yam Stick	<i>Ganda</i>	Gun-dah

## Sources and Further Reading

Words listed above were sourced from several historical texts within the State Library Collections, including the following items. There may be variations in spelling and/or pronunciation across the region due to dialectical differences.

Dixon, R. M. W. (1977) *A grammar of Yidin*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **G 499.155 1977**

Dixon, R. M. W. (1991) *Words of our country: stories, place names and vocabulary in Yidiny, the Aboriginal language of the Cairns-Yarrabah region*. St Lucia, Qld: University of Queensland Press. **G 499.15 1991**

Meston, A. (undated) Archibald Meston Papers Undated. **OM64-17**

Roth, W. (1975) *Reports to the Commissioner of Police and others, on Queensland Aboriginal peoples 1898-1903*. (Microfilm) Material drawn from Queensland ethnography: bulletin, nos. 11-18 / by Walter E. Roth. **FILM 0714**

## Learn more about Yidiny!

Watch a traditional Yidiny/Yidinji Welcome to Country:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDWO9WhHH68>

## Further Details

For more information on Yidiny: North Queensland Regional Aboriginal Corporation Language Centre serves as the Indigenous Language Centre for North Queensland; visit NQRCALC's website: <http://www.nqraclc.com.au/>

## State Library of Queensland

For further information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages at the State Library of Queensland, please contact:

### kuril dhagun, State Library of Queensland

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**SLQ Indigenous Languages Webpages:** [www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages)

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

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