

Learn Meriam Mir from the Torres Strait Islands!

| FAMILY | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| English | Meriam Mir | Pronunciation Guide |
| Child | Werem | [wɛˈrɛm] Say e like in 'net', Say r like an Italian might say Roma with a little tap of the tongue at the top of the mouth, Say the word emphasising the second syllable: werém |
| Mum | Ama | [ʌˈmɛ] Say the first a like u in 'hut', Say the second a like ar in 'hard' Say the word emphasising the second syllable: umá |
| Dad | Bab | [bɛb] Say the a like ar in 'hard' |
| Grandmother | Koskir kaied | [kɔsˈkɪr.keɪɛd] These are two words: koskir 'woman' and kaied 'grandparent' It's spoken like a single word koskirkaied Say koskir with the o like 'hot' Say the i like ee in 'need' Say the r like an Italian saying Roma Say kaied with the a like the u in 'hut' Say the i like y Say the e like in 'net' Say it like this with the second syllable stressed: koskéerkayed |
| Elders | Aule | [ɛwle] Say a like ar in 'hard', Say the u like w Say the e like in 'net' Say it emphasising the first syllable: áwle |
| Aunty | Nerbet Father's sisters | [nɛrˈbɛt] Say both e like in 'net' Say the r like an Italian saying Roma Put the stress on the second syllable: nerbét |
| Cousin | Neguam | [nɛgˈwɛm] Say the e like in 'net' Say the u like a w Say the a like ar in 'hard' Say it like this: negwám |
| Family | Buai | [bweɪ] Say the u like w Say the ai like ie in 'tie' Say it like this: bway |

| SKY | | |
|---------|------------|--|
| English | Meriam Mir | Pronunciation Guide |
| Stars | Wer | [wɛr] Say the e like 'net' Say the r like an Italian saying Roma |
| Sun | Lim | [lɪm] Say the i like ee in 'need' |
| Sky | Mi | [mɪ] Say the i like ee in 'need' |

Phrases

‘Fish, fish, lots of fish’
Lar, lar, mitkar lar
‘My father and mother’
Kara bab a ama
‘How delicious is coconut water in its shell’
Upis a, debe laglag
‘The beautiful scent of a flower’

Debe lusik ira lag
‘Let’s go fishing’
Mi naba mekikem
‘Southern Cross stars’
Tagai
‘A crayfish tail’
Keiar ira upi
‘A top spinning game’

Kolap segur
‘Good morning’
Debe idim
‘Good night’
Debe ki
‘Thank you very much’
Ao eswao

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these words at
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PEOPLE

| English | Meriam Mir | Pronunciation Guide |
|-----------|-------------|---|
| Children | Omaskir | [ɔˈmeskir] Say o like in 'hot', Say a like ar in 'hard', Say i like in 'hit' Say the r like an Italian saying Roma with a little tap of the tongue at the top of the mouth, Say the word by putting the emphasising on the second syllable like 'unsteady': omárskir |
| Guardians | Asesered le | [eˈseseredle] It's made up of 2 words: asesered 'looking after' and le 'person' Say the a like the u in 'hut', Say the e like in 'net' Say it by breaking it up into syllables like this: a-sé-se-red-le |
| Heroes | Keparem le | [kepˈeremle] It's made up of 3 words: kep 'arrow' arem 'spearing' and le 'person' Say the e like in 'net' Say the a like the ar in 'hard' Say it by breaking it up into syllables like this: ke-pár-em-le |
| Heart | Nerkep | [nerˈkep] This is made up of 2 words: ner 'breath' kep 'seed, core' Say the e like in 'net' Say the r like an Italian saying Roma Say it like a single word with stress on the second syllable: nerkép |

ACTIVITIES

| English | Meriam Mir | Pronunciation Guide |
|--------------|------------|--|
| Songs | Wed | [wɛd] Say the e like in 'net' |
| Stories | Ad | [ɛd] Say the a like ar in 'hard' |
| Fishing line | Mekik | [mɛˈkik] Say the e like in 'net' Say the i like in 'hit' Say it with the stress on the second syllable: mekík |
| Rocktrap | Sai | [sej] Say it like the English word: sigh |

PLACES

| English | Meriam Mir | Pronunciation Guide |
|---------------------------------|------------|--|
| Home | Ged | [gɛd] Say e like in 'net' |
| Island (Nonspecific islands) | Kaur | [kewr] Say the a like ar in 'hard' Say the u like w Say the r like an Italian saying Roma Say it like this: kawr |

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| LAND | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--|
| English | Meriam Mir | Pronunciation Guide |
| Sand | We | [wɛ] Say the e like the e in 'net' |
| Flowers | Lusik | [lɔ'sik] Say the u like the u in 'put', Say the i like in 'hit' Say it with the stress on the second syllable: lusik |
| SEA | | |
| English | Meriam Mir | Pronunciation Guide |
| Fish | Lar | [lɛr] Say the a like ar in 'hard' Say the r like an Italian saying Roma |
| Crayfish | Keiar | [kɛ'jɛr] Say the e like e in 'net' Say the i like a y Say the r like an Italian saying Roma Say the a like ar in 'hard' Say it stressing the second syllable Say it like this: keyár |
| Dugong | Deger | [dɛ'gɛr] Say e like in 'net' Say the r like an Italian saying Roma |
| Turtle | Nam | [nɛm] Say the a like ar in 'hard' |
| Stingray | At | [ɛt] Say the a like ar in 'hard' |
| Ocean | Gur | [gɜr] Say the u like oo in 'hood' |
| COCONUTS | | |
| English | Meriam Mir | Pronunciation Guide |
| Coconuts | U | [u] Say the u like oo in 'hood' |
| Coconut leaves | Upeo | ['upɛw] upeo is made up of 2 words: u 'coconut' and peo 'frond or wing' Say the u like oo in 'hood' Say the e like in 'net' Say o like w Say it with the stress on the first syllable u Say it like this: úpew |
| Coconut cream | Sabid | [sɛ'bid] Say the a like ar in 'hard' Say the i like ee in 'need' |
| Coconut water | Uni | ['uni] Say the i like ee in 'need' Say it with the stress on the first syllable Say it like this: únee |
| Coconut water in the shell | Upis | ['upɪs] upis is made up from 2 words: u 'coconut' and 'pis 'young coconut' Say the i like ee in 'need' Say it with the stress on the first syllable u Say it like this: úpis |

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