

Learn Meriam Mir from the Torres Strait Islands!

WORDS

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	[beb] Say the a like ar in 'hard'
Grandmother	Koskir kaied	[kɔsˈkɪr.kɛɪɐd] 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
Aunt	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	[nɛɡˈwɛm] 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	[lim] Say the i like ee in 'need'
Sky	Mi	[mi] Say the i like ee in 'need'

PEOPLE		
English	Meriam Mir	Pronunciation Guide
Children	Omaskir	[ɔˈmeskɪr] 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	[ɛˈsɛsɛrɛdlɛ] 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	[kɛpˈɛrɛmlɛ] 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	[nɛrˈkɛp] 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	[mɛˈkɪk] Say the e like in 'net' Say the i like in 'hit' Say it with the stress on the second syllable: mekík
Rocktrap	Sai	[sɛɪ] 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	[kɛwɪ] 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

LAND		
English	Meriam Mir	Pronunciation Guide
Sand	We	[wɛ] Say the e like the e in 'net'
Flowers	Lusik	[lʊˈsɪk] Say the u like the u in 'put', Say the i like in 'hit' Say it with the stress on the second syllable: lusík

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	[kɛˈjɛr] 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	[dɛˈgɛr] 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	[gʊr] 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	[ˈupɛw] 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	[sɛˈbɪd] Say the a like ar in 'hard' Say the i like ee in 'need'
Coconut water	Uni	[ˈuni] 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	[ˈupɪs] 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

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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