

SOMALI LEARNING RESOURCES

Printable classroom pack | Xirmo waxbarasho oo la daabacan karo

VOCABULARY	FLASHCARDS	QUIZZES
MATCHING	LESSON PLANS	ANSWER KEYS

Designed for: beginners, heritage learners, families, tutors, and classroom teachers

Recommended ages: adaptable for ages 8+ and adult beginners

Printing: US Letter, portrait, color or grayscale, 100% scale

Teacher note

Review regional vocabulary and pronunciation with a fluent Somali speaker. Accept consistent variants such as labo/laba and toddobo/toddoba when appropriate.

Free educational resource from Qaamuus.net

How to use this pack

Choose one activity or combine several into a 45-60 minute lesson.

Pages	Resource	Suggested use
3-4	Vocabulary worksheets	Introduce and practise everyday words
5-6	Cut-out flashcards	Pair work, review games, and retrieval practice
7	Matching exercises	Independent or partner practice
8	Quizzes	Formative assessment
9-10	Teacher lesson plans	Two ready-to-teach 45-minute lessons
11	Answer key	Self-checking or teacher review
12	Blank planning page	Adapt a lesson to your learners

Preparation checklist

☐ Print only the pages you need. ☐ Cut flashcards on dashed borders. ☐ Prepare pencils or markers. ☐ Choose individual, pair, or group work. ☐ Model pronunciation before independent practice.

Learning principles

See it: learners meet each Somali word with a clear English meaning.

Say it: learners repeat the word and use it in a phrase.

Retrieve it: flashcards and quizzes ask learners to remember without looking.

Use it: lesson plans end with a short speaking task.

Dictionary support

Use the search box at <https://qaamuus.net/> to check definitions and explore related words. Pronunciation varies by region; audio or teacher modelling is preferable to English-style respelling.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary worksheet 1: Everyday words

Read each word. Cover the English column and recall the meaning.

#	Somali	English	My example or memory clue
1	buug	book	
2	qalin	pen	
3	miis	table	
4	kursi	chair	
5	albaab	door	
6	daaqad	window	
7	guri	home/house	
8	dugsi	school	
9	biyo	water	
10	caano	milk	
11	rooti	bread	
12	bariis	rice	
13	hooyo	mother	
14	aabbe	father	
15	walaal	sibling	
16	saaxiib	friend	
17	subax	morning	
18	galab	afternoon	
19	habeen	night	
20	maanta	today	

Vocabulary worksheet 2: Use the words

Complete the activities without looking back at page 3. Then check your work.

A. Sort the words. Write three words in each group.

At school	Food and drink	People	Time

B. Complete the Somali word.

English clue	Somali word
book	b__g
water	b__o
friend	s__x__b
window	d__q__d
morning	s__b__x
school	d__g__i

C. Write four short phrases or sentences. Use at least one Somali word from the list in each line.

D. Personal vocabulary. Add five words you want to learn.

Somali	English	Example or picture clue

Flashcards 1: Cut and practise

Cut along the borders. Fold each card or cover the English meaning during recall.

buug book	qalin pen
miis table	kursi chair
albaab door	daaqad window
guri home/house	dugsi school
biyo water	caano milk
rooti bread	bariis rice

Flashcards 2: Cut and practise

Cut along the borders. Fold each card or cover the English meaning during recall.

hooyo mother	aabbe father
walaal sibling	saaxiib friend
subax morning	galab afternoon
habeen night	maanta today
cun eat	cab drink
akhri read	qor write

Matching exercises

Write the letter of the correct English meaning beside each Somali word.

Somali	Match	English choices
1. buug	_____	A. friend
2. caano	_____	B. chair
3. saaxiib	_____	C. book
4. kursi	_____	D. milk
5. albaab	_____	E. morning
6. subax	_____	F. door

Somali	Match	English choices
7. hooyo	_____	G. write
8. biyo	_____	H. mother
9. qor	_____	I. school
10. dugsi	_____	J. water
11. cun	_____	K. read
12. akhri	_____	L. eat

Challenge: Choose four matched pairs and use each Somali word in a short phrase or sentence.

Quiz: Vocabulary and useful phrases

Total: 20 points. Do not use the answer key until you finish.

1. What does buug mean? a) door b) book c) water
2. Which word means mother? a) hooyo b) walaal c) galab
3. Choose the Somali word for water: a) caano b) biyo c) rooti
4. What does akhri mean? a) read b) write c) eat
5. Which is a time word? a) kursi b) subax c) qalin
- 6-10. Translate into English.

Somali	English
dugsi	
saaxiib	
daaqad	
habeen	
bariis	

- 11-15. Translate into Somali.

English	Somali
father	
pen	
today	
bread	
table	

- 16-20. Complete the sentence or phrase.

16. Waxaan cabayaa _____. (water)
17. Waxaan akhriyaa _____. (a book)
18. _____ wanaagsan. (Good morning.)
19. Kani waa _____ kay. (This is my friend.)
20. Write one original Somali phrase using a word from this pack:

Teacher lesson plan 1: Everyday vocabulary

Level: beginner | Time: 45 minutes | Focus: recognition, recall, and speaking

Learning objectives	Materials
Learners identify at least 15 everyday words; sort words by topic; produce two short phrases.	Pages 3-7, cut flashcards, board, pencils

Lesson sequence

Time	Stage	Teacher and learner actions
0-5 min	Warm-up	Point to familiar classroom objects. Ask whether learners know the Somali word.
5-12 min	Model	Introduce 10 target words. Say each word naturally; learners listen, then repeat.
12-20 min	Notice	Learners complete the first half of page 3 and compare answers in pairs.
20-30 min	Retrieve	Use flashcards. Partner A shows Somali; Partner B gives English, then switch.
30-38 min	Match	Complete page 7. Learners explain two matches aloud.
38-43 min	Use	Each learner says two original phrases using target words.
43-45 min	Exit ticket	Write three Somali words and one English meaning from memory.

Differentiation

Support: reduce the set to 8 words; keep picture or object clues visible; allow oral answers.

Extend: ask learners to add a possessive ending or use two vocabulary words in one sentence.

Heritage learners: invite regional alternatives and discuss when each form is used.

Formative assessment

Record: ☐ recognizes 10+ words ☐ pronounces intelligibly ☐ recalls without English prompt ☐ uses a word in context

Teacher notes

Teacher lesson plan 2: From words to conversation

Level: beginner/heritage | Time: 45 minutes | Focus: questions, requests, and short exchanges

Target language

Kani waa maxay? What is this?	Waxaan rabaa... I want...	Fadlan i sii... Please give me...
Ma haysaa...? Do you have...?	Haa, waan hayaa. Yes, I have it.	Maya, ma hayo. No, I do not have it.

Lesson sequence

Time	Stage	Actions
0-5	Review	Flashcard race: recall six nouns and four verbs.
5-12	Model dialogue	Teacher models: 'Ma haysaa qalin?' 'Haa, waan hayaa.'
12-20	Substitution	Pairs replace qalin with buug, biyo, rooti, or another known noun.
20-30	Information gap	Give each partner six different flashcards. They ask what the partner has.
30-38	Create	Pairs write a four-line mini-dialogue using one question and one request.
38-43	Perform	Pairs read or act out their dialogue.
43-45	Reflect	Learners circle: confident / practising / need help.

Sample dialogue

A: Ma haysaa qalin? - Do you have a pen?

B: Haa, waan hayaa. - Yes, I have one.

A: Fadlan i sii qalinka. - Please give me the pen.

B: Waa kan. - Here it is.

Home connection

Learners label five safe household objects in Somali, then practise asking 'Kani waa maxay?' with a family member. Do not label valuables or private information.

Teacher notes

Answer key

Accept consistent spelling or regional variants when the meaning is clear.

Vocabulary worksheet 2

A. Possible answers: At school: buug, qalin, miis, kursi, dugsi. Food and drink: biyo, caano, rooti, bariis. People: hooyo, aabbe, walaal, saaxiib. Time: subax, galab, habeen, maanta.

B. buug; biyo; saaxiib; daaqad; subax; dugsi. Parts C and D vary.

Matching exercise

1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B, 5-F, 6-E, 7-H, 8-J, 9-G, 10-I, 11-L, 12-K.

Quiz

Question	Answer
1-5	1 b; 2 a; 3 b; 4 a; 5 b
6-10	school; friend; window; night; rice
11-15	aabbe; qalin; maanta; rooti; miis
16-19	biyo; buug; Subax; saaxiib
20	Answers vary. Check meaning and intelligibility.

Quick assessment record

Learner	Recognition /10	Recall /10	Speaking /5	Next step

Blank lesson planner

Adapt this page for a new vocabulary set, age group, or regional variety.

Topic: _____ Date: _____

Learner group: _____ Time: _____

Learning objectives

Target Somali words and phrases

Somali	English / meaning	Example

Lesson sequence

Time	Stage	Activity

Assessment and next steps
