

HITA

i Lenguahhi-ta!

We are our language!

A Chamorro Language Workshop

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Workshop Objectives

Applying core techniques to learn & use Chamorro:

- ***Experiencing words*** over memorization
- ***Pattern completion*** over grammar rules
- ***Repetition*** to solidify knowledge
- ***Foundational structures*** that can be built upon

If you're a **new learner**:

We want you to get a feel for using some Chamorro. Don't worry about memorizing everything today. Focus on trying and making notes to remind yourself later. We want you to start here and continue the learning journey after you leave!

If you're a **native speaker** wanting to help others: Thank you for coming and please join in. Think about how you can use parts of today's session with the people you want to help. We need speakers like you to interact with learners wherever possible.

If you've **been trying to learn** and feel stuck: We get it. And we're glad you're here! The content may seem basic or cover things you know, that's OK. Participate and try to focus on how techniques might help your personal practice. No one's journey is easy; please take today as one more step forward and keep going.

Put Guåhu

Fill in the blanks with your information:

Core Introduction:

Håfa adai! I na'ån-hu si (your first and last name) .

Sumåsağa yu' giya (where you live) .

Taotao (island(s)) i familiå-ku,
ginen i sengsong (village(s)) .

Umé'eyak yu' fuminu' Chamoru.

Connect multiple islands and villages with **yan**. For example: *Taotao Inalåhan **yan** Sinajana i familiå-ku.*

Optional Expansions:

Mås matungu' yu' kumu si (the name you go by).

Familian (clan/family names) yu'.

Si (your mother's name) i nanå-hu

yan i tatå-hu si (your father's name).

Mafañågu yu' giya (where you were born)

ya dumångkulu' yu' giya (where you grew up).

Conversation Continuation:

Ya hågu? Håyi na'ån-mu?

About Me

Fill in the blanks with your information:

Core Introduction:

Hello! My name is ____ (your first and last name) ____.

I live in _____ (where you live) _____.

My family is from _____ (island(s)) _____,

From the village(s) of _____ (village(s)) _____.

I'm learning to speak Chamorro.

Connect multiple islands and villages with **yan**. For example: *Taotao Inalåhan yan Sinajana i familiå-ku.*

Optional Expansions:

I'm better known as (the name you go by).

I'm of the (clan/family names) family.

My mother is (your mother's name)

and (your father's name) is my father.

I was born in (where you were born)

and I grew up in (where you grew up).

Conversation Continuation:

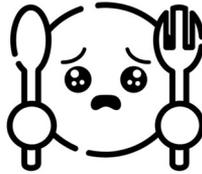
And you? What's your name?

Part 1: Feelings & States of Being

Write the English to check your comprehension.



maguf



ñalang



maolek



tristi



má'u



malangu



matuhuk



lalálu'



manman

Sentence Builder: "I am _____."

Fill in the blank with the Chamorro word. Feel free to write the English to check your comprehension.

	Chamorro	English
	_____ yu'	_____
	_____ yu'	_____
	_____ yu'	_____
	_____ yu'	_____
	_____ yu'	_____
	_____ yu'	_____

Dialogue Activity: "How are you?"

Fill in the blank with the feelings that best describe you.

Håfa Adai!
Håfa tatatmanu hao?

Buenas!
_____ **yu'**
Ya hågu?

_____ **yu'**

Part 1: Everyday Actions You've Done

Write the English to check your comprehension.



chumålek



mamokkat



maigu'



tumånges



matå'chung



dumeskånsa

Sentence Builder: "I [action]."

Fill in the blank with the Chamorro word. Feel free to write the English to check your comprehension.

	Chamorro	English
	_____ yu'.	_____
	_____ yu'.	_____
	_____ yu'.	_____
	_____ yu'.	_____
	_____ yu'.	_____
	_____ yu'.	_____

Part 2: Question & Answer

Small words that are the building blocks of dialogue:



Åhi', Ti



Hunggan, Gof



Kao

Sentence Builder: "I am *not* _____."

Fill in the blank with the Chamorro word:

	Chamorro	English
	Ti _____ yu'.	_____
	Ti _____ yu'.	_____
	Ti _____ yu'.	_____
	Ti _____ yu'.	_____
	Ti _____ yu'.	_____
	Ti _____ yu'.	_____

Sentence Builder: "I am very _____."

Fill in the blank with the Chamorro word:

	Chamorro	English
	Gof _____ yu'.	_____
	Gof _____ yu'.	_____
	Gof _____ yu'.	_____
	Gof _____ yu'.	_____
	Gof _____ yu'.	_____
	Gof _____ yu'.	_____

Sentence Builder: "Are you _____?"

Fill in the blank with the Chamorro word:

	Chamorro	English
	Kao _____ hao?	_____
	Kao _____ hao?	_____
	Kao _____ hao?	_____
	Kao _____ hao?	_____
	Kao _____ hao?	_____
	Kao _____ hao?	_____

Dialogue Activity: “Are you _____?”

Use the same feeling or state of being in the blanks:

Håfa Adai!

Håfa tatatmanu hao?

Kao _____ hao?

Buenas! **Hunggan / Åhi' ti**

_____ yu'.

Ya hågu?

Kao _____ hao?

Hunggan / Åhi' ti

_____ yu'.

Part 3: Linking Thoughts

Small words that connect and expand our thoughts:



Sa'



Pues



Lao



Yan

And a couple of new action words:



Chumochu



Gumimen

Sentence Builder: "I am ___ because I [action]."

Fill in the blanks with the Chamorro words.



_____ **yu'** **sa'** _____ **yu'**



_____ **yu'** **sa'** _____ **yu'**



_____ **yu'** **sa'** _____ **yu'**

Sentence Builder: "I am ___ then/so I [action]."

Fill in the blanks with the Chamorro words.



_____ **yu'** **pues** _____ **yu'**



_____ **yu'** **pues** _____ **yu'**



_____ **yu'** **pues** _____ **yu'**

Sentence Builder: “I [action], but I am ____.”

Fill in the blanks with the Chamorro words.



_____ yu’ lao _____ yu’



_____ yu’ lao _____ yu’



_____ yu’ lao _____ yu’

Sentence Builder: “I am ____ and I am ____.”

Fill in the blanks with the Chamorro words. These will all be *feelings* or *states of being*.



_____ yu’ yan _____ yu’



_____ yu’ yan _____ yu’



_____ yu’ yan _____ yu’

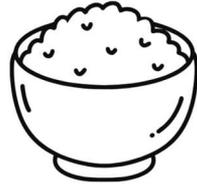
Part 4: Adding Objects



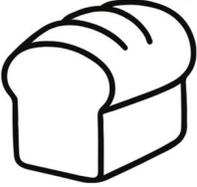
mansána



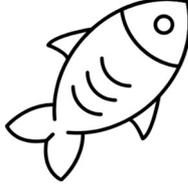
aga'



hineksa'



pån



guihan



hånum



chå



kafé



Lechi

Sentence Builder: "I want _____."

Fill in the Chamorro word. Use the image as a cue:

Malagu' yu' _____.



Malagu' yu' _____.



Malagu' yu' _____.



Malagu' yu' _____.



Malagu' yu' _____.



Sentence Builder: "I ate (a/an) _____."

Fill in the Chamorro word. Use the image as a cue:

Chumochu yu' _____.



Chumochu yu' _____.



Chumochu yu' _____.



Chumochu yu' _____.



Chumochu yu' _____.



Sentence Builder: "I drank _____."

Fill in the Chamorro word. Use the image as a cue:

Gumimen yu' _____.



Gumimen yu' _____.



Gumimen yu' _____.



Gumimen yu' _____.



Useful Phrases for Learners

Chamorro	English
Kao siña un finu' Chamoruyi yu', put fabot?	Can you please speak to me in Chamorro?
Håfa kumékelek-ña enao?	What does that mean?
Håfa <u>moon</u> gi finu' Chamoru?	What is <u>moon</u> in Chamorro?
Håfa kumékelek -ña <u>pulan</u> ?	What does <u>pulan</u> mean?
Put fabot, kao siña un sângan ta'lu?	Please, can you say it again?
Mås dispåsiu, put fabot.	Slower, please.
Dispensa yu', håfa ilek-mu?	I'm sorry, what did you say?
Kao siña hao fuminu' Chamoru?	Can you speak Chamorro?
Hunggan, siña yu' fuminu' Chamoru, lao didide' ha'.	Yes, I can speak Chamorro, but just a little bit.
Guaha finaisen-hu.	I have a question.
Ayuda yu', put fabot.	Help me, please.
Si Yu'us Ma'åse	Thank you
Ti hu kumprendi.	I didn't understand (it).
Ti hu kumprendi enao.	I didn't understand that.
Ti hu tungu'.	I don't know (it).
Ti hu tungu' enao.	I don't know that.
Kao siña un sangåni yu' gi finu' Chamoru?	Can you tell me in Chamorro?
Kao siña un sângan gi fino' Ingles?	Can you say it in English?

What's Next? Continuing the Journey

Check out these other available resources for continuing your learning journey:



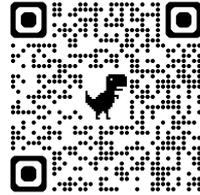
Free Online Lessons
50 beginner Chamorro lessons in a guided learning path.



1:1 Chamorro Tutoring
Contact Jesus Lujan for private or small group tutoring.



Everyday Phrases
Phrase lists with audio for you to add to your daily speech.



Root Word Finder
Find the dictionary forms of complicated words.



CNMI Online Dictionary
Has plenty of example sentences with translations.



Guam Online Dictionary
Easy to use format, great on mobile.

Some notes for Learners

- Keep going. Learning Chamorro isn't easy but it is achievable. Your persistence is the single biggest factor in your success. We're not exaggerating.
- Consistency beats intensity. Instead of a monthly 3-hour session, try to make time every day and every week to learn or practice, even if it's just 10 minutes.
- Take small steps. Build patterns and vocabulary little by little, don't rush to big sentences
- Simplify your thoughts to use what you know. Think "I'm happy I ate" vs "What a delight it was to indulge at the feast". Complexity will come with time.
- Anchor on repeatable patterns: find what is relevant to you and use it frequently. Repeat patterns until they become your language.
- You may encounter some people who will try to eradicate all Spanish or *loanwords* from Chamorro by using / repurposing "ancient" words or inventing new ones. Know that native speakers may not recognize these. Understand that our language is alive today in many speakers; respect that they will use words from Spanish and other languages.
- Spelling is disjointed and messy, accept that you'll see the same word various ways, focus on sounds and context to understand what is being said
- There are many ways to say the same thing; accept corrections and feedback from those who speak Chamorro, even when you might both be right

Some notes for Speakers

- You know Chamorro. Trust that you can help learners and teach them what you know
- Start with small phrase chunks like “chuli’ i _____”
 - Use them with high context, like holding an object, pointing to a place, or acting out the motion
 - Repeat phrases often so they can pick them up
 - If you aren’t understood, repeat in English then again in Chamorro. Use Chamorro the next time
- Try to keep phrases short: 2 or 3 words, ~5 max
- Expand the language slowly so learners keep up
 - Teach them words through the phrases they know
 - Add more small phrases to your everyday interactions once they understand consistently
- Guide them when they ask how to say something:
 - Help simplify their thoughts to get a point across, so they can re-use what you give them more easily
 - Ask what they’re actually trying to say instead of just giving the word or phrase that they ask for
- They might sound funny. If you do laugh, encourage them too. They may not get to hear much Chamorro
 - To correct them: Say the word. Say it again slowly and have them say it. Repeat until it’s pretty good
 - You may need to exaggerate or emphasize so that they hear a difference (it’s not obvious to them)
- It’s okay to tell them when something is wrong
 - “say it like this instead: _____” or “I haven’t heard that, I would say _____” or “no, that word means _____”
- Try to have simple conversations, even if basic or needing some repetition; it really helps them learn

