SO

SOMALI LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 7 · Days & Time

🗓️ Days, Dates & Time — Maalmaha, taariikhda iyo saacadda

*This long chapter has three parts: **Part 1** days of the week, **Part 2** months and dates, **Part 3** telling the time, where Somali counts the hours differently from English. Respellings use CAPITALS as a rough guide to stress; c, x and q stay as themselves (see Chapter 1).* ***Please read the Not Yet Verified box at the end.***

Part 1 · Days of the Week

DAY	SOMALI	SAY IT
Saturday	**Sabti**	*SAHB-ti*
Sunday	**Axad**	*AH-xad*
Monday	**Isniin**	*is-NEEN*
Tuesday	**Talaado**	*tah-LAA-do*
Wednesday	**Arbaco**	*ahr-BAH-co*
Thursday	**Khamiis**	*khah-MEES*
Friday	**Jimco**	*JIM-co*

> **Saturday First, and Spelling Varies**
>
> The list starts on *Sabti* because a week is often counted from Saturday, with Friday the day of prayer and rest. Several names come from Arabic. You may also see *Jimce*, *Arbaca* and *Salaasa* (Tuesday).

Part 2 · Months and Dates

MONTH	SOMALI	SAY IT
January	**Janaayo**	*jah-NAA-yo*
February	**Febraayo**	*feb-RAA-yo*
March	**Maarso**	*MAAR-so*
April	**Abriil**	*ahb-REEL*
May	**Maajo**	*MAA-jo*
June	**Juun**	*joon*
July	**Luuliyo**	*LOO-li-yo*
August	**Agoosto**	*ah-GOHS-to*
September	**Sebteembar**	*seb-TEEM-bar*
October	**Oktoobar**	*ok-TOH-bar*
November	**Nofeembar**	*no-FEEM-bar*
December	**Diseembar**	*di-SEEM-bar*

> **Writing a Date**
>
> Day first, then month: *Jimco, 12 Abriil* (Friday, 12 April). The number comes before the month, as in British English.

Part 3 · Telling the Time

*In the traditional Somali way of counting, the day's hours start at **6 o'clock**, not at midnight. So 7 a.m. is **hour one**. To get the Somali hour, take the clock hour and **move six on or back** (it is the opposite side of the clock face).*

YOUR CLOCK	SOMALI	LITERALLY
7:00 a.m.	**saacadda kow subaxnimo**	hour one, morning
9:00 a.m.	**saacadda saddex subaxnimo**	hour three, morning
12 noon	**saacadda lix duhurnimo**	hour six, midday
3:00 p.m.	**saacadda sagaal galabnimo**	hour nine, afternoon
6:00 p.m.	**saacadda laba iyo toban fiidnimo**	hour twelve, evening
9:00 p.m.	**saacadda saddex habeennimo**	hour three, night

PATTERN	SOMALI	YOUR CLOCK
half past (*iyo bar*)	**saacadda saddex iyo bar**	9:30
quarter past (*iyo rubuc*)	**saacadda afar iyo rubuc**	10:15
quarter to (*rubuc u dhiman*)	**rubuc u dhiman saacadda shan**	10:45
minutes past	**saacadda laba iyo toban daqiiqo**	8:10
minutes to	**shan daqiiqo u dhiman saacadda lix**	11:55

> **Check Which Clock You Are Using**
>
> Flights, timetables and phones show the ordinary clock, and many speakers abroad use it in speech too. When an appointment matters, **confirm with the digits**. The source for the offset system contradicts itself in several of its English glosses, so the tables here apply one rule consistently. The advice about timetables and the diaspora is general knowledge.

💬 Six Conversations — Wada hadal

① What Day Is It? — Maanta waa maalinmee?

② What's the Date? — Taariikhda

A:

A:

Maanta waa maalinmee?

MAAN-tah waa maa-lin-MEH?

What day is it today?

B:

Maanta waa Khamiis.

MAAN-tah waa khah-MEES.

Today is Thursday.

A:

Berri waa Jimco!

BER-ri waa JIM-co!

Tomorrow is Friday!

Taariikhdu waa immisa?

taa-REEKH-doo waa im-MEE-sah?

What is the date?

B:

Waa shan iyo labaatan Nofeembar.

waa shahn ee-yo lah-BAA-tahn no-FEEM-bar.

It's the 25th of November.

③ Your Birthday — Dhalashadaada

A:

Dhalashadaadu waa bishee?

dhah-lah-shah-DAA-doo waa bi-SHEH?

What month is your birthday?

B:

Dhalashadaydu waa Sebteembar.

dhah-lah-shah-DAY-doo waa seb-TEEM-bar.

My birthday is in September.

④ What Time Is It? — Saacaddu waa immisa?

A:

Fadlan, saacaddu waa immisa?

fahd-LAHN, saa-CAHD-doo waa im-MEE-sah?

Please, what time is it?

B:

Waa saacadda saddex iyo bar.

waa saa-CAHD-dah SAHD-dex ee-yo bahr.

It's half past nine. (hour three and a half)

A:

Mahadsanid.

mah-hahd-SAH-nid.

Thank you.

⑤ When Is Class? — Fasalka

A:

Goormaa fasalku bilaabmaa?

gohr-MAA fah-SAHL-koo bi-laab-MAA?

When does the class start?

⑥ Can You Come? — Ma iman kartaa?

A:

Sabtida ma iman kartaa?

sahb-TI-dah mah ee-MAHN kar-TAA?

Can you come on Saturday?

B:

Isniinta, saacadda laba subaxnimo.

is-NEEN-tah, saa-CAHD-dah LAH-bah soo-bahx-NI-mo.

On Monday, at eight in the morning.

B:

Haa, waan iman doonaa.

HAA, waan ee-MAHN doo-NAA.

Yes, I'll come.

A:

Waa hagaag. Is arag Sabtida!

waa hah-GAAG. is AH-rahg sahb-TI-dah!

Good. See you on Saturday!

🔑 Key Phrases — Weedho muhiim ah

MEANING	ONE WAY	ANOTHER WAY
What time is it?	**Saacaddu waa immisa?** *saa-CAHD-doo waa im-MEE-sah*	**Immisa saac tahay?** *im-MEE-sah saac tah-HAY*
Could you tell me the time?	**Ma ii sheegi kartaa saacadda?** *mah ee SHEE-gi kar-TAA saa-CAHD-dah*	**Fadlan, saacadda?** *fahd-LAHN, saa-CAHD-dah*
When?	**Goorma?** *GOHR-mah*	**Maalintee?** (which day?) *maa-lin-TEH*
Next week	**toddobaadka dambe** *tod-do-BAAD-kah DAHM-beh*	**usbuuca dambe** *oos-BOO-cah DAHM-beh*

🔤 Three Verbs — Saddex fal

For talking about your day: kac (to get up), tag (to go) and seexo (to sleep).

WHO	KAC (GET UP)	TAG (GO)	SEEXO (SLEEP)
I: *waxaan*	**kacaa** *kah-CAA*	**tagaa** *tah-GAA*	**seexdaa** *seex-DAA*

WHO	KAC (GET UP)	TAG (GO)	SEEXO (SLEEP)
you: *waxaad*	**kacdaa** *kahc-DAA*	**tagtaa** *tahg-TAA*	**seexataa** *see-xah-TAA*
he: *wuxuu*	**kacaa** *kah-CAA*	**tagaa** *tah-GAA*	**seexdaa** *seex-DAA*
she: *waxay*	**kacdaa** *kahc-DAA*	**tagtaa** *tahg-TAA*	**seexataa** *see-xah-TAA*
we: *waxaan*	**kacnaa** *kahc-NAA*	**tagnaa** *tahg-NAA*	**seexannaa** *see-xahn-NAA*
you all: *waxaad*	**kacdaan** *kahc-DAAN*	**tagtaan** *tahg-TAAN*	**seexataan** *see-xah-TAAN*
they: *waxay*	**kacaan** *kah-CAAN*	**tagaan** *tah-GAAN*	**seexdaan** *seex-DAAN*

Example: ***Waxaan kacaa saacadda kow subaxnimo.*** *(I get up at seven in the morning.)*

> **Somaliland and Djibouti**
>
> I found no source on how dates or clock times are said differently in Somaliland or Djibouti, so none are marked. From general knowledge, French month names and the French way of giving times may be heard in Djibouti. The official weekend also differs from country to country, so do not assume Saturday and Sunday.

📖 Vocabulary — Ereyada

20 key words besides the day and month names. Nouns are shown with their "the" ending.

#	SOMALI	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**maalinta**	*maa-LIN-tah*	the day	noun (f)
2	**toddobaadka**	*tod-do-BAAD-kah*	the week	noun (m)

#	SOMALI	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
3	**bisha**	*BI-shah*	the month	noun (f)
4	**sannadka**	*sahn-NAHD-kah*	the year	noun (m)
5	**taariikhda**	*taa-REEKH-dah*	the date; history	noun (f)
6	**saacadda**	*saa-CAHD-dah*	the hour; the clock	noun (f)
7	**daqiiqadda**	*dah-qee-QAHD-dah*	the minute	noun (f)
8	**subaxa**	*soo-BAH-xah*	the morning	noun (m)
9	**duhurka**	*doo-HOOR-kah*	the midday	noun (m)
10	**fiidka**	*FEED-kah*	the evening	noun (m)
11	**maanta**	*MAAN-tah*	today	adv
12	**berri**	*BER-ri*	tomorrow	adv
13	**shalay**	*shah-LAY*	yesterday	adv
14	**bar**	*bahr*	half	time word
15	**rubuc**	*ROO-booc*	quarter	time word
16	**u dhiman**	*oo dhi-MAHN*	(short) of, “to”	time word
17	**goorma**	*GOHR-mah*	when	question word
18	**kac**	*kahc*	to get up	verb
19	**tag**	*tahg*	to go	verb
20	**seexo**	*SEE-xo*	to sleep	verb

✍️ Try It Yourself — Layliyo

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say “today is Monday”.

▼ Show answer

Maanta waa Isniin.

2. Say the date “Sunday, 25 December”.

▼ Show answer

Axad, 25 Diseembar

3. Ask what time it is.

▼ Show answer

Saacaddu waa immisa?

4. It is 10:00 a.m. on your clock. Which Somali hour is that?

▼ Show answer

saacadda afar subaxnimo

5. A friend says **saacadda laba fiidnimo**. When do you arrive?

▼ Show answer

8:00 p.m. (hour two of the evening). Confirm it in digits.

6. Say “we go tomorrow”.

▼ Show answer

Berri baan tagnaa.

Not Yet Verified

Checked against three Preply pages (read 2026-11-25): the day and month names, the day-month date order, *maanta, shalay*, *Dhalashadaadu waa bishee?*, *Dhalashadaydu waa …*, the time questions, *Goormaa fasalku bilaabmaa?*, the six-hour offset, *iyo bar, iyo rubuc, u dhiman*, the part-of-day words ending in *-nimo*, and *waan iman doonaa*. The pages spell several months more

than one way, and the time page contradicts itself in a number of its English glosses; it writes *saacad* where this chapter uses *saacadda*, and *beri, daqiiqo* where this chapter has *berri, daqiiqadda*.

Not checked, from general knowledge: *saacadda* in the time phrases, the date question and answer, *Maanta waa maalinmee?*, *Is arag*, the three-verb table, the Saturday-first explanation, the clock advice, the regional notes, most vocabulary genders and endings, and every respelling and stress mark. No textbook, dictionary or native speaker was consulted. **Please have a Somali speaker check this chapter before you rely on it.**

Sources for This Chapter

Preply, Days of the week in Somali; Preply, Months in Somali; Preply, Telling the time in Somali.

Coming Up in Chapter 8

Ordering food and drink at a café: **shaah**, **qaxwo**, ordering politely and asking for the bill.