

MARI-ENGLISH DICTIONARY

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If you wish to contact us, please use the inbuilt feedback function.

This dictionary covers the Meadow Mari literary standard. A plug-in covering the second literary standard in use, Hill Mari, is under development⁴.

When compiling our dictionary, we followed an inclusionist approach: words used in the modern literary language were not excluded for ideological or subjective reasons, e.g. their (Russian) etymology or their perceived dialectal nature. This choice was made to maximize the usability of the dictionary – users should be able to find words in the dictionary, even if these words might be depreciated by some contemporary linguists. We do, however, provide links from words marked as non-standard in some sources to alternatives that are marked as stylistically preferable.

This dictionary can be searched, browsed, used as a reverse dictionary and can serve as a makeshift English-Mari dictionary. It uses the contemporary Cyrillic orthography of Mari, but allows entries to be viewed in transcription (UPA or IPA). Details on individual functions are given below.

¹ <http://www.fwf.ac.at/>

² <http://finno-ugristik.univie.ac.at/>

³ <http://www.univie.ac.at/>

⁴ Funded by the Kone Foundation - <http://www.koneensatio.fi/en/>

Using the Interface

Please click the element of our interface you want to familiarize yourself with:

<input type="text"/> [Search]	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Mari → English	<input type="radio"/> Mari ← English	<input type="radio"/> Mari ⇄ English
Search:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Whole Words	<input type="radio"/> All Matches	<input type="checkbox"/> Search Subentries
Stress, Palatalness:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Extra Characters (•, ')	<input type="radio"/> Bold/Italics	<input type="radio"/> Do Not Annotate
Orthography:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Cyrillic	<input type="radio"/> UPA	<input type="radio"/> IPA
Ordering:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Alphabetical	<input type="radio"/> Reverse	
абвгдеёжзийклмноопрстуѳхцчшщъыьэюя			

Search

This dictionary uses the Mari Cyrillic alphabet⁵, but you can enter your search query in Latin as well.

Entering Latin Queries

Latin queries are automatically transcribed into Cyrillic. The program employs a flexible transcription scheme in which different inputs are accepted for the same letter of the Mari alphabet.

Cyrillic	Accepted Inputs
а	a
б	b
в	v, w, β
г	g, γ, γ
д	d, δ, δ̄
е	e, 'e, je
ё	e:
ж	ž, з
з	z
и	i, 'i
й	j
к	k
л	l, l', λ
м	m
н	n, n', η
нг	ng, n:, η
о	o
ö	o:, ö, ø
п	p
р	r
с	s
т	t
у	u
ү	u:, ü
ф	f
х	x, h, χ
ц	c, ts
ч	ch, č, č', c:, tɕ
ш	sh, š, s:, ʃ
щ	sh'sh', š'sh', s:'s:', ɕ:
ъ	*
ы	y, ê, ə, ʏ, õ
ь	', j
э	e
ю	ju, 'u
я	ja, 'a

⁵ Explained in detail in the introduction of our textbook 'Онай мари йылме: A Comprehensive Introduction to the Mari Language' - see <http://www.mari-language.com/book/chapters/00B.pdf>.

If you want to prevent a letter combination being read as a digraph, insert a bar '|' or a period '.' between the individual letters.

Input	Read as	Example (Input)	Transcription
s h, s.h	сх	s heme	схеме 'scheme'
sh	ш	sheme	шеме 'black'
l j, l.j	лй	pe ljüd	пелйүд 'midnight'
lj	ль	vüljö	вүльö 'mare'
n g, n.g	нг	an glichen	англичан 'English'
ng	н	tengge	тенге 'ruble'
l e, l.e	лэ	kol engyr	колэныр 'fishing rod'
le	ле	nele	неле 'difficult'

Further details on the transcription employed are given in the documentation of our transcription tool⁶.

Entering Cyrillic Queries

If you are using a Cyrillic keyboard layout that does not have the Mari letters ö, ү, and н, you can render these letters by:

placing a colon ':' or an apostrophe "'" after their unmodified counterparts: о: → ö, ү: → ү, (1 н: or н' → н.

2) using upper-case letters in the non-initial position: тУр → түр, тУН → түн, etc.

If you wish to add Mari letters to your keyboard layout, you can download a keyboard layout from our website⁷.

Wildcards

Our interface accepts two wildcard characters: _ (exactly one character) and % (any character combination). The search к_ло returns кило 'kilo' and коло 'twenty'. The search %лык returns all words ending in -лык.

Obsolete Spellings

With respect to spelling our dictionary follows the most modern Mari orthographic dictionary⁸, but it also accepts obsolete spellings whenever possible. For example, if users search for the now non-standard шымлу 'seventy', the entry шымле 'seventy', using modern orthography, is displayed.

⁶ <http://transcribe.mari-language.com>

⁷ <http://transcribe.mari-language.com>

⁸ Иванов, И.Г. et al. 2011: *Марий орфографий мутер*, МарНИИЯЛИ, Yoshkar-Ola.

Mari ← English

This dictionary was conceived and designed as a Mari-English dictionary, but it can be used ‘in reverse’ as a makeshift English-Mari dictionary. If one selects this option, the program returns all entries in which a Mari word is translated using a particular English word. Please note that this function will return **all** Mari lexemes translated with a particular English word, in alphabetical order. The results yielded are thus suboptimal and by no means ideally organized. For example, if one searches for ‘time’, the dictionary lists *время* ‘time’ (colloquial word depreciated in literary language) and *гана* ‘occasion, time’ before giving the word *жап* ‘time’ which the user presumably is searching for.

Mari ↔ English

If you choose this option, the program will simultaneously search in both directions. For example, if you search for ‘tar’, the program will return, among others, the entries *тегыт* ‘tar’, and *тап* [tar] ‘millet’.

Whole Words / All Matches

By default, the dictionary will only search for whole words, not for partial matches. If the user specifies it, however, the program can search for partial matches. If this option is selected, the word fragment ‘*усарым*’, for example, would find the dictionary entries *кусарыман* ‘with translations’, *кусарымах* ‘translation’, *кусарыме* ‘translated’ and *тусарымах* ‘directing (one’s eyes)’.

Search Subentries

If this box is chosen, searches cover subentries as well. If users search for *туныктышо* ‘teacher’ with this box ticked, the program will return all entries that have examples using this word (in the nominative), e.g. *ялысе* ‘village (adj.)’, which includes the example *ялысе туныктышо* ‘village teacher’. Relevant subentries are bolded and written in orange, as seen in the following entry:

```
1. village
♦ я•лысе администра•ций {noun} village administration
♦ я•лысе и•лыше {noun} villager
♦ я•лысе клуб {noun} village club
♦ я•лысе пöрт {noun} village house
♦ я•лысе ту•ныктышо {noun} village teacher
♦ я•лысе уре•м {noun} village street
```

By using a semicolon ‘;’, users can specify that they wish to search for subentries containing several words or word fragments, in no particular order. For example, the query ‘*йöратем;мый*’ (‘love.1SG’;‘I’) finds all entries with example sentences using these two words, regardless of the word order in the sentence, which is not entirely fixed in Mari – it finds examples including ‘[...] *мый йöратем* [...]’, and those including ‘[...] *йöратем мый* [...]’.

Stress, Palatalness

While Mari orthography is generally reliable, two minor aspects of it can be unpredictable at times⁹:

- Stress: шерре [ʃe•rge] 'expensive', шерре [ʃerge•] 'comb'.
- Palatalness: неле [ne•le] 'difficult', неле [ne•l'e] '(s)he swallowed'

Orthographically unmarked stress and palatalness are phonologically and morphologically relevant, thus knowledge of these features is essential. Consequently, stress and unpredictable palatalness are consistently marked in our dictionary. Users can choose how these markings, which are not part of the Mari orthography, are displayed. The following chart shows how the four examples above would be displayed in the three regimes offered:

	Extra Characters (•, ')	Bold/Italics	Do Not Annotate
шерре [ʃe•rge] 'expensive'	ше•рге	шерге	шерге
шерре [ʃerge•] 'comb'	шерге•	шерге	шерге
[ne•le] 'difficult'	не•ле	неле	неле
[ne•l'e] '(s)he swallowed'	не•л'е	неле	неле

Please note that palatalization is not marked in Russian loan words, as this is predictable according to Russian pronunciation rules¹⁰. Russian loan words are marked as such in our dictionary.

Orthography

Dictionary entries can be displayed in transcription if the user so desires. Both the Finno-Ugric Transcription/Uralic Phonetic Alphabet (UPA) traditionally used in Finno-Ugric linguistics and the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) are available. Please note that because these are automatic transcriptions, inaccuracies may occur. Russian loan words in particular may be rendered suboptimally, as the transcription system used follows the rules of Mari orthography.

Ordering

The dictionary can be used as a reverse dictionary if need be, with entries sorted alphabetically by the last, then the penultimate, etc. letter of a word.

Browsing

The dictionary can also be browsed. Click on a letter of the alphabet to see all words beginning (or if you are using reverse ordering, ending) with a certain letter.

Morphological Analyzer

If there is no headword matching your search, a morphological analysis is performed, determining if your search might be an inflected form of a stem in our database. More details on our morphological analyzer are given on its page¹¹.

⁹ Discussed in detail in the introduction of our textbook 'Оңай марий йылме: A Comprehensive Introduction to the Mari Language' - see <http://www.mari-language.com/book/chapters/00B.pdf>.

¹⁰ Also explained in the introduction mentioned above.

¹¹ <http://morph.mari-language.com>

Structure of the Entry

headword [number]

{word class} {notes}

1. aspect of meaning, {scientific} definition

◇ example sentence {sentence} translation

◆ phrase {phrase} translation

◆ subentry {noun} translation

[...]

2. {notes} aspect of meaning,

[...]

--"STYLE"--> link

~ USAGE AS A MODIFIER ~

◆ subentry using modifier {noun} translation

[...]

~ COPULATIVE CONVERB CONSTRUCTIONS ~

/converb construction {verb} (direction); other meanings

◇ example sentence {sentence} translation

[...]

~ ASPECTUAL CONVERB CONSTRUCTIONS ~

//converb construction {verb II} (aspect); other meanings

◇ example sentence {sentence} translation

[...]

--"PARENT"--> link

[Search forvo.com for pronunciation]

Headword

The dictionary form of nouns used is the nominative singular and that of verbs is the infinitive. As Mari verbs fall into two conjugation classes that have distinct forms throughout the paradigm, but not in the infinitive, the conjugation class is marked for verbs: the infinitive is followed by either (-ам) ~ (-ям) or (-ем) ~ (-эм), these being the suffixes for the first person singular indicative present – a verbal form in which the conjugation class is apparent. Thus түнема•ш (-ам) ‘to learn’ and кошта•ш (-ам) ‘to go; to attend’ are first conjugation verbs and туныкта•ш (-ем) ‘to teach’ and ила•ш (-ем) ‘to live’ are second conjugation verbs.

If the dictionary is set to display verbs in transcription, the first person singular is used as the lemma form for verbs. This choice was made due to differing traditions with respect to the contemporary literary language (where the infinitive is used as the lemma form) and to general Finno-Ugric linguistics (where the first person singular is traditionally used as the lemma form).

In some cases, an entry’s headword includes an ending in parentheses, e.g. түше•ч(ын) ‘from here’. This means that the ending is optional: түше•ч ~ түше•чын.

Number

Homonyms are marked with a number in [square brackets]: шү•дыр [1] ‘star’, шү•дыр [2] ‘axle’.

Word Class

The dictionary consistently marks word class in {curly brackets}. Both headwords and subentries are assigned word class information. One word or subentry can belong to several word classes. The dictionary distinguishes between the following categories:

adjective	interjection	phrase	verb form	verb II
adverb	proper name	place name	verb I	verb II – negative
conjunction	numeral	postposition	verb I – negative	verb II – verb I
descriptive	noun	pronoun	verb I – verb I	verb II – verb II
	particle	sentence	verb I – verb II	

Notes on individual word classes:

- verb form: a verbal form other than the infinitive that is in some way irregular or part of a defective paradigm, e.g. ом ‘I do not’ (negation verb in the first person singular indicative present; the negation verb has no infinitive).
- verb I: verb of the first conjugation class¹².
- verb I – negative: negated verb of the first conjugation class. For example: икта•ж-мо ваштаре•ш лия•ш о•гыл ‘to have no objections to something’. Infinitives are negated with the particle о•гыл, finite forms are negated with a negation verb. This must be kept in mind if one wishes to inflect entries of this sort.

¹² Conjugation classes in Mari are explained in the second chapter of our textbook ‘Онай марий йылме: A Comprehensive Introduction to the Mari Language’ - see www.mari-language.com/book/chapters/02.pdf.

- verb I – verb I: paired verbs, both of which belong to the first conjugation class, e.g. йӱа•ш-кочка•ш (-ам)-(-ам) ‘to eat and drink’. If one wishes to use these verbs finitely, both verbs are inflected: йӱа•м-кочка•м ‘I eat and drink’.
- verb I – verb II: paired verbs, the first of which belongs to the first conjugation class and the second, of which belongs to the second conjugation class.
- verb II: verb of the second conjugation class.
- verb II – negative: negated verb of the second conjugation class.
- verb II – verb I: paired verbs, the first of which belongs to the second conjugation class and the second of which belongs to the first conjugation class.
- verb II – verb II: paired verbs, both of which belong to the second conjugation class.

Notes

Some basic information on words is given in *{curly brackets and gray italics}*. Information provided like this denotes the basic classification of a lexeme, of an aspect of meaning, or of a subentry. Markings of this sort found towards the top of an entry, beside the definition of the word class, apply to the entry as a whole. Markings of this sort found in the translation of an individual aspect of meaning or subentry apply only to the element in question. The following notes are used in the dictionary:

accusative	computing	in plural	nationality	Russian loan
also figuratively	economics	intransitive	no plural	scientific
anatomy	ethnography	law	no vowel reduction	set phrase
art	figuratively	linguistics	pejorative	sports
as a converb	fish	literature	perfective	technical
biology	frequentative	mathematics	philosophy	textile working
bird	geography	medicine	physics	transitive
botany	history	momentary	playing, game	unit
cf. short form	imperative	mushroom	politics	vocative
chemistry	imperfective	music	predicative	vowel reduction
child speak	impersonal	mythology	religion	warfare
color				zoology

Notes on individual markings:

- as a converb: A number of Mari verbs can be used as modifiers in converb constructions (see below). The dictionary states what meaning verbs convey when used in this function.
- **cf. short form**: This note indicates that the lexeme in question is equivalent to a shorter form its entry is linked to, e.g. тыше•чын ~ тыче•ш ‘from here’.

- **no vowel reduction:** Usually, unstressed final -e/-o/-ö is reduced or deleted in the declension of nouns: э•пре 'son' → э•ргыже 'his/her son'. This marking indicates that this rule does not apply to a word: ве•то 'veto' → ве•тожо 'his/her veto'.
- **predicative:** Adjectives and numerals marked like this are used in predicatives ('The house is red'), but not as attributes preceding a noun ('red house').
- **Russian loan:** Words marked like this follow Russian pronunciation rules (palatalization, vowel reduction). Minor adaptations might have occurred in Mari, for example: altered stress (Mari книга• ← Russian кни•га 'book'), altered final vowel (Mari сфер ← Russian сфе•ра 'sphere'), altered infinitive ending (Mari реагирова•тла•ш (-ем) ← Russian реагиро•вать 'to react'), etc. Note that older Russian loan words that have been strongly adapted orthographically are not marked with this tag, e.g. Мари пу•йто ~ Russian буд•то 'as if'.
- **scientific:** See below.
- **set phrase:** This tag implies that a subentry has non-compositional meaning, i.e. that its meaning cannot be predicted from its elements in a straightforward manner.
- **vowel reduction:** unstressed final -a is atypical in Mari noun stems. When it occurs in a loan word, and is reduced in declension (as unstressed final -e/-o/-ö usually are), this marking is used. For example: Ве•на 'Vienna' → Ве•ныште 'in Vienna'.

Furthermore, if the English translation given is only used or spelled in a certain way in either American English (A.E.) or British English (B.E.), this is indicated as well. For example:

түс: {noun} 1. color (A.E.), colour (B.E.) [...]

If several variants are allowed in either American or British English, the following nomenclature is used:

ўя•ндыш: {noun} 1. fertilizer, fertiliser (B.E.ALT) [...]

Here, 'fertiliser' is a valid spelling in British English, but not in American English. The spelling 'fertilizer' is allowed in both British and American English.

If several spelling variants are allowed independent of geography – i.e. if both spelling variants are valid both in American and British English – this is indicated as follows:

ани•с: {noun} {botany} 1. anise, anis (ALT) [...]

Subentries and example sentences are translated into American English only.

Aspect of Meaning

If a lexeme is polysemous, its various meanings are listed individually, with examples wherever possible and relevant.

Scientific Definition

The scientific name of plants and animals listed in the dictionary are given when possible, using the binomial nomenclature ('Homo sapiens') used in reference books around the world. The geographic coordinates of place names are given when possible.

Example Sentences, Subentries

When possible, example sentences and other subentries are given. These aim to illustrate the usage of the word in question in the specified meaning. Special attention has been paid to government, i.e. what grammatical forms (e.g. dative case, accusative case, followed by the postposition деч 'from', etc.) the complements of a word occur in. Example sentences are preceded by the symbol '◇' and all other subentries by the symbol '◆'.

Phrases, Set Expressions, etc.

Set phrases are highlighted in red in dictionary entries. When possible, equivalent phrases in English are given. When not, the meaning of the Mari phrase is explained. Literal translations are generally not provided when they are not conducive to understanding a phrase.

Usage as a Modifier

As is the case in English, nouns can be used as modifiers preceding other nouns (e.g. 'kitchen table', 'soup spoon'). Usages of this sort are subsumed under this point.

Copulative Converb Constructions

Verbs of motion often form so-called copulative converb constructions in Mari, in which one verb occurs in a gerundial form and is followed by a finitely conjugated verb. The gerund (first verb) marks the manner of motion, whereas the finitely conjugated verb (second verb) marks the directionality. For example, чонештен эрташ literally would translate as 'flying pass', but effectively means 'to fly by, to fly through, to fly past'. This point covers usages of the headword in such constructions – verbal pairings of this sort where the headword occurs in the first, gerundial position. Verbal pairings are marked with the symbol '/', the directionality marked by the modifier is stated, and examples are provided for every individual converb construction.

Aspectual Converb Constructions

The same syntactic pattern used to create copulative converb constructions is also used to create so-called aspectual converb constructions. In these, the gerund (first verb) carries the main semantics and the finitely conjugated verb (second verb) only adds an aspectual coloring to the pairing. The pairing йоратен шындаш, literally 'loving place', is better translated as 'to fall in love'. Individual pairings are preceded by '//', the verbal aspect marked by the modifier is stated, and examples are provided for each pairing.

Links

The entries of our dictionary are extensively interconnected. The following types of links are provided:

- “Parent”: The headword in question is derived from this word (e.g. кудло ‘sixty’ from куд ‘six’ and лу [2] ‘ten’).
- “Purist”: Russian loan words are depreciated in a number of sources on contemporary Mari. Links of this sort indicate words preferred by language activists (e.g. музей ‘museum’ → тоштер ‘museum’).
- “Style”: When headwords are defined as substandard in some sources (dialectal, spoken language, etc.), links of this sort point to the preferred variant in literary language (e.g. попой ‘good’ (in child’s language) → попо ‘good’ (in literary language)).
- “Modern”: While the 2011 orthographic reform did not depreciate the usage of Russian loan-words wholesale, it did suggest discarding Russian derivational suffixes that serve no purpose in Mari. For example, the Russian adjective кедровый ‘cedar’ is formed from the nominal stem кедр ‘cedar’ and the adjectival derivational suffix -овый. Since nouns in Mari can serve as modifiers, this suffix was deemed unnecessary in the newest orthographic dictionary and the usage of the suffixless noun was suggested instead. In these cases, our dictionary includes the now-depreciated Russian adjective, but gives a link to the noun that is now preferred.

Pronunciation

The website forvo.com contains pronunciation examples from hundreds of languages around the world. As of 2014, it hosts over 50,000 Mari audio samples. By clicking this button, you can search forvo.com for audio recordings of the headword pronounced by native speakers.

Giving Feedback

Our website features an inbuilt feedback function that allows you to report any mistakes and shortcomings you might encounter when working with our materials. We will make every effort to consider and implement suggestions made through the feedback box found at the bottom of the page. If you provide your e-mail address when submitting a comment, you will receive a reply from us detailing how we reacted to your comment.

Known experts on the Mari language can contact us personally to receive passwords allowing their comments to receive preferential treatment. Any user can, however, use the feedback function, even without a password.

When making comments, please adhere to the following principles:

- Remember that our dictionary follows an inclusionist approach. We will not exclude material from our dictionary for ideological reasons. We are willing to consider and include alternative ways of expressing concepts and are potentially willing to link from Russian loan words to

neologisms intended to replace them, but we will not reduce the usability of our dictionary by following prescriptive precepts. Our dictionary is primarily descriptive.

- If you are a native speaker of Mari, please remember that our dictionary covers literary Mari as used by representatives of a wide range of dialect and sociolinguistic groups. If a word we use is unknown to you or a construction used seems alien, please verify that this is not a feature of Mari subject to variation.
- Please give us concrete and actionable suggestions. Tell us exactly what you think we could do to make a particular entry or our dictionary as a whole better.
- Please source your claims if necessary and possible. If you find an aspect of meaning missing, please tell us where you saw the word in question used as you describe. If you are a Mari native speaker, feel free to provide examples of your own that illustrate your claim.

If your comments do not adhere to these principles, you will receive a note informing you of this and asking you to resubmit your feedback in adherence with the rules.

Comments can be submitted in the following languages: English, German, Mari, Russian, Finnish, Hungarian, Estonian. We will reply to feedback in English or Mari.

Source Code

This dictionary is published under a creative commons license. In the spirit of universal access to our resources, we have published the source code of our dictionary software and our dictionary database in .xml format, at <http://source.mari-language.com>.

Acknowledgements

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Sources

This dictionary uses the orthography established in the 2011 Mari orthographic dictionary:

Иванов, И.Г. et al. 2011: *Марий орфографий мутер*, МарНИИЯЛИ, Yoshkar-Ola.

Furthermore, the following lexical sources on the Mari language were at least partially incorporated into our dictionary, after being brought into line with the 2011 orthography:

Kuznecova, M. 2003: *Mari-magyar szótár*, Savaria University Press, Szombathely.

Luutonen, J.; Saarinen, S.; Moisio, A. et al. 2007: *Electronic Word Lists: Mari, Mordvin, Udmurt*, Suomalais-ugrilainen seura, Helsinki.

Moisio, A. 1992: *Marilais-suomalainen sanakirja*, Publications of the Department of Finnish and General Linguistics of the University of Turku, Turku.

Moisio, A.; Galkin, I.; Vasiljev, V. 1995: *Suomalais-marilainen sanakirja*, Publications of the Department of Finnish and General Linguistics of the University of Turku, Turku.

Pusztay, J.; Ivanov, I. 2005: *Словарь лингвистических терминов марийского языка*, Bibliotheca Ceremissica, Szombathely.

Pusztay, J.; Kuznetsova, M. 2008: *Словарь цветообозначающих слов современного марийского языка*, Bibliotheca Ceremissica, Szombathely.

Андрианова, Е.М. 2011: *Словарь терминов по математике на марийском языке для общеобразовательных школ*, NH Collegium Fenno-Ugricum, Saransk.

Балдаев, Х.Ф. 1992: *Марийско-русский словарь биологических терминов*, Марийское книжное издательство, Yoshkar-Ola.

Балдаев, Х.Ф. 2012: *Марийско-русский словарь биологических терминов: издание 2-е дополненное*, Марийский государственный университет, Yoshkar-Ola.

Барцева, Л.И. 2011: *Словарь терминов по обществознанию на марийском языке для общеобразовательных школ*, NH Collegium Fenno-Ugricum, Saransk.

Барцева, Л.; Андреева, М. 2000: *Марий йылмыште понго лум-влак*, in: *Ончыко 3/2000*, Yoshkar-Ola.

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