

Consolidated Draft, Burmese Lesson with Role Playing for Taxi (September 11, 2018)

A Burmese Language Instruction Unit Involving Role Playing (Estimated 2-3 classes)

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Level: Intermediate

Topic: Hiring a Taxi

Lesson 1, Dialog 1: Hiring a Taxi, Negotiating Taxi Fare

Lesson 2, Dialog 2: Giving Navigation Directions

After completing the unit, students will be able to:

- inquire if a taxi driver is free using the verb အား (free, available)
- express a desired destination using the phrase သွားချင်တယ် (want to go to)
- ask for the estimated fare using the phrase ဘယ်လောက်လဲ (how much?)
- make a counteroffer for a lower fare using the phrase ထားလိုက်ပါ (make it, keep it at)
- give directions using the following terms:
 - ရှေ့တည့်တည့် (straight ahead)
 - ညာချိုး (turn right)
 - ဘယ်ချိုး (turn left)
 - မျက်နှာချင်းဆိုင် (opposite)
 - ဆက်သွား (keep going)
 - ဟိုနား (over here)
 - ဒီနား (over there)
- instead of pronouns, use kinship terms to address strangers (as native speakers tend to do)

Note: For this lesson, students would have already learned basic family and kinship terms (such as elder brother, younger brother, elder sister, younger sister, and so on). It also assumes students can count in high numbers, up to 10,000.

LESSON 1: DIALOG 1

Pre-lesson (homework before the lessons):

- Ask students to watch the news clip about the pioneering women taxi drivers of Yangon (Rangoon). <https://youtu.be/PgxOzmKOJAg>
- They should pay attention in particular to the exchange that occurs at 4:10 min. mark, where the taxi driver and the customer negotiate fare. This predisposes the students to some of the new phrases and terms they will encounter in the lesson itself.
- Ask students to do online research on the popular tourist destinations in Yangon. These destinations will be used in the phase involving semi-spontaneous interactions.

Main activity (the day of the lesson):

- Ask the students how they currently get a cab when they need one: Do they (1) call a cab company? (2) go out to a busy intersection and flag one down? (3) use a carshare app like Uber or Lyft to get one?
- Ask them, if they find themselves in Yangon, what cultural attraction, landmark, or place they would like to visit. In this process, ask them to use the phrase သွားချင်တယ် (want to go to) to state the desired destination.
- Ask the students if they would ever feel the need to negotiate the cab fare before the ride begins.
- Ask if they have ever tried to hire a cab during their travels in Southeast Asia. If so, ask them to describe the process by reenacting what they had to do.
- Create a bunch of mock-Burmese bills in different denominations using the scanned PDF attached, and then ask students to identify each bill's value correctly. In this process, use the phrase ဘယ်လောက်လဲ (how much is it?).
- Ask students to divide into pairs, then reenact dialog 1, exactly as written.
- Reverse roles between those who read the parts for the taxi drivers and passengers, then reenact dialog 1 again.

Vocabulary for Lesson 1, Dialog 1

ကားဆရာ	driver (Mr. Driver, polite way to address a taxi driver)
အား	to be free, to be available (verb)
သွားချင်တယ်	want to go to
ပဲ	only (particle)
တော့	at least (particle)
ထားလိုက်ပါ	make it ..., keep it ... (usual phrase in bargaining)
မကိုက်	it doesn't add up (in other words, the counteroffer is too low)
တက်	come up, climb up, get on

ကျ	to cost (verb)
လို့ပါ	because it is ...
လို့ရမလား	is it possible to ...? (polite way to request an action)
စို့	let's (rallying particle)

Dialog 1. Negotiation Fare (casual, informal)

Passenger (P): ကားဆရာ၊ အားလား။ (Mr. Driver, are you free?)

Taxi Driver (D): ဟုတ်ကဲ့၊ အားပါတယ်။ ဘယ်သွားချင်လဲ။ (Yes, I am. Where would you like to go?)

P: ဆူးလေဘုရား သွားချင်တယ်။ ဘယ်လောက်လဲ။ (I'd like to go to Su Le Pagoda. How much is it?)

D: ၂၅၀၀ ပါ။ (2500)

P: များတယ်။ နည်းနည်း လျှော့ပါ။ ၁၅၀၀ ပဲထားလိုက်ပါ။ (Too much. Lower the fare, please. Just make it 2000.)

D: မကိုက်လို့ပါ။ ၂၀၀၀ တော့ပေးပါ။ (That fare doesn't work. Give me at least 2000.)

P: ကောင်းပြီ။ သွားမယ်။ (OK, I'll go.)

D: ဟုတ်ကဲ့၊ တက်ပါ။ (Alright, get on.)

- In the next round of reenactment, ask the student who plays the passenger to substitute the desired destination with his/her own choice, and then ask the student who plays the driver to quote any fare he/she wants to quote. The passenger also makes the counteroffer in any amount he/she sees fit.
- Replay the video clip (<https://youtu.be/PgxOzmKOJAg>) from 4:10 in the class, and then ask the students if they catch the specific kinship term the woman taxi driver uses to address the passengers. In the video, the driver, an older lady, calls the passenger, a young woman, "younger sister."
- Explain that, in Burmese culture, addressing older and younger people using kinship terms is part of formal conversations.
- As the student pairs to reenact the dialog again, but this time use appropriate kinship terms to address each other, as shown in the version below:

Dialog 1. Negotiation Fare (with kinship terms)

Passenger (P): ကားဆရာ၊ အားလား။ (Mr. Driver, are you free?)

Taxi Driver (D): ဟုတ်ကဲ့ **အကို**၊ အားပါတယ်။ ဘယ်သွားချင်လဲ။ (Yes, **big brother**, I am. Where would you like to go?)

P: ဆူးလေဘုရား သွားချင်တယ် **ညီလေး**။ ဘယ်လောက်ကျမလဲ။ (I'd like to go to Su Le

Pagoda, **little brother**. How much will it cost?)

D: ၂၅၀၀ ပါ။ (2500)

P: များတယ်။ နည်းနည်း လျှော့ပါ။ ၁၅၀၀ ပဲထားလိုက်ပါ။ (Too much. Lower the fare, please. Just make it 2000.)

D: မကိုက်လို့ပါ။ ၂၀၀၀ တော့ပေးပါ။ (That fare doesn't work. Give me at least 2000.)

P: ကောင်းပြီ။ သွားမယ်။ (OK, I'll go.)

D: ဟုတ်ကဲ့၊ တက်ပါ။ (Alright, get on.)

Cultural notes for ထားလိုက်ပါ and မကိုက်လို့ပါ, both common bargaining phrases (to be distributed as handout to the class).

- ထားလိုက်ပါ literally translates to "Keep it there" or "Put it there," but it's commonly used by consumers in bargaining, to urge the seller to accept the price proposed. In those instances, it means, "Make the price ..." or "Sell it for ..."
- မကိုက်လို့ပါ literally means "Because it doesn't add up." In essence, it means, "Because the counter offer will make the profit margin too low, I can't accept it." It's a common phrase vendors, shopkeepers, and taxi drivers use to refuse a consumer's counteroffer in price negotiations and hold out for more. Sometimes it works; sometimes it doesn't.
- The expression ... လို့ပါ could be used to offer an excuse or reason. For example:
 - ဆီဈေးတက်နေလို့ပါ။ (Because gasoline prices are going up.)
 - လမ်းမကောင်းလို့ပါ။ (Because the streets are bad.)
 - ကားကျပ်နေလို့ပါ။ (Because the traffic is bad.)
- One last time, pair up students for another round of exercise. Distribute fictional roles to designate to participants. For example:
 - A: You are an elderly lady. You have 8,000 kyats and need to go to Shwedagon Pagoda
 - B: You are taxi driver. You have decided you cannot accept less than 5500 kyats for a trip to Shwedagon Pagoda.
- Now ask them to employ the negotiation terms and phrases they have learned to play out the scenario semi-spontaneously.

End of lesson 1.

LESSON 2: DIALOG 2

- Teacher illustrates the meaning of the following phrases with gestures, then ask students to guess what they mean: ရှေ့တည့်တည့် (straight ahead), ညာချိုး (turn right), ဘယ်ချိုး (turn left), မျက်နှာချင်းဆိုင် (opposite), ဆက်သွား (keep going), ဟိုနား (over here), ဒီနား (over there).
- Have students follow the teacher's instruction with each of these phrases at random, to see if they understand.
- For a fun exercise, clear the classroom of desk and chairs. Have one student blindfolded, then have him/her get from one point to the next following the directional phrases.
- Divide students into pairs, and then have them reenact the following dialog as written.
- Switch role, then have them reenact the dialog again.

Vocabulary for Lesson 2, Dialog 2

ရှေ့တည့်တည့်	straight ahead
မီးပွိုင့်	traffic light
ညာချိုး	turn right
ဘယ်ချိုး	turn left
ညာဘက်	the right side
ဘယ်ဘက်	the left side
မျက်နှာချင်းဆိုင်	opposite
ဆက်သွား	keep going
ဟိုနား	over there
ဒီနား	over here
ဟိုအိမ်ရှေ့နား	by the house over there
ဒီအိမ်ရှေ့နား	by the house over here
ဟိုသစ်ပင်ရှေ့နား	by the tree over there
ဒီသစ်ပင်ရှေ့နား	by the tree over here
ဟိုဓါတ်တိုင်ရှေ့နား	by the lamp post over there
ဒီဓါတ်တိုင်ရှေ့နား	by the lamp post over here

Passenger (P): ရွှေနှင်းဆီလမ်း လမ်းသွယ် ၂ သွားမယ်။ ဘယ်လောက်လဲ။ (I'd like to go to Shwe Hninsi street, cul-de-sac 2. How much?)

Taxi Driver (D): ဘယ်လိုသွားရမလဲ။ လမ်းပြပေးလို့ရမလား။ (How do I go there? Can you direct me there?)

P: ဟုတ်ကဲ့။ ရှေ့တည့်တည့်သွား၊ မီးပွိုင့်ရောက်ရင် ညာဘက်ချိုး။ (Sure, Go straight, turn right at the traffic light.)

D: ဒီလမ်းလား။ (Along this road?)

P: ဟုတ်ကဲ့။ ဆက်သွား၊ ပြီး ရှေ့လမ်းမှာ ဘယ်ဘက်ချိုး။ (Yes, keep going. Then, turn left into the street ahead.)

D: ဒီမှာလား။ (Is it here?)

P: ဟုတ်။ ဆေးဆိုင်ရဲ့မျက်နှာချင်းဆိုင်မှာပါ။ (Yes, it's opposite the pharmacy.)

D: ဒီမှာလား။ (Is it here?)

P: ဟုတ်။ ဘယ်ဘက်မှာ။ ပိုက်ဆံက ဒီမှာ။ (Yes. It's on the left side. Here is the money.)

D: ကျေးဇူးပါ။ (Thank you!)

- Pair up students to reenact the dialog again, but this time, ask them to use the appropriate kinship terms, as shown below:

Passenger (P): **ညီလေး**၊ ရွှေနှင်းဆီလမ်း လမ်းသွယ် ၂ သွားမယ်။ ဘယ်လောက်လဲ။ (**Little brother**, I'd like to go to Shwe Hninsi street, cul-de-sac 2. How much?)

Taxi Driver (D): ဘယ်လိုသွားရမလဲ **အကို**။ လမ်းပြပေးလို့ရမလား။ (How do I go there, **Big Brother**? Can you direct me there?)

P: ဟုတ်။ ရှေ့တည့်တည့်သွား၊ မီးပွိုင့်ရောက်ရင် ညာဘက်ချိုး။ (Sure, Go straight, turn right at the traffic light.)

D: ဒီလမ်းလား **အကို**။ (Along this road, **Brother**?)

P: ဟုတ်တယ် **ညီလေး**။ ဆက်သွား၊ ပြီး ရှေ့လမ်းမှာ ဘယ်ဘက်ချိုး။ (Yes **Brother**, keep going. Then, turn left into the street ahead.)

D: ဒီမှာလား။ (Is it here?)

P: ဟုတ်။ ဆေးဆိုင်ရဲ့မျက်နှာချင်းဆိုင်မှာပါ။ (Yes, it's opposite the pharmacy.)

D: ဒီမှာလား **အကို**။ (Is it here, **Brother**?)

P: ဟုတ်။ ဘယ်ဘက်မှာ။ ပိုက်ဆံက ဒီမှာ **ညီလေး**။ (Yes. It's on the left side. Here is the money, **Brother**.)

D: ကျေးဇူးပါ။ (Thank you!)

- Distribute prewritten direction sheets with instructions like those shown below to the students who will be playing the passenger. Then ask them to direct the taxi driver accordingly.

- Turn left at the next traffic light, go straight for three blocks, and then turn left. The destination is opposite the school.
- Go straight for two blocks, turn right into the next street. The destination is by the lamp post.
- Go straight for four blocks, turn left at the next traffic light. The destination is by a tree.

End of lesson.

Post-lesson:

To develop interpersonal skills in the target language, ask students to interview each other to find out about their worst taxi riding experience.