

Murrawarri Consonant Sounds

Letter	How to say it	Example words	Linguistic details
b	'b' as in b aby (may also be spelt with a 'p')	b alay (son) b aba (older sister) b urrall (two of)	Linguists call it a <i>bilabial stop</i> . In many Australian Aboriginal languages, there is no difference between a 'p' and 'b'. Some speakers might say it more like a 'b' and some more like a 'p'. Also spelt: p / b
d	'd' as in d id (may also be spelt with a 't')	d igi mara (little finger) d iginj (hot coals) mind d i-mind d i (curly)	Linguists call it an <i>alveolar stop</i> . In many Australian Aboriginal languages, there is no difference between a 'd' and 't'. Some speakers might say it more like a 'd' and some more like a 't'. Also spelt: t / d
g	'g' as in g ag (may also be spelt with a 'k')	g abu (two) g abunga (twice)	Linguists call it a <i>velar stop</i> . In many Australian Aboriginal languages, there is no difference between a 'g' and 'k'. Some speakers might say it more like a 'g' and some more like a 'k'. Also spelt: k / g
l	'l' as in l ip	- l a (a suffix that means 'do all the time' or 'when' or 'if') - l i (a suffix that changes an intransitive verb to a transitive verb)	Linguists call it an <i>alveolar lateral</i> .
m	'm' as in m oon	m irri (mate) m uginj (Aboriginal woman)	Linguists call it a <i>bilabial nasal</i> .
n	'n' as in n ame	dh n a (toe or foot)	Linguists call this an <i>alveolar nasal</i> . Murrawarri words do not begin with 'n', only 'ng'. Murrawarri words often end with a 'n'.

ng	'ng' as in si<u>ng</u>	ng urramba (<i>birthplace</i>) ng andi (<i>that</i>)	Linguists call this a <i>velar nasal</i> . Unlike English, 'ng' is often found at the start of a Murrawarri word. Also spelt: ŋ
nj	'ny' as in ne<u>ws</u> 'n' as in o<u>n</u>ion NOT 'n' as in many	mi<u>nj</u> (<i>mud</i>) ma<u>ynj</u> (<i>man</i>) mi<u>nj</u>an (<i>what?</i>)	Linguists call it a <i>palatal nasal</i> or a <i>laminopalatal nasal</i> . It is like an 'n' sound but made with the middle of your tongue against the roof of your mouth. 'nj' is one of the most common Murrawarri word endings. Also spelt: ɲ
r rr	They could be pronounced like: 'r' as in row. 'rr' as in the Scottish or Italian rolled 'r'. 'tt' (or a short 'd') as in butter when we say it quickly with an Australian accent.	dh<u>irra</u> (<i>tooth</i>) ya<u>rr</u>anj (<i>beard</i>) yanggu<u>rr</u>- yanggu<u>rr</u> (<i>a lot of boys</i>)	Linguists call these sounds <i>rhotics</i> . When linguists say <i>(post)alveolar liquid</i> , a <i>(post)alveolar glide</i> or <i>(post)alveolar rhotic</i> , that is the English 'r' sound as in rat (IPA: ɹ). When linguists say <i>alveolar trill</i> , that's a rolled 'r', like in Scottish or Italian (IPA: r). When linguists say <i>alveolar tap</i> or <i>alveolar flap</i> , that is like the 'tt' or short 'd' sound in "butter". It's like a really fast rolled 'r' (IPA: ɾ). Murrawarri words do not begin with 'r' or 'rr'. They are common Murrawarri word endings.
rl	There is no English sound exactly like 'rl'. It sounds quite like 'l', but with the tip of your tongue curled back like it does when you say an 'r'.	gunda<u>rl</u> (<i>dog</i>) gamba<u>rl</u> (<i>young girls</i>)	Linguists call it a <i>retroflex lateral</i> or a <i>retroflex 'l'</i> . 'rl' is one way Murrawarri words end, but is not very common. Also spelt: ɭ
rn	There is no English sound exactly like 'rn', but it sounds quite like 'n', but with the tip of your tongue curled back like it does when you say an 'r'.	bi<u>rn</u> (<i>sinew</i>) muwa<u>rn</u> (<i>younger brother</i>) nga<u>rn</u>dul (<i>throat</i>) ma<u>rn</u>bil (<i>bronzewing bird</i>)	Linguists call it a <i>retroflex nasal</i> or a <i>retroflex 'n'</i> . 'rn' is one way Murrawarri words end, but is not very common. Also spelt: ɳ

MURRAWARRI ONLINE KEEPING PLACE

Based on the Living Languages Learner's Guide Template



rd	<p>There is no English sound exactly like 'rd', but it sounds quite like a 'd' or 't', but with the tip of your tongue curled back like it does when you say an 'r'.</p> <p>(may also be spelt with a 'rt')</p>	<p>barda or bardala (tomorrow, morning or next day)</p> <p>bardima (to tie up)</p> <p>gardi (bitter)</p>	<p>Linguists call it a <i>retroflex stop</i>, or a <i>retroflex 'd'</i>, or a <i>retroflex 't'</i>. In many Australian Aboriginal languages, there is no difference between 'rd' and 'rt'. Some speakers might say it more like a 'd' with their tongue curled back and some more like a 't' with their tongue curled back.</p> <p>Also spelt: rt / ɽ / ɽ</p>
dh	<p>There is no English sound exactly like 'dh'. It is pronounced like a 'd' or 't' sound, but with the tongue between the teeth (tongue in the same position as when you say 'th' in this).</p> <p>It is never pronounced like the 'th' in this or think.</p> <p>(may also be spelt with a 'th')</p>	<p>wadhul-wadhul (old men)</p> <p>gudhara- gudhara (children)</p>	<p>Linguists call this a <i>dental stop</i> or <i>interdental stop</i>. In many Australian languages, there is no difference between a 'dh' and 'th'. Some speakers might say it more like a 'd' with their tongue between their teeth, and some more like a 't' with their tongue between their teeth.</p> <p>Also spelt: th / ɬ / ɬ</p>
dj	<p>There is no English sound exactly like 'dj', but it sounds quite like 'd' in dew. In some cases, it may sound like 'tch' as in catch, but with less air coming out.</p> <p>(may also be spelt with a 'tj')</p>	<p>midjan (a lie)</p> <p>gadji (fresh)</p> <p>gidji - gidji (to tickle)</p>	<p>Linguists call this a <i>palatal stop</i> or a <i>laminal palatal stop</i>. In many Australian languages, there is no difference between a 'dj' and 'tj'. Some speakers might say it more like a 'd' with the middle of their tongue, and some more like a 't' with the middle of their tongue.</p> <p>Also spelt: tj / c / ɟ</p>
w	<p>'w' as in wow</p>	<p>wirlu (curlew bird)</p> <p>wamba (mad or silly person)</p>	<p>Linguists call this a <i>bilabial approximant</i> or <i>glide</i>.</p>
y	<p>'y' as in yes</p> <p>(not as in why or happy)</p>	<p>mayi (ground)</p> <p>yira (they)</p>	<p>Linguists call this a <i>laminal palatal approximant</i> or <i>glide</i>.</p> <p>Also spelt: j</p>