

50 Common Somali Learning Mistakes

Useful corrections for learners of Somali

Tip: A mistake becomes useful when you notice it, correct it, and use the corrected form again.

Free download for learners of Somali, Swahili and English.

50-item quick reference

Common problem	Better form / approach	Example / note
Learning only isolated words	Learn words in phrases	baro "sidee tahay?" as a complete phrase.
Ignoring vowel length	Listen carefully to vowels	Repeat native audio and copy timing.
Confusing similar-looking spellings	Check the whole word	Compare the spelling before memorising.
Replacing Somali sounds with English sounds	Practise the specific Somali sound	Use slow repetition.
Translating every sentence word-for-word	Learn common Somali sentence patterns	Memorise useful phrases as chunks.
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Reflection exercise

Choose five items and write your own correct sentence. Then explain the rule in your own words.