

Somali Marriage Vocabulary:

1. **Yarad** - The bride price traditionally paid by the groom's family to the bride's family, often in livestock or money.
2. **Shukaansi** - The process of dating or courtship in Somali culture, distinct from Western dating practices.
3. **Doonis** - The engagement process where the groom's family formally expresses interest in marrying a bride.
4. **Sooryo** - Money given to attendees of the marriage contract; it varies based on the groom's financial situation and the number of guests.
5. **Meher** - The dowry pledged by the groom, which may not need to be paid immediately unless requested by the bride.
6. **Iddah** - A three-month waiting period after divorce that a woman must observe to ensure she is not pregnant.
7. **Khul'**: Wife initiated divorce
8. **Clan** - A group of families or households that share a common ancestor, significant in Somali marriage and social structure.
9. **Lineage** - The line of descent from an ancestor, which plays a crucial role in marriage decisions within Somali culture.
10. **Agropastoral** - Referring to communities that engage in both agriculture and pastoralism, relevant in understanding marriage practices in rural Somali areas.
11. **Islamic Law** - The legal framework derived from Islamic teachings that governs various aspects of life, including marriage and family structures.

- I can explain how Somali marriages serve as a bond between not just individuals, but also between families and clans.
- I can describe the differences between traditional arranged marriages in rural areas and modern dating practices (Shukaansi) in urban Somali culture.
- I can define the terms Yarad and Meher and explain their significance in Somali marriage customs.
- I can discuss the role of Islamic law in Somali marriage practices, including the concepts of divorce, retention, and the three-month grace period (Iddah).