

Basics of Tamil

Class objective:

I will be able to understand the basics of Tamil.

Concept A: Introduction to Tamil language

Tamil is the oldest among the Dravidian languages. With languages like Chinese, Greek, Sanskrit and others, it is one of the world's classical languages. Tamil literature spans 3500 years. Tamil was the first to develop a distinct prose form of writing among the classical languages of the world.

In Tamil, letters are known as 'ezhuthukkal' (எழுத்து). Tamil language has 12 vowels and 18 consonants which are classified as 'Muthal Elutukkal' (Primary letters) owing to the fact that these can operate without the need of any other letter (or letter combination).

Concept B: Interesting facts about Tamil

- Tamil is the oldest living language in the world
- Tamil was declared a classical language by UNESCO
- The word 'Tamil' has several meanings (Apart from being the name of the language, 'Tamil' also means) things like beauty, sweet and natural.
- Tamil is the only language that is also personified as a God
- Tamil is an official language in Singapore and Sri Lanka

Concept C: Vowels

Tamil has 5 short and 5 long native vowels.

1. **Introduction**

2. **Background**

3. **Method**

- 1. **Study Design**
- 2. **Participants**
- 3. **Intervention**

4. **Results**

- 1. **Primary Outcome**
- 2. **Secondary Outcome**
- 3. **Subgroup Analysis**

5. **Conclusion**

- 1. **Summary**

6. **Discussion**

7. **Conclusion**

8. **References**

9. **Appendix**

- 1. **Table 1**
- 2. **Table 2**
- 3. **Table 3**

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