Lardil is a language spoken by about 300 Aboriginal people on Mornington Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria, off the north coast of Australia. Lardil’s system of pronouns is complex, but follows logical rules.

Here are 13 different groups of people, and the Lardil word you would use to refer to them collectively.

nyali  me, my grandmother, and my grandfather
nyali  me, my sister, and my grandson
nyaan me and my great-grandfather
nyaan me and my son
bili  him, his brother, and his sister
bili  her, her grandmother, and her grandfather
nyinki you and your aunt
niinki her and her great-granddaughter
nyalmu me, my son, and my mother
nyarri me and my grandmother
kili you, your sister, and your grandson
kirri you and your brother
kilmu you, your father, and your mother

Your Challenge

Give the correct Lardil pronoun for the following groups:

a)  me and my father
b)  you and your granddaughter
c)  me, my uncle, and my aunt
d)  him, his mother, and his father
e)  her and her mother

Hint: Think in terms of generations.