

Morphological Segmentation
Annotation Guidelines
Appendix: Akan (Twi)
Linguistic Data Consortium

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This document contains examples of common linguistic patterns in Akan (Twi) that are relevant to the Morphological Segmentation task. They represent classes of morphological patterns in the language that could be annotated in the task. Note that these examples do not necessarily indicate what the annotation should be. For example, where these examples show segments separated by a hyphen, they should be annotated with a space separating them.

These examples: bɛ-kɔ

Annotation: bɛ kɔ

In some cases, the segments that will be separated in the annotation are not explicitly marked off in these examples.

These examples: agyanom

Annotation: a gya nom

The plural suffix **-foɔ** is used with some other, non-kinship human terms:

Amerikani	‘American’	→	Amerikafoɔ	‘Americans’
sukuuni	‘student’	→	sukuufoɔ	‘students’

Plural formation in Akan is accomplished using a prefix, a suffix, or both. The plural of kinship nouns is usually formed using the suffix **-nom**.

agya	‘father’	→	agyanom	‘fathers’
ɛna	‘mother’	→	ɛnanom	‘mothers’
nua	‘sibling’	→	nuanom	‘siblings’
nana	‘chief’	→	nananom	‘chiefs’

Number: Nouns in Akan can be marked with a nominal prefix. There are seven nominal prefixes: **a-**, **e-**, **ɛ-**, **o-**, **ɔ-**, **m-**, and **n-**. The examples below show nominal prefixes on singular nouns:

a-	adeɛ abofra	‘thing’ ‘child’
e-	efie	‘home’
ɛ-	ɛboɔ	‘stone’
o-	onipa	‘person’
ɔ-	ɔhene	‘chief’
m-	mpomma	‘window’
n-	ntoma	‘garment’

owura	‘sir’	awuraa	‘madam’
ata	‘male twin’	ataa	‘female twin’
frempong	male name	frepomaa	female name
akosi	‘male’	akoswa	‘female’
kuro	‘town’	a-kuraa	‘village’(diminutive)
dadeɛ	‘metal’	dadowa	‘nail’ (diminutive)

<u>e</u> tuo	‘gun’	→	<u>a</u> tuo	‘guns’
<u>a</u> taadeɛ	‘dress’	→	<u>n</u> taadeɛ	‘dresses’
<u>d</u> ua	‘tree’	→	<u>n</u> nua	‘trees’
<u>a</u> fuo	‘farm’	→	<u>m</u> fuɔ	‘farms’
<u>a</u> bofra	‘child’	→	<u>m</u> mofra	‘children’

There are also some plural nouns which require both a prefix and a suffix:

sogyani	‘soldier’	→	<u>a</u> sogyafɔɔ	‘soldiers’
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There are a few nouns which have the same form in the singular and plural:

mpa	‘bed’	→	mpa	‘beds’
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ahia	‘to be in need’	→	ohia	‘poverty’
			ohiani	‘poor person’
			ohiafoɔ	‘poor people, the poor’
da	‘to sleep’	→	nda	‘sleep’ (n.)

Stem	Gloss	Nominalized
suro	‘to fear’	esuro
dɔ	‘to love’	ɔdɔ
hia	‘to hate’	ohia
ko	‘to fight’	ako
hyira	‘to bless’	nhyira
boa	‘to help’	mboa
pata	‘to compensate’	mpata

ahia	‘to be in need’	→	ohia	‘poverty’
			ohiani	‘poor person’
			ohiafoɔ	‘poor people, the poor’
da	‘to sleep’	→	nda	‘sleep’ (n.)

	Person	Nominative	Accusative
Singular	1	me-	me
	2	wo-	wo
	3 animate	ɔ-	no
	3 inanimate	ɛ-	no
Plural	1	yɛ-	yɛn
	2	mo-	mo
	3	wɔ-	wɔn

yɛ-bɛ-tɔ aduane
3PL-FUT-buy food
'We will buy food.'

Anane bɛ-tɔ aduane
Anane FUT-buy food
'Anane will buy food.'

Ali bɛ-ba asɔre
Ali FUT-come church
'Ali will come to church.'

David bɔ-ɔ abɔfra no
David hit-PST child DEF
'David hit the child.'

Kofi dɪ-ɪ aduane no
Kofi eat-PST food DEF
'Kofi ate the food.'

Me-dum(-m) gya no.
1SG-quench(-PST) fire DEF
'I quenched the fire.'

David bɔ-ɔ abɔfra no
David hit-PST child DEF
'David hit the child.'

Kofi dɪ-ɪ aduane no
Kofi eat-PST food DEF
'Kofi ate the food.'

Me-dum(-m) gya no.
1SG-quench(-PST) fire DEF
'I quenched the fire.'

Amina kai-**i** ye
 Amina remember-**PST** PART
 'Amina remembered (it).'

Araba bu-**u** ye
 Araba break-**PST** PART
 'Araba broke (it).'

The perfect aspect affix is **a-** and agrees with the verb in accordance with ATR harmony.

Kwabena **a-**pam ntoma
 Kwabena **PRF**-sew cloth
 'Kwabena has sewn a cloth.'

Abena **a-**ton bankyi
 Abena **PRF**-sell cassava
 'Abena has sold a cassava.'

The prefix **re-** marks the present progressive and is often realized as a lengthening of the preceding vowel or consonant:

me-re-kɔ [meː-kɔ]
 1SG-PROG-go
 'I am going.'

Kwabena	bɛ-kɔ	a-kɔfa	aduanɛ no	a-ba
Kwabena	FUT-go	CON -take	food DEF	CON -come
'Kwabena is going to bring the food.'				

Kwabena	re-kɔ	a-kɔfa	aduanɛ no	a-ba
Kwabena	PROG-go	CON -take	food DEF	CON -come
'Kwabena will go and bring the food.'				

Verb Root	Gloss	Reduplicated	Gloss
da	'to sleep'	deda	'to put a child to sleep/dress a corpse'
di	'to eat' (tr.)	didi	'to eat' (intr.)
horo	'to wash (plates, clothes)'	hohoro	'to wash down'
tu	'to dig'	tutu	'to keep digging'
bias	'to ask'	bisabisa	'to keep asking'
kasa	'to talk, speak'	kasakasa	'to keep talking/nag'

Akua kɔ-ɔ asɔre
 Akua go-PST church
 'Akua went to church.'

Akua a-ɲ-kɔ asɔre
 Akua PST-NEG-go church
 'Akua did **not** go to church.'

Kofi re-didi
 Kofi PROG-eat
 'Kofi is eating.'

Kofi re-n-didi
 Kofi PROG-NEG-eat
 'Kofi is **not** eating.'

Consecutive Negation

The consecutive prefix **a-** is not realized when the consecutive is negated:

Kofi bɛ-kɔ dwam a-kɔ-tɔ aduane
 Kofi FUT-go market CON-go-buy food
 'Kofi will go to the market and buy food.'

Kofi ɲ-kɔ dwam ɲ-kɔ-tɔ aduane
 Kofi NEG-go market NEG-go-buy food
 'Kofi will not go to the market to buy food'

Imperative Negation

Positive	Negative
kɔ 'go!'	n-kɔ 'don't go!'
pam 'sew!'	m-pam 'don't sew!'
da 'sleep!'	n-na 'don't sleep!'
bra 'come!'	m-ma 'don't come!'