

Contents

1	Pronunciation Help	1
2	Greetings	3
3	Introducing yourself	5
4	Pronouns, Titles and Family	7
5	Tenses and Grammar	9
6	Useful Words and Phrases	13
7	On the market	17
8	Weekdays and how to find your way	19
9	Dictionary	21

= months	nnaawɔtwe week ("days-eight")
dabi da never	nya get, receive
da day (noun), sleep (verb)	ɔbabarima son
da n'ase thank him (lay him'under)	ɔbanana grandchild
deen what	okunu husband
emo rice	ɔkyena akyi akyi two days after tomorrow (next-next)
Ennora akye day before yesterday	ɔkyena akyi day after tomorrow
ennora yesterday	ɔkyena tomorrow
he where	onua cousin
hyira bless	Onyame God
ma so lift up	ɔyere wife
mfie years, afie = year	Saa! Is that so?!
na and/but/however, day (da)	sen how
nana grandmother/father, king	tapoli mortar (kitchen tool for grinding)
nanankansoa great-grandchild	tikya teacher
	wɔfaase nephew, niece
	yi aye give praise

1 Pronunciation Help

a	most times like bark
e	short like in let or longer
ɛ	head
i	short like in sit or long like sheet
o	most times like for
ɔ	open O like in pot
u	like look or choose
g	gate
h	hire
s	suit
r	rolling tongue R
w	wood
dw	like django
gy	jungle
hw	shwa or ship
hy	shirt
kw	equiped
ky	chief
nw	like nyw
ny	Español
tw	like tshu or the word chew
an	short like zebra and silent N if word end

2 Greetings

Akwaaba! Welcome!

Mema wo akye! (Maakye!) Good morning!
I-give you warmth

Mema wo aha! (Maaha!) Good afternoon!

Mema wo adwo! (Maadwo!) Good evening!

Possible answers for a greeting:

Yaa Ena! (mother, but used for all women)

Yaa Agya! (father, used for all men)

Yaa nua! [nwiya] (sibling, for same age or younger)

Wo ho te sen? How are you?

You body feel how?

Mo ho te sen? How are you (pl.)?

You (pl.) body feel how?

Ɛte sen? How is it?

It-feel how?

Animals

Adanku rabbit

Afofantɔ butterfly

Akoko chicken

Akroma squirrel

Ampan bat

Aponkye sheep

Apɔtrɔ frog

Dabo-Dabo/Dɔko-Dɔko
goat

Kro-kro hawk

Mo mma duck

Nantwie turkey

Odwan cow

Ɔkra/Agyinamoa cat

Ɔkraman dog

Opuro fox

Ɔwo snake

Pete vulture

Sasakraman wolf

Fruits and Vegetables

Abrɔbe pineapple

Amako/Mako pepper

Amango mango

Ankaa, Akutu/Akutuo
orange

Bankye cassava

Bayerɛ, beye yam

Bɔfre, Bɔɔfre pawpaw,
papaya

Bɔɔdee plantain

Gyeyney onion

Kwadu banana

Mankani cocoyam

Nkatie (pea)nuts

nunu	tickle	suro	fear
nya	earn	susu	measure
pam	sew	te n’ase	sit down
pira	hurt	to	buy
pra	sweep	ton	sell
shout	tiɛmu	to	throw
somu	hold	tu	fly
spoil	sɛɛ	wia	steal
sre	laugh	yɛ ntɛm	hurry
su	cry	yera	loose

Numbers

For non-whole number, simply add single number’s name to its base value.

baako	one	ɛ-nson	seven
mienu	two	(ɛ)nwtwe	eight
miensa	three	(ɛ)nkron	nine
ɛ-nan	four (stem: nan, speak like nain)	e-du	ten
e-num	five (“.” marks following stem)	du-baako	11
		du-num	15
e-nsia	six	du-nsia	16

3 Introducing yourself

Wo din de sɛn? What is your name?

Yɛfrɛ wo sɛn? How are you called?
We-call you how?

Me din de Ama. My name is Ama.

Yɛfrɛ me Adwoa. I’m called Adwoa.
We-call I Adwoa.

Wofri he? Where do you come from?
You-from where?

Mefri Korea. I’m from Korea.

Wote he? Where do you stay?
You-stay where?

Mete Combine. I stay at Combine.

Mebaa Ghana nnaawɔtwe baako nie. I came to Ghana last week.
I-came Ghana week one ago.

Wobɛdi abosome sɛn wɔ Ghana? How many months will you stay in Ghana?
You-will-eat months how-many in Ghana?

Wowɔ kuro no asaase mfonini? Do you have a map of the city?

Mesere wo wobetumi akyere me wɔ m'asaase mfonini yi so? Can you please show me on my map?

ɛwa anaa? Is it far from here?

ɛhefa na mɛhunu adreɛe yi? Where can I find this address?

Mɛtumi anante akɔ hɔ? Can I get there on foot?

Three basic Responses you might get

You also have to know some basic responses you will get when you ask these questions.

ɛwɔ w'anɪm tee. It is straight ahead.

Fa wo nifa so. Turn right.

Fa wo benkum so. Turn left.

4 Pronouns, Titles and Family

me/mi I, me, my, mine

m'adamfo my friend

wo you, your

w'adamfo your friend

ɔwɔ, ɔ- (when combined with verb) he/she, him/her

ɛno, ɛ- (when combined with verb) it

ne his/her

n'adamfo his/her friend

yɛ/yɛn we, us, our

y'adamfo our friend

mo you, yours

mo adamfo your friend

wɔ/wɔwɔnom/wɔwɔn/wɔwɔm they, their, them

Often to speak to a person the title/role is prepended.

Yoo. Ma me 7 GHC. Ok, give me 7 Cedi.

Me ma wo 6 GHC. I give you 6 Cedi.

Mepɛ sɛ metɔ gyeene. Gyeene/ɛyɛ sɛn sɛn? I want to buy onion. Onion/It is how much for how many?

Mmiɛnsa 60 GHp/pesewa. Three are 60 Pesewa.

(Wo) Ma me edu. Na gye sika. (You) Give me ten. And take (your) money.

Or: Mɛpaa kyɛ wo to me so./Mɛpa wo kyɛw, to so kakra.
Please add some more for me (as gift).

5 Tenses and Grammar

Present tense is composed by putting subject and predicate together. While here the stem form of the verb is used many words in Twi are changed when used in different tense and nouns too change when used in plural form.

Ennɛ medi Fufuo. Today I eat Fufu.

Mete ha. I stay here. *Note: te has several meanings.*

Menom nsuo. I drink water.

Abena (ɔ)te Twi. Abena speaks Twi.
Abena-feel Twi.

Present progressive is composed by adding a -re- between subject and predicate. When speaking this just becomes a vowel lengthening. Third person singular is an exception if it follows a name.

Mereba. (Meeba.) I'm coming/on my way.
I-now-come.

Meredi Fufuo. (Meedi Fufuo.) I'm eating Fufu.
I-now-eat Fufu.

Past tense is formed by prolonging the vowel of the predicate (or just telling the time while using present tense).

Mesuaa Fanti. I have learned Fanti.

Ennora anwummere medii Ampesi. Yesterday evening
I ate Ampesi.

Mete Germany mfie miensa nie. I lived in Germany
three years ago.
I-stay Germany year three ago.

Imperative forms of verbs do sometimes change (like **ka** to **kassa**). An example is ba which becomes bra, while others like ko remain unchanged.

Mepa wo kyew, bra, wei. Please come, ok? *I-Beg you mercy, come, ok?*

Ko fa ntoosi ma me. Go bring the tomato for me.

Gye sika. Take the money/change.

Menka Twi paa. Enti kassa brofo ma me. I don't speak
Twi well. So speak English for me.

Wo nso wote Twi anaa? And you too, you speak Twi, right?

Mepa wo kyew kassa breau! Please speak slowly.

Wose sen? What do you say?

Agoo!? (When entering a place) Hello, is there someone? Or knocking: **Kɔkɔkɔ** *Answer: Amee!* Yes, someone is inside.

Hwan a? Who's outside?

Ɛye me, Kofi. It's me, Kofi.

Yoo, bra mu! Ok, come in.

Agoo! (When approaching from the back) Attention, I'm coming!

Hwe yie! Watch out!

Ɔɔye deen? What is he/she doing?

Ɛye me ya. It hurts me.

Kafra! Sorry!

Yen kɔ? Shall we go?/Let's go.

Mesi wo ha. (In a Taxi/Trotro) I drop/alight here.

Mete ha. I stay here.

Meware wo. I'll marry you.

Yoo, kɔ hu me papa wɔ Germany. Well then, go see my father in Germany.

M'aware dada. I've married already.

6 Useful Words and Phrases

A common one you are going to here all the time is: **Worekɔ he?** (Sounds more like "Wo-coy?") Where are you going? In Ghana people don't give too much detail: **Me kɔ krum.** I'm going to town. A Ghanaian will then say **Kɔ bra.** Go come. (The equivalent of "come back safely".)

ne and

na and/but, joints phrases or introduces a question

Da yie! Sleep well!

Mepɛ sɛ mekɔ gu nsuo. I want to go to toilet (peeing).
I-like that I-go pour-out water.

adepa nkye (said as "good bye" in the evening)

Wote Twi, anaa? You speak/understand Twi, right?

Aane, meka Twi. Yes, I speak Twi.

Kakra kakra Small small (a little)

Dabi, mente Twi. No, I don't speak/understand Twi.