

Mεware 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.

Me wɔ kunu/yere/mpena. I have a husband/wife/boyfriend.

Yεfre wo maame sen? We call your mother how?

Yεfre me mamme Yaa. We call my mother Yaa.

Asomdwe nka wo. - Enka wo nso Peace be with you.
- And with you.

Mεpe w'asem. I like you.
I-like you'character.

Sister Akua kɔ sraa n'adamfo. Sister Akua goes to visit her friend.

Mεda dua ase. I'll sleep under the tree.
I'll-sleep tree under.

Medaa dan mu. I am sleeping in the room.
I-now-sleep room in.

Ennora/Enne/Okyena ye da ben? What day was/is yesterday/today/tomorrow?
Yesterday/today/tomorrow is day which?

Εye δε. It's sweet (food).

Mafe wo. I missed you.
Answer: Menso saa! Me too!

Negotiation of verbs are made by prepending n to them in most cases. But the consonant is changed if it starts with d like *da* which becomes *nna* or **b** like *bo* which becomes *mmo*.

Wontɔ nsuo bio? You don't buy water again?
You-not-buy water again?

Mentɔn no. I don't sell this.
I-not-sell this?

Yenhya seesei. We don't meet now.

Memmrε... I am not tired... (*from: abre*)

Monnom bia? You don't drink beer?

Aden Kwaku nni gyeene? Why does Kwaku not eat onion?
Why Kwaku not-eat onion?

Yεnfrε me ɔburoni, me din de Lisa. We don't call me ɔburoni/european, my name is Lisa.
We-not-call I ɔburoni, I name given(?) Lisa.

Woboa! - Daabi, memmoa. You lie! - No, I don't lie.

Menni sika. I don't have money. (*from: wɔ*)

Menye Amerikani. I'm not an American.

Felix εεsua Twi. (Not: Felix εεsua.) Felix is learning Twi.
Felix *he-now-learn* Twi.

Seesei woreko he? (Wooko he?) Where are you going now?
Now you-now-go where?

Mereko fie. (Meeko fie.) I am going home.
I-now-go house.

Merenom nsuo. (Meenom nsuo.) I am drinking water.
I-now-drink water.

Yereko nom koko. (Yεεko nom koko.) We go to eat maize porridge.
We-now-go drink porridge.

Oreyε deen? (Oyε deen?) What is he doing?
He-now-do what?

Future tense is composed by adding a -be- between subject and predicate. When speaking this can also just change e to ε.

Mebεda. (Mεda.) I will sleep.

Okyena εβεto mpaboa. Tomorrow he'll buy shoes.

Wobεdi deen? You'll eat what?

Okyena akyi Kwame beko Togo. The day after tomorrow Kwame will go to Togo.

7 On the market

Always start with a smalltalk (see other chapters) before negotiating. You might like to be cheeky and either ask for a lower price or to get some additional amount.

Meko Kro-mu. (Meko krom.) I go to town.
I-go town-into.

Dwaaso ahe? Where is the market?

Εyε fεfε. It's beautiful.

Me pε wei. I like this.

Mepe bio. I want more/again.

Wei yε sen?/Wei sen? How much is this?

Sen?/Εyε sen? How much (is it)?

Apple sen?/Apple εyε sen? How much is the apple?

Mepe se, meto ntoma. Ntoma boε sen? I want to buy cloth. Cloth price is how much?

Yard baako 8 sidi (GHC). One yard is 5 Cedi (GHC).

Mepaakyε wo te so kakra. Please, reduce a little.
I-beg-your-mercy you put-down a-bit.

family abusua

Maame/ɛna, ɛnanom (pl.) Miss, Ladies/Women
Mother, Mothers

Papa/Agɔa, Agyanom (pl.) Mister, Gentlemen/Men
Father, Fathers

ɔbaa woman, girl

Abrantɛɛ, Ababawa young boy, young girl

Akwadaa/Akɔlaa child/baby

Ante auntie

wɔfa'se mothers brother i.e. uncle
→ special role in extended family

Sewaa aunt, "female father" i.e. fathers sister
→ special role in extended family

Bra, nnua beɛma brother

Sister (Sis'a), nnua baa sister

nua baa/barima panin big sister/brother
sibling female/male senior

nua baa/barima kumaa/ketewa small sister/brother
sibling female/male junior

(O)panyin adult

ntaa/ntaafoɔ (pl.) twins

anuanom younger people

osugyani bachelor

mpena fiancée, boyfriend

8 Weekdays and how to find your way

People get names according to the weekday they are born. This list contains versions in one popular spelling.

day	day in Twi	male	female
Sunday	Kwasiada	Kwasi	Akosua
Monday	ɛ-dwoada	Kwadwo	Adwoa
Tuesday	ɛ-benada	Kwabena	Abenaa
Wednesday	Wukuada	Kwaku	Akua
Thursday	Yawoada	Yaw	Yaa
Friday	(E)fiada	Kofi	Afia
Saturday	Memeneda	Kwame	Ama

The following questions or phrases come in handy when you miss directions and get lost.

ɛye me sɛ m'ayera. I think I am lost.

ɛhefa na ɔkwan wei kɔ? Where does this road go to?

3 Introducing yourself

Mɛdi nnaawɔtwe mienu. I will stay two weeks.
I-will-eat week two.

Woadi mfɛ sɛn? How old are you?
You-have-eaten years how-many?

Medii mfɛ dunkron. I am 19 years old.
I-ate years ten-nine.

Wopɛ deɛn? What do you want?
You-want what?

Meɛ sɛ mesra Akosua. I want to visit Akosua.
I-want that I-visit Akosua.

Wɔwɔo wo da bɛn? Which day are you born?
They-bear you day which?

Wɔwɔo me Yawoada, enti yɛfrɛ me Yaw. I'm born at
Thursday and so am called Yaw.
They-born I Thursday, hence we-call I Yaw.

9 Dictionary

Verbs

adeka read	hu blow, see
ba come (imp. bra)	huri jump
bisa ask	hwɛ look
boa help	hye burn
dane turn	kae remember
didi/di (+ object) eat	ka talk (imp. kassa)
fa take (along)	kɔ go
fe ano kiss (lit. throw out lips)	kɔ/tu mmrika run
frɛ call	kye fry
gye take	kyerɛ teach
hata dry	kyia greet
hia need/want	nante walk
home breathe	noa cook
	nom drink

2 Greetings

aduosia, aduesia 60

aduocson 70

aduowɔtwe 80

aduockron 90

ɔha 100

Human Body

Eti/Etire/Ti head

Ti nwi hair

ɛnim face

Mo mma forehead

ɛni eyes

ɛse teeth

Hwene nose

Aso ear(s)

Ano mouth

(ɛ)kɔn neck

Nsa arm(s)

ɛfu stomach

ɛkyi back

Sisi waist

(ɛ)nan legs

Ani akyi nwi eyebrow(s)

Afono cheeks

Abogwe chin

Abogwe sɛ beard

Abɛti/Mmbɛti Shoulder(s)

Bo chest

Srɛ thigh

Kotodwe knee

Me ho yɛ. I'm fine.

I body good.

Onyame adom me ho yɛ. By God's grace I'm fine.

God grace I body good.

ɛyɛ. It's good.

Bɔkɔɔ! Soft! (infrml.)

Na wo nso ɛ? And how are you?

And you too same-question?

Menso me ho yɛ. I'm also fine.

I-too I body good.

Yoo. Yɛda Onyame ase. Well, we thank God.

OK. We-lay God under.

Meda ase (paa/bɛbre). (Medaase.) Thank you (good/much).

I-lay under.

Meda wo ase. (Meda w'ase.) Thank you.

I-lay you under.

Menso meda mo ase. Thank you (pl.) too.

I-too I-lay you (pl.) under.

Nante yie! Save journey!

Mɛhu wo akyire! (Akyire!) (I) See you later!

Yɛbɛhyia! We will meet!

ɔkyena yɛbɛhyia bio. Tomorrow we'll meet again.

Afe hyia pa! - Afe nko mmeto yen! Happy New Year!

- May another year come and meet us!

Wordlist

abanoma	adopted child	ɛnnora	yesterday
abofra	child	he	where
abosome	months, bo- some = month	hyira	bless
afie	year, mfie = years	ma so	lift up
anɔpa	morning	mfie	years, afie = year
anwummere	evening	na	and/but/however, day (da)
asanka	stone bowl for grinding	nana	grandmother/father, king
awia	noon, sun	nanankansoa	great- grandchild
bɛn	which	nnaawɔtwe	week ("days- eight")
bosome	month, abosome = months	nya	get, receive
dabi da	never	ɔbabarima	son
da	day (noun), sleep (verb)	ɔbanana	grandchild
da n'ase	thank him (lay him'under)	okunu	husband
deen	what	ɔkyena akyi akyi	two days after tomorrow (next-next)
ɛmo	rice	ɔkyena akyi	day after to- morrow
ɛnnora akye	day before yesterday		

Twi belongs to the Akan language family and consists of strong dialects like Asante, Akuapem, Fante and more. The book gives just small insights of a common Twi and you will find more local varieties of pronunciation and words. Depending on the way to count there are around 60 languages in Ghana, but the Twi group is the biggest, especially in the south. The language also spread to Suriname, Jamaica and other places around South America through the slave trade. The alphabet and some of the first publications in Twi come from German missionaries and thus most vowels and consonants are not too different from German pronunciation. But it's not easy like that and you'll need to practise not only the diphthongs but also tones.

Proverbs

Nka-kra, nka-kra akoko benom nsuo

bit by bit the chicken will drink water

Okoto nwo anoma a crab does not bear a bird

Brothers and sisters, what should we say then? When you come together, every one of you brings something. You bring a hymn or a teaching or a word from God. You bring a message in another language or explain what was said. All of those things must be done to make the church strong.

— NIRV 1 Corinthians 14:26

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Small Communication Book for Common Twi

Ghana-Korea-Germany
Church Partnership Youth Encounter

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