

PHONEMES AND ORTHOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

EXAMPLES

/p/	p	/m/	m	/f/	f
/b/	b	/n/	n	/v/	v
/t/	t	/ɲ/	ny	/s/	s
/d/	d	/ŋ/	ng	/z/	z
/tʃ/	ch	/ŋm/	nm	/l/	l
/dʒ/	j			/r/	r
/k/	k			/h/	h
/g/	g			/w/	w
/kp/	kp			/y/	y
/gb/	gb				
/i/	i			/u/	u
/ɪ/	ɪ			/ʊ/	ʊ
/e/	e			/o/	o
/ɛ/	ɛ			/ɔ/	ɔ
		/ə/	a		
		/a/	a		

a	ba	to follow
b	ɔbaba	important
ch	ucha	soap
d	da	to do, make
e	ihile	rules
e	ɪtɛ	root
f	ɛfa	home
g	ogege	pineapple
gb	gba	to take out
h	ha	to please
i	ibi	market
i	itɛ	pepper
j	oja	story
k	ka	to go
kp	akpa	box
l	la	to have
m	ime	salt
n	ne	to suck
ng	ongo	persor.
nm	nmoo	heavy
ny	unya	trap
o	wo	to hear
o	ori	palm tree
p	epete	feet
r	ra	to buy
s	isombi	soybeans
t	ite	pepper
u	wu	to hear
u	wu	to boil
v	evu	dog
w	wa	to count
y	ya	to speak
z	eze	my friend

Note that the /ə/ is very rare. In the orthography no distinction is made between it and the /a/.

Tones:

high	ˊ
high-mid	ˊˊ
low-mid	ˋˋ
low	ˋ

Tone is not written in the orthography except in a few minimal pairs.

ALPHABET

a b ch d e ɛ f g gb h i ɪ j k kp l m n ng nm ny o ɔ
p r s t u ʊ v w y z

number of graphemes 3