

Yoruba Beginner Guide

Alphabet · Numbers · Greetings · Days of the Week

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Welcome to your Yoruba Beginner Guide

Yoruba is a beautiful tonal language spoken by over 40 million people. Let us start from the basics!

1. The Yoruba Alphabet

The Yoruba alphabet has 25 letters. Some look familiar, others are unique:

a, b, d, e, e (with dot below), f, g, gb, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, o (with dot below), p, r, s, s (with dot below), t, u, w, y

Important notes:

- Yoruba is a TONAL language — the same word can mean different things depending on the tone
- Three main tones: High (/), Low (\), Mid (no mark)
- e with dot below is pronounced like "eh"
- o with dot below is pronounced like "aw"
- gb is a unique sound — lips together then open with a "b"

2. Numbers 1–20

- 1 — Eni / Okan
- 2 — Eji / Meji
- 3 — Eta / Meta
- 4 — Erin / Merin
- 5 — Arun / Marun
- 6 — Efa / Mefa

- 7 — Eje / Meje
 - 8 — Ejo / Mejo
 - 9 — Esan / Mesan
 - 10 — Ewa / Mewa
 - 11 — Okanla
 - 12 — Ejila
 - 15 — Oeedogun
 - 20 — Ogun
 - 100 — Ogorun
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3. Common Greetings & Phrases

- **E kaaro** — Good morning
 - **E kaasan** — Good afternoon
 - **E kaale** — Good evening
 - **E kaabo** — Welcome
 - **Bawo ni?** — How are you?
 - **Mo wa daadaa** — I am fine
 - **E se / E se pupo** — Thank you / Thank you very much
 - **Pele** — Sorry / Sympathy
 - **Odabo** — Goodbye
 - **Beeni** — Yes
 - **Beekan** — No
 - **Oruko mi ni...** — My name is...
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4. Days of the Week

- **Ojo Aiku** — Sunday
- **Ojo Aje** — Monday
- **Ojo Isegun** — Tuesday
- **Ojo Riru** — Wednesday
- **Ojo Bo** — Thursday
- **Ojo Eti** — Friday
- **Ojo Abameta** — Saturday

Want to practice speaking Yoruba or go beyond the basics? Book a Yoruba session with Jasper Space today!

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