

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	/ŋw/	nw	[z]	z
/tʃ/	c			/l/	l
/dʒ/	j			/ʒ/	hy
/k/	k			/h/	h
/g/	g			/w/	w
/kp/	kp			/j/	y
/gb/	gb				
/i/	i			/u/	u
/ɪ/	ɪ			/o/	o
/e/	e			/ɔ/	ɔ
/ɛ/	ɛ			/a/	a
/ə/	a/ä*				

The diaeresis is only used for some words where the vowel harmony is not marked by other vowels.

/V/ Vn (except /e/, /ɛ/, /o/, or /ɔ/)

Tones:

high	˥	
low	˩	unmarked
high-falling	˥˩	
low-rising	˩˥	

Tone is marked on a limited number of words.

a	alaka	suitcase
b	baka	tree
c	cece	no
d	dadte	knife
e	elue	yam
ɛ	elee	canoe
f	fufole	new
g	gua	market
gb	gbologbolo	rubber boots
h	hue	chest
hy	hyeli	lamp glass
i	fiti	to pierce
ɪ	sult	to laugh
j	ejeje	chewing stick
k	koko	cocoa
kp	kpa	good, well
l	like	thing
m	man	to give
n	nsuba	evening
nw	nwan	who?
ny	nyanman	vine
o	olo	sauce
ɔ	fɔfɔ	shade
p	ponun kun	25 francs
s	sua	house
t	taladte	clothing
u	uhue	Thursday
u	fufufulu	easy
v	nvole	termite
w	wote	fork
y	yā	Friday
z	nzan	beverage

ALPHABET

a b c d e ɛ f g gb h hy i ɪ j k kp l m n nw ny o ɔ
p s t u v w y z

number of graphemes 32

Alphabets of Africa

edited by

Published by UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar (BRED)A
12, Avenue Roume, B.P. 3311, Dakar, Senegal

Rhonda L. Hartell ISBN : 92-9091-020-3

© UNESCO, 1993

Printed by BRED Press