

NAIJALANG'S TIKTOK LIVE

YORUBA LANGUAGE NOTE

ALPHABETS CLASS 1

The Nigerian Yoruba alphabet is made up of 24 letters, without C Q V X Z but with the additions of Ẹ, Ọ, Ɔ and Gb. The letter P is pronounced as [kp]

The Alphabets are;

A B D E Ẹ F G Gb I J K L M N O Ọ P R S Ɔ T U W Y

Of these 24 alphabets, we have seven (7) vowels(fáwẹ̀lì) - a, e, ẹ, i, o, ọ, u, and the

remaining 18 letters are consonants.

Pronunciations:

VOWELS: -

a = ah, ~ just like the “a” sounds in **alphabet**

e = hay/ay, ~ just like “a” sounds in **plane**

ɛ = er, ~ just like “e” sounds in **alphabet**

i = e, ~ just like “l” sounds in **interesting**

o = o, ~ just like “o” sounds in **oval/over**

ɔ = or, ~ just like “o” sounds in **octopus/orange**

u = who/hu, ~ just like “u” sounds in **flute**

ALPHABETS CLASS 2

CONSONANTS:

b - be, ~ just like “b” sounds in **baby**

d - dee, ~ just like “d” sounds in **doctor**

f - fee, ~ just like “f” sounds in **follow**

g - ge, ~ just like “g” sounds in **get**

j = gee, ~ just like “j” sounds in **join**

k - key, ~ just like “k” sounds in **king**

l - lee, ~ just like “l” sounds in **lion**

m - mi, ~ just like “m” sounds in **may**

n - nee, ~ just like “n” sounds in **navel**

p – kpee,

r - ree, ~ just like “r” sounds in **road**

s - c, ~ just like “s” sounds in **single**

ş - she, ~ just like “sh” sounds in **shot**

t - tee, ~ just like “t” sounds in **total**

w - wee, ~ just like “w” sounds in **work**

y - ye, ~ just like “Y” sounds in **Yes**

TONES CLASS 1

Àmì ohùn ní èdè Yorùbá

Yorùbá is a tonal language, where the tone or pitch in which you pronounce a word determines or changes its meaning.

For instance, this three letter Yoruba word below could have different meanings based on the tonal marks written above the syllables...

ọkọ - husband

ọkọ́ – hoe

ọkọ̀ – car

In Yorùba, there are three tones namely

Dò – which is the first and low tone denoted by a grave mark (̀) above the syllable. (This is pronounced as the word “**though**” will be pronounced in English)

Re – which is the second and mid tone denoted by the absence of a tonal mark. (This is pronounced as the word “**ray**” will be pronounced in English)

Mí – which is the third and high tone denoted by an acute mark (´) above the syllable. (This is pronounced as the word “**mee**” will be pronounced in English)

TONES CLASS 2

When writing Yorùba, the tonal marks are only written above vowels: a e ẹ i o ọ u (and sometimes n) in each syllable.

For instance, the word “**şola**” written as **şolá** has two syllables - 1: **şo**, 2: **lá**. In each syllable, the vowel there is the alphabet that carries the tonal mark. The “o” carries no tonal mark, which denotes the Re tonal mark, while the “**lá**” carries the acute tonal mark which denotes Mí tonal mark

Another example to illustrate this is - **Ọladunjoye** written as **Ọládùnjòyè**. The word has five syllables - 1) **Ọ** 2) **lá** 3) **dùn** 4) **jo** 5) **yè**. In each syllable, the vowel there is the alphabet that carries the tonal mark. The **Ọ** carries no tonal mark, which denotes the **Re** tonal mark, while the **á** in **lá** carries acute tonal mark which denotes the **Mi** tonal mark, the **ù** in **dùn** carries the low tonal mark which denotes the **Dò** tonal mark, the **o** in **jo** carries no tonal mark which denotes the Re tonal mark and finally the **è** in **yè** carries the low tonal mark which denotes the **Dò** tonal mark

NOUNS CLASS 1

Nouns (naming words) are called “**Ọrọ̀ orúkọ**” in Yorùbá.

Ọrọ̀ orúkọ ni ọ̀rọ̀ tí a fún ẹ̀ ìdánimọ̀ fún orí kòòkan tàbí ẹgbẹ̀ èyàn, ẹranko, àti ohun kó hun tí ní mi àbí tí kò mí

(Nouns are words used to identify any of a class of people, places, or things).

TYPES OF NOUNS

Ọ̀rọ̀ orúkọ Oní-pàtó (Proper Noun)

Oro orúkọ yí tóká sí oruko ti a nkan nje gan gan àwọn nkan (specific name)

Àwọn àpẹẹrẹ (examples):

Kíniun (Lion)

Baba (Father)

Iya (Mother)

Şíbí (Spoon)

Òrò orúkọ Àkópò (Common Noun)

Oro orúkọ yí tóká sí aṣojú oruko ti a le fi pe àwọn nkan yálà mímí tàbí àímí (generic names for living and nonliving things)

Àwọn àpẹẹrẹ (examples):

Ẹranko (animal)

Èso (fruit)

Ọkọ

Ẹran (meat)

Ìlú (country)

Òrò orúkọ Àkólé (Aljébra) (Abstract Noun)

Oro orúkọ yí tóká sí ọruko ti a le fi pe àwọn ohun ti a ko le ri (things we can't see but feel)

Àwọn àpẹẹrẹ (examples):

Ìfẹ (love)

Ìdùnnú (happiness)

Ayò (joy)

Òmìnira (freedom)

Òrò orúkọ Èlégbé (Abstract Noun)

Oro orúkọ yí tóka sí òrò ti a le fi pe àpapọ̀ àwọn nkan (collective name)

Àwọn àpẹẹrẹ (examples):

Ègbé

Èrò

Òṣùṣù

#PS it is worthy to note that nouns (òrò orúkọ) in Yorùbá don't have plural forms

E.g. "ilé" (house) is ilé in its plural form, we don't add an "s" to it. We only pluralize nouns by adding numeric counters to them,

Eg

ilé méjì - 2 houses,

ìlú mẹfà - 6 countries

Ọmọọ mẹta - 3 children

NOUN VOCABULARY BANK: -

FAMILY;

Bàbá - Father

Ìyá - Mother

Ègbón - Elder sibling

Àbúrò - Younger sibling

Ọkọ - Husband

Aya - Wife

Ọmọdé - Child

Abiyamọ - Mother

Òbí - Parent

Èbí - Family

TITLES;

Ọmọdé – Kid/Children

Àgbàlagbà - Elder/Grown up

Ọmọge - Lady(pretty)

Omidan - Miss

Ọgbéni - Mr.

Ìyá Àfin - Mrs.

Ọgá - Boss

Ọmọşé - Worker/Employee

Ọré - Friend

Àlùfáà - Priest

Ọba - King

Olorì/Ayaba - Queen -

Ọmọ ọba - Prince/Princess

Àrólé - Heir

PROFESSIONS;

Olùkó - Teacher

Akékòó - Student

Ara Àdúgbò – Neighbors

Ọlọpàá - Policeman

Adájó - Judge

Agbejórò – Lawyer

Ológun - Warrior

Ọlọdẹ - Hunter

Akọrin - Singer

Apòdà - Painter

Ológun - Warrior

Ọlọdẹ - Hunter

Akọrin - Singer

Apòdà - Painter

NOUNS CLASS 2

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS;

(KITCHEN UTENSILS)

Àwo - Plate

şíbí - Spoon

Abó - Bowl

Garawa - Bucket

Ìgò - Bottle

Òbẹ - Knife

Ọmọrogùn – Spatula

(FOOD ITEMS)

Oúnjẹ - Food

Òkèlè - Swallow

Iyò - Salt

Ata - Pepper

Òróró - Groundnut Oil

Epo - Red oil

Iṣu - Yam

Eyin - Egg

Ìrẹ̀sì - Rice

Ẹ̀wà - Beans

Omi - Water

Ọ̀bẹ̀ - Soup

(FRUITS)

Ọ̀gẹ̀dẹ̀ - Plantain

Ọ̀sàn - Orange

Ìbẹ̀pẹ̀ - Pawpaw

Ẹ̀fọ̀ - Vegetable

Ọ̀pẹ̀ oyinbo - Pine apple

(ANIMALS)

Kìnnìún - Lion

Ẹ̀kùn - Tiger

Ológbò - Cat

Ajá - Dog

Ewúré - Goat

Màlúù - Cow

Ẹ̀ṣin – Horse

Kètékèté - Donkey

Kòlòkòlò - Fox

Ejò - Snake

Ìjàpá - Tortoise

Eku - Rat

Ẹja - Fish

Ọpòlọ – Frog

Èrà - Ant

Áyán - Cockroach

Adìé - Chicken

Pépeye - Duck

Ẹye - Bird

Tòlótóló - Turkey

Àkéèké - Scorpion

Ọbọ - Monkey

(THINGS)

Ìwé - Book

Pátákó - Board

Àga - Chair

Àpò - Sack, Bag, (Pocket)

Aşọ - Clothes

Bàtà - Shoes.

Ago - Clock/watch

Okùn - Rope

Òrùlé - Roof

Ilẹ̀kùn - Door

Fèrèsé - Window

Òkúta - Stone

Ẹ̀bùn - Gift

Ìdíje - Competition

Ìránṣẹ́ - Messenger

Oníbàára - Customer

Iṣẹ́ - Work

Ìwé ìránṣẹ́ - Letter

Ìdúnadúra - Negotiation

Ìpàdé - Meeting

Ìkédèe - Announcement

Àdéùn - Agreement

Ìgbéga - promotion

Ìdádúró - termination

Àlejo - visitor

Àròyé - explanation

Èrò - thoughts/ crowd

Iṣe - Deeds/doings