

The following words with **u** were in the passage:

Asún, bu, advasa-nyə, Mbu, amu, bude, ɔdɔtɔpu, anibu, pú, ku, mú, uku, Ntɔpú, wɪsu-ató, uv-wá.

Most words in the passage have tone marks. Any four of them are correct.

Exercises 22-24 any sentence using the words is correct.

Exercise 25

1. **Ɔmá-gyí-ómá tekle ida yilé.**
2. **Ní fɪmɔyɔ wúlu-agyómá á, butɔhɔ fu ukɔ, ní fɪmeká á, butɔwá fu obu.**
3. **Wúlu-agyómá telá wúlu pú ómá.**

READING AND WRITING THE NKONYA LANGUAGE

by

Joseph Goodways Kudjo

and

The Nkonya Language Project
Team

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Exercise 11

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. toad (frog) | gyongyo | 4. charcoal | agyawunu |
| 2. squat | gyonka | 5. younger brother | gyama |
| 3. squirrel | gyabe | 6. yesterday | igye |

Exercise 12

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| 1. corn | kpoli | 3. snore | kpɔɫɪ |
| 2. rat | kpasi | 4. goat | kpála |

Exercise 13 & 14 have no written answers.

Exercise 15

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1. beard | ikwi | 6. tsitsi |
| 2. knee | kpawunu | 7. fwɪ |
| 3. frog | kpasi | 8. dwɛ |
| 4. raining | tswie | 9. gyopin |
| 5. give birth | kwu | 10. pɔpwe |

Exercise 15 has no written answers.

Exercise 16

Any word in Nkonya is correct

Exercise 17 has no written answers.

Exercise 18

Any verb in Nkonya is correct.

Any noun in Nkonya is correct

Exercises 19 & 20: any combination of the words is correct.

Exercise 21

The following words with **t** were in the passage:

Mí, wɪ, ɔmantí, swí, dubɪ, anɪ, anlakwí, antegyɪ, anfi, antefé, uku, wɪsv-ató, asóri, ulv-wá.

Fú ání fúbu ɔwɔlú ánfɪ tɪwɪ asún uku á, beblá anɪ:

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Exercise 4

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. uká - 'pad'
uka - 'grass' | 4. ɔkpɛ - 'trumpet'
ɔkpé - 'witchcraft' |
| 2. afú - 'wind'
afu - 'foam' | 5. tsia - 'stay'
tsiá - 'greetings' |
| 3. ání - 'that'
ant - 'we' | 6. awú - 'bones'
awu - 'thorns' |

Exercise 5

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Kufa nt. 'This is a sheep.' | 4. Gyatá ní. 'This is a lion.' |
| 2. Oputsú ní. 'This is soup.' | 5. igyó ámv (the yam) |
| Ntsu nt. 'This is water.' | ɔklun amv (the boat) |
| 3. Kttu nt. 'This is a lizard.' | 6. Asún ní. 'This is a word.' |

Exercises 6, 7 and 8 are exercises with no written answers.

Exercise 9

There are many words with n at the end. Here are a few:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| akún 'hunger' | pian 'tired' |
| asún 'word' | kasian 'unsuccessfully' |
| bon 'stink' | kínkínkín 'seriously' |
| dan 'grow old' | lian 'resemble' |
| díín 'quiet' | oklún 'darkness' |
| hian 'need' | ɔsan 'towel' |
| akpin 'garden eggs' | sawun 'tortoise' |

Exercise 10 has no written answers.

Preface

Read This Before You Begin

This book is meant for people who speak Nkonya but know how to read English.

Many Nkonyas who can read well in English have thought that it would be difficult to read Nkonya. They know that they had to spend a long time to learn to read English and think that they will have to do the same for Nkonya. You may be one of those people who think that way. This is usually not so.

When you learned to read English, you were learning not only to read, but at the same time you were learning new and unfamiliar words and at the same time how to say them. You already know how to read. You already know the Nkonya words and how to say them. All that remains is to learn the one or two new letters and how some Nkonya sounds are spelled.

With any new skill, the key is practice. Throughout this book, we have given exercises to help you to learn the things that are taught. They are not tests to see how much you know. It is important for you to try the exercises so that you will be practicing the things you are learning.

These lessons are based on lessons that the Nkonya Language Project gave in October and November, 1997 in several Nkonya towns. The lessons were mostly prepared by Joseph Goodways Kudjo but all the staff members of the Project were involved in the work.

We also want to thank Clair "Akosua" Cooke for her help in editing and preparing this book. "Akos, fabwé ató."

Most of all we would like to thank Nana Blu who created us all and gave us the languages we speak. He gave us the wisdom to write this book.

READING AND WRITING THE NKONYA LANGUAGE

Atosuánhe 1 The Alphabet Alfabéta

These are the letters used to write what we read in English:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

These are the letters used to write Twi and Ewe, two Ghanaian languages spoken in Nkonya.

a b d ḍ e e f f g h y i k l m n ŋ o ɔ p r s t u v w x y z

Exercise 1: (Answers to the exercises at the back of the book starting on page 22.)

- i Read the English alphabet letters aloud.
- ii Read the Twi and Ewe alphabet letters aloud.
- iii Can all the English letters be used in writing Nkonya words?
- iv If no:
 - a. write the letters of the English alphabet which are **not** used to write Nkonya:
 - b. write the letters of the Twi/Ewe which are **not** used to write Nkonya
- v What letters from Twi/Ewe and English are used in Nkonya?

Answers to Exercises

Asun Fitéhé Ámu Mbuat

Exercise 1

- iii No.
- iv For English, not all the letters are used. 'c', 'j', 'q', 'x', and 'z' do not occur in Nkonya words: English words spelled in Nkonya will use the following:
 - 'c' will be spelled with **k** or **s**
 - 'j' will be spelled with **gy**
 - 'q' will be spelled with **kw**
 - 'x' will be spelled with **ks**For Twi, all the letters are used in Nkonya. For Ewe, the following letters are used, 'ḍ', 'f', 'y', 'x', 'z'. The sound that occurs in Ewe as 'ḍ' is spelled 'd'.
- v The following letters from Twi/Ewe and English are used in Nkonya:

a b d e e f g h i k l m n o ɔ p r s t u v y

The letter 'v' is used in both Ewe and Nkonya but is used for different sounds. You will learn more about it in Atosuánhe 2.

Exercise 2 is an exercise with no written answers.

Exercise 3

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. kt 'look' | 6. mu 'him' |
| 2. ktu 'lizard' | 7. tu 'meet' |
| 3. uklun 'door' | 8. kpu 'shake' |
| 4. ptu 'swim' | 9. nkunv 'where?' |
| 5. wu 'chew' | 10. tkpun 'knot' |

Atosuánhe 12

A letter to my sister telling her I shall come home for the Easter celebrations.

E. P. Church
PO Box 3
Nkonya Ntsumuru
March 10st, 1998

Mi Ɔdwepú Mansah,
Nde ɔwulú ánfɔ wanlín púfíté mli fée sú. lwi bu mi ɔlun wánkláan.

Nanú ání bégɔi Yesu Wu Kúsú nke ámu (Easter) anɔ wúluto ofienɔ. Néba wói, bábe.g.yi nke ámu. Mí ányawíe aku bóbuo mi ba.

Músu nobwíi pa hánfú, la mí óbu ámutɔ yai mí. Hɔ igyó pú ábate anyɔ yai mí. Néba beka fu mu fée kɔ. Wanlɔn tɔ́á nhɔ ba fu pú nyebí ámu fée sisi mí ɔsasɔ.

Nkált gyí Papá lwi ámu? Han ɔhan-gyí-óhan tsiá hán mi.

Fú píó.
John.

Exercise 28:

Wanlɔn addréɔtɔ ámu pé.

Wanlɔn tsiá han ámu.

Wanlɔn ɔwanlín-pú-tsiá han, ámu é.

Exercise 29:

Write a letter to a relative telling him or her about what you do on Sundays.

Atosuánhe 2

ɩ and U

Two letter sounds occur in Nkonya which are not written in the English or Twi and Ewe languages.

One is the vowel ‘ɩ’ ‘ɪ’ and the second is the vowel ‘U’ ‘u’. For example, the letter **ɩ** is seen in **ɩbɩ** ‘hand’. The letter **u** is seen in **ɩbu** ‘mountain’.

The **ɩ** and the **e** Sounds

Look at these words. Notice the **ɩ** sound and how the words are spelled:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. ku - ‘look’. | It is not spelled ke |
| 2. tu - ‘call’. | It is not spelled te |
| 3. ɩbɩ - ‘hand’ | It is not spelled ebe |
| 4. mu - ‘me’. | It is not spelled me |
| 5. bu - ‘know’. | It is not spelled be |

The **e** is still used in Nkonya words. Look at these words. Notice the sound and how these words are spelled:

1. **kebi** - ‘a child
2. **sire** - ‘peel’

Note that the vowel **ɩ** is different from the letter ‘i’. The letter **ɩ** has no dot (•) on it but has a short hook at the bottom. The **i** has a dot on it:

i I ɩ U

Trace the dotted lines for the letter **u** below:



Now write the letter yourself along the line below:

.....

The v and the o Sounds

Look at these words. Notice the **v** sound and how these words are spelled:

- 1. **pú** - ‘take’. It is not spelled fo.
- 2. **mv** - ‘him’. It is not spelled mo.
- 3. **tv** - ‘meet’. It is not spelled to.
- 4. **kukv** - ‘none’. It is not spelled koko.

The **o** sound is still used. Notice the **o** sound and how these words are spelled:

- 1. **kpoli** - ‘corn/maize’
- 2. **potofi** - ‘partridge (a bird)’
- 3. **botodua** - ‘bamboo’

Note that the vowel **v** is different from the letter u. The letter **v** has a little hook each side and u also has a descending line.



Trace the dotted lines for the letter **v** below:



Now write the letter yourself along the line below:

.....

Nkonya Ɔbli Wanlín Ágyúamá, dé sukúu yaí há áhande pú ɔkpatɔ asínpu anfi. Békasí Nkonya Wanlín pú mú kla wánkláán. Bɔbɔá amú bétalí klá Twi, Ewe pú Abɔfɔ é.

Bebí átɔ klá pú wanlín á, iwɪ bolwíí ámú. Ɔhaa méetra kla amú ɔwulu há ámú ε. Bétalí wánlín ámú áttisɔ pú ámú ámándíé. Békla atɔ, súan atɔ tsótsótsó tsú nwulútsó.

Ɔwolúbu tehán ágywun tetse, butebí ɔmá bámbátɔ asún pu, Blu nyánsa asun púkpá iwɪ.

Exercise 27:

Answer these questions:

- 1. Wanlín atɔ ása ání sukúu tehá ɔha?

.....

- 2. Ntogyi sɔ iwɪ bolwíí áhande ání búde Nkonya ɔbli suán?

.....

- 3. Ní fumeyín ɔwulú á, ntɔ ileyintá?

.....

- 4. Mlɔgyi iwɛn, kí asún ánfɔtɔ: “Owulú íbu odwin dun krántɛ”.

.....

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Atosuánhe 11

Sukúu-yo

Sukúu-yo ibu alé sé. Sukúu tehá ómá, wúlu pú óha tɔwíí mú. Foyó sukúu a, fékasi ɔwulú klá. Fékasi ɔwulu wanlín. ɔwulú bi tehá óha tosuán ató tsotsɔtsɔ.

Atosuánhe tetse oha tsiátó. Utehá oha tenyá ágyómá ókponkpontkpa tsía. Atosuánhe tehá óha tenyá sika pú mu iwísu ató. Oha onyá sika pú átó á, ɔtóbúa mu ɔmá, wúlu pú ábusuanfɔ.

Ahande sukúu lábasu séi ání. Ide ahande ání bumoyɔ sukúu nyebito buá. Alí kén ide ahá ání boyó fun ɔkpatɔ é buá ni.

Exercise 2:

Read these words aloud carefully. Listen to the **t** and **v** sounds:

ibu - hand

isi - soil

sisi - order

ibu - mountain

titi - tear

Exercise 3:

Fill in the blanks:

1. **_t_** - 'look'

6. **_v_** - 'him'

2. **k_t_** - 'lizard'

7. **t_** - 'meet'

3. **_kl_n_** - 'door'

8. **kp_kp_** - 'sift (with sieve)'

4. **p_t_** - 'swim'

9. **nk_n_** - 'where?'

5. **w_** - 'chew'

10. **kp_n_** - 'knot'

Atosuánhe 3

Tone Marks

Listen carefully to the difference between these two words; **mú** 'it' and **mu** 'him'. Listen also to the difference between **anu** 'we' and **ání** 'that'. We put a mark (') over a letter if we say it with a high (raised) tone.

For example: note the tone marks on the following Nkonya words change their meaning:

mu - 'him'

abi - 'nuts'

mú - 'it'

abí - 'sons/daughters'

ana - 'four'

tfa - 'barn'

aná - 'grandchildren'

tfá - 'weeds'

olu - 'hatred'

fɛɛ - 'you say'

olú - 'noise'

féé - 'all'

Exercise 4:

Mark the tone on one word in each pair to give it its correct meaning.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. ika - 'pad' | 4. okpe - 'trumpet' |
| ika - 'grass' | okpe - 'witchcraft' |
| 2. afu - 'wind' | 5. tsia - 'stay' |
| afu - 'foam' | tsia - 'greetings' |
| 3. anu - 'that' | |
| anu - 'we' | |

The tone of some words will change depending on the word before them. For example, after some words, **ni** 'this is' will take a tone mark (´) e.g. **bate ni** 'this is a chicken'. With others **ni** does not, e.g. **kiti ni** 'this is a lizard'. See also that **tati amu** 'the cloth' has a mark; **gyagya amu** 'the bat' does not.

Exercise 5:

In the following, one of the words in each pair needs a high tone mark. Mark the tones on them. Mark the tones on the **amu** and **ni** as well.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Kufa ni . 'This is a sheep.' | 4. Gyagya ni 'This is a bat' |
| Gyata ni . 'This is a lion.' | Odayi ni . 'This is a knife' |
| 2. Oputsu ni . 'This is soup.' | 5. igyo amu 'the yam' |
| Fufu ni . 'This is fufu.' | oklun amu 'the boat' |
| 3. Kiti ni . 'This is a lizard.' | |
| Asun ni . 'This is a word.' | |

Exercise 25:

Answer these questions:

1. Nto omá-gyí-óma tekle?

.....

2. Omá fée mbla gyí nkáli?

.....

3. Wúlu agyúamá te ...

.....

4. "Ohaa tamapú buna súná wóí ókpa" así mé?

.....

Exercise 26:

Make 10 sentences from the words in this table. Note that the words in columns 2 and 3 join together. Watch the tone marks!

Examples: 1. Aha butegyí asún wánkláán

2. Ohande toyó ágyúamá wánkláán.

1	2	3	4	5
Ahá	tó	ki	ató	wánkláán
bu	te	gyi	agyúm	
			á	
Ohande	to	bu	ıwt	
Nyebí	te	yó	asún	
Oha-gyí-óha				

2. Write the names of the major clans making your town.
3. Write the names and titles of the Sub-chiefs of your town.
4. Write the names of all the Churches in your town.

Atosuánhe 10

Wúlu Agyúma

Omá-gyí-ómá tekle ida yilé. Wúlu-gyí-wúlu é, tekle ida yilé. Alt kén, oha-gyí-óha tɔbwé áto wankláán méni békanfú mu ni.

Mí wúlu de sukúu mbu yi. Anɔɔyó wúlu-agyúamá ipwe-gyí-pwe. Bedá ɔkan a, ahá butɔpú ánsigyí yó ágyúamá. Ahá áni bumedé ámu wúlu yilé kle a, butama yó.

Ní fɔmɔyɔ wúlu-agyúamá á, butɔhɔ fu ikɔ, ní fɔmeká á, butɔwá fu obu. Omá fěé mbla igyi.

Wúlu-agyúamá telá wúlu pú ómá. lɔsúná ání omá ámutɔtɔfɔ ansí labwíí. Ahandé leblt bee “Oháá tama pú bína súná wóí ɔkpa.”

Exercise 24:

Make sentences from the words below:

Wúlu-agyúamá; ɔkan; oha-gyí-óha; yilé; anst-bwíí; mbla; buna.

1.
2.
3.
4.

Exercise 6:

Read the following sentences aloud. Notice closely how the tones rise and fall:

1. Asún ámúú laba amu ni.
2. Sika bu mútós.
3. Ní fɔyó á, bla mi.
4. Kpasí ni, mu ɔbó ní.
5. Akosua ɔyɔ wóítós.
6. Butama tsíí ípí sí yí ípítós.

Atosuánhe 4

Other Special Letters

A. The letter n

When ‘n’ comes at the beginning of a word, it is pronounced, but has a slightly different sound depending on what consonant follows it.

For example:

ntsu - ‘water’

nfɔ - ‘oil’

nkpa - ‘life’

nkónu - ‘where’

Exercise 7:

Read these words aloud:

nwun - ‘head’

ntam - ‘oath’

ngyá - ‘firewood’

ntá - ‘wine’

When ‘n’ comes at the end of a word, it changes the sound of the vowel before it and makes it sound in the nose (nasal) but the ‘n’ itself is not pronounced.

Example:

- tan** - ‘to forget’ compare this with **ta** - ‘to be finished’
- kan** - ‘to drive’ compare this with **ka** - ‘to cut’
- tun** - ‘to cut off’ compare this with **tu** - ‘to call’
- lan** - ‘to lie across’ compare this with **la** - ‘to repair’
- wun** - ‘to see’ compare this with **wu** - ‘to die’

Exercise 8:

Read these words aloud:

- pan** - ‘borrow’
- kan** - ‘chains (handcuffs)’
- saan** - ‘to bridge’
- pən** - ‘soft’

Exercise 9:

Write 5 words with ‘n’ at the end. Don’t forget to mark high tones on the words if they need them:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

B. The letter ŋ

Another letter is used in writing Nkonya. This letter is ‘ŋ’. It is not very common, but there are a few words in which it occurs:

- 1. **ŋa** - ‘disappear’
- 2. **ŋε** - ‘spirit’
- 3. **ŋain** - ‘hide’
- 4. **ŋlawun** - ‘millipede’
- 5. **ŋlaun** - ‘melt’

C. The Two Letter Sounds (Digraphs)

gy; kp; bw; fw; gyw; kw; ts; tsw

In Nkonya two consonants (ᠠᠨᠠᠵᠠ ᠠᠰᠤᠨᠪᠢ) can come together to make special sounds.

The gy Sound

Ayin a, bubu wulu amuto, bugyi adotpu. Atsi amu aku bugyi adotpu. Aku ε, bugyi bia-agyipu. Wulu amutofo bugyi kule, butodwe ahε se.

Make four (4) sentences from the words below:

Wulu; kponkontu; Owie; Obu-fe-atu; bia-agyipu.

Exercise 22:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Make sentences with the words in the boxes.

1	2	3	4
Oplεikpa Ntsu Wuna Okpun Omanti	bu ma	woi wulu	amuto

Exercise 23:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Homework

- 1. Write the name of all the Nkonya towns.

1. 3.

2. 4.

D. Make four (4) sentences using the words below:

ídá; wóító; Adwepú; nyebí; sukúu; ɔ̀dɔ̀tɔ̀pɔ̀; tsɔ̀tsɔ̀tɔ̀sɔ̀; asórí; lakwí; aduasa-nyɔ̀.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Atosuánhe 9

Read the passage and answer the questions below:

Anɪ Wúlu

Mí wúlu dá gyí Nkonya Wurupong. Wúlu anft da Bumbula múa Tepo nsuné. Nti asa bú wúlu amutɔ̀. Wúlu amutɔ̀ Owíe ídá gyí Nanáí Kwadwo Asiakwa II.

Wúlu kpɔ̀nkpɔ̀ntɪ ígyí. Ahá tsɔ̀tsɔ̀tɔ̀sɔ̀ bubu mútɔ̀. Asɪ fíí Sukkúu, nsunépu, pú áhande sakuu asa, asa-asa tɔ̀bu wúlu amutɔ̀.

Asórí bu wúlu amutɔ̀. Kwasieda ahá tsɔ̀tsɔ̀tɔ̀sɔ̀ butɔ̀yɔ̀ ásrí.

Mbu-fé-átɔ̀ bu wúlu amutɔ̀. Dókita é, bu wúlu amutɔ̀.

The letters **gy** sounds like the English 'j'.

Exercise 10:

Read these words aloud:

gyagya - 'bat'

gyi - 'eat'

gya - 'send away'

ogyatin - 'firewood'

Exercise 11:

Write these words that contain **gy** in Nkonya. (Don't forget to mark the tone on the words):

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. toad (frog) | 4. charcoal |
| 2. squat | 5. younger brother |
| 3. squirrel | 6. yesterday |

The kp Sound

There are many words which have the **kp** sound in Nkonya. For example **kpa** - 'gather'.

Exercise 12:

Write these words that contain **kp** in Nkonya. (Don't forget to mark the tone on the words):

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. corn | 3. snore |
| 2. rat | 4. goat |

The ts Sound

In Nkonya the **ts** sound is also used. For example in **ntsu** (water) and **tsu** (take).

Exercise 13:

Say these words aloud:

- tsa** - ‘dance’
- tsun** - ‘pass by’
- ntsu** - ‘water’
- tsii** - ‘uproot’
- tsitsa** - ‘pour/throw away’

The w Sound:

The letter **w** comes after some consonants to produce a special sound. For example, **bw, dw, fw, kw, gyw, sw, pw, tsw**.

Exercise 14:

Read these words aloud:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| bwe - ‘make’ | pwe - ‘mould’ |
| dwe - ‘love’ | gywun - ‘kind’ |
| fw - ‘lose or wash’ | swu - ‘remove from fire’ |
| kwε - ‘grind’ | tsw - ‘throw’ |

Exercise 15:

Fill in the blanks:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. ik_i - ‘beard’ | 6. __i__i - ‘wipe off’ |
| 2. __awunu - ‘knee’ | 7. f_t - ‘wash’ |
| 3. __on__o - ‘frog’ | 8. d_ε - ‘love’ |
| 4. __ie - ‘raining’ | 9. __opin - ‘yam slice’ |
| 5. __u - ‘give birth’ | 10. pɔ__ε - ‘new’ |

We have now learned all the letters in the Nkonya Alphabet

Read this essay and answer the questions below.

Mí wɪ Asún

Mí dá gyí Emmanuel Kwasi Adwepú. Notsú Nkonya Akloba. Mí wóító bu owíe Ɔmantí. Nahɔ nfí áduasa-nyɔ. Mbu swí táme mmetri. Mmo moní dúbɛ é.

Mbu ɔká. Mí ká dá gyí anɪ yín Maria Akua Adwepú. Anɪlakwíí ábi ana. Nyebí ámu féeé buɛ sukúu yɔ.

Ɔdotɔpu ngɪ. Anɪbu igyó, agbedi pú kpoli ndɔ. Anɪtegyi atogyihe anfi ku; anɪtefé ku. Nefé mú á, ntenyá sika tsɔtsɔtsɔ. Napú íku yi obu. Ntɔpú íku hɔ mía míká pú mí ábɪ wɪsu-ató.

Ntekle asóri-yɔ, tɪu-wá, pú bɔl-dá. Ahá asún tɔwá mí ánsigyi.

Exercise 21:

A. Write four (4) words with **ɪ** from the above passage.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 3. |
| 2. | 4. |

B. Write four (4) words with **u** from the above passage.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 3. |
| 2. | 4. |

C. Write four (4) words with tone marks (´) from the above passage.

1.
2.
3.
4.

In the following exercise, some people say **ya** or **ye** instead of **la** or **le**. Write the answer the way you say it. The tone on some verbs (for example **da** ‘to hit’ and **nna** ‘to cook’) will be different after **la** than after **le**.

e.g. Kpála lawun igyó. John ladá bəl.
 Papá léda ɩwɔ. Ɔku lówun ɔyí.

1	2	3	4
John	la	wun	ɩwɔ
Kpála	lé	dɔ	ɔyí
Afú	lɔ	nna	bəl
Papá	lɔ	da	igyó
Ɔku			

Exercise 20:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Atosuánhe 8

The Nkonya Alphabet

a b d e ε f g h i ɩ k l
 m n ŋ o ɔ p r s t u v y

Atosuánhe 5

Building Nkonya Words

The above letters used to write words can be put into two main groups: consonants and vowels.

Consonants (**ɔnótɔ́ ásúnbi**) cannot by themselves produce words with meaning e.g. **b d g**. Vowels (**ɔmetɔ́ ásúnbi**) by themselves only produce noise showing pain, joy or fright e.g. **ai, ei**.

However, consonants and vowels can come together to produce meaningful words. For example:

Take one consonant (**ɔnótɔ́ ásúnbi**): b d f h k l m n ŋ p r s t w y
 add one vowel (**ɔmetɔ́ ásúnbi**): a e ε i ɩ o ɔ u v and put them together e.g. **b + a = ba**

There are words of 3, 4 or more letters e.g. **bla** ‘tell’, **yabi** ‘leg’.

Exercise 15:

Read these Nkonya words aloud:

ta - ‘break’	nana - ‘grandmother’
obí - ‘son’	otua - ‘gun’
ate - ‘feathers’	ɔlanka - ‘cooking pot’

Exercise 16:

Write 6 words in Nkonya. Think about the tone and write the tone on them.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

Atosuánhe 6

Verbs and Nouns

In Nkonya letters of the alphabet can produce a word of action (i.e. for something you do). These are verbs. For example: **ba** ‘come’; **gyi** ‘eat’. These are verbs.

In the same way the letters can produce a name of a person, town, place or thing. These are nouns. For example: **Maanu**; **Ahenkro**; **bate** ‘fowl’. These are nouns.

Exercise 17

Read these verbs aloud:

ba - ‘come’

tu - ‘call’

yɔ - ‘go’

trɛ - ‘quarrel’

sa - ‘fetch’

tu - ‘meets’

bl - ‘say’

Read these nouns aloud:

Kofi

ɔbun - ‘arena’

Obu - ‘building’

kufa - ‘sheep’

afu - ‘lather’

Exercise 18:

Write 6 verbs:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

Write 6 nouns:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

Atosuánhe 7

Making Sentences

Use the words in the boxes to make sentences of your own. Make sure you write the tone marks (´) on the letters that need them. Note that the words from column 2 and column 3 will join together.

1	2	3	4
Kofi	bé	fe	ató
Ama	bó	hɔ	afá
Mansa	bó	wun	kpoli

e.g. Kofi bóhɔ afá.

Exercise 19:

READING AND WRITING
THE NKONYA LANGUAGE

by

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and

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Team