

PHONEMES AND ORTHOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

EXAMPLES

/p/	p	/m/	m	/f/	f
/b/	b	/mb/	mb	/v/	v
/β/	β	/mgb/	mgb	/vb/	vb
/t/	t	/n/	n	/s/	s
/d/	d	/nd/	nd	/z/	z
/dʔ/	dʔ	/ndʒ/	ndʒ	/ʃ/	ʃ
/tʃ/	tʃ	/ŋ/	ŋ	/ʒ/	ʒ
/dʒ/	dʒ			/l/	l
/k/	k			/r/	r
/g/	g			/h/	h
/kp/	kp			/w/	w
/gb/	gb			/ʔw/	ʔw
				/y/	y
/i/	i	/ɨ/	ɨ	/u/	u
/e/	e	/a/	a	/o/	o

Labialization: kw, gw, hw, ngw

Tones:

high	ˊ
mid	ˋ
low	ˋˋ
low glide	ˋˋˊ

In the orthography the tones are only written to distinguish certain grammatical differences.

a	awu	no
b	ba	to weave
β	fisl	to forge
c	cakaβ	to wash
d	dara	to dance
dʔ	da	to draw water
ə	orsla	knots of millet stalks
e	ep	to surround
f	far	to unearth
g	gəl	to grow
gb	gbəl	kind of termite
gw	gwad	to push
h	ham	to bite, chew
hw	hwihwil	to whistle
i	ir	to scrape
j	jan	to find
k	kaf	to lift up
kp	kpəl	to separate
kw	kwəl	to dry out
l	lap	to reunite
m	masl	to untie
mb	mbəl	to light
mgb	mgbot	to blame
n	nak	to pout
nd	ndon	to construct
ng	ngac	to bite
ngw	ngwalay	comrade
nj	njod	to knot
o	olu	string necklace
p	pəm	to beat
r	ri	to burn
s	saf	to look at
sl	slid	to get up
t	tak	to impede
u	uf	to blow
v	van	rain
vb	vbiw	very tall
w	wəl	to sort
'w	'wircece	giraffe
y	yəm	water
z	zav	to move (house)
zl	zlan	to traverse

ALPHABET

a b β c d dʔ ə e f g gb gw h hw i j k kp kw l m mb
mgb n nd ng ngw nj o p r s sl t u v vb w 'w y z zl

number of graphemes 4