

PHONEMES AND ORTHOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

EXAMPLES

/b/ b
/t/ t
/d/ d
/tʃ/ c
/tʃ/ j
/k/ k
/g/ g
/kp/ kp

/m/ m
/n/ n
/ŋ/ ny
/ŋ/ ŋ

/f/ f
/v/ v
/s/ s
/z/ z
/ʃ/ sh
/ʒ/ zh
/l/ l
/h/ h
/w/ w
/y/ y

a bā marriage
b bímí price
c ci say
d dónđ village
e fámé true, pure
ε bemb worry
ə fambá field
f fáf paper
g kugú evening
h ha strong wine
i mbi profit
i líí tree
j ji what
k kám monkey
l lâm heart
m mán tomorrow
n na there
ny nyâ fingernail
ŋ lăŋ story
o domb war
p mpal eagle
s sás girl
sh shí earth, ground
t taand umbrella
u mús today
u mpúsə behind
v vúnda window
w wásáá twin
y yúl viper
z zanz corrugated iron
zh zhíí trail

/i/ i
/ɪ/ ɪ
/e/ e
/ɛ/ ɛ

/i/ ɪ
/ə/ ə
/a/ a

/u/ u

/o/ o

/V:/ VV

/Ũ/ Y (/ɛ/ or /o/ only)

Prenasalization: mp, mb, nt, nd, nc, nj, nk, ng

Tones:

high
high-low
low-high
low

ˈ
ˊ
ˋ
unmarked

ALPHABET

a b c d e ε ə f g h i ɪ j k kp l m n ny ŋ o p s sh
u ʌ v w y z zh

number of graphemes

Alphabets of Africa

edited by

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