

PHONEMES AND ORTHOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

EXAMPLES

/p/	p	/m/	m	/f/	f	a	tá	father
/b/	b	/mb/	mb	/v/	v	b	balí	type of leaf
/ɓ/	ɓ	/mv/	mv	/s/	s	ɓ	ɓil	sky
/t/	t	/mgb/	mgb	/l/	l	c	cene	chicken
/d/	d	/n/	n	/r/	r	d	do	hippopotamus
/d̪/	d̪	/nd/	nd	/t/	t	ɗ	ɗɛŋ	melon
/tʃ/	c	/ng/	ng	/h/	h	e	ɓe	with
/dʒ/	j	/nɔ̃/	nɔ̃	/w/	w	ə	kər	claw
/k/	k	/ɲ/	ɲ	/y/	y	f	fam	blow your nose
/g/	g	/ŋ/	ŋ			g	gam	take!
/kp/	kp					gb	gbɛ	clan
/gb/	gb					h	ham	compound
						i	mí	odor
/i/	i	/ɛ̃/	ɛ̃	/u/	u	i	bír	palm tree
/e/	e	/ə/	ə	/o/	o	j	jàm	cobra
/a/	a			/ɔ/	ɔ	k	kam	crab
						kp	kpáb	lion
/V:/	VV					l	li	dog
/V/	Y					m	mámá	grandmother
						mb	mbeè	salt
						mv	mvom	tortoise
						mgb	mgbàrè	stone
						n	naná	baby
						nd	ndù	trap
						ng	ngár	hand
						nj	njín	feather
						ny	nyàm	animal
						ŋ	naŋ	couscous
						o	no	inside
						ɔ	tɔ	fish
						p	pia	avocado
						r	tórò	papaya
						s	sítá	hunter
						t	tó	ear
						u	vuj	egg
						v	vri	twenty
						w	wùúm	viper
						y	yáya	yesterday

Tones:

high	ˊ	
falling	ˋ	
low or rising from low	ˊ	(alternatives are due to dialect differences)
mid and mid-high		unmarked

ALPHABET

a b ɓ c d ɗ e ə f g gb h i ɛ̃ j k kp l m mb mv mgb n
nd ng nj ny ŋ o ɔ p r s t u v w y

number of graphemes 38

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