

PHONEMES AND ORTHOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

EXAMPLES

/p/	p	/m/	m
/b/	b	/n/	n
/t/	t		
/d/	d, r		
/c/	c		
/k/	k		
/kw/	kp		
note:	n + k → ɟ		
	n + w → ɠ		

/i/	i	/u/	u
/e/	e	/o/	o
/ɛ/	ɛ	/ɔ/	ɔ
	/a/		a

/V:/	VV
/Ṽ/	Ṽ (except /e/ and /o/)
/Ṽ:/	ṼV

Tones:

- very high
- high
- low

Tone is not written; the [ˈ] is written on the a, i, ɛ, o, n of certain particles.

a	waaro	hunter
b	bika	child
c	caabu	porridge
d	daama	millet beer
e	pe	woman
ɛ	ceebu	soap
f	faaka	stream
i	yiro	man
k	kaama	wound
kp	kpere	hard
m	muuti	a little
n	nako	ox, cow
ɠ	tigu	town
o	soro	tomorrow
ɔ	sɔɔma	gold
p	pɛnfa	arrow
r	sɔrɔnde	pearl
s	suka	horse
t	tiiɓu	tree
u	tiiɓu	tree
w	wako	snake
y	yuuto	thief

ALPHABET

a b c d e ɛ f i k kp m n ɠ o ɔ p r s t u w y
 number of graphemes 22

Alphabets of Africa

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