



**NCAM (BAASAAR SOONI)**

**O.P.L.**

**WORKBOOK**

**(ORAL PROFICIENCY LEARNING)**



**Peace Corps Togo 2010**

## Acknowledgement

Peace Corps Togo is very pleased to present the first ever Bassar local language manual to Peace Corps Togo Trainees and Volunteers. This manual has become a reality due to the meticulous work of many people.

The training team expresses its deepest gratitude to the Peace Corps Togo Country Director Rebekah Brownie Lee, for having taken the initiative to have materials developed in local languages. Her support is tremendous.

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Congratulations to Trainers Ismael S. Morou, Kossi Nyonyo, Simon Yao Gbogla, Training Secretary Jean B. Kpadenou who have worked diligently and conscientiously to develop this manual.

## To the learner

Congratulations to all of you Peace Corps Trainees and Volunteers for your acceptance to learn a new language. Of course learning a new language is not easy, but with dedication you will make it and achieve your goals.

This manual is competency based and contains useful expressions related to all training components such as technical, health, safety and security. This will build up your ability to communicate in local language and will bring you closer to the community with which you will work.

This capacity will also enable you to know your community better. You will participate effectively and with increased personal satisfaction in the type of cultural and technical exchange that Peace Corps has been advocating for since its creation.

Some suggestions for succeeding in this learning process is being receptive and taking risks. Use the new language, analyze it and be methodic. Search for new words with friends, host families, and counterparts.

The training staff invites you to share your comments in the event that it becomes necessary to revise the material. Any kind of feedback would be most welcomed.

Send it to:

Peace Corps Togo Training Manager  
PO Box: 3194  
Lomé, Togo

Have fun and enjoy using this manual

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# BASSAR ALPHABET

Here is The Bassar alphabet

A	B	C	D	EE	F	G	GB	I	J	K	KP	L
a	b	c	d	ee	f	g	gb	i	j	k	kp	l

M	N	NY	ŋ	ŋM	OO	ɔ	P	R	S	T	U
m	n	ny	ŋ	ŋm	oo	ɔ	p	r	s	t	u

W	Y
W	y

The vowels are:

A    ee    I    oo    ɔ    u

## Summary of Bassar alphabet

Letter	Pronunciation (similar sound in English)	Bassar Example	English Translation
a	<u>f</u> ather	n <u>a</u>	Mother
b	<b>b</b> oy	bɔɔ	Friend
d	<b>d</b> og	<u>d</u> a	buy
f	<u>f</u> ish	<u>f</u> oo	take
g	<b>g</b> o	M <u>g</u> ii	I am tired
gb	Typical Local language sound	M <u>g</u> baam-si	Please/I beg you
h	<u>h</u> at	ya <u>h</u> a	Response to salutation
i	<u>f</u> ill	F <u>i</u> ta	Mecanic
j	<b>J</b> ohn	Ku <u>j</u> oou	evening
k	<u>k</u> itten	<u>k</u> ɔpu	Cup
kp	Typical Local language sound	u <u>k</u> pil	Elder, Chief/Boss
l	<u>l</u> ady	<u>L</u> oor/ <u>l</u> ool	car
m	<u>m</u> an	<u>u</u> man	Red
n	<u>n</u> et	Di <u>n</u> ool/Dinoor	yaam
ŋ	<u>s</u> ing	Di <u>ŋ</u> oor	Danse
ny	French "pe <u>ign</u> er", Spanish "se <u>ñ</u> or"	<u>a</u> nyin	Teeth
ŋm	Typical Local language sound	<u>ŋ</u> ma	write

Letter	Pronunciation (similar sound in English)	Bassar Example	English Translation
o	n <u>o</u>	Togo	Togo
ɔ	p <u>a</u> w, l <u>o</u> g; b <u>a</u> ll	kug <u>ɔ</u> tu	Bathroom
p	<u>p</u> ick	i <u>p</u> aati	Benefit/Profit
r	A <u>r</u> ica (but roll the "r" a little)	A <u>r</u> ika	Africa
s	<u>s</u> it	<u>s</u> an	ran
t	<u>t</u> ip	D <u>t</u> ankpal	Rock or stone
u	<u>l</u> oop	suk <u>u</u> l	School
c	Like "ch" in english " <u>ch</u> urch"	<u>c</u> ica	Teacher
w	<u>w</u> ish	<u>w</u> anyafɩ	Trader
y	<u>e</u> ye	D <u>y</u> índi	Name

### Nasalized vowels

The sign ~, slight sound of "an", over the vowel indicates that it is nasalized.

Examples:           ŋɔ̃aan     = broom  
                           Diyiindi = Walk

### Tones

Bassar is a tonal language as are most African languages. The major tones are:

- High (/) M ca               = I'm going
- Low (\) M ŋma             = I'm writing

In Bassar, most of the words that end by **L** can be replaced by **R**

Examples:

Lool       or   loor                               car  
 Dikpafil   or   Dikpafir                       meeting  
 Dalba...   or   Darba...                       one day...

## Lesson 1 Greetings



### Objectives:

After studying this lesson on “greetings”, trainees will be able to:

- 1) Use specific vocabulary related to greetings to greet people at the different times of the day
- 2) Use adequate verbs in the present tense
- 3) Discuss at least 3 cultural notes related to greetings
- 4) Communicate, to build social relationship and friendship in Bassar communities in order to support their personal safety and security.
- 5) Practise greeting in the community while respecting the culture of the Bassar community.

### Dailogue

*It's seven a.m. Ismaël meets Rose his neighbor and they greet.*

Ismaël: A-doonu kɔkɔya?

Rose: Alaafiya. Mmɔŋki kɔkɔya?

Ismaël: Alaafiya. Mbiyaam kɔkɔ

Rose: Alaafiya.

Ismaël: Ditundi kɔkɔya?

Rose: Alaafiya.

Ismaël: An ŋa kuti

Rose: Yoo, A jaam mmɔŋki.

## Dialogue in English

Ismaél: Good morning,  
Rose: Good morning. How is the house (your family)  
Ismaél: Fine. How are kids?  
Rose: Fine.  
Ismaél: How is the work?  
Rose: Fine  
Ismaél: See you later  
Rose: Bye, say hello to the house (family)

## Cultural notes

- *Greeting is a moral and social obligation that should not be neglected. It's a sign of respect.*
- *You greet people first before you talk about anything else.*
- *For an elder, a Chief or a notable... you bend down or genuflect while greeting.*
- *You don't snap fingers with elders and women.*
- *You initiate greeting with elders but not hand shaking.*
- *Greeting is not only to ask about people's health but also to show interest in a person or to engage in conversation.*
- *Greeting eases your integration and acceptance in the community. Therefore people are ready to help you whenever you have a problem or a safety and security issue.*

**Proverb: «Ijaam kaa gbee kudñ»**  
(Greeting never fills up a room).

## Words and Useful expressions

### Different greetings (non formal )

- |                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| ➤ Ndoo ꞑꞑꞑꞑ? (06h00 – 11h00)          | Good morning   |
| ➤ A ꞑꞑ mana?                          | How are you?   |
| ➤ Ni nyanaa? (very formal for elders) | Good morning   |
| ➤ Si ni ηwiin (12h - 14h)             | Good afternoon |
| ➤ Si ni kujoou (15h – 00h)            | Good evening   |
| ➤ A-jooku ꞑꞑꞑꞑ? (15h00 – 00h)         | Good evening   |
| ➤ Ni-jooku ꞑꞑꞑꞑ? ( you plural)        |                |



## Periods of the day

- Kutaafaau morning
- ηwiimpu noon
- Kujoou afternoon/evening
- Kunyeeu night

## Titles

- Ukpil elder, boss (men)
- Ti-na elder, boss(wonen )
- Naana old woman
- Baaba old man
- Ti-ba elder boss, our father

## Some verbs

- Geen to sleep
- Fiinti to wake up
- Tii kuboou/ηηal to shake hand
- Jaam to greet
- Foo/kii ijaam answer greetings
- Foo to take
- Tii to give
- Kii to answer/to accept

## Expressions

- Mmɔŋki yab ɔɔɔya? How are the members of your family?
- mmɔŋki house
- Mbiyaam ɔɔɔya? How are the children?
- An coomaa? Are things going well?
- Iin, an coom yes, things are going well
- Aayee, an kaa coom no, things are not going well
- A ɔɔɔ mana? (you sing) Are you doing well? (you)
- Ni ɔɔɔ mana? (you plu) Are you doing well? (you plural)
- Ni-dooŋu ɔɔɔya? good morning (plural)
- Si ni ηwiin good afternoon (sing)
- Ni ni ηwiin good afternoon (plural)
- A-jooku ɔɔɔya? Good evening (sing)?
- Ni-jooku ɔɔɔya? Good evening (plural)?
- An ηa fool see you tomorrow
- An ηa dalba see you next time
- A geen tiŋan sleep well / have a good night

- A cu daan go and come back
- A coom tiḡan safe journey
- Si ni ditundi/ Si ni kokal thank you
- An ḡa daapudal see you (after two days)
- Si ni nsan. / A-sanḡu (ḡḡya) ? welcome
- Unimbḡti n ceen-si May God see you off (safe journey)

## Grammar notes

### i. The subject pronouns

There are six subject pronouns in Baasar:

* m	I
* a	You
* (W)u	He, she, it
* ti	We
* ni	You
* bi	They

Example:

- \* M ḡḡ tiḡan I'm fine
- \* A ḡḡ Tiḡan You are fine
- \* U ḡḡ tiḡan He/she is fine
- \* Ti ḡḡ tiḡan we are fine
- \* Ni ḡḡ tiḡan you are fine
- \* Bi ḡḡ tiḡan they are fine

Some verbs don't change their form when they are conjugated, but some irregular verbs do change.

Example

**Cu** to go      M ca I am going

## Exercises

- 1) Build a dialogue with the words below and practice it with a classmate or a resource person.

Jooku- A- ḡḡya? Mana-a-jooku - ḡḡ?

Ditundi - ḡḡya - mbiyaam- alaafiya

Mḡḡḡki-an ḡa - a jaam- dalba

2) Use the subject pronouns (m, a, u, ti, ni, bi) to make sentences with the following verbs:

- a) Fiinti kutaafaau \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Geen kunyeeu \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Jaam ukpil \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Tii kuboou \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Foo ijaam \_\_\_\_\_

3) Rearrange the following words into sentences

- a) *Jooku/a/ƙƙya/ti-na ?* \_\_\_\_\_
- b) *Fiinti /kutaafaau/mbiyaam* \_\_\_\_\_
- c) *Geen/kunyeeu/ukpil* \_\_\_\_\_
- d) *Gbati Kossi/jaam/ u/* \_\_\_\_\_
- e) *mbiyaam/mana/ƙƙ?* \_\_\_\_\_
- f) *Foo/Naana/ijaam* \_\_\_\_\_
- g) *Kuboou/bi/ti/u* \_\_\_\_\_

5) Answer the following questions.

- a) Mbiyaam ƙƙya? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) A-dooŋu ƙƙya? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) A-tundi ƙƙya? \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Ti-na Blandine ƙƙya? \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Mmɔŋki yab ƙƙya? \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Si ni ŋwiin \_\_\_\_\_
- g) An ŋa fool \_\_\_\_\_

6) Translate the following sentences into Bassar.

- a) See you tomorrow. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Sleep well \_\_\_\_\_

- c) How are you doing? \_\_\_\_\_
- d) How does the work go? /how is your job going? \_\_\_\_\_
- e) See you next time \_\_\_\_\_
- f) See you later \_\_\_\_\_
- g) How are children doing \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Yes, the kids are doing well \_\_\_\_\_
- i) The people in the house are fine \_\_\_\_\_

### **Role play**

- 1) In the morning, you meet a woman near your house, greet her and say good bye.
- 2) At noon, after class, you meet the Chief of your village, greet him appropriately and then leave.
- 3) While going for a walk in the evening you see a young person, greet him/her and wish him/her a good night.

### **Situation:**

- 1) Your host brother comes back home from school in the evening. Greet him and ask him about his school.
- 2) Imagine a dialogue between you and your host mother as you are leaving the house for your job in the morning. (Greeting, wishes for the day, expressions to take leave).

### **TDA**

Go to one of the trainers or a host family member, greet him/her and answer the greeting. Write down all new vocabulary you heard for next class.

## Lesson 2

### Introduce oneself and someone else



#### Objectives:

After studying the lesson on introductions, trainees will be able to:

- 1) Use appropriate vocabulary to introduce oneself and someone else
- 2) Ask at least 5 questions to know someone's identity
- 3) Use specific verbs related to introduction in the present tense
- 4) Discuss 2 cultural notes related to introduction
- 5) Introduce themselves to a member of the host family and collect information about him/her.

## *Dialogue*

### **David Ganske a Peace Corps Volunteer introduces himself and his friend Amy to a counterpart**

- David G: A-jooku ꞑꞑꞑꞑ m-ꞑꞑꞑ?
- Niŋkaabu: Alaafiya. Bi yii-si yii ba?
- David G: Bi yii-m yii David.
- Niŋkaabu: A nyanni la?
- David G: M nyanni Washington, Amerika tiŋki poon.
- Niŋkaabu: Ditundi dilar ni a ŋaan?
- David G: M sa ututunli (volontaire) nnyꞑꞑee ŋun bi yii Korp de la Paix yee poon. M-ꞑꞑꞑ ꞑꞑ. Bi yii-u yii Amy. U-mun nyanni Amerika ni ki sa ututunli. Baasaar ni u ŋaaan ditundi.
- Niŋkaabu: An ŋan paa. Ni sanŋu ꞑꞑꞑ?
- David G: Yaaha. An ŋa kuti.

### **Dialogue in English**

- David G: Good evening, my friend.
- Niŋkaabu: Good evening, what's your name?
- David G: My name is David.
- Niŋkaabu: Where are you from?
- David G: I am an American and I am from Washington DC.
- Niŋkaabu: What's your profession?
- David G: I'm a Volunteer in Peace Corps. This is my friend .Her name is Amy. She is also an American and a Peace Corps Volunteer. She works in Bassar.
- Niŋkaabu: Good. A good idea, welcome
- David G: Thanks. See you later.

### **Cultural notes:**

- *In general, introducing somebody is not automatic. So to know someone's name you have to ask for it.*
- *The first name, when it's not a Christian or a muslim name corresponds most of the time to a clanic name. Also there are names of the days of the week on which you are born (Please see below)*
- *The name is given to a child taking into account the clanic origin of the mother, which explains why the matrimonial system in Bassar community is matriarchal*
- *A way to show respect is to avoid calling people directly by their name*

Some names are given to children according to the day of the week they are born:

Day	Women	Men
Kunca (Monday)	Kuncapu	N/A
Laaboo(Tuesday)	Laaboopu	Laabooja
Kanjundi(Wednesday)	Kanjumpu	N/A
Cɔkɔl (Thursday)	Coopu	N/A
PutaaKpa (Friday)	Soom	N/A
Kpanja (Saturday)	Kpanjapu	Kpànja

The clanic names are giving to children according to the clanic group the mother of the children belongs to. So women give names to their children.

Examples of some clanic groups:

Clans: <b>Kubedipu, Wadandi, Kpaaja-Dumpu, Kanjundi</b>		Clan: <b>Binaŋwaalib</b>	
Boys names:	Girls names:	Boys names:	Names of girls
1. Gbati /Juwaa	1. Niŋfoon /Yaaba	1. Naakpan	1. Mɔŋtɔɔ/Awusi
2. Naapɔɔ/Jambɔnja	2. Ikpindi/Ayirba	2. Niŋkaabu	2. Niŋkkpiib/Damba
3. Gbandi /Tatarwa	3. Ajaa /Damba	3. Nyandi /Kpakpa	3. Naadaan/Boosa
4. Lantam (Kulpai)	4. Mɔŋfaai/Nuusi	4. Daal (Daar) /Agbaa	4. Jabii/Kpɔmbɔ
5. Kisaau (Cilkau)	5. Kijuui/Aleewa	5. Unoo/ Gbaaya	5. Kpindi/ Gboogboo

### Vocabulary

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ➤ Diyindi (Ayin)                    | name(s)                              |
| ➤ ututunli (Bitutunliib)/Volontaire | Someone who helps others (volunteer) |
| ➤ la(ni)                            | where                                |
| ➤ Ba(ni)                            | what                                 |
| ➤ Kisukulbiki (nsukulbiyaam)        | pupil, student(s)                    |
| ➤ Ukpaal (Bikpaab)                  | farmer(s)                            |
| ➤ Cica(b)                           | teacher(s)                           |
| ➤ uwannyafil biwanyafiliib)         | seller(s)/trader(s)                  |
| ➤ unyampu (Binyampoob)              | seller(s)/trader(s)                  |
|                                     | (For women)                          |
| ➤ Dɔkɔta(b)                         | Doctor(s)/nurse(s)                   |
| ➤ Kapiinta(b)                       | carpenter(s)                         |
| ➤ Dɔrba(b)                          | driver(s)                            |

➤ Karaci	clerk
➤ Ukaliŋja(Bikalimb)	clerk(men)
➤ Ukaliŋnimpu(Bikaliŋnimpoob)	clerk(s)(women)
➤ Bikalimb	clerks
➤ Utumbifil(Bitumbifiliib)/apprenti	apprentice(s)
➤ Teela(b)	tailor(s)
➤ Ukpil (Bikpilib)	boss/patron(s)
➤ Ti-na	boss/patron(for women)
➤ Ujaakpaati (Bijaakpaatiib)	bachelor(s)
➤ Maason(b)/Udimal (Bidimaliib)	masson(s)

### Expressions

➤ Bi yii-m (yii)	my name is...
➤ Bi yii-si yii ba?	What is your name?
➤ A nyanni la?	Where do you come from?
Kitiŋ ki laka poon ni a nyanni	from which town /village/country do You come from?
➤ A sa la?	what's your nationality/ your ethnic group?
➤ Ba tundi ni a ŋaan? /A ŋaan ba tundi?	What's your profession?

### Some verbs

➤ Nyanni	to come from
➤ Nya	To go out
➤ Sa	to be
➤ Bi	to be (in or at+place)
➤ Ca	to go
➤ Daan	to come

### **Exercises**

#### **1) Answer a question or ask a question**

- Bi yii-si yii ba? \_\_\_\_\_
- M nyanni Kaliforni Amerika tiŋki poon\_\_\_\_\_
- A nyanni la? \_\_\_\_\_
- M sa dokota ni ki bi Kpanjal (Banjeli). \_\_\_\_\_
- You are on the way to your friend's house and you meet a young person who greets you. Answer the greeting and ask questions to know him/her better



## Grammar notes

Ask questions with **la** where

### i. **La**

Example:

A nyanni **la**?

Where do you come from?

Waapɔndi nyanni **la**?

Where does Waapɔndi come from?

Mbiyaam nyanni **la**?

Where do children come from?

**A**: personal pronoun (subject): **you**

**Nyanni**: come from

**La?** : Interrogative adverb

Structure of the sentence: subject+ verb+la

### ii. We can also start the same question by “**la?**”

Example: la ni nyanni?

Where do you come from?

La ni Waapɔndi nyanni?

Where does waapɔndi come from?

La ni mbiyaam nyanni?

Where do children come from?

La ni a nyanni?

**La ?** : interrogative adverb

**Ni** : particle

**A** : personal pronoun (subject)

**Nyanni**: verb

Structure: interrogative adverb+particle +pronoun subject+verb

## Exercises

1) Translate the following sentences into Bassar.

a) I am in Kpanjal(Banjeli)\_\_\_\_\_

b) Jabi is a student \_\_\_\_\_

c) She is a nurse in Bitchabe\_\_\_\_\_

d) Kassi is a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kaabu-Saara \_\_\_\_\_

e) Mɔŋfaai is a young girl, she is an apprentice \_\_\_\_\_

f) Blandine is Training Manager at Peace Corps \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

g) Brownie Lee is an American but she is in Togo now \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

h) Trainees are in Agou now \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Ask or answer questions from the statements below

a) Bi yii-m yii David \_\_\_\_\_

b) M sa dɔkɔta \_\_\_\_\_

c) La ni a nyanni? \_\_\_\_\_

d) Ba tundi ni a ɲaan? \_\_\_\_\_

e) Ukpil nyanni la? \_\_\_\_\_

f) Kassi sa ututunli. U ɲaan ditundi Korp de la Paix

---

### 3) Text:

Bi yii-m yii Alicia Looks. M nyanni Kaliforni Amerika tiŋki poon. Ama kɔnkɔnnee m bi Togo doo. M sa “stagiaire” ni ki bi Agu tiŋki poon. M-bɔɔ sɔ. Bi yii-u yii Nɔvinyɔ Yabɔ. U sa cica ni ki bi Kpalim.

Text:

My name is Alicia looks. I come from California in the States, but now I'm here in Togo. I'm a trainee in Tsévié. This is my friend. Her name is Nɔvinyɔ Yabɔ. She is a teacher and she lives in Kpalime.

## Questions

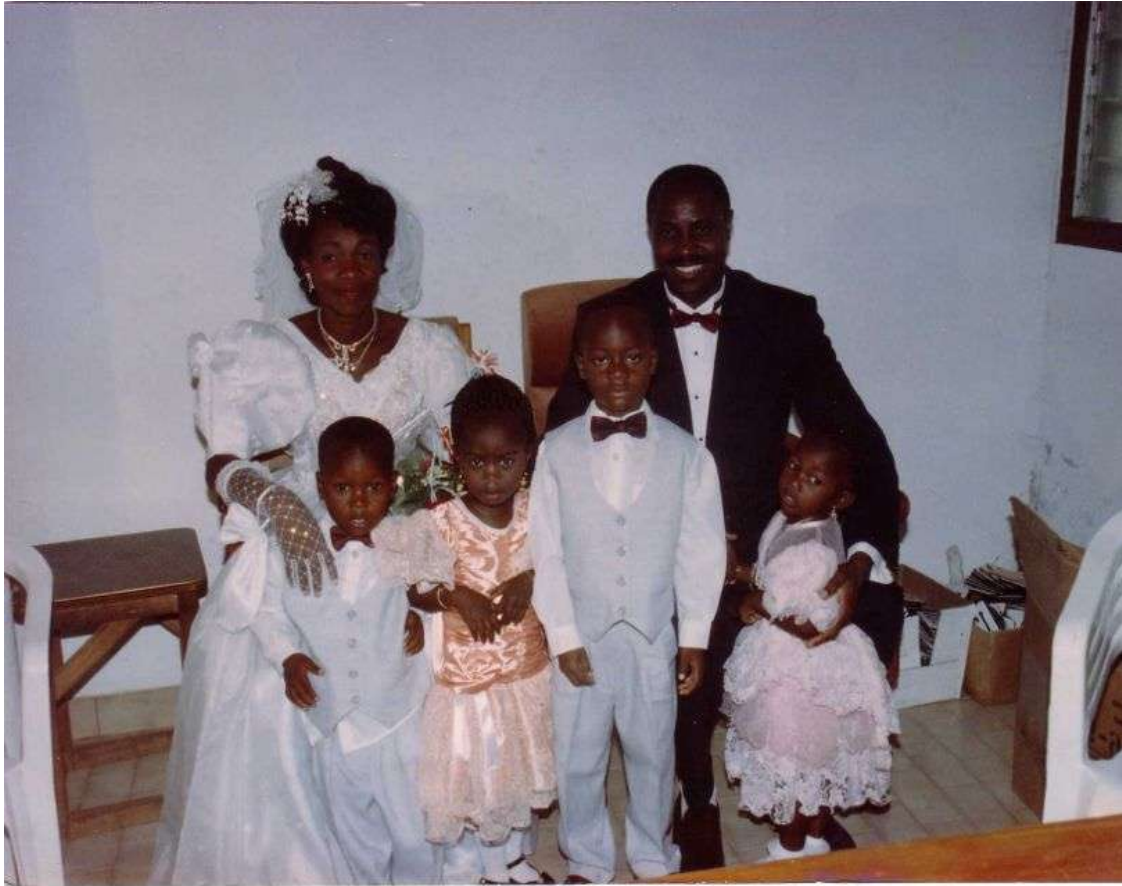
- Alicia nyanni la? \_\_\_\_\_
- U sa la? \_\_\_\_\_
- Ba tundi ni u n̄aan? \_\_\_\_\_
- Nɔvinyɔ Yabɔ sa la? \_\_\_\_\_
- U n̄aan ba tundi? \_\_\_\_\_

## **TDA**

In your neighborhood, you meet two people; greet them, introduce yourself to them and ask for questions to know them better (name-origin-profession-where they live). Write down the information for next class.

## Lesson 3

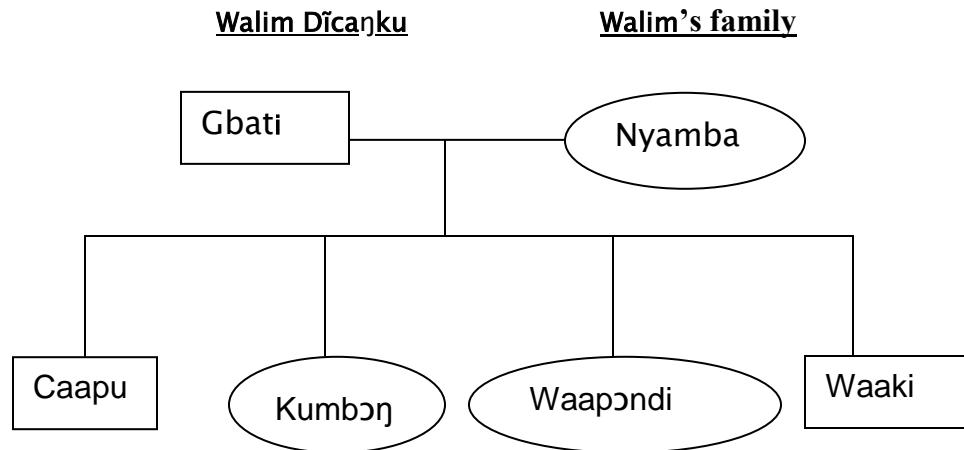
### Introduce one's family



#### Objectives:

After studying the lesson on ‘Introduce one’s family’, trainees will be able to:

- 1) Use adequate vocabulary related to family relationships and the numbers from 1 to 20 to introduce their family
- 2) Use 4 possessive adjectives and their negative structures to introduce their family members
- 3) Discuss at least 3 cultural notes related to the family
- 4) Talk about their own family to a member of the community.



**Text:**

Bi yii-m yii Kumbɔŋ. Binib biluu di bi m-dicaŋku poon. M-baa, m-na ni mbiyaam muna. Bininjab sa bili ni binimpoob mun sa bili. Bi yii m-baa yii Gbati, u sa Cica ni ki bi dimool. U sa Baasaar Binaapalbi. Bi yii m-na yii Nyamba, u sa dɔkɔta ni ki nyanni Baasaar Kpaŋkisi. Bi yii m-niija yii Caapu. U sa ukalinja ni ki bi Luma. Bi yil m-niija kiwaayi yii Waaki ni ki yii m-naal yii Waapɔndi. Waaki ni Waapɔndi bi Luma ni ki ŋaan sukul Kpaan.

**Text:**

My name is Kumbɔŋ. There are six persons in my family: my father, my mother, and four children, two sons and two daughters. My father's name is Gbati. He is a teacher in Dimori. He is from Binaparba. My mother's name is Nyamba. She is a nurse and she's from Kpankissi (Bassar). My brother's name is Caapu. He is a clerk and he lives in Lome. My younger brother's name is Waaki. My younger sister's name is Waapɔndi. Waaki and Waapɔndi attend the University of Lome.

**Cultural notes**

- *Polygamy is a reality in Togolese community*
- *Cousins and sisters are considered just like sisters and brothers*
- *Family links and community solidarity are strong*
- *Thus acceptance in your family or in your community is very important*

**Proverb:** “A na yaa bi dikpoolīnee aa looti bikpɔ saa” (He's not heavy, he's my brother)

## Vocabulary

### Members of the family

➤ Kudicaŋ	Family
➤ Baa	Father
➤ Na	Mother
➤ Naanja	Grandfather
➤ Naan	Grandmother
➤ Kibiki	Child
➤ Unimpu	Girl
➤ Uninja	Boy
➤ Jipɔɔn	Son
➤ Bisal	Daughter
➤ Maan	Brother(elder)
➤ Naal	Younger brother
➤ Niisal	Sister(from brother to sister)
➤ Niija	Brother(from sister to brother)
➤ Cal	Husband
➤ Unimpu	Wife
➤ Usapɔɔn	Young girl
➤ Pool	Aunt(parterna)
➤ Bawaal/Bawaayi	Uncle parternal(younger)
➤ Bakpil	Uncle paternal(elder)
➤ Wee	Uncle (maternal)
➤ Nawaa	Maternal aunt(younger)
➤ Nakpil	Maternal aunt(elder)
➤ Naantiiu	Grandson/grand daughter

### Expressions

➤ Bi yii m-baa yii	My father's name is .... (They call my father.....)
➤ Bi yii a-na yii ba?	What's the name of your mother? (How do they call your mother?)
➤ A-baab sa Togo	Your parents are from Togo
➤ M caa (b) cal	I have a husband
➤ M caa(b) unimpu	I have a wife
➤ U-baa caa(b) binimpoob bili	His father has two wives
➤ M-baa caa(b) mbiyaam muŋmoo	My father has five children
➤ A caa (b) calaa? /A kpa calaa?	Do you have a husband?
➤ lin, m caa(b) cal/ lin, m kpa cal	Yes I have a husband

- Aayee, maa caa (b) cal
- Ba tundi ni a-na njaan ?
- Mbiyaam muja ni a caa (b)?
- Biya?

No, I haven't (a husband)  
 What (kind) of job does your mother do?  
 How many children do you have?  
 How many?

### Some verbs

- Caa(b)/kpa
- Pɔ diyindi
- Caa(b) unimpu
- mɔn uninja
- Caa(b) cal/kpa cal

To have  
 Give a name  
 To have a woman (To marry a woman)  
 To get married to a man  
 To have a husband

### Numbers

1. →	Uɔ	11. →	saalaa ni ubɔ
2. →	bili	12. →	saalaa ni bili
3. →	bita	13. →	saalaa ni bita
4. →	binaa	14. →	saalaa ni binaa (ubɔ kpa saalku)
5. →	biɲmoo	15. →	saalku
6. →	Biluu	16. →	saalku ni ubɔ
7. →	Biluli	17. →	saalku ni bili
8. →	binii	18. →	saalku ni bita
9. →	biwa	19. →	saalku ni binaa (ubɔ kpa mmun̄ku)
10. →	saalaa	20. →	mmun̄ku

**Note:** Numbers when used in a sentence lose their prefix (example ubɔ bili bita...) and agree with the prefix of the word that they follow except 10(saalaa)

### **Examples:**

Uɔ: Kibiki kiba

Bita: bisapɔmbi bita

Biɲmoo: mbiyaam̄ muɲmoo

### **Exercises**

- 1) Give five words you associate with the word family and make a sentence with each of the words.

Example: baa----→Bi yii m-baa yii Ganske

2) Complete this identity card

Name		
Profession		
Origin		
Family	Father:	Name: Place of residence: Profession:
	Mother:	Name: Place of residence: Profession:
	Brothers and sisters	Name: Place of residence: Profession:

**Grammar notes**

- i. The personal pronoun in front of a noun becomes a possessive adjective and a dash (-) is placed between the personal pronoun and the thing or person possessed see the board below.

Example:

**Personal pronouns as subject:**

**M** caa (b) unimpu

**I** have a wife

**A** caa (b) unimpu

**you** have a wife

**U** caa (b) unimpu

**He/ (she)** has a wife

**Ti** caa (b) binimpoob

**we** have wives

**Ni** caa (b) binimpoob

**you** have wives

**Bi** caa (b) binimpoob

**they** have wives

**Personal pronouns as possessive adjectives**

**M**-naal sɔ

this is **my** younger brother

**A**-naal sɔ

this is **your** younger brother

**U**-naal sɔ

this is **his/ (her)** younger brother

**Ti**-naal sɔ

here are **our** younger brother

**Ni**-naal sɔ

here are **your** younger brother

**Bi**-naal sɔ

here are **their** younger brother



## Summary of personal pronouns as subjects and as possessive adjectives

Subject(pronoun)		Possessive adjectives	
Bassar	English	Bassar	English
M	I	M-	My
A	You	A-	Your
W(u)	He/She	W(u)-	His/her
Ti	We	Ti-	Our
Ni	You	Ni-	Your
Bi	They	Bi-	Their

### ii. The plural in Bassar agrees with many rules or categories

#### a) Plural of nouns related to family:

The prefix ‘u’ is dropt and replaced by ‘bi’ then we add ‘b’ at the end of the noun

Example:

Unimpu (lady)	binimpoob (ladies)
Uninja (man)	bininjab (men)
Unaacimpɔɔn (young man)	Binaacimpɔmb (young men)

#### b) Plural of nouns related to family that don’t have prefix ‘u’.

In this case we add ‘b’ at the end of the noun to have the plural.

Example:

Pool (Aunt)	poolb (aunts)
Bawaal (uncle)	bawaalb (uncles)
Na (mother)	nab (mothers)

**Note:** We have some irregular words which do not follow either of the above-mentioned rules. Example: **Kibiki (child)** but **mbiyaam (children)**.

#### c) For words borrowed from English or french we add ‘b’ at the end of the word to have plural.

Example:

Cica (teacher)	Cicab (teachers)
Kapiinta (carpenter)	Kapiintab (carpenters)
Drɔba (driver)	Drɔbab (drivers)

**NB:** The plural of other words will be studied in next competence

Exercise:

Write the plural of the following words:

Example: Unimpu                      binimpoob

1) Usapɔɔn (young girl) \_\_\_\_\_

2) Naan (grand mother) \_\_\_\_\_

3) Unimpunaati (old woman) \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) Niija (brother) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Ujamkpil (oldman) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Naanja (grandfather) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Unil (person) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Baa (father) \_\_\_\_\_

iii. "Yes" or "No" questions

To ask yes or no questions, we add the following endings to the affirmative form of the sentence.

Example:

Napɔ caa unimpu (Napo has a wife)

Napɔ caa unimpɔɔ? (Does Napo have a wife?)

Jeff sa unil (Jeff is kind)

Jeff sa unilaa? (Is Jeff kind?)

Bi ca diyiindi (they are taking a walk)

Bi ca diyiindaa? (Are they taking a walk?)

Jennifer caa cal (Jennifer has a husband)

Jennifer caa calaa? (Does Jennifer have a husband?)

**Note1: unil person or human being is also a nice or kind person**

**Note2:** Words ending by:

Consonants followed

- |   |    |     |
|---|----|-----|
| ➤ By a mute vowel i (li, di, ki, ni...) |    | aa? |
| ➤                                       | u  | ɔɔ? |
| ➤                                       | ii | ii? |
| ➤                                       | a  | aa? |
| ➤                                       | ɔ  | ɔɔ? |

<p>The affirmative structure is: <b>subject +verb + noun</b>  The interrogative structure is: <b>subject+verb + noun + the ending?</b></p>
--

**Exercises**

- 1) Use the correct possessive adjective that corresponds to the English word in parenthesis:

Example: baa (my) m-baa

- a) Na (my) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Bɔɔ (our) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Naal (their) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Naanja (your) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Weeb (our) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Poolb (their) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Niija (his) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Niisalb (my) \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Bawaal.(her) \_\_\_\_\_

2) Rearrange the following words into sentences:

- a) M- / Togo / baa / sa \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Naanja / bi yii / m- / Laabooja \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Bicaabi / u- / nyanni / pool \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Na / m- /munaa mbiyaam/caa? \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Luma (Lomé)/sukul kpaan/ɲaan/u  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f) binaa / Ti- / uninja / muɲmoo/ binimpoob /ubɔ/ caa / baa / ni/ mbiyaam  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) Translate into Bassar:

There are 12 persons in my family: my father, my mother, my sisters, my brothers, my paternal aunt and my maternal uncle. Our father comes from Bikootibi and our mother is from Koojodumpu. They have 3 sons and 5 daughters.

4) Ask yes or no questions from the following statements:

- a) U nyanni Dapangu \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Aisha ca mmɔŋki \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Jabi caa cal \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Bi ca sukul \_\_\_\_\_
- e) U-Baa sa cica \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Jeff niisal sa Dɔkɔta \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Nick caa unimpu \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Bi caa mbiyaam \_\_\_\_\_

**Role play:**

You are meeting your host father's friend for the first time. Introduce your family to him and ask for questions about his family.

**TDA**

Your host family would like to know more about the members of your family in the States. Give them information and ask questions to know more than what you actually know.

## Lesson 4

### Buying essential items



#### Objectives:

After studying the lesson on “buying essential items” trainees will be able to:

- 1) Count the CFA in Bassar
- 2) Name at least 7 essential items found at the market
- 3) Use correct expressions and verbs related to shopping
- 4) Use interrogative terms like (**Ba, mana, biya...**) and “**laa+verb**” form to purchase items
- 5) Discuss at least 5 cultural notes related to market
- 6) Develop adequate strategies for their personal security in the market
- 7) Bargain and buy an essential item at the market

## Dialogue

*Netta a PCV went to the market in Bassar to buy cloth.*

- Boosa: m-ḅḅ a sanḅu. A laa da ba?  
Netta : M laa da sata  
Boosa: Sata mḅntiib bi m-ḅḅ. Kpee, ulḅ ni a la?  
Netta : Ciivii satau ni m la. Mana ni a nyafi sata nee?  
Boosa: Sata ubḅ sa kutuku ubḅ ni dijandi?  
Netta : Oh! an ḅḅ kudaau. M gbaam-si, bati-m  
Boosa: Mana ni a caa?  
Netta: M laa da sata gbanti kutuku ubḅ  
Boosa: Aayee an kaa ban. Mbaamḅn caan kutuku ubḅ ni kilaafaau.  
Netta : Ṭḅḅ, foo animil.  
Boosa: Cenji ḅḅ.  
Netta: Si ni ditundi.  
Boosa: Ṭḅḅ, an ḅa kuti.

## Dialogue in English

- Boosa: Welcome my friend. What do you want to buy?  
Netta: I want to buy a cloth  
Boosa: I have good cloths.  
Netta: I want “ciivii”, (the lower quality). How much is this cloth?  
Boosa: One thousand five hundred CFA for two yards.  
Netta: Oh. It is too expensive, reduce the price, please!  
Boosa: How much do you have?  
Netta: I want to buy it one thousand.  
Boosa: No. It is not enough. The last price is one thousand two hundred CFA.  
Netta: Ok, take the money.  
Boosa: This is the balance.  
Netta: Ok, thank you very much  
Boosa: You're welcome. See you again.

## Cultural and safety and security notes

- *The market day is not only for trading but is also a great opportunity to meet friends*
- *It's necessary to bargain in the market and sometimes in shops.*
- *Exchanging things is not automatic; you need to discuss the case with the seller before.*
- *You don't use your left hand in the market.*
- *You don't bargain early in the morning without buying the item.*
- *It's not safe to go to the market with too much money on you or just after banking.*
- *It's important to be careful about people who ask for help in the market.*
- *When buying food you can ask the seller to add you some as a gift.*

## Vocabulary

### Numbers from 21 to 100

➤ mmun̄ku ni ubo	21
➤ mmun̄ku ni bili	22
➤ mmun̄ku ni bita	23
➤ mmun̄ku ni binaa	24
➤ mmun̄ku ni biɲmoo	25
➤ mmun̄ku ni biluu	26
➤ mmun̄ku ni biluli	27
➤ mmun̄ku ni binii (bili kpa mmun̄ku ni saalaa)	28
➤ mmun̄ku ni biwa (ubo kpa mmun̄ku ni saalaa)	29
➤ mmun̄ku ni saalaa	30
➤ mmun̄ku ni saalaa ni ubo	31
➤ mmun̄ku ni saalaa ni biwa (ubo kpa imun̄ku ili)	39
➤ imun̄ku ili	40
➤ imun̄ku ili ni biwa (ubo kpa imun̄ku ili ni saalaa)	49
➤ imun̄ku ili ni saalaa	50
➤ imun̄ku ili ni saalaa ni biwa (ubo kpa imun̄ku ita)	59
➤ imun̄ku ita	60
➤ imun̄ku ita ni biwa (ubo kpa imun̄ku ita ni saalaa)	69
➤ imun̄ku ita ni saalaa	70
➤ imun̄ku inaa	80
➤ imun̄ku inaa ni saalaa	90
➤ imun̄ku iɲmoo (dilaataal)	100

## Expressions to count money

### Coins

➤ Biyee	5F
➤ Biyee bili	10F
➤ Biyee biɲmoo	25F
➤ Biyee biluu	30F
➤ Biyeeb saalaa	50F
➤ Biyeeb saalaa ni ubo	55F
➤ Biyeeb saalaa ni bili	60F
➤ Biyeeb saalku	75F
➤ Biyeeb saalku ni ubo	80F
➤ Biyeeb saalku ni bili	85F
➤ Biyeeb saalku ni bita	90F
➤ Biyeeb saalku ni binaa (Ubo kpa dilaataal)	95F
➤ Dilaataal (jam ubo)	100F
➤ Dilaataal ni biyeeb saalaa (Iluli ni saalaa)	150F
➤ Kilaafaawu(Jam bili)	200F
➤ Kilaafaawu ni biyeeb saalaa (Jam bili ni dijandi)	250F
➤ Jam bita	300F
➤ Jam binaa	400F
➤ Sampua / jam biɲmoo	500F
➤ Jam biluu	600F
➤ Jam biluli	700F
➤ Jam bnii	800F
➤ Jam biwa	900F

### Bank notes/bills

➤ Kutuku (miili)	1000F
➤ Kutuku ubo ni dijandi (Miili ni dijandi)	1500F
➤ Kutuku bili (Miili bili)	2000F
➤ Kutuku bita (Miili bta)	3000F
➤ Kutuku binaa (Miili bnaa)	4000F
➤ Kutuku biɲmoo (Miili biɲmoo)	5000F
➤ Kutuku biluu (Miili biluu)	6000F
➤ Kutuku biwa (Miili biwa)	9000F
➤ Kutukub saalaa (Miilib saalaa)	10000F



## Words and expressions related to the use of the money

➤ animil	money
➤ animil kaa ḡan	the money is not good
➤ animi ꞑꞑꞑ	new coins/note
➤ animil cati	teared money
➤ Cenji	change
➤ Tifaal	bill/note
➤ Dijandi	half (from 200cfa)

## Essential items

➤ Anaataka	shoes/sandals
➤ Tꞑrch	flash light
➤ Atꞑrch tankꞑee/piilb	battery
➤ Fꞑfꞑ	soap
➤ Kifuulii	hat
➤ ḡḡaan	broom
➤ kuca	sponge
➤ Gbeekeeti	bucket
➤ ꞑꞑꞑ	bread
➤ Sikil	sugar
➤ ḡyaam	salt
➤ Sikil ꞑꞑꞑ	sugar bread
➤ ḡyaam ꞑꞑꞑ	salt bread
➤ Yagim	pepper
➤ Toomaati/timati	tomato
➤ Gaabu/albasaa	onion
➤ Ayabaa/Kꞑdu	banana
➤ Bꞑflee/bꞑfleelee	papaya
➤ Nunufi	orange
➤ Sata	material/pagne/cloth
➤ Tiwan	thing/things

## Expressions

➤ Ba ni a nyaab?	What are you looking for? (present progressive)
➤ Ba ni a laa da?	What do you want to buy?
➤ M nyaab anaataka	I' looking for shoes
➤ M laa da anaataka?	I want buy shoes
➤ Manan ni a nyafi anaataka ?	How much are the shoes?
➤ An ꞑꞑꞑ kudaau (paa)	It is (too) expensive
➤ Bati-m	Reduce the price for me

- Ba ni a nyafi?
- M laa pa sampua
- unyampu
- uwannyafil
- uwandal/Biwɔndaliib
- An kaa ɔɔɔ kudaau
- da dipɔndi
- itoo/ jaara

What are you selling  
 I want to pay five hundred francs  
 Seller (lady seller)  
 Seller( of things)  
 Customers/Client (of things)  
 It 's cheap  
 To buy (credit)  
 Add me some ( it is normal to ask for a gift if you buy food at the market)

### Verbs

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| ➤ nyafi          | to sell                  |
| ➤ da             | to buy                   |
| ➤ foo            | to take                  |
| ➤ Cuu            | to hold / to take        |
| ➤ Bati           | to reduce                |
| ➤ Balfi kudaau   | to ask for price         |
| ➤ Pinni (animil) | lend / or borrow (money) |
| ➤ nyaab          | to look for              |

### **Exercises**

- 1) Make at least five sentences using the expression “**m laa da**”  
 Example: m laa da nunufi
- 2) Imagine yourself in the market; ask questions about the price of some items you see by a seller.

### **Grammar notes**

#### **i) The negative sentence**

We have two ways to form the negative sentence in Bassar

- a) The first form: with personal pronoun.as subject:

#### **Affirmative sentence**

M laa da anaataka  
 A laa da anaataka  
 U laa da anaataka  
 Ti laa da anaataka  
 Ni laa da anaataka  
 Bi laa da anaataka

#### **Negative sentence**

Maa laa da anaataka  
Aa laa da anaataka  
Waa laa da anaataka  
Taa laa da anaataka  
Naa laa da anaataka  
Baa laa da anaataka

Note: To form the negative sentence, add “aa” to consonant of personal pronoun. This means, the negative form of the sentence changes with the personal pronoun.

Structure of the negative sentence:

With personal pronouns as subject:

**Personal pronoun (Subject) + aa + verb + complement**

	Affirmative	Negative
I	M	<b>Maa</b>
You	A	<b>Aa</b>
He/She	W(u)	<b>Waa</b>
We	Ti	<b>Taa</b>
You	Ni	<b>Naa</b>
They	Bi	<b>Baa</b>

Exercise: Write the negative forms (6 personal pronouns) of the following sentence:

Example: M nyafi satab

1) Maa nyafi satab

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_

b) When the subject is not a personal pronoun, the negative form of the sentence is formed by the particle:

Ki+aa =Kaa

Structure of the second form of the negative sentence:

**Subject + Kaa + verb + complement**

Example:

Unyampu **kaa** caa (kpa) cenji      the seller (woman) does”nt have any change.

Mbiyaam **kaa** ca sukul din      Kids are not going to school today.

Exercices:

ii) Give the negative form of the following sentences:

Example: Mbiyaam ca sukul

Mbiyaam kaa ca sukul

a. anaataka ꞑꞑ kudaau

\_\_\_\_\_

b. unyampu tii-m cenji

\_\_\_\_\_

c. binyampoob nyafi tiwan tikpil

\_\_\_\_\_

d. biwanyafiliib ca kinyɔn

\_\_\_\_\_

e. Bitutunliib da kucab

\_\_\_\_\_

f. ꞑꞑfaai baalfi gbeekeeti daaku

\_\_\_\_\_

iii/ Use of “Manan ni” (how much) to ask questions

Structure: **Mana ni +subject +verb+complement**

Example: A laa da nunufi

Mana ni a laa da nunufi?

### Exercises

1) Make questions with the following sentences

a) Bi da sata kutuku bili ni dijandi

\_\_\_\_\_

b) U nyafi anaataka kutuku ubɔ

\_\_\_\_\_

c) Nyamba bati-u sampu

\_\_\_\_\_

d) U laa da gbeekeeti kutuku bili

\_\_\_\_\_

e) Bi laa nyafi ꞑꞑꞑ jambnii

\_\_\_\_\_

f) Ni laa da iɲaan dilaataal

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Use of «Ba ni» «what» to ask for questions:

a) Structure: **Ba ni + subject + verb + complement**

b) Structure: **subject + verb + complement + Ba**

Example:

Affirmative: M laa da bɔflee

Interrogative: Ba ni a laa da?

Or A laa da ba?



c) tii/ cenji

---

d) nyafi/sikil

---

e) laa da/kpɔɔ

---

f) bati /animil

---

4) Use of “ba ni” or “ba “(what) to ask about items in the market

Example: Ba ni/laa da

Question: Ba ni a laa da? Or a laa da ba ?

a) Ba/nyafi

---

b) Ba ni/nyaab

---

c) Ba/tii

---

d) Ba ni/laa

---

e) Ba/foo

---

5) Dialogue: Katy the PCV goes to market to buy onions

Katy: A jooku ɔɔ ti-na?

Damba: Alaafiya. A la ba?

Katy: M laa da gaabu. Mana ni a paan gaabub nee?

Damba: An ɔɔ ni an Daaku ni : biyeeb saalaa ɔɔ bi, dilaataal, kulaafaau, kulaafaau ni biyeeb saalaa. Mana ɔɔ ni a laa da ?

Katy : Dilaataal ɔɔ ni m laa da

Damba : An ɔɔ

Katy: Dilaataal ɔɔ ɔɔ, ti-yab? An ɔɔ kudaau paa. Bati-m

Damba: Aayee gaabu di ɔɔki Kudaau ɔɔnnee

Katy: M nyi min ama m gbaam-si bati-m fii.

Damba An ɔɔan foo itoo

Katy: Si ni ditundi foo animil kutuku ɔɔ. Cenji baa?

Damba: lin, an bi

Katy: tii-m cenji

Damba: Cenji ɔɔ

Katy: Si ni ditundi an ɔɔa kuti

**Some words:**

Paan:	heap up/to pile up
An kɔkɔ ni an Daaku ni:	prices are not the same
Mana yɔu...	(for) how much....
An sɔ:	here is, this is
An pɔɔ kudaau paa:	It's too expensive
Kɔnkɔnee:	now
M nyi min:	I know that
M gbaam-si:	Please, I beg you
Nyaab:	to look for

**Questions:**

a) Ba ni Katy laa da?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Mana ni bi nyafi gaabu?

\_\_\_\_\_

c) Mana yɔu ni Katy laa da?

\_\_\_\_\_

d) Gaabu pɔɔ kudaauaa?

\_\_\_\_\_

e) Animil mana ni Katy caa (kpa)?

\_\_\_\_\_

f) Cenji mana ni u laa foo?

\_\_\_\_\_

**G) Translate into Bassar**

a) What are you looking for?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) I'm looking for batteries

\_\_\_\_\_

c) For how much?

\_\_\_\_\_

d) It's too expensive, please reduce the price for me

\_\_\_\_\_

e) What do you want to buy?

---

f) I have 2650F

---

g) No, I don't have any balance

---

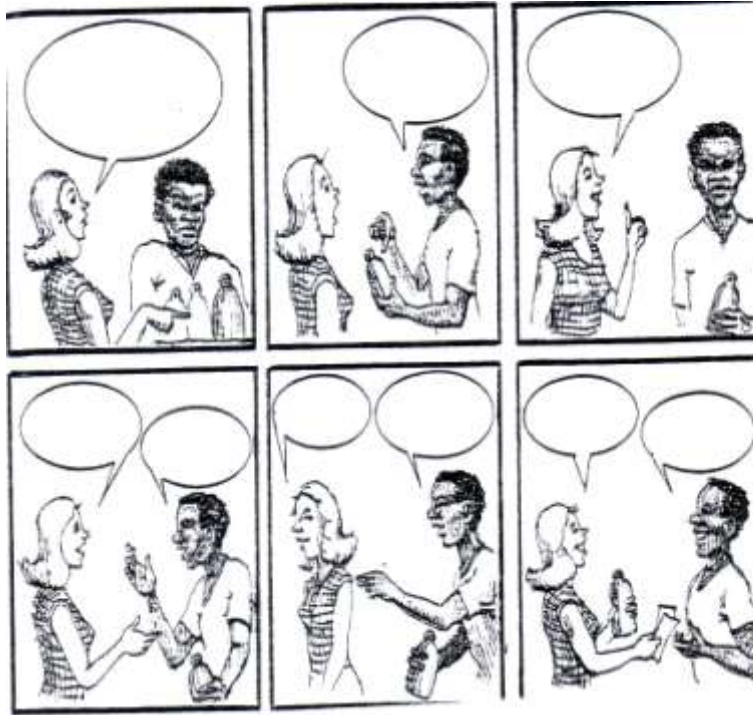
h) Thank you. Here are the shoes?

---





- i) Imagine and write a dialogue between the seller and the customer based on this picture.



## TDA

Go to the market, identify an article of your choice, ask for the price, bargain and buy it and ask for the change.



## Lesson 5

### Talk about food habits of the host country



#### Objectives:

After studying this lesson, trainees will be able to:

- 1) Name at least 4 different foods in Bassar areas
- 2) Use correct expressions and verbs related to food preparation in order to talk about meals
- 3) Discuss 4 cultural points related to food habits
- 4) Talk about what to eat in order to stay healthy
- 5) Give a recipe

## Dialogue

### *Sarah Elliott tells her friend Awusi about her lunch*

- Awusi: Sarah, a pɔɔ mana?  
Sarah: Alaafiya. A-tundi pɔɔya?  
Awusi: Alaafiya. Ba ni a fu jin fool kunyeeu?  
Sarah: M fu ɲmɔ imukul ni tikun tiba. An fu mɔ paaa. Ama maa nyi tikun gbanti yindi.  
Awusi: An ɲan, man fu ɲmɔ koliko ni ajin ni toomaati kunti.  
Sarah: Oh! Mamun neen ajin ni toomaati kunti paa !



## Dialogue in English

- Awusi: Sarah how are you doing?  
Sarah: Fine.How is your work?  
Awusi: Fine.What did you eat yesterday for dinner?  
Sarah: I ate rice and a kind of sauce. It was delicious, but I don't know the name of that sauce.  
Awusi: Good, I ate koliko with tomato sauce and eggs.  
Sarah: Oh! I also like tomato sauce with eggs.



## Cultural notes

- *When you eat you invite people near you to share your meal using the expressions "ti jii tijin" or "Ti kpée bu", but this doesn't mean that you will necessarily eat. The answers to this invitation are:*
- *'An ɲmantɔ = 'it's enough' m jin ni=I ate already' "m diki=I'm full"..*
- *The left hand is seen like dirty and is not acceptable at table when you're with people.*
- *You don't smell food in order to appreciate it and you should not step over the meal.*
- *Kitchen utensils should not be used for other purpose such as taking shower or hitting someone.*
- *Foods taboos are specific to families, communities or ethnic groups*
- *Traditional restaurants, "street food restaurants" or "fufu bars" serve cheap but good food and the service is quick. However be careful, they are not always clean and healthy. Consequently, PCTs and PCVs are not advised to eat salads in those restaurants.*

**Proverb:** *"Kalaa gbifiɲu kaa sa - mɔɲu"* (Everything that shine is not gold. The quantity doesn't mean always quality).

## Vocabulary

### Foods/meals

➤ Tijin	Food
➤ Busaa (tumbu)	Dough (of maize, millet...)
➤ Imukul/Sinkafa	rice
➤ Dinool/Dinoor	Yam
➤ Banci	Cassava
➤ Patipati	Ragout/stew (yam)
➤ Imukul ni atuun (Waaci)	Rice and beans prepared together
➤ Sokoro	Pounded yam
➤ Seewee / sawee	Fried bean doughnut
➤ Koliko	Fried yam
➤ Gaarii	Cassava flour
➤ Abloo	Steam-cook paste made of corn porridge
➤ Kookoo/Akasan	Porridge
Other:	
➤ ndaam	Drink
➤ kpatasii (sodaabii)	Alcohol
➤ nnyiim	water

### Some of the foods are called by their french name such as:

➤ Chou	Cabbage
➤ Carotte	Carot
➤ Haricots verts	French bean
➤ Pomme de terre	Potato
➤ Salade	Salad/lettuce
➤ Petit pois	Garden peas

### Some sauces

➤ Tikun	Sauce
➤ Kuncasii	Tomato sauce, soupe
➤ Gbomaakunti	Spinach sauce
➤ Abeebilkunti	Palm nut sauce
➤ Katikatikukunti/Keerkunti	Sesame sauce
➤ Asilimkunti	Peanut sauce
➤ Imoonkunti	Okra sauce
➤ Ayoyo / adeemiinkunti	Ademe is a vegetable

## Ingredients

- |                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| ➤ nyaam              | Salt                           |
| ➤ gaabu/albassa      | Onion                          |
| ➤ Yagim              | Pepper                         |
| ➤ ηkpam              | Oil                            |
| ➤ nsilingpam         | Vegetable oil (made of peanut) |
| ➤ Tinan              | Meat                           |
| ➤ Ukɔlnanti          | Chicken (meat)                 |
| ➤ Unaananti          | Beef                           |
| ➤ Uηoobnanti         | Goat                           |
| ➤ Ugbeeti/afa/nanti  | Pork                           |
| ➤ Ujɔm/(plural:ijɔm) | Fish                           |
| ➤ Kanamii/ijɔm kikaa | Fried fish                     |
| ➤ Ijɔm/Soon          | Fresh fish                     |
| ➤ sikil              | suagar                         |

## Utensils

- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| ➤ Paranta(b)            | Plate       |
| ➤ Kisambiki             | Bowl        |
| ➤ Kijii (plural: ηjiim) | Spoon       |
| ➤ Kijiki (ηjim)         | knife       |
| ➤ Kɔɔpu                 | Cup         |
| ➤ Dikumbool             | Cooking pot |
| ➤ Silba                 | Sauce pan   |

## Verbs

- |                        |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ➤ ηa tijin             | To cook (food)                        |
| ➤ Ji                   | To eat (pounded yam dough)            |
| ➤ ηmɔ                  | To eat (rice, beans, yam)             |
| ➤ nyɔ                  | To drink                              |
| ➤ mɔn (busaa)          | To prepare dough                      |
| ➤ Saan (Sɔkɔrɔ)        | To pound (fufu)                       |
| ➤ Caka tinan           | To cut meat                           |
| ➤ Caka (albassa/gaabu) | To cut onion                          |
| ➤ Kuti kookoo          | To prepare porridge (millet porridge) |
| ➤ ηaan ndaam           | To prepare local drink (tchouk)       |

## Expressions

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ➤ Maa ηmoo tinan             | I don't eat meat                    |
| ➤ Maa nyu ndaam min pɔɔyee   | I don't drink alcohol               |
| ➤ Maa jin busaa              | I don't eat Dough                   |
| ➤ An mɔ paa                  | It's very delicious/good            |
| ➤ Nyaam tunki (tikun)        | There is too much salt in the sauce |
| ➤ Yagim jiti                 | The sauce is spicy                  |
| ➤ Mana ni bi tɔkɔnti waaci   | How does one cook rice and beans    |
| ➤ Mana ni bi ηa asilimkunti? | How do you prepare peanut sauce?    |

## Other words

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| ➤ Mpeekaam(ee) / Mpeepeekaam(ee) | First/the first time |
| ➤ Nlilitim(ee)                   | Second               |
| ➤ Ntataatiim(ee)                 | Third                |
| ➤ Nnanaatim(ee)                  | Fourth               |
| ➤ ηηmoηmotim(ee)                 | Feeth                |
| ➤ min boonee                     | After that           |
| ➤ naani ni                       | Before               |
| ➤ ni                             | Then                 |
| ➤ Ama                            | But                  |

## **Exercises**

1) Add a maximum of three words to each word below to make complete sentences.

Example:

ηmɔ

Ti ηmɔ imukul

Suggested words:

Sɔkɔɔ

Koliko

ηa tijin

Gboomaakunti

2) You meet your friend after dinner. Ask for questions to know what he/she ate and tell him/her about your dinner.

### **Text: Mana ni bi ki koliko?**

Mpeekaamee yiinti dinool, ni ki caka dinool ɲwaam ɲwaam. Nlilitimee, finti dinool, tiɲan. A finti ki dooyee, a du dinool ki tɔ ɲyaanyim poon. Min boonee, tɔkɔn ɲkpam an nuun. An yaa nuun ki doo yee a du dinool ki tɔ ɲkpam poon. An yaa nuun fiyee a labiti dinool. Ciiti an giti nuun fii. Wuuti: a–koliko–u bindee, a ɲun ki ɲmɔ.

### **How to make koliko**

First peel the yam and cut it into small pieces. Second wash the pieces and steep them into salt water. After that heat oil in a pan and put the pieces in the oil, let it fry for a while and turn it. Wait a few minutes more and remove it: your koliko is ready to eat.

- 3) With the following words of meals, make your menu for the day (breakfast, lunch and dinner). Please use complete sentences.

Example: Kutaafaau: m laa nyɔ kookoo ni sikil ki ɲmɔ seewee ni ajin.

### Suggestions:

- Kookoo, tii, nnyim, sikil, kpatasii, ndaam
- Imukul, koliko, waaci, dinool, patipati, sɔkɔkɔ, kpɔkɔ, seewee
- Ukɔlnanti, ugbeetianti, uɲoobnanti, unaananti, ajin, ijɔm
- Asilmkunti, toomaatikunti, gbomaakunti imɔɔnkunti, keerkunti.
- Kutaafaau (morning/breakfast), ɲwiimpu (noon/lunch), Kunyeeu (night/dinner)

### **Situation:**

You invited a Togolese friend to share your lunch with you. After the meal, she/he asks you for the recipe. So give her/him the recipe.

### **TDA**

Ask your host mother or sister for the recipe of a meal you choose. Bring the information to class and share it with your classmates.



## Lesson 6

### Invite someone, accept or decline an invitation



#### Objectives:

After studying this lesson trainees will be able to:

- 1) Use appropriate vocabulary and verbs to invite someone
- 2) Accept or decline an invitation in a polite way to maintain a good relationship with people, which will support their personal safety and security.

## Dialogue

### *Yaati invites her neighbor, the PCV Katy*

Yaati: Katy a pɔɔya?

Katy: Alaafiya Yaati. Sii fa?

Yaati: Alaafiya bi. M baa la ma ni si ti cu ki kpee lawa din kunyeeu. A caa mpaan dinaa ?

Katy : lin, m caa mpaan. Si ni ditundi.

Yaati: An ɲa kujoou

Katy: Yoo.

## Dialogue in English

Yaati: Katy, how are you?

Katy: I'm fine, and you?

Yaati: I'm also fine. I would like to invite you for lawa dance tonight. Would you have time?

Katy: Yes! I have time, thank you.

Yaati: See you tonight.

Katy: Ok.

## Cultural notes

- *In general, friends or members of the same family visit each other without any previous invitation.*
- *You are always welcome to share a meal or a drink or to spend time together ... even if it was not planned before.*
- *You are responsible for guest's food or drink.*
- *It's necessary to express your limits during an invitation where people will be offering you food and drink again and again.*

**Proverb:** ' *Unicaan kaa liiŋti nsaŋ* ': (A stranger cannot be a guide)

## Expressions

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ➤ M baa la ki ka-si                            | I would like to see you           |
| ➤ M baa la ti ka-tɔb/M baa la ti kpafi         | I would like to meet you          |
| ➤ M baa la ti nya                              | I would like to go out with you   |
| ➤ M baa la ti ji tijin<br>lin, an ŋan/an mɔm-m | I would you like to eat with you  |
| ➤ Aayee, maa caa mpaan                         | Yes, good. I'm happy              |
| ➤ m gbaam-si, maa caa mpaan                    | No, I don't hve time/I'm very     |
| ➤ Maa la ŋma ki daan                           | Sorry, I don't have time/I'm busy |
| ➤ Maa laa ŋma ki cu                            | I can't come                      |
| ➤ Ditundi wiiki m-pu...                        | I can't go.                       |
|  | I have a lot of work to do        |

## Occasions to be invited

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| ➤ Dipɔntir<br>Dikpool           | Yam harvest feast   |
| ➤ Nooweel                       | Funeral             |
| ➤ Bɔnaanee (Dibimpɔndi jiŋaalu) | Christmas           |
| ➤ Jamgbeejiŋaal                 | New year            |
| ➤ Paak jiŋaalu                  | Ramadan/Tabaski     |
| ➤ Dibɔɔwul                      | Easter (feast)      |
| ➤ Agbiil                        | Ceremony/Ceremonies |
| ➤ Diyiindi                      | Dance/Show          |
|                                 | A walk              |

## Verbs

- |        |          |
|--------|----------|
| ➤ Daan | to come  |
| ➤ cu   | to go    |
| ➤ kpee | to watch |
| ➤ ŋɔ   | to dance |

## Exercise

Give an affirmative or a negative answer to these questions in Bassar

a) Would you like to come to my house for Dipɔntir?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Would you like going out with me to night?

\_\_\_\_\_

c) For Ramadan, would you go to eat with El Hadj Napo Razak?

\_\_\_\_\_

d) Would you like to take a walk this afternoon?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Grammar notes

The conditional tense used to express politeness, a wish or to soften a demand or an order is meant in Bassar:  
Baa la +Verb=Would like

Example: m baa la ki cu kinyɔŋ

I would like to go to the market

Subject+baa+la +verb+object
-----------------------------

U baa la ki tutun-m

He would like to help me

Ti baa la ki daan dikpool

we would like to come to the funerals

Bi baa la ki ŋmɔ imukul din kijoou

they would like to eat rice tonight

## Situation

Your host sister/brother seems bored at home. Discuss plans to make for the evening.

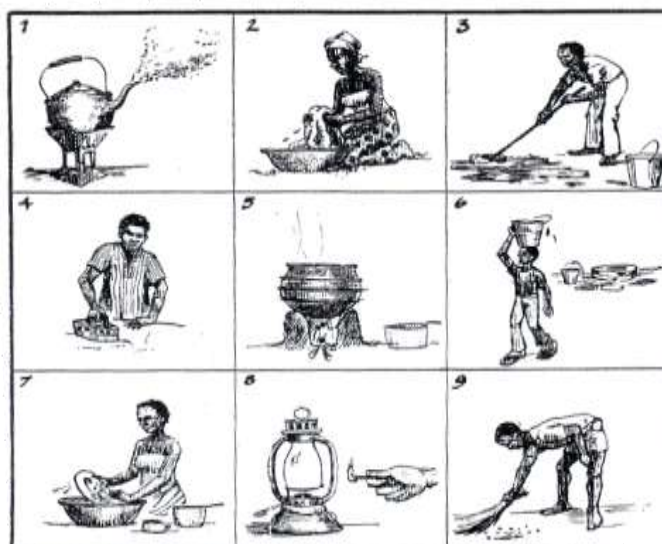
## TDA

Ask two or three people in your host family or in your neighborhood how they accept or decline an invitation without frustrating your host. Come back to class with your findings.



## Lesson 7

### Talk about daily activities



## Objectives

After studying this lesson, trainees will be able to:

1. Name the main daily activities in their community
2. Use the appropriate vocabulary and the present habitual to talk about daily activities in their community
3. Discuss at least 2 cultural notes and safety and security issues related to the competence
4. Talk about their daily activities in the community for their good integration.

## Text: Niṅfoon tundi

Baabadaal kutaafaauee Niṅfoon fiinti malaa. Wu fiinti ki dooyee ni u fiinti u nimin, ni ki ḡmḡ ḡkoon. Min boonee ni u faal ni ki peen dibɔkɔtil, ni ki caati u yikpiti ni ki bunti sukul. U nyanni sukul ki baanee, ni u tutun u-na bi ḡa tijin. Waa dɔ malaa kinyeeu. Niṅfoon kaa caa diṅuṅfil.

### Niṅfoon's daily activities.

Every day Niṅfoon wakes up early in the morning. She washes her face and chews a stick; she takes her bath, gets dressed, combs her hair and leaves for school. After class, she is tired but she doesn't rest. At night, she doesn't go to bed early. Niṅfoon doesn't have any time to rest.

## Cultural notes

- *In the morning people wash their face before they greet or start their activities.*
- *Activities are shared according to gender and age*
- *In general, women take care of household chores.*
- *It's better to wear appropriate shoes to go to farm.*

## Vocabulary

### Some places

➤ kudii poon	in the room
➤ kisamondii	kitchen
➤ kugotuu	bathroom
➤ ηkpiini	in the river
➤ ηkpiin	the river
➤ Sukul	school
➤ Ditundi	work / at the office
➤ kusaau	field
➤ kinyoη	market

### Daily activities

➤ ηaati kudii/dicindi	to sweep/the room/the counpound
➤ Faal/faal mbiyaam	to take the bath/ to bathe the children
➤ Fiinti	to wash (in general)
➤ Fiinti nnimiin	to wash face
➤ ηa tijin	to cook
➤ Caati tiyikpiti	to comb hair
➤ peen diboktil	to put on a shirt
➤ bonti	to get dressed
➤ Fiinti asambil	to wash dishes
➤ Kpaa ηηmi	to light fire
➤ Fiinti tiwan	to do laundry
➤ Cu diyiindi	to take a walk
➤ ηuηfi	to rest
➤ Ji kinyoη	to go shpping
➤ doon	to go to bed
➤ Cu kusaau	to go to farm
➤ Peeti diboktil	undress
➤ Lun nnyim	to fetch water



### Expressions of time

➤ Baabadal	everyday
➤ Kutaafaau/kɔkɔ kamaaee	everynoon
➤ ɲwiimpu kɔkɔ kamaaee	every night
➤ Kujoou kɔkɔ kamaaee	every afternoon
➤ Kunyeeu kɔkɔ kamaaee	every nighth
➤ Baabadal kutaafaau	everyday in the morning
➤ Tam kɔkɔ	everytime
➤ Malaa	early/quickly
➤ Malaa malaa	very quickly
➤ Tam ubɔ	sometimes
➤ Boonee/Boon	after/last
➤ Ba ni a ɲaan kutaafaau kɔkɔkamaa	what do you do every morning
➤ Ditundi dilar ni a ɲaan baabadal	what kind of job do you do everyday

### **Exercises:**

1. The teacher will show a picture and the learner will describe or say the activity.
2. Give the activities that correspond to these periods of the day:

Kutaafaau

ɲwiimpu

Kujoou

Kunyeeu

Example: Kutaafaau:

ɲwiimpu: Fiinti, fal

### **Grammar notes**

The present progressive is introduced by “**bi**”+ the verb. But some verbs do keep their forms.

Structure: subject+bi +verb+object.
-------------------------------------

Example:

ɲati (to sweep): m bi ɲati

Fiinti (to do laundry): U bi fiinti

Caati (to comb hair): U bi caati

Examples of verbs that change form:

Nyo nnyim	M bi nyu nnyim (I'm drinking water)
Ji busaa	M bi jin busaa (I'm eating food)
Dmo imukul	M bi ηmoo imukul (I'm eating rice)
Fal	M bi fuul (I'm taking my bath)

## Exercises

1) Use the present progressive to answer the following questions:

Example:

Q: A bi fulaa?	Are you taking your bath?
R: Iin, m bi fuul	Yes I'm taking my bath
Aayee, maa bi fuul	No, I'm not taking my bath

- 1) A bi ηati kudiiii?
- 2) Mbiyaam bi jin tijinaa?
- 3) Sarah bi caati tiyikpitaa?
- 4) U-baa bi bɔntaa?
- 5) Bi bi fiinti tiwanaa?
- 6) Ti-na bi kpa ηηmaa?
- 7) A-bɔɔ bi nyu ndaamaa?

2) Say what you do at these periods of the day

Example: kutaafaau kɔkɔkamaaee, m fuul...

Kutaafaau kɔkɔkamaaee.....

kujooou kɔkɔkamaaee.....

3) Tell a story about someone's daily activities. The trainer begins the story and trainees continue the story in turn.

### Text:

Bi yii-m yii Nyandi. Baabadal kutaafaauuee, m ηati kudii naani ni ki nin fal. M yaa ful ki doo yee, m lee sɔntɔ ni ki nin bɔnti. Min boonee, ni m bunti ditundi. M yaa nyanni ditundi ki baanee, ni m ηa tijin. M yaa jin ki doo yee ni m doon.

Naani	before
Yaa	If/ when
Lee sɔntɔ	to take break fast
Bɔnti	to get dressed/ to be ready
Min boon/min boonee	after that
M bunti	I leave

## Questions

a) Ba ni Nyandi n̄aan kutaafaau naani ki nin bunti ditundi?

---

b) U yaa nyanni ditundi ki baanee, ba tundi ni u n̄aan?

---

## **Situation**

During your post visit, your counterpart will ask you about your plan for the week.

## **Role play**

You want to plan a “happy hour” with your friend over the weekend. Imagine a conversation with him when you discuss your schedule for the weekend and find the right moment for your “happy hour”

## **TDA**

Observe the members of your host family and ask them for questions about their daily activities. Write a paragraph on that for next class.

## Lesson 8

### Ask for and give directions and time



#### Objectives:

After studying this lesson, trainees will be able to:

- 1) Use appropriate vocabulary to ask for and give directions and time
- 2) Use the imperative form and prepositions to ask for and give directions
- 3) Discuss at least 3 cultural notes and safety and security issues related to orientation
- 4) Give and follow directions in the community.

## Dialogue

*David Kɔndi a PCV has just arrived in Kabou for his service as a volunteer. He asks Napo a young guy, to indicate him the road from the hospital to the market*

- David: A doonɔ ɔɔ m-ɔɔ?  
Napo: Alaafiya bi. A ɔɔ mana?  
David: Alaafiya. M gbaam-si kinyɔɔ sanɔ bi la?  
Napo: Oh an kaa dati. Coom ki ba didan kpaandi ni ki Paati ɔɔngan pu. Coom ki ba laan bi nyafi sansee. Kinyɔɔ pili ni sansi lanki ni.  
David: Si ni ditundi. An ɔa kuti  
Napo: Yoo. A cu daan.

## Dialogue in English

- David: Good morning my friend.  
Napo: Good morning. How are you?  
David: Fine. Please where is the road to the market?  
Napo: It's not far from here. Walk until you get the main road. Turn left. Continue until you get to the gaz station. The market place is close gaz station.  
David: Thank. See you again.  
Napo: You're welcome. Go and come back.

## Cultural notes

- *In general, indications about distance are not precise*
- *Sometimes with illiterate people, time is related to the activities of the day (like children going to school, muslims' Morning Prayer...)*
- *Some people will come late for meetings*
- *People would prefer to lead you to the place by themselves or by having a child accompany you.*
- *Keep asking people for directions until you arrive at your destination.*

**Proverb:** *“U baafil kaa wanki” (He who asks for information does not get lost)*

## Vocabulary

### Some places

➤ Kinyɔŋ poon	In the market
➤ Dɔkɔta	Hospital, health center
➤ Ubɔti dumpu	In the Chief's house
➤ Sukul	School
➤ Faari (poon)	Shop(in the market)
➤ Tiisan	Taxi station
➤ Nsan/Didandi	Road/ way
➤ Kísambiki	Path
➤ Isampuyaati	Cross-road
➤ Poosi / post	Post office

### Verbs

➤ Daka(nsan)	To indicate / show (the road)
➤ Cu	To go
➤ Paati ŋgan pu	To turn left
➤ Paati ŋgiil pu	To turn right
➤ Daan	To come
➤ Coom	To walk
➤ Puntidi didandi	To cross the road
➤ Giti	To return
➤ Giti a-boon	To go back
➤ Wanki/wanki nsan	To get lost
➤ Ceen	To go with/to see off

### Expressions

➤ Ngan	Left
➤ Ngiil	Right
➤ An dati	It's far
➤ An kaa dati	It's not far
➤ Doo	Here
➤ Lapu	There
➤ Tiisan bi la? /staasiyon bi la?	Where is the taxi station

## Expressions related to time

➤ Tam	'time
➤ Kikuluu ku Ɔkɔ di gban? /Tiŋa di gban?	What time is it?
➤ Tikuti tita di gban?	It is 3 o'clock
➤ Tikuti tili di gbaani	It is 2 o'clock
➤ An kin miiti biluu, tita n gbaa	It is 6 o'clock
➤ m gbinti boon	I'm late
➤ M baan malaa	I came early.
➤ Tam ulɔu ni ti laa doo?	When are we going to finish?
➤ Tam ulɔu ni ti laa kpaafi	When are we going to meet

## **Exercises**

1) Make sentences with these words:

Example: Dɔkɔta M-na bi Dɔkɔta Hospital My mother is at the hospital

a) Kusaau

---

b) Ubɔti dumpu

---

c) Tiisan

---

d) Kinyɔn

---

e) Ditundi

---

2) Make sentences with these expressions:

a) Paati ŋŋangiil pu \_\_\_\_\_

b) Puntidi didandi \_\_\_\_\_

c) Paati njangan pu

---

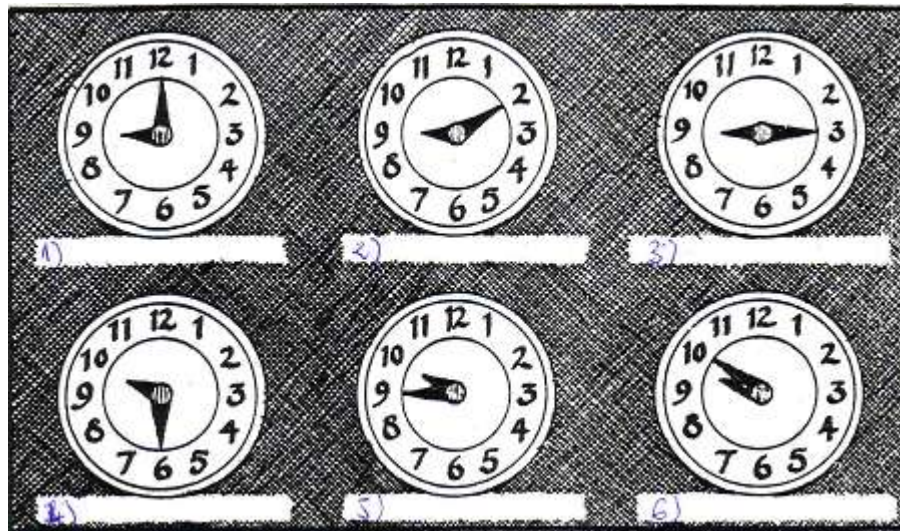
d) Isampuyaati

---

e) Wanki nsan

---

3) Read the time on these pictures:





## Grammar notes

- j) Prepositions in general are the end the sentence.  
Here are some:

Prepositions(Bassar)	English	Example
-pu	on	Dibɔkɔtil pa teebli pu. The shirt is on the table
-poon	In	Nsukulbiyaam bi kusukuldii poon Students are in the room
-taapu	under	Anaataka bi teebli taapu Shoes are under the table
-nyɔkɔpu	in front of	Tiisan bi kinyɔɔ nyɔkɔpu The taxi station is in front of the market.
-boon	Behind	Amy diiku bi ubɔti dumpu boon Amy's house is behind the chief's house
-kansikin	Beteen, center, middle	Kassi koo sukul ni kinyɔɔ kansikin Kassi leaves between the school and the market
-pil	Near/close	Kɔndi dumpu pil ni post Kɔndi's house is close to the post office
-yilpu	Over/up/on	Ditankpal pa kudii yilpu A stone is over(on) the roof

### Structure: **subject+verb+object+preposition**

- ii) Imperative: the formation and the use of imperative are the same as in English, except that the plural personal pronouns (mí, mì) are not dropped out.

Example:

Cu kinyɔɔ	go to the market
Paati ɲgan pu	turn left
Ni cu dɔkɔta	go to the hospital
Ti paati ɲgiil pu	let us turn right

## Exercises

- 1) Trainees execute orders from trainer and then they do the same thing one by one between themselves.

- 2) Practice question and answer: to be done among trainees

Example: Tikuti tiɲa di gban? (15h00)

Tikuti tina di gbani/Tina gbani

- a) Tam ulɔ ni ti la bunti? (10h20)

\_\_\_\_\_

- b) Tam ulɔ ni lkpindi baan? (18h35)

\_\_\_\_\_



**Situation**

You are inviting your classmates to your host family's house. Give them directions from the tech house to your house.

**TDA**

Go to your host father, ask him how to get to a place you want to go to, write down the information in Bassar and come back with it to class.

## Lesson 9

### Talk about transportation



#### Objectives:

After studying this lesson trainees will be able to:

- 1) Use the present progressive, interrogative words and the future tense
- 2) Ask questions about the cost, travel time and destinations to be able to travel independently
- 3) Discuss travel conditions and strategies to travel safely

## Dialogue

### *The PCV Wyoamin goes to her post Bitchabe*

- Boukman: Si ni nsan ti-na  
Wyoamin: Yaaha, a ɔɔya?  
Bookman: Alaafiya. A ca la?  
Wyoamin: M ca Bicaabi  
Bookman: Bicaabi Loolu ɔɔ  
Wyoamin: Lool caajuu sa mana?  
Bookman: Lool caajuu sa sampua ni kilaafaau. Ƙɔ nyɔƙɔpu  
Wyoamin: Aayee, m la ƙɔ boon?  
Bukman: A coom tiŋan.  
Wyoamin: Yoo, an ŋa dalba.

## Dialogue in English

- Bookman: Welcome madam  
Wyoamin: Thanks how are you?  
Bookman: Fine, where are you going?  
Wyoamin: I'm going to Bitchabé.  
Bookman: Here is Bitchabe taxi  
Wyoamin: What is the travel fee?  
Bookman: The travel is seven hundred francs, take the front seat  
Wyoamin: No, thanks. I will take a seat at the back.  
Bookman: Safe journey.  
Woamin: See you next time

## Cultural notes

- *Travelers need to be patient enough because drivers will try to have as many passengers as possible before they depart and they are often overloaded.*
- *In some remote villages, you can be waiting the whole day, or vehicles are available only on market days.*
- *It's important to have your valuables on you, not packed in your bags...*
- *You should check your luggage whenever a passenger is getting off along the way.*

**Proverb:** “*Kinimbomŋ kaa nyi ku koojoou jooti*” (*Misfortunes don't prevent*)

## **Vocabulary**

### Means of transportation

➤	Ataa	foot/feet
➤	Ceecee(b)	bicycle(s)
➤	Jakpikpi(b) moto	motorcycle
➤	Lool(b)	vehicle/car
➤	Lool kpaan(b)	truck
➤	Biŋalimbu	pirogue/canoe
➤	Daandan	airplane

### Words and expressions

➤	Tiisan	car station
➤	Dɔrba	driver
➤	Lool caajuu	travel fee
➤	Atun	luggage
➤	Atun caajuu	luggage charge

### Verbs

➤	kɔ lool	To take a car/vehicle
➤	kal jakpikpi	To take a moto
➤	kɔ daandan	To take an airplane
➤	ŋaal ceecee	To bike
➤	ŋaal lool	To drive(a car)
➤	kpaati	To get down
➤	buuŋti	To leave
➤	ban	To arrive
➤	Cu Tiisan	To go to the station
➤	Yul	To stop

### Expressions

➤	M laa kpaati Baasaar	I will get off in Bassar
➤	M laa kpaati doo	I want get off here
➤	Lool caajuu sa mana Luma ki cu Baasaar	How much do you pay from Luma to Bassar?
➤	Bi fool FCFA	they pay FCFA
➤	Lool ulɔu di ca?	Which vehicle is going (traveling)
➤	Tam ulɔu ni lool yiki ?	What time the vehicles is departing?
➤	An kin paasinja bili	It remains two passengers

➤ Tam ulɔ ni ti laa ba?	What time are we going to arrived?
➤ Ti laa ba tikuti tinaa	We'll arrive at four?
➤ An dataa?	Is it far?
➤ An kaa dati tikpila?	It is not too far?
➤ Ti laa ba kɔnkɔnnee	We will arrive soon
➤ Dɔrba, m laa kpaati(kpakati) doo	Driver, I'll get down here
➤ Yul Dɔrba. M laa kpaati	Stop driver. I will get down here
➤ M ca Luma ki daan	I'm going and I will be back

### Exercises

1) What will you say in Bassar in these situations:

a) To know the tariff from Lome to Bassar

---

b) To know what time you are departing?

---

c) To know when you will get there?

---

d) To tell the driver you'll get down at Bassar

---

2) Make sentences with the verbs below:

a) Kɔ lool\_\_\_\_\_

b) ŋaal ceecee\_\_\_\_\_

c) buuŋti\_\_\_\_\_

d) nyanni\_\_\_\_\_

e) kpaati (kpakati)\_\_\_\_\_

f) Yul\_\_\_\_\_

## Grammar notes

### i Review interrogative terms (**la (where), manan (how much), ba (what)**)

- \* Lool caaju sa manan or? How much is the tariff?  
Mana ni sa lool caajuu ?  
\* A ca la or? Where are you going?  
La ni a ca?  
\* A nyaab ba or ? What are you looking for?  
Ba ni a nyaab?

### ii. Review present progressive

- M bii nyaal ceecee I'm riding bicycle  
M bii daa tikiti I'm buying a ticket

### iii. Future tense

The future tense has three forms:

a) The nearest or immediate future tense is introduced by: **laa+verb**

Example

- M laa cu Baasaar I'm going to Bassar/ I want to go to Bassar  
M laa da tikiti I'm going to buy a ticket / I want to buy a ticket  
Structure: **subject + laa + verb + noun**

For actions that will take place tomorrow:

b) Future tense is introduced by: **laa + fu**

Example:

- M laa fu cu Baasaar tomorrow I will go to Bassar  
M laa fu da tikiti tomorrow I will buy a ticket  
Structure: **Subject + laa + fu + verb + noun**

When the time is not specific, or close:

c) The future tense is also introduced, by daa

Example:

- M daa ca Baasaar I will go to Bassar  
M daa daa tikiti I will buy a ticket  
Structure: **subject + daa + verb + noun or laa da + verb +noun**

## Exercises

1) Answer these questions using the appropriate future tense

: Example: A daa ca dipontiraa? lin, m daa ca dipontir

a) Ni laa fu cu agbilaa?

---

b) Badaal ni a laa yiki?

---



c) Mbiyaam daa ca Vaakansaa?

---

d) A laa cu Amerikaa?

---

e) Voluntairb fu ca ditundaa?

---

f) Bi laa da loolaa?

---

g) Marie laa fu ñaal ceecee ki cu kuukaaa?

---

h) La ni u laa kpaati?

---

1) Read the dialogue and answer the questions

***Daniel goes to the station in Bassar***

Dɔrba: A sanɲu  
Daniel: Yaaha, lool ulɔ di ca kuuka?  
Dɔrba: Kuuka loolu sɔ. A laa cuɔɔ?  
Daniel: Iin, m laa cu. Mana di sa lool caajuu?  
Dɔrba: Lool caajuu sa Kutuku ubɔ ni kulaafaau  
Daniel: Tam ulɔ ni lool laa yiki  
Dɔrba: kɔnkɔnnee  
Daniel: An ñan, ni tam ulɔ ni ti laa ba?  
Dɔrba: Tikuti tinaa.  
Daniel: A ci ba? Ti buunɲaa!  
Dɔrba: Ti ciiti fii. an kin unil ubɔ

**Notes**

kɔnkɔnnee	now
ti laa ba	We' ll arrive
Ti yaa yiki kɔnkɔnnee	If we depart or leave now ....
Ti laa ba tikuti tinaa....	W'll arrive at 4
A ci ba?	What are we waiting for?
Ti buunɲaa?	Let's leave
Ti ciiti fii	Let's wait a little / or a moment
An kin unil ubɔ	It remains one person

**Questions:**

a) La ni Daniel ca

-----

b) Mana ni lool caajuu sa?

-----

c) Tam ulɔu ni bi laa ba?

-----

d) Binib biŋaa (how many persons) ni an kin?

-----

**Situation**

You want to go Kabu. Try to find the right vehicle at the station, ask for the tariff, duration ...

**TDA**

Go to the station in Tsévié. Get information about these tariffs:

Kpalime – Bassar

Kpalime – Kabou

Kpalime – Guerin Kouka

Ask about vehicles and travel conditions. Come back to class with the information.

## Lesson 10

### Talk about one's state of health



#### Objectives:

After studying this lesson, trainees will be able to:

- a) Name different parts of the human body
- b) Talk about their state of health or ask for someone's state of health
- c) Use direct complement personal pronouns
- d) Discuss Togolese ideas and behavior regarding sickness

## Dialogue

*Megan meets Yaaba on her way to her friend's house.*

Megan: M-bɔɔ Yaaba, a ɔɔɔya?  
Yaaba: Alaafiya. A ca la?  
Megan: M ca m-bɔɔ dumpu. Si nyanni la?  
Yaaba : M cuti ki da nnyɔɔ faari poon  
Megan A-la wu?  
Yaaba M-yil di wu ni tiwool mun koo-m  
Megan: Fɔɔ, Unimbɔti n caan sooci  
Yaaba: Si ni ditundi

## Dialogue in English

Megan: My friend Yaaba, how are you?  
Yaaba : I'm fine, where are you going?  
Megan: I'm going to my friend's house, and you where do you come from?  
Yaaba: I went to a shop to buy some medicines  
Megan: What part hurt you (what is wrong with you)?  
Yaaba My head hurt me and I have fever  
Megan : Sorry, I wish goog recovery  
Yaaba: Thank you

## Cultural notes

- *People are not direct in saying what's wrong. They will first say everything is ok before they mention any sickness or sad new*
- *Sickness is seen like a punishment from God or ancestors or caused by sorcery*
- *People will not necessary go to the hospital or to a health center when they are sick, but they will try different treatments by themselves with medicine or traditional infusions*
- *People believe a lot in traditional healers*

## Vocabulary

### Human body

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| ➤ Diyil             | Head         |
| ➤ dipoor            | Stomach      |
| ➤ Dinimir           | Eye          |
| ➤ dinyindi          | Tooth(teeth) |
| ➤ Kinyɔkɔ           | Mouth        |
| ➤ Ditafaal(atafaal) | Ear(s)       |
| ➤ Dimanfaal         | Nose         |
| ➤ Ditaali(ataa)     | Foot (feet)  |
| ➤ Dibiiil( abii)    | Breast       |
| ➤ Kicaŋ             | Waist        |
| ➤ Nsil              | neck         |
| ➤ Dibindi           | Chest        |
| ➤ baan              | Back         |

### Verbs

- |              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| ➤ Wu         | Pain/ hurte           |
| ➤ Yil wu     | Head hurt             |
| ➤ Ca dɔkɔta  | To go to the hospital |
| ➤ Nyɔ nnyɔkɔ | To take medicine      |
| ➤ Da nnyɔkɔ  | To buy medicine       |
| ➤ Bunki      | To get sick           |
| ➤ Cɔti       | To have diarrhea      |
| ➤ Kunki      | To cough              |

### Expressions

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| ➤ Ba caa -si?        | What's wrong with you?                 |
| ➤ M-poon wu          | I have stomach aches                   |
| ➤ M-yil wu           | I have headaches                       |
| ➤ M-nimir wu         | My eye hurts me                        |
| ➤ M-tafaal wu        | My ear hurts me                        |
| ➤ M ca dɔkɔta        | I'm going to the hospital              |
| ➤ M laa da nnyɔkɔ    | I'm going to buy/I will buy a medicine |
| ➤ ijiliŋkpaam        | Worms                                  |
| ➤ ijiliŋkpaam pabi-m | I have worms                           |
| ➤ m caa ijiliŋkpaam  | I have worms                           |
| ➤ mmubuun caa kibiki | the kid has stomach infection          |
| ➤ M bi nyu nnyɔkɔ    | I'm taking a medicine                  |

- |                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| ➤ Dɔkɔta saa-m mpiin | the doctor/nurse give me a shot |
| ➤ M kuŋki            | I'm coughing                    |
| ➤ Fiiva /nnaanyeem   | malaria                         |
| ➤ Fiiva caa-m        | I have malaria                  |
| ➤ Ticɔtinli          | diarrhea                        |
| ➤ Siidaa weenii      | AIDS                            |
| ➤ Iween              | Sicknesses                      |
| ➤ Tíwool             | Cold                            |
| ➤ Tíwool koom        | To feel cold                    |



### Exercises

- Choose one word in each column and make a sentence
- Example: u-yil wu

<b>Verb</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Noun/object</b>
Wu	U	poon
Nyɔ	mbiyaam	nnyɔkɔ
Buunŋki	unacimpɔɔn	nnaanyeem
Da	m-bɔɔ	yil
Sa (shot)	dɔkɔta	fiivɔa
Caa(b)	ni	dɔkɔta
Ca (short)	kibiki	siidaa

### Grammar notes

- i. The past tense is used to express actions that happened and the time is not specified

Example: Ca m cuti dɔkɔta I went to the hospital  
 Nyɔ: m nyun nnyɔkɔ I took a medecin  
 Da m laa (no change) da nnyɔkɔ I bought a medecine  
 If the action happened yestaday, we add: **fu + verb** to be specific  
 Example: fool, m cuti dɔkɔta M fu cuti dɔkɔta  
 Yesterday I went to the hospital Yesterday I went to the hospital  
 Structure: **Subject + fu + past tense + noun**

**Exercises**

1) Answer the following questions using the appropriate past tense

Example: A fu cuti ditundi foolaa?

Aayee, maa fu cuti or  
 lɪn, m fu cuti

- a) U nyun nnyɔkɔkɔ?  
 Aayee \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Bi fu cuti dɔkɔtaa?  
 Aayee. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Kibiki bunkaa?  
 Aayee. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) U fu kunkaa?  
 lin. \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Willy fu da nnyɔkɔkɔ?  
 Aayee. \_\_\_\_\_

2) Translate into Bassar

- a) I have stomach ache \_\_\_\_\_
- b) What's wrong with you \_\_\_\_\_
- c) I have head ache \_\_\_\_\_
- d) The kids are coughing \_\_\_\_\_
- e) You have malaria \_\_\_\_\_

**TDA**

Talk with Mister X. Ask him the common diseases in the area and their treatment.

## Lesson 11

### Express one's sympathy in a happy or sad event



#### Objectives:

After studying this lesson trainees will be able to:

- 1) Talk about the culturally accepted behavior during a happy or sad event
- 2) Use correct words and expressions to express one's sympathy in those events.



## Dialogue

- Fan: Oh, Larba, maati ka-si an yunti  
Larba: mbamɔn, m-baa nin kp̄ii m cuti mmɔŋki ki ŋa iwiin ili.  
Fan: Fɔ, maa gbil, ubɔ kaa tuku-m. Fɔɔ.  
Larba: Yahaa  
Fan: Unimbɔti n sɔŋki a-pɔbil.  
Larba: Yoo, si ni ditundi an ŋa kuti.

## Dialogue in English

- Fan: Oh, Larba, I haven't seen you for a long time!  
Larba: Yes. My father died and I went home (village) for some days.  
Fan: Oh! I didn't hear that, I'm sorry for you  
Larba: Ok, thank you.  
Fan: My condolences  
Larba: Ok, well, see you.

## Cultural notes

- *It's very important to express one's sympathy to a friend, a colleague, your neighbor during a sad event (sickness, accident, death...) by visiting or making a symbolic gift of money, food or anything else depending on your relationship.*
- *You do the same for happy events and you congratulate.*
- *Failing to give a moral support (especially to pay a simple visit) would make people think that you have no regard toward people or you are not interested in the community in which you are living.*

**Proverb: “Baa yakati falaa”** (*Misfortunes cannot be shared*)



c) Ka ditundi

---

d) Ji ipɔɔn

---

e) lween

---

### Grammar notes:

1) The pluperfect tense is formed by using the particle “nin” + the past tense of the verb:

Example: U nin cuti Baasaar

He had gone to Bassar

U nin da nɣɔkɔ

He had bought some medicine

Structure: **Subject + nin + past tense + noun**

2) The imperfect tense is formed by using the particle “nin”+ the present tense of the verb

Example: Bi nin ca ditundi

they used to go to work

Bi nin nyu nɣɔkɔ

they used to take medicine

Structure: **subject + nin + present tense + noun**

### Exercises:

1) Answer the following questions using the appropriate tense

a) U nin jaam ubunlaa ?

---

b) Fan nin da nɣɔkɔkɔ ?

---

c) Bi nin mannti ubunli kɔkɔ ?

---

d) Bi nin pakawaa?

---

**TDA:** Discuss with your host mom or your host father about what people usually do and say when:

- A brother , a neighbor or a freind is sick
- There is a birth
- There is adeath in the community

Take note of new useful expressions for next class.

## Lesson 12

### Ask for help in an emergency case



#### *Objectives:*

After studying this lesson trainees will be able to:

- 1) Use appropriate words and expressions to ask for help in an emergency case
- 2) Use complement pronouns
- 3) Discuss the safety and security support system in their community

## Dialogue

*One day after lunch, Amy was having a rest when she heard in the compound: Oh, bi fimeee, bi fimeee, m kpineee, bi da foomee, Bi joomeee. Amy went out?*

- Amy: Ba ŋa, ba ŋa?  
Nĩnkɔ: Ubɔwaati la ki ju-m  
Amy: U bi la?  
Nĩnkɔ: U di doo  
Amy: U ju-saa?  
Nĩnkɔ: Aayee, waa ju-m  
Amy: Ti ni diyimɔɔl  
Nĩnkɔ: Si ni kokal an ŋa kuti.

## Dialogue in English

Oh help, help, come and help me

- Amy: What's happening?  
Nĩnkɔ: A crazy dog wants to bite me.  
Amy: Where is he?  
Nĩnkɔ: He went this side.  
Amy: Has he bitten you?  
Nĩnkɔ: No, he hasn't  
Amy: Fortunately, you are lucky  
Nĩnkɔ: Thank you for your help. See you after.

## Cultural notes

*Solidarity between people in the community is very strong, so you just call out if you need others' help.  
In towns or big cities people are more individualistic, and may be more reluctant to offer help.*

## Vocabulary:

- Woyooyiii, Woyooyiii! alarming cry in an emergency case
- Bi fimeee! Save me!
- M kpineee! I'm dying! (my life is in danger)!
- Unaayuyeee A thief!
- Bi joomeee Help me
- U la kpomeee! He want to kill me
- Bi cu unaayuyeee! Seize the thief! Catch the thief
- Bi tutunmeee Help me

## Fire

- Nɔ̃meee! Fire!
- Bi caan nnyimeee! Bring water
- Kudii foo Nɔ̃meee! Fire!
- Bi fiteee Save me

## Harassment/Attack

- Ba ɔ̃a what's that?
- Yanti-m let me
- Maa la min! I don't like it
- A cu a-ba! be careful
- M Koo min I hate that!
- Taati kuti min dalba! Don't do that again.
- Suti m cee! Get away from!
- Maati la ki ka-si m-dumpu! I don't want to see you in my house again
- Taati daan m-dumpu! Don't come in my house again
- Maati la a-jaamii I don,t want your greetings again
- Maa la a-wanti tiba! I don't like your presents!
- Ukoobu? Bi daa kpɔ̃ ukoobeee Snake! Come and kill the snake

## Sickness and other expressions

- M wunti kaa mɔ̃ I'm not doing well
- M laa cu Luma I have to go to Lome
- M gbaam-ni. Ni nyaab-m lool please find a vehicle for me
- M gbaam-ni. ni yii-m Damba please, call me Damba
- M ca m-bɔ̃ cee ki daan I will visit my friend and I'll be back
- Maa laa ban din I won't be back today
- M laa ban kunca dal I will be back on Monday

### To propose help

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ➤ M tutun-saa?                | May I help you?                   |
| ➤ M foo-si atunaa?            | May I help you take your load on? |
| ➤ Ba ni a la?                 | What do you want?                 |
| ➤ M laa nyaab lool ki tii-si. | I will find a vehicle for you.    |
| ➤ Īin, si ni ditundi          | Yes, thank you                    |
| ➤ Aayee, si ni ditundi        | No, thank you.                    |

### **Exercises**

If you were in these situations what would you say?

- a) ηηmi (fire in your house)
- b) Unaayuu (robber)
- c) dipaabil (harassment)
- d) lween (sickness)

### **Grammar notes**

Complement pronouns

Example:

U ka- <b>m</b>	he sees me
U ka- <b>si</b>	he sees you
U ka- <b>u</b>	he sees him/her
U ka- <b>ti</b>	he sees us
U ka- <b>ni</b>	he sees you
U ka- <b>bi</b>	he sees then

The personal pronoun are also complement pronoun when place after a verb. Only the second person of singular changes the form:

**Note: There is a dash between the verb and the object pronoun.**

Personal pronouns		object pronouns	
I	M	Me	-M
You	A	You	-Si
He/she	U	Him/her	-U
We	Ti	Us	-Ti
You	Ni	You	-Ni
They	Bi	Them	-Bi

**Exercises:**

1) Rewrite the following sentences using the appropriate object pronoun.

Example: U tii (her) animil\_\_\_\_\_ U tii-u animil

a) Bi da tɔrch (laati)

-----

b) Binib tutun (me)

-----

c) Bi caan (them) tijin

-----

d) Bi nyaabi ( you formal) kudii

-----

e) Cicab fii (us)

-----

f) Bi daa (them) ceecee

-----

2) Report the following quotations using the appropriate object pronouns:

Example:

Gbandi bi yii (Gbandi said): “yanti-m”\_\_\_\_\_U bi yii bi yanti-u

a) Alicia bi yii:”bi fii-ti!”

-----

b) Cicab bi yii: “ bi joon-ti!”

-----

c) Napɔ bi yii: “bi tutun-m”

-----

d) Kassi bi yii: “ bi pɔ-m nnyim”

-----

e) Willy bi yii: “bi nyaab-m lool”

-----

f) Amy bi yii: “bi can-m nnyɔkɔ’

-----

g) David bi yii: “ti tutun-bi”

-----

h) Fan bi yii: “dá-m sata”

-----

“

3) Which words or expressions would you use in these situations?

Sickness

Attack



**Situation:**

- a) You go to a bar and you see somebody who tries to take your bike. React.
- b) You are at your post, you are not doing very well and you cannot walk. What would you say in Bassar to ask for help?

**TDA:**

- a) Go to the trainer or somebody in the community who comes from your Region and ask him about specific words and expressions people use in case of emergency (if it is possible).
- b) Do the same with your host father to know what your host community does.

## Lesson 13

### Talk about her/his work



#### Objectives:

After studying this lesson trainees will be able to:

- 1) Use appropriate vocabulary and the conditional tense to talk about his/her job in the community
- 2) Discuss the importance of foreign help (especially American help) in Bassar communities.

## Dialogue

*Wapondi Christina, a PCV goes to the Chief of her post. She introduces herself and explains her job to him.*

- Ubɔti: A sanɔu pɔyaa?  
Christina W. Alaafiya ukpil. Ndoɔ pɔɔya ubɔti?  
Ubɔti: Alaafiya. A pɔɔ mana?  
Christina W: Alaafiya.  
Ubɔti Man cee mɔ, si di coomin  
Christina W Ma mun cee mɔ. M sa unimaan ni ki nyanni Amirika ki dɔmin ki tɔ ditundi ma ni doo yaab  
Ubɔti Ditundi dilar ni a dɔmin ki ŋa ?  
Christina W M dɔmin ki tutun bisapɔmb ni binaacimpɔmb bi-sukuluu n cu nyɔkɔpu  
Ubɔti Yoo, an ŋan. Si ni nsan!

## Dialogue in English

- Chief: Welcome.  
Christina W: Thanks sir. Good morning chief!  
Chief: Good morning, how are you?  
Christina W: I'm fine.  
Chief: What's the reason of your visit?  
Christina W: I have a good reason to be here chief. I'm a stranger and I came from America And I'm here to work with people  
Chief: Ok, what kind of work are you going to do?  
Christina W: I'm an American Volunteer and I will work with you.  
Chief: What kind of job are you going to do?  
Christina W: I'm here to help girls and boys to go to school and to complete their schooling .  
I  
Chief: Good, you are welcome.

## Cultural notes

- *Americans are well regarded in the community and everybody would like to befriend or to collaborate with them.*
- *People think Americans are rich and powerful and have solution for any situation*

**Proverb:** *"Ditundi di sa unil"* (work makes life value)

## Vocabulary

### Words and expressions:

**GEE:** Bisapɔmb suku-u nyɔkɔpu cu tam.

➤ Sukul	school
➤ Kisukulbiki(nsukulbiyaam)	student(s)
➤ Cica (cicab)	teacher(s)
➤ Utunbifil (bitunbifiliib)	apprentice(s)
➤ Ukpil ( bikpilb)	patron(s)
➤ Ti-na (Ti-nab)	patron(s) (Female)
➤ ditunbifil	apprenticeship
➤ Kisukuldii (poon)	Classroom (In the classroom)
➤ Ditundi laŋki	office/workplace

**CHAP:** ŋgbanɔn ni Siidaaweenii sanŋki

➤ Dɔkɔta	clinic, hospital, health unit
➤ Dɔkɔta	nurse, doctor
➤ ŋmanti kibiki	to weigh child
➤ Diŋmaŋtir	(child)weighing
➤ Saa mpiin	to vaccinate/to inject
➤ maali	to give birth
➤ mmaal	birth
➤ mbiyaam jinti tiitam	child nutrition
➤ Umati (bimatib)	mother(s)
➤ Siidaaweenii/siidaweenyi	AIDS
➤ iween	sickness
➤ tutun mbiyaam	to help kids
➤ tutun bimatib	to help mothers

**NRM:** Tikpaal ni isufi coontam sanŋki

➤ Kusaau (Tisati)	farm(s)
➤ Ukpaal (Bikpaab)	farmer(s)
➤ Busubu (Isufi)	tree(s)
➤ Kiwaŋkulu (Tiwaŋkuti)	animal(s)
➤ Kpaa tiwaŋkuti	to raise animals
➤ Naan kusaau	to make a farm
➤ Coon isufi	to plant trees
➤ Ma ŋfan (ifan)	to construct a stove(s)

**SED:** Anyampuyil dambi tutuntam

➤ Uwannyafil (Biwannyafiliiib)	trader(s)
➤ Unyampu (Binyampoob)	trader(s)[women]
➤ Dinyampuyil ( Anyampuyil)	Trade
➤ Faari(b)	shop(s)
➤ Faaridaan(Faardambi)	shop keeper(s)/ owner(s)
➤ nnyɔpee	group/association
➤ Dinimitɔr/Aboo	tontine
➤ Siin animil	to save money
➤ Bank/Bankaa	bank,
➤ P iini animil	to lend / borrow money
➤ Piini biwannyafiliiib animil	to give a loan to traders
➤ Pa	to pay
➤ da	to buy
➤ Dipɔndi	Debt
➤ Ipaati	profit/benefit
➤ Ka ipaati	to make profit

Verbs

➤ Sanŋki	To educate/to sensitize
➤ Daka	to teach

Expressions

➤ Sanŋki binib Siidaaweeni pu	to sensitize people on AIDS.
➤ Sanŋki binimpooob mbiyaam jinti bɔti	ssensitize/ advise women on child nutrition.
➤ Sanŋki cicab mbiyaam sukulu-u bɔti	to sensitize teachers about children schooling
➤ Ca dikpafil ...	to have a meeting ...
➤ A ŋaan ba tundi?	what's your profession?
➤ Ba tundi ni a dɔmin ki ŋa doo?	what job are you here for?

**Grammar notes:**

Ask questions with who “**ŋma**”, Why “**Bapu**”, How many “**Biŋa**”, How much “**Mana**”

**Ŋma** (who): **Ŋma** nii a nyaab?

**Who** are you looking for?

Structure: Ŋma .+.ni.+subject.+verb.+noun

**Bapu** (why): **Bapu** ni a gii-u footo?

**Why** did you take him a picture?

Structure: Bapu .+.ni.+subject.+verb.+noun

**Biḡa** (how many): Binib biḡa ni dɔmin dikpafil?      **How many** persons came to the meeting?

Structure: subject.+ Biḡa.+ni.+ verb.+noun

**NB:** The particle “ni” follows the interrogative term and gives a good sound to pronunciation. It can be omitted in certain case

Example: ḡma dɔmin ki nyaab-m? Who came to look for me?

The particle “ni” disappears if the interrogative term is palced at the end of the sentence.

Example: U nyaab ḡma? He’s looking for whom?

## Exercises

Use “ḡma”, “Bapu”, “Biḡa”, ”Mana” to ask questions with the following sentences.

Example:      Niḡkɔ nyafi fɔfɔ dilaataal  
                  Mana ni u nyafi fɔfɔ?

1. Maa dɔmin ditundi. Kumpuee m bun.
2. Ti-na Tikɔyi Marie caab lool bili
3. Tina Rooz Naabin laa fu daan fool
4. Waa dɔmin kumpuee baa pu-u nsan
5. Bi da imukul kutuku bili
6. Kɔndi David cuti Baasaar ki jaam u-bɔɔ
7. U-baa caa mbiyaam muluu (6)
8. U-na nyaab-u

1) Make sentences with: “M la yii “, “M dɔmin ki”, “M cuti yii”.

- 2) Dialogue: during her post visit Amy explains her job to her host father  
Naajɔmbi

Naajɔmbi: Si ni nsan!  
 Amy: Yahaa, ni jooku pɔɔya?  
 Naajɔmbi: Alaafiya. Ba tundi ni a dɔmin ki ɲa doo ?  
 Amy: M dɔmin ki tutun binib ni.  
 Naajɔmbi: M gbaam-si ditundi kii dilar?  
 Amy: M dɔmin ki soon Siidaa bɔti, min boonee ki tuku binib bi nin laa ɲubi bi ba pu  
 ki nin caa ɲgbampɔnee.  
 Naajɔmbi: An ɲan. Kin a-bɔɔ Kassi Niɲkɔ wun laa ɲa ba?  
 Amy: U laa tutun nsukulbiyaam ni bitunbifiliib.  
 Naajɔmbi: M jaam-si tikpil. An ɲa fool  
 Amy: Yoo, an ɲa fool

Ngbampɔn	health
Siidaa bɔti	AIDS issue
M gbaam-si	please, I beg you.
M jaam-si	I greet you, I thank you
M dɔmin	I came
Bitunbifiliib	Apprentices

Questions:

- Ba tundi ni Amy ɲaan?
- Ba tundi ni Kassi Niɲkɔ ɲaan?
- Ba tundi ni a ɲaan?
- Translate into English: “M dɔmin ki soon...to the end of the dialogue”

**Situation:**

You meet a community member who wants to know more about your program and the job you will do at your post.

**TDA**

Go to your host father and ask him to explain his job to you. (What he does exactly).

Tell him about your work. Report to the next class.

## Useful expressions

### 1) Conversation managers:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ➤ M gbam-si du pɔ-m            | please/excuse me                                |
| ➤ Soo soo                      | slowly  |
| ➤ soon soo                     | say it slowly                                   |
| ➤ giti soon m gbil             | say it again                                    |
| ➤ Taapu yii ba?                | What does it mean?                              |
| ➤ Maa gbil an taapu            | what does ... mean?                             |
| ➤ Maa gbil                     | I don't understand it.                          |
| ➤ Maa ŋun ki pilfi             | I can't hear you.                               |
| ➤ A nimiin wuntaa?             | Is that clear for you?                          |
| ➤ Ayee, nnimiin kaa wunti.     | It's not clear for me.                          |
| ➤ A soon mala mala tikpil      | It's too fast                                   |
| ➤ Fatii soon soo m ŋma ki gbil | say it slowly again so that I can understand it |
| ➤ A li yii ba?                 | You said what?                                  |
| ➤ Baa?                         | What?   |
| ➤ An kaa sa tibɔti             | It's not a problem                              |
| ➤ An kaa ŋaan tiba             | It doesn't matter                               |
| ➤ A gbilaa?                    | Do you understand?                              |
| ➤ Iin, M gbil                  | yes, I do                                       |
| ➤ Aayee, maa gbil              | No, I don't                                     |
| ➤ A gbil-taa??                 | Did you hear that?                              |
| ➤ Iin, m gbil-ti.              | Ok, yes I heard it.                             |
| ➤ An sa mbaamɔnaa?             | Is it true?                                     |
| ➤ Iin, an sa mbaamɔn.          | It's true.                                      |
| ➤ Maa nyi                      | I don't know                                    |

### 2) To express needs:

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ➤ Nnyinyoo caa-m                  | I'm thirsty.                    |
| ➤ M la ki nyo nnyim<br>ŋkum caa-m | I want to drink some water      |
| ➤ M la ki ji                      | I'm hungry                      |
| ➤ Tiba                            | I will/ I want to eat something |
| ➤ M gii                           | I'm tired                       |
| ➤ M la ki ŋuŋfi                   | I want to relax                 |
| ➤ M la ki ŋuŋfi fii               | I want to relax a little        |
| ➤ M ca ki doon                    | I'm going to bed                |



- M la ki cu ataapu/ᑭᑕᑭᑭ
- M gbil Kituᑭtuᑭ pu
- Tiwool koo-m
- M baa la ki bifi fii

I want to use the latrine/bathroom  
 I'm hot  
 I'm cold  
 I would like to study a little

**3) At home:**

- Gaafraa!
- Kᑕᑎᑎᑎ
- Si ni nsan
- M gbaam-si kal dijaal pu/dijaal sᑕ
- M gbaam-ni, ajaal sᑕ
- Ngeem bi doo, sii ni coomin?
- M ca kinyᑕᑎ ki daan
- M laa fu cu ditundi ki daan
- A gitin mala
- A cu ki daan
- Daan ti ji
- Daan ti ti ji tijin
- An ᑎa fool/Baabaayii

excuse me  
 ok, come in  
 welcome  
 please, have a seat  
 please, have a seat (to more than one person)  
 what are you here for?  
 I'm going to the market and I will be back  
 I'll go to the office and I will come back  
 come back early  
 have a good day  
 let's eat  
 come let's eat  
 see you tomorrow

**4) On travel:**

- M laa cu nsan ki daan
- Unimbᑕᑎᑎ n ceen-si/A coom tiᑎan
- Unumbᑕᑎᑎ n ceen-ni?
- Gitin mala
- A dan tiba ki kin-m
- Niin yaab ᑭᑕᑕ?
- Baabaayii

I'll travel and I will come back  
 safe journey  
 safe journey(to more than one person)  
 come back early  
 bring good things back  
 What about people from where you come from?  
 bye bye

**5) Compliments:**

- An maan-si
- An ᑎan
- A nyanti a ba kutaafaaunee paa
- A-wanpeenkaati nee ᑎan paa
- A-sata-u nee ᑎan paa.

your dress is very nice /it suits you.  
 It is good/nice  
 you look so nice this morning  
 I like your dress.  
 I like the cloth

- 6) At work:**
- A (ni) ditundi Good job
  - Yoo/ᵛ ok
  - A tundi coom mana? what about the work
  - A tundi coom tiɲanaa? How are doing with it?
  - Ti bi an pu We are on it
  - Ditundi ɔɔ tikpil The work is very difficult
  - An kaa sa gbam gbam tundi/ it's not easy to do./it's not  
Ditundi gbanti kaa sa fii an easy job
- 7) The weather:**
- An tum it's hot
  - An tum paa it's very hot
  - An ɔɔm paa it's very cold
  - Kibuɲ wind
  - Kibuɲ bi it's windy
  - Utaa bii ni it's raining
  - Kitagbɔɲ ɲan the weather is clear
  - Nwiin nyaati it's sunny.
  - Utaa laa ni it will rain
  - An bɔnti/kunyeuu ɔ it's dark
- 8) At a feast:**
- Jiɲaal nin ɔɔki the feast was very good
  - Jiɲaal ɔɔki good feast
  - Ni ni jiɲaal good feast to you

### Other expressions

- An daka yii... it's means that...
- An ɲan yii... it's good that.....
- An pab-m yii ... it's necessary for me that...
- An sa yii... it's important to...

## English to Bassar Glossary

### A

Accept	kii
Accident	Diniminamandi/Dipɔɔbildi
Ache	Tibunbun
Across	Lapu
Act (behavior)	mbimbim
Action	ɲa tiwan
Advance	Dilintir/Ki pee linti/Ki pee kitii animil
Advice	Isaŋki/Dikpootil
After	Boonee/Min boonee/Kiwaati
Afternoon	kujoou
Again	guti/guti ɲa
Age	Abin
Agree	kii
Aid	Tutun
Airplane	Dandani
All	kɔkɔ
allow	Pɔ nsan
Alone	Baba (M baba="Me alone")
Already	Daadaa/dooyee
Also	Kimun
Although	Baa
Always	Tam kɔkɔ
America	Amerika
Ancestor(s)	Naanja (Naanjab)
And	ni
Animal	Kiwanɲkuluu
Another /others	Uɔɔ mun (bibamun plural)
Answer	Kii/Gati
Any	Tiba
Anything	Baatiba
Apologize	gbaam
Appear	Likiti/paanni
Arm (weapon)	Tijanjawan
Around	Maanti
Arrive	Ba
As	kii
Ask	Balfi

**B**

Bad	Kaanjan/tikpitol
Ball	Bɔɔl
Banana	Ayabaa / Kɔdu
Bank	Banki /banka
Barber	uyikpiikooli
Bathroom	kugɔtu
Battery	Atɔrchi Tankpee
Beat	Gba
Beautiful	ɲan
Become	Kpanti
Because	Kumpuee
Bed	Ndoo
Bedroom	Kudidoonkaau
Beer	Biya
Begin	Kil
Behind	Boon
Believe	Foo ki kii
Belt	Dambara
Between	kansikin
Big	Ukpaan
Bird	Kunɔmbiki
Bite	ju
Black	Ubɔn
Blood	fatiku
Blue	blɔɔ
Boat	Biɲalimbu
Book	Kigbɔɲ
Bottle	kpaalba
Box	dakaa
Boy	uninja
Break down	Biil
Bridge	kadulka
Bring	Caan
Burn	See/Tuu/Wa
Bureau	buroo/Ditundi lanki
But	Ama
Buy	Da

**C**

Call	Yiin
Car (auto)	lool
Carpenter	Kapiinta
Carry	Tun
Catch	cuu
Cellphone	Kikpampɔkɔyi
Cement	Simiiti
Center	Kansikin
Century	Abin imun̄ku in̄moo
Chair	Dijal
Change	Kpanti
Chat	Ulambunti/Tɔntɔ
Chief	Ubɔti
Choose	Lee
Church	ɔɔci
Cigarette	sigaar
City	kitingban
Classroom	Kiuskuldii
Clean	ɲati/piti
Close	Piin
Cloth	Tiwanpeenkaal
Clothes	Tiwanpeenkaal
Come	daan
Comic	Tinaacin
Complain	Sama
Comfort	Ɔɔɲki dipɔbil
Continue	Nin ɲaan ki ca
Corn	Italandi
Cost	kudaau
Cry	Ɔɔ
Cut	gii

**D**

Dance	ɲ
Dark	ɔɔn
Daughter	Bisaal
Day	ɲwiin
Dead	ɲkum
Deep	Nnyonynoon
Depend	An nyanni
Different	An bi uba (it is different)
Difficult (It's difficult)	An Ɔɔ

Disease	lween
Dish	Asambil
Distribute	Yaakati
Do	ᵇᵇ
Doctor	Dɔkɔta
Dog	kubɔkɔ
Door	Kupunyɔkɔ
Draw	Lee
Dry	Kpa
Dream	Daminti
Drug	Nnyɔkɔ
Duty	Ditundi/Sintri

### E

Ear	dltafal
Early	mala
Earth	Kitiᵇ
East	ᵇwiin nyanlanki
Effort	Dipɔkɔndi
Egg	Dijjindi
Empty	klum/kun
Encourage	Pɔkɔn
End	Doo/Kunti (An doo=an kunti=its finish)
Enemy	Unannanli
Enjoy	purfi/Kinyannyaau
Evening	Kunyeeu
Everybody	Baᵇᵇma kɔkɔ
Everything	Tiwan kɔkɔ
Everywhere	Baa la
Except	See
Extra	Kun paanee
Eye	Dinimil

## F

Face	Nnimiin
Fall	Liti
Famous	Nya diyindi
Far	An dati
Farm	kusaau
Farmer	Ukpaal
Fast (rapid)	Malaa
Festival	jiṅaal
Few	fii
Field	Kusaau
Fire	ḡḡmi
First	Npeepeekaam
Food	Tijin
Force	mpɔɔn
Foreigner	Unicaan
Forest	Kipɔɔu
Forget	Suunti
Fork	Kijii
Forward	Nyɔɔɔpu
Fry	ki
Full	Gbi

## G

Game	Agbiil
Gas station	Sansi nyafilanḡki (station)
Garden	„Jardin“ (kusaau)
Gate	Kupunyɔɔɔ
Gather	Kpafi/Nyaabi
Get	Foo
Gift	Tiwanpɔɔkaal
Give	Tii
Girl	Usapɔɔn
Glass (drinking)	ɔɔpu
God	Unumbɔti
Gold	Sika
Government	gomna
Green	Tifaasɔɔn
Ground	Titann
Groundnut	Asilim
Grow	kpɔ tikpaal/ḡa tinyool/cu nyɔɔɔpu
Guest	unicaan
Guide	Usanliiti

## H

Habit	Mbimbim
Hair	Tiyikpiti
Half	Dijandi
Hand	Nɔ̃aal
Handsome	Nyankan/Kunyaanɔ̃
Happiness	ɔ̃wunɔ̃ɔ̃ɔ̃fi
Hard	Pɔ̃ɔ̃
Health	Alaafiya/ɔ̃gbansɔ̃ɔ̃fi
Healthy	Alaafiya bi
Heart	Diɔ̃uul
Hear	Gbil
Heavy	Nnyim
Height	ɔ̃fɔ̃kɔ̃nni
High	ukpaan/Yilpu
Highway	Nsan kpaan
History	Tibɔ̃ti tin jiti dooyee yee
Honest	mbaamɔ̃n daan /deedee daan
Hunter	Ukpan

## I

Idea	Nlandɔ̃kɔ̃
If	Yaan/A yaan... (If you...)
Immediately	Kɔ̃nkɔ̃nnee
Important	Timpabee
Insect	Mpɔ̃kɔ̃fɔ̃m
Inspector	Ditundi kpiluu
Interesting	(An) mɔ̃kɔ̃ki/ (An caa) Kinyannyaau (It's interesting)
Invite	yiin / (Cɔ̃fi invite to share a meal)
Iron	kikuluu



**J**

Job	Ditundi
Joke	Tinaacin/Saami
Journey	Nsan
Joy	Faal/Difaaldi
Jump	Yuku
Justice /truth	Mbaamɔn

**K**

Key	Ukpalkaa/Saafii
Kerosene	Karanzim
Kill	Kpɔ
Kilometer	Kilometri / antaŋkpee
King	Ubɔti
Kitchen	Kisamɔndii
Knee	Ditabinnyiil
Knife	kijiki
Kow	Nyii

**L**

Labor	Ditundi
Ladder	Kaarkaar
Land	kitiŋ
Language	Isoon/Ilinfi
Last	Ujoolikaa
Late	Gbinti boon
Laugh	Laa
Law	Mara
Leader	Usanliiti
Learn	Bifi
Leave	Yiki/Bunti
Leg	Ditaal
Length	ŋfɔkɔn
Letter	ŋgban
Lie	Mɔnti
Life	Dulnya
Line	Mpɔɔn
Listen	Pilfi
Little	Fii
Long	Fɔkɔ
Look	Kpee
Lose	waŋki
Luck (good)	Diyimɔɔl

## M

Machine	ηjin
Malaria	Fiiva/Nnaanyeem
Male	uninja
Manioc	Baanci
Many	Tikpil
Matches	Mancasi
Maybe	Yaayi/Kioonee
Meaning	Taapu yii
Mechanic	Uwanηankil/Fiita
Medecine	Nnyokɔ
Meeting	Dikpafil
Merchant	Uwanyafil
Miracle	Maamaci
Mirror	Digitil
Month	Uηmal
Moon	Uηmal
Mosquito	Unaacibi (Plural: Inaacibi)
Mountain	Dijool
Mouth	Kinyokɔ

## N

Nation	Kitiη
Nature	Kitaa
Near	Pili
Nearly	jubiti
Necessary	kumpabee
Neck	Nsil
Need	Kuni a nyaabee
Neighbor	Nkɔnkɔnnaatɔ
Never	Kpa + negation
New	Upɔɔn
Night	Kunyeeu
Noise	Kifuu
None	Ba ubɔ
Noon	ηwiimpu
Nose	Dimanηfaal
Nothing	ba Tiba
Now	kɔnkɔnnee
Number	Tikaanηkaal

## O

Ocean	Dimɔɔl
Offer	Tii
Office	Ditundi lan̄ki
Often	Tam ubɔ
Old	Pul
Once	Dibapu
Open	Piiti
Opinion	Nlandɔkɔ
Or	kumun
Order	Tii nsan / pɔ nsan
Other	Tiŋkin

## P

Pack	Umɔn
Package	Diwan̄gul
Pain	Kpɔkɔ
Papaya	Bɔɔflee
Paper	ŋgban
Parent	Baab
Party	Jiŋaal
Past	Tin jitee
Pay	Paa
Peace	ŋwunsɔŋfi
Period	Tam
Permit	Pɔ nsan
People	Binib
Perhaps	Yaayi
Person	Unil
Picture	Footo
Piece	Dibukul/Kikpaacaŋu
Pillow	Diyikunkul
Piss	Nyeem
Place	Mpaan
Plant	Coon/Buul
Plate	Kisambiki
Pleasure	Mmɔn
Policeman	Pilsii
Poor	Usoodaan
Post office	Ditundi lanki
Pot	Dibool
Power	Mpɔɔn

Praise	Paka (Unimbɔti)
Prefer	laa ki jiti
Pregnant	Upɔdan
Prepare	ɲa tijin/bɔnti
President	Uyidaan
Pretty	ɲan
Prevent	ɲa ki ciiti
Priest	Ujaamil/Utootil/Fada
Profit	Ipaati
Progress	cu nyɔkɔpu/ɲa tinyool
Prove	Daka abaamɔŋɲu
Punishment	Naati/Gii dipɔndi

## Q

Queen	Unimpubɔti
Question	Dibalfil
Quicly	mala mala
Quiet	Dinminmir

## R

Rain	utaa
Raise	Kpaa
Reach	Ba
Read	Kaan
Ready	Bɔnti
Receive	foo
Red	Uman
Refugee	Ukunsanli
Respect	jirma
Rest	ɲuŋfi
Return	Giti
Ripe	Piiti
Robber	unaayuu
Rope	ɲɲmii
Rubber	Rɔba
Run	san

## S

Sack	kutuku
Salary	Tipaal
Say	Tuku
Scream	Faa mbiil/Kuunti
Seat	Dijaal
See	Kaa
Separate	Yakati
Share	Yakati
Short	kigiŋ
Show	Daka
Sick	Bun
Side	Kpakan
Sign	Kidaanju
Since	Doo ki
Sit down	Kaal
Slow	Soo
Small	Kiwaayi/Fii
Soldier	sooja
Speak	Soon
Swim	Wanki nnyim

## T

Table	Teebri
Talk	Soon
Tall	fɔkɔ
Test	lɔkɔn
Than	Ki jitin
Then	Ni
Thank	Ditundi/kokaal
There	Niin/Lapu
Third	Utataati
Throw	Tɔ (tɔ ditanɔkpaal= throw a stone)
Thus	Mimpuee
Tooth	Dinyindi
Travel	Nsan (cu nsan)
Tree	Bisubu

## U

Until	Hali
University	Sukulkpaan

**V**

Vaccinate  
Volunteer

Saa mpiin  
Ututunli

**W**

Wait  
Wake up  
Walk  
Warn  
Wash  
Water  
Welcome  
Well  
Wide  
Wind  
Window  
With  
Work  
Write

Ciiti  
Fiinti  
coom  
Tuku ki siin  
Fiinti  
Nnyim  
Si ni nsan  
Lɔkɔ  
ŋwaan  
kibuŋ  
Tɔkɔɔ  
Ni  
Ditundi  
ŋma

**Y**

Yam  
Yellow  
Yesterday

Dinnool  
ŋkoojiŋkpeem  
Fool

**Z**

Zone  
Zero

Kikpaacaŋu  
Fam /dikuŋkuŋdi