

PHONEMES AND ORTHOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

EXAMPLES

(system adopted at the UNESCO meeting in Yaoundé 1970)

/p/	p	/m/	m	/f/	f
/b/	b	/mb/	mb	/v/	v
/β/	β	/n/	n	/s/	s
/t/	t	/nd/	nd	/l/	l
/d/	d	/nj/	nj	/hy/	hy
/c/	c	/ɲ/	ɲ	/h/	h
/j/	j	/ŋ/	ŋ	/w/	w
/k/	k	/ŋg/	ŋg	/y/	y
/g/	g	/ŋgw/	ŋgw		
/kw/	kw	/ɲw/	ɲw		
/gw/	gw				

N.B. r, f and v are recent introductions outside of the system.

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

Tones:

high	ˊ	unmarked
low	ˋ	
high-low	ˊˋ	
low-high	ˋˊ	
mid	ˊˋˊ	

a	ka	pangolin
b	binan	manure
β	bât	to ask
c	cak	to sting, steal
d	dinûni	birds
e	yek	to abandon
ɛ	yèk	give back
		to the spirits
f	fâm	large plantation
g	gól	gold
gw	gwès	to like
h	ho	to cover
hy	lihyo	dizziness
i	nigil	to learn
j	jâm	thing
k	ka	pangolin
kw	kwèl	to converse
l	lamb	to cook
m	mâl	to finish
mb	mbot	garment
n	nîŋ	to live
nd	ndâmb	rubber
nj	njàgi	begging
ny	nyay	to berate
ɲ	nîŋ	to live
ŋg	ŋgând	feast
ŋgw	ŋgwas	fishing pole
ɲw	ɲwàs	to leave
o	so	antelope
ɔ	sò	to wash
p	pep	to ventilate
r	àràdiò	radio
s	sabè	booth
t	tèmb	to return
u	unûp	to get angry
v	àvjòŋ	airplane
w	was	to tear, rip
y	yàn	to minimize

ALPHABET

a b β c d e ɛ f g gw h hy i j k kw l m mb n nd nj
ny ŋ ŋg ŋgw ŋw o ɔ p r s t u v w y

number of graphemes 3