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Tiv Step-By- Step: Introduction

People have a desire to speak Tiv for different reasons. Tiv Step-By-Step is written for children born of Tiv speaking parents living outside Tivland whether they reside in Nigeria or elsewhere in the world. The book will also be of use to those non-Tiv spouses and partners of Tiv-speaking individuals.

If you are from other parts of Nigeria or outside Nigeria and are planning to visit or settle in Tivland, this book will walk you through learning Tiv in a short period of time. The vocabulary build-up, practice activities, and glossary of terms are designed to enrich you with the skills to be able to pick up conversation at home, market, restaurant, or the courts. Emphasis is given to language which would aid communication between children and grandparents, including Tiv language use in the digital world.

You are advised to study and practice as often as possible. Write or illustrate with drawings. Tiv Step-by-Step is accompanied by video and audio recording to help you learn Tiv with greater pronunciation ability. Other methods of learning Tiv faster include the following:

1. Practice: Contains questions about each word to use to prepare to test yourself or be quizzed by friends or family members.
2. Vocabulary Practice: Study from the lists of vocabulary provided in each section to prepare for spelling power tests, quizzes, or assignments.
3. Spelling Power: Test your spelling ability. Read the short definition, listen to the word with audio or video method and try spelling it.
4. Learning Activities: These are given throughout for Tiv language learners, to monitor their progress.
5. Quiz: Quizzes are provided to test your vocabulary and sentence construction skills.

This book will probably help fluent Tiv speakers who may be struggling with English as a second language but is required for instruction. The parts involving Tiv grammar and parts of speech would be particularly helpful. Skip these parts if you only desire to understand conversational Tiv.



Tese wan wou Zwativ

Abaacaa (Alphabet)

Many Tiv letters sound the same as in English, but some Tiv letters are pronounced or written differently.

To learn Tiv sound of these letters or a combination of them, say the word in the example many times and then write it down. In the examples below, the English equivalent is given in parenthesis.

<u>Tiv Letter</u>	<u>English Sound</u>	<u>Example Write Word</u>
a	uh	bar (salt)
b	b	bam, banki (bank)
c	ch	chia (fear)
ch	ch	chiv (dip)
d	d	ada (bow)
e	e (as in let)	se (laugh)
f	f	fa (know)
g	g	gar (city)
gh	gh	sugh (thank)
gb	-	gba (fall)
h	h	har (hang)

i	ee	ime (darkness)
j	g (as in gem)	ijen (hunger)
k	k	koti (court)
kp	-	kper (net) kpera (draw) kperegh (wing)
l	l	lam (speak)
m	m	ma (drink)
n	n	na (give)
o	oh	or (man, person)
oo	o	too (as in floor), (pour)
ô	o	môm (one)
p	p	per (cross)
r		ruam (e.g., pounded yam food)
s	s	sar (spread) sar (desire)
t	t	ter (father)
u	oo	bagu (monkey)
v	v	ivo (goat)
w	w	wase (help)
y	y	ya (eat) yem (go) - more like ordering
z	z	za (go) - more like a request

Sounds, Symbols, and Spellings of Tiv Words

Tiv sounds in general have nasal sounds. However, there are flat sounds: consonant sounds, vowel sounds, and consonant-vowel sounds.

Vowel sounds are made by allowing the breath to come out freely as the lips are pursed. To make a consonant, the breath stream is partly blocked, and the sound lowered or raised. A word as it is spelled may have different meanings depending on the way it is pronounced.

Vowel Sounds and Symbols

Vowel sounds usually are short sounds. A long sound is made by using two vowels together. Use vowel sound in the following manner:

/a/ sound is said as if it were /u/ in sun, not as /a/ in cat or at.

Short

va (come)
 za (go)
 ma = drink
 ka = it is
 na = give
 man = and
 vange = lizard

/o/ as in orbit and story:

Short

or = person
 tor = chief, king
 mor = soaked up
 nor = elephant
 bol = ball

Long

vaa = cry, weep
 zaar = storage shelf on posts
 maa = build
 kaa = say, said

Long

too = measure, pour out
 doo = good
 soo = like

Note: *doo* is the long /o/ sound and not pronounced as /oo/ (as in book, but as in door).

/o/ sound as in pot and dot.

Short

kor = catch
 tom = wish
 gom = skin lump in the neck
 bom = bomb
 won = brother- or sister-in-law
 bom = bomb
 kon = tree
 nom = male-type
 pon = reveal, expose

Long

ishoon = a liking, attraction
 too = pour out a liquid or drink
 ndoor = shed leaves
 poo = to the brim (as *in iv poo*:
 filled to the brim)
 doo ga = not good
 doo gande = extraordinarily good
 doom = I like
 dooshima = love

/i/ sound as if it were *ee* in feet, beet, keep, or *ea* in beat, seat, and meat.

Short

yina = not enough; incomparable
 yima = save
 tim = destroy, post
 shi = left
 ifi = large river
 time = dig
 iti = name

Long

atii = sparrow
 ii = bury
 ii = steal
 fiir = bunch (v)
 fiishi = let out stomach gas; fart

/e/ as in bed and net. For a long sound, use /ee/.

Short

de = stop
 ve = them
 se = we
 sen = flow
 ime = darkness

Long

bee = finish
 neer = excess
 seer = add
 keer = kindle
 mee = entice

we = you (singular)
 ne = you (plural)
 ve = they
 pepe = morning

/u/ as is said as in the English /oo/ in book or look.

Short

Mu = name of a river
 kuma = pierce or prick
 guma = laterite
 usu = fire
 kume = to pound
 ku = death

Long

tuur = push
 kuma = enough, suit, satisfy
 puu = criticize
 suur = support
 uma = life, dry

Exercise 1

These practice exercises show how vowels and vowel sounds are used in phrases for conversation. Use the words in the vocabulary list to construct short sentences in Tiv. You may consult a Tiv language dictionary or other sources to translate the sentences in #2 below into English.

1. Vocabulary: ya (eat), bee (finish(ed)), ya (home), ma, za, ka, nan, vange, vaa, wan, kaa, daa, baba, Adamu, Adagi, Jigawa, Jighjigh, jime, zor, tor (mortar), kuma (enough), kumam (I'm satisfied), guma (laterite), de, yem, makeranta, ga, kwagh, ôr, or, inya, ishang (grain).
2. Sentences:
 - a. M ya m bee.
 - b. Aya yem ken ya.
 - c. Va ma mngerem.
 - d. Za makeranta.
 - e. Ortwer na un ichigh.
 - f. Vange yevese.
 - g. Wan vaa ga.
 - h. M kaa kwagh ga.
 - i. Terngu ôr takeda bee.
 - j. Baba yem za yav.
 - k. Na jighjigh hen Aôndo.
 - l. Adamu yem adua
 - m. Adingi yan lu orshoja.
 - n. Wantor tôô tor kume ruam.
 - o. Tegh tegh hembra ayam.
 - p. Ishankwagh ker inya ga.

The Article

In Tiv language, it is difficult to pinpoint where "a" and "the" should be used. One needs to understand how these articles are used. They are mastered through practice and by becoming familiar with the language.

All the words in the following examples have the article "a" or "an" before them:

alom = a rabbit (as in *alom ngu a zege mba atoov* = a rabbit has long ears)
 bua = a cow (as in *bua ye toho* = a cow eats grass)
 ijembe = an axe (as in *gber kon sha ijembe* = cut the tree with an axe)
 nduhar = a hoe (as in *nduhar ka kwagh u kahan sule a min* = a hoe is for farming)
 ihô = a knife (as in *mba tende atuur sha iho* = a knife is for cutting okra)

nor tar = an elephant

To indicate the article "the", the word *ne* or *la* needs to be used. This is usually accompanied by pointing. For example,

Nam ihô <i>la</i> .	Give me the (that) knife.
Iho <i>ne</i> ese.	This knife is sharp.
Kwaghyan <i>ne</i> tsee.	The (this) food is warm (or hot).
Bagu ngu yan ishoho.	The monkey is eating tiger nuts.
A tema shin ikon.	He/she sat in the chair (seat).
Inyon ngi purugh ken ahumbe.	The bird is flying in the air.
He cuts onions with a knife.	Ka a tondo alabesa sha ihô.

Consonant Symbols and Spellings 1

The following thirteen consonants are used with vowels that have different dictions to form Tiv words.

Consonant	Example		Fada = Rev. Father
		/g/	ga = not gege = back of leg gom = cyst gar = town, city gema = turn ger = cheer gule = kneel guda = better gundu = trunk guma = red soil
/b/	bem = peace bam = bank ber = lake bar = cave bua = cattle butu = mat		
/c/	cia = fear cir or chir = close	/h/	har = hung haa = pour or spill hôn = to trap hondo = whistle (with lips) hôm = funny hôm = produce shoots hôô = rot, decay (v) hundu = become muddy hunde = mad hungwa = descend hura = make noise hur = friendship huror = friend hunda = door, entrance hingir = turn during roasting hide = return, come back hide jime = to backup hule = meander, fold huma = smell hungur = forget hange = stuck, hung hongor = kernel
/d/	de = stop dem = leave me demdem = cooled down dafa = cooked whole grain dagi = small spear dan = counter (v) damiyo = a kind of yam dura = make thunder sound dogo = railroad deri = hundred dubu = thousand dubudubu = million		
/f/	fa = know fam = know me, wet season fese = quick fefafa = soon fere = fast, quick fesefese = quickly ferefefere = quickly		

	hoghol = narrow hogholoo (narrow condition)		kimbi = pay
/i/	ljande = swamp or pond ijem = steep slope ljen = hunger ijor = a well aji = eggs iji = egg, iji = fly ikange = a partridge ikon = green algae ikundu = twenty ikungugh = dove ifi = sea ityeku = ocean lfa = Eve (first Bible woman) lmande = leprosy lvungu = owl lvurugh = piece, verse	/l/	lam = talk, speak (verb) lanegh = foolishness lankwagh = is foolish lu = mortar liam = speech, talk (noun) lian = lean, lay
/j/	jime = back Jighjigh = belief Jighirii = straight Jato = Hausa for red Jaki = donkey Ajikegh = eggs Jukum = ethnic group Jamber = torn piece Januari = 1 st month of year Jun = sixth month of year	/m/	ma = drink Mfe = understanding Mimi = truth, truly Mindi = burst mo = me môm = one (the number) mon = neck mem = rest mena = swallow mula = swollen musan = change, exchange mor = soaked up mir = soaked in water mnyam = sleep mnyam ma cien = dream mnyim = smoke
/k/	kam = mould, press kor = rope, sew kôr = hold, catch kua = also, and kon = tree kuma = enough, pinch, kuma = pierce or inject kwaghfan = knowledge kile - wash	/n/	na = give Ne =you (pl), nura = needle, injection nungwa = mix num = scatter, destroy num = a fight
/p/	Pa = path Pam =pound sterling Pampam = can Pande = subtract Penda = put, pay pav= divide, cut open paa = cut (grass), clear pel = plate, armor per = cross pev = valley, has hole in it pon = expose pir = quench, put out light	/o/	Omon = to suck on dry matter Ongol = drill Or = person Ortwer = doctor Orvesen = elder Osough = get free Orsar = a man needed pira = boasting piraikaa = boastful fact pepa = paper pepe = morning pepepepe = early morning pitapita = soggy pupur = white puu = disparage, criticize putôputô = puddle purututu = all, completely turughtutu = steam
		/r/	rumun = agree ruam = fufu

	rule = ruler roboti = robot		Uma = life Ume = bear fruits Ulugh = pull
/s/	se = we, us Seta = ginger Sende = hung Senda = harvest Sha = up Shin = down Shin inya = down earth Shingir = sweater Shuga = sugar Shigari = cigarette soo = like, love sev = day suruwa = skeptical sur = dampen, to cool	/v/	va = come vaa = cry ve = they, them vambe = cotton tree venda = refuse vendeve = gecko via = cooked
/t/	ta = shoot, shot Takeda (takerada) = book Tam = chew Tamen = older (in age) Tamenor = old man Tamen kwase = old woman Tar = land, earth Tav = tall Taver = strong Taverishima = to persevere Tem = crack open tom = work ter = father tim = destroy, erect, post tem = crack open time = dig tema = sit tule = pull, snap tenger = shake tuta = flag tumba = to thread	/w/	wua = kill wa = pack wan = son or daughter waarawa = sand wuhe = cold, chill wuhe = concubine wuhe = to shut or imprison wuhe = to uproot
		/y/	ya = home, eat yem = go, gone yuwa = bitter yam = buy yevese = run yese = scorpion yôô = announce
		/z/	za = deep Za = go, proceed Zegenan = big zeze = persistent zer = wear zwar = gigantic pot zu = dizziness zuzu = dizziness zungwe = to feel for zurum = nearing zanenge = go and see zania = silver
/u/	ungwa = hear Undu = left behind Uma = dry		

Consonant-Consonant Symbols and Spellings 2

Beginners of Tiv language study may find consonant-consonant symbols and blends the most difficult aspects of learning the language. With practice, this problem is easily overcome.

/bw/	bwagi = a pick (for digging)	gbanger = wide gbem = chin
/gb/	gba = fall gbaa = branch gbande = dish gbande = triangular drum	gbem = large brown ant gbemgbem = always gber = cut (a tree), sing gbide = hit, beat, whip

	gbir = lay (as in a crib) gbor = stomach	/ny/	nyam = meat nyen = yesterday nyian = ripe nyian = today nyon = bird nyuma = bite
/kp/	kpaa = also akpa = a whip kpar = partition kpe = die kpekpe = wall kper = tomorrow, net kpera = draw, drag	/gh/	comes at the end of a word and is pronounced English words like <i>dough</i> , <i>borough</i> , and <i>Burrough</i> .
/ch/	chia = fear chicha = all chii = all		bugh = open dugh = take out kegh = wait kough = erase dugh = take out sugh = thank tugh = night tugh tugh = early morning
/sh/	sha = up, away ishe = eye ishima, shima = heart shase = cashew tegh tegh = slowly	/ts/	tsar = bridge tsav = witchcraft tsa = sleep over tsa = stayed/lived a while tser = cut up (into pieces) tser = to skip the line tsen = sun dry tsenda = spray water, spits tswar = anus tswen = alone tswer = abstain
/gw/	gwa = fame gwar = strand	/zw/	zwa = mouth zwar = large pot
/kw/	kwase = woman kwe = a crack kwende = elbow		
/sw/	Swem = Tiv traditional god Swange = a Tiv dance Swase = meat ishwa = beniseed		
/tw/	twev = settlement twer = medical treatment twar = leftovers of produce twande = boil on body the armpit		



Bua

Bua ye toho. Toho doo bua.

Toho





Bagu

Bagu ye ahi. Ahi doo bagu.

Ahi



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Kasev ken sule (Women in the farm)



U henen kwagh u sainz ka mzehemen
(To learn science is progress)



Mbayev mba agher sha kwagh u sainz
(Children are excited about science)



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Kasev mba gbiyen futubol (soka) mba Nigeria
Nigeria women football (soccer) team



Mbayev mba nan mhen sha mbampin
(Children are answering questions)

2 Parts of Speech

Nouns

A noun is a word that represents people (*ior*), places (*ajiir*), or things (*akaa*) such as objects (*ikav*), animals (*aninyamev*), and ideas (*mbamhen*). Proper nouns are those that represent names of people (*ati a ior*), countries (*ityar*), and places (*ajiir a vesen*).

Examples of proper nouns are:

Lucy Aba	Gboko	University of Mkar
Bem Gba	Lagos	Mount Kilimanjaro
Torkuma Ifan	River Benue	January
Boston	Niger River	Nigeria

(Note that all these proper nouns begin with capital letters.)

Common nouns are those that represent objects or things. They name things we can touch [e.g., "rock" (*iwen*), "bull" (*nombua*), "mango" (*mongol*), "phone" (*fon*)], but sometimes they name things we cannot touch [e.g., "beauty" (*mdoom*), "mile" (*mel*), "love" (*dooishima*)].

Examples of Nouns

Here are some examples of common nouns in English and Tiv (in parentheses). (For more examples, see the section on English-Tiv Vocabulary Guide, pp 52-84.)

African pear (<i>mzembe</i>)	farm (<i>sule</i>)	pig (<i>igo</i>)
afternoon (<i>atetan</i>)	father (<i>ter</i>)	plantain (<i>kôôkombo</i>)
airplane (<i>igirgi purugh</i>)	fever (<i>iyolhian</i>)	policeman (<i>orpuloshi</i>)
animal (<i>zendeinya</i>)	flower (<i>imondon kon</i>)	pond (<i>itungu</i>)
bag (<i>ikpa</i>)	food (<i>kwaghyan</i>)	pot (<i>itiegh</i>)
banana (<i>ayaba</i>)	forehead (<i>ichur</i>)	potato (<i>atsaka</i>)
bank (<i>banki, bam</i>)	ginger (<i>seta</i>)	rabbit (<i>alôm</i>)
bed (<i>gambe</i>)	goods (<i>ikav</i>)	river (<i>uwagh</i>)
bird (<i>inyon</i>)	grain (<i>ishange</i>)	roots (<i>amishe</i>)
bitter leaf (<i>ituna</i>)	hair (<i>ice</i>)	run after (<i>zenda</i>)
block (<i>akam</i>)	horse (<i>nyinya</i>)	salt (<i>bar</i>)
blood (<i>awambe</i>)	house (<i>iyough</i>)	sea (<i>ifi</i>)
box (<i>akwati</i>)	kettle (<i>ketul</i>)	shoes (<i>akôv</i>)
brick/block (<i>ikamegh</i>)	knife (<i>ihô</i>)	sin (<i>ishoribo</i>)
brother (<i>aningbian nomso</i>)	madness (<i>ihundugh</i>)	sister (<i>anigbian u kwase</i>)
bus (<i>mato u tôôn ior</i>)	maize (<i>ikuleke</i>)	slim (<i>zengalii</i>)
car (<i>mato</i>)	mat (<i>butu</i>)	smell (<i>ihuma</i>)
carve, butcher (<i>bur</i>)	millet (<i>amine</i>)	snail (<i>ikôôr</i>)
cat (<i>kpatema</i>)	money (<i>inyaregh</i>)	soldier (<i>orsoja, orshoja</i>)
chair (<i>ikônogh</i>)	moon (<i>wer</i>)	straight (<i>jighirii</i>)
chemist (<i>kemesi</i>)	mooshy (<i>bôdobôdo</i>)	sun (<i>iyange</i>)
chicken (<i>ikegh</i>)	morning (<i>pepe</i>)	tea (<i>tii</i>)
city (<i>gar</i>)	mother (<i>ngô</i>)	tear(s) (<i>mliam</i>)
cocoyam (<i>mondo</i>)	mountain (<i>wo</i>)	telephone (<i>telefon</i>)
corn (<i>maize</i>)	mouse (<i>ihév</i>)	thin (<i>zenga zenga</i>)
corpse (<i>ikom</i>)	mud (<i>aingbôr</i>)	train (<i>girgi dogo</i>)
cross (<i>terankon</i>)	neck (<i>mon</i>)	tree (<i>kon</i>)
doctor (<i>ortwer</i>)	night (<i>tugh</i>)	trousers or pants (<i>wondo</i>)
dog (<i>iwa</i>)	oil (<i>mkurem</i>)	very thin (<i>zengem</i>)
drum (<i>genga</i>)	okra (<i>atuur</i>)	wasp (<i>ihambe</i>)
duck (<i>ikeghdam</i>)	palm nuts (<i>ivile</i>)	water (<i>mngerem</i>)
ears (<i>ato</i>)	pawpaw (<i>mbuer</i>)	weekend (<i>mbee u kasua</i>)
eyes (<i>ashe</i>)	peanuts (<i>abun</i>)	wobbly (<i>zezeze</i>)

In Tiv language there are words that have the exact spelling but different meanings, depending on how you pronounce them. For example, *tor* (chief), *tor* (a mouse that lives in the ground), *tor* (mortar), and *tor* (roof); *kor* (sew) and *kor* (rope). Sometimes the spellings are the same and the pronunciation is also the same. For example, *ya* (home) and *ya* (eat); *yem* (gone) and *yem* (well cleaned).

Singular and Plural Nouns

There are no set rules for making plural nouns from singular nouns like there is in English. While there may appear to be some pattern, only practice helps identifying plural nouns possible.

Examples:

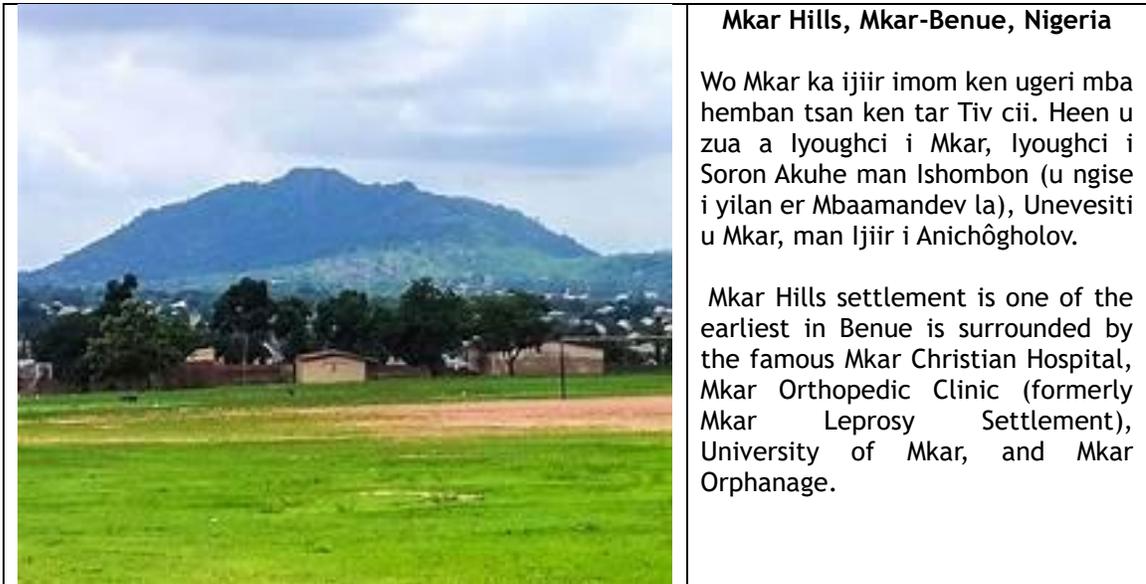
Singular Noun		Plural Noun	
Tiv word	English equivalent	Tiv word	English equivalent
Ijondough	Calabash or gourd	Mzôndom	Calabashes, gourds
Bua	Cattle	Ibua	Cattle
Nombua	Bull	Anom a ibua	Bulls
Bagu	Monkey	Ibagu	Monkeys
Itiough	Head	Mtom	Heads
Butu	Mat	Ubutu	Mats
Alôm	Hare, rabbit	Mbaalom	Hares
Or	Person	Ior	Persons, people
Kwase	Woman, female	Kasev	Women
Ortiv	A Tiv person	Ônovtiv, ôntiv	Tiv people
Tamen or	An elderly person	Tamen mba iorov	Elderly people
Ngokwase	Old woman	Ungô mba kasev	Elderly women
Wanye	Child	Mbayev	children
Wanye nomso	Male child (boy)	Mbayev nomso	Male children (boys)
Wankwase	Girl	Mbayev kasev	Girls
Lu	Mortar	Ilu	Mortars
Zwa	Mouth	Ijwa	Mouths

Note: There are polite and impolite ways of referring to people. For example, *tamen or* (polite) and *tse or* (impolite), *ngokwase* (impolite) and *kwase vesen* (polite).

Like in English, some nouns do not have suffixes and prefixes, or change the spelling to show the plural form. For example:

ahumbe = wind
 ambi = faeces
 amine = millet
 dirt = inya
 humbe = air
 toho = grass
 waarawa = sand

ikuleke = maize
 ime = darkness
 mngerem = water
 mnyim = smoke
 mtsee = heat
 wua = corn



"Should", "Would", "Must", and "Please"

You may also want to learn how "should", "would", "must", and "please" are used in Tiv conversation. You ask for something courteously. The following are some examples.

Ma u nem mngerem. = I would like you to give me water.
We a rumun yô, nam mngerem. = Please give me water.
We a rumun yô, ma u nen (nam) mngerem. = If you had agreed, you would have given me water.
Me nau keng. = I must give you. (I will surely give (it to) you.)
A doom je a gande. = I would appreciate it a lot.
Ei, me nau ga. = No, I will not give (it to) you.
Saa u zamber mo. = You must beg me (for it).
M sugh kpishi. = (I) thank you very much.
Doo u nan Aôndo ishughun = It would be good to give thanks (be thankful) to God.
Shie kar u ma u za yav yô = It is past time you should go to sleep (be in bed).
Se yem keng keng = We must leave/go (we leave/go must).

Single Word Statements

Sometimes a single word in Tiv may mean (be explained by) a long statement, phrase or sentence. In most cases, these Tiv words are commands or those derived from foreign/ethnic words such as from English, Hausa, Ibo, Latin, Greek, etc. For example:

hide = come back
 due = get out, go out
 tema (inya) = sit (down)
 mough (sha) = stand (up)
 dem = leave me alone
 iyongo = getting into a fight, palaver
 kyemesteri (or chemistry) = study of composition and behavior of matter
 inyata = seasoned nut butter paste

Exclamations

You may enjoy the many exclamation statements used in Tiv language. For example,

Doo ga! = It's bad! (or Too good).

Doo je kera doo ga = Terrific, fantastic

Uwu! = Wooh! In a surprised tone

Kpash! = When disgusted

Aye! = When surprised (Sometimes a sorrowful manner or in a pleasantly surprised manner)

Adanger agbur! = Unbelievably full (of water) - known only in the Nomishan household

Ayaka (ka mku)! = Surprised (at a loss) (sympathetic, consoling gesture)

Exercise 2

These practice exercises show how the article, constant symbols, and sounds are used in phrases for conversation in Tiv. Use the words in the vocabulary list or consult a Tiv language dictionary to translate the sentences into English.

1. Refer to the vocabulary lists and statements above to complete the exercises below.
2. Listen to the voice or watch the videos to accurately translate the statements in the following:
 - a. Kon ngu a ahu.
 - b. Kor tôndo; se haa inya.
 - c. Tema shin ikon.
 - d. Na un inyaregh.
 - e. De un a yem sha Tsar.
 - f. Mongol nyian.
 - g. Bem gba.
 - h. Ishe na ka naira ikundu.
 - i. Ikegh ta aji.
 - j. Itundu mura un ken gege.
 - k. Aji ne ka a ikange.
 - l. Guda ma u tem inya.
 - m. Tseor ngu a gwariche môm ga.
 - n. Tsavza va tswen sha Tsemker.
 - o. Haa mngerem shin zwar ma ndôhól.
 - p. Gboko ka geri u Tiv cii.
 - q. Tugh il kuma u tsaren usu ken won.
 - r. I mande Yesu sha terankon.
 - s. Orishoja tsua akôv sha.
 - t. Inyon tema sha kon.
 - u. Ihundu ngee je m kusu ashe.
 - v. Kuhe kuma Kuma sha ikevwe(gh).
 - w. Awambe kôndo, kôndo; awambe sen a sen.



Wan wam, M sugh da van.
(I'm glad you came, my son)



Mama nder ve?
(Good morning, mother)

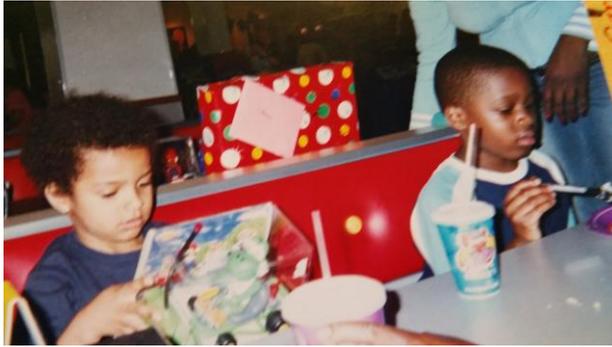


Saa shie gen (Bye, bye)

Greetings

Greetings and salutations in Tiv are often in a questioning manner. The literal (verbatim) version of the greeting is given in parentheses.

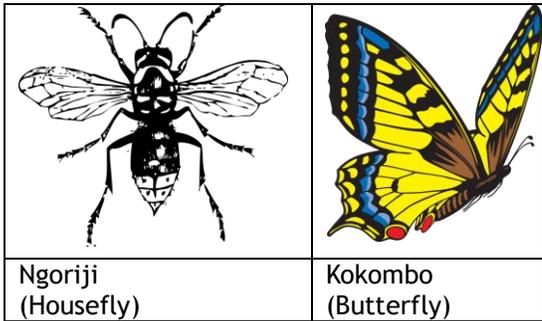
Tiv Greeting (Pleasantries)	English Translation of Tiv Greeting (Pleasantries)
U nder ve? (Are you awake?)	Good morning (Are you awake?)
En, we kpa u nder ve?	Yes, good morning to you, too (Yes, you too are awake?)
U nder nena?	How are you? (How did you wake up?)
M nder dedo	I am fine. (I woke up well)
Wan wou ngu nena?	How is your child?
Wan wam ngu dedo.	My child is fine.
Mbayev ou mba nena?	How are your children?
Mbayev av mba dedo.	My children are well (fine).
Ngôu ngu nena?	How is your mother?
Ngôm ngu dedo.	My mother is well.
U pande ve?	Good evening (Did you subtract?)
U pande nena?	How are you (in the evening)?
M pande dedo, we kpa ga?	I am well, how about you? (and you too?)
Wasem man Jayshawn mba nena?	How are Wasem and Jayshawn?
Ve cii mba dedo; kwagh er ve ga.	They are all well; nothing happened to them.
En, M ngu dedo; kwagh er ga.	Yes, I'm well; nothing is the matter.
We kpa u ngu dedo ga?	You too are well?
M sugh kpishi (M sugh gbing)	Thank you very much.
M sugh tom	Well, done (Greetings when someone is working)
Kuma memen	It is time to rest.
M soo u memen ga; saa me bee.	I don't want to rest; I must complete.
Va ya kwaghyan	Come (and) eat food.
M sugh, Madam	Hi, Madam
M sugh, Mr. Gavar	Hi, Mr. Gavar
M sugh, Mrs. Ami	Hi, Mrs. Ami
En John, mo kpa m sugh	Hi, John



Mbayev tema sha tebul (Children sat at the table)



Doo u wanye man hanma or nana yaan kwaghyan u una na mkpeyol yô. Jay soo inyam, ahu a iuwe, chinkafa, atumba, man zar alum.



Kaha sule sha tahav mbu iyange
(Farm with the sun's energy)



Aya - Loving grandma



Baba - Grandpa

Vocabulary I

<p> nder = wake up sugh = thank ishughun = thanks, greeting iwuese = thanks, gratitude mwuese = I am thankful na = give nam = give me nam mngerem = give me water ngohol = take ngohol ase = here it is ngohol mngerem = take water mena = swallow kpatema = cat kpereketange = spider ajingi (ashee) = eyeglasses gbough = walking stick ishoho = tiger nut(s) Ya ishoho = Eat tiger nuts. ishu = fish Jiir ishu = Cook (some) fish. ga = not gande = more than jingi = glass, mirror </p>	<p> yem = go de = stop or don't rumun = agree m rumun = I agree mrumun = agreement, a wish mrumun u ter = the Lod's wish kwagh = something, thing kpishi, gbing = much, very much iv (as in <u>give</u>) = full iv (as in riv(er)) = theft or ne tav kpishi = this man is very tall iv (as in <u>shin</u> bone) = theft ormbaiv = a thief ma = drink mngerem = water ya = eat, home ya kwaghyan = eat food fa = know tso = boat shin = in kimi(n) = inside, into a va ga = he/she did not come </p>
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Tiv Words Fast Study Guide

The following is a list of Tiv words and phrases, with their English equivalents, that you can learn in under one hour to make you, and others, feel that you “know” Tiv. Study these before your visit among Tiv family and friends.

Common Tiv Words and Phrases

Hai (or simply say the person’s name or title) - Hello
 Za dedo, or Saa shie gen, or babai - Goodbye
 En - Yes
 Ei - No
 Ka shami - Okay
 M rumun ga - I don’t agree (It’s not okay)
 Sev u doo - Goodday
 Wea rumun yô - Please
 (M) sugh (u) - (I) thank (you)
 En, mo kpa, m sugh u - You are welcome (Yes, I too, I thank you)
 M sugh za van - You are welcome (thank you for your coming)
 Nam injô - I’m sorry
 M fa ga - I don’t know
 M vôr - I’m tired
 Ishima vihim - I’m angry
 Saan mo iyol - I’m happy
 Mnyam kôrom - I’m sleepy
 Ijen kôrom - I’m hungry
 Mnyam cie m a we - I dreamt of you
 U ngu mama (aya) u doon mo ishima (with a hug) - I love you, mom.
 Iti you er ana? - What is your name?
 Doo kpishi (gbing) - That’s great
 Sev av - Goodnight

You will also hear these on the streets:

De kwagh la - Stop that
 Nonsen - That’s nonsense
 U pir shee? - Look where you’re going (Are you blind?)
 Or ne! - hello, bro (brother)
 Kwase ne! - Hello sis (my sister)

Tiv Words for Time/Period

Shie - time
 Miniti - minute
 Ahwa - hour
 Inyange - day
 Kasua - week
 Uwer - month
 Inyom - year
 Nyian - today
 Nyen - yesterday
 Inyan ngise - day before yesterday
 Kper - tomorrow

Due la - day after tomorrow
 Cii man - before
 Kar - after (past)
 Hegen, higen - now
 Ken hemen - later
 Tugh - night
 Atetan -afternoon
 Aikie - evening
 Pepe - morning
 Pepe pepe, dendee - early morning
 Nomiyanje - noon

Tiv Conjunctions and Connectors

Kpa - but
 Kpaa - also
 Nahan - so
 Shaci u - because
 Auer - if
 Man - and
 U dondon - next

Tiv Words when speaking of People

Kwase - woman
 Nomso or - man
 Wanye kwase - girl
 Wanye nomso - boy
 Wankwase - daughter
 Wannomso - son
 Tamen kwase - elderly woman
 Tamen or - elderly man
 Huror, ikar - friend
 Or - person
 Nom - husband
 Nom - male-type (including all things)
 Kwase u - wife (married woman)
 Name - iti
 Wan - child
 Mbayev - children
 Tica, ortesen - teacher
 Ortese - preacher
 Nes - nurse
 Loya - lawyer
 Jooji - judge
 Ortwer - doctor
 Deraba, or nahan mato - driver
 Or nahan igirgi purugh - pilot
 Wanye makeranta - student
 Or u ange - patient
 Mbauangev - patients

Or purusu - prisoner
 Or shoja - soldier

Tiv Words for Objects/Things

Kwagh - thing/something
 Tiivii - television
 Redio - radio
 Fon - phone
 Kômputa - computer
 Kwaghendan - vehicle
 Mato u kiriki - car
 Turôku - truck
 Tipa - dump truck
 Kwaghyan - food
 Tii - tea
 Kofi - coffee
 Mngerem - water
 Mkulem - oil
 Mkulem ma nyian - palm oil
 Mkulem ma abun - peanut oil
 Mkulem ma shien - cream
 Peturu - petrol
 Gaz - gas
 Humbe - air
 Ahumbe - wind
 Hiar - whirl wind
 Turugh - vapour
 Turugh u tseen - steam
 Inima - umbrella
 Akov - shoes
 Kii - key
 Kokolo - lock
 Avande - rock
 Iwen - stone
 Dirt - inya
 Ijer - sputum
 Azer - spits
 Mliam - tears
 Iusa - sweat
 Iche - hair

Tiv Words for Place/Position

Ijiir - place
 Ikyav - sign
 Heen - here
 Heera - there (when close by)
 Keera - there (when farther away)
 Ikua - near
 Ica - far
 Ikua ikua - very near
 Ica kpishi - very far

Sha - up
 Shin (inya) - down
 Ken imbusu - beside
 Kejime - behind
 Ajime jime - backwards
 Makeranta - school
 lyoughci - hospital
 Shopu - shop
 Setoo, kasua - store
 Kasua - market
 Hotev - hotel
 Tom - work
 ljiir tom - workplace
 Ya - home
 lyough - house
 Itumbe - hut
 Palo - palour, common room
 Ate - common hut

Pronouns

In the previous section on greeting, you used some pronouns (he, she, it, we, they). There are direct object pronouns and indirect object pronouns.

Direct Object Pronouns: A direct object answers the question what? or whom? For example: Dr. Abunku treats patients. The direct object is *patients*. Another example is: Claudia roasted chicken. Claudia roasted what? Answer is *chicken* (the direct object). A direct pronoun can replace the direct object. For example:

Dr. Abunku ser mbauangev = Dr. Abunku treats patients.	Un (Dr. Abunku) ser ve = He (Dr. Abunku) treats <i>them</i> .
Claudia kaa ikegh = Claudia roasted chicken.	Un (Claudia) kaa i = She (Claudia) roasted <i>it</i> .
Paseto nyen yila Daniel = The Pastor called Daniel yesterday.	Paseto nyen yila m = The Pastor called me yesterday.
Riga wou ande = Your shirt is torn.	I ande = It is torn
Akôv ne taver ishe gande = These shoes are too expensive.	De yamen a ga = Do not buy them.
Ka an nan tee itiakeda ve? Who took their book?	Ka i yen ga; ka i yase. = It is not yours (pl) ; it is ours.
Tica na ne ibo = The teacher blamed you (pl).	A va hen ya wase. = He/she came to our home.

Indirect Object Pronouns: They follow and are attached to affirmative commands; may follow and be attached to infinitives and present participles. For example:

1. Shie gen ka u (sing., pl) nder fere ga. = You (sing., pl) sometimes wake up late.
2. We a rumun yô tile sha heen = Stand up here, please. (*If you agree stand up here.*)
3. Za heera za tôô shebul la = Go there and grab that shovel.
4. Mbayev kasev mba tilen sha hegen = The girls are standing up now.
5. De tem inya ga = Do not sit down.

Independent possessive pronouns

Possessive pronouns show possession of a noun by replacing it. They must stand alone and be used without a noun. The independent possessive pronouns are mine (am/wam/agh), ours (ase), yours (a en, u wen, plural), yours (u wou, singular), his or hers or its (u/i na), theirs (u/i ve, mba vev), and ours (wase, mba asev). Possessive pronouns make construction of sentences simpler

and clearer. For example, it would be awkward to say: The points per game Sesugh made were more than my points per game (*Ako a Sesugh a ye bol iyange imom hembra ako a m ye bol iyange imom*).

U kaan er “bol iyange imom” kwa har doo unghan ga (To say “points per game” twice does not sound good). Rewriting with a possessive pronoun solves the problem like this:

Ako a Sesugh a ye bol iyange imom hembra ako am = The points per game Sesugh made were more than **mine**.

More examples of possessive pronoun

Mato wam vihi. Mtôô *u wou* we? = My car is stalled. May I use **yours**?

Wegh ku Asôngo Nor hembra lihen a ku agh = Asôngo Nor’s arm is longer than **mine**.

Ukrani ngu nôngon num u ngohol tar ve = Ukraine is fighting to reclaim the land that is **theirs**.

Ya u sha 65 Alder Drive ka u wase = The house on 65 alder drive is **ours**.

These independent possessive pronouns often come at the ends of clauses or phrases.

Summary of pronouns:

m = I (as in *m mough sha/I stood up*)

m, mo = me as in *dem/leave me or ka mo/it’s me*).

i = it

kwagh (thing) = it

se = we, us

ne = you (plural)

ven = you (plural)

we = you (singular)

ve = they, them

Pronouns—short sentences and phrases:

m ngu = I am

ne mba = you (plural) are

kwagh ngu = there is something

ka kwagh = it is something

ka kwagh ga = it is nothing

u ngu = you (singular)

m ngu = I am

un ngu = he/she is

ne mba = you (plural) are

ve mba = they are

se mba = we are

i hide = it returned (came back)

i yem = it went (away)

a = he/she/it

a hide = he/she returned

se ya kwagh = we ate something

ve tema = they sat

kwagh er = something happened

kwagh er ga = nothing happened

Pronoun-Verb Practice

De (Let)	m (me) se (us) ve (hem) un (him/her) i/un (“i” if starts with an i; “un” if starts with any other letter) (it)	yevese (run) yem (go) tema (sit) ya (eat) lam (speak) ulugh (pull)
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Exercise 3

One way to understand pronouns well is to practice using them in conversations. This exercise will help you in furthering your understanding.

1. A tema inya.
2. Ve mough sha.
3. Se hide fere.
4. Ne nyôr vee?
5. U nam ga.
6. A via dedo.
7. Se mba a nyor mato.
8. Wankwase yevese;
a vôr.
9. Wankwaor dugh itiough
tsemberee.
10. Se na ve kwagh ve.
11. M fa ayenge dedo.
12. M soo u man ve cii.
13. Un fa kwagh u (a)tindi(gh).
14. I yevese (i) yem.
15. Ve na se iwua.
16. A nav ve injô.

Adjectives

Adjectives are words which modify or describe nouns. An adjective can describe feelings or appearance of objects, places, or things. They play a big role in the Tiv language constructions. Knowing or becoming familiar with iv adjectives and nouns will help you master Tiv language faster. Examples of Tiv language adjectives are as follows (English in parentheses):

Adjective examples:

Doo, dedo (good)
Hembadon (better)
lhundu (mad, crazy), adj
Il (black) or (dark)
Wa ayom (clever)

Sentences:

A er kwagh u dedo (she/he did a good thing).
Ngeren na hembra doon cii (his/her writing is much better).
lhundu iwa ngi yevese (the mad dog is running).
Nyinya u il doo ashe (the black horse is beautiful).
Alom was ayom kpishi (the hare is very clever).

Like in English, many adjectives in Tiv language are placed after a noun, not before. For example:
Ayenge a taver ga (easy math)—*taver ga* means not hard
Gar/geri u zan gwa (famous city/town)—*gwa zan* means fame
Or u zan gwa (famous person)
Imo i geng geng (loud voice)-*imo* means voice or song
Kwase u fankwagh (knowledgeable woman)—*kwaghfan* means knowledge
Zanaria u engem (precious gold)-*engem* means pleasing to the eye or precious
lyouci i zan gwa (famous hospital)

Or u mhen u injä (thoughtful person)—*mhen* is thoughtfulness, *inja* means behaviour

Sometimes a Tiv noun is turned into a verb form to better describe it or another object or feeling. For example:

Tesen ishughun (is thankful)

Eren afer (is evil)

Yôôso (is talkative)

luwe ngi mngerem mngerem
(watery soup)

Atôm taver zwa (Atôm is
combative)

Akôv a taver ishe
(expensive shoes)

Aôndo u nan injô (forgiving God)

Wanye hingir gera ge gera
(boy became bored)

Examples of adjectives that come
before a noun to describe
or modify it are:

lbume or (foolish person)

Zege kon (big tree)

Inor atuur (unspicy okra)

Tion kon (short or piece of tree)

Gôgô gbenda (long road)

Ichan kwase (poor woman)

lhuman kwagh (smelly thing)

lkumen wura (stormy rain)

Adanger agbur (large river agbur)

langen alum (sour orange)

List of English-Tiv Adjectives

alert (gengeree)

alive (uma)

amused (doo sen)

annoyed (ishima vihi)

anxious (tenge tenge)

arrogant (hwa)

ashamed (kunya kor)

attractive (doo nengen)

average (heratô)

awful (vihi kpishi)

bad (doo ga)

beautiful (doo ashe)

better (hemba)

black (il)

bloody (awambe awambe)

blue (dindilii)

brainy (a mfe)

brave (mchiem ga)

bright (wanger)

brightness (iwanger)

busy (tom ave)

calm (mem mem, ving)

careful (ishima i wan)

cautious (sha kwaghfan)

clean (wanger)

clever (ayom)

cloudy (abeen abeen)

clumsy (dera de dera)

colorful (ngee a ukola)

confused (taver unghan)

crazy (bee u ihundu)

creepy (chier iyol)

crowded (yar, ngee)

cruel (sha ishima vihin)

curious (sha mba mker)

cute (dooshe)

dark (milim milim)

dead (kpen ku)

defeated (u i hembe)

defiant (hidden jime ga)

different (kposo)

difficult (taver fan/eren)

distinct (due kposo)

disturbed (za iyol)

dizzy (zu kôr)

doubtful (bee ga)

drab (dimii)

dull (kpughul)

easy (taver ga)

elated (msaan iyol)

elegant (u wan sha da)

evil (kwaghbo, akaabo)

excited (agher)

faithful (na jighjigh ken)

famous (za gwa)

fancy (kwahir kwaghalom)

fierce (va taver)

filthy (hôv)

fine (dedo)

foolish (imbume)

fragile (u hemben)

frail (hundughuu sha ashe)

frantic (sha ishima i vihin)

friend (or u u soo yô)

friendly (sha msou)

funny (doo sen)

gentle (sha mhe)

glorious (iyol kenden)

good (doo)

gorgeous (doo je gande)

graceful (vine doo)

grieving (vaan ku)

grotesque (vihi nengen)

grumpy (gban num)

happy (saan saan)

healthy (a mkpeiyol)

helpful (wasen)

helpless (iwasen shio)

hilarious (ahan zwa)

homeless (ya ishio)

homely (engem kuma ga)

horrible (chier iyol)

hungry (ijen i kôr)

hurt (vihi iyol)

ill (dedo ga, u ange)

illness (angev)

itchy (agher)

jealous (iwuhe)

jittery (mmem sha ga)

jolly (ishaaniyolough)

joyous (masaan iyol)

kind (doo a ior/akaa)

lazy (wa hwev)

laziness (hwevwan)	putrid (i guran) as in meat	terrible (u gban kera)
light (iwanger)	puzzled (ishima tan)	thankful (lun a ishughun)
lively (sar sar)	quiet (ving)	tired (vôr)
lonely (orishio)	real (kpôô kpôô)	tough (tsulugh, taver)
long (lihe)	repulsive (doo nengen ga)	ugliest (hemba vihin ashe)
lovely (doo ashe)	rich (inyar)	ugly (vihi ashe)
lucky (ikôr doon)	scary (kpilighiyol)	unusual (er ma i lu ga)
modern (u ayange ne)	shiny (engem)	usual (sha er ma i lu la)
mushy (kpôtu kpôtu)	shivering (ikarikase)	upset (ishima vihi)
nasty (iren i vihin)	shy (engem engem)	vain (gbilin)
naughty (ieren i bo)	silly (eren akaa a hômon)	vanity (gbilin kwagh)
nice (doo)	sleepy (mnyam ashe)	vast (mkehe u ingegh ...)
odd (u a zough ga yô)	smiling (ahan ahan)	weary (tese ivôron)
open (ivegher)	smoggy (cing)	wicked (inja dang)
panicky (ishima za iyol)	stormy (igam)	worried (ishima zan iyol)
pleasant (doo ashe)	strange (kposo a akaa gen)	wrong (shamin ga)
poised (ger age gera ga)	stupid (ibume, dang))	zany (eren sha ibume)
poor (gban ican)	tasty (nyoho, doo ke zwa)	zealous (ishima i eren kwagh u dedo).
powerful (tahav)	tender (legem)	
proud (wan iyol)	tense (lun a ishima i vihin)	

Some Tiv adjectives may not have one word with their English equivalents. A longer explanation will be needed. The following are selected examples:

adorable (kwagh u doon ashe)	encouraging (kwagh u seer ishima i taver)
adventurous (u keren akaa a he)	energetic (agee a een kwagh)
aggressive (sha agee)	enthusiastic (doo un kpishi u eren kwagh)
agreeable (feityo u rumun a kwagh)	envious (u soon kwagh u or gen); covet
angry (ishima vihin)	expensive (taver ishe)
annoying (u vihinshima)	exuberant (u lun sar sar je ganden)
bewildered (kunda (un) ishima)	fair (nengen hanmakwagh vough)
bewilderment (kundashima)	fantastic (gande jighjigh u nan)
blushing (kende iyol sha)	frightened (chier iyol)
bored (hingir kera ke kera)	gifted (kwagh u Aôndo a neu yô)
breakable (una faityo u hemben)	glamorous (ichivir keren)
charming (eren akaa a doon ior)	gleaming (ijongol usu)
cheerful (saan saan)	handsome (doo kwaor)
clear (wanger) after explanation	important (lun a inja)
combative (u hedan kwagh)	impossible (u fanityô ga)
comfortable (tema bem bem)	inexpensive (doo ishe)
concerned (waiko sha kwagh)	innocent (kwagh kôron ga)
condemned (wan ken mtsaha)	inquisitive (soo u fan hanma kwagh)
cooperative (u eren tom a ior mba (akaa) gen.	worrisome (kwagh ze un iyo)
courageous (u lun a ishimataver)	worry (kwagh u zan iyol)
dangerous (u van a akaabo)	magnificent (doo je er ka kwav aondo nahan)
delightful (doo nenge ashe je gande)	misty (dindirii a avur a wura/a mngeem)
depressed (vôriyol)	motionless (tenger ga)
depression (iyolvôron ker)	muddy (aningbor aningbor)
determined (torough u zan hemem)	mysterious (kwagh u chier iyol)
disgusted (vihi m/se je gande)	nervous (ishima kundun ga)
eager (ishima i eren kwagh)	nutty (u tesen mhen u bo, u lun ke zwa er ka ake a kon nahan)
embarrassed (vihi je er ma ihide a min yô)	obedient (u rumun u eren kwagh)
enchanted (tsaren ieren i akaa)	obnoxious (eren akaa a dang)

outrageous (u eren akaaa vikin shima)	troubled (za un iyol)
outstanding (hemba mbagenev cii)	sparkling (engemee, engem engem)
uninterested (gbaishima ga)	splendid (doo gande)
old-fashioned (utse utse)	spotless (kungu pulututu; kungu je ijiir ilen ngi sha min ga)
perfect (gba her jighrii)	successful (due doo, za doo)
plain (wa kwagh sha min ga, kpur kpur, ikpur)	super (zegehan, heman kehen)
precious (mdoo ashe u kwagh)	unsightly (vihi nengen)
prickly (ngu a asar/asagher)	victorious (gban ken mhamba)
quaint (mlu kposo u kwagh)	vivacious: <i>full of life</i> (lun a uma iyol gbing)
relieved (ishima gba shimi)	wandering (u zenden nzughul nzughul)
selfish (hemba nengennsha iyol you)	wild (er ka kwagh u ke toho nahan)
sore (nyion - u ijiir iyolough)	witty (henen kwagh ôron fere)
talented (ngu a mfe u marami)	
tame (tesen inyam u lun ikua a ior)	
thoughtful (henen nkwagh)	
thoughtless (mhenkwagh)	

Possessive Adjectives

Possessive adjectives show ownership. The possessive adjectives, also called possessive determiners, are my, our, your, his, her, its, and “their.” We break down each type and offer examples of their usage below.

Possessive adjectives also clarify who or what owns something. Unlike possessive pronouns—which replace nouns—possessive adjectives go *before* nouns to modify them.

Independent possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives can help sentences or statements less awkward. For example:

Msendo soo Bibilo i Msendo (Msendo likes Msendo’s Bible).

It sounds odd to use Msendo’s name twice in this sentence. A possessive adjective modifying the noun *Bibilo* (*Bible*) solves the problem: Msendo soo Bibilo na (Msendo likes her Bible).

Thus, possessive adjectives are helpful, and you should use them in Tiv language as in the English language sentence construction.

Examples of Possessive Adjective

Girgi **yam** va fere ga (**My** plane is delayed.)

I ver kwaghyan **wou** (**Your** dinner is served.)

We a rumun yô due un a kwaghyan **na** (Please bring **his** food out to him.)

lyô ne nyuma tsa **na** (This snake bit **its** tail.)

Ve lu ken iyol **ve** shie u m va nyôr yô (They were in **their** house when I arrived.)

Exercise 4

Examine the adjectives in the above examples and from dictionaries to complete the following activities.

- Translate the following statements into English.
 - Ortwer ngu soron un anev mbu hough bar.
 - Ortwer nger un ichigh ki itough ki nanden.
 - A soo u ngohol mba mhen av ga.
 - Tôô riga na va na un.
 - Ishima za un iyol sha kwagh u wan na u kwase.
 - U ngoron imo sha aighe er usu gba ka kwagh u dang.

2. Underline the adjectives (word or phrase) in each of the following:
 - a. Pick the black and red grains from the white ones.
 - b. He turned around so fast that he felt dizzy.
 - c. My room is filthy.
 - d. A fireman is always brave.
 - e. Stop doing evil things.
 - f. He was punished for cursing at her.
 - g. Okocha always bragged about scoring the most goals.
3. Translate the following sentences into Tiv.
 - a. A lazy boy cannot work.
 - b. She feels very happy when she scores a goal.
 - c. Give us some food to eat. (May we have some food, please?)
 - d. Kate blew her whistle very hard.
 - e. She climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro because she was an adventurous woman.

Verbs

A verb is a word which explains or describes an act, occurrence, or state of being. A complete sentence must have a verb, though it may not have all parts of speech for the sentence to make sense.

The three main types of verbs are: action verbs, linking verbs, and helping verbs.

1. Action verbs describe action or possession in transitive or intransitive form. Transitive verb words must have a noun that is being described or explained, known as a direct object. An indirect object, a noun or phrase, may also be part of the sentence. The following are some examples used in a sentence. (Tiv equivalents in parentheses).
 - a. Transitive verb examples: (i) I arranged the desks yesterday (Nyen m sôr udeseke dedo.). The verb is “arranged,” (sôr) and the direct object is “desks” (udeseke), the noun being acted upon. (ii) Pass me the dish. The verb is “pass,” and the direct object is “dish;” the indirect object is “me.” Note that intransitive verbs do not address or act upon an object or an indirect object. It only has a modifier.
 - b. Intransitive verb examples: (i) I climbed the ladder to reach the books (M unde lada sha u aren sha itiakeda). The intransitive verb is “climbed” (unde). There is not a direct object that is received by “climbed.” Like in English, some Tiv verbs are always intransitive, such as go (yem), stop (tile), squeeze (kam), sit (tema), and enter (nyôr); and others like eat (ya), can be either intransitive or transitive. For example, “U ya kwaghyan ve? En, m ya (no object); Did you eat food? Yes, I ate (no object). Object is underlined.
2. **Linking verbs** connect the subject of a sentence to a noun or adjective that describes it. For example: (a) This meat tastes salty (inyam ne yua bar). In this sentence, meat is the noun/subject, and salty is the adjective. “Tastes” is the linking verb that connects them. (b) All the necklaces are beautiful. The subject is “necklaces,” and the adjective is “beautiful.” The linking verb is “are.” (Write example b in Tiv and identify the linking verb and the connector.)
3. **Helping verbs** are used before action or linking verbs to convey additional information. The main verb with an accompanying helping verb is called a verb phrase. For example: (i) The mechanic will help us with the used car (Mekaniki una wase se a tse mato). In this sentence, “mechanic” (mekaniki) is the subject, “help” (wase) is the main (action) verb, and “will” (una) is the helping verb. (ii) In this tape, Golozo was singing for two hours (Ken tep ne, Golozo lu gberen imo mba ahwa uhar). Here, the underlined helping verb helps to form the tense (highlighted), which is the tense being acted upon.

	<p><i>Kwantera ngu yevese usu. A fa ape una za ga, gadia hanma ijiir cii toho man ikô ngi hian; uya mba iorov kpa mba hian; man igbinda i karen zan za pilin usu shon ngi ga.</i></p> <p>The deer is running from the fire. It does not know where to go, because everywhere the grass and the forest are burning; people's homes are also burning; and there are no roads to go and put out the fires.</p>
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More Verb Word Examples

Transitive (tra) only	Intransitive (intr)only	Both Transitive and Intransitive (Ambitransitive)
The girl carried the water Wankwase too mngerem	They jumped Ve tsuwe	She sang when urged by Viki (intra) A lam shie u Viki tuur un yô
Rumun hit the ball Rumun gbidye bol	The dog ran Iwa yevese	He can sing the <i>hymn</i> (tra) Una faityô u wan icam
Please phone Jayshawn Wea rumun yo yila Jayshawn	That light was shining Usu la lu yeghen (nyôron ashe)	We left the hall after singing (intra) Se due ken iyough shie u se bee ichamwan yô.
Dooyer caught a deer Dooter kor a kwantera	The bird flew Inyon purugh	Mwuese left the coat on the hook (transitive) Mwuese undu koti sha iwev
Msendo saw a rainbow Msendo nenge a ikume	Yesterday the boys played Nyen mbayev numbe	I eat when I am hungry (intransitive) Ka m ya shie u ijen i kerem yô
Erdoos read the book Erdoos ôr takeda	Baba slept in the couch Baba yav shin ikôn	I eat peanuts every day (transitive) M ye abun hanma sev (iyange).

As for nouns, some Tiv verbs are spelled the same, pronounced the same, but have different meanings. For example, “bee” (finish) and “bee” (resemble). The following sentences illustrate the point: (1) Sesugh er kwaghyan **bee** (Sesugh has finished cooking). (2) Ka i kaa er Terngu **bee** tern na (They say that Terngu resembles his dad).

Activity

In each of the following items, underline the verb and highlight the object, if any.

- This dog bites. (Iwa ne i nyom.) (A hembe kuhe sha aaikôr.)
- Bite the coconut to chew. (Nyuma ikeve sha er u tam yô.)
- The bone broke. (Kuhe hembe.)
- He broke the bone by accident.
- A large family needs a bigger car. (Tsombor u zegenan soo mato u vesen.)
- Tersur bought shoes. (Tersur yam akôv.)
- Gajir bought his wife shoes. (Gajir yam kwase na akôv.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 8. The boy took off his shoes.
(Wanye tsuwa akôv na.) | 16. Pila laughed.
(Pila se.) |
| 9. Open the door.
(Bugh hunda.) | 17. The dust caused him to sneeze.
(lhundu er un a yesem.) |
| 10. Open the door wide.
(Bugh hunda u gbabger.) | 18. His father reads newspapers.
(Ter na er takeda u abaver.) |
| 11. He passed on the message.
(A samber a loho.) | 19. He surely reads.
(Er kpee.) |
| 12. Ashi rose to sing.
(Ashi mough u wan icam.) | 20. Such crime must be punished.
(I mbia kwaghbo la doo u tsahan.) |
| 13. Orban ate plantain.
(Orban ya ayaba.) | 21. I've finished cooking.
(M er kwaghyan m bee.) |
| 14. The mother hugged her child.
(Ngô kuve wan na.) | 22. Sesugh is done cooking.
Sesugh bee kwaghyan u eren. |
| 15. The people clapped.
(lor kule ave.) | 23. The wild animal is running.
(Inyam toho ngi yevese.) |

Verbs List

Below is a selection of verbs for greater understanding of verbs. You can find more verbs and their Tiv equivalents in the *Tiv-English Dictionary* or the *English-Tiv Vocabulary Guide* below. Though the examples on this verbs list are given in present tense, the examples may be in the past tense as well.

The list is **separated into action, helping, and linking verbs**. You may notice that some words like am, appear, was, can act as multiple types of verbs. In Tiv language a word may have the same spelling but also have different meanings. The way you pronounce the word will indicate its meaning. In the following examples, the first word is a verb and the second is a noun: ya (eat) and ya (home), hondo (shave) and hondo (whistling sound), and ker (throw) and ker (seek). The following verbs have been used in sentences, both in English and Tiv.

Active verbs:

Achieve: Teachers must help students achieve higher scores on their tests.
(zua: doo u atica a wase mbayev makerant ve zua a ingegh ki vesen sha akaren ve)

Assemble: The parents and their children assembled for a lecture on school absentism.
(kohol: mbamaren mba mbayev vev kohol sha u unghan kwagh u mbunde u makeranta)

Accelerate: students have accelerated their understanding in math.
(hemban yemen hemem: mbayev makeranta ve hembra yemen hemem sha u henen ayenge)

Allow: I cannot allow you to eat in class.
(rumun u eren: me faityô u rumun we yan kwagh ken kelase ga)

Apply: the doctor applied medicine to her wound (ivav).
(eren: ortwer er igh sha ivav)

Appear: He appeared suddenly (gagh).
(due: a va due gagh)

Appoint: The BSSB should appoint a new headmaster for the school.
(tsuwa: ka keng u BSSB a tsuwa hedmasa u he u makeranta)

Buy: Wasem bought eggs for five dollars.
(yam: Wasem yam aji sha dola utaan)

Bring: Bring your running shoes to the race.
 (vaa: va a akov a yevese shie u inumbe)
 Build: Wanan is building a new shack.
 (maa: Wanan ngu maan itumbe i he)
 Choose: You must choose who will play football.
 (tsuwa, dugh: tsuwa/dugh mba vea gbidye futubol yô)
 Close: Yesterday I closed the door when I left the room.
 (wuhe: Nyen m wuhe hunda shie u m lu duen ken iyough la)
 Compare: Compare the heights of Sesugh and Dooter.
 (kar: Kar itiavev i Sesugh man i Dooter)
 Convince: I convinced my father to buy me a bicycle.
 (ôrkuma: m ôrkuma nahan terem yamem ikeke)
 Continue: We continued our journey after we rested for a long time.
 (zahemen: Se za hemen a zende shie u se vande memen gbem yô)
 Cut: I cut the okra before cooking
 (tondo: ka m tondo atuur cii man m jiiir ye)
 Eat: I eat porridge every morning.
 (ya: Ka m ya iber hanma pepe)
 Encourage: My mother encouraged me to take a bath.
 (seer ishimataver: Ngôm seer mo ishimataver u ôôn iyol)
 Earn: I earned an A on my religion test.
 (zua, ya: M zua a “A” ken ikaren yam i kwahaôndo)
 Examine: You should really get that pain in your knee examined.
 (nenge shami(n): Nôngo i nenge sha inuinyion you la)
 Expect: I expect results of the blood tests within two days.
 (ver ishima: M mver ishima u zuan a ikaren i awambe ken ayange ahar)
 Food: Always eat food with lots of protein.
 (kwaghyan: yaan kwaghyan ua lu a porotin yô)
 Fry: Fry potatoes in hot oil.
 (kaa: Kaa atsaka shin mkulem ma tseen)
 Grow: We grow cassava for food.
 (lôô: Se mba lee (past tense) logo shaci u kwaghyan)
 Happen: He asked what happened to my hand.
 (er: A pine kwagh u a erem sha we yô)

Hurt: I fell and hurt my toe or hurt myself (*vihî iyol*)
 (*vihî iyol, nyion: M gba nahan ihonguhar wam nyion*)
 Joke: Do not joke about someone’s physical disability.
 (*kwagh u ahan: De tôôn iwan i or hingir kwagh u ahan ga*)
 Laugh: Sesugh and Terngu laugh together all the time.
 (se: *Sesugh man Terngu mba sen imôngo hanma shie*)
 Learn: We are learning about multiplication in math.
 (hen: *Se mba henen u eren ayenge a kwaghkwa*)
 Lizard: The lizard climbed the wall.
 (vange: vange unde sha kpepke)
 Mention: Lucy mentioned that she is traveling to America.
 (*ter, kaa: Lucy ter er un ngu zan ken Amerika*)
 Own: This house is owned by Yadoo’s parents.
 (*kwagh u alu u wou yo: ya ne ka u mbamaren mba Yadoo*)
 Promise: Wasem promised to go to bed early every night.
 (*tondo zwa: Wasem tondo zwa er una yaven faa hanma tugh*)
 Read: I read a geography book each week.
 (*ôr, er: M er takeda u kwaghtaregh hanma kasua*)
 Send: Ngumimi sent us a giftbox for Christmas.
 (*tindi: Ngumimi tindi se a akwati u iyua i Kirmishi*)

Steal: The thief stole money from the bank.
(ii: Ormbaiv ii inyaregh ken/ki bam/banki)
 Tell: She did not tell her mom that she was sick.
(kaa: A ôr ngô na er yan lu dedo ga nahan ga)
 Theft: Stealing an orange fruit is still theft.
(iv: U iin itiamegh ki alum kpa ka iv)
 Thief: The thief was caught, so he did not run away.
(ormbaiv, kwasembaiv: I kôr ormbaiv, nahan a yevese ga)
 Trash: Take the trash out of the house.
(inyarev: Tôô inyarev due a min ken iyough sha)
 Trumpet: The trumpet is sounding loudly.
(kakaki: imo i kakaki ngi taver geng geng)
 Understand: I understand the difference between addition and division in math.
(fa, zua a iwanger: m fa mkposo u seer man kwaghkaren ken ayenge)
 Value: Our family values hard work.
(nanjighjigh: tsomol wase na jighjigh sha u eren tom tavera)
 Wait: We waited for over two hours.
(kegh: Se kegh hembra mba ahwa uhar)
 Walk: We walk to Lake Somerset every week.
(zende: Ka se zende se za shin Lake Somerset hanma kasua)
 Wear: Wear white clothes when it is hot outside.
(zer, huwa: zer/huwa akondo a pupul shie u i tsee ken won yô)

Linking Verbs:

Is: Mom is sleeping.
(ngu: Mama ngu yaven)

Am: I am happy you passed the test.
(m: Doo m er u kar ikaren nahan)

Are: The boys are running.
(mba: Mabayev mba yevese)

Was: He was so sad to see his father leave.
(iyan(ge) lu: Iyange lu a ivihishima u nengen ter na yemen)

Were: They were relieved that the plane was arriving on time.
(iyan(ge): Iyan(ge) ishima agba ve shimin er igirgi purugh ngi van sha shie)

Be: I will be waiting till the train arrives.
(lu: Me lu keghen zan zan igirgi dogo ia va nyôr)

Been: He has been sleeping for an hour.
(lu: un lu yaven er ihwa i mom nahan). Compare: ve lu yaven, se lu yaven, ne lu yaven, etc.

Being: He is being naughty.
(lun, tesen, van: ngu lun a/tesen itiough ki taver). "Itiough ki taver" means naughtiness.

Appear: She appears to be feeling much better.
(inja er: Ngu inja er ka hemban u lun un guda nahan). Compare: Ka inja er ... (It appears...)

Become: Joshua has become used to eating fufu because his mom taught him how to make it.
(hingir: Josh hingir or u yan ruam shaciu ngô na tese un u eren)

Helping Verbs:

Is: Everyone **is** talking about the high cost of eggs.
(ngu: hanma or ngu ôron kwagh u isheitaver i ajiaikegh)

Am: I **am** waiting to see what will happen.
(m ngu: M ngu keghen mer me nenge kwagh u una er yô)

Are: They (we/you (pl)) are sleeping on a mat.
(mba: mba yaven sha butu. Not spoken but understood are “ve/se/ne” mba or they/we/you (pl) are....

Was: I **was** asked to stand up.
I ... er (pine/kaa): I pine er (mo) m tile sha.

“Were”: the police stopped them because they were speeding in the car.
Lu: Poloshi kôr ve shaaciu ve **lu** nahan mato karen ishiva inya.

Be: She had to be crying since her eyes were wet with tears.
Lu: **Un lu** vaan sha er ashe na iv a mlIAM yô.

Been: They have been working for five days.
Lu: Ve **lu** eren tom kuma ayange ataan. Here, the word “ve” must be spoken before **lu**.

Has: She/he has moved from Lagos (and has gone) to Abuja.
A: A mough hen Lagos a yem Abuja. You can also use “due” in place of “mough.”

Have: We have always visited Mkar Mountain whenever we go to Gboko.
Illusive word, understood only in context, as in “Se mba bundu u zan sha Wo Mkar ga hanma shie u ka sea za Gboko yô.” You can compare to: (Ve) mba/ne mba, (un)—they/you (pl) have ...
Another example: I have always believed in miracles. (M de u nan jighjigh sha akaaeren a cier iyol (mayange) ga.)

Had: I had worked as a teacher before working on the School Board.
Vande: M **vande** eren tom u tesen cii man u teman sha School Board ye.

Does: Does Mer remember her email password?
Illusive word, understood only in context, as in “Mer umbur paswoed na kpa?”

Do: I do understand how a computer works.
Illusive word, understood only in context, as in “M fa er kômputa a eren tom yô.” “M fa tom u eren u kômputa.”

Did: I did try to sleep after taking a lot of coffee.
Illusive word, understood only in context, as in “M nôngo me ma m yav shie u m me kofi (kpishi) yô.”

Can: Can you sing a Golozo or Burna Boy song?
Illusive word, understood only in context, as in *U gber imo i Golozo shin Burna Boy kpa?* Compare: Could/would you sing a Golozo or Burna Boy song? *Ne gber imo i Golozo shin Burna Boy kpa?* (Or *Ne faityô u gberen imo i Golozo shin Burna Boy kpa?*)

Will: We will rest after reaching the top of Mkar Mountain.
Illusive word, understood only by intonation, as in “Se mem shie u se ar sha itiough ki Wo Mkar yô.” Compare: We rested after reaching the top of Mkar Mountain (“Se mba aren sha itiough ki Wo Mkar yô, se mem.”)

Shall: We shall wear nice clothes to go to the wedding. Illusive word, understood only in context, as in “*Se huwa akondo a dedo shie u se lu zan ivese i eren yô.*”

Could/would: You could (would you) stop by the store to buy bread (?).
Faityo: U faityô u tilen hen shôpu u yamen beredi (?).

Should/will: I should/will start running when I hear the whistle.
Illusive word, understood only by intonation, as in “*Me hii u yevese shie u me ungwa usur yô.*”

Must: You must remember to complete your schoolwork well.
Keng keng/kpee: Ka *kpee/keng keng* u we bee tom makeranta wou dedo.

May: You may raise your hand if you want to answer the question.
A soo yô: We *a soo yô* u kende wegh sha aluer (if) wea soo (want/desire) u nan mrumun sha mpin (question) yô. Translate: *Ne a soo yô, ne tema inya.* _____.

Might: Perhaps I shall take a mathematics class next year.
Alaghga: *Alaghga* me tôle kelase u ayenge inyom i lu van la. *Lu van* means “next.”

Adverbs

An adverb is a word that modifies or describes a verb [e.g., “Atese sings loudly (taver taver)”], an adjective [e.g., “Sesugh is very tall (*tav gande*)”], another adverb [e.g., “ended too quickly (*bee fese gande*)”], or even a whole sentence [e.g., “I cut my finger, accidentally (*m tôndo ivav sha ihôwe sha iarikôr*).”]. Adverbs often end in -ly, like in quickly, but some (such as fast) do not. In Tiv, the degree of modification is indicated by repeating the adverb word. For example, *fese* (quick, quickly) and *fese fese* (very quickly).

When we were discussing Tiv conversation, we used adverbs without knowing it. There are instances when we want to know how (as in *er nena?*), when (as in *hanma shie*), where (as in *hanma ijiir*), how often (*kwa*), or how much something is (*ki/ka nena*). An adverb can modify a verb [e.g., speaks softly in church (*yôôso ivarivase ken iyou adua*)], an adjective [e.g., exceedingly large (*kehe je gande*)], or another adverb [e.g., very loudly (*taveraa kpishi*)].

Adverb List:

Some of the most common adverb examples include:

really, very (*kpishi, gbing*)
well, badly (*dedo, je gande*)
today, yesterday, tomorrow, daily, every day, etc. (*nyian, nyen, kper, hanma sev, ayange ayange*)
sometimes, often, rarely, etc. (*shiegen, hanmashie, ashie cii ga, etc.*)
early, late, now, soon, etc. (*faa, faa ga, higen, higen higen, ashen, etc.*)
here, there, anywhere, everywhere, spotty, wherever, all over, etc. (*heen, heera/keera, hanmaiijiir, ajiir cica, ajiir ajiir or amianamian, hanmape, etc.*)

	<i>Zua wegh/kôr wegh</i>
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	Shake hand(s) (Hanshake) <i>Or ne ngu zuan wegh vea u genegh.</i> (This man nis shaking hands with another person.)
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Tiv language adverbs are better understood as you use them in sentences. The following activities will help you get the gist of it. For example:

Tim va tswase/fese.
 Tim came immediately.

Inumbe lihe gande.
 The game took too long.

Gire tav ga gande.
 Gire is very short.

U hemban vihin yô se nege
 inumbe i Jay ga.
 Unfortunately, we did not
 watch Jay's game.

Olajowon tav kpishi.
 Olajowon is very tall.

Adverbs and Verbs

Adverbs can describe the way an action is happening (do modify a verb). Examples:

Wasem ka a kume iusa kpishi shie u inumbe.
 Wasem sweats profusely during a game.

Aôndona zende tseghe tseghe shie u ngô na lu yaven yô.
 Aôndona walked very silently when his mom was sleeping.

M kegh kwaghyan zan zan m gba mnyam.
 I waited for food patiently until I fell asleep.

Me mough tugh tugh u yemen makeranta.
 I shall leave early in the morning to go to school.

Adverbs that describe verbs usually tell us how, when, where, why, how often, or how much the action is carried out. For example, "quickly," "slowly," "carefully," "quietly," "silently," etc.)

The following examples show how adverbs modify verbs in the Tiv language:

Amina ver iyongu sha tebul **teghete** (a ishima i veren).
 Amina placed the dish **carefully** on the table.
 ("Carefully" modifies "to place" to express how the dish was placed on the table.)

Jime zenden **tegh tegh**.
 Jime walks **slowly**.
 ("Slowly" modifies "to walk" to express how Jime walks.)
 Ihev nyôr/yevese tsura.

The rat ran speedily.
("speedily" modifies "to ran" to express how the rat ran.)

Ônov mba Orhii va faa.
The Orhii children arrived early.
("Early" modifies "to arrive" to express when Orhii's children arrived.)

Shiegen Dr. Wasem ngu a nenge mbauangev.
Dr. Wasem **sometimes** examines patients.
("Sometimes" modifies "to examine" to express when he examines patients.)

Adverbs and Adjectives

Adverbs can also modify adjectives to show the degree of the manner a thing (object) is being described (by an adjective). For example:

The light is too bright (adj).
Terngu is much taller (adj) than his mom.

It is much better (adj) to have peace of mind.
Bemishima hembra doon.

Se va fese, nahan se faityô u lamem cii man mzough a hii ye.
We are a little bit early, so we can chat before the meeting.

Ider i MAGA ngi a kwav u nyian bong.
The MAGA cap is a very bright shade of red.

Iyonguvihi tee foto u a kper tsembelee yô.
Iyonguvihi sold the beautifully painted picture.
("Beautifully" modifies the adjective "painted.")

	<p>Tuta u Nijeriya ngu a vegher u shoushou, u pupul, man u shoushou.</p> <p>The Nigerian flag has pars of green, white, and green.</p> <p>Green part is for agriculture and white is for peace. (Vegher u shoushou tese tom sule and u pupul tese bem.)</p>
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Adverbs modify other adverbs

An adverb can also be used to describe another adverb. In the following sentence, the adverb almost is modifying the adverb always (and they're both modifying the adjective right). Some examples are:

Yadoo yan nôngon u bunden makeranta ma iyange i môm ga.

Yadoo's daily school attendance was almost always perfect.

Sha kwagh u avur a Bibilo yô, hanma shie Paseto ka a nôngu un lun shami vough.
Regarding Bible verses, the Pastor is almost always correct.

Wan u Ajim bee (v) ikarem na fese (adv) je gande (adv).

Ajim's child finished his test remarkably quickly (*fese*).

(The adverb "quickly" modifies the verb "to finish." The adverb "remarkably" (*je gande*) modifies "quickly.")

lyongu shin itiough ihar? (vase or two faces?)	Ortaven ga man u taven (short and tall person)	Ikeke (bicycle)

	<p>Mbayev mak- eranta mba gbidyen bol u ikese.</p> <p>The students are playing basketball.</p>
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Adverbs and sentences

Some adverbs can modify entire sentences—unsurprisingly, these are called **sentence adverbs**. Common ones include generally, fortunately, interestingly, and accordingly. Sentence adverbs don't describe one thing in the sentence—instead, they describe a general feeling about all the information in the sentence. For example:

Kwagh u kpiligh iyol yô, se va nyôr heen sha shie.
Surprisingly, we arrived here in (on) time.

U hemban gban ishima je yô, hanma or nôngo tsung u tindin un a iyua i Kirimishi.
Interestingly everyone seemed eager to send her a gift for Christmas.

Beem er, una hamba ayem a mita 400 la kpee, a mayange a lu a vande hemban shawon ga la.
Hopefully, she will most probably win the 400 meters race that she had never won before.

Ka kpee u se nder. We will certainly wake up.
Ma tii sha itough ki kofi. Drink tea instead of coffee.

U masen been yô, ... In conclusion ... U masen been yô, se fa se u yaven ve a mkpeiyl u dedo. In conclusion, we know that sleep brings good health.

Kpa se gba ... Wura ngu nôôn, kpa se gba yemen tsô. It is raining, nevertheless we must go.

Mayange ga: De benden nombor usu ave mayange ga. Never touch a flame.

Hanma sev: ma mngerem hanma sev. Drink water daily.

Vande: M vande sughun un (we). I previously greeted her.

Abur abur: Mhembe gbande sha abura bur. I accidentally broke the dish.

Gba ica: Ijiir i ivesegh *gba ica*, kpa se za. The wedding venue is far, but we shall go.

Kuma: Kwaghyan kuma sha ior mba ve ve iniongu yô. There is enough for the party guests.

Sentence Build-up Activity 1

Write the English language equivalent for each of the following Ti language sentences:

Tiv Language	English Language
M soo kwaghyan	_____
Nam kwaghyan	_____
Ka mo	_____
Ka mo ga	_____
Mbayev mba numben	_____
De u numben	_____
Dem m yem	_____
De se a akaabo ase	_____
De ve ve yem	_____

Sentence Build-up Activity 2

Write the English language equivalent for each of the following Ti language sentences:

Tiv Language	English Language
M soo kwaghyan	_____
Nam kwaghyan	_____
Ka mo	_____
Ka mo ga	_____
Mbayev mba numben	_____
De u numben	_____
Dem m yem	_____
De se a akaabo ase	_____
De ve ve yem	_____

Sentence Build-up Activity 3

Write the English language equivalent for each of the following Ti language sentences:

Tiv Language	English Language
M soo kwaghyan	_____
Nam kwaghyan	_____
Ka mo	_____
Ka mo ga	_____
Mbayev mba numben	_____
De u numben	_____
Dem m yem	_____
De se a akaabo ase	_____
De ve ve yem	_____

3

Sentence Build-up in Tiv

The sentence build-up is based on the Tiv alphabets and parts of speech discussed above. You should now begin to make and understand short sentences as you connect nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. We concentrate on conversations you usually have at home, school, market or store, and sports fields. Use the audio and video tools for practice.

Sule u ken kungur (Backyard garden)

Abeen (Clouds)

Sentence Build-up Practice 1

Ka we u lu gberen imo ye= It's you (singular) singing (a song)

Ka ne ne lu yevese ye= It's you (plural) running

A nau kwaghyan= he/she gave you food

A nam mngerem = he/she gave me water

A nam ga = he/she did not give me

A nam mngerem ga = he/she did not give me water

A venda u tilen sha = he/she refused to stand up

Ve venda u lamem = they refused to talk

U venda u teman inya= you (singular) refused to sit down

Ne venda u duen = you (plural) refused to get out (exit)

Yem nen = you (plural) go

Tema nen = you (plural) sit

Ve hide = they are back

Se hide = we are back

Mba a hide ga = they are not (yet) back

Na ve = Give (it to) them

Zenda ve = Drive them (away)

Ka tom ve = It's their work

Ngu a hide ga = He/she is not yet back

Ngu hiden ga = He/she won't return

wam = my mine

Kwaghyan wam = my food

Takeda ne ka u wam = This book is mine

na = his, her, him

ka kwagh na = It is his/her (own) thing

Ka u na = It is his/hers
 K u ve = It is theirs
 Ka iyou ve = It's their house
 Se soo kwagh na = We like him/her
 kpishi, gbing = very, much
 dedo, tsemberee = very well
 A fa kwagh dedo = he/she is a lot nice
 Un ngua a mfe kpishi = he/she is knowledgeable
 Se cii = All of us (We all)
 kpa = but
 kpa = also
 We kpa = you also
 kpee, keng = albeit, must
 Hide kpee = assuredly return (You must return or come back)
 kpem, gbem (gbem) = always
 Ve heen gbem = He comes here always
 ashighen ashighen = sometimes
 Vee heen ashighen ashighen = He comes here sometimes
 shighe = time
 shighe (shie) gen = some other time or another time
 nya = down
 sha = up
 tile = wait, remain standing/waiting
 tile her = remain standing up
 Tema nya = sit down
 mough sha = stand up
 mough nen sha = You (plural) stand up
 Ver ihô (i)nya = Put the kife down
 a min, aci = for (as ngi sha aci wam: it is for me)
 nahan = by, like, as
 kôrom a min = hold it for me
 kwase man nom = wife and husband
 a de sha aci wam = he/she stopped because of me
 a undu (he) sha ci wase = (he/she left it for us)
 Va er ahwa atar nahan = Come by three o'clock.
 We ye? = How about you? (singular)
 Ne ye? = How about you? (plural)
 Za dedo = Good-bye (Go well)
 Saa shie gen = See you later (Till another time)
 Aôndo a za a we = I wish you Godspeed (God go with you), Journey Mercies
 Aôndo a za a ven = I wish you (plural) Godspeed (Let God take you there)
 hanma kwagh = everything
 A wa hanma kwagh shin akwati = He/she put everything in the box.

Meeting People

Iti you er ana? (What is your name?)
 Iti yam er Terngu (My name is Terngu)
 M ngu wan u Nomishan (I am the son of Nomishan)
 Ka we i yer er Terdoo ye? (Are you the one called Terdoo?)
 Ei, ka mo lorwuese (No, I am lorwuese.)
 U lamem zwa Tiv kpa? (Do you speak Tiv?)
 U fa zwa Tiv kpa? [Do you know (how to speak) Tiv?]
 M fa zwa Tiv dedo ga; but I'm learning (I don't know Tiv very well or
 (I don't know much Tiv); kpa m ngu henen.
 En, m lamem cuku cuku (Yes, I speak a little)
 Inumbe kule, nahan m ngu yemen ken ya (The game is over, so I'm going home)

Ka an nan lu yemen a we? (With whom are you going home?)
 Ka u er nena ve u yem ken ya? (How do you usually get home?)
 Baba ka a va toom (My grandpa picks me up)
 U ngu a anigbian u kwase e? (Do you have a sister?)
 Ei, kpa m ngu a anigbian u nomso (No, but I have a brother)
 We iee? (What about you?)
 M ngu wanmom (I'm an only child)

	<p>Wanye kwaor huwa koti u yangen wuhe (kôron).</p> <p>The handsome young man is wearing a coat to prevent (getting) cold.</p> <p>Shie u i ndohol kpishi man u huwa koti u civir ga yo, alaghga hough una kôrou.</p> <p>When it is cold and you do not wear a thick coat, you may catch a cold.</p>
--	---

Vocabulary II

dedo = well	inyaregh = money	ngu = is
doo = good	inyarev = farm flies	orkwav = contemporary
fa = know	ishiôr ¹ = one who courts	pine = ask
faityô = able, can	ishiôr ² = courtship	sôôr = to woo, to court
fefa = quick, fast	lam = speak	tsegher = only, merely
ga = not	liam = speech	yem = go
ikar, huror = friend	na = give	za = go

Sentence Build-up Practice 2

Conversational Tiv 1:

Iti yam er Terdoo (My name is Terdoo)
 Mba yerem er Terdoo (They call me Terdoo)
 Mba yer un er Terdoo (They call her Terdoo)
 U yer iyolyou wer ana? (What do you call yourself?)
 Terdoo, U ngu nena? (How are you, Terdoo?)
 M ngu dedo (I am well.)
 A venda (He/she refused)
 A venda ga; a rumun (He/she did not refuse; he/she agreed)
 A due (He/she went out)
 Ngu her(egh); ngu heen (He/she is present; he/she is here)

Iti na er Sesugh ga (His name is not Sesugh)
 Ka Ngunan la ga (That is not Ngunan) or (Se is not Ngunan)
 Ka we Ngizan ne? (Are you Ngizan?)
 En, ka mo Ngizan (Yes, I am Ngizan)
 M sugh u, Ngunan (I greet you, Ngunan). Note: *sugh* also means “thank.”
 Niehema lamem (zwa) Tiv ga (Niehema does not speak Tiv). You can omit the word, “zwa.”

Ngukeghen lamem (zwa) Tiv dedo (Ngukeghen speaks Tiv well). You can omit the word, “zwa.”
 M fa zwativ (I (know) can speak Tiv language)
 M fa zwa Hausa kpaa (I can also speak Hausa)
 Se mba ior mba shin Bini (We are (people) from Benin)
 M ngu shin Hyusten (I am *or live* in Houston)
 Ve mba shin Abuja (They are *or live* in Abuja)
 M za ke(n) ya (I went home)
 M sember hidden ke(n) ya (I just returned from home)
 M soo u pinen we kwagh (I want to ask you something)
 Ka nyi kwagh(a)? (What is it?)
 Ka hanma shie u luz an kasua? (What time are you going to the market?)

Conversational Tiv 2:

Ngôu ka ana?	Who is your mother?
Ngôm ka Yeye	My mother is Yeye
It I tereu er ana?	What is your father's name?
It i terem er Kaanpila	My father's name is Kaanpila
Ijen kôrou we?	Are you hungry?
En, ijen korom.	Yes, I am hungry.
Ka nyi u soo u yan a?	What do you want to eat? (...would you ...)
Ka nyi nyen u ya?	What did you eat yesterday?
Ne nyi ne ya nyian a?	What would you (pl) eat today?
Me ya piza	I will eat pizza
Mo m soo piza ga	I do not want pizza
Se ya chinkafa	We will eat rice
M soo inyam ga	I don't want meat
M soo iue i atuur(ugh)	I want okra soup
Yadoo soo inyam ivo	Yadoo likes goat meat
JN soo u man zar mbuer	JN likes to drink papaya juice
QWK soo u man atumba	QWK likes to drink milk
RDD soo u man zar alum	RDD likes to drink orange juice

Vocabulary III

bugh = open	nomso or = man
wuhe = close	wanye = child
de = stop	ngô kwase = "old" elderly woman
iti = name	wanye (wan) kwase = girl
kwase = woman	wanye nomso = boy
inuun kwase = young woman	soo = like, love
ngô = mother, female	wuhe kôr = it feels cold (cold catch)
nom = male, husband	i ndôhol = it is cold

ngô man wan = mother and infant
 ter = father
 Or Tiv (A Tiv man)
 Kwase Tiv (A Tiv woman)

Mbayev Tiv (Tiv children)
 Ônov Tiv (Tiv people)
 Or Amerika (An American)
 Or Kyanada (A Canadian)

Shopping Conversation

Tiv:
 Ka nyi u soo u yamen a?
 M soo u yamen takeda
 Ishe na ka nena?
 Va a naira unyiin
 Me na naira uhar
 Me nau naira uhar
 Kuma ga
 Shi seer naira môm
 U teen utsuwa kpa?
 M teen ve
 Nam ve u har
 Kohol cii ka naira pue

English:
 What do you want to buy?
 I want to buy a book
 How much is it? (The price is how much?)
 Bring four naira
 I'll pay (give) two naira
 I'll pay you two naira
 It's not enough
 Add one (more) naira
 Do you sell pots?
 I do sell them
 Give me two (of them)
 The total is ten naira

Vocabulary IV

môm = one (1)
 har = two (2)
 tar = three (3)
 nyiin = four (4)
 tann = five (5)
 teratar = six (6)
 taan kar uhar = seven (7)
 ikundu = twenty (20)
 ikundu kar môm = twenty-one (21)
 ikundu gber = thirty (30)
 akundu a har = forty (40)
 akundu a har gber = fifty (50)
 akundu a tar = sixty (60)
 akundu a nyiin = eighty (80)
 deri (akundu a taan) = one hundred
 dubu (akundu ikundu gber)
 = one thousand
 dubu deri = one hundred thousand
 dubu dubu = one million

nigheni = eight (8)
 taan kar unyiin = nine (9)
 pue = ten (10)
 pue kar môm = eleven (11)
 pue kar u har = twelve (12)
 pue kar u tar = thirteen (13)
 pue kar u nyiin = fourteen (14)
 dubu dubu deri = one hundred million
 kar = past, pass, over
 kar kwar = to share
 kwar karen = sharing
 nam = give me
 namegh = thigh
 naregh = stretch
 ngohol = get (take) it
 Ka u me? = how many?
 Mba u me? = How many are they?
 Mba ikundu = There are twenty of them

Sentence Build-up Activity 1

Translate the Tiv sentence into English after studying the example in the following:

Ka nyi nee? What is this?
 Ka nyi la?

Ngun ka ikônough This is a chair.
 Mban ka mkonom.

Ngura ka nyi? What is that?
 Ngura ka tebul. That is a table.
 Ngun ka nyi?

Ngun ka ayaba. This is a banana.
Kwagh ne ka nyi? (What bis this?)
Mbera ka uno?

Making/Receiving a Phone Call

Halo, ka an ne? Hello, who is this?

M soo u yôso a Mr. Ami (“I want to
speak with Mr. Ami.”
“Can I speak to Mr. Ami?”)

Ka ya u Ndur ne ga? Is this not
Ndur’s house?

En, ka an u yere? Yes, who’re
you calling?

Iti you er ana? What is your name?

In the Family

Shie ngu nena? What time is it?
Ka ahwa a tar. It’s three o’clock.

Shie kuma u za yaven. It is time
to go sleep. It’s bedtime.
(It is time to go to bed)

Yem za (da) yav. Go and sleep

Yem za ôô iyol. Go take a bath

Kile zwa dedo. Brush your teeth well.

Terngu yar tom. Terngu has gone
to work. (Terngu is working.)

Yem za er (homwek) tom u makeranta.
Go (and) do homework.

Jayshawn ngu ôron Takeda.
Jayshawn is reading a book

M ver kwaghyan. Food is served
(I have served food)

Ka nyi kwaghyana? What’s for food
(dinner)? What type of meal/food)?

Kwaghyan bee .The food is finished
(i.e. all eaten up)

Mba ye? Is it edible? (Do they eat it?)
Mba ye un gaa?

Ka we Terfa? Are you Terfa?
En, ka mo Terfa. Yes, I am Terfa.
Mama wou ngu her kpa? Is your
mother there?

En, ngu her(egh). Yes, she is here.
Tile, m yila un. Wait, I’ll call her.

Tereu (papa wou) ngu her kpa?
Is your father there?

A za kasua. He has gone to the
market (gone shopping).

Ngu her (heregh), de m yila un. He is
there/here, let me call him.

Kile anyi a yem. Brush your
teeth clean. (Brush well.)

Nder, sev av (Wake up, it’s daybreak)

Yav, shie kuma u yaven (Sleep, it’s time to
sleep)

Ngutor ngu yaven. (Ngutor is sleeping.)

Sesugh ngu a nder ga. (Sesugh is not
yet awake.)

M er kwaghyan ga. I did not
prepare any food. Chinkafa i bee.

Se yem hwatev. Let’s go
to the restaurant (hotel).

Yila piza. Call (for) pizza.

Nam mngerem ma man. Give me
(some)drinking water.

Mngerem ma ndohol. Cold water

M soo u suwan. I feel like vomiting

Isho ngi van mo. I feel like vomiting.

Itiough ki nanden mo. I am having a headache.

Ma/mena ichigh kin. Drink/swallow this medicine. (unable to poop).

M soo u nyian. I want to excrete.
(I want to poop/excrete).

		<p>Imese: Ortwer ngu nengen or u ange.</p> <p>Iyan: Kwase ngu kumen kwagh shin lu.</p>
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<p>Itough ki nanden mo. (I have a headache)</p>

Aluer wan kaa er doo un iyol ga shin u nenge wer kera ngu sar sar ga yô, yila ortwer shin tôô un za a na iyoughci. De deen kwaghnyion shon a za hemen ga. Ortwer un ana icigh kwagh la una bee, sha iwasen i Aôndo.

When the child says they are not feeling well or you observe that they are not active, call the doctor or take them to the hospital. The doctor will prescribe medication and the illness will stop, with God's help (God willing).

	<p>Imese: Alôm (Rabbit/hare)</p> <p>Alôm ka waninyam u ken toho. A wa atsera kpishi shi tesen er un hembra fankwagh a hanma inyam cii.</p> <p>[The rabbit is a small bush (wild) animal. It is very clever and thinks it is the wisest of all animals.]</p> <p>Shin inya: Kwase yar tom a wan ken jime.</p> <p>[Woman working with baby at back]</p>
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Vocabulary VA

<p>ya = eat huwa = gluttony ma = drink hunde mosorom = drunk tsee = hot atse = where food is cooked uma = dry uma = life oso = crunchy ombor = without water iuwe = soup kwaghyan = food swase = variety of meat iber = porridge ruam = pudding, fufu akuese = kuasa, fried bean ball akamu = corn cereal ayia = grass stalks gbenda = road, path igbudu = laterite road inya = earth, soil inya = ground Tartor = Heaven</p>	<p>(a)tetan = afternoon Aikighe = evening nomiyange = noon tugh = night sha use = at dawn pepepe = early morning hegen (higen) = now fese = quick hen = think ishemberkwagh = letter of the alphabet asemberakaa = letters of the alphabet mhen = thought, thinking mbamhen = thoughts, ideas jjiir = cook jijingi = shadow ijiir = place beba = broken pughul = to boil dem dem = very cool ange = bitter yuwa = spicy turugh = steam mnyim = smoke</p>
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Sentence Build-up Practice 3

Tema shin tso.
 Sit in the boat

Mato ne yevese gande.
 This car (truck, van) is speeding
 (is running too much).

M fa mato u nahan ga.
 I don't know how to drive.
 (I can't drive.)

Bugh hunda.
 Open the door.

Bugh iyou.
 Open the door.
 (Lit.: open the house)

Nyôr (ker).
 Enter (inside).

Tema inya.
 Sit down.

Tile sha.
 Stand up.

Iyange ngi a due ga.
 The sun is not yet up.

Iyange mire.
 It is dusk (the sun has gone down).

Uwer due.
 The moon is out.

Uwer ta.
 The moon shines.

Uwer u Julai.
The month of July.

A yem sha wo.
He/she went to the mountain.

Wo tav kpishi.
The mountain is very tall.

Hakeem tav kar Ugba.
Hakeem is taller than Ugba.

Unde igungu.
Climb the hill.

Hungwa sha.
Climb down (Get from it).

Iyange i dugh sha
itiough ki tar.
The sun rises from the east.

Iyange mire shin ityô tar.
The sun has set in the west.

Note: The Tiv “up” with reference to the Earth is east, not north. Similarly, the Tiv people consider west as “down,” not the south of earth. The word “sha” is used when a location is at a higher altitude/level; the word “shin” implies a lower altitude/level. To when no altitude/level is unknown, the word “ken” is used.

VOCABULARY VB

ada = bow
ahwa = stirring spoon
aji = eggs
ajingi = glasses
alev = beans
ateghatô = middle
ato = ears
ato = center, buttocks
atoghto = into the night
azurfa, goldu = gold
begha = lion
bird = inyon
biriki = brake
dagi = spear
donko = rubber
gambe = bed
gbande = dish, plate
geri = town, city
hembe = break
hemen = front
hen ato = between
hondo = handle of axe or hoe
hondo = shave
hondo = whistling sound
hough = cough
houghbar = tuberculosis
huma = smells
hungur = sniff
ishu = fish
itiev, sule = farm
ityeku = ocean
ivaan = arrow
ivo = goat
iwa = dog

igirgdogotrain
igirgi purugh = airplane
iho = knife
ihuma = smell
ihundu = dust
ihundugh = madness
ihungwa = pit
ijjiir = judgment
ijingi = glass
ikambe = crab, spanner
ikeke = bicycle
ikese = basket
ikeve = coconut
ikôôr, agbum = snail
ikuhe = bones
ikumén wura = storm
ikuran = partridge
ikureke = Indian corn
ikwembe = clams, clam shell
ikwembe = spoons
ilyaku = canary
imon = bedbug
inyam bua = beef
inyam toho = wildlife
inyamikume = beast
inyan tsar = climbing animal
ishôho = frog
ishondoike = ant
iwanger = light
iyough = bee
ken won = outside
kimin = inside
kuhe = bone
kunde = stir

kwembe = clam, clam shell
 kwembe = spoon
 mato = car
 mato = car
 mhoonom = pity
 mnyim = smoke
 naha = knead with spoon
 naha = oar, wooden spoon
 non bua = bull
 nor mnger = hippo
 nor tar = elephant
 nyadeawambe = bilharzia
 nyinya = horse
 place = ijiir

shauga, soga = sugar
 suse = suck
 tar = land, country
 tar = land, country
 tema tor = reign
 toho = grass
 tough = ear
 tser = playing record
 tswekali (sepun) = spoon
 tungwa hondo = to whistle
 usu = fire
 wua = Guinea corn
 wura = rain
 zanaria = silver

Sentence Build-up Activity 2

Complete the second Tiv sentence in English in each of the following:

M fa ga. (I don't know)
 A fa ga.

U ngu zan hana?
 Where are you going?
 Ne mba zan hana?

M ngu zan makeranta
 I am going to school.
 Se mba zan makeranta.

Baba yen New York
 Father has gone to New York.
 Ngom za New York ga.

Mama kaa er we u nam mkurem.
 Mother says you should give me oil.
 Mama haa mkurem shin ikpe.

Huwa ikondo
 Put on clothes.
 Huwa wondo.

Zer ikondo
 Wear (wrap on) clothes

Ngu idyeregh ga.
 He/she is not naked.
 Ngu avegha ve.

Mkulem ma nyian (Palm oil)

Sentence Build-up Activity 3

Translate the third sentence into English in each of the following:

Chir ikondo iyol
Cover yourself (cover clothes on body).
Chir itiegh.

Ngu a ivav iyol.
He/she has a cut (wound on body).
Se mba a kwaghyan ga.

Bugh ikondo iyol sha.
Uncover yourself (open cloth off body).
Bugh akembe sha.

Er ichigh sha ivav.
Apply medicine on the cut (wound).
Shighe ichigh imor i bee.

Chir kughur sha min.
Cover with a lid.
Bugh hunda.

Itiough ki nanden mo.
I have a headache (headpain)
Inyian kôrom.

Kile agbande.
Wash the dishes.
Kile agbande sha soso.

Iyav mbu nyion Ngufan.
Ngufan has a stomachache.
Nguemo ngu suwan kpishi.

Kile akondo.
Wash the clothes.
Kile akondo sha chahul.

Ngôdo, va ma ichigh.
Ngôdo, come (and) drink
(take) medicine.
Mama na un ichigh.

A tondo ivav.
He/she has a cut.
Kwagh mura un sha inu.

Sentence Build-up Activity 4

Study the first two sentences in activity 5 and then translate the third one from English to Tiv.

Ichigh kin yuwa.
This medicine is bitter.
This line is short.

Angôm u nomso
My brother
My father has gone home.

I nyoho.
It is sweet.
It is tall.

Angôm u nomso gbidi bol.
My brother plays ball.
My friend plays ball.

Ki nyoho ga.
It is not sweet.
It is bad.

Se yem ishu koron.
Let's go fishing.
Let us pray.

Angôm u kwase
My sister
My mother.

Haa kper shin ifi.
Cast the net in the river.
He cast the net in the ocean.

Ber Awuna ngu a ishu.
Lake Ber Awuna has fish.

Mkar Mountain has rocks.

Kon la ngu a ahu.
That tree has leaves.
The horse has ears.

Ngi ndol
A taver iyol.
He/she is strong.
He/she is weak.

Ngu a agee.
He/she has strength.
They have no strength.

It is wet
You (pl) are wet.

I taver.
It is hard (strong).
It is soft.

Er msen hen Aôndo.
Pray to God.
Kneel.

Aôndo ka dooshima.
God is love.
God had mercy on us.

VOCABULARY VI

(and have
abuku = viper
adua = church (service)
agba = arm band
agbe = hook with legs
agbo = bullets
agbo = water yam
Agbo = open market at Kunav
agbur = logs used for seats
agena = smallpox
agwa, alabar = news
akiki = gray owl
akpa = whip
akpagher = good luck charms
akpe = bottles
akpe, ape = a place of
akpekpa = native bread
akpera, lu = mortar
akpev = scabies disease
ambe = crocodile
amire = chicken pox
apesuur = a place of rest
apu = vulture
ashe = eyes
ayarikule = jaundice
dem dem = very cool
gbing = full
gbing gbing = very full
huer = iguana
hur = white ants
ifam = frog

igbo = bullet
Igbo = Ibo (people)
igbur = bench
iguve = eagle
ijiir = place
ikange = guinea fowl
ikpe = bottle
ikume = python
ikume = rainbow
ikungugh = dove
imemegh = bell
inima = bat, an umbrella
inyian = diarrhea
ishe = eye
ishoho = toad
ishondoike = black ants
ishwa = beniseed
ivo = goat
ivungu = owl
iyo = snake
Iyo ne ka i lun a meggh =
iyongo = sheep
kokombo = butterfly
kwantera = deer
kwen = gong
ngôikegh = hen
nomikegh = cock
gbinde = a poisonous snake.
tor = king, roof, kind of mouse
tugh = night
tugh tugh = early morning
wanikegh = chick

	<p>Mbayev makeranta ve kôr itiakeda.</p> <p>The school children are holding books.</p>		<p>Nor tar ngu yevese.</p> <p>The elephant is running.</p>
--	--	--	--

	<p>Wan u kwase kuve ngo na.</p> <p>The daughter hugs her mother.</p> <p>Ve cii mba a ahan zwa.</p> <p>They both are with smiles.</p>		<p>Bagu ngu keren kwaghyan sha kpe wough.</p> <p>The monkey is looking for food on the mountain side.</p>
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ljen kôr wanye (Child in poverty)	Mbuer (Pawpaw)	Kwa u ayaba (Plantain leaf)

Asking Questions

When you arrive in Tivland, Nigeria, people will ask you questions, and you too would like to ask them questions. Study and practice how questions are asked and how to answer them.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. ana, an = who | 4. nyi = what |
| 2. u ana? = whose | 5. sha aci u nyi = why |
| 3. hana = where | 6. nena = how |

Questions Example 1:

Ihungwa ngi hana?
Where is the lavatory?
(Lit. The pit is where?)

Ka nyi i ere?
What happened?

Ka ana?
Who is it?

Ka nyi i lu erene?
What is happening?

Ka mo, Terna
It's me, Terna

Kwaghyan ngu nena?
How is the food?

Ishe na ka nena?
How much is it?

Kwaghyan doo kpishi
The food is very good (delicious)

Ka han ma shie ne va nyere
When did you arrive?

Ka nyi kwagh(a)?
What is it?

Se va nyôr tugh
We arrived at night

Ka kwagh ga
It's nothing

The word *ka* is important in asking questions or making statements. It is used like is, in English.

Questions Example 2:

Where are you going?
U ngu zan hana?

Ami yar tom.
Ami has gone to work.

M ngu zan kasua.
I am going to the market.

U yam ishu sha nyi?
How much did you buy the fish for?

U hide ve?
Welcome (Lit.: Are you back?)

Ishe i ishu (la) ka nena?
What is the cost of the fish?

U za yam nyi?
What did you buy?
M yam wua, temato, inyam,
man mkurem.
I bought Guinea corn,
tomatoes, meat, and oil.

M yam ishu sha naira pue.
I bought the fish for ten naira.

Inyam bua taver ishe gande.
Beef (cow meat) is too expensive.

Ka han Ami a lu?
Where is Ami?

Takzi ngu kpa?
Is there taxicab?

4 ENGLISH-TIV VOCABULARY GUIDE

This is an English-Tiv vocabulary list that you can use as a quick reference in your quest to learn Tiv. Do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions that our Tiv relative may not be able to help you.

- About¹ (**kwagh u**): on the subject of. *Akiga Story* is a book about the Tiv people. “*Akiga Story*” *ka takerada u kwagh u Tiv*.
- About² (**kuma er**): a little more or a little less of something; almost. There are about forty beans in the can. *Asange a alev nga shin pampam kuma er akundu ahar nahan*.
- Accident (**aburabur**): something that happens by mistake. He stepped on the glass by accident. *A ndyar sha jingi sha aburabur*.
- Accused (**or u i yer nan ijir**): the person or group accused of a crime or offense. The accused denied the charges. *Or u i yer nan ijir nan tuna akaa a i we nan ijir la*.
- Acetylcholine (**asetilkolin**): a chemical released by a vagus nerve fibre of the body that controls the rate and force of the heartbeat—weaker and slower. Compare epinephrin-impulses from the cardiac sympathetic nerve that make the heartbeat stronger and faster. Too low or too high acetylcholine is not good. *U lun a asetilkolin kuman ga shin ngeen yum doo ga*.
- Acid (**asid**): compound that produces positive hydrogen ions when dissolved in water. An orange fruit has acid in it. *Itiamegh ki alum ki a asid kimin*.
- Acquittal: (**i pase or, ijir kôr ga**): judgment that a criminal charge has not been proven beyond a reasonable doubt; found “not guilty.” The lawyer moved for acquittal, because the accused was not found guilty. *Loya kaa er i pase or u iyer nan ijir la, shaciu ijir kôr nan ga*.
- Across (**per**): to go from one side of something to the other. I cross the stream to reach the school. *Ka m per wagh u aren ken makeranta*.
- Actor (**aketo, or u ke kwagghir**): pretending to be someone else in a play. Will is an actor. *Will ka aketo*.
- Adaptation (**mvar a jjiir, hingir ikpareghaa**): the adjustment of organisms to their environment. Marvin write about the adaptation of the turtle and the desert. *Marvin nger kwagh u mvar u kurugh aa desereti*.
- Add (**seer**): to put one thing with another or others. Add one more cup of hot water to the first two to make three cups. *Seer kôp u mnger mom sha mba hiihii mba uhar mbera i kuma utar*.
- Addition (**seer**): the act of adding something or number to another. Three plus two (3 + 2) are five. *Utar seer uhar (3 + 2) ka utaan*.
- Adult (**igyandenor, igyandenkwase, igyandenkwagh**): a grown-up man, woman, or other creature. A twenty-year old man is an adult. *Or u lun anyom ikundu ka igyandenor*.
- Affidavit: (**wanwegh sha kwagh u u sôugh yô**): a written statement of facts confirmed by the oath of the party making it. Affidavits must be notarized to be authentic. *Saa u wa weggh sha afideviti man una lu a inja ye*.
- Afraid (**mcie Miyol**): being scared or frightened. The child was afraid because her mother left her. *Wan ngu a mcie Miyol shaciu ngô na undu un*.
- Again (**kimbir, kwahar**): to do something one more time or a second time. If you wash your hands but still have soil on them, you must wash them again. *Aluer u ôô ave kpa inya ngi shamin her yô, kimbir ôôn a*.
- Agree (**rumun**): to think the same way or want the same thing as another person or as other people. We agree to be quiet in church. *Se rumun u lun ving ken iyough adua*.
- Ahead (**sha hemen**): to be in front of something or someone. Vanger is ahead of Atume in the four-hundred-meter race. *Vanger ngu sha hemen u Atume ken ayem a mita deri unyiin*.

- AIDS (*EIZ*): a disease caused by a virus that makes a person's immune system unable to
 Air (*ahumbe*): what we breathe or feel when the wind blows. Blow air to put out the lamp's flame. *Fehe ahumbe nombol usu u imenger u pir.*
- Airplane (*igirgi purugh*): a machine that carries people and goods and flies in the sky; has wings like a bird. She rode an airplane to Kano. *A nyôr igirgi a yem Kano.*
- Alcoholism (*angev mbu man msôrom ganden*): disease caused by drinking large amounts of alcohol daily and not being able to stop the habit. The disease of alcoholism is hard to cure. *Angev mbu man msôrom ganden taver u sôron been.*
- Algae (*ikon*): large group of primitive plants, ranging in size from microscopic to the visible kind. The surface of the pond has green algae. *Taregh ku ijande ngu a ikon (gba ikon).*
- All (*cica*): everything with nothing left. I carried all my books. *M tôô itiakeda yam cica.*
- Allegation (*u kaan er or er kwaghbo*): Something that someone says happened. The allegation is that Doe stole Jane's bags. *I kaa er kwaghbo u Doe a er yô a ii akpa a Jane.*
- Allow (*na ian*): to let someone do or say something. Please allow me to speak. *We a rumun yô nam ian m ôr kwagh.*
- Alone (*tswen, tsegh*): having no one with a person. (1) He came alone. *A va (wen) tswen.*
 (2) It is you alone who did not have food. *Ka we tesgh u zough a kwaghyan ga ye.*
- Along¹ (*hen*): moving from one point to another on a road or path. Jay walked along the side of the road to go to his house. *Jay zende hen kpegbenda u yemen ke nya na.*
- Along² (*vea*): together with. Please come with me. *We a rumun yô va vea mo.*
- Aloud (*imo i due sha, taver taver*): to say something so it can be heard. Speak aloud so people can hear. *Lam imo i due sha er ior vea ungwâ yô.*
- Alveolus (*akpa a huhu*): grape-like cluster of tiny balloons in the lungs (plural: alveoli). Her alveolus has holes. *Akpa a huhu na pev.*
- Always (*hanma shie, hôron shio*): all the time. I always remember to put medicine drops in my eyes at night before going to sleep. *Ka m umbur hanma shie u tan icigh ken tugh man m za yav ye.*
- Amoebic dysentery (*amobik*): disease caused by protozoa of the amoeba group. Amoebic dysentery caused his loose bowel movement. *Amobik va un a inyian.*
- Amount (*ingeegh*): how much or how many of something there is. (1) The amount of money The amount you paid for the chair is too high. *Ingeegh ki inyar(egh) ki u kimbi sha ikônough la ki kehe gande.* (2) How much did you pay? Five thousand naira? *U kimbi inyaregh nena? Naira dubu utaan na?*
- Anger (*ishimavihin*): to possess a feeling of madness about something. She is filled with about my messy room. *Ngu a ishimavihin sha er iyough yam i hev yum yô.*
- Angry (*ishima vihi*): to be upset about something. Ade is angry at me. *Ishima vihi Ade a mo.*
- Angry (*ishima vihi*): to get mad about something; one does not like what is happening or the condition or situation. I am angry that my son's room is messy. *Ishima vihim sha er iyough i wan wam i hôv yum.*
- Animal (*inyam, kwaghuma u a lu kon shin toho ga*): any living thing that is not a plant or protist. A rabbit is an animal, a cotton tree is not. *Alôm ka aniyam, kon mough yô ga.*
- Another [*u gen(egh)*]: one more of something or a different kind of thing or way. (1) Terhembra wants another banana. *Terhembra soo ayaba u gen(egh).* (2) I don't want this one; give me another. *M soon ngun ga; nam u gen(egh).*
- Answer¹ (*amsa, ikar i nan, mrumun*): The formal written statement by a person responding to a question. My answer is, "No". *Ikar i nan yam ka, "Ei".*
- Answer² (*na mrumun, na ikyar, na amsa*): to respond or reply to something such as a question or a signal (ringing of a bell or phone). (1) Please answer the question. *Wea rumun yô na mrumun sha mpin la.* (2) The phone is ringing; I must answer it. *Fon ngu gbiyen; me amsa un.*
- Ant (*ishondokye*): a small, crawling insect such as a bee or wasp. I don't want an ant (pl) in my food. *M soo ishondoikye shin kwaghyan wam ga.*
- Antibiotic (*chigh ki yangen jeem u samber*): chemical substance that slows down or stops bacteria from spreading. The doctor gave me antibiotic for my ear infection. *Ortwer*

- nam icigh ki ato a nanden.*
- Any (**momken**): one out of many. I want any of those two hats. *M soo momken ader a ahar la.*
- Appeal (**apil**): A request made after a trial, asking another court (usually the court of appeals) to decide whether the trial was conducted properly. Make an appeal if you are not satisfied with the judgment. *Er apil aluer i ôr ijir sha ishma you ga yô.*
- Arm¹ (**ikasewegh**): the part of the body between the shoulder and the hand. Ses' arm hurts after lifting lots of bags of potatoes. *Ikasewegh u Ses nyion sha u kenden aba a atsaka.*
- Arm² (**ikaghkinumugh**): a weapon or an article of defense/attack. Guns and bombs are arms. *Ugburka man ubom ka ikavmbinumugh.*
- Arm³ (**tôôn ikavmbiutiav**): to equip oneself or other with a weapon. The soldier armed himself and went to war. *Orshoja tôô ikavmbiutiav yem itiav.*
- Around (**ningir**): about in a circle. I walked around the house. *M zende ya m ningir m yisa.*
Compare, *ningir* (v): to go around)
- Artery (**gbaaishima u duen a awambe**): blood vessel that carries blood away from the heart *duen a awambe u vesen er Aorta.*
- Artificial (**atilishia, abananya, gbaaôndo ga**): not the real thing; not found in nature or made by people such as artificial heart. Doctor gave him an artificial heart. *Ortwer wa un ishima i gbaaôndo ga.*
- Ask (**pine**): to want to find out an answer about something; to enquire about something. (1) Your mother will show you only if you ask. *Ngôu una teseu aluer u pine un yô.* (2) Ask for permission if you wish to leave your seat. *Pine ian aluer u soo u undun kwaghteman wou yô.*
- Asleep (**mnya, yaven**): sleeping; not awake. He is asleep; don't wake him. *Ngu mnya (yaven); de nderen un ga.*
- Astronaut (**ornahantsoukeasan**): a member of a crew who travels in a spaceship. Who will be Nigeria's first astronaut? *Ka an nana ya or Nigeria u hiiiii u lun ornahantsoukeasan?*
- Attention (**ayôôsushio, tile ayôôsu, vera to, na atenshen**): to look and listen to what someone is saying or doing. Pay attention to the explanation of how to solve a math problem in multiplication. *Ver ato ungwa mpase u eren ayenge a kwaghkwa.*
- Aunt (**aningbian u kwase u ngôu gayô tereu**): the sister of one's mother or father. Adoo is Jay's aunt. *Adoo ka aningbian u kwase u ter u Jay.*
- Author (**orngerenakaa, orngerentakeda**): someone who writes things like poems, stories, plays, or books. Write to the author of *Tiv Step-by-Step* to suggest additions. *Nger orngerentakeda u Tiv Step-by-Step sha u nan kwaghseer.*
- Awake (lun per): not sleeping. Ayati is awake; he is not sleeping. *Ayati ngu per; nu yaven ga.*
- Away (**kera**): somewhere else. (1) Go away. *Yem kera.* (2) We threw away the rotten yam. *Se ta iyough ki hôôn kera.*
- Baby (**wanikundan**): a very young child. A baby also cries. *Waikundan kpa vaan.*
- Back¹ (**jime**): part of the body opposite the chest that is between the neck and the hips. Carry the baby on your back. *Vav wanikundan ken jime.*
- Back² (buutu): part of a thing that is behind the front. The Mercedes has a trunk at the back of the car; the Beetle has it in the front. *Buutu u Mercedes ngu ken jime i mato; u Wagen nu ken hemen.*
- Bacteria (**Baketeria, ujeem**): class of microscopic, one-celled organisms, some of which cause diseases and others may play the role of ripening fruits. Wash your hands to prevent harmful bacteria. *Ôô ave sha u yangen ujeem mba bov.*
- Bad¹ (**eren akaa dedo ga, dang**): something that is not good. He was punished for doing bad things. *I tsaha un sha u eren akaa a dedo ga.*
- Bad² (**ishimavihin**): not happy. You lost the race and I feel bad for you. *U hemba ayam ga nahan m ngu a ishimavihin sha kwagh wou.*
- Baffle (**hwange u tôô ... ga**): to not know what to do or think; confused. He is baffled by the idea of what came first, the egg or the chicken. *A fa hwange u una tôô u fan kwagh u a vande van ga, ijikegh shin ikegh.*
- Bag (**ikpa**): a kind of container. I put the things that I bought at the market in the bag. *M*

- wa akaa a m yam ken kasua la shin ikpa.*
- Bail (**u ngohol wegh**): to temporarily release (a prisoner) in exchange for security given. A person may be bailed because they are well-known. I paid ₦10,000 to bail Jato. *M kimbi ₦10,000 u ngohol Jato wegh.* The amount of bail (n) was ₦10,000. *Inyaregh ki I ne u ngohol wegh ka ₦10,000.*
- Bake (**bek, er**): to cook in the oven. I baked (pt) the bread in the oven. *M bek beredi ken oven.*
- Band (**mbakuhan man tongon akaa**): a group of people playing musical instruments together. The Morgan State University Band plays well. *Mbakuhan man tongon akaa mba Morgan State ka ve kuha kwagh i doo.*
- Bank (**bam, banki, ape koson inyaregh**); a place or institution established to keep money and valuables for people and organizations. Iornenge put his money in the bank. *Iornenge wa inyaregh nagh ken banki.*
- Bank robbery(s) [**u numun banki/bam**]: the act of stealing from a bank, specifically by force or threat of violence. Someone used a gun to commit bank robbery. *Or nyôr a gbuka u numun banki.*
- Bank¹ (**banki, bam**): a place or thing to put money to save or hold until needed. I have twenty thousand naira in the bank. *M ngu a naira dubu ikundu ken banki.*
- Bank² (**ijem i uwagh**): the higher up part of a stream. The bank of Mu stream is ten meters high. *Ijem i uwagh u Mu tav kuma mita pue.*
- Bankruptcy (**den a anzô**): Refers to statutes and judicial proceedings involving persons or
- Barber (**orhondonitiough, baba**): someone who cuts hair, usually for money. Mr. Dee is a barber. *Mr. Dee ka orhondonitiough.*
- Bark¹ (**gbehe**): the sound that a dog makes; making sound like a dog. The dog barked loudly. *Iwa gbehe genger genger.*
- Bark² (**akôv, akembe**): the outside covering of a tree. The bark of a tree helps to prevent tree diseases. *Akôv a kon ka a yange kon u zuan a iangev mbi ikon.*
- Barn (**zegeitumbe**): a building on a farm where cows, horses, hay, and grain are kept. It is etter for Fulani herdsmen to have barns. *Hemba doon u Fulani ve lu a zege mbaatumbev (pl).*
- Basket¹ (**ikese**): a kind of container made of wood, grass, metal or other material woven together. Aya puts her fruits in the basket. *Aya ka a wa atamaikon na shin ikese.*
- Basket² (kper u bol): a metal hoop and net through which a basketball or netball goes to score a goal. The basket for adult basketball is higher than that for the youth. *Kper u bol u mbavesen ka a hemba taven sha a u mbayev.*
- Baste (**hingir inyam, haa mzeram sha inyam**): to pour or brush a liquid or melted butter on meat, chicken, or turkey while roasting in the oven to keep it moist and soft. Use a sauce to baste the turkey. *Haa mzeram sha inyam teki i leghem.*
- Bat¹ (**inima**): a small, fluffy animal that has a body that looks like a mouse and wings to fly; it flies at night and sleeps during the day. A bat can be found in a cave. *U faityôô u zun a inima ken bar.*
- Bat² (**kwagh u gbidyen bol a min, bati**): a wooden/metal/plastic stick or club to hit the ball in cricket, baseball, or tennis ball. The bat broke when he hit the baseball. *Bati kevel shie u a gbidye beisbol shamin yo.*
- Bath (**iyolôôn**): the act of washing something or someone (or oneself) in water. Wes is in the bathroom; he has started taking a bath. *Wes ngu ken kwa; a hii iyolôôn.*
- Bathe (**ôô iyol**): to wash in water. He bathes before going to work. *Ka a ôô iyol man a yar tom ye.*
- Battle (**itiav**): a fight; struggle. Israel and Gaza battle each other with bombings. *Israel man Gaza mba nôngon itiav a ubom mba tan.*
- Beach (**kpeityeku, kpeifi**): the sandy land along the edge of an ocean or river. We went to the beach yesterday. *Nyen se za sha kpeityeku.*
- Beautiful¹ (**doo ashe**): something (or person) that is good to look at. (1) The flower is beautiful. *Felawa (imondon) doo ashe.* (2) That girl is beautiful. *Wankwase la doo ashe.*
- Beautiful² (**engemdo, na msaaniyol**): when something is pleasing to one's sight or

- hearing. This cloth is beautiful. *Ikondo ne i engemdo.*
- Because (*shaciu, saciu*): it tells you why something is or has happened. The baby is crying because she is hungry. *Wan ngu vaan shaciu ijen kôr un.*
- Bed (*gambe*): a place in which to sleep. I sleep in my bed at night. *Tugh ka m yav shin gambe wam.*
- Bee (*iyough*): a flying insect that buzzes and can sting and make honey. The bee stung him and left the stinger in the skin. *Iyough ta un man shi undu soho ken kwaviyolou.*
- Begin (*hii*): to start. Begin playing the flute. *Hii u tungwan (tongon) imar.*
- Beginning (*mhii*): the start of something. Start reading at the beginning of chapter five. *Hii u ôron sha mhii u itiough ki sha utaan.*
- Behind (*jime*): at the back of something. Pendaitiough stood behind her child. *Pendaitiough tile ken jime i wan na.*
- Belief (*jighjigh u nan*): the thought one has about the truth of something. it is my belief that God exists. *M ngu a jighjigh u nan mer Aôndo ngu.*
- Believe (*na jighjigh*): thinking something is true. I believe in COVID-19 vaccine. *M na jighjigh ken iwambe i COVID-19.*
- Bell (*imemegh*): something that rings. The bell rings to start classes. *I gbidye imemegh er ukelase ve hii.*
- Bellybutton (*itsombo*): the part of the body called the navel. The bellybutton of Akiki is large; that of Akinde is small. *Itsombo i Akiki i kehe; i Akinde i ndahar.*
- Belong¹ (*wam, wen, wase, kau ...*): something that one owns. The book belongs to John; his name is written on it. *Takeda ne kau John; i nger iti na ker.*
- Belong² (*lun nongo môm*): to be in the right place. A sharp knife does not belong among the books on the shelf. *Ihô i esen ngi nongo môm a itiakeda i sha ape veren itiakeda ga.*
- Bench trial (*ijir i jurishio*): Trial without a jury in which a judge decides the facts. In a jury trial, the jury decides the facts. Defendants will occasionally waive the right to a jury trial and choose to have a bench trial. He asked for a jury trial. *A pine er i ôr un ijir i jurishio.*
- Benign (*ityôkwaghshio, maityôkwaghga*): a condition that is harmless (not a medical issue). The bump on my head is benign. *Inundu i sha itiough yagh ka maityôkwaghga.*
- Beside (*dondoghoo, ikooso*): to be next to something. Stand beside me. *Tile dondoghoo a mo (ken ikooso yam).*
- Between (*hen atô*): in the space that separates two things or objects. Ana sat between Terhemba and Nguhemmen. *Ana tema hen atô u Terhemba man Nguhemmen.*
- Bicycle (*ikeke*): a machine with two wheels, pedals, and handlebars that a person can ride to places. Doofan can ride a bicycle. *Doofan una faityô u hendan ikeke.*
- Big (*kehe, zegenan*): something that takes up a larger space than the small one. An elephant is big; a mouse is small. *Nor kehe; ihev ndahar.*
- Bird (*inyon*): an animal with feathers and a beak. Some birds can fly. A chicken is a bird; so is a pigeon. *Ikegh ka inyon; di er ikungugh nahan.*
- Birthday (*iyangeimmar*): the day of the year someone was born. Terhemba's birthday is December 25, 1984. *Iyangeimmar i Terhemba ka December 25, 1984.*
- Bite (*nyuma, nyima*): to break off a piece of something with teeth. If you enter the fence, his dog will bite you. *Aluer u nyor ken igyar yô, iwa na ia nyuma u.*
- Block¹ (*yange u karen*): to set an obstacle to prevent something from passing or going through. Block the road when the bridge is damaged. *Yange mato u karen sha gbenda shie u tsar u vihi yô.*
- Block² (*ikamegh ki zegenan*): large bricks used for building houses. He made enough blocks to build a small house. *A ta akam a zegenan kuma u maan iyough i kiriki. Akam,* plural noun.
- Blood (*awambe*): red liquid that is pumped to all parts of the body by the heart. Blood in the body flows to parts of the body through blood vessels. *Awambe a ken iyol ka a zende ken avegher a iyol sha igbiraawambe.*
- Board (*kpande*): a flat piece of wood used in the construction of things. I bought boards to repair the shack door. *M yam ikpande (pl) i sôron hunda itumbe.*
- Boat (*tso*): something that floats in the water used to carry people and goods; it may or

- may not have an engine. A boat with an engine can go faster than one without. *Tso u a lu a injin hembe yevese a u alu a min ga yô.*
- Both (**mba uhar**): two things together. Both Tom and Tim are writing. *Tom man Tim, ve mba uhar, mba ngeren kwagh.*
- Bottle (**ikpe**): a kind of container made of glass or plastic material. I have water in the bottle. *M ngu a mngerem shin ikpe. Akpe*, plural noun.
- Bottom (**u masen shin inya**): the place or position farthest from the top. The stack of blocks crumbled because someone pushed the bottom block. *Tihi akam gba shaciu orgen daa ikamegh ki masen shin inya la.*
- Bowl (**gbande**): a deep, round dish. Put the porridge in the red bowl. *Haa iber shin gbande u nyian la.*
- Box (**akwati**): a container that you put things in it. He kept the box of clothes in his room. *A ver akwati u akondo shin iyough na.*
- Boy (**wanye nomso**): a male child that will grow up to be a man. Jay is fourteen years old and still a boy. *Jay ngu anyom pue kar anyiin man ngu wanye nomso her.*
- Break (**hembe, vihi**): if something stops working or has fallen to pieces. If you drop the glass, it will break. *Aluer u de ijingi gba yô, ia hembe.*
- Breakfast (**kwaghyan u pepe**): the meal eaten in the morning. She eats bread and eggs for breakfast. *Kwaghyan na u pepe ka i lu beredi man ajiikegh.*
- Bridge (**tsar**): something that is built across a stream, river, or road so people, vehicles, and other things can cross. A bridge is built across River Benue at Makurdi. *I maa (er) tsar sha Ifi u Benue hen Makurdi.*
- Bring (**va a ...**): to have something with you when you come to a place. Bring beef soup when you come to the party. *Va a iue inyam shie u vaan inongo yô.* broken.
- Bronchus (**gôngol u nan huhu ahumbe**): tube that branches off from the trachea; (plural: Bronchi/**ugôngol mba**) that supplies air to the left and right lungs.
- Broom (**chancha, ishuugh**): a kind of brush usually on a long stick used to sweep up dirt and trash from the floor. Take the broom; sweep the yard. *Tôô canca; ese tembe.*
- Brush (**buroshi**): something used to brush teeth. A special kind that looks like a broom is used for painting things. Pack a brush in your bag whenever you travel. *Wa buroshi shin ikpa hanma shie u u lu zan zende yô.* Brush, verb, as in brush your teeth: *kile anyi* or *kile zwa*.
- Build (**maa**): put bricks or blocks or solid things (e.g., planks) together to make something. Ishaikyôr used boards to build a doghouse. *Ishaikyôr maa iyough i iwa sha ikpande.*
- Building (**imaan**): a place with walls and a roof to live in or store things in. Tarhembra's building is very strong. *Imaan i iyough i Tarhembra taver kpishi.*
- Bump¹ (**inundugh**): a lump or swelling on the body or found on the road when it is uneven. (1) Slow down when you see a bump on the road. *Er teghelee shie u u nenge a inundugh sha gbenda yô.* (2) I have a bump on my shoulder. *M ngu inundugh sha vande. Anundu(gh)*, plural.
- Bump² (**ta ken kwagh**): to hit a part of your body (or vehicle) against something. If I am not careful, I will bump into the person in front of me. *Aluer m ver ishima ga yô, me ta ken or u nan lu ken hemen wam yô.*
- Burn (**hia**): what happens to something when it catches fire. (1) Dry grass will burn if you set fire to it. *Toho u ombor ua hia aluer u ta usu shamin yô.* (2) Very hot material will burn your skin. *Kwagh u tseen kpish una hia u.*
- Bush animal/meat (**inyam toho**): animals found in grasslands or forests (or their meat). businesses that cannot pay their debts and seek the assistance of the court in getting a fresh start.
- Busy (**a kwagh ave, a tom ave**): to have something or things to do. Wasem is busy cooking dinner. *Wasen ngu a tom ave u eren kwaghyan u aikie.*
- Butcher (**orsôngon inyam**): someone who cuts and sells meat. Zendesha is a butcher at the market. *Zendesha ka orsôngon inyam hen kasua.*
- Butterfly (**kokombo**): an insect with a thin body and four wings that are sometimes

- colourful. Ayom saw a butterfly on the back of a big cow. *Ayom nenge a kokombo sha jime i zege ngôbua.*
- Button¹ (**baton**): the round sign in the elevator that you can push to take you up or down the floors of a multi-story building. Push the button for the third floor. *Kighir baton u yemen (zan) sha iyough i shaaôndo i sha utar.*
- Button² (**ikuva**): a small and flat device used to hold parts of clothes together. I have a missing button on my shirt. *Ikuva i sha riga wam kera ngi ga. Akuva*, plural noun.
- Buy (**yam**): to pay for something so that it belongs to you. I have enough money to buy shoes. *M ngu a inyaregh kuma ki me yam akôv yô.*
- Cake (**kyeki**): baked food made with flour, eggs, butter, and sugar. Aondona's mother baked a cake to remember his birthday. *Ngo u Aondona ereun kyeki i umbur iyangeimmar na.*
- Calendar (**kalenda**): a chart that tells the day, week, and month of the year it is. My calendar says today is Tuesday, May 6, 2024. *Kalenda wam tese er nyian ka Tomahar, Mei 6, 2024.*
- Call¹ (**yila**): to use a loud voice to ask someone to come or pay attention to something. Call the children to return to the classroom. *Yila mbayev ve hide ken kelase.*
- Call² (**yila sha telefon**): to call someone using a telephone. I gave her a call to discuss her schoolwork. *M yila un sha fon u yôôso a na sha tommakeranta.*
- Call³ (mba yer er, ka i yila er): to give something or someone a name. Some calendars call the day of rest is Sunday. *Kalenda mba gen ka ve yila iyange i memen er Lahadi.*
- Call⁴ (**kar hen**): to make a short/brief visit or stop before continuing. Make a call at the Mkar Orphanage to give them a bag of rice. *Kar hen Ya u Anikundanev u Mkar sha u nan ve iba cinkafa.*
- Can¹ (**pampam**): a container, usually made of metal used to store food or other things. Jayshawn opened a can of tomato. *Jayshawn bugh pampam u tematu.*
- Can² (**faityô**): it is possible to do something. Sesugh can make food (cook). *Sesugh a faityô u eren kwaghyan (yôron).*
- Cancer (**kyansa**): abnormal and uncontrolled cell reproduction. If one does not stop smoking tobacco, they may get cancer of the lung. *Aluer or de shigari i man ga yô, alaghga nana zua a kyansa u sha huhu.*
- Cap¹ (**kughul**): a lid or cover at the top of a can or bottle to hold food or other things. This cap is hard to take off. *Kughul ne taver u bughun.*
- Cap² (**idyer**): something people wear on their heads for fashion or to cover their hair. My wife wears a cap to get into the shower. *Kwase wam ka a cir idyer u nyôron ken kwa u ôôn iyol.*
- Cape (**keipi, riga u purugh**): a coat that has no sleeves worn by superheroes. Superman wears a cape when flying. *Supaman ka a hua keipi shie u a lu purugh yô.*
- Capital¹ (**jindi inyar u hiin kasua**): Capital often refers to money used to start a business (or all the money that a company owns). She had five million naira as capital for her business. *Yan lu a jindi inyar i hiin kasua na kuma naira milien utaan.*
- Capital² (**geri u ityough ki govmenti**): the city or town where the government of a state or country is located. Makurdi is the capital of Benue State. *Makurdi ka geri u ityough ki govmenti u Benue State.*
- Capital³ (**ishemberkwagh i tamen**): the large form of the letter of the alphabet. The names of people must begin with a capital letter. *Hii ati a ior (u ngeren) sha ishemberkwagh i tamen.*
- Capital offense (**kwaghbo a ve a ku yô**): A crime punishable by death. In the federal system, it applies to crimes such as first-degree murder, genocide, and treason.
- Car (**mato, kwagghendan**): something that people ride in. example, a pleasure car, a cable car, or a track car. My car is called Honda. *Mato wam mba yer er Honda.*
- Card (**kaadi**): a piece of paper saying you have registered at the hospital, inviting someone to an occasion or acknowledge an occasion or used for playing a game. Terzungwe sent me a Christmas greeting card. *Terzungwe tindim a kaadi u ishughun i Kirimishi.*
- Careful (**tegelee, lu a ikoivan**): to pay attention to what you are doing. A butcher must

- be careful not to wound her hand. *Kwase u sôngon inyam una er teghelee sha er una tondo ivav sha we ga yô.*
- Carnivore (**ye inyam tsegh**): an animal that eats another animal. A lion is a beast that is a carnivore. *Begha ka inyamikume i yan inyam tsegh.*
- Carpenter (**orkapinta**): someone who builds things with wood such doors, cages, roofs, furniture, etc. Wanan is a carpenter who used to make wooden furniture. *Wanan ka orkapinta u ngise a er akaateman a ikon yô.*
- Carpet (**kapeti**): something that is used to cover the floor. The carpet was cleaned with water. *I kile kapeti sha mnger(em).*
- Carry (tôô, kôr): to pick up something and take it from one place to another. Carry the dish with your hands. *Tôô gbande sha ave ough.*
- Carton (**katôn**): a kind of container that holds things like bottles of water, cans of tomato, or other things. The cook received one carton of cans of beans; the others will come next week. *Kuku ngohol katôn u upampam mba alev mom; mbagen(ev) vea va kasua u sha/a lu van la.*
cases to compensate the plaintiffs for their injuries.
- Cash (**inyaregh tsegh**): money that is available in notes and coins and can be used. We sell by cash only. *Se mba teen kwagh sha inyar tsegh.*
- Cat¹ (**kpatema**): a small, domestic and furry animal with claws. Her cat likes people (is friendly). *Kpatema na soo ior (ka a doo a ior).*
- Cat² (**begha**): a big, flurry and wild animal with claws called lion (male) or lioness (female). I saw a wild cat in the zoo. *M nenge a begha hen ape (ijiir i) koson inyam.*
- Catch (**kôr**): to grab something that has been thrown to you. Catch the ball and don't drop it. *Kôr bol man de deen a gbaan ga.*
- Cave (**bar**): a big hole under the round or in the side of a hill or mountain. The cave at Mkar hill is filled with bat dung smell. *Bar u ken wo u Mkar iv a ihuma i ambi a anema.*
- Ceiling (**silin**): the part of the room that separates the floor from the roof. This ceiling is made of wood boards. *I er silin ne sha ikpande ikon.*
- Cell (**sel**): the smallest unit of living matter. All living things have cells in them. *Akaa a uma cii nga a usel keregh.*
- Certain (**fa dedo**): to be very sure of something. I am certain that she is asleep. *M fa dedo mer a yav.*
- Chair (**ikônough**): a piece of furniture with a back to lean on that one can sit on. Sit in the chair and relax. *Tema shin ikônough man mem.*
- Change (**musan, gema**): to make something different. (1) How can you change wood into ash? You burn it. *U er nena man u gema ikon ia hingir mtuhem e? U nande ia hia.* (2) Change a one-naira note into kobo. *Muan kwa naira mom ken ikobo.*
- Charge¹ (**ibaver i lateriki**): the state of an atom that has lost or gained an electron. If you connect the two ends of wires from a battery, you will see charged particles. *Aluer u zua uwaya mba sha itough ki bateri uhur yô, u nenge a ibaver i lateriki.*
- Charge² (**kwagh u i we ijir sha min yô**): The law that the police believe the defendant has broken gives them the authority to take them to court. The offense Abaya has committed is enough to charge him. *Kwagh u Abaya a er kuma u a zan a na ken ijir.*
- Chase (**zenda**): to go or run after something to catch it. If the pig breaks out of the pen, chase it to catch it. *Aluer igo due ken iyough i igoo yô, zenda i kôr.*
- Cheeks¹ (**ahenge**): the inside of the side of the face. The bugler has air in his cheeks to blow into the pipe of the bugle. *Ortungwan kakaki kura ahumbe ken ahenge u fehen ken gôngol u kakaki. Hengegh, singular, (n).*
- Cheeks² (a asegh): the outside of the sides of the face. He painted his cheeks on Halloween. *A kpela kwagh sha a asegh shie u Halloween. Uwasegh, singular, (n).*
- Chemical reaction (**wan akaa eren tom zuan a kwagh u he**): a process by which one substance reacts with another to produce a new kind of substance.
- Chest (**ape wan akaa**): a container that to hold things one treasures. Wanmbagben put her jewelry in a chest. *Wanmbagben ver mbaabinkuni man asa na shin ape wan akaa.*
- Chest¹ (**vanger**): the front part of the body between the neck and the stomach. *Your heart*

- is inside your chest.*
- Chew (**tam**): to mash up food with one's teeth before swallowing it. Chew your food well to help it to digest. *Tam kwaghyan wou dedo sha er u wase un a sough yô.*
- Chicken (**ikegh**): a kind of bird kept by farmers for their eggs and meat. A hen is a chicken, and a rooster, too. *Ngôikegh ka ikegh, man nomikegh, kpa.*
- Child (**wanye**): a young boy or girl. The girl child is **wanyekwase** (or wankwase); the boy child is **wanyenomso**. Girl children, *mbayevkasev* (pl); boy children, *mbayevnomso* (pl).
- Chilly (**wuhe kôr**): feeling very cool and uncomfortable if you do not have on a coat or sweater. It is too cold outside, and I am feeling chilly. *I ndôhol ken won kpishi, nahan wuhe kôrom.*
- Chin (**gbem**): the part of the face below the mouth. Some people have a beard on their chin. *Ior mbagenev ka ve lu a indyer shin gbem.*
- Choice (**msoo, mtsough**): what one has chosen or selected. This red tomato is your choice. *Tematu u nyian ne ka mtsough wou je ne.*
- Choose (**dugh, tsua**): to pick or select one thing or the other. Choose between an orange and a mango. *Dugh ken ato u alum man mongol.*
- Circle (*ikav i gbililiti*): a round shape. Draw one circle and one straight line. *Kpera ikav i gbililiti imom man hwange u jighilii.*
- City (**zege geri**): a place where many people live and work; it is larger than a town or village. Gboko is a town; Kano is a city. *Gboko ka geri; Kano ka zege geri.*
- Clean (**wanger, engem, hôv ga**): not dirty. He swept the yard, so it is clean. *A ese tembe, nahan u kera hôv ga.*
- Climb (**unde**): to move up toward the top of something such as a tree, hill, or building. Mkelan climbed the tree to pick the mango. *Mkelan unde kon da zôr mongol.*
- Clock (**agogo**): a machine that shows someone what time it is. The clock rung to wake me up for breakfast time. *Agogo gbidye u nderen mo u zan kwaghyan u pepe.*
- Close¹ (*wuhe, cir*): to shut something. Close the door. *Wuhe hunda.*
- Close² (*ikua*): to be near each other. Sit close to me. *Tema ikua vea mo.*
- Closer (**ikua ikua**): go closer to the hoop before you shoot. *Za ikua ikua a kper man u ker u yan iko ye.*
- Clothes (**akondo**): material made from cloth, wool, or nylon that people wear. Wear clean clothes to the house of your God. *Hua akondo a lu tsembelee u zan ken iyough i Aôndo wou.*
- Cloud (**ibeenegh**): white or dark fluffy material that floats in the sky made of tiny drops of water. I see the airplane flying through a cloud. *M nenge igirgi purugh ngi purugh ken ibeenegh.*
- Coat (**koti**): a piece of clothing usually worn over other clothes. A car salesperson was wearing a long coat. *Orteen mato hua koti u gogonan.*
- Coin (**saminyar**): a piece of money made from metal such as copper, nickel, and zinc. Money in coins is heavy; that (money) in notes is not heavy. *Saminyar yuha; ikainyar yuha ga.*
- Cold (**ndôhol**): when something (cold air or water) makes you feel chilly. I took a bath in cold water, and I feel chilly. *M ôô iyol shan mngerem ma ndôhol, nahan m ngu kunden iyol.*
- Comfortable (**tema doo ... iyol**): He is so comfortable that he forgot to go. *A tema doo un iyol je hungul un u yemen.*
- Complain (*yila ijir, er ayôôso*): to make a fuss about how things are going; to point out to higher authorities how things are not going well. (1) The students complained that the food is not cooked well. *Mbayev makeranta er ayôôso er i jiir kwaghyan via ga.* (2) Terfa complained to his father that Atim cursed at him. *Terfa yila ijir hen ter na er Atim tuha un.*
- Computer (**kômputa**): a machine that can store and process information such as a phone, tablet, or desktop. The phone is a computer. *Fon ka kômputa.*
- Container (*ikagh ki wan akaa*): something that can hold something else such as a tea pot, trash can, oil bottle, or trunk. I put the car repair tools in the container. *Ka m wa*

- akaa sôron mato shin ikagh ki wan akaa.*
- Contribute (**naikaa, wazwa, na iyua**): (1) To share one's ideas or thoughts with another or others. (2) To donate as a gift. Examples: (1) many people contributed to write the book. *Ior kpishi naikaa sha u ngeren takeda shon.* (2) Contribute food to the poor. *Na iyua i kwaghyan shaciu mbatsanev.*
- Conviction (**ijir kôron**): A judgment of guilt against a criminal defendant. He appealed his conviction. *A za apil u l kaa er ijir kôr un la.*
- Corner (**kwona**): a point where two sides, walls, or lines come together. (1) My room has four corners. *Ruum wam ngu a ukwona u nyiin.* (2) When three lines meet, they form a triangle; a quadrilateral is formed when four lines meet. *Ihange i tiar ka ia zua yô, i na teraiangel (ikav i avegher atar); ihange i nyiin ka ia zua yô, i na kuwoderalatera (ikav i avegher a nyiin).*
- Country (**tar**): a place where many people live. Nigeria is a country with many people; Gambia is a country with fewer people than Nigeria. *Nigeria ka tar u ior kpishi; Gambia ka tar u ior ve ngee er Nigeria nahan ga.*
- Court (**koti, iyoughjir**): Government entity authorized to resolve legal disputes. She went to the court in Gboko. *A za sha koti u hen Gboko.*
- Cousin (**kazen**): the child of one's aunt or uncle. Wasem is the cousin to Jayshawn who is the son of the brother of Wasem's mother. *Wasem ka kazen u Jayshawn wen u a lu wan u aningbian u nomso u ngô u Wasem la.* Wasem and Jayshawn are first cousins. *Wasem man Jayshawn ka ukazen mba hiihii.*
- Cover (**cir**): to put something over another thing. The baby is sleeping; cover him with a cloth. *Wan ngu yaven; cir un ikondo iyol.*
- Cow (**ngôbua**): a farm animal that produces milk. The male is called a bull. A cow can give milk for babies and adults. *Ngôbua una faityô u nan atumba shaciu anikundanev man ior mba vesen.*
- Crab (**ikambe**): an animal with a hard shell, eight legs, and two claws; it lives in or near water and may be caught for its meat. A crab can live in water and on land. *Ikambe ia faityô u lun shin mnger man sha tar.*
- Crack (**kwe**): when something shows a sign of breaking. I see a crack on the side of the calabash. *M nenge a kwe ken kpe ijôndo.*
- Crash (**ta ken kwagh**): when something hits another thing usually with a resulting loud noise. The car crashed against the pole. *Mato ta ken itiough.*
- Crawl (**kpera**): to move on one's hands and knees. A child crawls before learning to walk. *Wan ka a kpera cii man a hen u zenden ye.*
- Crime (**kwaghbo u kuman u zan a or ken koti**): an act committed by a person that is against the law that may land a person in prison. He was sentenced to four months in jail for the crime of fighting and hurting a person. *I wa un ken purusu iuer inyiin sha kwaghbo u nôngun num man vihin or iyol.*
- Cross (per): to go from one side of something to the other side. I entered the barge to cross the river. *M nyôr baaji sha u me per ifi yô.*
- Crowd (**ikumior**): a large group of people in one place. A crowd gathered to hear him sing. *Ikumior zua u unghan un gberen imo.*
- Cry (**vaa**): to weep or let tears come from one's eyes. Children cry when they are hurt. *Mbayev ka ve vaa shie u ka vea vihi iyol yô.*
- Cup (**kôp, iyongo**): a container to drink from. Ses drank a cup of coffee early in the morning. *Ses ma kop u kofi pepe pepe.*
- Curious (**u henen sha kwagh**): to wonder about something and try to find an answer or solution. I am curious to know what makes a mango to ripen. *M ngu henen sha er ka i er ve mongol a nyian yô.*
- Cut (**tôndo**): to divide something into pieces using a sharp tool. Dooter cut the meat into many pieces. *Dooter tôndo inyam ker aci kpishi.*
- Dance (**amar**): when one moves their body with rhythm as music is played. Can you dance to Victor Uwaifo music? *U faityô u vinen amar sha kwaghkuhan u Victor Uwaifo?*
- Danger (**kwagh u vihin or iyol**): something that may cause someone to get hurt. If a bridge is broken, it would be a danger to drivers. *Aluer tsar vihi yô, a lu kwagh u vihin*

- iyol hen mbanahan mato.*
- Dark (**ime wa**): a state when there is no light. It is night (time), so it is dark. *Tugh ile, nahan ime wa.*
- Date (**iyange**): the exact day, month and year it is at a given time. The date today is Wednesday, May 8, 2024. *Iyange i nyian ka Tomatar, Mei 8, 2024.*
- Daughter (**wan u kwase**): a female child (girl or woman) born of two parents or adopted by them. Zee and her daughter are good dancers. *Zee man wan na u kwase ve fa amar a vinen.*
- Dawn (**sha u se**): in the early morning when the sun begins to light up. Her workplace is far, so, she must leave at dawn for work. *Ijiirtom na gba ica, nahan, ka a mough sha u se u yaren.*
- Deaf (kondo ato): a condition in which someone cannot hear. We speak to a deaf person with our hands. *Ka se lam a or kondon ato sha ave.*
- Decide (**rumun**): to make up one's mind. I decided to go home. *M rumun u yemen ken ya.*
- Deep (**za**): when the bottom is far from the top. A sea is deep, a pond is not deep. *Ifi za, ijande za ga.*
- Deer (**kwantera**): an animal with four long legs and lives in the forest. A deer can run fast. *Kwantera ka a yevese zange zange.*
- Delicious (**doo yan**): something that tastes good. This food is delicious. *Kwaghyan ne doo yan.*
- Deliver (**tôô da na**): to take something to a place or to person. Deliver the mail to their house. *Tôô mel da na hen ya ve.*
- Dentist (**ortwer u anyiigh**): a doctor who takes care of one's teeth. My dentist is Dr. Angas. *Ortwer u anyiigh wam ka Dr. Angas.*
- Describe (**pase**): to tell someone about something to give a clear picture of it. He described the elephant to the blind man. *A pase mlu u nor tar hen orapirashe.* See explain.
- Desert (**desereti**): a place with very little water and sometimes much sand. Sahara is a very hot desert. *Desereti u Sahara tsee kpishi.*
- Dessert (**dezeti**): a special food that is taken at the end of a meal such as ice cream, cake, or corn-on-cobb. Rekiya likes to eat ice cream for dessert. *Rekiya ka a soo u yan dezeti i aisikilim.*
- Detect (**time sha kwagh**) to try to find the answer to a mystery about who committed a crime. Melika can detect the mystery of who sold the prohibited drugs. *Melika una faityô u timen sha kwagh u or u nan tee mcimbim ma i yange yô.* **Detective, noun.** Melika is a detective. *Malika ka ortimenshakwagh.*
- Diabetes mellitus (**angev mbu shuga**): disease in which the pancreas does not produce sufficient insulin in the body. If there is excess sugar in the urine, perhaps it is a sign of diabetes mellitus. *Auer shuga ngee ke mnyande yum yô, alaghga ka ikav iangev mbu shuga.*
- Dictionary (**dikisheneri**): a collection of words and their meanings. Michael West is my favorite dictionary of the English Language. *Michael West ka dikisheneri u atiaka a ken Zwa (u) Buter.*
- Die (**kpe**): to stop living. If you pull a leaf off the branch, it will soon die. *Auer u tôndo kwa sha gbaa sha yô, ua kpe.* Common usage: *Kwa ua kpe*, the leave will die--- singular *Ika ia kpe*, the leaves will die--plural. *Kwa u kpen*, dead leaf. *Ika i kpen*, dead leaves.
- Different (**kposo**): when things are not the same. A bird is different from a mouse. *Inyon ngi kposo a ihev.*
- Difficult (**taver u eren**): something that is hard to do. Division in math is difficult. *Ayenge a kwarkaren taver u eren.*
- Dig (**time**): to scoop up dirt from the ground to make a hole or trench, or other kind of space. Dig a hole to put in a pole. *Time ihungwa i wan ityôgh shimin.*
- Digestion (**msough u kwaghyan**): process by which food is broken down into simple pieces in the body to give energy. Digestion begins in the mouth. *Kwaghyan u soughon ka a hii ken zwa.*

- Dinner (**kwaghyan u aikighe**): the food eaten after lunch which is usually the biggest meal of the day. Fufu, bush meat, and ground melon seeds make a tasty meal. *Ruam man inyam toho sha icegher ka iwer i dedo.*
- Direct (**tese gbenda**): to show people the way or how to do something. If you don't follow the director's (**ortesen gbenda**) instructions, you will go in the wrong direction (**apezan**). Nancy knows how to direct the children's choir; she is a good director. *Nancy fa u tesen mbayev benda u wan atsam; un ka ortesen atsam a wan u dedo.*
- Dirt (**il, inya**): things that make something like clothes unclean; particles of soil or earth. My white shirt has dirt on it; it fell in the mud. *Riga wam u pupur ngu a il shamin; a gba shin aingbôr.*
- Dirty (**ngu a il**): has dirt on it. The shirt is dirty. *Riga ngu a il shamin.*
- Disagree (**nyiman kwagh**): to have opposing views or ideas about something. Mom and her son disagree on which seed is easier to chew, cashew or peanut. *Mama man wan na mba nyiman kwagh u ishangekwagh i hembe lun ican ga u tamen yô, ishase shin abun.*
- Disappointed (**lun a mliam ashe**): when something one wants to happen does not happen. I am disappointed that we lost the game. *M ngu a mliam ashe er se hembe inumbe ga yô.*
- Discover (**zua a kwagh**): to find/learn something that has not been known or found before. Did Columbus discover America? *Columbus iyange zua a tar u Amerika?*
- Disguise (**yer iyol**): to pretend to look like something or someone else. The chameleon can disguise itself among the leaves. *Hum ka a yer iyol a ken ahu.*
- Dish (**gbande**): a kind of container to hold food. Put the rice in the dish. *Haa cinkafa shin gbande.* Dishes, *agbande* (pl).
- Distance (**iaven, ilihen**): the amount of space between two points or places or things. The distance between Makurdi and Gboko is about 80 kilometers. *Ilihen i Makurdi man Gboko kuma kilo akundu anyiin.* *Gba ica*, long distance. *Gba ica ga*, short distance.
- Do (**er**): to act in a certain way or to make something happen. Tor likes to do his homework. *Tor soo homwek na u eren.* (Also, wants to do ...: *soo u eren*)
- Done (**bee**): to finish doing something or performing an act. I am done eating. *M bee a kwaghyan (u yan kwaghyan).* Also, I'm done cooking (food): *M bee u eren kwaghyan.*
- Door (**hunda**): something that is used to close off the way or path into a building or vehicle. My house has a door in the front. *Ya wam ngu a hunda ken hemen.*
- Doorknob (kwaghkôron wegh bughun hunda): a handle on a door that can be turned to open or pulled to shut the door. Turn the doorknob to open the unlocked door. *Gema kwaghkoron wegh bughun hunda sha er u bugh hunda u i sende ga yô.*
- Dot (**ikav, ikav i been**): a small round mark that shows the beginning of a line or a point or the end of a sentence. Place a dot or full stop if you finish writing a sentence. *Wa ikav i been aluer u kure ivurugh ki kwagh ngeren yô.*
- Double (**seer ... kwa har**): when there are two things instead of one. Double the amount of sugar. *Seer indi i shuga kwa har* (i.e., twice as much as was there before). Compare: add the amount of sugar; *seer indi i shuga* (no specific number of times of the increase).
- Down (**shin inya**): to move to a lower level or place. The cat up the tree refused to come down from the tree. *Kpatema u sha kon venda u hungwan shin inya.*
- Dozen (**dôzen**): a group of twelve things. Doom bought one dozen eggs. *Doom yam dôzen u ajjaikegh mom.*
- Drag: (**tagher myem**) friction that exerts a force that resists forward motion. A rough surface provides a drag when a load is pulled. *Taregh ku ku lu kôngolôô ga kua tagher myem aluer u ulugh ikav yô.*
- Draw (**kpera**): to create a picture of something with a pencil, rayon, or pen (on paper, canvas, or digitally). Lorbo will draw a picture of a duck. *Lorbo una kpera foto u ikeghdam.*
- Drawer (**durowa**): a kind of container for keeping things in that slides in and out of a piece of furniture. I put my socks in the drawer. *Ka m wa usôk av shin durowa.*

- Drawing (**foto u kperan, pikica, piica**): a figure made with a pencil, crayon, or other writing tool. The drawing of *Madona* is on the wall. *Foto u kperan u Madona ngu sha kpekpe.*
- Dream (**mnyam cie**): to see, think, and feel things in one's sleep. Sometimes I dream like I was flying. *Shiegen mnyam ka ma cie m er m ngu purugh nahan.* A dream, *mnyam ma cien*, noun.
- Dress (**zer, huwa ikondo**): to wear something, usually clothes. Dress up after showering. *Huwa akondo shie u u bee iyol i ôôn yô.* Compare, *wuha iyol.*
- Drink (ma): to swallow a liquid such as water or medicine or soft food. Drink more water than (drink) tea. *Hemba man mngerem a u man tii.*
- Drive (**naha**): to make something go while steering it such as a car or wagon. Drive slowly on town streets. *Naha mato teghelee sha ugodobi mba ken geri.* Driver, *ornahan kwagh*, noun.
- Drop¹ (**iberegh**): a small amount of liquid such as water, oil, etc. A drop of rain fell on my head. *Ibereghe ki wura tam sha itiough.* Drops: *aber*, plural noun.
- Drop² (**gba**): to let something fall. If you drop the egg, it will break. *Aluer u de ijikegh agba yô, ia hembe.*
- Drug (**kwagh u u we ken iyol u geman mlu u iyolough la, icigh**): substance that causes a change in the body, usually used to treat or cure an illness. Not using drugs in a proper way is called drug or substance abuse. Lisinopril is a drug to treat hypertension. *Lisinopril ka icigh ki soron/wasen sha harishon.*
- Drum (**genga**): a musical instrument that sounds when hit with sticks. I have learned to play the side drum. *M hen u kuhan genga u kiriki.*
- Dry¹ (**uma**): when you let water or other liquid completely leave something and it is no longer wet. Spread the cloth to dry. *Samber ikondo i uma.*
- Dry² (**uman**): something that is not wet. Dry wood burns; wet wood does not. *Ikon i uman ngi yeghen; ikon i ndor yô ngi yeghen ga.*
- Dryer (**mashin u uman kwagh**): a machine that dries things. Start the dryer to dry your clothes. *Hii mashin u uman kwagh a uma akondo ou.*
- During (**shien u**): sometime between the beginning and the end of an event. The child slept during the trip. *Wanye yav shien u zende.*
- Dust (**ihundu**): solid particles in the air that can settle on things in the house or room. Cover the food so that dust does not fall on it. *Cir kwaghyan sha er ihundu ia haa sha min ga yô.*
- Dust (**ihundu**): very small bits or particles of dirt. Harmattan brings a lot of dust. *Hir ka a va a ihundu kpishi.*
- Eardrum (**genga u ken to**): membrane in the ear that vibrates when struck by soundwaves. If you poke your ear with something, you will tear the eardrum. *Aluer u shindi kwagh ken tough yô, u ande genga u ken to(ugh).*
- Earth¹ (**tar**): name of the planet we live on; other planets are Mercury, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, Neptune, Pluto. The Earth has air and water. *Tar ngu a ahumbe man mngerem.*
- Earth² (**tar, inya**): the ground on which we walk, and you can find living things; dirt. Rainfall makes the earth soft to grow plants. *Wura nôôn ka u er inya i leghem u lôôn akaa.*
- Easy (**taver ga, legh legh**): something that one does not have to work hard to do it. The math problem is easy. *Iyenge ne taver ga.*
- Either (**môm ken**): one thing or the other. You can either walk or run. *U faityô u zenden shin yevese.*
- Energy (**tahav mbu fanityô u eren tom**): ability to do work. Sugar gives the body energy. *Shuga ka i na iyol tahav mbu fanityô u eren tom.*
- Engine (**injin**): a machine that makes something to move. The car has an engine. *Mato ngu a injin.*
- Engineer (**injinia**): someone who plans and designs machines, buildings, and roads. Mr. Ingya is an engineer. *Mr. Ingya ka injinia.*
- Entrance (**unyôron, apenyôron, inyôron**): the place where people go into a building. Go

- into the stadium through the entrance. *Nyôr ken tedium hen apeyôron.*
- Envelope (*involopu, kwagh u wan wasika ker*): a container for a letter. Place the letter in the envelope before miling it. *Wa wsika ken involopu man u tindi un ye.*
- Epidermis (*veggher u kwaviyolough u masen sha*): top layer of the skin on the body. *Jighjigh ngu a ice sha veggher u kwaviyolough u masen sha.*
- Equal (*kwaghmôm*): to have the same number of things. Each of us has two mango fruits; we both have equal mango fruits. *Hanmô wase ngu a atam a mongol ahar; se mba u har se mba a atam a mongol kwaghmôm.*
- Equipment (*akaaerentom min*): a set of things one needs to do a job. A saw is one of the equipment in my toolshed. *Ishôm ka mom ken akaaerentom a ken itumbe i akaaerentom yam.*
- Erase (*ese*): to wipe away or to clean dirt or spot from something. she used paper to erase tears. *A ese mliam sha pipa.*
- Even (*kwaghmom*): at the same level or distance; when the surface is smooth, flat, or level. The height of the twins is even. *Itiaven i mba ahinav ngi kwahmôm.*
- Except (*saa ... tsegh*): when you leave a thing out. Drink any liquid on the table, except the milk. *Ma hanma zar kwagh u sha tebul cii, saa atumba tsegh.*
- Exit (*iduen, apeduen*): the place where you go out of a building or structure. The truck left the motor park through the exit. *Gongolo due ken gyareji hen apeduen.*
- Expensive (*taver ishe*): when something costs a lot of money. Wasem cannot buy those shoes; they are too expensive. *Wasem una faityô u yamen akov la ga; a taver ishe gande.*
- Experiment (*mtim sha sainz*): the act of conducting a controlled investigation. (*Eren akaa a henen sha sainz*). The science experiment showed Wasem that a dry piece of paper burns to ash if it is put in a flame. *Mtim sha kwagh u sainz tese Wasem er veggher pipa una hia a hingir mtuhem aluer u wa un ken usu yô.*
- Fact (*kwagh mimi*): something that is known to be true. It is a fact that a tree dies. *Ka kwagh u mimi kon ngu kpen.*
- Fair (*jighilii, vough*): to try to treat someone the same way as others; being impartial and just, not biased. The teacher was fair in her grading. *Tica ka a na hanma or gered u nan zough a min vough.*
- Fame (*gwazan*): being well-known. Okocha has fame in football. *Okocha ngu a gwazan ke futubol (bol u angahar).*
- Famous (*za gwa*) one is famous when many people know who they are. Sarwuan Tarka was famous. Sarwuan Tarka ngise za gwa.
- Farm (*sule*): a place where people grow food and raise animals. Mbakuuv has a farm at Mbaikyon. *Mbakuuv ngu a sule shin Mbaikyon.* Mbakuuv is a farmer: *Mbakuuv ka orsule* (one who farms).
- Fasten (*wa, tsule*): to make things hold together usually with a belt, string, or rope. Fasten the (seat)belt so that we can go. *Wa kwange sha er se yem yô.*
- Fat (*ahôm*): a white or yellowish nutrient containing glycerin that supplies the bodies of animals and some plants with energy.
- Feather (*ngur*): something that grows on birds. The feather on the wing of an eagle is large. *Ngur u sha kperagh ku gafa ku kehe.*
- Felony (*kwaghbo u a faityô u wuhen or kuman inyo imôm*): A crime carrying a penalty of felony, punishable by less than a year of confinement.
- Fight (*nôngu*): to struggle against someone or something. Fight the fire to prevent it from spreading. *Nôngu a usu sha er ua samber ga yô.* Fighter (n): one who fights, for example, a firefighter (or *nôngun a usu u pirin*).
- Find (*zua*): to discover or get something you have been looking for, or by accident. Did you find your phone? *U zua a fon wou e?*
- Fly¹ (*ngorji*): a kind of insect that flies that is often found in the house or around foul-smelling things. Cover the food so no fly will sit on it. *Cir kwaghyan sha er ma ngorji una tema shamin ga yô.*
- Fly² (*purugh*): to make something to move in the air. An airplane, birds, and bees fly. *Igirgipurugh, inyon, man iyough ngi purugh.*

- Force (*tahav mbu ulugh shin tuur*): push or pull that is exerted on an object that may cause it to move or change movement. Gravity is a force that makes things fall. *Geraviti ka tahav mbu ulugh akaa gban (shin inya)*.
- Forehead (*icur*): the part of the human body above the eyebrows. I accidentally hit my forehead against the pole in the dark. *M ta icur ken itôugh sha abur abur ken ime*.
- Forest (*ikô*): a place where many trees grow or have been planted. Do not burn the forest. *De nanden ikô ga*.
- Forget (*hungul*): not able to remember. Do not forget to lock the door. *De hungul u sendan hunda ga*.
- Forward (*ken hemen*): moving toward the front in the direction you are facing. Come forward to see the bird in the cage. *Va ke hemen sha er u nenge a inyon ken kyeji yô*.
- Frog (*ifam*): a animal with webbed feet and strong back legs for jumping and that lives in or near water. A frog can jump five meters. *Ifam una faityô u tsuen kuman mita utaan*.
- Fruit (*itiamegh ki kon*): something that grows on trees and holds seeds whose juice may be sweet. Yima wants to get a guava fruit. *Yima soo u zuan a itiamegh ki gwaver*.
- Fungus (*ijov*): members of a kingdom that contain one-celled and many-celled living things. Some fungi are poisonous. *Ijôv i gen ka i lu a megh*. Fungi: *ijov*, plural noun.
- Game (*inumbe*): something people play in a special way such as football, tennis, scrabble, and mancala. The game of Mancala is not difficult. *Inumber i dar taver ga*.
- Garage (*gyareji*): a special place where one can park a car or take a vehicle for repair. She has no garage to park her car. *Ngu a gyareji u veren mato na keegh ga*.
- Germinate (*mende*): sprout; produce buds or branches. The seeds will germinate if you them. *Isham akaa ia mende aluer u na i mngerem yô*.
- Gift (*iwua*): a present. She gave her son a gift on his birthday. *A na wan na u nomso iwua sha iyange i umbur mar na*.
- Gizzard (*isha*): an organ found in the digestive tract of some animals used for grinding up food material. A chicken has qa gizzard. *Ikegh ngi a isha*.
- Glad (*saan iyol, ishima doo*): to be happy. I am glad you came back. *U hide nahan saan mo iyol*.
- Gladly (*a ishima i doon, sar sar*): I will gladly come to your party. *Me va iniogo you sar sar*.
- Gladness (*msaan iyol*): with happiness. They left the party with gladness. *Ve mough hen iniongo a masaan iyol*.
- Grab (*kôr*): take hold of something suddenly. I slipped, but I grabbed his hand. *M liemen, kpa m kôr wegh nagh*.
- Grand jury (*geran juri*): A body of citizens who listen to evidence of criminal allegations, which are presented by the government and determines whether there is probable cause to believe the offense was committed. The grand jury decided that Abenati should be indicted. *Geran juri kaa er i wa Abenati ken ijir*.
- Grass (*toho*): a group of low, green, nonwoody plants with many economic and ecological uses such as making ropes, baskets, brooms, and for feeding animals (goats, sheep and cattle). Goats like to eat grass. *Ivo soo toho u yan*.
- Grassland (*tar u toho ngeen*): a biome where grasses, not trees, are the main plant life. Tivland is grassland. *Tar u Tiv ka tar u ngeen a toho*.
- Gravity (*geraviti*): force of attraction between objects, including the earth and other planets. The rock fell due to gravity. *Geraviti er iwen gba*.
- Guest (*orvaninya, orvanya*): someone who comes to visit. *Orngu is the guest of Botwev. Orngu ka orvanya u Botwev*.
- Gynecologist (*ortwer u kase*): a person who has special training to care for pregnant women, treat pregnancy issues and deliver babies. A woman must see a gynecologist when they are pregnant until they deliver. *Doo u kwase nana nengen a ortwer u kase shie u ve lu iyav zan zan vea kar maren*.
- Habeas corpus (*zan koti u za tesen isho, habeas korpuz*): used to bring a prisoner before the court to determine if one is legally imprisoned or if there is insufficient cause for their imprisonment. The lawyer agreed to bring a writ of habeas corpus. *Loya*

- rumun u zan koti u tesen ishô.*
- Hatch (**tsev**): to bring forth baby animals from eggs of birds, reptiles, or fish. Five of the six eggs hatched. *Aji ataan ken atô u a ateratar tsev.*
- Hearsay (**kwagh u aiegh**): Statements by a witness who did not see or hear the incident in question but learned about it through secondhand information such as another's statement, a newspaper, or a document. With some exceptions, hearsay is usually not admissible as evidence in court. The court said the statement the witness made as hearsay because she did not see the incidence firsthand. *Koti kaa er kwaghoron u orshiada a ne la ka kwagh u aieegh shaciu iyange nenge sha ashe na jighilii ga.*
- Help (**wase**): to find ways to make things easier or nicer for someone. Please help the child cross the road. *We a rumun yô wase wanye a per gbenda.*
- Herbivore (**ye toho man ika tsegh**): an animal that eats plants, algae, or other producers. A cow is a herbivore. *Ngôbua ye toho man ika tsegh.*
- HIV (**HIV**): human immunodeficiency virus—a virus that causes AIDS. You cannot get HIV by kissing. *U faityô u zuan a HIV sha zwasusen ga.*
- Honey (**zar iyoough**): the sweet syrup made by bees. Seember likes honey on her bread. *Seember ka a soo u wan zar iyoough sha beredi na.*
- Hope (**awaishima**): to have a feeling that something one wishes for will happen. I hope to go to Lagos next year. *M ngu a awaishima u zan Lagos inyom i lu van la.*
- Horn (**korough**): bonny part on the head of some animals such as bulls. The Fulani bull has long horns. *Nombua u Fulani ngu a akor a lihen.* (Horns: *Akor*, plural).
- Horse (**nyinya**): an animal with a long tail, four legs, and a mane. The chief rode a horse. *Tor henda nyinya.*
- Hospital (**iyoughci**): a place where people go when they are sick and need help from a doctor. Go to the hospital when you are sick. *Za iyoughci shie u u lu dedo ga yô.*
- Human growth hormone (**homon u wasen ivesen**): hormone produced by the pituitary. Human growth hormone caused Robert Wadlow to grow up to 2.72m (8ft 11in). *Homon u wasen ivesen iyange er Robert Wadlow tav kuma 2.72m (8 ft 11in).*
- Humidity (**hyumiditi**): the amount of water vapor in the air. Humidity is high; maybe it will rain. *Humidity tav sha, nahan alagha wura ua nôô.*
- Husband (**nom**): a man who is married. Joe is the husband of Mika. *Joe ka nom u Mika.*
- Hypertension (**harishon**): high blood pressure. Salt is not good for a person with hypertension. *Bar doo shaciu or u nan lu a harishon ga.*
- Igneous rock (**iwen/avande i magema**): rock formed from cooled and hardened magma. Igneous rock is very hard. *Iwen i magema taver kpishi.*
- Immediately (**fese**): something which is to be done or to happen right now/away. Go immediately to find out why the baby is crying. *Za fese da (za) nenge kwagh u a er ve wan a lu vaan la.*
- Immunity (**iwambe i yangen angev**): resistance to disease gained during a person's lifetime. You will not get smallpox disease if you have immunity by vaccination. *Angev mbu agina mbua kôrou ga aluer u gber iwambe i agina yô.* (Another way: *Aluer u gber iwambe i yangen angev mbu agina yô, una kera kôrou ga.*)
- Impossible (**faityô ... mayange ga**): something that cannot be done. It is impossible for the cow to jump over the moon. *Ngôbua una faityô u tsuen wer aver mayange ga.*
- Imprison (**wuhe**): put, lock up, or keep a person in prison or a place like a prison. They imprisoned Anini at the Kakuri Prison. *Ve wuhe Anini ken Purusu u Kakuri.*
- Inculpatory evidence (**akaa a tesen kwaghbo u or nan er yô**): Evidence which tends to show the defendant's guilt. The lawyer showed the photo to show that Didi Ayaligh beat his wife. *Loya tese foto u tesen er Didi Ayaligh gbidye kwase na.*
- Indictment (**mwe u ken ijir**): The formal charge issued by a grand jury stating that there is enough evidence that the defendant committed the crime to justify having a trial; it is used primarily for felonies. Azege's indictment was for vehicle manslaughter. *I wa Azege ken ijir sha u tan mato sha or wuan.*
- Infection (**angev mbu gban shaciu jeem**): state caused when the body is invaded by disease-causing organism or germ. Jaundice is an infection caused by filariasis germ. *Ayarikule ka angev mbu jeem u fileriasi.* See infectious disease.

- Infectious disease (*angev mbu tsaren*): disease caused by invading organisms. Smallpox is an infectious disease. *Agena (agina) ka angev mbu tsaren.*
- In forma pauperis (*ijiryilan i orinyarshio*): In the manner of a pauper. Permission given to a person to sue without payment of court fees on claim of indigence or poverty. Olaiya has no money, so the judge agreed that the case be filed “in forma pauperis.” *Olaiya ngu a inyaregh ga, nahan jooji rumun i nger un ijir i orinyarshio.*
- Initial hearing (*iyange i bughun ijir ôron*): Court proceeding in which the defendant learns of his rights and the charges against him and the judge decides bail. The judge refused bail for him at the initial hearing of the bank robbery case. *Jooji venda u nan un wegh sha iyange i bughun ijir ôron i banki u numun.*
- Injustice (*eren kwagh jighjigh ga*): the act of being unfair or unreasonable/equal in treatment. For the teacher to punish boys, but not girls, is injustice. *U tica nan mbayev nomso mtsaha, kpa den mbayevkasev, ka u eren kwagh u jighjigh ga.*
- Insult to religion (*ituhanev sha kwagh u orcivir*): showing disrespect and contempt toward a people’s religion, god, deity, or idol; also called blasphemy. Moslems believe that speaking bad about Allah is blasphemy against Islam. *Mbamusulumi na jighjigh er u lamen dang sha Allah, ka u tuhan Islam cii.*
- Interest (*interes*): the payments you make on top of the principal amount when you borrow money from the bank. The interest is too high for him to borrow money for a house. *Interes kehe gande u una agba injô i yamen ya.*
- Intestine (*myam*): the long, tube-shaped part of the digestive system that is connected to the stomach. Humans have a small and a large intestine. *Uumace mba a myam ma kiriki man ma zegenan.* See “large intestine.”
- Invite (*lôhô*): to ask someone to come for a visit or to come and do something together with a person. Invite your friends to come to the party. *Lôhô mbaaboki ou ve va iniongo.*
- Itch (*agher*): a feeling that makes one want to scratch the skin. I itch when I take quinine. *lyol ka i agher mo ka mea tôô quinine yô.*
- Joint (*ijuan i akuhe*): place where two bones meet. His knee joint hurts. *Ijuan i inu na ngi nyion (un).*
- Joke (*ôron kwaghhômon*): to say or do something that is funny which may make people laugh. Jimmy will joke if people laugh. *Jimmy una ôr kwaghhômon auer ior ve se yô.* Joke (n): *kwaghhômon*; jokes (n, pl): *akaahômon.*
- Judge (*jooji*): Government official with authority to decide lawsuits brought before courts. Mr. Musa is the judge who tried Amina’s case. *Mr. Musa ka jooji u lu ôr ijir i Amina yô.*
- Judgment (*ijirôron*): The official decision of a court finally determining the respective judgment of another lower court or tribunal.
- Jump (*tsuwe*): to lift your feet off the ground and may move forward in the air. I can jump one meter; Aôndona can jump five meters. *Me tsuwe mita mom; Aôndona una tsuwe mita utaan.*
- Jurisdiction (*koti u i hembe doon u una ôr ijir yô*): (1) The legal authority of a court to try a case. If you steal in Gboko, the jurisdiction to try your case is a Gboko court. *Aluer u ii kwagh hen Gboko yô, koti u i hembe doon u una ôrou ijir yô ka koti u Gboko.*
- Jury (*juri*): A group of persons selected according to law and sworn to inquire into and declare a verdict in a trial. The jury found Osimi guilty. *Juri kaa er ijir kôr Osimi.* A juror (*orjuri*) is one of the people on the jury.
- Just (*sembler; tsegh*): only; a little while ago. I just came; others didn’t come, just me. *M sember van; mbagen va ga, ka mo tsegh.*
- Kick (*gbidyê*): to hit something with one’s foot. Pele will kick the ball far. *Pele una gbidyê bol a yem ica.*
- Kidneys (*ahi*): body organ in reptiles, birds, fish, mammals, and amphibians that help to keep the blood clean. His kidney is not working well. *Ahi na nga eren tom dedo ga.*

- Kill (**wua**): to make something die by shooting or slaughtering it. Shoot and kill the mad dog. *Ta iwa i hunden man wua i.*
- Kind (**u tesen doshima**): to be friendly with someone or something. She is kind to small animals. *Tesen dooshima hen aninyamev.* Kindness (n): *itiesen i dooshima.*
- Kiss (**zua zwa, suse zwa**): to touch a person with one's lips or cheek as a gesture of love or friendship. The mother kissed (v) her daughter before she left for school. *Mama zuazwa vea wan na u kwase cii man yem makeranta ye.* A kiss (n): *zwazuan.*
- Kitchen (**kicin**): a room where food is cooked. Her kitchen has a dishwasher. *Kicin na ngu a mashin u kilen agbande.*
- Knock (**kema wegh**): to use the knuckles against the door to make noise to alert someone of your presence. Someone will open the door if you knock. *Or nana hugh hunda aluer u kema wegh yô.*
- Knot (**icur**): when one ties together two or more ends of ropes or strings. Tie a knot so it is hard to untie. *Ta icur er ia taver u poson yô.*
- Know (**fa**): to be sure of something. I know how to drive a car. *M fa u nahan mato.*
- Ladder (**jande**): something with steps or rungs that one can climb to reach high places. My ladder has ten steps. *Jande yam ngi a ape tan angahar hue.*
- Lake (**ber**): a body of water, larger than a pond but smaller than an island, surrounded by land. Lake Awuna is near Katsina-Ala. *Ber Awuna ngu ikua a Katsina-Ala.*
- Language (**u lamen zwa u ior**): what people use to say things to each other with understanding. Learn to speak Tiv language. *Hen u lamen zwa Tiv.*
- Large intestine (**myam ma vesen**): organ in the digestive system in which water and nutrients are absorbed and waste materials eliminated. You will have stomach ache if the large intestine does not excrete the faeces. *Iyav mbu a nyion we aluer myam ma vesen ou due a ambi ga yô.*
- Last (**maseityô**): something that comes after all the others. Wasem came first, not last. *Wasem va or hiihi, ka or maseityô ga.*
- Late (**ferre ga**): to come at a time later than you were supposed to. Moses came late to work. *Moses yar tom ferre ga.*
- Laugh (**se**): to make ha-ha sound when you are happy or enjoy a joke or something a person has said. I laughed so much that my eyes became teary. *M se je mliam haam ashe.* lawyers to summarize their position before the court in an appeal and to answer the judges' questions.
- Lazy (**wa hwev**): does not want to work. If you are lazy, you will fail the examination. *Aluer u wa hwev yô, u gba ikaren.*
- Leaf (**kwa**): the collective amount of leaves of one or more plants which makes food for the plant using energy from the Sun. the leaf of a banana tree is larger than that of an orange tree. *Kwa u ayaba hembra kehen a u alum.* Leaves: *ika*, plural noun.
- Learn (**u henen kwagh, u fan kwagh u u vande fan ga**): to find out about something before unknown. I learned to ride a bicycle - *M hen u hendan ikeke.*
- Lease (**ya u kôron shie lihen**): long-term rental agreement. She leased the home for two years. *A kôr ya shie lihe kuma anyom ahar.*
- Leave (**yem, yemen**): to go away. Mer said: "Dan, it's time for us to go." Mer kaa er: "Dan, shie kuma u se yem."
- Legal custom (**tindi u tar u mbaior**): the behaviour of a group of people that has been accepted over generations. The legal custom says that Tiv men can marry more than one wife (many wives). *Tindi u tar Tiv kaa er nomso mba iorov mba Tiv vea faityô u eren kasev hemban mom (kasev imongu).*
- Leopard (**anyam azenga**): a cat-like animal of Asian or African origin with black spots. A leopard runs faster than a horse. *Anyam azenga hembe yevese a nyinya.*
- Letters of the alphabet (**asangeakaa a abaacaa**): letters of the alphabet from a-z. She can say the letters of the alphabet in order. *Un a faityô u ôron asangeakaa a abaacaa sha dondo dondo.*
- Lick (**susen kwagh sha nombor, eren azer sha kwagh**): Fat is dripping down your fingers, lick it. *Ahôm nga senen sha ahôveegh ou, suse a.*
- Lie (**eren aie, aighe**): saying something that is not true, an untruth (n). He lied that he was

- not there. It's a lie, he was there. *A er aie er iyange un lu heregh ga. Ka aie, iyange lu her.*
- Lie (**yav**): to rest on your back or side. When I am tired, I lie on the bed. *Ka me a vôt yô m yav sha gambe.*
- Ligament (**gbera**): stringy, connective tissue that fastens the bones together. The ligament helps the knee to bend. *Gbera ka u wase inu u hulugh.* Ligaments (pl): *igbira.*
- Light¹ (**yuha ga**): not heavy. The load is light, even a child can carry it. *Ikav yuha ga, wanye je kpa una faityô u tôn.*
- Light² (**tsar**): to cause something to burn or produce a flame. Light the candle. *Tsar kandel.*
- Light³ (**iwanger**): when there is no darkness because the lamp or candle is burning, electric bulb is shining, or the sun is shining. The sun produces light. *Iyange i ne iwanger.*
- Lightning (**inyiar**): a flash of light in the sky when clouds rob against each other. We saw lightning just before thunder during the storm. *Se nenge a inyiar cii man se unghwa iduran shie u wura lu nôôn ye.*
- Like (**bee**): to look nearly the same as another thing or person. Terngu looks like his father. *Terngu bee ter na.*
- Like (**soo**): you like something if it makes you feel good. Aya likes porridge in the morning. *Aya soo iber i man pepe.*
- Line (**hwange**): a thin mark that is made with a pen, pencil, or sharp object. Draw a straight line. *Kpera hwange u lun jighlii.*
- Liquefaction (**eren hingir zar**): a process that generates a liquid from a solid. Ice turns to water by liquefaction. *Ais ka a sough a hingir zar mnger.*
- Liquid (**zar kwagh**): something that has no shape and completely fills any space in which it is placed; can be poured. Milk is a kind of liquid. *Atumba ka zar kwagh.*
- Listen (ver/kegh ato unghwa): Listen to Nancy sing the hymn. *Ver ato unghwa er Nancy a lu wan icham yô.*
- Litigation (**zan a kwagh ken ijir**): A case, controversy, or lawsuit. Participants (plaintiffs and defendants) in lawsuits are called litigants. NEPA did not supply us power, so it became a matter of litigation. *NEPA na se usu ga, nahan hingir u se zan ken ijir.*
- Litmus paper (**pipa u litimes/tesen mlu u kwagh**): commonly used indicator for acids. Something with acid turns blue litmus to red. *Kwagh u a lu a asid ka a gema litimus u bula a hingir u nyian.*
- Little (**ndahar, cuku, kpuar**): something that is small in quantity or size, not large. A mouse is little, an elephant is not little; it is large. *Ihiev ndahar, nor tar ndahar ga; a kehe.*
- Liver (**mtemam**): a large reddish-brown organ in people and some animals that produces bile to help them absorb food. Some people eat sheep liver. *Ior mbagen(ev) mba ye mtemam ma iyôngu.*
- Living thing (**kwaghuuma**): any organism or a life form that possesses or shows the characteristics of life or being alive (e.g., plants and animals). A metal is not a living thing. *Iyôgh ka kwaghuuma ga.*
- Lock¹ (**kokoro, ishindan**): something that keeps out another thing unless they are given the key. Put a lock on your safe. *Wa kokoro shin ishindan sha akwati u inyar wou.*
- Lock² (**senda**): put a device to keep something/someone else from entering or getting access. Lock the room to prevent thieves from entering. *Senda iyough sha u yangen mbaiv nyôron.*
- Lonely (**u lun a orshio**): feeling you have no one else to talk to. When you are lonely seek ways to attract people to you. Zeberudaia stopped being lonely by starting to tell jokes. *Zeberudaia yan venda u lun a orshio nahan hii u ôron akaa hômon.*
- Loner (**orshio**): without a friend or anyone to talk to or look up to. This woman is a loner and unhappy. *Kwase ne ngu a orshio man (ngu) a ishimavihin.*
- Long (**lihe, icha i gba**): describes how far the beginning is from the end. The distance between Mkar and Gboko is 6,437 m long. They left a long time. *Mough Gboko yem Mkar lihe kuma mita 6,437. Ve mough icha i gba.*
- Look (**nenge**): to pay attention to things one sees. Look under the chair for the book. *Nenge shin ityôikôn u keren takeda.*

- Loose (**enger**): not tight. The dad's shoes are too loose on the five-year-old son. *Akôv a ter enger wan na u nomso u a lu anyom ataan la.*
- Lose (**saa**): not able to find something. Dooter guarded his ring so he does not lose it. *Dooter kura iyôgh nag ki sha wegh er kia saa ga yô.*
- Lost (saa): you could not find something. Jime lost his watch a long time ago. *Agogo a Jime saa icha i gba.*
- Love (**dooshima**): to express great care for someone. Yadoo loves her mother. *Yadoo ngu a dooshima hen ngô na. God is Love. Aondo ka Dooshima.*
- Machine (**mashin**): something that makes it easy to do work. Orshitile has a machine to make blocks. *Orshitile ngu a mashin u tan akam.*
- Mad (**ishima vihi**): to become angry. I am mad that I did not score a goal. *Ishima vihi m sha er m ye iko ga yô.*
- Magic (**ahir, eren kwagh u i lu er una faiyo u eren ga yô**): something that appears impossible to do; mesmerize. The Liliputian did magic by removing a dove from a man's ear. *Orliliputi er ahir a dughun ikungugh ken tough ku or.*
- Magistrate judges (**majitereti, majentere**): Judicial officers who assist district court (high court) judges in getting cases ready for trial. They may decide some criminal and civil trials when both parties agree to have the case heard by a magistrate judge instead of a district court (high court) judge.
- Mail (**mel**): letters and packages sent from one place to another through the postal service. The mail is taking too long to arrive. *Mel i tema u nyôron gande.*
- Map (**mape**): a kind of device that shows where a place or location is on the ground or land. The map of Benue shows where the town of Tsar is. *Mape u Benue tese ape geri u Tsar a lu yô.*
- Marketing (**kwagh u yôôn kasua**): The action or business of promoting and selling products. "Learn Tiv fast" is the marketing tool used to promote this book. *"Learn Tiv fast" ka kwagh u yôôn kasua u teen takeda ne.*
- Marry (**eren kwase/nom**): to join two persons in marriage to become one unit. One person asked the other if they could be married. *Or mom pine u gen er vea er ivar.*
- Mask (**ishigh ki ajigbee**): something to wear on the face to look different. The boy wore a mask during Christmas celebration. *Wanye wa ishigh ki ajigbee shie uiniongo i Kirimishi.*
- Mass (**kingking u kwagh**): the amount of matter in an object. Mass and weight are not the same thing. A kilogram of metal has more mass than that of water. *Kilo u iyôugh hamba ngun kingking a u mnger(em).*
- Match¹ (**ashanu**): a thin stick with a special chemical used in making a flame. She struck a match to light a lamp. *A gber ashanu sha u tsaren imenger.*
- Match² (**zua kwagh mom**): when things are the same in some way. Birds and trees match as living things, not rocks and water (they are nonliving things). *Inyom man ikon zua sha akaa a lun uma, kpa awen man mngerem zua ga (ve ka akaa a lun uma ga).*
- May (**faiyô**): something allowed to happen. You may sit down. *U faiyô u teman i nya.*
- Maybe (**alaghga, gayô**): something that will possibly happen. She has a red eye, maybe he was hit or maybe he has allergy. *Ishe nyian nun, alaghga kwagh ta un gayô a zua a megh ku ikon.*
- Mean (**awaishima, kwagh u u soo u ôron/eren yô**): what one wants by their words or action. Explain what you mean. *Pase awaishima wou.*
- Mean (**dang kwagh/or**): does not say or do things that are not kind or friendly. It is mean of you to curse at your friend. *Ka dang kwagh u we tuhan aboki wou.*
- Mechanic (**mekaniki, orsôron mato/mashin**): a person who repairs or fix automobiles/trucks or machines. Sebastin is a mechanic who fixes autos very well. *Sebastin ka mekaniki u a fe mato u sôron tsembere yô.*
- Medicine (**icigh**): something that can make you well when you are sick. The doctor gave her medicine when she caught COVI-19. *Ortwer na un icigh shie u a zua a COVID-19 yô.*
- Melt (**sough**): to turn a solid material to liquid. The ice melted to water. *Ais sough hingir mngerem.*
- Mess (**hôv, côvcôv**): not neat, out of place. My room is in a mess. *Iyou yam hôv.*

- Messenger (**masenja**): a person who carries a message or is employed to carry messages. The messenger gave the District Officer the message. *Masenja na Dio itiom (i tindin).*
- Metal (**iyôgh**): hard material that many things such as zinc and aluminum cans, iron and aluminum sheets, steel and copper pipes, and so on are made of. Her spoons are made of silver metal. *Tswekali nav i er ve sha iyôgh ki zanaria.*
- Middle (**ateghatô**): the place that is half-way between the beginning and the end of something. If you fold a paper in the middle, you will get two equal halves. *Aluer u hule pipa hen ateghatô yô, u zua a avegher ahar a a lu kwagh môm yô.*
- Milk (**atumba**): a liquid that comes from cows, goats, lambs, and other animals (mainly mammals). Wasem likes to drink milk. *Wasem soo atumba a man.*
- Mine (**u wam, i yam**): belonging to me. The red bag is mine, yours is black. *Ikpa i nyian ka i yam, i you ngi il.* Also, that book is mine: Takeda la ka u wam. (c.f., yours, ours, theirs, his, and hers.)
- Minus (**pande**): subtract or take away a thing or things from a larger group. Four minus one is three. *Unyiin pande mom ka utar.*
- Minute (**miniti, shie u kiriki u kohol kuman ihwa**): the amount of time that adds to an hour. There are sixty minutes in one hour. *Miniti akundu atar kohol kuma ihwa imom.*
- Mirror (**jingi i nengen**): a glass that you can see an image in it. I can see my image (myself) in the mirror. *Me faityô u nengen a foto wam ken jingi i nengen.*
- Misdemeanor (**iferkwagh i kiriki**): Usually a petty offense, a less serious crime than a felony, punishable by less than a year of confinement. Is to lie to the boss a misdemeanor? *U eren aie hen orlunitiough hen tom ka iferkwagh i kiriki?*
- Mistake (**yaga, sha min ga**): to do something wrong. We made a mistake; we did not go to the correct house. *Se er sha min ga; se za hen ya u vough ga.*
- Mix (**nungwa**): put things together to get one whole. Mix yam flour and water; knead them, to make fufu. *Nungwa mwem ma iyough man mngerem; nahâ ve, sha u eren fufu.*
- Monetize (**eren inyaregh sha kwagh**): Make money from a product or activity. You can monetize the website by selling books on it. *U faityô u eren inyaregh sha webasit alu u teen itiakeda shamin yô.*
- Moon (**wer**): the Earth's closest neighbor in space seen on earth in many phases. You can see the moon in the clouds. *U faityô u nenegen a wer ken abeen.*
- Morning (**pepe**): the first part of the day when people wake up. Remember to brush your teeth each morning every day. *Umbur u kilen anyi hanma pepe ayange ayange.*
- Mountain (**wo**): part of the earth higher than the land surrounding it. Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa. *Kilimanjaro ka wo u hemban taven ken Afirika.*
- Mud (**aningbyor**): part of earth that is soft and often dirty. Pigs like to "bathe" in the mud. *Igo soo u "ôôn iyol" shin aingbyor.*
- Muscle (**alegh a iyolou**): part of the body that stretches and pulls tight to help the limbs move. Tom uses his muscles to throw the ball. *Alegh a iyolou ka a wase Tom u keren bol.*
- Music (**amo a gberem man kwagh kuhan**): that which is produced when people play or sing different sounds with voices or instruments. Ses likes to listen to music by Burna Boy. *Ses soo amo a gberem man kwagh kuhan u Burna Boy.*
- Mystery (**kwagh u taver u pasen**): something that is difficult to understand and you must study hard to figure it out. I find the idea of virgin birth a mystery. *Kwagh u kwase wan iyav nan tswen la taver mo u pasen.*
- Mystery (**kwaghcimin**): something that cannot be understood easily without a thorough search and investigation. Only Sherlock Holmes can solve such a mystery. *Ka Sherlock Holmes tsegh una faityô u timen sha kwaghcimin la ye.*
in the play: *Abraham and Isaac. Terhide ka aketo ken inumbe i Aberaham man Isiyaku.*
- Nail (**kusa**): a thin piece of metal that can be hammered into wood to fasten parts. The nail fastened together two parts of the wooden fence. *Kusa kôr avegher a ikon i igyar imôngo.*
- Narrow (**hoghol**): not wide. The road narrowed before it ended. *Gbenda hoghol cii man u kule ye.*
- Near (**ikua**): close, not far. Lake Samoset is near the Samoset School. *Lake Samoset ngu*

ikua a Makeranta u Samoset.

- Nearsightedness (myopia) - **nengen a akaa ken icha dedo ga**: a condition of vision in which near objects appear clear, but objects farther away are difficult to see clearly.
- Nest¹ (**iya**): a thing made by birds and other animals to hold their eggs and babies. The eagle made a huge nest on top of the tree. *Iguve tume iya sha itioough ki kon.*
- Nest² (**kper**): a thing made by people to help catch fish. Peter used a nest to catch fish. *Peteru haa kper kôr ishu.*
- Noise (**ayôôso**): sound that is not pleasing to the ear. He is making so much noise his sister must shut her ears. *Ngu eren ayôôso ngeen je aningbian na u kwase cir ato na.*
- Nolo contendere (**vendan u tunan shin rumun a kwaghbo u i yer nan ijir yô**): No contest plea. (Has the same effect as a plea of guilty as far as the criminal sentence is concerned, but the plea may not be considered an admission of guilt for any other purpose). The tobacco company pleaded “nolo contendere” on deliberately putting nicotine in cigarettes. *Kompeni u teen shigari “venda u tunan shin rumun” er ve mba we kwagh u seer tahav mbu shigari (e.g., nicotine).*
- Oath (**ibumun**): A promise to tell the truth. To take/swear an oath (**u bumun**). Would you take an oath on the Bible or Swem? *U soo u bumun sha Bibilo shin sha Swem?*
- Ocean (**ityeku**): a very large body of salt water like the Atlantic Ocean. Atlantic Ocean is 8 kilos deep. *Ityeku i Atelanti za kuma kilo anigheni.*
- Often (**kimir ki kimbir**): something that happens again and again. James often scores the most goals in a ball game. *James ka a ya ako kimbir ki kimbir a hembra ngeen sha hanma mzough u bol.*
- Omnivore (**ye inyam man toho/ika**): an animal that eats both plants and animals. A human being is an omnivore. *Orumiace ye inyam man akaa a dugh ken toho man ikon yô.*
- Optometrist (**ortwer u ashee**): someone who is trained to check the eyes and prescribe eyeglasses. The hospital at Mkar has an optometrist. *Iyoughci i sha Mkar ngi a ortwer u ashhee.*
- Outside (**ken won**): the outer part of something, not inside. Nick is cleaning the outside of his house. *Nick ngu esen ya na ken won.*
- Over (**hide kimbir**): to repeat or do it again. You got the math problem wrong; you must do it over. *U er iyenge sha min ga; hide kimbir eren.*
- Over (**kar sha**): above. The plane flew over the mountain. *Igirgi purugh kar sha itioough ki wough.*
- Page (**peeji**): a piece of paper in a book. Open the book to page 25. *Bugh takeda sha peeji 25.*
- Pants (**wondo**): a type of clothing people wear over their hips and legs. Wear the white pants to school. *Huwa wondo u pupul za makeranta a min.*
- Parent (**or maren**): a mother or father member of a family. Her parents’ names are Emmanuel and Rose. *Ati a mbamaren nav er Emmanuel man Rose.*
- Patch (**paci**): a piece of material that is used to cover a tear or a hole. I have a patch on my pants. *M wa paci sha wondo wam.*
- Pawn (**ta tumbu**): the act of borrowing money by using an item of value as collateral and pay money or get money from. She gave her wedding ring as pawn get money to pay rent. *A na iyôough ki sha wegh ki ivesegh sha u zuan a inyaregh kimbin ya.*
- Peanut (**abun**): a vegetable that grows under the ground which can be eaten, or oil made of. I like roasted peanuts. *M soo abun u kaan.*
- Pediatrician (**ortwer u mbayev**): a doctor trained to take care of babies and children. It is good for children to see a pediatrician when they are sick, or even if they are not sick. *Doo u mbayev vea nengen a ortwer u mbayev shie u ve lu dedo ga, shin vea lu dedo kpa (even if they are well).*
- Perjury (**eren aie sha kwaghoron u jirigh**): giving false testimony to affect the judgment in a court case under consideration. Adam went to prison for committing perjury at Yôugh Court. *Adam yem purusu sha u eren aie hen Koti Yôugh.*
- Person (**nomso or, kwase, shin wanye**): a man, woman, or child. A person eats food to live. *Or/kwase/wanye nan ye kwagyan sha u lun uma.*
- Phloem (**igbiratoho shin ikon**): the tissue through which food from the leaves moves down

- from the leaves to other parts of the plant. Trees and grass have phloem. *Ikon man toho ngi/ngu a igbiratoho/igbiraikon.*
- Picture (**foto, pica**): a photograph, painting, or drawing that shows how something looks. My phone takes pictures. *Fon wam tee foto/pica.*
- Pig (**igo**): an animal with four legs, a long nose or snout, and a curly tail. Pigs like cool places. *Igo soo ajiir a ndôhól.* Also, **igo** (plural) with a different pronunciation.
- Pigeon (**ikungugh**): a bird with a small head and short legs. A pigeon likes to eat among the people in the courtyard. *Ikungugh ka ki soo u yan kwagh vea ior hen tembe.*
- Plaintiff (**oryilan ijir**): The person who files the complaint in a civil lawsuit. Ateze is the plaintiff who brought charges against Atim. *Ateze ka oryilan ijir u a yer Atim ijir yô.*
- Planet (**pelaneti**): any of the nine major objects that travel around the Sun. For example: Mercury, enus, Earth, mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. Joe and Jane are on planet Earth. *Joe man Jane mba sha pelaneti u Tar.*
- Plant (**kwaghuma u a lu inyam ga yo**): a living thing that is not an animal such as grass, trees, and shrubs. Alu is watering the vegetable plants. *Alu ngu ulun ikon i ahu a iuwe.*
- Plea deal (or plea bargain or agreement) (**rumun a kwaghbo sha itioough ki kwaghgen u una was gomenti shin poloshi yô**): Agreement between the defendant and prosecutor where the defendant pleads guilty in exchange for a concession by the prosecutor. She made a plea deal to tell what her boss did wrong; the, she was no longer prosecuted. *A rumun u ôron aferakaa a orhemen hen tom na a eren yô; i kera wa un ken ijir ga.*
- Pleadings (**u ngeren kwagh u a lu jighilii sha ijir yô**): Written statements of the parties in a civil case of their positions. In federal courts, the principal pleadings are the complaint and the answer. Both lawyers finished their pleadings. *Uloya ve bee a akaôron ve a jighilii sha ijir yô.*
- Pledge (**ta/na (kwagh) tumbu**): to make a promise to repay a debt on the lender's belief, based on a valuable resource they possess (usually held by the lender). She pledged her earring for money to buy food. *A ta abinkuni na tumbu a ngohol inyaregh ki yamen kwaghyan.*
- Plenty (**ngee**): a lot of something that you have. Ngômom has plenty of clothes; she is giving some away. *Ngômom ngee a akondo je ngu nan a genegh kera.*
- Plumber (**pelamba**): someone who can repair water and gas pipes. The plumber came yesterday to fix Zee's water pipes. *Pelamba nyen va u va sôron pom mba mnger mba Zee.*
- Poison (**megh**): toxic material that can make one sick if swallowed. The man is vomiting because he has taken poison from eating mushroom. *Or ngu suwan sha ciu a ya ijôu i lun a megh.*
- Pond (**ityungu**): a small body of water that is not as large as a lake. The Aku Pond does not have fish in it. *Ityungu i Aku ngi a ishu shimi(n) ga.*
- Poor (**gba ican**): not having enough money to buy essential needs. Friday is as poor as a mouse living in the church. *Friday gba ican er ihev i tse ken iyou adua nahan.*
- Possible (**a faityô u eren**): if it can be done. It is possible for the woman to break an egg. *Kwase una faityô u hemben ijikegh.*
- Pot (**itiegh**): a container that can be used for cooking or storing liquids. We cook yams in a large pot. *Ka se jiidi iyough shin zefe itiegh.*
- Poverty (**ican**): the condition of being poor. A person in poverty cannot buy a car. *Or u nan lu ken ican nana faityô u yamen mato ga.*
- Praying mantis (gerege): a large insect that sometimes holds its front legs up as if it were praying, hence its name. The praying mantis has wings. *Gerege ngu a akper.*
- Predator (**inyamikume**): an animal that hunts other animals for food. The rabbit hid well from the predator. *Alôm yer kpile kpile hen inyamikume.*
- Pretend (**henen sha kwagh u a lu u mimi ga yô**): to imagine something happening; not real. The boy is pretending that he is a soldier. *Wanye ngu eren er i kaa er un ngu orshoja.*
- Prison (**purusu**): a place where those who have been found guilty of a crime or offense are sent. He was sent to prison at Kirkiri. *I wa un ken purusu u shin Kirikiri.*

- Prize (*iyuwa, ikav i hemban kwagh*): a reward for winning or doing something well. Ayaka got a prize for coming first in math. *Ayaka zua a iyuwa i van or u hiihii ken ayenge.*
- Promise (*u tondon zwa*): to agree to do something. I promise to take care of students when they are in my class. *M tondo zwa mer me nenge sha mbayev makeranta shie u ve lu ken kelase wam yô.*
- “pro se” (*tilen loya sha iyol i nan*): A Latin term meaning “on one’s own behalf”; in courts, it refers to two persons who present their own cases without lawyers. He chose to appear in court “pro se”. *A tsua er una tile “loya sha iyol na” ken koti.*
- Quick (*fese*): to act fast. I can run as quick as an antelope. *Me faityô u yevese fese er iho nahan.*
- Quiet (*huan/lun ving*): a period when there is no noise. You must be quiet in court. *I soo er u lun ving ken koti.*
- Radio (*redio*): a machine that one can listen to music and hear people talk. I listen to news on the radio. *Ka m ungwa abaver sha redio.*
- Reckless (*ikoiwanga*): careless; not avoiding danger or trouble. Adudu is reckless if he is not wearing a helmet while riding a motorbike. *Adudu ngu a ikoiwanga aluer ngu hendan agugu a u cirin idyer ga yô.* Compare, carelessness.
- Remember (*umbur*): recall something that happened in the past. It is good that I remember to go and pick up Wasem. *Doo er m umbur u za tôn Wasem yô.*
- Rent (*ya u kôron shie kpuua*): short-term lease. I bought this house; I didn’t just rent it for a few months. *M yam ya ne; m kôr un sha iwer kpuua tsegh ga.*
- Repair (*sôr*): to fix something/machine that is broken or is in disrepair. Afaityô can repair my car. *Afaityô una faityô u sôrorn mato wam.*
- Resistance (*yangen mkar u akaa*): how much an object resists or opposes any electrical flow. A thick copper wire has less resistance than a thin one. *Wayu u kôpa u kehen yangen mkar u lateriki er u ndahar nahan ga.*
- Rest (*mem*): to stop working for a while and sit or lay down and stay quiet. Sesugh will rest after six hours of work. *Sesugh una mem shie u a er tom mbaahwa ateratar yô.*
- Restaurant (*ijiir i teen kwaghyan*): a place where one can buy and eat a meal. Rumun went to the restaurant on his birthday. *Rumun za hen ijiir i teen kwaghyan sha iyange i umbur mmar na.*
- Rice (*chinkafa, chingapa*): a kind of grain from which you can make cereal, milk, and jollof. Yadoo likes fried rice with goat meat. *Yadoo soo chinkafa i kaan sha inyam ivo.*
- River (*ifi*): a large stream of water that flows into another river or ocean. The water of River Benue flows into the Niger river. *Mngerem ma lfi u Benue ka ma sen ma za haa shin ifi u Niger.*
- Roof (*tor*): the top covering on a house or building. The bird sits on the roof of the house. *Inyon tema sha tor u iyough.*
- Roots (*amishe - plural*): the parts of a plant that grow under the ground which support the plant. A large tree has deep roots. *Amishe a zege kon ka a za shin inya.* Root: *mishe*, singular noun.
- Rubber (*roba*): a material that stretches and is waterproof. I use a rubber band to hold the sticks together. *Ka m kange anikonov sha gwar roba.*
- Ruler (*or u hemen ior mba hen tar ve kuran atindi*): a person who makes sure the people of a place/land observe the laws of the land. Atim is ruler of Mbativ. *Atim ka or u nengen er ior ve kuran atindi a hen tar Mbativ.*
- Ruler (rule): a tool with straight edges used for measuring distance. We use a ruler to measure the length of a line. *Ka se kar iniembe i hwange sha rule.*
- Sack (*iba, aba - plural*): large bag made from straw used for storing grains and seeds. The donkey is carrying a sack of beans. *Jaki i tôte iba u alev.*
- Sad (*lun a ishima vihin, ishima doo ga, tsung*): to feel unhappy. She is sad because her mother left. *Ngu a ishima vihin sha er ngô na a yem yô.* same thing. (Compare weight)
- Sand (*waarawa*): small grains made from rock material by moving water or by wind. You can find sand on the beach. *U faityô u zuan a waarawa sha kpe u waghe.*
- Sandaval hearing (*u pasen akaa a loya u gômenti una pine or u i yer nan nijir*): A hearing

- to determine which portions of a defendant's prior record the prosecution can ask at trial if the defendant chooses to testify.
- Savannah (**savana**): a flat area of land covered mainly with grass and few trees, that is found in the tropical climates. Benue is in the African Savannah. *Benue ngu ken Savana u Afrika.*
- Save (**koso**): to keep in a safe place where it cannot be easily accessed. Keep your valuables in a Safe. *Koso akaa ou a injaa ken Sev.*
- Save (**war, yima**): to rescue from harm or danger. When the house caught fire, the fireman carried the girl out, therefore, saved her. *Shie u iyough gba usu yô, orpirin usu due a wankwase, nahan, yima un.*
- Saw (**ishôm**): a metal tool that has teeth used for cutting things (wood, metal, or plastic). The carpenter uses a saw to cut a plank. *Orkapinta ka a tôndo ketako sha ishôm.*
- Scare (**ta mciem iyol**): to make afraid. He came out suddenly so scared me. *A due gagh tso tam mciem miyol.*
- Season (**shie u inyom**): time of year such as rainy and dry seasons (spring, summer, fall, winter). Agbur stream has little water during the dry season. *Wagh u Agbur ka u lu a mngerem cuku shie u inyom i uman.*
- Seed (**ishange i ken itiamegh ki kon**): small, hard part of a plant from which a new plant grows. The peanut (ground nut) has a seed in it. *Abun ngu a ishange keregh.*
- Seek (**ker**): to look for something. Seek, and you will find. *Ker, man u zua a min.*
- Selfish (**wan iko sha iyol you tsegh, ci wou tsegh**): to be about oneself alone and not about other people. He is selfish and keeps the good stuff for himself. *We iko sha iyol na tsegh nahan ka a tôô akaa a dedo sha ci na.*
- Sentence (**ijir kôron**): The punishment ordered by a court for a defendant convicted of a crime. Federal courts look to the United States Sentencing Commission Guidelines when deciding the proper punishment for a given crime. The judge gave him one-month sentence. *Jooji na un wer mom sha ijirkôron na.*
- Shack (**itumbe**): a place to keep garden tools. My hoe is in the shack. *Nduhal wam ngu shin itumbe.*
- Shine (**tsaren iwanger**): to produce a bright light. Shine the flashlight so we can see. *Tsar tacilan i wanger er se nenge yô.*
- Ship (**tso u zegenan**): a large boat that sails on seas and oceans. A ship can carry cars and boxes of sacks of soybeans. *Tso u zegenan ka a faityô u tôôn umato man aba a soyabin.*
- Shoulder (**vandegh avandegh - plural**): part of the body to which the arm is attached. He strapped the drum on his shoulder. *A har kwange u genga sha vande(gh).*
- Shoulder (**vandegh ku wegh**): a complex combination of bones and joints—clavicle. My shoulder hurts so I cannot raise my hand. *Vandegh nyion mo nahan me faityô u kenden wegh sha ga.*
- Shovel (**shebul**): a tool for scooping earth or dirt. Take the shovel to scoop the cow dung. *Tôô shebul kura ambi a bua.*
- Show (**inumbe**): something special that one can display for others to see or hear. The children put on a dance show. *Mbayev er inumbe i amaregh.*
- Show (**tese**): to place something so someone can see. Let me show you my work. *De m tese u tom wam.*
- Sick (**kwagh nyion**): to be unwell. She is sick with stomachache. *Iyav nyion un.*
- Sickness (**mnyionom**): what one experiences when they are sick. Sickness from smallpox leaves scars on the body. *Mnyionom ma agena ka mbu na ayor (sha) iyol.*
- Sidebar (**uloya tumen idyu a jooji**): A conference between the judge and lawyers without the jury hearing. The lawyers approached the judge for a sidebar. *Uloya ve kporom ikua a jooji sha u tumen idyu.*
- Sign (**ikav**): something, usually a symbol, that gives direction or tells us what to do. We have a sign that tells us when to stop. *Se mba a ikav i tesen shie u se tile yô.*
- Silent (**ving**): without noise. People are asleep; the night is silent. *Ior yav; tugh mbu ving.*
- Sing (**gber imo, wa icam**): to make music with one's voice. Please sing a Golozo song. *We a rumun yô gber imo i Golozo.*
- Single (**mom**): one of something. Terna asked for a single loaf of bread. *Terna pine er i na*

- un kpen beredi mom.*
- Skin (**kwaviyolough**): the outer covering of the body that protects the muscles. If you scratch your skin, blood will come out. *Aluer u tôndo ivav sha kwaviyolough you yô, awambe a due.*
- Sky (**kwavaôndo**): the covering of the air and clouds over the earth. The airplane is moving in the sky. *Igirgi purugh ngi zan sha (ke) kwavaôndo.*
- Slip (**liemen**): to slide and begin to fall. Be careful not to slip on a wet floor. *Er teghlee sha er u liemen sha mngerem ma hen inya ga yô.*
- Slippery (**liemen**): the condition that makes a place that one can slide and begin to fall. The ground is slippery so Wasem could not run well. *Inya liemen nahan Wasem faityô u yevese dedo ga.*
- Slow (**teghlee**): not fast. The tortoise is a slow animal. *Kurugh ka aninyam u (zenden) teghelee.*
- Slowly (**tegh tegh**): very slow. The chameleon moves slowly but reaches its destination. *Hum ka yemen tegh tegh kpa a za nyôr ape a lu zan yô.*
- Smell (**ungwa ihuma**): to breath in an odor through your nose. I have a cough and cannot smell the soup. *Hough vam nahan m faityô u unghan ihuma i iuwe ga.*
- Smile (**se ken ahenge**): to move parts of your mouth and face to show you are happy. Ashi smiled when her picture was being take. *Ashi se ken ahenge shie ui lu tôôn un foto yô.*
- Smooth (**kôngol**): the surface is not rough or uneven. The chair moved well on a smooth floor. *Ikônough kar dedo sha tembe iyough u kôngol.*
- Soap (**icahul**): material used with water to clean things. He used soap to wash the dishes. *A kile agbande sha icahul.*
- Soft (**taver ga, leghem**): not hard or stiff. The ripe mango is soft. *Mongol u nyian taver ga.*
- Soon (**higen higen**): not too long ago from now. The dance will soon be over. *Amar a bee higen higen.*
- Sorry (**nam injô, yam anyi**): being sad or apologetic about something that has happened. I am sorry I yelled at you. *M kende imo a we kpa nam injô.*
- Soup (**iuwe, iue**): a liquid food made by cooking meat, vegetables, and ground melon seeds in water. I like oxtail-bitter-leaf-melon seed soup. *M soo iue i tsabua, ituna, man icegher.*
- Speed (**ô, mnyôngosu u kwagh**): how fast something is moving. Atume ran at a great speed to win the race. *Atume nyôngosu je hembra ayem.*
- Spider (**kpereketange, tetange**): a small animal with eight legs tha can spin a web to catch small insects for food. The spider can spin a fine web. *Tetange ka a faityô u tumen kper u doon nengen.*
- Spill (**haa**): when something falls out of a container. Be careful not to spill soup on your shirt. *Er teghele sha er u haa iue sha riga wou ga yô.*
- Spoon (**tswekeli**): a tool or utensil used to stir or scoop up food. Yima eats porridge with a spoon. *Yima ka a ya iber sha tswekeli.*
- Spot (**ikav**): a mark or dot made with a ink, pencil, or paint; a position where something can be found. Jim made a spot on the paper to show the beginning of the line. *Jim civ ikav sha pipa u tesen mhii u hwange.*
- Spread (**shie, wa, sar, samber**): to smooth something out so that it covers more space. Spread the butter on the bread. *Shie bota sha beredi.* Spread the cement so it is level. *Sar sementu sha er anundu a lu ga yô* (there are no bumps).
- Stairs (**gbenda u yemen sha iyough i sha aôndo**): steps that helps in going up or down a multi-story house. Terngu goes up the stairs to watch TV. *Terngu ka a unde sha gbenda u yemen sha iyough i sha aôndo u za nengen TV.*
- Step (**iaven, aaven - pl**): what people put their feet on to go up or down the stairs. It takes twenty steps to reach the kitchen. *Ka i tôô aaven ikundu u nyôron sha kicin.*
- Store (**setoo, kasua**): a place where people can buy things or keep things. Niehema has gone to the store to buy meat. *Niehema za kasua/setoo u za yamen inyam.*
- Strange (**kposo**): something that is odd, unusual, or not seen or heard before. She is speaking a strange language. *Ngu lamem zwa u lu kposo yô.*

- Stranger (*or vaninya, or u vande fan nan ga*): a person you have not heard of or seen before. It is good to welcome a stranger. *Hemba doon u ngohol or vaninya.* stress and anxiety.
- String (*kwar*): a very thin rope. Tie the gift with a strong string. *Kange iyua sha kwar u taver.*
- Stubborn (*venda u geman ishima (sha) kwagh*): holding firmly to one's purpose or opinion and refusing to change it. He is stubborn and would not wear a hat when it is cold. *A venda u geman ishima u cirin idyer shie u i ndôhol yô.*
- Stupidly (*tsume tsu tsume*): acting in a disorderly way or without thinking well. Acting stupidly got him into trouble. *Eren kwagh tsume tsu tsume na un gba ken kwaghbo.*
- Subpoena (*takeda u tesen or nan va na kwaghôron*): A command to a witness to appear in court or Congress. Bond veanda u van court, so he was served a subpoena to appear to give witness. *Bond venda u van koti, nahan i tindi un a takeda u va nan shiada.*
- Subtract (*pande*): to take away. Five subtract three is two. *Utaan pande utar ka uhar.* (See minus).
- Sun (*iyange*): a star in the universe that gives us day and night and light energy. The surface of the sun is very hot. *Kwav u iyange tsee kpishi.*
- Sunshine (*iyange tan*): the bright light of the sun. There is sunshine because there are no clouds. *Iyange ta shaciu abeen due ga.*
- Suppose (*aluer*): to imagine that something is true to consider the effect. Suppose he were 7 meters tall he would reach the edge 7 meters high. *Aluer itaven na ia kom mita 7 yô, ma a feityô u aren sha kwevel u lu mita 7 yô.*
- Sure (*fa mimi*): to be certain; to know that something is true. I am sure his name is Kuma. *M fa mimi iti na er Kuma.*
- Surely (*mimi mimi*): certainly; without a doubt. Surely, Wasem came first in the 400 meters race. *Mimi mimi je Wasem too or hihhi ken ayem a mita 400.*
- Surprise (*kpilighiyol*): when you do not know or expect something. It is a surprise that we arrived on time. *Ka kwagh u kpilighiyol je er se nyer sha shie yô.*
- Swallow (*mena*): the action that allows food or water to enter the mouth into the stomach. Chew your food before you swallow it. *Tam kwaghyan wou man u mena ye.*
- Swear (*bum*): to pledge on the Bible/Koran/Swem to tell the truth in a court of law.
- Sweep (*ese*): to brush away dirt, usually with a broom. Sweep the leaves from the yard. *Ese ika ken tembe sha.*
- Sweet (*nyoho*): something that is nice to taste. The porridge is sweet because it has honey in it. *Iber i nyoho shaaciu ngi a iyough shi min (shin mi).*
- Tadpoles (*ônovmbaishôhôn*): lava of a frog or toad with a long tail; baby frogs. The mother frog never takes care of her tadpoles. *Ngôishôhôn nengen sha ônovmbaishôhôn ga.*
- Tail (*tasa, tili*): a part of some animals found past the back end; the back part of something. (1) The horse's tail is long; that of a pig is not (long). *Tsa u nyinya lihe; u igo lihe ga.* (2) The truck's "guard person" (or truck's dog) sits on the tail board. *Keremi u mato ka a tema sha tili bood.*
- Take (too, ker, er kwagh): to pick up something or catch hold of it; to do or make something. Take the ball, take the winning shot and take a victory run when you make the shot. *Tôô bol, ker un, man yevese a iember aluer u ya iko i hemban bol yô.*
- Talk (*yôôso, ôron kwagh, kwaghôron*): to say words when speaking. (1) Ses likes to talk about sports. *Ses soo u ôron kwagh u anumbe.* (2) Okoye gave a talk about American football. *Okoye na kwaghôron sha kwagh u futubol u Amerika.*
- Tall (*tav*): something that is long from the bottom to the top. The pawpaw tree is tall; the pepper tree is not (tall). *Kon u mbuel tav; kon u mke(m) ta ga.*
- Taxi (*tagazi, takezi*): a car that a person can pay the driver to take them to places. I paid for the taxi to take me home. *M kimbi mer takezi a yem a mo ken ya.*
- Tear (*ande*): to pull apart something. I pulled the cloth to tear a piece of it. *M ulugh ikondo er me ande bembel na yô.*
- Tear (*mliam*): a drop of liquid that comes out of the eye when one cries or weeps. He shed a tear when he cried. *A vaa mliam due.*

- Teething (*u van anyi*): growing teeth. She has a headache because of her teething period. *Itough nande un shaciu anyi nga van un.*
- Telephone (*telefon*): a device you use to talk to people from a distance. I spoke with my brother in Nigeri over the telephone. *M yôso vea waningbian wam u nomso u ken Nijeriya sha telefon.*
- Television (*televishôn, TV*): a machine that produces moving pictures and live voice/sound. Ngutor is watching the President speak on television. *Ngutor ngu nengen er President a lu lamén sha televishôn yô.*
- Tell (*ta, kaa*): to put something into words. (1) Tell the story of angôijou. *Ta kwaghir u angôijou.* (2) Tell him to be quiet. *Kaa un a lu ving.* (c.f., “Tell him to shut up.” “Kaa un a cir zwa.”)
- Temperature (*mtsee u kwagh*): how hot or how cold something is. Atese is sick and her temperature is up. *Atese ngu dedo ga nahan mtsee u iyol na kende sha.*
- Testify (*u nan amsa sha mbampin ken koti*): Answer questions in court. OJ refused to testify in his trial for the murder of his wife. *OJ venda u nan amsa sha mbampin ke koti sha ijir na i wuan kwase na.*
- Testimony (*shiada*): Evidence presented orally by witnesses during trials. Hope gave testimony in the case against her boss. *Hope na ishiada sha ijir i orvesen na.*
- Thank (*sugh*): to appreciate or say you like what someone has done for you. We thank God for this child He has given us. *Se sugh Aôndo sha wan u a ne se ne.*
- Theater (*iyough i tesen/nengen sinema/foto/akaa a homon*): a place where to see a movie, a play, or a show. Saba has gone to the theater to see the show called “Moses.” *Saba yem sha iyough i tesen sinema u za nengen inumbe l iyel er “Moses” la.*
- Thirsty (*imula kôr*): to have a feeling of need to drink water or liquid. I am very thirsty. *Imula kôrom kpishi.*
- Thought (*kwagh henen, mhen*): something someone is thinking about; an idea. My thought is that we wait. *Mhen wam yô ma se kegh.*
- Thread (*kwagh u korn kwagh, kwar*): a thin string used for sewing. A thread made of nylon is stronger than that made of cotton. *Kwar u nailon hembra taver a u mough.*
- Through (*bee*): done doing something. I am through reading the Bible verse. *M bee u ôron ivur i Bibilo.* (M ôr ivur Bibilo m bee.)
- Through (*kar due*): to go from one side of something to the other. The arrow went through the orange. *A ta ivaan sha alum kar due vegher la.*
- Throw (*ker*): to toss something through the air. You throw the ball to go through the net. *Ka u ker bol we a nyôr a kar a due shin kper.* (Compare a throw, or what has been thrown. It was a bad throw; the ball did not enter the net.)
- Thumb (*ihowe tamen*): the short fat finger on a human hand. My thumb is swollen, and I cannot hold things well. *Ihowe tamen wam mula, man me faityô u kôron kwagh dedo ga.*
- Thunder (*iduran*): loud noise heard when there is lightning. The lightning was followed by thunder. *Aôndo nyiar maashi iduran dondo.*
- Tick (*iusu*): an animal with eight legs that attaches itself to humans and animals and sucks and sucks blood for food. He has ticks in his hair. *Ngu a iusu shin itiough.*
- Ticket (*tiketi*): a piece of paper which shows you have permission to enter or take your turn. I have a ticket to allow me to enter the cinema theater. *M tôndo tiketi i rumun mo u nyoron iyough i sinema.*
- Tiger (*anyam*): a large Asian fresh-eating animal that looks like a cat. The tiger is sleeping in the zoo. *Anyam ngu yaven ken zuu (ijjiir i koson inyam).*
- Till (*saa*): between one time and another. We will not leave till you return. *Se yem ga saa u hide.*
- Time (*shie*): the period when something happens, measured in seconds, minutes, and hours. A day, week, month, and year also indicate time. It is time to go. *Shie kuma u yemen.* to determine which portions of a defendant’s prior record the prosecution can ask at trial if the defendant chooses to testify.
- Today (*nyian, iyange i nyian*): the day it is now. Today is Wednesday. *Nyian ka Tomatar.*
- Tomato (*tematu*): a round red fruit that grows on vines above the ground. Tomato soup is

- good food. *lue i tematu ka kwaghyan u dedo.*
- Tomorrow (*kper*): the day that comes immediately after today. Tomorrow will be Thursday if today is Wednesday. *Kper a lu Tomanyiin aluer nyian ka Tomatar yô.*
- Too (*kpaá, ngee gande*): also; more than enough. I see that you have eaten too much; John, too, needs to stop eating now. *U ya ngee gande; John kpa a de u yan kwagh higen.*
- Tool (*ikagh ki eren to a min*): something with which to do work. I have tools in my toolshed like hammer, scissors, knife, and axe. *M ngu a akaa eren tom a min shin iyough i ikav mbi tomov anza er hama, keshi, ihô, man ijembe nahan.*
- Tooth (*inyigh*): the bonny part of the mouth used for biting and chewing things. One tooth in my mouth is hurting. *Inyigh yagh imom ki ken zwa wam ki nyion mo.*
- Touch (*bende*): to feel something with the fingers or another part of the body. If you touch the flame with your finger, you will get burnt. *Aluer u bende ihôwe sha nombol usu yô, ua hia u.*
- Towel (*tawel*): a piece of paper or cloth used for drying something wet. I dry my hands with a paper towel after washing them (the hands). *Ka m uma ave sha tawel u pipa ka me a ôô/kile ave yô.*
- Toy (*kwagh u numben a min, toi*): something to play with. Msendo likes her Barbie toy. *Msendo soo toi na u Barbie.*
- Train (*igirgi dogo*): a machine with a string of coaches that travel on rails (dogo) and can carry goods or people. The train has left Makurdi for (to go to) Kaduna. *Igirgi dogo mough Makurdi u yemen Kaduna.*
- Trash (*ihôôvonou/ihôônou, côvcôv mba akaav*): things that are not considered useful and can/should be or are thrown away. Banana peels are trash. *Apusu a ayaba ka ihôôvonou/ihôônou.*
- Travel (*u zan/yemen, zende*): going from one place to another. Ngukeghen will travel from Lagos to Makurdi; but she must first stop at Benin to see Ngumimi. *Ngukeghen una mough Lagos u zan Makurdi; kpa una vande tilen Benin u nengen a Ngumimi.*
- Tree (*kon*): a plant with a woody stem or trunk and has branches and leaves or needles. The papaya tree has a soft trunk. *Tine kon in mbuel taver ga.*
- Trial (*ijirôron*): A hearing that takes place when the defendant pleads "not guilty," trial, the jury or judge hears and decides the facts. Koboko's trial for murder is not yet over. *Ijirôron i Koboko i er a wua or ngi a bee ga.*
- Trip (*zende*): to travel somewhere, usually to see things. The students took a trip to Ber Awuna (Awuna Lake). *Mbayev makeranta za zende sha Ber Awuna.*
- Trouble (*taver fan*): when you have a problem with something. I have no trouble learning Tiv. *Zwativ taver mo u henen ga.*
- Trunk¹ (*gungul, tine kon*): the woody stem of a tree. The trunk of a fig tree has gummy/sticky sap. *Gungul kon u atur ngu a mningem.*
- Trunk² (*ihinga nor tar*): the nose of an elephant. The elephant grabs food with its trunk. *Nor tar ka a kôr kwaghyan na sha ihinga na.*
- Trunk³ (*zege akwati, aduduiyô*): a big suitcase for clothes and goods. I fill my trunk with clothes when going on a trip. *Ka me a zaan zende yô m wa ikav shin zege akwati gbing.*
- Turn¹ (*gema*): to change direction. Turn to the left. *Gema ken imese.* (Turn right. *Gemama ken iyan*)
- Turn² (*hingir kwaghgen*): to become something else. Water turns into vapour/steam. *Mngerem ka ma hingir turugh.*
- Turn³ (*kwa*): (one's) position in a queue. Do not skip the line; wait for your turn. *De tsuwen nongo ga; kegh kwa wou.*
- Turtle (*kurugh*): animal with a hard shell and a soft body; it coils its head, arms and legs inside its body to protect itself. The turtle moves slowly. *Kurugh zenden tegh tegh.*
- Twice (*kwa har*): two times. I have ran round the field twice. *M yevese fiidi m ningir m yisa kwa har.*
- Twin (*ahina*): one of two children who have the same mother and father and are born at the same time. Ajio is the twin brother of Agera. *Ajio vea Agera mba ahina.*

- Twins (**mba ahinav**): the two children who have the same mother and father and are born at the same time. *Agera and Ajio are twins. Agera man Ajio ka ônov mba ahinav.* (Sometimes the twins look alike; other times they do not.)
- Ugly (**vihi ashe**): something that is not good to look at or to hear. This pile of trash is ugly. *Tihi u ihôv ne vihi ashe.*
- Umbrella (**inima**): a folding cover that protects (one) from rain or the heat of the sun. take an umbrella when think it is going to rain. *Tôô inima aluer u hen wer ura ngu van yô (ura u ava nôô yô).*
- Uncle (**ningbian u nomso u tereu shi ngôu**): the brother of your father or mother; your aunt's husband. Terngu is the brother of Wasem's mother, hence his (Wasem's) uncle. *Terngu ka aningbian u nomso u ngô u Wasem.*
- Understand (**wanger**): to know what something means. (1) I understand how to solve this math problem. *Wanger mo u eren iyenge ne.* (2) The teacher explained so I can understand. *Tica pase sha er a wanger mo yô.*
- Undress (**er akondo**): to take off (one's) clothes. Undress before you bathe. *Er akondo cii man u ôô iyol ye.*
- Unhappy (**ishima vihi**): when you feel sad. I am unhappy that you are leaving us. *Ishim vihi m er u lu undun se yo.*
- Until (**zan zan**): up to the time of. We are going to be here until noon. *Se lu heen zan zan nomiyange.*
- Unusual (**vanden ... ga**): something that does not often happens (not seen, heard, or felt). It is unusual for a pig to refuse food. *M ngu a nenge igo vanden vehdan kwaghyan ga.*
- Upside down (**tingir**): when the top of something is on the bottom and the bottom is on the top. (1) The boy is upside down. *Wanye tingir itiough (inya).* (2) Turn the pot upside down to empty it of water. *Tingir itiegh mngerem ma haa cica.*
- Usual (**vanden ...**): something that always happens or takes place. It is usual for a cock to crow every morning. *Nomikegh vanden tôngon hanma pepe.*
- Usually (**ashie kpishi**): Terngu usually drives his car to work. *Ashie kpishi Terngu ka a naha mato na u yaren tom.*
- Vacation (**memiyol**): a special time when someone does not work, or students do not have to go to school. When I take vacation, I shall go to Hong Kong. *Me too memiyol yô, me za Hong Kong.* (Compare holiday)
- Vacuum (**kwagh u esen/susen inyarev shin ihundu**): a machine to suck up dirt or dust. Clean the room with a vacuum cleaner. *Ese iyough sha kwagh u sesen inyarev.*
- Vegetable (**ikaiue, atamaie, man amishyan**): plants that are used for food such as spinach, tomato, and potato. Vegetables are good for your health. *Ikaiue ka i na (ngi a) mkpeiyol wou.*
- Vehicle (**kwagghendan**) something that can carry a people or things from one place to another. (1) a car is a vehicle. *Mato ka kwagghendan.* (2) An airplane, a boat, a bicycle, and autocytle are vehicles (pl). *Girgi purugh, tso, ikeke, man agugu ka akaahendan (pl).*
- Venue (**atejir**): The geographical location in which a case is tried. The venue the trial was held was the Shariah Court, Kano. *A za a ijir ken atejir u Sharia, Kano.*
- Verdict (**kwagh u ijir i kaa yô**): The decision of a petit jury or a judge made at the end of a trial. The verdict was that OJ was not guilty. *Ijir kaa er OJ er kwaghbo ga.*
- Vest (**avav**): a short, sleeveless coat worn over a shirt as an outside attire, or before a full coat, usually by men. *Hua avav cii man u hua koti jimjim ye.*
- Visit (**za u za nengen**): to go to see someone or something. Jay went to visit his father. *Jay za u za nengen a ter na.*
- Visitor (**or vaninya**): a person who is visiting. We have a visitor from Abuja; he is a soldier. *Se mba a or aninya u a mough shin Abuja yô; ka or shoja.*
- Voice (**liam, ikenge**): sound made while talking, singing, or shouting. Lower your voice, please. *Hide a ikenge jime (shin inya, we a rumun yô.*
- “voir dire” (**ôron kwagh jighirii**): The process by which judges and lawyers select a petit jury from among those eligible to serve by questioning them to determine knowledge of the facts of the case and a willingness to decide the case only on the evidence

- presented in court. "Voir dire" is a phrase meaning "to speak the truth."
- Wait (**tile**): to stop what you are doing or stay where you are until something happens. Wait for the car to pass before you cross the road. *Tile mato a kar man u per gbenda ye.*
- Waiting trial (**usuterai**): those who are waiting to be arraigned or to go on trial but are not in prison. He is here awaiting trial on the charges against him. *Ngu heen u keghen usuterai sha ijir i i yer un yô.*
- Wake (**nder**): to stop sleeping. I wake up in the morning to go to school. *Ka m nder pepe u yemen (zan) makeranta.*
- Walk (**zende**): to move by taking steps. Her daughter cannot walk yet. *Wan na u kwase ngu a zende ga.*
- Wall (**kpekpe**): the side of a room or a building. I hang the clock on the wall. *M har agogo sha kpekpe.*
- Warrant (**warranti**): An arrest warrant is a written order directing the arrest of a party. A warrants are issued by a judge after a showing of probable cause.
- Wash (**kile**): to clean something with water and soap. Wash your clothes with clean water. *Kile akondo ou sha mngerem ma engem.*
- Waste (**de kwagh a saa ishe**): unable to make good use of something. Throwing yam peels away is a waste, since pigs like to eat it. *U haan apusu a iyough kere ka u saan kwaghyan ishe shaciu igo soo u yan a.*
- Watch¹ (**agogo a sha wegh**): small clock worn on the wrist. My watch says the time is 5 o'clock. *Agogo am kaa er shie ka ahwa utaan.*
- Watch² (**kenger, nengen**): to look at something. We went to watch the swimming race. *Se za u za kenger inumbe i uwe ôôn.*
- Weak (**taver ga**): something that is not strong or is easy to break. The tree branch is weak; it will break if you stand on it. *Gbaakon taver ga; una kever aluer u tile shamin yô.*
- Weigh (**kar myohom**): to measure how heavy something is. Weigh the box before putting it on the plane. *Kar myohom ma akwati cii man u wa sha igirgi purugh ye.*
- Weight (**myohom, myuha u kwagh**): how heavy something is; the force on an object due to the gravitational pull of a planet. Its weight is five kilograms. *Myohom nam ka kilo utaan.*
- Wheel (**wii**): something that is round like a circle and can roll or turn such as found on a car or a bicycle. The wheel of a car is larger than that of a motorcycle. *Wii u mato hembra kehen a u agugu.*
- Whimper [**shosom (v), ishosom (n)**]: to make winning sound like a sad/hungry puppy; sound so made. The puppy whimpered until it was fed. *Waniwa zer shosom zan zan i kar nan un kwaghyan.*
- Whisper (**lamen ivarivase**): to say something very quietly. You need to whisper while in the library. *Doo u lamen ivrivase ken laiberi.* Whisper (n) - a quiet speech (*liam i ivarivase*).
- Whistle¹ (**tungwa/tongon hondo**): to make a loud, shrill sound by blowing air through a narrow opening such as lips. I can whistle like you. *Me faityô u tungwan/tongon hondo er we nahan.*
- Whistle² (**usur**): something that makes a loud, shrill sound when air is blown through it such as an oboe (*akya*). The referee ended the game by blowing a whistle. *Referi tungwa usur er inumbe i kule.*
- Whole (**jindi imom**): We say something is whole if all its parts are together. If you cut an orange fruit and gave Zasha one part, it is no longer whole, but one part left. *Aluer u tondo itiamagh ki alum u na Zasha vegher yo, kera ngu jindi imom ga ka vegher mom a shi ye.*
- Wife (**kwase u ivar**): a woman who is married. (1) Akem is the wife of Asongu. *Akem ka kwase u Asongu.* (2) My wife went to the market (store). *Kwase wam za kasua.*
- Wing (**kperegh**): the part of birds, bats, and some insects that helps them fly. The wing of a bird has feathers. *Kperegh ku inyon ngu a ingur.* (Wings - plural: *akper*)
- Witch (**angôijôv**): an imaginary person (woman) with magical powers. I wrote a story about the powers of a witch called *Tales from Tivland, Nigeria.* **M nger Takeda u kwagh u**

- angôjôv; mba yer u er *Tales from Tivland, Nigeria*.**
- Witness (*orshiada*):** A person called upon by either side in a lawsuit to give testimony. He is a witness in the case against his father. *Wan ngu orshiada ken ijir i ter na.*
- Woman (*kwase*):** the grown-up female form of a human being. Doshima is a woman; Msendo is a girl. *Doshima ka kwase; Msendo ka wankwase.*
- Wonder (*shin ka*):** when you are unsure and would like to know or learn about something. I don't know; I wonder who won the game between Vandeikya and Katsina-Ala. *M faga; shin ka an nan hembe inumbe i hen atô u Vandeikya man Katsina-Ala la.*
- Wonderful (*kpilighiyol*):** something that is amazing or surprising, in a good way. I thought it wonderful when Karshima would turn a corner on his bicycle without holding the handlebars. *Iyange i lum kwagh u kpilighiyol u Karshima geman ikeke na a u kôron akor a ikeke shio.*
- Word (*itikwagh*):** group of letters or sounds that have a meaning that one can read or say. *Ayila is a word in the Tiv language. Ayila ka itikwagh ken zwa (u) Tiv.*
- Work (*tom*):** something that one uses energy to do whether to earn money or for pleasure. Susan works at the hospital; her work is nursing. *Susan eren tom shin (sha) iyouci; tom na ka u nengen sha mbauangev.*
- World (*tar sha won cii*):** the whole area of the earth covered by land, seas and oceans on which lives man and other animals, plants, and creatures. Africa is a continent of the world. *Afrika ka mom ken inya i tar sha won cii.*
- Worm (*anyigôr*):** a tiny animal with a long, soft body and no legs (e.g., an earthworm). Ringworm produces flakes on the skin. *Anyigôr u lagh ka a va a akembe sha kwaviyolough.*
- Wrap (*cir, kange*):** to cover something. Wrap wet, ground peas in leaves to make akpekpa. *Kange alev u hôron ken ika u jiiidi akpekpa.*
- Writ of certiorari (*takeda u koti u vesennu Nigeria/tar cii a tindi er koti u shin jime a na akaajirigh*):** An order issued by the Supreme Court directing the lower court to transmit records for a case for which it will hear on appeal. (c.f., denial of a "cert")
- Wrong (*shamin ga, mimi ga*):** not correct or true. It is wrong to say the sun goes around the earth. *U kaan er iyange i ningir tar ka shamin ga.*
- X-ray (*eksrei, x-ray*):** a picture of the inside of something taken to see what may be wrong with it (part of the body or material). The doctor examined the x-ray of his leg to see if it fractured. *Ortwer nenge sha eksrei u nguhal na u nengen ua sombo yô.*
- Xylem (zailen):** the tissue through which food and water from the roots move to the leaves and other parts of the plant. The xylem is important for soybeans to grow. *Zailen ngu a iwasen sha mvese u suwanbin.*
- Yard (*tembe*):** a piece of ground next to a house or a school or another kind of building or structure. The women brought their wares to the market yard to sell. *Kasev va a ikav vev hen tembe kasua u va teen.*
- Yawn (*aver*):** to open the mouth wide and take a deep breath usually when one is tired or bored. Hule yawned, which shows he is tired and wants to sleep. *Hule aver, tsô tese er a vôr man a soo u yaven.*
- Yell (*ngor, yôso geng geng*):** to cry out loudly, for joy or in anger. Jill says she is not happy when Jack yells at her. *Jill kaa er ishima ka i vihi un shie u Jack ka una ngor a na yô.*
- Zipper (zipa):** something that is used to fasten clothes or other things. I cannot wear my pants; the zipper does not work. *Me faityô u huan wondo wam ga; zipa na vihi (ngu eren tom ga).*
- Zoo (*zuu, ijiir i koson inyam*):** a place where rare or wild animals are kept so people can come and see them. Jos Zoo has elephants and lions. *Zuu u Jos ngu a unor tar man ubegha.*



**Mba a Marev mba Tiv
(Tiv Cultural Dancers)**

5

MODERN VOCABULARY OF THE TIV LANGUAGE AND GEOGRAPHY

Many words used in Tiv language are borrowed from the English and other languages such as Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, Arabic, etc. The words may be familiar to an English speaker. However, the pronunciation may be close, but the spelling is different. In this book, words which do not have Tiv equivalents and are not in use have been considered by a committee

which has provided the equivalents. (Revision and inclusion are continuing.)

acibavbav = lantern
 adôlik = hydraulic
 aiodin = iodine
 akachi = gonorrhoea
 antôm = antom
 asid = acid
 asid = acid
 Atese = pastor's wife
 atôm = atom
 ayenge = arithmetic, math
 bar = salt
 bar dam = rock salt
 beisi = base
 bika = beaker
 bokoti = bucket
 bol = ball
 bom = bomb
 chok = chalk
 deraba, derava = driver
 digirii = degree
 dôkta, ortwer = doctor
 eize = aids
 Fada = Reverend Father
 fok = fork
 foto = photograph
 gaz (gas) = gas
 geraji, gyareji = garage
 halishon = hypertension
 hôtev, hwatev = hotel
 imusan = division
 injin = engine
 injin waya = engine oil
 injinia = engineer
 inki = ink
 jensenvali = Jensen violet
 kabed = cupboard
 kapet = carpet
 kyemesteri = chemistry
 kemis = chemist
 ketul = kettle
 kicin = kitchen
 kilo = kilometer
 Kirimishi = Christmas
 kolta = coal tar

kômpon = compound
 kômputa = computer
 koti = court
 kuku = a cook
 kwaghkwa = multiplication
 kwaghtar = geography
 lab = laboratory
 leteriki, latirik = electric
 mato = motor (car or truck)
 Mekuri = Mercury
 mita = metre
 mtsem = potash
 nes = nurse
 oda = order
 orfanatindi, loya = lawyer
 orôronijir, joji = judge
 orpurusu = prisoner
 Ortese = Pastor, Preacher
 ortiom = angel
 ortwer, doukta = doctor
 oryimantar = saviour
 pak = park
 pande = subtraction
 paseto = pastor
 pati = politics
 pelengi = metal plate or tray
 pepa = paper
 peturul = petrol
 pikcha, foto = picture
 platik = plastic
 pom = pump
 purusu = prison
 redio = radio
 sainz = science
 seer = addition
 sekôndi (u sha uhar) = second
 sekul derava (deraba) = screwdriver
 sementu = cement
 sentimita = centimetre
 seturoku = stroke
 shilishôn = solution
 suga, shuga = sugar
 takezi = taxi
 tebul = table
 televishen = television
 tempecha = temperature
 Ter = Lord
 tica, ortesen = teacher



Mape u Nijeriya u tesen ugeri mba vesen. Makurdi, ityôugh gomenti, ka geri u vesen ken Benue ape ono Tiv ve hembe ngeen la.

Map of Nigeria showing the major cities (towns). Makurdi, the state capital, is a major town in Benue where the Tiv people are the most populous.

MOUGH NEN, ON NIJERIA (Nigerian National Anthem in Tiv)

Mough nen, Ôn Nijeria
 Ityô yen ne ngi yilan
 Sha u se wase tar wase
 Doshima, agee, man jìghjìgh
 Tom u mba ve kar ica i gbe la
 Ua saa ishe ga.
 Er tom a shima i taver
 Tar u mba ve lu ken mwar,
 Bem, man mzough.

Ter Aôndo ua gbe tar
 Sôr awashima wase;
 Za a mbahenev asev;
 Wase mbayev ve fa mimi
 U vesen ke doshima man ôron kwagh u mimin;
 Lun uma wang aie shio
 Ar hanma ijjiir cii;
 U maan tar ape bem
 Man mimi ve lu gbem.

Nigerian National Anthem (in English)

Arise, O Compatriots,
 Nigeria's call obey
 To serve our Fatherland
 With love, and strength and faith
 The labor of our heroes past
 Shall never be in vain.
 To serve with heart and might
 One nation bound in freedom,
 Peace, and unity.

O God of creation,
 Direct our noble cause;
 Guide our leaders right;
 Help our youth the truth to know
 In love and honesty to grow;
 And living just and true;
 Great lofty heights attain;
 To build a nation where peace
 And justice shall reign.



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Inyam ngi yan toho imôngo
(Animals feeding on grass together)

TIV NATIONAL ANTHEM (War Song)

M nder:

Yough o o o Jagusadi vaa kaa
Ônov mba Tsen Agben duwe sha tembe
Igaikor hembe yemen

M rumun:

Yough o o o Jagusadi vaa kaa
Ônov mba Tsen Agben duwe sha tembe
Igaikor i hembe yemen
Begha ande sha ihande ve
Inyaregh ki bough ki hor er ka wura yô
Ndyar yough yo yough o
Ôn begha hungwa ihongo
nomso or a duwe sha tembe
Igaikôr i hembe yemen

Mnder:

Yough o o o Jagusadi vaa kaa
Ônov mba Tsen Agben duwe sha tembe
Ityôtiev hembe ayem e

Mrumun:

Yough o o o Jagusadi vaa kaa
Ônov mba Tsen Agben duwe sha tembe
ityôtiev i hembe ayem ve
Begha ande sha ihande ve
Inyaregh ki bough ki hor er ka wura yô
Ndyar yough yo yough o
Ôn begha hungwa ihongo
nomso or a duwe sha tembe
Ityôtiev i hembe ayem ve.

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Map of Africa showing the fifty-four independent nations.

Mape u tar u Afrika u tesen itiar na i akundu ahar gber kar unyiin i zough a indipenda la.

South Africa National Anthem in Tiv (first verse):

Aôndo a shi er tar u Afrika, man kende a korough nagh ku tav sha. Tere, shi umgwa mbamsen asev. Se cii ver se dedo. Se cii ver se dedo.

Chorus: Tere shiv vaa Tere, Tere); Tere shi vaa. Jijingi wou a iv se cii.

The Independent African Countries:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Algeria | Djibouti | Madagascar |
| Angola | Egypt | Malawi |
| Benin | Equatorial Guinea | Mali |
| Botswana | Eritrea | Mauritania |
| Burkina Faso | Eswatini | Mauritius |
| Burundi | Ethiopia | Morocco |
| Cabo Verde | Gabon | Mozambique |
| Cameroon | Gambia | Namibia |
| Central African Republic | Ghana | Niger |
| Chad | Guinea | Nigeria |
| Comoros | Guinea-Bissau | Rwanda |
| Congo, Democratic Republic of the | Kenya | Siera Leone |
| Congo, Republic of the | Lesotho | Sao Tome and Principe |
| Cote d'Ivoire | Liberia | Senegal |
| Somalia | Libya | Seychelles |
| South Africa | Tanzania | Zambia |
| South Sudan | Togo | Zimbabwe |
| Sudan | Tunisia | |
| | Uganda | |

Analysis of Tiv Names

Apesuur—Ape suur:	A place where you can find rest or solace or comfort
Terhemba—Ter hembra	The Lord (God) is great
Terrumun—Ter rumun	The Lord agrees or the Lord's/God's wish
Terngu—Ter ngu (a vese)	God is with us (as in Emmanuel)
Tersur—Ter sur (ishima)	God's comfort
Terseer—Ter seer	God has added or God's addition (Ter here may mean earthly father)
Tarhemba—Tar hembra	The world/earth/land (as in Tivland) is greatest
Ioryina—lor yina (sha Aondo)	People are not as great as God (Compare: Oryina—man is not as great as God)
Iorrumun—lor rumun	People have agreed or accepted (In other words: This is a real child.)
Iorember—lor ember	People rejoiced or were happy or showed gratitude
Mernan—M er nan (nena)?	What shall I do?
Mwuese—M wuese	I am thankful (for the child/for everything)
Mrumun—M rumun	I agree (with God's gift of a child)
Ngizan—Ngi zan	Something is the matter in the family but ay be solved by the birth of the child.
Apezan—Ape zan	The place to go to (to be safe or get happiness).
Liambee—liam bee	No more talk (about impotence or infertility)

