

BeingAfrican, LLC Curriculum-Lesson 12

Objectives

1. To understand the 6 personal pronouns and use them in sentence construction.
 2. To further practise common verbs in Yoruba.
 3. To construct simple sentences in Yoruba using the Pronoun + Formative + Verb construction.
 4. Familiarize with different food categories
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Let's speak simple Yoruba! (A) (simple present tense)

Now that you know some Yoruba verbs, let's try speaking the language.
Below is an illustration of 6 personal pronouns one must know.

I	èmi	
You(singular)	Ìwo (eni kinni)	Ìwo e.g To a friend !
You (plural)	Ìwo (enìkejì)	(Often used when referring to the adults and high authority as below) Olorun- God Bàbá àgbà- Grandfather Màmá àgbà-grandmother
We	Èyin	
He/she	okùnrin/obìnrin	

Build up vocabulary using the personal pronouns in sentence construction as guided below

Èmi	I	Mo d'ána óúnje	I cook food
Ìwo	You	Ó mú igi ìd'ána wá	You fetch the firewood
Èyin	We	Inú wa dùn	We are happy
Àwon	They	Inú won dùn	They are happy
Èyin	You (plural)	Ò je sadza	You eat sadza

The personal pronouns need helping syllables called “formatives” when one uses them to say something. See illustration below of how this goes!

Lesson IV continued

PRONOUN + FORMATIVE + VERB ↓ ↓ ↓	MEANING
1) Mo joko	I sit
3) Tariro rerín	Tariro laughs
2) Tatenda ñ sunkún	Tatenda is crying or Tatenda cries
4) A sùn	We sleep
5) Bàbá gbà	Father you take
6) Wón dìmú	They hold
7) Mo lo	I go

The word for word translation sounds very ungrammatical-but that’s in English. Such is the nature of Yoruba.

Learn the pronouns and the formatives that go with them. Once you know them well, you can start **EXPLORING** the language on your own!

Here are some more everyday verbs for your language exploration!!

1) Dìde -stand get up	9) Dáná-cook	17) kú–die
2) rìn-walk	10) fò-wash	18) jeun-eat
3) Sáré- run	11) wò-put on/ wear	19) mu-drink
4) so nù-throw away	12) bó/mú kúrò-take off /remove	20) fèràn/nife/nilo –like or love or want or need or fancy
5) mú ñ -pick up	13) rà-buy	
6) Gbé sókè-lift up	14) tà-sell	
7) Gé-cut	15) rerin-smile	
8) Śha-chop	16) nà/gbámó-beat /hit	

General Word building: Food category

People need food to be healthy and strong -

Àwon èniyàn nílò lati wà ní àláfia àti ìlera pípé

Eja	Fish
Eran	Meat
Èso	Fruits
Omi	Water
Igi	Trees
Àgbàdo	Maize
Èfó	Vegetables
Elérindòdò	Drinks
Eran	Meat
Èso	Fruits
Eja	Fish
Ìresì	Rice