

Yoruba For Dummies

6-Month Study Guide

A printable companion to the blog post. Follow the chapters, practice daily, and you will go from total beginner to real conversation in six months. Every word here carries its tone marks - learn them from day one.

Chapter 1: The Foundation (Months 1-2)

- Alphabet: learn the special letters Ẹ, Ọ, Ẹ
- Tones (Àmì Ohùn): high (á), mid (unmarked), low (à)
- Greetings (Ikíni): Ẹ káàárò, Ẹ káàsán, Ẹ káalẹ
- Introduce yourself: Orúkọ mi ni...
- Count 1-10: Ọkan, Èjì, Èta, Èrin, Àrún, Èfà, Èje, Èjọ, Èsán, Èwá

Chapter 2: Building Blocks (Months 3-4)

- Family: Ìyá, Bàbá, Ọmọ, Ẹgbón, Àbúrò, Ọrẹ
- Body: Orí, Ojú, Apá, Ẹsẹ
- Verbs: jẹun, mu, lọ, wá, sùn, sọ, gbọ
- Time: Òní, Ànà, Ọla, Àárò, Alẹ
- Grammar: Subject + Verb + Object (Mo jẹun = I eat)

Chapter 3: Fluency In Action (Months 5-6)

- Speak out loud every single day
- Narrate your day to yourself in Yorùbá
- Record yourself and listen back
- Immerse in music, songs, and chants
- Join a community of speakers

Chapter 4: Proverbs (Òwe)

- Àgbà ò lóde - Elders have no peers
- Ìwà pẹlẹ̀ ni ọ̀sọ̀ ènìyàn - Good character is a person's adornment
- Bí a kò bá rìn, a kò lè rí - If we do not walk, we cannot see
- Learn one proverb a week

Chapter 5: Songs & Chants (Orin)

- Learn one Yorùbá song or chant
- Practice call-and-response

- Let melody carry the tones into memory
- Sing daily, even badly

Chapter 6: Ifá Vocabulary (Sacred Layer)

- Àṣẹ - life force and creative energy
- Ìwà pẹ̀lẹ́ - good character
- Orí - head / destiny
- Òrìṣà - the divinities
- Odù - sacred verses of Ifá
- Ewé - medicinal and sacred leaves

Your Daily Habits

- 15 minutes of practice out loud, every day
- Learn every new word with its tone marks
- One proverb a week, one song a month
- Speak, make mistakes, and speak again

Àṣẹ. Start with the tones, build your sentences, and step into community.