

Mfantse nkasafua na kasambirenyi nkyerɛase – Dictionary of Mfantse words and idioms

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Nyia onnyim suã a, hu - Knowledge and
Lifelong Education

ISBN: 978-9988-1-5823-1



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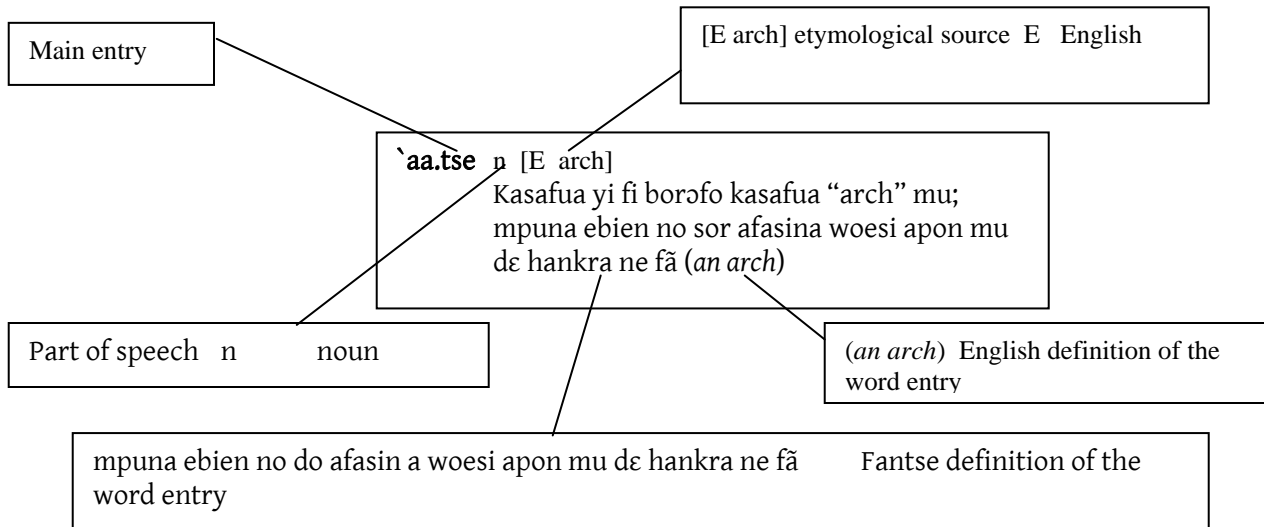
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Edited & Published by CEFIKS, Tema, Ghana

Cover Design, Illustration & Layout: G. F. Kojo Arthur and Becky Quarshie

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Explanatory Chart



EXPLANATIONS OF ABBREVIATIONS

Etymology

- e.g. **aa.tse** [E arch]
- e.g. **duu. kuu** [Da dug; Du doek]
- e.g. **ko.bo** [H kobo]
- e.g. **kra.taa** [M krataa; H krataada]
- e.g. **mfense.re** [Du venster; G fenster];
- e.g. **paa.noo** [P pão]
- e.g. **yoomo** [G yoomo]
- Da-Danish
- Du-Dutch
- E-English
- G - German
- H - Hausa
- M-Mende
- P-Portuguese
- G - Gã

Parts of Speech

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| n - | noun | pron - | pronoun |
| v - | verb | adj - | adjective |
| prep - | preposition | adv - | adverb |
| conj - | conjunction | | |

Other Abbreviations

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Agric. - Agriculture | pl.- plural |
| Ar. - Fine Arts | idiom. (mbirenyi) - idiomatic or figurative use |
| e.g. - for example | Sc - science/math |
| lit. - literal meaning | |

Formatting

aba.`hyem main entry word is bolded. Syllabication is indicated by . and ` indicates accenting of the proper syllable.

Inflected Forms

Plurals of Nouns e.g., **aba.`woo** (pl. **mbawoo**)

aba.`hyem n

eye obi n'ekwadze ho edwuma ma ɔdze ekuadze no bi tua wo kaw; asaase do edwumaye ho nhyehye a asaase no wura dze ekuadze tua ne paanyi kaw (*sharecropping; a land tenure arrangement*). Agric.

Wɔdze kookoo no ama abahyem – *the cocoa farm is under a sharecropping arrangement.*

Agric. Wɔdze kookoo no ama abahyem - the cocoa farm is under a share cropping arrangement.
Subject area of word entry and sample sentence in Akan (Fantse) with English translation.

Pronunciations

LETTERS OF THE FANTSE ALPHABET

A B D E ɛ F G H I K M N O ɔ P R S T U W Y Z
a b d e ɛ f g h i k m n o ɔ p r s t u w y z

VOWELS IN FANTSE

There are seven vowels—a ɛ e i ɔ o u—representing nine phonetic sounds shown below.

A	E	ɛ	I	O	ɔ	U
a	e	ɛ	i	o	ɔ	u

Phonetic variations are not represented as they can be inferred from context:

Vowel	Example	Phonetic Sound
a	bra	a sounds like a in cat; e.g., <i>da</i> - sleep
e (short e)	ber	i sounds like i in it; e.g. <i>meda ase</i> - thank you
e (long e)	ye	e sounds like a in hate e.g., <i>dede</i> - noise
i	siw	i sounds like ee in feet e.g., <i>fitaa</i> - white
o (short o)	sow	o
o (long o)	mbo	o sounds like o in dough, e.g. <i>eburow</i> - corn
u	buw	u sounds like u in flute e.g., <i>puru</i> - circle
ɛ	dɛm	ɛ sounds like e in let e.g., <i>abɛɛ</i> - grasshopper
ɔ	dɔm	ɔ sounds like o in pot e.g., <i>kɔtɔ</i> - crab

CONSONANTS

These include all the English language consonants except C, J, V, and Q.
The R in Fantse is rolled similar to the sound for r in role – e.g., *bra* – come

DIGRAPHS

These combine two letters to produce certain sounds. The digraphs in Fantse are:

dw dz gy hw kw ky ny ts tw

dw sounds like j in jolt	e.g.,	Adwowa – name for girl born on Monday
dz sounds like dz in adze	e.g.,	dadze – metal; machete; cutlass
gy sounds like gy in gym	e.g.,	gya - fire
hw sounds like wh in wheat	e.g.	hwε - look
kw sounds like qua in quack	e.g.	kwan – road; path
ky sounds like ch in church	e.g.	okyεame – linguist
ny sounds like ny in Nyasaland	e.g.	nyansa - wisdom
ts sounds like ts in sits	e.g.	tsena – sit
tw sounds like		

- a** n
Akan kasafua a odzi kan (first letter in Akan alphabets)
- aa.ba** excl.
ahomtsew kasa ye kã no ber a biribi abor hen do; na woye no den? eben ntsi? na woye no den; eben ntsia (*Oh dear! what; why that!*)
Aaba, eben ntsi na etsetsee me dem? (*Oh dear! Why do you frustrate me?*)
- aa.ba** interj.
kasafua a wɔdze kyere adze bi ne few a ɔye; s obi saw ma ɔye few a, ese aaba! aaba! (very pleasant; good; excellent)
- aa.bew** n
esutsen mu nam a ɔhye wawen mu; ɔye tseãbaa, na wotwa no tɔ kyen na wɔnoa dze ye nkwan anaa abɔmu (*freshwater snail*) (Sc.)
- aa.how** n
mframa (air; wind) (Sc.)
- aa.how. ko** n
nyimpa beenu anaa ekuw ebien reham na wonntum nnhyia na wɔnko (*two persons or groups quarreling without entering into a fight physically*)
- aa.ma** adv
se ɔye dem a (*so that; in order that*)
ɔtseã abofra no aama oehu nyansa (*He punished the child in order to correct him*)
- aa.tse** n [E arch]
kasafua yi fi borɔfo kasafua “arch” mu; mpuna ebien no sor afasin a wesi apon mu de hankra ne fã (*an arch*) (Ar).
- a`ba** n
1) kwan a amamfo fa do dze yi obi a obegyina hɔn ananmu; amamfo twe tonto dze yi hɔn ananmusinyi [hwɛ **abatow** so] (*voting; election*)
2) dza dua sow ma wodzi; dza wɔdze dua ma ofir, de eburofua dem (seed) Agric.
- Aba** n
dzin a wɔdze to ɔbaa a wɔwo no Yawda (*name for a girl born on Thursday*) [hwɛ dzin **Yaa** so]
- a.`baa** n
(pl. **m.baa**)
dua kakraba, nkanka dza wɔdze bɔ abowa anaa nyimpa (stick, cane)
- a.`baa.do** n
nyimpa ne batsir do; beebi a nsatsentsen no nye honamdua no hyia no; batsir do (one’s shoulder) Sc.
mbirenyi (*idiomatic use*) bɔ n’abaado - kamfo no (*to pat one on one’s shoulder - to congratulate one*)
- a.`baa.do.bɔ.dze** n
1) adze a wɔdze bɔ obi n’abaa do anaa wɔdze hye no enyimnyam wɔ dza aye ho (*award*)
2) sika ahonyi asenkyeredze a wɔdze bɔ ɔhen n’akofena do (*gold embossment on royal sword*)
3) asenkyeredze a wɔdze tar kyew, ntar na atam a nsordaafo, aban edwumayefo, na hɔn a wɔkekã ho hye anaa wɔdze fura kyere hɔn gyanabew wɔ hɔn edwuma mu (*epaulet*)
- a.baa.hwe** n
a.baa.twa
wɔdze abaa bɔ nyimpa anaa abowa (caning; whipping)
- A.baa.`sa,**
E.`bia.sa n
banyin a ɔto do ebiasa wɔ awoo mu; ne mbaadzin nye Abaasawa anaa Ebiasawa (*name given to a third male child of the same parents*) [hwɛ edzin **Mensa** na **Maansa** so]
- Abaa.`sã.wa,**
E.`bia.sã.wa n
dzin a wɔdze to basia a ɔto do ebiasa wɔ awoo mu (*name given to a third female child of the same parents*) [hwɛ edzin **Mensa** na **Maansa** so]
- a.baa.tam.`bɔ** n
a.baa.tan-bɔ
erobɔ nyimpa na edze adwen to ho ma ommpira (gentle, physical punishment)
- abaa.tan.`yar** n
yarba tse de sisi mu anaa de ayeradze yaw a ɔtaa ka basia a ɔawo fofor (*maternity, birth pains or postpartum pains*) (Sc.)