

# Aŋwa'arə` Məzi'irənə` Aboṇnə Menkwənə

## STUDY GUIDE FOR TEACHING The NKWEN LANGUAGE



Ngə Binə` zhi Aboṇnə Ala'a

# ADÌPI MÈZÌPİRÈNÈ 2: SECOND SEQUENCE

## MÈZÌPİRÈNÈ 1: MÌMI MÈ ÙWA'ÀRÈ MÈ MÈNKWÈNÈ

(Lesson 1: The Nkwen language Alphabet)

Aa



àbà'à- door

Bb



bè - people

Chch



ànchinè-

Dd



dànè- gourd

€e



fèrè - a ring

θθ



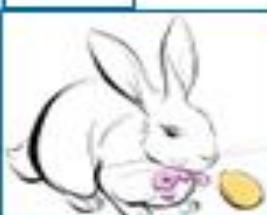
əboo - Children

Ee



zhwe - to break

Ff



Forè - a rat

Gg



nìgarè- gun

GHgh



Ghaghànè  
butterfly

Ii



àliliŋè- bat

Jj



njiji'ì- fly

Kk



kaa- crab

KPpk



kpí - talking drum

**Ll**

li'i - to farm

**Mm**

mbyi - goat

**Nn**

ñnà - animal

**Dj**

ŋorə -

**O**

àto'o - can

**Rr**

wà

**Ss**

7

sàmbâ - seven

**SHsh**

ashishi - thread

**Tt**

5

tanè - five

**Uu**

mákù - feet

**Ww**

wàrə - hawk

**Yy**

àyiye - palm bird

**Yy**

àazarə - funnel

**ZHzh**

nízhà - comb

?



átà?à - snail

# Mmi mə qwa'ärə mi bə mimə nsə'ə?

(How many sounds are here?)

a	b	ch	d	e	ɛ	ə
	f					
g	gh	i	j	k	kp	l m
n	ŋ	o	r	s	sh	t
u	w	y	z	zh	?	

## Mmi mə abònñé (Consonant Chart)

Manner of articulation	Place of articulation								
	bilabials	Labio-dentals	Inter-dentals	Dental av en palat-	prepalatals	Palatal s	velars	glottals	Lahio-velars
Stops	b			t d			k g kh	?	
Fricatives		f		s z	ch j sh				
Affricates				ts dz					gh
Nasals	m			n					
Liquids				l					
Vibrant				r					
Glides				y		w			

## Mèzi'irènè 2: Mètojtènè Mmi mè ijwà'arè

### Lesson 2: Reading the Alphabet

Tojtè ně mmi mè ijwà'arè mi **mèghemè membya** nè  
**nchè-nèbwù'u** mbè zu ma ndè wú tojè (Sound these  
thirty-one letters as your teacher pronounces them)

a	b	<b>ch</b>	d	e	ɛ	ə	f
g	gh	i	j	k	<b>kp</b>	l	m
n	ŋ	o	r	s	sh	t	
u	w	y	z	zh	?		

Mmi mè ijwà'arè mi ndajtenè bikakè nè abòijnè ala'a  
dzwì la ndzwi nè abòijnè mèkarè. The English **q**, **v**, **x**  
are not found in the Nkwen language alphabet.

**h** does not stand alone it always goes with  
**g**, **k**, **s** and **z** as (**gh**, **kh**, **sh** and **zh**)  
**q**, **v** and **x** are not found.

**ə** **ɛ** **ŋ** **?** dzwi nè abòijnè àla'a la kákè nè abòijnè  
mèkarè dzwi. Found in Nkwen but not in English.  
**ŋ** does not come before **g**, **k**, and **j**.

# Mèzi'irènè 3: Njì àbòjnè

## Lesson 3: Vowels

a e ε i o u

a	e	ε	i	o	u
Àbàà a bag	əlèrè a chair	àlèrè a twine	njiji'i a fly	àdzo a plum	Àbǔ A ridge

### dzaijè mìmi mè aŋwà'arè

(Alphabet Song): a e ε i o u ε

*Refrain:* a e ε i o u ε (2x)

-b	ch	d	f	g	gh
-j	k	kp	l	m	n
-ŋ	r	s	sh	t	w
-y	z	zh	?		

### Mì mìmì dzwikè a la? How does these letters look like?

Mmi mǎ saké	Mmi mǎ ne n nkònè	Mmi mǎ tätè	Mmi mǎ ba'ànè	Mmi mǎ khé'ènè
Tall letters	Tail letters	Middle letters	Double letters	Strange letters
b, d, f k, l, t,	g, j, y ŋ	a, ε, i, o u, ə, c, m, n, r, s, w, z	dz, gh, kh ny, sh, ts, zh	ε, ə, ŋ, ?

Mmi mǎ htèntè/Consonants

b ch d f g gh j k kp l m n  
o r s sh t yz zh ?

Mmi mǎ mbònè/vowels

a e ε ə i o u

## Mèzirènè 4: Àtyè əbòjnè ma ə dèse mimi mè ijwà'arè

(Lesson 4: Words with the different sounds)

<b>A a</b>	<b>D d</b>
àkajè → a pan àkonjè → an umbrella àkènè → a trench àbà'a' → a door àlènjè → a chair	dànè → a wine gourd ndonjè → a horn dèdo'o → a frog dàrè → to fly dèse → to show chyàsè → to send/allow to pass
<b>B b</b>	
Bátè → to break (in to many pieces) Bánè → to break (two halves) bɛ'stɛ → to peel bsrè → to pour libation bɛntɛ → to pick	
<b>CH ch</b>	<b>C c</b>
ànchinè → a cricket nichè → a fetish Chènywe → a name chùwe → a deer	mibèrè → African berry mibèrè → a lazy one mbenè → a fight fèrè → wind
<b>Ð ð</b>	<b>GH gh</b>
əbàrè → mad people əbà'a → doors əlarè → problem əlarè → a bridge ətàa → father	ghèrè → to go ghèrè → to do gha'a → big, plenty gho'o → to grind ghabèrè → talk off sense ghantsè → take a walk

**F f**

Forə → a rat  
 fəmtē → to bury something in the ground  
 mifə̄ → breeze  
 fərə → a ring  
 fətə̄ → blow a bit  
 àfəfarə → weaver bird  
 nifū'ù → a cave

**I i**

byisə̄ → smoothen it  
 binjə̄ → answer  
 binjsə̄ → to ask  
 bi?i → to carry  
 àbi?i → load  
 àdi?i → a place

**G g**

gaijə - to hold  
 Ngarə → a gun  
 Ngə?ə → suffer  
 Ngəb → female name  
 Ngajtə?ə → name (m)

**J j**

əjə → a feast  
 nji → hungar/a name (m)  
 Njinjgànjə → a name (f)  
 àji → an omen  
 njyă → soup  
 njə̄ → a fine

**K k**

kàā → waste/old basket  
 kaa → a crab  
 Kotə → a name (m)  
 kinjə → to slaughter  
 àkəka?a → a big basket  
 àkə?etə → chopping board  
 nkànə → a monkey

**Mm**

mmă → mother  
 mabré → elderly woman  
 mēbo?o → pumpkins  
 mèṣaijə → brooms  
 mèṣàijə → stars  
 mimi → eyes

**Kp kp**

kpí → talking drum

**NY ny**

nyə → to drink  
 nyə?stə̄ → to sneak/open a bit  
 nyàmə → to mix  
 ànyənyə → a woman  
 nyî → open wide  
 nyi → defecate  
 nyèsə̄ → fix it/to repair

<b>L l</b>	<b>D ñ</b>
<p>àli?irə → sweat</p> <p>èlárə → a bridge</p> <p>àlarə → part below the tongue</p> <p>èlérə → a twine</p> <p>àlə?esətyə → a pillow</p>	<p>ñorə → moon</p> <p>ñosə → to bend</p> <p>ñù → a person</p> <p>ñigarə → a gun</p> <p>àjwà?arə → a book</p> <p>ñâ → to touch</p>
<b>Oo</b>	<b>SH sh</b>
<p>əbo?o → mushroom</p> <p>nəbo?o → pumpkin</p> <p>əto?o → palm bushes</p> <p>dədo?o → a frog</p> <p>fo?o → to dig out</p>	<p>Shə → to weed</p> <p>Shə → to pierce</p> <p>shətə → pierce several times</p> <p>àshishi → thread</p> <p>shənə → to slip</p> <p>nishi'inə → well</p>
<b>R r</b>	<b>T t</b>
<p>saghərə - to be jovial</p> <p>sa?arə - to scatter</p> <p>fərə → peel forcefully</p> <p>fərə → to invent</p>	<p>tərə → spider</p> <p>tətərə → tapping calabash</p> <p>tətyâ → pepper</p> <p>làterə → cobweb</p> <p>Talà → name (m)</p> <p>àtyi → a tree</p>
<b>S s</b>	
<p>sùnjə → to drag</p> <p>sǔ → to wash</p> <p>swiŋə → to say</p> <p>swà?a → to look for</p> <p>səbərə → to buy</p>	

**U u**

əbù'ù → slaves/wounds  
 abù'ù → slave  
 bu'ù → to play (a drum, bell, etc)  
 nəbu'ù → hammer  
 nəbu'u → a bundle

**ZH zh**

àzhè' → famine  
 zhəzhə → he/she alone  
 zhènè → a wound near the finger nail

**Z z**

azarə → funnel  
 àzu'ù → a yam  
 ədzwù'u → yams  
 zù → rashes  
 zù → to buy  
 nizərə → a thief  
 Àze'è → a name(m)

## Mèzi'irənə 5: Mèseŋtənə ədzunjə (Lesson 5: Counting)

A binə linə ngə məsənjə mi li mimə sə'ə lə?  
 (Let's find out how many stars are there)



mo'o 1



bya 2



tarə 3