

# Dictionary

[Igbo - English](#) - [Up](#) - [English - Igbo](#)

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## Orthography Note

For official orthography please refer to the [ortography chapter](#).

## Igbo - English

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- m I

-a this, these

## A

**abali** night

**abali öma** good night, good-evening

**abüö** two

**afa** name (onitsha dialect)

**afere** plate

**afüfa** garden eggs

**agha** war

**agu** lion

**agwa** beans

**agwö** snake

**aha** name

**ahia** market

**ahö** year

**ahü** that, those; body

**ajali** red earth

**akpa** bag

**akpati nrï** cupboard (box for food)

**aku oyibo** coconut

**akükü** edge

**akwa** cloth, eggs, bed, weeping

**akwü** door

**akwükwö** book, paper, leaf  
**akwükwö ögwü** herbs  
**ala** ground, floor, earth  
**alibasa** onion  
**anö** four  
**anü** meat, animal  
**anü öhĩa** bush meat, bush animal  
**anüli** happy, merry  
**añuli arö öfüü** happy new year  
**añuli easter** happy easter  
**añuli ekeresimesi** merry christmas  
**anwu** sun  
**anyanwü** sun  
**anyĩ** we, us, our  
**arö** year  
**asaa** seven  
**asatö** eight  
**atö** three  
**atülü** blue  
**aziza** broom  
**azü** fish

## B

**-ba** continue doing, starting an action (start doing)  
**-bago** already completing the action (already doing, already done)  
**bata** enter (verb)  
**bee** cry (verb)  
**bekee** english  
**bi** live (verb)  
**bĩa** come (verb)  
**biko** please  
**bü** be (verb)  
**-bü/-bu** a past continuous action (he used to do)  
**buru** carry (verb)

## C

**chere** wait (verb)  
**chö** want (verb)  
**chörö** want, intend to (verb)

**chukwu** god  
**clasi** grade

## D

**da alü** well done  
**di** husband  
**dĩ** be, have the quality of, be in (verb)  
**dibia** traditional doctor, medicine man  
**dibia** oyibo doctor

## E

**e mesia** then  
**ebe** place, location  
**ebe ahü** there  
**ebea** here (place)  
**ebee** where, which place  
**echi** tomorrow  
**ede** cocoyam  
**edo** yellow  
**e-e** yes  
**egbe** hawk  
**egbe igwe** thunder  
**ego** money  
**ego ole** how much  
**ehi** cow  
**ehhie** afternoon, daytime  
**ehhie öma** good afternoon  
**ekele dili gi** thank you very much  
**ekpe** left  
**ekpere** prayer  
**elekere** time, hour, clock  
**elementri** primary school  
**elu** height  
**enu** top  
**enwe** monkey  
**enyi** friend, elephant  
**esogbuna** don't worry  
**etiti** center  
**etu** manner

**ewu** goat  
**eze** king  
**ezi** pig, genuine (adjective)  
**ezi n'ülö** family (lit. compound and house)  
**ezi okwu** truth  
**ezi omume** good behaviour  
**ezigbo nwoke** good man

## F

**fa** they (onitsha dialect)

## G

**ga** used as auxiliary to indicate future action  
**gaa** go (verb)  
**garri** garri  
**gbaa bölü** play football (verb)  
**gbasaa** dismiss (verb)  
**gbörödi** water leaves  
**gĩ** you , your  
**gĩnĩ** what  
**-go** already completed the action (have done)  
**gota** buy, purchase (verb)  
**gözie** bless (verb)  
**gwa** tell (verb)  
**gwuo mmiri** swim (verb)

## H

**ha** they, them, their  
**hü** see (verb)

## I

**i** you  
**ĩ** you  
**ĩ bölachi** good-morning  
**che** think (verb)  
**gbu** kill (verb)  
**igodokey**

**ihe** something  
**ihe ahü** that (thing)  
**ihea** this (thing)  
**ijeri** 1,000,000,000  
**ike** strength  
**ike kwe** maybe  
**ikpere mmiri** riverbank  
**ikuke** wind  
**ili** bury  
**ime** interior  
**ime obodo** village (inside town)  
**imela** thank you  
**ire** sell  
**iri** ten  
**ise** five  
**sie** cook (verb)  
**isi mgbu** head-ache  
**isii** six  
**ite** pot  
**itolu** nine  
**izute** meet  
**jee** travel (verb)  
**jesu kristi** jesus christ  
**ji** owe (verb), yam  
**jiakpu** cassava  
**jide** possess, hold (verb)

## K

**ka** so that, that, as, like  
**ka chi foo** goodnight  
**ka e mesia** good-bye  
**ka mgbe** since  
**kama** instead of  
**kedu** how, when, where, which  
**kodi** bye  
**kpee** make a plea (verb)  
**kpörö** bring, take (verb)  
**kunie** stand up (verb)  
**kuta** fetch (verb)  
**kuzie** teach (verb)

**kwaa** also, too  
**-kwazi** also, as well  
**kwö** carry on one's back (verb)  
**kwüa** pay (verb)  
**kwuo** say (verb)  
**kwüö ügwö** pay (verb)

## L

**-le** completed action (he has done)  
**-la** completed action (he has done)  
**lee anya** expect (verb)  
**-lu** to indicate an intensification of the action of the verb

## M

**ma üzö** go early (verb)  
**mahadüm** university  
**maka** about, as, so  
**maka gini** why  
**mana** but, if, that, whether  
**mba** no  
**mbala ji** water yam  
**mbara** living-room  
**mbü** first  
**mee** do, make (verb)  
**mgbakö** addition, adding up  
**mgbe** room  
**mgbe ahü** then  
**mgbörögwü osisi** roots  
**mgbu** pain  
**mkpisi** fork  
**mkpisi aka** finger  
**mmanü** oil  
**mmanya** drink, beer, wine  
**mme** red  
**mmiri** water, rain  
**mmiri-ozuzo** rain  
**mü** I, me, my  
**m** I, me, my  
**müö** learn (verb)

## N

**n'akükü** beside

**n'enu** on top of, up

**n'ime** inside

**n'okpuru** under, below

**na** and, that; at, in, on, within; used as auxiliary to specify continuing action in the present

**n'** in, at, on

**nari** 100

**ncha** all

**nche anwu** umbrella

**nde** 1,000,000

**ndi** people, group

**ndi ahü** those (group)

**ndi be** family

**ndi mmepe obodo** development agency

**ndi ölü** workers

**ndia** these (group)

**ndiagu** far from home

**ndida** down the road

**ndiuno** close to home

**ndörö mmiri** swimming-pool

**ndü** life

**ngazi** spoon

**ngwa ahia** merchandise

**niile/dum** all, each, every

**njem** travel

**nke** of, of which, whose

**nke ahü** that

**nkea** this

**nkita** dog

**nmanü-ökü** kerosine

**nna** father

**nne** madam, mother

**nnöö** you are welcome

**nnuku** lot, many

**nö** be present in location (verb)

**nödü anü** sit down (verb)

**nonye** join (verb)

**nri** food, right (as well as food as it is eaten with that hand)

**nri ütütü** breakfast  
**nso** close, nearby  
**nsogbu** trouble, disturbance  
**nü** hear (verb)  
**nwa** child  
**nwa nne nwanyï** sister  
**nwa nne nwoke** brother  
**nwa nwoke** son  
**nwannam** brother/sister (paternal)  
**nwannem** brother/sister (maternal)  
**nwanta kïri** child  
**nwanyï** woman  
**nwata akwükwö** student/pupil  
**nwata kïri nwanyi** little girl  
**nwata nwanyi** girl  
**nwoke** man  
**nwuye** wife  
**nyaa** drive (verb)  
**nye** give, present (verb)  
**nye aka** help (verb)

## O

**o** he, she, it  
**ö** he, she, it  
**chineke** lord  
**obele** small  
**obodo** town  
**obodo bekee** europe  
**öbögwü** duck  
**obu** bedroom  
**öcha** white, clean  
**ücha** white, clean (noun)  
**oche** chair  
**ödü ügbö ala** motorpark  
**ofe** soup, stew  
**öfüma** well  
**oga** boss, master  
**ogbatumtum** motor-cycle  
**oge** time, period, occasion  
**oge ugürü** harmattan period



**ogede** banana  
**ogologo** long  
**ögügü** reading, count  
**ögwü** medicines, tablets  
**ohia** bush  
**oji** black  
**öjī igbo** kolanut  
**ojii** black  
**öjöö** ugly, bad  
**njö** bad (noun)  
**öka** corn  
**ökara** half  
**oke ölü** expensive  
**ököchī** dry season  
**okporo** cray fish  
**okporoko** stockfish  
**okpukpe** denomination  
**okpuru** underside  
**vökü** fire, hot  
**ökükü** chicken  
**vökülatrik** electricity  
**ole** how many, how much, number  
**olee** which, where, when, how  
**olee oge** when  
**ölü** work  
**öma** good, beautiful  
**mma** good (noun)  
**one** how many (Onitsha dialect)  
**önü** price  
**önwa** moon  
**onwa-abö** August  
**onwa-anö** October  
**onwa-asaa** December, January  
**onwa-asatö** February  
**onwa-atö** September  
**onwa-iri** April  
**onwa-iri na atö** June  
**onwa-iri na otu** May  
**onwa-ise** November  
**onwa-isii** December  
**onwa-itolu** March

**onwa-mbu** July  
**onwerozi** nothing more  
**onye** somebody, who  
**onye ahĩa** customer  
**onye anglican** anglican (person)  
**onye catholic** catholic (person)  
**onye igbo** igbo man  
**onye isi** boss  
**onye na ere ögwü** medicine dealer  
**onye nkuzi** teacher  
**onye öcha** white man  
**onye ojii** black man  
**onye ölü** worker  
**onye üka** christian  
**onye-ode** akwükwö secretary  
**ore akwükwö** book seller  
**ore ihe** seller  
**örĩa** sickness  
**ose** pepper  
**osikapa** rice  
**osisi** tree, stick  
**oto** straight  
**otu** one; as, that  
**oyi** cold  
**özö** next  
**özü ahĩa** buyer

## P

**puku** 1,000

## R

**-ra/-re** action in the past (he did)  
**-re** present continuous action (is doing)  
**ree** sell (verb)  
**-ri** past completed action (he did)  
**rĩa öria** fall ill (verb)

## S

**si** come from (verb)

**süö** speak

## T

**ta** chew (verb)

**-ta** brings an action to completion

**taa** today

**-tara/-tere** action in the past (he did)

**tata** today

**tinye** put, add (verb)

**tolotolo** turkey

**törö ütö** be tasty (verb)

**tupu** until

## U

**ube** pear

**üböchī** day, daylight, weather

**üböchi öma** good day

**üböchī üka** Sunday

**üdi** kind, sort

**udu mmiri** rainy season

**ügbö ala** car, motor

**ügbö elu** airplane

**ügbö mmiri** boat

**ugbua** now

**ügu** pumpkin

**üka** church

**ukwu** big

**ülö** house

**ülö akwükwö** school, library

**ülö mposi** toilet

**ülö ögwü** hospital

**ülö ölü** office

**ülö oriri** chop house

**ülö oriri** hotel

**umu aka** children

**unu** you, your (pl.)

**urukpu** cloud

**usekwu** kitchen

**ütütü** morning, dawn

**ütütü öma** good morning

**üzö** early dawn

## W

**weta** bring in (verb)

## Y

**ya** he, his, him, she, her, it, its

## Z

**zaa** sweep (verb)

**zoo** rain (verb)

**zöpüta** save, rescue (verb)

**züö** buy (verb)

## English - Igbo

### A

**about** maka  
**addition** mgbakö  
**afternoon** ehihie  
**airplane** ügbö elu  
**all** niile, dum, ncha  
**also** kwaa, -kwazi  
**and** na  
**anglican (person)** onye anglican  
**animal** anü  
**April** onwa-iri  
**as** ka  
**at** na, n'  
**August** onwa-abö

### B

**bad** öjöö, njö  
**bag** akpa  
**banana** ogede  
**be (verb)** bü  
**be tasty (verb)** törö ütö  
**be, be present in location (verb)** nö  
**be, have the quality of, be in (verb)** dī  
**beans** agwa  
**beautiful** öma, mma  
**bed** akwa  
**bedroom** obu  
**beer** mmanya  
**below** n'okpuru  
**beside** n'akükü  
**big** ukwu  
**billion** ijeri  
**black** ojii  
**black man** onye ojii  
**bless (verb)** gözie

**blue** atülü  
**boat** ügbö mmiri  
**body** ahü  
**book** akwükwö  
**book seller** ore akwükwö  
**boss** oga, onye isi  
**breakfast** nrí ütütü  
**bring (verb)** kpörö  
**bring in (verb)** weta  
**broom** azíza  
**brother** nwa nne nwoke  
**brother (maternal)** nwannem  
**brother (paternal)** nwannam  
**bury** ili  
**bush** ohia  
**bush animal** anü öhĩa  
**bush meat** anü öhĩa  
**but** mana  
**buy (verb)** züö, gota  
**buyer** özü ahĩa  
**bye** kodi

## C

**car** ügbö ala  
**carry (verb)** buru  
**carry on one's back (verb)** kwö  
**cassava** jia KPU  
**catholic (person)** onye catholic  
**center** etiti  
**chair** oche  
**chew (verb)** ta  
**chicken** ökükü  
**child** nwa, nwantakiri  
**children** umu aka  
**chop house** ülö oriri  
**christian** onye üka  
**church** üka  
**clean** öcha , ücha  
**clock** elekere  
**close** nso

**close to home** ndiuno  
**cloth** akwa  
**cloud** urukpu  
**coconut** aku oyibo  
**cocoyam** ede  
**cold** oyi  
**come (verb)** bīa  
**come from (verb)** si  
**cook (verb)** sie  
**corn** öka  
**count** ögügü  
**cow** ehi  
**cray fish** okporo  
**cry (verb)** bee  
**cupboard (box for food)** akpati nri  
**customer** onye ahĩa

## D

**dawn** ütütü  
**day** üböchi  
**daytime** ehie  
**December** onwa-isii, onwa-asaa  
**denomination** okpukpe  
**development agency** ndi mmepe obodo  
**dismiss (verb)** gbasaa  
**do (verb)** mee  
**doctor** dibia oyibo  
**dog** nkita  
**don't worry** esogbuna  
**door** akwü  
**down the road** ndida  
**drink** mmanya  
**drive (verb)** nyaa  
**dry season** ököchi  
**duck** öbögwü

## E

**each** niile, dum  
**early** dawn üzö

**earth** ala  
**edge** akükü  
**eggs** akwa  
**eight** asatö  
**electricity** ökülatrik  
**elephant** enyi  
**English** bekee  
**enter (verb)** bata  
**Europe** obodo bekee  
**every** niile, dum  
**expect (verb)** lee anya  
**expensive** oke ölü

## F

**fall ill (verb)** ria öria  
**family** ndi be  
**family (lit. compound and house)** ezi n'ülö  
**far from home** ndiagu  
**father** nna  
**February** onwa-asatö  
**fetch (verb)** kuta  
**finger** mkpisi aka  
**fire** ökü  
**first** mbü  
**fish** azü  
**five** ise  
**floor** ala  
**food** nrí  
**fork** mkpisi  
**four** anö  
**friend** enyi

## G

**garden eggs** afüfa  
**garri** garri  
**genuine (adjective)** ezi  
**girl** nwata nwanyi  
**give (verb)** nye  
**go (verb)** gaa



**go early (verb)** ma üzö  
**goat** ewu  
**god** chukwu  
**good** öma, mma  
**good afternoon** ehie öma  
**good behaviour** ezi omume  
**good day** üböchi öma  
**good man** ezigbo nwoke  
**good morning** ütütü öma  
**good night** abali öma  
**good-bye** ka e mesia  
**good-evening** abali öma  
**good-morning** i bölachi  
**goodnight** ka chi foo  
**grade** clasi  
**ground** ala  
**group** ndi

## H

**half** ökara  
**happy** anüli  
**happy easter** añuli easter  
**happy new year** añuli arö öfüü  
**harmattan period** oge ugürü  
**hawk** egbe  
**he** o, ö, ya  
**head-ache** isi mgbu  
**hear (verb)** nü  
**height** elu  
**help (verb)** nye aka  
**her** ya  
**herbs** akwükwö ögwü  
**here** ebea  
**his** ya  
**hold (verb)** jide  
**hospital** ülö ögwü  
**hot** ökü  
**hotel** ülö oriri  
**hour** elekere  
**house** ülö

**how** olee, kedu  
**how many** ole  
**how much** ole, ego ole  
**hundred** nari  
**husband** di

## I

**I** mü, m , (verb) + m  
**if** mana  
**igbo man** onye igbo  
**in** na, n'  
**insiden'**ime  
**instead of** kama  
**intend to (verb)** chörö  
**interior** ime  
**it** o, ö, ya

## J

**January** onwa-asaa  
**jesus christ** jesu kristi  
**join (verb)** nonye  
**July** onwa-mbu  
**June** onwa-iri na atö

## K

**kerosine** nmanü-ökü  
**key** igodo  
**kill (verb)** gbu  
**kind** üdi  
**king** eze  
**kitchen** usekwu  
**kolanut** öji igbo

## L

**leaf** akwükwö  
**learn (verb)** müö  
**left** ekpe

**library** ülö akwükwö  
**life** ndü  
**like** ka  
**lion** agu  
**little girl** nwata kírí nwanyi  
**live (verb)** bi  
**living-room** mbara  
**location** ebe  
**long** ogologo  
**lord** chineke  
**lot, many** nnuku

## M

**madam** nne  
**make (verb)** mee  
**make a plea (verb)** kpee  
**man** nwoke  
**manner** etu  
**March** onwa-itolu  
**market** ahia  
**master** oga  
**May** onwa-iri na otu  
**maybe** ike kwe  
**me** mü, m  
**meat** anü  
**medicine dealer** onye na ere ögwü  
**medicine man** dibia  
**medicines** ögwü  
**meet** izute  
**merchandise** ngwa ahia  
**merry Christmas** añuli ekeresimesi  
**million** nde  
**money** ego  
**monkey** enwe  
**moon** önwa  
**morning** ütütü  
**mother** nne  
**motor** ügbö ala  
**motor-cycle** ogbatumtum  
**motorpark** ödü ügbö ala

## N

**name** aha , afa (Onitsha dialect)

**next** özö

**night** abali

**nine** itolu

**no** mba

**nothing more** onwerozi

**November** onwa-ise

**now** ugbua

**number** ole

## O

**occasion** oge

**October** onwa-anö

**of which** nke

**office** ülö ölü

**oil** mmanü

**on** na, n'

**on top of** n'enu

**one** otu

**onion** alibasa

**our** anyi

## P

**pain** mgbu

**paper** akwükwö

**pay (verb)** kwüö ügwö

**pear** ube

**people** ndi

**pepper** ose

**period** oge

**pig** ezi

**place** ebe

**plate** afere

**play football (verb)** gbaa bölü

**please** biko

**possess (verb)** jide

**pot** ite

**prayer** ekpere  
**present (verb)** nye  
**price** öñü  
**primary school** elementrî  
**pumpkin** ügü  
**pupil** nwata akwükwö  
**purchase (verb)** gota  
**put, add (verb)** tinye

## R

**rain** mmiri-ozuzo  
**rain (verb)** zoo  
**rainy season** udu mmiri  
**reading** ögügü  
**red** mme  
**red earth** ajali  
**rice** osikapa  
**right** nrî  
**riverbank** ikpere mmiri  
**room** mgbe  
**roots** mgbörögwü osisi

## S

**save (verb)** zöpüta  
**say (verb)** kwuo  
**school** ülö akwükwö  
**secretary** onye-ode akwükwö  
**see (verb)** hü  
**sell** ire  
**seller** ore ihe  
**September** onwa-atö  
**seven** asaa  
**she** o, ö, ya  
**sickness** öria  
**since** ka mgbe  
**sister** nwa nne nwanyî  
**sister (maternal)** nwannem  
**sister (paternal)** nwannam  
**sit down (verb)** nödü anî

**six** isii  
**small** obele  
**snake** agwö  
**somebody** onye  
**something** ihe  
**son** nwa nwoke  
**sort** üdi  
**speak** süö  
**spoon** ngazi  
**stand up (verb)** kunie  
**stew** ofe  
**stick** osisi  
**stockfish** okporoko  
**straight** oto  
**strength** ike  
**student** nwata akwükwö  
**sun** anwu, anyanwü  
**Sunday** üböchĩ üka  
**sweep (verb)** zaa  
**swim (verb)** gwuo mmiri  
**swimming-pool** ndörö mmiri

## T

**tablets** ögwü  
**take (verb)** kpörö  
**teach (verb)** kuzie  
**teacher** onye nkuzi  
**tell (verb)** gwa  
**ten** iri  
**thank you** imela  
**thank you very much** ekele dili gĩ  
**that** ahü, nke ahü, ihe ahü  
**that (conj.)** na, ka  
**their** ha  
**them** ha  
**then** e mesĩa, mgbe ahü  
**there** ebe ahü  
**these** -a  
**these (group)** ndĩa  
**they** ha

**think (verb)** che  
**this** -a, nkea, ihea  
**those** ahü  
**those (group)** ndi ahü  
**thousand** puku  
**three** atö  
**thunder** egbe igwe  
**time** elekere, oge  
**today** taa, tata  
**toilet** ülö mposi  
**tomorrow** echi  
**too** kwaa, -kwazi  
**top** enu  
**town** obodo  
**travel** njem  
**travel (verb)** jee  
**tree** osisi  
**trouble** nsogbu  
**truth** okwu  
**turkey** tolotolo  
**two** abüö

## U

**ugly** öjöö, njö  
**umbrella** nche anwu  
**under** n'okpuru  
**underside** okpuru  
**university** mahadüm  
**until** tupu  
**up** n'enu  
**us** anyi

## V

**village (inside town)** ime obodo

## W

**wait (verb)** chere  
**want (verb)** chö

**war** agha  
**water** mmiri  
**water leaves** gbörödi  
**water yam** mbala ji  
**we** anyi  
**weather** üböchi  
**weeping** akwa  
**welcome** nnöö  
**well** öfüma  
**well done** da alü  
**what** gini  
**when** olee, kedu; olee oge  
**where** ebee  
**whether** mana  
**which** olee, kedu  
**white** öcha , ücha  
**white man** onye öcha  
**who** onye  
**why** maka gini  
**wife** nwuye  
**wind** ikuke  
**wine** mmanya  
**woman** nwanji  
**work** ölü  
**worker** onye ölü  
**workers** ndi ölü

## Y

**yam** ji  
**year** arö, ahö  
**yellow** edo  
**yes** e-e  
**you, your** gi; i, i  
**you, your (pl.)** unu

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