

DEVELOPED BY TUTERIA

YORUBA COURSE OUTLINE

LESSON 1

Greetings - Ìkíní

In Yoruba culture, there is no hard and fast rule about who greets first. However, for Yorubas, the acceptable culture is that the younger person would initiate the greetings. In most situations, it is the first person who sees the other party that greets first; either younger person or the older person.

When greeting occurs in Yoruba land, boys prostrate to greet elders (full stretch with their chests and chin on the ground) while girls kneel down with their two knees. They are expected to remain in this position until the elders complete their own part of the greetings. The process of the greeting can be between three to five minutes. It is considered rude for the younger ones to look into the eyes of the older ones in the process of greeting.

Vocabularies

- day - ọjọ
- morning - àárọ
- afternoon - ọsán
- evening - alẹ
- sunset - ìrọlẹ
- return - àbọ
- work/job - iṣẹ
- tomorrow - ọla
- today - òní
- yesterday - ànà
- be watchful/sorry/take heart - pẹlẹ
- week - ọṣẹ
- month - oṣù
- year - ọdún
- time - àsikò, àkókò
- period/season - ìgbà

To Greet:

'Good' is taken to be 'Ẹ kú'

Therefore:

Good + morning = Ẹ kú + àárò

Similarly,

Thanks [for] + yesterday = Ẹ ṣé + àná

And so;

- *Good morning* - Ẹ kú àárò
- *Good afternoon* - Ẹ kú ọsán
- *Good return* - Ẹ kú àbò [i.e. Welcome]
- *Good afternoon* - Ẹ kú ọsán

To Bid someone 'Till Morning', 'Afternoon' etc

'Till' is translated as 'Ó dà'

So,

- *Till + tomorrow* - Ó dà + ọla
- *Till tomorrow* - Ó dà ọla
- *Till + afternoon* = Ó dà + ọsán
- *Till afternoon* = Ó dà ọsán

Hence,

- *Till tomorrow* - Ó dà ọla
- *Till sunset* - Ó dà iròlé
- *Till morning* - Ó dà àárò [i.e. Good night]
- *Till you return* - Ó dà àbò. [i.e. Good bye]

Other Greetings are:

- *Sorry/ It is a pity* - Pèlé
- *Thank you* - O ṣé
- *Thanks [for] yesterday* - O ṣé àná
- *It's been a long time* - Ẹ kú ọjọ męta [Literally, this means, 'it's been some three days']



ASSIGNMENT:

Make a video of yourself saying the following greetings in Yoruba

- Good morning
- Good night
- Well done
- Welcome

Also make a video of yourself singing the song that was taught in class.

O dara fun bayi

LESSON 2

Introducing Yourself - ifihan ti ara ẹni

In this module we will touch all the aspects of introduction - name, age, location, occupation, country of origin. Let us not forget that the pronunciation is as important as knowing what to say, if you say it wrongly, chances are you will be saying the wrong thing and if you do not communicate well, the other person will not know what you mean and the purpose will be defeated.

Feel free to ask questions in class and get all the clarity you want. Let us now go straight into the business of the day.

Here are some sentences to learn

kini orokọ rẹ - What's your name?

Oruko mi ni (Adeniyi) - My name is (Adeniyi)

nibo ni o ngbe? - Where do you live?

Kilasi wo ni iwọ? - What class are you?

omo odun melo ni e? - How old are you?

Kini ounjẹ rẹ ti o dara julọ? - What is your best food?

Inu midún lati ba ẹ padé - Nice to meet you

Nibó lotí wá tàbí Ilu wo lotí wá - Where are you from?

Mo wa lati ilu (Nigeria) - I'm from (Nigeria)

Ọmọ ilú (Nigeria) ní mí - I'm (Nigerian)

Nibó lōngbé - Where do you live?

Mo ngbé ni ilú (America) - I live in (America)

Sé o fẹràn íbíyí - Do you like it here?

Órilẹ́ édé Nigeria rẹwà - Nigeria is a beautiful country

Isẹ wo lonse fun ónjẹ - What do you do for a living?

(Olukọ/Aké kọ/Oni mọ ẹrọ) ni mojẹ - I'm a (teacher/ student/ engineer)

Se o lé sọ gẹsi - Do you speak English?

Mole sọ diẹ - Just a little

Mo fẹran Yoruba - I like Yoruba

Mo ngbiyanju lati kọ yórùbá - I'm trying to learn Yoruba

Èdè tí kò rọrùn ní - It's a hard language

Èdè ti o rọrùn ní - It's an easy language

Hehen, Iyen da - Oh! That's good!

Se mole kọ pẹlu ẹ? - Can I practice with you?

Ma Se iwọn ti mole se lati kọ - I will try my best to learn

Ọmọ ódún melo ni ẹ? - How old are you?

Ọmọ ódún, mọkanle lógún - I'm twenty one years old

Inú mi dùn latí ba ẹ sọrọ - It was nice talking to you!

Inú mi dùn latí ba ẹ pàdé - It was nice meeting you!

Ọgbéńí / Iya afín / Omidan - Mr. / Mrs. / Miss

Iyàwó mì nìyí - This is my wife

Ọkọ mí nìyí - This is my husband

Bà mí kí Thomas - Say hi to Thomas for me

ASSIGNMENT:

Capture yourself in a video introducing yourself in Yoruba and send to us, we will like to check your progress. After you have sent yours in, the tutor will respond with a video doing the same.

O dabọ

LESSON 3

Numbers – Awọn nọmba

Numbers are very essential in any language; Yoruba language is not an exemption and this simply means that we value numbers in Yoruba.

We use numbers in the market, school, church, mosque, hospital, etc. and in learning Yoruba, it is very important we know how to count in Yoruba.

I guess I should tell you why this is interesting, it is very simple to catch and you can play with it to get a number.

Let's get to it.

Number	Reading	Meaning
0	?	?
1	ikan	1*
2	meji	2
3	meta	3
4	merin	4
5	marun	5
6	mefa	6
7	meje	7
8	mejo	8
9	mesan	9
10	mewa	10
11	mokanla	1 + 10†
12	mejila	2 + 10†
13	metala	3 + 10†
14	merinla	4 + 10†
15	medogun	-5† + 20
16	merindilogun	4 from 20
17	metadilogun	3 from 20
18	mejidilogun	2 from 20

Number**Reading****Meaning**

19	mokandilogun	1 from 20
20	ogun	20
21	mokanlelogun	1 and 20
22	mejilelogun	2 and 20
23	metalelogun	3 and 20
24	merinlelogun	4 and 20
25	medogbon	$-5† + 30$
26	merindilogbon	4 from 30
27	metadilogbon	3 from 30
28	mejidilogbon	2 from 30
29	mokandilogbon	1 from 30
30	ogbon	30
31	mokanlelogbon	1 and 30
32	mejilelogbon	2 and 30
33	metalelogbon	3 and 30
34	merinlelogbon	4 and 30
35	marundilogoji	5 from $20^* \times 2^*$
36	merindilogoji	4 from $20^* \times 2^*$
37	metadilogoji	3 from $20^* \times 2^*$
38	mejidilogoji	2 from $20^* \times 2^*$
39	mokandilogoji	1 from $20^* \times 2^*$
40	ogoji	$20^* \times 2^*$
41	mokanlelogoji	1 and $20^* \times 2^*$
42	mejilelogoji	2 and $20^* \times 2^*$
43	metalelogoji	3 and $20^* \times 2^*$
44	merinlelogoji	4 and $20^* \times 2^*$
45	marundiladota	5 from 50
46	merindiladota	4 from 50
47	metadiladota	3 from 50
48	mejidiladota	2 from 50
49	mokandiladota	1 from 50
50	adota	50
51	mokanleladota	1 and 50
52	mejileladota	2 and 50
53	metaleladota	3 and 50
54	merinleladota	4 and 50
55	marundilogota	5 from $20^* \times 3^*$

Number**Reading****Meaning**

56	merindilogota	4 from $20^* \times 3^*$
57	metadilogota	3 from $20^* \times 3^*$
58	mejidilogota	2 from $20^* \times 3^*$
59	mokandilogota	1 from $20^* \times 3^*$
60	ogota	$20^* \times 3^*$
61	mokanlelogota	1 and $20^* \times 3^*$
62	mejilelogota	2 and $20^* \times 3^*$
63	metalelogota	3 and $20^* \times 3^*$
64	merinlelogota	4 and $20^* \times 3^*$
65	marundiladorin	5 from 70
66	merindiladorin	4 from 70
67	metadiladorin	3 from 70
68	mejidiladorin	2 from 70
69	mokandiladorin	1 from 70
70	adorin	70
71	mokanleladorin	1 and 70
72	mejileladorin	2 and 70
73	metaleladorin	3 and 70
74	merinleladorin	4 and 70
75	marundilogorin	5 from $20^* \times 4^*$
76	merindilogorin	4 from $20^* \times 4^*$
77	metadilogorin	3 from $20^* \times 4^*$
78	mejidilogorin	2 from $20^* \times 4^*$
79	mokandilogorin	1 from $20^* \times 4^*$
80	ogorin	$20^* \times 4^*$
81	mokanlelogorin	1 and $20^* \times 4^*$
82	mejilelogorin	2 and $20^* \times 4^*$
83	metalelogorin	3 and $20^* \times 4^*$
84	merinlelogorin	4 and $20^* \times 4^*$
85	marundiladorun	5 from 90
86	merindiladorun	4 from 90
87	metadiladorun	3 from 90
88	mejidiladorun	2 from 90
89	mokandiladorun	1 from 90
90	adorun	90
91	mokanleladorun	1 and 90
92	mejileladorun	2 and 90

Number

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

Reading

metaleladorun

merinleladorun

marundilogorun

merindilogorun

metadilogorun

mejidilogorun

mokandilogorun

ogorun

Meaning

3 and 90

4 and 90

5 from $20^* \times 5^*$ 4 from $20^* \times 5^*$ 3 from $20^* \times 5^*$ 2 from $20^* \times 5^*$ 1 from $20^* \times 5^*$ $20^* \times 5^*$

* Different form

† Different word

ASSIGNMENT:

Tell us your birth date in Yoruba. Ensure you tell us the DATE, the number of the MONTH, the YEAR. Hurry to be the first to send in your video.

ṣe oṣṣ naa ka

LESSON 4

Nouns – Orọ oruko

As we already know, a noun is a name of a person, place, animal or thing. Today we will look at Nouns but in a different language – Yoruba.

We will look at different nouns as it relates to a person; that is the name of a person, name of a place, name of animal and thing.

Are you ready?

TABLE 1

ONKA (NUMBERS)	ENIYAN (PERSON)	ERANKO (ANIMAL)	IBI (PLACE)	NNKAN (THING)
1	ADEBAYO	AJA	LEKKI	AGA
2	BOLANLE	OLOGBO	IKEJA	OWO
3	CECILIA	EWURE	GBAGADA	IBUSUN
4	DAMILOLA	ADIJE	ILUPEJU	TETIFISAN
5	FOLARIN	KINIUN	ONITSHA	AGBADO
6	GBOLAHIN	IJAPA	KADUNA	BUREDI
7	MICHAEL	EJO	LONDON	ISU
8	GREAT	ONI	SINGAPORE	BAAGI
9	NONSO	PEPEYE	IJESHA	OYIN
10	NDUKWE	IYEKU	ONDO	IJANILAYA

Activity 1

Fill up the empty spaces with names of person and place of your choice. After that, look out for the meaning of the name of the animals and things.

TABLE 2

ONKA (NUMBERS)	ENIYAN (PERSON)	ẸRANKO (ANIMAL)	IBI (PLACE)	NNKAN (THING)
1		AJA		AGA
2		OLOGBO		OWO
3		EWURE		IBUSUN
4		ADIJE		TETIFISAN
5		KINIUN		AGBADO
6		IJAPA		BUREDI
7		EJO		ISU
8		ỌNI		BAAGI
9		PẸPẸYẸ		OYIN
10		IYEKU		IJANILAYA

O dabọ

LESSON 5

Verb - Ìse

Yoruba Verbs can be divided into two groups based on form. There are the simple (monosyllabic) verbs, and the complex verbs with more than one syllable (polysyllabic).

A verb phrase in Yoruba consists of a verb or a combination of verbs and their one or more objects.

Yoruba verbs can be divided into three types in terms of their positioning within the verb phrase. These are preverbs, main verbs and post verbs.

A main verb (sometimes referred to as free) verb can occur by itself in the phrase but a preverb must be followed by a main verb while post verbs occur only after main verbs.

We are going to look at some verbs that appear often in sentences. As we progress, let's learn these pronouns:

1	I/ME	- MO/MI
2	HE/SHE	- O
3	YOU	- O
4	THEY	- WỌN
5	WE	- A
6	OUR	- WA

It is important to note that the pronunciation is as relevant as the spelling.

COMMON YORUBA VERBS:

No.	English	Yoruba	Examples	Notes
1	Eat	Jẹ	Jẹ ewà - Eat Beans	Jẹun: Eating. Jẹun is used a person or animal is eating at the moment.
2	Drink	Mu	Mu omi - Drink water	Mumi can be used instead of Mu omi also Muti or Mu ọti(Drink Alcohol)
3	Call	Pè	Pè àwọn omo - Call the children	It could also mean pronounce. E.g Pè Orúkọ mi(Call my name or pronounce my name)
4	Sleep	Sùn	Mo tí sùn lana - I have slept yesterday	Orun also means sleep but it is used as a noun.E.g Oún Sùn Orun (He is Sleeping)
5	Wake	Ji		
6	Play	Sẹẹre		
7	Talk	Sọrọ		
8	Bath	iwẹ		
9	Read	Kawe		
10	Pray	Gbad		
11	Drink	Mu		
12	Stand	Dide		
13	Walk	Rin		
14	Sit	Jokoo		
15	Clap	Patẹwọ		
16	Jump	Fo		
17	Sing	Kọrin		

ASSIGNMENT:

Complete the table above and reach out to me for help where necessary.

O dabọ

LESSON 6

Forming Simple Sentences

In this module, we will be applying all that we have learned so far – nouns, numbers, verbs, some pronoun – and we are going to make simple sentences in Yoruba.

Some of the sentences we will learn here are the common Yoruba sentences used in markets, churches, home, school, etc.

We must pay attention so we can learn to pronounce them well that way, they won't mean something else.

English

Welcome

Hello

How are you?

Reply to 'How are you?'

Long time no see

What's your name?

My name is ...

Where are you from?

I'm from ...

Pleased to meet you

Good morning

Good afternoon

Good evening

Good night

Goodbye

Good luck!

Cheers! Good Health!

Have a nice day

Have a nice meal

Have a good journey

Yorùbá

Ẹ ku abọ

Ẹ n lẹ

Ṣe daadaa ni o wa?

Mo wa daadaa, o se. / Iwọ naa n kọ?

O to ọjọ mẹta o / O pẹ ti a ri ara wa o

Ki ni orukọ rẹ?

Orukọ mi ni.....

Nibo ni o ti wa?

Mo wa lati ...

Inu mi dun lati mọ ọ

Ẹ ku aarọ

Ẹ ku ọsan

Ẹ ku alẹ

O da aarọ

O da abọ

Yoo dara o / Yoo bọ si o

Ayọ ni o Kara o le

Oni a dara o

Ounjẹ ajẹye o / Yoo gba ibi re

O da abọ / Ka sọ layọ o

English

Yes

No

Maybe

I don't know

Do you understand?

I understand

I don't understand

Please speak more slowly

Please say that again

Please write it down

Do you speak English?

Do you speak Yoruba?

Yes, a little (reply)

How do you say ... in Yoruba?

Excuse me

How much is this?

Sorry

Thank you

Reply to thank you

Where's the toilet / bathroom?

This gentleman will pay for everything

This lady will pay for everything

Would you like to dance with me?

I miss you

I love you

Get well soon

Leave me alone!

Help!

Fire!

Stop!

Call the police!

Christmas greetings

Easter greetings

Birthday greetings

Congratulations!

One language is never enough

My hovercraft is full of eels

Yorùbá

Bẹẹ ni

Bẹẹ kọ / Ó ti Ra ra

Boya

N ko mo

Şé ó yé ọ?

O ye mi

Ko ye emi

Jọwọ, rọra maa sọrọ

Jọwọ, tun un sọ

Jọwọ, kọ ọ silẹ

Şe o le sọ èdè oyinbo?

Şe o n sọ Yorùbá?

Bẹẹ ni, diẹ

Bawo ni o se le sọni Yorùbá?

Ẹ se fun mi / Ẹ jọwọ, ẹ gbọ mi

Eelo ni eyi?

Pẹẹ

O se E se

Ko to ọpẹ

Nibo ni ile igbọnsẹ wa?

Alagba yii yoo sanwo fun gbogbo rẹ

Iyaafin yii yoo sanwo fun gbogbo rẹ

Şe iwọ maa ba mi jo?

Aro re so mi

Mo nifẹẹ rẹ

Da ara ya o

Fi mi silẹ

Ẹ gba mi o!

Ina o!

Duro nbẹ!

Pe awọn ọlọpaa

Ẹ ku Ayọ Keresimesi ati Ọdun Tuntun

Ẹ ku Ayọ Ajinde

Ẹ ku Ayọ Ọjọ Ibi

Oriire!

Ede kan ko to ri rara

Ọkọ afategun-sare mi kun fun ẹja arọ

ASSIGNMENT: Make a video telling us about yourself in Yoruba.

LESSON 7

Days of the week - ọjọ inu Ọsẹ

YORUBA BELIEF ABOUT THE DAYS OF THE WEEK

Ojo Aje (Monday): The Yorubas believe on this is the day, money joined Orisa on earth and so it is known as the day of money. Yoruba people believe this is the day to start businesses, and discuss economic and financial programs.

Ojo Isegun (Tuesday): For Yorubas, this is the day of victory. They believe this is the day all evil forces are overpowered. It is a good day to start anything that leads to a better quality of life.

Ojoru (Wednesday): Yorubas believe this is the day problems, calamities, disruptions and confusions entered the world. It is the day of confusion. It is a good day to pray against all form of evil.

Ojobo (Thursday): This day gave rise to the names of other days. It is a day on which Ancestors visit the family. This is why every important festival begins on Thursday - Ojobo. It also believed that the departed souls also visit their households and families on this day.

Ojo eti (Friday): This day is synonymous with postponement. It is believed that whatever people have to do on this day should be postponed or else it would fail. This is why it is not advisable to begin business and journeys on this day.

Abameta (Saturday): This day share same attributes with Ojo Eti. In order to avoid three types of negative incidents, the Yorubas don't bury anyone on Saturdays, unless the person is an elder. It should be noted that the Yoruba treat ojo Abameta and Eti in the same way.

Ojo Aiku (Sunday): Ojo Aiku otherwise known as Ojo Isinmi is the day of rest, and the day Orunmila buried Imi, the mother of Esu Odara. (see The Adventures of Obatala Vol. 1 Yemi Elebuibon for more information).

The Yorubas believe on this day the people of the world requested immortality (aiku) from Olodumare. However, Orunmila, a close confidant of Olodumare refused to make propitiation and he was unable to bring immortality (aiku) for all inhabitants of earth; hence people had to die.

Fortunately, according to the Yorubas, premature death can be prevented by offering sacrifice to Olodumare on this day.

Summary

Monday: Ọjọ́ Ajé (The day of financial success)

Tuesday: Ọjọ́ Ìsẹ́ gun (The day of victory)

Wednesday: Ọjọ́ Ríru, Ọjọ́ ru (The day of confusion)

Thursday: Ọjọ́ Àsẹ̀ ẹ̀ d aiyé or Ọjọ́ b ọ̀ (The day of new creation)

Friday: Ọjọ́ Ẹ̀tì (The day of trouble)

Saturday: Ọjọ́ Àbámẹ̀ ta (The day of three resolutions)

Sunday: Ọjọ́ Àìkú (The day of immortality)

ASSIGNMENT: Send a video telling us about your favorite day of the week. Make it fun.

E kú isé

LESSON 8

Parts of the body – Èyà ara

ÈYÀ ARA

Èjìkà
Abíyá
Apá
Ìgunpá
Ọ̀rùnọ̀wọ̀
Ọ̀wọ̀
Ìkaọ̀wọ̀
Èkanna
Àtẹ̀lẹ̀wọ̀
Atampako
Àyà
Ọ̀yàn
Ègbé
Èhìn
Ikùn
Ìdodo
Ìbàdí
Ìdí
Èsè
Èkún
Ọ̀rùnẹ̀sè
Èsè
Àtẹ̀lẹ̀sè
Ìkaẹ̀sè

PARTS OF THE BODY

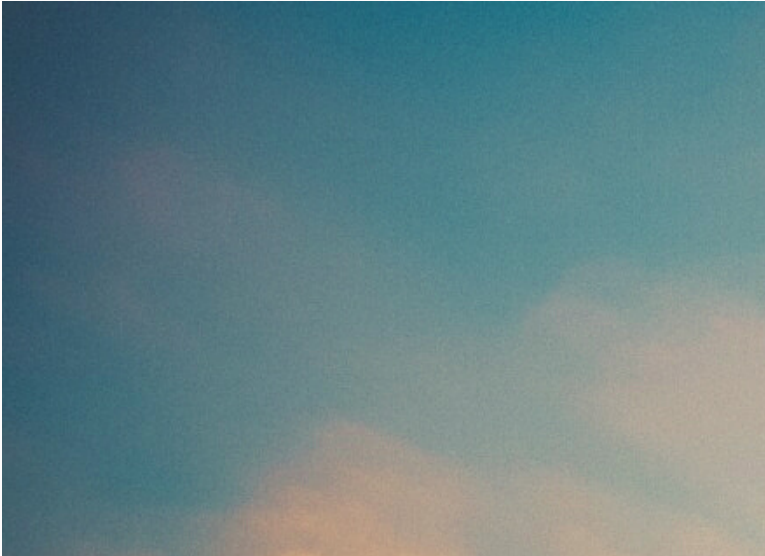
Shoulder
Armpit
Arms
Elbow
Wrist
Hand
Fingers
Nails
Palm of the hand
Thumb
Chest
Breast/Bust
Side
Back
Stomach
Navel or Belly button
Lower back
Buttocks
Legs
Knee
Ankle
Legs
Sole of the foot
Toes

ASSIGNMENT:

Make a video of yourself pointing to some parts of your body and then naming them in English and Yoruba.

E kú isé

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