

Igbo-English and English-Igbo Dictionary

This vocabulary is part of a published book that provides simple and easy-to-read insights into Igbo language and culture. Not only does that book describe the wide variety of the traditions in this part of Nigeria, attention is also paid to normal day-to-day facets of life in the town and villages. An up-to-date list with over 40 hotels and a full vocabulary complete this remarkable guide.

The book has been converted to a website and is now accessible on <http://www.IgboGuide.org>.

This website contains a complete guide on Igbo language, highlighted in sample conversations (including native audio clips), and explains the basic Igbo grammar structure. The book itself has been printed in 3 sold-out editions and has become the essential guide for development workers, volunteers, teachers, national youth service corpers, ex-pats, tourists and just anyone who wants to learn and enjoy Igboland customs, traditions and language.

Scroll to the next pages to look at the dictionary or click on [Igbo-English](#) and [English-Igbo](#) to access the vocabularies directly from the website: <http://www.igboguide.org>

Igbo - English

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- m l

-a this, these

A**abalī** night**abalī 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**akpatī nrī** 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**alībasa** onion**anö** four**anü** meat, animal**anü öhīa** 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**anyī** we, us, our**arö** year**asaa** seven**asatö** eight**atö** three**atülü** blue**aziza** broom**azü** fish**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**ndī** people, group**ndi ahü** those (group)**ndī be** family**ndī mmepe obodo** development agency**ndī ölü** workers**ndīa** these (group)**ndiagu** far from home**ndīda** 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 anī** sit down (verb)**nonye** join (verb)**nrī** food, right (as well as food as it is eaten with that hand)**nrī ütütü** breakfast**nso** close, nearby**nsogbu** trouble, disturbance**nü** hear (verb)**nwa** child**nwa nne nwanýi** sister

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)
bia 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
dī 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
ehihie afternoon, daytime
ehihie öma good afternoon
ekele dili gi thank you very much
ekpe left

nwa nne nwoke brother
nwa nwoke son
nwannam brother/sister (paternal)
nwannem brother/sister (maternal)
nwanta kiri child
nwanyi woman
nwata akwükwö student/pupil
nwata kiri 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
öji igbo kolanut
ojii black
öjöö ugly, bad
njö bad (noun)
öka corn
ökara half
oke ölü expensive
ököchi dry season
okporo cray fish
okporoko stockfish

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
gini 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 bölachĩ good-morning
che think (verb)
gbu kill (verb)

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
öria sickness
ose pepper
osikapa rice
osisi tree, stick
oto straight
otu one; as, that
oyi cold
özö next

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)

özü ahia 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)
ria 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
üböchi day, daylight, weather
üböchi öma good day
üböchi üka Sunday
üdi kind, sort
udu mmiri rainy season
ügbö ala car, motor
ügbö elu airplane
ügbö mmiri boat
ugbua now
ügü 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

-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)

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 nrī ütütü
bring (verb) kpörö
bring in (verb) weta
broom azīza
brother nwa nne nwoke

M

madam nne
make (verb) mee
make a plea (verb) kpee
man nwoke
manner etu
March onwa-itolu
market ahĩa
masteroga
May onwa-iri na otu
maybe ike kwe
me mü, m
meat anü
medicine dealer onye na ere ögwü
medicine man dibĩa
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 abalī
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

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 jiajia
catholic (person) onye catholic
center etiti
chair oche
chew (verb) ta
chicken öküü
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) bia
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

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 önu
primary school elementri
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 nri
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

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 akwu
down the road ndida
drink mmanyaa
drive (verb) nyaa
dry season okochi
duck obogwu

E

each niile, dum
early dawn uzö
earth ala
edge akuku
eggs akwa
eight asatö
electricity okulatrik
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'ulo
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 nri
fork mkpisi
four anö
friend enyi

sell ire
seller ore ihe
September onwa-atö
seven asaa
she o, ö, ya
sickness öria
since ka mgbe
sister nwa nne nwanyi
sister (maternal) nwannem
sister (paternal) nwannam
sit down (verb) nodu ani
six isii
small obele
snake agwo
somebody onye
something ihe
son nwa nwoke
sort udi
speak süo
spoon ngazi
stand up (verb) kunie
stew ofe
stick osisi
stockfish okporoko
straight oto
strength ike
student nwata akwukwo
sun anwu, anyanwu
Sunday ubochi üka
sweep (verb) zaa
swim (verb) gwuo mmiri
swimming-pool ndoro mmiri

T

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

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 bölachí
goodnight ka chi foo
grade clasi
ground ala
group ndi

H

half ökara
happy anüli
happy easter añuli easter
happy new year añuli arö öfütü
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

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
truthezi 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 öfuma
well done da alü

hundred narĩ
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 öjĩ igbo

L

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

what gĩnĩ
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 nwanyĩ
work ölü
worker onye ölü
workers ndĩ ölü

Y

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