



Essential Twi Phrases for Diaspora

Your First Step Home

50+ Phrases to Start Speaking Today

Speak Ghana Language School

Reconnect. Speak. Thrive.

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Akwaaba! — Welcome

Language is the key that unlocks identity, culture, and belonging.

Whether you're planning to visit Ghana, speak with family members, or simply understand the music and movies you love, these essential phrases will get you started.

This guide focuses on **Twi (Asante dialect)**, the most widely spoken Ghanaian language. Each phrase includes:

- The Twi word/phrase
- English meaning
- Pronunciation guide
- Cultural notes where applicable

Start with one phrase a day. Practice out loud. Don't worry about perfection, just start speaking.

— *Richard*

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Akwantu pa! — Have a good journey with your Twi learning!

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Greetings — The Heart of Ghanaian Culture

In Ghana, greetings are not just words — they are a sign of respect and a way to connect. Never skip greetings!

Twi	English	Pronunciation
Akwaaba	Welcome	ah-kwah-bah
Mema wo akye	Good morning	meh-mah woh chee
Mema wo aha	Good afternoon	meh-mah woh ah-hah
Mema wo adwo	Good evening	meh-mah woh ah-joh
Da yie	Good night / Sleep well	dah yee-eh
Wo ho te sen?	How are you?	woh ho teh sehn?
Me ho ye	I am fine	meh ho yeh
Yoo	Okay / Yes	yoh
Ɛye	It is good / Okay	eh-yeh
Ɛnyɛ	It is not good	en-yeh

◆◆ **Cultural Note:** Greet elders first — always. Age is deeply respected in Ghanaian culture. A slight bow or handshake with the right hand shows respect.

Introductions & Personal Information

Meeting someone new? Here's how to introduce yourself and ask about others.

Twi	English	Pronunciation
Me din de...	My name is...	meh deen deh...
Wo din de sen?	What is your name?	woh deen deh sehn?
Wofiri he?	Where are you from?	woh fee-ree heh?
Mefiri...	I am from...	meh fee-ree...
Mefiri United States	I'm from the United States	meh fee-ree...
Mefiri United Kingdom	I'm from the United Kingdom	meh fee-ree...
Mefiri Canada	I'm from Canada	meh fee-ree...
Mepe se me suaa Twi	I want to learn Twi	meh-peh seh meh soo-ah chee
Mepe se me ko Ghana	I want to go to Ghana	meh-peh seh meh koh Ghana

◆◆ **Cultural Note:** When someone asks "Wofiri he?" they are genuinely interested in your background. Be proud to share where you're from!

Family Terms — Abusua

In Twi/Akan culture, family is everything — *"Abusua yɛ denkyɛm"* (Family is like a rock). The matrilineal system means maternal relatives are especially important.

Twi	English	Cultural Note
Agya / Papa	Father	Both are common; "papa" is more informal
Maame	Mother	Also means "madam" respectfully
Ɔba	Child	Can refer to any child
Onua	Sibling	Add "barima" (male) or "baa" (female) to specify
Nana	Grandparent / Elder	Used respectfully for any elder
Wɔfa	Maternal uncle	Very important — your "real" uncle in matrilineal system
Sewaa	Paternal aunt	Father's sister
Abusua	Family / Clan	Matrilineal clan that determines inheritance
Okunu	Husband	Literally "the one who takes"
Ɔyere	Wife	Literally "the one who carries"

❖❖ **Cultural Note:** In Akan culture, children belong to their mother's family (abusua). Your maternal uncle (wɔfa) often has significant responsibility in raising you.

Everyday Phrases

These essential phrases will get you through daily interactions.

Twi	English	Pronunciation
Medaase	Thank you	meh-dah-seh
Mepa wo kyew	Please	meh-pah woh cheh-oo
M'anhyɛ da	Sorry / Excuse me	man - hyɛ- da
Aane	Yes	ah-neh
Daabi	No	dah-bee
Megye tum	I agree / It's fine	meh-gye-tum
Ɛden?	What? / What's up?	eh-dehn?
Ɛye den?	How is it? / How are things?	eh-yeh dehn?

◆◆ **Cultural Note:** "Mepa wo kyew" (please) is used frequently in Ghanaian English too — you'll hear "please" said often in conversations.

Food & Eating

Ghanaian cuisine is rich and flavorful. Here's how to talk about food.

Twi	English	Pronunciation
ɛkɔm de me	I am hungry	ɛkɔm-de-meh
Nsuo kɔm de me	I am thirsty	nsuo-kɔm-deh- meh
Me pɛ sɛ midi	I want to eat	meh-peh seh mee-dee
Fufu	Fufu (pounded cassava & plantain)	foo-foo
Banku	Banku (fermented corn dough)	bahn-koo
Jollof	Jollof rice	joh-lohf
ɛmo	Rice	eh-moh
Nsuo	Water	n-soo-oh
Nkate	Groundnuts / Peanuts	n-kah-teh
W'adidi?	Have you eaten?	wah-dee dee?

◆◆ **Cultural Note:** "W'adi di?" (Have you eaten?) is a common greeting, especially around mealtimes. It's a way of showing care and hospitality.

Numbers 1-10

Numbers are essential for shopping, telling time, and everyday conversations.

Number	Twi	Pronunciation
1	Baako	bah-koh
2	Mmienu	mm-iee-nu
3	Mmiensa	mm-ieh-nsah
4	enan	eh-nahn
5	Enum	eh-noom
6	Nsia	n-see-ah
7	Nson	n-sohn
8	Nwɔtwe	nn-woh-tweh
9	Nkron	n-krohn
10	Edu	e-doo

Questions You'll Be Asked

When you visit Ghana or meet Ghanaian friends, these questions will come up often. Here's how to understand and respond.

Twɔ	English	How to Respond
Wofiri he?	Where are you from?	Mefiri... (I am from...)
Wote Twi?	Do you understand Twi?	Aane / Daabi (Yes/No)
Wote ase?	Do you understand?	Aane / Daabi
Wadi mfee ahe?	How old are you?	Me di mfee... (I am... years old)
Worekɔ he?	Where are you going?	Merekɔ... (I am going to...)
W'adidi?	Have you eaten?	Aane, madi / Daabi, mennii

Cultural Etiquette for Diasporans

These cultural tips will help you navigate interactions with respect and confidence.

1. **Greet elders first** — always. Age is deeply respected. Never start a conversation with an elder without greeting them properly.
2. **Use your right hand** for giving, receiving, eating, and gesturing. The left hand is considered impolite for these actions.
3. **When greeting**, a slight bow or handshake with the right hand shows respect. Some elders may also snap fingers after shaking hands — this is normal!
4. **”Akwaaba”** is more than a word — it’s a philosophy. Ghanaians genuinely welcome visitors. Embrace it.
5. **Don’t rush**. Take time for greetings before asking questions. This is considered polite and shows respect.
6. **Learn family titles** — when unsure, address older people as ”Nana” (grandparent/elder). It’s always respectful.
7. **Remove shoes** when entering someone’s home unless told otherwise.
8. **Dress modestly** when visiting villages or attending traditional ceremonies.

◆◆ **Cultural Note:** These customs show respect for Ghanaian culture. Ghanaians are generally understanding of visitors, but making the effort to follow these practices will be greatly appreciated.

Practice Dialogues

Dialogue 1: Meeting Someone for the First Time

- A:* Akwaaba!
B: Medaase.
A: Wo din de sen?
B: Me din de Kofi. Wo nso?
A: Me din de Abena.
B: Eye se mahyia wo.
A: Yoo, me nso.

English:

- A:* Welcome!
B: Thank you.
A: What is your name?
B: My name is Kofi. And you?
A: My name is Abena.
B: Nice to meet you.
A: Okay, me too.

Dialogue 2: At a Restaurant

- A:* Mepa wo kyew, fufu wo ha?
B: Aane, wo ho.
A: Me pe fufu ne nkyenam.
B: Yoo, bra.

English:

- A:* Please, is there fufu here?
B: Yes, it's here.
A: I want fufu and fish.
B: Okay, come.

Dialogue 3: Meeting a Family Member

- A:* Nana, wo ho te sen?
B: Me ho ye, na wo nso?
A: Me ho ye pa ara. Medaase.
B: Yoo, bra tena ase.

English:

- A:* Grandfather/Elder, how are you?
B: I am fine, and you?
A: I am very fine. Thank you.
B: Okay, come sit down.

Next Steps — Continue Your Journey

Congratulations! You've taken your first step in learning Twi.

Here's how to continue:

- Practice one phrase a day — say it out loud
- Listen to Ghanaian music (Sarkodie, Kuami Eugene, Stonebwoy)
- Watch Ghanaian movies on YouTube
- Join our free online classes
- Book a private lesson with a native speaker
- Download more free resources from our website
- Join our WhatsApp community
- Claim your free trial class

Ready to speak confidently?

Visit speakghana.org to:

- Enroll in our structured courses
- Download more free resources
- Join our WhatsApp community
- Claim your free trial class

See you in class! — Akwaaba!

About Speak Ghana



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