



Twi (Akan) Family Terms Cheat Sheet

Complete Guide to Kinship Vocabulary (Asante Focus)

Quick Reference for Diasporans & Foreigners

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Overview

- In Twi/Akan (Asante dialect), family is central — "abusua" often means matrilineal clan/extended family.
- Maternal relatives (mother's side) are key for inheritance/clan.
 - Paternal side uses different terms (e.g., father's siblings = "also father/mother").
 - Plurals: Add -nom (e.g., maamenom = mothers).
 - Practice with audio for tones!

Core Family Terms

Twi (Singular)	Plural (-nom)	English / Notes
abusua	abusuani / abusuafoɔ	family / clan (matrilineal extended family)
abusuakuo	abusuakuo	family group / household
agya / papa / se	agyanom / papanom / senom	father
maame / ena / ni	maamenom / enanom	mother
ɔba	mma	child / son or daughter
ɔba barima	mma mmarima	son
ɔba baa	mma mmaa	daughter
onua	anuanom	sibling
onua barima	anuanom mmarima	brother
onua baa	anuanom mmaa	sister
onua panyin	anuanom mpanyimfoɔ	elder/older sibling
onua kumaa / ketewa	anuanom nkumaa / nketewa	younger sibling
nana	nananom	grandparent
nanabarima	nananom mmarima	grandfather
nanabaa	nananom mmaa	grandmother
wɔfa	wɔfanom	maternal uncle (mother's brother — very important!)
sewaa	sewaanom	paternal aunt (father's sister)

Twi (Singular)	Plural (-nom)	English / Notes
agya nuabarima / papa nuabarima	agyanom nuabarima	paternal uncle (father's brother = "also father")
maame nuabaa	maamenom nuabaa	maternal aunt (mother's sister = "also mother")
wɔfaase / wɔfase	wɔfaasefoɔ	nephew / niece (sister's child — from maternal uncle perspective)
ase / asew	asenom	in-law / parents-in-law
asebarima	asenom mmarima	father-in-law
asebaa	asenom mmaa	mother-in-law
okunu	nkununom	husband
ɔyere	nyerenom	wife
akonta	akonta / nkonta	brother-in-law
akumaa	akumaa / nkumaanom	sister-in-law
baabunu / ɔbaabunu	mmaabunu	teenager / young person
aberantɛ	mmerantɛ	young man
ababaawa	mmabaawa	young girl / young woman
abofra / akwadaa	mmofra / nkwadaa	child (general)
aberewa	mmerewa	old woman / grandmotherly figure
akɔkora / akora	nkɔkora	old man

Key Cultural Notes

- **Matrilineal system:** Clan/inheritance from mother's side (*abusua*). Your "real" uncles are often maternal (*wɔfa*).
- Paternal uncles/aunts treated as additional parents (*papa ketewa* = dad's younger brother).
- Extended family is huge — everyone calls elders "nana" respectfully.
- Common phrases:
 - Me *abusua ye den?* (How is my family?)
 - Wo ho te *sɛn, na wo fiefoɔ?* (How are you, and your household?)
 - Me *wɔfa ye papa paa!* (My maternal uncle is a great man!)

Quick Practice Sentences:

Me *papa ne me maame wɔ fie.* (My father and mother are at home.)

Me *wɔfa na ɔkyere me adwuma.* (My maternal uncle is the one who teaches me work.)

Wo *wɔ anuanom sɛn?* (How many siblings do you have?)

Happy learning — *Abusua ye denkyɛm!* (*Family is everything!*) Listen to native speakers on YouTube (e.g., LearnAkan channel family lessons) for tones and context.