

PRELIMINARY VERSION TO A BEGINNING COURSE
IN
MENDE

William L. Coleman

Samuel Joe Leiby

Summer, 1970

Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

PRELIMINARY VERSION TO A BEGINNING COURSE
IN
MENDE

William L. Coleman

Samuel Joe Leiby

Summer, 1970

Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

Njopowahu Nyapoi ke Fele Gomoi

Fele Gomoi -- Nyapoi, bua.

Njopowahu Nyapoi - M, kenei, bi sie. Gbooo bi longo bi ngeya?

Fele Gomoi -- Nya longo ngi mbei, saloi, ngulo gbolii, te hsi
ke te hani yeya. Gbe jongo mia a hani jisia gbels?

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Mbei, senti naani mia a peni panii yila va.

Fele Gomoi -- Nyapoi, bi bei, baa gbango wa. Nga bi golo a senti
fele peni panii yila va.

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Nga senti sawa hulo.

Fele Gomoi -- Nya longo a mba pani loolu. Gbe jongo mia a na?

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Senti pu mahu loolu mia. Saloi fele, peni loolu va.

Fele Gomoi -- Gbe jongo mia salo yila va?

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Yila va, senti sawa. Ta mia?

Fele Gomoi -- M, ta mia. Nga bi golo senti naani salo fele va.

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Kulungo! Salo lola mia bi longo la?

Fele Gomoi -- Nya longo a salo nu gboyongo mahu pu mahu woita. Gbe
jongo mia a na?

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Senti pu mahu wayakpa mia.

Fele Gomoi -- Nha longo a ngulo jani wayakpa. Gbe jongo mia?

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Senti nu fele gboyongo mahu wayakpa mia. Senti woita
yila va.

Fele Gomoi -- Ba senti loolu hulo sani yila va?

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Nga senti woita hulo.

Fele Gomoi -- Kulungo! Senti nu fele gboyongo mahu wayakpa mia, hie.

Njopowahu Nyapoi - M, ta mia.

Fele Gomoi - o bi langesisia?

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Tiaa miando kulii na hu. Bi longo a Puu le henii o
Mende lsi?

Fele Gomoi - Nya longo a Puu le henii ke Mende le hei. Ti jongo mia?

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Te heni gbogboi ji senti dola yila mia. Te ha gowei
na, senti nu sawa gboyongo mia. Ti veenjo gbela, dola
yila senti nu fele gboyongo mahu pu.

Fele Gomoi - Ndiama, baa gbango wa. Nga senti nu fele gboyongo
mahu pu hei va. Ba senti nu naani gboyongo mahu pu
hulo te henii ji va?

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Kensi, nga senti nu naani gboyongo mahu pu mahu
loolu hulo.

Fele Gomoi - Dola yila senti nu fele gboyongo mahu loolu mia ti
veenjo va, hie.

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Tonya mia. Kpele mia?

Fele Gomoi - M, kpele mia. Gbe jongo mia a hakii jisia gbela?

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Mbei, senti pu mahu loolu.

Saloi, senti pu mahu wayakpa.

Ngulo gbolii, senti nu fele gboyongo mahu wayakpa.

Tangesisia, dola yila senti nu fele gboyongo mahu loolu.

Hakii jisia gbela ti jongo mia a dola fele senti pu
mahu waita.

Fele Gomoi - Ta ii le. Dola fele senti nu gboyongo mahu waita.

Njopowahu Nyapoi - Bi sie. Wa gboma lo.

Fele Gomoi - M, bi sie. Ma lo gboma.

Kensi Momo Bodeisia

Kensi Momo yei ta hu mia a Mano. Ngi welai i tei lia lo. Ngendei ji, Kensi Momo ke ngi bodeisia lo ti welai bu. Kensi Momo nyahngesia ke ngi njeni tia heini ngi yeje ma. Ngi loponseisia ke ngi yagbeisia lo ngi ngowe ma. Kensi Momo kake lo heini ngi gbla. Ngi maada ke ngi mama ti hanga.

Kpalei hu

Kensi Momo ke ngi bodeisia tiaa kpale hu ha. Hindongesia (Kensi Momo, ngi hindo loponseisia ke ngi yagbengesia (hindo)) tiaa kpetei lewema. Kensi Momo lo kuwui golema. Numu sawa mia ti kuwu yila gbi hu. Kuwu naani mia. Kensi Momo ngi gbayango wa. Na va mia ta yakpe i ngi guwui hu. Nya nemahu, ta kpetei gboyolo ha.

Nyahangesia (Kensi Momo ngi nyahangesia ngi njeni ke ngi yagbengesia (nyaha)) tiaa kpitii gbuama mbei hu. Numu sawa mia ti kuwu yila gbi hu. Nya nemahu, kuwu loolu mia a na. Kpitii gbotongo lo mbei ji hu. Ngii lani la ta kpoyolo ha.

Nyaha loponseisia lo mbei hijama kondai va. Mba fele sawa mia ti hijama. Nya nemahu, mba peni pani wota mia a na. Hindo loponseisia lo ngombu wulii wayoma. Ndopo mumuisia lo wama a njei. Kensi Momo ngi bodangesia ti yengesia lo a jisia a kpalei hu.

Mende
Coleman

Useful Phrases

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Nya gahu gboyongo. | I'm tired. |
| 2. Ndolei lo nya ma. | I'm hungry. |
| 3. Hakpsi ji nsengo. | This sauce is delicious. |
| 4. Kaye ii ngewo ma. | Nothing is wrong. |
| 5. Nya go vea. | I'm full. |
| 6. Nji msi lo nya ma. | I'm sleepy. |
| 7. Nga va ngi ma. | Give him my regards. |
| 8. Nyaa lima dokitsi gama. | I'm going to the doctor. |
| 9. Gboo ngi ma? | What's wrong with him? |
| 10. Gboo bi ma? | What's wrong with you? |
| 11. Selsi ji, gbe jongo? | How much is this banana? |
| 12. Navo lo bi yeya? | Do you have money? |
| 13. Gboo bi yeya? | What do you have? |
| 14. Gboo ngi yeya? | What does he have? |
| 15. Bi longo a navo? | Do you want money? |
| 16. Ngi longo a navo? | He wants money. |
| 17. Bi longo a sseli? | Do you want the banana? |
| 18. Navo gbii nya yeya. | I don't have any money. |
| 19. Navo ii nya yeya. | I don't have any money at all. |
| 20. Buku gbii nya yeya. | I don't have any books. |
| 21. Buku gbii bi yeya. | You don't have any books. |
| 22. Nya longo la. | I like that. |
| 23. Gbe mia a bi longo la? | What do you want? |
| 24. Hindsi gbandingo. | It's urgent business. |
| 25. Hindsi nyamungo. | It's bad business. |
| 26. Hindsi nyandengo. | It's good business. |
| 27. Gboo bi longo bi pie? | What do you want to do? |

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 28. Folei ji nyamungo. | This is a bad day. |
| 29. Bi mahugbe. | Be careful. |
| 30. Kɔns. | Please. |
| 31. Jia flo flo. | Walk quickly. |
| 32. Kɔns pɛlsi gbowu. | Please close the door. |
| 33. Bi lai gbowu. | Close your mouth. |
| 34. Wolo. | Listen. |
| 35. Nya mahugbe. | Take care of me. |
| 36. Bi namahu leengo. | You are clever. |
| 37. Bia ii le. | Not you. |
| 38. Nya gahu gbɔyongo. | I'm tired. |
| 39. Nya gahu ii gbɔyoni. | I'm not tired. |
| 40. Gbɔɔ bi ndeni? | What did you say? |
| 41. Gbɔɔ nà? | What happened there? |
| 42. Gbe mia a nà? | What happened there? |
| 43. Gbe mia a ná? | What is that? |
| 44. Ngi kpoyonga. | I've finished. |
| 45. Wa bukui. | Bring the book. |
| 46. Li miando. | Go over there. |
| 47. Ye mia? | Who is it? |
| 48. Baa pie. | Don't do it. |
| 49. Baa gbɔiti ma. | Don't touch it. |
| 50. Ba li. | Don't go. |
| 51. Baa nde ngi ma. | Don't tell him |
| 52. Baa lema ma. | Don't forget. |
| 53. Baa wolo ngi ma. | Don't listen to him. |
| 54. Taa miando. | He is over there. |

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 55. Ye mia bi kamoi le? | Who is your teacher? |
| 56. Tonya mia ngi ndema. | I am speaking the truth. |
| 57. Njsi mu leweilo. | The rain drenched us. |
| 58. Njsi a mu lewelo. | The rain will drench us. |
| 59. Gbe yengei mia ba pie? | What work do you do? |
| 60. Mi mia bi lima na? | Where are you going? |
| 61. Bi lima mi lo? | Where are you going? |
| 62. Ngi li ha tsi hu lo. | I went to town today. |
| 63. Ngi tsi hu lo ha. | I went to town today. |
| 64. Gboo bi pieni? | What did you do? |
| 65. Ngi felei goilo. | I bought something. |
| 66. Gboo bi yeya? | What do you have? |
| 67. Gbe mia a bi yeya? | What is it you have? |
| 68. Hani gboto. | Many things. |
| 69. Ngi hani gboto yeyailo. | I bought many things. |
| 70. Nyandengo. | It's nice. |
| 71. Baa gbango. | It's expensive. |
| 72. Ndenga lo bi yeya? | Do you have children? |
| 73. Ti lols? | How many? |
| 74. Tiaa lima sukui? | Are they going to school? |
| 75. Ná nyandengo. | That is nice. |
| 76. Gboo bi ma? | What's wrong with you? |
| 77. I kpoyonga. | It's finished. |
| 78. Ngengei gboyonga. | The work is finished. |
| 79. Njoko. | Come in. (Sherbro Mende) |
| 80. I wa pasi bu. | Come in. (Kenema Mende) |
| 81. Ba nya goolo a mba wulo? | Will you give me some rice? |

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 82. Ba nya golo a mana wulo? | Will you give me some bananas? |
| 83. Bi gohu nsengo? | Are you happy? |
| 84. Nya gohu nsengo? | Am I happy? |
| 85. Bi la bsengo, hie. | Your are speechless. (Surprised) |
| 86. Nya gohu nsengo bi lo va. | I am happy to see you. |
| 87. Nya gohu nsengo ye va mbei. | I am happy to be here. |
| 88. Motoi ji mia lima Kenema? | Is this the lorry going to Kenema? |
| 89. Motoi ji Kenema va lo? | Is this the lorry for Kenema? |
| 90. Gbe jongo mia li va Kenema? | What's the price to Kenema? |
| 91. Gbo nga fe li va Kenema? | What will I pay to go to Kenema? |
| 92. Motomoi ji biyesi? | Who owns this lorry? |
| 93. Motoi lo. | Stop the lorry. |
| 94. Motoi lo njopowa hu gbla. | Stop next to the market. |
| 95. Nya gbuja njopowa hu gbla. | Drop me by the market. |
| 96. Gbo nya ma ngi hits motoi hu. | Help me get down from the lorry. |
| 97. Gbo nya ma a ji. | Help me with this. |
| 98. Gbo nya ma. | Help me. |
| 99. Ba ja a ngombui. | Don't touch the fire. |
| 100. Ngombui gbandengo. | The fire is hot. |
| 101. Kpandengo. | It's hot. |

The following are the sounds of Mende. Many of the sounds are similar to English but there are some which do not occur in English. You will need to pay special attention to those sounds which do not occur in English. In this lesson and the following you will learn to produce the sounds of Mende. It is important that you listen carefully and pronounce them as the Mende speaker does. The sounds of Mende are divided into vowels and consonants. The vowels are -

	<u>Mende</u>	<u>English</u>
i	li	go
e	ve	swell
s	ve	blow
a	ja	touch
o	mbo	pierce it
o	mbo	shoot it
u	ku	smell it

The consonants are -

p	pu	ten
b	bi	you (sg.)
t	te	lift it
d	dowu	duck
k	ko	war
g	ge	recently
f	fe	five
v	ve	swell
s	sale	proverb
h	hele	elephant
j	jani	bottle
l	li	go

m	me	eat it
n	na	that
w	wu	you (pl.)
y	ye	be

El.1 Listen to the following words. Write the vowel sound you hear.

Do NOT repeat.

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1. mi | where |
| 2. li | go |
| 3. ve | swell |
| 4. ve | blow |
| 5. ja | touch |
| 6. to | see |
| 7. to | follow |
| 8. ku | smell |
| 9. ma | on |
| 10. mo | burn |

El.2 The following words contain more than one syllable. Write the first vowel sound you hear. Do NOT repeat.

- | | | |
|----|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 13 | 1. sawei | law |
| 14 | 2. pslei | house |
| 15 | 3. kolo | to know (variation of ko 'to know') |
| 16 | 4. bondsai | okra |
| 17 | 5. susu | deep |
| 18 | 6. fefei | wind |
| 19 | 7. pelei | road |
| 20 | 8. belsi | trousers |
| | 9. hini | husband |
- (21) Ndisosia -
 (22) Hotesia
 (23) Ngileisia
 (24) Nungesia
 (25) Nyabagesia
 (26) Ndagbo
 (27) ganyei
 (28) ganyi
 (29) ganyi
 (30) ganyisia

10. folei sun, day
11. bului trumpet (chief's)

El.3 Listen to the following words. Write the initial sound of each word.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. ye | 9. helei |
| 2. wu | 10. na |
| 3. ge | 11. fe |
| 4. jani | 12. ko |
| 5. li | 13. pu |
| 6. me | 14. dowi |
| 7. ve | 15. bi |
| 8. salei | 16. te |

Dialog 1

Listen to the following dialog. Then listen to the dialog once again and repeat after the instructor.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Seku - Musa, bua. | Musa, hello. |
| Musa - M, Seku, bua. | Yes, Seku, hello. |
| Seku - Bi sie. | Thank you. |
| Musa - H, bi sie. | Yes, thank you. |
| Seku - Gboo bi gahu? | How are you? |
| Musa - Kaye ii Ngewo ma. | I'm fine. (Literally - No fault on God) |
| o bia ba? | How about you? |
| Seku - Kaye ii Ngewo ma. | I'm fine. |
| Ma lo, hoe. | Goodbye. |
| Musa - H, ma lo, hoe. | Yes, goodbye. |

Drill 1 Repeat after the instructor.

M-1

Nya la a Tomi.	My name is Tommy.
Nya la a Amara.	My name is Amara.
Nya la a Musa.	My name is Musa.
Nya la a Seku.	My name is Seku.
Nya la a Blaina.	My name is Blaina.

M-2

Bi lei?	Your name? (This phrase is an idiom.)
---------	---------------------------------------

C-1

Ask and answer this question with other members of the class including the teacher.

A - Bi lei?

B - Nya la a _____.

Conversation Situation

You are on the road to Talia or some other town in the Mende speaking area in Sierra Leone. You meet another who is also Mende. Greet that person and inquire about his health and find out what his name is.

There are nasal consonants in Mende which are not familiar to the English speaker. These consonants are ny, mb, ni, ng, ngi, and ni. You must remember that each of the above consonants represents one sound and not two sounds. Some Mende speakers pronounce the nasalization lightly sometimes to the extent that it is nearly inaudible. Correct pronunciation for you is to produce the sound so that you can hear the nasalization.

E2.1 Listen to the following words. Repeat after the Mende speaker.

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1. nyahsi | woman |
| 2. nyamu | bad, ugly |
| 3. nya | I |
| 4. nyika | sort, kind of |
| 5. nyapoi | girl |
| 6. nyandei | nice, beautiful |
| 7. nyei | to write |
| 8. nyinei | rat |
| 9. nyeni | to spoil |
| 10. dunysi | world |

E2.2

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. mbei | rice |
| 2. mbilii | drum |
| 3. mbo | shoot it |
| 4. mbalsi | sheep |
| 5. mbei | here |
| 6. mbowei | knife |
| 7. mbeketi | branch |
| 8. mbonai | hammock |
| 9. mbu | underneath |
| 10. mbocysi | broth |

E2.3 Listen to the following words. Repeat after the speaker.

- | | |
|------------|------------------------|
| 1. nde | say it |
| 2. ndakpai | young man |
| 3. ndii | heart |
| 4. ndopoi | child (male or female) |
| 5. ndovoi | frog |
| 6. ndomei | shirt |
| 7. nduvui | raffia |
| 8. ndilame | friend |
| 9. ndowu | hide |
| 10. ndsi | mouth |

E2.4 Listen to the following words. Repeat after the instructor.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. ngafai | spirit |
| 2. ngendei | morning |
| 3. ngombil | knee |
| 4. ngombil | fire |
| 5. ngilsi | dog |
| 6. ngolii | ear |
| 7. ngee | elder brother |
| 8. ngeya | palm of hand |
| 9. ngetro | god |
| 10. ngolsi | forest |

E2.5 Listen to the following words. Repeat after the instructor.

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1. njii | sleep |
| 2. njsi | water |
| 3. njia | language |
| 4. njopowa | market |
| 5. njspe | talk |

E2.6 ngb occurs only in the middle of a word. Listen to the following words. Repeat after the speaker.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. sengbei | cock's comb |
| 2. kpangbei | broom |
| 3. sangbei | a drum |
| 4. njengbei | a brown bird |

E2.7 Now listen to the following words and repeat after the speaker.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. nyahsi | 14. mbo |
| 2. mbei | 15. ngombii |
| 3. nde | 16. njia |
| 4. ngafsi | 17. sangbei |
| 5. njii | 18. nyiko |
| 6. sengbei | 19. mbalsi |
| 7. nyamu | 20. ndopoi |
| 8. mbilii | 21. ngombii |
| 9. ndakpsi | 22. njopowa |
| 10. ngendei | 23. nyande |
| 11. nje | 24. mbekei |
| 12. kpangbei | 25. ngilsi |
| 13. nya | |

E2.8 Listen again to the words in E2.7. Repeat after the instructor and write the word you hear.

Dialog 1

- Kensi Kpana - Musa, bua.
Musa - Hi, Kensi Kpana, bua.
Kensi Kpana - Di sie.
Musa - Hi, bi sie.
Gboo bi gahu?
Kensi Kpana - Kaye ii Ngerwo ma.
o bia be?
Musa - Kaye ii Ngerwo ma.
Kensi Kpana - Mu kpoko, hoe. 'Good night'
Musa - Hi, mu kpoko, hoe.

n represents the sound which in English is written ng and pronounced as in sing. This sound never occurs at the beginning of a word in English but in Mende it occurs at the beginning of words and also in the middle.

Learn to produce this sound as the Mende speaker does.

E3.1 Listen to the following words. Repeat after the Mende speaker.

1. namsi blood
2. nonii bird
3. nanyei sand

E3.2 Listen to the following words. The initial consonant of each word is a nasal. Write the consonant. Listen carefully.

1. nyapoi
2. ndiamo
3. nonii
4. ngolii
5. njepo
6. ngolsi
7. njengbei
8. nyande
9. nji
10. namsi

kp and gb are probably the sounds which will give you the most trouble. It will take some time to master them completely. In this lesson you will learn to hear the distinction and also to produce these sounds.

E3.3 Listen carefully to the following exercise. Do NOT repeat.

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. kpetei | swamp | 11. kpetei |
| 2. kpindii | night | 12. gboma |
| 3. kpolu | red, ripe | 13. kpindii |
| 4. kpandei | gun | 14. gbanyei |
| 5. kpakii | shoulder | 15. kpolu |
| 6. gboma | again | 16. gboysi |
| 7. gbanyei | pliers | 17. kpandei |
| 8. gboysi | sea | 18. gbengi |
| 9. gbengi | yesterday | 19. kpakii |
| 10. gbahai | stool | 20. gbahai |

E3.4 Now listen to E3.3 again. Repeat after the Mende speaker.

E3.5 Listen to the following words. kp and gb are between vowels. Do NOT repeat.

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. hokpei | nose | 11. fogbei | whip |
| 2. ndakpei | | 12. njagbei | nephew/niece |
| 3. ndikpei | arrow | 13. hagbei | rabbit |
| 4. ndikpo | walking stick | 14. mbogbei | cutlass |
| 5. tokpoi | palm tree | 15. ndogbei | bush |
| 6. wayakpa | eight | 16. digbei | heel |
| 7. yakpe | alone | 17. ndegbei | catfish |
| 8. yekpe | self | 18. wogba | never in the past |
| 9. nikpo | to rub | 19. ligbi | to lean against |
| 10. pukpua | to root up | 20. tugba | to stumble |

21. holpei

22. fogbei

E3.6 Listen to the following words. In the columns to the right check the kp column if you hear kp in the word or check gb if you hear gb.

	<u>kp</u>	<u>gb</u>
1. nikpo	1.	
2. ndogboi	2.	
3. kpetei	3.	
4. ghoma	4.	
5. gboyei	5.	
6. yekpe	6.	
7. ndakpei	7.	
8. fogbei	8.	
9. wogba	9.	
10. kpolu	10.	

Pattern Drill - Variation on 'My name is _____'

M-1

Nya lei mia a Kpana.

Nya lei mia a Nyapoi Lansana.

M-2

Ngi lei mia a Musu.

Ngi lei mia a Musa.

M-3

Bi lei mia a Amara.

Bi lei mia a Kensi Lansana.

Conversation Situation - Conduct a conversation with someone in the room. Use everything you have learned thus far.

Repeat after the instructor.

M-1

Nya lei ya a Tobi.

My name is not Tomy.

Nya lei ya a Amara.

Nya lei ya a Sarah.

Nya lei ya a Musa.

M-2

Ngi lei ya a Musu.

Her name is not Musu.

Ngi lei ya a Seku.

Ngi lei ya a Moseray.

Ngi lei ya a Kensi Kpama.

M-3

Bi lei ya a Mahsi Lansana.

Your name is not Chief Lansana.

Bi lei ya a Kensi Taylor.

Bi lei ya a Nyapoi Juana.

M-4

Nya lei?

(What is) my name?

Bi lei?

(What is) your name?

Ngi lei?

(What is) his/her name?

C-1

A- Ndalpei, bi lei?

B- Nya la a Amara.

o bia be?

A- Nya la a Mahsi Lansana.

C-2

A- Naada, bua?

B- Ê, Kensi Bemba, bua?

A- Bi sie.

B- Ê, bi sie.

A- Gboo bi gahu?

B- Kaye ii Ngewo ma.

o bia be?

A- Nya gahu gboyongo.

I'm tired. (Lit. My body is finished)

B- Ma lo gboma.

I'll see you again. (Lit. We'll see
one another again)

A- Ê, Ngewo jahu.

Yes, God willing.

C-3

A- Ndakpei, bi lei mia a Kpana?

B- Mm, nya lei ya a Kpana.

A- Bi lei?

B- Nya lei mia a Amadou.

o bia be?

A- Nya la a Seku Lansana.

Note

The three possessive pronouns used in Lessons 3 and 4 are

nya	'I'
bi	'you' sg.
ngi	'his/her'

Sentence intonation is very important in English and in Mende.

Compare these English sentences

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. His name is John. | Statement |
| 2. His name is John? | Question |

In sentence 1 the intonation pattern is .

In sentence 2 the intonation pattern is .

Statement/question intonation is also used in Mende. You must learn to distinguish the two.

E5.1 Listen to the following statements. Concentrate on sentence intonation.

1. Ngi lei mia a Musa.
2. Bi lei mia a Kpana.
3. Nya lei mia a Mary.
4. Ngi lei ya a Musa.
5. Nya lei ya a Kpana.
6. Bi lei ya a Seku.
7. Nya la a Jo.
8. Bi lei mia a Kensi Lansana.
9. Nya lei mia a Maada Hoseray.
10. Ngi lei ya a Kensi Johnson.

E5.2 Listen to the following questions. Concentrate on tone.

1. Ngi lei mia a Musa?
2. Ngi lei mia a Kpana?
3. Nya lei mia a Anara?
4. Bi lei mia a Kensi Lansana?
5. Ngi lei ya a Kpana Lansana?

E5.3 Now listen to the following. Identify as question or statement. You will not recognize some of the sentences. Concentrate on sentence intonation.

Q 1. Nya lei mia a Musa?

S 2. Bi lei mia a Kpana.

S 3. Nya lei mia a Kensi Kpana.

S 4. Bi lei mia a Seku.

Q 5. Nya lei mia a Seku?

Q 6. Bi lei mia a Mary?

S 7. Bi lei mia a Kpana.

S 8. Nya lei mia a Kpana.

Q 9. Ngi lei ya a Tomi?

Q 10. Bi lei mia a Jo?

S 11. Ngi lima tsi hu lo.

I am going to town.

Q 12. Tikpoi mia a ná?

Is that a walking stick?

Q 13. Bukui mia a jí?

Is this a book?

Q 14. Mahsi mema?

Is the chief eating?

S 15. Bukuj mia a ná.

S 16. Nya lei ya a Kpana.

S 17. Bukui ya a ná.

Q 18. Hitsi mia a jí?

Is this a spoon?

Q 19. Pelsi mia a ná?

Is that the house?

S 20. Nyapoi mia a ná.

That is a young woman.

C-5.1

A- Bi lei mia a Kpana?

B- Mm, nya lei ya a Kpana.

A- Bi lei mia a Musu?

B- Mm, nya lei ya a Musu.

A- Bi lei mia a Abou?

B- Mm, nya lei ya a Abou.

A- Bi lei?

B- Nya la a Jo.

C-2

A- Ngi lei mia a Musa?

B- Mm, ngi lei ya a Musa.

A- Ngi lei?

B- Ngi lei mia a Nyapoi Lansana.

Dialog 5.1

Abou - Ba hiye mi?

Where are you coming from?

Seku - Nga hiye Bo.

I'm coming from Bo.

o bia be?

What about you?

Abou - Nga hiye Segbwema.

Seku - Gbe va na?

What news there?

Abou - Yenyamu ii na.

Nothing bad is there.

Seku - Mu kpoko, hoe.

Abou - Ngewo i mu mahugbe.

Seku - Ngewo jahu.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 9. Hinii mia? | Ê, hinii mia. |
| Bi hinii mia? | Ê, nya hinii mia. |
| Ngi hinii mia? | Ê, ngi hinii mia. |
| 10. Bi ndiamo mia? | Ê, nya ndiamo mia. |
| Wu ndiamo mia? | Ê, mu ndiamo mia. |
| Ti ndiamo mia? | Ê, ti ndiamo mia. |
| 11. Bi keke mia? | Ê, nya keke mia. |
| Ngi keke mia? | Ê, ngi keke mia. |
| Nya keke mia? | Ê, bi keke mia. |
| 12. Nya helei mia? | Ê, bi helei mia. |
| Bi helei mia? | Ê, nya helei mia. |
| Ngi helei mia? | Ê, ngi helei mia. |
| Mu helei mia? | Ê, mu helei mia. |
| Wu helei mia? | Ê, wu helei mia. |
| Ti helei mia? | Ê, ti helei mia. |

A negative statement is formed by dropping mia or lo and adding ii le in the same position. For example -

Kensi mia.	It's the man.
Kensi ii le.	It's not the man.

E6.2 Reply negatively to the questions in E6.1

The possessive pronouns may be summarized as

nya	'I'	mu	'we'
bi	'you' (sg)	wu	'you' (pl)
ngi	'his/her'	ti	'their'

The pronouns are very important. Learn each set as we come to them.

C6.1

A- Bukui lo?

B- ñ, bukui mia.

A- Bi bukui lo?

B- ñ, nya bukui mia.

C6.2

A- Nyapoi, mitsei lo?

B- Mm, mitsei'ii le.

A- Penii lo?

B- ñ, penii mia.

A- Nya penii lo?

B- Mm, bi penii ii le.

... Nya penii mia.

Greeting Variations

V7.1

Seku - o kahui?	How are you?
Musu - Nya gahu gboyongo.	I'm tired.

V7.2

Seku - Bi biysi?	Your name?
Musu - Nya la a Musu.	My name is Musu.

V7.3

A group of people meeting another group of people.

1st group - A wuaa na?	Hello (to more than one person)
2nd group - \hat{M} , a wuaa na?	
1st group - Wu sie.	Thank you. (to more than one person)
2nd group - \hat{M} , wu sie.	
1st group - Gboo wu gahu?	
2nd group - Mu gahu gboyongo.	We are tired.
o wua be?	How about you (pl)?
1st group - Kaye ii Ngewo ma.	
2nd group - Ma lo, hoe.	
1st group - \hat{M} , ma lo, hoe.	

V7.4

One person meeting a group of people.

Seku - A wuaa na?	
Group - \hat{M} , Seku, bua?	
Seku - Wu sie.	
Group - \hat{M} , bi sie.	
Seku - Gboo wu gahu?	

Group - Kaye ii Ngewo ma.
o bia be?
Seku - Nya gahu gboyongo.
Mu kpoko, hoe.
Group - \hat{M} , mu kpoko, hoe.

Dialog 7.1

Seku - Mendemo mia a bie?	
Mendemo	Mende person (-mo is a suffix that denotes a kind of person)
mia a	particles
bie?	you
Mendemo mia a bie?	Are you a Mende person?
Masa - \hat{M} , Mendemo mia a nge.	
	nge - 'I'

A new set of pronouns is introduced in this lesson. These pronouns occur after a. The two pronouns in the above dialog occurring after a are bie and nge.

Variations of the above dialog

1. Mendemo mia a ngie? ngie - 'she/he'
 \hat{M} , Mendemo mia a ngie.
2. Timinimo mia a bie?
 \hat{M} , Timinimo mia a nge.
3. Puumo mia a nge?
 \hat{M} , Puumo mia a bie.
4. Americamo mia a ngie?
 \hat{M} , Americamo mia a ngie.

The singular pronouns that occur after a are

nge 'I'
bie 'you'
ngie 'he/she'

E7.1 Respond affirmatively to the following questions.

1. Amerikamo mia a bie?
2. Mendemo mia a ngie?
3. Puumo mia a nge?
4. Bomo mia a bie? Bo 'city in Sierra Leone'
5. Darumo mia a ngie? Daru 'a town in Sierra Leone'

You should be able to respond negatively to the questions in E7.1. Remember that you substitute ii le for mia or lo and if ii le is followed by a then ii le becomes ya.

E7.2 Respond negatively to the following questions.

1. Mendemo mia a bie?
2. Puumo mia a ngie?
3. Bomo mia a nge?
4. Taliamo mia a ngie? Talia 'a town in Sierra Leone'
5. Timinimo mia a bie?

Dialog 7.2

Seku - Gbemo mia a bie? Gbe 'what'
gbemo 'what person'

Masa - Mendemo mia a nge.

E7.3 Respond to the following questions,

1. Gbemo mia a bie?

2. Gbomo mia a nge?

3. Gbomo mia a ngie?

Conversation 7.1

A - Ndiamo, Bomo mia a bie?

B - Mm, Bomo ya a nge.

A - Gbomo mia a bie?

B - Timinimo mia a nge.

Conversation 7.2

A - Ndakpsi, bi lei?

B - Nya la a Seku.

o bia be?

A - Nya la a Abu Lansana.

B - Ba hiye mi?

A - Nga hiye Segbwema.

o bia be?

B - Nga hiye Bo.

A - Bomo mia a bie?

B - Mm, Bomo ya a nge.

Darumo mia a nge.

o bia be?

A - Segbwemamo mia a nge.

o bi keke?

What about your father?

Darumo mia a ngie?

B - M, Darumo mia a ngie.

Ma lo, hoe.

A - M, ma lo, hoe.

Consonant Mutation is very important. You must simply memorize the consonants that mutate. Words in isolation do not mutate but words are rarely used in isolation. When a noun is preceded by a possessive pronoun, the initial consonant the noun changes. There are exceptions to this change as you have already seen in a previous lesson. These exceptions are generally kinship terms. Memorize the following -

	s	becomes	j				
	f	becomes	v				
	nd	becomes	l				
	t	"	ɬ				
	p	becomes	w				
	mb	becomes	b				
	k	becomes	g				
	kp	becomes	gb				
	nj	becomes	y				
ng	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td>i</td></tr><tr><td>e</td></tr><tr><td>ɛ</td></tr><tr><td>a</td></tr></table>	i	e	ɛ	a	becomes	y
i							
e							
ɛ							
a							
ng	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td>u</td></tr><tr><td>o</td></tr><tr><td>ɔ</td></tr></table>	u	o	ɔ	becomes	w	
u							
o							
ɔ							

Only the above consonants undergo consonant mutation. You do not have to worry about words that begin with n, m, h, etc.

E8.1 Repeat the following after the instructor.

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|
| <p>1. Pesi lo?
Bi wasi mia?
Wu wasi mia?
Ti wasi mia?</p> | <p>Ŋ, peei mia.
Ŋ, nya wasi mia.
Ŋ, mu wasi mia.
Ŋ, ti wasi mia.</p> | |
| <p>2. Tikpoi lo?
Bi likpoi mia?
Ngi likpoi mia?</p> | <p>Ŋ, tikpoi lo.
Ŋ, nya likpoi mia.
Ŋ, ngi likpoi mia.</p> | <p>'walking stick'</p> |

3. Kotii lo? Bi gotii lo? Wu gotii lo? Ti gotii lo?	<p>Ń, kotii lo. Ń, nya gotii lo. Ń, mu gotii lo. Ń, ti gotii lo.</p>	'stone'
4. kpukoi lo? Bi gbukoi lo? Wu gbukoi lo?	<p>Ń, kpukoi lo. Ń, nya gbukoi lo. Ń, mu gbukoi lo.</p>	'bed'
5. Fandei lo? Bi vandei mia? Ti vandei mia?	<p>Ń, fandei mia. Ń, nya vandei mia. Ń, ti vandei mia.</p>	'cotton'
6. Sanii lo? Bi janii mia? Ti janii mia?	<p>Ń, sanii mia. Ń, nya janii mia. Ń, ti janii mia.</p>	'bottle'
7. Mbei lo? Bi bei lo?	<p>Ń, mbei mia. Ń, nya bei mia.</p>	'rice'
8. Ndopsi mia? Bi lopsi mia? Ngi lopsi mia?	<p>Ń, ndopsi mia. Ń, nya lopsi mia. Ń, ngi lopsi mia.</p>	'deer'
9. Ngilsi lo? Bi yilsi mia? Ti yilsi mia?	<p>Ń, ngilsi mia. Ń, nya yilsi mia. Ń, ti yilsi mia.</p>	'dog'
10. Ngulii lo? Bi wulii lo? Ngi wulii mia?	<p>Ń, ngulii mia. Ń, nya wulii mia. Ń, ngi wulii mia.</p>	'tree'
11. Njsi lo? Bi ysi mia? Ngi ysi mia?	<p>Ń, njsi mia. Ń, nya ysi mia. Ń, ngi ysi mia.</p>	'water'

E8.2 Make up sentences consisting of a possessive pronoun plus a noun.
Use the following nouns.

psɔɔi	keke
tokpoi	nje
kotii	ngoo 'big brother/sister'
fandei	ndee 'brother/sister'
sanii	kenya 'mother's brother'
ndopsi	ndiamo
mbei	
ngulii	
njsi	
penii	
fei 'pot'	
mbilii	

We may summarize the pronouns that occur after a -

nge	'I'	mue	'we'
bie	'you' (sg)	wue	'you' (pl)
ngie	'he/she'	tie	'they'

Comprehension Exercise - Fill in the blanks.

1. Nya _____ mia a Mahei Lansana. My name is Chief Lansana.
2. Bi _____ lo? Is it your book?
3. Mm, _____ halei _____. No, it is not my medicine.
4. Mendemo lo a _____? Is he a Mende man?
5. Timinimo _____ a bie. You are not a Mende man.
6. _____ hiye Segbwema. I am coming from Segbwema.
7. _____ ndiamo mia? Is it their friend?
8. _____ lo? Is it his tree?
9. Nya _____ mia. It's my bed.
10. _____ mia a wue? Are you (pl) farm people?

Conversation 8.2

Kpalabla - Nya ndiamo, bua?

Seku - ^ŋŋ, wua.

Kpalabla - Bi sie.

Seku - ^{Wu}ŋ, ~~bi~~ sie.

Wa hiye mi?

Where are you (pl) coming from?

Kpalabla - ^{Ma}~~Wa~~ hiye Talia.

o bia be?

Seku - Nga hiye Segbwema.

Kpalabla - Mu kpoko, hoe.

Seku - Ngewo i mu mahugbe.

Kpalabla - Ngewo jahu.

God willing.

E9.1

Bukui lo a jí?	Is this the book?
Bi lomsí mia a ná?	Is that your shirt?
Bi keyna lo a kensi jí?	Is this man your uncle?
Mu mahsi mia a kensi ná?	Is that man our chief?
Bi nyahsi mia a nyahsi jí?	
Nya hinií mia a kensi ná?	
Bi penii mia a jí?	
Nya hinií mia a ná?	
Ti lomsí mia a ná?	

E9.2

Bi nyapoi mia a ná, hie?
Nya bei mia a jí, hie?
Nya lei mia a Kensi Lansana, hie?
Nya keke mia a kensi ná, hie?

E9.3

Ê, bi kenya mia a kensi ná.
Mm, bi bikui ya a ná.

Notice that in Mende the adjective follows the noun.

kensi jí - this man

kensi ná - that man

Remember that a sentence like

Bi bukui mia a jí?

is translated "Is this your book?"

Variations

1. Mahsi mia a kensi jí?

Î, mahsi mia a ngie.

2. Ihu mahsi mia a ngie?

Î, mu mahsi mia a ngie.

3. Bi bondei mia a ná?

Î, nya bondei mia a ná.

4. Bi hotei mia a jí?

Î, nya hotei mia a jí.

5. Ngi nyahsi mia a nyapoi ná?

Î, ngi nyahsi mia a nyapoi ná.

More Variations

1. Ihu maada mia a ná?

Má, mu maada ya a ngie.

2. Hendo mia a numui jí?

numui 'person'

Má, Hendo ya a numui jí.

3. Bi bukui mia a bukui ná?

Má, nya bukui di le.

4. Ngi kenya mia a kensi ná?

Má, ngi kenya ya a ná.

5. Bi mahsi mia a kensi ná?

Má, nya mahsi ya a ná.

Exercise 9.1 Answer the following questions affirmatively

1. Mendemo mia a bie?
2. Mendemo mia a Kpana?
3. Mendemo mia a ndakpe ná?
4. Mendemo mia a nyapoi ná?
5. Mendemo mia a bi nyapoi?
6. Halemo mia a bie?
7. Halemo mia a Kpana?
8. Halemo mia a kensi ná?

Exercise 9.2 Answer the following questions negatively

1. Mendemo mia a bie?
2. Mendemo mia a Kpana?
3. Timinimo mia a ndakpei ná?
4. Mendemo mia a bi nyapoi?
5. Bomo mia a bie?
6. Bomo mia a nyapoi ná?
7. Halemo mia a bie?
8. Halemo mia a Kpana?
9. Halemo mia a kensi ná?

Exercise 9.3 Answer the following questions affirmatively

1. Mendebla mia a wue?
2. Mendebla mia a tie?
3. Puubla mia a wue?
4. Halebla mia a tie?
5. Timinibla mia a wue?

Exercise 9.4 Answer the following negatively

1. Mendebla mia a wue?
2. Mendebla mia a tie?
3. Puubla mia a wue?
4. Halebla mia a tie?
5. Timinibla mia a wue?

Conversation

- Kensi Lansana - Nya ndiamo, nya loi mia a ndakpsi jí.
- Kensi Juana - Mendemo mia a ngie?
- Kensi Lansana - Mm, Mendemo ya aungie.
- Kensi Juana - Gbemo mia bi loi?
- Kensi Lansana - Susumo mia a ngie.
- Kensi Juana - o bia be?
Gbemo mia a bie?
- Kensi Lansana - Susumo mia a nge.
o bia be?
- Kensi Juana - Mendemo mia a nge.
- Kensi Lansana - o bi nyahsi?
- Kensi Juana - Mendemo mia a nya nyahsi.
- Kensi Lansana - Ma ló, hoe.
- Kensi Juana - ñ, ma lo, hoe.

Dialog

~~-Maada-~~

Bi kenya	your uncle
lo	particle
mi	where
Bi kenya lo mi?	Where is your uncle?

~~-Mahei-~~

ta	he/she/it
lo	particle
nà	there
Taa nà.	He is there.

Notice that when ta comes before lo, you do not say ta lo. In natural speech the l usually drops out if it is between vowels and then the two vowels assimilate. If the word preceding lo ends with an a, the assimilation usually takes place.

Variations

1. Ngi bukui lo mi?

Taa nà.

2. Bi kake lo mi?

Taa nà.

3. Ti ndiamo lo mi?

Taa nà.

4. Bi bukui lo mi?

Taa mbei.

mbei 'here'

5. Bi nyahsi lo mi?

Taa Bo.

6. Bi loi lo mi?

Taa Segbwema.

In this lesson you are introduced to another set of pronouns. This set of pronouns occur only before lo. They are

nya	'I'	mua	'we'
bia	'you' (sg)	wua	'you' (pl)
ta	'he/she/it'	tia	'they'

Exercise 10.1 Repeat after the instructor

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. Nyaa mbei. | I am here. |
| 2. Biala mbei. | |
| 3. Taa mbei. | |
| 4. Muua mbei. | |
| 5. Wuua mbei. | |
| 6. Tiala mbei. | |

Conversations

- Nyapoi -- Bi nyahsi lo mi?
Ndakpsi -- Taa Bo.
- Musu -- Bi kaka lo Bo?
Musa -- \hat{H} , nya kaka lo Bo.
- Musu -- Bi kaka lo Bo?
Musa -- \hat{H} , taa Bo.
- Kpana -- Biala mbei, hie?
Seku -- \hat{H} , nyaa mbei.

In this lesson the locative sentence is introduced. A locative sentence always has lo in it, that is, the affirmative or the question.

The structure of a locative sentence is

Position 1	Position 2	Position 3
Noun or Possessive Phrase	lo	locative

Variations

1. Bi keke lo mbei?
Mn, ii mbei. No, he is not here.
2. Bi nyahsi lo Bo?
Mn, ii Bo. No, she is not in Bo.
3. Biala mbei?
Mn, ngii mbei. No, I am not here.
4. Tiala Bo?
Mn, tii Bo. No, they are not in Bo.
5. Muua mbei?
Mn, mui mbei. No, we are not here.

The structure of negative locative sentences

Position 1	Position 2	Position 3
Noun or Possessive Phrase	ii	locative

Notice that ii is put in the sentence where lo occurs in the affirmative.

lo never occurs in a negative sentence. Because lo does not occur in negative sentences, you must remember to change the pronoun. You recall that there is a set of pronouns that occur only before lo. The following sentences will help you.

Affirmative

N yaa mbei.
Biala mbei.
Taa mbei.
Muua mbei.
Wuaa mbei.
Tiala mbei.

Negative

Ngii mbei.
Bii mbei.
Tii mbei.
Mui mbei.
Wui mbei.
Tii mbei.

In natural speech a pronoun plus ii assimilates as the above examples.

Conversations

1. Kpana - Kensi Moseray, bi nyahsi lo mbei?

Kensi M.- M̄, ii mbei.

Kpana - Taa mi?

Kensi M.- Taa Bo.

2. Musu - Ndee Hawa, Bi hini lo Daru?

Hawa - M̄, taa Bo.

3. Kpana - Bi ndiamo mia a kensi ná?

Abou - M̄, nya ndiamo mia a ngie.

Kpana - Bomo mia a ngie?

Abou - Bomo mia a ngie.

Exercise

You should practice writing locative sentences using pronouns. Write locative sentences below illustrating how the pronouns are used.

Dialogs

1. A - Bi wo mia a pelai ná?
B - Ê, nya wo mia pelai ná.
2. A - Ngi bowei mia a ná?
B - Ê, ngi bowei mia a ná.
3. A - Mahei wo mia a mbowei ná?
B - Ê, mahei wo mia a mbowei ná.
4. A - Bi nyahei wo mia a fei ná?
B - Ê, nya nyahei wo mia a fei ná.
5. A - Bi wo mia a jí?
B - Ê, nya wo mia a ná.

Note

wo is a particle that is used to possession. This particle may occur after a pronoun or noun (human).

Compare -

Bi bukui mia.	It's your book.
Bi wo mia.	It's yours.
Bi bukui mia a ná.	That is your book.
Bi wo mia a bukui ná.	That book is yours.
Bi bowei mia a ná?	Is that your knife?
Bi wo mia a mbowei ná?	Is that knife yours?

The use of wo is much more common.

Dialogs

1. A - Ye wo mia a mbei ná?
B - Nya nyahei wo mia.

2. A - Ye wo mia a fandeí ná?
B - Nya wo mia.
3. A - Ye wo mia a pési ná?
B - Kenei Kpana wo mia a ná.
4. A - Ye wo lo a kulei jí? kulei 'cloth'
B - Nya nyapoi wo mia.
5. A - Ye wo lo a tikpoi jí?
B - Nya kenya wo mia.
6. A - Ye wo lo a mbowsi jí?
B - Nya loi wo mia.
7. A - Lansana wo mia a bukui ná?
B - Ì, ngi wo mia.
8. A - Ye wo mia a tavei ná?
B - Kamo Lansana wo mia a ná.

Note

The most commonly used plural suffix is -sia.

Dialogs

1. Bi bukuisia mia a jíisia?
Ì, nya bukuisia mia a násia.
2. Ngi lomeisia mia a tie?
Mm, ngi lomeisia ya a tie.
3. Peniisia mia a jíisia?
Ì, penissia mia a násia.
4. Bi peniisia mia a tie?
Mm, nya peniisia ya a tie.
5. Mendebla mia a nodopoi násia?
Ì, Mendebla mia a tie.

More Dialogs

1. A - Wu wo lo a bukui jisia?
B - Ê, mu wo lo a bukui jisia.
2. A - Bi hotaisia mia a nungei nasia?
B - Mm, nya hotaisia ya a tie.
3. A - Mahaisia mia a tie?
B - Ê, mahaisia mia a tie.
4. A - Nya wo mia a jisia?
B - Ê, bi wo mia a nasia.
5. A - Bi wo mis a mbowei jisia?
B - Mm, nya wo ya a nasia.
6. A - Ngi wo mia a ndopoi nasia?
B - Ê, ngi wo mia a ndopoi nasia.
7. A - Ti wo mia a mitaeisia?
B - Mm, ti wo ya a tie.
8. A - Ye wo mia a jisia?
B - Nya wo mia a tie.
9. A - Ye wo mia a ndovoi nasia?
B - Kensi Kpana wo mia a nasia.
10. A - Bi wo mia a fsisia?
B - Ê, nya wo mia a tie.

Conversation

- A - Ndee Hawa, gboo bi gahu?
B - Ndiama, nya gahu gboyongo.
A - o bi hinii, ngi gahu gboyongo?
B - Ê, ngi gahu gboyongo.
A - o bi kaka, taa Bo?

B - Mm, ii Bo.

A - Taa mi?

B - Taa Segbwema.

A - Ma lo, hoe.

B - Ngewo if mu mahugbe.

A - Ê, Ngewo jahu.

Conversation

A - Nya ndiamo, mahai lo Bo?

B - Mm, ii Bo.

A - Taa mi?

B - Taa Freetown.

A - Ngi nyahai lo nà, ta ba?

B - Ê, taa nà, ta ba.

Dialog

- Mamsi Masa -

Ndee Hava, bua.

-- Hava --

Ê, Mamsi, bua.

- Mamsi Masa -

Gboo bi gahu?

-- Hava --

Kayee ii Ngewo ma. o bia be?

- Mamsi Masa -

Nya gahu gboyongo.

bi	you
li	go
-na	present tense ending
mi	where
lo	particle

Bi lima mi lo? Where are you going?

-- Hava --

nyaa (nya lo)	I
lima	going
dokitsi	doctor
gama	to

Nyaa lima dokitsi gama. I am going to the doctor.

o bia be?

- Mamsi Masa -

Nyaa lima nya keke gama. I am going to my father.

-- Hawa --

Nga va ngi ma.

Give him my regards.

-- Hamsi Hasa --

Ê, ma lo, hoe.

-- Hawa --

Ma lo, hoe.

Exercises

1. Nyaa lima Bo.
2. Biala lima kpalsi hu. 'to the farm'
3. Taa lima tei hu. 'to town'
4. Muua lima pelsi bu. 'in the house'
5. Wuua lima Daru.
6. Tiala lima ndogboi hu. 'in the bush'
7. Mahsi lo lima Bo.
8. Nya nyahsi lo lima tei hu.
9. Ndopoisia lo lima sukui hu. 'to school'
10. Kamoi lo lima Freetown.
11. Nya kaka lo lima sanai bu. 'in the court'

Notes

1. Intransitive present time sentences have the following structure -

Subject	lo	verb plus <u>ma</u>	adverb of place
---------	----	---------------------	-----------------

2. Remember all sentences, except negative sentences, contain lo.
3. Adverbs of place, except names of cities, are followed by a postposition. Postpositions do not occur in English. Prepositions do not occur in Mende.

Exercises

1. Ngii lima Bo.
2. Bii lima kpalsi hu.
3. Ji lima tsi hu.
4. Mui lima palēi hu.
5. Wui lima Daru.

6. Tii lima ndogboi hu.
7. Mahei ii lima Bo.
8. Nya nyahei ii lima tsi hu.
9. Kamoi ii lima Freetown.
10. Nya kake ii lima semsi bu.

Notes

In a negative sentence if the subject is plural, you must use the third person plural pronoun ti before the negative particle. The diagram will help you.

NEGATIVE SENTENCES - PLURAL SUBJECT

Plural Subject	ti	ii	verb	adverb
----------------	----	----	------	--------

This is also true for negative locative sentences with a plural subject.

NEGATIVE LOCATIVE SENTENCES - PLURAL SUBJECT

Plural Subject	ti	ii	locative
----------------	----	----	----------

Exercises

1. Ndopoisia tii lima Bo.
2. Ngi lopoisia tii lima sukui hu.
3. Nya nyahangisia tii lima ti kake gama.
4. Mahangisia tii lima semsi bu.

5. Ndakpsisia tii lima Segbwema.
6. Nya lopoisia tii mbei.
7. Ngi janiisia tii pelsi bu.
8. Mu hotaisia tii ssmasi bu.
9. Ngi nyapoisia tii mbei.
10. Nya kenyani tii Bo.

Summary - Sentence Structure

1. Verbal Intransitive Sentences

Affirmative

Subject	lo	verb plus -ma	Adverb
---------	----	---------------	--------

Negative
Negative

Subject (Sg)	ii	verb plus -ma	Adverb
-----------------	----	---------------	--------

Subject (Pl)	ti	ii	verb plus -ma	Adverb
-----------------	----	----	---------------	--------

2. 2. Locative Sentences

Affirmative

Subject	lo	Locative
---------	----	----------

Negative

Subject (Sg)	ii	Locative
-----------------	----	----------

Subject (Pl)	ti	ii	Locative
-----------------	----	----	----------

2. Pronouns

Possessive

nya	mu
bi	wu
ngi	ti

Pronouns before lo

nya	mua
bia	wua
ta	tia

Remember that these pronouns assimilate.
i.e. nya lo becomes nyaa

Pronouns if lo is not in the sentence or if lo is elsewhere in the sentence.

ngi	mu
bi	wu
i	ti

These pronouns will hereafter be called
SUBJECT PRONOUNS #1

If ii follows subject pron #1 then there is assimilation. i.e. ngi ii becomes ngii.

Exercises

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Ngi lima mi lo? | Where am I going? |
| 2. Bi lima mi lo? | Where are you going? |
| 3. I lima mi lo? | Where is he/she going? |
| 4. Mu lima mi lo? | Where are we going? |
| 5. Wu lima mi lo? | Where are you (pl) going? |
| 6. Ti lima mi lo? | Where are they going? |
| 7. Mahsi lima mi lo? | Where is the chief going? |
| 8. Bi nyahsi lima mi lo? | Where is your wife going? |
| 9. Ndopoisia ti lima mi lo? | Where are the children going? |
| 10. Mahangsisia lima mi lo? | Where are the chiefs going? |

Conversations

1. A - Ndakpei, bi lima mi lo?

B - Nyaa lima Bo. o bia be?

A - Nyaa lima Kenema.

Bi nyahsi lo Bo?

B - Mm, ii Bo. Nya nyahsi lo Daru. Nya nyapoi lo Bo.

A - Tonya mia?

tonya - truth

B - H, tonya mia.

2. A - Ndee Hawa, biala lima dokitsi gama?

B - Mm, ngii lima dokitsi gama.

Nyaa lima nya keke gama.

A - Nga va ngi ma.

B - H, ma lo, hoe.

A - Ma lo, hoe.

3. A - Mahsi, bi wo mia a mbilii na?

B - H, nya wo mia.

A - Nde mia a na.

Nde - lie

B - Tonya mia.

4. A - Bi lopoisia lima mi lo?

B - Tiaa lima sukui hu. o bi lopoisia? Tiaa sukui hu?

A - Mm, tii sukui hu. Tiaa kpalsi hu.

Dialogs - More postpositions

--Hawa--

Kpana lo mi?

Where is Hawa?

--Ifusu--

taa (ta lo)

She

peɛi

the house

mbu

in

Taa peɛi bu.

She is in the house.

Notes

1. Consonant mutation occurs on the initial consonant of the postposition.
2. Remember that C/M occurs in a possessive phrase and now in a postpositional phrase.
3. The same rules for C/M are true in both environments.

Variations

1. A - Taa kpalei hu?

B - \hat{H} , taa kpalei hu.

M \acute{m} , ii kpalei hu.

2. A - Kpana lo pelei ma?

'on the road'

B - \hat{H} , taa pelei ma.

M \acute{m} , ii pelei ma.

3. A - Tiaa pelei gulo?

'in front of the house'

B - \hat{H} , tiaa pelei gulo.

kulo - 'in front of'

M \acute{m} , tii pelei gulo.

4. A - Bukui lo tibii ma?

'on the table'

B - \hat{H} , taa na.

M \acute{m} , ii na.

5. A - Hawa lo nya gbla? 'beside me'
B - Ê, Hawa lo bi gbla. kpla - 'beside'
Mm, Hawa ii bi gbla.
6. A - Mahsi lo ngiyei mahu? 'on top of the hill'
B - Ê, taa ngiyei mahu. mahu - 'on top of'
Mm, ii ngiyei mahu.
7. A - Bi welsi lo ngiyei mahu?
B - Ê, nya welsi lo ngiyei mahu.
Mm, nya welsi ii ngiyei mahu.
8. A - Bi nyahei lo mahsi gbla?
B - Ê, nya nyahei lo mahsi gbla.
Mm, nya nyahei ii mahsi gbla.
9. A - Bi keke lo semei bu?
B - Ê, taa semei bu.
Mm, ii semei bu.
10. A - Kofa lo nya woma? 'behind me'
B - Ê, Kofa lo bi woma. poma - 'behind'
Mm, Kofa ii bi woma.

More Variations

1. A - Bi keke mia a ná semei bu?
B - Ê, nya keke mia a ná semei bu.
Mm, nya keke ya a ná semei bu.
2. A - Ngi loi mia a ná nya welsi woma?
B - Ê, ngi loi mia a ná.
Mm, ngi loi ya a ná.

Conversations

1. A - Ndakpsi, bi nyahei mia a ná nya hinii gbla sokui hu?

B - Ê, nya nyahei mia a ná.

2. A - Ndiawo, ndopoi nasia lo lima tsi hu?

B - Mm, tii lima tsi hu.

AA - Ti lima mi lo?

B - Tiaa lima sukui hu.

3. A - Mamsi , mahsi lo mbei?

B - Mm, ii mbei.

Taa njopowa hu.

njopowa - 'market'

A - Biaa lima njopowa hu?

B - Ê, nyaa lima ná.

AA - Bi lima mi lo?

A - Nyaa lima njopowa hu, nya be.

4. A - Ndiawo, bi ngoo lo mi?

B - Taa kpalsi hu.

A - Biaa lima kpalsi hu?

B - Ê, nyaa lima kpalsi hu.

AA - Bi lima mi lo?

A - Nyaa lima njopowa hu.

Dialog

-Kpana-

Ye

who

mia a numui ná

Ye mia a numui ná?

Who is that person?

-Hara-

Nya keke mia a ngie.

He is my father.

Note

Ye is an interrogative pronoun. If lo is used instead of mia then ye lo becomes yoo.

Exercises

1. Ye mia a nyapoi ná?

2. Yoo a nyapoi jí?

3. Ye mia a kensi ná?

4. Yoo a kensi jí?

5. Ye mia?

Who is that?

6. Yoo?

Who is this?

Variations

1. A - Yoo a kensi jí?

B - Mahei mia a ngie.

2. A - Ye mia a numui ná sokui hu?

B - Nya nyahsi mia a ná.

3. A - Yoo a jí nya gbla?

B - Bi ngoo mia a numui ná.

4. A - Ye mia a pelei ma?

B - Kpana mia.

5. A - Ye mia a numui nasia?

B - Mendebla mia a tie.

6. A - Ye mia a numui ná nya nyahsi woma?

B - Nya ndiamo mia a ngie.

Dialog

-Hawa-

migbe

when

mia

bi lima Bo

Migbe mia bi lima Bo?

When are you going to Bo?

-Kpana-

nyaa lima Bo

ha

today

N yaa lima Bo ha.

I am going to Bo today.

Variations

1. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?

B - Nyaa lima Bo sina.

sina 'tomorrow'

2. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?

B - Nyaa lima Bo Monde ma.

Monde ma 'on Monday'

3. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?

B - Nyaa lima Bo Dawui hu.

Dawui hu 'in August'

4. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?

B - Nyaa lima Bo ngalui hi hu.

ngalui ji hu 'this month'

5. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?

B - Nyaa lima Bo hokii ji hu.

hokii ji hu 'this week'

6. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?

B - Nyaa lima Bo ngalui ji wama.

ngalui ji wama 'this coming month'

7. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?

B - Nyaa lima Bo hokii ji wama.

hokii ji wama 'this coming week'

8. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?
B - Nyaa lima Bo a ngendei. a ngendei 'in the morning'
9. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?
B - Nyaa lima Bo a ngendei ji. a ngendei ji 'this morning'
10. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?
B - Nyaa lima Bo a kpoko. a kpoko 'in the evening'
11. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?
B - Nyaa lima Bo a kpokoi ji. a kpokoi ji. 'this evening'
12. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?
B - Nyaa lima Bo a folei ji. a folei ji 'today'
13. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?
B - Nyaa lima Bo ha. ha 'today'
14. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?
B - Nyaa lima sina a ngendei. sina a ngendei 'tomorrow evening'
15. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?
B - Nyaa lima Bo sina a kpokoi. sina a kpokoi 'tomorrow evening'

Variations Continued

1. A - Migbe mia bi lima Bo?
B - Nyaa lima Bo sina.
2. A - Migbe mia bi kaka lima Bo?
B - Taa lima na sina a kpokoi.
3. A - Migbe mia ngi lima Bo?
B - Taa lima Bo a folei ji.
4. A - Migbe mia kensi na lima Bo?
B - Kensi na lo lima Bo sina a ngendei.

5. A - Migbe mia Mendebla nasia lo lima Bo?
B - Tiaa lima Bo a ngendei.
6. A - Migbe mia ti lima Bo?
B - Tiaa lima Bo Monde ma.
7. A - Migbe mia ngi kenya lo lima Bo?
B - Ngi kenya lo lima Bo hokii ji wama.
8. A - Migbe mia mahsi lima Bo?
B - Mahsi lo lima Bo ngalui ji hu.
9. A - Migbe mia mu nje lima Bo?
B - Taa lima Bo ngalui ji wama.
10. A - Migbe mia Kensi Kpana lima Bo?
B - Kensi Kpana lo lima Bo sina.

More Variations Continued

1. A - Biaa lima Bo a folei ji, hie.
B - \hat{M} , nyaa lima Bo a folei ji.
2. A - Bi ksks lo lima kpalsi hu a ngendei ji, hie.
B - \hat{M} , taa lima na a ngendei ji.
3. A - Kensi na lo lima Daru Dawui hu, hie.
B - \hat{M} , taa lima Daru Dawui hu.
4. A - Bi lopoisia lo sukui hu a ngendei ji, hie.
B - \hat{M} , tiaa na a ngendei ji.
5. A - Nadakpei ji lo lima ngi kaks gama sina, hie.
B - \hat{M} , taa lima ngi kaks gama sina.

Conversations

1. A - Bi keke lo samsi bu a ngendei ji?
B - Ê, taa nà.
A - o bi nje, taa mi?
B - Taa kpalei hu a ngendei ji.
A - Biala lima Segbwema a folei ji?
B - Mm, ngii lima nà a folei ji.
A - Migbe mia bi lima Segbwema?
B - Sina.
2. A - Bi keke lima mi lo hokii ji hu?
B - Nya keke lo lima Mano hakii ji hu.
A - Biala lima Mano, bia be?
B - Mm, ngii lima Mano.
A - Bi lima mi lo hokii ji hu?
B - Nyaa lima Njala College hu.
A - Migbe mia bi lima nà?
B - 'Thursday' ma.
3. A - Nyapoi, biala lima njopowa hu a ngendei ji, hie.
B - Ê, nyaa lima njopowa hu a ngendei ji. njopowa 'market'
4. A - Musa, biala lima bi keke gama Kenema hokii ji hu?
B - Ê, nyaa lima nà hokii ji hu.
A - Nga va ngi ma.
B - Ê, ma lo hoe.
A - Ma lo hoe.

Dialog

-Fele Gomci- (the buyer)

Mamei

gbe

what

jongo

price

mia a

particles

bi bei

your rice

Mamei, gbe jongo mia a bi bei?

How much is your rice?

-Njopowa hu Nyapoi- (girl in the market)

nya bei

my rice

senti

cents

pu

peni pani

unit of measure

yila

va

for

Mya bei, senti pu peni pani yila va.

My rice is 1¢ cents for one penny pan.

Note

peni pani is used primarily for measuring uncooked rice.

Substitution Drill 1

Gbe jongo mia a bi	langei?
	lumbelei?
	jelei?
	bei?
	wujei?
	loi?
	nesii?
	nikii?
	wia?

Substitution Drill 2

Nya langsi senti	pu	yila	va.
	sawa	naani	
	loolu	fele	
	wayakpa	loolu	
	nu gboyongo	pu	

Comprehension Drill

1. Mamei, gbe jongo mia a bi _____ (cassava)?
2. Ndiama, _____ (rice) senti _____ (8 cents) peni pani _____ (2) va.
3. Njopowahu nyapoi, gbe jongo mia a _____ (peanuts)?
4. _____ (the peanuts) senti _____ (5 cents) _____ (20) va.

Mende

Coleman

16-3

Conversation

1. A - Mamsi, bua?

B - M̂, ndiamo, bua?

A - Mamsi, gbo jongo mia a bi langsi?

B - Nya langsi senti pu loolu va.

A - Bi sie.

B - M̂, bi sie.

2. A - Njopowahu nyapoi, bi bsi, gbs jongo?

B - Santi pu peni pani yila va.

-Ndakpei-

Mamei, mbei lo bi yeya a ngendei ji?

Madam, do you have rice this morning?

Literal - Is the rice in your hand this morning?
This sentence construction is exactly
like the locative sentences already studied.

-Mamei-

Ê, mbei lo nya yeya.

Yes, I have rice.

-Ndakpei-

Gbe jongo?

-Mamei-

Bi va, senti wayakpa peni pani fele va.

-Ndakpei-

Bi sie. Nya longo

I want

a

particle

peni pani loolu

5 penny pans

Bi sie. Nya longo a peni pani loolu.

Gbe jongo mia a na?

-Mamei-

Senti nu gboyongo mia.

That is 20 cents.

Ta mia?

Is that right?

-Ndakpei-

Ê, ta mia.

Yes, that's it.

Bi sie.

Ma lo hoe.

Substitution Drill No. 1

1. Tangzi	lo bi yeya?	cassava
2. Kopo		money
3. Ndopoisia		children
4. Halei		medicine
5. Fei		pot
6. Kpandei		gun
7. B ukui		book
8. Ndomsi		shirt
9. Lumbelei		orgnge
10. Selei		banana
11. Nyahsi		wife
12. Hini		husband

Variation Drill No. 1

1. Tanga	gbii nya yeya.	I don't have any cassava.
2. Mba		
3. Buku		
4. Nyaha		
5. Hini		
6. Hale		
7. Ndop●		
8. Mita		spoon
9. Kpanda		
10. Sele		

Grammatical Note - The Definite Suffix -i

In the above variation drill no. 1 you notice a difference in spelling.

Compare:-

tangɛi 'the cassava' (definite)
tanga 'cassava' (indefinite)

The usual form is definite. But it is necessary to know how to form the indefinite. The indefinite is always used in the above type constructions that denote a negative reply.

When the definite suffix is added to a word there is usually a change in the last vowel of the word. Some words do not undergo a vowel change.

Drill 1 - The following words do not change when the suffix -i is attached.

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| 1. mbalu | cane |
| 2. petu | locust |
| 3. sale | orange |
| 4. kpoyɔ | cowrie shell |
| 5. ndɔpo | child |
| 6. nave | money |
| 7. toko | hand |
| 8. kamo | teacher |
| 9. kpoko | evening |
| 10. numu | person |

Drill 2 - In words ending in i, e or ε there is no change in the last vowel
of the word. Make the following words definite.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. pele | |
| 2. fande | |
| 3. fε | pot |
| 4. hani | thing |
| 5. kete | corn |
| 6. kɔli | iron |
| 7. kpiti | grass |
| 8. mbembe | fishing net |
| 9. mbεte | watch tower |
| 10. ndoli | dance |
| 11. ndɔle | hunger |
| 12. ngenge | work |
| 13. njεpe | talk |
| 14. hale | |
| 15. hele | |
| 16. kpindi | night |
| 17. ngombi | knee |
| 18. pεle | |
| 19. sale | parable |
| 20. sεme | |
| 21. sɔli | spear |
| 22. bεle | |
| 23. kpakali | tripod chair |
| 24. mεme | mirror |
| 25. pɔje | pepper |
| 26. lumbele | orange |

Drill 3 -- The following words ending in o change to e when the definite suffix -i is attached. Make the following words definite.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. folo | sun, day |
| 2. kpelo | salt |
| 3. njowo | potato |

Drill 4 -- The following words ending in o change to e when the definite suffix -i is added. Make the following words definite.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. bondo | okra |
| 2. bolo | hat |
| 3. goto | rope |
| 4. kolo | book |
| 5. kondo | noon meal |
| 6. kowo | log |
| 7. ndolo | world |
| 8. ngulo | oil |
| 9. polo | mud |
| 10. towo | bean |

Drill 5 -- The following words ending in u change to i when the definite suffix -i is added. Make the following words definite.

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. bulu | trumpet |
| 2. ɔ̃ɔ̃ru | duck |
| 3. konu | ax |
| 4. motu | cleared farm |
| 5. ngawu | egg |
| 6. ngulu | wood |
| 7. tolu | palm nut |

Drill 6 -- The following words ending in a change to ɛ when the definite suffix -i is added. Make the following words definite.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. bafa | hut |
| 2. fasa | lobster |
| 3. foma | whip |
| 4. fula | village |
| 5. gbanya | pliers |
| 6 6. haka | burden |
| 7. mba | rice |
| 8. hakpa | soup, sauce |
| 9. hinda | business |
| 10. hokpa | nose |
| 11. hota | guest |
| 12. hona | witch |
| 13. kena | man |
| 14. ngala | mat |
| 15. kpaya | head tie |
| 16. ngafa | spirit |
| 17. kula | cloth |
| 18. mana | plantain |
| 19. mbogba | machete |
| 20. mita | spoon |
| 21. tawa | tobacco |
| 22. ngama | face |
| 23. nika | cow |
| 24. pia | avocado |
| 25. ngola | forest |

Meaning of the definite suffix in Mende is not to be considered as meaning a and the in English. It is misleading to do so. Gbɛhɛi simply means a bench or the bench. When a word is quoted out of context by a Mende speaker he will cite the definite form. Gbɛhɛ means just any stool. Nevertheless in this class definite forms are glossed with the and indefinite forms with a. If a Mende speaker intends to very definite the prefix ye- is used.

-Ndakpei-

Mamei, gboo bi yeya ha?

-Mamei-

Mbei lo nya yeya.

-Ndakpei-

Ngii loni a mbei.

I don't want rice.

Nya longo a lumbelei.

Lumbelei lo bi yeya?

-Mamei-

Mm, lumbele gbii nya yeya.

Selei loolu lo nya yeya.

-Ndakpei-

Nya longo a selei fele.

Gbe jongo mia a fele va?

-Mamei-

Yila va, peni sawa.

Fele va, peni fele.

Bi va, peni raani loolu va.

-Ndakpei-

Mamei, nya longo a selei fele.

-Mamei-

Peni fele, selei fele va.

-Ndakpei-

Bi sie. Ma lo hoe.

-Mamei-

M, bi sie. Ma lo.

Note

1. Compare:

Nya longo la. 'I want it'
Ngii loni la. 'I don't want it.'

2. -ngo is a suffix that you will learn more about in later lessons in a different context.

3. Sentence Structure

Affirmative

Subject	longo	a mbei
		la

Negative

Subject	ii	loni	a mbei
			la

4. In the negative sentence the pronouns to use are
Subject Pronouns No. 1

5. In the affirmative the pronouns are:

	nya	mu
	bi	wu
	ngi	ti

6. Notice also that -ngo changes to -ni in the negative sentences.
7. longo also means 'like' as well as 'want'

Bi longo a nyapoi na?

Substitution Drill

1.	Bi	longo a	?	1. Do you like that girl?
2.				2. Do you like this book?
3.				3. Do you like him?
4.				4. Do you like me?
5.				5. Do you like that girl over there?
6.				6. Do you like these oranges?
7.				7. Do you like this town?
8.				8. Do you like my friend?
9.				9. Do you like your uncle?
10.				10. Do you like that woman over there next to your wife?

Substitution Drill

1.	Bi	longo a	?	1. Do you want these bananas?
2.			?	2. Do you want my book?
3.			?	3. Do you want rice?
4.			?	4. Do you want two pawpaws?
5.			?	5. Do you want my money?

Respond negatively to the following:

1. Bi longo a mbei?
2. Bi longo a sele ji?
3. Bi longo a bukui na?
4. Bi longo a lumbele fele senti pu va?
5. Bi longo a fakalii jisia?

Respond affirmatively to the above drill.

~~--Kpaua--~~

nyahsi	woman
nyande	pretty, nice
-ngo	Suffix (see note 1)

Nyahsi nyandengo? Is the woman pretty?

~~--Amara--~~

M, nyahsi nyandengo. Yes, the woman is pretty.

Note 1

The -ngo suffix is used on adjectives and some verbs. It is different from the suffix -ngo used in previous lessons. In this lesson when -ngo is attached to the adjective or the verb the meaning of the sentence becomes stative, i.e., a fact is stated.

The same is true in English.

Compare - Mende - Nyahsi nyandengo.

Eng. - The woman is pretty.

Additional Vocabulary

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. ngova 'old' | 6. nyamu 'ugly' |
| 2. kutu 'short' | 7. nes 'sweet' in the sense that something tastes sweet. |
| 3. kpoyo 'finish' | 8. kpaya 'strong' |
| 4. higbe 'ill' | |
| 5. nina 'new' | |

Variation 1

1. Bi nyahsi nyamungo?
M, nya nyahsi nyamungo.
2. Ti kaka wovango?
M, ti kaka wovango.
3. Ngi loi gutungo?
M, ngi loi gutungo.
4. Bi kenya higgango?
M, nya kenya higgango.
5. Nya nje nyandengo?
M, bi nje nyandengo.
6. Bi nyapoi nyamungo?
M, nya nyapoi nyamungo.
7. Ngi nyahsi higgango?
M, ngi nyahsi higgango.
8. Bi ndiamo gbayango?
M, nya ndiamo gbayango.

- a) Use the same forms in Variation 1 and use hie.
- b) Use the same forms in Variation 1 and interchange the adjectives and nouns.

Note 2

Notice that all the nouns in variation 1 are humans.

Variation 2

You may substitute a pronoun for certain nouns. The pronouns are: nya, bi, ngi, mu, wu, ti

1. Bi nyahsi nyandengo?
M, ngi nyandengo.
2. Ngi kenya wovango?
M, ngi wovango.

3. Ti nje gutungo?
M, ngi gutungo.
4. Mu kenya gbayango?
M, ngi gbayango.
5. Bi ndiano higgengo?
M, ngi higgengo.

Variation 3

1. Bukui wovango?
M, bukui wovango.
2. Ndomsi ninango?
M, ndomsi ninango.
3. Fakalii nsengo?
M, fakalii nsengo.
4. Bi langsi gboyongo?
M, nya langsi gboyongo.
5. Ngi lomsi wovango?
M, ngi lomsi wovango.
6. Tibii gbayango?
M, tibii gbayango.
7. Ngilei higgengo?
M, ngilei higgengo.
8. Helei wovango?
M, helei wovango.
9. Ngulii gutungo?
M, ngulii gutungo.
10. Sɛle nsengo?
M, sɛle nsengo.

- a) Use the same form in Variation 3 and add hie to the sentence.
- b) Ask and answer the same questions with each other.

Variation 4

When you want to say 'It is new', you do not use a pronoun and the -ngo form is in its unmutated form.

1. Bi bukui wovango?

M, ngovango. 'It is old'

2. Bi langɛi gboyongo?

M, kpoyongo. 'It is finished'

3. Tibii gbayango?

M, kpayango.

4. Ngulii gutungo?

M, kutungo.

5. Helei wovango?

M, ngovango.

Variation 5

1. Bukui na wovango?

M, ngovango.

2. Bi lumbelei neengo?

M, nya lumbelei neengo?

3. Ndopoi na gutungo?

M, ngi gutungo.

4. Bi lomei ninango?

M, ninango.

5. Ngi keke gbayango?

M, ngi gbayango.

a) Be able to understand exactly what is said and be able to answer immediately.

b) Now, vary the above variation by asking one another questions.

Summary

Position 1	Position 2
1. Pronoun nya mu bi wu ngi ti	<u>-ngo</u> form
2. Noun	
3. Noun Phrase noun plus modifier kensi na kensi ji	

Note 4

If the noun phrase in position 1 is plural then the 3rd person plural pronoun *ti* must precede the *-ngo* form. This is true for all nouns. Practice the following variations.

Variation 6

1. Bi buikuisia ti wovango?
 M, nya buikuisia ti wovango.
2. Lumbelei nasia ti naengo?
 M, lumbelei nasia ti naengo.
3. Ndopoisia ti gutungo?
 M, ndopoisia ti gutungo.
4. Bi lomaisia ti ninango?
 M, nya lomaisia ti ninango.
5. Helei nasia ti gbayango?
 M, helei nasia ti gbayango.

Variation 7

Note 5 To say 'they' instead of repeating the plural noun or noun phrase, you use the following forms.

1. Ngi lomaisia ti wovango?
 M, ti wovango.
2. Lumbelei nasia ti naengo?
 M, ti naengo.

Variation 9

1. Bi nyahsi nyandengo?
Mm, ii nyandeni.
2. Ngi kenya wovango?
Mm, ii wovani.
3. Ti nje gutungo?
Mm, ii gutuni.
4. Mu kenya gbayango?
Mm, ii gbayani.
5. Bi ndiamo higsango?
Mm, ii higsani.

Variation 10

1. Bukui wovango?
Mm, ii wovani.
2. Ndomsi ninango?
Mm, ii ninani.
3. Fakalii nsango?
Mm, ii nsani.
4. Bi langsi gboyango?
Mm, ii gboyani.
5. Ngi lomsi wovango?
Mm, ii wovani.

Variation 11

1. Bi bukuisia ti wovango?
Mm, nya bukuisia tii wovani.
2. Lumbelei nasia ti nsango?
Mm, lumbelei nasia tii nsani.

3. Ndopoisia ti gutungo?
Mm, ndopoisia tii gutuni.
4. Bi lomeisia ti ninango?
Mm, nya lomeisia tii ninani.
5. Helei nasia ti gbayango?
Mm, helei nasia tii gbayani.

Variation 12

1. Bi bukuisia ti wovango?
Mm, tii wovani.
2. Lumbelei nasia ti nãngõ?
Mm, tii nãni.
3. Ndopoisia ti gutungo?
Mm, tii gutuni.
4. Bi lomeisia ti ninango?
Mm, tii ninani.
5. Helei nasia ti gbayango?
Mm, tii gbayani.

Dialog

- Seku -

nyahei nasia

those women

tia

they

lo

particle

li

'to go'

-ma

Suffix (See Note)

njopowa hu

to the market

Nyahei nasia tiaa lima njopowa hu?

'Are those women going to
the market?'

Mende
Coleman

Lesson 20
- Hawa -

M, nyahei nasia tiaa lima njopowa hu.

Dialog

- Seku -

Migbe mia ti lima?

- Seku -

- Hawa -

Tiaa lima ^{nyahei nasia} a'olei-ji.

those women

tia

they

Note 1

lo

particle

The suffix /-ma/ indicates action happening now or immediate future action.

-ma

Suffix (See Note)

njopowa hu

to the market

Nyahei nasia tiaa lima njopowa hu?

'Are those women going to
the market?'

Mende
Coleman

Lesson 20
- Hawa -

M, nyahei nasia tiaa lima njopowa hu.

Dialog

- Seku -

Variation 1

1. A: Nyaa haama? Am I dying?
B: M, biala haama.
2. A: Biala gilima? Are you thinking?
B: M, nyaa gilima.
3. A: Taa wama? Is he coming?
B: M, taa wama.
4. A: Muua lima Bo?
B: M, muua lima Bo.
5. A: Wuua lima Bo a folei ji?
B: M, muua lima Bo a folei ji.
6. A: Tiala wama mbei ha? Are they coming here today?
B: M, tiala wama mbei ha.

Variation 2

1. A: Nyahai lo gilima?
B: M, taa gilima.
2. A: Numui na lo lima Segbwema?
B: M, numui na lo lima Segbwema.
3. A: Nyahai nasia tiala lima kpalei hu?
B: M, tiala lima na.
4. A: Fakalii lo hitima? Is the pawpaw ripening?
B: M, taa hitima.
5. A: Mbei lo bema? Is the rice drying?
B: M, mbei lo bema.
6. A: Mahai lo wovama? Is the chief getting old?
B: M, taa wovama.
7. A: Feli lo lelima? Is the pot blackening?
B: M, taa lelima.

8. A: Biaa yengema? Are you working?
 B: M, nyaa yengema.
9. A: Ndakpei na taa yengema Is that young man working
 panda ha? well today?
 B: M, taa yengema panda ha..
10. A: Bi nyahei taa yengema Is your wife working on the
 kpalei hu ha? farm today?
 B: M, taa na.

Drill 1

Respond affirmatively to the following:

1. Bi vei lo lelima, hie.
2. Nya keke lo wovama, hie.
3. Nyahai taa lima njopowa hu, hie.
4. Saloi ji taa hitima, hie.
5. Numui na bi kenya gbla taa gilima, hie.

Note 2

Intransitive verbs undergo consonant mutation. There are some exceptions to this and you will learn them later.

Variation 3

1. A: Kulei lo golema? Is the cloth getting white?
 B: M, kulei lo golema.
2. A: Tangai lo gbakpama? Is the cassava getting fibrous?
 B: M, taa gbakpama.
3. A: Kulei lo wovama?
 B: M, taa wovama.
4. A: Mbei lo yejema? Is the rice getting stale?
 B: M, taa yejema.
5. A: Hakai lo minima? Is the load getting heavy?
 B: M, taa minima.

Variation 4 (Review with variations) Notice Consonant Mutation

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. A - Mbei yejengo?
B - M, njengo. | Is the rice stale?
Yes, it's stale. |
| 2. A - kulsi golengo?
B - M, kolengo. | Is the cloth white?
Yes, its white. |
| 3. A - Fakalii hitingo?
B - M, hitingo. | Is the pawpaw ripe?
Yes, It's ripe. |
| 4. A - Fei lalingo?
B - M, telingo. | Is the pot black? |
| 5. A - Mahei haango?
B - M, ngi haango. | Is the chief dead?
Yes, he is dead. |

Note

With humans you must use the 3rd person singular or plural pronoun with the -ngo form.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 6. A - Mbei gboyongo?
B - M, kpyongo. | Is the rice finished. |
| 7. A - Hakei miningo?
B - M, miningo. | Is the load heavy? |

Note 3

Notice that certain words (verbs and/or adjectives) can be used with the /-ma/ suffix and the /-ngo/ suffix. But notice the difference in meaning.

Note 4

The construction of present tense sentences.

Pronouns	lo	verb plus -ma
Noun Phrases		
Sg. (pro)		
Pl. tia		

The pronoun for the singular noun phrase is not necessary but if you use the pro with a singular noun phrase then it must be the pronouns that occur before lo. Class work to emphasize this grammatical point will be done.

Variation 5 (Plurals with present tense)

1. A: Maheisia tiaa lima Bo?
B: M, tiaa lima Bo.
2. A: Fei nasia tiaa lelima?
B: M, tiaa lelima.
3. A: Feisia tiaa lelima?
B: M, tiaa lelima.
4. A: Ndomei jisia tiaa wovama?
B: M. nodmei nasia tiaa wovama.
5. A: Fakaliisia tiaa hitima?
B: M, fakaliisia tiaa hitima.

Note 5

The construction of negative present tense sentences.

Pronouns (Subject Pronouns No. 1)	ii	-ma
Noun Phrases		
Singular (pro)		
Plural ti		

If the pronoun is used after the noun phrase in the singular then you must use subject pronouns no. 1.

Notice that the suffix /-ma/ does not change.

Drill 2 Respond negatively to the following:

1. Biala lima?
2. Nyaa gilima?
3. Taa wovama?
4. Mahei lo lima Bo?
5. Fakalii lo hitima?

6. Mbei lo yejema?
7. Hakei lo minima?
8. Nyahei ná lo gilima?
9. Kulei lo golema?
10. Bi vei lo lelima?
11. Ngi keke lo wovama?
12. Tangai lo gbakpama?
13. Bi veisia tiaa lelima?
14. Ngi nyaheisia tiaa lima njopowa hu a folei ji?
15. Bi keyani tiaa wama mbei ha?
16. Ndakpei ná lo yengema?

Conversations

1. A: Mbei lo yejema, hie.
B: M, taa yejema.
2. A: Keni ná lo nyamuma, hie.
B: M, kensi ná lo nyamuma.
3. A: Bi vei lo lelima?
B: Mm, nya vei ii lelima.
4. A: Keni ná miando taa wovama?
B: M, taa wovama.
5. A: Bi nje lo gilima?
B: M, nya nje lo gilima.
6. A: Biaa yengema kpalei hu a ngendei ji?
B: M, nyaa yengema ná.

Dialog

- Hawa -

Mamei

bia

lo

mbei

yilima

ha

bi hinii va

See Note 1

cooking

Mamei, biala mbei yilima ha
vi hinii va?

Mamei, are you cooking rice
for your husband today?

- Musa -

M, nyaa mbei yilima ngi va.

Yes, I'm cooking rice for him.

- Hawa -

Ngi longo a tangei?

Does he like cassava?

- Musa -

Mm, ngii loni a tangei.

No, He doesn't like cassava.

Ngi longo a njowesia.

He likes yams.

Note 1

The direct object precedes the verb in Mende.

Subject	lo	direct object	verb	adverbs
---------	----	------------------	------	---------

Additional Vocabulary

Verbs (mutated form)		Nouns (Unmutated form)	
me	to eat	ngengei	work (noun)
yili	to cook	nikɛi	cow
waa	to kill	mɛhɛ	food
wie	to do	kpehɛi	stool
lewe	to cut to beat to harvest	pundii	mosquito
gbɛɛ	to drink	bukui koloi	book
gbe	to chase	ngili	cook (Noun)
goli	to pick		
gaa	to read		
yenge	to work		

Drill 1

Using the new vocabulary and learned vocabulary write 25 different present tense affirmative sentences in Mende. Follow the construction pattern in Note 1. For the subject use singular and plural.

Examples:

Nya keke ngengei wiema ha.

Ndakpei ná miando taa nya goloi gaama.

Ndopoisia tiaa mɛhɛ mema.

This work is to be handed in. Use the attached page for your work.

Note 2

Negative construction of present tense sentences.

Subject	ii	direct object	verb	adverbs
---------	----	------------------	------	---------

Drill 2

Using the same sentences in Drill 1 make each sentence negative.

Note 3

Object Pronouns

1.	Subject	lo or ii	Object Pronouns nya mu bi wu ngi ti	Verb	Adverbs						
2.	Subject	lo or ii	Direct Object	Verb	Postpositional Phrase Object pronouns <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>nya</td> <td>mu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>bi</td> <td>wu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ngi</td> <td>ti</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> va	nya	mu	bi	wu	ngi	ti
nya	mu										
bi	wu										
ngi	ti										

Notice that the object pronouns are the same as possessive pronouns.

Possessive Pronouns
Object Pronouns

nya mu
bi wu
ngi ti

Pronouns before lo

nya mua
bia wua
ta tia

Pronouns after a

nge mue
bie wue
ngie tie

Subject Pronouns No. 1

ngi mu
bi wu
i ti

Conversations

1. A: Mbei lo bema, hie.

B: M, taa bema.

2. A: Bi nyahei lo wovama?

B: Mm, nya nyahei ii wovama.

3. A: Ndakpei, bi numui lo wama mbei ha?

B: M, taa wama mbei ha.

A: Gbemo mia a ngie?

B: Darumo mia a ngie.

4. A: Bi keke mia a kenei na?

B: Mm, nya keke ya a ngie.

5. A: Mamei Masa, biala mbei yilima ha nya va?

B: Mm, nya tangei yilima bi va.

A: Na nyandengo.

B: Bi longo a tangei, hie.

A: M, nya longo a tangei kulo. (Kulo 'a little')

6. A: Mamei, biala yengema bi hini va kpalei hu ha?

B: Mm, ngii yengema ngi va ha.

A: Gbe mia bi piema ha?

B: Nyaa lima njopowa hu ha Segbwema.

A: Bi hini taa lima, ta be?

B: Mm, ii lima.

Taa mbei lewema ha.

Note 4 - Further consideration of the direct object

The verb following the direct object is a transitive verb. Some verbs can be intransitive as well as transitive. There is an important distinction you must learn to make.

Compare:

1. Mahei lo tsi waama. The chief is killing the chick
2. Mahei lo paama. The chief is killing it.

Notice the mutation of the verb in no. 1. If the object is present the verb mutates. If the object is not expressed but understood as it, the verb does not mutate. Intransitive verbs are marked intransitive. Other verbs unmarked are transitive and/or intransitive.

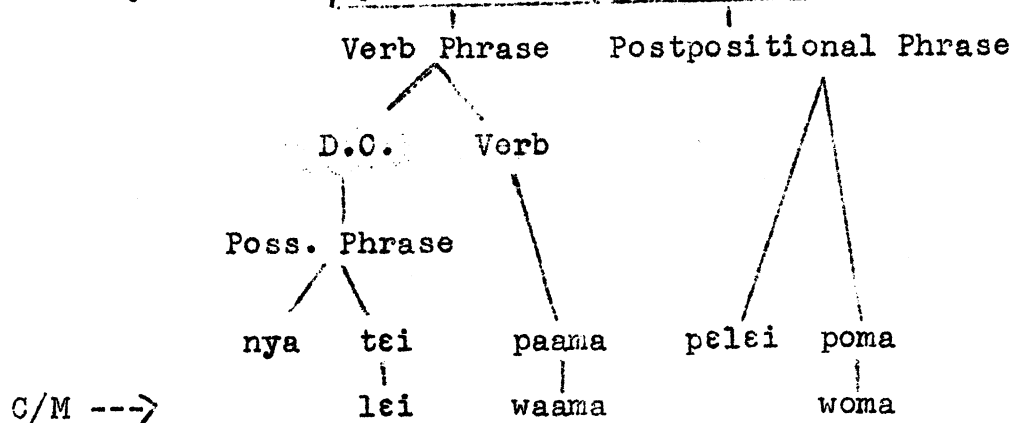
With the above information reconsider the verbs in Lesson 21, page 2. The verbs in their unmutated form are:

me
ngili
paa
pie
tewe
kpoe
kpe
koli
kaa
ngenge (Intransitive)

Remember all intransitive verbs mutate.

Consider the following sentence for review of environments that cause consonant mutation.

Nya keke lo, nya lei waama, pele woma.



Can you give reasons why the above consonants mutate?

Variations 1

1. A: Bi nyahei lo mbei yilima?
B: M, taa ngilima.
2. A: Bi kenya lo tei wasama?
B: M, taa paama.
3. A: Biaa ngengei wiema?
B: M, nyaa piema.
4. A: Bi hinii lo mbei lewema?
B: M, taa tewema.
5. A: Biaa nikei gbema?
B: M, nyaa kpema.
6. A: Bi ndiamo lo bi goloi gaama?
B: M, nya nidamo lo kaama.
7. A: Biaa saloi golima?
B: M, nyaa kolima.
8. A: Bi nyahei lo yengema? (Intransitive verbs always mutate)
B: M, taq yengema.
9. A: Bi nyahei lo mehe mema?
B: M, taa mehe mema.
10. A: Biaa mbei bema?
B: M, nyaa mbema.

Variations 2

Use the above questions but answer negatively.

Note 5

The verb me always takes a direct object. If you are eating something, this is expressed as: Nyaa mehe mema. If you are eating something definite, this is expressed as: Nyaa saloi mema.

Dialog

Kpana: Ta mahsi mia a kena wovsi ná miando?

'Is that old man over there the town chief?'

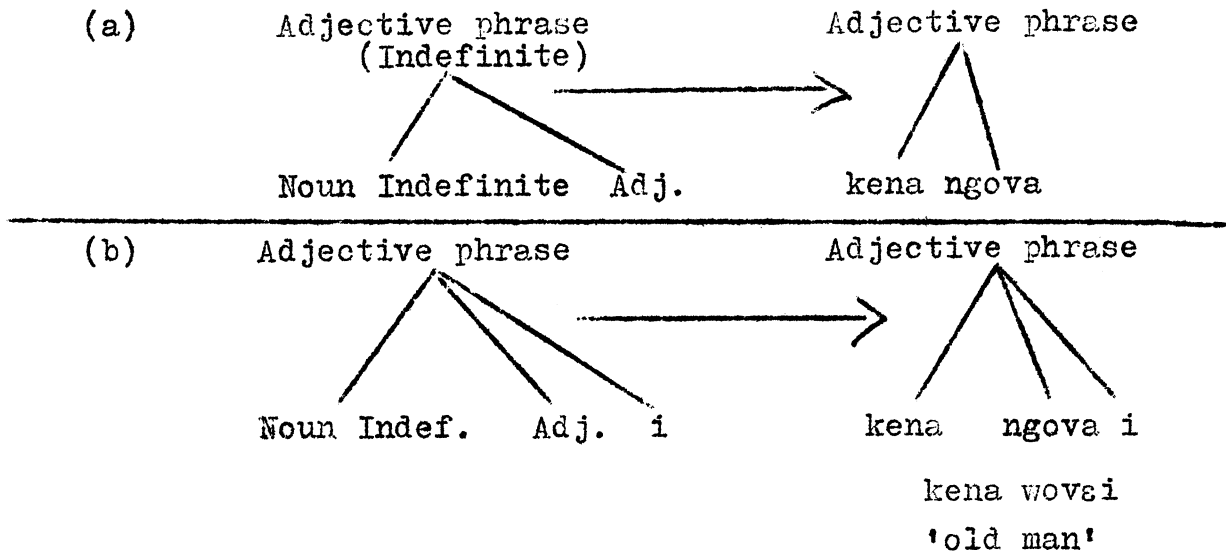
Amara: M, ta mahsi mia a ngie.

Kpana: Ngi lei?

Amara: Ngi lei mia a Ta mahsi Moseray.

Note 1

Adjective phrases are of the following constructions:

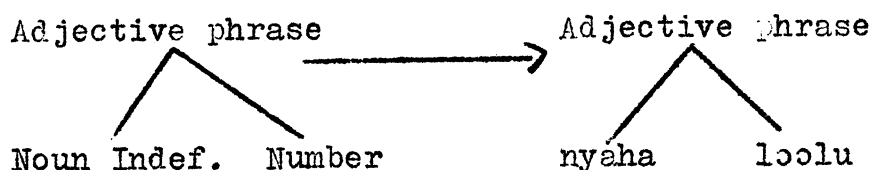


(a) is not a common form but you need to know the grammatical construction.

(b) is the most common form and the form you should learn.

In adjective phrases it is imperative that the noun be in the indefinite form. The importance of this will be seen later.

An exception to construction (b) is a noun followed by a number. This construction does not take the definite suffix.



Notice that the second word in the adjective phrase modifies the noun. The definite suffix must be attached to the adjective in order to get the correct form.

Note 2 - Consonant Mutation

In adjective phrases the initial consonant of the adjective mutates if the initial consonant is within the mutation system.

Note 3

Notice that some of the adjectives have been used in previous lessons as verbs. This is not unusual in Mende.

Exercise 1 - Make adjective phrases from the following:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. kena | ngova | _____ |
| 2. mba | fuka 'ground' | _____ |
| 3. mba | mbe 'dry' | _____ |
| 4. tanga | kpakpa | _____ |
| 5. ngulu | kpovo 'healthy' | _____ |
| 6. kena | kpovo | _____ |
| 7. kula | kole | _____ |
| 8. fakali | hiti | _____ |

9. maha	ngova	_____
10. fakali	hiti	_____
11. numu	kutu	_____
12. kete	fuka	_____
13. nja	susu 'deep'	_____
14. kpeka 'razor'	nina 'new'	_____
15. ndo	nseni	_____
16. fa	fenda 'full'	_____
17. ngala	kole	_____
18. ndawa	mbe	_____
19. pels	kpogbo 'red'	_____
20. kpala	mbe	_____
21. ndende	mini	_____
22. kpshe	ngova	_____
23. hani 'thing'	nyamu	_____
24. hini	ngova	_____
25. nyaha	nyande	_____
26. njombo 'feather'	nyande	_____
27. kula	kole	_____
28. kpaya 'head tie'	nyande	_____
29. kula	teli	_____
30. tanga	tuls	_____
31. nyaha	nina	_____
32. sels	tuls	_____
33. sels	nseni	_____
34. ndoma	kole	_____

Exercise 2 - Make possessive phrases of each of the items in

Exercise 1

Exercise 3 - Write 10 sentences using the new constructions in this lesson.

Variations 1

1. A: Kena wovsi ná lo yengema?
B: M, kena wovsi ná lo yengema.
2. A: Bi nyahsi lo mba vukai yilima bi va?
B: H, taa ngilima nya va.
3. A: Ngi nyaha ninsi lo lima njopowa hu a folei ji?
B: M, taa lima ná.
4. A: Fa wovsi lo lslima?
B: H, fa wovsi lo lslima.
5. A: Biaa mba bei lewema hokii ji hu?
B: H, nyaa mba bei lewema hokii ji hu.

Variations 2

1. A: Taa solo hitii golima?
B: Mm, ii salo hitii golima.
2. A: Ndakpsi, maha wovsi lo wama mbei a kpokoi ji?
B: Mm, ii wama mbei a kpokoi ji.
A: Higbe mia i wama mbei?
B: Maha wovsi lo wama mbei sina.
3. A: Kamo ninsi lo bukui gaama?
B: Mm, kamo ninsi ii bukui gaama.
4. A: Bi loma wovsi lo nyamuma?
B: Mm, nya loma ii wovani.
5. A: Biaa mba bei lewema hokii ji hu?
B: Mm, ngii mba bei lewema hokii ji hu.
A: Higbe mia bi tewema?
B: Nyaa twema hokii ji wama.

Conversation

Kpana: Maha wovsi mia a ná?

Seku: M, maha wovsi mia a ná.

Kpana: Ye mia a ná ngi gbla?

Seku: Ngi nyahsi mia a ná.

Kpana: Ngi nyandengo, hie.

Seku: Mm, ii nyandeni.

Nya longo a nyapoi ná ngi woma.

Kpana: Nya nemahu, ngi nyandengo, ta be.

o bia be?

Seku: M, ngi nyandengo kulo. kulo 'little'

Kpana: Nyaha gbotoi lo ngi yeya? kpoto 'plenty, many'

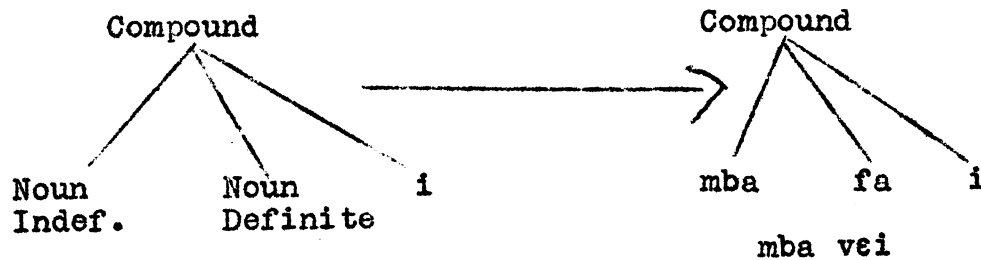
Seku: M, nyaha gbotoi lo ngi yeya.

Nya nemahu, nyaha nu gboyongo lo ngi yeya.

Musu - Ye wo mia a mba vei ná? 'Whose rice pot is that?

Hawa - Nya wo mia a mba vei ná. 'That rice pot is mine.'

Note 1 - Compounds



You will notice that this construction is similar to the adjective phrase.

Compare:

1. kena wovei the old man
2. mba vei the rice pot

The difference is in the second word of the construction. In no. 1 above the second word is sometimes used as an adjective and sometimes as a verb. In no. 2 the second word is always a noun.

Remember:

1. The first noun is indefinite.
2. The second noun is definite.
3. The initial consonant of the second noun mutates.

Exercise 1 - Make compounds from the following pairs of words.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. fefe 'wind'
kula | 1. _____ |
| 2. nika
hua 'meat' | 2. _____ |
| 3. nja
mbola 'cup' | 3. _____ |
| 4. bondo 'okra'
hakpa 'sauce' | 4. _____ |
| 5. fande
ndoma | 5. _____ |
| 6. maha
bulu 'horn' | 6. _____ |
| 7. nika
foma 'whip' | 7. _____ |
| 8. Mende
mita 'spoon' | 8. _____ |
| 9. nduvu 'raffia'
ngala | 9. _____ |
| 10. tanga
fale 'sprout' | 10. _____ |
| 11. fande
bele | 11. _____ |
| 12. ndili 'a fly'
foma | 12. _____ |
| 13. ngulu
kpuko | 13. _____ |
| 14. hota
pele | 14. _____ |
| 15. ngulu
kpegbe 'comb' | 15. _____ |
| 16. kpiti 'grass'
ngala | 16. _____ |
| 17. ndoo 'country'
maha | 17. _____ |

Dialog

A -Gbe mita nyiko mia a ná? 'What kind of spoon is that?'

B -Ngulu mitei lo a ji. 'This is a wooden spoon.'

Note 2

The noun is always indefinite if you are asking what kind of _____.

Mita nyiko is the same construction pattern as in Note 1 but nyiko is always indefinite.

Substitution Drill 1 - Use the numbered words at the right in the blank in the following sentence pattern.

Gbe _____ nyiko mia a ná?

1. spoon
2. comb
3. chair
4. house
5. rice
6. farm
7. mat
8. trousers
9. shirt
10. cup
11. sauce
12. meat
13. cloth
14. chief
15. bed

Note 3

Remember that adjective phrases and compounds can be possessed. You should do this type of work as much as possible in your conversations.

Exercise 2

Write 25 two-line conversations using the constructions discussed in lessons 22 and 23.

Exercise 3

Answer the following questions using the cue which will be given after each question.

Example - Gbe buku nyiko mia a na?

Cue: Mende

Mende bukui mia a na.

1. Gbe mita nyiko mia a na?

Cue: ngulu

2. Gbe hale nyiko mia a na?

Cue: Puu

3. Bi gbe mia a Kpana?

Cue: ndee

4. Gbebla mia a nungai nasia?

Cue: Mende

5. Gbe wulu nyiko mia a na?

Cue: sele

Exercise 4

Answer the following questions using the cue word where one is given.

1. Bi wo mia a bukui na?

2. Ye wo mia a bukui na?

Cue: nya

3. Ye wo mia a pelei na?

Cue: Kpana

4. Kpana wo mia a pelei na?

5. Bi wo mia a bukui nasia?

6. Bi wo lo a nja bolei?

7. Ye wo mia a ngulu mitei na?

Cue: nya nyahei

8. Ye wo mia a kpiti yalei na?

Cue: Ndoo mahei

9. Gbe mia i yilima mba vei na bu?

10. Gbe mia kena wovei na piema?

11. Ndoo mahei lima mi lo?

12. Migbe mia nyaha ninei wama mbei?

13. Ye mia myapo nyandei miando?

14. Migbe mia bi keke lima mba gbalei?

15. Bi ba gbalei mi lo?

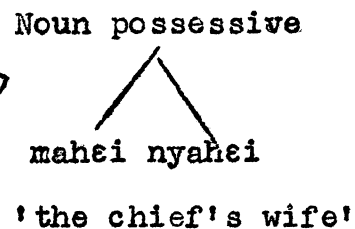
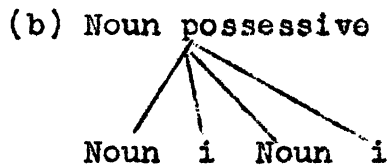
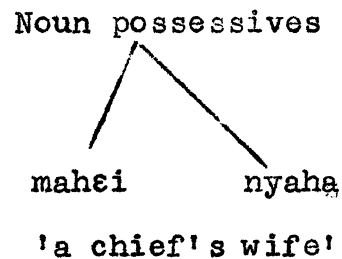
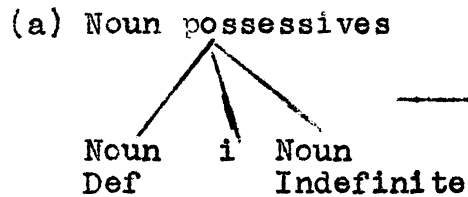
Dialog

Hawa: Mahei nyahei lo lima njopowa hu a folei ji?

Musa: Mm, ii lima njopowa hu.

Hawa: Mi mia ngi nyahei i lima a folei ji?

Musa: Mahei nyahei lo lima Gagama ngi bondesia gama.

Note 1 - Noun possessives

Compare:

Adjective phrase	-	nyaha wovei	'the old woman'
Compound	-	fande lomai	'the cotton shirt'
Noun possessive	-	nyahei bei	'the woman's rice'

Now you see the importance of the definite suffix on the first noun.

In note 1 (a) is rare but the grammatical construction is necessary to know. (b) is the accepted form and the one you should learn.

Note 2

Learn the following rules for noun possessives.

1. The first noun is the possessor.
2. The second noun is possessed.
3. Both nouns are definite.
4. The initial consonant of the possessed noun mutates.

Exercise 1 - Make possessives from the following pairs of words.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. maha
bulu | 1. _____ |
| 2. hota
mba | 2. _____ |
| 3. maha
mboma 'hammock' | 3. _____ |
| 4. nyaha
fa | 4. _____ |
| 5. kena
ndopo | 5. _____ |
| 6. Kpana
pale | 6. _____ |
| 7. Musu
hini | 7. _____ |
| 8. nya keke
kpala | 8. _____ |
| 9. nya kenya
nyaha (plural) | 9. _____ |
| 10. bi keke
nika | 10. _____ |
| 11. ngi nje
kula | 11. _____ |
| 12. ngi ndiamo
ndoma | 12. _____ |
| 13. nya ngoo
mboma | 13. _____ |

14. nyapo fande	14. _____
15. maha nyaha	15. _____
16. ndopo hokpa 'nose'	16. _____
17. maha ngoli 'ear'	17. _____
18. kena tikpo	18. _____
19. Lansana sani	19. _____
20. hota tanga	20. _____

Variation 1

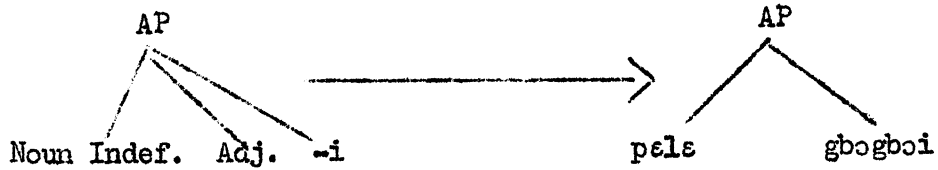
- A - Bi keke gbalei mia a na miando?
B - M, nya keke gbalei mia a na.
- A - Kpana welsei mia a pele gbogboi na?
B - M, Kpana welsei mia a pele gbogboi na.
- A - Hotei bei mia a na fei na bu?
B - M, hotei bei mia a na fei na bu.
- A - Mahsi bulii mia a na miando sokui hu?
B - M, mahsi bulii mia a na miando sokui hu.
- A - Mahsi nyahsi mia a nyaha wovei na nya kenya gbila?
B - M, mahsi nyahsi mia a ngie.

Variation 2

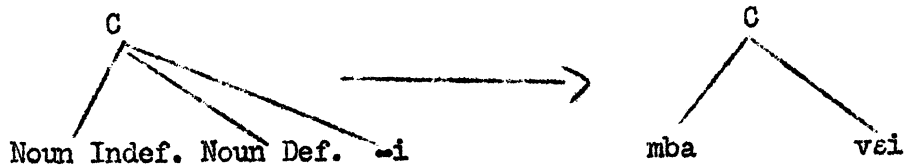
Use the same sentences in Variation 1 and respond negatively.

Note 3 - Summary

(1) Adjective Phrases



(2) Compounds



(3) Noun Possessive



Exercise 2

Write twenty sentences using the above constructions. Try to use more than one in your sentences.

Variations 3

1. A - Ye mia a numui ná bi keke gbla?
B - Mahai nyahai mia a ná.
2. A - Ye mia a numui ná mahai nyahai gbla?
B - Nya nje mia a ná.
3. A - Ye mia a numui ná nya keke gbla?
B - Ndoo mahai mia a ná.
4. A - Bi keke ngi nyahai mia a nyahai ná?
B - M, nya keke ngi nyahai mia a ngie.
5. A - Ye wo mia a fai ná?
B - Mahai nyahai wo mia a ná.

Variations 4

1. A - Kena wovsi ná lo yengema?
B - M, kena wovsi ná lo yengema.
2. A - Bi nyahai lo mba vukai yilima bi va?
B - M, taa ngilima nya va.
3. A - Ngi nyaha ninai lo lima njopowa hu a folei jí?
B - M, taa lima nà.
4. A - Fe wovsi lo lelíma?
B - M, fe wovsi lo lelíma.
5. A - Biaa mba bei lewema hokii jí hu?
B - M, nyaa mba bei lewema hokii jí hu.

Variations 5

1. A - Taa salo hitii golima?
B - Mm, ii salo hitii golima.
2. A - Ndakpei, maha wovei lo wama mbei a kpokoi ji?
B - Mm, ii mbei a kpokoi ji.
A - Migbe mia i wama mbei?
B - Maha wovei lo wama mbei sina.
3. A - Kamo ninesi lo bukui gaama?
B - Mm, kamo ninesi ii bukui gaama.
4. A - Bi loma wovei lo nyamuma?
B - Mm, nya lomei ii wovani.
5. A - Biaa mba bei lewema hokii ji hu?
B - Mm, ngii mba bei lewema hokii ji hu.
A - Migbe mia bi tewema?
B - Nyaa tewema hokii ji wama.

Variations 6

1. A - Gbe mita nyiko mia a ná?
B - Ngulu mitei mia a ná.
2. A - Gbe hale nyiko mia a ná?
B - Mende halei mia a ná.
3. A - Gbe wulu nyiko mia a ná?
B - Sele wulii mia a ná.
4. A - Gbe wele nyiko mia a ná?
B - Ngulu welei mia a ná.
5. A - Gbe bola nyiko mia a ná?
B - Nja boleii mia a ná.
6. A - Gbe gbala nyiko mia a ná?
B - Mba gbalei mia a ná.

7. A - Gbe maha nyiko mia a ná?
B - Ta mahai mia a ná.
8. Gbe gula nyiko mia a ná?
B - Fande gulsi mia a ná.
9. A - Gbe loma nyiko mia a ná?
B - Fande lomsí mia a ná.
10. A - Gbe ba nyiko mia a ná?
B - Mba bei mia a ná.

Variations 7

1. A - Ngi wulu mitsi mia a ná?
B - M, ngi wulu mitsi mia a ná.
2. A - Nya jele wulii mia a ná miando?
B - M, bi jele wulii mia a ná.
3. A - Bi vande lomsí mia a ná?
B - M, nya vande lomsí mia a ná.
4. A - Ngi luvu yalsi mia a ná?
B - M, ngi luvu yalsi mia a ná.
5. A - Ti wulu gbukoi mia a ná?
B - M, ti wulu gbukoi mia a ná.

Variations 8

Use the same sentences in Variations 7 and respond negatively.

Drill 1 - Listen to the following sentences and identify the adjective phrases, compounds and noun possessives.

1. Ti wo mia a pele gbogboi ná.
2. Ti wo mia a ngulu weleri ná.
3. Mahei nyahei mia a nyahei ná.
4. Nya nyahei ngi keke lo lima kpalei hu.
5. Mahei bei lo tibii ma.
6. Ngi bondo hakpei lo miando.
7. Taa kolo wovei gaama.
8. Ndili vomei mia a ná.
9. Hota weleri mia a pelai ná miando.
10. Nya kenya ngi nyahei lo lima Bo ha.

Drill 2 - Listen to the following sentences. Identify each adjective phrase, compound and noun possessive.

1. Seku ngi weleri mia a pele wulii ná miando.
2. Mahei nyaheisia tiaa bondo hakpei yilima fe lelii hu.
3. Maha wovei ke Kpana ngi kenya tiaa lima bi keke gama.
4. Nyaheisia tiaa fakali hitii ke nika husei yeyama nya keke ngi nyahei va.
5. Bi kenya ngi lopoisia tiaa sele nesnii mama.
6. Numuisia tiaa ndende minii ke ngulu gbukoi gbatama.
7. Ngi keke lo kpshe wovsi ke nduvu yalei gbatama pelai bu.
8. Fande lomai ke fande belei lo ngi yeya.
9. Bi kenya ngi nyahei lo kula golei bema a folei jí.
10. Ngi ndiamo ngi komi gomii lo tibii ma.

Drill 3 - Listen to the same sentences in Drill 2. Repeat each sentence after the instructor. Mimic the instructor as closely as you can.

Comprehension - Listen carefully to the following narrative. Be prepared to answer various questions following the narrative.

Maha wovsi ná miando samsi ná bu, ngi lei mia a Seku. Nyaha gbotoi lo ngi yeya. Nya nmahu, nyaha pu mahu loolu lo ngi yeya. Ndo gbotoi lo ngi yeya. Ndopo nu gboyongo mahu pu lo ngi yeya. Ndopo pu tiaa lima sukui hu ha. Nyaha lopo pu lo lima kpalei hu. Tiaa lima mbei lewema. Hindo lopo pu tiaa lima njopowa hu Kenema.

- A.
1. Is Chief Seku an old man?
 2. Does the chief have many wives?
 3. Does the chief have twenty wives?
 4. Does the chief have twenty children?
 5. Does the chief have thirty children.
 6. Are ten of his daughters going to school today?
 7. Are ten of his children going to school today?
 8. Are his daughters working on the farm?
 9. Are they going to the farm today?
 10. Are his sons going to the market in Kenema?
- B.
1. What is the chief's name?
 2. How many wives does he have?
 3. How many children does he have?
 4. Where are his daughters going today?
 5. How many of his children are going to the market?
 6. Where is the market?
 7. What are his daughters doing on the farm?
 8. How many of his children are going to school.
- C.
1. In your opinion, what kind of work is his daughters doing on the farm?
 2. In your opinion, does the chief have a lot of money?
 3. Do you think the chief has a large farm?
 4. Do you think his sons are going to the market in a car?

Dialog

- Mamsi -

Ndee Hawa

bi

rya kenya

loilo

See Note 1

Bo

gbengi

yesterday

Ndee Hawa bi nya kenya loilo Bo gbengi?

Sister Hawa did you see my uncle
in Bo yesterday?

- Hawa -

M, Mamsi, ngi ngi loilo.

Yes, Mamsi, I saw him.

Note 1 - Past Tense

Structure of past tense affirmative sentences

Position 1	Position 2	Position 3
Noun Phrase	Verb ni lo	Adverbs
Subject Pronouns #1		

In past tense sentences lo occurs after the verb and is attached to it.

The past tense is marked by the suffix -ni which is attached to the verb before lo. You must know this for reasons which will become apparent later in the lesson.

Use these rules to form the past tense -

1. Verb ni lo becomes verb i lo (The n drops out)
2. Generally if the verb stem ends in /-a/, then assimilation occurs.

Compare the changes -

verb stem -a ni lo
Verb stem -a i lo
verb stem -illa

[We will not concentrate on this pattern.]

Variation 1

1. A - Migbe mia bi nya kenay loni?
B - Ngi ngi loilo gbengi.
2. A - Bi nyahei mbei yiliilo bi va?
B - M, i ngiliilo nya va a ngendei ji.
3. A - Bi kena wovei loilo gbengi njopowa hu?
B - M, ngi kena wovei loilo na.
4. A - Fakalii lulsilo?
B - M, fakalii lulsilo.
5. A - Mahei nyahei liilo kpalei hu?
B - M, ngi nyahei liilo kpalei hu.

Note 2 - Construction of negative past tense sentences.

Position 1		Position 2	Position 3
Subject	ii	Verb -ni	

are

(1) Notice that in negative sentences all noun phrases followed by a pronoun. If the subject is plural, the 3rd person plural pronoun follows.

(2) In negative sentences the lo is dropped. This causes the -n to return.

Compare -

1. Ngi ngi loilo. I saw him.
2. Ngii ngi loni. I did not see him.

Exercise 1

1. A - Yoo bi toni?
B - Ngi nya keke loilo.
2. A - Yoo i toni?
B - I ngi ndiamo loilo.
3. A - Yoo i toni?
B - I bi keke loilo.
4. A - Yoo mu toni?
B - Mu mahai nyahai loilo.
5. A - Yoo bi toni Bo gbengi?
B - Ngi nya kenya loilo na.

Exercise 2 - Respond negatively to the following questions.

1. A - Bi nya keke loilo?
B - Mm, ngii ngi loni.
2. A - I ngi ndiamo loilo?
B - Mm, ii ngi ndiamo loni.
3. A - Bi bi keke loilo?
B - Mm, ngii nya keke loni.
4. A - Wu mahai nyahai loilo?
B - Mm, mui mahai nyahai loni.
5. A - I nya kenya loilo Bo gengi?
B - Mm, ii bi kenya loni na.

Exercise 3

1. A - Gboɔ bi meni?
B - Ngi mbei mɛilo.
2. A - Migbe mia bi mbei meni?
B - Ngi mbe mɛilo gbengi.
3. A - Ye mia pieni?
B - Ngi pieilo.
4. A - Yoo pieni?
B - Kpana pieilo.
5. A - Gboɔ bi toni?
B - Ngi kolii loilo.
6. A - Yoo tangsi meni?
B - Musa mɛilo.
7. A - Gboɔ bi pieni gbengi?
B - Ngi yengeilo kpalei hu.
8. A - Gboɔ bi pieni kpalei hu?
B - Ngi mbei leweilo nya kenya va.
9. A - Bi tɛi na majooilo Bo gbengi? majoo - 'to get'
B - M, ngi majooilo nà.
10. A - I helei boilo? mbo - 'to shoot'
B - M, i mboilo.

Exercise 4 - Answer the following questions negatively.

1. A - Bi mbei mɛilo?
B - Mm, ngii mbei meni.
2. A - Bi mbei mɛilo gbengi?
B - Mm, ngii mbei mɛilo gbengi.
3. A - Bi pieilo?
B - Mm, ngii pieni.

4. A - I kolii loilo?
B - Mm, ii kolii lani.
5. A - Bi yengeilo kpalei hu?
B - Mm, ngii yengeni kpalei hu.

Exercise 5

Write 15 sentences as in Exercise 3. Use different verbs in each.

Exercise 6

Write 25 questions using adjective phrases, compounds and noun possessives.

Exercise 7

Write 10 two line conversations. Each conversation should be different.

Variation 2

1. A - Bi helei loilo gbengi?
B - Mm, ngii helei lani gbengi.
2. A - Ngi ti loilo tei hu?
B - Mm, bii ti lani tei hu.
3. A - Ti mbei leweilo?
B - Mm, tii mbei leweni.
4. A - Bi nyahei mbei yiliilo ti va?
B - Mm, nya nyahei ii mbei yilini ti va.
5. A - Bi n'io tangai yiliilo bi va?
B - Mm, ii tangai yilini nya va.
6. A - Bi nyahei tei yiliilo kpalableisia va?
B - Mm, ii tei yilini ti va.

7. A - Nyahai kulsi beilo?
B - Mm, nyahai ii mbeni.
8. A - Bi nyahai nika husei yiliilo?
B - Mm, nya nyahai ii nika husei yilini.
9. A - Kensei ngi loma ninei leweilo?
B - Mm, kensei ii ngi loma ninei leweni.
10. A - Mahai nyahasingi gula golei yeyeilo njopowa hu Kenema gbengi.
B - Mm, mahai nyahai ii ngi gula golei yeyani njopowa hu Kenema gbengi.

Conversation

- A - Seku, nya hotai liilo nya welai gama gbengi.
B - Na ma nyandengo.
Ngi lei?
A - Ngi lei mia a Kpana.
B - Nyaha lo Kpana yeya?
A - Mm, nyaha gbii ngi yeya.
B - Taa bi welai bu naa? naa 'now'
A - Mm, ii nya welai bu.
Taa nya kenya ngi welai bu.
Muaa lima njopowa hu a folei ji.
B - Nga va ngi ma.
A - M, ma lo hoe.
B - Ngewo i mu mahugbe.
A - Ngewo jahu.

Comprehension

Ta mahsi mia a kena wovei na semsi na bu. Ta maha nins mia a ngie. Ngi nyaha ninsi lo ngi gbla. Nya namahu, ngi nyaha wovei lo mehe yilima ti va nyaha welsi bu. Mahsi lo ndoi gboema ngi nyahsi bolesi hu. Limba loi mia i gboema. Ngi nyahsi lo Puu loi gboema mbola nyandei hu. Mahsi ngi loi mia a ndopoi na ngi gbla. Ngi lei mia a ndopoi Selu. Selu nje mia a mahsi ngi nyaha wovei. Taa fande loms lalima nyaha welsi bu.

Answer the following questions -

1. Ta mahsi mia a kena wovei?
2. Taa pelai bu?
3. Ta maha ninsi mia a ngie?
4. Ngi nyaha ninsi lo mehe yilima pelai bu ti va?
5. Ngi nyaha wovei lo ngi gbla semsi bu?
6. Mahsi lo ndoi gboemangi nyahsi bolesi hu?
7. Mahsi ngi ndee mia a Selu?
8. Selu nje lo ndomei lalima ha?
9. Gbe maha nyiko mia a kena wovei?
10. Taa mi a folei ji?
11. Ye mia a nyapoi ngi gbla?
12. Gbe mia ngi nyaha wovei i piema pelai bu?
13. Ye va mia i mehe yilima?
14. Selu ngi gbe mia a ta mahsi?
15. Gbe mia a Selu ngi nje i piema pelai bu?
16. Gbe loma nyiko mia i telima?
17. Bi namahu, numu lola ti semsi bu?
18. Bi namahu, nyaha gbotoi lo ta mahsi ngi yeya?
19. Bi namahu, gbe va mia mahsi nyaha ninsi ngi gbla semsi bu?

Dialog 1

-Hawa-

Mamei

ba

ndoma ninei ji

yeyalo

nya va

Mamei, ba ndoma ninei ji yeyalo nya va?

'you' See Note 1

this new shirt

'will buy'

-Mamei-

M

nga

ndomei na

yeyalo

bi va

'I'

M, nga ndomei na yeyalo bi va.

Yes, I will buy that shirt
for you.

Note 1

The future tense requires a new set of pronouns. lo is also used and is attached to the verb. There is no overt marker attached to the verb to show the future tense. The pronouns serve that purpose.

Future tense pronouns will hereafter be called Subject Pronouns

No, 2. They are -

nga ma

ba wa

a ta

Drill 1 - Repeat after the instructor

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Naga bi bolo. | I will shoot at you. |
| 2. A nya lewelo. | He will beat me. |
| 3. Ba ti yeyalo. | You will buy them. |
| 4. A ngi mualo. | She will bathe him. |
| 5. Ma ti gbatalo. | We will repair them. |
| 6. Nga bi nyalo. | I will cut you. |
| 7. Ta ndondei melo. | They will eat pork. |
| 8. Ma gbojiisia yeyalo. | We will buy the plums. |
| 9. Ma sambei ji vendalo. | We will fill this basket. |
| 10. Ta pelsi loolo. | They will build the house. |
| 11. Nga saloi golilo. | I will pick the orange. |
| 12. Nga njai lewelo. | I will cross the river. |
| 13. A nyoi gbenyalo. | She will granulate the corn. |
| 14. Ma ngulii na walo. | We will fell that tree. |
| 15. Ba niksi vogbalo. | You will whip the cow. |
- Now using the same drill, make each of the statements questions by using intonation. Direct the question.
 - All of the above sentences have direct objects. Repeat the same sentences but this time drop the direct object.

Example - Nga bi bolo. Nga mbolo. 'I will shoot it.'

Dialog 2

Seku - Ndiamb, ba nya welsi loolo nya va?

Kpana - Mm, ngeε bi welsi loo bi va. 'I will not build your house
for you.' (See Note 2)

Note 2

The pronouns used in negative sentences are new also. These pronouns are used only in the future tense. They are -

ngɛɛ	mue
bee	wue
ɛɛ	tee

These pronouns are a result of assimilation of the pronoun with the negative particle ii.

For example - nga plus ii becomes ngɛɛ
 ba plus ii becomes bee
 etc.

Notice that lo is dropped in the negative sentences.

Drill 2

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Bee ngi bo. | You will not shoot at him. |
| 2. Mue ti gbate. | We will not repair them. |
| 3. Tee pelei loo. | They will not build the house. |
| 4. Ngɛɛ njei lewe. | I will not cross the river. |

Transformation Drill No. 1 - Transform the following past tense sentences into the future tense.

1. Ngi kenci na leweilo.
2. Bi lillo tei hu gbengi.
3. I ngilei waailo.
4. Mu besi husi meilo.
5. Ti ketei gbenyeilo.

Note 3

In the future tense the 3rd person singular or plural S/P 2 follows the subject if the subject is not a pronoun. The number of the pronoun depends on the number of the subject.

Subject	Sg. a	verb plus lo
	Pl. ta	

The same is true for negative constructions in the future tense.

Subject	Sg. ee	verb
	Pl. tee	

Variations 1

1. A: Bi keke a gbojiisia yeyalo nya va?
B: M, a ti yeyalo bi va.
2. A: Ba ngengei wielo sina?
B: M, nga ngengei wielo sina.
3. A: Nya nyaheisia ta lilo Bo hokii ji wama, hie.
B: M, ta lilo Bo hokii ji wama.
4. A: Ndoe mahei a walo mbei sina?
B: M, nya nemahu, ndoe mahei a walo sina.
5. A: Kpana a ndogboi lewelo sina?
B: M, a tewelo sina.

Variations 2 - Use the same questions in Variations 1 but this time respond negatively.

Conversation

A - Migbe mia ba li tei hu?

B - Nga lilo ngalui ji wama.

A - Nyaa lima a folei ji.

B - Na nyandengo.

Ba mbei yeyalo nya va?

A - M, nga mbei yeyalo bi va.

B - Nya longo a peni pani pu.

A - Nga walo a peni pani pu bi va. 'I will come with 10 penny pans for you.'

B - Bi sie.

A - M, bi sie. Ma lo, hoe.

B - M, ma lo, hoe.

Assignment

Bring to class 10 questions which can be used to begin a conversation.

Use as many different grammatical forms as possible.

Comprehension

Numuisia lo yengema demu gbetei hu a folei ji. Blaima ngi keke yengebleisia mia a tie. Nu fele gboyongo mahu sawa mia a tie. Numu nu gboyongo mahu pu lo demu wama. Numu pu mahu fele lo wama a demu wolei ti gama. Demu nyande gowei lo Blaima ngi yeya. Ngi longo wa la. Nya be, nya longo a demu nyande gowei na. Blaima ngi keke lo tei hu a folei ji. Taa demu gbotoi yeyama ngi wela ninei bu. Taa lima sina Freetown. A demuisia majialo na. A moto nina leli yeyalo Blaima va. A kula nina gbotoi yeyalo ngi nyaha ninei va ke ngi nyaha lengeisia va.

- A.1. Numuisia lo yengema mba gbetei hu a folei ji?
2. Blaima ngi yengebleisia mia a tie?
 3. Demu nyande leli lo Blaima ngi yeya?
 4. Ngi longo a demu gowa nyandei na?
 5. Blaima ngi keke lo demu gbetei hu a folei ji?
 6. Taa demu gbotoi yeyama ngi wela wovei bu?
 7. Taa lima sina Kenema?
 8. A moto nina lelii yeyalo ngi hindo loi va?
 9. A kula ninisia yeyalo ngi nyaha ninisia va, hie.
- B.1. Nunga lole mia ti yengema Blaima ngi keke va?
2. Ti yengema mi lo a folei ji?
 3. Gbe yenge nyiko mia ti piema?
 4. Gbe mia Blaima ngi keke i piema ha?
 5. Gbe mia Blaima, ta be, i piema a folei ji demu gbetei hu?
 6. Ngi keke i lima mi lo sina?
 7. Gbe mia a pie na?

- C.1. Why do you think Blaima's father wants to buy a new car for him?
2. How many sons do you think Blaima's father has?
3. Do you think Blaiama goes to school?
4. Do you think Blaima's father is a chief?.
5. Where do you think Blaima and his family live in Sierra Leone?

Dialog 1

-Kpana-

bi	you
gboo	what (See Note 1)
wieni	did

Bi gboo wieni?

What did you do?

-Seku-

ngi	I
luvailo	(See Note 2)
yengema	

Ngi luvailo yengema.

I spent the day working.

Note 1

Gboo may occur as the direct object. Gboo comes from gbe plus lo. Assimilation of vowels takes place. Remember lo or mia follows the question word. If mia follows the question word, then gbe mia is shifted to the front of the sentence and you must remember that if a pronoun is used there are certain changes that take place.

Note 2

luvailo is idiomatic and is translated 'spent the day'.

Variations 1

1. A: I gboo wieni?
B: I luvailo yengema.
2. A: Ti gboo wieni gbengi?
B: Ti luvailo jesiama gbengi. jesiama 'walking about'
3. A: Bi gboo wieni?
B: Ngi luvailo mehei yilima.
4. A: Wu gboo wieni gbengi?
B: Mu luvailo ndoli gama. ndoli gama 'dancing'
5. A: I gboo wieni Bo gbengi?
B: I luvailo yengema Bo gbengi.
6. A: Bi gboo wieni kpindii na?
B: Ngi yiilo ndoli gama tei hu kpindii na.
 yiilo 'spent the night'
7. A: Bi keke i gboo wieni gbengi?
B: Nya keke i luvailo kolo gaama.
8. A: Bi loi i gboo wieni gbengi?
B: Nya hindo loi i luvailo kolo nyeima.
 kolo nyeima 'writing'
9. A: Bi nyaha loi i gboo wieni gbengi?
B: Nya nyaha loi i luvailo mbei yilima.
10. A: Bi hinii i gboo wieni kpindii na?
B: Nya hinii i yiilo ndoi gboema.

Dialog 2

-Kpana-

bi

yoo

whom

loni

saw

gbengi Bo

Bi yoo loni gbengi Bo?

Whom did you see in Bo
yesterday?

-Seku-

Ngi nya keke loni na.

I saw my father there.

Substitution Drill 1 - Make the substitutions in the following sentences.

1. Ngi _____ loni. 'I saw _____'.

my uncle

the old man

the paramount chief

my wife's elder brother

your wife's new son

2. _____ ngi loni. '_____ saw him/her.'

the town chief

I

the new chief

my son

your daughter

Conversation 1

A: Mamei, bi hinii gboo wieni gbengi?

B: I luvailo yengema kpalei hu.

A: Bi liilo kpale hu gbengi, ta be?

B: Mm, ngii lini kpalei hu.

Ngii liilo njopowa hu gbengi.

Conversation 2

A: Ndakpei, bi gboo wieni kpindii na?

B: Ngii yiilo ndoli gama.

A: Na nyandengo wa.

B: O bia?

A: Ngii yiilo kolo gaama.

B: Na, ii nyandeni.

Assignment - Come to class prepared to carry on a conversation of reasonable length and of cultural relevance. You choose your own topic.

Dialog 1

-Hawa-

Ea

luwaa

(See Note 1)

nya ma

Ba luwaa nya ma?

Are you afraid of me?

-Seku-

M, nga

luwaa

bi ma

M, nga luwaa bi ma.

Yes, I am afraid of you.

Note 1

Habitual action is translated from the future tense.

luwaa comes from luwalo. The l drops and o assimilates to a.

Dialog 2

-Amara-

A luwaa ti ma?

Is he afraid of them?

-Musa-

Mm, ngese luwa ti ma.

No, he is not afraid of them.

Variations 1

1. A: A luwaa ngi keke ma?
B: M, a luwaa ngi ma.
2. A: Ba luwaa kpindii ma?
B: M, nga luwaa kpindii ma.
3. A: Ba luwaa kenei nasia miandɔ?
B: Mm, ngɛɛ luwa ti ma.
4. A: Bi hindo loi a luwaa ngi kenya?
B: M, nya hindo loi a luwaa ngi kenya.
5. A: Bi nje a luwaa kalii na ma? kalii 'snake'
B: M, nya nje a luwaa kalii na ma.
6. A: Ba luwaa?
B: Mm, ngɛɛ luwa.
7. A: Kenei na a luwaa ndoo mahei ma?
B: Mm, ɛɛ luwa ndoo mahei ma.
8. A: Nyahɛi nasia ta luwaa ti hinii ma?
B: M. nyahɛi nasia ta luwaa ti hinii ma.
9. A: Ta luwaa kpindii ma?
B: Mm. tɛɛ luwa kpindii ma.
10. A: Ba luwaa kena wovei na?
B: M, nga luwaa ngi ma.

Dialog 3

-Musa-

Nɔakpei, ba lumaa?

Young man, do you agree
to that?

-Seku-

M, nga lumaa.

Yes, I agree to it.

Variations 2

1. A: A lumaa na na?
B: Mm, ee luma na ma.
2. A: Ta lumaa na ma?
B: M, ta lumaa na ma.
3. A: Ba lumaa na ma?
B: Mm, ngeee luma na ma.
4. A: Ba lumaa nya ma?
B: M, nga lumaa bi ma.

Substitution Drill 1

1. Ba lumaa _____ ma?

me

that

the paramount chief

my father

20 cents

2. Ba lumaa senti pu mahu fele ma _____ va?

20 oranges

5 penny pans of rice

these bananas

this chicken

nice pineapples

Ngi lilo gbengi nya gofi gbalei hu. Ngi luvailo nya gbalei hu hawama a ngendei. Ngi kofi gbotoi goilo a folei ke kpokoi nya nyahangesia ke nya hindo lengesia ti lilo a mu gofi gbalei tsi hu a kpokoi na.

Ma nya hindo loisia ma lilo sina ndopa gbemsi ngolei hu. Mus luwaa ndopesia ma, a ji va, kpandesia lo mu yeya. Nya nyahesia ke nya nyaha lengesia ta lilo nyei gbemsi a mbebesia. Nya kse ke nya nje ta lumaa ti li Kenema kofi majiamsi. Mu kpele mayama lo sina tsi hu a kpokoi.

Section A

1. Ngi lilo gbengi kofi gbalei hu.
2. Ngi luvailo kofi goima gbengi a ngendei.
3. Ngi nya gbala gofi hu hawailo a kpokoi.
4. Nya bondesia ti lilo a mu gofi kpele toi hu gbengi a kpokoi na.
5. Ma nya nyaha loisia ma lilo sina ndopa gbemsi.
6. Nya hindo lengesia ta lilo sina ndopa gbemsi, tia be.
7. Nya nyahangesia ta lilo sina nyei gbemsi.
8. Ta lilo sina nyei gbemsi a kpandesia.
9. Nya kse ke nya nje ta lilo sina kofi yeyamsi Kenema.
10. Mu kpele mayama lo sina tsi hu a folei.

Section B

1. Ngi lini gbengi mi lo.
2. Ngi luvani gbengi gboo wiema a ngendei.
3. Ngi gboo wieni gbengi a folei ke kpokoi.
4. Gbe mia nya bondesia ti pieni a kpokoi na.
5. Nya kse ke nya nje ti lima mi lo sina.
6. Ma nya hindo lengesia mu lima mi lo sina, mua be.

7. Nya nyahsisia ti lima mi lo sina, tia be.

8. Migbe mia mu kpELE mayama tEi hu.

Section C

1. Bi nEmahu, nyaha gbotomO mia a nge.

2. Bi nEmahu, nya kEkE kE nya nje ti wovango wa.

3. Bi nEmahu, ndo gboto lo nya yeya.

4. Bi nEmahu, nya gofi gbalei wolongo wa.

5. Bi nEmahu, ta mahEi mia a nge.

6. Bi nEmahu, ma nya bondEisia mu ye tahu i mi lo SalEn

lOmEi.

Dialog 1

~~-Momo-~~

Ndiamo

bi

guhango

tall

bi

keke

than your father

ma

Ndiamo, bi guhango bi keke ma?

Friend, are you taller than
your father?

~~-Kpana-~~

Hi, nya guhango ngi ma.

Yes, I am taller than he is.

Note 1

Use the following diagram as a guide in forming comparisons.

Affirmative

Position 1	Position 2	Position 3
Pronoun nya mu bi wu ngi ti Nominal Compounds Other nominal phrases	-ngo	Pronoun na ma Other nominal phrases

Examples -

nya

nyandengo

ndakpei na ma.

ndakpei ji

gbayango

ngi keke ma

mahei nyahei

Variations 1

1. A - Bi nyahai wovango bi ma?
B - M, nya nyahai wovango nya ma.
2. A - Bi nyapoi nyandengo nya nyapoi ma?
B - M, nya nyapoi nyandengo bi nyapoi ma.
3. A - Bi loi gbayango nya loi ma?
B - M, nya loi gbayango bi loi ma.
4. A - Bi gutungo ndakpei na ma midando?
B - M, nya gutungo ndakpei na ma mianda.
5. A - Salsei ji nsengo salsei na ma?
B - M, salsei na nsengo salse ji ma.
6. A - Bukui na ma nsengo bukui ji ma?
B - M, bukui ji ma nsengo bukui na ma.
7. A - Koli kpakpaungo ngulii ma?
B - M, koli kpakpaungo ngulii ma.
8. A - Nya lomai gowengo bi lomai ma, hie.
B - M, bi lomai gowengo nya lomai ma.
9. A - Mahai walsei wolongo bi walsei ma?
B - M, mahai walsei wolongo nya walsei ma.
10. A - Hindo lopoi na nyamungo bi ma?
B - M, hindo lopoi na nyamungo nya ma.

Note 2

Negative

Position 1		Position 2	Position 3
Same as Affirmative	ii	-ni	Same as Affirmative
Pronouns change to S/P No. 1			Pronouns remain the same

Variations 2

Use the questions in Variations 1 but this time respond negatively.

Dialog 2

--Momo--

Bi nemahu

Mende yei

kpakpaungo

Puu yei

ma

Mende

harder/difficult

English

Bi nemahu, Mende yei kpakpaungo
Puu yei ma?

Do you think Mende is harder
than English?

--Hawa--

M, nya nemahu, Mende yei kpakpaungo Puu yei ma.

Substitution Drill 1

1. _____ kpakpaungo _____ ma?

Swahili
Mende
Wolof
Susu
Kono
Igbo

Mende
French
Mende
Temne
Mende
Yoruba

2. _____ ii kpakpauni _____ ma.

Mende
English
Mende
Wolof
Ewe

English
German
Russian
Susu
Mende

Dialog 3

-Hawa-

Nya loi nemahu lewengo bi loi ma.

My child is smarter than your child.

-Musu-

Mm, bi loi nemahu ii leweni nya loi ma.

No, your child is not smarter than my child.

Dialog 4

-Mahɛi Lansana-

Nya logboi

my land

wolongo

bigger/exceeds

bi ndɛi

your own (See note 3)

ma

Nya logboi wolongo bi ndɛi ma.

My land exceeds yours.
(I have more land than you do.)

Mm, bi logboi ii woloni nya ndɛi ma.

No, your land does not exceed mine.

Note 3nda 'own, (own) one'ndɛi, the definite singular form of nda, occurs commonly in sentences expressing comparison. Further examples -

Kpana nyaɛi nyandengo bi ndɛi ma. 'My wife is prettier than yours.'

Nya wɛɛi wolongo Kpana ndɛi ma. 'My house is larger than Kpana's.'

Mu maɛi wovango wu ndɛi ma. 'Our chief is older than yours.'

Kpana - Kensi Abu, bi ngengei wienga?

Kensi Abu - M, ngi ngengei wienga a ngendei ji.

Note

The perfect tense is marked by suffix -nga. You must use S/P #1 with the perfect tense. The perfect tense is translated as 'have done' or 'have finished' or etc.

Variations 1

1. A - Bi pienga?
B - M, ngi pienga.
2. A - I pienga?
B - M, i pienga.
3. A - Mu pienga?
B - M, mu pienga.
4. A - Ti pienga?
B - M, ti pienga.

Variations 2

1. A - I ngengei gboyonga?
B - M, i ngengei gboyonga.
2. A - Kena wovsi tei wovanga?
B - M, ngi paanga.
3. A - Bi Kpana longa ha?
B - M, ngi ngi longa ha.

3. A - Bi tonga?
B - Mm, ngii ya ti loni.
4. A - I ndenga?
B - Mm, ii ya ndeni.
5. A - Nyaha wovai ngilinga?
B - Mm, nyaha wovai ii ya ngilini.
6. A - Mahai ngengei wienga?
B - Mm, mahai ngengei ya wieni.
7. A - Kpalablaisia ngengei gboyonga?
B - Mm, tii ngengei ya gboyani.
8. A - I mbumbunga?
B - Mm, ii ya mbumbuni.

Drill 1 - Transform the following past tense sentences into past perfect sentences.

1. I ngengei gboyilo.
2. Kena wovai na kpaa baiyyeyoilo njopowa hu.
3. Mahai nyahai yengeilo kpalei hu.
4. Ngi ti loilo.
5. Ngi nya kenya loilo Bo.
6. Nya nyahai nika husi yiliilo.
7. Kenai ngi loma ninsi leweilo.
8. Nyahai kulai beilo.
9. Ti mbei yiliilo.
10. Bi nje tangei yiliilo nya va.

Dialog 1

Kpana - Bi ye ngeyɛi na leweni?

Musu - Ngi teweilo a nya bowei.

Note

1. There is no lo in the sentence containing, ye, 'how.'
2. Ye, 'how' and ye, 'who' are similar. But the two words occur in different places in the sentence. Because of this there is never any ambiguity.

Variations

1. A - Kena wovai na ye tei waani?
B - I paailo a ngi gbandei.
2. A - Bi ye pesi ji looni?
B - Ngi nya wesi looilo a ngului ke kotii.
3. A - I ye kali waani?
B - I kalii waailo a ngi lokoi.
4. A - Bi keke ye lini Bo?
B - I liilo Bo a motai.
5. A - Bi ye mbei meni?
B - Ngi mbei mɛilo a mitei.
6. A - Ti ye niki waani?
B - Ti paailo a kpandei.
7. A - I ye ngei leeni? (leeni comes from leweni)
B - I nje leeilo a ndendei.
8. A - Mu ye kopo majooni?
B - Mu yengeilo fa.

9. A - Kpana ye ndopsi waani?

B - I paailo a manii. manii 'trap'

10. A - Wu ye kowei majooni?

B - Mu humailo.

Drill 1 - Change the word underlined.

Ti ye niksi waani?

Drill 2 - Change the word underlined.

Kena wovai na ye higbeni?

Drill 3 - Change the word underlined.

I paailo a kpandei.

Drill 4 - Change the word underlined.

Bi ye mbei majooni.

Dialog 2

Lansana - Bi ye kpandei majooni?

Amara - Ngi ngeyailo.

Dialog 3

Musu - Bi ye bi lomai majooni?

Musa - Nya ngoo feilo mbe. mbe comes from nya we

Dialog 4

Abou - Bi nyahai ye tangai majooni?

Musa - Ngi teweilo.

Dialog 5

A - Maha wovai na ye ngi wee minsi majooni?

B - I yengeilo fa.

Dialog 1

- A - Ngi gbayango numu gbi ma tei ji hu?
B - M, ngi gbayango numu gbi ma tei ji hu.

Note

In the above dialog the literal translation is 'He is strong on all the people in this town.'

Dialog 2

- A - Nyapoi na nyandengo numu gbi ma tei ji hu?
B - Mm, ii nyandeni numu gbi ma tei ji hu.

Note

The negative is the same as the -ngo forms already learned.

Variations

1. A - Nyahai na wovango numu gbi ma tei ji hu?
B - M, ngi wovango numu gbi ma tei ji hu.
2. A - Hindo loi nyamungo numu gbi ma tei ji hu?
B - M, hindo loi na nyamungo numu gbi ma tei ji hu.
3. A - Mahai Abou guhango numu gbi ma tei ji hu?
B - M, Mahai Abou guhango numu gbi ma tei ji hu.
4. A - Bi yagbei gutungo numu gbi ma tei ji hu?
B - M, nya yagbei gutungo numu gbi ma tei ji hu.
5. A - Bi ngoo floflongo numu gbi ma tei ji hu?
B - M, ngi floflongo numu gbi ma tei ji hu.

Additional vocabulary - mutated form

1. yawongo - proud, cocky, no respect for anyone
2. namahu leengo - smart, clever
3. gbowango - stupid
4. lelengo - slowest
5. gbatango - richest
6. nyaningo - poorest
7. lengo - most dishonest, greatest liar
8. lonyango - most honest
9. gbekpengo - kindest
10. noongo - most persistent
11. golvingo - greediest
12. woongo - fatest, biggest
13. ganyango - skinniest

Dialog 3

Musu - Ngi wɛlɛi woongo pɛlɛi gbi ma?

Musa - M, ngi wɛɛi woongo pɛɛi gbi ma.