

# Igbo-English and English-Igbo Dictionary

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

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

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

---

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

**Igbo - English**

-

- m l

-a this, these

**A****abalī** night**abalī öma** good night, good-evening**abüö** two**afa** name (onitsha dialect)**afere** plate**afüfa** garden eggs**agha** war**agu** lion**agwa** beans**agwö** snake**aha** name**ahia** market**ahö** year**ahü** that, those; body**ajali** red earth**akpa** bag**akpatī nrī** cupboard (box for food)**aku oyibo** coconut**akükü** edge**akwa** cloth, eggs, bed, weeping**akwü** door**akwükwö** book, paper, leaf**akwükwö ögwü** herbs**ala** ground, floor, earth**alībasa** onion**anö** four**anü** meat, animal**anü öhīa** bush meat, bush animal**anüli** happy, merry**añuli arö öfüü** happy new year**añuli easter** happy easter**añuli ekeresimesi** merry christmas**anwu** sun**anyanwü** sun**anyī** we, us, our**arö** year**asaa** seven**asatö** eight**atö** three**atülü** blue**aziza** broom**azü** fish**N****n'akükü** beside**n'enu** on top of, up**n'ime** inside**n'okpuru** under, below**na** and, that; at, in, on, within; used as auxiliary to specify continuing action in the present**n'** in, at, on**nari** 100**ncha** all**nche anwu** umbrella**nde** 1,000,000**ndī** people, group**ndi ahü** those (group)**ndī be** family**ndī mmepe obodo** development agency**ndī ölü** workers**ndīa** these (group)**ndiagu** far from home**ndīda** down the road**ndiuno** close to home**ndörö mmiri** swimming-pool**ndü** life**ngazi** spoon**ngwa ahia** merchandise**niile/dum** all, each, every**njem** travel**nke** of, of which, whose**nke ahü** that**nkea** this**nkita** dog**nmanü-ökü** kerosine**nna** father**nne** madam, mother**nnöö** you are welcome**nnuku** lot, many**nö** be present in location (verb)**nödü anī** sit down (verb)**nonye** join (verb)**nrī** food, right (as well as food as it is eaten with that hand)**nrī ütütü** breakfast**nso** close, nearby**nsogbu** trouble, disturbance**nü** hear (verb)**nwa** child**nwa nne nwanýi** sister

**B**

**-ba** continue doing, starting an action (start doing)  
**-bago** already completing the action (already doing, already done)  
**bata** enter (verb)  
**bee** cry (verb)  
**bekee** english  
**bi** live (verb)  
**bia** come (verb)  
**biko** please  
**bü** be (verb)  
**-bü/-bu** a past continuous action (he used to do)  
**buru** carry (verb)

**C**

**chere** wait (verb)  
**chö** want (verb)  
**chörö** want, intend to (verb)  
**chukwu** god  
**clasi** grade

**D**

**da alü** well done  
**di** husband  
**dī** be, have the quality of, be in (verb)  
**dibia** traditional doctor, medicine man  
**dibia** oyibo doctor

**E**

**e mesia** then  
**ebe** place, location  
**ebe ahü** there  
**ebea** here (place)  
**ebee** where, which place  
**echi** tomorrow  
**ede** cocoyam  
**edo** yellow  
**e-e** yes  
**egbe** hawk  
**egbe igwe** thunder  
**ego** money  
**ego ole** how much  
**ehi** cow  
**ehihie** afternoon, daytime  
**ehihie öma** good afternoon  
**ekele dili gi** thank you very much  
**ekpe** left

**nwa nne nwoke** brother  
**nwa nwoke** son  
**nwannam** brother/sister (paternal)  
**nwannem** brother/sister (maternal)  
**nwanta kiri** child  
**nwanyi** woman  
**nwata akwükwö** student/pupil  
**nwata kiri nwanyi** little girl  
**nwata nwanyi** girl  
**nwoke** man  
**nwuye** wife  
**nyaa** drive (verb)  
**nye** give, present (verb)  
**nye aka** help (verb)

**O**

**o** he, she, it  
**ö** he, she, it  
**chineke** lord  
**obele** small  
**obodo** town  
**obodo bekee** europe  
**öbögwü** duck  
**obu** bedroom  
**öcha** white, clean  
**ücha** white, clean (noun)  
**oche** chair  
**ödü ügbö ala** motorpark  
**ofe** soup, stew  
**öfüma** well  
**oga** boss, master  
**ogbatumtum** motor-cycle  
**oge** time, period, occasion  
**oge ugürü** harmattan period  
**ogede** banana  
**ogologo** long  
**ögügü** reading, count  
**ögwü** medicines, tablets  
**ohia** bush  
**oji** black  
**öjī igbo** kolanut  
**ojii** black  
**öjöö** ugly, bad  
**njö** bad (noun)  
**öka** corn  
**ökara** half  
**oke ölü** expensive  
**ököchi** dry season  
**okporo** cray fish  
**okporoko** stockfish

**ekpere** prayer  
**elekere** time, hour, clock  
**elementri** primary school  
**elu** height  
**enu** top  
**enwe** monkey  
**enyi** friend, elephant  
**esogbuna** don't worry  
**etiti** center  
**etu** manner  
**ewu** goat  
**eze** king  
**ezi** pig, genuine (adjective)  
**ezi n'ülö** family (lit. compound and house)  
**ezi okwu** truth  
**ezi omume** good behaviour  
**ezigbo nwoke** good man

**F**

**fa** they (onitsha dialect)

**G**

**ga** used as auxiliary to indicate future action  
**gaa** go (verb)  
**garri** garri  
**gbaa bölü** play football (verb)  
**gbasaa** dismiss (verb)  
**gbörödi** water leaves  
**gĩ** you , your  
**gini** what  
**-go** already completed the action (have done)  
**gota** buy, purchase (verb)  
**gözie** bless (verb)  
**gwa** tell (verb)  
**gwuo mmiri** swim (verb)

**H**

**ha** they, them, their  
**hü** see (verb)

**I**

**i** you  
**ĩ** you  
**ĩ bölachĩ** good-morning  
**che** think (verb)  
**gbu** kill (verb)

**okpukpe** denomination  
**okpuru** underside  
**vökü** fire, hot  
**ökükü** chicken  
**vökülatrik** electricity  
**ole** how many, how much, number  
**olee** which, where, when, how  
**olee oge** when  
**ölü** work  
**öma** good, beautiful  
**mma** good (noun)  
**one** how many (Onitsha dialect)  
**önü** price  
**önwa** moon  
**onwa-abö** August  
**onwa-anö** October  
**onwa-asaa** December, January  
**onwa-asatö** February  
**onwa-atö** September  
**onwa-iri** April  
**onwa-iri na atö** June  
**onwa-iri na otu** May  
**onwa-ise** November  
**onwa-isii** December  
**onwa-itolu** March  
**onwa-mbu** July  
**onwerozi** nothing more  
**onye** somebody, who  
**onye ahĩa** customer  
**onye anglican** anglican (person)  
**onye catholic** catholic (person)  
**onye igbo** igbo man  
**onye isi** boss  
**onye na ere ögwü** medicine dealer  
**onye nkuzi** teacher  
**onye öcha** white man  
**onye ojii** black man  
**onye ölü** worker  
**onye üka** christian  
**onye-ode** akwükwö secretary  
**ore akwükwö** book seller  
**ore ihe** seller  
**öria** sickness  
**ose** pepper  
**osikapa** rice  
**osisi** tree, stick  
**oto** straight  
**otu** one; as, that  
**oyi** cold  
**özö** next

**igodokey**  
**ihe** something  
**ihe ahü** that (thing)  
**ihea** this (thing)  
**ijeri** 1,000,000,000  
**ike** strength  
**ike kwe** maybe  
**ikpere mmiri** riverbank  
**ikuke** wind  
**ili** bury  
**ime** interior  
**ime obodo** village (inside town)  
**imela** thank you  
**ire** sell  
**iri** ten  
**ise** five  
**sie** cook (verb)  
**isi mgbu** head-ache  
**isii** six  
**ite** pot  
**itolu** nine  
**izute** meet  
**jee** travel (verb)  
**jesu kristi** jesus christ  
**ji** owe (verb), yam  
**jiakpu** cassava  
**jide** possess, hold (verb)

**K**

**ka** so that, that, as, like  
**ka chi foo** goodnight  
**ka e mesia** good-bye  
**ka mgbe** since  
**kama** instead of  
**kedu** how, when, where, which  
**kodi** bye  
**kpee** make a plea (verb)  
**kpörö** bring, take (verb)  
**kunie** stand up (verb)  
**kuta** fetch (verb)  
**kuzie** teach (verb)  
**kwaa** also, too  
**-kwazi** also, as well  
**kwö** carry on one's back (verb)  
**kwüa** pay (verb)  
**kwuo** say (verb)  
**kwüö ügwö** pay (verb)

**L**

**-le** completed action (he has done)

**özü ahia** buyer

**P**

**puku** 1,000

**R**

**-ra/-re** action in the past (he did)  
**-re** present continuous action (is doing)  
**ree** sell (verb)  
**-ri** past completed action (he did)  
**ria öria** fall ill (verb)

**S**

**si** come from (verb)  
**süö** speak

**T**

**ta** chew (verb)  
**-ta** brings an action to completion  
**taa** today  
**-tara/-tere** action in the past (he did)  
**tata** today  
**tinye** put, add (verb)  
**tolotolo** turkey  
**törö ütö** be tasty (verb)  
**tupu** until

**U**

**ube** pear  
**üböchi** day, daylight, weather  
**üböchi öma** good day  
**üböchi üka** Sunday  
**üdi** kind, sort  
**udu mmiri** rainy season  
**ügbö ala** car, motor  
**ügbö elu** airplane  
**ügbö mmiri** boat  
**ugbua** now  
**ügü** pumpkin  
**üka** church  
**ukwu** big  
**ülö** house  
**ülö akwükwö** school, library  
**ülö mposi** toilet  
**ülö ögwü** hospital  
**ülö ölü** office  
**ülö oriri** chop house  
**ülö oriri** hotel  
**umu aka** children

**-la** completed action (he has done)  
**lee anya** expect (verb)  
**-lu** to indicate an intensification of the action of the verb

## M

**ma üzö** go early (verb)  
**mahadüm** university  
**maka** about, as, so  
**maka gini** why  
**mana** but, if, that, whether  
**mba** no  
**mbala ji** water yam  
**mbara** living-room  
**mbü** first  
**mee** do, make (verb)  
**mgbakö** addition, adding up  
**mgbe** room  
**mgbe ahü** then  
**mgbörögwü osisi** roots  
**mgbu** pain  
**mkpisi** fork  
**mkpisi aka** finger  
**mmanü** oil  
**mmanya** drink, beer, wine  
**mme** red  
**mmiri** water, rain  
**mmiri-ozuzo** rain  
**mü** I, me, my  
**m** I, me, my  
**müö** learn (verb)

**unu** you, your (pl.)  
**urukpu** cloud  
**usekwu** kitchen  
**ütütü** morning, dawn  
**ütütü öma** good morning  
**üzö** early dawn

## W

**weta** bring in (verb)

## Y

**ya** he, his, him, she, her, it, its

## Z

**zaa** sweep (verb)  
**zoo** rain (verb)  
**zöpüta** save, rescue (verb)  
**züö** buy (verb)

**English - Igbo****A**

**about** maka  
**addition** mgbakö  
**afternoon** ehihie  
**airplane** ügbö elu  
**all** niile, dum, ncha  
**also** kwaa, -kwazi  
**and** na  
**anglican (person)** onye anglican  
**animal** anü  
**April** onwa-iri  
**as** ka  
**at** na, n'  
**August** onwa-abö

**B**

**bad** öjöö, njö  
**bag** akpa  
**banana** ogede  
**be (verb)** bü  
**be tasty (verb)** törö ütö  
**be, be present in location (verb)** nö  
**be, have the quality of, be in (verb)** dī  
**beans** agwa  
**beautiful** öma, mma  
**bed** akwa  
**bedroom** obu  
**beer** mmanya  
**below** n'okpuru  
**beside** n'akükü  
**big** ukwu  
**billion** ijeri  
**black** ojii  
**black man** onye ojii  
**bless (verb)** gözie  
**blue** atülü  
**boat** ügbö mmiri  
**body** ahü  
**book** akwükwö  
**book seller** ore akwükwö  
**boss** oga, onye isi  
**breakfast** nrī ütütü  
**bring (verb)** kpörö  
**bring in (verb)** weta  
**broom** azīza  
**brother** nwa nne nwoke

**M**

**madam** nne  
**make (verb)** mee  
**make a plea (verb)** kpee  
**man** nwoke  
**manner** etu  
**March** onwa-itolu  
**market** ahĩa  
**masteroga**  
**May** onwa-iri na otu  
**maybe** ike kwe  
**me** mü, m  
**meat** anü  
**medicine dealer** onye na ere ögwü  
**medicine man** dibĩa  
**medicines** ögwü  
**meet** izute  
**merchandise** ngwa ahia  
**merry Christmas** añuli ekeresimesi  
**million** nde  
**money** ego  
**monkey** enwe  
**moon** önwa  
**morning** ütütü  
**mother** nne  
**motor** ügbö ala  
**motor-cycle** ogbatumtum  
**motorpark** ödü ügbö ala

**N**

**name** aha , afa (Onitsha dialect)  
**next** özö  
**night** abalī  
**nine** itolu  
**no** mba  
**nothing more** onwerozi  
**November** onwa-ise  
**now** ugbua  
**number** ole

**O**

**occasion** oge  
**October** onwa-anö  
**of which** nke  
**office** ülö ölü  
**oil** mmanü

**brother (maternal)** nwannem  
**brother (paternal)** nwannam  
**bury** ili  
**bush** ohia  
**bush animal** anü öhĩa  
**bush meat** anü öhĩa  
**but** mana  
**buy (verb)** züö, gota  
**buyer** özü ahĩa  
**bye** kodi

**C**

**car** ügbö ala  
**carry (verb)** buru  
**carry on one's back (verb)** kwö  
**cassava** jiajapu  
**catholic (person)** onye catholic  
**center** etiti  
**chair** oche  
**chew (verb)** ta  
**chicken** öküü  
**child** nwa, nwantakiri  
**children** umu aka  
**chop house** ülö oriri  
**christian** onye üka  
**church** üka  
**clean** öcha , ücha  
**clock** elekere  
**close** nso  
**close to home** ndiuno  
**cloth** akwa  
**cloud** urukpu  
**coconut** aku oyibo  
**cocoyam** ede  
**cold** oyi  
**come (verb)** bia  
**come from (verb)** si  
**cook (verb)** sie  
**corn** öka  
**count** ögügü  
**cow** ehi  
**cray fish** okporo  
**cry (verb)** bee  
**cupboard (box for food)** akpatiri nri  
**customer** onye ahĩa

**D**

**dawn** ütütü  
**day** üböchi  
**daytime** ehie

**on na, n'**  
**on top of** n'enu  
**one** otu  
**onion** alibasa  
**our** anyi

**P**

**pain** mgbu  
**paper** akwükwö  
**pay (verb)** kwüö ügwö  
**pear** ube  
**people** ndi  
**pepper** ose  
**period** oge  
**pig** ezi  
**place** ebe  
**plate** afere  
**play football (verb)** gbaa bölü  
**please** biko  
**possess (verb)** jide  
**pot** ite  
**prayer** ekpere  
**present (verb)** nye  
**price** önu  
**primary school** elementri  
**pumpkin** ügü  
**pupil** nwata akwükwö  
**purchase (verb)** gota  
**put, add (verb)** tinye

**R**

**rain** mmiri-ozuzo  
**rain (verb)** zoo  
**rainy season** udu mmiri  
**reading** ögügü  
**red** mme  
**red earth** ajali  
**rice** osikapa  
**right** nri  
**riverbank** ikpere mmiri  
**room** mgbe  
**roots** mgbörögwü osisi

**S**

**save (verb)** zöpüta  
**say (verb)** kwuo  
**school** ülö akwükwö  
**secretary** onye-ode akwükwö  
**see (verb)** hü



**December** onwa-isii, onwa-asaa  
**denomination** okpukpe  
**development agency** ndi mmepe obodo  
**dismiss (verb)** gbasaa  
**do (verb)** mee  
**doctor** dibia oyibo  
**dog** nkita  
**don't worry** esogbuna  
**door** akwu  
**down the road** ndida  
**drink** mmanyaa  
**drive (verb)** nyaa  
**dry season** okochi  
**duck** obogwu

**E**

**each** niile, dum  
**early** dawn uzö  
**earth** ala  
**edge** akuku  
**eggs** akwa  
**eight** asatö  
**electricity** okulatrik  
**elephant** enyi  
**English** bekee  
**enter (verb)** bata  
**Europe** obodo bekee  
**every** niile, dum  
**expect (verb)** lee anya  
**expensive** oke ölü

**F**

**fall ill (verb)** ria öria  
**family** ndi be  
**family (lit. compound and house)** ezi n'ulo  
**far from home** ndiagu  
**father** nna  
**February** onwa-asatö  
**fetch (verb)** kuta  
**finger** mkpisi aka  
**fire** ökü  
**first** mbü  
**fish** azü  
**five** ise  
**floor** ala  
**food** nri  
**fork** mkpisi  
**four** anö  
**friend** enyi

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

**T**

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

**G**

**garden eggs** afüfa  
**garri** garri  
**genuine (adjective)** ezi  
**girl** nwata nwanyi  
**give (verb)** nye  
**go (verb)** gaa  
**go early (verb)** ma üzö  
**goat** ewu  
**god** chukwu  
**good** öma, mma  
**good afternoon** ehie öma  
**good behaviour** ezi omume  
**good day** üböchi öma  
**good man** ezigbo nwoke  
**good morning** ütütü öma  
**good night** abali öma  
**good-bye** ka e mesia  
**good-evening** abali öma  
**good-morning** i bölachí  
**goodnight** ka chi foo  
**grade** clasi  
**ground** ala  
**group** ndi

**H**

**half** ökara  
**happy** anüli  
**happy easter** añuli easter  
**happy new year** añuli arö öfütü  
**harmattan period** oge ugürü  
**hawk** egbe  
**he** o, ö, ya  
**head-ache** isi mgbu  
**hear (verb)** nü  
**height** elu  
**help (verb)** nye aka  
**her** ya  
**herbs** akwükwö ögwü  
**here** ebea  
**his** ya  
**hold (verb)** jide  
**hospital** ülö ögwü  
**hot** ökü  
**hotel** ülö oriri  
**hour** elekere  
**house** ülö  
**how** olee, kedu  
**how many** ole  
**how much** ole, ego ole

**they** ha

**think (verb)** che  
**this** -a, nkea, ihea  
**those** ahü  
**those (group)** ndi ahü  
**thousand** puku  
**three** atö  
**thunder** egbe igwe  
**time** elekere, oge  
**today** taa, tata  
**toilet** ülö mposi  
**tomorrow** echi  
**too** kwaa, -kwazi  
**top** enu  
**town** obodo  
**travel** njem  
**travel (verb)** jee  
**tree** osisi  
**trouble** nsogbu  
**truthezi** okwu  
**turkey** tolotolo  
**two** abüö

**U**

**ugly** öjöö, njö  
**umbrella** nche anwu  
**under** n'okpuru  
**underside** okpuru  
**university** mahadüm  
**until** tupu  
**up** n'enu  
**us** anyi

**V**

**village (inside town)** ime obodo

**W**

**wait (verb)** chere  
**want (verb)** chö  
**war** agha  
**water** mmiri  
**water leaves** gbörödi  
**water yam** mbala ji  
**we** anyi  
**weather** üböchi  
**weeping** akwa  
**welcome** nnöö  
**well** öfuma  
**well done** da alü

**hundred** narĩ  
**husband** di

**I**

**I** mü, m , (verb) + m  
**if** mana  
**igbo man** onye igbo  
**in** na, n'  
**insiden'**ime  
**instead of** kama  
**intend to (verb)** chörö  
**interior** ime  
**it** o, ö, ya

**J**

**January** onwa-asaa  
**jesus christ** jesu kristi  
**join (verb)** nonye  
**July** onwa-mbu  
**June** onwa-iri na atö

**K**

**kerosine** nmanü-ökü  
**key** igodo  
**kill (verb)** gbu  
**kind** üdi  
**king** eze  
**kitchen** usekwu  
**kolanut** öjĩ igbo

**L**

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

**what** gĩnĩ  
**when** olee, kedu; olee oge  
**where** ebee  
**whether** mana  
**which** olee, kedu  
**white** öcha , ücha  
**white man** onye öcha  
**who** onye  
**why** maka gini  
**wife** nwuye  
**wind** ikuke  
**wine** mmanya  
**woman** nwanyĩ  
**work** ölü  
**worker** onye ölü  
**workers** ndĩ ölü

**Y**

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