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 corpsers, 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
abali night
abali öma good night, good-evening
abūō two
afa name (onitsha dialect)
afere plate
afūfa garden eggs
agha war
agu lion
agwa beans
agwö snake
aha name
ahia market
ahō year
ahū that, those; body
ajali red earth
akpa bag
akpati nri cupboard (box for food)
aku oyibo coconut
akūkū edge
akwa cloth, eggs, bed, weeping
akwū door
akwūkwō book, paper, leaf
akwūkwō ögwü herbs
ala ground, floor, earth
alibasa onion
anō four
anū meat, animal
anū öhia bush meat, bush animal
anūlī happy, merry
añuli arō āfūū happy new year
añuli easter happy easter
añuli ekeresimesi merry christmas
anwu sun
anyanwū sun
anyi we, us, our
arō year
asaa seven
asatō eight
atō three
atūlū blue
aziza broom
azū fish

N
n’akūkū 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
narī 100
ncha all
nche anwu umbrella
nde 1,000,000
ndi people, group
ndi ahū those (group)
ndi be family
ndi mmepe obodo development agency
ndi ölü workers
ndia these (group)
ndiagu far from home
ndida down the road
ndiuno close to home
ndörö mmiri swimming-pool
ndū life
ngazi spoon
ngwa ahia merchandise
niile/dum all, each, every
njem travel
nke of, of which, whose
nke ahū that
nkea this
nkita dog
nmanū-ökū kerosine
nna father
nne madam, mother
nnōō you are welcome
nnuku lot, many
nö be present in location (verb)
nōdū anī sit down (verb)
nonye join (verb)
nrī food, right (as well as food as it is eaten with that hand)
nrī útūtū breakfast
nso close, nearby
nsogbu trouble, disturbance
nū hear (verb)
nwa child
nwa nne nwanyi sister
### Igbo English Dictionary

- **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)
  - *bía* come (verb)
  - *biko* please
  - *bü* be (verb)
  - *bü/ bu* a past continuous action (he used to do)
  - *buru* carry (verb)

- **C**
  - *chere* wait (verb)
  - *chó* want (verb)
  - *chórö* want, intend to (verb)
  - *chukwu* god
  - *clasî* grade

- **D**
  - *da alü* well done
  - *dí* husband
  - *dí be, have the quality of, be in (verb)*
  - *dibïa* traditional doctor, medicine man
  - *dibïa* oyibo doctor

- **E**
  - *e mesïa* 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 óma* good afternoon
  - *ekele dili gí* thank you very much
  - *ekpe* left
  - *nwa nne nwoke* brother
  - *nwa nwoke* son
  - *nwannam* brother/sister (paternal)
  - *nwannem* brother/sister (maternal)
  - *nwanta kírì* child
  - *nwanyì* woman
  - *nwata akwükwô* student/pupil
  - *nwata kírì nwayi* little girl
  - *nwata nwayi* 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
  - *óbògwü* duck
  - *obu* bedroom
  - *ócha* white, clean
  - *úcha* white, clean (noun)
  - *oche* chair
  - *ödù ìgbô ala* motorpark
  - *ofe* soup, stew
  - *öfúma* well
  - *oga* boss, master
  - *ogbatumtum* motor-cycle
  - *oge* time, period, occasion
  - *oge ugürü* harmattan period
  - *ogede* banana
  - *ogologo* long
  - *ögügü* reading, count
  - *ógwü* medicines, tablets
  - *ohia* bush
  - *oji* black
  - *ójì igbo* kolanut
  - *oji* black
  - *ójöö* ugly, bad
  - *njö* bad (noun)
  - *öka* corn
  - *ökara* half
  - *oke öülü* expensive
  - *ökôchî* 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’ülọ 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 bólu play football (verb)
gbasaa dismiss (verb)
 gbóródi water leaves
 gi 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
hụ see (verb)

I
i you
i you
i bólàchị good-morning
che think (verb)
 gbu kill (verb)

okpukpe denomination
okpuru underside
vökü fire, hot
ökükü chicken
vökülütrik electricity
ole how many, how much, number
olee which, where, when, how
olee oge when
ölű work
ōma good, beautiful
mma good (noun)
one how many (Onitsha dialect)
önű price
önwa moon
onwa-ató August
onwa-anô October
onwa-asaa December, January
onwa-asatọ February
onwa-atọ September
onwa-iri April
onwa-iri na atọ 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 ahịa customer
onye anglican anglican (person)
onye catholic catholic (person)
onye ịgbo igbo man
onye ịsi boss
onye na ere ögwü medicine dealer
onye nkuzi teacher
onye ọcha white man
onye ojii black man
onye ölű worker
onye úka christian
onye-ode akwụkwọ secretary
ore akwụkwọ book seller
ore ihe seller
ōrịa sickness
ose pepper
osikapa rice
osisi tree, stick
oto straight
otu one; as, that
oyi cold
özö next
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Igbo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buyer</td>
<td>özü ahịa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>puku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>action in the past (he did)</td>
<td>-ra/-re</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present continuous action (is doing)</td>
<td>-re</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>action in the past (he did)</td>
<td>-ri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall ill (verb)</td>
<td>ria òrìa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come from (verb)</td>
<td>si</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speak</td>
<td>süò</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goodnight</td>
<td>ka chi foo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good-bye</td>
<td>ka e mesìa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>since</td>
<td>ka mgbe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instead of</td>
<td>kama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>how, when, where, which</td>
<td>kedu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bye</td>
<td>kodi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a plea (verb)</td>
<td>kpee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bring, take (verb)</td>
<td>kpôrò</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stand up (verb)</td>
<td>kunìe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fetch (verb)</td>
<td>kuta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teach (verb)</td>
<td>kuzìe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>also, too</td>
<td>kwaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>also, as well</td>
<td>-kwazi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on one's back (verb)</td>
<td>kwö</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pay (verb)</td>
<td>kwùà</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>say (verb)</td>
<td>kwuo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pay (verb)</td>
<td>kwùù ogwù</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>completed action (he has done)</td>
<td>-le</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pear</td>
<td>ube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>day, daylight, weather</td>
<td>übôchì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good day</td>
<td>übôchì óma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>übôchì óka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kind, sort</td>
<td>üdì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rainy season</td>
<td>udu mmìri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>car, motor</td>
<td>ügbò alà</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airplane</td>
<td>ügbò elù</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boat</td>
<td>ügbò mmìri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>now</td>
<td>ugbua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pumpkin</td>
<td>üɡü</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>church</td>
<td>üka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>big</td>
<td>ukwu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>house</td>
<td>ülò</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>school, library</td>
<td>ülò akwúkwò</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toilet</td>
<td>ülò mposì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hospital</td>
<td>ülò ògwù</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>office</td>
<td>ülò òlù</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chop house</td>
<td>ülò orìri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hotel</td>
<td>ülò orìri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>children</td>
<td>umu aka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
-la completed action (he has done)
lee anya expect (verb)
-lu to indicate an intensification of the action of the verb

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ma üzö</td>
<td>go early (verb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mahadüm</td>
<td>university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maka</td>
<td>about, as, so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maka gini</td>
<td>why</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mana</td>
<td>but, if, that, whether</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mba</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mbala ji</td>
<td>water yam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mbara</td>
<td>living-room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mbü</td>
<td>first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mee</td>
<td>do, make (verb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mgbakö</td>
<td>addition, adding up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mgbe</td>
<td>room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mgbe ahü</td>
<td>then</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mgbörögwu osisi</td>
<td>roots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mgbu</td>
<td>pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mkpisi</td>
<td>fork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mkpisi aka</td>
<td>finger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mmanu</td>
<td>oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mmanya</td>
<td>drink, beer, wine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mme</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mmiri</td>
<td>water, rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mmiri-ozuso</td>
<td>rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mü</td>
<td>I, me, my</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>I, me, my</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>müö</td>
<td>learn (verb)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>weta</td>
<td>bring in (verb)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Y</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ya</td>
<td>he, his, him, she, her, it, its</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Z</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>zaa</td>
<td>sweep (verb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zoo</td>
<td>rain (verb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zöpüta</td>
<td>save, rescue (verb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>züö</td>
<td>buy (verb)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
English - Igbo

A
about maka
addition mbakọ
afternoon ehihie
airplane ügbọ elu
all niile, dum, ncha
also kwaa, -kwazi
and na
anglican (person) onye anglican
animal anű
April onwa-iri
as ka
at na, n'
August onwa-abọ

B
bad öjöö, njö
bag akpa
banana ogede
be (verb) bű
be tasty (verb) törö ütọ
be, be present in location (verb) nô
be, have the quality of, be in (verb) dî
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 ügbọ mmiri
body ahụ
book akwụkwọ
book seller ore akwụkwọ
boss oga, onye isi
breakfast nrị ütütụ
bring (verb) kpörọ
bring in (verb) weta
broom azïza
brother nwa nne nwoke

M
madam nne
make (verb) mee
make a plea (verb) kpee
man nwoke
manner etu
March onwa-itolu
market ahịa
masteroga
May onwa-iri na otu
maybe ike kwe
me mű, m
meat anű
medicine dealer onye na ere ögwü
medicine man dibïa
medicines ögwü
meet izute
merchandise ngwa ahịa
merry Christmas añuli ekeresimesi
million nde
money ego
monkey enwe
moon önwa
morning ütütụ
mother nne
motor ügbọ ala
motor-cycle ogbatumtum
motorpark ödù ügbọ ala

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

O
occasion oge
October onwa-anô
of which nke
office ülö ölű
oil mmanű
brother (maternal) nwannem  
brother (paternal) nwannam  
bury ili  
bush ohia  
bush animal anụ ọhịa  
bush meat anụ ọhịa  
but mana  
buy (verb) züö, gota  
buyer özü ahịa  
bye kodi  

C  
car ügbö ala  
carry (verb) buru  
carry on one’s back (verb) kwö  
cassava jiapku  
catholic (person) onye catholic  
center etiti  
chair oche  
chew (verb) ta  
chicken ọkükú  
child nwa, nwantakịrị  
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 oyì  
come (verb) bìa  
come from (verb) si  
cook (verb) sie  
corn ọka  
count ọgugü  
cow ehi  
cray fish okporo  
cry (verb) bee  
cupboard (box for food) akpatị nrị  
customer onye ahịa  

D  
dawn ùtùtù  
day übọchị  
daytime ehihie  
on na, n’  
on top of n’enu  
one ọtu  
onion alibasa  
our anyị  
P  
pain mgbu  
paper akwụkwọ  
pay (verb) kwụọ ügwọ  
pear ube  
people ndị  
pepper ose  
period oge  
pig ezi  
place ebe  
plate afere  
play football (verb) gbaa bölụ  
please biko  
possess (verb) jide  
pot ite  
prayer ekpere  
present (verb) nye  
price önụ  
primary school elementị  
pumpkin ügụ  
pupil nwata akwụkwọ  
purchase (verb) gota  
put, add (verb) tinye  
R  
rain mmiri-ozuzu  
rain (verb) zoo  
rainy season udu mmiri  
reading ọgugü  
red mme  
red earth ajali  
rice osikapa  
right nrị  
riverbank ikpere mmiri  
room mgbe  
roots mgbọrọgwụ osisi  
S  
save (verb) zöpụta  
say (verb) kwuo  
school ülö akwụkwọ  
secretary onye-ode akwụkwọ  
see (verb) hü
December onwa-isii, onwa-asaa
denomination okpukpe
development agency ndị mmepe obodo
dismiss (verb) gbasaa
do (verb) mee
doctor dibịa oyibo
dog nkita
don't worry esogbuna
door akwụ
down the road ndịda
drink mmanya
drive (verb) nyaa
dry season ọkọchị
duck ọbọgwụ

E
each niile, dum
early dawn üzö
earth ala
date akükụ
days akwa
eight asatọ
electricity ọkụlatrik
elephant enyi
English bekee
tenter (verb) bata
Europe obodo bekee
every niile, dum
expect (verb) lee anya
expensive oke ọlụ

F
fall ill (verb) ria ọrịa
family ndị be
family (lit. compound and house) ezi n’ụlọ
far from home ndiagu
father nna
February onwa-asatọ
fetch (verb) kuta
finger mkpisi aka
fire ọkụ
first mbụ
fish azụ
five ise
floor ala
food nri
fork mkpisi
four anọ
friend enyi

sell ire
seller ore ihe
September onwa-atọ
seven asaas
she o, ö, ya
sickness ọrịa
since ka mgbe
sister nwa nne nwanyi
sister (maternal) nwanne
sister (paternal) nwannam
sit down (verb) nọdụ anị
six isii
small obele
snake agwọ
somebody onye
something ihe
son nwa nwoke
sort ụdị
speak sūo
spoon ngazi
stand up (verb) kunie
stew ofe
stick osisi
stockfish okporoko
straight oto
strength ọkụ
student nwata akwụkwọ
sun anwu, anyanwu
Sunday übọchị ụka
sweep (verb) zaa
swim (verb) gwuo mmiri
swimming-pool ndorọ mmiri

T
tablets ọgwụ
take (verb) kpörọ
teach (verb) kuzie
teacher onye nkuzi
tell (verb) gwa
ten ịri
thank you imela
thank you very much ekele dili ọgị
that ịhụ, nke ịhụ, ihe ịhụ
that (conj.) na, ka
their ha
them ha
then e mesịa, mgbe ịhụ
there ebe ịhụ
these -a
these (group) ndịa
G

garden eggs afúfa
garri garri
genuine (adjective) ezi
girl nwata nwanyi
give (verb) nye
go (verb) gaa
go early (verb) ma ùzö
goat ewu
god chukwu
good öma, mma
good afternoon ehiie öma
good behaviour ezi omume
good day übóchì öma
good man ezigbo nwoke
good morning ütutù öma
good night abali öma
good-bye ka e mesìa
good-evening abali öma
good-morning ìbólachì
goodnight ka chi foo
grade clasì
ground ala
group ndì
give (verb) nyé

they ha
think (verb) che
this -a, nkea, ihea
those ahù
those (group) ndi ahù
thousand puku
three atò
thunder egbe igwe
time elekere, oge
today taa, tata
toilet ùlù mposi
tomorrow echi
too kwaa, -kwazi
top enu
town obodo
travel njem
travel (verb) jee
tree osisi
trouble nsogbu
truth ezì okwu
turkey tolotolo
two abùö

U

ugly ëjòò, njò
umbrella nche anwù
under n’okpuru
underside okpuru
university mahadùm
until tupu
up n’enu
us anyì

V

village (inside town) ime obodo

W

wait (verb) chere
want (verb) chö
war agha
water mmìri
water leaves gbörödì
water yam mbala ji
we anyì
weather übóchì
weeping akwa
welcome nnòò
well òfùma
well done da alù
**hundred** narí
**husband** di

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

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

**K**
kerosine nmanú-ökú
key igodo
kill (verb) gbu
kind ṣuí
ing eze
kitchen usekwu
kolanut ọjí ọgbo

**L**
leaf akwụkwọ
learn (verb) müö
left ekpe
library ulọ akwụkwọ
life ndú
like ka
lion agu
little girl nwata kiri nwanyi
live (verb) bi
living-room mbara
location ebe
long ogologo
lord chineke
lot, many nnuku

what gini
when olee, kedu; olee oge
where ebe
whethermana
which olee, kedu
white öcha, ücha
**white man** onye öcha
who onye
why maka gini
wife nwuye
wind ikuke
wine mmanya
woman nwanyi
work ölu
worker onye ölu
workers ndi ölu

**Y**
yam ji
year aró, ahó
yellow e-e
yes-e-e
you, your gí; i, í
you, your (pl.) unu