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 | a this, these

A
abalí night
abalí öma good night, good-evening
abūō two
afa name (onitsha dialect)
aferé plate
afúfa garden eggs
aghá war
agu lion
agwa beans
agwó snake
aha name
ahía market
ahó year
ahú that, those; body
ajali red earth
akpa bag
akpatí nri cupboard (box for food)
aku oyíbo coconut
akükú edge
akwa cloth, eggs, bed, weeping
akwú door
akwükwó book, paper, leaf
akwükwó ögwú herbs
ala ground, floor, earth
alíbasa onion
anó four
anú meat, animal
anú öhía bush meat, bush animal
anúlí happy, merry
añuli aró öfíụ happy new year
añuli easter happy easter
añuli ekeresimesi merry christmas
anwu sun
anyanwú sun
anyi we, us, our
aró year
asaa seven
asató eight
ató three
atülü blue
azíza broom
azu fish

N
n’akükú beside
n’enu on top of, up
n’ime inside
n’okpurú under, below
na and, that; at, in, on, within; used as auxiliary to specify continuing action in the present
n’ in, at, on
nári 100
ncha all
nché anwu umbrella
nde 1,000,000
ndí people, group
ndí ahú those (group)
ndí be family
ndí mmepe obodo development agency
ndí ölü workers
ndíà these (group)
ndiagu far from home
ndiá down the road
ndiuno close to home
ndorò mmiri swimming-pool
ndú life
ngazi spoon
ngwa ahía merchandise
niile/dum all, each, every
njem travel
nke of, of which, whose
nke ahú that
nkea this
nkita dog
nmanú-ökú kerosine
nna father
nne madam, mother
nnôô you are welcome
nnuku lot, many
nô be present in location (verb)
nôdú aní sit down (verb)
nonye join (verb)
nrí food, right (as well as food as it is eaten with that hand)
nrí ütütü breakfast
nso close, nearby
nsogbu trouble, disturbance
nû hear (verb)
nwa child
nwa nne nwanyí 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)
`bìa` come (verb)
`biko` please
`bù` be (verb)
`-bù/-bu` a past continuous action (he used to do)
`buru` carry (verb)

C
`chere` wait (verb)
`chó` want (verb)
`chörö` want, intend to (verb)
`chukwu` god
`clasì` grade

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

E
`e mesìa` then
`ebe` place, location
`ebe ahù` 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
`ehihiie` afternoon, daytime
`ehihiie öma` good afternoon
`ekele dili gì` thank you very much
`ekpe` left

nwa nne nwoke brother
nwa nwoke son
nwannam brother/sister (paternal)
nwannem brother/sister (maternal)
wanta kirì child
nwanyì woman
nwata akwükwô student/pupil
nwata kirì nwanyì little girl
nwata nwanyì 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
`úcha` white, clean (noun)
`oche` chair
`ödü ögbö 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
`ögwü` medicines, tablets
`ohia` bush
`oji` black
`öji igbo` kolanut
`ojii` black
`öjöö` ugly, bad
`njö` bad (noun)
`öka` corn
`ökara` half
`oke ölü` expensive
`ökôchì` dry season
`okporo` cray fish
`okporoko` stockfish
ekpere prayer
elekere time, hour, clock
elementrî 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’üölö 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 bóölö play football (verb)
gbasaa dismiss (verb)
gbörödi water leaves
ghi 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
ï you
ï bóölachî 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
ömä 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 ahia 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
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Igbo</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>igodo</td>
<td>key</td>
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<tr>
<td>ihe</td>
<td>something</td>
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<tr>
<td>ihe ahù</td>
<td>that (thing)</td>
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<td>ihea</td>
<td>this (thing)</td>
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<td>ijeri</td>
<td>1,000,000,000</td>
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<td>ike</td>
<td>strength</td>
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<td>ike kwe</td>
<td>maybe</td>
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<td>ikpere mmiri</td>
<td>riverbank</td>
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<td>wind</td>
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<td>ill</td>
<td>bury</td>
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<td>ime</td>
<td>interior</td>
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<td>ime obodo</td>
<td>village (inside town)</td>
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<td>imela</td>
<td>thank you</td>
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<td>ire</td>
<td>sell</td>
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<td>ten</td>
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<td>ise</td>
<td>five</td>
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<td>sie</td>
<td>cook (verb)</td>
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<td>isi mgbu</td>
<td>head-ache</td>
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<td>isiì</td>
<td>six</td>
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<td>ite</td>
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<td>meet</td>
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<td>jee</td>
<td>travel (verb)</td>
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<td>jesu kristi</td>
<td>jesus christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>ji</td>
<td>owe (verb), yam</td>
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<td>jiakpu</td>
<td>cassava</td>
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<tr>
<td>jide</td>
<td>possess, hold (verb)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**K**

| Kka    | 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) |
| kpôrō | bring, take (verb) |
| kunie | stand up (verb) |
| kuta | fetch (verb) |
| kuzie | teach (verb) |
| kwaa | also, too |
| -kwazi | also, as well |
| kwô | carry on one’s back (verb) |
| kwüa | pay (verb) |
| kwuo | say (verb) |
| kwüô | ùgwô pay (verb) |

**L**

| -le | completed action (he has done) |
| özü ahìa | buyer |
| p | 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)
- rìa ørìa fall ill (verb)

**S**

| S | si come from (verb) |
| süö | speak |

**T**

| 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 ùtò | be tasty (verb) |
| tupu | until |

**U**

| U | ube pear |
| übôchì | day, daylight, weather |
| übôchì ôma | good day |
| übôchì ìkà | Sunday |
| üdî | kind, sort |
| udu mmiri | rainy season |
| ügbô ala | car, motor |
| ügbô elu | airplane |
| ügbô mmiri | boat |
| ugbua | now |
| ügù | pumpkin |
| ìka | church |
| ukwu | big |
| ülô | house |
| ülô akwükwö | school, library |
| ülô mposi | toilet |
| ülô ògwù | hospital |
| ülô òlù | office |
| ülô oriri | chop house |
| ülô 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)
amahdüm 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
mgbörögwu 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 óma 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 mgbakọ
- 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 öjọ, njọ
- bag akpa
- banana ogede
- be (verb) bụ
- be tasty (verb) törü ütọ
- be, be present in location (verb) nọ
- 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 akwùkwọ
- book seller ore akwùkwọ
- boss oga, onye isi
- breakfast nrị ütütụ
- bring (verb) kpörö
- 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 ögwụ
- medicine man dibïa
- medicines ögwụ
- meet izute
- merchandise ngwa ahịa
- merry Christmas añul ekeresimesi
- million nde
- money ego
- monkey enwe
- moon önwa
- morning ütütụ
- mother nne
- motor ügbọ ala
- motor-cycle ogbatumtum
- motorpark ödụ ügbọ ala

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

**O**
- occasion oge
- October onwa-anọ
- of which nke
- office ülọ ölụ
- oil mmanụ
brother (maternal) nwannem
brother (paternal) nwannam
bury ili
bush ohia
bush animal anü öhïa
bush meat anü öhïa
but mana
buy (verb) züö, gota
buyer özü ahïa
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 ökükü
child nwa, nwantakïrï
children umu aka
chop house ülö oriri
christian onye üka
church üka

C

clean öcha , úcha
clock elekere
close nso
close to home ndiuno
cloth akwa
cloud urukpu
coconut aku oyibo
cocoyam ede
cold oyi
come (verb) bïa
come from (verb) si
cook (verb) sie
corn öka
count ögügü
cow ehì
cray fish okporo
cry (verb) bee
cupboard (box for food) akpatï nrï
customer onye ahìa

d

dawn ütûtü
day übôchï
daytime ehihie

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

P

pain mgbu
paper akwukwô
pay (verb) kwö ūgwô
pear ube
people ndî
pepper ose
period oge
pig ezi
place ebe
plate afere
play football (verb) gbaa bôlû
please biko
possess (verb) jide
pot ite
prayer ekpere
present (verb) nye
price önü
primary school elementrí
pumpkin ügü
pupil nwata akwukwô
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 nrî
riverbank ikpere mmiri
room mgbe
roots mgbôrôgwü osisi

S

save (verb) zöpüta
say (verb) kwuo
school ülö akwukwô
secretary onye-ode akwukwô
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 mmanyanya
drive (verb) nyaa
dry season okochi

duck obogwu

E
each niile, dum
early dawn uzoo
ever ala
date akukwu
dinner akwa
eight asato
electricity okulatrik
elephant enyi
English bekee
erate (verb) bata
Europe obodo bekee
every niile, dum
expect (verb) lee anaya
expensive oke olu

F
fall ill (verb) ria oria
family ndi be
family (lit. compound and house) ezi n’ulu
far from home ndiagu
father nna
February onwa-asato
fetch (verb) kuta
finger mkpisi aka
fire okwu
first mbu
fish azu
five ise
floor ala
food nri
fork mkpisi
four ano
friend enyi

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

T
tablets ogwul
take (verb) kporo
teacher (verb) kuzie
teacher onye nkuzi
tell (verb) gwa
ten iri
thank you imela
thank you very much ekele dili gii
that ahu, nke ahu, ihe ahu
that (conj.) na, ka
their ha
them ha
then e mesia, mgbe ahu
there ebe ahu
these -a
these (group) ndia
G

**garden eggs** afúfa
**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** ehiie öma
**good behaviour** ezi omume
**good day** üböchü öma
**good man** ezigbo nwoke
**good morning** ütütü öma
**good night** abalí öma
**good-bye** ka e mesìa
**good-evening** abalí öma
**good-morning** ì bólachì
**goodnight** ka chi foo
**grade** clasí
**ground** ala
**group** ndí

**H**

**half** ökara
**happy** anüi
**happy easter** añuli easter
**happy new year** añuli arò öfùù
**harmattan period** oge ugbúrù
**hawk** egbe
**he** o, ö, ya
**head-ache** isi mgbu
**hear** (verb) nù
**height** elu
**help** (verb) nye aka
**her** ya
**herbs** akwúkwò ögwù
**here** ebea
**his** ya
**hold** (verb) jide
**hospital** üñö ögwù
**hot** ökù
**hotel** üñö oríi
**hour** elekere
**house** üñö
**how** olee, kedu
**how many** ole
**how much** ole, ego ole

**they** ha
**think** (verb) che
**this** -a, nkea, ihea
**those** ahù
**those** (group) ndi ahù
**thousand** puku
**three** atö
**thunder** egbe igwe
**time** elekere, oge
**today** taa, tata
**toilet** üñö 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** abùù

U

**ugly** öjöö, njö
**umbrella** nche anwu
**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** mmiri
**water leaves** gbörödi
**water yam** mbala ji
**we** anyì
**weather** üböchì
**weeping** akwa
**welcome** nnöö
**well** öfùma
**well done** da alù
hundred narî
husband di

I
I mũ, m , (verb) + m
if mana
igbo man onye igbo
in na, n'
inside 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 nmanũ-ökü
key igodo
kill (verb) gbu
kind ðudî
king eze
kitchen usekwu
kolanut ñjî ìgbo

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

what gînî
when olee, kedu; olee oge
where ebee
whether mana
which olee, kedu
white õcha , ñcha
white man onye õcha
who onye
why maka gini
wife nwuye
wind ikuke
wine mmanya
woman nwanyî
work ñlû
worker onye ñlû
workers ndî ñlû

Y
yam ji
year arô, ahô
yellow e-e
yes e-e
you, your gî; i, ī
you, your (pl.) unu