

A Lesson in Language

There are many languages and hundreds of dialects spoken in Ghana. Many people you meet in Ghana, especially in southern and central Ghana, will probably speak Twi, a language of the Akan people. Below are a few basic phrases that may be useful to travelers in Ghana.

Pronunciation: Practice the vowel sounds to help you to pronounce the phrases.
Vowel sounds

- a similar to the 'a' in father
- e as the 'e' in wet
- i as the 'ee' in 'free', but less drawn out
- o somewhere between the 'o' in 'no' and the word 'awe'
- u similar to the 'oo' in food

Basic Words and Phrases

Do you speak English?	Wote Borofo ana?
Good afternoon	Mma aha (response yemu)
Good evening	Mma ajo (response yemu)
Goodbye	Nanti ye
How are you?	Wo ho te sen? (response me yo he)
How much?	Sain Ne?
No	Dabi
Please	Me pawocheo
Thank you	Meda ase
What is your name?	Ye frewo sen?
My name is...	Ye fre me...
Yes	Nyew (Fante) anne (Ashanti)

Adapted from: Briggs, P. (2007). *Ghana*. (4th ed.) Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot.

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