

# Note on Transliteration and Orthography

The following print symbols are used to represent the major Ewe letters that do not have an equivalent in English.

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Notes on Pronunciation</i>
ɖ	Retroflex <i>d</i> or alveolar flap. Sounds like a Spanish <i>r</i> .
Ð	Capitalized retroflex <i>d</i> or alveolar flap.
ɗ	Close to the sound <i>j</i> in English.
Dɗ	Capitalized ɗ.
ɛ̃	Nasalized <i>e</i> , pronounced as <i>eh</i> in <i>bet</i> , but with added nasalization.
f	Bilabial <i>f</i> pronounced with both lips as if blowing out a candle.
ɣ	Fricative <i>g</i> . To produce this sound, make the air pass through a narrow passage formed by raising the back of the tongue toward the soft palate.
ŋ	The sound <i>ng</i> in English <i>sing</i> or <i>singer</i> .
Ŋ	Capitalized <i>ng</i> .
ɔ	Open vowel <i>o</i> , pronounced as <i>aw</i> or the <i>o</i> in <i>cost</i> .
ʋ	Corresponding voiced sound of the bilabial <i>f</i> previously listed. Sounds like a <i>v</i> in English pronounced with both lips.
x	A voiceless velar fricative, pronounced like a voiceless <i>h</i> .

Ewe has seven vowel phonemes, and nasalized vowels are very common. Not all of them have been represented in the transliteration. In addition, Ewe is a tonal language, and while a few contemporary English language texts have the tone marks incorporated in the transliteration (such as Agawu's [1995] work on northern Ewe music), it is more common for passages in Ewe not to contain tone marks (see Greene 1996, Meyer 1999, Rosenthal 1998). I have followed the latter convention. Ewe terms and phrases are generally italicized in the text, but proper nouns used frequently (such as Anlo, Anloga, Ewe, etc.) are not typically italicized, and for readability they are usually romanized as is conventional in English language publications about Anlo-Ewe.

Sources used in compiling this guide include Agawu (1995), Bureau of Ghana Languages (1986), Ladzekpo and Pantaleoni (1970), Locke (1978), Pantaleoni (1972b), and Warburton, Kpotufe and Glover (1968).