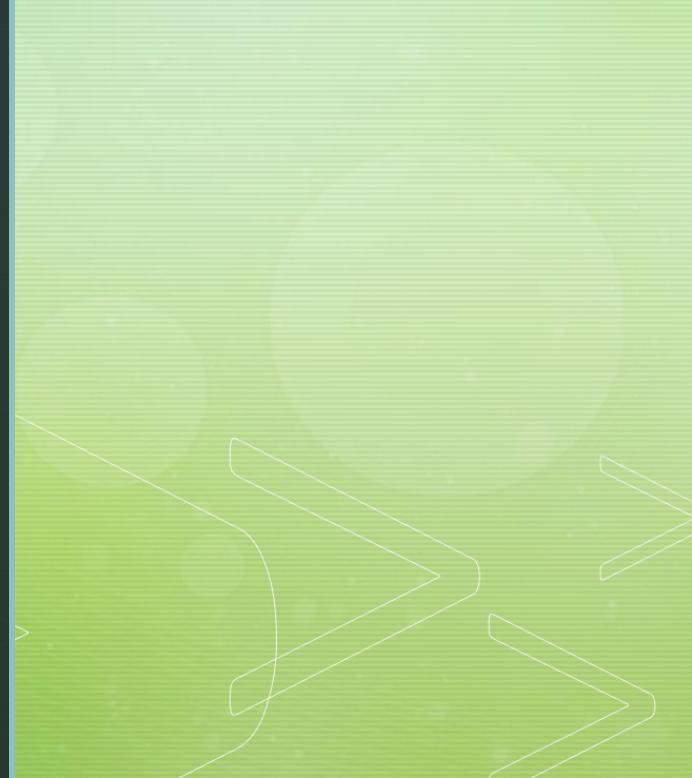


Mènyù nə fè?è wwa'

Tenses in Nkwen Language



Tenses in Nkwen Language **Mènyù nə fè?è wwa'**

- Nkwen Language makes a distinction of three main tenses, the Present, the Past and the Future Tenses. The past and the future tenses are subdivided into three forms each. The differences between these tenses are shown by different **tense markers** which come before the verb or simply **tone melody** on verbs and nouns.
- The Present Tense
- The Past Tense (P1, P2, P3)
- The Future Tense (F1, F2, F3)

The Present Tense in Nkwen Language

Mènyù mə tsətsoŋnè

- Mènyù ma mə chyač aghèmè wu (a tsətsoŋnè) Actions that take place at the moment of speaking.

In English it is known as the Present Progressive Tense.

- There is no marker in this case but there are **tonal changes on verbs and nouns** with **the high** tone dominating. E.g.

1. Nguŋu sərətə nna. **Ngu is slicing meat.**
2. Ngelač nyəsə mejye. **Ngela is cooking.**
3. Өtàa tō nəbye. **Dad is roasting fish.**
4. Mma wĩ laa məjyə. **Our mother is cooking.**
5. Bìi kwurə nna. **We are eating meat.**
6. Bìi jyə abanè. **We are eating fufu. (corn Meal)**
7. Bwo nyə nkyiř **They are drinking water.**

The Present Tense in Nkwen Language

More Examples

Mènyù mə tsətsoŋnè

- 1. Muwi dorə yε. **My younger one is playing.**
- 2. Ngəfō^š su^č ətsə?θ. **Ngefor is doing laundry.**
- 3. Takwì?i chì?i ndyā^č. **Takwi is cleaning the house.**
- 4. Mma ntinkaŋə linə moo. **Grandma is baby sitting.**
- 5. Ndəmə wa sunjə/təmə nəka/borə. **My brother/sister is driving/playing soccer.**
- 6. Bələmə ba jyə. **My brothers/sisters/siblings are eating.**
- 7. Bii benə. **We are dancing.**
- 8. Ndìwa lye. **My older one is sleeping.**
- 9. Məma su^č məsoŋə myi. **Muma is brushing his teeth.**
- 10. Ngəla^č su^č nnu. **Ngela is bathing.**

