

Mènyuì nè fèʔè wwǎ



# Tenses in Nkwen Language

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- 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 tsətsəŋnè

- Mènyù mə mə chyaǎ aghèmə wu (a tsətsəŋnè) 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. Nguʔu sɛrətə nna. **Ngu is slicing meat.**
2. Ngelaǎ nyəsə mejye. **Ngela is cooking.**
3. Ətəa tǒ nəbye. **Dad is roasting fish.**
4. Mma wǎ laa məjyə. **Our mother is cooking.**
5. Bii kwurə nna. **We are eating meat.**
6. Bii jyə abanè. **We are eating fufu. (corn Meal)**
7. Bwo nyə nkyǎ **They are drinking water.**

## The Present Tense in Nkwen Language

Mènyù mə tsətsəŋnè



### More Examples

1. Muwi dorə yɛ. My younger one is playing.
2. Ngəfo<sup>ʋ</sup> su<sup>ʋ</sup> ətsəŋə. Ngefor is doing laundry.
3. Takwìŋi chiŋi ndya<sup>â</sup>. Takwi is cleaning the house.
4. Mma ntinkaŋə linə moo. Grandma is baby sitting.
5. Ndəmə wa suŋə/təmə nəka/borə. My brother/sister is driving/playing soccer.
6. Bələmə ba jyə. My brothers/sisters/siblings are eating.
7. Bìi benə. We are dancing.
8. Ndiwa lye. My older one is sleeping.
9. Məma su<sup>ʋ</sup> məsoŋə myi. Muma is brushing his teeth.
10. Ngəla<sup>ʋ</sup> su<sup>ʋ</sup> nnu. Ngela is bathing.



