

## The internal structure of nouns and noun phrases

Nouns	Prefixes	Suffixes
Animate (groups) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Kinship</div>		- fo(ɔ) - nom
Singular	e, ε, a, o, ɔ, m, n -	- e, ε, o, ɔ after oral high vowels
Plural	a, m, n -	- e, ε, o, ɔ after oral high vowels

The nominal prefix consists of one of the following vowels:

e- (or ñ-, depending)

e- Dän (din) 'name'

ñ- müé [ñàmíé] 'rice'

o- (or ð-, depending on vowel harmony)

o- nuaá 'sibling'

ð- wõá 'snake'

a-: a- dwuáma 'work'

n-: n- sæé 'alcoholic beverage'

Some nouns of this class occur without an overt prefix.

kaáaà 'car'

**Very often, though not always, the prefix of the singular form and of the plural form of a noun are different:**



3P.SG (animate)	Ne	<b>N'adwene</b> <i>His/her mind</i>
3P.SG (neutral)	Ne	N'ani <i>Its eyes</i>

The personal pronouns:

PERSON/NUMBER	Akan (Twi)	Example with a person pronoun clitic
1st person singular	Me	<b>Medidii</b> ntɛm <i>I ate early</i>
2nd person singular	Wo	<b>Wosuu</b> nna dodoɔ sɛn? <i>How many days did you cry?</i>
3rd person singular	Ɔno	<b>Ɔrekɔtwɛɛ</b> nsɔhwɛ <i>He/she is going to write an exam</i>
3rd person singular neutral	ɛno	<b>ɛforo</b> dua <i>It climbs trees</i>
1st person plural	Yɛn	<b>Yɛasi</b> gyinaɛɛ <i>We have concluded</i>
2nd person plural	Mo	<b>Moasesa</b> kwan no <i>You have changed the way</i>
3rd person plural	Wɔn	<b>Wɔtu</b> anadwo <i>They fly at night</i>

The Akan noun phrase

**[(POSS) NOUN (ADJ\*)(DET|NUM) (QUANT) (DEM) (Srel)]**

Figure 1 Syntactic Template of the Akan noun phrase

Not further shown, but note that **adjectives** agree with nouns in number.

## Ataadeɛ tuntum fɛɛfɛ yi yɛ me dea

*“This beautiful black dress is mine”*

ataadeɛ	tuntu	fɛɛfɛ	yi	yɛ	me	dea
<i>dress</i>	<i>black</i>	<i>beautiful</i>	DEF	<i>is</i>	<i>my</i>	<i>thing</i>
N	ADJ	ADJ	DEM	COP	PNposs	N

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## More Complexity

### Nominalization:

Noun from verb/adj.: normal pref+suff + suff: - ni/ fo(ɔ)

### Partitives:

[Koáfàì tǒ nèà kaáàà noá 'bǎ.](#) Kofi sells some of his cars

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[http://www.akan.org/akan\\_cd/ALIAKAN/course/U2-sound.wave/KOFITONNEKAANOBI-201298.WAV](http://www.akan.org/akan_cd/ALIAKAN/course/U2-sound.wave/KOFITONNEKAANOBI-201298.WAV)

Kofi tǒnn nè kaa no bi Kofi sold some of his cars