

GREETINGS - IKINI

Yorùbá people place a lot of emphasis on greetings. There is a greeting for virtually every event. Asides from the normal greetings during the day, the Yorùbá people also have greetings for weddings, parties, and so many other occasions and actions.

Greetings for Yorùbá is a way of showing affection and respect to one another.

GREETING POSTURE

The way we greet older people in Yoruba is different from the way we greet younger people or our age mates.

For older people, women kneel down (**ÌKÚNLÈ**) to greet and men lay flat on the ground facing downward (**ÌDÒBÁLÈ**).



ENGLISH WORD	YORÙBÁ TRANSLATION	FOR OLDER PERSON	FOR AGE MATE OR YOUNGER PERSON	FOR MORE THAN 1 PERSON AT A TIME
Good Morning	ẹkààárọ̀	ẹkààárọ̀	kààárọ̀	ẹkààárọ̀
Good Afternoon	ẹkààsán	ẹkààsán	kààsán	ẹkààsán
Good Evening	ẹkáalẹ̀	ẹkáalẹ̀	káalẹ̀	ẹkáalẹ̀

Notice the use of **Ẹ** when you are referring to an older (male or female). This is very important in Yoruba culture. You include 'Ẹ' in your conversations when talking to an older person or more than 1 person at a time.

For example:

Ẹ má bínú compared with **Má bínú** (used when talking to an age mate or younger one)

Ẹ kú ilé compared with **Kú ilé** (used when talking to an age mate or younger one)

The Yorùbá people typically have a greeting for every event or action. Here are some others.

- Ẹ òlẹ – General greetings especially when visiting someone at home.
- Ẹ pẹlẹ – Literarily means sorry but can be used to pass condolences or a way of sympathising with someone.
- Ẹ rọra – Take it easy.
- Ẹ kú iṣẹ – Typically used to greet someone who is busy doing something. It is a way to get attention.
- Ẹ kú ikàlẹ – Used to greet someone who looks/is relaxed or who is sitting down.

Greeting Context Matters!

How are you?

Saying 'how are you?' in Yoruba depends on context. If you are greeting someone informally, you can say: **Báwo ni**.

However, never use this for someone older than you. It will be deemed as disrespectful.

In a more formal setting, you say: **Ṣé àlàáfíà lẹ wà sà/mà?**

To any of the above, the person being greeted would say:

Àlàáfíà ni or dáadáa ni or Adúpé or very informally **Mo wà pa**