



Fante Handbook for Beginners

by Catherine Flaatten, ProGhana Volunteer 2009-2010

Lesson 3: Months and Numbers

While knowledge of the Fante names for the months of the year will be important, you will find that most people use English numbers. Still, you should be able to count to at least 20 and know all the multiples of 10 up to 100 in Fante; many times someone has told me (in English) that the price of an item is 2 pesewas, when they really mean 20 pesewas.

First, let us learn the months:

| Month (English) | Abosom (Fante) |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| January | <i>Sanda</i> |
| February | <i>Kwakwar</i> |
| March | <i>Eboɔ</i> |
| April | <i>Eboɔwɔbira</i> |
| May | <i>Esusɔwaketseaba</i> |
| June | <i>Obiredzi</i> |
| July | <i>Ayɛwoho</i> |
| August | <i>Dzifuu</i> |
| September | <i>Fankwa</i> |
| October | <i>Ɔbɛsɛ</i> |
| November | <i>Ɔbrafɛw</i> |
| December | <i>Mumu</i> |



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Now we will begin counting.

| English | Fante | English | Fante |
|---------|---------------|---------|-----------------|
| 1 | <i>kor</i> | 11 | <i>dukor</i> |
| 2 | <i>ebien</i> | 12 | <i>duebien</i> |
| 3 | <i>ebiasa</i> | 13 | <i>duebiasa</i> |
| 4 | <i>anan</i> | 14 | <i>duanan</i> |
| 5 | <i>enum</i> | 15 | <i>duenum</i> |
| 6 | <i>esia</i> | 16 | <i>duesia</i> |
| 7 | <i>esuon</i> | 17 | <i>duesuon</i> |
| 8 | <i>awɔtwe</i> | 18 | <i>duawɔtwe</i> |
| 9 | <i>akron</i> | 19 | <i>duakron</i> |
| 10 | <i>du</i> | 20 | <i>eduenu</i> |

As you can see, to count within a multiple of 10 you only need to add the number in question to the base. For example, 10-19 uses the base *du*. So to get 14 (10 plus 4), we combine *du* with the word for 4, *anan*. This pattern continues so all you need to know is the multiples of 10:

| English | Fante | English | Fante |
|---------|----------------|---------|-----------------|
| 30 | <i>eduesa</i> | 70 | <i>edusuon</i> |
| 40 | <i>eduenan</i> | 80 | <i>eduwɔtwe</i> |
| 50 | <i>edunum</i> | 90 | <i>edukron</i> |
| 60 | <i>edusia</i> | 100 | <i>ɔha</i> |



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Here are some examples of how to use the bases to count within multiples of 10:

- 26 = eduenuesia
- 39 = eduesakron (notice the a in akron is dropped due to the presence of the preceding a)
- 91 = edukronkor
- 145 = ɔha eduenanenum

For those of you interesting in counting still further, you will find the following table useful:

| English | Fante | English | Fante |
|---------|-----------|-------------|-------------------|
| 200 | ɔhaebien | 800 | ɔhawɔtwe |
| 300 | ɔhaebiasa | 900 | ɔhakron |
| 400 | ɔhanan | 1000 | apem |
| 500 | ɔhaenum | 2000 | mpemebien |
| 600 | ɔhaesia | 3000 (etc.) | mpemebiasa (etc.) |
| 700 | ɔhaesun | 1,000,000 | ɔpepe |

Notes:

