

# LUNYOLE

## ORTHOGRAPHY

### GUIDE

*Approved Orthography, 2006*





# LUNYOLE ORTHOGRAPHY GUIDE

*Approved Orthography, 2006*

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

An Orthography is a set of symbols and rules used to write a language. Under guidelines established by SIL, at this stage in its development, this Lunyole orthography should be considered an *approved orthography*<sup>1</sup>. Prior to coming up with this orthography, several attempts had been made at different times by different people to analyze Lunyole in order to develop an orthography. The very first attempt was made by the late Eric Higenyi Wayisire in 1936. However, there are no extant copies of his work. In 1963 H.F. Morris published an article *A Note on Lunyole* published in the Uganda Journal, no. 27; and in 1974 Thilo C. Schadeberg published the article *Lunyole of the Bamenya* in the Journal of African Languages. These two articles focused on Lunyole phonology. In 1977, Dan Mubene and the late Higenyi Gabuni published *Ehitabo Ehidayi Mululimi Olunyole* (First Book in the Lunyole Language) which dealt with a number of language issues, including the orthography. In 1989 another article *The Velar Nasal in Nyole* which focuses on Lunyole phonology was published by Carol Eastman in *Annales Aequatoria* 10. In 1994, Michael A. Whyte and the Lunyole Language Association (LLA) produced the *Lunyole-English Word Lists*, which included a four-page discussion of the Lunyole orthography.

However, the biggest contribution in this respect has been produced by SIL International. In 1991 the LLA contacted SIL to come and make a research on the need for developing the language. As a result, in mid 1997, SIL conducted an orthography seminar in Bunyole which was attended by members of the LLA, some educators and a number of interested Banyole with a primary purpose of investigating and testing how people were writing the language. The seminar revealed a number of problems which included tone and word boundaries. Consequently, in 1999 SIL in partnership with the LLA began further phonological research of the language. Using the previous linguistic research as a foundation and their own findings, in 2004 Ron Moe, Scot Homer, and Doug Wicks, all of SIL

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<sup>1</sup> This is a tested working orthography designated for widespread use.

provided technical guidance and advise to the LLA resulting into the first officially recognized *tentative orthography*<sup>2</sup> for Lunyole. This orthography went into use that very year and has been undergoing testing in the community. The testing was done through a number of writer’s workshops which were conducted in various areas of Bunyole and through a widespread distribution of a number of literature materials in the language which included the book of Jonah.

This revised version is based on a further linguistic investigation of the *phonology*<sup>3</sup> of Lunyole done by Rev. Enoch Wandera Namulemu (M.A.) and a feedback that was received from the testing of the tentative orthography that has been in use. The following changes have been made on old orthography: (1) The sounds **bw** and **w** are in free variation relationship and the writer of Lunyole has to note carefully where and when each of the two is used and how they behave when prenasalized (See 3.3.3). (2) The sound **f** is slightly labialized by some speakers in certain environments. This technically makes **f** to be in complementary distribution with **fw**. However, for official writing and publications, only **f** will be written all through in this orthography. For those who wish, they can write **fw** in informal writing e.g. in letters ( See 3.4). (3) Negatives - all the four negativizers: *si-*, *nasi-*, *ndi-* and *ta-* will now be written as prefixes to the verb. However, the general negative particle *si* will be written as a separate word whenever it occurs before a noun (See 6.2.2). (4) Tone – Lunyole exhibits a low functional load of tone and hence tone will not be marked in the orthography. Perhaps a few weaknesses still remain. By the time the orthography will be standardized, we hope these too will have been ironed out.

Therefore, the Lunyole Language Association (LLA) still invites your comments and suggestions for improvement. You can correspond with the project at the following address: Lunyole Language Association, P.O. Box 1213, Mbale, Uganda, or through the language office in Busolwe or through the Lunyole Bible Translation and Literacy office at Mugulu, Butaleja District.

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<sup>2</sup> A flexible and probationary orthography designated for limited use that enables one to test the suitability of symbol choices for reading and writing.

<sup>3</sup>The sound system of a language, including the rules governing the sounds.

## 2. ALPHABET

The Lunyole alphabet is as follows (in this order):

**a b c d e f g h i j k l m n ŋ o p r s t u v w y z**

This is the same as the Roman alphabet, except that letters **q** and **x** do not occur in Lunyole, and the special letter **ŋ** has been added. The letters **v** and **z** occur only in a few recently borrowed words. Lunyole also has other sounds and features which will be described below. Special symbols and combinations of letters are needed for these other sounds.

## 3. CONSONANTS

### 3.1 Consonant chart

In the following chart each consonant is given as it is written in the orthography, followed by its International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) representation in square brackets.<sup>4</sup>

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Voiceless Plosive	p [p]		t [t]		k [k]
Voiced Plosive	bb [b]		d [d]		g [g]
Voiceless Fricative		f [f]	s [s]	hy [ʃ]	h [h]
Voiced Fricative	b [β]	v [v]	z [z]		
Voiceless Affricate				c [tʃ]	
Voiced Affricate				j [dʒ]	
Nasal	m [m]		n [n]	ny [ɲ]	ŋ [ŋ]
Flap			r [r]		
Lateral			l [l]		
Approximant	w [w]			y [j]	

Most consonants can be *prenasalised* (preceded by an **m** or **n**), *labialised* (followed by a **w**), and *palatalised* (followed by a **y**). The total consonant inventory is contained in the following chart:

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<sup>4</sup>The chart is organized by point of articulation (where the sound is made) along the top axis, and manner of articulation (how the sound is made) along the vertical axis.

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Vcls Plos	p pw py		t tw ty		k kw
Vcd Plos	bb bbw bby mb mbw mby		d dw dy nd ndw ndy		g gw gy ng ngw ngy
		f fw	s sw sy		h hw hy
Vcd Fric	b (bw) by	v	z		
Vcls Affr				c cw	
Vcd Affr				j jw nj njw	
Nasal	m mw my		n nw ni	ny nyw	ŋ ŋw ŋy
Flap			r rw ry		
Lateral			l lw ly		
Approx	w			y	

## 3.2 Plain Consonants

### 3.2.1 Fricative b and plosive b

Lunyole has two “b” sounds—a *fricative* (soft) b, and a *plosive* (hard) b. The fricative b is much more frequent than the plosive b. The fricative b [β] shall be written **b** and the plosive b [b] shall be written **bb** (rather than writing the fricative b as **bh** and the plosive b as **b**).

ohubabuha	‘to burn slightly’	ohubbubbuha	‘to be impetuous’
ohubumba	‘to mold’	ohubbolooga	‘to cry loudly’

### 3.2.2 Voiceless palatal affricate

The voiceless palatal affricate [tʃ] shall be written **c** (rather than **ch** as in English or **ky** as in Luganda).

coka	‘chalk’	ohucacaala	‘to laugh heartily’
cesule	‘crested hawk’	ohucakalanya	‘to con someone’

### 3.2.3 Palatal nasal

The palatal nasal [ɲ] shall be written **ny** (rather than **ɲ** or **ñ**).

enyama	‘meat’	enyumba	‘house’
enyaanya	‘tomato’	enyanyaasi	‘pineapple’
ohunya	‘to become cooked’	ohunyooma	‘to despise’

### 3.2.4 Velar nasal

The velar nasal [ŋ] shall be written **ŋ** (rather than **ng’** or **ngħ**).

eŋali	‘jealous’	eŋani	‘grave’
eŋombe	‘cow’	ŋaŋuma	‘there is nothing’
ohuŋuma	‘to lack’	ohuŋamba	‘to catch’

### 3.2.5 The letters r and l

The letters **r** [r] and **l** [l] are *allophones* of the *phoneme*<sup>5</sup> /l/. They are in complementary distribution. The allophone [r] is found only after the vowels **i** and **e**, and the allophone [l] after **a**, **o**, and **u**. However both are being written in the orthography due to the influence of other languages, primarily Luganda and English.

erya	‘marriage’	amalya	‘marriages’
erungu	‘swamp’	amalungu	‘swamps’
eriino	‘tooth’	hu liino	‘on the tooth’
ohulima	‘to dig’	alima	‘he digs’
ahirima	‘he is still digging’	alirima	‘he will dig’

---

<sup>5</sup> When a sound makes a difference in meaning, we say it is a phoneme. Allophones are variant sounds of one phoneme that are conditioned by their environment.

## 3.3 Prenasalisation

### 3.3.1 Prenasalised bb

The prenasalised plosive b [mb] shall be written **mb** (rather than **mbb**).

ohubbiita	‘to rear’	mbiita	‘I am rearing’
ohubbinga	‘to chase’	mbinga	‘I am chasing’

### 3.3.2 Prenasalised g

The prenasalised plosive g [ŋg] shall be written **ng** (rather than **ngg**).

ohugafuba	‘to be very weak’	ngafuba	‘I am very weak’
ohugaana	‘to refuse’	ngaana	‘I refuse’

### 3.3.3 Prenasalisation, morphophonemic changes

Some sounds change when they are prenasalised.

The sound **l** becomes **d** when a nasal prefix is attached, and is written as such:

ohuloma	‘to speak’	ndoma	‘I speak’
ohulima	‘to dig’	ndima	‘I dig’
olulimi	‘tongue’	ndimi	‘tongues’

The sound **h** becomes **k** when a nasal prefix is attached, but the nasal is not realized nor is it written:

ohuhena	‘to finish’	kenire	‘I have finished’
ohuhoma	‘to plant’	koma	‘I am planting’
ohuhina	‘to dance’	kina	‘I am dancing’

The sound **ŋ** becomes **p** when a nasal prefix is attached, and is written as such:

ohuŋjira	‘to take’	pira	‘I am taking’
ohuŋja	‘to give’	pa	‘I give’
ohuŋjiima	‘to hunt’	piima	‘I hunt’

The fricative **b** [β] becomes plosive **bb** [b] (but spelled **mb**) when a nasal prefix is attached, and is written as such:

ohubala	‘to count’	mbala	‘I count’
ohubuusa	‘to ask’	mhuusa	‘I ask’

The sound **bw** [β<sup>w</sup>] is in free variation with **w** [w] when they occur between the vowels [a], [e] [i] and [o]. While the sound **bw** [β<sup>w</sup>] is more prominent in nouns **w** is more prominent in verbs. Hence nouns will be written with **bw** and verbs with **w**. But when prenasalised it becomes [ᵐb<sup>w</sup>], written **mbw**:

obwama	‘secrets’	obwere	‘roughly milled flour’
obwoba	mushrooms	obwibi	‘theft’
Ohuweega	‘to become fat’	mbwega	‘I become fat’
Ohuweweeta	‘to soothe’	mbweweeta	‘I soothe’

The sound **y** [j] becomes **j** [dʒ] when a nasal prefix is attached, and is written **nj**:

ohuyaba	‘to dig up’	njaba	‘I dig up’
ohuyoola	‘to gather up and put in a container’	njoola	‘I gather up and put in a container’

### 3.4 Labialisation

Labialisation shall be written with a **w** (rather than **u**).

bbepwa!	‘crack!’	ehitiibwa	‘glory’
ehituutwa	‘bud’	edwaya	‘cock’
ekwaja	‘armpit’	ohugwira	‘to charge’
olwiga	‘horn’	ehiiswi	‘bird’s nest’
ohwecweha	‘to disappear into’	ehijwere	‘dung beetle’
etemwa	‘cooking banana’	ewunwa	‘bull’
nalunyuwa	‘alcoholic’	ohunwaba	‘to curse’

Note that a labialised consonant (CwV) can contrast with a consonant-u-w sequence (CuwV):

ohwala	‘to make a bed’	ohuwaala	‘to skim’
ohwega	‘to learn’	ohuweega	‘to put on weight’
ohwiha	‘to come down’	ohuwiiha	‘to cover’

The sound **f** is slightly labialized by some speakers in some environments and **fw** allophone of the sound **f**. They are in complementary distribution. **fw** comes before **a**, **e**, and **o** while **f** occur before **i** and **u**.

ohufwa	‘to die’	amafwafwa	‘wondering jew’
ohwefwebya	‘to act in laziness’	efirimbi	‘whistle’
ohufwafwagana	‘to loose direction’	efuho	‘mole’

However, for official writing and for publication, **f** will be written rather than **fw** whenever it occurs in the orthography. Lunyole writers who wish can write **fw** in informal writing such as in letters.

### 3.5 Palatalisation

Palatalisation shall be written with a **y** (except for the palatalized **n** [n<sup>i</sup>], spelled **ni** —see below).

pyaha	‘new’	ebyaba	‘palms’
tyohotyoho	‘very black’	dyedyedye	‘type of bird’
eryato	‘boat’	ohubbyatula	‘knock down and break’
syetu	‘gossip’	hyerere	‘empty’
emyalala	‘stripes’	ohwipiŋya	‘to shorten’

Note that a palatalized consonant (CyV) can contrast with a consonant-i-y sequence (CiyV).

ohupapya	‘to hurry someone’	lupiiya	‘money’
ohutya	‘to fear’	ehitiyo	‘spade’

### 3.5.1 The palatalized n

The palatalized n [nʲ] shall be written **ni** (rather than **ny** which is being used for the palatal nasal [ɲ]). The **i** in this case is not a vowel, but part of the consonant (a semi-vowel).

ohuhumbaania ‘to gather’      ekeniemu ‘snail’  
ohweniola ‘to entangle’      ohuguniusa ‘to turn upside down’

### 3.5.2 The palatal nasal and the palatalized n

Notice that the palatal nasal **ny** [ɲ] is a single consonant and is **not** one of the palatalized consonants. Also, the palatalized **ny** [nʲ], written **ni**, is a complex consonant and **is** one of the palatalized consonants.

ekenyera ‘jaundice’      ekeniemu ‘snail’  
enyanyaasi ‘pineapple’      ohuhumbaania ‘to gather’  
koonyo ‘before’      ohweniola ‘to entangle’  
enyundo ‘hammer’      ohuguniusa ‘to turn upside down’

## 4. VOWELS

### 4.1 Vowel chart

There are only five *phonemic* vowels in Lunyole. In the following chart each vowel is given as it is written in the orthography, followed by its International Phonetic Alphabet representation [in square brackets].

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i [i]		u [u]
Mid	e [e ~ ε]		o [o ~ ɔ]
Open		a [a]	

Each vowel can be long or short, and each vowel can be high or low tone. The total vowel inventory, including length and tone, is as follows: (see section 5 for a discussion of writing tone).

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i í ii íí íi íí		u ú uu úú úu uú
Mid	e é ee éé ée eé		o ó oo óó oo oó
Open		a á aa áá áa aá	

## 4.2 Vowel length

Vowels can be long or short, as can be seen from the following examples. Long vowels shall be written double.

ohusala	‘to cut’	ohusaala	‘to give birth’
ohutesa	‘to move something’	ohuteesa	‘to deliberate’
ohulira	‘to mourn, cry’	ohuliira	‘to eat with’
ohudola	‘to hit with a stick’	ohudoola	‘to get wet’
ohuhula	‘to grow’	ohuhuula	‘to uproot’

Vowels preceding a prenasalised consonant are always long, and shall not be written double. In the same way vowels following a labialised or palatalized consonant are always long, and shall not be written double.

omuganda	‘bundle’	ohutamba	‘to work’
( <i>not</i> omugaanda)		( <i>not</i> ohutaamba)	
ahabindi	‘small pot’	ebbumba	‘pump’
( <i>not</i> ahabiindi)		( <i>not</i> ebbuumba)	
omweso	‘board game’	ehyaba	‘palm (hand)’
( <i>not</i> omweeso)		( <i>not</i> ehyaaba)	
ehyambi	‘seat’	eryani	‘sauce’
( <i>not</i> ehyaambi)		( <i>not</i> eryaani)	

Note: The palatal nasal [ɲ] is written **ny**, but is not a palatalized consonant. A long vowel following **ny** shall be written double.

enyanyaasi	‘pineapple’	ohunyiya	‘to cook’
enyeeni	‘fish’	ohunyooma	‘to despise’

## 5. TONE

The research that has been made reveals that there is relatively a limited use of tone in Lunyole to signal contrasts in lexicon and grammar. While there is relatively little lexical tone (i.e., in words that differ semantically based on a difference in tone only), grammatical tone plays a slightly bigger role especially in distinguishing tense/aspect forms, marking a difference between plain statements and affirming of those statements, signaling a relative clause and to a limited extent the different uses of the evidentiality marker *mbo*.

### 5.1 Lexical tone

As mentioned above, these are relatively few. From the available data, the following are the only lexical minimal pairs semantically based on a difference in tone only.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Gloss</b>	<b>Word</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
ómùgàngì	‘gift for a visitor’	òhúsíngá	‘to mortgage’
òmúgàngì	‘medical personnel’	óhùsìngá	‘to defeat’
ésimbó	‘stick’	òhubálá	‘to count’
èsimbó	‘maiden banana plantation’	óhubàlá	‘to become warm’
ómùsààlà	‘tree’	óhubúngá	‘to be confused’
ómùsáálá	‘wage’	óhubùngá	‘to keep in granary’
épòsà	‘type of medicinal plant’	òlúsú	‘cloth line’
épòsá	‘testimony in court’	ólùsú	‘odour’
èmbúlú	‘tooth decay’		
émbùlù	‘monitor lizard’		
ómùsíngá	‘muscle’		
ómùsìngà	‘deaf person’		

## 11.4.2 Grammatical tone

Grammatical tone plays a more significant role in Lunyole than lexical tone especially in distinguishing tense/aspect forms, marking a difference between a plain statement and re-affirming, signaling a relative clause and to a limited extent the different uses of the evidentiality marker *mbo*. In the following phrases, if tone is *not* marked on the verb then the reader has to use punctuation or semantic contextual evidence to help distinguish the meaning, otherwise it is ambiguous.

gèmbíre	‘He sang’ (recent past)
gèmbìré	‘He sang’ (hodiernal)
bèmbíré	‘they sung’ (recent past)
bèmbìré	‘they sung’ (hodiernal)
yèmbíré	‘it (a bird) sung’ (recent past)
yèmbìré	‘it (a bird) sung’ (hodiernal)
jèmbíre	‘they (birds) sung’ (recent past)
jèmbìré	‘they (birds) sung’ (hodiernal)
bàsómá	‘they are reading’ (now)
bàsòmá	‘they read’ (long ago)
ómùpí:rà g <sup>w</sup> ǎngè	‘my football’ (plain statement)
ómùpí:rà g <sup>w</sup> àngè	‘the football is mine’ (affirming)
òmúsí <sup>n</sup> dé àsá:ŋa	‘the man is slashing’
òmúsí <sup>n</sup> dé àsá:ŋa	‘the man who slashes...’
hùnátì:né <sup>m</sup> bo	‘I understand we are going’
hùnátì:né <sup>m</sup> bo	‘we are going, aren’t we?’
hùnátì:né <sup>m</sup> bǒ	‘(don’t worry) we shall be going’

According to this orthography tone is not marked by rejection of the Lunyole Language Association (LLA) and the community. From the testing exercise some people especially beginners find difficulty in reading

correctly. However, most people who can fluently read Luganda, which is a related language and at the same time the language of wider communication, find no difficulty in reading Lunyole. Luganda does not mark Tone in her orthography. Besides, research has shown that Lunyole has a lower functional load of tone.

## 6. WORD JUNCTURES

### 6.1 Introduction to word junctures

Words within phrases tend to be spoken together without an intervening pause. When the second word begins with a vowel, this sometimes results in vowel *coalescence*, *assimilation* or *elision*<sup>6</sup>. Except for in cases of *phonological bridging*<sup>7</sup>, words shall be written separately. The reader is free to pronounce word *junctures*<sup>8</sup> as they are said in normal (fast) speech, but as a rule, words will be written as if they were spoken slowly and clearly.

Orthography	Pronunciation	Meaning
Nja oje amaaji.	njojamaaji	‘Come go get water.’
Yisuha owiire.	yisuhowiire	‘Welcome from the night.’
Niwe ani?	niwaani	‘Who are you?’

---

<sup>6</sup>*Coalescence* refers to the joining of two vowels which result in one or both changing to something else. *Assimilation* refers to one changing to the other. *Elision* refers to the loss of one of the vowels.

<sup>7</sup> *Phonological bridging* refers to the phenomena when words are grammatically distinct but are phonologically joined.

<sup>8</sup>A *juncture* is the place where two things come together.

## 6.1.1 Key factors for determining Word Junctures

There are four general key factors for determining word junctures.<sup>9</sup> These key factors are *semantic*, *grammatical*, *phonological*, and the *interaction among the factors*, in that order of priority. These factors were examined in determining the word junctures in this orthography.

## 6.2 Affixes

### 6.2.1 Verb affixes

Tense/Aspect and Subject/Object Concord markers, and other verbal extensions, are affixes to the verb and written as such.

nahamuŋanga	‘I have just given it to him’ or ‘I can manage him’	nahahisome	‘I will read it’
gahisoma	‘He read it (long ago)’	alihisoma	‘He will read it (distant future)’
alirwemba	‘He will sing it’	ohusoma	‘to read’
bamugulira	‘they bought for him’	hunabonane	‘we will see each other’
bamulamulula	‘they removed the curse’	yiihiha	‘it (bicycle) can be stolen’

### 6.2.2 Negative affixes

In Lunyole, there are four negativizers *si-*, *nasi-*, *ndi-* and *ta-* which are all written as prefixes to the verb. In cases where the negative marker comes before a vowel, the *i* on the negative marker will be elided and the following vowel lengthened. However, the general negative particle *si* will

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<sup>9</sup> Taken from *Word Boundaries: Key Factors In Orthography Development* by Julia R. Van Dyken and Constance Kutsch Lojenga. Published in *Alphabets in Africa*, Nartell, 1993.

be written as a separate word whenever it occurs before a noun.

ohutagula	‘to not buy’	ohuteega	‘to not learn’
ndigaaja	‘he did not come’	ndaatina	‘he didn’t go’
simanyire	‘I do not know	soomanyire	‘you don’t know’
nasibalime	‘they didn’t dig’	nasaalime	‘he didn’t dig
oyo si musinde	‘that is not a man	sinje Wandera	‘he is not Wandera’

### 6.2.3 Locative verbal clitics

Locative clitics *-yo*, *-ho*, *-mo*, and *-yo* found in the word-final position on the verb shall be written conjoined. These may be used in conjunction with each other: *-hoyo*, *-moyo*.

panga ohubitaho eyo	‘I can pass over’
nagulamo enjombe	‘I bought a cow out of it’
afumbirwahoyo	‘she is married there (for now)’
gadulumayo	‘he escaped from there’
bitaho	‘pass through on’
bitamo	‘pass through in’
bitaño	‘pass through (bypass)’
bitayo	‘pass by there (far)’

### 6.2.4 Evidentiality markers

The prefixes *po-* and *ko-* operate semantically as evidentiality markers. *Ko-* is from Luganda but is prevalent in Lunyole. There is one other evidentiality marker, *mbo*, that is understood as a separate word (see 6.3.8).

pogalomire	‘that is how he said it’
kogalomire	‘that is how he said it’

pwagwagamya ‘how he puts it back’  
kwagwagamya ‘he is just taking it back’

### 6.2.5 Derivational suffixes

In Lunyole, derivational morphemes are affixed to the verb to transform verbs into nouns.

ohwemba	‘to sing’	omwembi	‘singer’
ohusoma	‘to read/study’	omusomi	‘student’
ohusomesa	‘to teach’	omusomesa	‘teacher’
ohusaala	‘to give birth’	omusaalisa	‘midwife’
ohwinula	‘to fish’	omwinusi	‘fisherman’

### 6.2.6 Bu-, Wu, and Ma-

The prefixes *bu-* and *wu-* attach to adjective roots to form adverbs. Similarly, the prefix *ma-* attaches to a verb to form an adverb. In cases where the prefix is added to a vowel initial root, vowel elision occurs. These constructions will be written without an apostrophe.

bulaji	‘well’	wangu	‘quickly’
alya malambaye	‘he eats while lying down’	alya memereeye	‘he eats while standing’

### 6.2.7 Class prefixes

Noun class markers are prefixed to the noun root and written as one word.

omuhasi	‘woman’	abahasi	‘women’
omuhira	‘tail’	emihira	‘tails’

egata ‘wheel’

amagata ‘wheels’

ehibala ‘fruit’

ebibala ‘fruits’

## 6.3 Independent Words

### 6.3.1 Auxiliaries

Verbal auxiliaries are written as separate words.

gaali atamusala ‘he had not cut him’

anaabe alima ‘he will be digging’

ng’aja ahirya ‘then he went and ate it’

abaaye aloma ‘he was saying’

anahaabe alwembire ‘he will have sung it’

huja huhumbira ahabindi ‘we will make a small pot for you’

### 6.3.2 Questions

Question roots and/or their prefixes are written as separate words

Ahola hi? ‘What is he doing (general)?’

Oja ŋeena? ‘Where are you going?’

Oloma otye? ‘What are you saying?’

Nj’ani atiina? ‘Who is going?’

Lwahiina olira? ‘Why are you crying?’

Ali huhola hiina? ‘What is he doing (right now)?’

Oli ŋe? ‘Where are you?’

Oyo nj’omwina? ‘What is that one?’

Onahatiine ŋaali? ‘When will you go?’

Oli otye? ‘How are you?’

Note that *lwahiina* ('why') and its complement *olwohuba* ('because') are formed by combining an associative marker and a question word or verb. In these cases, the two forms combine to make one word.

### 6.3.3 Complementiser

The complementiser *ti* is written as a separate word. Subject markers may be affixed to them.

ng'aloma ati	'and he said that'
abasaaye bamuloma ti	'her parents said to her that...'
olwohuba ti	'it is because that'
nenda ti some	'I want to study'

### 6.3.4 Locatives written as separate words

The locatives *ηano*, *eyo*, *aŋo*, and *era* are written as separate words.

gatunda eyo	'he sold a portion (of land) of what is there'
afumbirwa aŋo	'she is married there (to the one who lives there)'
hutiine era	'let's go yonder'
bita eyo	'pass through there'
bita aŋo	'pass there'
alimira era	'he digs yonder'

### 6.3.5 Demonstratives

Demonstratives are written as separate words.

omuhasi ono	‘this woman’
abahasi bano	‘these women’
embusi yino	‘this goat’
omuhasi oyu	‘this woman’
abahasi abo	‘those women’
embusi eyo	‘that goat’
omwana oyu	‘this child’

### 6.3.6 Prepositions

Locative prepositions *hu*, *mu*, *ɲa*, *ɲaasi wa*, and *e* are written as separate words. There are a few exceptions, specifically when the locative preposition and its noun have become linked both semantically and phonologically. In such cases, they are written conjoined, e.g., *mwigulu* (not *mu egulu*) ‘in heaven.’ When the preposition is used with the associative marker the apostrophe is used.

hu teebe	‘on the chair’
mu moni w'emotoka	‘in front of the vehicle’
tiina ewa Hire	‘go to Hire’s place’
ɲaasi w'ehitabo	‘under the book’
ɲa hitabo	‘near the book’
e Busolwe	‘at Busolwe’
tiina mu w'Enoka	‘go into Enoch’s place’
ɲaasi w'emeesa	‘under the table’

### 6.3.7 Adjectives

Adjectives are written as separate words. They are never joined to the nouns they modify, therefore the apostrophe is never used. Adjectives with compound stems are written as one word.

enjombe emali	‘black cow’
omuhasi omutono	‘small woman’
ahagesigesi	‘small and intelligent’
omusaaja omubba	‘big man/fat man’
omuutu omulanji	‘good person’
musirusiru	‘stupid or foolish’

### 6.3.8 Evidentiality markers

*Mbo* and *nago* are evidentiality markers that are written as separate words.

mbo niiwe	‘I understand it is you’
embwa nago eriiye amaagi nj’eyo	‘that (definitely) is the dog that ate the eggs’
mbo oliiye emere	‘(is it true) you have eaten food’
ehitabo nago kehi nasomire	‘that (definitely) is the book I read’

### 6.3.9 Possessive pronouns

Possessive pronouns are written as separate words with a few exceptions. The examples below are ambiguous due to a difference in tone. The reader should distinguish the difference because one is a complete clause while the other is incomplete.

omwenja wange	‘my bride’ (or ‘the bride is mine’)
embusi yeefe	‘our goat’ (or ‘the goat is ours’)
egaali yiye	‘his bicycle’ (or ‘the bicycle is his’)

### 6.3.10 Compounds

Compounds are words that are formed by combining stems. These stems are written conjoined and are understood as one word. There are compounds that combine different stems, and compounds that reduplicate stems. All are written without a word break.

#### 6.3.10.1 Compound verbs

Compound verbs are formed by reduplicating the verb stem, and are written as one word.

mbonabona	‘I suffer’
ohwendulayendula	‘to search quickly’
ohugohagohana	‘to get something in excess’
ohudambadambana	‘to lack’

#### 6.3.10.2 Compound adverbs

Lunyole has compound adverbs that are formed by reduplicating a stem. These forms will be written as single words though other forms like *lwosilwosi* violate the spelling rule on when to use /l/ and /r/.

pola	‘slowly’	polapola	‘very slowly’
cwi	‘finished’	cwicwicwi	‘completely finished’
pwi	‘early’	pwipwipwi	‘very early’
mangu	‘quickly’	mangumangu	‘very quickly’
lwosi	‘all’ (class 11)	lwosilwosi	‘everything’

### 6.3.10.3 Compound nouns

Compound nouns can be made by reduplicating stems or by combining different stems.

ohuhalehale	‘old way’
ajagajaga	‘one who takes without permission’
omufunagohe	‘housewife (one who blows the ashes)’
omutongapindi	‘coward (one who dips in peas)’

### 6.3.11 Possession

The possessive forms of intrinsically important relationships are joined to the noun and are understood as independent words.

seefe	‘our father’	nyineefe	‘our mother’
latawo	‘your father’	mbojooyo	‘your sister/brother’
meriwo	‘your friend’	omugandawe	‘his brother’

## 6.4 Independent words written conjointly

Some grammatically independent words are written conjointly due to phonological bridging. When the final vowel of a word is joined in context to the initial vowel in the following word, either vowel elision or vowel coalescence occurs. In cases where the first word is of two syllables or less (more commonly just a single syllable) an apostrophe is used to show where the vowel change has occurred. The vowel that follows an apostrophe is pronounced long. Joining does not occur, however, on verbs, auxiliary or typical, but does occur on the copula.

### 6.4.1 Copula

In Lunyole the copula is written as a separate word. When the copula precedes vowel initial words, it is to be written with an apostrophe.

<b>Underlying Form</b>	<b>Surface Form</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
nje ono	nj'ono	'it is this
ce hino	ce hino	'it is this'
ngo guno	ngo guno	'it is this'
ali husoma	ali husoma	'he is reading'
to tuno	to tuno	'they are these (diminutive)'
ba anjo	b'anjo	'be there'
nga gala	nga gala	'are these (big)'

### 6.4.2 Ni and Nga

The words *ni* and *nga* are conjunctions that can appear with verbs to form adverbs. These are written as separate words. When *ni* and *nga* are used with vowel initial verbs, they are to be joined with an apostrophe.

<b>Underlying Form</b>	<b>Surface Form</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
ni gagota	ni gagota	'when he got lost'
ni alira	n'alira	'while crying'
nga baloma	nga baloma	'and they said'
nga olu balomire	ng'olu balomire	'as they (the group) have said'

### 6.4.3 Associative Marker

The associative marker is written as a separate word. When associative markers are used with vowel initial nouns, they are to be written with an apostrophe.

<b>Underlying Form</b>	<b>Surface Form</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
lugesi lwa embwa	lugesi lw'embwa	'the dog's trick'

muzeyi wa bbaabba	muzeeyi wa bbaabba	‘the father of my father’
owooya wa embwa	owooya w’embwa	‘the dog’s fur’

### 6.4.4 Conjunctions

Conjunctions *naye*, *ne* (a shortened form of *naye*) and *ni* are written as separate words. When conjunctions are used with vowel initial nouns, they are to be written with an apostrophe.

Surface Form	Gloss
ni hwali	‘when we were’
n’Abbiri	‘with Abel’
ni neese	‘with me’
Nahamuhooye ne gandiho oluganda.	‘I would have married her but she is related to me.’
Hunatiine, n’ese sinalome.	‘We shall go but I will not say anything.’
Nahulangire naye siwajire.	‘I called you but you did not come’

## 7. PROPER NAMES

Proper names should be capitalized. Place names should be written according to their official spellings. One’s name should be written according to the desire of the individual.

## 8. BORROWED WORDS

All languages borrow words from other languages. Over time these words become as much a part of the language as any other word. Sometimes the borrowed word retains its original pronunciation. In this way new sounds, such as **v** and **z**, are introduced into the language. In other cases the pronunciation of the borrowed word is adapted to fit the phonology of the

second language. In either case, borrowed words should be spelled the way people normally pronounce them when speaking Lunyole.

<b>Borrowed form</b>	<b>Lunyole form</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
amasavu	amasavu	‘fats’ (from Luganda)
zaabbu	ezaabbu	‘gold’ (from Luganda)
amasanyalaze	amasanyalase	‘electricity’ (from Luganda)
bus	ebbasi	‘bus’ (from English)
rupee	erupiya	‘money’ (from Hindi)

## 9. IDEOPHONES

*Ideophones* are words which represent sounds. Typical of Bantu languages, there are many ideophones in Lunyole. Often they do not follow the same *phonological* (sound) rules as other words. They may contain sounds or combinations of sounds that do not otherwise occur in the language. They should be written the way they are pronounced.

nyau	[ɲ <sup>j</sup> á <sup>w</sup> ]	‘meow (the sound of a cat)’
nywe	[ɲ <sup>w</sup> ε]	When you say, ‘nywe’ you are provoking someone to a fight.
ekulukulu	[ekulukulu]	The sound a turkey makes, and the Lunyole word for turkey.

## 10. PUNCTUATION

### 10.1 Period

The period shall be used to mark the end of a sentence.

Anatiine gaalima omutyere. ‘He will go and grow rice.’



## 10.6 Exclamation mark

An exclamation mark at the end of a sentence may be used:

- to express strong feelings, and with exclamations and interjections
- to show that a speaker is shouting, or that a noise is loud
- at the end of a forceful command

## 10.7 Paragraph breaks

Paragraph breaks should be used by indentation throughout a text to group sentences that relate to a single topic or idea. A paragraph break should be used to mark a shift in thought, or to mark a change in speaker in a dialogue.

## 10.8 Emphasis

Emphasis can be marked in various ways. In handwriting and on a typewriter it can be marked by underlining: Nahuhubbe! ‘I will beat you!’; using CAPITAL letters: **NAHUHUBBE!**; or lengthening a vowel to three or more vowel letters: *Nahuhubbee!*

On a computer emphasis can also be marked by italics: *Nahuhubbe!* or bold face: **Nahuhubbe!** Emphasis can also be expressed by adding a word such as *nyo* ‘very,’ or by using an exclamation mark.

# 11. DIALECT DIFFERENCES

Lunyole does not have major dialect differences. However, there are differences in the words people use and in the way certain words are pronounced. The LLA recognizes the freedom of individuals to write words as they pronounce them.







# WALIFU W'OLUNYOLE

