

Note: Both **lwahiina** and **olwohuba** are formed by combining two words. In these two cases the words shall be written as one.

RULE 6: WORDS WRITTEN TOGETHER

The following categories of words shall be written as one word.

- a) *Compound nouns, verbs and adverbs*
napwanguhahupwanguha 'I dashed out'
ohuhalehale 'the old way'
pola 'slowly' **polapola** 'very slowly'
cwi 'finished' **cwicwicwi** 'completely finished'
- b) *Shortened possessive forms (important relationships)*
mugandaawo 'my brother/sister'
nyineefe 'our mother'
meriwo 'your friend'

RULE 7: THERE ARE NO DOUBLE CONSONANTS

With the exception of **bb**, there is no doubling of consonants in Lunyole except for emphasis.

Ese 'me' may become **Esse!** when emphasized.

A BRIEF SPELLING GUIDE FOR

LUNYOLE

Produced by the

LUNYOLE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION
(EHIBBUBBU HY'OLULIMI OLUNYOLE)

in conjunction with



ALPHABET

The Lunyole alphabet consists of 25 letters (shown here in upper and lower case):

Vowels: **Aa, Ee, Ii, Oo, Uu**

Consonants: **Bb, Cc, Dd, Ff, Gg, Hh, Jj, Kk, Ll, Mm, Nn, Nj, Pp, Rr, Ss, Tt, Vv, Ww, Yy, Zz**

These 25 letters are used to make all the sounds of Lunyole. There are three combination letters that represent a single sound:

Combination letters: **Bb/bb, Hy/hy, Ny/ny**

VOWELS

Lunyole vowels may be written short using a single letter, or long using a double letter.

a	etama 'cheek'	aa	etaama 'sheep'
e	ohutesa 'to shift'	ee	ohuteesa 'to discuss'
i	esiro 'soot'	ii	esiirro 'pillar'
o	omuhoho 'type of tree'	oo	omuhooho 'pestle'
u	ehisusu 'maize cob'	uu	ehisuusu 'fog'

RULE 5: WORDS ALWAYS WRITTEN SEPARATELY

The following categories of words shall be written separately.

- All verbs*: Example: **abaaye aloma** 'he was saying'
- All nouns and their modifiers, demonstratives and possessives*:
ebibiriti bibiri 'two matches'
ebibiriti bino 'these matches'
omuhasi wange 'my wife'
- Location words*: **ɲa, hu, mu,** and **e**.
Example: **Ali mu nyumba**. 'He is in the house.'
Note: Some words like **mwigulu** 'in heaven' and **mwirungu** 'in the swamp' are exceptions, and are written as one word.
- Words that introduce a quotation*: **ati, ti, bati,** etc.
- Question words*: **hi, hiina, ɲe, ɲeena, ɲaali, ani, otye,** etc.
Ahola hi? 'What is he doing?'
Oja ɲeena? 'Where are you going?'
Onahatiine ɲaali? 'When will you go?'

RULE 4: SMALL WORDS WRITTEN SEPARATELY OR WITH AN APOSTROPHE

Small words that are not verbs, like **si, nasi, ni, nga, nje, wa, ya, mbo, nago**, etc., shall be written separately, but shall be joined with an apostrophe when the following word begins with a vowel. The apostrophe replaces the final vowel of the small, first word. Vowels following an apostrophe are typically pronounced long when reading.

- a) Examples of small words without an apostrophe:

si manyire 'I don't know'

ce hino 'this is the one'

- b) Examples of small words joined with an apostrophe:

nje ono becomes **nj'ono** 'this is the one'

ni alira becomes **n'alira** 'while crying'

ni Abbiri becomes **n'Abbiri** 'with Abel'

si omanyire becomes

s'omanyire 'You don't know?'

ng'olu balomire 'as they (the group) have said'

owooya w'embwa 'the dog's fur'

The vowel combination **ai** appears in borrowed words and names.

naikote 'bore hole' **Bulaimu** 'Abraham'

Other vowel combinations following the consonant **n** are found, but these are exceptional: **nia, nie, nio**, and **niu**. Be careful not to confuse these combinations with **nya, nye, nyo**, and **nyu**.

enyanyaasi 'pineapple'

eheniemu 'snail'

ohunyonyola 'to explain'

ohuniola 'to twist'

CONSONANTS

Lunyole consonants shall be written as follows:

B b	beeja 'bride & groom'	P p	pundopundo 'bat'
C c	cesule 'crested hawk'	R r	erungu 'swamp'
D d	duuma 'maize'	S s	esongo 'pot'
F f	famba 'cotton'	T t	etaama 'sheep'
G g	galubindi 'eyeglasses'	V v	veesiti 'vest'
H h	hityaba 'mushroom'	W w	wawalu 'crested crane'
J j	jaluutu 'stork'	Y y	yaya 'babysitter'
K k	ekaniafu 'chameleon'	Z z	ziipu 'zipper'
L l	olutu 'banana leaf'	bb	Bbabba 'father'
M m	maido 'ground nuts'	hy	ehyaba 'palm (hand)'
N n	namumbirya 'spider'	ny	enyanya 'tomato'
D d	raaja 'hornbill'		

SPELLING RULES

Lunyole is written like it sounds. Spelling rules are necessary, however, to standardize writing, to avoid confusion, and to maintain a consistent word image. This common phrase is an example: **Njojamaaji** 'Come. Go get water.' According to the spelling rules, this phrase shall be written: **Nja oje amaaji** (*not* **Nj'oj'amaaji**).

RULE 1: LONG VOWELS WRITTEN SHORT BEFORE COMBINATIONS WITH 'M' AND 'N' AND AFTER 'Y' AND 'W'

Vowels before consonant combinations involving **m** or **n** are always pronounced long, but shall *not* be written with a double vowel. For example: **amanda** (*not* **amaanda**) 'charcoal'

Vowels following a consonant combination involving a **y** or **w** are always pronounced long, but shall *not* be written with a double vowel. This includes the combination letter **hy**, but not **ny**. **omwami** (*not* **omwaami**) 'Mister'
ehyaba (*not* **ehyaaba**) 'palm of hand'

Note: **ny** is a combination letter and not a consonant combination. When a long vowel follows **ny** it is written double:

enyanyaasi 'pineapple' **enyanya** 'tomato'

RULE 2: THE 'L' AND 'R'

The **l** and the **r** is actually one sound that appears differently in different contexts. The **l** shall be written at the beginning of words and following the vowels **a**, **o**, and **u**. The **r** shall be written following vowels **e** and **i**:

erungu 'swamp' **amalungu** 'swamps'
alima 'he digs' **alirima** 'he will dig'

The exception to this rule is in proper names.

Tororo (*not* Tololo) **Rwenzori** (*not* Lwenzori)

RULE 3: HARD 'B' FOLLOWING 'M'

The hard 'b' sound is written **bb**, but when it follows an **m**, it is written with a single **b**.

ohubbwaga 'to break' becomes **mbwaga** 'I break'
ohubona 'to see' becomes **mbona** 'I see'