

- Excerpt - Free Sample -

## Lesson Overview

### Lesson 6: Mɔ Ɗamɔ (Greeting People)

In this lesson, we will learn how to greet people! In Ga, as in English, the way you greet someone varies depending on who it is. We use different greetings for friends, casual acquaintances, or elders. In Lesson 2, we introduced how to meet for the first time. In this lesson, the greetings are between friends and acquaintances who already know each other.

You will learn how to ask and answer these useful questions:

**Te ɔyɛɔ tɛɛ?** - How are you?

**Mɛni yaa nɔ?** - What's going on?

**Mɛni ofɛɔ?** - What are you doing?

#### Lesson 6 Outline

- a. Conversation: Two friends greet  
Anas and Ayitey are two friends that greet each other.
- b. Conversation: Two acquaintances greet  
Ekua and Yaa are acquaintances who meet on the road.
- c. Conversation: Greeting an elder in passing  
Kojo greets an elderly woman, Auntie Odarley.
- d. Vocabulary from the Conversations
- e. Terms of respect or endearment
- f. Te ɔyɛɔ tɛɛ? - How are you?
- g. Mɛni yaa nɔ? - What's going on?
- h. Mɛni ofɛɔ? - What are you doing?

Exercises:

- Exercise 6.1 Matching expressions
- Exercise 6.2 Fill in the blank
- Exercise 6.3 Questions and Answers
- Exercise 6.4 Conversation practice
- Exercise 6.5 Write new conversations

## Lesson 6: Mɔ Dɔmɔ (Greeting People)

In this lesson, we will learn how to greet people! In Ga, as in English, the way you greet someone varies depending on who it is. We use different greetings for friends, casual acquaintances, or elders. In Lesson 2, we introduced how to meet for the first time. In this lesson, the greetings are between friends and acquaintances who already know each other.

{Here is one of three conversations in this lesson.}

### a. Conversation: Two friends greet

Anas and Ayitey are two friends that greet each other.

Anas	Hei tsale. Mɛni yaa nɔ?	Hey dude. What's going on?
Ayitey	Nɔko nɔko eyaa nɔ. Mɛni yaa nɔ?	Nothing much. What's going on?
Anas	Nɔ fɛɛ nɔ yɛ jogban. Mɛni ofɛɔ ɲmɛnɛ?	Everything's cool. What are you doing today?
Ayitey	Mii ya Ga.	I'm going to Accra.
Anas	Obaa sumɔ wɔya ɲshɔɔnaa kɛ fee sɛɛ?	Do you want to go to the beach later?
Ayitey	Hɛɛ, kɛ fee ɛ tswaa mi.	Sure, call me.
Anas	Yoo, abaa na bo.	Okay, see you later.
Ayitey	Abaa na bo.	See you later.

### e. Terms of respect or endearment

In Ghana, to show respect for friends or acquaintances we often use a title, like brother or sister, rather than just saying the first name. For example: 'Bra Anang', 'Sistah Ama' or 'Auntie'. Here are some expressions we often use. You will also hear the Ga word 'aloo' which has the same meaning as the English word 'or'.

Bra, Nyɛmi nuu	Brother
Sistah, Nyɛmi yoo	Sister
Papa	Father
Mami	Mother
Auntie, Nyɛkwɛ	Aunt
Uncle, Tsɛkwɛ	Uncle
Tsɔɔlo	Teacher
Naanyo	Friend
Jɔle	Honey (girlfriend, boyfriend)
Tsale	Dude

**f. Te oyεo tεε? - How are you?**

As in English, asking how are you is a standard part of the greeting. We use “Te oyεo tεε?” or for short “Te tεε?” Then, we may also ask about the family.

Te oyεo tεε? -or- Te tεε?	How are you?
• Ojogban	• Fine
• Mi ye ojogban	• I'm fine
• Ni bo hu?	• And you?

Te wekumεi ε yeo tεε?	How's the family?
• Amε ye ojogban	• They are fine.
• Ni te owekumεi ε hu yeo tεε?	• And how is your family (too)?

## g. Mɛni yaa nɔ? - What's going on?

Mɛni yaa nɔ?	What's going on?
• Nɔko nɔko eyaa nɔ	• Nothing much
• No fɛɛ no yɛ jogbarɔ	• Everything is fine
• Aboo danɔ toi	• Can't complain (Literal translation: You don't listen to the taste of your mouth.)

## h. Mɛni ofeɔ? - What are you doing?

Mɛni ofeɔ?	What are you doing?
• Mi fee nɔko	• I'm not doing anything
• Mii ya ni tsumo	• I'm going to work
• Mii ya joo kasemɔ	• I'm going to dance class
• Mii ya miyii kasemɔ	• I'm going to drumming class
Yoo	Okay
Obaa sumo wɔ ya...?	Would you like (us) to go...? Do you want (us) to go...?
Tswaa mi, Tɛ mi	Call me

**Ex 6.1 Matching**

For each numbered Ga sentence, write the letter of the corresponding English sentence.  
 Example: For number 1, the answer is “E”.

Set 1.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>_____ E</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> | <p>1. Mɛni yaa no?</p> <p>2. Noko noko eyaa no.</p> <p>3. No fee no ye jogban.</p> <p>4. Mɛni ofeo nmene?</p> <p>5. Mii ya Ga.</p> <p>6. Obaa sumo woya nshonaa ke fee see?</p> <p>7. Hɛɛ, ke fee e tswaa mi.</p> <p>8. Abaa na bo.</p> | <p>A. Do you want to go to the beach later?</p> <p>B. Nothing much.</p> <p>C. Sure, call me.</p> <p>D. See you later.</p> <p>E. What’s going on?</p> <p>F. I’m going to Accra.</p> <p>G. Everything’s cool.</p> <p>H. What are you doing today?</p> |
|---|---|---|

**Ex 6.2 Fill in the blank**

- |                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Bra, Nyemi nuu    | _____ |
| 2. Sistah, Nyemi yoo | _____ |
| 3. Papa              | _____ |
| 4. Mami              | _____ |
| 5. Auntie, Nyekwe    | _____ |
| 6. Uncle, Tsekwe     | _____ |
| 7. Tsoolo            | _____ |
| 8. Naanyo            | _____ |
| 9. Jole              | _____ |
| 10. Tsale            | _____ |

**Ex 6.3 Conversation Questions**

Write an answer for each question.

Question	Answer
Te oyɛo tɛɛ?	
Te wekumɛi lɛ yɛo tɛɛ?	
Mɛni yaa no?	
Mɛni ofeo?	
Obaa sumo woya nshonaa ke fee see?	

**Ex 6.4 Practice the three sample conversations**

Work in pairs.

Practice taking each part of the conversations.

Practice each role, in each of the three conversations.

Try it without looking at the script.

Switch pairs and practice again.

**Ex 6.5 Write new conversations**

Think about people you greet on a daily basis.

Write two or three of your own greeting conversations for these situations.

Choose appropriate tone for the type of acquaintance you're greeting.

Work in pairs.

Practice speaking the conversations you wrote. Take turns practicing each role.

Do the same with the conversations your partner wrote.

Finally, try the conversations impromptu without reading your notes.