

# How to use the C'Lela Dictionary

## C'Lela Alphabet

The main dictionary is organised by C'Lela word, sorted according to the standard C'Lela alphabet:

**a a b c d e e f g h i j k l m n o o p r s t u v w y z**  
**A A B C D E E F G H I J K L M N O O P R S T U V W Y Z**

Most C'Lela letters are the same as Hausa without hooked letters, with a 'p' as in English and with three more vowel letters:

C'Lela	Phonetic	Example in C'Lela	Example in English
<b>a</b>	a	<b>azo</b> (a snake)	hat, mat
<b>ā</b>	ī, ē	<b>avga</b> (scoop)	hurt, butter
<b>b</b>	b	<b>d'batā</b> (stomach)	bat, debate
<b>c</b>	tʃ	<b>cihin</b> (six)	<b>church</b> , ditch
<b>d</b>	d	<b>d'debe</b> (liver)	<b>down</b> , aid
<b>e</b>	e	<b>d'taare</b> (rock)	hate, mate
<b>ē</b>	ɛ	<b>c'hete</b> (miracle)	set, met
<b>f</b>	f	<b>k'foko</b> (lung)	fox, wife
<b>g</b>	g	<b>gagne</b> (fence)	<b>God</b> , dig
<b>h</b>	h	<b>d'hina</b> (drum)	<b>hit</b> , happy
<b>i</b>	i	<b>illa</b> (two, 2)	heat, meet
<b>j</b>	dʒ	<b>i'jo</b> (sieve)	jog, garage
<b>k</b>	k	<b>kāci</b> (chicken)	king, make
<b>l</b>	l	<b>lava</b> (sleep)	love, ill
<b>m</b>	m	<b>menke</b> (rain)	<b>mile</b> , team
<b>n</b>	n	<b>u'na</b> (leg) <b>conka</b> (swear)	<b>north</b> , in
	ŋ	<b>danga</b> (tie up)	<b>sing</b> , long
<b>o</b>	o	<b>peco</b> (boil)	hoe, moat
<b>ō</b>	ɔ	<b>omo</b> (take)	hot, moss
<b>p</b>	p	<b>m'po</b> (tiredness)	<b>pole</b> , heap
<b>r</b>	r	<b>rihi</b> (thing)	'flapped'; not like normal English
<b>s</b>	s	<b>soota</b> (sit)	summer, hiss (never like his)
<b>t</b>	t	<b>s'to</b> (soup)	<b>time</b> , might
<b>u</b>	u	<b>k'kuru</b> (hut)	hoot, moot
<b>v</b>	v	<b>veso</b> (broom)	vulture, dove
<b>w</b>	w	<b>wa</b> (child)	<b>water</b> , power
<b>y</b>	j	<b>yala</b> (beans)	yam
<b>z</b>	z	<b>m'zana</b> (morning)	<b>zoo</b> , doze

Each vowel of a word being described has its tone (like musical pitch) marked with a line above it: **á** means high tone, **à** means low tone, **â** means falling (high to low) tone. Most nouns in C'Lela (except animals) have a prefix letter called a class-marker. This is ignored when sorting the entries because the class-marker frequently changes to reflect different size or plurality, and often moves to the end of the noun, becoming a suffix. Class-markers are printed in a lighter, italicised font. So you find the word **m<sup>h</sup>o** (water) in the **H** section, not in the **M** section.

Since C'Lela is consistent in its pronunciation (unlike English, for example), we have not included a pronunciation guide with every entry. Usually when the letter **n** is followed by **g** or **k** the sound is like the English 'sing' or 'ink' but there are a few words where the sequence '**ng**' or '**nk**' is pronounced as if there was a slight pause between the letters. To show which way a word should be said, a phonetic pronunciation guide enclosed in square brackets [ ] is included with all entries where a letter **n** is followed by **g** or **k**. The guide is written according to the International Phonetic Association 1993 standard, whose symbols are used in the table above.

### Information Given

After each C'Lela word, there is a description of the meaning in English and in Hausa. Sometimes the entry may include a past tense (for verbs) or a plural (for nouns), a scientific name, a picture or a cross-reference to see other related words. Every word has a part of speech; the meaning of these is given in English and C'Lela later.

### Typefaces or Fonts Used

The dictionary uses different typefaces (fonts) to distinguish different languages and types of information:

<b>Headwords</b>	are in a <b>bold sans-serif font</b> .
<b>C'Lela writing</b>	is <b>bold</b> .
<i>Hausa writing</i>	is <i>italic</i> .
English writing	is plain.
<u>Scientific Names</u>	are <u><i>underlined italic</i></u> .

## How to Use the Finder Lists

A Finder List is a list of English or Hausa words. Beside each English or Hausa word, there is a part of speech (referring to the C'Lela words) and then a list of one or more C'Lela words with a similar meaning.

The English words are sorted by the English alphabet:

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

The Hausa words are sorted by the Hausa alphabet:

a	b	ɓ	c	d	ɗ	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	ƙ	l	m	n	o	r	s	t	u	v	w	y	z
A	B	Ɓ	C	D	Ɗ	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Ƙ	L	M	N	O	R	S	T	U	V	W	Y	Z

### Subentries

Subentries are used to make the index clearer and to group related entries in the index. A subentry is indented to the right 'inside' the main entry, and the main word is represented by a —.

For example, at the English word 'go' the English side of the index might look like this:

go		go
— away	<i>which is instead of</i>	go away
— back		go back
— down...		go down...

### Ambiguous Words in the Index Language

Sometimes an English or Hausa word in the index might mean two or more different things, for example 'lie' which can mean 'an untrue statement' or 'to assume a horizontal position'. To differentiate between these meanings, a word in parentheses is given after the ambiguous entry. For example, there are two entries for 'lie': 'lie (untruth)' and 'lie (down)' to reflect the two distinct meanings.