

HAUSA HAUSA

PRONOUNS

Click on the links in the left-hand column to see notes on the meanings and uses of the pronouns. Click on the parallel links in the right-hand column to see full paradigms of the pronouns, usually in a context.

See remarks on pronoun use	See pronoun paradigms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent pronouns • Genitive ("possessive") pronouns • Independent genitive pronouns • Subject pronouns • Direct object pronouns • Indirect object pronouns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent pronouns • Genitive ("possessive") pronouns • Independent genitive pronouns • Subject pronouns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Completive ■ Relative completive ■ Negative completive ○ Continuative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continuative ■ Relative continuative ■ Negative continuative I ■ Negative continuative II ○ Future ○ Subjunctive ○ "Indefinite" future ○ Habitual • Direct object pronouns • Indirect object pronouns

INDEPENDENT PRONOUNS

- [Back to lists of types of pronouns and links](#)
- [Independent pronoun paradigm](#)

The main functions of the independent pronouns are as follows:

- Subject of predicate of a "[ne/ce](#)" sentence

Ni ne. 'It's me.'
 Ita malama 'She is a teacher.'
 ce.

- Object of a preposition



Mun zo da ita. 'We came with her.'
 Babu kowa sai 'There's nobody except
 kai. you.'

- Object of **babu** 'there is no ...', '... do(es) not exist'

Q: Akwai "penguins" a
 Najeriya?
 A: Babu su.

Q: 'Are there "penguins" in
 Nigeria?'
 A: 'There are none.' - 'They don't
 exist.'

GENITIVE ("possessive") PRONOUNS

- [Back to lists of types of pronouns and links](#)
- [Genitive \("possessive"\) pronoun paradigm](#)

The main functions of the genitive or possessive pronouns are as follows:

- Indicate a pronoun possessor in genitive or possessive constructions

gidana 'my house'
 motarku 'your car'

- Object of a verb which is in its nominal form, such as a "non-wa" verbal noun in the continuative

Suna zagina. 'They are abusing
 me.'
 Muna korarsu. 'We are chasing
 them.'

INDEPENDENT GENITIVE ("possessive") PRONOUNS

- [Back to lists of types of pronouns and links](#)
- [Independent genitive \("possessive"\) pronoun paradigm](#)

The main functions of the independent genitive or possessive pronouns are as follows:

- Indicate a pronoun possessor when the thing possessed is understood:

nawa 'mine' (masculine possession
 tawa understood)
 'mine' (feminine possession
 understood)
 nata 'hers' (masculine possession
 tata understood)
 'hers' (feminine possession

understood)

- Expressing a pronoun possessor when the possessor precedes the possessed noun for emphasis:

nawa abokin	'MY (male) friend'
tawa k'awar	'MY (female) friend'
nata mijin	'HER husband'
tasa matar	'HIS wife'

SUBJECT PRONOUNS

- [Back to lists of types of pronouns and links](#)
- Information on the Hausa tenses
 - [Completive](#)
 - [Continuative](#)
 - [Future](#)
 - [Subjunctive](#)
 - ["Indefinite" Future](#)
 - [Habitual](#)

Hausa marks verb tenses with different sets of subject pronouns rather than marking changes in the verbs themselves. There are therefore separate sets of subject pronouns for all the Hausa verb tenses. Examples here illustrate the third person singular subject pronoun for each "tense". Click the highlighted links to see the full pronoun paradigms.

Completive	Sun sha shayi.	'They drank tea.'
Relative Completive	Shayi suka sha.	'It tea that they drank.'
Negative Completive	Ba su sha shayi ba.	'They didn't drink tea.'
Continuative	Suna shan shayi.	'They are drinking tea.'
Relative Continuative	Shayi suke sha.	'It is tea that they are drinking.'
Negative Continuative I	Ba sa shan shayi.	'They aren't drinking tea.'
Negative Continuative II	Ba su da mota.	'They don't have a car.'
Future	Za su sha shayi.	'They will drink tea.'
Subjunctive	Su sha shayi.	'They should drink tea.'
"Indefinite" Future	Sa sha shayi.	'They will surely drink tea.'
Habitual	Sukan sha shayi.	'They drink tea.'

DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

- [Back to lists of types of pronouns and links](#)
- [Direct object pronoun paradigm](#)

The main functions of the direct object pronouns are as follows:

- Indicate the direct object of a verb

Ya 'He greeted us.'
gaishe
mu.

Zan 'I will help you.'
taimake
ki.

- Indicate the object of **akwai** 'there is ... ', '... exists'

Q: Akwai macizai a
Najeriya?
A: Akwai su.

Q: 'Are there snakes in
Nigeria?'
A: 'There are some. / They
exist.'

- Indicate the object of **ga** 'here ... is', 'there ... is'

Q: Ina Bala? Q: 'Where is
A: Ga shi can. Bala?

A: 'There he is.'

Q: Kuna ina? Q: 'Where are
A: Ga mu. you?

A: 'Here we are.'

- Indicate the object of the preposition **gare** 'at the place of ..., with ...'

Hankali gare 'Intelligence (is) with her,' i.e. "She is
ta. smart."

NOTE: Aside from a small class of exceptions, the tone of a direct object pronoun is opposite that of the syllable which precedes it.

INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

- Back to lists of types of pronouns and links
- Indirect object pronoun paradigm

The main function of the indirect object pronouns is to

- Indicate the indirect object of a verb

Ya 'He showed me (the
nuna house).'

mini
(gida).
Zan 'I will tell you (the

gaya
miki
(labari).

news).'

Completive Subject Pronouns

Frame: "...drank tea."

Singular		Plural	
1	nā shā shāyì	1	mun shā shāyì
2m	kā shā shāyì	2	kun shā shāyì
2f	kin shā shāyì		
3m	yā shā shāyì	3	sun shā shāyì
3f	tā shā shāyì		
		Indef	an shā shāyì

Relative Completive Subject Pronouns

Frame: "it's tea that...drank."

Singular			Plural		
1	shāyì	na shā	1	shāyì	mukà shā
2m	shāyì	ka shā	2	shāyì	kukà shā
2f	shāyì	kikà shā			
3m	shāyì	ya shā	3	shāyì	sukà shā
3f	shāyì	ta shā			
			Indef	shāyì	akà shā

Negative Completive Subject Pronouns

Frame: "...didn't drink tea."

Singular

1 bà shā shāyì ba
 2m bà kà shā shāyì ba
 2f bà kì shā shāyì ba
 3m bài shā shāyì ba
 3f bà tà shā shāyì ba

Plural

1 bà mù shā shāyì ba
 2 bà kù shā shāyì ba
 3 bà sù shā shāyì ba
 Indef bà à shā shāyì ba

Continuative Subject Pronouns

Frame: "...is ~ are drinking tea"

Singular	Plural
1 inà shân shāyì	1 munà shân shāyì
2m kanà shân shāyì	2 kunà shân shāyì
2f kinà shân shāyì	
3m yanà shân shāyì	3 sunà shân shāyì
3f tanà shân shāyì	
	Indef anà shân shāyì

Relative Continuative Subject Pronouns

Frame: "it's tea that...is ~ are drinking."

Singular	Plural
1 shāyì nakè shâ	1 shāyì mukè shâ
2m shāyì kakè shâ	2 shāyì kukè shâ
2f shāyì kikè shâ	
3m shāyì yakè shâ	3 shāyì sukè shâ
3f shāyì takè shâ	
	Indef shāyì akè shâ

Negative Continuative Subject Pronouns (I)

Frame: "...is ~ are not drinking tea"

Singular			Plural		
1	bā nà	shân shāyì	1	bā mà	shân shāyì
2m	bā kà	shân shāyì	2	bā kwà	shân shāyì
2f	bā kyà	shân shāyì			
3m	bā yà	shân shāyì	3	bā sà	shân shāyì
3f	bā tà	shân shāyì			
			Indef	bā à	shân shāyì

Negative Continuative Subject Pronouns (II)

Frame: "...does ~ do not have money"

Singular			Plural	
1	bâ ni	dà kudî	1	bâ mu dà kudî
2m	bâ ka	dà kudî	2	bâ ku dà kudî
2f	bâ ki	dà kudî		
3m	bâ shi	dà kudî	3	bâ su dà kudî
3f	bâ ta	dà kudî		
			Indef	bâ a dà kudî

Future Subject Pronouns

Frame: "...will drink tea"

Singular			Plural		
1	zân	shā shāyì	1	zā mù	shā shāyì
2m	zā kà	shā shāyì	2	zā kù	shā shāyì
2f	zā kì	shā shāyì			
3m	zâi	shā shāyì	3	zā sù	shā shāyì
3f	zā tà	shā shāyì			
			Indef	zā à	shā shāyì

“Indefinite” Future Subject Pronouns

Frame: “...will drink tea” (circumstances permitting)

Singular	Plural
1 nâ shā shāyì	1 mâ shā shāyì
2m kâ shā shāyì	2 kwâ shā shāyì
2f kyâ shā shāyì	
3m yâ shā shāyì	3 sâ shā shāyì
3f tâ shā shāyì	Indef â shā shāyì

Habitual Subject Pronouns

Frame: "...drink(s) tea (on a regular basis)"

Singular		Plural	
1	nakàn shā shāyì	1	mukàn shā shāyì
2m	kakàn shā shāyì	2	kukàn shā shāyì
2f	kikàn shā shāyì		
3m	yakàn shā shāyì	3	sukàn shā shāyì
3f	takàn shā shāyì		
		Indef	akàn shā shāyì

Subjunctive Subject Pronouns

Frame: "...should drink tea, let...drink tea"

Singular	Plural
1 ìn shā shāyì	1 mù shā shāyì
2m kà shā shāyì	2 kù shā shāyì
2f kî shā shāyì	
3m yà shā shāyì	3 sù shā shāyì
3f tà shā shāyì	
	Indef à shā shāyì