Greetings, Conversations, and Supplementary Drills in the Jukun Language
Greetings.

Mgbá gyê 
Sannubú ten, or Mgbá gyêbú ten. Good morning, hello.
ukye bîra râ? or kye bîra râ? How did you sleep?
( u is not heard, but understood) (lit. light or dawn, place)
Tôóbáa.

Fine.

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Sannú bâ a bîbibú
Sannú ten.
unâ du sansan?
bâazûn sâá mbá.

Greetings to your coming.
Greetings also.
Did you rise well?
Fine, nothing happened.

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kye bîra râ?
mkye bîra sansan.
 or, kye bîra râ?
mâm ukye bîra sansan ten kô? Oh yes, how are you too?
(avoiding the answer but actually asking the one who first greeted)
Tôóbáa. baâzûn sâá mbá.

Fine, nothing happened.
Greetings in the morning - Conversation about school.

Mgba gyę nwunza
Sannú naa
Mhm, sannú.
Kye bīra rā?
( u̡y̡e bīra rā - but u is not pronounced, just understood)
Sā nī bā diri?
or sā shīn bā di?
Tōbāa.
Bīra a ku tāna shī sansan?
Shī tōtō nūmā, bāazūn sāa mba.
Ufo shīn bā mākārāntā kere?
Bāazūn sāa mba sè mbōra rī-
gbānm ni.
O'o, uduú bījī ku mākārānta
mba?
Mdu bījī ku mākārāntā amā bījī
anjī san-à mba.

Hello brother ( or sister)
Hello, mother.
Greetings.
How did you get up? (Good morning)
How are you?
" "
I am well.
Is everything well at home?
All is well, there is nothing.
How do you like school here?
It is all right only I'm hungry.
What? don't you get food in
school?
I do get food at school, but the
food is not good.
Conversation on the road to the market.

Sannú naa.
Mhm, sannú nwunm.
Urīyā kú nī?
Mrīyā kú tīi.
Wāyā sāa kē?
Mrīshōn mhwēn tūkpā.
Ubāānī bā tūkpā?
Mbāānī bā tūkpā a sansan,
mahwēn a pyēe.

Hello, mother.
Hello, my son.
Where are you going?
I am going to the market.
What will you do?
I want to buy a cloth.
Do you not have a cloth?
I do not have a good cloth, I shall buy a new one.

Conversation on the farm.

Sannú bā būsō yoō.
Sannú zom.
Kāī, dārabū san, zāabū san zom. Oh, your farm is good, your guinea corn is good, my friend.
Dāram san kāā ni dārakā tētē. My farm is the best of all farms.

Greetings to you in your work, friend.
Greetings, my friend. (close friend)

Greetings in passing.

Tānabū sā shīn?
Jīrazūn anā, tāna shī tōtō númā. There is nothing, home is all well.

How are things at home?
Greetings in the afternoon - conversation in town.

Sannú malá.

Greetings, aunt (paternal aunt, but used for any woman directly related to the father.

Sannú yooū.

Greetings, friend.

Ka nyũnu rā?

How have you spent the day?

Sā nĩ bā di?

How are you feeling?

(the question is turned to the former person)

Tōobāa.

I'm well.

Ubī ku yōoka?

You came to town?

M, mbī ku yōoka.

Yes, I came to town.

Ubī sāā kē?

Why did you come? (you came to do what?)

Mbī dijīra mbī. hwēn bāa biru.

I came in order to buy things for

Udu bāa biru anjī?

Did you get those things for soup?

M, mdu māna bā su bā jēe a ngēnēm, Yes, I got salt and locust

bā shītā, amā mdum' biru a gbanshi mbā. bean cakes, and dried fish,

Mala, màkased yā ku tāna. and pepper, but I didn't

Aunt, I shall return home.

Tōo, yǎu sanzan, ùna wau bā nyĩnkà tētē. All right, go well, greet

Sé nyũnu ápina.
your wife and all the children.

Shidŏn kūzeu yā fo sansan. Goodbye, (until two days)

Amin. May God take you, arrive well.
Conversation in a compound.

Gafara a sen tāna, a sen tāna shī kōc?
A sen tāna bāmī, kūpo zū ra.
Kuyā ku nī?
Kuyā ku tāna bī zoa.
Kākasēn bī tamānī?
Myim mba.

Kūnyā nū kē?
Mrīnyan-m bāazūn mba.
Ākē sāa ni ubī?
Mbī dijīra mna.
Bīra a ku tāna shī sansan kō?
M, shīa tōo nūmā

What are you looking for?
I am not looking for anything.
why have you come?
I came to greet you.
Is everything well at home?
Yes, it is well.

Su rībi.
Su ātē?
Mrīga nūmā.
Ipan sōna ka yā ku tāna.

It's going to rain.
will it rain?
I think so.
Let us take the loads, enter go
into the house.
Conversations at the hospital - nurse and patient

jinabù ràa ke?
my name is Adamu Basuna.
jinám rà Adamú Basûnâ.
what is your name?
ákù rituú ni?
my head aches every day, my whole
shinám ringängan kò nyûnu a kù chest pains me, and my neck, and
nì, gomikínâm tète rituûtu, bâ my back also.
hwenmì, bâ kùbam tète ten.
úpan takardâ a shînî, úyà shî ba Take this paper and go and wait
likita kù tāna a kù mukanni.
for the doctor in that room over
there.

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ubì saa ke?
why have you come?
dirin rīfaänfan, dirin tète My body is hot, my whole body is
ten rîvönvôn, zôom rîvënven. trembling, my eyes are dizzy.
úshî ba likita rîbî.
Wait for the doctor, he’s coming.
Conversation of nurse and patient

jinabú rāa ke?
jinam rā Adu.
ākē rītuū ni?
dirim tẹtẹ rītuūtu, fūnam
rīfaānfan, mājī bīji titīi númá hot
my name is Adu.
what is paining you?
my whole body pains, my stomach is
fūnam zea nde mba,
Kodē bī bīji
rīsāa mi mba, mārā mji bā gbāma
constipation), if I eat only
sē mriwobāa.
a little food my stomach
doesn't agree, I have no
úpan tākARDā a shini yā ku tāna ku
appetite, if I eat a lot I
mukanni dijīra bimba me gba dika,
vomit.
bā sīnzan, bā sa diribu..

Take this paper, go to that
room there so that they may
test and see your stools and
urine, and your blood.

Conversation of patient who meets a friend near the hospital

ubī sāa ke?
mbī ku tāna gāntī dijīra dirim'
riyūyū
why have you come?
I came to the house of medicine
bīdan yāu rāa ke?
bī rā mshī bā shiishīi, bīyam
because my body is itching.
what did they say to you.
gāntī dipere nyēnā gbān-ā dūp
they said I have worms, they
gave me medicine - 90
They said I must swallow two in the morning, two at noon, two in the evening, every day. You have received good medicine for it.

Conversation between two friends (greetings)

Yoo'sannu bā kyēnna.
mīm, ushiu' sansan kō?
mshī sansan, baāzūn saa' mba'.
ubī sansan?
mbī sansan, baāzūn saa' mba'.
bīra kū tāna shī sansan?
bīra kū tāna shī sansan.
shōobūkā dān rā mmābī rā mīnau kōs.

Friend, greetings with your journey. Oh ye, are you well? I am well, there is nothing. Have you come well? I have come well, there is nothing. Is all well at home? All is well at home. Your brothers (older) said that when I come I must greet you.
Conversation with man arriving with a headload.

Sannu baa soha.  
Mhm, upan te yam sonani, ndo ka shin.  
a sona ake numa?  
a zaa.

greetings with your load.  
Oh yes, take this load down for me, it's very heavy.  
What is in the load?  
It's guinea corn.

Greeting a woman in the evening at her work.

ka nyunu ra?  
Toobaa.  
ufu shin baa nyunu kazoo?  
nyunu kazoo san ra, or baaazun saa mbaa.  
ufu shin baa buso?  
baaazun saa mbaa, Igode ya Shidoo. Fine, we thank God.  
urisa biji? or  
ute kira ra?  
M'm, para shi ku piru.  

Good afternoon. (How is the day?)  
Fine, thanks.  
How do you feel this afternoon?  
Fine. afternoon is good, nothing happened.  
How do you feel with the work?  
Are you making food?  
Have you stirred the grain-food?  
No, the pot is on the fire.
Buying food in a hotel (cafe)

úyám kíra bī kwóbóó pina. (Bala) give me grain-food for two pence.
būsoon bī 'APAÁH? (Rahaba) for how much worth of meat?
jée shī kóō? (Bala) is there any fish?
jée bāání, sé būsoón kuná (Rahaba) there is no fish, only chicken meat.
ápaáná pāna? (Bala) how much is it?
bī súle bā sísí shī kóō. (Rahaba) for (of) one shilling and sixpence is available.
bī súle shī kóō. (Rahaba) for one shilling is available.
bī nāim shī kóō. (Rahaba) for nine pence is available.
bī sísí bāání? (Bala) is there none for six pence?
bī sísí bāání, sé yíra a mdán yáuní. (Rahaba) there is none for six pence, only the kind which I told you.
tōo, úyám bī súle. (Bala) all right, give me a shillings worth.
Buying cloth/the market

What are you looking for?
I am looking for cloth which they call Kampala.

It is available.

How much is one hand (2 yards) one hand is fifteen shillings.

I will buy it for ten shillings.

No, I won't sell it that way.

You must pay fourteen shillings.

I'll give you eleven shillings.

Last price (his truth) is thirteen shillings.

I have only twelve shillings.

All right, because it is you, bring the money, I sell it to you.
Buying a basin in the market

padí a shini' apana?
sule adūp gbān-a nini.
padí anji ten ndoa mba', shī
numāni kagbām mī mba.
ā padī a sansan, ka a pyēe a
bīrisā tamānī.
mrishōn ka padī a titii, a
shini' we ka shīn.
a titii ten mā shī kō'
ashōbā - apana?
ashōbā sule adūp gbān-a pīna.
mayāu sule atāani.
ūze sule adūp bī.
ūpan ashō shini'.

how much is this basin?
eighteen shillings.
this here basin is not heavy, and
so it will not be strong.
it is a good basin, the new kind
which they make now.
I want (prefer) a small basin,
this one is too large. (much)
a small one is also available.
how much is it? (its'money how much?)
it costs twelve shillings.
I'll give you nine shillings.
bring ten shillings.
take the money.
Questions and answers.

Ákè sáá ni nyíinka rìdà gbara?
Bìrífòbì sòón mbà́.
Udân ràá kè?
Mdáàn rá́, "Nyúnu ku rà́".
Ànlí rìbìí ni?
Nàà tìì rìbìí ni.
Kùbì bàá kè?
Kùbì bá kuna.

Why are the children beating each other?
They don't listen, obey.
What did you say?
I said, "The sun has gone down."
Who is that coming?
Aunt is coming. (younger maternal)
She is coming with what?
She is coming with a chicken.

Questions in the kitchen.

bìjì byén rá?
iyée, bìjì byén-a rá mbá́.
ùtè piru rá?
mtem rá mbá́.
ákè sáá ni utèú rá mbá́?
Mdum nyína piru mbá́.
ùyà nyàn nyína a shì kú mì dijìra
ùtè piru.

Is the food ready? (or ripe)
No, the food is not ready.
Did you build the fire?
I didn't build it.
Why didn't you build it?
I didn't get firewood.
go outside and find the fire-
wood in order that you can
build the fire.
Drills using Obligatory action

úyá hwen yám fyeken. You and go buy groundnuts for me.
tamání? Now?
M, tamání. Yes, now.

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níṣa būsō mónó, nyúnu fan ká shí, You must work fast, the sun is
íngan nwóon, mni rá. very hot, let's go and rest,
I'm tired.

m'ka, kó m'kám' mba? May I enter, or may I not enter?
úka bí. You enter.
údán yábi bishí kpo' núma. You tell them they must be quiet.
bikó zape yám. They must draw water for me.
kúbi sá zám bá būsō. He must come and help me work.

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mřishón myá kú yöoka. I want to go to town.
kudán yábi bíbi kère. He must tell them to come here.
níbi iji zün. You come, let us eat together.
Drills on the negative element mba which comes at the end of a sentence, and the recapitulating pronoun which follows the verb.

k'aya k' dara jina mba.
wabi kere mba madau.
bigabi gbara a nyunu kazoni mba.
bigyan yibi kwara mba.
jinani waya ku tii?
mayam ku tii jina mba.

mawu furu?
yawu furu mba.
usa vinu busobu ra?
msa vinim ra mba.
biriya ku yoka?
bayabi ku yoka mba.
nirizo zoo ba nyinka titiika?

irizoi zoo ba nyinka titiika mba. We are not playing with the little children.

kushi ni pere anji a andi bi kereni?

Will he not go to the farm today?
If you don't come here I'll hit you.
They didn't fight this afternoon.
They don't know how to row a boat.
Will you go to the market today?
I shall not go to the market today.

Will you drink gruel?
We won't drink gruel.
Have you finished your work?
I have not finished.
Are they going to town?
They will not go to town.
Are you playing with the little children? (you pl.)
Is he the person who came here previously?
kūshākū mba, a perezūn.
udān yākū jīra anjī?
mdān yāmku jīra anjī mba.

It is not he, it's another person.
Did you tell him this matter?
I didn't tell him this matter.

Drills using the particle  mī in the negative.

ānānī kūmem?
ānā kūmem mī mba.
kūhwā yāw tōonbu rā?
kūhwā yām mī mba.
bīdān yāl mī mba.
kūsā zānī bā būsō?
kūsā zāl mī mba.
mdāu mī mba.
kūrīfōi mī mba.
bītōnī tōtōn?
bītōnī mī tōtōn mba.
usā yām mī mba.
Wasā yām būsō a shīnī?
masā yāw būsō a shīnī mī mba.

Did he see me yesterday?
Yesterday he didn't see me.
Has he paid you his debt?
He hasn't paid me the debt.
They didn't tell us.
Has he helped you with the work?
He didn't help us.
I didn't hit you.
He doesn't obey us.
Have they deceived us?
They have not deceived us.
You haven't done it for me.
Will you do this work for me?
I will not do this work for you.

17.
Drill on the negative expressions of permissive action.

mka yám mba?
Shall I not go?
úka yau mba,
You must not go.
kúka yáa mba
He must not go.
ïka yáí mba.
We must not go.
níka yáni mba.
You (pl) must not go
bíka yábí mba.
They must not go.

did he say he should sit there?
kúdan rā ùte shí kóó?
have I not said he should sit there?
kúdan rā mka te shí kóó mba.
you must not sit there.
úka nā naa mba.
you must not sleep.
kúká wō diri jína mba.
he must not bathe his body today.
níká wā shīin mba.
you (pl) must drink beer.
ïká dān jíra mba.
we must not talk.
bíká bī kēré mba.
you (pl) must not come here.

Greetings to one on arrival.

Sannu bā bíbíbu. 
greetings to your coming.
Sannu
hello.
ubī sansan?
have you come well?
mī sansan, bāazūn sāa mba.
I have come well, nothing has happened.
Drill on special possessive pronouns, expressing relationship of family or close friend.
my father isn't here.
your father is a farmer.
his friend went to town.
our father had died.
their father is a farmer.
our ancestors say we must respect the elders.
their ancestors say we must work.
your brother has a goat.
his brother has a bicycle.
his wife went to town.
your wife has money.
his mother (his own mother) knows reading. (papers)
your mother is a good person.
our mother has a good house.
Note that tái 'our father', tāu 'your father', tāa 'his father' are used, but never naaì 'our mother' nor naaí 'your mother', nor naãaì 'his mother'. Instead naábuì 'your mother', naábiì 'our mother', and naábaì 'his mother'.

Also -

yeuì 'your own mother' but not beeuì 'your grandmother'
yeaì 'his own mother' beeaì 'his grandmother'
yeiì 'our own mother' beeiì 'our grandmother'

Also -

shòobuì 'your older brother' shoouì
shòobaì 'his older brother' shooaì
shòobiì 'our older brother' shooiì

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General conversation -

ubì kéré? have you come here?
mbì kéré. I have come here.
mrìshón mdãn jìra bá u, mdum pora mba. I wanted to talk with you, I didn't get a chance.
śe yãshì rā. goodbye, until later.

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Ordinary possessive pronouns:

tam ya rā
naabu yā kū tīi?
tētabi bī rā.
būsēbi tu.
ashōbini vīnda?
būsōnbibī wū ra?

dāranī shībūm. or dāranī
shību. or dārabu
shāranī shība. or dārabā
shāranī shībi. or dārabī
dāranī shībīnī. or dārabānī
dāranī shībibī. or dārabibī

my father has gone.
has your mother gone to market?
his father has come.
our work is difficult.
has your (pl) money finished?
their animal has died.

dāranī this is my farm.
shībūm. this is your farm.
shību. this is your farm.
dārabu. this is his farm.
shāranī this is our farm.
shība. this is our farm.
dārabā this is your (pl) farm.
shāranī this is their farm.
shība.
dārabā
shāranī
shība.
dārabā
shāranī
shība.
dārabā
shāranī
shība.
dārabā
shāranī
shība.
dārabā
shāranī
shība.
dārabā
shāranī
shība.
dārabā
shāranī
shība.

Drills using the morpheme a'

1. Drill on a' joined to a possessive pronoun used to show special possession, expressing ownership, or expressing one's own idea or decision.
this chicken is mine.
this house is yours.
this is his matter or speech.
this is your (pl) money.
these trees are ours.
this pot is theirs.
as for me, (my decision) I cannot agree.
our own is coming.
yours is not good.

2. Drill on a preceding a noun to indicate identification.
(the second a low tone is a subordinating element meaning which, who. cl. chapter 8 in English/Jukun Manual.)
it is the man who came here yesterday.
it is the river which is so large.
it is the snake which went into this hole.

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3. Drill on `a used before verb stems taking the place of a subject pronoun. This is not common, it occurs only at times, and apparently only in the third person.

b̄a a sansanbá ásā zākū.  
pārakā ágbām mí mba',  
Amos bā Ađu bī, áka yā kū tāna.  
Biddākū ásonkū sen kū shīna.

his good character will help him.  
these pots are not strong.  
They beat him and carried him on their heads.

Musa ásā zam.  
Pūka a kū Lūpwe tete áyū.  
Adamū ayād mba'.  
Kadān jīra a pūka afō yibī mba'.

Musa will help me.  
All the people of Lupwe will go.  
Adamu will not go.

he will speak words which the people will not understand.

kūpankū ādākū  
perení áyā fōd kū yoọka mba'.  
kūnani ájià a bigē būsōon bā kū mba'.

he caught him and beat him.  
this man will not be able to go to town.

this knife is not sharp so that they can cut the meat with it.

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4. Drill on a used when placing emphasis on the pronoun, for example: as for me, you, you are the one etc. It is joined to the pronoun.

I, I have found work.
I, I am strong.

As for you, what is your opinion?
You, you are a short person.

I said, "You, are you not going?"
He said as for him he will not come.

He, he has no clothes.

We, we have no money.

We, we shall not go.

He said it we who did it.

As for us, we do this way.

As for them, they do it that way.

They, they do not drink beer.

You (pl) you will not go.

You (pl) have you not seen him?