

LESSON IV
(IHE OMUMU NKE ANO)

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In lesson II, we introduced the two classes of Igbo verbs we created and called I-dot and I-dotless verbs in order to better explain the behaviour of Igbo verbs. In lesson III, we discussed the days of the Igbo week, the weeks of the month, the months of the year, the Igbo subject and possessive pronouns, and the conjugation of I-dot verbs in the present progressive (or continuous) tense. In lesson IV, you will learn how to conjugate I-dotless verbs in the present progressive (or continuous tense) as well as how to negate a sentence or an affirmation with Igbo negative particles.

4.1 Formation of the Present Progressive Tense

If you are visiting our Language Centre for the first time, you are probably not conversant with the terms I-dot and I-dotless verbs. If that is the case, we urge you to go back and read lessons II and III before this one. Our common-sense approach to the teaching and interpretation of Igbo is so unique that you will not be able to skip some lessons and still follow subsequent ones without running into stumbling blocks. So, the sooner you familiarize yourself with our approach and novel way of interpreting Igbo linguistic and cultural realities, the more comfortable you will feel as our lessons gradually progress.

As you recall, the term *tense* refers to the change in the form of the verb that shows the time of the action described by the verb. For example, if I am doing now what I did yesterday and will do again tomorrow, I will use different tenses (present, past, and future) that reflect the time of each action to describe them so that you, the reader, will know exactly when I did each of them. In other words, I will use the past tense to describe what I did yesterday, the present tense for what I am doing at this moment, and the future tense for what I will do tomorrow, as the following English examples show:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1a) I went to school yesterday. | (2a) I ate rice and beans yesterday. |
| (1b) I am going to school now. | (2b) I am eating rice and beans now. |
| (1c) I will go to school tomorrow. | (2c) I will eat rice and beans tomorrow. |

As you also know from lesson III, we use the present progressive tense to describe or talk about something that is happening as we speak. It shows that the action is continuing or progressing at this moment, as you can see from sentence (2a) – (2f) below.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (2a) \acute{m} $n\grave{a}$ - $\grave{e}h\acute{í}$ $\acute{u}\grave{r}\grave{a}$. | I am sleeping (emphasizes the present moment). |
| (2b) $\acute{í}k\grave{e}$ $n\grave{a}$ - $\grave{a}gb\acute{á}$ $\acute{ó}sq$. | $\acute{í}k\grave{e}$ is running (emphasizes the present moment). |
| (2c) $\grave{u}l\acute{ú}$ $n\grave{a}$ - $\grave{e}r\acute{í}$ $\acute{í}h\grave{e}$. | $\grave{u}l\acute{ú}$ is eating (emphasizes the present moment). |

- (2d) \acute{o} nà-á1ù ògu. He is fighting (emphasizes the present moment).
 (2e) há nà-àgbá ígba. The are wrestling (emphasizes the present moment).
 (2f) \acute{m} nà-àńá ítì. I am listening (emphasizes the present moment).

To conjugate (= systematically arrange the different forms of a verb) a regular I-dotless verb, in the present progressive tense, take the following steps:

1. Cut off the infinitive marker of the verb (**i**) and replace it with the letter “e” as in the following example: $\acute{i}de \acute{akw}ukw\grave{o}$ <----> $\grave{e}de \acute{akw}ukw\grave{o}$.
2. Place the auxiliary verb **nà** before the main verb and join both of them with an obligatory hyphen. Example: $\grave{e}de \acute{akw}ukw\grave{o}$ (from step 1 above) will become $n\grave{a}-\grave{e}de \acute{akw}ukw\grave{o}$.
3. Ensure that the appropriate complement accompanies the verb, as in the above examples (see steps 1 and 2).
4. Do not replace the vowel of the auxiliary verb **na** with an apostrophe, as some native Igbo speakers mistakenly do.
5. Follow each of the subject pronouns with the product of step (2) above, as in the examples below:

By the way, let us clarify one thing before going further. Do you remember that every Igbo verb has an infinitive form and that there are no exceptions to the rule? If you do, what is the infinitive form of the above-mentioned auxiliary verb that you first came across in lesson III? And to what group of Igbo verbs does it belong? The infinitive form is $\acute{i}n\grave{a}$. And it is an I-dot verb. We derived **na** from $\acute{i}n\grave{a}$ by dropping the infinitive marker. That is not always the case, though. As you will learn later, there are situations in which $\acute{i}n\grave{a}$ is used as an auxiliary verb in the infinitive form, with the marker intact.

To refresh your memory, an infinitive is the base form of a verb. It expresses an action, state, or process without reference to person (who or what performs the action) or time (past, present, or future). In English, the infinitive is usually preceded by the word to (to write, to sing, to teach, to study, to cook, to smile, to laugh) which may be expressed or understood. In this course, Igbo verbs are quoted in their **infinitive** – the form in which they are being exhaustively listed in our dictionary (in the making).

Verb 1: $\acute{i}de \acute{akw}ukw\grave{o}/\acute{i}he$ (to write)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	\acute{m} nà-ède $\acute{akw}ukw\grave{o}/\acute{i}he$	$\acute{a}ny\grave{i}$ nà-ède $\acute{akw}ukw\grave{o}/\acute{i}he$
2 nd Person	\acute{i} nà-ède $\acute{akw}ukw\grave{o}/\acute{i}he$	$\acute{u}n\grave{u}$ nà-ède $\acute{akw}ukw\grave{o}/\acute{i}he$
3 rd Person	\acute{o} nà-ède $\acute{akw}ukw\grave{o}/\acute{i}he$	$\acute{h}\acute{a}$ nà-ède $\acute{akw}ukw\grave{o}/\acute{i}he$

As you already know from lesson III, a personal pronoun is a pronoun that shows by its form whether it refers to the **person speaking**, the **person spoken to**, or the **person (or thing) spoken of**. In the above conjugation, “ím” is the person speaking, “í” is the person spoken to, and “ó” is the person (or thing) spoken about. Similarly, “ányí” refers to the persons speaking, “únù” refers to the persons spoken to, and “há” refers to the persons (or things) spoken about. That said, let us apply the conjugation rules to another I-dotless verb – íkwu ókwu or íkwu úkà (to talk/speak).

Verb 2: íkwu ókwu/úkà (to talk or speak)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	<u>ím</u> <u>nà-èkwú</u> <u>ók<u>w</u>u</u>	<u>ányí</u> <u>nà-èkwú</u> <u>ók<u>w</u>u</u>
2 nd Person	<u>í</u> <u>nà-èkwú</u> <u>ók<u>w</u>u</u>	<u>únù</u> <u>nà-èkwú</u> <u>ók<u>w</u>u</u>
3 rd Person	<u>ó</u> <u>nà-èkwú</u> <u>ók<u>w</u>u</u>	<u>há</u> <u>nà-èkwú</u> <u>ók<u>w</u>u</u>

In case you have not understood the points I am trying to put across, the pronoun of the first person is “ím” (or “mú”) with its plural “ányí.” The pronoun of the second person is “í” (or “í”) with its plural “únù” that refers to more than one person. And the pronoun of the third person is “ó” (or “ó”) with the common plural “há” for both pronouns. You are now ready for the conjugation of nine additional I-dotless verbs that Igbo speakers at home and abroad use in their daily conversations.

Verb 3: íchè échìche/úchè (to think)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	<u>ím</u> <u>nà-échè</u> <u>échìche</u>	<u>ányí</u> <u>nà-échè</u> <u>échìche</u>
2 nd Person	<u>í</u> <u>nà-échè</u> <u>échìche</u>	<u>únù</u> <u>nà-échè</u> <u>échìche</u>
3 rd Person	<u>ó</u> <u>nà-échè</u> <u>échìche</u>	<u>há</u> <u>nà-échè</u> <u>échìche</u>

Verb 4: írí íhe/ńrí (to eat)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	<u>ím</u> <u>nà-èrí</u> <u>íhe/ńrí</u>	<u>ányí</u> <u>nà-èrí</u> <u>íhe/ńrí</u>
2 nd Person	<u>í</u> <u>nà-èrí</u> <u>íhe/ńrí</u>	<u>únù</u> <u>nà-èrí</u> <u>íhe/ńrí</u>
3 rd Person	<u>ó</u> <u>nà-èrí</u> <u>íhe/ńrí</u>	<u>há</u> <u>nà-èrí</u> <u>íhe/ńrí</u>

NOTA: íchè échìche and íchè úchè are two different manifestations of the same verb. You can use them interchangeably with no risk of being misunderstood.

Verb 5: íshì íhe/ńrì (to cook)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	ń ná-èshí íhe/ńrì	ányị ná-èshí íhe/ńrì
2 nd Person	ị ná-èshí íhe/ńrì	únù ná-èshí íhe/ńrì
3 rd Person	ó ná-èshí íhe/ńrì	há ná-èshí íhe/ńrì

Verb 6: ísè íhe (to draw something)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	ń ná-ésè íhe	ányị ná-ésè íhe
2 nd Person	ị ná-ésè íhe	únù ná-ésè íhe
3 rd Person	ó ná-ésè íhe	há ná-ésè íhe

Verb 7: íbe ákwa (to cry)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	ń ná-èbé ákwa	ányị ná-èbé ákwa
2 nd Person	ị ná-èbé ákwa	únù ná-èbé ákwa
3 rd Person	ó ná-èbé ákwa	há ná-èbé ákwa

Verb 8: íje íjè (to walk)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	ń ná-èjé íjè	ányị ná-èjé íjè
2 nd Person	ị ná-èjé íjè	únù ná-èjé íjè
3 rd Person	ó ná-èjé íjè	há ná-èjé íjè

Verb 9: íhi úřa (to sleep)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	ń ná-èhí úřa	ányị ná-èhí úřa
2 nd Person	ị ná-èhí úřa	únù ná-èhí úřa
3 rd Person	ó ná-èhí úřa	há ná-èhí úřa

NOTA: úřa is an important verbal complement that is linked to a number of colourful Igbo expressions. Since they are sleep related, and we all sleep every day, we will list some of them in Section 4.7 for your vocabulary enrichment.

Verb 10: íte égwu (to dance)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	ím nà-èté égwu	ányị̀ nà-èté égwu
2 nd Person	ị̀ nà-èté égwu	únù nà-èté égwu
3 rd Person	ọ̀ nà-èté égwu	há nà-èté égwu

Verb 11: íkpe èkpéré (to pray)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	ím nà-èkpé ékperè	ányị̀ nà-èkpé ékperè
2 nd Person	ị̀ nà-èkpé ékperè	únù nà-èkpé ékperè
3 rd Person	ọ̀ nà-èkpé ékperè	há nà-èkpé ékperè

4.2. Group I and Group II Verbs

If you have studied lesson III, you must have noticed by now that several verbs that are synonymous in Igbo do not always belong to the same class of verbs. Some do, as the following examples show:

GROUP I (I-DOTLESS)	GROUP I (I-DOTLESS)
ísè fòtó (to take a photograph)	íwè fòtó (to take a photograph)
íshì níri (to cook food)	íghu níri (to cook food)
ílìte ọ̀tọ̀ (to get or rise up)	íbìlìte ọ̀tọ̀ (to get or rise up)
íshì ófè (to make soup)	íte ófè (to make or prepare soup)
íhù ékpe (to beg for pardon)	íkpe íre (to beg for pardon)
ílegharị́ ánya (to look around)	íkikègharị́ ánya (to look around)
íshìghe níri (to finish cooking)	íghughe níri (to finish cooking)
GROUP II (I-DOT)	GROUP II (I-DOT)
ị̀gba égwu (to dance)	ị̀gba níkwà (to dance)
ị̀gha ùghá (to tell a lie)	ị̀tụ àshị́ (to tell a lie)
ị̀kpọ́ áshị́ (to hate)	ị̀hụ́ íro (to hate someone/something)
ị̀gbọtò́ íhe (to drop sth.)	ị̀tògbọ́ íhe (to drop something)
ị̀haji chí (to wreak havoc)	ị̀rụ àla/àrụrụàla (to wreak havoc)
ị̀nọru alá (to sit down)	ị̀kwùsa ọ̀dù (to sit down)

íkàgbu íhe (to cancel sth.)	ídògbu íhe (to cancel something)
íkụ mkpuru (to sow seeds)	ígba mkpuru (to sow seeds)
ísa mbára (to be wide)	ísa ògbú/óbodobo (to be wide)
ítuchi úzò/íhe (to lock door)	ígbachi úzò/íhe (to lock door/sth.)
ítupo íhe (to open/unlock sth.)	ítughe íhe (to open/unlock something)
íduchi ákwà (to patch cloth)	ígbachi ákwà (to patch/mend cloth)
ísa chí (to see a new day)	íbò chí (to see the light of a new day)

And others do not, as in these examples:

GROUP I (I-DOTLESS)

íbe ákwà (to cry)
íje íjè (to walk)
íhi úr̀a (to sleep)
íte égwu/úri (to dance)
ígwù nkwa (to play music)
íje ózi (to run an errand)
ír̀e ókụ (to burn)
ísè ókwu (to quarrel)
ílufù íhe (to throw sth. away)
ígè nt̄́ (to listen)
ílu ílu (to be bitter)
íme ùzụ (to make noise)
ítu íhe (to look/search for sth.)
íme íhere (to be shy)
ílewuwe ánya (to be vigilant)
ímechi ánya (to close the eyes)

GROUP II (I-DOT)

íkwa ákwà (to cry or shed tears)
ígá íjè (to walk)
ír̄ahu úr̀a (to sleep)
ígba égwu (to dance)
íkụ nkwa (to play music)
ígá ózi (to run an errand)
ígba ókụ (to burn)
íkò ókwu (to quarrel)
ítufù íhe (to throw something away)
ír̀na nt̄́ (to listen)
íkụ ílu (to be bitter)
ízù ùzụ (to make noise)
íchò íhe (to look or search for sth.)
ísò ánya (to be shy)
ígbarìwa ánya (to be vigilant)
íhukpuchi ánya (to close one's eyes)

The list is not exhaustive. We will reveal more about the structure of the Igbo verb in the coming lessons. In the meantime, feel free to use the above verbs interchangeably.

4.3 Negation

The Igbo people have a proverb about reversible and irreversible actions that goes this way: “ásụ ágbàrà àgbá ánaghị àlágghàchí n’ónụ” (the saliva an individual spits out of his mouth does not go back into it). If everything that comes out of the

human mouth were to function the same way, like a lobster cage with no exit, life on earth would have been too rigid and a lot more chaotic. There would have been no way for us to change our minds about things we regret after doing them. And no way, too, to disengage oneself from injurious commitments or to retract confessions made under duress. Similarly, damages caused by careless statements, admissions made before the facts, and honest mistakes would all have been irreparable. Most importantly, there also would have been no way for us to say no after we have mistakenly said yes, and no way to commute prison sentences or pardon wrongful doers. Fortunately for us, the universe gives us leeway to change certain things. For example, we can repudiate a charge, nullify agreements, and revoke permits – all by negating the original statements that gave rise to them, since every thing under the sun implies the existence of its negative counterpart.

Igbo has different ways of expressing negativity, depending on the situation. And we will examine all of them as the need arises. For now, we will focus our attention on the negation of the conjugated verbs. So, how does an Igbo speaker say, for example, that he or she is not eating, not dancing, not singing, or not sleeping? Here are the steps to take:

1. For the first, second, and third person singular, attach the negative particle –gh_í to the auxiliary verb nà (= after dropping its infinitive marker) and delete the obligatory hyphen, as in the following examples:

(a) m̄ nà-èr_í íhe <----> m̄ nágh_í èr_í íhe.

(b) ị nà-àgbá nkwà/égwu <----> ị nágh_í àgbá nkwà/égwu.

(c) ó nà-èh_í úr_à <----> ò nágh_í èh_í úr_à.

2. For the first, second, and third person plural forms of the verb, prefix the letter “a” to the auxiliary verb nà (= after dropping its infinitive marker), suffix the negative particle –gh_í to it, and delete the obligatory hyphen, as these examples show:

(a) ány_í nà-àg_ú ákw_{ukw} <----> ány_í ánagh_í àg_ú ákw_{ukw}.

(b) ún_ù nà-àgbá ós_ò <----> ún_u ánagh_í àgbá ós_ò.

(c) há nà-èd_é íhe <----> há ánagh_í èd_é íhe.

3. The rules apply to I-dot and I-dotless verbs alike.

The first person singular and the third person plural alternative forms follow rule (1) above. In other words, you do not prefix the letter “a” to the auxiliary verb because the forms in question already begin with the letter “a”:

(i) á nà m̄ èr_í íhe <----> á nágh_í m̄ èr_í íhe.

(ii) á nà hà èd_é íhe <----> à nágh_í hà èd_e íhe.

- (iii) á nà hà égwù égwu <----> á nághị hà égwù égwu.
 (iv) á nà hà èkwú ókwu <----> á nághị hà èkwú ókwu.
 (v) á nà m̀ èlé ánya <----> á nághị m̀ èlé ánya.

4.4. Alternative Forms of I-dotless Verbs

The first person singular and the third person plural forms of the conjugated I-dotless verbs above have alternative forms, just like the I-dot verbs we discussed in lesson III. To derive the forms, take the following easy steps:

STEP I: Move the subject pronoun in between the auxiliary verb and the main verb. Example: *m̀ nà-èdé íhe* <----> *nà m̀ èdé íhe*

STEP II: Delete the hyphen and insert a word space before and after the main verb, as in the above example.

STEP III: Place the letter **a** in the subject position (= the position of the pronoun before the movement). Ex.: *nà m̀ èdé íhe* <----> *á nà m̀ èdé íhe*

If you follow the steps rigidly, as prescribed, you will end up with the following first person singular and third person plural alternative forms for the eleven I-dotless verbs conjugated above:

SINGULAR

- Verb 1: á nà m̀ èdé íhe
 Verb 2: á nà m̀ èkwú ókwu
 Verb 3: á nà m̀ échè úchè
 Verb 4: á nà m̀ èrí íhe/ńri
 Verb 5: á nà m̀ èshí íhe/ńri
 Verb 6: á nà m̀ ésè íhe
 Verb 7: á nà m̀ èbé ákwa
 Verb 8: á nà m̀ èjé íjè
 Verb 9: á nà m̀ èhí úřa
 Verb 10: á nà m̀ èté égwu
 Verb 11: á nà m̀ èkpé ékperè

PLURAL

- á nà hà èdé íhe
 á nà hà èkwú ókwu
 á nà hà échè úchè
 á nà hà èrí íhe/ńri
 á nà hà èshí íhe/ńri
 á nà hà ésè íhe
 á nà hà èbé ákwa
 á nà hà èjé íjè
 á nà hà èhí úřa
 á nà hà èté égwu
 á nà hà èkpé ékperè

4.5 Conjugation of Verbs: Negative

As the Igbo people say, “íhe ùwa ánaghị àgá zìzìrìrì m̀gbe ńíle” (the elements of the universe do not always move in a straight line). Sometimes, they do.

And sometimes they do not. To the Igbo, it is this contradiction or conflict between the two opposing forces that keeps their world of duality in a state of perfect balance by preventing none of the seemingly antagonistic but complementary forces from actualizing rigorously. The same is true of language – one of the elements of the said universe. The eleven I-dotless verbs we conjugated in the present progressive (or continuous tense, the I-dot verbs we examined and conjugated in lesson III, and the hundreds of Igbo verbs that we have not yet looked at – all can be negated. To do so, the Igbo speaker or learner has to apply the negation rules (outlined in the preceding pages) rigidly to the verbs. It is as simple as that. Below is an illustration of how to apply them to I-dot and I-dotless verbs.

Verb 1: ígu ákwukwo (to read)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	ím nághì àgú ákwúkwò	ányì ánaghì àgú ákwúkwò
2 nd Person	í nághì àgú ákwúkwò	únu ánaghì àgú ákwúkwò
3 rd Person	ó nághì àgú ákwúkwò	há ánaghì àgú ákwúkwò

Verb 2: íchè échìche/úchè (to think)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	ím nághì échè úchè	ányì ánaghì échè úchè
2 nd Person	í nághì échè úchè	únu ánaghì échè úchè
3 rd Person	ó nághì échè úchè	há ánaghì échè úchè

Verb 3: íchì óchì (to laugh)

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st Person	ím nághì áchì óchì	ányì ánaghì áchì óchì
2 nd Person	í nághì áchì óchì	únu ánaghì áchì óchì
3 rd Person	ó nághì áchì óchì	há ánaghì áchì óchì

If the subject pronouns above are replaced by their antecedents, the nouns they refer to, the first, the second, and the third person singular forms will all prefix the letter “a” to the auxiliary verb before attaching the negative particle –ghì to it. In other words, they will, in that case, follow rule (2) above just like the first, the second, and the third plural forms. (See step 2.) Example:

INSTEAD OF THESE:	YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:
ím nághì èrí íhe.	ójì ánaghì èrí íhe (Oji is the antecedent).
í nághì àgá íjè.	íke ánaghì àgá íjè (Ike is the antecedent).

ọ́ nághị àtú ụ́jò. jìdè ánághị àtú ụ́jò (Jide = the antecedent).
 ń nághị ètè égwu. úkò ánághị ètè égwu (Uko = antecedent).
 ọ́ nághị ébì ńkò. àja ánághị ébì ńkò (Aja is the antecedent).

4.6 Negative Alternative Forms

In Section 4.4 we outlined the steps that you are supposed to take in order to derive the first person singular and the third person plural alternative forms of all the conjugated and regular I-dotless verbs. In this section, you will learn how to derive the same forms in the negative. So here are the simple rules that you are to follow:

For the negative equivalent of the first person singular alternative form:

STEP I: Move the subject pronoun in between the auxiliary verb and the main verb. Example: ̀m̀ nàghị èrì íhe <----> nàghị ̀m̀ èrì íhe.

STEP II: Place the letter “a” in the subject position (= the position of the pronoun before the movement. Ex. nàghị èrì íhe <----> à nághị ̀m̀ èrì íhe.

For the negative equivalent of the third person plural alternative form:

STEP I: Move the subject pronoun in between the auxiliary (to which has been attached the negative particle -ghị́) and the main verb, as in the following example: hà ànághị èrì íhe <----> ànághị hà èrì íhe

STEP II: Separate the harmonizing prefix attached to the auxiliary from the latter by inserting a word space between the two.

Example: ànághị hà èrì íhe <----> à nághị hà èrì íhe

The bi-directional arrow that accompanies a particular rule simply indicates that the operation goes either way (= proceeds in both directions). In other words, if you only know what is on the left-hand side of the arrow, you can derive what is on the right-hand side from it and vice versa. That, I think, is another confirmation that the universe does not always move in one direction.

4.7 Colourful Expressions and Vocabulary

As promised, here are some handy expressions that you should know and use in your daily conversations. They are inspired by the verbs we conjugated in the preceding pages.

ákwụkwọ:	ń nà-àchọ ọ́baakwụkwọ.	I am looking for a library.
	í nà-èdé ákwụkwọ ìgbo.	You are writing an Igbo book.
	ọ́ nà-àkpá ákwụkwọnrí.	She is harvesting vegetables.
	há nà-àchọ ákwụkwọego.	They need currencies (paper money).

èkperè:	èkperè (íshì) ùtùtù. ányị nà-àrú ùlọ́ ékperè. chúkwu nà-àzá ékperè. óji nà-èkpé óke ékperè. kà ànyị kpée ékperè! ó nà-èkpé ékperè n'ìgbo.	Morning prayers We are building a prayer house. God answers prayer. Oji prays a lot. Let us pray! He/she is praying in Igbo.
íjè:	íjè ùkwù íjè ùgbọ̀àla íjè ùgbọ̀okporoigwè íjè ùgbọ̀elu íjè ùgbọ̀mmiri m nà-àgá íjè n'èlu mmiri.	Travel (= on foot) Travel (= by car) Travel (= by train) Travel (= by airplane) Travel (= by sea/boat) I am walking on water.
ńri:	ányị nà-èshí ńri ńri gínì kà í nà-èshí? á nà m èshí òsikápa. m nà-àdá àdaradá jí. adaradá jí nà-àtọ́ ùtọ́. gínì kà í nà-àńú? á nà m àńú mmiri.	We are cooking (food). What type of food are you cooking? I am cooking rice. I am cooking yam porridge. Yam porridge is delicious. What are you drinking? I am drinking water.
óchì:	há nà-áchi gí óchì. gínì nà-àtọ́ gí óchì? óchì éze ábughì ùtọ́.	They are laughing at you. What is amusing you? Laughter is not friendship.
okwu:	í nà-émé ñka ókwu. á nà hà émé ñka ókwu. gínì bù ísiokwu gí? í bù íreabàónụ. ó nà-èkwú ézi ókwu.	You speak well (= are an orator). They speak well (= are orators). What is your topic? You are a talkative. He/she speaks the truth.

úrà:	úrà nà-àtú m.	I am feeling sleepy.
	ó nà-àchó íhi úrà.	He/she wants to sleep.
	m nághì àchó íhi úrà.	I don't want to sleep.
	chidî bù ágwọ úrà.	Chidi sleeps a lot (metaphorically).
	ngozì nà-ériò úrà.	Ngozi is feeling drowsy.
	í nà-émé ánya úrà.	You are feeling drowsy.
	í nà-èhí úrà nkítà.	You sleep like a dog.
	úrà ánaghì àtú m.	I am not feeling sleepy.
	ányì nà-èhí óke úrà.	We sleep a lot.

4.8 Assignment

1. Conjugate the following verbs in the present progressive tense.

(i) íma ósù	to sigh	(ii) íkwọ úgbà	to somersault
(iii) íkwọ úgbò	to drive	(iv) íbu ámụma	to prophesy
(v) ígba mbò	to try sth.	(vi) ítu gbìrikégbì	to roll
(vii) íle ánya	to look	(viii) ízù wòrówòro	to make noise
(ix) ízù íke	to rest	(x) íkwa úkwara	to cough

2. Make the following Igbo sentences negative:

(a) jîdé nà-èrí íhe.	Jide is eating.
(b) úchè nà-áchì óchì.	Uche is laughing.
(c) àmarachúkwu nà-èshí nri.	Amarachukwu is cooking (food).
(d) ùgo nà-àgú ákwukwọ.	Ugo is reading.
(e) enyi nà-àgbá nkwa.	The elephant is dancing.
(f) mmanụ nà-àgbá oku.	The oil is burning.
(g) ikennà nà-àkwó úgbà.	Ikenna is somersaulting.
(h) ha nà-àgbá ñkeretánke.	They are running helter-skelter.
(i) ha nà-èzé gîrigiri.	They are stampeding.
(j) á nà hà àdọ ñdọromàndọ.	They are engaged in a tug-of-war.
(k) ózioma nà-ázà ulọ.	Ozioma is sweeping the house.

Thank you for your visit. As promised, lesson V will be up soon. So, come back soon.