

Tone in Ewe

Basic contrasts

1. One-syllable words; low vs. high ▢

Low:	fe <i>debt</i>	fa <i>cry v.</i>	bu <i>respect v.</i>	do <i>go out</i>	dɔ <i>hunger</i>
High:	fe <i>split v.</i>	fa <i>comfort v.</i>	bu <i>lose v.</i>	do <i>put on dress</i>	dɔ <i>pass the night</i>

2. Two-syllable words ▢ low+low vs. high+high

akpa <i>envelope</i>	akpa <i>too much</i>
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3. Two-syllable words ▢ low+low vs. low+high

afi <i>mouse</i>	afi <i>ash</i>
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Mid tones also occur in Ewe, but do not contrast with low tones.
This, and other tonal phenomena, are illustrated in a separate demo.