

Temne

Apical dental

Laminal alveolar

t_ɹor

t_ɹ^sor

▶ “descend”

▶ “farms”

Temne is a Niger-Kordofanian language (West Atlantic group) spoken in central Sierra Leone ([map](#)). There are approximately 1 million speakers.

Temne contrasts stops in the dental/alveolar region. While dental stops are typically laminal in the world’s languages, in Temne they are apical, with the alveolar stop being laminal. The laminal alveolar is affricated.

([Click here](#) for sonagrams of both words. Click on the red sonagram legend to hear the sounds.)