

Language: Bena-Bena  
Ethnologue language code: [bef]

# Bena-Bena Sentences

By Robert Young

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BENA-BENA SENTENCES

(Young, S.I.L.)

('a' glottal stop)

1. ga'la noseona 'nalibe the dog will eat food.
2. bona magihi 'noseona 'nalibe the man will eat food
3. 'konfamo ubaci 'kileomo 'nalibe the rat will eat corn
4. 'panaomoba ma'yamo 'nalibe the boy will eat sweet potato
5. 'pacmoba 'amamo 'nalibe the girl will eat taro
  
6. ya'gamo 'buci 'koo 'ehibe the pig sleeps
7. 'acmo 'mecomogu 'koo 'ehibe the woman sleeps on the ground
8. 'pac'moba si'pamo 'koo 'ehibe the girl sleeps on the bed
9. 'bonaci yano'pogu 'koo 'ehibe the man sleeps inside the house
10. na'mamo'ubaci 'yafamolo 'koo 'ehibe the bird sleeps in a tree
  
11. 'nani 'sipa lo'lo'hi'ube I make a bed
12. 'panao mo'necuba ~~hukit~~ 'nagisaon 'nalibe the boy makes an arrow
13. 'panao so'momo 'nalibe the boy makes a suacepan
14. 'yafac'aci 'kuci 'nohibe the girl is making a string bag
15. 'boe 'monecuba 'kapo 'nobilibe one man is making a road
  
16. 'lali ne'mec'nemosa ma'lalune we will put grass on (it)
17. 'panaci la'peci 'mohugu 'limolo 'ehibe the boy puts a plate on the
18. so'momo lo'gomolo 'limolobo you put the suacepan on the <sup>ground</sup> <sub>fire!</sub>
19. 'aimo e'fapo'kapo'mogu malalibe he will put the stone on the path
20. 'malo li'toto 'molebo bring it and put it there!

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BENA-BENA SENTENCES

(Young, S.I.L.)

1. 'yafao'aci mone'uba 'kuci 'nohibe  
one young girl is making a string-bag
2. 'bonaci lu'gaca 'nohi 'mone'lugu 'kalabe  
some men will sleep in the one house
3. 'lali 'nohi 'gico'huta 'yago ne'mecne'mesa ma'lalune  
all of us will put the grass on the house tomorrow
4. la'gass pa'naci'mone'uba no'seona la'pelugu mo'locohuto 'hitaro  
'minoto 'nonabe  
one small boy put a plate of food on the table and eats
5. 'bo 'mone'uba 'hetofa la'peci lo'lo 'nohibe  
a man is making a good plate
6. 'aci 'mone'uba 'buto fa'la'kito minoto ma'yafi to ya'gafi babulito  
'nonabe  
a woman went and hid while she ate a great deal of sweet potato and  
pig.
7. 'yatai aci 'mone 'ipaguti'kabu'kigo'buto'nonuga'koloto 'nohibe  
now a woman had a stomach ache and went to a house and slept
8. 'nani 'koo o'hunamo 'foluguci si'pi ka'fa'uba 'begele 'begele 'higo  
'topa 'hoto 'hotito 'ego'namo ka'fa'uba 'nohigo 'koo o'huna yabe  
I was asleep at night when the scratching of a big rat woke me with  
a fright, I saw it was a rat so went to sleep
9. 'elihi ya'gamo ba'bulito 'hoto le'pinogocni ne'lemumu 'hileto  
'bilabe  
Later I will kill lots of pigs and give them to you all and when  
you are all satisfied you can go
10. 'kapogu si'pi e'fahi 'mone 'nicigo 'kale 'anamo me'buse 'nohigo  
'bo'mone a'muya 'bo ya'go 'ana e'fapo 'kofito 'lino'hecmingo e'fahi  
ni'gi ne'yahi 'suheto 'emi'ehibe  
On the road there was a tremendous stone and a car could not pass;  
along came a very strong man who lifted the stone and moved it, and  
the man (in the car) gave him one pound (£1)

## BENA-BENA SENTENCES

1. mone panaubaci nama hocchibe  
a boy shoots a bird
2. mone panaubaci seipoi hocchibe  
a boy shoots a frog
3. kokole ani monema muca keto ehibe  
the chicken lays an egg
4. kokole ani monema kaka nolibe  
the chicken cackles
5. nani kokole muca buto ito alube  
I will go and get the hen's egg
6. elihi nani kokole muca nalube  
later I will eat the hen's egg
7. kai yafamo buto hetigito obo  
you go (and) cut wood (and bring it)
8. letali yafamo bite hetigite aliyo  
you two go and cut wood
9. enali yafamo bite hetigite alo  
you all go and cut wood
10. kalepi suhologenogo kehe inogotni ito obo  
when the peanuts are finished I will call out for you to bring (some more)
11. keiyapa bemenogogona yabe  
I have not seen you for a long time
12. ~~hiyaga nominatati noane~~ (hiyaga nominatati noane)  
where have you been staying? *where staying you come*
13. Sesinaci usomogu limito koc ehibe  
the Cessna landed
14. koci noito yasi nohibe  
when the rain comes it is cold
15. sipikoci noito nagamici nohabe  
a big rain makes a lot of water
16. koiyapa koiyapa koci ibai ibao nohibe  
it is raining all the time

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BENA-BENA SENTENCES

- koci ito meci fuluhu ehinago foya lito meya kafalune  
When the rain comes to soften the ground, we will plant sweet-potato
2. koci maite foya sibina nohibe  
When it does not rain the garden is no good
3. yegeloto meyamo babulito humalabe  
With the sun(shining)lots of sweet-pitato will grow
4. koci iba iba nohuto foya sibina hibe  
if there is too much rain the garden is no good
5. yege loba loba nohuto foya sibina nohibe  
if there is too much sun shining the garden is no good
6. gara monecuba kokole muca no ehibe  
the dog ate the hen's egg
7. kamekito ana gara halube  
I am cross so hit the dog
8. ana garamo kali huto fatoga bufahibe  
this dog being frightened has gone somewhere else
9. nani mama mone nohigo hobe (<sup>to hit</sup><sub>or shoot</sub>)  
I shot one bird there
10. butocni lito laita huto nobe  
I go get it, cook and eat it
11. okaca tegito mama bilitubecmu moloc ohube  
I put the feathers there, having pulled them out, to make a decoration later
12. elihl melekehe yupaihi kofilubecmu moloc ohube  
I have put them there for when I can put them on my head at sing-sing time
13. nani bonacni fotoci nohinayago buto egalube  
I will go and see my friend who lives a long way off
14. bugo kekebake lunetabe  
On going he shows how happy ~~he~~ (so) happy) he is
15. yahuloto noseema laita lunetago nolotocni noobe  
Then he cooks food and after eating I come back

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BENA-BENA SENTENCES

1. Yafacamo hololuto bilibe  
A young woman is running fast
2. Yafacmo ubaci zagamo babeyafa huto nukilibe  
The young woman is trying to catch a pig
3. Zagamo yatama nemecnamesa a bu ehibe  
The pig has gone into the long grass
4. Zagamo buto a folofa ehibe  
The pig has gone to hide
5. Yafacmo uba kalamo nuki ehibe  
The young woman(now) holds a dog
6. Kalamoba yafamamo mofihi hecmo ehibe  
The dog helps the young woman (to find the pig)
7. Yafacamo ubaci zagamo bebe-noligo buto nuki ehibe  
The young woman grabs and graps the squealing pig.
8. Boraci loemo fecnohi ite neacibe  
Two men are bringing cargo
9. Nani fecnohi bemegobe  
I cannot see (it) the cargo
10. Misomofi, zagamofi, kucmofi, mekehelube  
Is it rope, a pig, a bag? I don't know.
11. Elihi lecali egalucibe  
Later we can see (what it is)
12. Elihi, loemo bonaci eleinogo etoloka halube  
Later, when the two men come, I will ask them (what it is)

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BENA-BENA SENTENCES

YOUNG

S.I.L

1. Kalani nala keto ehibe  
My dog has puppies
2. Nupaci loemoyagi to koholi moneyagi keto ehibe  
She had two black one and one white (pup)
3. Alihi sipi hulenogo nogocnifihi emilube  
When they are big I will give them to my brother
4. Kala menohina yago emilube  
As he has no dogs I will give them to him
5. Yago panaci monecuba namamone ho ehibe  
Yesterday a boy shot a big bird
6. Etehi buto nohacamu sa nohibe  
This morning he goes and finds a nest
7. nama kapaca loemo nohadalugaci nehacibe  
Two baby birds are inside the nest
8. Ana panacuba yafalo tito enogabe  
A boy climbs the tree to see
9. Ai nohacaluga yahi bilago tito linogehelibe  
He puts his hand into the nest after going up the tree
10. Yahi bito nama kapaca loemo li ehibe  
He takes two little birds in his hand
11. A litoca yafalotici meluguci a nolimibe  
Having taken them he comes down the tree to the ground
12. Ai sosokafa kifina-lugati hono emibo  
He gives them grass-caterpillars (to eat) having killed them
13. Ana namamo alihi helete a bifa hacibe  
Later those birds will have flown away
14. Ana bomo foya lito nohibe  
This man is making a garden
15. Aimo ~~monecuba~~ kifina notina laga husu nohabe  
He is cutting down the grass
- 16.

16. Lihacahiti foya a nelicibe  
With his wife they dig up the garden
17. Bahacauba amuya kekisa nofibe  
The husband puts a strong fence up
18. Lihacauba meya ketuci nobibe  
The wife makes mounds for sweet potato
19. Kecmuya nokifibe, nagamici anaga mobilibe  
He makes gutters (so that) the water can run down
20. Alihi meya bati huto humolo nohibe  
Later good sweet potato will grow up
21. Kai buto nagamilugu kalepi nokala hubo  
You go and wash the peanuts in the water
22. Nohupisalo molo ehitogo loguguta hino  
Put them on top of the house to dry out
23. Yegelo molo ehitogo loguguta hino  
Put them in the sun to dry out
24. Lolenogo takoloto konogu bi molo bo  
When dry go and put them in a bamboo after taking off the skins
25. Nagamici kalubecmu nobapiye  
Are you going to the water for a swim
26. Yege ubaci mukoho akoho hinago nagamilugu buto minalube  
The sun is very hot and I am going to the water to stay there
27. Butoka nagamilugu minoba minoba mehuto meleisi obo  
Do not stay in the water all the time, you come quickly
28. Minoba minoba hilata kebesi linamuyabe  
If you stay you will get sick
29. Kayanuga henana li ahane  
What is that you have in your hand?
30. Mone-iya fayaci nagamilugati li ohube  
It is a fish I caught in the water
31. Hetofanamo yago nimitogocni nalube  
It is good so give it to me to eat!



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DEHA-DEHA SENTENCES

Young  
S.I.L.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Nosetna buto ito obo<br>Go and get the food!   | 19. Kafamo egelotaca lito nobibe<br>On seeing the rat, he grabs it & goes               |
| 2. Malo molocho<br>Put it there!  | 20. Kafamobaci tiyitiyi notibe<br>The rat is squeaking                                  |
| 3. Egobati hubo<br>Watch it well!   | 21. Yafalo ito buto moloto nalibe<br>He (the bird) puts it on a tree to eat later.      |
| 4. A bilubema nohunagi minobo<br>I am going to my house, you stay                       | 22. Bamuci ego ahatafiye<br>Did you have a dream?                                       |
| 5. Kalamo egalapihe<br>Did you see the dog?   | 23. Hena bamuci ego shane<br>What was your dream?                                       |
| 6. Hani kalamo bemegobe<br>I do not see the dog   | 24. Bamuci yaga latahaca nonoto ego ohube<br>My dream was about a pig with two head     |
| 7. Hani kiyaneffa tite halube<br>I am going up to shoot a cassavary                     | 25. Koli hue ohube<br>I was frightened  |
| 8. Hemauba foyagu tiehinago<br>A goat 's in the garden                                  | 26. Koli folo ohube<br>Being frightened, I hid(myself)                                  |
| 9. Buto hasilube<br>I will go and chase it out  | 27. Yaga latahaca kata nicigo egobe<br>I was seeing the two headed pig with a shirt on! |
| 10. Hahi nogumagihe<br>Are you building a house?  | 28. Yabuto egobe<br>I saw it like that  |
| 11. <sup>nemememasa</sup> Oyo, <del>terite</del> ite alo<br>Yes, go and get some grass! | 29. Bamuci monebesinana yabe<br>It was a dream I do not like                            |
| 12. A molobaga io ohube<br>I have put it all on   | 30. Hani anasi ka nelube<br>I have said enough  |
| 13. Yatai mananohi hogoto kalume<br>We will sleep in this house to-day                  |   |
| 14. Halepa yafa yabe<br>That tree is a kasurina   |   |
| 15. Kilufaha yafa yabe<br>That is a pine tree   |   |
| 16. Hamamone ikaika huto nobibe<br>A bird is flying                                     |   |
| 17. Hamamone kasa nogibe<br>A bird is hovering  |   |
| 18. Hamamobaci kafamo lilubecmu nobibe<br>The bird is going to catch a rat              |   |

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DEMA-DEMA SENTENCES

Young  
S.I.L

1. Pannaci monauba kona notibe  
A boy is going up the mountain
2. Saba buto enogabe  
He is going to look for mushrooms
3. Elihi oto laita hilibe  
Later he will come (back) to cook them
4. Pannaci uba etemilibe  
The boy will give (some) to 2 others
5. Nogocnifu sabamu nobesibe  
My brother likes mushrooms
6. Paci monauba kapogu nolinibe  
A girl is coming down the path
7. Ai logo lito nolinibe  
She is bringing firewood down
8. Ai meci kifito lubeomu nohibe  
She will clear out the fire hole
9. Ai logo mugalubeomu nohibe  
(Then) she lights the fire
10. Elihi ai meyamo laita hilibe  
Later on she will cook sweet potato
11. Etali etabuci ke ahacibe  
Her two brothers are asleep
12. Elihi hotite kautna otago  
Afterwards they will wake up hungry
13. Ai noseena etemilibe  
She will give them both food
14. Noseena melecahanamo kala uba nalibe  
Any food left over, the dog will eat (it)
15. Yatai malekehi ilubeomu nehabe  
To-day there is to be a sing-sing
16. Babulito noseena huto hilibe  
Lots of food will be there
17. Babulito noseena: yagamo, meyamo, igofamo  
Much food: pig-meat, sweet potato, bananas

18. Babulito bonacmo to anacmo alabo  
Many men and women will come
19. Palamohiti to pamlamohiti alabo  
Girls and boys too, will come
20. Asagai bonaci melekahi yoge nofibo  
All the men like to see the sing-sing
21. Melekahi elote noseena nalunecru nohabe  
They come to the sing-sing to eat food (too)
22. Yego yegeci noseena nioibo  
Much food is there
23. Babulito yagamo pahabe  
There are many pigs
24. Moncisi logo higela higela hi acahabe  
One fire here, there and there
25. Moncisi efaihi kela kela hi acahabe  
A pile of stones here and here
26. Melekahi ilete ebifa hilabe  
When the sing-sing is finished, all will go away
27. Fotoci melekahi suholenogo bilabe  
When the sing-sing is finished, they will go a long way away
28. Enali sipi koseleci noonahabe  
They are very tired
29. Lagasuasi yagapanamo itoafu nukito nobibe  
A little child is carried by its mother
30. Enali enabuci ke ahabe  
They are all asleep

### Bena-bena Sentences

1. kai yafamo buto hetigito obo  
you go and cut wood
2. letali yafamo bite hetigite aliyo  
you two go and cut wood
3. enali yafamo bite hetigite alo  
you all go and cut wood
4. kai buto yafamo hetigito alane  
you will go and cut wood (or will you go and cut wood?)
5. kai buto yafamo hetigito ocabane  
you went and cut wood.
6. kai buto yafamo hetigkoloto hayaca iloto ito obo  
you go, cut down a tree, strip off the branches and bring it.

'ego o'huna fiye	}	Did I see it(before?)
'ego tohu fiye		

'mabomo { ego o'huna fiye	Did I see this man(before?)
o'yo kai <sup>ka</sup> ego a 'hane	Yes, you saw him (before) (or, ego a'hata yabe)
kai loro hu? a'hatafiye	Did you make (it) (In this a subject may be put first)
kai loro hu? a'hata <sup>ka</sup> nafiye	Did you make it?

Kulai u si'punimo ni?i'namo ito buto Kofai 'emi 'ehibe/ K. spoon was there took  
went gave it to Kofai

Kulai oto s'gapa ni?igo ito bu 'ehibe to Kofai emi ehibe/ K. came saw it there  
took it went gave to Kofai

nani ke'heri o'hunafiye	Did I hear it(before?)
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megehe li ahane	You didnot hear it(before)
-----------------	----------------------------

sigis pen 'nonimi 'togotni, sore kimirube. You give me 6d I will give you salt..

nani ki'mirube

I give it to you

nani a mi'mi 'ohube

I gave it to you

nani lete'mirube

I give it to you two

nani a lete'mi 'ohube

I gave it to you two

nani'emirube

I give it to him

nani a 'emi 'ohube

I gave it to him

nani ete'mirube

I give it to them two

nani a ete'mi 'ohube

I gave it to them two

nani le'pirube

I give it to them

nani a le'pi 'ohube

I gave it to them

ala - a' - ale - woman  
 besi - bona'i be'hele - man  
 na li - pa i - mofale - girl  
 glifa panai - mofalabe - boy  
 yafae - yafa - yafae - tree  
 yege - ye'ge - ye'ge - sun  
 ikenā ikahi - ikane - moon  
 a'kempa - a'kepa - qifae - pit pit  
 hamae - na'ma - na'mae - bird  
 anta - lo'go - lebe - ~~not~~ fire  
 samulu - lahi - la'netale - ashes

ayonka - oka'a - yokale - his hair  
 abuna - bu'a - bulagae - his eye  
 agiya - g'gusa'a - giyae - his foot  
 agana - yaha'a - yama'ae - his hand  
 nogotae - okaba'a - bogusae - his face  
 agonta - golaga'a - ? - his nose  
 abeya - ba'qa'a - kile - his mouth  
 agasa - ekesa'a - kesae - his ear

I give it to you	I gave it to you	I give it to you 2	I gave it to you 211	I give it to all	I gave it to all of you
nani ki'mirube	nani a ki'mi 'o hube	nani lete'mirube	nani a lete'mi 'ohube	nani le'pirube	nani a le'pi 'ohube

*Note the  
loss of phoneme  
in contrast  
to above.*

I give it to him	I gave it to him	I give it to them 2	I gave it to them 2
nani 'emirube	nani a 'emi 'ohube	nani lete'mirube	nani a lete'mi 'ohube

Key to phonemes

r = ~~r~~ i

b = ~~b~~ i

p = ~~p~~

o = ~~o~~

{ i = i }

~~h~~ a 12

e = ~~e~~

nonaminena yabe

he gave it to me  
(dist. past?)

nani noobe I come  
 kai noane you come  
 ai noabe he comes  
 letali nea?ibe 2 come  
 asagai neabe all come  
 lali noune we (3 or more) come  
 le?ali noo?ibe you and I come

nani arube I come  
 kai arane you come  
 ai aribe he comes  
 letali ara?ibe 2 fellows  
 asagai arabe all come  
 lali a rune we come  
 le?ali aru?ibe you and I

nani birube I go  
 kai birane you go  
 ai biribe he goes  
 letali ~~mir~~bira?ibe 2 fellows go  
 asagai birabe all go  
 lali birune we (3 or more) go  
 le?ali biru?ibe you and I go

gō h B-bea kamano  
 kolūpa - etapo - habe - atre  
 'nalepa - nalepa - nalene - saurua  
 kala beta - ka'labeta - ka'labetae - "  
 ya'gonē - maya - ya'gane - kamdan  
 po'lo - yaga - fu'le - pig  
 oka'leta - me'i mopaē - guma  
 lupunapama-kifina - la'yayane - grato  
 agona - kosa - kone - muidan  
 omuna - ko'hadya - omune - velly  
 nonaē nahi - nonē - tana  
 nelefaya - nose'na - ne'yaē - feta  
 ka'labeta - iqafai'a - kanine - davana  
 kabē - ama - ne'agae - vao  
 line - line - water  
 naqam'i  
 ka'iaē - ka'ia - ma'male - atag -  
 'sapa'na - sopohi - hopone - muat  
 kata - ko'i - ko'le - nan  
 Kena - kōhi - lefene - dantoo





Yago tara'tafiye  
tara?inafiye  
Tara'nafiye

Will you come up tomorrow?  
Will you tow come up tomorrow?  
Will you (pl) come up tomorrow?

a o? ehibe  
meo? ehibe

He has come  
He has not come

a?a?ibe )  
ai a'ha?ibe

2 have come

me a?ibe

2 have not come

a?abe )  
neabe

they have come

'me abe

they have not come

yatsait. minoroto?ni, erihi oto?ni neme?nemesamo maranube / Now I stay, later I  
will come and put the  
grass on.

Sata demogu? mararane / you put it Sat.

nani buto loka 'harube

I will go and ask him

kai buto loka 'hobo

You go and ask him

a keheri ohube

I understand (completive past)

sabe mehu? ohube  
magerube  
kekeherube }

I do not understand