

## NOTES FOR WOLOF AFFIXES (SUFFIXES & PREFIXES)

(Use with **Wolof Suffixes & Prefixes Flashcard Set**: <http://www.flashnotes.com/OR/portland-community-college/afriwolof/flashcards/wolof-suffixes-prefixes/20274/>)

**g**— form of the definite article (used with names of trees, etc.) e.g. *garab gi*  
**ga** form of the definite article indicates remoteness

—**adi** a suffix implying diminution  
**lekkadi** to eat only a little  
**dofadi** to be slightly mad

—**agul** a suffix indicating 'not yet'  
**ñow-agul** he has not yet come

—**lu** (a) reduplication + *lu* indicates 'pretense' (b) make someone do for one  
**liggeey-lu** make...work for oneself

—**won**, —**woon** suffix indicating completed action in the past

**y**— plural marker

—**y** indicator of incomplete action

—**ati** a suffix indicating 'again', 'still'  
**jiw-ati** to show again  
**dem-ati** to go again  
**am-ati nga...** you still have...

—**atu**, —**atul** suffix indicating 'no longer'  
**ñow-atul** it will not come any more

—**loo** a verbal suffix  
**bax** to be good  
**baxloo** to make good

—**el**, —**eel** suffix used to form ordinal numbers  
**nyaarel** second  
**juroomel** fifth

—**el**, —**eel** suffix used to form abstract nouns  
**nob** to love  
**nobel bi** love

—**en**, —**enn** ? core of the numeral 'one'  
**b-en-a** one  
**k-en nit** one person

—**enen** another

**kenen** another (person)

—**ep**, —**ëp** core of the word ‘all’  
**yëp** all

—**a** ending for the definite article, etc. which indicates distance from the speaker  
**ba**, **ga**, **wa**, **ya**, etc.  
**ca alla ba** to the ‘bush’  
**fas wa** the horse over ther

—**aale** a suffix indicating ‘somewhat’, with colors ‘...ish’  
**sorey-aale** somewhat far  
**dof-aale** to be somewhat mad  
**weex-aale** to be whitish

—**aale** a suffix indicating ‘with’  
**yobbu-waale** to take with one

—**aan** a suffix indicating habitual or professional action  
**woyaan** to sing (as a profession)  
**nawetaan** to spend the rainy season (as a strange farmer)  
**nooraan** to spend the dry season  
**bu ay am-aan** when there used to be quarrels

—**aat** a suffix indicating ‘again’  
**ñow-aat** to come again  
**raxas-aat** to wash again

—**aay** a suffix indicating abstraction  
**rafet** to be beautiful  
**rafet-aay bi** beauty

—**al** used with verb ending in a consonant to form imperative singular  
**dem-al** go away

—**al** suffix indicating ‘doing for someone’  
**def-al** to do for  
**def-al-al** do it for (him)

—**al** suffix which turns verb into an active form (causitive suffix)  
**jeex** to be finished  
**jeex-al** to finish off  
**fees** to be full  
**fees-al** to fill up

—**ande** a suffix indicating a quality  
**reew** to be impolite  
**reew-ande** impoliteness

—**andi** a suffix implying the idea of waiting  
**toog-andil be...** sit and wait until...

—**andoo** a suffix indicating ‘together’  
**and-andoo** to go together, to agree; companion  
**lekk-andoo** to eat together

—**anga**, —**ange**, —**angi** indicator of present tense  
**mangi ni** here I am  
**mange dem** I am going  
**munga fa** he is there (distant)  
**sa weccit ange** here’s your change

—**ante** a suffix indicating reciprocity  
**saag-ante** to insult one another  
**door-ante** to strike one another  
**nuyuw-ante** to greet one another

—**anti**, —**antu** a suffix indicating ‘spend the time at’ generally implying a lack of seriousness  
**fo-antu** to amuse oneself  
**yange doxantu?** you are walking around?

—**arñi** a suffix indicating inversion, often indicating sudden or violent action as in ‘snatching away’  
**fattarñi** to unstop

—**at** a suffix indicating intensity  
**dogat** to cut into pieces

**b**— form of the definite article. occurs with nouns ending in —**kat**, —**ukāy**, etc. fruits, nouns borrowed from French and English  
**ba** the —**a** indicates remoteness from the speaker

—**ee** suffix, added to verb following *su* (if); *ba*, *bi*, *bu* (when), *u* + *ee* becomes *oo*

—**ef** suffix forming an impersonal passive  
**mën** to be able  
**mënef na ko** one can do it, it can be done

—**gum** a suffix = already have  
**dugg-gum** already have entered

—**i** (**yi**, **ji**) suffix indicating *to go to* (*do*)  
**mange dem rooti** I am going off to fetch water  
**mangi jendi jën** I am going to buy fish  
**indi-ji** to go to bring

—**i** (plus lengthening of consonant) an inersive suffix

**daaj** to nail  
**daajji** to pull out a nail

—**in** a suffix, indicating manner of doing  
**dox** to walk  
**doxin** manner of walking

—**it** a suffix, indicating the result of an action — added to verbal root  
**damma** to break  
**dammit** pieces

—**it** suffix indicating ‘again’

—**ji** suffix indicating ‘to go to do...’

**ji** to sow  
**ji-yaale** to sow at the same time

**jottali** to transmit, pass on, act as intermediary, amplify (repeating a speech)  
**jottalikat** person who speaks for someone else

**julli** to pray  
**julli-kaay** place for prayer  
**jullit *bi*** Muslim

**k**— prefix added to certain verbs beginning with a vowel to form a noun  
**añaan** to be jealous  
**kañaan *gi*** jealousy

—**kaay** 1. locative suffix 2. instrumental suffix

—**kat** suffix = *—er*  
**bey-kat *bi*** farm-er  
**liggeey-kat *bi*** work-er

—**I** final *l* in negative often becomes *t* in Saalum speech e.g. *baxul* becomes *baxut*

—**le** (a) a verbal suffix, indicating simultaneous action, reciprocity, helping in, etc. e.g. **may** to give **mayle** to contribute to a gift made by someone **liggeey** to work **liggeeyle** to help in working (b) to indicate that the person speaking experiences something happening to the object  
**reer** to be lost **reerle na paaka** he has a lost knife, i.e. he has lost a knife

—**le** used to form demonstrative pronouns  
**nit kale** that person over there  
**fas wile** this horse here

**nuyyu, nuyyoo** to greet  
**nuyyuwante** to greet each other

—**oo** a verbal suffix  
**dellu** to return, go back  
**delloo** to give back

—**oon**, —**woon** indicator of past tense

—**si** suffix = come to do  
**jelsi** to come to take  
**seetsi** to come and see

**soppi** to change  
**soppeeku** to undergo a change  
**soppiku-waat** to change again into

**sore**, **sori** to be far  
**soreyaale** to be somewhat far

—**te** suffix — repetition of action  
**laaj-te** to question (lāj = to ask)

—**tul** negative suffix = no longer  
**soppatul** (he) no longer loves

—**ukaay** suffix indicating an instrument or place

—**ul** (also —**ut**) suffix indicating the negative

**uppa** to fan  
**uppukaay gi** fan

—**woon** suffix indicating past  
**li woon** what used to be

—**wu** verbal suffix, indicating negative

—**yi** suffix indicating *go to...*, *go and...*