

Yamba body part idioms

Mbem
19 March 2009

Yamba	Idiom	Literal	Sense	Example	Translation
heart					
ntám	bup ntám	bad heart	wicked	ka bəboŋ ngò bup ntám yeŋ	It isn't good to be wicked
	tse' ntám	have heart	be bold	bù ngáà wum tse' ntám wuriŋ	Hunters are very bold people
	fa ntám	give heart	to be committed to	Sedù a fa ntám bə fààk ye sə laŋ	Seidu is committed to his work
	ko ntám	catch heart	to be patient	bwiŋ tse' ngò ko ntám bə bum pwe'	people must always be patient
	kiŋ ntám	tie heart	to persevere	kiŋ ntám nə com wes bum sə	persevere and complete the writing
	cuk ntám	bitter heart	annoyed, frustrated	ŋkum cuk ntám nə lo	The chief became frustrated and left
	cəp ntám	sour heart	very angry	tə' cəp ntám boho'mo ye	The father became very angry with the child
	ntám lak	heart of town	most important part	ntám lak àvèès nto' ŋkum	The palace is the most important part of the town
	mbà ntám àm	piece of my heart	my closest friend	mo àtà ànə mbà ntám àm	the person is my closest friend
body					
ní'	mak ní'	throw away body	be careless	ka bəboŋ ngò mak ní'	You shouldn't be careless
	wi'sə ní'	hesitate body	be undecided	mo gwè nə wi'sə càsə ní' yàŋ	The girl is undecided
	nèŋ ní'	open body	be proud	yi sə nèŋ ní' ŋga yi ka yumok tse	He is proud though he has nothing
chest					
ngùŋ	kùm ngùŋ	hit chest	be proud	tətà sə kùm ngùŋ də yi tse' mbàm	My elder brother is proud because he is rich
	bàŋ ngùŋ	red chest	extraordinary	ŋwee ko a mba ye də yi ma bàŋ ngùŋ ŋwè	Someone who catches a leopard is extraordinary
	ndzə ngùŋ	on my chest	responsible for	wèèŋ bùù sə ndzə ngùŋ(ŋ) mù	You are under my care
stomach					
vəm	vəm kok	inflated stomach	speechless	wù cəpyè'sə yà vəm kok mụ ε?	What have you said? I'm speechless
	boŋ vəm	good stomach	kind	ŋwànə boŋ vəm wuriŋ	The woman is kind-hearted
	bup vəm	bad stomach	wicked	moma am bup vəm	my younger brother is very wicked
	vəm...mùm	feel the stomach	to doubt	kà' vəm sə mùù yiskok	Don't be doubtful
teeth					
nzòŋ	rəm nzòŋ	smell teeth	be disrespectful	mo nə rəm nzòŋ ye nə cəp bohò tà	The child spoke disrespectfully to the master
	nzòŋ bə lum	teeth and tongue	intense love	ngá' nə bə ŋgwe nzòŋ bə lum	The man and his wife love each other intensely
	so'rə nzòŋ	clean death's teeth	grasp opportunity	mụ nə so'rə nzòŋ kpə am bə tiŋ njàp nə	I will grasp the opportunity to take this piece of meat
	nzòŋ				
	nzòŋ				

Yamba	Idiom	Literal	Sense	Example	Translation
	nzòŋ nzòŋ nzòŋ				
intestine					
ntó	ngà ntó	person intestine	with witch	ta cìcì àm nà ngà ntó	my grandfather is a witch
	kotse' ntó	to hold intestine	to sustain life	mù zà m̀ bɛŋ ngò kotse' ntó bə zɛŋ	I took some food to sustain my life
	taŋ ntó	to count intestine	to commit adultery	ngwe ye nta nto	his wife revealed that she committed adultery
skin					
ngùp	ndzə nə ngùp	inside the skin	be a wizard	mo nə co yi cu ndzə nə ngùp	the child appears to be a wizard
leg	ŋkí' kam	leg of crab	milk-teeth	mo àm a to ŋkí' kam laŋ	My child's milk-teeth are showing
hand					
bó	sò bó fə ngàà	put hand in bush		wù cèp ncèp nə so bó	