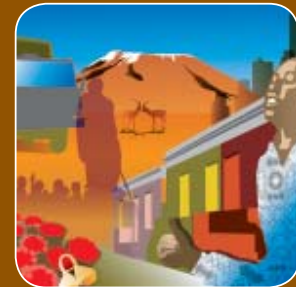


# Swahili



Vowels		Consonants	
Symbol	English sound	Symbol	English sound
aa	father	b	bed
ee	see	ch	cheat
ey	as in 'bet', but longer	d	dog
oh	note	dh	that
oo	zoo	f	fun
		g	go
		h	hat
		j	jar
		k	kit
		l	lot
		m	man
		n	not
		ng	ring
		ny	canyon
		p	pet
		r	run (but softer, more like a light 'd')
		s	sun
		sh	shot
		t	top
		th	thin
		v	very
		w	win
		y	yes
		z	zero

In this chapter, the Swahili pronunciation is given in brown after each phrase.

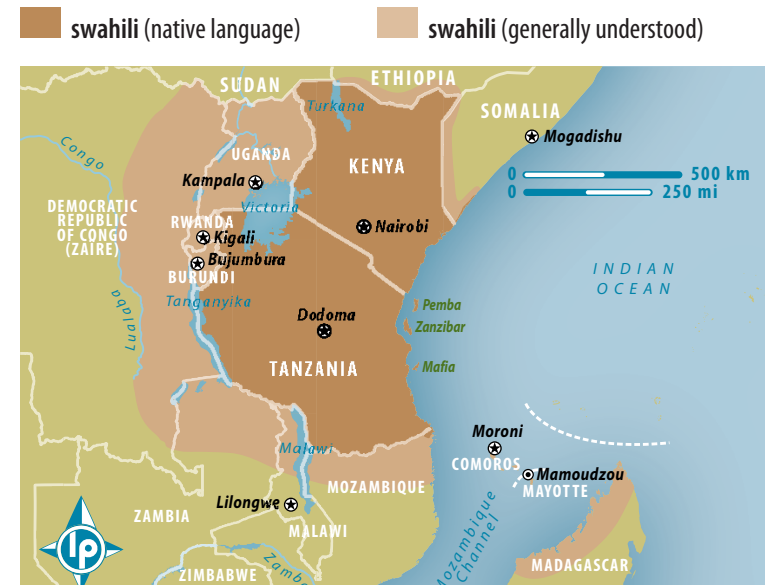
Each syllable is separated by a dot, and the syllable stressed in each word is italicised.

For example:

*Habari.* haa-baa-ree

## introduction

Swahili (*kiswahili* kee-swa-hee-lee) is one of the most widely spoken African languages, with an estimated 50 million-plus speakers throughout East Africa. Though it's the mother tongue of only about 4 to 5 million people, it's used as a second language or a lingua franca by speakers of many other African languages. Swahili is the national language of Tanzania and Kenya and is widely used in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, as well as in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo and on the Indian Ocean islands of Zanzibar and the Comoros. There are speakers of Swahili in the southern parts of Ethiopia and Somalia, the north of Mozambique and Zambia, and even on the northwestern coast of Madagascar. Swahili belongs to the Bantu group of languages from the Niger-Congo family and can be traced back to the first millennium AD. Standard Swahili developed from the urban dialect of Zanzibar City, dominant from precolonial times. Although there are many dialects of Swahili, you'll be understood if you stick to the standard coastal form, as used in this book.



## language difficulties

Do you speak (English)?	<i>Unasema (Kiingereza)?</i>	oo-naa-sey-maa (kee-een-gey-rey-zaa)
Do you understand?	<i>Unaelewa?</i>	oo-naa-ey-ley-waa
I understand.	<i>Naelewa.</i>	naa-ey-ley-waa
I don't understand.	<i>Sielewi.</i>	see-ey-ley-wee
Could you please ...?	<i>Tafadhali ...</i>	taa-faa-dhaa-lee ...
repeat that	<i>sema tena</i>	sey-maa tey-naa
speak more slowly	<i>sema pole pole</i>	sey-maa poh-ley poh-ley
write it down	<i>andika</i>	aan-dee-kaa

## time, dates & numbers

What time is it?	<i>Ni saa ngapi?</i>	nee saa n-gaa-pee
It's one o'clock.	<i>Ni saa saba.</i>	nee saa saa-baa
It's (two) o'clock.	<i>Ni saa (nane).</i>	nee saa (naa-ne)
Quarter past (one).	<i>Ni saa (saba) na robo.</i>	nee saa (saa-baa) naa roh-boh
Half past (one).	<i>Ni saa (saba) na nusu.</i>	nee saa (saa-baa) naa noo-soo
Quarter to (ten).	<i>Ni saa (nne) kasarobo.</i>	nee saa (n-ney) kaa-saa-roh-boh
At what time ...?	<i>... saa ngapi?</i>	... saa n-gaa-pee
At ...	<i>Saa ...</i>	saa ...
It's (18 October).	<i>Ni (tarehe kumi na nane, mwezi wa kumi).</i> (lit: date eighteen, month tenth)	nee (taa-rey-hey koo-mee naa naa-ney mwey-zee waa koo-mee)

yesterday	<i>jana</i>	<i>jaa-naa</i>
today	<i>leo</i>	<i>ley-oh</i>
tomorrow	<i>kesho</i>	<i>key-shoh</i>
Monday	<i>Jumatatu</i>	<i>joo-maa-taa-too</i>
Tuesday	<i>Jumanne</i>	<i>joo-maa-n-ney</i>
Wednesday	<i>Jumatano</i>	<i>joo-maa-taa-noh</i>
Thursday	<i>Alhamisi</i>	<i>aal-haa-mee-see</i>
Friday	<i>Ijumaa</i>	<i>ee-joo-maa</i>
Saturday	<i>Jumamosi</i>	<i>joo-maa-moh-see</i>
Sunday	<i>Jumapili</i>	<i>joo-maa-pee-lee</i>

## numbers

0	<i>sifuri</i>	see-foo-ree	17	<i>kumi na saba</i>	koo-mee naa saa-baa
1	<i>moja</i>	moh-jaa	18	<i>kumi na nane</i>	koo-mee naa naa-ney
2	<i>mbili</i>	m-bee-lee	19	<i>kumi na tisa</i>	koo-mee naa tee-saa
3	<i>tatu</i>	taa-too	20	<i>ishirini</i>	ee-shee-ree-nee
4	<i>nne</i>	n-ney	21	<i>ishirini</i>	ee-shee-ree-nee
5	<i>tano</i>	taa-noh		<i>na moja</i>	naa moh-jaa
6	<i>sita</i>	see-taa	22	<i>ishirini</i>	ee-shee-ree-nee
7	<i>saba</i>	saa-baa		<i>na mbili</i>	naa m-bee-lee
8	<i>nane</i>	naa-ney	30	<i>thelathini</i>	they-laa-thee-nee
9	<i>tisa</i>	tee-saa	40	<i>arobaini</i>	aa-roh-baa-ee-nee
10	<i>kumi</i>	koo-mee	50	<i>hamsini</i>	haam-see-nee
11	<i>kumi na moja</i>	koo-mee naa moh-jaa	60	<i>sitini</i>	see-tee-nee
12	<i>kumi na mbili</i>	koo-mee naa m-bee-lee	70	<i>sabini</i>	saa-bee-nee
13	<i>kumi na tatu</i>	koo-mee naa taa-too	80	<i>themanini</i>	they-maa-nee-nee
14	<i>kumi na nne</i>	koo-mee naa n-ney	90	<i>tisini</i>	tee-see-nee
15	<i>kumi na tano</i>	koo-mee naa taa-noh	100	<i>mia moja</i>	mee-aa moh-jaa
16	<i>kumi na sita</i>	koo-mee naa see-taa	1000	<i>elfu</i>	eyl-foo



## border crossing

I'm ...	<i>Mimi ni ...</i>	<i>mee-mee nee ...</i>
in transit	<i>safarini</i>	saa-faa-ree-nee
on business	<i>kwa biashara</i>	kwaa bee-aa-shaa-raa
on holiday	<i>kwa likizo</i>	kwaa lee-kee-zoh
I'm here for ...	<i>Nipo kwa ...</i>	<i>nee-poh kwaa ...</i>
(three) days	<i>siku (tatu)</i>	see-koo (taa-too)
(two) weeks	<i>wiki (mbili)</i>	wee-kee (m-bee-lee)
(four) months	<i>miezi (minne)</i>	mee-ey-zee (mee-n-ney)
I'm going to (Malindi).		
<i>Naenda (Malindi).</i>	<i>naa-eyn-daa (maa-leen-dee)</i>	
I'm staying at (the Pendo Inn).		
<i>Nakaa (Pendo Inn).</i>	<i>naa-kaa (peyn-doh een)</i>	

## tickets

**One ... ticket to (Iringa), please.**  
**one-way return**

<i>Tiketi moja ya ... kwenda (Iringa). kwenda tu kwenda na kurudi</i>	<i>tee-key-tee moh-jaa yaa ... kweyn-daa (ee-reen-gaa) kweyn-daa too kweyn-daa naa koo-roo-dee</i>
---	--

**I'd like to ... my ticket, please.**  
**cancel change confirm**

<i>Nataka ... tiketi yangu, tafadhali. kufuta kubadilisha kuhakikisha</i>	<i>naa-taa-kaa ... tee-key-tee yaan-goo taa-faa-dhaa-lee koo-foo-taa koo-baa-dee-lee-shaa koo-haa-kee-kee-shaa</i>
---	--

**I'd like a smoking/nonsmoking seat, please.**  
*Nataka kiti kuvuta/  
kutovuta sigara.*

<i>naa-taa-kaa kee-tee koo-voo-taa/ koo-toh-voo-taa see-gaa-raa</i>
---

**Is there a toilet?**  
*Kuna choo?*

<i>koo-naa choh</i>
---------------------

**Is there a air conditioning?**  
*Kuna a/c?*

<i>koo-naa ey-see</i>
-----------------------

**How long does the trip take?**  
*Safari huchukua muda gani?*

<i>saa-faa-ree hoo-choo-koo-aa moo-daa gaa-nee</i>
--

**Is it a direct route?**  
*Njia ni moja kwa moja?*

<i>n-jee-aa nee moh-jaa kwaa moh-jaa</i>
--



## transport

**Where does flight (number 432) arrive/depart?**  
*Ndege (namba mia nne thelathini na mbili) itafika/itaondoka wapi?*

<i>n-dey-gey (naam-baa mee-aa n-ney they-laa-thee-nee naa m-bee-lee) ee-taa-fee-kaa/ee-taa-ohn-doh-kaa waa-pee</i>
--

**How long will it be delayed?**  
*Itachelewa kwa muda gani?*

<i>ee-taa-chey-ley-waa kwaa moo-daa gaa-nee</i>
---

**Is this the ... to (Mombasa)?**  
**boat bus plane train**

<i>Hii ni ... kwenda (Mombasa)? Boti Basi Ndege Treni</i>	<i>hee nee ... kweyn-daa (mohm-baa-saa) boh-tee baa-see n-dey-gey treyn-nee</i>
---	---

**How much is it to ...?**  
*Ni bei gani kwenda ...?*

<i>nee bey gaa-nee kweyn-daa ...</i>
--------------------------------------

**Please take me to (this address).**  
*Tafadhali niendeshe mpaka (anwani hii).*

<i>taa-faa-dhaa-lee nee-eyn-dey-shey m-paa-kaa (aan-waa-nee hee)</i>
--

**I'd like to hire a car/4WD (with air conditioning).**  
*Nataka kukodi gari/forbaifor (kwenye a/c).*

<i>naa-taa-kaa koo-koh-dee gaa-ree/ fohr-baa-ee-fohr (kweyn-nyey ey-see)</i>
--

**How much is it for (three) days/weeks?**  
*Ni bei gani kwa siku/wiki (tatu)?*

<i>nee bey gaa-nee kwaa see-koo/wee-kee (taa-too)</i>
---

## directions

**Where's the nearest ...?**  
**internet café market**

<i>... hapo karibuni iko wapi? Intaneti Kafe Soko</i>	<i>... haa-poh kaa-ree-boo-nee ee-koh waa-pee een-taa-ney-tee kaa-fey sok-hoh</i>
---	---

**Is this the road to (Embu)?**  
*Hii ni barabara kwenda (Embu)?*

<i>hee nee baa-raa-baa-raa kweyn-daa (eym-boo)</i>
--

**Can you show me (on the map)?**  
*Unaweza kunionyesha (katika ramani)?*

<i>oo-naa-wey-zaa koo-nee-oh-nyey-shaa (kaa-tee-kaa raa-maa-nee)</i>
--

**What's the address?**  
*Anwani ni nini?*

<i>aan-waa-nee nee nee-nee</i>
--------------------------------

**How far is it?**  
*Ni umbali gani?*

<i>nee oom-baa-lee gaa-nee</i>
--------------------------------

**How do I get there?**  
*Nifikaje?*

<i>nee-fee-kaa-jey</i>
------------------------

**Turn left/right.**  
*Geuza kushoto/kulia.*

<i>gey-oo-zaa koo-shoh-toh/koo-lee-aa</i>
---

It's ...	<i>lko ...</i>	<i>ee-koh ...</i>
behind ...	<i>nyuma ya ...</i>	<i>nyoo-maa yaa ...</i>
in front of ...	<i>mbele ya ...</i>	<i>m-bey-ley yaa ...</i>
near ...	<i>karibu na ...</i>	<i>kaa-ree-boo naa ...</i>
next to ...	<i>jirani ya ...</i>	<i>jee-raa-nee yaa ...</i>
on the corner	<i>pembeni</i>	<i>peym-bey-nee</i>
opposite ...	<i>ng'ambo ya ...</i>	<i>ng-aam-boh yaa ...</i>
straight ahead	<i>moja kwa moja</i>	<i>moh-jaa kwaa moh-jaa</i>
there	<i>hapo</i>	<i>haa-poh</i>

## accommodation

Where's a ...?	<i>... iko wapi?</i>	<i>... ee-koh waa-pee</i>
camping ground	<i>Uwanja wa kambi</i>	<i>oo-waan-jaa waa kaam-bee</i>
guesthouse	<i>Gesti</i>	<i>gey-stee</i>
hotel	<i>Hoteli</i>	<i>hoh-tey-lee</i>
youth hostel	<i>Hosteli ya vijana</i>	<i>hoh-stey-lee yaa vee-jaa-naa</i>

### Can you recommend somewhere cheap/good?

*Unaweza kunipendeke zea malazi rahisi/nzuri?*      *oo-naa-wey-zaa koo-nee-peyn-dey-key zey-aa maa-laa-zee raa-hee-see/n-zoo-ree*

### I'd like to book a room, please.

*Nataka kufanya buking, tafadhali.*      *naa-taa-kaa koo-faa-nyaa boo-keeng taa-faa-dhaa-lee*

### I have a reservation.

*Nina buking.*      *nee-naa boo-keeng*

### How much is it per night/person?

*Ni bei gani kwa usiku/mtu?*      *nee bey gaa-ne kwaa oo-see-koo/m-too*

### Do you have a ... room? *Kuna chumba kwa ...?*      *koo-naa choom-baa kwaa ...*

single	<i>mtu mmoja</i>	<i>m-too m-moh-jaa</i>
double	<i>watu wawili, kitanda kimoja</i>	<i>waa-too waa-wee-lee kee-taan-daa kee-moh-jaa</i>
twin	<i>watu wawili, vitanda viwili</i>	<i>waa-too waa-wee-lee vee-taan-daa vee-wee-lee</i>

### I'd like to stay for (two) nights.

*Nataka kukaa kwa usiku (mbili).*      *naa-taa-kaa koo-kaa kwaa oo-see-koo (m-bee-lee)*

### What time is check-out?

*Muda wa kuachia chumba ni saa ngapi?*      *moo-daa waa koo-aa-chee-aa choom-baa nee saa n-gaa-pee*

### Am I allowed to camp here?

*Naweza kuwa hapa kwa usiku?*      *naa-wey-zaa koo-waa haa-paa kwaa oo-see-koo*

## banking & communications

I'd like to ...	<i>Nataka ...</i>	<i>naa-taa-kaa ...</i>
cash a cheque	<i>kulipwa fedha kutokana na hundi</i>	<i>koo-leep-waa fey-dhaa koo-toh-kaa-naa naa hoon-dee</i>
change a travellers cheque	<i>kubadilisha hundi ya msafiri</i>	<i>koo-baa-dee-lee-shaa hoon-dee yaa m-saa-fee-ree</i>
change money	<i>kubadilisha hela</i>	<i>koo-baa-dee-lee-shaa hey-laa</i>
transfer money	<i>kufikisha hela</i>	<i>koo-fee-kee-shaa hey-laa</i>
withdraw money	<i>kuondoa hela</i>	<i>koo-ohn-doh-aa hey-laa</i>

### I want to ...

buy a phonecard	<i>Nataka ... kununua kadi ya simu</i>	<i>naa-taa-kaa ... koo-noo-noo-aa kaa-dee yaa see-moo</i>
call (Singapore)	<i>kupiga simu kwa (Singapore)</i>	<i>koo-pee-gaa see-moo kwaa (seen-gaa-pohr)</i>
reverse the charges	<i>kugeuza gharama</i>	<i>koo-gey-oo-zaa gaa-raa-maa</i>
use a printer	<i>kutumia printa</i>	<i>koo-too-mee-aa preen-taa</i>
use the internet	<i>kutumia intaneti</i>	<i>koo-too-mee-aa een-taa-ney-tee</i>

### How much is it per hour?

*Ni bei gani kwa saa?*      *nee bey gaa-nee kwaa saa*

### How much does a (three)-minute call cost?

*Kupiga simu kwa dakika (tatu) ni bei gani?*      *koo-pee-gaa see-moo kwaa daa-kee-kaa (taa-too) nee bey gaa-nee*

### (1000 shillings) per minute/hour.

*(Shilingi elfu moja) kwa dakika/saa.*      *(shee-leen-gee eyl-foo moh-jaa) kwaa daa-kee-kaa/saa*

## tours

When's the next ...?	... <i>ijayo itakuwa lini?</i>	... ee- <i>jaa-yoh ee-taa-koo-waa lee-nee</i>
day trip	<i>Safari ya siku moja</i>	<i>saa-faa-ree yaa see-koo moh-jaa</i>
tour	<i>Safari</i>	<i>saa-faa-ree</i>
Is ... included?	<i>Inazingatia ...?</i>	ee-naa- <i>zeen-gaa-tee-aa ...</i>
accommodation	<i>malazi</i>	<i>maa-laa-zee</i>
food	<i>chakula</i>	<i>chaa-koo-laa</i>
the park entrance fee	<i>ada za hifadhi</i>	<i>aa-daa zaa hee-faa-dhee</i>
transport	<i>usafiri</i>	<i>oo-saa-fee-ree</i>
How long is the tour?		
<i>Safari itachukua muda gani?</i>	<i>saa-faa-ree ee-taa-choo-koo-aa moo-daa gaa-nee</i>	
What time should we be back?		
<i>Turudi saa ngapi?</i>	<i>too-roo-dee saa n-gaa-pee</i>	

## shopping

I'm looking for ...		
<i>Natafuta ...</i>	<i>naa-taa-foo-taa ...</i>	
I need film for this camera.		
<i>Nahitaji filamu kwa kemra hii.</i>	<i>naa-hee-taa-jee fee-laa-moo kwaa keym-raa hee</i>	
Can I listen to this?		
<i>Naomba tusikilize.</i>	<i>naa-ohm-baa too-see-kee-lee-zey</i>	
Can I have my ... repaired?		
<i>Mnaweza kutengeneza ... yangu hapa?</i>	<i>m-naa-vey-zaa koo-teyn-gey-ney-zaa ... yaan-goo haa-paa</i>	
When will it be ready?		
<i>Itakuwa tayari lini?</i>	<i>ee-taa-koo-waa taa-yaa-ree lee-nee</i>	
How much is it?		
<i>Ni bei gani?</i>	<i>ni bey gaa-nee</i>	

### Can you write down the price?

*Andika bei.*                      *aan-dee-kaa bey*

### What's your lowest price?

*Niambie bei ya mwisho.*                      *nee-aam-bee-ey bey yaa-koh yaa mwee-shoh*

### I'll give you (500 shillings).

*Nitakupa (shilingi mia tano).*                      *nee-taa-koo-paa (shee-leen-gee mee-aa taa-noh)*

### There's a mistake in the bill.

*Kuna kosa kwenye bili.*                      *koo-naa koh-saa kweyn-yey bee-lee*

### It's faulty.

*Haifanyi kazi.*                      *haa-ee-faa-nyee kaa-zee*

### I'd like a receipt, please.

*Naomba risiti, tafadhali.*                      *naa-ohm-baa ree-see-tee taa-faa-dhaa-lee*

### I'd like a refund, please.

*Nataka unirudishie hela, tafadhali.*                      *naa-taa-kaa oo-nee-roo-dee-shee-ey hey-laa taa-faa-dhaa-lee*

### Do you accept ...?

<b>credit cards</b>	<i>Mnakubali ... kadi ya benki</i>	<i>m-naa-koo-baa-lee ... kaa-dee yaa beyn-kee</i>
<b>travellers cheques</b>	<i>hundi ya msafiri</i>	<i>hoon-dee yaa m-saa-fee-ree</i>

### Could you ...?

<b>burn a CD from my memory card</b>	<i>Mnaweza ...? kurekodi CD kutoka kadi ya kunakili ya kemra yangu</i>	<i>m-naa-vey-zaa ... koo-ree-koh-dee see-dee koo-toh-kaa kaa-dee yaa koo-naa-kee-lee yaa keym-raa yaan-goo</i>
<b>develop this film</b>	<i>kusafisha picha hizi</i>	<i>koo-saa-fee-shaa pee-chaa hee-zee</i>

## making conversation

Hello.	<i>Habari.</i>	<i>haa-baa-ree</i>
Good night.	<i>Usiku mwema.</i>	<i>oo-see-koo mwey-maa</i>
Goodbye.	<i>Tutaonana.</i>	<i>too-taa-oh-naa-naa</i>
Mr	<i>Bwana</i>	<i>bwaa-naa</i>
Mrs	<i>Bi</i>	<i>bee</i>
Ms/Miss	<i>Bibi</i>	<i>bee-bee</i>

How are you? Fine, and you? What's your name? My name's ... I'm pleased to meet you.	<i>Habari?</i> <i>Nzuri, wewe je?</i> <i>Jina lako nani?</i> <i>Jina langu ni ...</i> <i>Nafurahi</i> <i>kukufahamu.</i>	<i>haa-baa-ree</i> <i>n-zoo-ree wey-wey jey</i> <i>jee-naa laa-koh naa-nee</i> <i>jee-naa laan-goo nee ...</i> <i>naa-foo-raa-hee</i> <i>koo-koo-faa-haa-moo</i>
This is my ... boyfriend brother daughter father friend girlfriend husband mother sister son wife	<i>Huyu ni ...</i> <i>mpenzi wangu</i> <i>kakangu</i> <i>binti yangu</i> <i>babangu</i> <i>rafiki yangu</i> <i>mpenzi wangu</i> <i>mume wangu</i> <i>mamangu</i> <i>dadangu</i> <i>mwanangu</i> <i>mke wangu</i>	<i>hoo-yoo nee ...</i> <i>m-peyn-zee waan-goo</i> <i>kaa-kaan-goo</i> <i>been-tee yaan-goo</i> <i>baa-baan-goo</i> <i>raa-fee-kee yaan-goo</i> <i>m-peyn-zee waan-goo</i> <i>moo-mey waan-goo</i> <i>maa-maan-goo</i> <i>daa-daan-goo</i> <i>mwaa-naan-goo</i> <i>m-key waan-goo</i>
Here's my ... address email address  phone number	<i>Hii ni ... yangu.</i> <i>anwani</i> <i>anwani ya</i> <i>barua pepe</i> <i>simu</i>	<i>hee nee ... yaan-goo</i> <i>aan-waa-nee</i> <i>aan-waa-nee yaa</i> <i>baa-roo-aa pey-pey</i> <i>see-moo</i>
Where are you from?	<i>Unatoka wapi?</i>	<i>oo-naa-toh-kaa waa-pee</i>
I'm from ... Australia Canada New Zealand the UK the USA	<i>Natoka ...</i> <i>Australia</i> <i>Kanada</i> <i>Nyuzilandi</i> <i>Uingereza</i> <i>Marekani</i>	<i>naa-toh-kaa ...</i> <i>aa-oo-straa-lee-aa</i> <i>kaa-naa-daa</i> <i>nyoo-zee-laan-dee</i> <i>oo-een-gey-rey-zaa</i> <i>maa-rey-kaa-nee</i>
I'm married.	<i>Nimeoa. m</i> <i>Nimeolewa. f</i>	<i>nee-mey-oh-aa</i> <i>nee-mey-oh-ley-waa</i>
I'm single. Can I take a photo (of you)?	<i>Mimi sina mpenzi.</i> <i>Ni sawa nikipiga</i> <i>picha (ya wewe)?</i>	<i>mee-mee see-naa m-peyn-zee</i> <i>nee saa-waa nee-kee-pee-gaa</i> <i>pee-cha (yaa wey-wey)</i>

## eating out

Can you recommend a ...? bar dish place to eat	<i>Unaweza</i> <i>kupendekeza ...?</i> <i>baa</i> <i>chakula</i> <i>hoteli kwa</i> <i>chakula</i>	<i>oo-naa-wey-zaa</i> <i>koo-peyn-dey-key-zaa ...</i> <i>baa</i> <i>cha-koo-laa</i> <i>hoh-tey-lee kwaa</i> <i>cha-koo-laa</i>
I'd like ..., please. the bill the menu a table for (two) that dish	<i>Naomba ...,</i> <i>tafadhali.</i> <i>bili</i> <i>menyu</i> <i>meza kwa (wawili)</i> <i>chakula kile</i>	<i>naa-ohm-baa ...</i> <i>taa-faa-dhaa-lee</i> <i>bee-lee</i> <i>mey-nyoo</i> <i>mey-zaa kwaa (wa-wee-lee)</i> <i>cha-koo-la kee-ley</i>
Do you have vegetarian food?	<i>Mna chakula</i> <i>bila nyama?</i>	<i>m-naa cha-koo-laa</i> <i>bee-laa nyaa-maa</i>
Could you prepare a meal without ...? eggs meat stock	<i>Unaweza kuandaa</i> <i>mlo bila ...?</i> <i>mayai</i> <i>supu ya nyama</i>	<i>oo-naa-wey-zaa koo-aan-daa</i> <i>m-loh bee-laa ...</i> <i>maa-yaa-ee</i> <i>soo-poo yaa nyaa-maa</i>
(cup of) coffee/tea ... with milk without sugar	<i>(kikombe cha)</i> <i>kahawa/chai ...</i> <i>na maziwa</i> <i>bila sukari</i>	<i>(kee-kohm-bey chaa)</i> <i>kaa-haa-waa/cha-ee ...</i> <i>naa maa-zee-waa</i> <i>bee-laa soo-kaa-ree</i>
(boiled) water	<i>maji (ya kuchemshwa)</i>	<i>maa-jee (yaa koo-cheym-shwaa)</i>

## emergencies

Call an ambulance! Call a doctor! Call the police! Help me, please. I'm lost. Where are the toilets?	<i>Ita gari la hospitali.</i> <i>Mwite daktari.</i> <i>Waite polisi.</i> <i>Saidia, tafadhali.</i> <i>Nimejipotea.</i> <i>Vyoo viko wapi?</i>	<i>ee-taa gaa-ree laa ho-spee-taa-lee</i> <i>m-wee-tey daak-taa-ree</i> <i>waa-ee-tey poh-lee-see</i> <i>saa-ee-dee-aa taa-faa-dhaa-lee</i> <i>nee-mey-jee-poh-tey-aa</i> <i>vyoh vee-ko waa-pee</i>
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I have insurance.

*Nina bima.* *nee-naa bee-maa*

I want to contact my consulate/embassy.

*Nataka kuwasiliana  
na ubalozi wangu.* *naa-taa-kaa koo-waa-see-lee-aa-naa  
naa oo-baa-loh-zee waan-goo*

I've been assaulted. *Nilishambuliwa.* *nee-lee-shaam-boo-lee-waa*

I've been raped. *Nilibakwa.* *nee-lee-baa-kwaa*

I've been robbed. *Niliibiwa.* *nee-lee-ee-bee-waa*

I've lost my ...	<i>Nilipoteza ...</i>	<i>nee-lee-poh-tey-zaa ...</i>
<b>bags</b>	<i>mizigo yangu</i>	<i>mee-zee-goh yaan-goo</i>
<b>credit card</b>	<i>kadi ya benki</i>	<i>kaa-dee yaa beyn-kee</i>
<b>handbag</b>	<i>mkoba wangu</i>	<i>m-koh-baa waan-goo</i>
<b>jewellery</b>	<i>vipuli vyangu</i>	<i>vee-poo-lee vyaan-goo</i>
<b>money</b>	<i>pesa yangu</i>	<i>pey-saa yaan-goo</i>
<b>passport</b>	<i>pasipoti yangu</i>	<i>paa-see-poh-tee yaan-goo</i>
<b>travellers</b>	<i>hundi za msafiri</i>	<i>hoon-dee zaa m-saa-fee-ree</i>
<b>cheques</b>	<i>zangu</i>	<i>zaan-goo</i>
<b>wallet</b>	<i>pochi ya pesa</i>	<i>poh-chee ya pey-sa</i>

## medical needs

Where's the nearest ...?	<i>... hapo karibuni iko wapi?</i>	<i>... haa-poh kaa-ree-boo-nee ee-koh waa-pee</i>
<b>dentist</b>	<i>Daktari wa meno</i>	<i>daak-taa-ree waa mey-noh</i>
<b>doctor</b>	<i>Daktari</i>	<i>daak-taa-ree</i>
<b>hospital</b>	<i>Hospitali</i>	<i>hoh-spee-taa-lee</i>
<b>pharmacist</b>	<i>Duka la madawa</i>	<i>doo-kaa laa maa-daa-waa</i>

I need a doctor (who speaks English).

*Nahitaji daktari (anayesema Kiingereza).* *naa-hee-taa-jee daak-taa-ree (aa-naa-yey-sey-maa kee-ee-ney-ree-zaa)*

Could I see a female doctor?

*Inawezekana nione daktari mwanamke?* *ee-naa-wey-zey-kaa-naa nee-oh-ney daak-taa-ree mwaa-naam-key*

It hurts here.

*Inauma hapa.* *ee-naa-oo-maa haa-paa*

I'm allergic to (penicillin).

*Nina mzio wa (penisilini).* *nee-naa m-zee-oh waa (pey-nee-see-lee-nee)*

## english–swahili dictionary

Swahili verbs are shown in their root (basic) forms, with a hyphen in front. To express a series of functions in a sentence, the verb can have several elements added: prefixes, infixes and suffixes. Some adjectives also have a hyphen in front, as they take different prefixes depending on the characteristics of the thing described. Words are also marked as a (adjective), n (noun), v (verb), sg (singular) or pl (plural) as necessary.

### A

**accommodation** *malazi maa-laa-zee*  
**adaptor** *adapta aa-daap-taa*  
**after** *baada ya baa-aa-daa yaa*  
**airport** *uwanja wa ndege oo-waan-jaa waa n-dey-gey*  
**alcohol** *kilevi kee-ley-vee*  
**all** *zote zoh-tey*  
**allergy** *mzio m-zee-oh*  
**and** *na naa*  
**ankle** *kiwiko cha mguu kee-wee-koh chaa m-goo*  
**antibiotic** *kiuavijasumu kee-oo-aa-vee-jaa-soo-moo*  
**arm** *mkono m-koh-noh*  
**aspirin** *aspirini aa-spee-ree-nee*  
**asthma** *pumu poo-moo*  
**ATM** *maschine ya kutolea pesa*  
*maa-shee-ney yaa koo-toh-ley-aa pey-saa*

### B

**baby** *mtoto mchanga m-toh-toh m-chaan-gaa*  
**back (body)** *mgongo m-gohn-goh*  
**backpack** *shanta shaan-taa*  
**bad** *mbaya m-baa-yaa*  
**bank** *benki beyn-kee*  
**bathroom** *bafuni baa-foo-nee*  
**battery** *betri bey-tree*  
**beautiful** *ya kupendeza yaa koo-peyn-dey-zaa*  
**bed** *kitanda kee-taan-daa*  
**beer** *bia bee-aa*  
**bee** *nyuki nyoo-kee*  
**before** *kabla kaa-blaa*  
**bicycle** *baisikeli baa-ee-see-key-lee*  
**big** *kubwa koob-waa*  
**blanket** *blanketi bla-an-key-tee*  
**blood group** *aina ya damu aa-ee-naa yaa daa-moo*  
**bottle** *chupa choo-paa*  
**bottle opener** *kifungua chupa kee-foon-goo-aa choo-paa*  
**boy** *mvulana m-voo-laa-naa*  
**brakes (car)** *breki brey-kee*  
**breakfast** *chai ya asubuhi chaa-ee yaa aa-soo-boo-hee*

### C

**café** *mgahawa m-gaa-haa-waa*  
**cancel** *-futa -foo-taa*  
**can opener** *opena ya kopo oh-pey-naa yaa koh-poh*  
**cash** *n fedha fey-dhaa*  
**cell phone** *simu ya mkononi see-moo yaa m-koh-noh-nee*  
**centre** *n katikati kaa-tee-kaa-tee*  
**cheap** *rahisi raa-hee-see*  
**check (bill)** *billi bee-lee*  
**check-in** *n mapokezi maa-poh-key-zee*  
**chest** *kufua koo-foo-aa*  
**child** *mtoto m-toh-toh*  
**cigarette** *sigara see-gaa-raa*  
**clean** *a safi saa-fee*  
**closed** *ya kufungwa yaa koo-foon-gwaa*  
**cold** *a baridi baa-ree-dee*  
**condom** *kondom kohn-dohm*  
**constipation** *uyabisi wa tumbo oo-yaa-bee-see waa toom-boh*  
**contact lenses** *lenzi mboni leyn-zee m-boh-nee*  
**cough** *n kikohozi kee-koh-hoh-zee*  
**currency exchange** *kubadilisha hela*  
*koo-baa-dee-lee-shaa hey-laa*  
**customs (immigration)** *forodha foh-rho-dhaa*

### D

**dairy products** *mazaa ya maziwa*  
*maa-zaa-oh yaa maa-zee-waa*  
**dangerous** *hatari haa-taa-ree*  
**day** *siku see-koo*  
**diaper** *nepi ney-pee*  
**diarrhoea** *kuhara koo-haa-raa*  
**dinner** *chakula cha jioni chaa-koo-laa chaa jee-oh-nee*  
**dirty** *chafu chaa-foo*  
**disabled** *wasiojiweza waa-see-oh-jee-wey-zaa*  
**drink** *n kinywaji kee-nywaa-jee*  
**drug (illicit)** *madawa (ya kulevya)*  
*maa-daa-waa (yaa koo-ley-vyaa)*



## E

ear *sikio* see-*kee-oh*  
 east *mashariki* maa-shaa-ree-kee  
 economy class *daraja la tatu* daa-*raa-jaa* laa *taa-too*  
 elevator *lifti* leef-tee  
 email *barua pepe* baa-*roo-aa* *pey-pey*  
 English (language) *Kiingereza* kee-een-gey-*rey-zaa*  
 exit *n kutoka* koo-toh-kaa  
 expensive *ghali* gaa-lee  
 eye *jicho* jee-choh

## F

fast *ya kasi* yaa *kaa-see*  
 fever *homa* hoh-maa  
 finger *kidole* kee-*doh-ley*  
 first class *daraja la kwanza* daa-*raa-jaa* laa *kwaan-zaa*  
 fish *n samaki* saa-maa-kee  
 food *chakula* chaa-*koo-laa*  
 foot *mguu* m-*goo*  
 fork *uma* oo-maa  
 free (of charge) *bure* boo-*rey*  
 fruit *tunda* toon-daa  
 funny *ya kuchekecha* yaa koo-*chey-key-shaa*

## G

game park *hifadhi* ya *wanyama*  
 hee-*faa-dhee* yaa waa-*nyaa-maa*  
 gift *zawadi* zaa-*waa-dee*  
 girl *msichana* m-see-*chaa-naa*  
 glass (drinking) *glesi* gley-see  
 glasses *miwani* mee-*waa-nee*  
 good *nzuri* n-zoo-ree  
 gram *gramu* graa-moo  
 guide *n kiongozi* kee-ohn-*goh-zee*

## H

hand *mkono* m-koh-noh  
 happy *mwenye furaha* mwey-nyey foo-*raa-haa*  
 have -*wa na* -waa naa  
 he *yeye* yey-yey  
 head *kichwa* keech-waa  
 headache *maumivu* ya *kichwa*  
 maa-oo-mee-*voo* yaa *keech-waa*  
 heart *moyo* moh-yoh

heart condition *ugonjwa wa moyo*  
 oo-*gohn-jwaa* waa *moh-yoh*

heat *n joto* joh-toh  
 here *hapa* haa-paa  
 high *juu* joo  
 highway *barabara* baa-*raa-baa-  
 raa*  
 homosexual *msenge* m-*seyn-gey*  
 hot *joto* joh-toh  
 hungry *njaa* n-*jaa*

## I

I *mimi* mee-mee  
 identification (card) *kitambulisho* e-taam-boo-lee-*shoh*  
 ill *mgonjwa* m-*gohn-jwaa*  
 important *muhimu* moo-*hee-moo*  
 internet *intaneti* een-*taa-ney-tee*  
 interpreter *mkalimani* m-kaa-lee-*maa-nee*

## K

key *ufunguo* oo-foon-*goo-oh*  
 kilogram *kilo* kee-*loh*  
 kitchen *jiko* jee-koh  
 knife *kisu* kee-soo

## L

laundry (place) *udobi* oo-*doh-bee*  
 lawyer *mwanasheria* mwaa-naa-*shey-ree-aa*  
 leg *mguu* m-*goo*  
 lesbian *msagaji* m-saa-*gaa-jee*  
 less *chache* chaa-*chey*  
 letter (mail) *barua* baa-*roo-aa*  
 like *v -penda* -peyn-daa  
 love *v -penda* -peyn-daa  
 lunch *chakula cha mchana* chaa-*koo-laa* chaa m-*chaa-naa*

## M

man *mwanamume* mwaa-naa-*moo-mey*  
 matches *vibirti* vee-bee-*ree-tee*  
 meat *nyama* *nyaa-maa*  
 medicine *dawa* daa-waa  
 message *ujumbe* oo-*joom-bey*  
 mobile phone *simu* ya *mkononi*  
 see-moo yaa m-koh-*noh-nee*  
 month *mwezi* mwey-*zee*  
 morning *asubuhi* aa-soo-*boo-hee*

motorcycle *pikipiki* pee-*kee-pee-kee*  
 mouth *mdomo* m-*doh-moh*  
 movie *filamu* fee-*laa-moo*  
 MSG *msg* eym-*ey-gee*  
 museum *makumbusho* maa-*koom-boo-shoh*  
 music *muziki* moo-*zee-kee*

## N

name *n jina* jee-naa  
 napkin *kitambaa cha mkono*  
 kee-*taam-baa* chaa m-*koh-noh*  
 nappy *nepi* ney-*pee*  
 national park *hifadhi* ya *wanyama*  
 hee-*faa-dhee* yaa waa-*nyaa-maa*  
 nausea *kichefuchefu* kee-*chey-foo-  
 chey-foo*  
 neck *shingo* sheen-*goh*  
 new *mpya* m-*pyaa*  
 news *habari* haa-*baa-ree*  
 newspaper *gazeti* gaa-*zey-tee*  
 night *usiku* oo-see-*koo*  
 nightclub *klabu* ya *usiku* klaa-*boo* yaa oo-*see-koo*  
 noisy *yenye kelele* yey-nyey key-*ley-ley*  
 nonsmoking *hakuna sigara* haa-*koo-naa* see-*gaa-raa*  
 north *kaskazini* kaas-*kaa-zee-nee*  
 nose *pua* poo-*aa*  
 now *sasa* saa-*saa*  
 number *namba* naam-*baa*  
 nut *kokwa* kohk-waa

## O

oil (engine) *mafuta* maa-*foo-taa*  
 OK *sawa tu* saa-waa *too*  
 old *ya zamani* yaa zaa-*maa-nee*  
 open *a wazi* waa-*zee*  
 outside *nje* n-*jey*

## P

package *furushi* foo-*roo-shee*  
 pain *maumivu* maa-oo-*mee-voo*  
 paper *karatasi* kaa-*raa-taa-see*  
 park (car) *v -egesha* -ey-*gey-shaa*  
 passport *pasipoti* paa-*see-poh-tee*  
 pay -*lipa* -lee-paa  
 pen *kalamu* kaa-*laa-moo*  
 petrol *mafuta* maa-*foo-taa*  
 pharmacy *duka la dawa* doo-*kaa* laa *daa-waa*

plate *sahani* saa-*haa-nee*  
 postcard *postikadi* poh-*stee-kaa-dee*  
 post office *posta* poh-*staa*  
 pregnant *mjamzito* m-*jaa-m-zee-toh*

## R

rain *n mvua* m-*voo-aa*  
 razor *wembe* weym-*bey*  
 registered mail *barua* ya *rejista*  
 baa-*roo-aa* yaa *rey-jee-staa*  
 rent *v -kodi* -koh-dee  
 repair *v -tengeneza* -teyn-gey-*ney-zaa*  
 reservation *buking* boo-*keeng*  
 restaurant *mgahawa* m-*gaa-haa-waa*  
 return *v -rudi* -roo-dee  
 road *barabara* baa-*raa-baa-  
 raa*  
 room *chumba* choom-*baa*

## S

sad *masikitiko* maa-see-*kee-tee-koh*  
 safe *a salama* saa-*laa-maa*  
 sanitary napkin *sodo* soh-*doh*  
 seafood *vyakula kutoka baharini*  
 vyaa-*koo-laa* koo-*toh-kaa* baa-*haa-ree-nee*  
 seat *kiti* kee-*tee*  
 send -*peleka* -pey-*ley-kaa*  
 sex *mapenzi* maa-*peyn-zee*  
 shampoo *shampuu* shaam-*poo*  
 share (a dorm, etc) -*gawana* -*gaa-waa-naa*  
 shaving cream *sabuni* ya *kunyolea*  
 saa-*boo-nee* yaa koo-nyoh-*ley-aa*  
 she *yeye* yey-*yey*  
 sheet (bed) *shuka* shoo-*kaa*  
 shirt *shati* shaa-*tee*  
 shoes *viatu* vee-*aa-too*  
 shop *n duka* doo-*kaa*  
 shower *n bafuni* baa-*foo-nee*  
 skin *ngozi* n-*goh-zee*  
 skirt *skati* skaa-*tee*  
 sleep *v -sinzia* -seen-*zee-aa*  
 small -*dogo* -*doh-goh*  
 smoke (cigarettes) *v -vuta* -*voo-taa*  
 soap *sabuni* saa-*boo-nee*  
 some *kadhaa* kaa-*dhaa*  
 soon *sasa hivi* saa-*saa-hee-vee*  
 sore throat *koo lenye maumivu*  
 koh *ley-nyey* maa-oo-*mee-voo*

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**south** *kusini* koo-see-nee  
**souvenir shop** *duka la kumbukumbu*  
*doo-kaa laa koom-boo-koom-boo*  
**speak** *-sema -sey-maa*  
**spoon** *kijiko* kee-jee-koh  
**stamp** *v stempu steym-poo*  
**station (train)** *stesheni stey-shey-nee*  
**stomach** *tumbo toom-boh*  
**stop** *v -simama -see-maa-maa*  
**stop (bus)** *n kituo* kee-too-oh  
**street** *nija* n-jee-aa  
**student** *mwanafunzi* mwaa-naa-foon-zee  
**sunscreen** *dawa la kukinga jua*  
*daa-waa laa koo-keen-gaa joo-aa*  
**swim** *v -ogelea -oh-gey-ley-aa*

**T**

**tampon** *sodo* soh-doh  
**teeth** *meno* mey-noh  
**telephone** *n simu* see-moo  
**television** *televisheni* tey-ley-vee-shey-nee  
**temperature (weather)** *halijoto* haa-lee-joh-toh  
**tent** *hema* hey-maa  
**that (one)** *hiyo* hee-yoh  
**they** *wao* waa-oh  
**(to be) thirsty** *(-sikia) kiu* (-see-kee-aa) kee-oo  
**this (one)** *hii* hee  
**throat** *koo* koh  
**ticket** *tiketi/tikiti* tee-key-tee/tee-kee-tee  
**time** *saa* saa  
**tired** *ya kuchoka* yaa koo-choh-kaa  
**tissues** *karatasi za shashi* kaa-raa-taa-see zaa shaa-shee  
**today** *leo* ley-oh  
**toilet** *choo* choh  
**tonight** *usiku* huu oo-see-koo hoo  
**toothache** *maumivu* ya jino  
*maa-oo-mee-voo yaa jee-noh*  
**toothbrush** *mswaki* m-swaa-kee  
**toothpaste** *dawa la meno* daa-waa laa mey-noh  
**torch (flashlight)** *tochi* toh-chee  
**tourist office** *ofisi ya watalii* o-fee-see yaa waa-taa-lee  
**towel** *taulo* taa-oo-loh  
**translate** *-tafsiri* -taaf-see-ree  
**travel agency** *uwakala wa safari*  
*oo-waa-kaa-laa waa saa-faa-ree*  
**travellers cheque** *hundi* ya msafiri  
*hoon-dee yaa m-saa-fee-ree*

**trousers** *surali* soo-roo-aa-lee  
**twin beds** *vitanda vivili* vee-taan-daa vee-wee-lee  
**tyre** *tairi* taa-ee-ree

## U

**underwear** *chupi* choo-pee  
**urgent** *muhimu sana* moo-hee-moo saa-naa

## V

**vacant** *tupe* too-poo  
**vegetable** *a mboga* m-boh-gaa  
**vegetarian** *a mlaji wa mboga za majani tu*  
*m-laa-jee waa m-boh-gaa zaa maa-jaa-nee too*  
**visa** *viza/visa* vee-zaa/v-ee-saa

## W

**waiter** *mhudumu* m-hoo-doo-moo  
**walk** *v -tembea* -teym-bey-aa  
**warm** *a ya joto* yaa joh-toh  
**wash (something)** *-osha* -oh-shaa  
**watch** *n saa* saa  
**water** *maji* maa-jee  
**we** *sisi* see-see  
**weekend** *wikendi* wee-keyn-dee  
**west** *magharibi* maa-ghaa-ree-bee  
**wheelchair** *kiti cha magurudumu*  
*kee-tee chaa maa-goo-roo-doo-moo*  
**when** *wakati* waa-kaa-tee  
**where** *wapi* waa-pee  
**who** *nani* naa-nee  
**why** *kwa nini* kwaa-nee-nee  
**window** *dirisha* dee-ree-shaa  
**wine** *mvinyo* m-vee-nyoh  
**with** *na* naa  
**without** *bila* bee-laa  
**woman** *mwanamke* mwaan-aam-ke  
**write** *-andika* -aan-dee-kaa

## Y

**you** *sg wewe* wey-wey  
**you** *pl nyinyi* nyee-nyee

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