

Chapter 24

Stative Form of the Verb

Stative verbs express a current condition of the subject or the potential of entering that condition. Stative verbs that express a current state of the subject use the past perfect tense marker *-me-*, while stative verbs that express the potential of entering that condition generally use the present tense marker *-na-* but can use other tenses. Stative verbs can be used in both affirmative and negative sentences, and follow the rules learnt in previous chapters. Unlike passive verbs, stative verbs do not indicate who performed the action. Most stative verbs are derived from other verbs; however a few are formed from nouns and adjectives. In addition, some causative verbs can be changed to stative. Stative verbs are formed from the following categories:

1. Bantu verbs where the 2nd last syllable contains A, I, or U
2. Bantu verbs where the 2nd last syllable contains E or O
3. Bantu verbs which end with double vowels
4. Arabic verbs
5. Verbs which already exist in the Stative form
6. Stative verbs derived from nouns and adjectives
7. Exception verbs

Section A: Bantu Verbs with a Previous Stem Vowel A, I, or U

Bantu verbs where the 2nd last syllable contains A, I, or U are made stative by inserting *-ik-* before the last vowel. Monosyllabic verbs also fall in this category.

panda – climb = *pandika* – climbable

Ukuta wa mawe unapandika. – The rock wall is climbable.

lima – cultivate = *limika* – cultivatable

Shamba hili linalimika. – This farm is cultivatable.

vunja – break = *vunjika* – broken

Kiti kimevunjika. – The chair is broken.

Practice Exercise A

Translate into Swahili.

1. Those mirrors are broken.
2. The apprentice is teachable.
3. These fruits will be edible.
4. The road is passable during the dry season only.
5. Their cart was pushable.
6. This hurdle was not jumpable.
7. The water pipe is bent.
8. Those doors are not closable.
9. Can this fine be payable?
10. The lottery is winnable.

Section B: Bantu Verbs with a Previous Stem Vowel E or O

Bantu verbs where the 2nd last syllable contains E or O are made stative by inserting *-ek-* before the last vowel. For example:

penda – love = *pendeka* – lovable

Mji huu unapendeka. – This city is lovable.

soma – read = *someka* – readable

Kitabu chake kinasomeka. – His/Her book is readable.

Practice Exercise B

Translate into English.

11. *Nyama ya mbuzi imechomeka.*
12. *Mchezo huu mpya unachezeka.*
13. *Shati langu limeshoneka.*

14. *Nyumba ile imejengeka.*
15. *Barua yake yote haikusomeka.*
16. *Barua hizi zinapeleleka.*
17. *Maswali yako hayaeleweki.*
18. *Nguo za mabinti zinashoneka.*
19. *Viazi vinapondeka.*
20. *Barabara imenyosheka.*

Section C: Bantu Verbs which End with Double Vowels

Bantu verbs ending with double vowel *-aa* are made stative by inserting *-lik-* before the last vowel.

- kaa* – stay = *kalika* – habitable
Mahali hapa panakalika. – This place is habitable.
hadaa – deceive = *hadalika* – deceivable
Mfanyakazi wa huduma za jamii anahadalika. – The social worker
 is deceivable.

Bantu verbs ending with double vowels and the second last vowel is I or U are made stative by inserting *-k-* or *-lik-* before the last vowel.

- fungua* – open = *funguka* – openable
Kopo la samaki limefunguka. – The can of fish is open.
sikia – hear = *sikika* (or *sikilika*) – audible
Sauti yake inasikika mpaka hapa. – His/Her voice is audible up
 to here.

Bantu verbs ending with double vowels and the second last vowel is E or O are made stative by inserting *-lek-* before the last vowel.

- lea* – raise = *leleka* – raisable
Mtoto wake haleleki. – His/Her child is not raisable. (difficult to
 raise)
ondoa – remove = *ondoleka* – removable
Theluji hii haiondoleki. – This snow is not removable.

Practice Exercise C

Translate into Swahili.

21. The window of our house was open.
22. His/Her good car is bought.
23. The runway is wide.
24. The Boston marathon is runnable.
25. My tooth is not extractable.

Section D: Arabic Verbs

Arabic verbs ending with E or I are made stative by adding *-ka* as a suffix.

- samehe* – forgive = *sameheka* – forgivable
Kosa la mfungwa linasameheka. – The offence of the prisoner is forgivable.
fikiri – think = *fikirika* – be thinkable
Jambo hili halifikiriki. – This matter is not thinkable.

Arabic verbs ending with U are made stative by changing the last vowel to *i* and adding *-ka* as a suffix.

- jibu* – answer = *jibika* – be answerable
Swali hili linajibika. – This question is answerable.

Arabic verbs ending with double vowels are made stative by adding *-lika* as a suffix.

- sahau* – forget = *sahaulika* – forgettable
Wimbo wenu unasahaulika. – Your (pl.) song is forgettable.

Practice Exercise D

Translate into English.

26. *Kamera hii hairudishiki.*
27. *Makosa yake yote yanasameheka.*
28. *Hali ya hewa inabadilika.*
29. *Jambo hili limesahaulika.*

30. *Kampuni ya kifedha inadirikika.*
31. *Matokeo ya tatizo lile yamefahamika.*
32. *Ninafikiri kwamba meneja wangu atasema kwamba mkataba huu unakubalika.*
33. *Haiba yake inadharaulika.*
34. *Maelezo ya mkimbizi hayaaminiki.*
35. *Jiwe la madini lile linathaminika.*

Section E: Verbs Which Already Exist in the Stative Form

Some verbs are inherently in the stative form and do not need to take *-ka* to make them stative as shown in the examples below:

- lewa* – be drunk
Yule kijana amelewa. – That youth is drunk.
shiba – be full
Baba ameshiba. – My father is full.
anguka – be in fallen state
Nyumba imeanguka. – The house has fallen.

Practice Exercise E

Translate into Swahili.

36. It is not good to be late to work.
37. The crocodiles will go to sleep because they are full.
38. The ostrich is asleep.
39. The socks will not be dry in an hour.
40. The customs officer was angry.

Section F: Stative Verbs Derived from Nouns and Adjectives

Only some nouns and adjectives can be used to form stative verbs as shown below.

- shughuli* – business = *shughulika* – be busy
Walishughulika kupiga chapa usiku kucha. – They were busy printing all night.

bahati – luck = *bahatika* – be lucky
Walibahatika kupata mtoto. – They were lucky to have a child.
-erevu – clever = *erevuka* – be clever
John ameerevuka siku hizi. – John has become clever these days.
-pevu – ripe = *pevuka* – ripened
Mananasi yamepevuka. – The pineapples have ripened.
bora – better = *boreka* – become better
Polepole, Kiswahili chake kimeboreka. – Slowly, his/her Swahili has become better.

As you can see from the examples above, the majority of stative verbs formed from nouns and adjectives are made by attaching *-ka* to the end of the word. However, some nouns and adjectives have their final vowel changed before attaching *-ka* to make them stative.

Practice Exercise F

Translate into English.

41. *Mawasiliano yamerahisika kwa sababu ya teknolojia ya kisasa.*
42. *Ziwa limesafika kwa sababu ya ukosefu wa kuvuja kwa mafuta.*
43. *Urafiki wao umeimarika baada ya wiki chache tu.*
44. *Wananchi wametaabika kwa ajili ya kushuka kwa uchumi.*
45. *Madaladala matatu yale yamezeeka.*

Section G: Exception Verbs

Some verbs, nouns, and adjectives do not follow any particular rules when they become stative verbs as shown below.

nusa – smell, sniff = *nuka* – to smell bad
Maduriani yale yananuka. – Those Durian fruits smell bad.
hasira – anger = *kasirika* – be angry
Mkutubi amekasirika sana. – The librarian is very angry.

Practice Exercise G

Translate the following passage into Swahili.

The tickets to travel to Arusha to climb Mount Kilimanjaro are bought at the bus station at 8 am. The fare can be paid in Tanzanian Shilling or

US Dollars. The tourists already had their breakfast before boarding the bus. The stewardess distributed interesting and readable magazines in order to entertain the tourists. At 1 pm, the bus stopped at a local restaurant for a break. Many tourists were busy eating local food such as skewered meat, cassava chips and roasted fish. The skewered meats were very nicely roasted and the cassava chips were fresh. After a period of five hours, the bus arrived in Arusha. However, because the sun had set, Mount Kilimanjaro was not climbable and the tourists were angry. The second day, the tourists were lucky to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

New Vocabulary

- amini*: believe
- au*: or
- badili*: change
- bahati nasibu*: lottery(ies)
- barabara ya/za ndege*: runway(s)
- binti/ma-*: daughter(s)
- bomba/ma-*: pipe(s)
- burudisha*: entertain, refresh
- chamshakinywa/vy-*: breakfast(s)
- chipsi*: chip(s), French fries
- daladala/ma-*: minibus(es)
- diriki*: manage
- duriani/ma-*: Durian fruit(s)
- elewa*: understand
- elezo/ma-*: explanation(s)
- erevu*: clever
- faini*: fine(s)
- forodha*: customs, customs duty(ies)
- freshi*: fresh
- hadaa*: deceive
- haiba*: personality(ies), appearance(s)
- hali ya hewa*: weather
- hasira*: anger
- hata hivyo*: even though, however
- ili*: so that, in order that
- kama vile*: such as
- kamera*: camera(s)

kasirika: get angry
kiangazi/vi-: dry season(s)
kifedha: financial
kiunzi/vi-: hurdle(s)
kopo/ma-: can(s)
kwamba: if, whether, that
lewa: to be intoxicated
madini: mineral(s)
mamba: crocodile(s)
marathoni: marathon(s)
mawasiliano: communication(s)
mbuni: ostrich(es)
mbuzi: goat(s)
mfanyakazi/wa- wa huduma za jamii: social worker(s)
mkataba/mi-: contract(s)
mkimbizi/wa-: refugee(s)
mkokoteni/mi-: cart(s)
mshikaki/mi-: skewered meat(s)
muhogo/mi-: cassava root(s)
mwanagenzi/wa-: apprentice(s)
nauli: fare(s)
ng'oa: extract
nusa: smell
nyosha: straighten
ondoa: remove
panua: widen
peleka: send
-pevu: ripe
piga chapa: type, print
pinda: bend
pitia: pass through, transit through
ponda: crush
pumziko/ma-: break(s), rest period(s)
sauti: voice(s), sound(s)
shiba: be full
shuka: descend
soksi: sock(s)
taabu: troubled, distressed

thamini: value, appraise
theluji: snow(s)
tokeo/ma-: consequence(s)
uchumi: economy(ies)
urafiki: friendship(s)
usiku kucha: all night
vuja: leak, spill out
vutia: attract, interest
zeeka: old, worn out

Key to Exercises

Answers to Practice Exercise A

1. *Vioo vile vimevunjika.*
2. *Mwanagenzi anafundishika.*
3. *Matunda haya yatalika.*
4. *Barabara inapitika wakati wa kiangazi tu.*
5. *Mkokoteni wao ulisukumika.*
6. *Kiunzi hiki hakikurukika.*
7. *Bomba la maji limepindika.*
8. *Milango ile haifungiki.*
9. *Je, faini hii inalipika?*
10. *Bahati nasibu inashindika.*

Answers to Practice Exercise B

11. The goat's meat is roasted.
12. This new game is playable.
13. My shirt is sewn.
14. That house is built.
15. All of his/her letter was not readable.
16. These letters are sendable.
17. Your questions are not understandable.
18. The daughters' clothes are sewable.
19. The potatoes are crushable.
20. The road is straight.

Answers to Practice Exercise C

21. *Dirisha la nyumba yetu limefunguka.*
22. *Gari lake zuri limenunulika.*
23. *Barabara ya ndege imepanuka.*
24. *Marathoni ya Boston inakimbilika.*
25. *Jino langu haling'oleki.*

Answers to Practice Exercise D

26. This camera is not returnable.
27. All his/her faults are pardonable.
28. The weather is changeable.
29. This matter is forgotten.
30. The financial company is manageable.
31. The consequences of that problem are understood.
32. I think that my manager will say that this contract is agreeable.
33. His/Her personality is despicable.
34. The explanations of the refugee are not believable.
35. That mineral stone is valuable.

Answers to Practice Exercise E

36. *Si vizuri kuchelewa kazini.*
37. *Mamba watakwenda kulala kwa sababu wameshiba.*
38. *Mbuni amelala.*
39. *Soksi hazitakauka katika muda wa saa moja.*
40. *Ofisa wa forodha alikasirika.*

Answers to Practice Exercise F

41. Communication has become easy because of new technology.
42. The lake has become clean because of the absence of oil spills.
43. Their friendship has become firm after only a few weeks.
44. The citizens are troubled by the economic recession.
45. Those three mini-buses are old.

Answers to Practice Exercise G

Tiketi za kusafiri kwenda Arusha kupanda Mlima Kilimanjaro zinanunulika katika kituo cha basi saa mbili asubuhi. Nauli inalipika katika Shilingi za Kitanzania au Dola za Kimarekani. Watalii wameshakula chamshakinywa kabla ya kupanda basi. Mtumishi aligawa magezeti ya kuvutia na kusomeka ili kuwaburudisha watalii. Saa saba mchana, basi lilisimama kwenye hoteli ya mahali kwa ajili ya mapumziko. Watalii wengi walishughulika kula chakula cha mahali kama vile mishikaki, chipsi za muhogo, na samaki wa kuchoma. Mishikaki ilichomeka vizuri sana, na chipsi za muhogo zilikuwa freshi. Baada ya muda wa saa tano, basi lilifika Arusha. Hata hivyo, kwa sababu jua limekuchwa, Mlima Kilimanjaro haukupandika na watalii walikasirika. Siku ya pili, watalii walibahatika kupanda Mlima Kilimanjaro.

