

## Chapter 35

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# Common Swahili Questions and Answers

This Chapter presents dialogues using question words learned in the preceding chapters. Some of the common questions asked are people's names, where they live and work, the type of work they do, their families, where they were born, where they go to school and so forth. Below are some common questions and answers that are used in conversation.

### Section A: Meeting Someone

Shopkeeper: *Habari za asubuhi?*

Tourist: *Nzuri sana bwana. Na wewe je?*

Shopkeeper: *Mimi sijambo. Jina lako nani?*

Tourist: *Jina langu ni Mike. Mimi ninatafuta hoteli ya Kilimanjaro. Je, unajua iko wapi?*

Shopkeeper: *Iko katika mtaa wa Kivukoni, mbele ya Bahari ya Hindi. Si mbali kutoka hapa.*

Tourist: *Asante sana kaka. Samahani, nimesahau kukuuliza jina lako.*

Shopkeeper: *Hakuna matatizo. Jina langu ni Musa. Je, una muda wa kuangalia vinyago katika duka langu?*

Tourist: *Hapana, asante sana. Ninafanya haraka sasa hivi, lakini nitakutembelea wakati mwingine. Asante sana tena.*

Shopkeeper: *Nimefurahi kukutana na wewe. Ninatarajia nitakuona tena. Safari njema!*

Tourist: *Kwa heri.*

## Practice Exercise A

Answer the questions below in English.

1. Why did the tourist say *samahani*?
2. What did the shopkeeper sell?
3. What street is Hotel Kilimanjaro located on?
4. Why did the tourist not want to look at the shopkeeper's carvings?
5. What is the name of the tourist?

## Section B: Conversation between neighbours

Malikia: *Shikamoo Bwana Ali.*

Ali: *Marahaba Malikia. Wewe hujambo?*

Malikia: *Mimi sijambo sana.*

Ali: *Unakwenda wapi saa hizi?*

Malikia: *Mimi ninakwenda shuleni. Tuna mihani wa historia leo. Je, unakwenda kazini?*

Ali: *Ndiyo. Nimepata kazi mpya katika kampuni ya umeme. Nina mkutano na wafanyakazi wangu.*

Malikia: *Je, una cheo gani na una wafanyakazi wangapi?*

Ali: *Mimi ni Meneja wa Utumishi na nina wafanyakazi arobaini na watatu chini yangu. Wachache wanatoka sehemu mbalimbali ulimwenguni kama vile Marekani na Ulaya lakini wengi ni Wakenya.*

Malikia: *Je, wafanyakazi wa kigeni wanaishi wapi na wanafanya kazi gani?*

Ali: *Wafanyakazi wa kigeni wanaishi katika nyumba za kukodi karibu na makao makuu ya kampuni. Wao ni wataalamu wa teknolojia na wako hapa kwa mkataba wa miaka miwili.*

Malikia: *Sawa kabisa. Leo usiku tuna sherehe nyumbani kwetu. Je, umepata mwaliko?*

Ali: *Ndiyo. Nitakuja na familia yangu. Tutaonana jioni.*

Malikia: *Inshallah. Kwa heri.*

Ali: *Kwa heri ya kuonana.*

## Practice Exercise B

Answer the questions below in English.

6. *Kuna nini leo usiku nyumbani kwa Malikia?*
7. *Je, wafanyakazi wa kigeni katika kampuni ya umeme wanafanya kazi gani?*
8. *Je, Malikia ana mtihani wa somo lipi leo?*
9. *Je, Bwana Ali amefanya kazi katika kampuni ya umeme kwa muda mrefu?*
10. *Je, wafanyakazi wa kigeni wana mkataba wa miaka mingapi?*
11. *Bwana Ali ana cheo gani?*
12. *Wafanyakazi wengi wa kampuni wanatoka wapi?*

## Section C: At the Airport

Passenger 1: *Jambo. Habari za asubuhi?*

Immigration Officer: *Nzuri sana Karibu Tanzania Bwana. Je, umesafiri peke yako leo?*

Passenger 1: *Hapana. Nimefuatana na mke wangu, Mary.*

Immigration Officer: *Yuko wapi? Ninamhitaji hapa na ninaomba pasipoti yake.*

Passenger 1: *Mary, njoo hapa.*

Passenger 2: *Naam ninakuja. Je, unahitaji nini?*

Passenger 1: *Ofisa wa uhamiaji anakuhitaji hapa na anaomba pasipoti zetu.*

Immigration Officer: *Je, mnatoka wapi na mlipitia nchi gani?*

Passenger 1: *Tumetoka Jamaika na tumepitia Uswisi.*

Immigration Officer: *Ninyi ni raia wa nchi gani?*

Passenger 2: *Sisi ni raia wa Jamaika.*

Immigration Officer: *Kiswahili chenu ni kizuri sana. Je, mlifunza wapi?*

Passenger 2: *Wazazi wangu walizaliwa Tanzania na walihamia Jamaika mwaka wa elfu moja, mia tisa, sitini na tisa. Tulizungumza Kiswahili nyumbani.*

Immigration Officer: *Vizuri sana. Na mume wako alifunza wapi?*

Passenger 1: *Nilifunza Kiswahili katika Chuo Kikuu cha Kingston, Jamaika.*

Immigration Officer: *Vizuri sana. Je, mnawatembelea ndugu zenu Tanzania au mko hapa kama watalii?*

Passenger 1: *Hapana, tuko hapa kwa shughuli.*

Immigration Officer: *Mna kiasi gani cha pesa?*

Passenger 1: *Tuna Dola elfu kumi za Kimarekani na Yuro elfu sita na mia tano.*

Immigration Officer: *Je, mna kitu cho chote kingine cha kuonyesha?*

Passenger 1: *Hapana. Tuna vitu vya kibinafsi tu.*

Immigration Officer: *Je, mtakaa wapi mjini na mtaondoka lini?*

Passenger 2: *Tutakaa na rafiki yetu katika mtaa wa Kisutu na tutarudi Jamaika tarehe ya kumi na nane, mwezi wa Oktoba.*

Immigration Officer: *Sawasawa. Nimeambatisha viza zenu za kuingia Tanzania katika pasipoti. Karibu tena Tanzania na safari njema.*

Passenger 1 and 2: *Asante sana!*

## Practice Exercise C

Answer the questions below in Swahili.

13. *Msafiri wa pili anaitwa nani?*
14. *Wasafiri ni raia wa wapi?*
15. *Je, wasafiri wanatembelea Tanzania kwa ajili gani?*
16. *Je, wameleta kiasi gani cha pesa?*
17. *Je, nani alijifunza Kiswahili katika Chuo Kikuu cha Kingston, Jamaika?*
18. *Wasafiri walipitia katika nchi gani?*
19. *Je, wanatarajia kurudi Jamaika lini?*
20. *Je, Mary na mume wake watakaa wapi mjini?*

## Section D: Travelling in East Africa

Tour Guide: Hello Sir!

John: *Jambo rafiki yangu. Habari ya kazi?*

Tour Guide: *Loo! Kumbe unajua Kiswahili? Mimi ni mzima lakini hali ya kazi si nzuri kwa sababu bei ya mafuta imepanda. Lakini habari nzuri kwa ajili yako ni kwamba kampuni hii ilitangaza jana kuwa watalii wawili wanaweza kusafiri kwenda mbuga za wanyama kwa bei ya mtu mmoja tu. Je, una mwenzako?*

John: *Hapana. Kwa bahati mbaya, nipo peke yangu. Pia, sitegemei kusafiri wakati huu.*

Tour Guide: *Mbona? Watu wawili wanaweza kusafiri kwa dola mia moja tu. Bei hii ni nzuri kuliko bei yo yote. Unaweza kuwaona simba chini ya miti, kiboko katika mabwawa, chui wakiwakimbiza swala, twiga wakila majani ya miti, tembo wakipunga masikio yao na kima wakiruka kutoka mti mmoja kwenda mti mwingine.*

John: *Ama! Ninapata hamu ya kwenda sasa. Je, safari itachukua siku ngapi?*

Tour Guide: *Ni safari ya siku moja tu. Basi letu litaondoka saa mbili na robo asubuhi na kurudi kati ya saa tatu na saa nne usiku.*

John: *Tatizo langu ni kwamba niko peke yangu. Je, nitalipa kiasi gani?*

Tour Guide: *Basi nipe dakika moja nimpigie simu bosi wangu.*

Tour Guide: *Shikamoo bosi. Nina Mzungu mmoja hapa na anataka kununua tiketi kwa ajili yake tu. Je, ninaweza kumwuzia kwa bei ya dola hamsini? Sawasawa. Asante sana.*

Tour Guide: *Nimeongea na bosi wangu na amekubali bei ya dola hamsini tu. Je, una pesa tayari?*

John: *Ndiyo. Dola hamsini hizi hapa.*

Tour Guide: *Asante. Tiketi yako ni hii hapa. Tafadhali ukumbuke kufika hapa saa mbili kasorobo asubuhi. Asante kwa kusafiri na sisi.*

John: *Hamna tabu. Kwa heri. Tutaonana kesho asubuhi.*

## Practice Exercise D

Answer the following questions in Swahili.

21. *Basi litaondoka saa ngapi?*
22. *Kiongozi wa watalii alimwambia John kuwa kima watakuwa wanafanya nini?*
23. *Kwa nini hali ya kazi haikuwa nzuri?*
24. *Je, John anatarajia kusafiri peke yake?*
25. *Kiongozi wa watalii alimpigia simu nani?*
26. *Bei ya mwisho iliyokubaliwa ilikuwa kiasi gani?*
27. *Basi litarudi saa ngapi?*
28. *John aliambiwa ataona wanyama gani katika mbuga za wanyama?*
29. *Je, John alipata hamu ya kwenda katika safari lini?*
30. *Je, safari itachukua siku ngapi?*

## New Vocabulary

*ama!*: Wow!  
*ambatisha*: attach  
*binafsi*: personal  
*funza*: teach  
*-geni*: strange, foreign  
*hamna tabu*: no problem  
*hamu*: desire(s)  
*historia*: history(ies)  
*Inshallah*: If God wills it  
*Jamaika*: Jamaica  
*kati ya*: between  
*kima*: monkey(s)  
*kinyago/vi-*: carving(s)  
*kumbe*: I see  
*kutana na*: meet with  
*loo!*: Oh!  
*makao makuu*: headquarter(s)  
*mbona?*: Why, for God's sake?  
*mbuga ya/za wanyama*: game park(s)  
*Mkenya/wa-*: Kenyan(s)  
*msafiri/wa-*: traveller(s)  
*mtaalamu/wa-*: specialist(s)  
*mwaliko/mi-*: invitation(s)  
*Mzungu/wa-*: European(s)  
*naam*: yes  
*punga*: wave, flap  
*saa hizi*: at this time  
*sawa kabisa*: completely O.K  
*swala*: gazelle(s)  
*uhamiaji*: immigration  
*ulimwengu*: world(s), universe(s)  
*Uswisi*: Switzerland  
*utumishi*: personnel, manpower  
*viza*: visa(s)

## Key to Exercises

### Answers to Practice Exercise A

1. The tourist said *samahani* because he forgot to ask the shopkeeper's name.
2. The shopkeeper sold carvings.
3. Hotel Kilimanjaro is located on Kivukoni Street.
4. The tourist did not want to look at the shopkeeper's carvings because he was in a hurry.
5. His name is Mike.

### Answers to Practice Exercise B

6. There will be a party at Malikia's house.
7. The foreign workers work as technology specialists.
8. Malikia has a history exam today.
9. No, Mr. Ali has not been working at the electricity company for a long time.
10. The foreign workers have a two year contract.
11. Mr. Ali is a manager of Human Resources.
12. Many of the workers in the company are from Kenya.

### Answers to Practice Exercise C

13. *Msafiri wa pili anaitwa Mary.*
14. *Wasafiri ni raia wa Jamaika.*
15. *Wasafiri wanatembelea Tanzania kwa ajili ya shughuli.*
16. *Wameleta Dola elfu kumi za Kimarekani na Yuro elfu sita na mia tano.*
17. *Mume wa Mary (msafiri wa kwanza) alijifunza Kiswahili katika Chuo Kikuu cha Kingston, Jamaika.*
18. *Wasafiri walipitia Uswisi.*
19. *Wanatarajia kurudi Jamaika tarehe ya kumi na nane, mwezi wa Oktoba.*
20. *Mary na mume wake watakaa mtaa wa Kisutu.*

## Answers to Practice Exercise D

21. *Basi litaondoka saa mbili an robo asubuhi.*
22. *Kiongozi wa watalii alimwambia John kuwa kima watakuwa wakiruka kutoka mti mmoja kwenda mti mwingine.*
23. *Hali ya kazi haikuwa nzuri kwa sababu bei ya mafuta imepanda.*
24. *Ndiyo, John anatarajia kusafiri peke yake.*
25. *Kiongozi wa watalii alimpigia simu bosu wake.*
26. *Bei ya mwisho iliyokubaliwa ilikuwa dola hamsini.*
27. *Basi litarudi kati ya saa tatu na saa nne usiku.*
28. *John aliambiwa ataona simba, kiboko, chui, swala, twiga, tembo na kima.*
29. *John alipata hamu ya kwenda katika safari baada ya kusikia habari za wanyama mbalimbali.*
30. *Safari itachukua siku moja tu.*