



THE ROUGH GUIDE TO

Swahili

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CTIONARY PHRASEBOOK

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SWAHILI

A ROUGH GUIDE **DICTIONARY PHRASEBOOK**

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HELP US GET IT RIGHT

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Introduction

The Rough Guide Swahili phrasebook is a highly practical introduction to the contemporary language. Laid out in clear A-Z style, it uses key-word referencing to lead you straight to the words and phrases you want – so if you need to book a room, just look up ‘room’. The Rough Guide gets straight to the point in every situation, in bars and shops, on trains and buses, and in hotels and banks.

The main part of the Rough Guide is a double dictionary: English-Swahili then Swahili-English. Before that, there’s a section called The Basics, which sets out the fundamental rules of the language and its pronunciation, with plenty of practical examples. You’ll also find here other essentials like numbers, dates, telling the time and basic phrases.

To get you involved quickly in two-way communication, the Rough Guide includes dialogues featuring typical responses on key topics – such as renting a car and asking directions. Feature boxes fill you in on cultural pitfalls as well as the simple mechanics of how to make a phone call, what to do in an emergency, where to change money and more. Throughout this section, cross-references enable you to pinpoint key facts and phrases, while asterisked words indicate where further information can be found in The Basics.

In the Swahili-English dictionary, we’ve given not just the phrases you’re likely to hear (starting with a selection of slang and colloquialisms), but also all the signs, labels, instructions and other basic words you might come across in print or in public places.

Finally the Rough Guide rounds off with an extensive Menu Reader. Consisting of food and drink sections (each starting with a list of essential terms), it’s indispensable whether you’re eating out, stopping for a quick drink or browsing through a local food market.

safari njema!

have a good trip!

Basics



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Pronunciation

Swahili is written in the Roman alphabet and the letters are pronounced more or less as in English, apart from those given below which are pronounced as follows:

Vowels

a	as in far
e	between the 'e' in bed and the 'é' in café
i	as in Lima
o	as in orange
u	as in flute

Consonants

ch	as in church
dh	like the 'th' in that
g	as in got
gh	pronounced from the back of the throat, almost as an 'r', like the Spanish pronunciation of 'j' in jamón
h	as in home
k	as in kiosk
kh	like 'ch' as in the Scots pronunciation of loch
ng	as in finger
ng'	as in sing
ny	as in canyon , or like the 'ni' in onion
s	as in sit
th	as in thin

The stress is nearly always on the penultimate syllable of the word.

In Swahili each vowel in a word is sounded, for example **saa** (watch) is pronounced **sa-a**, **watalii** (tourists) is pronounced **wa-ta-li-i** and **kelele** (noise) is pronounced **ke-le-le**.

In the English-Swahili section, English words used in Swahili but pronounced as in English are shown in quotes, for example 'malaria', 'stereo'.

Notes

Swahili (or Kiswahili to its speakers) is the most important language of communication in a vast mainland area of East Africa and its offshore islands. It is the national language of Tanzania and Kenya. Swahili is also understood and used as a second language by a considerable number of people in parts of Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia. It is the regional language of the eastern regions of the Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). Being spoken in such a vast area there are varieties or dialects of Swahili. This book is intended for use in Kenya and Tanzania and most of the words and phrases used in this book will be understood in both Kenya and Tanzania; however, (K) next to a word means that it is more commonly used in Kenya and (T) indicates a word that is more commonly used in Tanzania.

An asterisk next to a word in the English-Swahili section means that you should refer to the Basics section for further information.

Abbreviations

adj	adjective
lit	literally
pl	plural
sing	singular

Nouns

Nouns in Swahili are divided into a number of classes and in most cases, except for the (JI)/MA and N classes, the class can be identified by the initial letter(s) of the noun.

class	singular	plural
M/WA	mtoto child	watoto children
	mtalii tourist	watalii tourists

The M/WA class of noun refers to people only.

M/MI	mti tree	miti trees
	mji town	miji towns
KI/VI	kitu thing	vitu things
	kitabu book	vitabu books
(JI)/MA	jicho eye	macho eyes
	yai egg	mayai eggs
N	njia road	njia roads
	barua letter	barua letters

For N class nouns, singular and plural forms are the same.

U/N	uhuru freedom	
	utoto childhood	
	uma fork	nyuma forks
	uso face	nyuso faces

There is also the KU class for verbal nouns:

kuimba	kusafiri	kusoma
singing	travelling	reading

And the PA class associated with the noun **pahali** or **mahali**, meaning 'place':

pahali pazuri or **mahali pazuri**
a nice place



Articles

There are no definite or indefinite articles (the, a) as such in Swahili. A word such as **kofia** could mean ‘a hat’ or ‘the hat’ depending on the context:

nataka kununua kofia

I want to buy a hat OR

I want to buy the hat

lit: I want to buy hat

Adjectives

Adjectives usually follow the noun to which they refer and (with some exceptions) are used with appropriate prefixes according to their class. For example, prefixes which correspond to noun classes are added to the adjective **-zuri** (good):

M	mtu mzuri	a good person
WA	watu wazuri	good people
KI	kiti kizuri	a good chair
VI	viti vizuri	good chairs
M	mji mzuri	a good town
MI	miji mizuri	good towns

The majority of adjectives are used with prefixes. For this reason Swahili dictionaries usually give adjectives with hyphens in front, for example:

-zuri	good, nice
-tamu	sweet
-kubwa	big

However, the following are not used with prefixes:

safi	clean
ghali	expensive

rahisi

cheap; easy

laini

smooth; soft

nyumba safi

machugwa ghali

a clean house

expensive oranges

Comparatives and Superlatives

To form the comparative (bigger, better) the word which is commonly used is **kuliko** (more than, in comparison to):

Omar ni mkubwa kuliko Gideon

Omar is bigger than Gideon

lit: Omar is big compared to Gideon

or

Gideon ni modogo kuliko Omar

Gideon is smaller than Omar

lit: Gideon is small compared to Omar

For the superlative (biggest, best) the words **kuliko ... -ote** are used, with an appropriate prefix on **-ote**:

Omar ni mkubwa kuliko wanafunzi wote

Omar is the biggest of all the students

lit: Omar is big more than all students

nyumba kubwa kuliko zote

it's the biggest house

lit: house big more than all

Adverbs

Adverbs can be formed from adjectives:

-baya

bad

vibaya

badly

alisoma vibaya

he read badly

-zuri

good; nice

vizuri

well; nicely

ulisoma vizuri

you read nicely

Or from nouns by using **kwa**:

haraka	kwa haraka	tulikuja kwa haraka
haste	quickly	we came quickly
siri	kwa siri	walikutana kwa siri
secret	secretly	they met secretly

There are also some words already in adverbial form:

polepole	upesi
slowly	hurriedly, quickly

Subject/object markers

Markers are attached to verbs to indicate whether a word is the subject or object of a sentence. These marker words agree with the noun class.

M/WA

subject marker

ni-	I
u-	you (sing)
a-	he; she
tu-	we
m-	you (pl)
wa-	they

object marker

-ni-	me
-ku-	you (sing)
-m-	him; her
-tu-	us
-wa-	you (pl)
-wa-	them

In the examples that follow, subject markers are attached to the verb **nunua** (buy), together with the tense marker **-na-** (see page 20):

ninanunua	unanunua	ananunua
I buy	you buy	he/she buys

In the following examples, subject and object markers are attached to the verb **jua** (know), together with the tense marker **-na-**:

ninamjua

I know her

anawajua

he/she knows them

The other classes of noun which refer to things (not people) have one singular subject/object marker and one plural subject/object marker. The subject marker is positioned at the beginning of the verb and the object marker is in the middle of the verb:

M/MI	mti ulianguka the tree had fallen	miti ilianguka the trees had fallen
KI/VI	kiti kilivunjika the chair had broken	viti vilivunjika the chairs had broken
	walikivunja kiti they broke the chair	walivivunja viti they broke the chairs
(JI)/MA	yai litavunjika the egg will break	mayai yatavunjika the eggs will break
N	njia itafungwa the road will be closed	njia zitafungwa the roads will be closed
	waliifunga njia they closed the road	walizifunga njia they closed the roads
U/N	ukuta umebomoka the wall has fallen down	kuta zimebomoka the walls have fallen down

Swahili also has subject pronouns which are separate words:

mimi	I	sisi	we
wewe	you (sing)	nyinyi	you (pl)
yeye	he/she	wao	they

These are used in certain contexts such as with the word *ni* (am/is/are):

mimi ni mtalii I'm a tourist	mimi ni Muingereza I am English lit: I am English person
--	---

yeye ni Mwamerika
 he/she is an American
 lit: he/she is American person

They are also used to emphasize the subject of the sentence:

sisi tutaondoka kesho
 as for us, we will leave tomorrow

Demonstratives

In Swahili, there is no distinction between demonstrative adjectives and pronouns and, like adjectives and possessives, the form used depends on the noun class.

	this	these	that	those
M/WA	huyu	hawa	yule	wale
M/MI	huu	hii	ule	ile
KI/VI	hiki	hivi	kile	vile
(JI)/MA	hili	haya	lile	yale
N	hii	hizi	ile	zile
U/N	huu	hizi	ule	zile

Demonstrative adjectives are positioned after the noun:

mtoto huyu	watoto hawa	mtoto yule	watoto wale
this child	these children	that child	those children

Possessives

There is no difference in form between possessive adjectives (my, your, our etc) and possessive pronouns (mine, yours, ours, etc):

-angu	my; mine	-etu	our; ours
-ako	your; yours (sing)	-enu	your; yours (pl)
-ake	his; her; hers; its	-ao	their; theirs

Possessives follow the noun and are used with prefixes as follows:

M/WA	mtoto wangu my child	watoto wangu my children
	mtoto wako your child (sing)	watoto wako your children (sing)
	mtoto wake his/her child	watoto wake his/her children
	mtoto wetu our child	watoto wetu our children
	mtoto wenu your child (pl)	watoto wenu your children (pl)
	mtoto wao their child	mtoto wao their children
M/MI	mkoba wangu my bag	mikoba yangu my bags
	mkoba wako your bag (sing)	mikoba yako your bags (sing)
	mkoba wake his/her bag	mikoba yake his/her bags
	mkoba wetu our bag	mikoba yetu our bags
	mkoba wenu your bag (pl)	mikoba yenu your bags (pl)
	mkoba wao their bag	mikoba yao their bags
KI/VI	kitu changu my thing	vitu vyangu my things
	kitu chako your thing (sing)	vitu vyako your things (sing)
	kitu chake his/her thing	vitu vyake his/her things
	kitu chetu our thing	vitu vyetu our things
	kitu chenu your thing (pl)	vitu vyenu your things (pl)
	kitu chao their thing	vitu vyao their things

(JI)/MA	yai langu	my egg	mayai yangu	my eggs	
	yai lako	your egg (sing)	mayai yako	your eggs (sing)	
	yai lake	his/her egg	mayai yake	his/her eggs	
	yai letu	our egg	mayai yetu	our eggs	
	yai lenu	your egg (pl)	mayai yenu	your eggs (pl)	
	yai lao	their egg	mayai yao	their eggs	
	N	barua yangu	my letter	barua zangu	my letters
		barua yako	your letter (sing)	barua zako	your letters (sing)
		barua yake	his/her letter	barua zake	his/her letters
		barua yetu	our letter	barua zetu	our letters
barua yenu		your letter (pl)	barua zenu	your letters (pl)	
barua yao		their letter	barua zao	their letters	
U/N		ukanda wangu	my belt	kanda zangu	my belts
	ukanda wako	your belt (sing)	kanda zako	your belts (sing)	
	ukanda wake	his/her belt	kanda zake	his/her belts	
	ukanda wetu	our belt	kanda zetu	our belts	
	ukanda wenu	your belt (pl)	kanda zenu	your belts (pl)	
	ukanda wao	their belt	kanda zao	their belts	

The possessive pronoun used depends on the thing(s) possessed and not on the possessor:

chumba changu my room	changu mine (referring to room)
nyumba yangu my house	yangu mine (referring to house)
jina langu my name	langu mine (referring to name)

'Of'

In order to convey the idea of the English 'of', subject markers agreeing with the person or thing referred to are added to **-a**. An exception is the singular M/WA class where **w-** is added to **-a**:

M/WA	mtoto wa mwalimu the teacher's child lit: child of teacher	watoto wa mwalimu the teacher's children
KI/VI	kitabu cha mwanafunzi the student's book	vitabu vya wanafunzi the students' books
(JI)/MA	gari la rais the President's car	magari ya rais the President's cars
M/MI	mkoba wa mtalii the tourist's bag	mikoba ya watalii the tourists' bags
N	nyumba ya waziri the minister's house	nyumba za mawaziri the ministers' houses
U/N	ukanda wa askari the policeman's belt	kanda za askari the policemen's belts

Verbs

In Swahili dictionaries most verbs are given in the stem form like **nunua** (buy), **lala** (sleep) and **safiri** (travel). You can make the stem into the infinitive form by adding **ku-**:

kununua	kulala	kusema	kusafiri
to buy	to sleep	to speak	to travel

The infinitive form of the verb is used in sentences like:

ninataka kununua matunda

I want to buy some fruit

unaweza kusema Kiingereza?

can you speak English?

Or as a verbal noun:

kusafiri kunachosha

travelling is tiring

With verbs of one syllable such as **nywa** (drink), the **ku-** form **kunywa** is used as the stem to which the various tense markers are added (see below).

Tense Markers

As well as the subject and object markers which can be attached to verbs, Swahili verbs also have tense markers. Tense markers come immediately after subject markers. Tense markers are:

-na-	present continuous	-me-	perfect
-a-	present simple	-ta-	future
-li-	past		

nywa drink (stem: **kunywa**)

ninakunywa chai

I'm drinking tea

taka want

nataka chai

I want tea

nunua buy

nimenunua chai

I have bought some tea

nilitaka chai

I wanted tea

nitanunua chai

I will buy some tea

Imperative

The verb stem itself is used for the imperative if it has more than one syllable:

nunua mkate

buy some bread

soma gazeti

read the newspaper

To form the negative imperative, the subject marker (see page 14) plus **-si-** is added to the stem and the final letter of the verb stem changes from **-a** to **-e** thus:

usinunue mkate

don't buy any bread

usisome gazeti

don't read the newspaper

If the verb consists of one syllable, such as **la** (eat) or **nywa** (drink), **ku-** is added to form the imperative:

kuia nyama

eat meat

kunywa maji

drink water

And the **ku-** is dropped in the negative forms:

usiile nyama

don't eat meat

usinywe maji

don't drink the water

Negatives

In other negative forms (in addition to the negative imperative shown above), the verb stem changes. In the present negative tense, the tense marker is omitted and the final **-a** of the verb stem changes to **-i**. With the **M/WA** noun class, the subject markers are as follows:

present negative

si- I

hu- you (sing)

ha- he/she

hatu- we

ham- you (pl)

hawa- they

For example, the present negative forms of the verb **soma** (read) are:

sisomi I don't read

hatusomi we don't read

husomi you don't read (sing)

hamsomi you don't read (pl)

hasomi he/she doesn't read

hawasomi they don't read

To form the negative in the past, perfect and future tenses the final **-a** of the verb stem stays, but the positive tense markers are replaced by negative tense markers:

past tense negative marker **-ku-**

sikusoma

I did not read

hukusoma

you did not read (sing)

future tense negative marker **-ta-**

hatasoma

he/she will not read

hatutasoma

we will not read

perfect tense negative marker **-ja-**

hamjasoma

you have not read (pl)

hawajasoma

they have not read

For the other noun classes which refer to things, the negative tense markers do not change according to tense, but do change according to whether the subject is singular or plural:

M **hau-**

mti hauanguki

the tree does not fall

MI **hai-**

miti haianguki

the trees do not fall

KI **haki-**

kiti hakikuanguka

the chair didn't fall over

VI **havi-**

viti havikuanguka

the chairs didn't fall over

(JI)	hali-	yai halitaanguka	the egg won't fall
MA	haya-	mayai hayataanguka	the eggs won't fall
N	hai-	njia haijafungwa	the road is not yet closed
N (pl)	hazi-	njia hazijafungwa	the roads are not yet closed
U	hau-	ufunguo haukupotea	the key was not lost
N (pl)	hazi-	funguo hazikupotea	the keys were not lost

'To Have'

To express the verb 'to have' the word **na** (with) is prefixed with the appropriate subject marker (see page 14):

nina	I have	tuna	we have
una	you have (sing)	mna	you have (pl)
ana	he/she has	wana	they have

nina kalamu

I have a pen

lit: I with pen

Negative markers (see page 21) are used to form the negative:

sina	I have not	hatuna	we have not
huna	you have not (sing)	hamna	you have not (pl)
hana	he/she has not	hawana	they have not

The past tense is formed using the verb **kuwa** (to be) and **na** (with), together with the past tense marker **-li-**:

nilikuwa na	I had	tulikuwa na	we had
ulikuwa na	you had (sing)	mlikuwa na	you had (pl)
alikuwa na	he/she had	walikuwa na	they had

nilikuwa na kalamu

I had a pen

Negative markers (see page 21) are used to form the negative past tense:

sikuwa na	I didn't have	hatukuwa na	we didn't have
hukuwa na	you didn't have (sing)	hamkuwa na	you didn't have (pl)
hakuwa na	he/she didn't have	hawakuwa na	they didn't have

hakuwa na kalamu

he didn't have a pen

'To Be'

The invariable particle **ni** is usually used to express the idea of 'am/is/are' in simple sentences where the subject is identified by a descriptive word:

mimi ni Mwamerka

I am American

lit: I am American person

ni nyeusi

it's black

sisi ni wazazi wake

we're his parents

In the negative, **ni** is replaced by **si**:

mimi si Muingereza

I'm not English

lit: I am not English person

si ghali sana

it's not very expensive

For the past tense, 'was/were', the one-syllabled verb **wa** is used, usually in its infinitive form **kuwa** (to be/become). Subject markers such as **wa-** and tense markers such as **-li** are used with **kuwa**:

ilikuwa ghali sana

it was very expensive

walikuwa walimu shuleni Kenya

they were school teachers in Kenya

Negative markers (see page 21) are used to form the past negative:

haikuwa ghali sana

it was not very expensive

hawakuwa walimu shuleni Kenya

they were not school teachers in Kenya

To express the idea of being in a place, you don't need to use the verb 'to be' – you simply use a subject marker with one of the place words **-ko**, **-po** or **-mo**. These are used respectively to indicate indefinite, definite and indoor places. Nouns of the *MWA* (people) class use **yu-** in combination with **-ko**, **-po** or **-mo**:

meneja yuko wapi?

where is the manager?

lit: 'manager he' + indefinite place word + 'where'

meneja yumo ofisini

the manager is in the office

lit: 'manager he' + inside place word + 'office'

hayumo ofisini

he/she is not in the office

lit: negative + 'he/she' + inside place word + 'office'

With other noun classes, **-ko**, **-po** and **-mo** are used with subject markers:

tiketi yangu iko wapi?

where is my ticket?

lit: 'ticket my' + subject marker + indefinite place word + 'where'

tiketi yangu ipo hapa?

is my ticket here?

lit: 'ticket my' + subject marker + definite place word + 'here'

haipo hapa

it is not here

lit: 'not' + definite place word + 'here'

For tenses other than the present, **kuwa** is used with **-ko**, **-po** or **-mo**, together with the appropriate subject and tense markers:

alikuwapo sokoni

he/she was at the market

lit: 'he/she' + past tense marker + 'to be' + definite place word + 'market in'

watakuwamo nyumbani

they will be in the house

lit: 'they' + future tense marker + 'to be' + inside place word + 'house in'

Questions

You can ask a question by slightly raising your voice towards the end of a statement or by adding the word **je** at the beginning of a sentence:

unataka chakula sasa?

do you want food now?

je, unataka chakula sasa?

do you want food now?

Some commonly used interrogative words are:

kwa nini? why? (placed at the beginning of a question)

kwa nini hutaki kula?

why don't you want to eat?

nani? who? (placed at the beginning or the end of a question)

nani atanisaidia?

who's going to help me?

gani? which? (placed after the noun to which it refers)

hoteli gani?

which hotel?

lini? when? (placed at the beginning or at the end of a question)

lini utafika hoteli?

when will you arrive at the hotel?

vipi? how? (placed after the verb)

ulikuja vipi hapa?

how did you get here? (i.e. by bus or on foot?)

nini? what? (placed at the end of a question)

unataka kununua nini?

what do you want to buy?

wapi? where? (placed after the verb)

unakwenda wapi sasa?

where are you going now?

Prepositions

In Swahili, there are several ways of expressing prepositions. One way is by inserting a letter or letters in the verb:

soma read

leta bring

somea read to

letea bring to

Prepositions can also be expressed using the word **kwa**, which means 'by', 'to' or 'for' depending on the context:

atasafiri kwa ndege

tulikwenda kwa mwalimu

he/she will go by plane

we went to the teacher

The suffix **-ni** can be added to nouns to convey 'in', 'from', 'to' or 'at', depending on the context:

duka shop

dukani in/from/to the shop

nimenunua vitu dukani

I bought things from the shop

tunakwenda dukani

we are going to the shop

Some other useful prepositional expressions are:

katika in; into; out of

walitia viti katika gari

they put the chairs into the car

walitoa viti katika nyumba

they took chairs out of the house

karibu na near to

tunaishi karibu na posta

we live near the post office

pamoja na together with

watakuja pamoja na mama

they're coming together with mother

Dates

There are two calendar systems in use in East Africa. The Western calendar (using months derived from English) is more generally used. The Islamic lunar calendar is used for religious holidays and local traditional festivals.

You can use the numbers on page 31 to express the date in Swahili:

leo ni tarehe gani?

what's the date today?

lit: today is date which

ni Januari mosi/moja

it's 1 January

ni Aprili kumi na tatu

it's 13 April

(mwaka) elfu moja mia tisa na tisini na nane

1998

This can be shortened to **(mwaka) tisini na nane**; **mwaka** (year) can be omitted.

Days

Sunday	Jumapili
Monday	Jumatatu
Tuesday	Jumanne
Wednesday	Jumatano

Thursday	Alhamisi
Friday	Ijumaa
Saturday	Jumamosi

Months

January	Januari
February	Februari
March	Machi
April	Aprili
May	Mei
June	Juni

July	Julai
August	Agosti
September	Septemba
October	Oktoba
November	Novemba
December	Desemba

Time

There is a difference of six hours in the Swahili and English ways of telling the time. The Swahili system consists of two twelve-hour parts, sunrise to sunset and sunset to sunrise. English 7am is **saa moja** (hour one) in Swahili, that is one hour after sunrise; 9am is **saa tatu** (hour three) after sunrise; 7pm is **saa moja** (hour one) after sunset; and 9pm is **saa tatu** (hour three) after sunset. If you want to make things absolutely clear, you can use the expressions:

asubuhi

in the morning

alasiri

in the afternoon

jioni

in the evening

usiku

at night

what time is it?

saa ngapi sasa?

1 o'clock	saa saba	7 o'clock	saa moja
2 o'clock	saa nane	8 o'clock	saa mbili
3 o'clock	saa tisa	9 o'clock	saa tatu
4 o'clock	saa kumi	10 o'clock	saa nne
5 o'clock	saa kumi na moja	11 o'clock	saa tano
6 o'clock	saa kumi na mbili	12 o'clock	saa sita

it's one o'clock ni saa saba

it's two/three/four o'clock ni saa nane/tisa/kumi

it's five o'clock ni saa kumi na moja

five past one ni saa kumi na moja na dakika tano

ten past two ni saa nane na dakika kumi

quarter past one ni saa saba na robo

quarter past two ni saa nane na robo

half past one ni saa saba u nusu

half past ten ni saa nne u nusu

twenty to ten ni saa nne kasoro dakika ishirini

quarter to two ni saa nane kaso robo

quarter to ten ni saa nne kaso robo

at one o'clock saa saba

at two/three/four o'clock saa nane/tisa/kumi

at five o'clock saa kumi na moja

at half past four saa kumi u nusu

14.00 saa nane

17.30 saa kumi na moja u nusu

noon saa sita mchana

midnight saa sita usiku

in the morning asubuhi

in the afternoon alasiri

in the evening jioni

at night usiku

hour saa

minute dakika

second sekunde, nukta

quarter of an hour robo saa

half an hour nusu saa

three quarters of an hour dakika arobaini na tano

Numbers

0	sifuri	101	mia na moja
1	moja	102	mia na mbili
2	mbili	110	mia na kumi
3	tatu	200	mia mbili
4	nne	300	mia tatu
5	tano	400	mia nne
6	sita	500	mia tano
7	saba	600	mia sita
8	nane	700	mia saba
9	tisa	800	mia nane
10	kumi	900	mia tisa
11	kumi na moja	1,000	elfu
12	kumi na mbili	2,000	elfu mbili
13	kumi na tatu	3,000	elfu tatu
14	kumi na nne	4,000	elfu nne
15	kumi na tano	5,000	elfu tano
16	kumi na sita	6,000	elfu sita
17	kumi na saba	7,000	elfu saba
18	kumi na nane	8,000	elfu nane
19	kumi na tisa	9,000	elfu tisa
20	ishirini	10,000	elfu kumi
21	ishirini na moja	100,000	laki
22	ishirini na mbili	1,000,000	milioni
23	ishirini na tatu		
30	thelathini		
31	thelathini na moja		
32	thelathini na mbili		
33	thelathini na tatu		
40	arobaini		
50	hamsini		
60	sitini		
70	sabini		
80	themanini		
90	tisini		
100	mia		

Ordinals

first	-a kwanza
second	-a pili
third	-a tatu
fourth	-a nne
fifth	-a tano
sixth	-a sita
seventh	-a saba
eighth	-a nane
ninth	-a tisa
tenth	-a kumi

Basic phrases

yes

ndiyo

no

hapana

(on the coast) la

OK

sawa

hello!/hi!

habari!

good morning

habari za asubuhi

good evening

habari za jioni

good night

usiku mwema, alamsiki (T)

goodbye

kwa heri

(to more than one person) kwa

herini

see you!

tutaonana!

see you later

tutaonana baadaye

please

tafadhali

could you please ...?

tafadhali, waweza ...?

yes, please

ndiyo, tafadhali

thank you/thanks

asante

no thanks

la asante

thank you very much

asante sana

don't mention it

si kitu

how do you do?/how are

you?

hujambo?

I'm fine, thanks

sijambo, asante

nice to meet you

nimefurahi kukutana nawe

excuse me

(to get past) samahani nipishe

(to get attention, to say sorry)

samahani

sorry
samahani

sorry?/pardon (me)?
samahani?

I see/I understand
naelewa

I don't understand
sielewi

do you speak English?
unasema Kiingereza?

I don't speak Swahili
sisemi Kiswahili

**could you speak more
slowly?**
sema polepole zaidi

could you repeat that?
waweza kusema tena?

could you write it down?
waweza kuiandika?

I'd like ...
nataka ...

can I have ...?
naweza kupata ...?

can you ...?
unaweza ...

I can't ...
sivezi ...

how much is it?
ni kiasi gani?

I'll take it
nitanunua

what's that?
hiyo nini?

**what's happening?/what's
wrong?**
kuna nini?

**what's happening?/what
news?**
habari gani?

it is ...
ni ...

is it ...?
je ni ...?

where is it?
iko wapi?

is it far?
ni mbali sana?

Conversion tables

1 centimetre = 0.39 inches

1 inch = 2.54 cm

1 metre = 39.37 inches = 1.09 yards

1 foot = 30.48 cm

1 kilometre = 0.62 miles = 5/8 mile

1 yard = 0.91 m

1 mile = 1.61 km

km	1	2	3	4	5	10	20	30	40	50	100
miles	0.6	1.2	1.9	2.5	3.1	6.2	12.4	18.6	24.8	31.0	62.1

miles	1	2	3	4	5	10	20	30	40	50	100
km	1.6	3.2	4.8	6.4	8.0	16.1	32.2	48.3	64.4	80.5	161

1 gram = 0.035 ounces

1 kilo = 1000 g = 2.2 pounds

g 100 250 500

1 oz = 28.35 g

oz 3.5 8.75 17.5

1 lb = 0.45 kg

kg	0.5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
lb	1.1	2.2	4.4	6.6	8.8	11.0	13.2	15.4	17.6	19.8	22.0

kg	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
lb	44	66	88	110	132	154	176	198	220

lb	0.5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20
kg	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.4	1.8	2.3	2.7	3.2	3.6	4.1	4.5	9.0

1 litre = 1.75 UK pints / 2.13 US pints

1 UK pint = 0.57 l

1 UK gallon = 4.55 l

1 US pint = 0.47 l

1 US gallon = 3.79 l

centigrade / Celsius

$^{\circ}\text{C} = (^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \times 5/9$

$^{\circ}\text{C}$	-5	0	5	10	15	18	20	25	30	36.8	38
$^{\circ}\text{F}$	23	32	41	50	59	64	68	77	86	98.4	100.4

Fahrenheit

$^{\circ}\text{F} = (^{\circ}\text{C} \times 9/5) + 32$

$^{\circ}\text{F}$	23	32	40	50	60	65	70	80	85	98.4	101
$^{\circ}\text{C}$	-5	0	4	10	16	18	21	27	29	36.8	38.3

English



Swahili

A

a, an* no equivalent

aardvark mhanga

about: about 20 kiasi cha
ishirini

it's about 5 o'clock kiasi cha
saa kumi na moja

a film about Africa filamu
kuhusu Afrika

above juu

abroad ng'ambo

absolutely (I agree) kabisa

absorbent cotton pamba

accelerator ekselereta

accept kubali

accident ajali

there's been an accident

kumetokea ajali

accommodation mahali pa
kukaa



Accommodation in
Tanzania and Kenya

ranges from campsites
and local lodging houses for a few
pounds a night to excellent luxury
hotels costing one hundred times as
much. Beds can also be found in
'tented camps' and 'tree hotels' at
the expensive end of the spectrum
and **bandas** (huts) and a few youth
hostels at the budget end.

see **Boarding and Lodgings**,
campsite and hotel

accurate sahihi

ache maumivu

my back aches nina
maumivu mgongoni
across kuvuka

across the road kuvuka njia

adapter edepta (K), adapta (T)

address anwani

what's your address?

anwani yako ni wapi?



All addresses in Kenya
and Tanzania have a post
office box number except

out in the sticks, where some are
just given as 'Private Bag', or 'P.O.',
followed by the location of the post
office. There's no home delivery
service. In large towns, business
and office addresses are usually
identified by the 'House' or 'Building'
in which they're situated.

A typical address is as follows:

MTW, Tourism Department (company
or person's name)

Utalii House (office or house)

Uhuru Highway (street)

P.O. Box 54666 (post office box)

Nairobi (town)

address book kitabu cha
anwani

admission charge kiingilio

adult mtu mzima

advance: in advance

kitangulizi

aeroplane ndege, eropleni

Africa Afrika

African (adj) kiafrika
(noun) Mwafrika

after baada ya

after you tangulia tafadhali
 after lunch baada ya chakula
 cha mchana
 afternoon alasiri
 in the afternoon alasiri
 this afternoon leo alasiri
 aftershave losheni ya
 'aftershave'
 aftersun cream krimu ya
 'aftersun'
 afterwards baadaye
 again tena
 against dhidi ya
 age umri
 ago: a week ago wiki
 iliyopita
 an hour ago saa moja
 iliyopita
 agree kubali
 I agree nakubali
 AIDS Ukimwi
 air hewa
 by air kwa ndege
 air-conditioning kirekebisha
 hewa
 airmail barua za ndege
 by airmail kwa ndege
 airmail envelope bahasha za
 barua za ndege
 airplane ndege, eropleni
 airport uwanja wa ndege
 to the airport, please
 kwenye uwanja wa ndege,
 tafadhali
 airport bus basi la uwanja wa
 ndege
 aisle seat kiti cha ujiani
 alarm clock saa ya kengele
 alcohol kileo

see beer and spirits
 alcoholic yenye kulevya
 all wote
 all the boys/girls watoto/
 wasichana wote
 all of it yote
 all of them wote
 that's all, thanks inatosha,
 asante
 allergic: I'm allergic
 to inanidhuru
 allowed: is it allowed?
 inaruhusiwa?
 all right sawa
 I'm all right sina shida
 are you all right? una shida
 yoyote?
 almond lozi
 almost karibu
 alone pekee
 alphabet alfabeti

a	ah	n	en
b	beh	o	o
c	see	p	peh
ch	ch eh	q	kyu
d	deh	r	reh
e	eh	s	es
f	feh	t	teh
g	geh	u	oo
h	heh	v	vee
i	ee	w	wah
j	jeh	x	eks
k	ka	y	yeh
l	el	z	zeh
m	em		

already tayari
 also vilevile

although ingawa
 altogether pamoja
 always sikuzote
 am*: I am mimi ni
 am*: at seven am saa moja
 asubuhi
 amazing (surprising)
 inashangaza
 (very good) nzuri sana
 ambulance ambulensi
 call an ambulance! itisha
 ambulensi!



For the ambulance
 service in Kenya and
 Tanzania dial 999.

Ambulances usually take ages to
 arrive.

Kenya's Air Ambulance service
 (which also operates in Tanzania)
 offers evacuation by air to a
 medical centre. You have to pay a
 monthly or annual fee to get this
 service.

America Amerika, Marekani

American (adj) -a

Kimarekani, -a Kiamerika
 (noun) Mwamerika,
 Mmarekani

I'm American mimi ni
 Mmarekani

among miongoni mwa

amount idadi
 (money) jumla

amp: a 13-amp fuse fyuzi ya
 ampea kumi na tatu

and na

angry kasirika

animal mnyama
 ankle kifundo cha mguu
 anniversary (wedding)
 ukumbusho

annoy sumbua

this man's annoying me mtu
 huyu ananisumbua

annoying yenye kusumbua

another -ingine

can we have another room?

twaweza kupata chumba
 kingine?

another beer, please biya
 nyingine, tafadhali

antelope palahala

antibiotics antibayotik

antifreeze kizuia ugandaji

antihistamine dawa ya
 mafua

antique kitu cha kizamani

is it an antique? ni kitu cha
 kizamani?

antique shop duka la vitu
 vya kizamani

antiseptic antiseptik

any yoyote

do you have any ...?
 una ...?

sorry, I don't have any
 samahani, sina

anybody mtu yeyote

does anybody speak

English? kuna mtu yeyote
 asemaye Kiingereza?

there wasn't anybody there
 hakukuwa na mtu yeyote
 huko

anything kitu chochote

dialogues

anything else? kitu chochote kingine?
 nothing else, thanks sihitaji kingine, asante

would you like anything to drink? unataka kunya kitu chochote?

I don't want anything, thanks sitaki kitu chochote, asante

apart from mbali na
 apartment fleti, ghorofa
 apartment block jumba lenye fleti

apology kuomba radhi
 appendicitis ugonjwa wa chango

appetizer kianzio
 apple epul
 appointment miadi

dialogue

good morning, how can I help you? habari za asubuhi, unahitaji huduma yoyote?

I'd like to make an appointment nataka kuweka miadi ya mkutano

what time would you like? unataka iwe saa ngapi?

three o'clock saa tatu
 I'm afraid that's not

possible, is four o'clock all right? nasikitika, haiwezekani, je saa kumi ni sawa?

yes, that will be fine ndiyo, sawa

the name was ...? jina ni nani ...?

apricot aprikoti

April Aprili, mwezi wa nne (T)

are*: we are sisi ni

you are wewe ni

they are wao ni

area eneo

area code namba ya jimbo la simu

arm mkono

arrange tayarisha

will you arrange it for us?

waweza kututayarishia?

arrival kuwasili

arrive (people) fika

(things) wasili

when do we arrive? tutafika lini?

has my fax arrived yet? feksi yangu imeshawasili?

we arrived today tumefika leo

art sanaa

art gallery jumba la sanaa

artist msanii

as kama

as big as ni kubwa kama

as soon as possible kwa

haraka kama iwezekanavyo

ashtray eshtrei

ask omba
(for something) taka
I didn't ask for this sikutaka hii
could you ask him to ...?
waweza kumwomba ku ...?
asleep: she's asleep amelala
aspirin aspirini
asthma pumu
astonishing yenye kushangaza
at kwenye
at the hotel kwenye hoteli
at the station kwenye stesheni
at six o'clock saa kumi na mbili
at Maisara's kwa Maisara
athletics riadha
attractive inavutia
aubergine biringani
August Agosti, mwezi wa nane (T)
aunt (paternal) shangazi (maternal) mama mdogo
Australia Australia
Australian (adj) -a Kiaustralia (noun) Mwaustralia
I'm Australian mimi ni Mwaustralia
automatic (adj) -a automatik (noun: car) gari ya automatik
autumn majira ya pukutiko la majani
in the autumn katika majira ya pukutiko la majani
avenue barabara
average (not good) wastani
on average kwa wastani

avocado parachichi
awake: is he awake? yu macho?
away: go away! ondoka!
is it far away? ni mbali sana?
awful mbaya sana
axle ekseli

B

baboon nyani
baby mtoto mchanga
baby food chakula cha watoto wachanga
baby's bottle chupa ya kunyonyeshea
baby-sitter mlezi wa muda
back (of body) mgongo (back part) nyuma
at the back nyuma
can I have my money back? waweza kunirudishia pesa zangu?
to come back kuja
to go back kurudi
backache maumivu ya mgongo
bacon nyama ya nguruwe
bad -baya
a bad headache maumivu mabaya ya kichwa
badly vibaya
bag mfuko (handbag) mkoba (suitcase) sutikesi
baggage mizigo
baggage checkroom ofisi ya kuweka mizigo

baggage claim eneo la kujipatia mizigo
bakery duka la mikate na keki
balcony roshani
 a room with a balcony chumba chenye roshani
bald -enye upara
ball (large) mpira (small) kipira
ballet dansi ya bale
balloon (hot air) baluni
ballpoint pen bolpeni
banana ndizi
band (musical) bendi
bandage bendeji
Bandaid® plasta
bank (money) benki



In Kenya, you can exchange cash or traveller's cheques at banks and at most large hotels (for a marginally poorer rate). In Tanzania, you are more likely to get a better exchange rate at foreign exchange bureaux. US dollars and British sterling are always the most acceptable and will cause the least delay. In Kenya, banks are usually open Mon–Fri 9am–3pm and Sat 9–11am, and in Tanzania Mon–Fri 8.30am–4pm and Sat 8.30am–1pm.

bank account akauti ya benki
bar baa
 a bar of chocolate chokoleti
barber's kinyozi
bargaining kupatana

dialogue

how much is this? hii bei gani?
 that's too expensive ni ghali sana
 how about a hundred shillings? utauza kwa shilingi mia moja?
 I'll let you have it for one hundred and fifty shillings chukua kwa shilingi mia na hamsini
 can you reduce it a bit more?/OK, it's a deal utapunguza tena kidogo/haya, sawa



Bargaining is an important skill to get into and you will quickly need to adopt the habit of discussing the price. With the exception of international-style shops, usually with marked prices, all goods are open to offer. Every time you pay an unreasonable price, you're contributing to local inflation. There are no hard rules about how much your opening offer should be. In some busy produce markets, to offer less than three-quarters of the asking price would provoke scorn, while in certain curio emporia in the Maasai country, you could be forgiven for suggesting ten per cent of the vendor's first price. Take account of three important principles: give yourself time, be good-humoured and never start

negotiations if you're not seriously interested in the purchase.

basket kikapu

bath bafu

can I have a bath? naweza kuoga?

bathroom bafu

with a private bathroom – enye bafu ya faragha

bath towel taulo, taula

bath tub bafu

battery betri

bay ghuba

be* kuwa

beach pwani

on the beach pwani

beach mat mkeka wa kutumia pwani

beach umbrella mwavuli wa kutumia pwani

beads shanga

beadwork nakshi ya shanga

beans maharagwe

French beans maharagwe ya kifaransa

beard ndevu

beautiful -zuri

because kwa sababu

because of ... kwa sababu ya ...

bed kitanda

I'm going to bed now nakwenda kulala

bed and breakfast kulala na chakula cha asubuhi

see hotel

bedroom chumba cha kulala

beef nyania ya ng'ombe

beer biya (K), bia (T)

two beers, please biya mbili, tafadhali



In East Africa, the lager-style beer is generally good. **Tusker, White Cap** and Pilsner are the main brands, sold in half-litre bottles; the first two are also sold in 'export' size (1/3 litre). Tanzania's main brand of beer is **Safari**. A point of beer etiquette worth remembering: never take your bottle out of the bar, as bottles carry deposits and this is considered theft. You can sample **pombe**, a locally made type of beer, under many different names. It is as varied in taste and colour as its ingredients: basically fermented sugar and millet or banana, with herbs and roots for flavouring. The results are frothy and deceptively strong, and can cause you to change your plans for the rest of the day.

before kabla



beggars

Beggars are fairly common. Most are visibly destitute; many are cripples, lepers or homeless mothers with children. Some have regular pitches, others keep on the move. They are harassed by the police and often rounded up. People often give to the same beggar on a regular basis and alms-giving is a requirement of Islam.

begin anza
 when does it begin? inaana wakati gani?
 beginner mwanagenzi
 beginning mwanzo
 at the beginning mwanzoni
 behind nyuma
 behind me nyuma yangu
 Belgian (adj) -a Kibelgiji
 Belgium Ubelgiji
 believe amini
 below chini
 belt ukanda
 bend (in road) yenye kupinda
 berth (on ship) kitanda
 beside: beside the ... kando ya ...
 best bora kabisa
 better bora zaidi
 are you feeling better? umepata nafuu sasa?
 between baina ya
 beyond mbele ya
 bicycle baiskeli
 big kubwa
 too big kubwa sana
 it's not big enough si kubwa ya kutosha
 bikini bikini
 bill bili
 (US: banknote) noti
 could I have the bill, please? naweza kupata bili, tafadhali?
 bin pipa
 binoculars darubini
 bird ndege
 birthday siku ya kuzaliwa
 happy birthday! furaha kwa

siku ya kuzaliwa!
 biscuit biskuti
 bit: a little bit sehemu ndogo
 a big bit sehemu kubwa
 a bit of ... sehemu ya ...
 a bit expensive ni ghali
 bite (by animal, insect etc) uma



bites and cuts

Take care even over minor bites and cuts. In the tropics, the most trivial scratch can quickly become a throbbing infection if you ignore it. Take a small tube of antiseptic with you. Otherwise, there are all sorts of potential bites, stings and rashes which rarely, if ever, materialize. Dogs are usually sad and skulking, posing little threat. Scorpions and spiders abound but are hardly ever seen unless you deliberately turn over rocks or logs: scorpion stings are painful, but almost never fatal, while spiders are mostly quite harmless. Snakes are common but, again, the vast majority are harmless. To see one at all, you'd need to search stealthily; walk heavily and they obligingly disappear.

bitter (taste etc) chungu
 black nyeusi
 blanket blanketi
 bless you! (after sneezing) afya!
 blind kipofu
 blinds pazia
 blister lengelenge

blocked zibika
blond (adj) 'blond'
blood damu

high blood pressure presha ya damu

blouse blauzi

blow-dry kausha kwa blowa
I'd like a cut and blow-dry
 kata na kausha nywele kwa blowa

blue buluu

blue eyes macho ya buluu



Boarding and Lodgings

In any town, down to the very smallest, you'll always find Boarding and Lodgings. These can vary from a mud shack with water from the well, to a little multi-storey building of self-contained rooms with washing facilities, a bar and restaurant. Boarding and Lodgings tend to be noisy; they're sometimes rather airless, but the better ones are clean and comfortable.

Prices of rooms aren't always a good indication of the standard. Always try to bargain for a good price. It's worth checking several places, testing the hot water (if any), and asking to see the toilets; you won't cause offence by saying no thanks. Some places actually seal the doors of the rooms as a supposed guarantee of freshness: if they won't let you look because they'd have to reseal, you should try somewhere else. And, if the place

seems noisy in the afternoon, it will probably become even noisier at night, so ask for a room away from the source of the din.

boarding house nyumba ya kupanga

boarding pass pasi ya kuingilia chomboni

boat boti

body mwili

boiled egg yai la kuchemsha

bone mfupa

bonnet (of car) boneti

book (noun) kitabu
 (verb) wekesha

can I book a seat? naweza kuwekesha kiti?

dialogue

I'd like to book a table for two nataka kuwekesha meza kwa watu wawili
what time would you like it booked for? unataka iwekeshwe saa ngapi?
half past seven saa moja na nusu
that's fine sawa
and your name? jina lako nani?

bookshop, bookstore duka la vitabu

boot (footwear) kiatu
 (of car) buti

border (of country) mpaka

bored choshwa

I'm bored nimechoshwa
 boring -enye kuchosha
 born: I was born in
 Manchester nilizaliwa
 Manchester
 I was born in 1960 nilizaliwa
 mwaka elfu mia tisa na
 sitini

borrow azima
 may I borrow ...? naweza
 kuazima ...?
 both -ote mbili
 bother: sorry to bother you
 samahani kukusumbua
 bottle chupa
 a bottle of beer chupa moja
 ya biya
 bottle-opener kifungulia
 chupa
 bottom (of person) matako
 at the bottom of ... (hill, street
 etc) chini ya ...
 box sanduku
 box office ofisi ya kukatia
 tiketi
 boy mvulana
 boyfriend rafiki wa kiume
 bra sidiria
 bracelet bangili
 brake breki
 brandy brandi
 bread mkate
 white bread mkate mweupe
 brown bread mkate kahawia
 wholemeal bread mkate wa
 ngano
 break (verb) vunja
 I've broken the ...
 nimevunja ...

I think I've broken my wrist
 nafikiri nimevunjika
 kifundo cha mkono
 break down haribika
 I've broken down gari langu
 limeharibika
 breakdown kuharibika



Distances between towns
 and villages are often
 vast, and it is advisable to
 carry enough water and supplies
 with you in your vehicle. Should you
 have a breakdown on the road, or an
 accident, the first thing to do is pile
 bundles of sticks or foliage fifty
 metres or so behind and in front of
 the car. These are the universally
 recognized 'red warning triangles' of
 Africa, and their placing is always
 scrupulously observed (as is the
 wedging of a stone behind at least
 one wheel).

breakdown service huduma
 ya magari yaharibikayo
 breakfast chakula cha
 asubuhi
 breast kifua
 breathe vuta pumzi
 breeze upepo
 bridge (over river) daraja
 brief -fupi
 briefcase mkoba
 bright (light etc) -enye nuru
 bright red nyekundu
 inayong'ara
 brilliant (idea, person) -zuri sana
 bring leta

bring back rejesha
 I'll bring it back later
 nitairejesha baadaye
 Britain Uingereza
 British -a Kiingereza
 brochure brosha (K),
 kabrasha (T)
 broken vunjika
 bronchitis mkamba, ugonjwa
 wa kifua
 brooch bruchi
 broom ufagio
 brother ndugu
 brother-in-law shemeji
 brown kahawia
 bruise chubuka
 brush burashi
 (for cleaning) ufagio
 bucket ndoo
 buffalo nyati
 buffet car behewa la bafe
 bug mdudu
 buggy (for child) kichukulia
 watoto
 building ujenzi
 bulb (light bulb) balbu
 bumper (of car) bampa la gari
 bunk kitanda
 bureau de change mahali pa
 kubadilishia pesa
 see bank
 burglary wizi
 burn (noun) mchomo
 (verb) unguza
 burnt unguwa
 this is burnt hii imeungua
 burst: a burst pipe paipu
 iliyopasuka
 bus basi

what number bus is it to ...?
 basi la namba gani
 liendalo ...?
 when is the next bus to ...?
 wakati gani kuna basi
 liendalo ...?
 what time is the last bus?
 basi la mwisho laondoka
 wakati gani?

dialogue

does this bus go to ...?
 basi hili linakwenda ...?
 no, you need a number ...
 hapana, unahitaji
 namba ...



Ordinary buses cover the whole of Kenya and Tanzania, getting you close to almost anywhere. Some, on the main runs between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, are regular but usually overloaded; these and the buses that run between Arusha in Tanzania and Nairobi, and between Nairobi and Mombasa, and to a lesser extent the west, are fast, comfortable, and keep to schedules: you generally need to reserve seats on these a day in advance. The large companies have ticket offices near the bus stations in most towns, where they list their routes and prices. However, the bus parking bays are rarely marked and there may not be published timetables. The easiest procedure is to mention

your destination to a few people at the bus park and then check out the torrent of offers. Keep asking – it's virtually impossible to get on the wrong bus. Once you've acquired a seat, you'll find that a continuous stream of vendors proffer their wares through the window. If you want something, ask one of them to get it for you; there'll be a tiny mark-up.

Public vehicles at the smaller end of the spectrum, that is, the Tanzanian (**daladala**) minibuses and the Kenyan (**matatu**) minibuses or pick-up vans, have a gruesome safety record and their drivers, on the whole, a breathtaking lack of road sense. But these vehicles are often the most convenient and sometimes the only means of transport to smaller places off the main roads. The best places to sit in a matatu/daladala are right at the back by the door or up near the cab, but it's a good idea to wear sunglasses if your face is near the front window – they sometimes shatter. Baggage charges are usually supplementary and have to be bargained over. Never pay more than half your fare for luggage – it should be a lot less. Some useful terms when travelling in Kenya are: 'stage' or 'stand' (the matatu yard); **manamba** or 'turn-boy' (the one whose job it is to tout for business and take the fares); and 'dropping' (getting off).

business biashara
bus station stesheni ya basi
bus stop kituo cha basi
bust kifua
busy -enye shughuli nyingi
I'm busy tomorrow nitakuwa na shughuli nyingi kesho
but lakini
butcher's duka la nyama
butter siagi
button kifungo
buy nunua
where can I buy ...? naweza kununua wapi ...?
by: by bus/car kwa basi/gari
written by ... imeandikwa na ...
by the window karibu na dirisha
by the sea karibu na bahari
by Thursday ifikapo Alhamisi
bye kwa heri

C

cabbage kabeji
cabin (on ship) kebin
café mkahawa
cagoule koti la mvua
cake keki
cake shop duka la keki



calendar

In Muslim communities the lunar Islamic calendar is followed, alongside the Gregorian one. The Muslim year has 354 days,

with 355 days eleven times every thirty years, so dates recede against the Western calendar by an average of eleven days each year. Only the month of fasting called **Ramadan**, and **Id ul Fitr** – the feast of relief at the end of it, which begins on the first sighting of the new moon – will have much effect on your travels. During Ramadan, most stores and restaurants are closed during daylight hours in smaller towns in Islamic districts. Public transport and official business continue as usual. **Maulidi**, the celebration of the prophet's birthday, is worth catching if you're on the coast at the right time.

The Islamic festivals are:

Beginning of Ramadan

(1st Ramadan)

Id ul Fitr/Siku kuu ndogo

(1st Shawwal)

Id ul Hajji/Siku kuu kubwa

(10th Dhu'l Hijji)

New Year's Day (1st Moharem)

Ashoura (10th Moharem)

Maulidi/Mouloud (12th Rabial)

see public holiday

call (verb) ita

(to phone) piga simu

what's it called? inaitwaje?

he/she is called ... anaitwa ...

please call the doctor mwite

daktari, tafadhali

please give me a call at

7.30am tomorrow niamshe

saa moja u nusu kesho

asubuhi, tafadhali

please ask him to call me

mwambie anipigie simu,

tafadhali

call back (phone back) piga

simu

I'll call back later nitapiga

simu tena baadaye

call round pitia

I'll call round tomorrow

nitakupitia kesho

camcorder kamkoda

camel ngamia

camera kamera

camera shop duka la kamera

camp (verb) kupiga kambi

can we camp here?

tunaweza kupiga kambi

hapa?

camping gas gesi ya kutumia

kambini



camping safaris

Once in Kenya or

Tanzania, choosing a

safari company can be fairly hit-or-miss. Unless you have the luxury of a long stay, your choice will probably be limited by the time available. Remember, though, that you may be able to use this to your advantage; if you ask, many companies are willing to discount a trip in order to fill unsold seats if you're buying at the last minute. Some outfits will also give student discounts.

campsite kambi



Tanzania and Kenya have enough campsites to make it worthwhile

carrying a tent, and camping wild is sometimes a viable option, too.

Campsites in the parks are usually very cheap and basic. A handful of privately owned sites have more in the way of facilities. In rural areas, hotels are often amenable if you ask to camp discreetly in their grounds. Camping wild depends on whether you can find a suitable space. In the more heavily populated and farmed highland districts, you should ask someone before pitching in an empty spot. Out in the wilds, hard or thorny ground is likely to be the only obstacle.

During the dry seasons, you'll rarely have trouble finding wood for a fire so a stove is optional, but don't burn more fuel than you need. You're not allowed to collect firewood in the mountain parks. Camping gas cannisters and packaged, dried food are available in Nairobi, Arusha and Dar es Salaam, but the easiest and cheapest camping food is **ugali** (cornmeal porridge), which can be flavoured with curry powder or sauce mixes.

can (tin) mkebe

a can of beer mkebe wa biya

can*: can you ...?
unaweza ...?

can I have ...? naweza

kupata ...?

I can't ... siwezi ...

can we ...? tunaweza ...?

he can't ... hawezi ...

Canada Kanada

Canadian Mkanada

I'm Canadian mimi ni

Mkanada

canal mfereji

cancel futa

candies peremende

candle mshumaa

canoe mtumbwi

canoeing kuendesha

mtumbwi

can-opener kifugulia mkebe

cap (hat) kofia

(of bottle) kizibo

car gari

by car kwa gari

carburettor kabureta

card (birthday etc) kadi

here's my (business) card

kadi yangu hii

cardigan sweta

cardphone simu ya kutumia

kadi

careful -enye hadhari

be careful! tahadhari!

caretaker mlinzi

car ferry feri ya magari

carnival kanivali

car park maegesho ya magari

carpet zulia

car rental gari za kukodi



Renting a car has advantages over any other means of transport.

All the parks and reserves are open to private and rented vehicles (as well as organized tours), and there's a lot to be said for the freedom of choice that having your own wheels gives you. Unless there are more than two of you, though, it won't save you money over one of the cheaper camping safaris. Reputable car-rental firms also require a deposit, roughly equivalent to 20 per cent of the anticipated final charge. Credit cards are useful for this. There are one or two car-rental places in the smaller towns and along the coast but the only real choice is in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Nairobi, Mombasa and Zanzibar. The minimum age is usually 23. Foreign driving licences are OK for up to three months; you're supposed to have them validated at a provincial headquarters, but few people seem to bother. Check the insurance details and always pay the daily collision damage waiver premium: even a small bump could be very costly otherwise. Don't automatically assume the vehicle is roadworthy: have a good look at the engine and tyres, and don't set off without checking the spare (preferably two) and making sure you have a few vital tools. Ideally, always carry a tow rope, **panga**, spare water and fuel. Four-wheel drive is always useful but, except in mountainous areas and on some of the marginal dirt

roads during periods of heavy rain, not essential. However few, if any, agencies will hire out non-4WD vehicles for use in the parks, and most park rangers will turn away such cars at the gate, regardless of the season.
see police

carriage (of train) behewa
 carrier bag mfuko
 carrot karoti
 carry beba
 carry-cot kibebea mtoto
 carton katonii
 carving kinyago
 case (suitcase) sutikesi
 cash (noun) pesa
 (verb) badilisha
 will you cash this for me?
 waweza kunibadilishia hii?
 cash desk kaunta ya keshia
 cashew nuts korosho
 cassette kaseti
 cassette recorder
 kasetirikoda
 castle ngome
 casualty department wadi ya
 majeruhi
 cat paka
 catch (verb) pata
 where do we catch the bus to
 Mombasa? tunaweza kupata
 basi wapi kwenda
 Mombasa?
 cathedral kanisa
 Catholic (adj) -a Kikatoliki
 cauliflower koliflawa
 cave pango

caving kuingia mapangoni
 ceiling dari
 celery seleri (K), figili (T)
 cemetery makabunini
 centigrade sentigredi
 centimetre sentimita
 central -a katikati
 central heating upashaji joto
 nyumba
 centre katikati
 how do we get to the city
 centre? tunawezaje kufika
 katikati ya mji?
 certainly hakika
 certainly not la hasha
 chair kiti
 change (noun: money) chenji
 (verb) badilisha
 can I change this for ...?
 naweza kubadilisha hii
 kwa ...?
 I don't have any change sina
 chenji
 can you give me change for a
 500-shilling note? unaweza
 kunibadilishia noti ya
 shilingi mia tano?

dialogue

do we have to change
 (trains)? ni lazima
 tubadilisha treni?
 yes, change at Kisumu
 ndiyo, badilisha huko
 Kisumu
 no, it's a direct train
 hapana, treni inakwenda
 moja kwa moja

changed: I have to get
 changed lazima nibadilishe
 nguo
 charge (noun) malipo
 (verb) toza
 charge card kadi ya malipo
 see credit card
 cheap rahisi
 do you have anything
 cheaper? una chochote
 kilicho rahisi zaidi?
 check (US: cheque) cheki,
 hundi
 (US: bill) bili
 (verb) cheki
 could you check the ...,
 please? unaweza
 kucheki ..., tafadhali?
 could I have the check,
 please? naweza kupata bili,
 tafadhali?
 check in andikisha
 where do we have to check
 in? pa kujiandikisha ni
 wapi?
 check-in kujiandikisha,
 chekin
 cheek (on face) shavu
 cheerio! kwa heri!
 cheers! (toast) chiaz!, kwa
 afya yako!
 cheese jibini
 cheetah duma
 chemist's duka la dawa
 cheque cheki, hundi
 do you take cheques?
 naweza kulipa kwa cheki?
 cheque book kijitabu cha
 cheki

cheque card kadi ya
kuthibitisha cheki
cherry cheri
chest kifua
chewing gum ubani
chicken (bird) kuku
(meat) nyama ya kuku
chickenpox tetekuwanga
child mtoto
children watoto
child minder mwangalizi wa
watoto
children's pool bwawa la
watoto
children's portion sehemu ya
watoto
chin kidevu
Chinese (adj) -a Kichina
chips chipsi
(US) krispu
chocolate chokoleti
milk chocolate chokoleti ya
maziwa
plain chocolate chokoleti
kahawia
a hot chocolate chokoleti i
moto ya kunywa
cholera kipindupindu
choose chagua
Christian name jina la
ubatizo
Christmas Krismasi, Noeli
Christmas Eve mkeshwa wa
Krismasi
merry Christmas! furaha ya
Krismasi!
church kanisa
cigar sigaa
cigarette sigara

cigarette lighter laita
cinema sinema
circle duara
city mji
city centre katikati ya mji
clean (adj) safi
(verb) safisha
can you clean these for me?
unaweza kunisafishia
hivi?
cleaning solution (for contact
lenses) dawa ya kusafishia
lenzi
cleansing lotion losheni ya
kusafishia ngozi
clear angavu
(obvious) dhahiri
clever hodari
cliff genge
climbing kuparamia milima
cling film utando ganda
clinic kliniki
clock saa
close (verb) funga

dialogue

what time does the shop/
office close? hufunga
duka/ofisi saa ngapi?
it closes at 8pm on
weekdays and 6pm on
Saturdays hufunga saa
mbili usiku siku za kazi
na saa kumi na mbili
jioni Jumamosi
do you close for lunch?
hufunga wakati wa
chakula cha mchana?

yes, between 1 and 3.30pm ndiyo, baina ya saa saba na saa tisa u nusu

closed (office) imefungwa
(shop) limefungwa
cloth kitambaa
clothes nguo



Take cotton clothes and good-quality trainers, plus at least one really warm sweater or, better still, a soft-lined jacket with pockets. A cotton jersey tracksuit is ideal for early-morning game runs when you'll often set off before sunrise. And, even if you're on a shoestring, take some nicer clothes to wear in lodges: access is often difficult for the ragged.

On the coast, where the majority of the people are Muslim, you should have regard for local sensibilities. It's always best to dress in loose-fitting garments: shirts with long sleeves and skirts or trousers in the towns. Swimming costumes are best restricted to the beach and poolsides. Suitably dressed and hatted men, and often women, can enter mosques, preferably after seeking permission from the local people if possible.

clothes line kamba ya kuanikia nguo
clothes peg kibanio
cloud mawingu

cloudy kumetanda mawingu
clutch klachi
coach (bus) basi
(on train) behewa
coach station stesheni ya mabasi
coach trip safari kwa basi
coast pwani
on the coast pwani
coat (long coat) koti
(jacket) jaketi
coathanger kitundikia nguo
cockroach mende
cocoa kakao
coconut nazi
code (for phoning) kode
what's the (dialling) code for Arusha? kode ya simu ya Arusha ni ipi?
coffee kahawa
two coffees, please vikombe viwili vya kahawa, tafadhali
coin sarafu
Coke® kokakola
cold baridi
I'm cold nahisi baridi
I have a cold nina mafua
collapse: he's collapsed amezimia
collar ukosi
collect chukua
I've come to collect ... nimekuja kuchukua ...
collect call simu ya kulipwa na mpokeaji
college chuo
colour rangi
do you have this in other

colours? unayo hii ya rangi
nyingine?

colour film filamu ya rangi

comb (noun) kitana

come wasili

dialogue

where do you come from?
unatoka wapi?

I come from Edinburgh
natoka Edinburgh

come back rudi

I'll come back tomorrow
nitarudi kesho

come in ingia

comfortable -a starehe

Comoros Islands visiwa vya
Ngazija

compact disc diski

company (business) kampuni

compartment (on train)
behewa

compass dira

complain lalamika

complaint malalamiko

I have a complaint
sikuridhika

completely kabisa

computer kompyuta

concert burudani la muziki

concussion mtikisiko wa
ubongo

conditioner (for hair) kilainisha
nywele

condom kondomu

conference mkutano

confirm thibitisha

congratulations! hongera!

connecting flight flaiti ya
kuendeleza safari

connection (in travelling) uwezo
wa kuendeleza safari

conscious -enye fahamu

constipation kutopata choo

consulate Ubalazi Mdogo

contact (verb) wasiliana

contact lenses (miwani)lenzi

contraceptive kikingamimba

convenient -enye kufaa

that's not convenient si
wakati unaofaa

cook (verb) pika

not cooked haikupikika
vyema

cooker jiko

cookie biskuti

cooking utensils vyombo vya
kupikia

cool baridi kidogo

coral reef tumbawe

cork kizibo

corkscrew kizibuo

corner: on the corner kwenye
kona

in the corner katika kona

cornflakes konflak

correct (right) sahihi

corridor ujia

cosmetics vipodozi

cost (verb) gharimu

how much does it cost? ni
bei gani?

cot kibebea mtoto mchanga

cotton pamba

cotton wool pamba

couch (sofa) kochi

couquette kitanda katika treni
 cough (noun) kikohozi
 cough medicine dawa ya kikohozi
 could: could you ...? unaweza ...?
 could I have ...? naweza kupata ...?
 I couldn't ... sikuweza ...
 could we ...? tunaweza ...?
 could she ...? anaweza ...?
 country shamba (nation) nchi
 countryside shamba
 couple (two people) wawili
 a couple of chache
 courgette mung'unye
 courier tarishi
 course (main course etc) mlo
 of course bila ya shaka
 of course not bila ya shaka sivyo
 cousin binamu
 cow ng'ombe
 crab kaa
 cracker (biscuit) biskuti
 craft shop duka la sanaa
 crash (noun) mgongano
 I've had a crash nimepata ajali ya mgongano
 crazy -enye wazimu
 cream (in cake) krimu (lotion) losheni (colour) rangi ya malai
 creche 'creche'
 credit card kreditkadi, kadi ya malipo
 do you take credit cards?

nikulipe kwa kreditkadi?

dialogue

can I pay by credit card?

naweza kulipa kwa kreditkadi?

which card do you want to use? unataka kutumia kadi gani?

Access/Visa Ekses/Viza

yes, sir sawa, Bwana

what's the number?

namba ya kadi?

and the expiry date? na tarehe ya kumalizikia?



Visa, American Express and Diners' Card are widely accepted for

tourist services such as upmarket hotels and restaurants, flight safaris and car rental; Mastercard is less widely accepted. Abuse of credit cards is not uncommon. If you're paying a sum in shillings by credit card, make sure that the voucher specifies the currency before you sign. If it doesn't, it's all too easy for the vendor to fill in a dollar sign in front of the total after you've left.

crisps krispu

crockery vyombo vya kulia

crocodile mamba

crossing (by sea) kuvuka

crossroads njia (ya) panda

crowd kundi

crowded songana

crown (on tooth) kijazo cha jino
cruise (by ship) safari kwa meli
crutches mikongojo ya kwapani
cry (verb) lia
cucumber tango
cup kikombe
 a cup of ..., please kikombe kimoja cha ..., tafadhali
cupboard kabati
cure (verb) ponesha
curly -enye mawimbi
current (electrical) umeme (in water) mkondo
curtains mapazia
cushion takia
custom mila
Customs Forodha



At the Customs benches, you will normally be asked if you have any photographic equipment, camcorders, cassette players and so on. Unless you're some kind of professional, with mountains of specialist gear, there shouldn't be any question of paying duty on personal equipment, though some Customs officers like to make notes of it all in your passport, to ensure it is re-exported. If you have friends in East Africa, however, and are taking presents for them, you are likely to have to pay duty if you declare the items.

cut (noun) mkato
 (verb) kata

I've cut myself nimejikata
cutlery vifaa vya kulia
cycling kupanda baisikeli



Cycling can be one of the best ways of getting around East Africa: if you have the time and determination, you can get to parts of the region that would be hard to visit by any other means except perhaps on foot. It's also one way you will get to see wildlife outside the confines of the game parks. These days it's quite easy to buy a half-decent mountain bike in Nairobi, Arusha, Zanzibar or Dar es Salaam, as well as the traditional old-fashioned 28-inch roadsters from India. If you buy one of these three-speed heavyweights, you can then sell it at the end of your trip. There's a ready market for second-hand ones, which doesn't exist to anything like the same extent for mountain bikes.

cyclist mpanda baisikeli

D

dad baba
daily kila siku
damage (verb) haribu
damaged -haribika
 I'm sorry, I've damaged this samahani, nimeiharibu hii
damn! potelea mbali!
damp (adj) -a majimaji

dance (noun) dansi
 (verb) kucheza dansi
 would you like to dance?
 ungependa kucheza dansi?
 dangerous -enye hatari
 Danish (adj) -a Kidenish
 dark (adj) nyeusi
 it's getting dark giza linaanza
 kuingia
 date* tarehe
 what's the date today? ni
 tarehe gani leo?
 let's make a date for next
 Monday miadi yetu iwe ni
 Jumatatu ijayo
 dates (fruit) tende
 daughter mtoto wa kike
 daughter-in-law mkwe
 dawn alfajiri
 at dawn alfajiri
 day siku
 the day after siku
 inayofuatia
 the day after tomorrow
 kesho kutwa
 the day before siku
 iliyotangulia
 the day before yesterday juzi
 every day kila siku
 all day mchana kutwa
 in two days' time mnamo
 siku mbili
 have a nice day nakutakia
 siku njema
 day trip safari ya matembezi
 dead -liokufa
 deaf kiziwi
 deal (business) patana
 it's a deal tumekubaliana

death kifo
 decaffeinated coffee kahawa
 isiyokuwa na kafeini
 December Desemba, mwezi
 wa kumi na mbili (T)
 decide amua
 we haven't decided yet
 hatujaamua bado
 decision uamuzi
 deck (on ship) deki
 deckchair kiti cha
 kujinyoshea
 deep -enye kina
 definitely bila shaka
 definitely not sikubali hata
 kidogo
 degree (qualification) digrii
 dehydrated -liokauka
 delay (noun) kukawia
 deliberately kwa makusudi
 delicatessen duka la vyakula
 tayari
 delicious damu
 deliver wasilisha
 delivery (of mail) uwasilishaji
 Denmark Denmark
 dental floss nyuzi za
 kusafishia meno
 dentist daktari wa meno

dialogue

it's this one here ni hii
 hapa
 this one? hii?
 no, that one hapana,
 nataka ile
 here hapa
 yes ndiyo

dentures meno bandia
 deodorant kiondoa harufu mbaya
 department idara
 department store duka la vitu anuai
 departure kuondoka
 departure lounge ukumbi wa kuondokea
 depend: it depends inategemea
 it depends on ... inategemea juu ya ...
 deposit (as security) amana (as part payment) rubuni
 description maelezo
 desert acha
 dessert kimalizio
 destination paishio safari
 develop (film) safisha

dialogue

could you develop these films? waweza kusafisha filamu hizi?
 yes, certainly ndiyo, bila shaka
 when will they be ready? zitakuwa tayari lini?
 tomorrow afternoon kesho alasiri
 how much is the four-hour service? huduma ya saa nne ni kiasi gani?

diabetic (noun) mgonjwa wa kisukari

dial (verb) piga simu
 dialling code kode ya simu



When calling from Tanzania dial 00, or from Kenya dial 011, then the country number, followed by the subscriber number, omitting the initial zero:

Australia 61	New Zealand 64
Canada 1	UK 44
Ireland 353	USA 1

diamond almasi
 diaper nepi
 diarrhoea kuharisha
 do you have something for diarrhoea? una dawa ya kuzuia kuharisha?
 diary kitabu cha kumbukumbu
 dictionary kamusi
 didn't* usifanye see not
 die fariki
 diesel dizeli
 diet chakula maalumu (slimming) dayat
 I'm on a diet nimo katika dayat
 I have to follow a special diet inanibidi kula chakula maalumu cha dayat
 difference tofauti
 what's the difference? kuna tofauti gani?
 different tofauti
 this one is different hii ni nyingine

a different table meza nyingine
 difficult ngumu
 difficulty ugumu
 dinghy kihori
 dining room ehumba cha kulia
 dinner (evening meal) chakula kikuu cha usiku
 to have dinner kula chakula kikuu cha usiku
 direct (adj) moja kwa moja
 is there a direct train? kuna treni iendayo moja kwa moja?
 direction kuelekea
 which direction is it? kuelekea wapi?
 is it in this direction? ni kuelekea huku?
 directory enquiries huduma ya maulizo kwa simu



For the international operator service in Tanzania call 0900 or

0901 and call 0905 for international directory enquiries. In Kenya call 0196 for both these services.

dirt uchafu
 dirty chafu
 disabled: disabled person mlemavu
 is there access for the disabled? kuna nafasi ya kupita walemavu?
 disappear toweka

it's disappeared imepotea
 disappointed kutoridhishwa
 disappointing inasikitisha
 disaster msiba
 disco disko
 discount kipunguzo cha bei
 is there a discount? kuna kipunguzo cha bei?
 disease ugonjwa
 disgusting inakirihisha
 dish (meal) chakula (bowl) bakuli
 disk (for computer) 'disk'
 disposable nappies/diapers nepi za tumia-utupe
 distance umbali
 in the distance kwa mbali
 distilled water maji ya mvuke
 district wilaya
 disturb sumbua
 diversion (detour) ugeuzaji wa njia
 diving kupiga mbizi
 diving board ubao wa kupigia mbizi
 divorced: I'm divorced mimi ni mtalaka
 divorcé(e) mtalaka
 dizzy: I feel dizzy nahisi kizunguzungu
 do (verb) fanya
 what shall we do? tufanye nini?
 how do you do it? unafanyaje?
 will you do it for me? waweza kunifanyia?

dialogues

how do you do?

hujambo?

nice to meet you

nimefurahi kuonana

nawe

what do you do? (work)

unafanya kazi gani?

I'm a teacher, and you?

mimi ni mwalimu, na

wewe je?

I'm a student mimi ni

mwanafunzi

what are you doing this

evening? unafanya nini

leo jioni?

we're going out for a drink,

do you want to join us?

tunakwenda

kujiburudisha kwa

vinywaji, unataka kuja

nasi?

do you want cream?

unataka krimu?

I do, but she doesn't

nataka, lakini yeye

hataki

doctor daktari

we need a doctor tunahitaji

daktari

please call a doctor tafadhali

mwrite daktari

flying doctor huduma ya

daktari kwa ndege

dialogue

where does it hurt?

panapouma ni wapi?

right here hapa

does that hurt now?

panauma sasa hivi?

yes ndiyo

take this to the chemist

chukua hii uende duka

la madawa



In all large towns in Kenya and Tanzania, there are some private doctors who can be consulted in their surgeries, or they can come to you if you make an appointment. Some surgeries are in the doctor's house and these can be identified by a plaque near the front door.

document waraka

dog mbwa

doll mtoto wa bandia

domestic flight safari za

ndege za ndani

donkey punda

don't!* usifanye!

don't do that! usifanye hivyo!

see not

door mlango

doorman bawabu

double maradufu

double bed kitanda cha watu

wawili

double room chumba cha

watu wawili

doughnut donati
 down chini
 down here hapa chini
 put it down over there weka pale chini
 it's down there on the right ni pale upande wa kulia
 it's further down the road ni mbele zaidi njiani
 downstairs chini
 dozen darzeni
 half a dozen nusu darzeni
 draught beer biya ya pipa
 draughty: it's draughty kuna upepo baridi
 drawer mtoto wa meza
 drawing uchoraji
 dreadful -baya sana
 dream (noun) ndoto
 dress (noun) nguo
 dressed: get dressed! vaa nguo!
 dressing (for wound) bendeji ya vidonda
 salad dressing kiungo cha saladi
 dressing gown vazi la mapumziko
 drink (noun: alcoholic) pombe (non-alcoholic) kinywaji (verb) kunywa
 a cold drink kinywaji baridi
 can I get you a drink? nikupatie kinywaji cha pombe?
 what would you like (to drink)? unataka kunywa nini?
 no thanks, I don't drink A'a,

asante, sinywi pombe
 I'll just have a drink of water nataka kunywa maji tu
 drinking water maji ya kunywa
 is this drinking water? haya ni maji ya kunywa?
 drive (verb) endesha
 we drove here tumekuja kwa gari hapa
 I'll drive you home nitakupeleka nyumbani kwa gari
 driver dereva



driving

When driving, beware of unexpected rocks and ditches – and animals and people. On the road, it's accepted practice to honk your horn stridently to warn pedestrians. In Tanzania and Kenya traffic keeps to the left, and although standard international road signs are in use, you may not necessarily find them where you would normally expect a road sign. Sign-posting, while generally useful, is haphazard – especially on dirt roads. If a junction appears to lack a sign, it's assumed you'll keep to the busiest track. Beware of 'speed bumps' (especially in Kenya). Occasionally you'll see a sign like 'rumble strips ahead', but more usually the first you'll know of them is when your head hits the roof. They are found in rural areas wherever a busy road has been built through a

village, and on the roads in and out of nearly every large town. On the question of driving etiquette, it's common practice to flash oncoming vehicles, and to signal right to deter drivers behind from overtaking. You may find both practices disconcerting at first. Left indicator signals are used to say 'please overtake'.

driving licence leseni ya gari

drop: just a drop, please (of drink) nataka kidogo tu, tafadhali

drug (medicine) dawa

drugs (narcotics) madawa ya kulevya

drums ngoma

drunk (adj) amelewa

drunken driving uendeshaji gari wa kilevi

dry (adj) kavu (wine) isiyo tamu

dry-cleaner dobi

dry season kiangazi

duck (bird) bata (meat) nyama ya bata

due tarajiwa

he was due to arrive

yesterday alitarajiwa kuwasili jana

when is the train due? treni inatarajiwa kuwasili wakati gani?

dull (pain) hafifu

(weather) yenye mawingu

dummy (baby's) nyonyo bandia

during muda

dust vumbi

dustbin pipa la taka

dusty yenye vumbi

Dutch (adj) -a Kiholanzi

duty-free (goods) isiyolipiwa ushuru

duty-free shop duka liuzalo vitu bila ushuru

duvet mfarishi

E

each kila moja

how much are they each? bei gani kila moja?

ear sikio

earache maumivu ya sikio

I have earache nina maumivu sikioni

early mapema

early in the morning asubuhi mapema

I called by earlier nilipitia hapa kabla

earrings herini

east mashariki

in the east mashariki

East Africa Afrika ya

Mashariki

East African (adj) -a Afrika ya Mashariki

Easter Pasaka

eastern -a mashariki

easy rahisi

eat kula

we've already eaten, thanks tumeshakula, asante



eating habits

In any **hoteli** (a small restaurant or café), there's always a number of predictable dishes intended to fill you up at the least cost. Potatoes, rice, plantains and **ugali** (a stiff cornmeal porridge) are the staples, eaten with chicken, goat, beef or vegetable stew, various kinds of spinach, beans or sometimes fish. Portions are usually gigantic: half-portions (ask for '**nusu**') aren't much smaller. But even in small towns, more and more cafés are appearing where most of the menu is fried – eggs, sausages, chips, fish, chicken and burgers.

In many restaurants, you can get a meal at almost any time during their opening hours, but proper breakfast time is usually 7–9.30am, lunch is served from noon to 2.30pm and the evening meal from 7 to 9.30pm. Breakfast varies widely. Stock hoteli fare consists of a cup of sweet tea and a doorstep of white bread, thickly spread with margarine. If you're staying at a luxury hotel or lodge, breakfast is usually a lavish hot and cold buffet. In the average mid-priced hotel, you'll get a full English-style breakfast.

Kenya's and Tanzania's seafood and meat are renowned. Game meat is a bit of a Kenyan speciality and you may get giraffe, zebra, impala, crocodile or ostrich on the menu. The standard feast for most Kenyans

is a huge pile of **nyama choma** (roast meat). This is usually eaten at a purpose-built nyama choma bar, with beer and music and sometimes **ugali** and spinach. You go to the kitchen and order by weight. There's usually a choice of beef or mutton. In some towns in Northern Tanzania there is a similar roast meat speciality but no purpose-built bars.

eau de toilette manukato ya msalani

ebony mpingo

economy class viti vya bei rahisi

egg yai

eggplant biringani

either mojawapo

either ... or ... ama ... au ...

either of them kimojawapo

eland pofu

elbow kiwiko

electric –a umeme

electrical appliances vifaa vya umeme

electrician fundi umeme

electricity umeme



Kenya's electricity supply is usually reliable and uses square, three-pin plugs on 220-240V. Only fancier hotels have outlets or shaver points in the rooms. In Tanzania, the electricity supply is on 230V and square three-pin or two-pin plugs are used.

elephant tembo, ndovu
 elevator lifti
 else: something else kitu
 kingine
 somewhere else mahali
 pengine

dialogue

would you like anything
 else? unataka kitu
 chochote kingine?
 no, nothing else, thanks
 hapana, sitaki chochote
 zaidi, asante

email i-mail, 'email'
 embassy Ubalozi
 emergency dharura
 this is an emergency! hili ni
 jambo la dharura!
 emergency exit mlango wa
 dharura
 empty tupu
 end (noun) mwisho
 at the end of the street
 mwisho wa njia
 when does it end?
 inamalizika wakati gani?
 engaged (toilet, telephone)
 inatumika
 (man/woman) poswa/posa
 engine (car) injini
 England Uingereza
 English (adj) -a Kiingereza
 (language) Kiingereza
 I'm English mimi ni
 Mwingereza
 do you speak English?

unaelewa Kiingereza?
 enjoy furahia
 to enjoy oneself
 kujifurahisha

dialogue

how did you like the film?
 uliipenda filamu?
 I enjoyed it very much –
 did you enjoy it?
 nilifurahika nayo sana –
 je wewe ilikufurahisha?

enjoyable yafurahisha
 enlargement (of photo) ukuzaji
 wa picha
 enormous kubwa sana
 enough ya kutosha
 there's not enough haitoshi
 it's not big enough si kubwa
 that's enough inatosha
 entrance mlango
 envelope bahasha
 epileptic (noun) mwenye
 kifafa
 equipment vifaa
 error kosa
 especially hususan
 essential muhimu
 it is essential that ... ni
 muhimu kwamba ...
 Ethiopia Ithiopia, Uhabeshi
 Ethiopian (adj) -a Kiithiopia



etiquette

Be warned that failure to
 observe the following
 points of etiquette can get you in

trouble. You should stand up in cinemas and on other occasions when the national anthem is playing. Stand still when the national flag is being raised or lowered in your field of view. Don't take photos of the President's flag (often seen on state occasions).

Pull off the road completely when scores of motorcycle outriders appear, then get out and stand by your vehicle. Never tear up a banknote, of any denomination. And don't urinate in public.

Europe Ulaya

European (adj) -a kizungu

even hata

even if ... hata ikiwa ...

evening jioni

this evening leo jioni

in the evening jioni

evening meal chakula cha jioni

eventually mwishowe

ever wakati wo wote

dialogue

have you ever been to

Serengeti? umepata

kufika Serengeti?

yes, I was there two years

ago ndiyo, nilikuwa huko

miaka miwili iliyopita

every kila

every day kila siku

everyone kila mtu

everything kila kitu

everywhere kila mahali

exactly! hasa!

exam mtihani

example mfano

for example kwa mfano

excellent bora kabisa

excellent! nzuri sana!

except ila

excess baggage mizigo

iliyozidi uzito

exchange rate kima cha

kubadilishia sarafu

exciting -a kuisimua

excuse me (to get past)

samahani nipishe

(to get attention, to say sorry)

samahani

exhausted (tired) -choka

kabisa

exhaust (pipe) paipu ya

ekzosi

exhibition maonyesho

exit mlango wa kutokea

where's the nearest exit? uko

wapi mlango wa karibu wa

kutokea?

expect tarajia

expensive ghali

experienced mwenye uzoefu

explain eleza

can you explain that?

unaweza kuelezea hayo?

express (mail) -a haraka

(train) iendayo kasi

extension (telephone)

ekstenshan

extension 221, please

ekstenshan mbibli, mbili,

moja, tafadhali
extra zaidi
 can we have an extra one?
 tunaweza kupata moja
 zaidi?
 do you charge extra for that?
 unatoza malipo zaidi kwa
 hiyo?
extraordinary -a ajabu
extremely kabisa
eye jicho
 will you keep an eye on my
suitcase for me? tafadhali
 nitazamie begi langu?



eye contact

Eye contact, or lack of it, can be a source of misunderstanding. In a traditional social context, younger people normally defer to their elders by avoiding much direct eye contact. If you ask directions of a young person or try to have any kind of conversation, you may get an oddly shifty response, which may nevertheless be polite and well-meaning.

eyebrow pencil kitilia rangi nyusi
eye drops dawa ya kusafisha macho
eyeglasses miwani
eyeliner wanja wa kupaka kwenye kope
eye make-up remover kiondoa rangi za pambo machoni

eye shadow rangi ya kupambia macho

F

face uso
factory kiwanda
Fahrenheit Farenhaiti
faint (verb) zimia
 she's fainted amezimia
 I feel faint nahisi karibu kuzimia
fair (funfair) ramsa (trade) maonyesho ya biashara (adj) -a haki
fairly kwa kiasi
fake (noun) bandia
fall (verb) anguka
 she's had a fall alianguka
fall (US) majira ya pukutiko la majani
 in the fall katika majira ya pukutiko la majani
false -a uongo
family familia
fan (electrical) feni (handheld) upepeo (sports) mshabiki
fan belt ukanda wa feni
fantastic -a ajabu
far mbali

dialogue

is it far from here? ni mbali kutoka hapa?
 no, not very far hapana, si

mbali sana
well how far? basi ni
 umbali gani?
it's about 20 kilometres
 kama kilomita ishirini
 hivi

fare (bus, rail etc) nauli
farm shamba
fashionable -a mtindo wa
 kisasa
fast -a haraka
fat (person) -nene
 (on meat) shahamu
father baba
father-in-law baba mkwe
faucet mfereji
fault kosa
sorry, it was my fault
 samahani, ilikuwa kosa
 langu
it's not my fault si kosa langu
faulty ina dosari
favourite kipenzi
fax (noun) faksi
 (verb: person) kumpelekea
 faksi
 (document) kupeleka faksi
February Februari, mwezi
 wa pili (T)
feel hisi
I feel hot nahisi joto
I feel unwell sijisikii vizuri
I feel like going for a walk
 nataka kwenda kutembea
how are you feeling?
 unajionaje?
I'm feeling better napata
 nafuu

fence ua
fender (US: of car) bampa la
 gari
ferry feri



On the Tanzanian coast there is a regular daily ferry service by hovercraft, hydrofoil and catamaran between Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar island; and also some boat services to Mafia island, Mtwara and Lindi. In Kenya the only regular ferries of any importance are those connecting the islands of the Lamu Archipelago and sporadic services between Mombasa and Zanzibar. On Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa, Tanzania Railways (TRC) operate steamer services between various ports. Kenya Railways also operate small ferries which churn around the Winam Gulf and out to a couple of islands on Lake Victoria. There is an international passenger steamer service between Mwanza (Tanzania), Kisumu (Kenya) and Port Bell (Uganda). Some commercial vessels will also take passengers across the lake.

festival sherehe
fetch leta
I'll fetch him nitamleta
will you come and fetch me later? unaweza kuja
 kunichukua baadaye?
feverish -enye kuhisi homa

few: a few chache
a few days siku chache

fiancé(e) mchumba

field uwanja

fight (noun) mapigano

figs tini

fill in jaza

do I have to fill this in? ni lazima nijaze hii?

fill up jaza kabisa

fill it up, please tafadhali, jaza kabisa

filling (in cake, sandwich) vijazio
 (in tooth) kijazo

film filamu

dialogue

do you have this kind of film? unayo filamu ya aina hii?

yes, how many exposures? ndiyo, unataka yenye picha ngapi?

36 thalathini na sita

film processing kusafisha filamu

filter coffee kahawa ya kuchujwa

filthy chafu

find (verb) ona

I can't find it sikioni kilipo

I've found it nimekiona

find out tafuta

could you find out for me? unaweza kunitafutia?

fine (weather) nzuri
 (punishment) faini

dialogues

how are you? hujambo?
I'm fine, thanks sijambo, asante

is that OK? je ni sawa?
that's fine, thanks ni sawa, asante

finger kidole

finish (verb) maliza

I haven't finished yet sijamaliza bado

when does it finish? inamalizika wakati gani?

fire moto

(blaze) moto mkali

fire! moto!

can we light a fire here?

tunaweza kuwasha moto hapa?

it's on fire inawaka moto

fire alarm king'ora cha moto

fire brigade zimamoto



Throughout Kenya and Tanzania, dial 999 for the fire brigade. They usually take ages to arrive.

fire escape njia ya

kuukimbia moto

fire extinguisher kizima moto

first -a kwanza

I was first nilikuwa wa kwanza

at first kwanza

the first time mara ya

kwanza
first on the left ya mwanzo
 kushoto
first aid huduma ya kwanza
first-aid kit vifaa vya huduma
 ya kwanza
first-class (travel etc) kilasi ya
 kwanza
first floor ghorofa ya kwanza
 (US) ghorofa ya chini
first name jina la kwanza
fish (noun) samaki
fishing kuvua samaki
fishmonger's muuza samaki
fit (attack) ugonjwa wa ghafla
fit: it doesn't fit me hainifai
fitting room pa kujaribia nguo
fix (arrange) tengeneza
can you fix this? (repair)
 unaweza kuitengeneza hii?
fizzy drink soda
flag bendera
flannel kitambaa cha sufi
flash (for camera) taa ya
 kamera
flat (noun: apartment) fleti,
 ghorofa
 (adj) tambarare
I've got a flat tyre tairi langu
 lina pancha
flavour ladha
flea kiroboto
flight safari kwa ndege, flaiti
flight number namba ya
 safari, namba ya flaiti
flippers viatu vya mabapa
 vya kuogelea
flood mafuriko
floor (of room) sakafu

(storey) ghorofa
on the floor sakafuni
florist muuza maua
flour unga
flower ua
flu 'flu'
fluent fasaha
he speaks fluent Swahili
 anasema Kiswahili fasaha
fly (noun) nzi
 (verb) safiri kwa ndege
can we fly there? tunaweza
 kusafiri kwa ndege kule?
fly in wasili
fly out ondoka
fog ukungu
foggy: it's foggy kuna
 ukungu
folk dancing ngoma ya
 kimila
folk music muziki wa kimila
follow fuata
follow me nifuate
food chakula
food poisoning kudhurika
 kwa chakula
food shop/store duka la
 vyakula
foot (of person) mguu
 (measurement) futi
on foot kwa miguu
football (game) soka,
 kandanda
 (ball) mpira
football match mechi ya
 kandanda
for ya
do you have something
for ... ? (headache/diarrhoea etc)

una dawa ya ...?

dialogues

who's the biriani for?

biriani ya nani?

that's for me hiyo yangu
mimi

and this one? na hii je?

that's for her hiyo yake

where do I get the bus for

Magomeni? nitapata basi
wapi kwenda

Magomeni?

the bus for Magomeni

leaves from Mnara street

basi la kwenda

Magomeni laondokea

njia ya Mnara

how long have you been

here? unekuwapo hapa
kwa muda gani?

I've been here for two

days, how about you?

nimekuwapo hapa kwa

muda wa siku mbili, je
wewe?

I've been here for a week

nimekuwapo hapa kwa

muda wa wiki moja

forehead paji

foreign -geni

foreigner mgeni

forest msitu

forget sahau

I forget nasahau

I've forgotten nimesahau

fork uma

(in road) njia ya panda

form (document) fomu

formal (dress) rasmi

fortnight wiki mbili

fortunately kwa bahati nzuri

forward: could you forward my

mail? waweza kunipelekea

barua zangu?

forwarding address anwani

ya kupelekea barua

foundation cream krimu ya

kupaka kwanza

fountain chemchemu

foyer ukumbi

fracture (noun) mvunjiko

France Ufaransa

free huru

(no charge) bure

is it free (of charge)? ni

bure?

freeway barabara

freezer friza

French (adj) -a Kifaransa

(language) Kifaransa

French fries chipsi

frequent mara kwa mara

how frequent is the bus to

Mombasa? mara ngapi basi

linakwenda Mombasa?

fresh (fruit etc) -a kawaida,

freshi

fresh orange juice maji ya

machungwa safi

Friday Ijumaa

fridge friji

fried -a kukaanga

fried egg yai la kukaanga

friend rafiki
 friendly kirafiki
 from toka, kutoka
 when does the next train
 from Arusha arrive? treni
 ijayo kutoka Arusha
 inawasili wakati gani?
 from Monday to Friday toka
 Jumatatu hadi Ijumaa
 from next Thursday kuanzia
 Alhamisi ijayo

dialogue

where are you from?
 unatoka wapi?
 I'm from Slough natoka
 Slough

front mbele
 in front mbele ya
 in front of the hotel mbele ya
 hoteli
 at the front upande wa
 mbele
 frost baridi kali
 fruit matunda
 fruit juice juisi, maji ya
 matunda
 frying pan kikaango
 full iliojaa
 it's full of ... imejaa ...
 I'm full nimeshiba
 full board malazi na chakula
 fun: it was fun ilifurahisha
 funeral mazishi, maziko
 funny (strange) -geni
 (amusing) -a kuchekecha
 furniture fanicha

further mbele zaidi
 it's further down the road
 mbele zaidi njiani

dialogue

how much further is it to
 Kilindini? masafa gani
 zaidi mpaka Kilindini?
 about 5 kilometres kiasi
 cha kilomita tano

fuse fyuzi
 the lights have fused fyuzi
 imezimisha taa
 fuse box kisanduku cha
 fyuzi
 fuse wire waya wa fyuzi
 future wakati ujao
 in future wakati ujao

G

gallon galoni
 game (cards, match etc) mchezo
 (meat) nyama ya mawindo
 game park mbuga ya
 wanyama
 garage gereji



When you have a
 puncture, as you will, get
 it mended straight away –
 it costs very little and can be done
 almost anywhere there are vehicles.
 Local mechanics can apply creative
 ingenuity to the most disastrous
 situations, but spare parts, tools and

proper equipment are rare off the main routes. Always settle on a price before the work begins. And beware of scams and con artists: the 'oil leak' under your parked car still catches many people out.

garden bustani
garlic kitunguu saumu
gas gesi
 (US) petroli
gas can (US) kopo la petroli
gas cylinder (camping gas) silinda yenye gesi
gas-permeable lenses lenzi zipenyazo gesi
gas station kituo cha petroli
gate mlango
gay hanithi
gay bar baa ya mahanithi
gazelle swala
gearbox giaboksi
gear lever gialiva
gears gia
general (adj) kwa jumla
gents (toilet) choo cha wanaume, msalani (T)
genuine (antique etc) halisi
German (adj) -a Kijerumani (language) Kijerumani
Germany Ujerumani
get (obtain) pata (fetch) leta
could you get me another one, please? waweza kuniletea nyingine, tafadhali?
how do I get to ...? naweza kufika vipi ...?

do you know where I can get them? unajua naweza kupata wapi?

dialogue

can I get you a drink?
 nikupatie kinywaji?
 no, I'll get this one, what would you like? hapana, nitakupatia, unataka kunywa nini?
 a beer, please biya, tafadhali

get back (return) rudi
get in (arrive) wasili
get off shuka
 where do I get off? nishuke wapi?
get on (to train etc) panda
get out (of car etc) toka
get up (in the morning) amka
gift zawadi



Ballpoint pens and postcards are about the only small items worth taking as gifts and can always be given to children. Off the beaten track, they'll be appreciated by many adults too, though few people will have an exaggerated idea of their real value. If you'll be travelling around or staying for some time and really want to prepare, get a large batch of photos of you and your family with your address on the back. You'll get lots of mail.

gift shop duka la vitu vya zawadi
gin jin
a gin and tonic, please jin na toniki, tafadhali
giraffe twiga
girl msichana
girlfriend galfrendi, rafiki wa kike
give pa
can you give me some change? waweza kunipa chenji?
I gave it to him nimempa yeye
will you give this to ...? waweza kumpa hii ...?

dialogue

how much do you want for this? unataka kiasi gani kwa hii?

I'll give you 300 shillings nitakupa shilingi mia tatu

give back rudisha
glad furahika
glass (material) kioo (for drinking) gilasi
a glass of wine gilasi ya mvinyo
glasses miwani
gloves glavu
go -enda
where are you going? unakwenda wapi?
we'd like to go to the cinema

tunataka kwenda sinema
where does this bus go? basi hili linaendea wapi?
let's go! twende zetu!
hamburger to go hambaga ya kuchukua nje
she's gone (left) amekwenda zake
where has he gone? amekwenda wapi?
I went there last week nilikwenda huko wiki iliyopita
go away nenda
go away! nenda zako we!
go back (return) rudi
go down (the stairs etc) nenda chini
go in ingia
go out (in the evening) tembea
do you want to go out tonight? unataka kutembea leo usiku?
go through pita
go up (the stairs etc) panda juu
goat (animal) mbuzi (meat) nyama ya mbuzi
God Mungu
goggles miwani kubwa ya kukinga macho
gold dhahabu
golf gofu
golf course uwanja wa gofu
good nzuri
good! nzuri!
it's no good haifai kitu
goodbye kwa heri (to more than one person) kwa herini

good evening habari za jioni
 Good Friday Ijumaa Kuu
 good morning habari za
 asubuhi
 good night usiku mwema,
 alamsiki (T)
 goose bata bukini
 got*: we've got to leave
 inatupasa kuondoka
 have you got any ...? una ...?
 government serikali
 gradually polepole
 gram(me) gramu
 granddaughter mjukuu wa
 kike
 grandfather babu
 grandmother bibi, nyanya
 grandson mjukuu wa kiume
 grapefruit balungi
 grapefruit juice maji ya
 balungi, juisi ya balungi
 grapes zabibu
 grass majani
 grateful -enye shukrani
 gravy rojo, mchuzi
 great (excellent) safi kabisa,
 nzuri sana
 that's great! ni safi kabisa!,
 ni nzuri sana!
 a great success mafanikio
 makubwa
 Great Britain Uingereza
 Greece Ugiriki
 greedy mroho, mchoyo
 Greek (adj) -a Kigiriki
 green kijani
 green card (car insurance) kadi
 ya bima ya gari
 greengrocer's duka la mboga

na matunda



greeting people

It is more or less essential
 to greet anyone with
 whom you are about to enter into a
 conversation, no matter how brief.
 Men normally shake hands on
 meeting, even if they have seen
 each other recently. If they are more
 than casual acquaintances, it is
 common for the handshake to
 remain a friendly clasp, as they
 continue to greet each other, long
 after a Western handshake would
 have finished. Women don't
 generally shake hands unless they
 know each other well, though
 female tourists are often greeted as
 if they were men.

grey rangi ya kijivu
 grill (noun) chanja ya
 kuchomea nyama
 grilled iliyochoywa
 grocer's duka la vyakula
 ground chini
 on the ground chini
 ground floor ghorofa ya chini
 group kikundi
 guarantee (noun) dhamana
 is it guaranteed? ina
 dhamana?
 guava pera
 guest mgeni
 guesthouse nyumba ya
 wageni
 guide (person) mwongozi



It's very easy to fall prey to misunderstandings in your relations with people (usually boys and young men) who offer their services as guides or helpers. You should absolutely never assume anything is being done out of simple kindness. It may well be, but, if it isn't, you must expect to pay something. What you must never do, as when bargaining, is enter into an unspoken contract and then break it by refusing to pay for the service. If you're being bugged by someone whose help you don't need, just let them know you can't pay anything for their trouble. It may not make you a friend, but it always works and it's better than a row and recriminations.

guidebook kitabu cha kuwasaidia watalii
guided tour safari ya kuongoza watalii
guitar gitaa
gum (in mouth) ufizi
gun (rifle) bunduki
 (pistol) bastola

H

hair nywele
hairbrush brush ya nywele
haircut kukata nywele
hairstylist's (men's) kinyozi
 (women's) mtayatisha nywele
hairdryer kikausha nywele

hair gel jeli ya nywele
hairgrips pini za nywele
hair spray marashi maalumu ya nywele
half nusu
half an hour nusu saa
half a litre nusu lita
about half that kiasi cha nusu
half board malazi na chakula mara mbili
half-bottle nusu chupa
half fare nusu ya nauli
half-price nusu ya bei
ham hemu
hamburger hambaga
hand mkono



The left hand is traditionally reserved for cleaning the private parts and should not be used for passing something to someone, especially not food. When eating with your fingers, you should use only your right hand.

handbag mkoba
handbrake breki ya mkono
handkerchief hankachifu
handle (on door) kipete
 (on suitcase etc) kishikio
hand luggage mizigo ya mkononi
hang-glider urukaji angani kwa tiara
hangover hangova
I've got a hangover nina hangova

happen tokea
what's happening? kuna nini?
 (what's going on?, what news?)
 habari gani?
what has happened?
 kumetokea nini?
happy -a furaha
I'm not happy about this
 sikufurahika na haya
harbour bandari
hard -gumu
hard-boiled egg yai la kuchemsha gumu
hard lenses lenzi ngumu
hardly chache
hardly ever hata chembe
hardware shop duka la vifaa
hare sungura
hat kofia
hate (verb) chukia
have* pata
 (in past, future) kuwa na
can I have a ...? naweza kupata ...?
do you have ...? una ...?
what'll you have? (to drink)
 unataka kunywa nini?
I have to leave now lazima niondoke sasa
do I have to ...? ni lazima ni-...?
can we have some ...?
 tunaweza kupata ...?
hayfever kamasi ziletwazo na vumbi
hazelnuts hezelnat
he* yeye
head kichwa

headache maumivu ya kichwa
headlights taa za mbele za gari
headphones hedfoni



health

You should have tetanus and polio boosters and doctors usually recommend typhoid jabs. Opinion is divided about gamma-globulin (or immunoglobulin) shots against hepatitis A. To reduce the risk of hepatitis, be extra careful about cleanliness and in particular about contamination of water.

Malaria is widespread throughout east and central Africa, except in the highlands. Protection against this dangerous disease is essential. You should start taking malaria tablets before departure and don't forget to continue taking them for the prescribed time after you return. The best precaution is to avoid being bitten by the nocturnal, malaria-carrying mosquitos; apply repellent liberally every evening, and always sleep under treated mosquito nets. Bilharzia is a serious disease that can be contracted from the merest contact with infected still or slow-moving water. The usual recommendation is never to swim in, wash with or even touch, lake water that can't be vouched for. If you feel major fatigue and pass blood – the first symptoms of

bilharzia – see a doctor: it's curable.

healthy –a afya

hear sikia

dialogue

can you hear me?

unaweza kunisikia?

I can't hear you, could you

repeat that? siwezi

kukusikia, sema tena?

hearing aid kisaidizi usikivu

heart moyo

heart attack shtuko la moyo

heat joto

heavy –zito

heel (of foot, shoe) kisigino

could you heel these?

unaweza kuvitia visigino?

heelbar duka la kutengeneza

viatu

height (of person) kimo

(of mountain) urefu

helicopter helikopta

hello habari

(on the telephone) halo



As a tourist you will hear Swahili-speakers saying **jambo** to you, meaning 'hello'. This is a short form of the word **hujambo** (literally: how are you), and is used only with foreigners. Swahili-speakers never use jambo with each other. A reply of jambo would be expected of a tourist; if you respond with the

correct form – **sijambo** (I'm fine) – it will be assumed that you're announcing your command of proper Swahili.

helmet helmeti

help (noun) msaada

(verb) saidia

help! msaada!

can you help me? unaweza kunisaidia?

thank you very much for your help asante sana kwa

msaada wako

helpful –a msaada

hepatitis homa ya manjano

her* yeye

(possessive) –ake

I haven't seen her sijamwona

to her kwake

with her pamoja naye

for her kwa ajili yake

that's her ni yeye

that's her towel hiyo ni taulo yake

herbal tea chai ya mimea

herbs viungo

herd kundi la wanyama

here hapa

here is ... hii hapa ...

here are ... hizi hapa ...

here you are haya chukua

hers* –ake

that's hers ni yake

hey! je vipi!

hi! (hello) habari!

hide (verb) ficha

high –juu

highchair kiti cha mtoto

indogo
 highway barabara
 hill kilima
 him* yeye
 I haven't seen him
 sijamwona
 to him kwake
 with him pamoja naye
 for him kwa ajili yake
 that's him ni yeye
 hip nyonga
 hippopotamus kiboko
 hire kodi, kodisha (K)
 for hire ya kukodisha
 where can I hire a bike?
 naweza kukodi baiskeli
 wapi?
 see rent
 his* -ake
 it's his car ni gari lake
 that's his ni yake
 hit (verb) piga
 hitch-hike omba lifti
 hobby hobi
 hog nguruwe
 hold (verb) shika
 hole shimo
 holiday likizo
 on holiday likizoni
 Holland Uholanzi
 home nyumbani
 at home (in my house etc)
 nyumbani kwangu
 (in my country) nchini kwetu
 we go home tomorrow
 tutarejea kwetu kesho
 honest aminifu
 honey asali
 honeymoon fungate

hood (US: of car) boneti
 hope (verb) tumaini
 I hope so natumaini ni
 hivyo
 I hope not natumaini
 haitakuwa hivyo
 hopefully kwa matumainio
 horn (of car) honi
 (of animal) pembe
 horrible -a kutisha, mbaya
 horse farasi
 horse riding kupanda farasi
 hospital hospitali
 hospitality ukarimu
 thank you for your hospitality
 asante kwa ukarimu wako
 hot joto
 (spicy) kali
 I'm hot naona joto
 it's hot today kuna joto leo
 hotel hoteli



At the top end of the hotel range are the big tourist establishments. In the game parks they are known as lodges. Some establishments are extremely good value, but others are shabby and overpriced, so check carefully before splashing out. If possible you should reserve in advance for the more popular establishments, especially from December to February. Lodges in the top price brackets are normally quoted on a full-board basis, and prices can be extortionate. Upmarket city hotels quoted on a room only or bed and breakfast basis are more

affordable. Coastal hotels and safari lodges cut their prices in the low season, April–June.

Between the upmarket hotels and the cheap lodging houses come all the medium-priced, middle-class places. Some of them were once slightly grand, others are old settlers' haunts that don't fit modern East Africa, and some newer ones are catering for the local middle class.

hotél room chumba cha hoteli

hot spring chemchemu ya maji ya moto

hour saa

house nyumba

hovercraft hovakrafti

how vipi

how many? ngapi?

how do you do? u hali gani?

dialogues

how are you? hujambo?

fine, thanks, and you?

sijambo, asante, na wewe je?

how much is it? ni kiasi gani?

300 shillings shilingi mia tatu

I'll take it nitanunua

humid -enye unyevunyevu

hungry -enye njaa

are you hungry? una njaa?

hurry (verb) harakisha

I'm in a hurry nina haraka

there's no hurry hakuna haraka

hurry up! fanya haraka!

hurt (verb) umiza

it really hurts inaumiza sana

husband mume

hydrofoil motaboti ya haidrofoili

hyena fisi

I* mimi

ice barafu

with ice na barafu

no ice, thanks bila barafu, asante

ice cream aiskrimu

ice-cream cone koni ya aiskrimu

ice lolly aiskrimu kijitini

idea wazo

idiot mjinga

if ikiwa

ignition ignisheni

ill -gonjwa

I feel ill naumwa

illness ugonjwa

imitation (leather etc) -a kuigiza

immediately bila kukawia

impala swala pala

important muhimu

it's very important ni muhimu

it's not important si muhimu

impossible -siowezekana

impressive -a kuvutia
 improve endeleva vyema
 I want to improve my Swahili
 nataka kujitendeleza katika
 Kiswahili
 in katika
 in my car katika gari langu
 in Nairobi mjini Nairobi
 it's in the centre iko katikati
 in two days from now
 mnamo siku mbili tokea
 sasa
 in five minutes mnamo
 dakika tano
 in May katika Mei
 in English kwa Kiingereza
 in Swahili kwa Kiswahili
 is he in? yuko ndani?
 inch inchi
 include tia pamoja na
 does that include meals? ni
 pamoja na chakula?
 is that included? hiyo imo
 pamoja?
 inconvenient sumbufu
 incredible nzuri sana
 Indian (adj) -a Kihindi
 Indian Ocean Bahari ya
 Hindi
 indicator indiketa
 indigestion kiungulia
 indoor pool bwawa la ndani
 ya nyumba
 indoors ndani ya nyumba
 inexpensive isio ghali
 infection ambukizo
 infectious -enye kuambukiza
 inflammation (on the body)
 uvimbe

informal -sio rasmi
 information habari, maelezo
 do you have any information
 about ...? una habari yoyote
 kuhusu ...?
 information desk maulizo
 injection kupiga sindano
 injured umizwa
 she's been injured ameumia
 in-laws wakwe
 inner tube (for tyre) mpira wa
 tairi
 innocent -sio na hatia
 insect mdudu
 insect bite kuumwa na
 mdudu
 do you have anything for
 insect bites? una dawa ya
 kutibu maumo ya wadudu?
 insect repellent dawa ya
 kujikinga na wadudu
 inside ndani
 inside the hotel ndani ya
 hoteli
 let's sit inside tukae ndani
 insist sisitiza
 I insist nasisitiza
 insomnia kukosa usingizi
 instant coffee kahawa ya
 unga
 instead badala ya
 give me that one instead
 nipe hiyo badala yake
 instead of ... badala ya ...
 insulin insulini
 insurance bima
 intelligent mwenye akili
 interested: I'm interested
 in ... napendelea ...

interesting yavutia
 that's very interesting
 inavutia sana
 international -a kimataifa
 interpret tafsiri
 interpreter mkalimani
 interval (at theatre) kipindi cha
 mapumziko
 into katika
 I'm not into ... simo katika ...
 introduce julisha
 may I introduce ...? tafadhali
 nikujulishe na ...?
 invitation mwaliko
 invite alika
 Ireland 'Ireland'
 Irish -a Kiairish
 I'm Irish mimi ni Muairish
 iron (for ironing) pasi
 can you iron these for me?
 unaweza kunipigia pasi hizi?
 is* ni
 Islamic -a Kiislamu
 island kisiwa
 it i-
 it is ... ni ...
 is it ...? je ni ...?
 where is it? iko wapi?
 it's him ni yeye
 it was ... ilikuwa ...
 Italian (adj) -a Italia
 (language) Kitaliana
 Italy Italia
 itch mwasho
 it itches inawasha

J

jack (for car) jeki
 jacka! bweha
 jacket jaketi
 jam jamu, jemu
 jammed: it's jammed
 imekwama
 January Januari, mwezi wa
 kwanza (T)
 jar (noun) gudulia
 jaw taya
 jazz jazi
 jealous menye wivu
 jeans jinzi
 jellyfish kiwavi
 jersey kitambaa cha sufu
 jetty gati
 jeweller's sonara
 jewellery mapambo ya vito
 Jewish -a Kiyahudi
 job kazi
 jogging: to go jogging kujogi
 joke kichekesho
 journey safari
 have a good journey! safari
 njema!
 jug jagi
 a jug of water jagi la maji
 juice juisi
 July Julai, mwezi wa saba (T)
 jump (verb) ruka
 jumper sweta
 jump leads waya za kuvutia
 umeme wa betri
 junction makutano ya njia
 June Juni, mwezi wa sita (T)
 jungle msitu

just (only) tu
just two mbili tu
just for me kwa ajili yangu tu
just here hapa tu
not just now si sasa hivi
we've just arrived ndiyo
kwanza tumewasili

K

keep weka
keep the change chukua
chenji iliyobakia
can I keep it? naweza
kuchukua?
please keep it chukua
tafadhali
Kenya Kenya
Kenyan (adj) -a Kenya
(noun) Mkenya
ketchup kechapu
kettle birika
key ufunguo
the key for room 201,
please ufunguo wa
chumba nia mbili na noja,
tafadhali
keyring kipete cha ufunguo
kidneys mafigo
kill (verb) ua
kilo kilo
kilometre kilomita
how many kilometres is it
to ...? kilomita ngapi
mpaka ...?
kind (generous) karimu
that's very kind ni jamala
sana

dialogue

which kind do you want?
unataka aina gani?
I want this/that kind
nataka aina hii/hiyo

king mfalme
kiosk kiyoski
kiss (noun/verb) busu
kitchen jiko
Kleenex® tishu
knee goti
knickers chupi
knife kisu
knock (verb) gonga
knock down ponda
he's been knocked down
amepondwa
knock over angusha
know jua
I don't know sijui
I didn't know that sikujua
hayo
do you know where I can
find ...? unajua mahali gani
naweza kupata ...?

L

label kitambulisho
ladies' room, ladies' toilets
choo cha wanawake
ladies' wear nguo za
wanawake
lady bibi
lager laga
see beer

lake ziwa
 lamb (meat) nyama ya kondoo
 lamp taa
 lane (motorway) barabara (small road) njia
 language lugha
 language course masomo ya lugha
 large kubwa
 last -a mwisho
 last week wiki iliyopita
 last Friday Ijumaa iliyopita
 last night jana usiku
 what time is the last train to Tabora? treni ya mwisho kwenda Tabora ni wakati gani?
 late chelewa
 sorry I'm late samahani nimechelewa
 the train was late treni ilichelewa
 we must go – we'll be late lazima twende – tutachelewa
 it's getting late wakati unazidi kupita
 later baadaye
 I'll come back later nitarudi baadaye
 see you later nitaonana nawe baadaye
 later on baadaye
 latest -a karibuni kabisa by Wednesday at the latest isichelewe zaidi ya Jumatano
 laugh (verb) cheka

laundry (clothes) nguo za kufuliwa
 (place) kwa dobi



There are virtually no laundrettes/laundromats in Kenya or Tanzania and it's usually simpler to wash your own clothes: you can buy packets of Omo soap powder, and things dry fast. Beware of New Blue Omo – it's very strong and wrecks clothes if you use it for long. Otherwise, there's often someone where you're staying who will be prepared to negotiate a laundry charge. Don't spread clothes on the ground to dry: they might be infested by tumbu fly, which lays its eggs in them for the larvae to hatch and burrow into your skin.

lavatory choo
 law sheria
 lawn uwanja wa majani mafupi
 lawyer wakili
 laxative haluli
 lazy -vivu
 lead (electrical) waya wa umeme
 (verb) ongoza
 where does this lead to? hii inaongozea wapi?
 leaf jani
 leaflet karatasi yenye matangazo
 leak (noun) mvujo
 (verb) vuja
 the roof leaks paa linavuja

learn jifunza	less -dogo
least kidogo	less than isiozidi
not in the least hata kidogo	less expensive isio ghali
at least angalau	lesson somo
leather (adj) -a ngozi	let (allow) ruhusu
leave (verb) ondoka	will you let me know?
I am leaving tomorrow	utaniarifu?
nitaondoka kesho	I'll let you know nitakuarifu
he left yesterday aliondoka	let's go for something to eat
jana	twende kula
may I leave this here?	let off acha
naweza kuiwacha hapa?	will you let me off at ...?
I left my coat in the bar	waweza kuniacha
nimewacha koti langu	nishuke ...?
katika baa	letter barua
when does the bus for Voi	do you have any letters for
leave? basi la kwenda Voi	me? una barua zozote
laondoka wakati gani?	zangu?
left kushoto	letterbox sanduku la barua
on the left, to the left	lettuce letis, salad
kushoto	lever wenzo
turn left pinda kushoto	library maktaba
there's none left hakuna	licence leseni
kilichobakia	lid kifuniko
left-handed mwenye	lie (verb: tell untruth) sema
kutumia mkono wa	uongo
kushoto	lie down lala
left luggage (office) ofisi ya	life maisha
kuweka mizigo	lifebelt mkanda wa
leg mguu	kujiokolea
lemon limau	lifeguard walinzi-okozi
lemonade soda ya limau	life jacket jeketi-okozi
lemon tea chai ya limau	lift (in building) lifti
lend azima	could you give me a lift?
will you lend me your ...?	waweza kunipa lifti?
waweza kuniazima ...-ako?	would you like a lift? nikupe
lens lenzi	lifti?
leopard chui	light (noun) taa
lesbian msagaji	(not heavy) nyepesi

do you have a light? (for cigarette) una kibiriti?
 light green kijani hafifu
 light bulb balbu
 I need a new light bulb
 nataka balbu mpya
 lighter (cigarette) kibiriti
 lightning umeme
 like (verb) penda, taka
 I like it naipenda
 I like going for walks
 napenda kwenda kutembea
 I like you nakupenda
 I don't like it siipendi
 do you like ...? unapenda ...?
 I'd like a beer nataka biya
 I'd like to go swimming
 nataka kwenda kuogelea
 would you like a drink?
 unataka kinywaji?
 would you like to go for a
 walk? unataka kwenda
 kutembea?
 what's it like? ni namna
 gani?
 I want one like this nataka
 kama hii
 lime ndimu
 line (on paper) mstari
 (phone) simu
 could you give me an outside
 line? waweza kunipa laini
 ya nje?
 lion simba
 lips midomo
 lip salve malhamu ya
 mdomo
 lipstick rangi ya mdomo
 liqueur mvinyo tamu sana

listen sikiliza
 litre lita
 a litre of white wine lita mjoa
 ya mvinyo nyeupe
 little kidogo
 just a little, thanks kidogo
 tu, asante
 a little milk maziwa kidogo
 a little bit more zaidi kidogo
 live (verb) ishi
 we live together tunaishi
 pamoja

dialogue

where do you live? unaishi
 wapi?

I live in London naishi
 London

lively -changamfu
 liver (in body) ini
 (food) maini
 loaf mkate
 lobby (in hotel) ukumbi
 lobster kamba
 local mahali pa wenyeji
 can you recommend a local
 restaurant? unaona
 mkawaha gani bora mahali
 hapa?
 lock (noun) kufuli
 (verb) funga
 it's locked imefungwa
 lock in fungia ndani
 lock out jifungia nje
 I've locked myself out
 nimejifungia nje ya mlango
 locker (for luggage etc) kabati

lodge nyumba
 lollipop lolipopu
 London London
 long -refu
 how long will it take to fix it?
 itachukua muda gani
 kutengeneza?
 how long does it take?
 inachua muda gani?
 a long time muda mrefu
 one day/two days longer siku
 moja/siku mbili zaidi
 long-distance call simu ya
 mbali
 look: I'm just looking, thanks
 natazama tu, asante
 you don't look well yaonesha
 hali yako si nzuri
 look out! angalia!
 can I have a look? naweza
 kutazama?
 look after tunza
 look at tazama
 look for tafuta
 I'm looking for ... natafuta ...
 look forward to ngojea kwa
 hamu
 I'm looking forward to it
 naingojea kwa hamu
 loose (handle etc) -liolegea
 lorry lori
 lose poteza
 I've lost my way nimepotea
 njia
 I'm lost, I want to get
 to ... nimepotea, nataka
 kwenda ...
 I've lost my bag nimepoteza
 begi langu

lost property (office) ofisi ya
 vitu vilivyopotea
 lot: a lot, lots nyingi, wengi
 not a lot si nyingi
 a lot of people watu wengi
 a lot bigger kubwa zaidi
 I like it a lot naipenda sana
 lotion losheni
 loud -enye sauti kubwa
 lounge ukumbi
 love (noun) mapenzi
 (verb) penda
 I love Africa naipenda Afrika
 lovely -zuri
 low -a chini
 luck bahati
 good luck! bahati njema!
 luggage mizigo
 luggage trolley kigari cha
 mizigo
 lump (on body) uvimbe
 lunch chakula cha mchana
 lungs mapafu
 luxurious -a anasa
 luxury anasa

M

machete panga
 machine mashine
 mad (insane) -enye wazimu
 (angry) -enye hamaki
 Madagascar Madagaska
 magazine gazeti
 maid (in hotel) mtumishi wa
 kike
 maiden name jina la ukoo
 mail (noun) barua

(verb) peleka kwa posta
is there any mail for me?
 kuna barua zangu?
see postal service
mailbox sanduku la barua
main muhimu
main course chakula
 muhimu
main post office posta kuu
main road (in town) barabara
 kuu
 (in country) njia kuu
make (brand name) chapa
 (verb) fanya
I make it four hundred
shillings ni shilingi mia
 nne
what is it made of?
 imeundwa kwa kitu gani?
make-up vipodozi
malaria 'malaria'
malaria pills dawa ya
 'malaria'
man mtu
manager meneja
can I see the manager?
 naweza kuonana na
 meneja?
manageress meneja wa
 kike
mango embe
mango juice maji ya embe
manual (car with manual gears)
 ya mkono
many nyingi
not many si nyingi
map ramani
network map ramani ya
 njia



Tanzanian and Kenyan
 tourist offices abroad
 tend to be thin on useful
 maps and information, but they are
 always worth visiting if you are
 nearby. Try to buy maps in advance
 abroad: with the exception of the
 inexpensive Kenya Survey maps
 they're usually cheaper.

March Machi, mwezi wa
 tatu (T)
margarine majarini
market (noun) soko
marmalade mamaledi
married: I'm married (said by
 man/woman)
 nimeoa/nimeolewa
are you married? (said to
 man/woman)
 umeoa/umeolewa?
mascara wanja
mask kificha uso
match (football etc) mechi
matches kibiriti
material (fabric) kitambaa
matter: it doesn't matter
 haidhuru
what's the matter? kuna
 nini?
mattress godoro
Mauritius 'Mauritius'
May Mei, mwezi wa tano (T)
may: may I have another one?
 unaweza kunipa nyingine?
may I come in? naweza
 kuingia?
may I see it? naweza
 kuiona?

may I sit here? naweza kukaa hapa?

maybe labda

mayonnaise mayonezi

me* mimi

that's for me hiyo ni yangu

send it to me niletee

me too mimi pia

meal chakula

dialogue

did you enjoy your meal?

umekipenda chakula?

it was excellent, thank you

kizuri sana, asante

mean (verb) maanisha

what do you mean?

unamaanisha nini?

dialogue

what does this word

mean? neno hili maana

yake nini?

it means ... in English

maana yake ... kwa

Kiingereza

measles surua

German measles surua ya

madoa mekundu

meat nyama

mechanic makanika

medicine dawa

medium (adj: size) wastani

medium-dry isiyoy tamu sana

medium-rare isiyopikika sana

medium-sized -a wastani

meet kutana

nice to meet you nimefurahi

kukutana nawe

where shall I meet you?

nitakutanan nawe wapi?

meeting mkutano

meeting place mahali pa

kukutania

melon tikiti

men watu

mend tengeneza

could you mend this for me?

waweza kunitengezea hii?

men's room choo cha

wanaume, msalani (T)

menswear nguo za kiume

mention (verb) taja

don't mention it si kitu

menu menyu

may I see the menu, please?

naweza kuona menyu,

tafadhali?

see menu reader page 189

message agizo

are there any messages for

me? kuna maagizo yangu

yoyote?

I want to leave a message

for ... nataka kuwacha

maagizo kwa ...

metal (noun) maadini

metre mita

midday adhuhuri

at midday adhuhuri

middle kati

in the middle katikati

in the middle of the night kati

ya usiku
the middle one -a kati
midnight saa sita ya usiku
at midnight saa sita ya usiku
might: I might pengine
 nitaweza
I might not pengine sitaweza
I might want to stay another
day huenda nikataka kukaa
 siku moja zaidi
migraine maumivu ya kichwa
mild (taste) sio kali
 (weather) sio baridi sana
mile maili
milk maziwa
millimetre milimita
minced meat minsi
mind: never mind usijali
I've changed my mind
 nimebadili nia yangu

dialogue

do you mind if I open the
window? itakuudhi
 nikifungua dirisha?
no, I don't mind la,
 hainiudhi

mine* yangu
it's mine ni yangu
mineral water maji ya soda
minibus basi dogo
mints peremende
minute dakika
in a minute punde hivi
just a minute ngoja kidogo
mirror kioo
Miss Bi, Bibi

miss: I missed the bus
 nimelikosa basi
missing -mepotea
one of my ... is missing
 mmoja kati ya ... -angu -
 mepotea
there's a suitcase missing
 begi moja limepotea
mist umande
mistake (noun) kosa
I think there's a mistake
 nafikiri kuna makosa
sorry, I've made a mistake
 samahani, nimekosea
misunderstanding
 kutoelewana
mix-up matatanisho
sorry, there's been a mix-up
 samahani, kumetokea
 matatanisho
mobile phone simu ya upepo
modern -a kisasa
moisturizer krimu ya
 kunyesea ngozi
moment punde
I won't be a moment nitarudi
 punde hivi
Monday Jumatatu
money pesa



Kenya, Tanzania and
 Uganda all have shillings
 as their currency, a
 colonial legacy, now worth a small
 fraction of their original value and of
 little value abroad. The currencies of
 other countries in the Swahili-
 speaking area are also weak. Most
 are subject to import-export controls,

so you will normally only be able to change money after arrival.

mongoose nguchiro

monkey tumbili

month mwezi

monument jengo la

ukumbusho

moon mwezi

moped pikipiki ndogo

more* zaidi

can I have some more water,

please? waweza kunioneza

maji kidogo, tafadhali?

more expensive ghali sana

more interesting yavutia sana

more than 50 zaidi ya

hamsini

more than that zaidi ya hiyo

a lot more nyingi

dialogue

would you like some more? unataka zaidi?

no, no more for me, thanks

hapana, sihitaji zaidi,

asante

how about you? na wewe

je?

I don't want any more,

thanks sihitaji zaidi, asante

morning asubuhi

this morning leo asubuhi

in the morning asubuhi

mosque msikiti

mosquito mbu

mosquito coil dawa ya mbu

mosquito net chandarua

mosquito repellent dawa ya

kufukuza mbu

most* -ingi

most interesting yavutia sana

I like this one most of all

napenda hii kuliko zote

most of the time karibu

wakati wote

most tourists watalii wengi

mostly kwa kawaida

mother mama

mother-in-law mama mkwe

motorbike pikipiki

motorboat motaboti

motorway barabara

mountain mlima

in the mountains milimani

mountaineering kupanda

milima

mouse panya

moustache masharubu

mouth kinywa

move (verb) hama

he's moved to another room

amehamia chumba kingine

could you move your car?

waweza kuondoa gari lako?

could you move up a little?

waweza kusogea huko

kidogo?

where has it moved to?

imehamishiwa wapi?

movie filamu

movie theater sinema

Mozambique Msumbiji

Mr Bwana

Mrs Bibi

Ms Bi, Bibi

much -ingi
much better afadhali sana
much worse mbaya sana
much hotter joto sana
not much si nyingi
not very much si nyingi sana
I don't want very much sitaki nyingi sana
mud tope
mug (for drinking) kikombe kikubwa
I've been mugged nimeibiwa kwa nguvu
mum mama
mumps matumbwitumbwi
museum jumba la makumbusho
see opening hours
mushrooms uyoga
music muziki
musician mwanamuziki
Muslim (adj) -a Kiislamu
mussels kome
must*: I must inanibidi
I mustn't drink alcohol inanibidi kutokunywa pombe
mustard haradali
my* yangu
myself mwenyewe
I'll do it myself nitafanya mimi mwenyewe
by myself peke yangu

N

nail (finger) ukucha
 (metal) msumari

nail varnish rangi ya kucha
name jina
my name's John jina langu John
what's your name? jina lako nani?
what is the name of this street? njia hii inaitwaje?



You will come across a wide variety of names in Kenya and Tanzania, depending on the ethnic origins of the person concerned. On the coast, the Arabic style is commonly used, for example: Omar bin Salim (Omar son of Salim), Fatma binti Said (Fatma daughter of Said). Upcountry names are more often Christianized, for example: Gideon Kariuki, Rose Nandwa.

napkin 'napkin'
nappy nepi
narrow (street) -embamba
nasty mbaya
national -a kitaifa
nationality uraia
national park mbuga ya taifa
natural -a kawaida
nausea kichefuchefu
navy (blue) buluu
near karibu
is it near the city centre? ni karibu na katikati ya mji?
do you go near the tourist office? unakwenda karibu na ofisi ya utalii?
where is the nearest ...? ... -a

karibu sana iko wapi?
 nearby karibu na
 nearly karibu
 necessary lazima
 neck shingo
 necklace kidani
 necktie tai
 need: I need ... nahitaji ...
 do I need to pay? inanibidi
 kulipa?
 needle sindano
 negative (film) negativu
 neither: neither (one) of them
 si yoyote kati yao
 neither ... nor ... si ... wala ...
 nephew mpwa wa kiume
 net (in sport) wavu
 Netherlands Uholanzi
 never kamwe

dialogue

have you ever been to
 Zanzibar? umepata kufika
 Zanzibar?

no, never, I've never been
 there hapana, sijapata
 kufika huko kamwe

new mpya
 news (radio, TV etc) habari
 newsagent's duka la
 magazeti
 newspaper gazeti
 newspaper kiosk kibanda cha
 kuuzia magazeti
 New Year Mwaka Mpya
 Happy New Year! furaha ya
 Mwaka Mpya!

New Year's Eve mkesha wa
 Mwaka Mpya
 New Zealand Nyuziland
 New Zealander: I'm a New
 Zealander mimi ni
 Mnyuziland
 next -ingine
 the next turning/street on
 the left kona/njia ijayo
 kushoto
 at the next stop kwenye
 kituo kijacho
 next week wiki ijayo
 next to karibu na
 I'll tell you next time
 nitakwambia wakati
 mwingine
 nice (food) kizuri
 (looks, view etc) nzuri
 (person) mzuri
 niece mpwa wa kike
 night usiku
 at night wakati wa usiku
 good night lala salama

dialogue

do you have a single room
 for one night? una
 chumba kimoja kwa
 usiku mmoja?
 yes, madam ndiyo, Bibi
 how much is it per night?
 bei gani kila usiku?
 it's 30,000 shillings for one
 night shilingi thalathini
 elfu kila usiku
 thank you, I'll take it
 asante, nakubali

nightclub klabu ya burudani
 nightdress vazi la kulalia
 night porter bawabu
 no hapana (on the coast) la
 I've no change sina chenji
 there's no ... left
 hakuna ... iliyobakia
 no way! haiwezekani kabisa!
 oh no! (upset) lahaua!
 nobody hakuna mtu
 there's nobody there hakuna
 mtu kule
 noise kelele
 noisy -a kelele
 it's too noisy kuna kelele
 nyingi
 non-alcoholic isio ya kileo
 none hapana kitu
 non-smoking compartment
 behewa la wasiovuta sigara
 noon aduhuri
 at noon aduhuri
 no-one hakuna mtu
 nor: nor do I wala si mimi
 normal -a kawaida
 north kaskazini
 in the north kaskazini
 to the north upande wa
 kaskazini
 north of Zanzibar kaskazini
 ya Zanzibar
 northeast kaskazini
 mashariki
 northern -a kaskazini
 Northern Ireland 'Ireland' ya
 Kaskazini
 northwest kaskazini
 magharibi
 Norway 'Norway'

Norwegian (adj) -a Kinorway
 nose pua
 not* siyo
 no, I'm not hungry hapana,
 sina njaa
 I don't want any, thank you
 sitaki yoyote, asante
 it's not necessary si lazima
 I didn't know that sikujua
 hayo
 not that one - this one siyo
 hii - ni hii
 note (banknote) noti
 notebook daftari
 notepaper (for letters) karatasi
 ya kuandikia
 nothing hakuna kitu
 nothing for me, thanks
 sihitaji kitu, asante
 nothing else hakuna zaidi
 novel mpya
 November Novemba, mwezi
 wa kumi na moja (T)
 now sasa
 number namba
 (figure) tarakimu
 I've got the wrong number
 nimekosea namba
 what is your phone number?
 namba yako ya simu ni ipi?
 number plate bamba la
 namba ya gari
 nurse (man/woman) muuguzi
 (woman) nesi
 nuts njugu

O

occupied (toilet, telephone)
 inatumika
 o'clock* saa
 October Oktoba, mwezi wa
 kumi (T)
 odd (strange) -geni
 of* ya
 off (lights) zimika
 it's just off Mnazi Mmoja
 Square ni karibu na uwanja
 wa Mnazi Mmoja
 we're off tomorrow
 tutaondoka kesho
 offensive (language, behaviour) -a
 kuchukiza
 office (place of work) ofisi
 officer (said to policeman) ofisa
 often mara nyingi
 not often si mara nyingi
 how often are the buses?
 mabasi huenda mara ngapi?
 oil (for car, for salad) mafuta
 ointment malhamu
 OK sawa
 are you OK? uko sawa?
 is that OK with you? hivyo ni
 sawa kwako?
 is it OK to ...? ni sawa ku ...?
 that's OK, thanks ni sawa tu,
 asante
 I'm OK (nothing for me)
 nimetosheka
 (I feel OK) niko sawa
 is this train OK for ...? treni
 hii inakwenda ...?
 I said I'm sorry, OK?

nimesema samahani, sawa?
 old (person) mzee
 (thing) kuukuu

dialogue

how old are you? una
 umri gani?
 I'm 25 ni miaka ishirini
 na tano
 and you? na wewe je?

old-fashioned -a zamani
 old town (old part of town) mji
 wa kale (K), mji mkongwe
 (T)
 in the old town katika mji
 wa kale
 omelette kiwanda (T),
 kimanda (K)
 on* juu ya
 on the table juu ya meza
 on the street/beach njiani/
 pwani
 is it on this road? ni kwenye
 njia hii?
 on the plane katika ndege
 on Saturday Jumamosi
 on television kwenye
 televisheni
 I haven't got it on me sinayo
 this one's on me (drink)
 nitalipia mimi hii
 the light wasn't on taa
 ilikuwa haijawashwa
 what's on tonight? kuna nini
 leo usiku?
 once (one time) mara moja
 at once (immediately) bila

kuchelewa
one* moja
the white one hiyo nyeupe
one-way ticket tikiti ya
 kwenda tu
a one-way ticket to ... tikiti
 ya kwenda tu ...
onion kitunguu
only tu
only one moja tu
it's only 6 o'clock ni saa
 kuni na mbili tu sasa
I've only just got here
 nimefika sasa hivi tu
on/off switch swichi
open (adj) wazi
 (verb: door) fungua
 (of shop) liko wazi
when do you open?
 unafungua saa ngapi?
I can't get it open siwezi
 kufungua
in the open air nje
opening hours wakati wa
 kufungua



On In larger towns, the major stores and tourist services will be open from 8am to 5 or 6pm; offices and museums are open at similar times, though offices will often break for lunch. Banks and post offices are generally open Monday to Friday and sometimes Saturday mornings. In rural areas and out in the bush, small shops can be open at almost any hour, and may double as **hotelis** (cafés) or **chai** (tea) kiosks.

open ticket tikiti itumikayo
 baadaye
operation (medical) operesheni
operator (telephone) opereta
 see **directory enquiries**
opposite mkabala
opposite my hotel nikabala
 na hoteli yangu
the opposite direction upande
 unaokabilina na mwingine
the bar opposite baa
 inayokabili
optician muuza miwani
or au
orange (fruit) chungwa
 (colour) rangi ya mchungwa
fizzy orange soda ya
 machungwa
orange cordial kinywaji cha
 machungwa
orange juice maji ya
 machungwa
orchestra okestra
order (verb: in restaurant) agiza
can we order now? twaweza
 kuagizisha chakula sasa?
I've already ordered, thanks
 nimekwisha agizisha, asante
I didn't order this sikuagiza
 hiki
out of order imeharibika
ordinary -a kawaida
other -ingine
the other one hiyo nyingine
the other day hivi karibuni
I'm waiting for the others
 nawangojea wengine
do you have any others? una
 nyingine?

otherwise vinginevyo
 our* yetu
 ours* yetu
 out: he's out ametoka
 three kilometres out of town
 kilomita tatu nje ya mji
 outdoors -a nje
 outside nje
 can we sit outside? twaweza
 kukaa nje?
 oven oveni, joko
 over: over here huku
 over there kule
 over 500 zaidi ya mia tano
 it's over imemalizika
 overcharge: you've
 overcharged me umenitoza
 zaidi
 overcoat koti kubwa
 overland mail barua
 zitumwazo kikawaida
 overnight (travel) usiku kucha
 overtake pita
 owe daiwa
 how much do I owe you?
 nikulipe kiasi gani?
 own: my own ... -angu
 mwenyewe
 are you on your own? uko
 peke yako?
 I'm on my own ni peke
 yangu
 owner mmilikaji

P

pack (verb) fungua pamoja
 a pack of ... kifurushi cha ...

package (parcel) kifurushi
 package holiday safari ya
 mpango wa jumla
 packet pakiti
 a packet of cigarettes pakiti
 ya sigara
 page (of book) ukurasa
 could you page Mr ...?
 waweza kumwita
 Bwana ...?
 pain maumivu
 I have a pain here nahisi
 maumivu hapa
 painful -enye kuumiza
 painkillers dawa ya maumivu
 paint (noun) rangi
 painting picha ya kuchora
 pair: a pair of ... jozi ya ...
 Pakistani (adj) -a Kipakistani
 palace jumba la mfalme
 pale hafifu
 palm tree mchikichi
 pan sufuria
 panties chupi
 pants (underwear) chupi
 (US) suruali
 pantyhose soksi ndefu
 papaya papai
 paper karatasi
 (newspaper) gazeti
 a piece of paper kipande
 cha karatasi
 paper handkerchiefs
 hankachifu ya karatasi
 parcel kifurushi
 pardon (me)? (didn't
 understand/hear) samahani?
 parents wazazi
 parents-in-law wakwe

park (noun) bustani
 (verb) egesha
 can I park here? naweza kugesha gari hapa?
 parking lot maegesho ya magari
 part (noun) sehemu
 partner (boyfriend, girlfriend etc) mwenzi
 party (group) chama (celebration) tafrija
 pass (in mountains) njia
 passenger abiria
 passport pasipoti
 past*: in the past hapo zamani
 just past the information office ukishaipita tu ofisi ya habari
 path njia
 pattern sampuli
 pavement 'pavement' on the pavement kwenye 'pavement'
 pay (verb) lipa
 can I pay, please? naweza kulipa, tafadhali?
 it's already paid for imeshalipiwa

dialogue

who's paying? nani atalipa?
 I'll pay mimi nitalipa
 no, you paid last time, I'll pay hapana, ulilipa mara ya mwisho, nitalipa sasa

payphone kibanda cha simu

peaceful -a amani
 peach pichi
 peanuts njugu
 pear (fruit) pea
 peas njegere
 peculiar (taste, custom) geni
 peg (for washing) kibanio (for tent) kigingi
 pen kalamu
 pencil penseli
 penfriend rafiki kwa barua
 penicillin penisilini
 penknife kisu cha kukunja
 pensioner mpokeaji
 pensheni
 people watu
 the other people in the hotel watu wengine katika hoteli
 too many people watu wengi sana
 pepper (spice, vegetable) pilipili
 black pepper pilipili manga
 peppermint (sweet) peremende
 per: per night kila usiku
 how much per day? kiasi gani kila siku?
 per cent asilimia
 perfect kamilifu
 perfume manukato
 perhaps labda
 perhaps not labda sivyo
 period (of time) muda (menstruation) kuingia hedhi, kuingia mwezi
 permit (noun) kibali
 person mtu
 personal stereo 'stereo' ya binafsi

petrol petroli

It's not difficult to run out of petrol, so keep topping up. All towns and villages (except the very smallest) have petrol for sale, but if you're intending to do a lot of driving in a remote area you should definitely carry spare fuel in cans, especially in Tanzania, where distances can be vast between towns.

petrol can kopo la petroli

petrol station kituo cha petroli

pharmacy duka la dawa

phone (noun) simu

(verb) kupiga simu



The local phone service in Kenya is generally dependable and inexpensive, though outside the big towns you can spend a long time waiting for a connection or passing the time of day with the operator. Landlines in Tanzania are not very reliable. Most businesses now also use mobile phones. There are only very few coin-operated phones in Tanzania, most of which also work with cards which you can buy in the phone company offices or in nearby stores. To make local phone calls from a call box, you need a good handful of shillings. When you pick up any payphone in Kenya you'll hear a sustained tone and, in the

background, a series of beeps. After five beeps you dial. Use the area code or dial 900 for the operator. In Tanzania the engaged tone is a high-pitched interrupted continuous tone, and the dialling tone is a continuous purring tone, while a high-pitched continuous tone means there is no service for the number. For the operator in Kenya, dial 900; for Tanzania, dial 900 to make a domestic call or 991 for domestic directory enquiries.

In both Kenya and Tanzania, you can phone from post offices; opening hours are usually 8am–5pm on weekdays; larger ones are open on Saturday mornings. Otherwise, you can usually phone from large hotels, but you'll pay up to twice the price for this facility.

The easiest and most economical way to make an international call from Kenya or Tanzania is to dial direct from a cardphone (found outside Extelcoms in Nairobi or Dar es Salaam and outside post offices in most large towns). The pre-paid, credit card-sized plastic phonecards used in them can in theory be bought at newsstands as well as at post offices. Cardphones are also useful for using a charge card from your own telephone company (they don't take ordinary credit cards). In the absence of a cardphone it's possible to make operator-assisted international calls from a main post office. When you ask for a station-

to-station connection, you prepay for a specified number of minutes (minimum of three) and you get your money back if you fail to get through, but not if the conversation ends up taking less time than you expected, for example if you get through to an answerphone. If you want more minutes you have to specify how many – all very user-unfriendly. For person-to-person calls, where you specify a name, there's a supplementary charge equivalent to two minutes and a small charge if the person isn't in. International reverse-charge (collect) calls can be made in Kenya, but not in Tanzania; they cannot be made from call boxes.

phone book kitabu cha simu
phone box kibanda cha simu
phonecard kadi ya simu
phone number namba ya simu
photo picha

excuse me, could you take a photo of us? samahani, waweza kutupiga picha?

please can we take a photo of you? tunaweza kukupiga picha, tafadhali?



When photographing people, you should accept that some kind of interaction and exchange are warranted. Taking the subject's name and address and sending a print when you get home is an

option that some people prefer, but it is decreasingly popular with subjects who look on the photo call as work and have fixed the rates they're prepared to accept. Blithely aiming at strangers is arrogant; it won't make you any friends and it may well get you into trouble. On the subject of sensitivity, it's a bad idea to take pictures of anything that could be construed as strategic, including any military or police building, prisons, airports, harbours, bridges, official residencies and the President.

phrasebook kitabu cha maelezo ya lugha
pickpocket mwizi mchomoa mifuko

pick up: will you be there to pick me up? utakuwako huko ili kunichukua?

picnic mandari
picture picha

pie (meat) pai
 (fruit) andazi

piece kipande

a piece of ... kipande cha ...

pig nguruwe

pill kidonge cha kuzuia mimba

I'm on the pill natumia vidonge vya kuzuia mimba

pillow into

pillow case foronya

pin (noun) pini

pineapple nanasi

pineapple juice maji ya

nanasi
 pink rangi ya waridi
 pipe (for smoking) kiko
 (for water) bomba
 pity: it's a pity inasikitisha
 pizza piza
 place (noun) mahali
 at your place kwako
 at his place kwake



place names

A problem with East African place names is

the vague use of names to denote a whole district and, at the same time, its nucleus, be it a small town, a village, or just a cluster of corrugated iron shops and bars. Sometimes there'll be two such focuses. They often move in a matter of a few years, so what looks like a junction town on the map turns out to be away from the road, or in a different place altogether. Ask for the 'shopping centre' ('**penye maduka ni wapi?**', literally: 'where is the place with the shops?'), and you'll usually find the local hive of activity and the place with the name you were looking for.

plain (not patterned) isio na marembo
 plane ndege, eropleni
 by plane kwa ndege
 plant mmea
 plantation shamba
 plasters plasta
 plastic plastiki

(credit cards) kadi ya malipo
 plastic bag begi la plastiki
 plate sahani
 platform pletfomu, jukwaa
 which platform is it for Kisumu? pletfomu gani kwa treni ya Kisumu?
 play (verb) cheza
 (noun: in theatre) mchezo
 playground kiwanja cha michezo
 pleasant -a kupendeza
 please tafadhali
 yes, please ndiyo, tafadhali
 could you please ...? tafadhali, waweza ...?
 please don't tafadhali usifanye
 pleased furahika
 pleased to meet you nimefurahi kuonana nawe
 pleasure: my pleasure ni furaha yangu
 plenty: plenty of nyingi sana
 there's plenty of time tuna wakati mwingi
 that's plenty, thanks inatosha sana, asante
 plug (electrical, for car) plagi (in sink) kizibo
 plumber fundi wa mifereji
 pm*: at 4 pm saa kumi alasiri
 poached egg yai la kutokosa
 pocket mfuko
 point: two point five mbili nukta tano
 there's no point hakuna sababu

points (in car) pointi za distributa
 poisonous -enye sumu
 police polisi
 call the police! mwite polisi!



Throughout Kenya and Tanzania dial 999 for the police. They usually take

ages to arrive. In unofficial dealings, the police, especially in remote areas, can go out of their way to help you with food, transport or accommodation. Try to reciprocate. Police salaries are low and they rely on unofficial income to get by. Common ways of exciting police interest are infringement of currency laws and drug possession, either of which will land you a large fine and deportation at least – don't expect to buy yourself out of this kind of trouble. Driving offences are less serious, though being stopped at the fairly frequent road checkpoints is becoming increasingly common. It's worth knowing that some forces have speed-trap radar equipment which they set up outside towns: drive with caution as speed limits are often vague.

If stopped for speeding, don't reach into your purse: apologize, agree that it's a pity you will have to go to court, and wait to be sent on your way with a caution (court appearances are just work for all concerned). It's worth knowing that

you may be asked to produce evidence that your rented car has a PSV licence as a 'passenger service vehicle'. You should have a windscreen sticker for this and you're strongly advised to check it out with the company before you leave.

policeman polisi
 police station stesheni ya polisi
 policewoman polisi wa kike
 polite pole, taratibu
 polluted chafuka
 pony farasi mdogo
 pool (for swimming) bwawa
 poor (not rich) masikini (quality) hafifu
 pop music muziki wa kisasa
 pop singer mwimbaji wa kisasa
 popular ipendwayo na wengi
 porcupine nungu
 pork nyama ya nguruwe
 port (for boats) bandari
 porter (in hotel) bawabu
 portrait picha
 posh -a anasa
 possible yawezekana
 is it possible to ...?
 yawezekana ku ...?
 as ... as possible kwa ... iwezekanavyo
 post (noun: mail) barua (verb) tia posta
 could you post this for me?
 waweza kunitilia posta?



postal service

Stamps can be bought only at post offices and

large hotels. There are main post offices in all the towns and sub-post offices throughout the rural areas. Prepaid aerograms are the cheapest way of writing home, but they tend to sell out quickly. If you want speedy delivery to addresses abroad, pay a little extra for express. Post office opening hours are usually 8am–5pm on weekdays; larger ones are open on Saturday mornings. There is no home delivery service: mail is usually collected by addressees from their private P.O. boxes.

Mail takes a few days to Europe and perhaps ten days to North America, Australia and New Zealand; times from these places to East Africa are slightly longer. Poste restante is free, and fairly reliable in Nairobi, Mombasa, Malindi, Lamu, Arusha, Dar and Zanzibar. Have your family name marked clearly, but look under any combination of initials and be ready to show your passport. Smaller post offices will also hold mail but your correspondent should mark the letter 'To Be Collected'. Parcels can be received too, but expect to haggle over import-duty payments when they're opened. Larger post offices have fax machines – or you can use a private fax bureau, where the rate will sometimes be cheaper. Charges for

receiving faxes, however, are nominal.

- postbox** sanduku la posta
- postcard** postikadi
- postcode** postkodi
- poster** bango la tangazo
- poste restante** penye barua za wapokezi
- post office** posta
- potato** kiazi, mbatata
- potato chips** (US) krispu
- pots and pans** vyombo vya kupikia
- pottery** (objects) vyombo vya udongo
- pound** (money) pauni (weight) ratili
- power cut** kukatika kwa umeme
- power point** soketi
- practise** zoeza
 - I want to practise my Swahili nataka kujizoeza kutumia Kiswahili
- prawns** kamba
- prefer** penda zaidi
 - I prefer ... napenda zaidi ...
- pregnant** mwenye mimba
- prescription** (for medicine) cheti cha kupatia dawa
- present** (gift) zawadi
- president** (of country) rais
- pretty** nzuri
 - it's pretty expensive ni ghali sana
- price** bei
- priest** kasisi
- prime minister** waziri mkuu

printed matter vitu vilivyochapishwa
 prison jela
 private –a binafsi
 private bathroom bafu la binafsi
 probably labda
 problem tatizo
 no problem! hakuna tatizo!
 program(me) (noun) programu
 promise: I promise naahidi
 pronounce: how is this pronounced? inatamkwaje hii?
 properly (repaired, locked etc) vizuri
 protection factor (of suntan lotion) kinga
 Protestant Mprotestanati
 public convenience choo
 public holiday likizo la kitaifa



Public holidays, when all official doors are closed, are:

- 1 January (New Year's Day)
- 12 January (Zanzibar Revolution Day) (T)
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- 26 April (Union Day) (T)
- 1 May (Labour Day)
- 1 June (Madaraka Day, celebrating the granting of self-government in 1960) (K)
- 8 August (Peasants' Day) (T)
- 10 October (Moi Day) (K)
- 20 October (Kenyatta Day, the anniversary of Kenyatta's

imprisonment) (K)
 9 December (Independence Day) (T)
 12 December (Jamhuri Day, or Independence Day) (K)
 Christmas Day
 Boxing Day

pudding (dessert) pudin
 pull vuta
 pullover sweta
 puncture (noun) pancha
 purple rangi ya zambarau
 purse (for money) pochi (US: bag) mkoba
 push sukuma
 put weka
 where can I put ...? niweke wapi ...?
 could you put us up for the night? waweza kutupa malazi kwa usiku huu?
 pyjamas pajama

Q

quality sifa
 quarantine karantini
 quarter robo
 quayside: on the quayside upande wa gatini
 question swali
 queue (noun) mlolongo
 quick haraka
 be quick fanya haraka
 that was quick umefanya upesi
 what's the quickest way

there? njia gani ya kufika
 upesi kule?
 fancy a quick drink? unataka
 kinywaji kidogo?
 quickly upesi
 quiet (place, hotel) kimya
 quiet! nyamaza!
 quite (fairly) kiasi
 (very) kabisa
 that's quite right sawa kabisa
 quite a lot nyingi

R

rabbit sungura
 race (for runners, cars)
 mashindano ya mbio
 racket (tennis, squash) raketi
 radiator redieta
 radio redio
 on the radio kwenye redio
 rafting kuendesha chelezo
 rail: by rail kwa reli
 railway njia ya reli
 rain (noun) mvua
 in the rain katika mvua
 it's raining mvua inanyesha
 raincoat koti la mvua
 rainy season majira ya mvua
 rape (noun) kunajisi
 rare (uncommon) isiyo ya
 kawaida
 (steak) isiyopikika sana
 rash (on skin) upele
 raspberry rasiberi
 rat panya
 rate (for changing money) kiasi
 rather kidogo

it's rather good ni nzuri
 kidogo
 I'd rather ... ningependa ...
 razor wembe
 (electric) mashini ya
 kunyolea
 razor blades nyembe
 read soma
 ready tayari
 are you ready? uko tayari?
 I'm not ready yet si tayari
 bado

dialogue

when will it be ready?
 itakuwa tayari wakati
 gani?
 it should be ready in a
 couple of days itakuwa
 tayari mnamo siku
 chache hivi

real halisi
 really kwa kweli
 I'm really sorry nasikitika
 sana
 that's really great nzuri sana
 really? (doubt) ati kweli?
 (polite interest) ni kweli?
 rear lights taa za nyuma
 rearview mirror kioo cha
 kutazamia nyuma
 reasonable (prices etc) -a kiasi
 receipt risiti
 recently hivi karibuni
 reception (in hotel) mapokezi
 (for guests) mapokezi ya
 wageni

at reception kwenye mapokezi
 reception desk sehemu ya mapokezi
 receptionist mpokea wageni
 recognize tambua
 recommend shauri
 could you recommend ...? waweza kunishauri kuhusu ...?
 record (music) rikodi
 red -ekundu
 red wine mvinyo nyekundu
 refund (noun) kurejeshewa pesa
 can I have a refund? naweza kurejeshewa pesa?
 region mkoa
 registered: by registered mail kwa rejesta
 registration number namba ya kusajiliwa
 relative (noun) jamaa
 religion dini
 remember kumbuka
 I don't remember sikumbuki
 I remember nakumbuka
 do you remember? unakumbuka?
 rent (noun/verb) kodi
 for rent ya kukodisha

dialogue

I'd like to rent a car nataka kukodi gari
 for how long? kwa muda gani?
 two days siku mbili

this is our range magari yetu ni ya aina hii
 I'll take the ... nitachukua ...
 is that with unlimited mileage? hii ni bila ya kikomo cha maili?
 it is ndiyo
 can I see your licence, please? naweza kuona leseni yako, tafadhali?
 and your passport na pasipoti yako
 is insurance included? ni pamoja na bima?
 yes, but you pay the first 50,000 shillings ndiyo, lakini utalipa shilingi hamsini elfu kwanza
 can you leave a deposit of 70,000 shillings? unaweza kuweka rubuni ya shilingi sabini elfu?

rented car gari la kukodi
 repair (verb) tengeneza
 can you repair it? unaweza kuitengeneza?
 repeat sema tena
 could you repeat that? waweza kusema tena?
 reservation kuwekesha
 I'd like to make a reservation nataka kuwekesha chumba

dialogue

I have a reservation niliwekesha chumba

yes sir, what name please?
ndiyo Bwana, jina gani,
tafadhali?

reserve (noun: for wildlife)
mbuga ya wanyama
(verb) wekesha

dialogue

can I reserve a table for
tonight? naweza
kuwekesha meza kwa leo
usiku?

yes madam, for how many
people? ndiyo Bibi, kwa
watu wangapi?

for two kwa watu wawili
and for what time? kwa
wakati gani?

for eight o'clock saa mbili
and could I have your
name please? jina lako ni
nani, tafadhali?

see alphabet for spelling

rest (verb) pumzika
I need a rest nahitaji
kupumzika

the rest of the group
wengine katika kikundi

restaurant mkahawa
restaurant car behewa la
chakula

rest room choo (K), msalani
(T)

retired mstaafu
I'm retired nimestaafu

return (verb) rudi

a return to ... tikiti ya
kwenda na kurejea ...
return ticket tikiti ya kwenda
na kurejea

see ticket

reverse charge call malipo
kwa mpigiwa simu

reverse gear gia ya
kurudishia nyuma

revolting yachukiza

rhinoceros kifarua

rib ubavu

rice (uncooked) mchele
(cooked) wali

rich (person) tajiri

(food) enye utamu

ridiculous -a kuchekwa

riding kupanda

right (correct) sawa

(not left) kulia

you were right uliyosema ni
kweli

that's right ni kweli

this can't be right haiwezi
kuwa kweli

right! sawa!

is this the right road for ...?

hii ndiyo njia ya
kwenda ...?

on the right upande wa kulia

to the right kuelekea kulia

turn right pinda kulia

right-hand drive yenye
usukani upane wa kulia

ring (on finger) pete

I'll ring you nitakupigia simu

ring back rejeshea kupigia
simu

ripe (fruit) wiva

rip-off: it's a rip-off ni wizi mtupu
 rip-off prices bei kubwa ya udanganyifu
 risky -a hatari
 river mto
 road njia
 is this the road for ...? hii ndiyo njia ya kwenda ...?
 down the road njiani
 road accident ajali ya barabarani
 road map ramani ya njia
 rob ibia
 I've been robbed nimeibiwa vitu
 rock jabali (music) roki
 on the rocks (with ice) pamoja na barafu
 roll (bread) mkate
 roof paa
 roof rack chanja ya gari
 room chumba
 in my room katika chumba changu

dialogue

do you have any rooms?
 una nafasi ya vyumba?
 for how many people?
 kwa watu wangapi?
 for one/for two kwa mmoja/wawili
 yes, we have rooms free
 ndiyo, tuna nafasi ya vyumba
 for how many nights will it be?
 itakuwa kwa siku

ngapi?
 just for one night kwa usiku mmoja tu
 how much is it? ni bei gani?
 ... with bathroom and ... without bathroom
 ... chenye bafu na ... bila ya bafu
 can I see a room with bathroom? naweza kukiona chumba chenye bafu?
 OK, I'll take it sawa, nakitaka

room service huduma ya vyumbani
 rope kamba
 rosé (wine) mvinyo ya 'rosé'
 roughly (approximately) takriban
 round: it's my round ni zamu yangu
 round-trip ticket tikiti ya kwenda na kurejea
 a round-trip ticket to ... tikiti ya kwenda na kurejea ...
 route njia
 what's the best route? ni njia gani bora?
 rubber (material) mpira (eraser) raba
 rubber band elastiki
 rubbish (waste) takataka (poor-quality goods) ghafi
 rubbish! (nonsense) upuuzi!
 rucksack shanta
 rude jeuri

ruins magofu
 rum ramu
 rum and Coke® ramu na kokakola
 run (verb: person) kimbia
 how often do the buses run? mabasi yanakwenda mara ngapi?
 I've run out of money nimeishiwa na pesa

S

sad -a huzuni
 saddle (for horse) tandiko (for bike) kibao
 safari safari
 air safari safari kwa ndege
 balloon safari safari kwa baluni
 camel safari safari kwa ngamia
 camping safari safari ya makao kambini
 minibus safari safari kwa basi dogo



It is relatively unusual to be able to visit a national park using local transport.

Parks located close to large towns can in some instances be feasibly visited by taxi for a few hours. In a few notable cases it is also possible to hike into those national parks, where large predators are uncommon. For the big, and more remote, parks, however, there are

normally two options: self-driving, either with or without a ranger picked up at the entrance gate; or booking on an organized safari from the nearest city. Unless you are in a group, you will generally save money on an organized trip. Accommodation can be in lodges, tented camps or do-it-yourself camping at approved sites.

safe (not in danger) salama (not dangerous) -siodhuru
 safety pin pini
 sail (noun) tanga
 sailboard (noun) bao lenye tanga
 sailboarding kupanda bao lenye tanga
 salad saladi
 salad dressing viungo vya saladi
 sale: for sale inauzwa
 salmon samon
 salt chumvi
 same: the same kama
 the same as this kama hii
 the same again, please kama ile tena, tafadhali
 it's all the same to me ni mamoja kwangu
 sand mchanga
 sandals viatu vya ndara
 sandwich sadwichi
 sanitary napkins/towels milembe
 sardines sadini
 Saturday Jumamosi
 sauce sosi

saucepan sufuria
 saucer kisahani
 sauna sauna
 sausage soseji
 say (verb) sema
 how do you say ... in Swahili?
 unasemaje ... kwa
 Kiswahili?
 what did he say? alisema
 nini?
 she said ... alisema ...
 could you say that again?
 waweza kusema tena hayo?
 scarf skafu
 scenery mandhari
 schedule (US) ratiba
 scheduled flight safari kwa
 ndege ya ratiba
 school skuli (K), shule (T)
 scissors mkasi
 scooter skuta
 scorpion nge
 scotch wiski
 Scotch tape® selotepu
 Scotland Uskochi
 Scottish -a Kiskochi
 I'm Scottish mimi ni
 Mskochi
 scrambled eggs mayai ya
 kuvuruga
 scratch (noun) mkwaruzo
 sea bahari
 by the sea karibu na bahari
 seafood restaurant mkahawa
 wa viliwavyo kutoka
 baharini
 seafront eneo karibu na
 bahari
 on the seafront kwenye

eneo karibu na bahari
 search (verb) pekua
 seasick: I feel seasick nahisi
 kichefuchefu
 I get seasick huhisi
 kichefuchefu
 seaside ufukwe
 by the seaside ufukweni
 seat kiti
 is this seat taken? kiti hiki
 kina mtu?
 seat belt ukanda wa kinga
 secluded faragha
 second (adj) -a pili
 (of time) nukta, secunde
 just a second! ngoja kidogo!
 second-class (travel etc) kilasi
 ya pili
 second floor ghorofa ya pili
 (US) ghorofa ya kwanza
 second-hand
 iliokwishatumika
 see ona
 can I see? naweza kuona?
 have you seen ...?
 umeona ...?
 I saw him this morning
 nilimwona leo asubuhi
 see you! tutaonana!
 I see (I understand) naelewa
 self-service kujihudumia
 mwenyewe
 sell uza
 do you sell ...? unauza ...?
 Sellotape® selotepu
 send peleka
 I want to send this to England
 nataka kupeleka hii
 Uingereza

separate tenga	shaving foam krimu ya kunyolea
separately (pay, travel) mbalimbali	shaving point soketi ya kunyolea
September Septemba, mwezi wa tisa (T)	she* yeye
septic yenye bakteria	is she here? yupo hapa?
serious (problem, illness) -a hatari	sheet (for bed) shiti
service charge (in restaurant) malipo ya huduma	shelf rafu
service station kituo cha petroli	shellfish makome
serviette savieti	shield ngao
set menu menyu maalumu	ship meli
several kadhaa	by ship kwa meli
sew shona	shirt shati
could you sew this back on? waveza kuishonea juu ya hii?	shit! udhia gani huu!
sex (gender, activity) jinsia	shock (noun) mshtuo
sexy avutia kimapenzi	I got an electric shock from the ... umeme umenirusha kutoka ...
Seychelles visiwa vya Shelisheli	shock-absorber shokomsoba
shack banda	shocking mbaya sana
shade kivuli	shoe kiatu
in the shade kivulini	a pair of shoes jozi ya viatu
shake: let's shake hands tupeane mikono	shoelaces nyuzi za viatu
shallow (water) kina kifupi	shoe polish rangi ya viatu
shame: what a shame! inasikitisha!	shoe repairer fundi wa viatu
shampoo (noun) shampuu	shop duka
shampoo and set osha kwa shampuu na chana	shopping kwenda madukani
share (verb: room, table etc) shirikiana	I'm going shopping nakwenda kununua vitu madukani
sharp kali	see bargaining and opening hours
shattered (very tired) -choka	shopping centre eneo la maduka
shaver mashini ya kunyolea	shop window dirisha la duka
	shore (of sea, lake) ufukwe
	short -fupi
	shortcut njia ya mkato
	shorts suruali kipande

should bidi
what should I do? inanibidi nifanye nini?
you should ... inakubidi ...
you shouldn't ... usi- ...
he should be back soon anatarajiwa kurudi punde hivi
shoulder bega
shout (verb) piga kelele
show (in theatre) mchezo wa kuigiza
could you show me? waweza kunionesha?
shower (in bathroom) shawa (of rain) manyunyu
with shower yenye shawa
shower gel jeli ya kuogea
shut (verb) funga
when do you shut? unafunga wakati gani?
when does it shut? inafungwa wakati gani?
they're shut wamefunga
I've shut myself out nimejifungia nje
shut up! nyamaza!
shutter (on camera) kipenyezea mwanga (on window) pazia la vibapa
shy mwenye haya
sick (ill) -gonjwa
I'm going to be sick (vomit) nahisi kutapika
side pembeni
the other side of the street upande wa pili wa njia
side lights taa za pembeni
side salad saladi ya ziada

side street njia igusayo barabara kuu
sidewalk 'pavement'
sight: the sights of ... sehemu maarufu za ...
sightseeing kutembelea
we're going sightseeing tunakwenda kutalii sehemu maarufu
sightseeing tour ziara ya kutalii sehemu maarufu
sign (road sign etc) alama ya kuongoza
signal: he didn't give a signal (driver, cyclist) hakuashiria aendako
signature saini
signpost kiongoza njia
silence kimya
silk hariri
silly -puuzi
silver (noun) fedha
similar sawa
simple (easy) rahisi
since tangu
since last week tangu wiki iliyopita
since I got here tangu nilipofika hapa
sing imba
singer mwimbaji
single -moja
a single to ... tikiti ya kwenda tu ...
I'm single (said by man/woman) sina mke/mume
single bed kitanda cha mtu mmoja
single room chumba cha mtu

mmoja
 single ticket tikiti ya kwenda tu
 sink (in kitchen) sinki
 sisal basket kikapu cha katani
 sister dada
 sister-in-law shemegi
 sit kaa
 can I sit here? naweza kukaa hapa?
 is anyone sitting here? kuna mtu akaaye hapa?
 sit down kaa kitako
 sit down! kaa kitako!
 size saizi
 skin ngozi
 skin diving kuzamia mbizi
 skinny mwembamba
 skirt skati (K), sketi (T)
 sky mbingu
 sleep (verb) lala
 did you sleep well? ulilala vyema?
 sleeper (on train) treni yenye vitanda
 sleeping bag fuko la kulalia
 sleeping car behewa la kulala
 sleeping pill dawa ya usingizi
 sleepy: I'm feeling sleepy nahisi usingizi
 sleeve mkono wa vazi
 slide (photographic) slaidi
 slip (garment) shimizi
 slippery -enye kuteleza
 slow polepole
 slow down! (driving) punguza spidi!
 slowly polepole

very slowly polepole sana
 could you speak more slowly? sema polepole zaidi
 small -dogo
 smell (noun) harufu
 it smells (smells bad) inanuka
 smile (verb) tabasamu
 smoke (noun) moshi
 do you mind if I smoke? utaudhika nikivuta sigara?
 I don't smoke sivuti sigara
 do you smoke? unavuta sigara?
 snack vitafunio
 just a snack vitafunio tu



Snacks include samosas, chapatis, miniature kebabs, roasted corn cobs, **mandaazi** (sweet, puffy, deep-fried dough cakes) and **mkate mayai** (Kenyan egg-bread: light wheat-flour pancake wrapped around fried eggs and minced meat). In Tanzania, **mkate wa mayai** is a sweet bread made from flour, eggs and sugar (without the minced meat).

snake nyoka
 sneeze (noun) chafya
 snorkel kivutia hewa majini
 snorkelling kuzamia mbizi



If you plan to do a fair bit of snorkelling, try to bring your own mask and snorkel. They aren't highly expensive, or particularly heavy, and

you'll benefit from having equipment that fits and works, and save money you'd otherwise spend renting it. Don't forget that, although certain parts of the coast have exceptional stretches of reef, you can have a rewarding dip almost anywhere.

snow (noun) theluji
it's snowing theluji
 inaanguka
so: it's so good ni nzuri sana
it's so expensive ni ghali
 sana
not so much si nyingi
not so bad si mbaya
so am I, so do I na mimi pia
so-so kwa kiasi tu
soaking solution (for contact lenses) dawa ya kusafishia
soap sabuni
soap powder sabuni ya unga
soapstone ulanga
sober makini
sock soksi
socket (electrical) soketi
soda (water) soda
sofa sofa
soft (material etc) laini
soft-boiled egg yai laini la kuchemsha
soft drink soda, vinywaji baridi



Soft drinks are usually very cheap and crates of Coke, Fanta and Sprite find their way to the wildest corners of East Africa. Krest, a bitter lemon,

is very pleasant. Krest also make a ginger ale but it's watery and insipid; instead go for Stoney's, which has more of a punch. Sometimes you can get Vimto, which is supposed to do you some good, and occasionally plain soda water. There are fresh fruit juices available in the towns, especially on the coast. Passionfruit, the cheapest, is excellent. Some places serve a variety: you'll sometimes find carrot juice and even tiger milk – from tiger (**chufa**) nuts.

soft lenses lenzi laini
sole (of foot) unyayo
 (of shoe) soli
could you put new soles on these? waweza kuvitia soli mpya hivi?
Somali (adj) -a Kisomali
Somalia Somalia
some kidogo
can I have some water/rolls? naweza kupata maji/vikuto vya mkate?
can I have some? naweza kupata kidogo?
somebody, someone mtu
something kitu
something to eat kitu cha kula
sometimes mara nyingine
somewhere mahali
son mtoto wa kiume
song wimbo
son-in-law mkwe
soon punde

I'll be back soon nitarudi punde hivi
 as soon as possible kwa haraka iwezekanavyo
 sore: it's sore inauma
 sore throat maumivu ya koo
 sorry: (I'm) sorry samahani
 sorry? (didn't understand/hear) samahani?



'Pole' is a warm and peculiarly Swahili expression, conveying sympathy and regret (I'm sorry to hear that), rather than an apology. If you trip in the street, spill your drink, lose a bag or miss a train, you may hear 'pole' from someone nearby.

sort: what sort of ...? ... -a namna gani?
 soup supu
 sour (taste) kali
 south kusini
 in the south kusini
 South Africa Afrika ya Kusini
 South African (adj) -a Afrika ya Kusini
 I'm South African mimi ni raia wa Afrika ya Kusini
 southeast kusini mashariki
 southern -a kusini
 southwest kusini magharibi
 souvenir kikumbusho
 Spain Hispania
 Spanish (adj) -a Hispania
 spanner spana
 spare part spea
 spare tyre tairi ya spea

spark plug plagi
 speak sema
 speak: do you speak English? unasema Kiingereza?
 I don't speak ... sisemi ...
 can I speak to ...? naweza kusema na ...?

dialogue

can I speak to Maisara?
 naweza kusema na Maisara?
 who's calling? ni nani wewe?
 it's Patricia ni Patricia
 I'm sorry, he's not in, do you want to leave a message? samahani, hayupo, unataka kuwacha maagizo?
 no thanks, I'll call back later hapana asante, nitampiga simu tena baadaye
 please tell him I called tafadhali mwambie nilipiga simu

spear mkuki
 spectacles miwani
 speed (noun) spidi
 speed limit kikomo cha spidi
 speedometer spidometa
 spell: how do you spell it? unaiandikaje?
 see alphabet
 spend tumia
 spider buibui



spirits

Kenya Cane (white rum) and **Kenya Gold** (a gooey, coffee-flavoured liqueur) deserve a try perhaps, but they are expensive and nothing special.

You won't often find cocktails except in more expensive hotels and restaurants. One Kenyan mix to try, cautiously, is a **dawa** ('medicine') – vodka, white rum, honey and lime juice.

There's a battery of laws against home-brewing and distilling – perhaps because of the loss of revenue in taxes on legal booze. On the coast, where the coconuts grow, merely lopping off the growing shoot produces a naturally fermented palm wine (**tembo**). Though there's usually a furtive discretion about **pombe** (locally made beer) or tembo sessions, nobody ever seems to get busted. Not so with spirits. Think twice before accepting a mug of **chang'aa**: it's treacherous firewater, and is also frequently contaminated, regularly killing drinking parties en masse. Sentences for distilling and possessing chang'aa are harsh, and police raids common.

splinter kibanzi
spoke (in wheel) spoki
spoon kijiko
sport michezo
sprain: I've sprained
 my ... nimetenguka ...
spring (season) majira ya

chipuko
 (of car, seat) springi
in the spring katika majira ya chipuko
square (in town) uwanja
stairs ngazi
stale -hiochacha
stall: the engine keeps stalling
 ingini inazimika moto kila mara
stamp (noun) stempu

dialogue

a stamp for England,
 please stempu kwa kupelekea Uingereza, tafadhali
 what are you sending?
 unapeleka nini?
 this postcard postikadi hii

standby kutumika inapohitajika
star nyota
 (in film) mchezaji maarufu
start (noun) mwanzo
 (verb) anza
when does it start? inaanza wakati gani?
the car won't start gari haishiki stati
starter (of car) stata
 (food) kianzio
starving: I'm starving nina njaa sana
state (country) nchi
the States (USA) Marekani
station stesheni

statue sanamu	stone (rock) jiwe
stay kaa	stop (verb) simamisha
where are you staying?	please, stop here (to taxi driver
unakaa wapi?	etc) simamisha hapa,
I'm staying at ... nakaa ...	tafadhali
I'd like to stay another two	do you stop near ...?
nights nataka kukaa siku	utasimamisha karibu na ...?
mbili zaidi	stop it! usifanye hivyo!
steak steki	stopover kituo cha
steal iba	mapumziko
my bag has been stolen begi	storm dhoruba
langu limeibiwa	straight (whisky etc) kavu
steep (upwards) -a kuinuka	it's straight ahead ni moja
ghafla	kwa moja
(downwards) -a kuteremka	straight away papo hapo
ghafla	strange (odd) -geni
steering kutumia usukani	stranger mgeni
steinbok dondoo	I'm a stranger here mimi ni
step: on the steps juu ya	mgeni hapa
ngazi	strap ukanda
sterling sarafu ya Kiingereza	strawberry strobari
steward (on plane)	stream mto
mhudumiaji	street njia
stewardess mhudumiaji wa	on the street njiani
kike	street map ramani ya njia
still (adverb) bado	string uzi
I'm still here niko hapa bado	strong (person) mwenye
is he still there? yuko kule	nguvu
bado?	(taste, drink) kali
keep still! tulia!	stuck kwama
sting (noun) mchomo	it's stuck imekwama
(verb) uma	student mwanafunzi
I've been stung nimeumwa	stupid mjinga
stockings soksi ndefu	suburb kiunga
stomach tumbo	Sudan Sudan
stomach ache maumivu ya	Sudanese (adj) -a Sudan
tumbo	suddenly kwa ghafula
stomach upset kusokotwa	suede -a ngozi
tumbo	sugar sukari

suit (noun) suti
it doesn't suit me (jacket etc) hainifai
it suits you inakufaa
suitcase begi
summer majira ya joto
in the summer katika majira ya joto
sun jua
in the sun kwenye mwanga wa jua
out of the sun pasipo mwangaza wa jua



Probably the most important health concern is the sun. On the equator, even if the altitude keeps temperatures down, the effect of half an hour's ultra-violet on delicate skin can be severe. A hat and sunglasses are strongly recommended. Keep children thoroughly smothered in factor 40 and insist they wear hats. They should also wear T-shirts when swimming, and especially if snorkelling.

Many people get occasional heat rashes, especially at first. A warm shower, to open the pores, and cotton clothes should help. Some people sweat heavily and lose a lot of salt. If this applies to you, sprinkle extra salt on your food.

sunbathe ota jua
sunblock (cream) krimu ya kuhifadhi ngozi
sunburn kubabuka kwa jua

sunburnt -liobabuka kwa jua
Sunday Jumapili
sunglasses miwani ya jua
sun lounger (chair for lying on) kiti cha kuotea jua
sunny: it's sunny kuna jua
sunroof (in car) kidirisha kwenye paa
sunset kuchwa kwa jua
sunshade mwavuli mkubwa
sunshine mwanga wa jua
sunstroke kuathiriwa na jua
suntan kugeuzwa rangi na jua
suntan lotion losheni ya kujikinga na jua
suntanned -geuka rangi kwa jua
suntan oil mafuta ya kujikinga na jua
super bora kabisa
supermarket supamaket
supper chakula cha jioni
supplement (extra charge) nyongeza
sure hakika
are you sure? una hakika?
sure! hakika!
surface mail barua zitumwazo kikawaida
surname jina la ukoo
sweater sweta
sweatshirt fulana
Sweden Sweden
Swedish (adj) -a Kiswidi
sweet (taste) tamu (noun: dessert) kimaliziamlo
sweets peremende
swelling uvimbe

swim (verb) ogelea
 I'm going for a swim
 nakwenda kuogelea
 let's go for a swim twende
 kuogelea
 swimming costume nguo ya
 kuogelea
 swimming pool bwawa la
 kuogelea
 swimming trunks suruali ya
 kuogelea
 switch (noun) swichi
 switch off zima
 switch on washa
 swollen -liovimba

T

table meza
 a table for two meza ya watu
 wawili
 tablecloth kitambaa cha
 mezani
 table tennis tenis ya mezani
 tailback (of traffic) msogamano
 tailor mshoni
 take (verb: lead) chukua
 (accept) pokea
 can you take me to the ...?
 waweza kunipeleka kwa ...?
 do you take credit cards?
 nikulipe kwa kadi ya
 malipo?
 fine, I'll take it sawa, lipa
 can I take this? (leaflet etc)
 naweza kuchukua hii?
 how long does it take?
 inachukua muda gani?

it takes three hours
 inachukua saa tatu
 is this seat taken? kiti hiki
 kina mtu?
 hamburger to take away
 hambaga ya kuchukua nje
 can you take a little off here?
 (to hairdresser) waweza
 kupunguza kidogo hapa?
 talcum powder podari
 talk (verb) sema
 tall -refu
 tampons visodo
 tan (noun) hudhurungi
 to get a tan geuka
 hudhurungi kwa jua
 tank (of car) tangi
 Tanzania Tanzania
 Tanzanian (adj) -a Kitanzania
 (noun) Mtanzania
 tap mfereji
 tape (for cassette) tepu
 tape measure utepe wa
 kupimia
 tape recorder tepurekoda
 tap water maji ya mfereji
 taste (noun) ladha
 can I taste it? naweza
 kuonja?
 taxi tekisi
 will you get me a taxi?
 waweza kuniitia tekisi?
 where can I find a taxi?
 nitapata tekisi wapi?

dialogue

to the airport/to
 the ... Hotel, please

nipeleke uwanja wa ndege/hoteli ya ..., tafadhali

how much will it be? ni kiasi gani?

it will be 8,000 shillings ni shilingi elfu nane
that's fine right here,
thanks sawa, chukua,
asante



Shared taxis, including Peugeots and Japanese minibuses, are a faster

and usually more expensive alternative to buses, and can be both dangerous and a good introduction to local people. Peugeot taxis usually drive directly from one point to another with a full complement of passengers. This should consist of one passenger in the front (who sometimes pays a supplement), three in the middle and three in the back. Any more and they're overloaded and are likely to be stopped by the police all along the route. Beware of being used as bait by the driver to encourage passengers to choose his car. Competition is intense and people will try to persuade you the vehicle is going 'just now'. Always choose a vehicle that's full and about to leave or you'll have to wait inside until they are ready to go – sometimes for hours. In particular, don't hand over any money before you've left town – this isn't a question of being ripped

off (though discreetly noting the licence plate is never a bad idea), but too often the first departure is just a cruise around town rounding up passengers and buying petrol (with your money) and then back to square one. If your destination doesn't lie on a standard shared taxi route, or if you don't want to wait for a car to fill up (or, indeed, if you just want to travel in style), drivers will happily negotiate a price for the rental of their whole car. This will probably be the same as the sum total of the fares they would receive from a full complement of paying passengers. Town taxis are not metered and you should agree the fare before setting off. Like all public transport, fares are in most cases fixed by law or common agreement, but you can still be over-charged, especially for your baggage.

see bus

taxi-driver dereva wa tekisi

taxi rank kituo cha tekisi

tea (drink) chai

tea for one/two, please cha kwa mtu mmoja/watu wawili, tafadhali



Tea is universally drunk at breakfast and as a pick-me-up at any time. It's somewhat different from the classic British brew: milk, water, lots of sugar and tea leaves, brought to the boil in a kettle and served scalding hot.

teabags vifuko vya majani
 ya chai
 teach somesha
 could you teach me?
 waweza kunisomesha?
 teacher mwalimu
 team timu
 tea shop duka la chai
 teaspoon kijiko cha chai
 tea towel kitambaa cha
 kukaushia vyombo
 teenager kijana
 telegram telegramu
 telephone simu
 see phone
 television televisheni
 tell ambia
 could you tell him ...?
 waweza kumwambia ...?
 temperature (weather) hali ya
 hewa
 (fever) homa
 tent hema
 term (at university, school)
 muhula
 terminus (rail) stesheni ya
 mwisho
 terrible -baya sana
 terrific -zuri sana
 than* kuliko
 smaller than ndogo kuliko
 thank: thank you, thanks
 asante
 thank you very much asante
 sana
 thanks for the lift asante kwa
 kunipa 'lift'
 no thanks la asante

dialogue

thanks asante
 that's OK, don't mention it
 si kitu, ni sawa tu
 that*: I hope that ... natumai
 kwamba ...
 that's nice ni vyema
 is that ...? -le ni ...?
 that's it (that's right) ndivyo
 hasa
 the* no equivalent
 theatre thieta
 their* -ao
 theirs* -ao
 them* wao
 for them kwa ajili yao
 with them pamoja nao
 to them kwa wao
 who? – them nani? – wao
 then (at that time) wakati huo
 (after that) baada ya hapo
 there kule
 over there kule
 up there huko
 is there ...?, are there ...?
 kuna ...?
 there is ..., there
 are ... kuna ...
 there you are (giving something)
 haya chukua
 thermometer kipimajoto
 Thermos® flask thamosi
 these*
 they* wao
 thick -nene
 (stupid) mjinga
 thief mwizi



If you're the victim of a snatch-and-run robbery in a city street, don't shout '**mwizi!**' unless you want the item back enough to risk the life of the mugger. He will usually be set upon immediately by passers-by and severely kicked and beaten.

thigh paja
thin -embamba
thing kitu
my things vitu vyangu
think fikiri
I think so nafikiria hivyo
I don't think so sifikirii
I'll think about it nitafikiria
third party insurance bima ya gari
thirsty -enye kiu
I'm thirsty nina kiu
this*: this is my wife huyu nike wangu
is this ...? hii ni ...?
those*
thread (noun) uzi
throat koo
throat pastilles vidonge vya dawa ya koo
through kupitia
does it go through ...? (train, bus) inapitia ...?
throw (verb) rucha
throw away tupa
thumb kidole gumba
thunderstorm mvua ya radi
Thursday Alhamisi
ticket tikiti (K), tiketi (T)

dialogue

a return to Dodoma tikiti ya kwenda na kurudi Dodoma
coming back when? utarudi lini?
today/next Tuesday leo/Jumanne ijayo
that will be 40,000 shillings utalipa shilingi arobaini elfu

ticket office (bus, rail) ofisi ya tikiti
tie (necktie) tai
tight (clothes etc) inabana
it's too tight inanibana sana
tights soksi ndefu
till (cash desk) deski la keshia
time* wakati, saa
what's the time? ni saa ngapi?
this time wakati huu
last time mara ya mwisho
next time mara nyingine
three times mara tatu



'Swahili time' runs from dawn to dusk to dawn rather than midnight to midday to midnight. 7am and 7pm are both **saa moja** (one o'clock) while midnight and midday are **saa sita** (six o'clock). It is not as confusing as it first sounds – just add or subtract six hours to work out Swahili time (or read the opposite side of your watch).

Trains nearly always leave right on time; buses often have punctual departures as well. In more remote areas, though, if a driver tells you he's going somewhere 'today', it doesn't necessarily mean he expects to arrive today.

timetable ratiba

tin (can) kopo (K), mkebe (T)

tin-opener kifugulia mkebe

tiny -dogo sana

tip (to waiter etc) tipu (K),

bahashishi (T)



The main difficulty with the concept of the tip is that it tends to be lumped

together with the concept of the bribe. You are presumed to be the wealthy tourist who should be free with his or her money at every opportunity, whether the service performed is already being paid for by wages or not. Remember that menial or service industry workers are likely to be paid low wages, so giving a dollar is a very big tip, even if it may not buy much. On organized safaris, tips provide a large proportion of the staff's income, and most companies publish indicators of how much you should give, with every member of the group expected to contribute a daily rate to each member of staff. Be prepared for this. A few other hints: you don't need to tip taxi-drivers or when using public transport; tip waiters 10

per cent in Western-style restaurants (where they may not be paid any wages); tip porters at stations and hotels a few pence per item of luggage; and tip everyone else only when you have agreed the service to be provided.

tired -choka

I'm tired nimechoka

tissues tishu

to hadi, mpaka

to Malindi mpaka Malindi

to Zanzibar mpaka Zanzibar

to the post office mpaka

posta

toast (bread) tosti

today leo

toe kidole cha mguu

together pamoja

we're together (in shop etc)

tuko pamoja

toilet choo (K), msalani (T)

where is the toilet? choo

kiko wapi?

I have to go to the toilet

nataka kwenda msalani



Carry toilet paper – which you can buy in most places – as few cheap hotels provide it. Town public toilets (**wanawake** women, **wanaume** men) are invariably unhygienic. Public buildings and hotels are unlikely to turn you away if you ask.

toilet paper karatasi za

chooni

tomato nyanya
 tomato juice juisi ya nyanya
 tomato ketchup kechapu
 tomb kaburi
 tomorrow kesho
 tomorrow morning kesho asubuhi
 the day after tomorrow kesho kutwa
 toner (cosmetic) rangi ya pambo
 tongue ulimi
 tonic (water) tonik
 tonight leo usiku
 tonsillitis maumivu ya kooni
 too (excessively) sana (also) pia
 too hot (weather) joto sana (tea) i moto sana
 too much nyingi sana
 me too mimi pia
 tooth jino
 toothache maumivu ya jino
 toothbrush mswaki
 toothpaste dawa ya meno
 top juu
 on top of ... juu ya ...
 at the top juu
 top floor ghorofa ya juu kabisa
 topless matiti wazi
 torch tochi
 total (noun) jumla
 tour (noun) safari ya utalii
 is there a tour of ...? kuna safari ya utalii kwenda ...?
 tour guide mtembezaji watalii

tourist mtalii
 tourist information office ofisi ya utalii
 tour operator kampuni ya utalii
 towards kuelekea
 towel taulo, taula
 town mji
 in town mjini
 just out of town nje kidogo ya mji
 town centre katikati ya mji
 town hall ofisi ya baraza la mji
 toy kitu cha kuchezea
 track pletfomu, jukwaa
 which track is it for Kisumu? pletfomu gani kwa treni ya Kisumu?
 traditional -a mila
 traffic magari barabarani
 traffic jam msogamano wa magari
 traffic lights taa ziongozazo magari
 trailer (for carrying tent etc) trela
 train treni
 by train kwa treni

dialogue

is this the train for Voi? hii ndiyo treni ya kwendea Voi?
 sure ndiyo
 no, you want that platform there siyo, unahitaji pletfomu ile pale



The Uhuru Railway, linking Tanzania and Zambia, passes through one of the most spectacular highland areas of southern Tanzania. It passes through Mikumi National Park, and cuts across the World Heritage site of Selous Game Reserve, which is the largest in Africa, and crosses gorges and rivers on hundreds of bridges on its way to Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia. Tickets can be bought at the TAZARA station in Dar es Salaam.

Another one of the famous railway journeys is the Nairobi–Mombasa run. The trains run once a day in each direction, leaving with perfect punctuality at 7pm (that is, 1 o'clock Swahili time), and arriving any time between 8 and 10am (2 and 4 o'clock Swahili time) the following morning.

It's important to make reservations for these trains, especially if you want a first-class compartment. While it may be fine to leave this until a couple of hours before departure during the low season, it's advisable to reserve well in advance if you plan to travel during the Christmas and New Year period. Ticket offices at the stations are open mornings and afternoons, and will take reservations weeks ahead. Travel agents will usually do the work for you, sometimes for a fairly hefty supplement. A number of overseas agents will handle first-

class train reservations, too, though you can expect to pay a little more. To travel first-class, you have to take a private two-berth compartment. Second-class compartments are shared by four people and are single-sex, though, with the consent of the occupants, this can sometimes be disregarded. The third-class carriages have seats rather than bunks.

The first- and second-class fares include pre-paid dinner, breakfast and bedding vouchers. An attendant will make up your bed while you are in the dining car for dinner, and will clear the bedding away during breakfast. Both dinner and breakfast are hearty cooked meals, and eating in the dining car is an experience in itself, but don't expect haute cuisine. Wine, beer and soft drinks cost extra. If you buy your ticket from Kenya Railways direct, you can elect to pay just for your berth.

trainers (shoes) viatu vya riadha

train station stesheni ya reli

translate tafsiri, fasiri
could you translate that?
waweza kutafsiri hii?

translation tafsiri

translator mfasiri

trash takataka

trash can pipa la taka

travel (noun) safari
(verb) safiri

we're travelling around

tunatembelea sehemu
mbalimbali
travel agent's ofisi ya wakala
wa usafiri
traveller's cheque cheki ya
safari
tray trei
tree mti
tremendous -zuri sana
trendy -a mtindo wa kisasa
trim: just a trim, please (to
hairdresser) unipunguze
nywele kidogo tu, tafadhali
trip (excursion) safari ya
matembezi
I'd like to go on a trip
to ... nataka kutembelea ...
trolley toroli
trouble (noun) shida
I'm having trouble
with ... nina shida na ...



There are still places in East Africa where you can leave an unattended tent for the day and find it untouched when you return in the evening. And there are a few spots where walking alone after dark is almost guaranteed to get you mugged. As a general rule, though, you have a far higher chance of being a victim in touristy areas. In these areas, never leave anything unguarded even for 15 seconds, never take out cameras or other valuables unless absolutely necessary, and be careful where you walk, at least until you've stowed

your luggage and you're settled in somewhere. It's best not to carry a bag, particularly not the little day-pack over your shoulder, which will virtually identify you as a tourist.

trousers suruali
true kweli
that's not true hayo si kweli
trunk (US: of car) buti
trunks (swimming) suruali ya
kuogelea
try (verb) jaribu
can I try it? (food) naweza
kuonja?
try on jaribu
can I try it on? naweza
kuijaribu?
T-shirt fulana
Tuesday Jumanne
tuna 'tuna', jodari
tunnel njia ya chini kwa
chini
turn: turn left/right pinda
kushoto/kulia
turn off (TV, appliance etc) zima
where do I turn off? nigeuze
njia wapi?
turn on (TV, appliance etc) washa
turning (in road) kona
TV televisheni
twice mara mbili
twice as much mara mbili
zaidi
twin beds vitanda viwili
pacha
twin room chumba cha watu
wawili
twist: I've twisted my ankle

nimeteguka kifundo cha mguu
type (noun) aina
 another type of ... aina nyingine ya ...
typhoid homa ya matumboni
typical -a kufanana
tyre tairi

U

Uganda Uganda
Ugandan (adj) -a Kiganda
ugly -baya
UK Uingereza
ulcer kidonda
umbrella mwavuli
uncle mjomba
unconscious -poteza fahamu
under (in position) chini (less than) chini ya
underdone (meat) iliyoiva kidogo
underpants chupi
understand: I understand naelewa
I don't understand sielewi
do you understand? unaelewa?
unemployed asiye na kazi
unfashionable isio ya kisasa
United States Marekani, Amerika
university chuo kikuu
unleaded petrol isiyo na 'lead'
unlimited mileage maili bila ya kikomo
unlock fungua

unpack fungua mizigo
until mpaka
unusual isiyo ya kawaida
up juu
up there kule juu
he's not up yet (not out of bed) hajaamka bado
what's up? (what's wrong?) kuna nini?
upmarket -a hali ya juu
upset stomach kusokotwa na tumbo
upside down juu chini
upstairs juu
up-to-date -a kisasa
urgent haraka
us* sisi
with us pamoja nasi
for us yetu
USA Marekani, Amerika
use (verb) tumia
may I use ...? naweza kutumia ...?
useful -enye kufaa
usual kawaida
the usual (drink etc) kama kawaida

V

vacancy: do you have any vacancies? (hotel) kuna nafasi?
see room
vacation (from university) likizo
on vacation likizoni
vaccination kuchanja
vacuum cleaner mashine ya

kufagilia
valid yatumika
 how long is it valid for?
 yatumika kwa muda gani?
valley bonde
valuable -ya thamani
 can I leave my valuables
 here? naweza kuweka hapa
 vitu vyangu vya thamani?
value (noun) thamani
van gari la mizigo
vanilla vanila
 a vanilla ice cream aiskrimu
 ya vanila
vary: it varies yabadilika
vase jaji
veal nyama ya ndama
vegetables mboga
vegetarian (noun) asiyekula
 nyama
very sana
very little for me nataka
 kidogo sana
 I like it very much naipenda
 sana
vest (under shirt) fulana
via kupitia
video (film) video
 (recorder) videorikoda
view mandhari
village kijiji
vinegar siki
visa viza



It's important to know just how long a stay you've been granted in Tanzania or Kenya. There have been a number of cases of travellers overstaying the

limits of their visas or visitors' passes by a few days and finding themselves invited to spend the night behind bars while a suitable fine was discussed. Ask what's been stamped when you arrive and renew well in advance. You will certainly have to renew after three months.

visit (verb) tembelea
 I'd like to visit ... nataka kutembelea ...
vital: it's vital that ... ni muhimu kwamba ...
vodka vodka
voice sauti
volcano volkano
voltage volteji
vomit tapika

W

waist kiuno
waistcoat kizibao
wait ngoja
wait for me ningojee
don't wait for me usiningojee
can I wait until my wife/partner gets here? naweza kungoja mpaka mke wangu/mwenzangu aje?
can you do it while I wait? waweza kutengeneza nikingoja?
could you wait here for me? waweza kuningojea hapa?
waiter/waitress mhudumiaji



It is quite acceptable for a man to hiss to attract a waiter's attention in

Kenya. Similarly, you won't raise any eyebrows by doing the same to attract the attention of any child or teenager hanging around, if you want to ask directions, find somebody, or get them to bring something to your car (a drink from a roadside shack, a newspaper from a vendor), so long as the service is modestly rewarded. In Tanzania, hissing is not acceptable. Men can either raise their hand, but not the forefinger, to attract the attention of the waiter, or use the Swahili word 'ndugu' (brother), 'samahani!' (excuse me!) or the English 'hello!'. The best way for a woman to attract the attention of a waiter or other person is to use 'hello!', whether in Kenya or Tanzania.

wake: can you wake me up at 5.30? waweza kuniamsha saa kumi na moja u nusu?

wake-up call kuamsha kwa simu

Wales 'Wales'

walk tembea

is it a long walk? ni mbali sana?

it's only a short walk ni karibu tu

I'll walk nitakwenda kwa miguu

I'm going for a walk nakwenda kutembea

walking kutembea

Walkman® 'stereo' ya binafsi

wall ukuta

wallet kikoba

wander: I like just wandering around nataka kuzurura tu
want taka

I want a ... nataka ...

I don't want any sitaki chochote

I want to go home nataka kwenda nyumbani

I don't want to sitaki

he wants to ... anataka ...

what do you want? unataka nini?

ward (in hospital) wadi

warm -enye joto

I'm so warm nahisi joto

warthog ngiri

was* -likuwa

he was, she was alikuwa

it was ilikuwa

wash (verb) osha

can you wash these?

waweza kuosha hizi?

washer (for bolt etc) washa

washhand basin beseni la kunawia

washing (clothes) nguo za kufuliwa

washing machine mashine ya kufulia

washing powder sabuni ya unga

washing-up: to do the

washing-up kuosha vyombo

washing-up liquid sabuni ya majimaji

wasp nyigu
 watch (wristwatch) saa
 will you watch my things for me? waweza kuangalia vitu vyangu?
 watch out! jihadhari!
 watch strap ukanda wa saa
 water maji
 may I have some water?
 naweza kupata maji?



In most places in East Africa the tap water can safely be drunk, but since bad water is the most likely cause of diarrhoea, you should be fairly cautious about drinking rain or well water. It can't do any harm, except to your purse, to drink bottled water only, but it can mean you don't drink enough, especially on long, hot journeys. If you're only staying a short time, it makes sense to purify your drinking water with tablets or iodine. For longer stays, you should think of re-educating your stomach rather than fortifying it; it's virtually impossible to travel around the region without exposing yourself to strange bugs from time to time.

waterfall maporomoko ya maji
 waterproof (adj) -siopenya maji
 waterskiing skii ya majini
 wave (in sea) mawimbi
 way: it's this way ni njia hii

it's that way ni njia ile
 is it a long way to ...? ni mbali kwenda ...?
 no way! la hashah!

dialogue

could you tell me the way to ...? waweza kunielekeza njia ya ...?
 go straight on until you reach the traffic lights nenda moja kwa moja mpaka taa ziongozazo magari
 turn left pinda kushoto
 take the first on the right fuata njia ya kwanza kulia
 see where?

we* sisi
 weak dhafu
 weather hali ya hewa

dialogue

what's the weather forecast? hali ya hewa imetabiriwa vipi?
 it's going to be fine itakuwa ni njema
 it's going to rain kutakuwa na mvua
 it'll brighten up later kutatanzuka baadaye

wedding harusi
 wedding ring pete ya ndoa

Wednesday Jumatano
 week wiki
 a week (from) today wiki
 moja kuanzia leo
 a week (from) tomorrow wiki
 moja kuanzia kesho
 weekend wikiendi
 at the weekend wikiendi
 weight uzito
 weird -a ajabu
 welcome: welcome
 to ... karibu kwa ...
 you're welcome (don't mention
 it) unakaribishwa, tafadhali
 well (noun: for water) kisima
 well vizuri
 I don't feel well sijihisi vizuri
 she's not well hajihisi vizuri
 you speak English very well
 unasema Kiingereza vizuri
 sana
 well done! hongera!
 this one as well na hii pia
 well well! (surprise) ahaa!

dialogue

how are you? hujambo?
 very well, thanks, and you?
 sijambo, asante, je wewe?

well-done (meat) iliyoiva
 vyema
 Welsh -a Kiwelsh
 I'm Welsh mimi ni Mwelsh
 were* -likuwa
 we were tulikuwa
 you were ulikuwa
 they were walikuwa

west magharibi
 in the west magharibi
 western ya magharibi
 West Indian (adj) -a 'West
 Indies'
 wet -a majimaji
 what? nini?
 what's that? hiyo nini?
 what should I do? nifanye
 nini?
 what a view! mandhari ya
 kupendeza!
 what bus do I take? nipande
 basi gani?
 wheel gurudumu
 wheelchair kiti cha
 magurudumu
 when? lini?
 when we get back
 tutakaporudi
 when's the train/ferry?
 wakati gani kuna
 treni/feri?
 where? wapi?
 I don't know where it is sijui
 iliko

dialogue

where is the museum?
 jumba la makumbusho
 liko wapi?
 it's over there liko kule
 could you show me where
 it is on the map? waweza
 kunionesha liliko katika
 ramani?
 it's just here liko hapa
 see way

which? -pi
 which bus? basi lipi?

dialogue

which one? ipi?
 that one ile
 this one? hii?
 no, that one hapana, ile

while: while I'm here
 ninapokuwa hapa
 whisky wiski
 white -eupe
 white wine mvinyo nyeupe
 who? nani?
 who is it? nani?
 the man who ... yule mtu
 ambaye ...
 whole -ote
 the whole lot yote
 the whole week wiki
 nzima
 whose? ya nani?
 whose is this? hii ya nani?
 why? kwa nini?
 why not? kwa nini isiwe
 hivyo?
 wide pana
 wife mke
 my wife mke wangu
 wild -a mwituni
 wildebeest nyumbu
 wildlife park mbuga ya
 wanyama
 will*: will you do it for me?
 utanifanyia?
 wind (noun) upepo
 window dirisha

near the window karibu na
 dirisha
 in the window (of shop)
 dirishani
 window seat kiti cha
 dirishani
 windscreen kioo cha mbele
 garini
 windscreen wiper waipa
 windsurfing kupanda chelezo
 cha tanga
 windy -a upepo mwingi
 wine mvinyo
 can we have some more
 wine? twaweza kupata
 mvinyo zaidi?



Papaya wine is available in medium or dry, white and rosé, and is an acquired taste, but it's one you might acquire quickly; the stuff is potent and much cheaper than imported wine. A whole range of fruity wines has recently appeared, including passionfruit and mango. There are also several quite drinkable wines made from Tanzanian grapes in Dodoma and white wines made from Kenyan grapes, notably the products of Naivasha Wineries. Reasonably priced South African wine is also widely available.

wine list orodha ya mvinyo
 winter majira ya baridi
 in the winter katika majira ya
 baridi

wire waya
 wish: best wishes nakutakia
 mema
 with pamoja na
 I'm staying with ... nakaa
 pamoja na ...
 without bila
 witness shahidi
 will you be a witness for me?
 waweza kuwa shahidi
 wangu?
 woman mwanamke



women

Women, whether travelling alone or together, may come across occasional persistent hasslers but seldom much worse. Universal rules apply: if you suspect ulterior motives, turn down all offers and stonily refuse to converse, though you needn't fear expressing your anger if that's how you feel. You will, eventually, be left alone.

wonderful -zuri sana
 won't* hai-
 it won't start (car) haishiki
 moto
 wood (material) mbao
 woods (forest) msitu
 wool sufu
 word neno
 work (noun) kazi
 (verb) fanya kazi
 it's not working haifanyi kazi
 I work in ... nafanya kazi
 katika ...

world dunia
 worry wasiwasi
 I'm worried nina wasiwasi
 worse -baya zaidi
 it's worse ni mbaya zaidi
 worst -baya kabisa
 worth: is it worth visiting?
 inafaa kutembelea?
 would: would you give this
 to ...? waweza kumpa
 hii ...?
 wrap: could you wrap it up?
 waweza kunifungia hii?
 wrapping paper karatasi ya
 kufungia vitu
 wrist kifundo cha mkono
 write andika
 could you write it down?
 waweza kuiandika?
 how do you write it?
 unaiandikaje?
 writing paper karatasi ya
 kuandikia
 wrong: it's the wrong key ni
 ufuguo usiofaa
 this is the wrong train hii
 siyo treni itakiwayo
 the bill's wrong bili hii ina
 makosa
 sorry, wrong number
 samahani, nimekosea
 namba
 sorry, wrong room samahani,
 nimekosea chumba
 there's something wrong
 with ... kuna hitilafu
 katika ...
 what's wrong? kuna makosa
 gani?

X

X-ray eksirei

Y

yacht yoti

yard yadi

year mwaka

yellow -a kimanjano

yellow fever homa ya

manjano

yes ndiyo

yesterday jana

yesterday morning jana

asubuhi

the day before yesterday juzi

yet bado

not yet bado

dialogue

is it here yet? imeshafika?

no, not yet la, bado

you'll have to wait a little

longer yet itakubidi bado

ungojee kwa muda

kidogo

yoghurt yogat

you* wewe

(plural) nyinyi

this is for you hii ni yako

with you pamoja nawe

young kijana

your* -ako

(plural) -enu

yours* -ako

(plural) -enu

youth hostel hosteli ya vijana

Z

Zambia Zambia

Zambian (adj) -a Zambia

zebra punda milia

zero sifuri

zip zipu

could you put a new zip on?

waweza kuitia zipu mpya?

zip code postkodi

zoo bustani ya wanyama

zucchini mung'unye

Swahili



English

Colloquialisms

al-la! damn!

ehaa Bwana! hey Mr!

haiwezekani kabisa! no way!

hakuna matata! no problem!

hakuna tatizo!, hakuna wasiwasi! no problem!

je vipi! hey!

kabwela ordinary person, 'person in the street'

la hasha! no way!; God forbid!

lahaula! oh no!; God forbid!; what next?; well I never

nenda zako we! go away!

potelea mbali! damn!

udhia gani huu! shit!

upuuzi! rubbish!

wacha mzaha you're joking

A

- a- he; she
 -a- present tense marker
 a'a no
 a'a asante no thanks
 abiria passenger
 acha desert; let off
 adesi lentils
 adhana Muslim call to prayer by a muezzin
 aduhuri midday, noon
 afadhali better
 afadhali sana much better
 Afrika ya Kusini South Africa
 -a Afrika ya Kusini South African
 Afrika ya Mashariki East Africa
 -a Afrika ya Mashariki East African
 afya health
 afya! bless you!
 -a afya healthy
 agiza order
 agizo message; order
 Agosti August
 ahadi promise (noun)
 ahidi promise (verb)
 ah si kitu don't mention it
 aibu shame
 aina sort, kind, type; make
 aina nyingine ya ... another sort of ...
 aiskrimu ice cream
 aiskrimu kijitini ice lolly
 ajabu: -a ajabu extraordinary; weird, funny; fantastic
 ajali accident
 kumetokea ajali there's been an accident
 akauti ya benki bank account
 -ake his; her; hers; its
 kwa ajili yake for him; for her
 ni yake that's his/hers
 akiba deposit (as security)
 -ako your; yours (sing)
 alaa! I see!, I understand!
 alama sign
 alama ya kuongoza road sign
 alamsiki (T) good night
 alasiri afternoon
 leo alasiri this afternoon
 alfajiri dawn
 Alhamisi Thursday
 alika invite
 alikuwa he/she was
 alikuwa na he/she had
 almasi diamond
 ama ... au ... either ... or ...
 amana deposit (as security)
 amani peace
 -a amani peaceful
 ambia tell
 ambukizo infection
 ambulensi ambulance
 ametoka he's/she's out
 amini believe
 aminifu honest
 amka get up (after sleep)
 amsha wake
 amua decide
 ana he/she has
 anaitwa ... he/she is called ...
 anasa luxury

-a anasa luxurious; posh
 anataka ... he/she wants
 to ...
 anaweza ...? could
 he/she ...?
 andazi sweet pastry
 andika write; spell
 andikisha check in; reserve
 angalau at least
 angalia! watch out!, look
 out!
 angavu clear
 -angu my; mine
 anguka fall
 angusha knock over
 anwani address
 anwani yako ni wapi? what's
 your address?
 anwani ya kupelekea barua
 forwarding address
 anza begin, start
 -ao their; theirs
 aprikoti apricot
 Aprili April
 arobaini forty
 arusi wedding
 asali honey
 asante thank you, thanks
 (said to one person)
 asante sana thank you very
 much
 asanteni thank you, thanks
 (said to more than one person)
 asilimia per cent
 asiyekula nyama vegetarian
 asiye na kazi unemployed
 askari policeman; security
 guard
 askofu bishop

asubuhi morning
 saa moja asubuhi at seven
 am
 asubuhi mapema early in
 the morning
 ati kweli? really?
 au or
 azima borrow; lend

B

baada ya after
 baada ya chakula cha
 mchana after lunch
 baada ya hapo then, after
 that
 baadaye afterwards, later,
 later on
 baba dad, father
 baba mdogo uncle (father's
 younger brother)
 baba mkubwa uncle (father's
 elder brother)
 baba mkwe father-in-law
 babu grandfather
 badala ya instead
 badala ya ... instead of ...
 badili vary
 badilisha change; cash
 badilisha huko ... change
 at ...
 bado still; not yet
 bafta cotton
 bafu bathroom; bathtub
 -enye bafu ya faragha with a
 private bathroom
 bafu la binafsi private
 bathroom

bahari sea	baridi kidogo cool
karibu na bahari by the sea	barua letter; letters; post, mail
Bahari ya Hindi Indian Ocean	barua za ndege airmail
bahasha envelope	barua zitumwazo kikawaida surface mail, overland mail
bahasha za barua za ndege airmail envelope	basi bus; enough
bahashishi (T) tip, gratuity	basi dogo minibus
bahati luck	basi la uwanja wa ndege airport bus
bahati njema! good luck!	bastola pistol
baina ya between	bata duck
bakshishi tip, gratuity	bata bukini goose
bakuli dish, bowl	bawabu doorman; porter; night porter
balozi ambassador	-baya bad; ugly; rubbish
balungi grapefruit	-baya kabisa worst
bamba la namba ya gari number plate	-baya sana dreadful, terrible
bamia okra, lady's fingers	-baya zaidi worse
bampa la gari bumper, (US) fender	ni mbaya zaidi it's worse
banda shack; any kind of hut, usually round and thatched; barn; shed	beba carry
bandari harbour, port	bega shoulder
bandia fake	begi bag; suitcase
bangi bhang, cannabis; hemp	behewa carriage, compartment
bangili bracelet	behewa la bafe (katika treni) buffet car
bango la tangazo poster	behewa la chakula restaurant car
bao lenye tanga sailboard	behewa la kulala sleeping car
barabara main road; motorway, (US) freeway, (US) highway; avenue	behewa la wasiovuta sigara non-smoking compartment
barabara kuu main road	bei price
barafu ice	bei gani ...? how much ...?
na barafu with ice	ni bei gani? how much does it cost?
pamoja na barafu with ice, on the rocks	hii bei gani? how much is this?
baridi cold; fresh	bei ni ghali sana the price is
baridi kali frost	

too high
bendera flag
bendi, beni band (musical)
benki bank
beseni la kunawia washhand
 basin
Bi Miss; Ms
bia (T) beer
biashara business
Bibi Madam; Mrs; Miss; Ms
bibi grandmother; lady
bidhaa goods
bidi should
bila without
bila kuchelewa at once,
 immediately
bila kukawia immediately
bila shaka certainly,
 definitely
bila ya without
bila ya bafu without a
 bathroom
bila ya shaka of course
bila ya shaka sivyo of course
 not
bili bill, (US) check
bima insurance
bima ya gari third party
 insurance
binafsi: -a binafsi private;
 personal
binamu cousin
biri cigar
birika kettle
biringani aubergine, eggplant
biskuti biscuit(s), cookie(s);
 cracker(s)
biya (K) beer
bolpeni ballpoint pen

boma fort or defensive
 stockade; village
bomba pipe (for water)
bomu bomb
bonde valley
boneti bonnet (of car), (US)
 hood
bora kabisa best; excellent,
 super
bora zaidi better; a better
 one
boriti mangrove poles, used
 on the coast for building
boti boat
breki ya mkono handbrake
buibui spider; black cloak
 and scarf of Swahili women
buli teapot
bunda parcel
bunduki rifle
bunge parliament
bure free (of charge)
burudani la muziki concert
bustani garden; park
bustani ya wanyama zoo
busu kiss
buti boot (of car), (US) trunk
Bwana Sir; Mr
bwawa pool
bwawa la kuogelea
 swimming pool
bwawa la watoto children's
 pool
bweha jackal
bweha masikio bat-eared fox
bweni dormitory

CH

cache a few; hardly
siku cache a few days
... **cache** a couple of ...
-cache few
watu wachache a few
people
-chafu dirty, filthy
chafuka polluted
chafya sneeze
chagua choose
chai tea; tip; bribe
chakula food; meal; dish
chakula cha asubuhi breakfast
chakula cha jioni evening
meal, supper
chakula cha mchana lunch
chakula cha watoto wachanga
baby food
chakula kikuu cha siku
dinner, evening meal
chakula maalumu diet
chakula muhimu main course
chama party, group
chandarua mosquito net
-changamfu lively
chanja ya gari roof rack
chanja ya kuchomea nyama
grill
chapa make, brand
chatu python
chaza oyster
cheka laugh
cheki cheque; check
cheki ya safari traveller's
cheque
chelewa late

chemchemi spring; fountain
chemchemi ya maji ya moto
hot spring
chenji change
chenza tangerine
cheti cha kupatia dawa
prescription
chewa rock cod
cheza play
chini down; under; below;
downstairs; ground
chini ya under, less than
chini ya ... at the bottom
of ...
-a chini low
chipsi chips, French fries
chizi cheese
choka be tired
-choka tired
-choka kabisa exhausted
chokoleti kahawia plain
chocolate
chokoleti ya maziwa milk
chocolate
choma roast
chombo boat, ship
choo (K) toilet, bathroom,
rest room
choo cha wanaume gents'
toilet, men's room
choo cha wanawake ladies'
toilet, ladies' room
choroa oryx
choshwa bored
chubuka bruise
chui leopard
chukia hate
chukua take; lead; collect;
pick up; carry

chukua tafadhali please keep it
 chumba room; cabin
 chumba cha hoteli hotel room
 chumba cha kulala bedroom
 chumba cha kulia dining room
 chumba cha mtu mmoja single room
 chumba cha watu wawili double room; twin room
 chumba chenye bafu room with bathroom
 chumvi salt
 chungu bitter
 chungwa orange
 chuo college
 chuo kikuu university
 chupa bottle; jug
 chupa moja ya biya a bottle of beer
 chupi knickers, panties; pants, underpants

D

dada sister
 daftari notebook
 daiwa owe
 dakika minute(s)
 daktari doctor
 daktari wa meno dentist
 daladala (T) shared taxi, minibus
 damu blood
 danganya cheat
 danganywa be cheated

nimedananywa I have been cheated
 dansi dance
 ungependa kucheza dansi? would you like to dance?
 daraja bridge (over river)
 dari ceiling
 darubini binoculars; telescope
 darzeni dozen
 dawa medicine
 dawa ya kikohozi cough medicine
 dawa ya kufukuza mbu mosquito repellent
 dawa ya kujikinga na wadudu insect repellent
 dawa ya kusafisha macho eye drops
 dawa ya mafua antihistamine
 dawa ya maumivu painkillers
 dawa ya mbu mosquito coil
 dawa ya meno toothpaste
 dazeni dozen
 dengu chickpeas
 dereva driver
 dereva wa teksi taxi-driver
 Desemba December
 deski la keshia cash desk, till
 dhahabu gold
 dhahiri clear, obvious
 dhaifu weak
 dhamana guarantee
 dharura emergency
 dhidi ya against
 dhoruba storm
 dini religion
 dira compass
 dirisha window

dirisha la duka shop window
 dirishani in the window
 dobi laundryman, laundress; dry-cleaner
 -dogo less; small
 -dogo sana tiny
 dondoo steinbok
 duara circle
 duka shop, store
 duka la chai tea shop
 duka la dawa chemist's, pharmacy
 duka la keki cake shop
 duka la kutengeneza viatu heelbar
 duka la magazeti newsagent's
 duka la mboga na matunda greengrocer's
 duka la mikate na keki bakery
 duka la nyama butcher's
 duka la sanaa craft shop
 duka la vifaa hardware shop
 duka la vitabu bookshop, bookstore
 duka la vitu anuai department store
 duka la vitu vya kizamani antique shop
 duka la vitu vya zawadi gift shop
 duka la vyakula food shop, food store, grocer's
 duka la vyakula tayari delicatessen
 duka liuzalo vitu bila ushuru duty-free shop
 duma cheetah
 dunia world

E

egesha park
 ehaa excuse me
 eh samahani? sorry?, pardon (me)?
 -ekundu red
 elewa understand
 eleza explain
 elezea explain
 elfu thousand
 -embamba narrow; thin
 embe mango
 -enda go
 endeleza vyema improve
 endesha drive
 eneo area
 eneo karibu na bahari seafront
 eneo la kujipatia mizigo baggage claim
 eneo la maduka shopping area
 -enu your; yours (pl)
 epul apple
 -etu our; ours
 -eupe white
 -eusi black
 eyakandishan air-conditioner

F

faida profit
 familia family
 fanya do; make
 fanya haraka! hurry up!

faragha secluded; privacy
 farasi horse
 farasi mdogo pony
 fariki die
 faru rhinoceros
 fasaha fluent
 fasiri translate; interpret
 Februari February
 fedha silver
 fenesi jackfruit – large
 melon-shaped fruit with
 thick green skin and yellow
 flesh
 feni fan (electrical)
 ficha hide
 figo kidney
 figili (T) celery; radish leaves
 fika arrive (people)
 fikiriri think
 filamu film; movie
 filamu ya rangi colour film
 fisi hyena
 fisi maji otter
 flaiti flight
 flaiti ya kuendeleza safari
 connecting flight
 fleti flat, apartment
 fomu form (document)
 Forodha Customs
 foronya pillow case
 fuata follow
 fuko la kulalia sleeping bag
 fulana sweatshirt; T-shirt;
 vest, undershirt
 fundi mechanic; craftsman
 fundi umeme electrician
 fundi wa mifereji plumber
 fundi wa viatu shoe repairer
 funga close, shut; lock; wrap

funga pamoja pack
 fungate honeymoon
 fungia ndani lock in
 fungo civet
 fungua open; unlock
 fungua mizigo unpack
 funo duiker (antelope)
 -fupi brief, short
 furaha pleasure; fun
 -enye furaha glad
 -a furaha happy
 ni furaha yangu my pleasure
 furaha kwa siku ya kuzaliwa!
 happy birthday!
 furaha ya Krismasi! Merry
 Christmas!
 furaha ya Mwaka Mpya!
 Happy New Year!
 furahia enjoy
 furahika glad, pleased
 fursa opportunity
 futa cancel
 futi foot (measurement)

G

gani which
 ... -a namna gani? what sort
 of ...?
 gari car; vehicle
 gari limeharibika the car has
 broken down
 gari la automatik automatic
 gari la kukodi rented car
 gari la mizigo van
 gari la wagonjwa ambulance
 gati jetty
 gazeti newspaper; magazine

genge cliff
 -geni foreign; funny, odd, strange
 gereza prison
 gesi gas
 gesi ya kutumia kambini camping gas
 -geuka rangi kwa jua suntanned
 geuza njia turn off (the road etc)
 ghali expensive
 gharimu cost
 ghorofa flat, apartment; floor, storey
 ghorofa ya chini ground floor, (US) first floor
 ghorofa ya juu kabisa top floor
 ghorofa ya kwanza first floor, (US) second floor
 ghuba bay
 gilasi glass
 giligilani coriander
 giza darkness
 glasi glass
 godoro mattress
 gofu golf; ruin
 gonga knock
 -gonjwa ill, sick
 goti knee
 gudulia jar
 -gumu hard
 gundi gum, glue
 gurudumu wheel
 gwaride parade

H

h- this; these
 ha- present negative marker for 'he/she' – he/she doesn't ...
 habari information; news
 habari? how are things?
 habari gani? what's happening?, what's the news?
 habari zako? what about yourself?, how about you?
 habari za alasiri good afternoon
 habari za asubuhi good morning
 habari za jioni good evening
 hadhari: -enye hadhari careful
 hadi to
 hadithi story
 hafifu poor (quality)
 hai- negative present continuous tense marker (sing)
 haidhuru it doesn't matter
 haifai kitu it's no good
 haifanyi kazi it's not working
 haiko ... there isn't any ...
 haikupikika vyema undercooked
 hainiudhi it doesn't bother me
 haitoshi there's not enough
 haja need
 hajihisi vizuri he's/she's not well
 haki: -a haki fair, just

HA

haki- negative past tense marker (sing)
hakika certainly; sure
hakuna ... there isn't any ...; there aren't any ...
hakuna kitu nothing
hakuna mtu nobody
hakuna njia no entry
hakuna zaidi nothing else
hakuwa na he/she had not
hali- negative tense marker (sing)
halisi real, genuine
hali ya hewa weather; temperature
haluli laxative
ham- negative marker for 'you' (pl)
hama move
hamaki: -**enye hamaki** angry
hamjambo? how are you? (pl)
hamkuwa na you had not (pl)
hamna you have not (pl)
hamsini fifty
hana she/he has not
hanithi gay
hankachifu ya karatasi paper handkerchief
hapa here; right here
hapa chini down here
hapana no; not
hapana, ile no, that one
hapana asante no thanks
hapana kitu none
hapana ruhusa no entry; not allowed
hapa tu just here
hapo zamani in the past

haradali mustard
haraka urgent; haste; quick, fast
kwa haraka hastily; quickly
-a haraka fast; express (mail)
harakisha hurry
harambee (K) local fund-raising gatherings (literally: 'pull together')
-haribika damaged; broken down
haribu damage
hariri silk
harufu smell
harusi wedding
hasa! exactly!
hasara loss
hata even
hata chembe hardly ever
hata ikiwa ... even if ...
hata kidogo not in the least
hatari emergency; danger
-a hatari serious; risky
-enye hatari dangerous
hatu- negative marker for 'we'
hatujambo we're fine
hatukuwa na we had not
hatuna we have not
hau- negative tense marker (sing)
havi- negative tense marker (pl)
hawa these (referring to people)
hawa- negative marker for 'they'
hawakuwa na they had not
hawana they have not
hawezi ... he/she can't ...

haya these	hodi! hello, anyone in?
haya- negative tense marker	homa temperature
haya chukua here you are, there you are (offering something)	homa ya mafua flu
haya, sawa OK, it's a deal	homa ya manjano yellow fever; hepatitis
hazi- negative tense marker (pl)	homa ya matumboni typhoid
hebu nipishe excuse me (let me through)	hongera! congratulations!; well done!
hema tent	hosteli ya vijana youth hostel
herini earrings	hoteli café, (small) restaurant; hotel
heri za Krismasi! Merry Christmas!	hu- negative marker for 'you' (sing)
hesabu bill	hudhurungi tan, light brown
heti hat	huduma ya daktari kwa ndege flying doctor
hewa air	huduma ya kwanza first aid
hii this; this one	huduma ya magari yaharibikayo breakdown service
ni hii this one	huduma ya mauulizo kwa simu directory enquiries
hii hapa ... here is ...	huduma ya vyumbani room service
hii ni ...? is this ...?	hujambo hello; how do you do?; how are you?
hii siyo treni itakiwayo this is the wrong train	huko up there
hii ya nani? whose is this?	huku over here
hiki this	hukuwa na you had not (sing)
hili this	huna you have not (sing)
hiliki cardamom	hundi cheque, (US) check
hisi feel	hundi za posta postal orders
Hispania Spain	huru free
-a Hispania Spanish	huruma pity
hitaji need	hususan especially
hivi these (referring to things)	huu this
hivi karibuni recently; the other day	huyu this (person)
hiyo: hiyo nini? what's that?	
hiyo nyingine the other one	
hizi these	
hizi hapa ... here are ...	
hodari clever	

huyu mke wangu this is my wife
huzuni: -a huzuni sad



i- subject/object marker; it
iba steal
ibia rob
idadi amount
idara department
idara ya majeruhi casualty department
iendayo kasi express (train)
ifikapo when it arrives
Ijumaa Friday
Ijumaa Kuu Good Friday
ikiwa if
iko ... there is ...
iko wapi? where is it?
ikulu (T) state house (of the president)
ikweta the equator
ila except
ilani notice
ile that; that one
ilifurahisha it was fun
iliki cardamom
ilikuwa it was
iliokwishatumika second-hand
iliyochomwa grilled
iliyoiva kidogo underdone (meat)
iliyoiva vyema well-done (meat)
iliyokaangwa fried
iliyopita: saa moja iliyopita an

hour ago
wiki iliyopita a week ago
Ijumaa iliyopita last Friday
imba sing
imeandikwa na ... written by ...
imefungwa closed; it's locked
imeharibika out of order
imejaa ... it's full of ...
imekwama it's jammed, it's stuck
imemalizika it's over
imepotea it's disappeared
i-moto warm; hot
inabana tight
ina dosari faulty
inaitwaje? what's it called?
inakirihisha disgusting
inakubidi ... you should ...
inanibidi I must
inanuka it smells, it stinks
inanukia it smells nice
inaruhusiwa? is it allowed?
inashangaza amazing, surprising
inasikitisha disappointing; it's a pity
inasikitisha! what a shame!
inategemea it depends
inategemea juu ya ... it depends on ...
inatasha that's enough
inatasha sana, asante that's plenty, thanks
inatumika engaged, occupied
inatupasa kuondoka we've got to leave
inauma it's sore
inauzwa for sale

inavutia attractive
inavutia sana that's very interesting
inayokabili opposite
ingawa although
-ingi much; a lot of
ingia come in; go in; get in, arrive
ingine more; another
-ingine other; another; else; next
ini liver (in body)
inshalla if God wills it
ipendwayo na wengi popular
ipi? which one? .
ishi live (verb)
ishirini twenty
isio ghali inexpensive; less expensive
isio na marembo plain, not patterned
isio ya kileo non-alcoholic
isio ya kisasa unfashionable
isiozidi less than
isiyolipiwa ushuru duty-free goods
isiyo na lead unleaded petrol
isiyopikika sana medium-rare; rare
isiyo tamu dry (wine)
isiyo tamu sana medium-dry
isiyo ya kawaida unusual, rare
ita call

J

-ja- perfect tense negative marker – has not yet ...,

have not yet ...
jabali rock
jagi jug; vase
jaketi jacket, (US) coat
jali mind, heed
jalidi frost
jamaa relative
jamala: ni jamala sana that's very kind
jambo matter; hi
 see hello page 78
jamu jam
jana yesterday
jana asubuhi yesterday morning
jana usiku last night
jani leaf
Januari January
jaribu try; try on
jasusi spy
jawabu answer, reply
jaza fill in; fill up
je indicates a question
jeketi-okozi life jacket
jela prison
jenga build
jengo building
jengo la ukumbusho monument
je ni ...? is it ...?
je ni sawa? is that OK?
jeuri rude
je vipi! hey!
je vipi? how is life?
jibini cheese
jicho eye
jifungia nje lock out
jifunza learn
jihadhari! watch out!

Ji

jiko cooker; kitchen
jina name
jina lako nani? what's your name?
jina langu ... my name is ...
jina ni nani ...? the name was ...?
jina la kwanza first name
jina la ubatizo Christian name
jina la ukoo maiden name; surname
jino tooth
jinsia sex
jinzi jeans
jioni evening
leo jioni this evening
jirani neighbour
jiwe stone
jodari tuna
joko oven
joto heat; hot
joto sana much hotter; too hot
-enye joto warm
jozi pair
jozi ya viatu a pair of shoes
jua know; sun
-a jua sunny
kuna jua it's sunny
jua kali (K) open-air car repairer's yard or small workshop
juisi ya balungi grapefruit juice
juisi ya machungwa freshi fresh orange juice
juisi ya machungwa safi fresh orange juice

Ji

juisi ya nyanya tomato juice
jukwaa platform, (US) track
Julai July
julisha introduce
Jumamosi Saturday
Jumanne Tuesday
Jumapili Sunday
Jumatano Wednesday
Jumatatu Monday
jumba la makumbusho museum
jumba la mfalme palace
jumba la sanaa art gallery
jumba lenye fleti apartment block
jumla amount; total
-a jumla general
Juni June
juu at the top; above; up; upstairs; top
-juu high
juu chini upside down
juu ya on; over, above
juu ya ... on top of ...
juzi the day before yesterday

K

kaa crab; stay; sit
kaa kitako sit down
kabati cupboard; locker
kabeji cabbage
kabichi cabbage
kabisa completely; absolutely; extremely; quite
sawa kabisa that's quite right
-a karibuni kabisa latest

kabla	before	clothes line	
kabrasha (T)	brochure	kambi	campsite
kaburi	tomb	kamilifu	perfect
kadhaa	several	kampeni	campaign
kadi	card	kampuni	company, business
kadi ya bima ya gari	green card (car insurance)	kampuni ya utalii	tour operator
kadi ya kuthibitisha cheki	cheque card	kamusi	dictionary
kadi ya malipo	credit card; charge card	kamwe	never
kadi ya simu	phonecard	kandanda	football
kagua	check	kando ya ...	beside the ...
kahawa	coffee	kanga	printed cotton sheet used as a wrap
kahawa isiyokuwa na kafeini	decaffeinated coffee	kangaja	clementine
kahawa ya kuchujwa	filter coffee	kanisa	church; cathedral
kahawa ya unga	instant coffee	kanu	genet
kahawia	brown; beige	karafuu	cloves
kakao	cocoa	karanga	peanuts; ground nuts; (K) beef stew
kalamu	pen	karatasi	paper
kali	strong; sharp; hot, spicy; sour	karatasi ya kuandikia	writing paper, notepaper
kama if; like; as; the same		karatasi ya kufungia vitu	wrapping paper
kwa haraka kama		karatasi yenye matangazo	leaflet
iwezekanavyo	as soon as possible	karatasi za chooni	toilet paper
ni kubwa kama	as big as	karibu	almost; near; nearly; come in, enter; welcome; you're welcome
kama hii	the same as this	karibu wakati wote	nearly all of the time
kamandegere	springhare	karibu kwa ...	welcome to ...
kamari	gambling	karibu na	next to; near; nearby
kamata	catch	karibu na bahari	by the sea
kamba	lobster; prawn(s); rope	karimu	kind, generous
kamba wadogo	shrimp(s)	kasa robo	quarter to
kamba wakubwa	lobster		
kamba ya kuanikia	nguo		

kasia oar; oribi
kasirika angry
kasisi priest
kaskazini north
 -a **kaskazini** northern
kaskazini ya Zanzibar north of Zanzibar
kaskazini magharibi northwest
kaskazini mashariki northeast
kata cut
kata shauri decide
kati middle
 -a **kati** the middle one
kati ya usiku in the middle of the night
katika in; into; out of
katika gari langu in my car
katika majira ya baridi in the winter
katika ndege on the plane
katikati centre; in the middle
 -a **katikati** central
katikati ya mji city centre
kaunta ya keshia cash desk
kausha kwa blowa blow-dry
kavu dry
kawaida custom
 -a **kawaida** usual; normal; natural; ordinary; fresh
kazi job; work
KBC Kenya Broadcasting Corporation
kebeji cabbage
kelele noise
 -a **kelele** noisy
kesho tomorrow
kesho alasiri tomorrow afternoon

kesho asubuhi tomorrow morning
kesho kutwa the day after tomorrow
 -**ki-** object marker; it
kiafrika African
Kiafrika: -a Kiafrika African
kiangazi dry season
kianzio appetizer, starter
kiasi about; quite, fairly; rate (for changing money)
 -a **kiasi** reasonable
kiasi cha about, approximately
kiasi cha nusu about half that
kiatu shoe; boot
kiazi potato
kibali permit; official permission
kibanda hut
kibanda cha kuuza bidhaa kiosk
kibanda cha kuuzia magazeti newspaper kiosk
kibanda cha simu payphone; phone box
kibanio clothes peg
kibao saddle (for bike)
kibebea mtoto carry-cot
kibebea mtoto mchanga cot
Kibelgiji: -a Kibelgiji Belgian
kibiriti matches
 una **kibiriti?** do you have a light?
kiboko hippopotamus
kichefuchefu nausea
kichekesho joke
kichwa head

- kidani** necklace
kidevu chin
kidirisha kwenye paa sunroof
kidogo rather; least; little; some
maziwa kidogo a little milk
ni nzuri kidogo it's rather good
kidogo tu just a little
kidole finger
kidole cha mguu toe
kidole gumba thumb
kidonge cha kuzuia mimba pill
Kifaransa French (language)
-a Kifaransa French (adj)
kifaru rhinoceros
kificha uso mask
kifiko destination
kifo death
kifua breast; bust; chest
kifugulia mkebe tin-opener, can-opener
kifundo cha mguu ankle
kifundo cha mkono wrist
kifungo button
kifungulia chupa bottle-opener
kifuniko lid; cap
kifurushi parcel, package
kifurushi cha ... a pack of ...
kigae glass
Kiganda: -a Kiganda
 Ugandan
kigari cha mizigo luggage trolley
kigingi peg (for tent)
Kihabeshi: -a Kihabeshi
 Ethiopian
Kihindi: -a Kihindi Indian
Kiholanzi Dutch (language)
-a Kiholanzi Dutch (adj)
kihori dinghy
Kiingereza English (language)
-a Kiingereza English; British
kiingilio admission charge
Kiislamu: -a Kiislamu Islamic; Muslim
Kiithiopia: -a Kiithiopia
 Ethiopian
kijana teenager; youth; young
kijani green
kijani hafifu light green
kijazo filling (in tooth)
kijazo cha jino crown (on tooth)
Kijerumani German (language)
-a Kijerumani German (adj)
kijiji village
kijiko spoon
kijiko cha chai teaspoon
kijitabu cha cheki cheque book
kikaango frying pan
kikapu basket
kikapu cha katani sisal basket
Kikatoliki: -a Kikatoliki
 Catholic
kikausha nywele hairdryer
kikingamimba contraceptive
kiko pipe (for smoking)
kikoba wallet
kikohozi cough
kikoi brightly coloured woven cloth
kikombe cup
kikombe kikubwa mug

kikomo cha spidi speed limit
 kikuku bracelet
 kikumbusho souvenir
 kikundi group
 kila every; per
 kilabu club
 kilainisha nywele conditioner
 kila kitu everything
 kila mahali everywhere
 kila moja each
 kila mtu everyone
 kila siku every day, daily
 kilasi ya kwanza first-class
 kilasi ya pili second-class
 kilasi ya tatu third-class
 kila usiku per night
 kile that
 kileo alcohol
 kilima hill
 kima monkey
 kima cha kubadilishia sarafu
 exchange rate
 kimaliziamlo sweet, dessert
 kimalizio sweet, dessert
 kimanda omelette
 kimanjano: -a kimanjano
 yellow
Ki
 Kimarekani: -a Kimarekani
 American
 kimataifa: -a kimataifa
 international
 kimbia run
 kimo height (of person)
 kimojawapo either of them
 kimya quiet; silence
 kina: -enye kina deep
 kina kifupi shallow
 kinga protection factor
 king'ora cha moto fire alarm

kinyago carving
 kinyozi barber's, men's
 hairdresser's
 kinywa mouth
 kinywaji non-alcoholic drink
 kinywaji baridi cold drink
 kiondoa harufu mbaya
 deodorant
 kiongoza njia signpost
 kioo glass; mirror
 kioo cha kutazamia nyuma
 rearview mirror
 kioo cha mbele garini
 windscreen
 kipande piece
 kipande cha ... a piece of ...
 kipandio step, rung
 kipenzi favourite
 kipete cha ufunguo keyring
 kipimajoto thermometer
 kipindupindu cholera
 kipira ball
 kipofu blind
 kipunguzo cha bei discount
 kirafiki friendly
 kirekebisha hewa air-
 conditioning
 kiroboto flea
 kisahani saucer; small plate
 kisasa: -a kisasa modern,
 up-to-date
 kisigino heel
 kisiwa island
 Kisomali: -a Kisomali Somali
 kisu knife
 kisu cha kukunja penknife
 kisugudi elbow
 kitabu book
 kitabu cha anwani address

book	kitunguu onion(s)
kitabu cha kumbukumbu	kitunguu saumu, kitunguu
diary	thomu garlic
kitabu cha simu phone book	kituo cha basi bus stop
kitaifa: -a kitaifa national	kituo cha mabasi bus station
Kitaliana Italian (language)	kituo cha mapumziko
kitambaa cloth	stopover
kitambaa cha sufu jersey	kituo cha petroli petrol
kitana comb	station, (US) gas station;
kitanda bed; bunk; berth	service station
kitanda cha mtu mmoja single	kituo cha teksi taxi rank, taxi
bed	stand
kitanda cha watu wawili	kiu thirst
double bed	kiuavijasumu antibiotics
kitanda katika treni couchette	kiunga suburb
kitangulizi in advance	kiungulia indigestion
Kitanzania: -a Kitanzania	kiuno waist
Tanzanian	kivuli shade
kiti chair; seat	kivulini in the shade
kiti hiki kina mtu? is this seat	kivutia hewa majini snorkel
taken?	kiwanda omelette; factory
kiti cha dirishani window seat	kiwanja cha michezo
kiti cha kujinyoshea	playground
deckchair	kiwashia sigara cigarette
kiti cha kuotea jua sun	lighter
lounger	kiwiko elbow
kiti cha ujiani aisle seat	Kiyahudi: -a Kiyahudi Jewish
kitindamlo dessert	kiyoyozi air-conditioning
kitoto small child, infant	kizibao waistcoat
kitu something; thing	kizibo cork; cap; plug
kitu cha kula something to	kizibuo corkscrew
eat	kizima moto fire extinguisher
kitu cha kizamani antique	kiziwi deaf
kitu cha kuchezea toy	kizuia ugandaji antifreeze
kitu chochote anything	kizungu: -a kizungu European
kitu chochote kingine?	kizuri niece
anything else?	klabu club
kitu kingine something else	klabu ya burudani nightclub
kitundikia nguo coathanger	-ko indicates indefinite

location
 yuko ndani? is he in?
 kochi couch, sofa
 kode code
 kode ya simu dialling code
 kodi hire; rent
 kodisha (K) hire
 kofia cap; hat
 komamanga pomegranate
 komba bushbaby
 kome mussels
 kona turning; corner
 kongoni hartebeest
 koo throat
 kopo (K) tin, can
 kopo la petroli petrol can,
 (US) gas can
 korongo roan antelope; crane
 (on coast)
 korosho cashew nuts
 kosa mistake, error; fault
 -kosa miss
 krimu cream
 krimu ya kuhifadhi ngozi
 sunblock
 krimu ya kunyesea ngozi
 moisturizer
 krimu ya kunyolea shaving
 foam
 Krismasi Christmas
 krispu crisps, (US) (potato)
 chips
 ku- marker added to the
 verb to form the infinitive
 -ku- negative past tense
 marker
 kuambukiza: -enye
 kuambukiza infectious
 kuamsha kwa simu wake-up

call
 kuathiriwa na jua sunstroke
 kubabuka kwa jua sunburn
 kubadilisha pesa exchange
 currency; currency
 exchange
 kubali accept; agree
 -kubwa big, large
 -kubwa sana enormous; too
 big
 -kubwa zaidi a lot bigger
 kuchanja vaccination
 kuchekesha: -a kuchekesha
 funny, amusing
 kuchekwa: -a kuchekwa
 ridiculous
 kuchemsha: -a kuchemsha
 boiled
 kucheza dansi dance
 kuchoma: -a kuchoma grilled
 kuchosha: -enye kuchosha
 boring
 kuchwa kwa jua sunset
 kudhurika kwa chakula food
 poisoning
 kuelekea direction; towards
 kuelekea kulia to the right
 kuendesha chelezo rafting
 kuendesha mtumbwi
 canoeing
 kufaa to be useful
 -a kufaa valuable
 -enye kufaa convenient;
 useful
 kufanana: -a kufanana typical
 kufika arrival
 kufuli lock
 kuharibika breakdown
 kuharisha diarrhoea

kuhusu	about, concerning	are ...	
kuigiza: -a kuigiza	imitation	kuna makosa gani? what's wrong?	
kuingia	entrance	kuna nini? what's the matter?, what's wrong?	
kuingia hedhi	period (menstruation)	kunajisi	rape
kuingia mapangoni	caving	kunde	cow peas
kuingia mwezi	period (menstruation)	kundi	crowd
kuja	to come; to come back	kundi la wanyama	herd
kujandikisha	check-in	kunradhi	excuse me, sorry
kujifurahisha	enjoy oneself	kunywa	drink
kujihudumia mwenyewe	self-service	kuomba radhi	apology
kujogi	go jogging	kuona	sight
kukaanga: -a kukaanga	fried	kuondoka	departure
kukata nywele	haircut	kuosha vyombo	do the washing-up
kukatika kwa umeme	power cut	kupanda	riding
kukawia	delay	kupanda baisikeli	cycling
kuku	chicken	kupanda bao lenye tanga	sailboarding
kula	eat	kupanda chelezo cha tanga	windsurfing
kulala na chakula cha asubuhi	bed and breakfast	kupanda farasi	horse riding
kulastara	heron	kupanda milima	mountaineering
kule	there; over there	kuparamia milima	climbing
kule juu	up there	kupatana	bargaining
kulevya: -enye kulevya	alcoholic	kupeleka faksi	fax
kulia	right (not left)	kupendeza: -a kupendeza	pleasant
kuliko	than; more than	kupinda	bend
kuliko -ote	the most	-enye kupinda	winding
ndogo kuliko	smaller than	kupiga kambi	camp
kumbuka	remember	kupiga mbizi	diving
kumetanda mawingu	cloudy	kupiga simu	phone
kumetokea nini?	what has happened?	kupitia	through; via
kumi	ten	kurejeshewa pesa	refund
kumradhi	excuse me, sorry	kuro, kuru	waterbuck
kuna ...	there is ...; there	kuruba	bend (in road)

kurudi to go back
 kusafisha filamu film
 processing
 kusanya collect
 kushangaza: -enye
 kushangaza astonishing
 kushoto left; on the left; to
 the left
 njia ijayo kushoto the next
 street on the left
 kusini south
 -a kusini southern
 kusini magharibi southwest
 kusini mashariki southeast
 kusionimua: -a kusionimua
 exciting
 kusokotwa tumbo upset
 stomach
 kusumbua: -enye kusumbua
 annoying
 kutafsiri translation
 kutana meet
 kuteleza: -enye kuteleza
 slippery
 kutembea walking
 kutembelea sightseeing
 kutisha: -a kutisha horrible
 kutoelewana
 misunderstanding
 kutoka from; exit
 kutokosa: -a kutokosa boiled
 kutopata choo constipation
 kutoridhishwa disappointed
 kutosha: -a kutosha enough
 kuukuu old
 kuumiza: -enye kuumiza
 painful
 kuumwa na mdudu insect
 bite

kuvua samaki fishing
 kuvuka across; crossing
 kuvuka njia across the road
 kuvutia: -a kuvutia
 impressive
 kuwa be
 kuwa na to have
 kuwasili arrival
 kuwekesha reservation
 kuzamia mbizi snorkelling;
 skin diving
 kwa by; to; for
 kwa basi/gari by bus/car
 kwa treni by train
 kwa Maisara at Maisara's
 kwa Kiingereza in English
 kwa Kiswahili in Swahili
 kwa ... iwezekanavyo as ... as
 possible
 kwa afya yako! cheers!
 kwa bahati nzuri fortunately
 kwa dobi laundry (place)
 kwa ghafula suddenly
 kwa heri goodbye, cheerio
 (said to one person)
 kwa herini goodbye, cheerio
 (said to more than one person)
 kwa jumla general
 kwa kawaida mostly
 kwake to him/her; at his/
 her place
 kwa kiasi fairly
 kwa kiasi tu so-so
 kwako at your place
 kwa kweli really
 kwama stuck, jammed
 kwa makusudi deliberately
 kwa matumainio hopefully
 kwa miguu on foot, walking

kwa nini? why?
 kwa nini isiwe hivyo? why not?
 kwanza first; at first
 -a kwanza (the) first
 kwa rejesta by registered mail
 kwaruza scratch
 kwa sababu because
 kwa sababu ya because of
 kweli true
 ni kweli that's right
 -a kweli genuine
 kwenda go
 kwenda madukani shopping; go shopping
 kwenye at; on
 kwetu at our house

L

la eat; no
 la, bado no, not yet
 la asante no thanks
 labda perhaps, maybe; probably
 labda sivyo perhaps not
 ladha flavour; taste
 la hasha certainly not
 la hasha! no way!; God forbid!
 laini smooth, soft
 laita cigarette lighter
 lake his; her
 lakini but
 lala sleep; lie down
 lalamika complain
 lala salama good night

(literally: sleep peacefully)
 lazima necessary; must; have to
 ni lazima ni-...? do I have to ...?
 si lazima it's not necessary
 -le that (further away)
 -le ni ...? is that ...?
 leo today
 leo asubuhi this morning
 leo usiku tonight
 leseni licence
 leseni ya gari driving licence
 leta bring; get, fetch
 lewa be drunk
 li- subject/object marker
 -li- past tense marker
 lia cry
 lifti lift, elevator
 likizo holiday, vacation
 likizoni on holiday, on vacation
 likizo la kitaifa public holiday
 liko wazi open
 -likuwa was; were; had
 lile that
 limau lemon
 limefungwa closed
 lini? when?
 -liobabuka kwa jua sunburnt
 -liochacha stale
 -liokauka dehydrated
 -liokufa dead
 -liolegea loose
 -liovimba swollen
 lipa pay
 -lipasa got
 losheni lotion, cream
 losheni ya kujikinga na jua

suntan lotion
lowa get wet, be soaked
lozi almond
luga language

M

m- you (pl)
-m- him; her
maadini metal
maandazi doughnut
maanisha mean
mabasi buses
Machi March
macho eyes
machungwa oranges
madafu green coconuts
madawa ya kulevyo drugs,
narcotics
maegesho ya magari car
park, parking lot
maelezo description;
information
maembe mangoes
maendeleo progress,
development
mafigo kidneys
mafua cold (illness)
mafuriko flood
mafuta oil
mafuta ya kujikinga na jua
suntan oil
magari cars; vehicles
magari barabarani traffic
magari ya kukodi car rental
magendo corruption,
bribery
magharibi west

-a magharibi western
magofu ruins
mahali somewhere; place
mahali pa kubadilishia pesa
bureau de change
mahali pa kukaa
accommodation
mahali pa kukutania meeting
place
mahali pa wenyeji local
people's place (for example,
market, bar or coffee shop where
local people meet and chat)
mahali pengine somewhere
else
maharag(w)e beans; red
kidney beans
maharagwe ya kifaransa
French beans
mahindi corn
maili mile
maili bila ya kikomo
unlimited mileage
maini liver (food)
maisha life
majani grass
majarini margarine
maji water
maji baridi cold water
majimaji: -a majimaji wet;
damp
majira ya baridi winter
majira ya chipuko spring
majira ya joto summer
majira ya mvua rainy season
majira ya pukutiko la majani
autumn, (US) fall
maji ya balungi grapefruit
juice

maji ya embe	mango juice	maliza	finish
maji ya kunywa	drinking water	mama	mum, mother; Madam; Mrs; Miss; Ms
maji ya kuosha	washing water	mama mdogo	aunt (maternal)
maji ya machungwa	orange juice	mama mkwe	mother-in-law
maji ya machungwa safi	fresh orange juice	mamba	crocodile
maji ya matunda	fruit juice	manamba	'turnboy' – ticket collector on Kenyan matatu minibuses
maji ya mfereji	tap water	mandari	picnic
maji ya moto	hot water	mandhari	view; scenery
maji ya mvuke	distilled water	manukato	perfume
maji ya nanasi	pineapple juice	manyatta	temporary cattle camp (Maasai)
maji ya soda	mineral water	manyunyu	shower (of rain)
makabunini	cemetery	maonyesho	exhibition
makanika	mechanic	maonyesho ya biashara	trade fair
makini	sober	mapafu	lungs
makome	shellfish	mapambo ya vito	jewellery
maktaba	library	mapazia	curtains
makusudio	destination	mapema	early
makutano ya njia	junction, intersection	mapenzi	love
makuti	palm-leaf roof	mapigano	fight
malai	cream	mapokezi	reception
malalamiko	complaint	maporomoko ya maji	waterfall
malaya	prostitute	mara	time
malazi na chakula	full board	mara kwa mara	frequent
malazi na chakula mara mbili	half board	si mara nyingi	not often
malhamu	ointment	mara mbili	twice
malipo	charge	mara mbili zaidi	twice as much
malipo kwa mpigiwa simu	reverse charge call, collect call	mara tatu	three times
malipo ya huduma	service charge	mara ya kwanza	the first time
		mara ya mwisho	last time
		maradufu	double
		mara moja	once (one time)

mara nyingi often
 mara nyingine next time;
 sometimes
 marashi maalumu ya nywele
 hair spray
 Marekani the United States
 mashariki east
 -a mashariki eastern
 masharubu moustache
 mashindano ya mbio race
 mashine machine
 mashine ya kufagilia vacuum
 cleaner
 mashine ya kufulia washing
 machine
 mashini ya kukaushia spin-
 dryer
 mashini ya kunyolea shaver,
 electric razor
 masikini poor; the poor;
 beggars
 masomo ya lugha language
 course
 mastafeli soursops – edible
 white-fleshed fruit with
 spiny skin and black seeds
 matakoo bottom
 matangazo broadcast
 matata problems, hassles
 matatanisho mix-up
 matatu (K) shared pick-up
 taxi, minibus
 matiti wazi topless
 matopetope custard apples
 matunda fruit
 maulizo information desk
 maumivu ache; pain
 maumivu ya jino toothache
 maumivu ya kichwa headache

maumivu ya koo sore throat
 maumivu ya mgongo
 backache
 maumivu ya sikio earache
 maumivu ya tumbo
 stomachache
 mawimbi wave
 -enye mawimbi curly
 mawingu cloud
 -enye mawingu dull
 mayai eggs
 maziko, mazishi funeral
 maziwa milk
 maziwalala (K) yoghurt; sour
 milk
 maziwa ya kuganda (T)
 yoghurt; sour milk
 mazoezi practise
 mbaazi pigeon peas
 mbali far
 kwa mbali in the distance
 mbalimbali separately
 mbali na apart from
 mbao wood (material)
 mbatata potato(es)
 mbaya nasty, horrible
 si mbaya not bad
 mbaya sana awful, shocking;
 much worse
 mbega colobus monkey
 mbele front
 mbele ya beyond; in front
 mbele ya hoteli in front of
 the hotel
 mbele zaidi further
 mbele zaidi njiani it's further
 down the road
 mbili two
 mbingu sky

mboga vegetables	meneja wa kike manageress
mbu mosquito	meno bandia dentures
mbuga ya taifa national park	menyu menu
mbuga ya wanyama game park, reserve, wildlife park	menyu maalumu set menu
mbuzi goat	menyu ya chakula menu
mbwa dog	-mepotea missing
mbwa mkali! beware of the dog!	metali metal
mbwa mwitu jackal	meza table(s)
mchana daytime	mfalme king
mchana kutwa all day	mfano example
mchanga sand	kwa mfano for example
mchele rice (uncooked)	mfarishi duvet
mchezaji maarufu film star	mfasiri translator
mchezo sport; game; play	mfereji canal; tap, faucet
mchezo wa kuigiza show (in theatre)	mfuko bag; carrier bag; pocket
mchicha spinach	mfupa bone
mchikichi palm tree	mgeni guest; foreigner; stranger
mchomo burn	mgongano crash
mchoyo greedy	mgongo back (of body)
mchumba fiancé(e)	mgonjwa sick person
mchuzi curry; sauce; gravy	mgonjwa wa kisukari diabetic
mdomo mouth	mguu foot; leg
mdudu insect, bug	mhanga aardvark; sacrifice
-me- perfect tense marker; verb tense marker indicating something that has just happened and is continuing	mhudumiaji waiter; waitress; steward
mechi game, match	mhudumiaji wa kike stewardess; waitress
mechi ya kandanda football match	miadi appointment
Mei May	mia moja hundred
meli ship	midomo lips
kwa meli by ship	miguu: kwa miguu on foot
mende cockroach	miji towns
meneja manager	mila custom
	-a mila traditional
	miliki own; rule over
	milimani in the mountains
	mimi I; me

mimi ni I am
 mimi pia me too
 mindi duiker
 minsi minced meat, ground
 meat
 miongoni mwa among
 mita metre
 miti trees
 miwani glasses, spectacles,
 eyeglasses
 miwanilenzi contact lenses
 miwani ya jua sunglasses
 mizigo luggage, baggage
 mizigo iliyozidi uzito excess
 baggage
 mizigo ya mkononi hand
 luggage
 mji city, town
 mjini in town
 mjini Nairobi in Nairobi
 mji mkongwe (T) old town
 mjinga idiot; stupid, thick
 mji wa kale (K) old town
 mjomba uncle (mother's brother)
 mjukuu wa kike
 granddaughter
 mjukuu wa kiume grandson
 mkabala opposite
 mkahawa small restaurant;
 tea shop, coffee shop, café
 mkalimani interpreter
 Mkanada Canadian
 mkanda wa kujiokolea lifebelt
 mkasi scissors
 mkate bread; loaf; roll
 mkate kahawia brown bread
 mkate mweupe white bread
 mkate wa brauni brown
 bread

mkate wa ngano
 (isiyokomolewa) wholemeal
 bread
 mkato cut
 mke wife
 mkebe (T) tin, can
 mkebe wa biya a can of beer
 mkeka wa kutumia pwani
 beach mat
 Mkenya Kenyan
 mkesha wa Krismasi
 Christmas Eve
 mkesha wa Mwaka Mpya
 New Year's Eve
 mkoa region
 mkoba bag, handbag, (US)
 purse; briefcase
 mkondo current (in water)
 mkono arm; hand
 mkono wa vazi sleeve
 mkuki spear
 mkutano conference;
 meeting
 mkwe son-in-law; daughter-
 in-law
 mlango door; gate; entrance
 mlango wa dharura
 emergency exit
 mlango wa kutokea exit
 mlemavu disabled person
 mlembe sanitary
 napkins/towels
 mlezi wa muda baby-sitter
 mlikuwa na you had (pl)
 mlima mountain
 mlinzi caretaker
 mlo course (meal)
 mlolongo queue
 Mmarekani American

mmea	plant	-a msaada	helpful
mmilikaji	owner	msagaji	lesbian
mna	you have (pl)	msalani (T)	toilet, (US) rest room
mnamo:	mnamo dakika mbili	msanii	artist
	in two minutes	msenge	gay
	mnamo siku mbili	mshoni	tailor
	in two days' time	mshtuo	shock
mnyama	animal	mshumaa	candle
-mo	indicates inside location	msiba	disaster
moja	one	msichana	girl
-moja	single	msikiti	mosque
moja kwa moja	direct; straight; straight ahead	msitu	forest, woods; jungle
mojawapo	either	msogamano wa magari	traffic jam
Mola	God	mstaafu	retired
mondo	serval	mstari	line
moran	man in the warrior age group of Maasai or Samburu	msumari	nail (metal)
moshi	smoke	Msumbiji	Mozambique
moto	fire; hot	msusi	hairdresser's (women's)
inawaka moto	it's on fire	mswaki	toothbrush
moyo	heart	mtalaka	divorcé(e)
mpaka	border; until; to	mtalii	tourist
mpaka wapi?	where to?	mtama	millet; sorghum
mpanda baisikeli	cyclist	Mtanzania	Tanzanian
mpenzi wa kiume	boyfriend	mtayatisha nywele	hairdresser's (women's)
mpingo	ebony	mtembezaji watalii	tour guide
mpira	ball; football; rubber	mti	tree
mpira wa tairi	inner tube	mtihani	exam
mpishi	cook	mto	pillow; cushion; river; stream
mpokeaji pensheni	pensioner	mtoto	child, kid
mpokea wageni	receptionist	mtoto mchanga	baby
Mprotestanati	Protestant	mtoto wa bandia	doll
mpwa wa kike	niece	mtoto wa kike	daughter
mpwa wa kiume	nephew	mtoto wa kiume	son
mpya	new; novel	mtu	person; man; somebody, someone
mroho	greedy		
msaada	help		

mtumbwi canoe
 mtumishi wa kike maid
 mtu mzima adult
 mtu yeyote anybody
 muda period (of time); during
 kwa muda gani? how long?
 muda mrefu a long time
 muhanga aardvark
 muhimu important; main;
 essential, vital
 ni muhimu it's important
 ni muhimu kwamba ... it is
 essential that ...
 si muhimu it's not important
 muhogo cassava
 muhula term
 mume husband
 mumunye courgette,
 zucchini
 Mungu God
 mung'unye courgette,
 zucchini
 murrām red or black clay
 soil; road
 muuguzi nurse
 muuza maua florist
 muuza miwani optician
 muuza samaki fishmonger's
 muziki music
 muziki wa kimila folk music
 muziki wa kisasa pop music
 mvinyo wine
 mvinyo nyekundu red wine
 mvinyo nyeupe white wine
 mvua rain
 katika mvua in the rain
 mvua inanyesha it's raining
 mvua ya radi thunderstorm
 mvujo leak

mvulana boy
 mvunjiko fracture
 Mwafrika African
 mwaka year
 mwaka huu this year
 Mwaka Mpya New Year
 mwaliko invitation
 mwalimu teacher
 mwambie anipigie simu,
 tafadhali please ask him to
 call me
 Mwamerika American
 mwanafunzi student;
 beginner
 mwanagenzi beginner
 mwanamke woman
 mwanamuziki musician
 mwananchi person; national,
 citizen; peasant; worker
 mwangalizi wa watoto child
 minder
 mwanga wa jua sunshine
 mwanzo beginning, start
 mwanzoni at the beginning
 mwasho itch
 Mwaustralia Australian
 mwavuli umbrella
 mwavuli mkubwa sunshade
 mwavuli wa kutumia pwani
 beach umbrella
 mwembamba skinny
 mwenye akili intelligent
 mwenye haya shy
 mwenye kifafa epileptic
 mwenye mimba pregnant
 mwenye nguvu strong
 mwenye usingizi sleepy
 mwenye uzoefu experienced
 mwenyewe owner; myself;

N

yourself; himself; herself
 mwenzi partner (boyfriend, girlfriend etc)
 mwezi month; moon
 mwezi huu this month
 mwezi wa kumi (T) October
 mwezi wa kumi na mbili (T) December
 mwezi wa kumi na moja (T) November
 mwezi wa kwanza (T) January
 mwezi wa nane (T) August
 mwezi wa nne (T) April
 mwezi wa pili (T) February
 mwezi wa saba (T) July
 mwezi wa sita (T) June
 mwezi wa tano (T) May
 mwezi wa tatu (T) March
 mwezi wa tisa (T) September
 mwili body
 mwimbaji singer
 mwimbaji wa kisasa pop singer
 mwisho end
 -a mwisho last
 mwishowe eventually
 mwitu forest; jungle
 mwituni: -a mwituni wild
 mwizi thief
 mwizi mchomoa mifuko pickpocket
 mwongozi guide (person)
 mzaha joke; ridicule
 mzee old; senior citizen; old man (a term of respect)
 Mzungu European
 mzuri nice

na and; with
 na mimi pia so am I; so do I
 -na- present continuous tense marker
 naelewa I see, I understand
 naenda ... (K) I'm going to ...
 nafikiria hivyo I think so
 nahitaji ... I need ...
 naipenda ... I like ..., I love ...
 naishi ... I live in ...
 nakaa ... I'm staying at ...
 nakshi ya shanga beadwork
 nakubali I agree
 nakumbuka I remember
 nakupenda I like you
 nakupongeza! congratulations!
 nakutakia mema best wishes
 nakutakia siku njema have a nice day
 nakwenda... (T) I'm going to ...
 namba(ri) number
 namba ya flaiti flight number
 namba ya jimbo la simu area code
 namba ya kusajiliwa registration number
 namba ya safari flight number
 namba ya simu phone number
 namna sort
 namna gani? what's up?
 nanaa mint

nanasi pineapple
 nane eight
 nani? who?; who is it?
 ni nani wewe? who's calling?
 na nusu half past
 nao with them
 napenda zaidi ... I prefer ...
 na robo quarter past
 nasahau I forget
 nasi with us
 nasikitika sana I'm really
 sorry
 nasisitiza I insist
 nataka ... I want ..., I'd
 like ...
 natazama tu I am just
 looking around
 natoka ... I'm from ..., I
 come from ...
 natumai kwamba ... I hope
 that ...
 nauli fare
 naumwa I feel ill
 nawe with you (sing)
 naweza ...? could I ...?;
 could I have ...?
 naweza kuiona? may I see it?
 naweza kukaa hapa? can I sit
 here?
 naweza kuona? can I see?
 naweza kuona leseni yako,
 tafadhali? can I see your
 licence, please?
 naweza kupata ...? can I
 have ...?
 naweza kutazama? can I
 have a look?
 naye with her/him
 nazi ripe coconut(s)

nchi country; state
 ndani inside
 ndani ya nyumba indoors
 ndege bird; plane, airplane
 kwa ndege by air, by plane;
 by airmail
 ndevu beard
 ndimu lime
 ndiyo yes; sure; it is
 ndiyo, tafadhali yes, please
 ndiyo hasa that's it, that's
 right
 ndizi banana(s); plantain(s)
 ndoo bucket
 ndoto dream
 ndovu elephant
 ndugu brother
 nemechoshwa I'm bored
 nenda go away
 nenda chini go down (the
 stairs etc)
 nenda zako we! go away!
 -nene fat; thick
 neno word
 nepi nappy, diaper
 nepi za tumia-utupe
 disposable nappies/diapers
 nesi nurse
 ng'ambo abroad
 ngamia camel
 ngao shield
 ngapi? how many?; how
 much?
 ngawa serval
 ngazi stairs
 nge scorpion
 ngiri warthog
 ngisi squid
 ngoja wait

ngojea kwa hamu look forward to
ngoma drums; dancing; party; celebration
ngoma ya kimila folk dancing
ng'ombe cow
ngome castle; fort
ngozi skin; leather; suede
 -a ngozi leather; suede
nguchiro mongoose
ngumu difficult
nguo clothes; dress; cloth, fabric
nguo ya kuogelea swimming costume
nguo za kiume menswear
nguo za kufuliwa laundry, washing
nguo za wanawake ladies' wear
nguru kingfish
nguruwe pig; hog
ni is; are; it is; that is; they are; I am
 (je) ni ...? is it ...?
ni ghali a bit expensive
ni- I
-ni indicates plural form of verb
-ni- me; object marker
nifuata follow me
ni kiasi gani? how much is it?
nikupe lifti? would you like a lift?
ni kweli? really?
nilettee send it to me; bring me
nilikuwa na I had

nimefurahi kukutana nawe,
nimefurahi kuonana nawe pleased to meet you
nimekosea namba I've got the wrong number
nimeoa/nimeolewa I'm married (man/woman)
nimesahau I've forgotten
nina I have
ninaelewa! I see!, I understand!
ninaitwa ... I am called...
ninakaa ... I am staying at/in ...
ninatoka ... I'm from ...
ningependa ... I'd rather ...
ningojee wait for me
nini? what?
ninyi you (pl)
nipe give me
nipige picha! take a picture of me!
nitaonana nawe baadaye see you later
njaa hunger
nina njaa I'm hungry
 -enye njaa hungry
nje out; outside; in the open air
njegere peas
njia route(s); road(s); street(s); path(s); lane(s); pass (in mountains)
ni njia hii it's this way
ni njia ile it's that way
njiani down the road; on the street
njia imefungwa road closed
njia kuu main road

njia panda crossroads,
 intersection; fork (in road)
 njia ya chini kwa chini tunnel
 njia ya kuukimbia moto fire
 escape
 njia ya panda crossroads,
 intersection; fork (in road)
 njia ya reli railway
 njugu nuts; peanuts
 njugunyasa peanuts, ground
 nuts
 nne four
 Noeli Christmas
 noti note, (US) bill
 Novemba November
 nsya duiker
 nukta second (of time)
 nungu porcupine
 nunua buy
 nuru light; brightness
 -enye nuru bright
 nusu half
 nusu chupa half-bottle
 nusu darzeni half a dozen
 nusu saa half an hour
 nusu ya bei half-price
 nusu ya nauli half fare
 nyama meat
 nyama choma (K) roast meat
 nyama ya bata duck
 nyama ya kanga guinea fowl
 nyama ya kondoo lamb;
 mutton
 nyama ya kuchoma roast
 beef; (T) roast meat
 nyama ya kuku chicken
 nyama ya kwale pheasant;
 partridge
 nyama ya mawindo game

nyama ya mbuni ostrich
 nyama ya mbuzi goat
 nyama ya ndama veal
 nyama ya ng'ombe beef
 nyama ya nguruwe pork;
 bacon
 nyama ya njiwa pigeon
 nyama ya nyati buffalo
 nyama ya paa venison
 nyama ya sungura hare;
 rabbit
 nyama ya swala impala
 nyamaza! quiet!; shut up!
 nyani baboon
 nyanya grandmother;
 tomato(es)
 nyati buffalo
 nyegere ratel
 nyekundu red
 nyembe razor blades
 nyepesi light (not heavy)
 nyeusi dark; black
 nyigu wasp
 nyingi many; a lot, lots,
 plenty; a lot more
 nyingi sana quite a lot; too
 much
 ... nyingi sana lots of ...
 si nyingi not many; not
 much, not a lot
 si nyingi sana not very
 much
 nyingine different; other;
 others
 nyinyi you (pl)
 nymera topi
 nyoka snake
 nyonga hip
 nyongeza supplement

nyota star
 nyuma back; at the back;
 behind
 nyuma yangu behind me
 nyumba house; lodge
 nyumbani home
 nyumbani kwangu at my
 home
 nyumba ya kupanga boarding
 house
 nyumba ya wageni
 guesthouse
 nyumbu wildebeest
 nyuzi za viatu shoelaces
 nywa drink
 nywele hair
 nzi fly (insect)
 nzito heavy
 nzuri good; pretty; nice
 ni nzuri sana! that's great!
 nzuri sana great, terrific

O

-oa marry
 ofisi office
 ofisi ya baraza la mji town
 hall
 ofisi ya kukatia tiketi box
 office
 ofisi ya kuweka mizigo left
 luggage (office), baggage
 checkroom
 ofisi ya tiketi ticket office
 ofisi ya utalii tourist
 information office
 ofisi ya vitu vilivyopotea lost
 property office

ofisi ya wakala wa usafiri
 travel agent's
 ogelea swim
 -olewa married (woman)
 omba ask
 omba lifti hitchhike
 ona find; see; meet
 onana see; meet
 ondoka leave; go away
 ondoka! go away!
 ongoza lead
 onyo! warning!
 operesheni operation
 orodha ya chakula menu
 orodha ya mvinyo wine list
 osha wash
 ota jua sunbathe
 -ote whole
 -ote mbili both

P

pa give
 paa suni antelope
 paipu pipe
 paipu ya ekzosi exhaust
 (pipe)
 paishio safari destination
 paja thigh
 paji forehead
 paka cat
 pakiti ya sigara a packet of
 cigarettes
 pa kujaribia nguo fitting
 room
 palahala antelope
 pamba cotton; cotton wool,
 absorbent cotton

pamoja altogether; together
 pamoja na with; together
 with
 pana wide
 panda get on
 panda juu go up
 panga machete
 pango cave
 panya rat; mouse
 papa shark
 papai papaya, pawpaw
 papo hapo straight away
 parachichi avocado
 Pasaka Easter
 pasheni passion fruit
 pasi iron (for ironing); pass
 pasi ya kuingilia chomboni
 boarding pass
 pata have; get, obtain; catch
 patana deal (business)
 pauni pound (money)
 pazia blind(s); curtain(s)
 pazia la vibapa shutter(s)
 pea pear
 pekee alone
 peke yangu by myself
 pekua search
 peleka send; forward
 peleka kwa posta mail
 pembe horn (of animal)
 pembeni side
 penda like; love
 penda zaidi prefer
 pendelea interested
 pengine sometimes; another
 time; another place; might
 penseli pencil
 pera guava
 peremende sweets, candies

pesa money, cash
 sina pesa I have no money
 pesa ngapi ...? how much
 is ...?
 pete ring
 pete ya ndoa wedding ring
 petroli petrol, (US) gas
 peya pear
 -pi which
 pia too, also
 picha photo, picture;
 portrait
 picha ya kuchora painting
 pichi peach
 piga hit
 piga kelele shout
 piga picha mimi! take a
 picture of me!
 piga simu call, phone; dial
 pika cook
 pikipiki motorbike
 pikipiki ndogo moped
 pili second
 -a pili (the) second
 pilipili pepper(s); chilli(es)
 pilipili manga black pepper
 pima weigh
 pimbi rock hyrax
 pinda turn
 pinda kushoto/kulia turn
 left/right
 pini pin; safety pin
 pipa bin
 pipa la taka dustbin, trash
 can
 piripiri chillies
 pita go through; overtake
 pitia call round
 plagi plug; spark plug

plasta plaster, Bandaid®
 pletfomu platform, (US) track
 -po marker indicating
 definite location
 yupo hapa? is he/she here?
 pochi purse (for money)
 pofu eland
 pointi za ditributa points (in
 car)
 pokea take, accept
 pole I'm sorry to hear that,
 what a shame
 -pole polite
 polepole slow; slowly;
 gradually
 polisi policeman; police
 polisi wa kike policewoman
 pombe alcohol; alcoholic
 drink; type of home-
 brewed beer
 ponda knock down
 ponesha cure
 porojo idle chatter
 posa engaged (to be married:
 man)
 posta post office
 posta kuu main post office
 postikadi postcard
 postkodi postcode, zip code
 poswa engaged (to be married:
 woman)
 potea disappear
 poteza lose
 pua nose
 pumu asthma
 pumzika rest
 punda donkey, ass; horse
 punda milia zebra
 punde moment; soon

punde hivi in a minute
 punguza trim
 punguza bei! reduce the
 price!
 punguza kidogo! come down
 a little!
 punguza spidi! slow down!
 punja swindle
 punjwa be swindled
 nimepunjwa I have been
 swindled
 -puuzi silly
 pwani beach; coast
 pweza octopus

R

radi thunder
 rafiki friend
 rafiki wa kike girlfriend
 rafiki wa kiume boyfriend
 rafu shelf
 raha comfort
 rahisi cheap; easy, simple
 rai opinion; suggestion
 raia citizen
 rais president (of country)
 ramani map
 ramani ya njia street map;
 road map; network map
 ramsa fair
 ramu rum
 rangi colour; paint
 rangi ya kijivu grey
 rangi ya kunde brown
 rangi ya malai cream
 rangi ya machungwa orange
 rangi ya mdomo lipstick

rangi ya viatu shoe polish
 rangi ya waridi pink
 rangi ya zambarau purple
 rasmi formal
 ratiba timetable, (US)
 schedule
 ratili pound (weight)
 -refu long; tall
 rejsha bring back
 rejeshea kupigia simu ring
 back
 rejesta registered
 reli rail
 riadha athletics
 rikodi record (music)
 ripoti report
 risiti receipt
 robo quarter
 rojo gravy
 roshani balcony
 rubani pilot
 rubuni deposit (as part payment)
 rudi come back, return, go
 back; get back
 rudia repeat
 rudisha give back
 ruhusa permission
 ruhusu let, allow
 ruka jump
 rusha throw
 rushwa corruption

S

saa clock; o'clock; hour;
 time; wristwatch
 (ni) saa ngapi? what time is
 it?

saa sita ya usiku midnight
 saa ya kengele alarm clock
 saba seven
 sabini seventy
 sabuni soap
 sabuni ya majimaji washing-
 up liquid
 sabuni ya unga washing
 powder, soap powder
 sadiki believe
 safari safari; journey; travel
 safari kwa baluni balloon
 safari
 safari kwa basi coach trip
 safari kwa basi dogo minibus
 safari
 safari kwa meli cruise
 safari kwa ndege flight; air
 safari
 safari kwa ndege ya ratiba
 scheduled flight
 safari kwa ngamia camel
 safari
 safari njema! have a good
 journey!
 safari ya kuongoza watalii
 guided tour
 safari ya makao kambini
 camping safari
 safari ya matembezi day trip
 safari ya mpango wa jumla
 package holiday
 safari ya utalii tour
 safari za kimataifa
 international flights
 safari za ndege za ndani
 domestic flights
 safi clean; fine; cool
 safi kabisa great, excellent

safiri	travel	-enye sauti kubwa	loud
safiri kwa ndege	fly	saviyeti	serviette
safisha	clean; develop	sawa	all right, OK; right, correct; that's fine; yes; similar
sahani	plate	niko sawa	I'm OK
sahau	forget	ndiyo, sawa	yes, that's fine
sahihi	correct, accurate	sawa!	right!
saidia	help	ni sawa	that's fine
saidia maskini!	help the poor!	ni sawa tu	that's OK
saini	signature	secunde	second
saizi	size	sehemu	part
sakafu	floor (of room)	sehemu ya ...	a bit of ...
sakafuni	on the floor	sehemu kubwa	a big bit
salama	safe	sehemu ndogo	a little bit
samahani	sorry; excuse me	sehemu maarufu za ...	the sights of ...
samahani?	sorry?, pardon (me)?	sehemu ya chini	ground floor, (US) first floor
samahani kukusumbua	sorry to bother you	sehemu ya mapokezi	reception desk
samahani, nimekosea namba	sorry, wrong number	sehemu ya watoto	children's portion
samahani nipishe	excuse me	seli	sale
samaki	fish	sema	speak; say; talk
samehe	forgive	sema polepole	speak slowly
sampuli	pattern; sample	sema tena	repeat
sana	very; too; so	sema uongo	lie, tell a lie
sanaa	art	serikali	government
sanamu	statue	shahamu	fat (on meat)
sandara	mandarin(s)	shahidi	witness
sanduku	box	shamba	country, countryside; small farm; plot; farm; plantation
sanduku la barua, sanduku la posta	letterbox, mailbox	shanga	beads
sange	elephant shrew	shangazi	aunt (paternal)
sapatu	sandal(s), slipper(s)	shanta	rucksack
sarafu	coin	shauri	advice
sarafu ya Kiingereza	sterling	shavu	cheek (on face)
sasa	now		
sasa hivi	soon		
sauti	voice		

- shawa** shower (in bathroom)
 -enye **shawa** with shower
shelisheli breadfruit – large roundish fruit eaten boiled or roasted
shemegi, shemeji brother-in-law; sister-in-law
sherehe festival
sheria law
shida trouble
sina shida I'm all right
una shida yoyote? are you all right?
 -a **shida** hard, difficult
shimo hole
shingo neck
shirikiana share
shiti sheet
shokomsoba shock-absorber
shona sew
shtuko la moyo heart attack
shuka get off; get out
shule (T) school
si is not; are not; not
si- present negative marker for 'I' – I don't ...
 -**si-** indicates negative form of verb
si ... wala ... neither ... nor ...
siagi butter
sibamangu caracal
sidiria bra
sielewi I don't understand
sifa quality
sifahamu I don't understand
sifikirii I don't think so
sifuri zero
sigaa cigar
sigara, sigareti cigarette(s)
- sihitaji** I don't need
siipendi I don't like it
sijambo I'm fine; very well
sijui I don't know
siki vinegar
sikia hear
sikiliza listen
sikio ear
si kitu don't mention it; it's nothing
siku day
siku iliyotangulia the day before
siku inayofuatia the day after
sikubali hata kidogo definitely not
sikumbuki I don't remember
sikuwa I was not
sikuweza ... I couldn't ...
siku ya kuzaliwa birthday
siku zote always
silinda yenye gesi gas cylinder
sima cornmeal porridge
simama! stop!
simamisha stop
simba lion
simu line; phone
simu ya kulipwa na mpokeaji reverse charge call, collect call
simu ya mbali long-distance call
simu ya upepo mobile phone
sina I have not
sina chenji I've no change
sina mke/mume single, not married (man/woman)
sindano needle

-siodhuru safe	soli sole (of shoe)
-sio faa wrong; not useful	soma read
-siopenya maji waterproof	somesha teach
-sio rasmi informal	somo lesson
-siowezekana impossible	sonara jeweller's
sipendi ... I don't like ...	songa! move along!, squeeze up a little!
siri secret	songana crowded
si ruhusa kuegesha no parking	soseji sausage
sisemi ... I don't speak ...	sosi sauce
sisi we; us	spea spare part
sisi ni we are	spidi speed
sisitiza insist	starehe: -a starehe comfortable
sita six	stempu stamp
sitaha deck	stesheni station
sitaki ... I don't want ...	stesheni ya basi bus station
sitini sixty	stesheni ya mabasi coach station
sivuti sigara I don't smoke	stesheni ya mwisho terminus (rail)
sivyo not so	stesheni ya polisi police station
siwezi ... I can't ...	stesheni ya reli train station
siyo not; no	subiri wait
siyo? isn't it?	sufu wool
si yoyote neither	sufuria pan
si yoyote kati yao neither (one) of them	sukari sugar
skii ya majini waterskiing	sukuma push
skuli (K) school	sumbua disturb; annoy
soda soft drink	sumbufu inconvenient
soda ya limau lemonade	sumu: -enye sumu poisonous
soda ya machungwa fizzy orange	sungura rabbit; hare
sogea kidogo! move along!, squeeze up a little!	supu soup
soketi socket, power point	suruali trousers, (US) pants
soketi ya kunyolea shaving point	suruali kipande shorts
soko market	suruali ya kuogelea swimming trunks
soksi ndefu tights, pantyhose; stockings	suti suit

sutikesi suitcase
 swala gazelle
 swala granti Grant's gazelle
 swala pala impala
 swala tomi Thomson's
 gazelle
 swala twiga gerenuk (antelope)
 swali question

T

-ta- future tense marker
 taa light; lamp
 taa za mbele za gari
 headlights
 taa za nyuma rear lights
 taa za pembeni side lights
 taa ziongozazo magari traffic
 lights
 tabasamu smile
 tafadhali please
 tafadhali nikujulishe na ...?
 may I introduce ...?
 tafadhali sema tena hayo
 could you repeat that
 tafadhali, unaweza ...? could
 you please ...?
 tafadhali usifanye please
 don't
 tafrija party (celebration)
 tafsiri interpret; translate
 tafuta find out; look for
 tahadhari! be careful!
 tai tie, necktie
 taifa nation
 tairi tyre, (US) tire
 tairi ya spea spare tyre/tire
 tajiri rich (person)

taka like; want; wish; ask
 takataka rubbish; trash
 takia cushion
 takriban roughly,
 approximately
 tambarare flat
 tambua recognize; know
 tamka pronounce
 -tamu sweet
 tandala kudu
 tandiko saddle (for horse)
 tanga sail
 tangawizi ginger
 tangi tank (of car)
 tango cucumber
 tangu since
 tangu wiki iliyopita since last
 week
 tangulia tafadhali after you
 tano five
 tapika vomit
 tarabu orchestral music of
 the coastal people
 tarajia expect
 tarajiwa due
 tarakimu number, figure
 tarehe date
 tarehe ya kumalizikia expiry
 date
 tarishi courier
 tatizo problem
 tatu three
 taulo towel; bath towel
 taya jaw; oribi
 tayari already; ready
 tayarisha arrange
 tazama look; look at
 TAZARA Tanzania/Zambia
 Railway Authority

TBC Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation
tegua twist
teksi taxi
tembea walk; go out
tembelea visit
tembo elephant; coconut palm wine
tena again; more
tende dates; strong alcoholic drink
tenga separate
tengeneza fix, arrange; mend, repair
thamani value
 -a **thamani** valuable
thelathini thirty
theluji snow
themanini eighty
thibitisha confirm
tia pamoja na include
tia posta post
tiketi (T) ticket
tikisa shake
tikiti melon; (K) ticket
tikiti itumikayo baadaye open ticket
tikiti ya kwenda na kurejea,
tikiti ya kwenda na kurudi
 return ticket, round-trip ticket
tikiti ya kwenda tu single ticket, one-way ticket
timu team
tini figs
tipu (K) tip (to waiter etc)
tisa nine
tishu paper tissues
tisini ninety

-to- marker added to the infinitive form after **ku-** to form the negative
toa give
tochi torch, flashlight
tofauti difference; different
tohe reedbuck
toka from; come from; get out
toka Jumatatu hadi Ijumaa
 from Monday to Friday
tokea happen
tope mud
tosti, tosi toast; slice of bread
toweka disappear
toza charge
-toza zaidi overcharge
treni train
treni yenye vitanda sleeper (on train)
tu just, only
tu- we; subject marker
-tu- us; object marker
tufaa apple
tukia happen
tulikuwa we were
tulikuwa na we had
tumaini hope
tumbaku tobacco
tumbawe coral reef
tumbili monkey; vervet monkey
tumbo stomach
tumekubaliana it's a deal
tumia use; spend
tuna we have
tuna wakati mwingi there's plenty of time
tunaweza ...? could we ...?;

can we ...?
tunaweza kupata ...? can we have some ...?
tunda fruit
tungule cherry tomatoes
tuza look after
tupa throw away
tupu empty
tutaonana! see you!
tutaonana baadaye! see you later!
twende, endelea let's go; carry on
twende zetu! let's go!
twiga giraffe
twiga mdogo gerenuk

U

u- you (sing); subject marker
ua flower; fence; kill
uamuzi decision
Ubalozi embassy
Ubalozi Mdogo consulate
ubao wa kupigia mbizi diving board
ubavu rib
Ubelgiji Belgium
ubongo brains
uchafu dirt
uchaguzi election
uchofu wa kilevi hangover
uchoraji drawing
ufagio broom; brush
Ufaransa France
ufizi gum (in mouth)
ufukwe shore
ufukweni on/at the shore

ufunguo key
ugali porridge, polenta – made from maize, cassava or millet flour
ugeuzaji wa njia diversion, detour
Ugiriki Greece
ugomvi quarrel
ugonjwa disease; illness
ugonjwa wa maini hepatitis
ugumu difficulty
Uhabeshi Ethiopia
u hali gani? how do you do?; how are you? (to one person)
Uholanzi Holland, Netherlands
uhuru freedom; independence
Uingereza England; UK
ujenzi building
Ujerumani Germany
uji porridge or gruel made from millet
ujia corridor
ukanda belt; strap
ukanda wa feni fan belt
ukanda wa kinga seat belt
ukanda wa saa watch strap
ukarimu hospitality
Ukimwi AIDS
uko sawa? are you OK?
ukosi collar
ukucha nail (finger)
ukumbi lounge; foyer, lobby
ukumbi wa kuondokea departure lounge
ukungu fog
kuna ukungu it's foggy
-enye ukungu foggy

ukuta wall	name?
ulanga soapstone	unakaa wapi? where are you staying?
Ulaya Europe	unakaribishwa, tafadhali you're welcome, don't mention it
ule that	unakwenda wapi? (T) where are you going?
uliipenda ...? how did you like ...?	unapenda ...? do you like ...?
ulikuwa you were	unasema kiswahili? do you speak Swahili?
ulikuwa na you had (sing)	unataka ...? do you want ...?; would you like ...?
ulilala vyema? did you sleep well?	unataka aina gani? which kind do you want?
ulimi tongue	unataka kinywaji? would you like a drink?
uma bite; sting; fork	unataka kuagizisha chakula sasa? would you like to order (the food) now?
umande mist	unataka kunywa nini? what would you like to drink?
umbali distance	unataka nini? what do you want?
umekipenda chakula? did you enjoy your meal?	unataka zaidi? would you like some more?
umeme electricity; lightning; current	unatoka wapi? where do you come from?
-a umeme electric	una umri gani? how old are you?
umeoa/umeolewa? are you married? (to man/woman)	unavuta sigara? do you smoke?
umeona ...? have you seen ...?	unaweza ...? can you ...?; could you ...?
umepata kufika ...? have you ever been to ...	unga flour
umiza hurt	ungua burnt
umizwa injured	unguza burn
umri age	unyayo sole (of foot)
umwa feel pain	unyevu nyevu: -enye
una you have (sing)	
una ...? do you have ...?	
una njaa? are you hungry?	
unaelewa? do you understand?	
unaenda wapi? (K) where are you going?	
unahitaji huduma yoyote? how can I help you?	
unaitwaje? what's your	

unyevunyevu humid
 uongo: -a uongo false
 upande side; direction
 upande wa kaskazini to the north
 upande wa kulia on the right
 upande wa mbele at the front
 upara: -enye upara bald
 upele rash (on skin)
 upeo horizon
 upepeo fan (handheld)
 upepo wind; breeze
 -a upepo mwingi windy
 upesi quickly; hurriedly
 upuuzi! rubbish!
 uraia nationality
 urefu height (of mountain)
 urukaji angani kwa tiara hang-gliding
 usi- ... you shouldn't ...
 usifanye: usifanye! don't!
 usifanye hivyo! don't do that!; stop it!
 usijali never mind
 usiku night; night time
 usiku kucha overnight
 usiku mwema good night
 usiningojee don't wait for me
 usinisubuwe don't bother me
 usivute sigara no smoking; don't smoke
 Uskochi Scotland
 uso face
 uvimbe inflammation; lump; swelling
 uwanja field; square (in town)

uwanja wa gofu golf course
 uwanja wa majani mafupi lawn
 uwanja wa ndege airport
 uwasilishaji delivery (of mail)
 uwezo wa kuendeleza safari connection
 uyoga mushroom
 uza sell
 uzi string; thread
 uzito weight

V

-vi- subject/object marker
 viatu vya mpira vya kuogelea flippers
 viatu vya ndara sandals
 viazi potatoes
 viazi vitamu sweet potatoes
 vibaya badly
 vifaa equipment
 vifaa vya huduma ya kwanza first-aid kit
 vifaa vya kulia cutlery
 vifaa vya umeme electrical appliances
 vijana teenagers
 vijazio filling (in cake, sandwich)
 vile those
 vilevile also
 vinginevyo otherwise
 vinyago vya kimakonde Tanzanian Makonde tribe wood carvings, usually in ebony and representing entwined spirit families
 vinywaji baridi soft drink

vipi? how?
 vipodozi cosmetics, make-up
 vipokea sauti headphones
 visiwa vya Ngazija Comoros
 Islands
 visiwa vya Shelisheli
 Seychelles
 visodo tampons
 vitabu books
 vitafunio snack
 vitanda beds
 vitanda viwili pacha twin
 beds
 viti chairs
 viti vya bei rahisi economy
 class seats
 vitu things
 vitunguu onion(s)
 vitu vilivyochapishwa printed
 matter
 viungo herbs; spices
 -vivu lazy
 vizuri well; properly; nicely
 volteji voltage
 vuja leak
 vumbi dust
 -enye vumbi dusty
 vunja break
 vunjika broken
 vuta pull
 vyema well
 ni vyema that's nice
 vyombo vya kulia crockery
 vyombo vya kupikia cooking
 utensils; pots and pans
 vyombo vya udongo pottery
 vyumba rooms

W

-w- passive marker
 wa- they; subject marker
 -wa be; become
 -wa- them; you (pl); object
 marker
 wacha mzaha you're joking
 wadi ward
 wadi ya majeruhi casualty
 department
 waipa windscreen wiper
 wakati while; during; time
 wakati huo then, at that
 time
 wakati huu this time
 wakati ujao future; in future
 wakati unazidi kupita it's
 getting late
 wakati wa kufungua opening
 times
 wakati wa usiku at night
 wakati wo wote ever; any
 time
 Wakenya Kenyan citizens,
 Kenyans
 wakili lawyer
 wakwe in-laws; parents-in-
 law
 wala nor
 wala si mimi nor do I
 wale those (people, animals)
 wali rice (cooked)
 walikuwa they were
 walikuwa na they had
 walinzi-okozi lifeguard
 wamefunga they're shut
 wana they have

wananchi the people, the citizens
wanaoondoka departures
wanaowasili arrivals
wanaume men
wanawake women
wanyama wakali fierce animals
wao they; them
wao ni they are
wapi? where?; where is?
waraka document
washa turn on, switch on; washer (for bolt etc)
wasili come; get in, arrive; fly in
wasilisha deliver
wasiovuta sigara non-smokers
wasiwasi worry; problems, hassles
wastani average; medium
kwa wastani on average
-a wastani medium-sized
watalii tourists
Watanzania Tanzanian citizens, Tanzanians
watoto children, kids
watu people; men
watu wengi a lot of people
watu wengine the other people
wavu net (in sport)
wavutao sigara smokers
waweza ...? can you ...?
waweza kunipatia ...? can I have ...?
wawili couple (two people)
wazazi parents

wazi open
wazimu: -enye wazimu crazy, mad
waziri mkuu prime minister
wazo idea
wazungu Europeans
weka keep; put
wekesha book, reserve
wembe razor
wengi a lot, lots
wengine the others
wenzo lever
wenzo wa gia gear lever
wewe you (sing)
wewe ni you are
weza would; could; be able, can; may
wiki week
wiki hii this week
wiki ijayo next week
wiki iliyopita last week
wiki nzima the whole week
wiki moja kuanzia kesho a week (from) tomorrow
wiki moja kuanzia leo a week (from) today
wiki mbili fortnight
wilaya district
-wili two
wimbo song
wingi plenty; abundance; a lot
wiva ripe
wizi burglary; rip-off
wote all; all of them

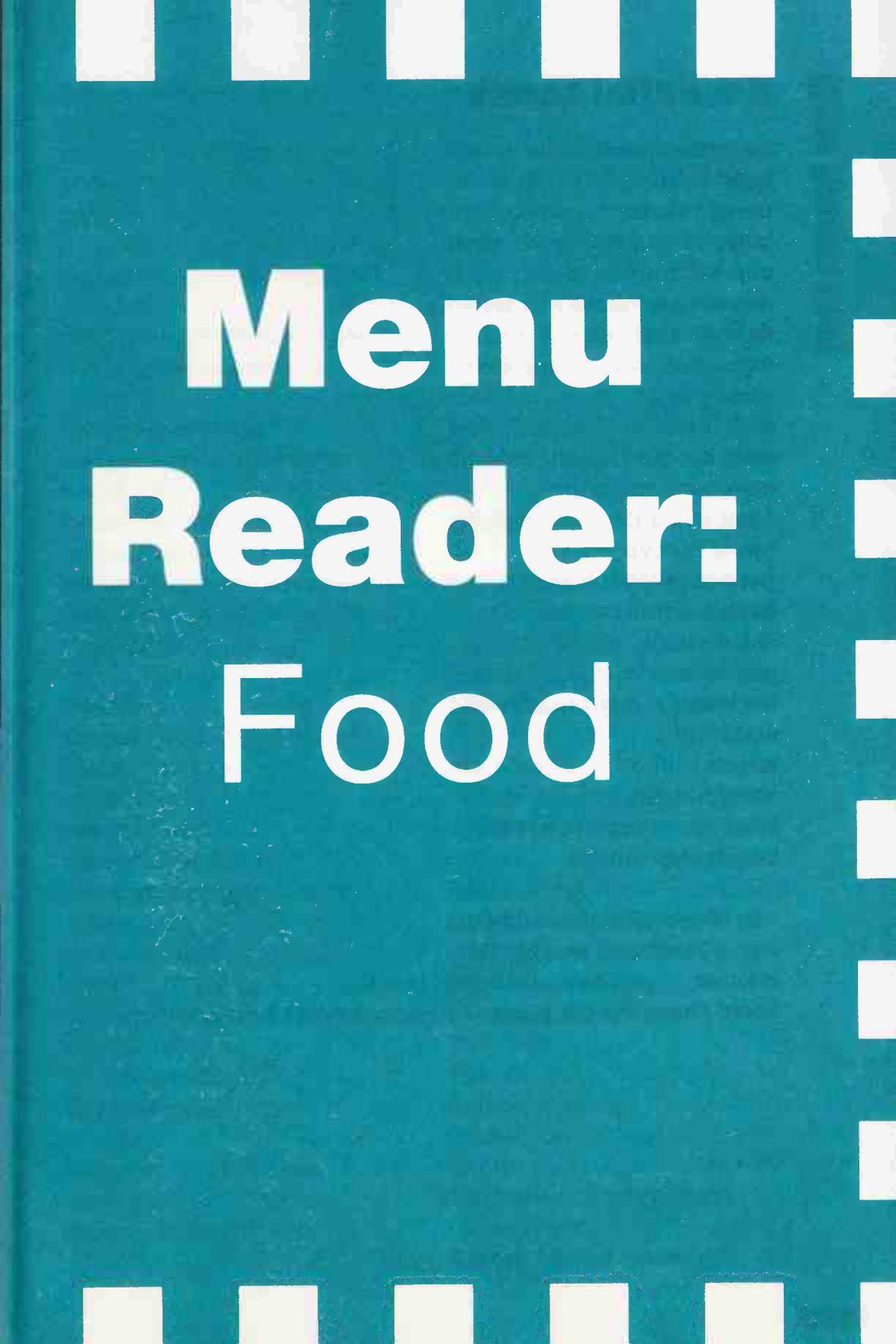
Y

ya for; of
 ya- subject/object marker
 yachukiza revolting
 yadi yard
 yafurahisha enjoyable
 yai egg
 yai la kukaanga fried egg
 yake: kwa ajili yake for
 him/her
 ni yake that's his/hers
 yako yours
 hii ni yako this is for you
 ya kukodisha for hire, to rent
 yale those
 ya mkono manual (car with
 manual gears)
 ya nani? whose?
 yangu mine; my
 ... yangu mwenyewe my
 own ...
 ni peke yangu I'm on my
 own
 ni yangu it's mine
 ya nje outdoors
 yao theirs
 yatosha enough
 yatumika valid
 yavutia interesting
 yawezekana possible
 yetu our; ours; for us
 yeye he; she; her; him
 yoga mushrooms
 yogat yoghurt
 yote all of it, the whole lot
 yoti yacht
 yoyote any

yu he; she; subject marker
 yule that; that one (person,
 animal)
 yupi? who?

Z

zabibu grapes
 zafarani saffron
 zaidi more, extra
 zaidi kidogo a little bit more
 zaidi ya ... more than ...
 zaidi ya hiyo more than that
 zaituni olives
 zamani: -a zamani old-
 fashioned; past
 zamu turn; round
 zawadi present, gift
 zi- subject/object marker;
 they
 ziara ya kutalii sehemu
 maarufu sightseeing tour
 zibika blocked
 zile those
 zima switch off, turn off
 zimamoto fire brigade
 zimia faint
 zimika off (lights etc)
 ziwa lake
 zulia carpet
 -zuri beautiful, lovely; good;
 nice
 -zuri sana terrific,
 tremendous, wonderful
 zurura wander



Menu Reader: Food

Essential terms

appetizer kianzio
bowl bakuli
bread mkate
butter siagi
cup kikombe
dessert kimalizio
fish samaki
fork uma
glass gilasi
knife kisu
main course chakula muhimu
margarine majarini
meat nyama
menu menyu
pepper pilipili
plate sahani
salad saladi
salt chumvi
set menu menyu maalumu
soup supu
spoon kijiko
starter kianzio
table meza
vegetables mboga

can I have ...? naweza kupata ...?

waiter!/waitress! see page 128

another ..., please ... nyingine, tafadhali

could I have the bill, please? naweza kupata bili, tafadhali?

- achari, achali** pickle
adesi lentils
aiskrimu ice cream
andazi sweet pastry
aprikoti apricot

baga meat, fish or vegetable burger
bajia spicy meatballs made from mashed lentils or beans
balungi grapefruit
bamia okra, lady's fingers
baridi cold
biriani rice with spices and meat, chicken or vegetables
biringani aubergine, eggplant
biskuti biscuit(s), cookie(s); cracker(s)

chakula food
chapati unleavened bread
chatni chutney
chaza oyster
chenza tangerine
chewa rock cod
chipsi za muhogo cassava chips
chizi cheese
choma roast
choroko dark green peas
chumvi salt
chungwa orange (fruit)
Cowboy® cooking fat

dagaa very small fish; sardines
dengu chickpeas

embe mango

faluda milk pudding – made with strips of gelatin, sugar and cardamom
farne sweet made from rice flour, sugar and milk
fenesi jackfruit – large melon-shaped fruit with thick green skin and yellow flesh
figili (T) celery; radish leaves
figo kidney

gilgilani coriander

halua, haluwa, halwa sweet made from sesame seeds or pistachio nuts
haradali mustard
hiliki, iliki cardamom

irio potato, cabbage and beans mashed together (Mount Kenya region)

jelebi pastry made from wheat flour, sugar and/or syrup
jibini cheese

kaa crab
kababu spicy meatballs
kabichi cabbage
kachumbari onions and herbs in vinegar marinade
kaimati small very sweet doughnuts
kamba lobster; prawn(s)

kamba wadogo shrimp(s)
kamba wakubwa lobster
kangaja clementine
karafuu cloves
karanga peanuts; ground nuts; (K) beef stew
karoti carrots
kashata sweet made from boiled sugar, grated coconut and almonds
katlesi meat or fish croquette
kebeji cabbage
keki cake
kepguzbari cape gooseberries
kibibi small pancake(s)
kima cooked mincemeat eaten with spaghetti or plain rice
kimanda omelette
kimanda cha jibini cheese omelette
Kimbo® cooking fat
kisamvu cooked cassava leaves with spices
kitumbua deep-fried small rice bread
kitunguu onion(s)
kitunguu thomu garlic
kiwanda omelette
kiwanda cha jibini cheese omelette
kiwanda cha nyanya tomato omelette
kofta meatballs
komamanga pomegranate
kongosho sweetbreads
korosho cashew nuts

kuchemsha: -a kuchemsha boiled
kuchoma: -a kuchoma grilled
kukaanga: -a kukaanga fried
kuku chicken
kuku wa kuchoma grilled chicken
kunde cow peas
kutokoša: -a kutokosa boiled
letis lettuce
limau lemon

maandazi sweet doughnut, sometimes flavoured with spices
machungwa oranges
madafu green coconuts – contains sweet pulp and juice (sold by street vendors on the coast)
maembe mangoes
mafuta ya kupikia cooking fat
mahamri sweet doughnuts, sometimes flavoured with spices
maharag(w)e beans or red kidney beans, often cooked with coconut
maharagwe ya kifaransa French beans
mahindi corn
maini liver
majarini margarine
makaroni, makaronya macaroni
mamba crocodile
mandazi sweet doughnuts, sometimes flavoured with spices

- mastad** mustard
- mastafeli** soursops – edible white-fleshed fruit with spiny skin and black seeds
- matoke** mashed green bananas
- matopetope** custard apples
- matunda** fruit
- mayai** eggs
- mayai ya kuchemsha** boiled eggs
- mayai ya kukaanga** fried eggs
- mayai ya kuvuruga** scrambled eggs
- maziwalala** (K) yoghurt; sour milk
- maziwa ya kuganda** (T) yoghurt; sour milk
- mbaazi** pigeon peas, cooked in water, salt and coconut milk
- mbatata** potato(es)
- mboga** vegetables
- mchele** uncooked rice
- mchicha** spinach, usually cooked with onions and tomatoes
- mchuzi** curry; sauce eaten with plain rice dishes; gravy
- mchuzi wa kondoo** lamb curry
- mchuzi wa kuku** chicken curry
- mchuzi wa nyama** meat curry, usually beef
- mchuzi wa samaki** fish curry
- menyu, menyu ya chakula** menu
- menyu maalumu** set menu
- mishikaki** kebabs
- mkate** bread; loaf; roll
- mkate mayai** (K) egg-bread – light wheat-flour ‘pancake’ wrapped around fried eggs and minced meat, usually cooked on a huge griddle
- mkate wa kumimina** sweet bread made from rice flour
- mkate wa kusukuma** fried flat wheat bread
- mkate wa mayai** (T) sweet bread made from flour, sugar and eggs
- mkate wa mofa** oven-baked millet bread
- mkate wa ufuta** oven-baked flat wheat bread with sesame seeds
- moto** hot
- mseto** a mixture of rice, millet or lentils and meat
- mtama** millet; sorghum
- muhogo** cassava – large roots eaten roasted or boiled
- nanaa** mint
- nanasi** pineapple
- nazi** ripe coconuts
- ndimu** lime
- ndizi** bananas; plantains
- ngisi** squid
- nguru** kingfish
- njegere** peas
- njugu** nuts; peanuts
- njugunyasa** peanuts; ground nuts
- nusu** half; half-portion

nyama meat
nyama choma (K) roast meat
nyama ya bata duck
nyama ya kanga guinea fowl
nyama ya kondoo mutton;
lamb
nyama ya kuchoma roast
beef; (T) roast meat
nyama ya kuku chicken
nyama ya kwale pheasant;
partridge
nyama ya mbuni ostrich
nyama ya mbuzi goat
nyama ya ndama veal
nyama ya ng'ombe beef
nyama ya nguruwe pork;
bacon
nyama ya njiwa pigeon
nyama ya nyati buffalo
nyama ya paa venison
nyama ya sungura hare;
rabbit
nyama ya swala impala
nyanya tomatoes

orodha ya chakula menu

papa shark
papai papaya, pawpaw
parachichi avocado
pasheni passionfruit
pea pear
pera guava – round, green-
skinned fruit with white
flesh
peya pear
pichi peach
pilau rice with spices
pilipili pepper(s); chilli(es)

pilipili manga black pepper
piripiri chillies
pudin pudding
punda milia zebra
pweza octopus

rojo gravy
rostbif roast beef

saladi lettuce; salad
saladi ya figili radish salad
saladi ya letis green salad
saladi ya matango cucumber
salad
saladi ya matunda fruit salad
saladi ya nyanya tomato
salad
samaki fish
samaki wa kuchoma grilled
fish
samaki wa kukaanga fried
fish
samaki wa kupaka fish
cooked in coconut milk
and spices
sambusa deep-fried
triangular pastry filled with
chopped meat and
vegetables
samoni salmon
sandara mandarin(s)
shelisheli breadfruit – large
roundish fruit eaten boiled
or roasted
siagi butter
siki vinegar
sima cornmeal porridge
sosi sauce
steki steak; grilled meat

- stroberi** strawberries
sukari sugar
sukuma wiki boiled green leaves, usually a type of spinach
supu soup
supu ya kuku chicken soup
supu ya mafupa bone soup
supu ya mboga vegetable soup
supu ya nyama beef soup

tambi vermicelli – sometimes cooked with coconut milk and sugar
tangawizi ginger
tango cucumber
tende dates – sometimes mashed with almonds
tewa rock cod
tikiti melon
tini figs
topetope custard apple
tosti, tosi toast; slice of bread
tosti na siagi bread and butter
tungule cherry tomatoes
twiga giraffe

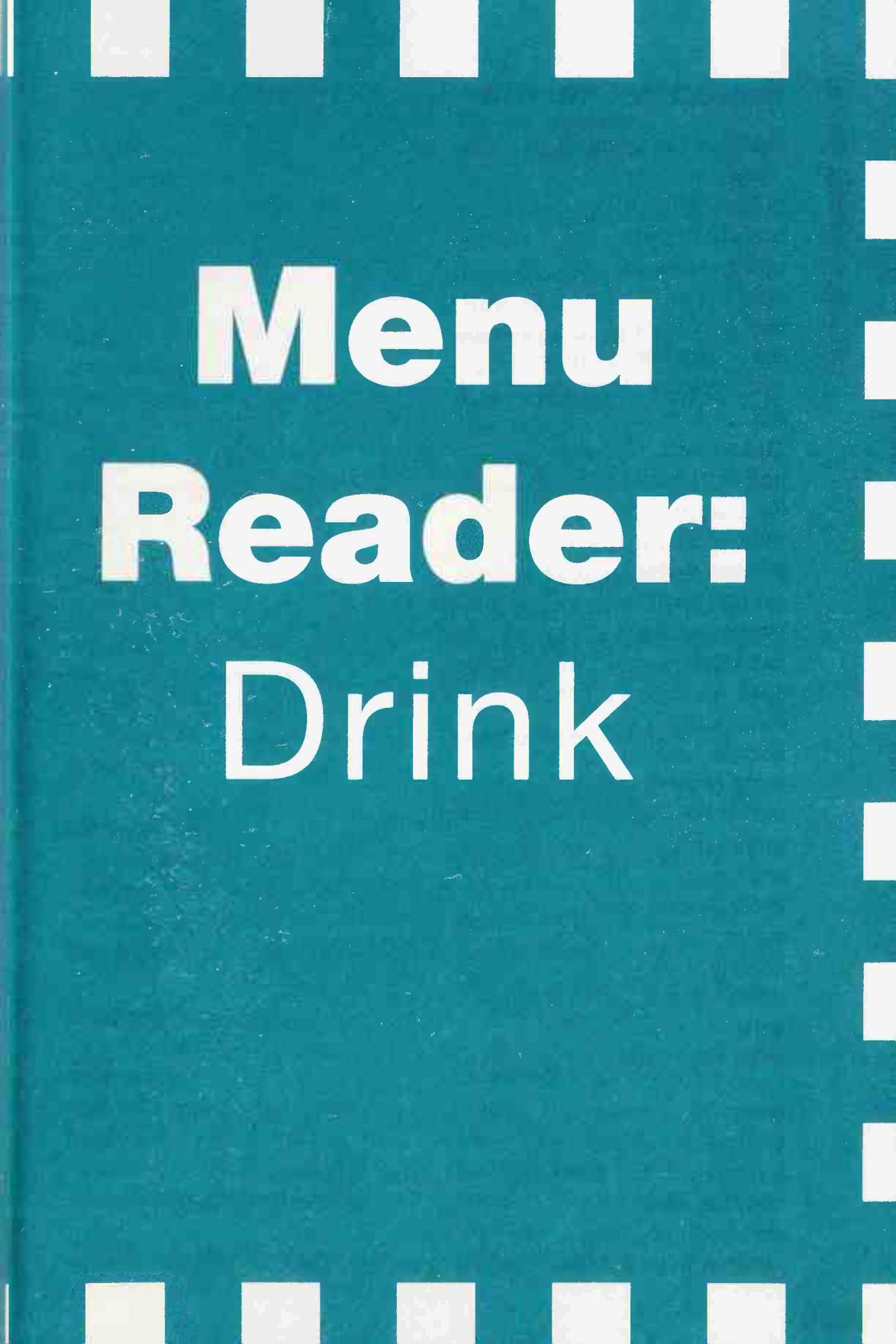
ubongo brains
ugali stiff porridge, polenta – made from maize, cassava or millet flour
uji porridge or gruel made from millet
ulimi tongue
unga flour
uyoga mushroom

viazi potatoes
viazi vitamu sweet potatoes
viazi vya kutokosa boiled potatoes
vibibi small pancake(s)
vileji small flat cake made from rice flour and sugar
visheti small sweet pastry
vitobonya, vitobosha fritters made from flour and sugar
vitumbua deep-fried rice fritters
vitunguu onion(s)
viungo herbs; spices

wali rice cooked in coconut milk or water

yai egg
yoga mushrooms
yogat yoghurt

zabibu grapes
zafarani saffron
zaituni olives
zelabia pastry made from wheat flour, sugar and/or syrup



**Menu
Reader:
Drink**

Essential terms

beer biya (K), bia (T)
(local) pombe
bottle chupa
brandy brandi
coffee kahawa
cold baridi
cup kikombe
drink (alcoholic) pombe
(non-alcoholic) kinywaji
gin jin
glass gilasi
half-bottle nusu chupa
ice barafu
milk maziwa
mineral water maji ya soda
orange juice maji ya machungwa
passionfruit juice maji ya pasheni
red wine mvinyo nyekundu
rosé mvinyo ya 'rosé'
rum ramu
scotch wiski
soda (water) soda
soft drink soda, vinywaji baridi
sugar sukari
tea chai
tonic (water) tonik
water maji
whisky wiski
white wine mvinyo nyeupe
wine mvinyo
wine list orodha ya mvinyo

a cup of ..., please kikombe kimoja cha ..., tafadhali

a glass of ... gilasi ya ...

a gin and tonic, please jin na toniki, tafadhali

with ice na barafu

no ice bila barafu

another beer, please biya nyingine, tafadhali

Afrikoko® Tanzanian liqueur

barafu ice

baridi cold

bia (T) beer

biya (K) beer

brandi brandy

chai tea with milk

chai kavu black tea

chai strongi strongly spiced tea

chai ya rangi black tea

chai ya tangawizi ginger tea

chibuku Tanzanian spirit made from millet

chupa bottle

dawa vodka, white rum, honey and lime juice (literally: 'medicine')

gilasi glass

kahawa coffee

Kenya Cane® white rum

Kenya Gold® coffee-flavoured liqueur

Konyagi® Tanzanian brandy

lemonadi lemonade

maji water

maji ya karoti carrot juice

maji ya kunywa drinking water

maji ya machungwa orange juice

maji ya madafu unripe-

coconut juice

maji ya maembe mango juice

maji ya mananasi pineapple juice

maji ya miwa sugar-cane juice

maji ya ndimu sweetened lime juice

maji ya pasheni passionfruit juice

maji ya ukwaju sweetened tamarind juice

maziwa milk

maziwalala (K) fermented milk, almost like yoghurt (literally: 'sleeping milk')

mvinyo ya Dodoma (T) Dodoma wine

mvinyo ya mapapai (K) papaya wine

nusu chupa half-bottle

orodha ya mvinyo wine list

pegi a small amount of brandy/whisky, a peg

pombe home-brewed 'beer' made from fermented sugar and millet or banana and other ingredients

sharubati fruit juice with spices

soda fizzy soft drink

soda ya limau lemonade

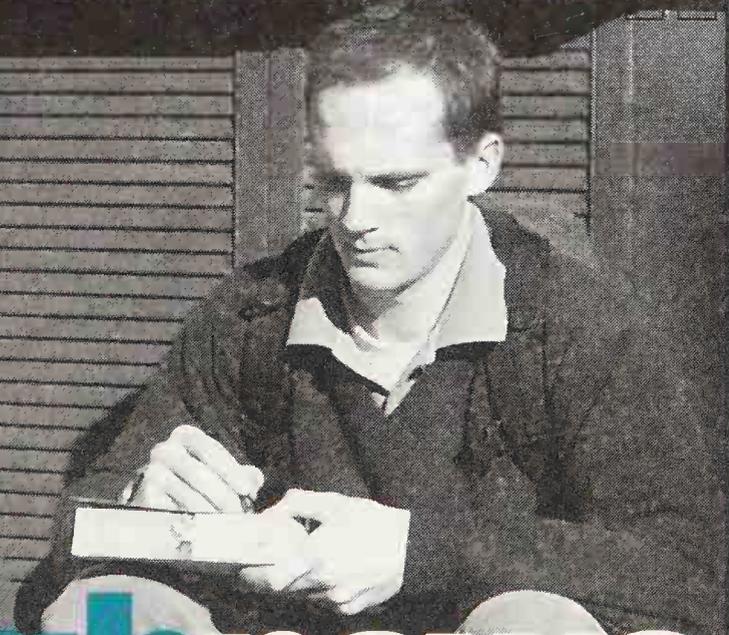
soda ya machungwa fizzy orange

sukari sugar

- tembo** coconut-palm wine
- tende** strong local spirit
- togwa** cold drink made from millet
- waragi** Ugandan spirit
- wiski** whisky

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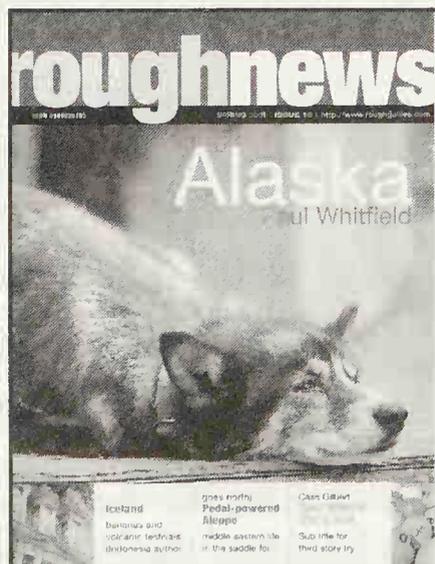
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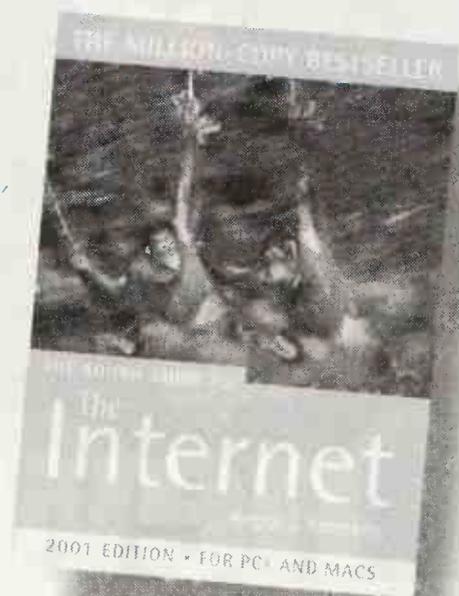


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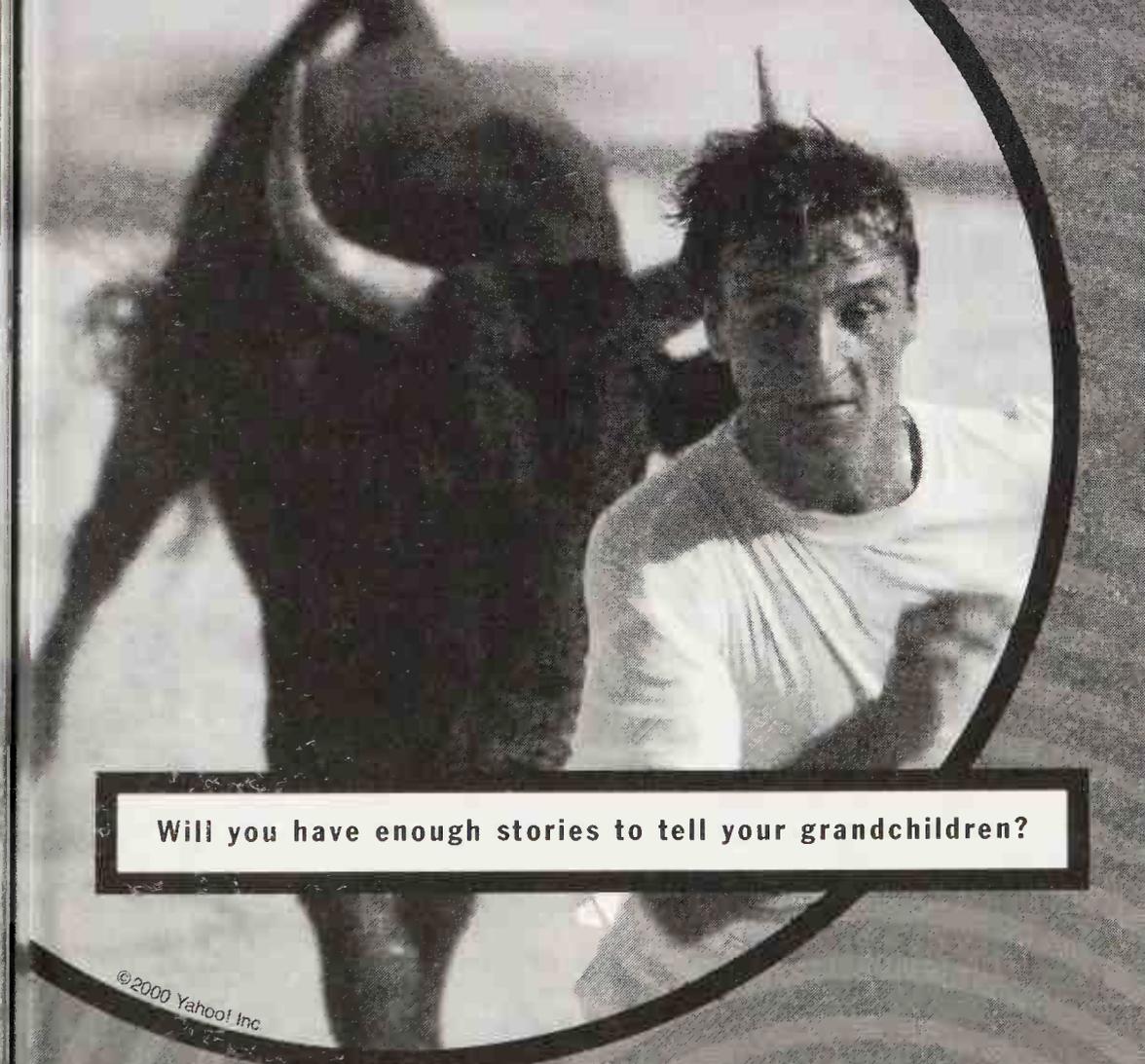
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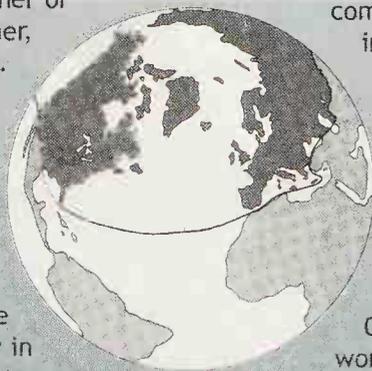
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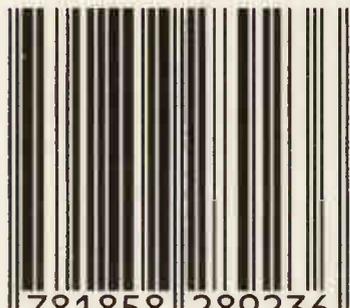
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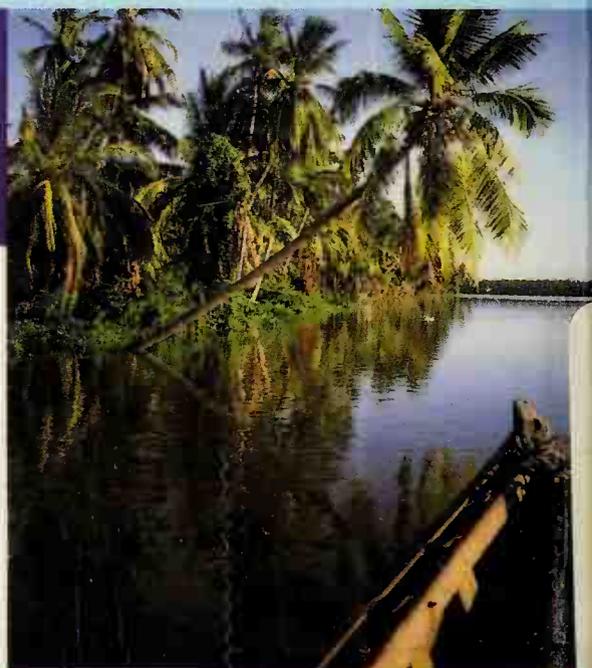
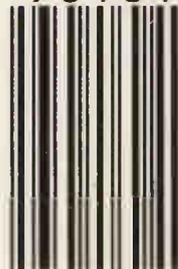
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