



ROUGH GUIDES

THE ROUGH GUIDE PHRASEBOOK

Swahili

THE ROUGH GUIDE

SWAHILI

PHRASEBOOK

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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 **Basic Phrases** and to get you involved in two-way communication, the Rough Guide includes, in this new edition, a set of **Scenario** dialogues illustrating questions and responses in key situations such as renting a car and asking directions. You can hear these and then download them free from www.roughguides.com/phrasebooks for use on your computer or MP3 player.

Forming the heart of the guide, the **English-Swahili** section gives easy-to-use transliterations of the Swahili words wherever pronunciation might be a problem. Throughout this section, cross-references enable you to pinpoint key facts and phrases, while asterisked words indicate where further information can be found in a section at the end of the book called **How the Language Works**. This section sets out the fundamental rules of the language, with plenty of practical examples. You’ll also find here other essentials like numbers, dates, telling the time and basic phrases. In the **Swahili-English** dictionary, we’ve given you not just the phrases you’ll be likely to hear (starting with a selection of slang and colloquialisms) but also many of the signs, labels, instructions and other basic words you may come across in print or in public places.

Near the back of the book too the Rough Guide offers 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!



Basic Phrases

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 ...
siwezi ...

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?



Scenarios

1. Accommodation

is there an inexpensive hotel you can recommend?

▶ je, kuna hoteli ambayo si ghali utayoweza kunipendekeza?

samahani, inaonekana zote zimejaa kabisa ◀
I'm sorry, they all seem to be fully booked

can you give me the name of a good middle-range hotel?

▶ utaweza kunipa jina la hoteli nzuri ya bei ya wastani?

subiri niangalie; unataka iwe katikati ya mji? ◀
let me have a look; do you want to be in the centre?

if possible

▶ kama ikiwezekana

utajali kama ikiwa nje kidogo ya mji? ◀
do you mind being a little way out of town?

not too far out

▶ isiwe mbali sana

where is it on the map?

▶ iko wapi katika ramani?

can you write the name and address down?

▶ utaweza kuandika jina na anwani yake?

I'm looking for a room in a private house

▶ ninatafuta chumba katika nyumba ya mapumziko

2. Banks

bank account	akaunti ya benki
to change money	kubadilisha fedha
cheque	cheki
to deposit	kuweka pesa
pin number	namba ya siri
pound	paundi
to withdraw	kutoa pesa

can you change this into shillings?

▶ je, utaweza kubadilisha hizi katika shilingi?

ungependa pesa iweje? ◀

how would you like the money?

small notes

▶ noti ndogo ndogo

big notes

▶ noti kubwa kubwa

do you have information in English about opening an account?

▶ unayo maelekezo ya Kiingereza kuhusu ufunguaji wa akaunti?

ndio, ungependa aina gani ya akaunti? ◀

yes, what sort of account do you want?

I'd like a current account

▶ ningependa akaunti ya hundi

pasipoti yako tafadhali ◀

your passport, please

can I use this card to draw some cash?

▶ nitaweza kutumia kadi hii ili kutoa pesa?

inabidi uende katika deski la mshika fedha ◀

you have to go to the cashier's desk

I want to transfer this to my account at Standard Chartered

▶ ninataka kuhamisha hii pesa katika akaunti yangu ya Standard Chartered

sawa, lakini itabidi ulipe malipo ya simu ◀

OK, but we'll have to charge you for the phonecall

akaunti ya akiba	savings account
akaunti ya hundi	current account
asilimia ya faida ya muuzaji	commission
namba ya akaunti	account number
namba ya tawi la benki	sort code

3. Booking a room

shower	bafu la manyunyu
telephone in the room	simu chumbani
payphone in the lobby	simu ya kulipia ya sebuleni

do you have any rooms?

▶ je, mnavyo vyumba?

kwa watu wangapi? ◀

for how many people?

for one/for two

▶ kwa mmoja/kwa wawili

ndio, tuna vyumba vilivyo wazi ◀

yes, we have rooms free

kwa usiku ngapi? ◀

for how many nights?

just for one night

▶ kwa usiku mmoja tu

how much is it?

▶ ni bei gani?

shilingi 40,000 pamoja na bafu na shilingi 25,000 bila ya bafu ◀

40,000 shillings with bathroom and 25,000 shillings without
bathroom

does that include breakfast?

▶ hiyo ni pamoja na kifungua kinywa?

can I see a room with bathroom?

▶ ninaweza kuona chumba chenye bafu?

ok, I'll take it

▶ sawa, nitakichukua

when do I have to check out?

▶ saa ngapi inabidi kutoka chumbani?

is there anywhere I can leave luggage?

▶ kuna sehemu yeyote ninapoweza kuacha mizigo?

4. Car hire

automatic	ya kujiendesha
full tank	tenki lililojaa
manual	la kutumia mikono
rented car	gari la kukodisha

I'd like to rent a car

▶ ningependa kukodi gari

kwa muda gani? ◀
for how long?

two days

▶ siku mbili

I'll take the ...

▶ nitachukua ...

is that with unlimited mileage?

▶ je, hiyo inakua na umbali usio na kikomo?

ni hivyo ◀
it is

tafadhali naweza kuona leseni yako ya kuendesha? ◀
can I see your driving licence, please?

na pasipoti yako ◀
and your passport

is insurance included?

▶ je, bima imeshajumlishwa?

ndio lakini inabidi ulipe shilingi 10,000 za mwanzo ◀
yes, but you have to pay the first 10,000 shillings

unaweza kuacha amana ya shilingi 10,000? ◀
can you leave a deposit of 10,000 shillings?

and if this office is closed, where do I leave the keys?

▶ na kama ofisi hii imefungwa, niwache wapi funguo?

zitumbukize katika boksi lile ◀
you drop them in that box

5. Communications

ADSL modem	modemu ya ADSL
at	alama ya ati
dial-up modem	modemu ya kupiga simu
dot	nukta
Internet	intaneti
mobile (phone)	simu ya mkono
password	neni la siri
telephone socket adaptor	adapta ya soketi ya simu
wireless hotspot	wireless hotspot

is there an Internet café around here?

▶ je, kuna mgahawa wa intaneti katika maeneo haya?

can I send email from here?

▶ ninaweza kutuma barua pepe kutoka hapa?

where's the at sign on the keyboard?

▶ iko wapi alama ya ati katika kibodi?

can you switch this to a UK keyboard?

▶ unawaza kuibadili hii ikawa kibodi ya Uingereza?

can you help me log on?

▶ unaweza kunisaidia kuingia katika kompyuta?

I'm not getting a connection, can you help?

▶ sipati mwunganisho, unaweza kusaidia?

where can I get a top-up card for my mobile?

▶ ninaweza kupata wapi kadi ya kuongeza hela kwa ajili ya simu yangu ya mkono?

can you put me through to...?

▶ unaweza kunipatia...?

zero	sifuri
one	moja
two	mbili
three	tatu
four	nne
five	tano
six	sita
seven	saba
eight	nane
nine	tisa

6. Directions

hi, I'm looking for Kariakoo
 ▶ habari, ninatafuta Kariakoo

samahani, sijawahi kupasikia ◀
 sorry, never heard of it

hi, can you tell me where Kariakoo is?
 ▶ habari, unaweza kuniambia Kariakoo ipo wapi?

mimi pia ni mgeni hapa ◀
 I'm a stranger here too

hi,
 Kariakoo,
 do you
 know
 where it is?
 habari,
 Kariakoo,
 unajua
 ilipo?

where?
 wapi?

which direction?
 mwelekeo upi?

▶ kwenye kona
 around the corner

▶ kushoto katika mataa ya pili ya barabarani
 left at the second traffic lights

▶ halafu ni barabara ya kwanza upande wa kulia
 then it's the first street on the right

baada tu ya
 just after

mbali zaidi
 further

pita ...
 past the ...

baada ya
 next

mbele ya
 in front of

upande wa
 kushoto
 on the left

barabara
 street

moja kwa moja
 straight ahead

upande wa kulia
 on the right

karibu ya
 near

nyuma
 back

zilizoelekeana
 opposite

kule
 over there

pinda
 turn off

7. Emergencies

accident	ajali
ambulance	gari la wagonjwa
consul	balozi mdogo
embassy	ubalozi
fire brigade	kikosi cha zima moto
police	polisi

help!

- ▶ nisaidie!

can you help me?

- ▶ unaweza kunisaidia?

please come with me! it's really very urgent

- ▶ tafadhali njoo na mimi! ni muhimu sana

I've lost (my keys)

- ▶ nimepoteza (funguo zangu)

(my car) is not working

- ▶ (gari langu) halifanyi kazi

(my purse) has been stolen

- ▶ (pochi yangu) imeibiwa

I've been mugged

- ▶ nimeibiwa

jina lako nani? ◀
what's your name?

ninahitaji kuona pasipoti yako ◀
I need to see your passport

I'm sorry, all my papers have been stolen

- ▶ samahani, makaratasi yangu yote yameibiwa

8. Friends

hi, how're you doing?

▶ habari, unaendeleaje?

mzima, na wewe? ◀
ok and you?

yeah, fine

▶ ndio, mzima

not bad

▶ sio mbaya

d'you know Mark?

▶ unamjua Mark?

and this is Hannah

▶ na huyu ni Hannah

ndio, tunajuana ◀
yeah, we know each other

where do you know each other from?

▶ mnajuana kutoka wapi?

tumekutana nyumbani kwa Juma ◀
we met at Juma's place

that was some party, eh?

▶ ile ilikua zinga la sherehe eti?

nzuri kuliko zote ◀
the best

are you guys coming for a beer?

▶ nyie jamaa mtakuja kunywa bia?

poa, twende ◀
cool, let's go

hapana tunakutana na Jamila ◀
no, I'm meeting Jamila

see you at Juma's place tonight

▶ tutaonana nyumbani kwa Juma leo usiku

tutaonana ◀
see you

9. Health

I'm not feeling very well

▶ sijisikii vizuri

can you get a doctor?

▶ unaweza kupata daktari?

wapi panauma? ◀
where does it hurt?

it hurts here

▶ panauma hapa

ni maumivu yasiyosita? ◀
is the pain constant?

it's not a constant pain

▶ sio maumivu yasiyosita

can I make an appointment?

▶ ninaweza kuweka miadi?

can you give me something for ...?

▶ unaweza kunipa kitu kwa ...?

yes, I have insurance

▶ ndio ninayo bima

antibiotics
antiseptic ointment
cystitis
dentist
diarrhoea
doctor
hospital
ill
medicine
painkillers
pharmacy
to prescribe
thrush

viua vijasumu
lihamu ya antiseptiki
uvimbe
daktari wa meno
uharo
daktari
hospitali
-gonjwa
dawa
dawa ya kupunguza maumivu
famasia
kuandikiwa
mksha

10. Language difficulties

a few words
interpreter
to translate

maneno machache
mkalimani
kutafsiri

kadi yako ya benki imekataliwa ◀
your credit card has been refused

what, I don't understand; do you speak English?

▶ nini, mbona sielewi, je unaongea Kiingereza?

hii si halali ◀
this isn't valid

could you say that again?

▶ utaweza kurudia ulichosema? ▶ polepole

slowly

I understand very little Swahili

▶ ninaelewa Kiswahili kidogo sana

I speak Swahili very badly

▶ ninaongea Kiswahili vibaya sana

huwezi kutumia kadi hii kwa malipo ◀
you can't use this card to pay

unaelewa? ◀
do you understand?

sorry, no

▶ samahani, hapana

is there someone who speaks English?

▶ je, kuna mtu anaongea Kiingereza?

oh, now I understand

▶ aha, sasa naelewa

is that ok now?

▶ je, hii ni sawa sasa?

11. Meeting people

hello

▶ habari

habari, jina langu ni Asha ◀
hello, my name's Asha

Graham, from England, Thirsk

▶ Graham, kutoka Uingereza, Thirsk

sipajui, pako sehemu gani? ◀
don't know that, where is it?

not far from York, in the North; and you?

▶ sio mbali na York, kaskazini, na wewe?

ninatoka Nairobi, uko hapa peke yako? ◀
I'm from Nairobi; here by yourself?

no, I'm with my wife and two kids

▶ hapana, niko na mke wangu na watoto wawili

what do you do?

▶ unafanya kazi gani?

ninahusika na makompyuta ◀
I'm in computers

me too

▶ mimi pia

here's my wife now

▶ mke wangu huyu hapa

nimefurahi kukujua ◀
nice to meet you

12. Post offices

airmail
post card
post office
stamp

barua ya ndege
postikadi
posta
stempu

what time does the post office close?

▶ posta hufungwa saa ngapi?

saa kumi na moja kwa siku za wiki ◀
five o'clock weekdays

is the post office open on Saturdays?

▶ je, posta hufunguliwa jumamosi?

mpaka saa sita mchana ◀
until midday

I'd like to send this registered to England

▶ ninataka kutuma hii Uingereza kwa rejista

sawa, itakua ni shilingi 10,000 ◀
certainly, that will cost 10,000 shillings

and also two stamps for England, please

▶ na pia stempu mbili kwa Uingereza tafadhali

do you have some airmail stickers?

▶ unavyo vibandiko vya barua za ndege ?

do you have any mail for me?

▶ je, una barua zangu zozote?

kimataifa
barua
ndani ya nchi
vifurushi

international
letters
domestic
parcels

13. Restaurants

bill	bili
menu	menyu
table	meza

can we have a non-smoking table?

▶ tunaweza kupata meza ya wasiovuta sigara?

there are two of us there are four of us

▶ tuko wawili ▶ tuko wanne

what's this?

▶ hii ni nini?

ni aina ya samaki ◀

it's a type of fish

ni ya utaalumu wa kienyeji ◀

it's a local speciality

njoo ndani na nitakuonesha ◀

come inside and I'll show you

we would like two of these, one of these, and one of those

▶ tungependa mbili za hizi, moja ya hizi na moja ya zile

na kunywa? ◀

and to drink?

red wine

▶ waini nyekundu

white wine

▶ waini nyeupe

a beer and two orange juices

▶ bia na juisi mbili za machungwa

some more bread please

▶ ongeza mkate tafadhali

kilikuaje chakula chenu? ◀

how was your meal?

excellent!, very nice!

▶ kizuri mno!, kizuri sana!

kitu kingine chochote? ◀

anything else?

just the bill thanks

▶ bili tu asante

14. Shopping

ninaweza kukusaidia? ◀
can I help you?

can I just have a look around? yes, I'm looking for ...
▶ ninaweza kuangalia tu? ▶ ndio, ninatafuta ...

how much is this?
▶ hii ni bei gani?

shilingi elfu thelathini na mbili ◀
thirty-two thousand shillings

OK, I think I'll have to leave it; it's a little too expensive for me
▶ sawa, nadhani itabidi niwache; ni ghali kiasi kwangu

hii je? ◀
how about this?

can I pay by credit card?
▶ ninaweza kulipa kwa kadi ya malipo?

it's too big it's too small
▶ ni kubwa mno ▶ ni ndogo mno

it's for my son – he's about this high
▶ ni kwa mtoto wangu wa kiume – ana urefu kama huu

kutakua na chochote kingine? ◀
will there be anything else?

that's all thanks
▶ ni hiyo tu asante

make it twenty thousand shillings and I'll take it
▶ nifanyeie shilingi elfu ishirini na nitaichukua

fine, I'll take it
▶ sawa, nitaichukua

deski la malipo	cash desk
fungwa	closed
kubadili	to exchange
seli	sale
wazi	open

15. Sightseeing

art gallery	nyumba ya sanaa
bus tour	basi la kutalii
city centre	katikati ya jiji
closed	fungwa
guide	mwongozaji
museum	nyumba ya makumbusho
open	wazi

I'm interested in seeing the old town

▶ ningependa kuona mji mkongwe

are there guided tours?

▶ je, kuna mizungusho yenye waongozaji?

samahani kumejaa kabisa ◀

I'm sorry, it's fully booked

how much would you charge to drive us around for four hours?

▶ utataka kiasi gani kutuzungusha kwa gari kwa masaa manne?

can we book tickets for the concert here?

▶ tunaweza kuwekeza hapa tiketi kwa ajili ya tamasha?

ndio, katika jina gani? ◀

yes, in what name?

kadi gani ya malipo? ◀

which credit card?

where do we get the tickets?

▶ tutazipata wapi tiketi

utazichukua mlangoni ◀

just pick them up at the entrance

is it open on Sundays?

▶ iko wazi Jumapili?

how much is it to get in?

▶ ni bei gani kuingia?

are there reductions for groups of 6?

▶ je, kuna upunguzaji wa bei kwa vikundi vya watu 6?

that was really impressive!

▶ ile imevutia sana!

16. Trains

to change trains	kubadili treni
platform	ulingo
return	kuenda na kurudi
single	kuenda tu
station	stesheni
stop	simama
ticket	tiketi

how much is ...?

▶ ... ni bei gani?

a single, second class to ...

▶ kuenda tu, daraja la pili kuelekea ...

two returns, second class to ...

▶ mbili za kuenda na kurudi daraja la pili kuelekea ...

for today

▶ kwa leo

for tomorrow

▶ kwa kesho

for next Tuesday

▶ kwa jumanne ijayo

kuna ongezeko la bei kwa treni ya TAZARA ◀

there's a supplement for the TAZARA

unataka kuelekea kiti? ◀

do you want to make a seat reservation?

inabidi ubadili treni Dodoma ◀

you have to change at Dodoma

is this seat free?

▶ kiti hiki kiko wazi?

excuse me, which station are we at?

▶ samahani, tuko katika stesheni gani?

is this where I change for Dar es Salaam?

▶ je, ni hapa ndio ninabadili ili kuelekea Dar es Salaam?

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**
 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?**
 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
 alcoholic yenye kulevya
 all wote
 all the boys/girls watoto/
 wasichana wote
 all of it yote
 all of them wote
 that's all, thanks inatasha,
 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	cheh	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!
 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
sikitaji kingine, asantewould 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
mkutanowhat 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,
sawathe 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 pukatiko**
la majani
 in the autumn **katika majira**
ya pukatiko 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**
 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

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**
 bathtub **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
 bedroom chumba cha kulala
 beef nyama ya ng'ombe
 beer biya (K), bia (T)
 two beers, please biya mbili,
 tafadhali
 before kabla
 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
 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 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 nemechoshwa
 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
 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
 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 ...

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
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
campsite kambi
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**
 carriage (of train) **behewa**
 carrier bag **mfuko**
 carrot **karoti**
 carry **beba**
 carry-cot **kibebea mtoto**
 carton **katoni**

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 tubadilishe 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**
cheap **rahisi**

do you have anything cheaper? **una chochote kilicho rahisi zaidi?**

check (US: cheque) **cheke, hundi**
(US: bill) **bili**
(verb) **cheke**

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 **cheke, hundi**

do you take cheques?

naweza kulipa kwa cheke?

cheque book **kijitabu cha cheke**

cheque card **kadi ya kuthibitisha cheke**

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 **mkesha 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**
 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 Ubalozi 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
 couchette 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'unya
 courier tarishi
 course (main course etc) mlo
 of course bila ya shaka
 of course not bila ya shaka sivyoo
 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?

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
cut (noun) mkato (verb) kata
I've cut myself nimejikata
cutlery vifaa vya kulia

cycling kupanda baisikeli
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

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 chumba 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

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 mwite 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

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 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
 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
 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 inatoshia
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
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 kusisimua**
 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?**
 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

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 **ziramoto**

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 kiroboti
 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? umekuwapo 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 sahou
 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 kuchekesha
 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
 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**
 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 **nitakupatia 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 linaenda 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
 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
 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
 hairdresser'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 hamburga
 hand mkono
 handbag mkoba
 handbrake breki ya mkono
 handkerchief hankachifu
 handle (on door) kipete
 (on suitcase etc) kishikio
 hand luggage mizigo ya
 mkononi
 hang-gliding 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
 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
 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 mdogo**
 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?
 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**
 hotel 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 **-siwezekana**
 impressive **-a kuvutia**
 improve **endeleza vyema**
 I want to improve my Swahili
nataka kujindeleza 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 mauzilio
 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 insulinini
 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**
 jackal **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 mia
 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/hiyoy

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
 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**
 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**
 least **kidogo**
 not in the least **hata kidogo**
 at least **angalau**
 leather (adj) -a **gozi**
 leave (verb) **ondoka**

I am leaving tomorrow
nitaondoka kesho
 he left yesterday **aliondoka**
jana
 may I leave this here? **naweza**
kuiwacha hapa?
 I left my coat in the bar
nimewacha koti langu katika
baa
 when does the bus for Voi
 leave? **basi la kwenda Voi**
laondoka wakati gani?
 left **kushoto**
 on the left, to the left **kushoto**
 turn left **pinda kushoto**
 there's none left **hakuna**
kilichobakia
 left-handed **mwenye kutumia**
mkono wa kushoto
 left luggage (office) **ofisi ya**
kuweka mizigo
 leg **mguu**
 lemon **limau**
 lemonade **soda ya limau**
 lemon tea **chai ya limau**
 lend **azima**
 will you lend me your ...?
waweza kuniazima ...-ako?
 lens **lenzi**
 leopard **chui**
 lesbian **msagaji**
 less -dogo
 less than **isiozidi**
 less expensive **isio ghali**
 lesson **somo**
 let (allow) **ruhusu**
 will you let me know?
utaniarifu?
 I'll let you know **nitakuarifu**

let's go for something to eat
twende kula
let off *acha*
will you let me off at ...?
waweza kuniacha
nishuke ...?
letter *barua*
do you have any letters
for me? *una barua zozote*
zangu?
letterbox *sanduku la barua*
lettuce *letis, saladi*
lever *wenzo*
library *maktaba*
licence *leseni*
lid *kifuniko*
lie (verb: tell untruth) *sema uongo*
lie down *lala*
life *maisha*
lifebelt *mkanda wa kujiokolea*
lifeguard *walinzi-okozi*
life jacket *jeketi-okozi*
lift (in building) *lifti*
could you give me a lift?
waweza kunipa lifti?
would you like a lift? *nikupe*
lifti?
light (noun) *taa*
(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?
 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
 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 **nilettee**
 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?
neni 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 **isiyo 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 kunitengeza 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 160
 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
 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*
 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?*
 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 mkeshwa 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) lahaula!
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**
 hiyo – 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 kumi 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
 open ticket tikiti itumikayo
 baadaye
 operation (medical) operesheni
 operator (telephone) opereta
 opposite zilozoelekeana
 opposite my hotel
 imeelekeana na hoteli yangu
 the opposite direction upande
 unaoelekeana na mwingine
 the bar opposite baa
 inayoelekeana
 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) **funga 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) **tafria**
 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 sivyote**
 period (of time) **muda**
 (menstruation) **kuingia hedhi, kuingia mwezi**
 permit (noun) **kibali**

person **mtu**
 personal stereo 'stereo' ya **binafsi**
 petrol **petroli**
 petrol can **kopo la petroli**
 petrol station **kituo cha petroli**
 pharmacy **duka la dawa**
 phone (noun) **simu**
 (verb) **kupiga simu**
 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?**
 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 *mto*
 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*
 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 *inatoshana, 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! *mwrite polisi!*
 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?
 postbox sanduku la posta
 postcard postikadi
 postcode postkodi
 poster bango la tangazo
 poste restante penye barua za wapokezi
 post office posta
 potato kiasi, 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
 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
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 **kifaru**
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*
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*
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
 separately (pay, travel)
 mbalimbali
 September Septemba, mwezi
 wa tisa (T)
 septic yenye bakteria
 serious (problem, illness) -a
 hatari
 service charge (in restaurant)
 malipo ya huduma
 service station kituo cha
 petroli
 serviette savieti
 set menu menyu maalumu
 several kadhaa
 sew shona
 could you sew this back on?
 waweza kuishonea juu ya
 hii?
 sex (gender, activity) jinsia
 sexy avutia kimapenzi
 Seychelles visiwa vya
 Shelisheli
 shack banda
 shade kivuli
 in the shade kivulini

shake: let's shake hands
 tupeane mikono
 shallow (water) kina kifupi
 shame: what a shame!
 inasikitisha!
 shampoo (noun) shampuu
 shampoo and set osha kwa
 shampuu na chana
 share (verb: room, table etc)
 shirikiana
 sharp kali
 shattered (very tired) -choka
 shaver mashini ya kunyolea
 shaving foam krimu ya
 kunyolea
 shaving point soketi ya
 kunyolea
 she* yeye
 is she here? yupo hapa?
 sheet (for bed) shiti
 shelf rafu
 shellfish makome
 shield ngao
 ship meli
 by ship kwa meli
 shirt shati
 shit! udhia gani huu!
 shock (noun) mshtuo
 I got an electric shock from
 the ... umeme umenirusha
 kutoka ...
 shock-absorber shokomsoba
 shocking mbaya sana
 shoe kiatu
 a pair of shoes jozi ya viatu
 shoelaces nyuzi za viatu
 shoe polish rangi ya viatu
 shoe repairer fundi wa viatu
 shop duka

shopping kwenda madukani
 I'm going shopping
 nakwenda kununua vitu
 madukani
 shopping centre eneo la
 maduka
 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 (roadsign etc) alama ya
 kuongoza
 signal: he didn't give a signal
 (driver, cyclist) hakuashiria
 aendako
 signature saine
 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
 snake nyoka
 sneeze (noun) chafya
 snorkel kivutia hewa majini
 snorkelling kuzamia mbizi
 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 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?**
 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

splinter kibanzi

spoke (in wheel) spoki

spoon kijiko

sport mchezo

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 -lioachacha

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

stay **kaa**
 where are you staying?
 unakaa wapi?
 I'm staying at ... **nakaa ...**
 I'd like to stay another two
 nights **nataka kukaa siku**
mbili zaidi
 steak **steki**
 steal **iba**
 my bag has been stolen **begi**
langu limeibiwa
 steep (upwards) **-a kuinuka**
ghafla
 (downwards) **-a kuteremka**
ghafla
 steering **kutumia usukani**
 steinbok **dondoo**
 step: on the steps **juu ya**
ngazi
 sterling **sarafu ya Kiingereza**
 steward (on plane) **mhudumiaji**
 stewardess **mhudumiaji wa**
kike
 still (adverb) **bado**
 I'm still here **niko hapa bado**
 is he still there? **yuko kule**
bado?
 keep still! **tulia!**
 sting (noun) **mchomo**
 (verb) **uma**
 I've been stung **nimeumwa**
 stockings **soksi ndefu**
 stomach **tumbo**
 stomach ache **maumivu ya**
tumbo
 stomach upset **kusokotwa**
tumbo
 stone (rock) **jiwe**
 stop (verb) **simamisha**

please, stop here (to taxi
 driver etc) **simamisha hapa,**
tafadhali
 do you stop near ...?
utasimamisha karibu na ...?
 stop it! **usifanye hivyo!**
 stopover **kituo cha**
mapumziko
 storm **dhoruba**
 straight (whisky etc) **kavu**
 it's straight ahead **ni moja**
kwa moja
 straight away **papo hapo**
 strange (odd) **-geni**
 stranger **mgeni**
 I'm a stranger here **mimi ni**
mgeni hapa
 strap **ukanda**
 strawberry **strobari**
 stream **mto**
 street **njia**
 on the street **njiani**
 street map **ramani ya njia**
 string **uzi**
 strong (person) **mwenye nguvu**
 (taste, drink) **kali**
 stuck **kwama**
 it's stuck **imekwama**
 student **mwanafunzi**
 stupid **mjinga**
 suburb **kiunga**
 Sudan **Sudan**
 Sudanese (adj) **-a Sudan**
 suddenly **kwa ghafula**
 suede **-a ngozi**
 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**
 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 **l'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**

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**
 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
 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
 text (message) ujumbe mfupi wa maandishi
 than* kuliko
 smaller than ndogo kuliko
 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
 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
 mke 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
 timetable ratiba
 tin (can) kopo (K), mkebe (T)
 tin-opener kifugulia mkebe
 tiny -dogo sana
 tip (to waiter etc) tipu (K),
 bahashishi (T)
 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
 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
 platfomu ile pale

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 trayi
 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 ...
 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?**
 vacation (from university) **likizo**
 on vacation **likizoni**
 vaccination **kuchanja**
 vacuum cleaner **mashine ya**
kufabilia
 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 **jagi**
 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*
 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 *usingojee*
 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 nikingojea?

could you wait here for me?
waweza kuingojea hapa?
 waiter/waitress *mhudumiaji*
 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?**
 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 hasha!**

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 **dhaifu**
 weather **hali ya hewa**

dialogue

what's the weather forecast?
 hali ya hewa imetabihiwa vipi?
 it's going to be fine **itakuwa ni njema**
 it's going to rain **kutakuwa na mvua**
 it'll brighten up later
 kutatazuka 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?
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*
wonderful *-zuri sana*
won't* *hai-*
it won't start (car) *haishiki moto*
wood (material) *mbao*
woods (forest) *msitu*
wool *sufu*
word *neni*
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 hashah! 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
 karibu na bahari by the sea
 Bahari ya Hindi Indian
 Ocean
 bahasha envelope

bahasha za barua za ndege
 airmail envelope
 bahashishi (T) tip, gratuity
 bahati luck
 bahati njema! good luck!
 baina ya between
 bakshishi tip, gratuity
 bakuli dish, bowl
 balozi ambassador
 balungi grapefruit
 bamba la namba ya gari
 number plate
 bamia okra, lady's fingers
 bampa la gari bumper, (US)
 fender
 banda shack; any kind of
 hut, usually round and
 thatched; barn; shed
 bandari harbour, port
 bandia fake
 bangi bhang, cannabis; hemp
 bangili bracelet
 bango la tangazo poster
 bao lenye tanga sailboard
 barabara main road;
 motorway, (US) freeway, (US)
 highway; avenue
 barabara kuu main road
 barafu ice
 na barafu with ice
 pamoja na barafu with ice,
 on the rocks
 baridi cold; fresh
 baridi kali frost
 baridi kidogo cool
 barua letter; letters; post,
 mail
 barua za ndege airmail
 barua zitumwazo kikawaida

surface mail, overland mail
 basi bus; enough
 basi dogo minibus
 basi la uwanja wa ndege
 airport bus
 bastola pistol
 bata duck
 bata bukini goose
 bawabu doorman; porter;
 night porter
 -baya bad; ugly; rubbish
 -baya kabisa worst
 -baya sana dreadful, terrible
 -baya zaidi worse
 ni mbaya zaidi it's worse
 beba carry
 bega shoulder
 begi bag; suitcase
 behewa carriage,
 compartment
 behewa la bafe (katika treni)
 buffet car
 behewa la chakula restaurant
 car
 behewa la kulala sleeping
 car
 behewa la wasiovuta sigara
 non-smoking compartment
 bei price
 bei gani ...? how much ...?
 ni bei gani? how much does
 it cost?
 hii bei gani? how much is
 this?
 bei ni ghali sana the price is
 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**
 dhafu **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**
 elekeana **opposite**

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**
 ayakandishan **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)

fikiri 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*
 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
 haya- negative tense marker
 haya chukua here you are, there you are (offering something)
 haya, sawa OK, it's a deal
 hazi- negative tense marker (pl)
 hebu nipishe excuse me (let me through)
 hema tent
 herini earrings
 heri za Krismasi! Merry Christmas!
 hesabu bill
 heti hat

hewa air
 hii **this**; **this one**
 ni hii **this one**
 hii hapa ... **here is ...**
 hii ni ...? **is this ...?**
 hii siyo treni itakiwayo **this is the wrong train**
 hii ya nani? **whose is this?**
 hiki **this**
 hili **this**
 hiliki **cardamom**
 hisi **feel**
 Hispania **Spain**
 -a Hispania **Spanish**
 hitaji **need**
 hivi **these** (referring to things)
 hivi karibuni **recently**; **the other day**
 hiyo: hiyo nini? **what's that?**
 hiyo nyingine **the other one**
 hizi **these**
 hizi hapa ... **here are ...**
 hodari **clever**
 hodi! **hello, anyone in?**
 homa **temperature**
 homa ya mafua **flu**
 homa ya manjano **yellow fever**; **hepatitis**
 homa ya matumboni **typhoid**
 hongera! **congratulations!**; **well done!**
 hosteli ya vijana **youth hostel**
 hoteli **café**, (small) **restaurant**; **hotel**
 hu- **negative marker for 'you'** (sing)
 hudhurungi **tan**, **light brown**

huduma ya daktari kwa ndege **flying doctor**
 huduma ya kwanza **first aid**
 huduma ya magari **yaharibikayo breakdown service**
 huduma ya maulizo kwa simu **directory enquiries**
 huduma ya vyumbani **room service**
 hujambo **hello**; **how do you do?**; **how are you?**
 huko **up there**
 huku **over here**
 hukuwa na **you had not** (sing)
 huna **you have not** (sing)
 hundi **cheque**, (US) **check**
 hundi za posta **postal orders**
 huru **free**
 huruma **pity**
 hususan **especially**
 huu **this**
 huyu **this** (person)
 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**

If

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
 iliyochoywa 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 ...
 inatosha that's enough
 inatosha 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
 inayoelekeana 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
 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!**
 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
 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
 kabrasha (T) brochure
 kaburi tomb
 kadhaa several
 kadi card
 kadi ya bima ya gari green card (car insurance)
 kadi ya kuthibitisha cheki cheque card
 kadi ya malipo credit card; charge card
 kadi ya simu phonecard
 kagua check
 kahawa coffee
 kahawa isiyokuwa na kafeini decaffeinated coffee
 kahawa ya kuchujwa filter coffee

kahawa ya unga instant coffee
 kahawia brown; beige
 kakao cocoa
 kalamu pen
 kali strong; sharp; hot, spicy;
 sour
 kama if; like; as; the same
 kwa haraka kama
 iwezekanavyo as soon as
 possible
 ni kubwa kama as big as
 kama hii the same as this
 kamandegere springhare
 kamari gambling
 kamata catch
 kamba lobster; prawn(s);
 rope
 kamba wadogo shrimp(s)
 kamba wakubwa lobster
 kamba ya kuanikia nguo
 clothes line
 kambi campsite
 kamilifu perfect
 kampeni campaign
 kampuni company, business
 kampuni ya utalii tour
 operator
 kamusi dictionary
 kamwe never
 kandanda football
 kando ya ... beside the ...
 kanga printed cotton sheet
 used as a wrap
 kangaja clementine
 kanisa church; cathedral
 kanu genet
 karafuu cloves
 karanga peanuts; ground
 nuts; (K) beef stew

karatasi paper
 karatasi ya kuandikia writing
 paper, notepaper
 karatasi ya kufungia vitu
 wrapping paper
 karatasi yenye matangazo
 leaflet
 karatasi za chooni toilet paper
 karibu almost; near; nearly;
 come in, enter; welcome;
 you're welcome
 karibu wakati wote nearly all
 of the time
 karibu kwa ... welcome to ...
 karibu na next to; near;
 nearby
 karibu na bahari by the sea
 karimu kind, generous
 kasa robo quarter to
 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
 kiazzi 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 haffu 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
 Kimarekani: -a Kimarekani
 American
 kimataifa: -a kimataifa
 international
 kimbua *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
 kitabu cha kumbukumbu *diary*
 kitabu cha simu *phone book*
 kitaifa: -a kitaifa *national*
 Kitaliana *Italian (language)*
 kitambaa *cloth*
 kitambaa cha sufu *jersey*
 kitana *comb*
 kitanda *bed; bunk; berth*
 kitanda cha mtu mmoja *single*
 bed
 kitanda cha watu wawili
 double bed
 kitanda katika treni *couchette*
 kitangulizi *in advance*
 Kitanzania: -a Kitanzania
 Tanzanian
 kiti *chair; seat*
 kiti hiki kina mtu? *is this seat*
 taken?
 kiti cha dirishani *window seat*
 kiti cha kujinyoshea *deckchair*
 kiti cha kuotea jua *sun*

lounge
 kiti cha ujiani aisle seat
 kitindamlo dessert
 kitoto small child, infant
 kitu something; thing
 kitu cha kula something to eat
 kiti cha kizamani antique
 kiti cha kuchezea toy
 kitu chochote anything
 kitu chochote kingine?
 anything else?
 kitu kingine something else
 kitundikia nguo coathanger
 kitunguu onion(s)
 kitunguu saumu, kitunguu thomu garlic
 kituo cha basi bus stop
 kituo cha mabasi bus station
 kituo cha mapumziko stopover
 kituo cha petroli petrol station, (US) gas station; service station
 kituo cha tekisi taxi rank, taxi stand
 kiu thirst
 kiuavijasumu antibiotics
 kiunga suburb
 kiungulia indigestion
 kiuno waist
 kivuli shade
 kivulini in the shade
 kivutia hewa majini snorkel
 kiwanda omelette; factory
 kiwanja cha michezo playground
 kiwashia sigara cigarette
 lighter

kiwiko elbow
 Kiyahudi: -a Kiyahudi Jewish
 kiyoyozi air-conditioning
 kizibao waistcoat
 kizibo cork; cap; plug
 kizibuo corkscrew
 kizima moto fire extinguisher
 kiziwi deaf
 kizuia ugandaji antifreeze
 kizungu: -a kizungu European
 kizuri nice
 klabu club
 klabu ya burudani nightclub
 -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
 kuchekecha: -a kuchekecha
 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
 kuigiza: -a kuigiza imitation
 kuingia entrance
 kuingia hedhi period
 (menstruation)
 kuingia mapangoni caving
 kuingia mwezi period
 (menstruation)
 kuja to come; to come back
 kujiandikisha check-in
 kujifurahisha enjoy oneself
 kujihudumia mwenyewe self-
 service
 kujogi go jogging
 kukaanga: -a kukaanga fried
 kukata nywele haircut
 kukatika kwa umeme power
 cut
 kukawia delay
 kuku chicken
 kula eat
 kulala na chakula cha asubuhi
 bed and breakfast
 kulastara heron
 kule there; over there
 kule juu up there

kulevya: -enye kulevya
 alcoholic
 kulia right (not left)
 kuliko than; more than
 kuliko -ote the most
 ndogo kuliko smaller than
 kumbuka remember
 kumetanda mawingu cloudy
 kumetokea nini? what has
 happened?
 kumi ten
 kumradhi excuse me, sorry
 kuna ... there is ...; there
 are ...
 kuna makosa gani? what's
 wrong?
 kuna nini? what's the
 matter?, what's wrong?
 kunajisi rape
 kunde cow peas
 kundi crowd
 kundi la wanyama herd
 kunradhi excuse me, sorry
 kunywa drink
 kuomba radhi apology
 kuona sight
 kuondoka departure
 kuosha vyombo do the
 washing-up
 kupanda riding
 kupanda baisikeli cycling
 kupanda bao lenye tanga
 sailboarding
 kupanda chelezo cha tanga
 windsurfing
 kupanda farasi horse riding
 kupanda milima
 mountaineering
 kuparamia milima climbing

kupatana bargaining
 kupeleka faksi fax
 kupendeza: -a kupendeza
 pleasant
 kupinda bend
 -enye kupinda winding
 kupiga kambi camp
 kupiga mbizi diving
 kupiga simu phone
 kupitia through; via
 kurejeshewa pesa refund
 kuro, kuru waterbuck
 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
 kuisimua: -a kuisimua
 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
 lugha 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 kulevywa 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**
 maji ya kunywa **drinking**
 water
 maji ya kuosha **washing water**
 maji ya machungwa **orange**
 juice
 maji ya machungwa safi **fresh**
 orange juice
 maji ya matunda **fruit juice**
 maji ya mfereji **tap water**
 maji ya moto **hot water**
 maji ya mvuke **distilled**
 water
 maji ya nanasi **pineapple juice**
 maji ya soda **mineral water**
 makabunini **cemetery**
 makanika **mechanic**
 makini **sober**
 makome **shellfish**
 maktaba **library**
 makusudio **destination**
 makutano ya njia **junction,**
 intersection
 makuti **palm-leaf roof**
 malai **cream**
 malalamiko **complaint**
 malaya **prostitute**
 malazi na chakula **full board**
 malazi na chakula mara mbili

half board
 malhamu ointment
 malipo charge
 malipo kwa mpigiwa simu
 reverse charge call, collect
 call
 malipo ya huduma service
 charge
 maliza finish
 mama mum, mother;
 Madam; Mrs; Miss; Ms
 mama mdogo aunt (maternal)
 mama mkwe mother-in-law
 mamba crocodile
 manamba 'turnboy' – ticket
 collector on Kenyan matatu
 minibuses
 mandari picnic
 mandhari view; scenery
 manukato perfume
 manyatta temporary cattle
 camp (Maasai)
 manyunyu shower (of rain)
 maonyesho exhibition
 maonyesho ya biashara trade
 fair
 mapafu lungs
 mapambo ya vito jewellery
 mapazia curtains
 mapema early
 mapenzi love
 mapigano fight
 mapokezi reception
 maporomoko ya maji waterfall
 mara time
 mara kwa mara frequent
 si mara nyingi not often
 mara mbili twice
 mara mbili zaidi twice as

much
 mara tatu three times
 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
 matakoto 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**
 mbu **mosquito**
 mbuga ya taifa **national park**
 mbuga ya wanyama **game**
park, reserve, wildlife park
 mbuzi **goat**
 mbwa **dog**
 mbwa mkali! **beware of the**
dog!
 mbwa mwitu **jackal**
 mchana **daytime**
 mchana kutwa **all day**
 mchanga **sand**
 mchele **rice (uncooked)**
 mchezaji maarufu **film star**
 mchezo **sport; game; play**
 mchezo wa kuigiza **show (in**
theatre)
 mchicha **spinach**
 mchikichi **palm tree**
 mchomo **burn**
 mchoyo **greedy**
 mchumba **fiancé(e)**
 mchuzi **curry; sauce; gravy**
 mdomo **mouth**
 mdudu **insect, bug**
 -me- **perfect tense marker;**
verb tense marker indicating
something that has just
happened and is continuing
 mechi **game, match**
 mechi ya kandanda **football**

match
 Mei May
 meli ship
 kwa meli by ship
 mende cockroach
 meneja manager
 meneja wa kike manageress
 meno bandia dentures
 menyu menu
 menyu maalumu set menu
 menyu ya chakula menu
 -mepotea missing
 metali metal
 meza table(s)
 mfalme king
 mfano example
 kwa mfano for example
 mfarishi duvet
 mfasiri translator
 mfereji canal; tap, faucet
 mfuko bag; carrier bag;
 pocket
 mfupa bone
 mgeni guest; foreigner;
 stranger
 mgongano crash
 mgongo back (of body)
 mgonjwa sick person
 mgonjwa wa kisukari diabetic
 mguu foot; leg
 mhanga aardvark; sacrifice
 mhudumiaji waiter; waitress;
 steward
 mhudumiaji wa kike
 stewardess; waitress
 miadi appointment
 mia moja hundred
 midomo lips
 miguu: kwa miguu on foot

miji towns
 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
 mkeshwa wa Krismasi
 Christmas Eve
 mkeshwa 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
 mmilikaji owner
 mna you have (pl)
 mnamo: mnamo dakika mbili
 in two minutes
 mnamo siku mbili in two
 days' time
 mnyama animal
 -mo indicates inside location
 moja one
 -moja single
 moja kwa moja direct;
 straight; straight ahead
 mojawapo either
 Mola God
 mondo serval
 moran man in the warrior age
 group of Maasai or Samburu
 moshi smoke
 moto fire; hot
 inawaka moto it's on fire
 moyo heart
 mpaka border; until; to
 mpaka wapi? where to?
 mpanda baisikeli cyclist
 mpenzi wa kiume boyfriend
 mpingo ebony
 mpira ball; football; rubber
 mpira wa tairi inner tube
 mpishi cook
 mpokeaji pensheni pensioner
 mpokea wageni receptionist
 Mprotestanati Protestant
 mpwa wa kike niece
 mpwa wa kiume nephew

mpya **new**; novel
 mroho **greedy**
 msaada **help**
 -a msaada **helpful**
 msagaji **lesbian**
 msalani (T) **toilet**, (US) **rest room**
 msanii **artist**
 msenge **gay**
 mshoni **tailor**
 mshtuo **shock**
 mshumaa **candle**
 msiba **disaster**
 msichana **girl**
 msikiti **mosque**
 msitu **forest, woods**; **jungle**
 msogamano wa magari **traffic jam**
 mstaafu **retired**
 mstari **line**
 msumari **nail (metal)**
 Msumbiji **Mozambique**
 msusi **hairdresser's (women's)**
 mswaki **toothbrush**
 mtalaka **divorcé(e)**
 mtalii **tourist**
 mtama **millet; sorghum**
 Mtanzania **Tanzanian**
 mtayatisha nywele **hairdresser's (women's)**
 mtembezaji watalii **tour guide**
 mti **tree**
 mtihani **exam**
 mto **pillow; cushion; river; stream**
 mtoto **child, kid**
 mtoto mchanga **baby**
 mtoto wa bandia **doll**
 mtoto wa kike **daughter**

mtoto wa kiume **son**
 mtu **person; man; somebody, someone**
 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**
 murram **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;**
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**

N

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 tikiti **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
 safiri kwa ndege fly
 safisha clean; develop
 sahani plate
 sahou forget
 sahihi correct, accurate

saidia help
 saidia maskini! help the poor!
 saine signature
 saizi size
 sakafu floor (of room)
 sakafuni on the floor
 salama safe
 samahani sorry; excuse me
 samahani? sorry?, pardon (me)?
 samahani kukusumbua sorry to bother you
 samahani, nimekosea namba sorry, wrong number
 samahani nipishe excuse me
 samaki fish
 samehe forgive
 sampuli pattern; sample
 sana very; too; so
 sanaa art
 sanamu statue
 sandara mandarin(s)
 sanduku box
 sanduku la barua, sanduku la posta letterbox, mailbox
 sange elephant shrew
 sapatu sandal(s), slipper(s)
 sarafu coin
 sarafu ya Kiingereza sterling
 sasa now
 sasa hivi soon
 sauti voice
 -enye sauti kubwa loud
 savieti serviette
 sawa all right, OK; right, correct; that's fine; yes; similar
 niko sawa I'm OK
 ndiyo, sawa yes, that's fine

sawa! right!
 ni sawa that's fine
 ni sawa tu that's OK
 secunde second
 sehemu part
 sehemu ya ... a bit of ...
 sehemu kubwa a big bit
 sehemu ndogo a little bit
 sehemu maarufu za ... the
 sights of ...
 sehemu ya chini ground
 floor, (US) first floor
 sehemu ya mapokezi
 reception desk
 sehemu ya watoto children's
 portion
 seli sale
 sema speak; say; talk
 sema polepole speak slowly
 sema tena repeat
 sema uongo lie, tell a lie
 serikali government
 shahamu fat (on meat)
 shahidi witness
 shamba country,
 countryside; small farm;
 plot; farm; plantation
 shanga beads
 shangazi aunt (paternal)
 shanta rucksack
 shauri advice
 shavu cheek (on face)
 shawa shower (in bathroom)
 -enye shawa with shower
 shelisheli breadfruit – large
 roundish fruit eaten boiled
 or roasted
 shemeji, 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
 -sio faa wrong; not useful
 -siopenya maji waterproof
 -sio rasmi informal
 -siowezekana impossible
 sipendi ... I don't like ...
 siri secret
 si ruhusa kuegesha no

parking
 sisemi ... I don't speak ...
 sisi we; us
 sisi ni we are
 sisitiza insist
 sita six
 sitaha deck
 sitaki ... I don't want ...
 sitini sixty
 sivuti sigara I don't smoke
 sivyo not so
 siwezi ... I can't ...
 siyo not; no
 siyo? isn't it?
 si yoyote neither
 si yoyote kati yao neither
 (one) of them
 skii ya majini waterskiing
 skuli (K) school
 soda soft drink
 soda ya limau lemonade
 soda ya machungwa fizzy
 orange
 sogeja kidogo! move along!,
 squeeze up a little!
 soketi socket, power point
 soketi ya kunyolea shaving
 point
 soko market
 soksi ndefu tights, pantyhose;
 stockings
 soli sole (of shoe)
 soma read
 somesha teach
 somo lesson
 sonara jeweller's
 songa! move along!, squeeze
 up a little!
 songana crowded

soseji sausage
 sosi sauce
 spea spare part
 spidi speed
 starehe: -a starehe
 comfortable
 stempu stamp
 stesheni station
 stesheni ya basi bus station
 stesheni ya mabasi coach
 station
 stesheni ya mwisho terminus
 (rail)
 stesheni ya polisi police
 station
 stesheni ya reli train station
 subiri wait
 sufu wool
 sufuria pan
 sukari sugar
 sukuma push
 sumbua disturb; annoy
 sumbufu inconvenient
 sumu: -enye sumu poisonous
 sungura rabbit; hare
 supu soup
 suruali trousers, (US) pants
 suruali kipande shorts
 suruali ya kuogelea
 swimming trunks
 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
 tunza 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
 ulanga soapstone
 Ulaya Europe
 ule that
 uliipenda ...? how did you
 like ...?
 ulikuwa you were
 ulikuwa na you had (sing)
 ulilala vyema? did you sleep
 well?
 ulimi tongue
 uma bite; sting; fork
 umande mist
 umbali distance
 umekipenda chakula? did you
 enjoy your meal?
 umeme electricity; lightning;
 current
 -a umeme electric
 umeoa/umeolewa? are you
 married? (to man/woman)
 umeona ...? have you
 seen ...?
 umepata kufika ...? have you
 ever been to ...
 umiza hurt
 umizwa injured
 umri age
 umwa feel pain
 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
 name?
 unakaa wapi? where are you
 staying?
 unakaribishwa, tafadhali
 you're welcome, don't
 mention it
 unakwenda wapi? (T) where
 are you going?
 unapenda ...? do you like ...?
 unasema kiswahili? do you
 speak Swahili?

unataka ...? do you want ...?;
would you like ...?
unataka aina gani? which
kind do you want?
unataka kinywaji? would you
like a drink?
unataka kuagizisha chakula
sasa? would you like to
order (the food) now?
unataka kunywa nini? what
would you like to drink?
unataka nini? what do you
want?
unataka zaidi? would you like
some more?
unataka wapi? where do you
come from?
una umri gani? how old are
you?
unavuta sigara? do you
smoke?
unaweza ...? can you ...?;
could you ...?
unga flour
ungua burnt
unguza burn
unyayo sole (of foot)
unyevenyevu: -enye
unyevenyevu 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
upesha 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
usingojee 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

VI

- 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
zilozoelekeana opposite
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

giligilani 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
kutokosa: -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	viski
soda (water)	soda
soft drink	soda, vinywaji baridi
sugar	sukari
tea	chai
tonic (water)	tonik
water	maji
whisky	viski
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

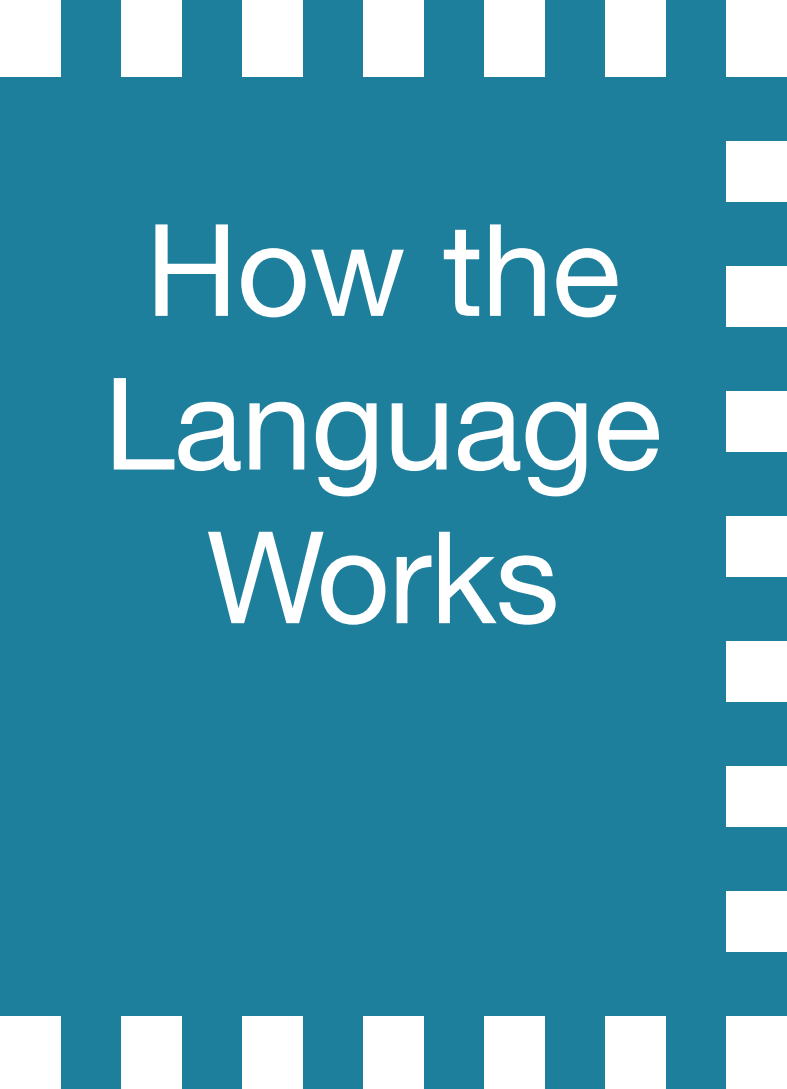
pegi a small amount of brandy/whisky, a peg
pombe home-brewed 'beer' made from fermented sugar and millet or banana and other ingredients

sharubati fruit juice with spices
soda fizzy soft drink
soda ya limau lemonade
soda ya machungwa fizzy orange
sukari sugar

Menu Reader: Drink

tembo coconut-palm wine
tende strong local spirit
togwa cold drink made from
millet

waragi Ugandan spirit
wiski whisky



How the Language Works

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 **How the Language Works** 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
laini

cheap; easy
smooth; soft

nyumba safi
a clean house

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

There are also some words already in adverbial form:

polepole slowly	upesi 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 184):

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

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

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 178) 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:

kula nyama

eat meat

kunywa maji

drink water

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

usile 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	hatu-	we
hu-	you (sing)	ham-	you (pl)
ha-	he/she	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	hukusoma
I did not read	you did not read (sing)
future tense negative marker -ta-	
hatasoma	hatutasoma
he/she will not read	we will not read
perfect tense negative marker -ja-	
hamjasoma	hawajasoma
you have not read (pl)	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 178):

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 186) 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 186) are used to form the negative past tense:

sikuwa na I didn't have

hukuwa na you didn't

have (sing)

hakuwa na he/she didn't

have

hatukuwa na we didn't have

hamkuwa na you didn't have

(pl)

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 186) 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 M/WA (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 195 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	Thursday	Alhamisi
Monday	Jumatatu	Friday	Ijumaa
Tuesday	Jumanne	Saturday	Jumamosi
Wednesday	Jumatano		

Months

January	Januari	July	Julai
February	Februari	August	Agosti
March	Machi	September	Septemba
April	Aprili	October	Oktoba
May	Mei	November	Novemba
June	Juni	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

jioni
in the evening

what time is it?
saa ngapi sasa?

alasiri
in the afternoon

usiku
at night

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

18	kumi na nane
19	kumi na tisa
20	ishirini
21	ishirini na moja
22	ishirini na mbili
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
101	mia na moja
102	mia na mbili
110	mia na kumi
200	mia mbili
300	mia tatu
400	mia nne
500	mia tano
600	mia sita
700	mia saba
800	mia nane
900	mia tisa
1,000	elfu
2,000	elfu mbili
3,000	elfu tatu
4,000	elfu nne



5,000	elfu tano
6,000	elfu sita
7,000	elfu saba
8,000	elfu nane
9,000	elfu tisa
10,000	elfu kumi
100,000	laki
1,000,000	milioni

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

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
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miles	0.6	1.2	1.9	2.5	3.1	6.2	12.4	18.6	24.8	31.0	62.1
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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
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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
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kg	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
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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
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$^{\circ}\text{F}$	23	32	41	50	59	64	68	77	86	98.4	100.4
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Fahrenheit

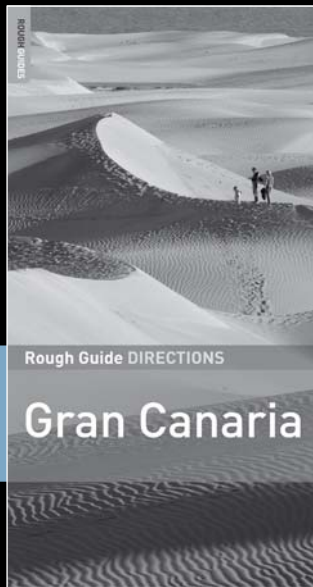
$^{\circ}\text{F} = (^{\circ}\text{C} \times 9/5) + 32$

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