



Swahili Language Sheet

Swahili is a Bantu language of the Niger-Congo language family spoken in Eastern and Central Africa.

- Pronunciation

Pronouncing Swahili is not difficult. The language is written phonetically and doesn't contain sounds that would feel particularly alien to English speakers.

- Vowels

a - as in 'father'

e - as in 'let'

i - like the 'i' in 'sanity'

o - as in 'hot'

u - like the 'oo' in 'ooh'

- Consonants

p - as in 'past', i.e. with an extra puff of air

t - as in 'token'

k - as in 'kill'

b - like in English

d - like in English

g - as in 'get'

h - as in 'holy', but slightly stronger

f - like in English

kh - like the 'h' in 'holy', but considerably stronger;
the

like the 'ch' in the German 'Ach!'

s - as in 'solemn'

sh - as in 'she'

th - as in 'thin'

v - like in English, but with stronger friction

y - as in 'yolk'

z - as in 'zeal'

dh - like the 'th' in 'then'

gh - like the 'g' in 'get', but with friction

m - like in English

n - like in English

ny - like the 'ñ' in 'el niño'

ng' - like the 'ng' in 'singer'

ng - like the 'ng' in 'younger'

l - like in English, but pronounced more to
front of the mouth

r - a sound between the 'r' in 'merry' and a
rolling 'r'

ch - as in 'church'

j - as in 'joke'

w - as in 'we'

- Greetings and Small talk

Hello

How are you? Fine (formal)

How are you? I'm fine (informal)

What's your name? My name is ...

Where are you from? I'm from ...

Pleased to meet you

Habari/jambo

Habari yako?/ Habari gani? Mzuri

Hujambo?(sg) Hamjambo? (pl) Sijambo

Jina lako ni nani? Jina langu ni ...

Unatoka wapi? Natoka ...

Nafurahi kukuona/ Nimefurahi kukutana nawe

Good morning

Good afternoon

Good evening

Good night

Sleep well

Habari ya asubuhi

Habari ya mchana

Habari ya jioni

Usiku mwema

Lala salama



Goodbye	Kwaheri (sg) kwaherini (pl)
See you later	Baadaye
Good luck	Bahati njema!
Cheers/Good health!	Maisha marefu! Afya! Vifijo!
Have a nice day	Nakutakia siku njema
Bon voyage	Safari njema!
Mr	Bwama
Miss/Mrs	Mama
Welcome	Karibu
Thank you (very much)	Asante (sana (sg) Asanteni (pl))
Please	Tafadhali
Sorry	Pole
Cool, no worries	Safi
Excellent	Fiti
Excuse me	Samahani nipishe (to pass)Samahani (attention/sorry)
You're welcome	Karibu sana
No thanks	Hapana asante
Yes	Ndio
No	Hapana
Today	Leo
Tonight	Leo usiku
Tomorrow	Kesho
Where is...?	Iko wapi...?

- **Communicating**

I don't speak Swahili	Sifahamu kiswahili
Do you speak English?	Unasema kiingereza
How do you say ... in Swahili?	Unasemaje ... kwa Kiswahili?
I understand	Naelewa
I don't understand	Sielewi
Please speak more slowly	Tafadhali sema polepole
Please write it down for me	Wawexa kuiandika?
Do you speak Swahili? Yes, a little	Unazungumza kiSwahili? Ndiyo, kidogo tu
One language is never enough	Luga moja haitoshi

- **Assistance and emergency**

Help!	Massada
Fire!	Moto!
Stop!	Usifanye hivyo!
Call the police!	Mwite polisi!
I want...	Nataka
Doctor	Daktari
Hospital	Hospitali
How much is...?	Pesa ngapi..?



How much is this?	Hii ni bei gani?
Lower the price	Punguza kidogo!
This gentleman/lady will pay for everything	Mtu huyu atalipia kila kitu
Bathroom	Bafu
Toilet	Choo
Where's the toilet?	Choo kiko wapi?
Men	Wanaume
Women	Wanawakea

- Animals

Elephant	Tembo
Cheetah	Duma
Lion	Simba
Giraffe	Twiga
Hippo	Kiboko
Hartebeest	Kongoni
Snake	Nyoka

- Numbers

One	Moja
Two	Mbili
Three	Tatu
Four	Nne
Five	Tano
Six	Sita
Seven	Saba
Eight	Nane
Nine	Tisa
Ten	Kumi

- Other

School	Shule
Teacher	Mwalimu
Foreigner	Mgeni (sg) Wageni (pl)
Would you like to dance with me?	Tucheze ngoma? Utapenda kudansi?
I love you	Ninakupenda
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year mpya	Krismasi Njema / Heri ya krismas Heri ya mwaka
Happy Easter	Heri kwa sikukuu ya Pasaka
Happy Birthday song	Nakutakia mema kwa siku yako ya kuzaliwa! Siku- kuo ya zaliwa njema! Furaha Ya Siku Ya Kuza Liwa!