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#### **WELCOME TO TANZANIA**

**About Tanzania:** Tanzania is located on the east African continent near Kenya (to the north) and Zambia (to the southwest) and the Indian Ocean (to the east). The country is named after Tanganyika, its mainland part, and the Zanzibar islands off its east coast. Tanganyika united with Zanzibar in 1964, forming the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which later the same year was, renamed the United Republic of Tanzania. The "official" language of the country is Swahili, although most people speak only English.

Despite its attractions, Tanzania is one of Africa's most unassuming and low-key destinations, and thus far has remained enviably untouched by the tribal rivalries and political upheavals that plague many of its neighbors. Tanzanians are known for their warmth and politeness. Some of the country's natural features are: Mt. Kilimanjaro (the world's tallest free-standing peak), N'gorongoro Crater (called the 8<sup>th</sup> wonder of the world – largest unbroken crater in the world), and its wildlife parks (Serengeti, Tarangire and N'gorongoro).

Safety Concerns: The situation in Kenya did not spill into Tanzania at all last year. No unusual safety concerns.

Climate: Mild in temperature during service (long sleeves, chilly at night). Very warm during safari.

# **Basic Swahili**

All vowel sounds are short, thus:

A as in 'far' but cut short E as in 'bed' I as the 'ee' in 'feel' O as in 'off' U as the 'oo' in 'fool'

The stress in every word is always on the second to last syllable. For example, in mtu (person) the stress is on the first consonant, m. *M*tu. For 'shikamoo' the stress is on 'ka.' Shi*ka*moo.

#### Greetings

Greetings are an essential part of Tanzanian culture. It is considered rude to jump straight into a conversation without first exchanging a few greetings. In general, the more greetings you exchange, the happier people are to talk to you!

tant to you.					
Greeting	Response	Meaning	When to use		
Hujambo?	Sijambo!	Lit. Is there nothing wrong with you?	When addressing one		
		Nothing!	person.		
Hamjambo?	Hatujambo!	Lit. Is there nothing wrong with you?	When addressing		
		Nothing!	more than 1 person.		

Shikamoo? (pronounced with a hard o not moo like a cow!)	Marahaba.	Lit. I hold your feet. Delightful!	A respectful greeting used to anyone older than you.
Habari za (or ya)	Nzuri njema	Lit. News of your morning? Good Good	In the morning!
àsubuhi?	salama.	Peaceful	
Habari za mchana?	See above	Lit. News of your afternoon.	In the afternoon.
Mambo?	Poa! Or Safi!	Lit. Matters? Cool or clean!	Slang, but OK to use with people slightly older than you.
Vipi?	Safi or poa!	Lit. What kind? Clean or cool!	Slang, see above.
Mzima?	Mzima!	Lit. Health? Health!	Slang, see above.

Note on habari: Habari literally means news. The ya is used if you are talking about news singular and za if news is plural. They are used almost interchangeably. The phrase "habari za...." can be used to ask about almost anything and can therefore be followed by almost anything. Some examples are given below.

Jioni = evening kazi = work

Usiku = night kwako = your home (lit. "yours")

Mtoto = child habari yako? = your news.

Watoto = children kuamka = to wake up

The answer is always positive. If you answer negatively (i.e. vibaya) people will assume something is seriously wrong. You can use the tone of your voice while saying good to imply if things are just OK, good, or great!

#### **Numbers**

It is important to know your numbers for use when buying things and just in daily life. In Swahili there are eight different noun classes which you will learn about in your lessons. For each of these classes adjectives and some numbers are conjugated. For now, the following are the basic numbers.

0 = sifuri 12 = kumi na mbili 1 = moja 13 = kumi na tatu 2 = mbili 14 = kumi na nne 3 = tatu20 = ishirini 25 = ishirini na tano 4 = nne30 = thelathini 5 = tano40 = arobaini 6 = sita50 = hamsini 7 = saba8 = nane60 = sitini9 = tisa 70 = sabini 80 = themanini 10 = kumi

11 = kumi na moja 90 = tisini

100 = mia 1,260 = elfu moja, mia mbili na sitini 1,000 = elfu 245 = mia mbili, arobaini na tano 100.000 = laki 520 = mia tano na ishirini

100,000 = laki 520 = mia tano na ishirin A million = milioni

# Time

In Tanzania the day starts at 6am and goes until 6pm. In Swahili time is counted starting at 6am. To ask what time it is say: "Sasa ni saa ngapi?" Lit.: "now is how many hours?" The answer follows the form "Sasa ni saa \_\_\_\_\_" or just "saa \_\_\_\_\_." After saying how many hours you will say asubuhi, mchana, jioni, or usiku depending

on the time of day.

Ex. 6am = Saa kumi na mbili asubuhi. 7am = Saa moja asubuhi
8am = Saa mbili asubuhi 9am = Saa tatu asubuhi
1pm = Saa saba mchana 3pm = Saa tisa mchana
5pm = Saa kumi na moja jioni 10pm = Saa nne usiku.

O'clock is expressed as kamili. Thus, seven o'clock is saa moja kamili.

For times up to 30 minutes after the hour you say the hour and the amount of minutes dakika.) So for 5:20 we would say saa kumi na moja na dakika ishirini. For times before the hour we say the hour minus (kasoro) the number of minutes. So for 2:50 we would say saa tisa kasoro dakika kumi.

### Days of the week

The days are taken from the Mohammedan calendar. They are counted, revolving around Friday the "important day."

Sunday = Jumapili Thursday = Alhamisi Monday = Jumatatu Friday = Ijumaa

Tuesday = Jumanne Saturday = Jumamosi

Wednesday = Jumatano

Related vocabulary:

Kesho = tomorrow leo = today

Kesho kutwa = the day after tomorrow zamani = a long time ago

Jana = yesterday

Juzi = the day before yesterday

#### Verbs

Infinitive

The infinitive form of the verb is essentially Ku-\_\_\_\_. For example ku-fanya = to do, make.

Some common verbs are:

ku-amka = to wake up ku-safiri = to travel

ku-jua= to knowku-fikiri= to think, considerku-elewa= to understandku-fika= to arriveku-pika= to cookku-penda= to like, loveku-nunua= to buyku-jaribu= to try

ku-nunua = to buy ku-jaribu = to try ku-uza = to sell ku-uliza = to ask ku-rudi = to return ku-jibu = to answer

Subject prefixes for M/Wa class (people)

1<sup>st</sup> Ni- I

Singular 2<sup>nd</sup> U- you (sing.)

3<sup>rd</sup> A- he/she (never 'it')

1<sup>st</sup> Tu- we 2<sup>nd</sup> M- you (pl.) 3<sup>rd</sup> Wa- they

### Present verb tense

Plural

In Swahili, verbs are structured as follows:

Subject prefix + Tense marker + Verb stem
I am wanting.

The tense marker for the present definite is –na-.

Thus, I am cooking is: ni- -na- -pika-, but written as one word: ninapika.

Other examples:

Ninahitaji = I am needing Tunahitaji = We are needing
Unahitaji = You (sing.) are needing Mnahitaji = You (pl.) are needing
Anahitaji = He/She is needing Wanahitaji = They are needing

Monosyllabic words retain their 'ku' stem. For example, ku-ja (to come) would be written as ninakuja (I am coming).

### Past simple tense

The tense marker for the past simple tense is -li-.

Thus, I was reading is: ni- -li- -soma. Written as one word: nilisoma.

Again, monosyllabic words retain their 'ku' stem. For example, ku-la (to eat) would be written as nilikula (I ate.)

#### **Future tense**

The tense marker for the future tense is -ta-.

Thus, the child will play is: mtoto a- -ta- -cheza. Written together: motto atacheza.

Again, monosyllabic words retain their 'ku' stem. For example, ku-nywa (to drink) would be written as watakunywa (they will drink.)

### **Basic phrases**

Hamna shida = No problem. (Lit. there are no difficulties.)

Unaitwa nani? = What is your name? Ninaitwa Adam = I am called Adam.

Hodi? = May I come in? Karibu = Welcome

Pole. = My sympathies Samahani =I'm sorry, excuse me.

Kwaheri (sing.)/Katherine (pl.) = good-bye

## **Common Swahili vocabulary**

## **Government (serikali)**

Mkoa/mikoa – region/regions Wilyaya/wilaya – district/districts

Kijiji/vijiji - village/villages

Taarafa

Kata/kata - ward/wards

Kitongoji/vitongoji – subvillage/subvillages

Manispaa/manispaa – municipality/municipalities (city government)

Chama/vyama – groups, parties

Vyama vya siasa – political parties

# Groups/Clubs (Vikundi/Klabu)

Kikundi/vikundi – group/groups

Taasisi - organization; "Taasisi ya Jane Goodall"

Viongozi – leaders, leadership

Viongozi wa dini - religious leaders

Tawi/Matawi - branch/branches, as in Which branch of the bank do you go to?

Mwenyekiti - chairman

Mlezi/Walezi – patron/matron (s)

Mjumbe/wajumbe - member/members

Wanachama - members

Mradi/miradi – project/projects

Shughuli - activities

Malengo – goals Sherika - organization

### **Environment/agriculture (Mazingira/Kilimo)**

Miti - trees

Mimea - plants

Mlima – mountain/hill

Shamba - farm

Udongo - soil

kulima – to farm

Hali ya hewa – weather

Mvua – rain

Kuvuna - to harvest

Kupanda – to plant

Mmomonyoko (ya udongo) - (soil) erosion

Kuchoma moto - to burn

Kukata miti – to cut down trees

Kuni - firewood

Kuboresha mazingira - to improve mazingira

Mifugo - livestock

Wanyama - animals

Wanyama wa pori - wildlife

Kutunza – to take care of ie kutunza mazingira – to take care of environment

Kufuga – to keep ie kufuga mifugo – to keep livestock

Kutoa taka taka - to take away trash

Kufanya usafi - to clean up

Mabadiliko - change

## **Human community**

Mzee - elder

Wazee - elders

Wagonjwa - sick people

Watoto wa mtaani - street children

Watoto wa yatima - orphans

Maendeleo – development

Elimu - education

Haki – rights ie haki ya watoto – children's rights

Huduma – service/treatment ie huduma za afya – health services

Kuchanga – to contribute ie kuchanga hela – to contribute money

Kutoa msaada - to give help, often to give money

Jamii - society/community

## **Speeches**

Kutoa shukrani – to give thanks; "Ninapenda kutoa shukrani kwa watu wote kwa kuja" – l'd like to give thanks to everyone for coming

Kushukuru – to be thankful, to thank; "Tunawashukuru sana nyinyi" – We thank you all very much

Mgeni rasmi – guest of honor

Kukaribisha - to make welcome, to welcome; "Ninamkaribisha mgeni rasmi" - I welcome the guest of honor

Siku ya Amani Duniani - Peace Day

Siku ya Mazingira Duniani – World Environment Day

Siku ya Ukimwi Duniani; HIV/AIDS day

### Local/tribal languages

#### Maasai

Greetings: Supai, response is Epa

Kijiai Engarnaino.what is your name? Akaaji; Elizabeth

# **Numbers Counting**

1	Nabo
2	Aree
3	Uni
4	Ong'wan
5	Imiet
6	Ile
7	Napushana
8	Isitye
9	
10	Tomon

NB; If you have any questions about our work, Please do not hesitate to contact me by email <a href="mailto:info@maasailandexplorer.com">info@maasailandexplorer.com</a> or by Mobile phone at +255 655 707 352

Thank you for your time

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