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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. *Mtu*. For ‘shikamoo’ the stress is on ‘ka.’ *Shikamoo*.

### 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!

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

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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 know	ku-fikiri = to think, consider
ku-elewa = to understand	ku-fika = to arrive
ku-pika = to cook	ku-penda = to like, love
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')
Plural	1 <sup>st</sup>	Tu- we
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	M- you (pl.)
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wa- they

### Present verb tense

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” – I'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.....Enduruj
- 10.....Tomon

NB; If you have any questions about our work, Please do not hesitate to contact me by email [info@maasailandexplorer.com](mailto:info@maasailandexplorer.com) or by Mobile phone at +255 655 707 352

Thank you for your time

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