

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #1

How to Say "Thank You!" in Swahili

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- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

#1

SWAHILI

1. Asante.
2. Asante sana.
3. Shukrani sana.

ENGLISH

1. Thank you.
2. Thank you so much.
3. Many thanks.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
asante	thank you	phrase
sana	so much	phrase
asante sana	thank you so much	phrase
shukrani	thanks	phrase
shukrani sana	many thanks	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Asante kukipitisha. "Thank you for passing it over."	Asante Yuki. "Thanks Yuki."
--	---------------------------------------

Samahani sana. "I am very sorry."	Asante sana kwa kukuja. "Thank you so much for coming."
Asante sana kwa kukuja. "Thank you so much for coming."	Shukrani kwa kukuja. "Thank you for coming."
Shukrani sana kwa kukuja. "Thank you for coming."	

GRAMMAR

Wherever your destination may be, manners are a must! Kenya is no different. So in our very first lesson, we'll be teaching you a simple phrase that is bound to come in handy throughout your trip to Kenya. I can't stress this enough: A little bit of language can go a long way!

In Swahili, "Thank you" is

Asante.

The word *asante* literally means "thanks"

You can emphasize *Asante* by adding *sana*, which means literally "a lot" or "so much."

That makes *Asante sana*, which would be equivalent to "Thank you so much," a politer expression than just *Asante*.

There will be occasions when you will really want to show your appreciation and politeness. On these occasions, you should use the expression *shukran*. In daily life, however, people use *shukrani*.

So "Thanks" in Swahili is

Shukrani.

And "Many thanks" is

shukrani sana.

The first word is *shukrani*, which means something like "thanks."

The second word, *sana* ("a lot"), is used to make the phrase more polite.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

By far, *Asante* is the most common way to say "Thanks." Use the more polite version *shukrani sana* sparingly, in very special situations, like when you have been helped a lot by somebody. Remember: when in doubt, keeping it simple is always your safest bet. You don't have to worry about formal or informal situations; *Asante* can be used with just about anyone, anywhere, and anytime. You say *Asante* when the waiter brings your food or drinks, when the clerk in the hotel takes your luggage to your room, and when somebody welcomes or congratulates you. No matter what the person's profession or age, *Asante* will always be an appropriate response.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #2

How to Say "You're Welcome" in Swahili

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- 3 Cultural Insight

#2

SWAHILI

1. Karibu.
2. Hakuna shida.
3. Hakuna shida hata.

ENGLISH

1. You're welcome.
2. No problem.
3. No problem at all.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
karibu	welcome	phrase
hakuna shida	no problem	phrase
shida	problem	noun
hata	at all	phrase
hakuna shida hata	there is no problem at all	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Karibuni mgahawani. "Welcome to the restaurant."	Karibu Kenya. "Welcome to Kenya."
--	---

Hakuna shida. Tulia. "There is no problem. Relax."	Niko kwa shida. "I am in trouble."
Sina shida hata. "I have no trouble at all."	Usiwe na wasiwasi kwani hakuna shida hata. "Do not be troubled because there is no problem."

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll continue to learn more phrases that will help you with basic etiquette. Swahili people are very hospitable. They use phrases of gratitude quite a lot. Even though you may not get the chance to use *Karibu* (the phrase for "You're welcome") during your trip to Kenya, there's a very good chance you'll hear it. So let's have a closer look at it!

In Swahili, "You're welcome" is

Karibu.

Literally this means "near."

You might sometimes hear *Hakuna shida*, which means "No problem."

Hakuna shida.

This phrase starts with the word *hakuna*, which means "there is none."

Next we have *shida*, meaning "problem."

You can emphasize *Hakuna shida* by adding *hata*, which means literally "at all."

You could say ***Hakuna shida hata***, "No problem at all," a stronger expression than just *Hakuna shida*.

Of the expressions we have seen, please keep in mind that you can use *Karibu* and *Hakuna shida* in any situation, formal or informal. But *Hakuna shida hata* tends to be used on more informal occasions.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip 1

The phrase *Karibu* has one more use, actually. The second meaning of *Karibu* is "Enter" or "Come in," and can be used, for example, when inviting someone inside the house. It is a common word used to invite someone in a hotel, room or anywhere that there is an event.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #3

Getting What You Want Using Swahili

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SWAHILI

1. Tafadhali.
2. Hii, tafadhali.
3. Hilo, tafadhali.
4. Naomba.

ENGLISH

1. Please.
2. This, please.
3. That, please.
4. Please. (followed by a phrase or verb)

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
naomba	please	phrase
tafadhali	please	phrase
hii	this	noun
hilo	that	noun
asante	thanks	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Naomba unisaidie kufanya kazi hii. "I request that you help me to do this work."	Naomba unielezee ninakoweza kupata msala. "I pray you tell me where I can find the bathroom."
Naomba msaada. "I am asking for a favor."	Waweza kukisema tena tafadhali? "Can you say that again, please?"
Hii saa tafadhali. "This one please."	Unakulaje hii? "How do you eat this food?"
Hii saa tafadhali. "This one please."	Hilo saa tafadhali. "That watch please."
Asante kukipitisha. "Thank you for passing it over."	Asante Yuki. "Thanks Yuki."

GRAMMAR

This lesson's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In this lesson, we'll take a look at the word "please," which will be very important when you need to ask for something.

In Swahili, "please" is:

tafadhali.

Let's take a closer look at *tafadhali*. The easiest way to use this word is by pointing at something and saying *hii tafadhali*, ("This one, please") or *hilo tafadhali* ("That one, please").

hii means "this."

And ***hilo*** means "that."

Please remember that in Kenya it is a little rude to point at people. But pointing at

things, especially when you are trying to buy something at the market, or when it helps to illustrate your point, is perfectly okay. Just make sure you say *Asante* ("Thank you") when the object is handed to you.

Another phrase for "please" is ***Naomba***. This word literally means "I pray." We use this phrase to ask someone to do something for us, and it is usually followed by a verb or a phrase.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

We have learned the sentence *hii, tafadhali* ("This, please"). We may need to spend some time with the grammar here. The first word, *hii* ("this"), is in the nominative. To show that you want something, you have to use the form accusative of the noun. The accusative form is used when defining the object of the phrase. For example *Nataka hii tafadhali* ("I want this one, please"). The easiest way to understand accusative case is to say that a noun is in the accusative if it is the object in the sentence.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #4 Basic Swahili Greetings

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SWAHILI

1. Sabalkheri.
2. Habari za mchana.
3. Habari za jioni.
4. Usiku mwema.
5. Habari.
6. Jambo.
7. Sijambo.

ENGLISH

1. Good morning.
2. Good afternoon.
3. Good evening.
4. Good night.
5. Hi.
6. Hi.
7. Hi.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
Sabalheri	Good morning	phrase
Habari za mchana	Good afternoon.	phrase
Habari za jioni	Good evening	phrase
Usiku mwema	Good night	phrase
Habari	Hello	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Sabalheri. Umzima? "Good morning. Are you fine?"	Habari za mchana. Umeshindaje? "Good afternoon. How have you been?"
Habari za jioni. Unajambo? "Good evening. Do you have news?"	Usiku mwema na ulale uzito. "Good night and sleep well."
Habari. Waambaje? "Hello. How are you doing?"	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll cover basic greetings for the appropriate time of the day. As there are quite a few to cover, let's jump right in.

We're going to start with the more formal ones first.

In Swahili, "Good morning" is **sabalheri**.

The first word, *sabal*, means "wish."

heri which means "success" follows *sabal*.

Literally, it means "wish you success." These two words come together and

become one word that means "Good morning": *sabalheri*.

In Swahili, "Good afternoon" is ***habari za mchana***.

The first word, *habari*, means "news."

The second word *za* is a preposition meaning "of."

And last we have *mchana*, which means "afternoon."

In Swahili, "Good evening" is ***habari za jioni***.

The first word *habari*, as we've already mentioned, means "news."

The second word *za* is a preposition.

The last word, *jioni*, means "evening"

Upon leaving, you say ***usiku mwema***. This is "Good night."

The first word, *usiku*, means "night."

The second word, *mwema*, means "good."

You can use all of these for formal situations or with strangers. You can say *sabalheri*, "Good morning," and *usiku mwema*, "Good night," with your friends, too.

Let's take a look at two ways of greeting your friends now.

The most common word is ***habari***.

habari is "Hello" in English. Use this only with people you are already on friendly terms with, or with young people in restaurants, bars, or cafés.

Another way to say "Hi" in Swahili is ***jambo***.

The proper response to this is *Sijambo*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

If you want to be on the safe side when using greetings in Swahili, learn the word *habari?* (informal), or *jambo?* (formal), which translate to "How are you?" Put this after any of this lesson's informal greetings and you'll sound as natural as can be. Try *habari*, which is the nicest way to address to someone you already know. This

means "Hi, how are you?"

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #5 Swahili Parting Expressions

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SWAHILI

1. Kwa heri.
2. Tuonane tena.
3. Baadaye.
4. Baadaye, tuonane tena.

ENGLISH

1. Bye bye.
2. See you later.
3. Bye bye.
4. Goodbye, see you later.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
Kwa heri.	Bye bye	phrase
Baadaye	until I see you.	phrase
Tuonane tena.	See you later.	phrase
Alamsiki.	Goodbye.	phrase
Tuonane	See you	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Kwa heri ya kuonana. "Bye, see you again."	Baadaye kesho. "Until I see you tomorrow."
Tuonane tena. Uwe salama. "See you later. Be fine."	Alamsiki. Ulale salama. "Goodbye. Have a goodnight."
Tuonane tena. "See you again."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we'll introduce parting expression. A parting expression that we can use any time of the day to strangers or friends is *Kwaheri*, which literally means "with good luck." I know it sounds funny, but partings generally contain a bit of sadness, so this expression tries to make up for that. You can think of it as a Swahili version of "bye bye."

You can also say *Tuonane tena*, which means "See you later."

The first word, *tuonane*, is the verb for "to see."

The next word, *tena*, means "until then."

Another parting phrase is *Baadaye*, which means "goodbye." This word goes like this in Swahili;

If you put it with *Tuonane tena*, it will be:

Baadaye, tuonane tena.

You can use the word *Alamsiki* to bid farewell at night. This literally means "fare well."

Use it with people you don't know or don't have a close relationship with.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

It is a good idea to use the polite form of the word "Goodbye" if you are talking to older people. The most polite form shows more respect: *Alamsiki*.

Quick Tip 2

There are many different ways to say goodbye in Swahili among friends. You can try to use the obvious one, *Kwa heri* or you can shorten *tuonanae tena* to *tuonane*.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #6

Where Is the Bathroom? in Swahili

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SWAHILI

1. Msala uko wapi?
2. Bafu liko wapi?
3. Msala wa wanawake uko wapi?
4. Msala wa wanaume uko wapi?
5. Wanawake
6. Wake
7. Wanaume

ENGLISH

1. Where is the toilet? (informal)
2. Where is the bathroom? (formal)
3. Where is the women's room?
4. Where is the men's room?
5. Women
6. Women
7. Men

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
msala	toilet	noun
bafu	bathroom	noun
wapi	where	adverb
wanawake	women	noun
wanaume	men	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ningelipenda kwenda msalani. "I would like to go to the toilet."	Bafu lililoko karibu liko wapi? "Where is the nearest bathroom around here?"
Benki liko wapi? "Where is the bank?"	Bafu lililoko karibu liko wapi? "Where is the nearest bathroom around here?"
Huu ni msala wa wanawake. "This is the women's toilet."	Huu ni msala wa wanawake. "This is the women's toilet."

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll cover an extremely important phrase: "Where is the toilet?"

In Swahili, "Where is the toilet?" is

Msala uko wapi?

Let's look at the components. The first word, *msala*, means "toilet."

This is followed by *uko*, which acts as the place indicator, roughly translated as "there."

After that is *wapi*, which means "where." Therefore, together with *uko*, it means "where is."

A formal way to ask "Where can I find the bathroom?" is:

Bafu liko wapi?

The first word *bafu*, means "bathroom."

After that is *liko*, acting as a place indicator, which when followed with *wapi* means "where is"

liko wapi?

If you are looking for the ladies' room, the phrase is:

Msala wa wanawake uko wapi?

msala means "toilet."

Next is *wa*, a preposition connecting *msala* and *wanawake*.

Wanawake literally means "women."

Then we have *uko*, which again is the place indicator. It is followed by the word *wapi*, which means "where."

If you are looking for the men's room, the question for that is:

Msala wa wanaume uko wapi?

Wanaume means "men."

To ask for the men's room, just swap out the word *wanawake* ("women") with *wanaume* ("men").

When you finally get to the bathroom, there may be one last hurdle. At some bathrooms, only Swahili words are written on the doors! What do you do?

As we've heard before, the word for "men" is:

wanaume.

And for "women" you'll see either:

wanawake or *wake*.

There may not be many public bathrooms for tourists to use. This means your best option is to stop at either a café or a restaurant, and use the bathroom there. Understandably, café owners aren't always too keen on having people stop in, just to use their bathroom. Since you'll be a tourist, they will welcome you, and let you use the toilet. So to be polite, you might want to buy a bottle of water, or order a

coffee before asking *msala uko wapi?*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

It may not always be very easy to find a public toilet in Kenya, but you can try. If you are on the street, you'll probably want to say "Where can I find the nearest toilet?" as opposed to "Where is THE toilet?" This first sentence in Swahili would be:

Naweza pata wapi msala ulio karibu?

Here it is broken down: *Na - we - za pa - ta wa - pi m - sa - la u - li - o ka - ri - bu?*

Naweza pata indicates the "ability to find." *Wapi* literally means "where" and *msala* as mentioned earlier means "toilet." *Ulio karibu* refers to the "most closest." It is very similar to our previous sentence—we changed only a bit, but it is more appropriate on the street.

Quick Tip 2

Let's learn the word for "Excuse me" here. In Swahili it is *samahani*. Just pop this in front of any of the sentences we've learned in this lesson and you're being very polite.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #7

Use English to Your Advantage in Swahili

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- 5 Cultural Insight

#7

SWAHILI

1. Je, unajua Kiingereza?
2. Unajua Kiingereza?
3. Je, unajua Ujerumani?
4. Ndio, najua Kiingereza.
5. La, sijui Kiingereza.

ENGLISH

1. Do you know English?(formal)
2. Do you know English?(informal)
3. Do you know German?
4. Yes, I do know English.
5. No, I don't know English.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
je, unajua	do you know?	phrase
Kiingereza	English	noun
Ujerumani	German	noun
la	no	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Je, unajua Kiingereza? "Do you know English?"	Unajua Kiingereza? "Do you know English?"
Unajua Ujerumani? "Do you know German?"	La, sijui. "No, I don't."
Ndio, najua. "Yes, I know."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll cover another extremely important phrase: "Do you know English?" Using this phrase as opposed to speaking English at someone is important for many reasons. For one, if the party you're speaking to doesn't understand English, at least they'll be able to understand what you're asking. Furthermore, it shows a lot of respect on your part, because you've made an effort to learn even just a little bit of the language. For these reasons and many more, we're going to cover this very important phrase.

In Swahili, "Do you know English?" is:

Je, unajua Kiingereza?

The first word, *Je* makes the sentence a question.

The second word, *unajua*, is a form of "to know."

The last word, *Kiingereza*, means "English."

The phrase we just learned is formal. This means you can use it in situations with older people, or with people you don't know.

When you're speaking to young people, it's OK to use informal speech. In that case, you will say:

Unajua Kiingereza?

Here we just dropped *Je*, the first word of the sentence. While the difference seems small, it completely changes the formality level, from formal to casual.

Again, you can use the formal *Je, unajua Kiingereza?* with older people or those you don't know. *Unajua Kiingereza?* is more direct. Don't use it with people you don't know, or with elders.

Now for a change, let's try a different language: German.

"Do you know German?" is:

Je, unajua Ujerumani?

The word for "German" is:

Ujerumani.

Here, just the word for the language changes; the rest is the same.

When you ask whether someone speaks another language besides Swahili, you might get the answer in Swahili. Here are few ways they might answer this question.

"Yes, I know English" would be:

Ndio, najua Kiingereza.

The first word, *ndio*, means "yes."

After this we have *najua*, which comes from the word for "to know."

After this comes the word for "English," which we've seen before.

This phrase could be made shorter, just by saying "Yes":

Ndio.

Or by taking out the word for "English" and just saying "Yes, I do know":

Ndio najua.

If the answer is negative, Swahili people might say "No, I don't know English":

La, sijui Kiingereza.

The first word, *la*, means "no."

This time we have the word for the form "I don't know,"

Finally, we have the word for "English", *Kiingereza*.

Sometimes, people will leave out the word for "English" and just say "I don't":

La, sijui.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

The number of English speakers in Kenya is quite high. In spite of this, most Kenyans prefer using Swahili to communicate. In tourist areas people can generally speak many languages. However, you can never go wrong by knowing the local language, so keep studying these survival phrases!

Quick Tip 2

Swahili people are very aware of the unique language they speak. It has some of its vocabulary derived from Arabic through more than twelve centuries of contact with Arabic-speaking inhabitants. It has also incorporated Persian, German, Portuguese, English and French words into its vocabulary. So if you learn just a couple of sentences in Swahili, it will definitely be appreciated and will take you a long way.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #8

How to Say "I Don't Understand" in Swahili

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SWAHILI

1. Sielewi.
2. Sijui.
3. Siongei Swahili.

ENGLISH

1. I don't understand.
2. I don't know.
3. I don't speak Swahili.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
Sielewi.	I don't understand.	expression
Sijui.	I don't know.	phrase
Siongei	I don't speak.	phrase
Umeelewa?	Have you understood?	phrase
Nimeelewa.	I have understood.	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Sielewi kile unachosema. "I don't understand what you are talking about."	Sijui kile unachouliza. "I don't know what you are asking."
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Siongei Kiingereza. "I don't speak English."	Umeelewa maneno hayo? "Have you understood those words?"
Nimeelewa vizuri sana. "I have understood very well."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson you'll learn a very useful phrase meaning "I don't understand." It is useful, of course, because many times you won't immediately pick up on what people are saying.

In Swahili, "I don't understand" is

Sielewi.

Another thing you can say when you're confused is "I don't know," which in Swahili is

Sijui.

Another option is to tell someone, "I don't speak Swahili." This phrase in Swahili is *Siongei Swahili.*

The first word, *siongei*, means "do not speak."

This is followed by *Swahili*, which is "Swahili."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

When engaged in a conversation with a Swahili-speaking person, you're likely to not understand everything they're saying to you. This could be for a number of reasons: their accent, how fast they're speaking, or the vocabulary that they're using. If this happens, don't be afraid to say *sielewi*. Swahili people will be more than happy to explain what they have just said.

Quick Tip 2

After Swahili people have told you something, they might ask you *Umeelewa?* meaning "Did you understand?" If you did, you can answer with *Nimeelewa*, which means "I understood."

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #9

Can You Say it Again in Swahili?

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#9

SWAHILI

1. Rudia hiyo tafadhali?
2. Waweza rudia hiyo tafadhali?
3. Waweza rudia hiyo tafadhali?
4. Tafadhali kiseme tena.
5. Waweza kukisema tena tafadhali?
6. Pole pole, tafadhali.
7. Waweza rudia hiyo polepole tafadhali?

ENGLISH

1. Repeat that, please?
2. Repeat that, please? (formal)
3. Can you repeat that, please?
4. Please say that again.
5. Can you say that again, please?
6. More slowly, please. (informal)
7. Can you repeat that slowly, please?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
waweza	can you	phrase
kiseme	say it	phrase
pole pole	slower	phrase
rudia	repeat	phrase
tafadhali	please	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Waweza rudia hiyo polepole tafadhali? "Can you repeat that slowly, please?"	Tafadhali kiseme tena? "Waweza kukisema tena tafadhali?"
Pole pole, tafadhali. "More slowly, please"	Waweza rudia hii tafadhali? "Can you repeat that, please?"
Waweza kukisema tena tafadhali? "Can you say that again, please?"	Hii saa tafadhali. "This one please."

GRAMMAR

There will be many times when the Swahili is coming at you fast and furious, and you may not catch all or any of it. When this happens, asking the speaker to say it again can make the difference between understanding a crucial piece of information, and spending the rest of the day trying to figure out what it was. The following phrase will not only give you a better sense of the language, but will also help you tune your ear!

In Swahili, "Repeat that, please?" is:

Rudia hiyo tafadhali?

The first word *rudia* means "to repeat"

After this come *hiyo*, meaning "that."

The last word *tafadhali*, as we have studied before, means "please."

If you want to sound a little less direct, you can ask "Can you repeat that, please?"
In Swahili this is *Waweza rudia hiyo tafadhali?*

This is very similar to the first sentence. Simply add *waweza* before the second word *rudia*, to mean "could you repeat."

Waweza rudia hiyo tafadhali?

You can also say the more casual "Please say that again.":

Tafadhali kiseme tena.

The first word *Tafadhali* still means "please."

Next we have *kiseme*, which means "say it."

And last we have *tena*, meaning "again."

When you are talking to strangers or elderly people, you may wish to express this in a formal way, like this:

"Can you say that again, please?"

Waweza kukisema tena tafadhali?

At times, you may not understand the speaker even after a repeat. This is often due to how fast the person is speaking. In these cases, you can say "Slower, please":

Pole pole, tafadhali.

The first word, *polepole*, means "slower."

We can use all the phrases we've seen so far, altogether.

"Can you repeat that slowly, please?" is

Waweza rudia hiyo polepole tafadhali?

Waweza makes this a polite question you can ask strangers.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Asking someone to repeat what they've just said is especially important when you're given directions to get you where you're going. If you happen to be lost, instead of stopping someone on the street for directions, it's always best to stop in a store or a café and ask the people who work there. They are usually much more familiar with the neighborhood than the average passerby on the street is. If Swahili people assume you already speak the language well, they might speak fast. So if there's something you didn't understand, or if you missed part of the sentence, you can say *Rudia hiyo tafadhali?* As you've just learned, this means, "Repeat that, please?" If you want to be more polite, or if you're talking to more than one person, *Waweza rudia hiyo tafadhali?* is a useful phrase.

Quick Tip 2

As you may have noticed, there is no rule about where to put "please" in Swahili sentence. You can put it at the beginning or the end; either is grammatically OK.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #10

Apologies in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

#10

SWAHILI

1. Kunradhi.
2. Samahani.
3. Pole.
4. Sawa.

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me. / Pardon me.
2. I am sorry.
3. Sorry.
4. No problem. / It doesn't matter.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
kunradhi	pardon me	phrase
Samahani	Excuse me, I am sorry	phrase
pole	sorry	phrase
Sawa	It doesn't matter	phrase
sana	so much	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Muhudumu Nikunradhi. "Waiter, excuse me!"	Mhudumu, nikunradhi tafadhali. "Waiter, excuse me!"
Samahani, unauzaje hii? "Excuse me. What is your sale?"	Samahani kwa kukugonga. "I am sorry for having hit you."
Pole sana kwa kukukosea. "I am sorry for inconveniencing you."	Ni sawa. Usijali sana. "It doesn't matter, don't worry so much."
Samahani sana. "I am very sorry."	Asante sana kwa kukuja. "Thank you so much for coming."

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll cover phrases used for apologizing. Since you haven't quite mastered Swahili, it's probably a good idea to go over the phrases for apologizing, as it's likely they'll come in handy.

We'll start with "Excuse me" or "Pardon me," which in Swahili is:

Kunradhi

This expression can be used to apologize for accidentally pushing someone on the street, but it can also precede a question you ask a stranger, much like "Excuse me." Use this when you are trying to work your way through a crowd, when you are trying to get someone's attention in a store, or when asking for directions.

If you want to be even more apologetic, or if you've done something worse than just bumping into someone, you can say "I am sorry":

Samahani.

To sum this section up:

Use *Kunradhi* when you've done minor damage to someone or want to get someone's attention.

Use *Samahani* when the damage is more significant.

Pole is another phrase that can be used for apologizing. But it is used only for minor apologies.

The word *pole* means "sorry."

If someone says one of these to you, you'll want to respond with "No problem" or "It doesn't matter." The proper response is:

Sawa.

Sawa means "okay."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

If you want to be very polite, you might want to learn the word *sana*. It means "very" or "a lot." Put this word after *Kunradhi* or *Samahani* to sound even more sophisticated—*Kunradhi sana* or *Samahani sana*. You can use these when you really feel you've done something wrong.

Quick Tip 2

Swahili has its origins in the interaction of Africans with Arabs and Persian traders on the East African Coast in the 2nd century. That is why many Arabic words are reflected in Swahili. *Kunradhi* is one of the many examples. *Swahili*, on the other hand, is an Arabic word meaning "coast."

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #11

Swahili Restaurant, Part 1—How Many People?

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

11

SWAHILI

1. Mko watu wangapi?
2. Tuko watu wa tatu.
3. Niko pekee yangu.

ENGLISH

1. How many people are you?
2. We're three.
3. I am alone.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
watu	person	noun
tatu	three, 3	noun
pekee	alone	noun
mgahawa	restaurant, cafe	noun
karibu	welcome	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tuko watu wa tatu. "We are three people."	Tuko watu wa tatu. "We are three people."
---	---

Niko pekee yangu. "I am alone."	Mgahawa huo ni safi. "That cafe is clean."
Karibuni mgahawani. "Welcome."	Karibuni mgahawani. "Welcome to the restaurant."
Karibu Kenya. "Welcome to Kenya."	

GRAMMAR

There is a wide variety of Swahili dishes, and your job as a visitor is to try as many different foods as possible! However, before you start eating, you have to get to the table! In this lesson, we'll cover getting a table in a restaurant.

When entering a restaurant in Kenya, you will be greeted with *Karibu*, which means "Welcome,"

When you enter a restaurant, or *mkahawa* in Swahili, you'll usually be seated by a waiter or waitress. You might be asked the question "How many people in your party?" so practicing it will come in handy at some point. "How many people are you?" in Swahili is:

Mko watu wangapi?

The first word, *Mko*, is a presence marker.

After this comes *watu*, a polite way to say "person."

The last word, *wangapi*, means "How many?"

Now let's go over how to answer.

You might tell the waiter or waitress:

Tuko watatu.

...which in English means "We are three people."

The first word, *tuko*, acts as a presence indicator.

After this comes *watatu*, which is how you say "three people."

This can be broken further into:

wa: which is a pronoun, in this case, for people.

The last word, *tatu*, means "three."

Let's take a look at some of the numbers you might need here, from "two" to "five":

2 *mbili*

3 *tatu*

4 *nne*

5 *tano*

If you are just one person, the proper answer is "I am alone," which in Swahili is:

Niko pekee yangu.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Eating out is one of the greatest pleasures of traveling in Kenya. The warm atmosphere and happy people will make it an unforgettable experience. When you go to a *mgahawa* (restaurant), you'll probably be seated by a waiter or waitress. Of course, since you have learned some very useful survival phrases in this lesson, you should try to use them.

Quick Tip 2

As you have seen, "restaurant" in Swahili is known as *mgahawa*. There are other places in Kenya too that serve food especially at lunchtime. For example, you can look for a sign that says *hoteli*, which means "hotel" in English. These usually serve sandwiches, salads and soups for lunch. There are also many types of restaurants serving international and fusion dishes.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #12

Swahili Restaurant, Part 2— Reserving a Table

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

12

SWAHILI

1. Ningelipenda kuhifadhi nafasi.
2. Ningelipenda kuhifadhi nafasi ya leo jioni.
3. Ya watu wangapi?
4. Ya watu wawili tafadhali.
5. Saa ngapi?
6. Saa mbili tafadhali.

ENGLISH

1. I would like to make a reservation.
2. I would like to make a reservation for tonight.
3. For how many people?
4. For two people.
5. For what time?
6. For eight o'clock, please.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
Ningelipenda.	I would like	phrase

kuhifadhi	to reserve	verb
nafasi	space	noun
leo jioni	tonight	noun
saa	time	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ningelipenda kuhifadhi nafasi. "I would like to make a reservation."	Ningelipenda kuhifadhi nafasi ya leo jioni. "I would like to make a reservation for tonight."
Ningelipenda kuhifadhi nafasi ya watu wawili. "I would like to make a reservation for two people."	Ningelipenda kuhifadhi nafasi ya leo jioni. "I would like to make a reservation for tonight."
Ni saa saba kamili. "It is one o'clock."	Saa mbili tafadhali. "Eight o'clock please."

GRAMMAR

In the last lesson, we learned how to get a table at a restaurant, but please know that because of the popularity of Swahili food, it can be difficult to get a seat, especially on the weekends. The best thing to do, without a doubt, is to make a reservation for the time you want to eat.

In this lesson, we'll cover making a reservation at a restaurant.

Normally, if you make a phone call to reserve a table for the evening, you would say "I would like to make a reservation for tonight":

Ningelipenda kuhifadhi nafasi ya leo jioni.

The first word, *Ningelipenda*, means "I would like." Let's break it down:

Next is the word *kuhifadhi*, which means "to reserve" in English. So "to reserve" is *kuhifadhi*.

The word that follows, *nafasi*, means "space." Thus "to reserve" and "space" together will be:

kuhifadhi nafasi

Next, *ya* is a preposition.

The last two words, *leo jioni*, mean "tonight." Literally, they mean "today evening": *leo* means "today" and *jioni* means "evening." Together, *leo jioni* means "tonight."

Normally, you'll be asked how many people are in your party and what time you'd like a table.

"For how many people?"

Ya watu wangapi?

ya is the preposition "for"

watu is a word for "people"

wangapi means "how many"

Now imagine you are a party of two. You'll answer in Swahili, "For two people, please."

Ya watu wawili tafadhali.

The word *wawili* means "two"

Note that *wili* is an adjective modifying *wa*, which stands for the persons.

Finally, let's see how they will ask you the time of your reservation.

Saa ngapi?

This means "What time?"

Now let's answer the question! Let's imagine you want to reserve a table at eight o'clock: "At eight o'clock, please." in Swahili is:

Saa mbili tafadhali.

First we have *saa*, which means "time" or "clock"

Then we have *mbili*, which means "eight."

We follow this with *tafadhali*, which you'll remember is "please."

Saa mbili tafadhali.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Restaurants usually take orders until 10 p.m. You can stay longer, but the kitchen will probably be closed. But you can also get snacks at bars, which are open until 1 or 2 a.m. Clubs and discos usually close at 5 a.m. And you can always find a buffet, even in the middle of the night, for some Swahili fast food.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #13

Swahili Restaurant, Part 3— Smoking or Non-Smoking?

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

13

SWAHILI

1. Samahani, uvutaji sigara unaruhusiwa hapa?
2. Ndio, unaruhusiwa.
3. La, hauruhusiwi.
4. Samahani, uvutaji sigara hauruhusiwi humu?
5. Ndio, hauruhusiwi.
6. La, unaruhusiwa.

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me, is smoking allowed here?
2. Yes, it is [allowed].
3. No, it isn't [allowed].
4. Excuse me, is smoking forbidden in here?
5. Yes, it is [prohibited].
6. No, it isn't [prohibited].

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
uvutaji	smoke	noun

sigara	cigarette	noun
unaruhusiwa	permit	verb
hauruhusiwi	prohibit	verb
hapa	here	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Uvutaji sigara ni hatari kwa maisha yako.</p> <p>"Is smoking is dangerous for your health."</p>	<p>Uvutaji sigara unaruhusiwa hapa?</p> <p>"Is smoking permitted here?"</p>
<p>Hauruhusiwi kunywa pombe kabla ya miaka kumi na nane.</p> <p>"You are not permitted to drink alcohol before 18 years."</p>	<p>Uvutaji sigara hauruhusiwi kwa nyumba yetu.</p> <p>"Smoking is prohibited in our house."</p>
<p>Kuna benki kadhaa hapa.</p> <p>"There are several banks around here."</p>	<p>Nasimama hapa.</p> <p>"I am stopping here."</p>
<p>Usitupe takataka hapa.</p> <p>"Do not litter here."</p>	

GRAMMAR

In the last lesson, we learned how to make a reservation in a restaurant. Now that you know how to get a table, you have another big issue to tackle. If you want to enjoy your meal, the smoking issue is very important. If you are a smoker in a non-smoking establishment, or a non-smoker in a smoking establishment, this can ruin your meal.

In this lesson, we'll cover how to ask for a smoking or non-smoking table.

Let's imagine first that you are a smoker. Before entering a restaurant, you need to ask, "Excuse me, is smoking allowed here?":

Samahani, uvutaji sigara unaruhusiwa hapa?

Samahani, as we have seen, means "Excuse me."

We follow this with *uvutaji*, which means "smoking."

And then with *sigara*, which means "cigarette."

Next we have *unaruhusiwa* to mean "permitted"

Last is *hapa*, which means "here."

Here's the whole sentence:

Samahani, uvutaji sigara unaruhusiwa hapa?

The answer to this question is very simple: *Ndio, unaruhusiwa*, "Yes, you can smoke," or *La, hauruhusiwi*, "No, no smoking."

If the answer is "You are not allowed to smoke here," the expression "I'm sorry" often comes before the negative answer:

samahani.

Another way of asking is:

Samahani, uvutaji sigara hauruhusiwi humu?

This literally means "Excuse me, is smoking prohibited in here?"

uvutaji sigara means "to smoke a cigarette."

hauruhusiwi means "forbidden."

that humu means "in here."

On some signs, you will see the phrase *Sigara limeharamishwa*. This means "Smoking cigarettes is prohibited," and you'll see it next to the familiar image of a cigarette inside a cancel sign.

Now let's go over the possible answers to the question, "Is smoking prohibited in here?" If it's a positive answer, you might hear:

Ndio hauruhusiwi.

All we did was add the Swahili word for "yes," *ndio*, in front of the sentence.

Because the question has a negative meaning—we're asking whether smoking is prohibited—a "yes" answer will mean "Yes, it is prohibited":

Ndio hauruhusiwi.

If what you're pointing at is a smoking table, you'll hear:

La, unaruhusiwa.

The first word, *la*, means "no."

The second word *unaruhusiwa* means "permitted."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Kenya has stipulated non-smoking policies, so smoking is forbidden in most restaurants, cafés and bar, and in the general public. Anti-smoking campaign has helped to reduce the huge number of smokers in Kenya. However, to help protect the general public, and to help people addicted to smoking, the government has set up smoking booths in public places where smoking is allowed.

Quick Tip 2

The legal age for drinking and smoking in Kenya is 18. You may be asked to show some kind of ID when buying cigarettes or alcohol, even if it's only a pint of a beer in a pub. Try to take it as a compliment.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #14

Swahili Restaurant, Part 4: Placing an Order

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

#14

SWAHILI

1. Samahani, waweza kunipa menyu?
2. Ungelipenda kunywa nini?
3. Ningelipenda ugali nyama na maji baridi.

ENGLISH

1. Can I have a menu, please?
2. What would you like to drink?
3. I would like maize bread served with meat and cold water.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
menyu	menu	noun
kianzio	starter	noun
kachumbari	salad	noun
kiburudishaji	dessert	noun
kunywa	drink	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tafadhali nipe menu. "Give me the menu please."	Nipe ugali nyama na maji baridi. "Give me corn bread served with meat and cold water."
---	--

<p>Samaki karanga na ugali huenda vizuri sana na kachumbari.</p> <p>"Fried fish with cornmeal goes well with salad."</p>	<p>Nipe keki kamu kiburudisho.</p> <p>"Give a cake as a dessert."</p>
<p>Ningelipenda kunywa kola.</p> <p>"I would like to drink cola."</p>	

GRAMMAR

Finally, you've got a seat at a table. Now it's time to order!

In this lesson, we'll cover how to ask for a menu and then order your food and drinks.

Normally you have to catch the waiter's attention, perhaps by raising your right hand a bit. Then you'll ask for a menu:

Samahani, waweza kunipa menyu?

I'm sure you remember that *samahani* means "please."

waweza means "could you."

Next is *kunipa*, which means "give me."

Unsurprisingly *menyu* is derived from the English word "menu."

Here's the whole question again:

Samahani, waweza kunipa menyu?

Because Swahili meals are so unique and diverse, you might have a hard time choosing something from the menu. Some restaurants offer one main dish and small side dishes, while others offer many small dishes.

On the menu you'll generally find *kianzio* "starters," a large variety of dishes, *supu na kachumbari*: "soups and salads," and after your main courses, you'll see *kiburudiashaji*: "desserts," and *vinywaji*: "drinks."

In 99% of cases, the waiter or waitress will begin by asking what you'd like to drink:

Ungelipenda kunywa nini?

Ungelipenda means "would you like."

kunywa, you may recall, means "drink."

Nini means "what."

Again, the whole question is:

Ungelipenda kunywa nini?

Now let's look at some typical beverages Kenyans might have with dinner:

mvinyo mweupe ("white wine")
mvinyo mwekundu ("red wine")
pombe ("beer")
kola ("cola")
maji "water"

Once you have looked at the menu, you can finally call the waiter for the order.

When you order in Swahili, you can just say the name of the dish you want and add *tafadhali*, which means "please." If you want to order more than one item, you can connect them with *na*, which means "and."

Now let's look at some good dishes you can find on a typical Kenyan menu. These are relatively common, and you won't want to miss them on your journey in Kenya.

Ugali nyama ("maize meal bread served with meat")

In most cases *Ugali nyama* is served with:

Sukumawiki ("fried sliced kale")

So if you want to order *Ugali nyama* and cold water, you should say to the waiter:

Ningelipenda ugali nyama na maji baridi.

Baridi means "cold."

Together the whole sentence will be:

Ningelipenda ugali nyama na maji baridi.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

As we mentioned earlier, Swahili meals are unique and diverse, most of which can be served with meat. The meat can be prepared in many different ways to your liking, and it makes for a delicious dish.

Quick Tip 2

If a Kenyan person takes you out to dinner, they probably won't let you pay, but don't worry—accept it. They like to feel hospitable.

Quick Tip 3

Normally Kenyan restaurants forbid food from outside from being eaten in their restaurants. It will, therefore, be courteous to order all your food in the restaurant. However, do not be restricted to eating in the restaurant. You can ask for take

away services, and then eat at it at a place that's convenient for you!

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #15 Swahili Restaurant, Part 5— Asking for the Check

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

15

SWAHILI

1. Ungelipenda kitu kingine chochote.
2. La, asante.
3. Una kinywaji moto?
4. Ungelipenda kahawa au chai?
5. Bili, tafadhali.

ENGLISH

1. Would you like anything else?
2. No, thank you.
3. Do you have hot drinks?
4. Would you like to have coffee or tea?
5. The check, please.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
chochote	anything	noun
kitu	thing	noun
bili	bill	noun
kahawa	coffee	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ungelipenda kitu kingine chochote?

"Would you like any other thing?"

Ungelipenda kitu kingine chochote?

"Would you like any other thing?"

Nipe bili tafadhali.

"Please give me a bill."

Niongozee kahawa kikombe kimoja tafadhali.

"Add me a cup of coffee please."

Chai moto tafadhali.

"Hot tea please."

GRAMMAR

In the last lesson, we learned how to get a waiter's attention and order food and drinks at a restaurant. Once you have the beverages and entrées you ordered, you can enjoy the mouth-watering meal.

Normally, when the waiter sees that you have finished, he will come to your table and kindly ask, "Would you like anything else?" In Swahili this is:

Ungelipenda kitu kingine chochote?

Ungelipenda means "Would you like."

Here *kitu* means "something." and *kingine* means "another," So *kitu kingine* means "anything else" altogether.

The last word *chochote* means "anything"

You are sure to hear this from waiters in restaurants or cafés.

Unless you're still hungry—very unlikely after a Swahili meal—you can say "No, thanks":

La, asante.

Instead, you can ask for a hot drink:

Una kinywaji moto?

Which means, "do you have hot drink?"

The first word *una* literally means "to have."

In this case it implies, "do you have," raising the intonation of the sentence to form a question.

You will recall that *kinywaji* means "drink" and *moto* means "hot."

Usually the waiters will respond:

Ndio, Ungelipenda kahawa au chai

Which means something like: "Yes, would you like to have coffee or tea?"

Ndio, Ungelipenda kahawa au chai?

You may recall from our previous lesson that *Ndio* is a word for "yes" and *Ungelipenda* is a word for, "would you like?"

You can probably tell that *kahawa* means "coffee."

The second word, *au*, means "or."

Next is *chai*, the Swahili word for "tea."

Altogether, the question is:

Ndio, Ungelipenda kahawa au chai?

If you prefer coffee, answer:

kahawa, tafadhali.

Or if you want tea, say:

chai, tafadhali.

When you're ready to leave, you'll want to ask for the check. In Swahili this is:

bili, tafadhali.

Unsurprisingly, the first word is derived from the English word "bill." This is a good

example of an English word that has been borrowed by Swahili speakers.

And by now you're no stranger to *tafadhali*.

("please").

And now you're ready to go!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Kenyan restaurants are in such high demand that you may see a waiting lane. Usually, it is required that once you have finished eating you give space to other coming diners. However, this is not a hard and fast rule. You can stay longer while enjoying your cup of coffee or tea.

Quick Tip 2

Kenyan people do usually leave tips. If you are especially happy with your meal and service, you can leave a big tip, and it will certainly be appreciated by the staff; but it is not a must, as it is in some other countries.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #16

Counting 0-10 in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

16

SWAHILI

1. Mtu mmoja.
2. Watu wawili.
3. Chupa mbili ya mvinyo, tafadhali.
4. Bombwe moja la simba tafadhali.

ENGLISH

1. One person.
2. Two people.
3. Two bottles of wine, please.
4. One lion sculpture, please.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
mtu mmoja	one person	phrase
mvinyo	wine	noun
kifurushi	packet	noun
kitamu	delightful	noun
chupa	bottle	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Kuna mtu mmoja tu aliyekuja. "There's only one person who has come."	Nipe chupa mbili ya mvinyo mwekundu. "Give me two bottles of red wine."
Ndani ya kifurushi mna zawadi. "Inside the package is a gift."	Kifurushi chake ni nzuri sana. "Her package is very nice."
Kifurushi cha zawadi hii chapendeza. "This gift's packet is delightful."	Kifurushi cha kubwe kitamu. "A packet of delightful snack."
Chupa tatu ya soda. "A bottle of soda."	

GRAMMAR

This lesson is very straightforward—we're going to cover counting zero through ten. Let's jump right in.

0 *sufuri*

1 *moja*

2 *mbili*

3 *tatu*

4 *nne*

5 *tano*

6 *sita*

7 *saba*

8 *nane*

9 *tisa*

10 *kumi*

When you count things, the number comes second, after the thing you're counting. For example, "one night" is *siku moja*.

Two nights is:

siku mbili

and five nights is:

siku tano

When talking about people and animate creatures, the numbers change slightly. Basically, if the word is singular, you add an *m* to the front of both the noun and the number:

For example, "one person" is:

mtu mmoja

If, however, the noun is plural, you add a "*wa*" to both the noun and the number.

"Two people" would be:

watu wawili

"Five people" is:

watu watano

Numbers can be very useful, especially when you're shopping in Kenya.

Imagine you are buying some presents to take back to your country. Let's say you've chosen two bottles of wine in a nice shop.

"Two bottles of wine, please.":

Chupa mbili ya mvinyo, tafadhali.

chupa means "bottle."

mbili, as you already know, means "two."

And *mvinyo*, as you may recall from our lesson on restaurants, means "wine."

I'm sure you don't need to be reminded that *tafadhali* is "please"

The whole request, then, is:

Chupa mbili ya mvinyo, tafadhali.

Now imagine you want to buy someone a Kenyan souvenir. For example, a lion sculpture.

"One lion sculpture, please" is:

Bombwe moja la simba tafadhali.

Let's break that down:

Bombwe moja la simba tafadhali.

Bombwe means "sculpture" or "carving."

The second word *moja* means "one"

Next we have *la*, the preposition "of"

It's followed by *simba*, which means "lion"

You will remember that *tafadhali* means "please."

All together the whole sentence will be:

Bombwe moja la simba tafadhali.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Visiting Kenya will offer you plenty of opportunities to purchase souvenirs ranging from wooden carvings, soapstone baskets, to textiles and jewellery. Stone and wooden carvings are usually the best for most people. These, you can find in most curio shops, the Maasai market being one of the most famous.

Don't miss out on trying the Kenyan Arabica coffee, its unique taste will keep you coming back to Kenya, and it can serve as a good souvenir for a coffee lover.

Finally, for those who like spicy and burning drinks, take with you a "stoney tangawizi." It the strongest ginger soda you'll ever taste! It is one of the best sodas in the world, making it in the top souvenirs from Kenya!

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #17

Counting to 100 in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

17

SWAHILI

1. Ni saa kumi na moja.
2. Ni saa kumi na moja unusu.
3. Kumi na tatu ni nambari isiyo na bahati.
4. Kwa mwezi moja kuna masiku thelathini.
5. Nina shilingi mia moja kwenye mfuko wangu.

ENGLISH

1. It's 11 o'clock.
2. It's half past eleven.
3. Thirteen is an unlucky number.
4. In one month there are thirty days.
5. I have a hundred shillings in my pocket.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
mia moja	hundred	numeral
miaka	year	noun
unusu	half	noun
kumi	ten, 10	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ni miaka mia moja tangu alipokufa. "It is now 100 years since he died."	Nina miaka ishiri na saba mwaka huu. "I am 27 years this year."
Ni saa tisa unusu. "Its 3 o'clock."	Inagharimu shilingi kumi tu. "It costs ten shillings only."
Ni saa saba kamili. "It is one o'clock."	Saa mbili tafadhali. "Eight o'clock please."

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we're going to continue with counting as we cover numbers 11-100.

Let's just quickly review 0-10.

0 *sufuri*

1 *moja*

2 *mbili*

3 *tatu*

4 *nne*

5 *tano*

6 *sita*

7 *saba*

8 *nane*

9 *tisa*

10 *kumi*

In Swahili, counting from 11-20 is also quite straightforward, so let's jump right in.

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*

You probably noticed that to make numbers 11-19, you just put the word *kumi*, which means "ten," before the number you want to say. The numbers 21-29 start with *ishirini*, which means "twenty." For example, 21 is *ishirini na moja*.

Let's make some sample sentences with these numbers. We can use them to talk about time.

"It's eleven o'clock" in Swahili is:

Ni saa kumi na moja.

Ni means "it's."

Saa means "time" or "watch."

And we just learned that *kumi na moja* is "eleven."

Please note that Swahili time starts at 6 a.m., so this eleven o'clock will be actually be five in the afternoon.

We can use the same type of sentence to talk about any time, so let's try some more.

1. *Ni saa kumi na moja unusu.*
"It's half past eleven."

We have already learned this sentence, the only difference is that the word *unusu* has been added.

Unusu means "half" when referring to time.

Again, please remember that Swahili time starts at 6 a.m., so 11:30 will actually be 5:30 in the afternoon.

Here's another sentence:

1. *Kumi na tatu ni nambari isiyo na bahati.*
"Thirteen is an unlucky number."

kumi na tatu is "thirteen."

We now know that *ni* means "its"

while *nambari* means "number."

The next word, *isiyo*, means "does not have."

na means "and."

The last word, *bahati*, means "luck."

Let's try a bigger number:

1. *Kwa mwezi moja kuna masiku thelathini.*
"In one month, there are thirty days."

The first word *Kwa* means "in"

It's followed by *mwezi* which means "month."

Moja as we have learned means "one" so *mwezi moja* means "one month."

kwa mwezi moja therefore means "in one month."

kuna literally means "be." In this case it means "there are."

masiku means "days."

Therefore, you can guess that *masiku thelathini* means "thirty days."

The whole sentence is:

Kwa mwezi moja kuna masiku thelathini.

So now that you've just learned "30," let's go through some other Swahili words for the rest of the tens:

30 *thelathini*

40 *arobaini*

50 *hamsini*

60 *sitini*

70 *sabini*

80 *themanini*

90 *tisini*

Let's try making the Swahili word for "fifty-three." "Fifty" is *hamsini* and "three" is *tatu*. Putting them together, we have *hamsini na tatu* or "fifty-three."

Finally, we have *mia moja*, which is "one hundred."

mia is a word for "hundred"

and *moja* means "one"

So for "hundred," *mia*, to be "one hundred," just add "one," *moja*, to "hundred," *mia*.

100 *mia moja*

You can use the same criteria for other numbers, for example "two hundred," *mia mbili*. Just add *mbili* "two" to *mia* "hundred" and it becomes *mia mbili*.

Let's use *mia moja* to say "I have a hundred shillings in my pocket":

Nina shilingi mia moja kwenye mfuko wangu.

nina means "I have."

The next word, *shilingi*, means "shillings."

We just learned that *mia moja* means "hundred."

kwenye means "in," and *mfuko* means "pocket."

So *kwenye mfuko wangu* means "in my pocket."

The last word *wangu* means "mine."

The whole sentence, then, is:

Nina shilingi mia moja kwenye mfuko wangu.

To count up from *mia moja*, we just need to add the units and the tens we have already learned.

110 *mia moja na kumi*

198 *mia moja tisini na nane*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Shopping in Kenya can be a great experience, and you can enhance that experience by learning how to say numbers. For example, if you want to shop for clothes but have no idea how to tell the clerks your size, studying this lesson will have helped you buy that dress you saw in the window. If the sizes vary, then it will be a good idea to try it out before buying.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #18

How Much? in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

18

SWAHILI

1. Hili ni pesa ngapi?
2. Hili koti ni pesa ngapi?
3. Ni ngapi?

ENGLISH

1. How much is this?
2. How much does this coat?
3. How much?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
ni ngapi?	how much?	phrase
pesa	money	noun
koti	coat	noun
kunradhi	pardon me	phrase
Samahani	Excuse me, I am sorry	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ni bei gani? "How much is it?"	Nahitaji pesa. "I need money."
--	--

Nimenunua koti. "I bought a coat."	Kunradhi! Naomba kutumia kalamu yako. "Excuse me! May I use your pen?"
Muhudumu Nikunradhi. "Waiter, excuse me!"	Mhudumu, nikunradhi tafadhali. "Waiter, excuse me!"
Samahani, unauzaje hii? "Excuse me. What is your sale?"	Samahani kwa kukugonga. "I am sorry for having hit you."

GRAMMAR

Now it's time for some useful Survival Phrases for when you go shopping in Kenyan stores.

You should remember that *kunradhi* or *samahani*, both meaning "Excuse me," will be the first thing to say to a shop clerk. After that, you should say, "How much is this?" In Swahili, that's:

Hili ni pesa ngapi?

hili, as we've seen before, means "this."

ni means "is."

The next word, *pesa*, means "money."

And the last word, *ngapi*, is a question that means "how much?"

So *Pesa ngapi*, therefore, will mean, "how much money?"

Imagine that you've found a clothing stand in a local market and want to buy a coat. After saying *kunradhi* or *samahani* to get the stallkeeper's attention, you can ask "How much is this coat?"

Hili koti ni pesa ngapi?

First comes *hili*, "this."

After this comes the word *koti* meaning "coat."

We already know *pesa ngapi?* ("How much?")

The last construction of this lesson is another common way to ask a price in Swahili: *Ni ngapi?*

Ni ngapi? means "how much."

So if you are talking about the coat and you would like to know its price, just say *ni ngapi?* to ask "How much?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Let's have a look at some possible purchases that might interest you and how to say them in Swahili:

surupwenye: "trousers"

viatu: "shoes"

blauzi: "blouse"

mzingo: "bag"

sketi: "skirt"

Now get out there and enjoy your shopping!

Quick Tip 2

Paying by cash is the most popular way of paying for goods. However, a few supermarkets and shopping malls accept credit cards, usually starting from a very small amount. Kenyans use the Kenya shillings for most of their transactions. Dollars are sometimes accepted, but it is advisable that you have the local currency with you. You can go to the Bank or forex bureau to change money.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #19

Bargaining in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

19

SWAHILI

1. Naweza pata kwa bei ya chini?
2. Ooo, ni ghali sana!
3. Unataka kwa bei gani?
4. Bei yako ya chini ni ngapi?
5. Nitakupa shilingi kumi.

ENGLISH

1. Could I get it for a cheaper price?
2. Oh, it's too expensive!
3. How much do you want to pay?
4. What's your lowest price?
5. I'll give you ten shillings.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
ghali	expensive	adjective
shilingi	shillings	noun
nitakupa	I will give	phrase
pata	get, find	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Kitabu hiki ni ghali sana. "This book is very expensive."	Nipe shilingi moja kwa kila peremende. "Give me one shilling for each candy."
Inagharimu shilingi kumi tu. "It costs ten shillings only."	Nitakupa shilingi ishirini. "I will give you twenty shillings."
Nimepata anwani yake. "I found her address."	Pata nguo kwa bei rahisi. "Get a cloth at a cheaper price."
Naweza pata wapi simu? "Where can I find a pay phone."	Naweza kuchukua kwa shilingi tano. "Can I get it with five shillings?"

GRAMMAR

In Kenya, bargaining is a very common thing. Especially since you are a tourist, you'll get things much cheaper if you can bargain for them. The only places you can't haggle are big shopping centers and stores that sell items with tags. However, small clothing stores and open markets are up for bargaining. Flea markets are called *soko* in Swahili.

Normally, if you are interested in buying something, you say, "Excuse me, how much is this?"

Kunradhi hii ni pesa ngapi?

As soon as they tell you the price, you can start bargaining to lower it. Don't be shy, ask "Could I get it for a cheaper price?":

Naweza pata kwa bei ya chini?

The first word, *naweza*, means "can I."

The second word, *pata*, means "get."

The third word, *kwa*, means "for."

The next word *bei* means "price"

It is followed by the preposition *ya*

The last word *chini* literally means "lower" but implies "cheaper."

Another way to express the feeling that something is too expensive and you want to start haggling is with:

Ooo, ni ghali sana!

"Oh, it's too expensive!"

You will remember that *ni* means "it's."

ghali means "expensive."

sana means "too much."

From this point, the vendor will begin to haggle, and the result is in your hands!
The first thing the vendor might say now is:

Unataka kwa bei gani?

...which means "How much do you want [to pay]?"

Unataka means "you want."

kwa bei means "at what price"

The word *gani* ("what") makes the sentence a question.

When joined together with *kwa bei* it means "at what price"

All together the sentence will be

Unataka kwa bei gani?

You can ask the vendor...

"What's your lowest price?"

Bei yako ya chini ni ngapi?

The first word, *bei*, means "price."

The next word *yako* means "your."

The next word, *ya*, is used as the article "the"

And *chini* means "last."

Next is the word, *ni* which means "is"

The last word *ngapi* means "much."

Together, *ni ngapi* literally means "is much." But in this case it will sound like "how much."

Put it all together and you'll get:

Bei yako ya chini ni ngapi?

"In the end, how much will you give it to me for?"

in other words "What's your lowest price?"

Bei yako ya chini ni ngapi?

Bargaining is very common in Kenya, so it's normal to ask the price over and over again until the vendor drops the price to the one you want.

Now imagine that you are at a *soko*. You want to buy a bag, but not at the merchant's price (15 Kenyan shillings); you'd rather suggest your own price (10 Kenyan shillings).

After *Bei yako ya chini ni ngapi?*—"What's your lowest price?"—you might say:

Nitakupa shilingi kumi. which is "I'll pay you ten shillings."

Nitakupa means "I will give."

Shilingi means "shillings" as we have learned from our previous lessons.

And *kumi* means "ten"

When these two are joined together we have:

Nitakupa shilingi kumi.

When haggling, this is all you need to get your point across. If the merchant refuses you, slowly walk away, and in 90% of cases, they will give in.

Sawa leta hizo shilingi kumi.

This means "OK, bring the ten shillings."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

The Kenya market is flooded with different kinds of goods ranging from locally made, imported and second hand. Thus prices are a bit lower. Be careful, however, where you buy your goods since many places are now selling fake products. Inquire of warranty period. This is necessary if you want to be a safer side.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #20 Kenyan Money—An Introduction

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

#20

SWAHILI

1. Shilingi kumi na mbili.
2. Shilingi mia mbili na thelathini.
3. Shilingi elfu tano mia tatu na ishirini.
4. Shilingi moja na senti thelathini na tano.

ENGLISH

1. 12 shillings.
2. 230 shillings.
3. 5320 shillings.
4. 1 shilling and 35 cents.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
senti	cent	noun
mia	one hundred	noun
elfu	one thousand	numeral
thelathini	thirty	numeral
shilingi	shillings	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Shilingi moja ina senti ngapi? "How many cents are in one shilling. "	Yote inagharamia shilingi mia moja. "All of them cost one hundred shillings."
Nipe shilingi elfu moja kwa nguo hii. "Give me one thousand shillings for this cloth."	Nauli ni shilingi thelatini tu. "The fare is thirty shillings only."
Nipe shilingi moja kwa kila peremende. "Give me one shilling for each candy."	Inagharimu shilingi kumi tu. "It costs ten shillings only."

GRAMMAR

Kenya's currency is the shilling. At the time of writing, the exchange rate is roughly 85 shillings to 1 US Dollar. Denominations include notes of 1000, 500, 200, 100, and 50. 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of 50, 40, 20, 10, 5, and 1.

Saying prices in Swahili is not difficult because it borrows the words "shillings" and "cents" from English. In Swahili, "shilling" will be *shilingi*.

While "cents" is *senti*.

Let's say some prices in Swahili—it won't be too difficult. Let's start with 12 shillings:

Shilingi kumi na mbili.

Shilingi is "shillings."

kumi means "ten."

na is a conjunction "and"

mbili in this case is "two"

When you join *kumi* to *mbili* using *na*, you have *kumi na mbili*.

All together this will be,

Shilingi kumi na mbili

If you go up to hundreds or thousands, things don't get much more complicated.

We've already learned that "a hundred" in Swahili is *mia*. To say "230 shillings," first you need *mia mbili* which means "200."

That is *mia* "hundred" and *mbili* "two," which is easy to form; just add *mbili* ("two") to *mia* ("hundred").

So to say "230," you need to add *thelathini* "30" to *mia mbili*. Join the two with the conjunction *na* which means "and."

All together this will be:

shilingi mia mbili na thelathini.

When you go above 100, the noun *mia* stays in the same form:

So 200 is *mia mbili*, 300 is *mia tatu*, and so on.

A thousand in Swahili is:

elfu

For 2000 or more of something, the noun *elfu* stays in the same form.

So "2000" would be *elfu mbili*.

Now for a slightly more complicated number, "5320 shillings":

shilingi elfu tano mia tatu na Ishirini.

Since Kenyan prices come not only in whole shillings but also in cents, we'll need to learn how to say the cents too. "Cents" in Swahili are called *senti*.

In Swahili, "1 shilling and 35 cents" is:

Shilingi moja na senti thelathini na tano.

In this case we use *na* as a conjunction, to join *shilingi moja* "one shilling" and *senti* "cent."

Shilingi moja na senti

Then we have *thelathini*, meaning "thirty," which is joined to *tano* "five" by *na* meaning "and." This will give us:

thelathini na tano.

Altogether we have:

shilingi moja na senti thelathini na tano.

Even if there's more than one whole shilling in the price, the noun *shilingi* stays in the same form.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

On Kenyan coins and bills you will see pictures of different people on different denominations; the first president, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta; the second President, Daniel Arap Moi; and the third President who is pictured in the bi-metallic 40 shilling coin which was issued in 2003 to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of independence (1963-2003).

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #21

Using the Internet in Kenya

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

21

SWAHILI

1. Kunradhi, ni ngapi kwa saa moja?
2. Saa moja ni shilingi hamsini.
3. Nusu saa ni shilingi ishirini na tano.

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me, how much for one hour?
2. One hour is fifty shillings.
3. Half an hour is twenty-five shillings.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
nusu saa	half an hour/thirty minutes	phrase
shilingi hamsini	fifty shillings	phrase
nusu	half	noun
saa moja	one hour	phrase
ni ngapi?	how much?	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Nimetumia nusu saa pekee. "I have taken one hour only."	Itakugharimu shilingi hamsini pekee. "It will cost you fifty shillings only."
Nipe nusu ya wakati inayohitajika. "Give me half of the of the time that is required."	Ningelipenda kutumia mtandao kwa saa moja. "I would like to use Internet for one hour."
Ni bei gani? "How much is it?"	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we'll learn the easiest way to access the Internet while you're in Kenya. Normally, you can find Internet cafés in big cities, and nearly every small town. However, it may be hard to find Internet in the countryside. Most people are now using their cell phones to get the Internet, or they have portable modems that they can use with their personal computers. Wi-Fi is popular but most networks are secured. To be on the safer side, it is better to find an Internet café. And this lesson will help you do just that.

Imagine you're at the reception counter and want to ask how much the connection costs for an hour. You'll ask:

kunradhi, ni ngapi kwa saa moja?

kunradhi is "Excuse me."

ni supports the question word *ngapi*.

ngapi means "how much"

The next word, *kwa*, is a preposition indicating quantity.

Saa literally indicates time, but in this case it means "hour,"

moja means "one"

So *kwa saa moja* here means something like "for one hour."

Let's repeat the whole sentence again:

"Excuse me, how much for one hour?"

kunradhi, ni ngapi kwa saa moja?

The answer will probably sound something like this:

Saa moja ni shilingi hamsini.

Saa, as we learned earlier, means "time" and *moja* means "one."

This gives us *saa moja*, which means "one hour."

Next we have *ni* which means "is."

Then we have the last two words, *shilingi hamsini* which mean "fifty shillings"
Shilingi means "shillings"

And *hamsini* is "fifty."

Altogether, we have:

Saa moja ni shilingi hamsini.

But it's also quite common for cafés to charge in 30-minute blocks, so you may hear:

Nusu saa ni shilingi ishirini na tano.

Nusu means "half."

The word *saa*, as you know, indicates "time"

This is followed by *ni* meaning "is" and *shilingi* meaning "shilling" to make *ni shilingi*.
Literally this means "is shilling"

The last three words, *ishirini na tano*, mean "twenty-five." In this case, we joined *ishirini* "twenty" to *tano* "five" using *na*, which means "and."

Altogether we have:

Nusu saa ni shilingi ishirini na tano.

So this sentence means "Half an hour is twenty-five shillings."

Nusu saa ni shilingi ishirini na tano.

If you're still a little shaky on Swahili numbers, you can review those lessons anytime.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

In Kenya, you can call an Internet café by the same name, *Internet café*. The Internet café charges are relatively cheaper, most times with a time limit for one user. Free Internet has been rare in Kenya, but loopnet, Kenya Data Network company, has started to implement free Internet service within the big cities. A few libraries also have Internet access, but often at only a few computers. Most people can now access Internet using personal modems and cell phones, so the influx of people in the Internet café is gradually reducing.

Quick Tip 2

Kenyan domain names end in (.ke). Sometimes there are restrictions on what sites you may visit, but this depends on regulations of the café or the Internet service provider.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #22

Riding the Kenyan Bus—Getting a Ticket

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

22

SWAHILI

1. Tiketi moja, tafadhali.
2. Tiketi ni pesa ngapi?

ENGLISH

1. One ticket, please.
2. How much is a ticket?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
moja	one, 1	numeral
tiketi	ticket	noun
pesa ngapi?	how much money?	phrase
tiketi moja	one ticket	phrase
tafadhali	please	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Nipe tiketi moja basi. "Then give me one ticket."	Tiketi za ndege ni ghali sana. "Plane tickets are very expensive."
Nipe tiketi ya kwenda Embakasi. "Give me a ticket that will take me to Embakasi."	Nipe tiketi la basi. "Give me a bus ticket."

Ni pesa ngapi? "How much is it?"	Nipe tiketi moja ya hadi Mombasa. "Give me a ticket to Mombasa."
Nipe tiketi moja basi. "Then give me one ticket."	Waweza kukisema tena tafadhali? "Can you say that again, please?"
Hii saa tafadhali. "This one please."	

GRAMMAR

The Kenyan public transport is very extensive. It comes in several types-buses, trains, and matatus, which is a general term for smaller forms of transportation, such as mini-buses and vans. Buses are quite slow, but somewhat more comfortable and reliable. Matatus are the most common means of transport. They leave from designated areas called stages. They can also be caught along the road. It is common to be asked for a fare when the matatu is on its way. However, at major stages, you pay for the ticket before it sets off. The charges to some places are fixed. You should ask other customers about the prices, to avoid being cheated when you're going to places whose prices are not determined.

Let's imagine you are taking a matatu from Langata to Kencom. To ask for a ticket, you will say:

tiketi moja, tafadhali.

First we have *tiketi* which means "ticket."

Next comes *moja*, meaning "one"

In Kenya a ticket is used only once.

Don't forget to add *tafadhali* for "please" at the end!

So the whole request, "One ticket, please" in Swahili is

tiketi moja, tafadhali.

If you are not sure of the charges, it is a good idea to ask how much it costs. This is easy to say, it's just *tiketi ni pesa ngapi?* as we have learned before.

The first word *tiketi* means "ticket"

Next we have *ni pesa* which literally means "is money" but when *ngapi* meaning "how much" is added to *ni pesa*, it becomes *ni pesa ngapi* and means "how much money."

Altogether, we then have:

Tiketi ni pesa ngapi?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Nissan or mini-bus matatus are more comfortable and faster. They can be a bit expensive, though. Most matatus operate during the daytime. Buses are slow and require long waits; however they are more reliable. Good bus companies operate on fixed schedules. Some travel to the neighboring countries. Night and morning buses are also available.

Public transport is safer than before since strict rules have been implemented, and are subject to thorough police checks. Seat belts have been installed for every seat. No overloading of passengers is allowed, and the speed limit is 80km/h!

You really want the flavor of Kenya? Take at least one trip on a matatu! It may be stressful, uncomfortable and a security risk (if you are not careful), but it can be quite an experience and lots of fun.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #23

Riding the Kenyan Bus—Long Distance Trips

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

23

SWAHILI

1. Basi inapitia Nakuru?
2. Tiketi ya hadi Nairobi ni pesa ngapi?
3. Ni masaa ngapi kutoka hapa hadi Nairobi?
4. Masaa saba.
5. Itachukua takriban masaa saba.

ENGLISH

1. Is the bus going through Nakuru?
2. How much is a ticket to Nairobi?
3. How long does it take from here to Nairobi?
4. Seven hours.
5. Approximately seven hours.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
inapitia	going/passing through	phrase
hadi	upto/until	preposition
ni masaa mangapi	how many hours	phrase
itachukua	it will take	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Basi linapitia jijini. "The bus is going through the city."	Tunaenda hadi Nairobi. "We are going up to Nairobi."
Ni masaa mangapi hadi Nairobi. "How many hours does it take to Nairobi?"	Itachukua masaa sita. "It will take six hours."
Ni takriban masaa sita. "It is approximately six hours."	

GRAMMAR

In the last lesson, we covered how to get bus tickets in cities. But you may also want to move between cities, and Kenya has good companies whose bus services are very reliable and convenient, and relatively punctual. These companies include Easy Coach, Akamba, and Coast Bus. Normally, the companies have branches in small towns where they stop, before heading to the final destination. There is also a question you can ask in case you are headed for an unfamiliar place, for example, if the bus is destined for Mombasa, but you are going to Nakuru. You can ask "Is the bus going through Nakuru?"

The phrase you can use for that will be:

Basi inapitia Nakuru?

basi means "bus"

inapitia mean "going through."

Nakuru is your destination.

Basi inapitia Nakuru?

Let's imagine now that you are in Nakuru and you want to go to Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. Before you commit yourself to a ticket, you will want to know how much it costs. What would you ask the bus driver? You could ask:

1. *Tiketi ya hadi Nairobi ni pesa ngapi?*
"How much is a ticket to Nairobi?"

Tiketi as we have learned before, means "ticket."

The phrase *ya hadi* Nairobi means "up to Nairobi"

This is followed by *ni pesa ngapi?* which as we learned before means "how much money" or simply "how much?"

Together we have:

Tiketi ya hadi Nairobi ni pesa ngapi?

Imagine that you are visiting for the first time, with no idea how far apart your favorite destinations are, so you want to ask the bus driver how long the ride will be.

Ni masaa mangapi kutoka hapa hadi Nairobi?

ni masaa literally means "is hours"

But when joined to *mangapi* meaning "how many," it becomes *ni masaa mangapi*, to mean "how many hours"

The next two words, *kutoka* meaning "from" and *hapa*, "here," when joined together become *kutoka hapa*, which means "from here."

Then we have *hadi*, which means "to/until"

It is followed by Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya.

These two become *hadi* Nairobi, which means "until or to Nairobi."

So the whole question is:

Ni masaa ma - ngapi kutoka hapa hadi Nairobi?

One answer you could hear is *masaa saba*. *Masaa* here means "time" and *saba* means "seven." Together they mean "seven hours"

masaa saba.

You might also hear *itachukua masaa saba* which means "It will takes seven hours."

If you want to say "approximately," just add *takriban* before *masaa*, which you'll remember means "hour":

Itachukua takriban masaa saba.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Railway services run inland to places like Nakuru, Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, and occasionally to other places. You can check online for train services. The train is convenient, and by far the safest though the slowest way to travel on land. It can be a luxurious way to travel with comfortable bed and good meals. Though slow, you have ample time to gaze at the beauty of Kenya—the grasslands and the wild animals—free of charge!

Quick Tip 2

Kenya has no ticket machines or fare cards. You will have to buy a ticket or pay cash directly to a conductor, commonly known as a tout. Touts can be very aggressive while trying to get passengers in their buses. Don't allow them to take your luggage. Make your own decision about what vehicle you want to take. However, they are valuable allies, especially when you joke and speak a bit of Swahili.

Quick Tip 3

Always try to have your luggage in view, and watch over your wallet since pick pockets love to work in public vehicles.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #24

Riding the Kenyan Bus—What is the Next Stop?

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

24

SWAHILI

1. Je, basi hili linaenda Old Town?
2. Ni kituo ngani kinachofuata?
3. Kituo kinachofuata ni Old Town.

ENGLISH

1. Does this bus go to Old Town?
2. What is the next stop?
3. The next stop is Old Town.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
linaenda	it is going	phrase
kituo	station	noun
kinachofuata	the next	phrase
basi hili	this bus	phrase
kituo ngani	which station	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Basi linaenda hadi kituo cha mwisho. "The bus is going upto the last station."	Kituo kinachofuata ni karibu. "The next station is near."
Nani anashuka katika kituo kinachofuata. "Who is alighting in the next station."	Basi hili linaenda hadi jijini. "This bus goes upto the city."
Unashuka katika kituo ipi? "At which station are you alighting?"	

GRAMMAR

In the last lesson, we learned how to ask how long the bus trip to your destination would take.

You'll probably want to know where your bus is going, before you get on it. Or you may find yourself wondering whether the bus you're already in, will stop where you hope it will. Either way, you'll want to be able to ask "Does this bus go to [place]?"

Je, basi hili linaenda [place]?

Just fill in the blank with whatever place you're going to. Let's try with one of the most famous Kenyan tourist destinations: Old Town, in the city of Mombasa.

The first word is *je*, which makes the question. It implies "does this"

Next comes *basi*, meaning "bus."

hili means "this"

The next word *linaenda* means "is going to"

Then the place where you want to go, in this case "Old Town."

Put it all together, and we get:

Je, basi hili linaenda Old Town?

"Does this bus go to Old Town?"

You may also want to ask what the next stop is. That would be:

Ni kituo gani kinachofuata?

ni, as we have seen before, means "is."

kituo means "stage."

gani means "what."

All together these three will mean "what stage."

The last word, *kinachofuata*, means "next."

All together, that's:

Ni kituo ngani kinachofuata?

As an answer, you might get:

Kituo kinachofuata ni Old Town.

Get ready to hop off if you hear this, because it means:

"The next stop is Old Town. "

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

If you are not sure of your destination, inform the conductor. He will remind you when you are about to reach it. It is a good idea to move closer to the door when are about to reach your destination.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #25

Riding the Kenyan Train

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

25

SWAHILI

1. Tiketi tafadhali.
2. Tafadhali, ni laini ipi ninayopaswa kutumia ili nifike Embakasi?
3. Unapaswa utumie laini nambari mbi - li.

ENGLISH

1. A ticket, please.
2. Excuse me, what line do I need to take for Embakasi?
3. You have to use line number two.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
nifike	to arrive	verb
laini	line	noun
ninayopaswa	that I am supposed to	phrase
kutumia	to use	verb
tiketi	ticket	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Itanichukua dakika ngapi ndipo nifike? "How many minutes will it take me to arrive?"	Ni laini ngani ninayopaswa kutumia? "Which line am I supposed to use?"
Tafadhali nipe jina la laini niyatumia. "Please, give me the name of the line I am using."	Natumia treni kwenda Embakasi. "I am using a train to Embakasi."
Tiketi za ndege ni ghali sana. "Plane tickets are very expensive."	Nipe tiketi ya kwenda Embakasi. "Give me a ticket that will take me to Embakasi."
Nipe tiketi la basi. "Give me a bus ticket."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Test

GRAMMAR

Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya, is home to the highest number of people in the country. Besides road transport, the commuter train system also helps to move people between the city center and its outskirts. Trains run on four different lines that serve a limited number of areas in the city. All these lines come together at the Nairobi Railway Station, in the city center, where you have to change trains to move from one outskirt to another.

You can only buy tickets at the stations. The conductors do also collect fares on the train from the other stops. Let's imagine you don't know how much it costs from the city to wherever you are going. You can ask for the ticket from the train attendant by saying:

tiketi tafadhali.

This is the same sentence we learned in lesson 22.

tiketi means "ticket."

tafadhali means "Excuse me."

Our location in this lesson will be Embakasi, which is to the east of Nairobi. Imagine you're going from Nairobi Railway Station, the main station, to Embakasi. You want to know what line will get you there.

You can find out by asking, "Excuse me, what line do I need to use to get to Embakasi?"

Tafadhali, ni laini ipi ninayopaswa kutumia ili nifike Embakasi?

First comes the usual *Tafadhali*.

Next are the two words *ni laini* which literally mean "is line," but makes a lot of sense when *ipi* "which" is added at the end to make *ni laini ipi*. Altogether this means "which line"

Then comes *ninayopaswa*, which means "I am required"

After that comes *kutumia* ("to use").

Then we have *ili* ("so that").

This is followed by *nifike* ("to reach").

Last is Embakasi, which is the name of the place.

All together, that's:

Tafadhali, ni laini ipi ninayopaswa kutumia ili nifike Embakasi?

One possible answer is:

Unapaswa utumie laini nambari mbili.

"You need to use line three."

There are only 4 commuter train lines in Nairobi, so it will not be difficult to identify the train you will need to use.

The first word is *unapaswa*, meaning "you need to."

And the second word is *utumie*, which means "to use."

I guess you can now understand the last three words, *laini nambari mbili*.

"line number two."

The first word *laini* means "line"

The second word *nambari* means "number"

The last word *mbili*, means "two"

Together this will be:

laini nambari mbili.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

The commuter trains operate only on the weekdays during rush hours, in the morning and evenings.

Quick Tip 2

Since it is cheap and the fastest mode to reach town, commuter trains are in high demand. They carry sitting as well as standing passengers. Some hang at the doors, and the more daring ride on the roof.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #26

Riding the Kenyan Train, Part 2

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

26

SWAHILI

1. Tiketi mbili ya kwenda Nairobi, tafadhali.
2. Je, ungelipenda tiketi ya kurudi pia?
3. La, ya kwenda pekee
4. Ndio, naenda na kurudi.

ENGLISH

1. Two train tickets to Nairobi, please.
2. One-way or return?
3. Only one way.
4. Yes, I'm going and coming back.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
treni	train	noun
tiketi mbili	two tickets	numeral
kurudi	return	noun
tiketi ya kurudi	return ticket	phrase
tiketi ya kuenda.	one way ticket	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Treni imejaa pomoni. "The train is very full."	Nanunua tiketi mbili. "I am buying two tickets."
Nitarudi kesho. "I will return tomorrow."	Nahitaji tiketi ya kurudi. "I need a return ticket."
Nahitaji tiketi ya kuenda. "I need a one way ticket."	

GRAMMAR

In the last lesson, we covered how to get to the outskirts of Nairobi. In Kenya, a convenient way to travel over long distances is to take a train, in Swahili, *treni* or *gari la moshi*. Trains are punctual and convenient, and often cheaper than buses. They'll also let you see a bit of the countryside, between cities, and not just the other side of a motorway.

You'll ask for *treni* tickets at a ticket office. The phrase for this is:

Tiketi ya kwenda [destination].

Your destination goes at the end of the sentence.

As for that destination, let's use the capital city of Nairobi for this lesson.

"One train ticket to Nairobi, please" in Swahili is:

Tiketi moja ya kwenda Nairobi, tafadhali.

You should remember this pattern from our lesson on long-distance buses.

Imagine you are traveling with someone else, so you need to ask for two or more tickets.

"Two train tickets to Nairobi, please," is:

Tiketi mbili ya kwenda Nairobi, tafadhali.

As you can see, it's very easy to understand. Because it's two tickets instead of one, you just replace *moja* meaning "one," with *mbili* which means "two."

Sometimes the train attendant will ask whether you will also want a return ticket. In this case, the question you may be asked is:

Je, ungelipenda tiketi ya kurudi pia? ("Would you like to have a return ticket too?")

The first word, *je*, is used to form the question.

The word that follows is *ungelipenda*, which means "would you like."

It is followed by *tiketi*, which means "ticket."

ya is the preposition "of," while *kurudi* means "return." When combined, they become *ya kurudi* to mean "of returning" or "return ticket"

The last word *pia* means "also."

Altogether, we have:

Je, ungelipenda tiketi ya kurudi pia?

The word *ungelipenda* is used here in a polite way, to ask a customer whether they would like to have a return ticket.

If you don't plan on coming back, you can answer:

La, ya kwenda pekee.

La means "no"

Ya kwenda literally means "of going" and in this case it implies "one way."

pekee means "only."

Altogether, we have:

La, ya kwenda pekee.

If you want a return ticket, you can say "Yes, I'm going and coming back."

Ndio, naenda na kurudi.

The first word, *ndio*, as you may know, means "yes"

The next word, *naenda*, means "I am going"

na is the conjunction "and"

It is followed by the last word *kurudi*, which means "coming back."

Altogether, we have:

Ndio, naenda na kurudi.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

There is strict check on tickets for those travelling to further places that is from Nairobi to Kisumu or to Mombasa. It is important, therefore, to pay for the ticket, or else you may be fined.

This mode of transport is cheaper and safer than road transport. It is slow and normally scheduled overnight, though.

Quick Tip 2

The Kenyan railway system posts schedules, fares, and information on this website: <http://www.jambonairobi.co.ke/services/public-transport/railway-services/commuter-train-service-in-nairobi/>

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #27

Riding the Kenyan Train—Long-Distance Trips

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

#27

SWAHILI

1. Tiketi la daraja la kwanza hadi Mombasa, tafadhali.
2. Tiketi la daraja la pili hadi Mombasa, tafadhali.
3. Tiketi la daraja la tatu hadi Mombasa, tafadhali.
4. Tiketi la daraja la kwanza na vyumba vyote mbili, tafadhali.

ENGLISH

1. A first-class ticket to Mombasa, please.
2. A second-class ticket to Mombasa, please.
3. A third-class ticket to Mombasa, please.
4. First class with both compartments, please.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
Daraja la kwanza	first-class	noun
daraja la pili	second-class	noun
daraja la tatu	third-class	noun
vyumba viwili	two rooms	phrase
vyote	all	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Nipe tiketi la daraja la kwanza, tafadhali.</p> <p>"Please give me a ticket for the first class train."</p>	<p>Nipe tiketi la daraja la pili tafadhali.</p> <p>"Please give me a ticket for the second-class train."</p>
<p>Nipe tiketi la daraja la tatu tafadhali.</p> <p>"Please give me a ticket for the third class train."</p>	<p>Ningelipenda daraja la kwanza na vyumba vyake.</p> <p>"I would like first class with its rooms."</p>
<p>Ningelipenda daraja la pili na vyumba vyote.</p> <p>"I would like second class with all its rooms."</p>	

GRAMMAR

In the previous lesson, we covered how to buy a train ticket. Once you've confirmed your destination, it's time to select the type of seat you want.

Normally in Kenya, you can choose amongst *daraja la kwanza* - "first class," or *daraja la pili* - "second class," or *daraja la tatu* - "third class."

daraja literally means "bridge," but in this case it implies "class."

Towards the end we have *la kwanza*, which means "the first."

The second phrase has the same structure as the first, except that instead we used *la pili*, which means "the second."

The third phrase has a similar structure as the two mentioned before, except that instead we used *tatu*, which means "the third."

Imagine you want to buy a first-class ticket. The destination this time will be Mombasa.

"A first-class ticket to Mombasa, please," in Swahili is:

Tiketi la daraja la kwanza hadi Mombasa, tafadhali.

We saw this structure in the previous lesson. All we've done this time is add *daraja la kwanza*, "first-class," to the word "ticket."

Tiketi, as we have seen before, means "ticket"

daraja la kwanza literally means "the first bridge" because *daraja* is the word for "bridge," but in this case, it means "class"

The phrase *la kwanza* is a word for "first."

If you want to buy a second-class ticket, you just change *kwanza*, "first," to *pili*, "second":

Tiketi la daraja la pili hadi Mombasa, tafadhali.

Imagine you want to buy a third class ticket. You just change *kwanza*, "first," or *pili*, "second" to *tatu*:

"A third-class ticket to Mombasa, please."

Tiketi la daraja la tatu hadi Mombasa, tafadhali.

In Kenya, both first and second classes offer bed and breakfast services, but the third class offers the seat only. First class offers two-berth compartments, while second class offers four. The sexes are separated, unless you book the whole compartment. These differences make a first class ticket a little expensive. Now let's imagine you want a ticket for the first class with both compartments.

The sentence for this is:

Tiketi la daraja la kwanza na vyumba vyote mbili, tafadhali.

"First class with both compartments, please."

Tiketi la daraja la kwanza "Ticket for the first class" is a phrase we already learned. Do you remember?

The next two words *na vyumba* mean "and rooms."

The next word, *vyote*, means "all."

Now we meet *mbili* again. Do you remember it's the word for "two?"

The whole sentence will be:

Tiketi la daraja la kwanza na vyumba vyote mbili, tafadhali.

Altogether, these words refer to a ticket for the whole compartment in the first class.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

The cheapest option is a third-class regular train ticket. These do guarantee a seat only and the cars are usually clean. A second-class ticket is somewhat better but you may have to share the four compartments with other people, unless you book a number or all of them. This applies to first class, but if you book the two compartments you will have larger space and lots of privacy.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #28

Taking a Taxi in Kenya

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

#28

SWAHILI

1. Hadi Bomas of Kenya, tafadhali.
2. Twende Bomas of Kenya, tafadhali.
3. Hapa, tafadhali.
4. Tutasimama hapa, tafadhali.
5. Naweza lipa kutumia kadi kope?

ENGLISH

1. To Bomas of Kenya, please.
2. Let's go to Bomas of Kenya, please.
3. Here, please.
4. We'll stop here, please.
5. Can I pay by credit card?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
twende	let's go	phrase
tutasimama	we shall stop	phrase
kadi kope	credit card	noun
lipa	pay	verb

hapa	here	adverb
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SAMPLE SENTENCES

Twende kwangu tafadhali. "Please, let's go to my home."	Tutasimama kwenye kituo hicho. "We shall stop at that station."
Sina kadi kope. "I don't have a credit card."	Nitalipa kwa pesa taslimu. "I will pay by cash."
Kuna benki kadhaa hapa. "There are several banks around here."	Nasimama hapa. "I am stopping here."
Usitupe takataka hapa. "Do not litter here."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson you'll learn how to get to places by taxi.

Imagine you want to go Bomas of Kenya, an important place in Nairobi.

In Swahili, "To Bomas of Kenya, please." is

Hadi Bomas of Kenya, tafadhali.

Just add *hadi*, which means "to" before your destination.

This is the easiest way to say where you want to go.

Of course, it's good to have more than one option!

You can also say, "Let's go to Bomas of Kenya please."

Twende Bomas of Kenya, tafadhali.

The first word, *Twende*, means something like "let's go."

This is followed by the destination; in this case, it's "Bomas of Kenya"

Finally, the familiar *tafadhali*, which means "please."

Altogether, we have,

Twende Bomas of Kenya, tafadhali.

When you want to get out, you can say, "Here, please."

Hapa, tafadhali.

Just say these words and the driver will stop.

Hapa, as we've seen, means "here."

It could also be nice to add "thank you" after the driver stops:

Asante.

If you want to be really specific about it, you can say

Tutasimama hapa, tafadhali. which means "We'll stop here, please."

Tutasimama means "we shall stop."

hapa means "here" and is followed by the obvious *tafadhali* ("please")

All together, that's:

Tutasimama hapa, tafadhali.

When it's time to pay, you may want to know:

Naweza lipa kutimi kadi kope?

"Can I pay by credit card?"

Since Kenyan taxis might not accept credit cards, it helps to ask before you get in.

Naweza lipa kutumia kadi kope?

The first word, *naweza*, means "can I."

The next word, *lipa*, means "pay,"

It is followed by *kutumia*, which means "using."

The last two words, *kadi kope*, mean "credit card,

kadi is a word for "card"

While *kope* is a literal word for "credit."

The entire question is:

Naweza lipa kutumia kadi kope?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

It is easy to spot a taxi in Kenya: Most of them have the word TAXI written on them. You can wave to flag down a moving taxi, but it's more common to walk up to a parked one or reserve one by phone. You can find an empty cab at nearly every gas station in every major town.

Quick Tip 2

Taxi fares are a bit expensive. The amount you pay depends on your bargaining power. It is a good idea to search the approximate prices before asking the taxi driver. Sometimes they take advantage of visitors. At least the drivers don't expect a tip.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #29

Where Can I Find This? in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

29

SWAHILI

1. Naweza pata wapi soda?
2. Tafadhali, naweza pata wapi baa?
3. Tafadhali naomba unielezee ninakoweza kupata simu?
4. Tafadhali, naomba unielezee ninakoweza kupata kibanda?

ENGLISH

1. Where can I find a soda?
2. Where can I find a bar?
3. Please, I pray, could you tell me where I can find a phone?
4. Please, I pray, could you tell me where I can find a kiosk?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
unielezee	tell me	phrase
naweza	can I	phrase
pata	get, find	verb
mgahawa	restaurant, cafe	noun
naomba	please	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Naomba unielezee ninakoweza kupata msala.</p> <p>"I pray you tell me where I can find the bathroom."</p>	<p>Naweza pata wapi simu?</p> <p>"Where can I find a pay phone."</p>
<p>Naweza kuchukua kwa shilingi tano.</p> <p>"Can I get it with five shillings?"</p>	<p>Nimepata anwani yake.</p> <p>"I found her address."</p>
<p>Pata nguo kwa bei rahisi.</p> <p>"Get a cloth at a cheaper price."</p>	<p>Mgahawa huo ni safi.</p> <p>"That cafe is clean."</p>
<p>Karibuni mgahawani.</p> <p>"Welcome."</p>	<p>Naomba unisaidie kufanya kazi hii.</p> <p>"I request that you help me to do this work."</p>
<p>Naomba unielezee ninakoweza kupata msala.</p> <p>"I pray you tell me where I can find the bathroom."</p>	<p>Naomba msaada.</p> <p>"I am asking for a favor."</p>

GRAMMAR

Have you ever been in a city you didn't know at all, desperately searching for something you couldn't find? I certainly have! I wandered around without knowing where to find a bar, a phone, or even a restroom! But don't worry—with our Survival Phrases, you'll always be able to get the information or help in Kenya.

In this lesson, we'll introduce you to a phrase that will help you track down whatever you need.

"Where can I find...?" in Swahili is:

Naweza pata wapi...?

The first word, *naweza*, literally means "I can."

The second word, *pata*, means "find"

The last word, *wapi*, means "where"

When these three words are combined to make *Naweza pata wapi*..[thing/place], the phrase implies "where can I find...?"

Then comes the thing you want to find. In our sample sentence, we will use *soda*, which means "soda."

Let's look for some things you might need when you're traveling abroad. Imagine you're walking around in Nairobi in the summer, and want something to drink.

"Excuse me, where can I find a café?" in Swahili is:

Tafadhali, naweza pata wapi mgahawa?

Do you see the structure we just learned?

Tafadhali naweza pata wapi... ?

We only added *mgahawa*, which means "a café."

What if you want a stronger drink? Now you need to find a bar, called *baa* in Swahili. You should ask:

Tafadhali, naweza pata wapi baa?

It is easy to remember *baa*, since it's borrowed from the English word "bar."

With this structure, you can find anything you're looking for.

Opening the question with *Tafadhali* makes it pretty polite, but if you want to make it even more polite, use the word *naomba* after *tafadhali*.

Imagine you're looking for a phone this time.

"Please, I pray, could you tell me where I can find a phone?"

Tafadhali naomba unielezee kule ninako weza kupata simu.

Sounds more formal, right?

The first word is *Tafadhali*, "Excuse me"

Then we have *naomba*, "I pray."

When these two words are used together, the sentence sounds more polite.

Tafadhali naomba

The next word, *unielezee*, means "tell me."

The word *ninakoweza* means "where I can."

It is followed by the word *kupata*, which means:

And the last word, *simu*, is for "telephone."

Let's hear that whole question again:

Tafadhali naomba unielezee ninakoweza kupata simu?

To ask about any other item, we can just replace *baa* or *simu* with the thing we're looking for, and the phrase works brilliantly!

Let's try it with "kiosk," which in Swahili is *kibanda*.

"Please, I pray, could you tell me where I can find a kiosk?"

Tafadhali, naomba unielezee ninakoweza kupata kibanda?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Here are some other things you might be looking for. Just stick these words in the sentence pattern from this lesson.

sinema: "cinema"

supamaketi: "supermarket"

posta: "post office"

hospitali: "hospital"

duka la dawa: "pharmacy"

Quick Tip 2

There is a wide range of bars, cafés, and clubs all over Kenya. Nairobi has some of the most popular clubs in the country. Whatever type of bar or club you are looking for, you will probably find it in Nairobi. You can enjoy a quiet drink overlooking the

city or head to a music club and sample anything from rock and techno to hip-hop and even traditional Kenyan music.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #30

Where Can I Find This Place? in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

30

SWAHILI

1. Kuna duka la dawa hapa karibu?
2. Kuna benki ya ATM hapa karibu?

ENGLISH

1. Is there a pharmacy nearby?
2. Is there an ATM near here?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
kuna	is there	phrase
duka la dawa	pharmacy	phrase
karibu	nearby	adverb
benki ya ATM	ATM bank	noun
hapa	here	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Kuna benki kadhaa hapa. "There are several banks around here."	Natafuta duka la dawa. "I am looking for a pharmacy."
Kuna duka hapa karibu? "Is there a shop nearby?"	Benki ya ATM ni bora sana. "ATM bank is very good."

Kuna benki kadhaa hapa. "There are several banks around here."	Nasimama hapa. "I am stopping here."
Usitupe takataka hapa. "Do not litter here."	

GRAMMAR

In the last few lessons, we covered how to ask where things are. In this lesson, we'll introduce you to another useful phrase for finding a place you need. This lesson's phrase is "Is there a [place] near here?"

First, we need a place. Let's use the word *duka la dawa*, which means "pharmacy."

In Swahili, "Is there a pharmacy near here?" is:

Kuna duka la dawa hapa karibu?

The first word, *kuna*, means "is there."

Next comes *duka la dawa*, meaning "a pharmacy."

This can further be broken down into:

duka, which is "shop"

la dawa means "of medicine"

Then we have *hapa*, which in this sentence means "here."

The last word, *karibu*, means "nearby."

To ask for a different place, we can replace the word *duka la dawa* with any other word, and the phrase works just fine.

Imagine that you need to withdraw some money from your bank account.

In Swahili, "Is there an ATM near here?" is:

Kuna benki ya ATM hapa karibu?

The only thing that changes is the thing you are looking for, in this case *benki ya*

ATM. The first part of the word, *benki*, means "bank," and *ya ATM* means "automatic machine."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

You can spot Kenyan pharmacies by the name *duka la dawa*. Pharmacists are usually fine diagnosticians. They can help you with many medical problems and are your first line of defense if you're feeling sick in Kenya.

Quick Tip 2

Generally speaking, you get better exchange rates if you go to a *duka la kubadilisha pesa* ("exchange bureau"). Most of the time, they give better rates than banks and ATMs. But if you do want to get cash from a Kenyan ATM, it's very easy. Most machines take any kind of credit card.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #31

Asking Directions in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

31

SWAHILI

1. Enda wima.
2. Enda wima tafadhali.
3. Geuka kushoto tafadhali.
4. Geuka kulia tafadhali.
5. Geuka kulia tafadhali katika taa ya barabarani.
6. Iko kulia.
7. Iko kushoto.

ENGLISH

1. Go straight. (casual)
2. Go straight. (polite)
3. Turn left. (polite)
4. Turn right. (polite)
5. Turn right at the traffic light.
6. It's on the right.
7. It's on the left.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
wima	straight	noun
kushoto	left	noun
kulia	right	noun
geuka	turn	verb
taa ya barabarani	traffic light	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Enda wima kwa takriban dakika tano. "Go straight for approximately five minutes."	Gueuka kushoto kwenye duka la dawa. "Turn left at the pharmacy."
Duka la dawa liko upande wa kulia. "A pharmacy is on your left."	Utageuka mara mbili kushoto. "You will turn to the left twice."
Kwa usalama wako, tazama taa za barabarani. "For your safety, check the traffic lights."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll introduce the directions that will help you find the place you are looking for. We've already introduced "Is there a place near here?" and "Where is ... (something)?" But while we can ask now, we haven't learned how to understand the answer. This time, we're going to work on understanding what someone tells us. And we'll go over some basic directions. First, we have "go straight."

In Swahili, "go straight" is:

Enda wima.

The first word, *enda*, means "go."

And the second word, *wima*, means "straight."

If you want to say this more politely, you can add the obvious word *tafadhali*, for "please."

Altogether this is:

Enda wima tafadhali.

Here's how to tell someone to turn left.

Geuka kushoto.

The first word, *geuka*, means "turn."

The second word, *kushoto*, means "left."

Together, they make:

Geuka kushoto.

If you want to make this more polite, you add *tafadhali* meaning "please" at the end.

Geuka kushoto tafadhali.

Now for the opposite. "Turn right" in Swahili is:

Geuka kulia.

As you've probably figured out, *kulia* means "right."

And the polite form of this phrase is:

Geuka kulia tafadhali.

In real life, of course, you'll need to know *where* to turn left or right.

Here's "Turn right at the traffic light":

Geuka kulia tafadhali katika taa ya barabarani.

First we have *geuka kulia*, which we know means "turn right."

To say this more politely, we can use the polite version of "turn right," which we learned before.

Geuka kulia tafadhali.

katika means "at"

Then *taa ya barabarani* means "traffic light."

These three combined become *taa ya barabarani* and mean "traffic light."

Together with *katika*, it becomes *katika taa ya barabarani* which means, "at the traffic light."

Therefore, to say "Turn right at the traffic light"

it will be:

Geuka kulia tafadhali katika taa ya barabarani.

Here's how to say "it's on the right":

iko kulia

And "it's on the left" is:

iko kushoto

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Knowing how to ask for directions is very useful. However, your best bet is to get a map so that you don't get too lost. Drop into a store or approach a watchman and ask *una ramani?* ("Do you have a map?"), and you'll never be lost again!

Quick Tip 2

Once you have mastered right and left in Swahili, knowing the words for the cardinal directions could come in handy:

kaskazini: "north"

mashariki: "east"

kusini: "south"

magharibi: "west"

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #32

Can You Take My Picture? in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

32

SWAHILI

1. Unaweza kutupiga picha tafadhali?
2. Unaweza kutupiga picha ?
3. Unaweza kunipiga picha tafadhali?
4. Unaweza kunipiga picha ?
5. Unaweza kupiga picha ?

ENGLISH

1. Can you take our picture? (formal)
2. Can you take our picture? (informal)
3. Can you take my picture?(formal)
4. Can you take my picture? (informal)
5. Can you take a picture? (formal)

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
kutupiga picha	take us a picture	phrase
kupiga picha	take a picture	phrase
kunipiga picha	take me a picture	phrase
picha	picture	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Anakuja kutupiga picha.

"He is coming to us for a picture."

Unajua kupiga picha.

"You can take a picture."

Unaweza kunipiga picha tafadhali?

"Can you take me a picture please?"

Picha hii ni nzuri sana.

"This picture looks nice."

Unaweza kupika chakula cha kijapani.

"Can you cook Japanese food?"

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we'll introduce a phrase that will definitely come in handy for capturing your memories. Kenya has many beautiful locations, so you'll want to take lots of pictures of landscapes and monuments. And sometimes, you'll want to be in the picture or include everyone in your party. For those times, the question "Can you take our picture?" or "Can you take my picture?" will be invaluable!

In Swahili, "Can you take our picture?" is:

Unaweza kutupiga picha tafadhali?

The first word, *Unaweza*, literally means "you can" but it is often used to make requests, and in this case it implies "could you."

The next word, *kutupiga*, means "take us" when we're talking about photos.

You can guess that the word *picha* means "picture."

The last word, *tafadhali*, turns the sentence into a polite question.

All together, that's:

Unaweza kutupiga picha tafadhali?

If you just want to ask someone to take a picture—not of anything in particular—that question is:

Unaweza kupiga picha?

Unaweza, "can you," is a word we have already learned.

kupiga literally means "to beat," but in this case, it means "to take"

Picha, as we now know, means "picture."

Again, the whole sentence goes...

Unaweza kupiga picha?

If you are on your own and you want to ask someone to take your picture, you'll ask:

Unaweza kunipiga picha tafadhali?

Unaweza is "can you"

The second word, *kunipiga*, implies "take me" in the context of photographing.

picha, as you may now have guessed, means "picture"

It is followed with the word for "please," *tafadhali*.

All together, this will be:

Unaweza kunipiga picha tafadhali?

If the person you're asking is younger than you and there's no need to be polite, you simply remove *tafadhali*. This will sound like this:

Unaweza kunipiga picha?

And if you want to ask a young person to take a picture of your whole group:

Unaweza kutupiga picha?

Just change *kunipiga* to *kutupiga*.

Altogether, that's:

Unaweza kutupiga picha?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

It is always polite to wave for permission before taking someone else's photo, just like in every country. Also, if you do ask someone to take your picture, pop a *kunradhi* there in the beginning. I'm sure you remember that this word means "Excuse me."

Quick Tip 2

You can get cameras and digital equipment pretty much everywhere in Kenya. Try to be prepared, don't let the battery die on you.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #33

May I Take Your Picture? in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

33

SWAHILI

1. Naweza kuchukua picha yako tafadhali?
2. Naweza kuchukua picha yako?
3. Naweza chukua picha humu ndani?

ENGLISH

1. Can I take your picture? (formal)
2. Can I take your picture? (informal)
3. Can I take a picture here?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
kunipiga	to take me	idiom
kuchukua picha	to take a picture	phrase
yako	yours	pronoun
humu	in here	adverb
ndani	inside	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tafadhali nipinga picha. "Please take me a picture."	Usisahau kuchukua picha yangu tafadhali. "Don't forget to take my picture."
Nitachukua picha yako. "I will take your photo."	Humu ndani mna vitu vizuri. "There are good things in here."
Ndani ya kifurushi mna zawadi. "Inside the package is a gift."	Tupige picha humu ndani. "Lets take a picture in here."

GRAMMAR

How many times have you been on a trip with your camera, trying to immortalize an epic moment? In Kenya, there are so many landscapes and people to tempt your camera, that you won't put it away! So we'll be devoting this lesson to more phrases about taking photos.

In the last lesson, we learned how to ask someone to take your picture:

Unaweza kunipiga picha tafadhali?

But what if you want to take someone else's picture? Kenyan people are certainly interesting enough!

"Can I take your picture?" in Swahili is:

Naweza kuchukua picha yako tafadhali?

The first word, *naweza*, means "could I."

This is a pretty polite way to say "could I."

Next comes *kuchukua*, which means "can take."

Then comes *picha*, which you probably remember as "picture."

The word that follows, *yako*, means "yours"

The last word, *tafadhali*, is a very familiar word that means "please."

The whole request is...

Naweza kuchukua picha yako tafadhali?

In situations that don't call for politeness, such as if you're asking to take a young person's photo, you can ask:

Naweza kuchukua picha yako?

The only thing we did was remove the word *tafadhali*, which as you know means "please" and usually makes the sentence polite.

Therefore, the more casual question was:

Naweza kuchukua picha yako?

Other places where you'll need permission to take pictures are museums, art galleries, and shops.

"Can I take a picture in here?" in Swahili is:

Naweza chukua picha humu ndani?

The first word, *naweza*, as you may remember, means:

"could I."

We know that *chukua* means "take."

By now you know very well that *picha* means:

"picture."

The word *humu* is demonstrative, and in this case indicates a place, "in here"

The last word *ndani* means "inside."

Therefore, *humu ndani* will mean "in this place"

So the whole request is:

Naweza chukua picha humu ndani?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

A couple great places for picture-taking in Kenya could be found in a variety of different sites, spots, attractions and activities. Traveling with your eyes open, not only will you have fun but find it interesting to take photos of; landscapes of the farm and fields, of streams and bush paths, of wooden and corrugated iron shacks, of crammed buses and pick-up vans, of overloaded bicycles, and of streets filled with goats, chickens and toddlers.

Quick Tip 2

Kenya is a great vacation walking country. You can enjoy vacation scenes of dry thorn tree savannas, high forests and moors, splash in lakes, and see the central highlands and Mount Kenya itself: a major target and feasible climb for most people. You can also visit the Kenya vacation National Parks and reserves, watered by seasonal streams, and get yourself some great pictures of wild animals and scenery.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #34

How Do You Say This? in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

34

SWAHILI

1. Unasemaje "bread" kwa kiswahili?
2. Unasemaje hii kwa kiswahili?
3. Unasemaje hicho kwa kiswahili?
4. Unasemaje 'happy birthday' kwa kiswahili.

ENGLISH

1. How do you say "bread" in Swahili?
2. How do you say this in Swahili?
3. How do you say that in Swahili?
4. How do you say "Happy Birthday" in Swahili?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
unasemaje	how do you say	phrase
kwa kiswahili	in Swahili	phrase
mkate	bread	noun
heri ya siku kuu ya kuzaliwa	happy birthday	phrase
hicho	that	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Unasemaje "phone" kwa kiswahili? "How do you say "phone" in Kiswahili."	Tafadhali nipe jina la "street" kwa kiswahili? "Please, could you give me the name of a street in Swahili."
Mkate huu ni mtamu sana. "This bread is very sweet."	Heri ya sikukuu yako ya kuzaliwa. "Happy birthday to you."
Hicho ni nini. "What is that?"	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we're going to need a word, as we're going to cover "How do you say [something] in Swahili?" So let's get started right away!

The Kenyan people are famous for their bread, so let's assume that you want to buy some, but have no idea what to call it in Swahili! What do you do now? Of course, you ask with Survival Phrases!

In Swahili "How do you say 'bread' in Swahili?" is:

Unasemaje "bread" kwa kiswahili?

The first word, *Unasemaje*, means, "how do you say."

This is followed by "bread." That's the word that you want to ask the meaning of.

Next, we have '*kwa kiswahili*' which means 'in Swahili'

Here, *kwa* means "in," while *kiswahili* refers to the Swahili language.

These two put together will be:

kwa kiswahili

Altogether, we have:

Unasemaje "bread" kwa kiswahili?

Not to leave you hanging: "bread" in Swahili is *mkate*.

You can also use this expression without any English. To accomplish this, you can use the expression "How do you say this in Swahili?" In Swahili, "this" is *hii*.

So in Swahili, "How do you say this in Swahili?" is:

Unasemaje hii kwa kiswahili?

The structure is exactly same as the previous sentence, except that in place of "bread," we have the demonstrative adjective *hii*.

Altogether, we have:

Unasemaje hii kwa kiswahili?

This is a phrase you can use while pointing at something.

Simply substitute the word *hii* with *hicho*, "that," to ask, "How do you say that in Swahili?"

You will have:

Unasemaje hicho kwa kiswahili?

But wait, let's say it's your Kenyan friend's birthday and you want to wish him/her a happy birthday. But you don't know how to say it. Let's try to ask:

Unasemaje "happy birthday" kwa kiswahili?

"How do you say happy birthday in Swahili?"

The first word is *Unasemaje*, "how do you say."

Then you have "happy birthday" which is the phrase you want to ask, and *kwa kiswahili* follows that phrase, and means "in Swahili."

All together:

Unasemaje "happy birthday" kwa kiswahili?

"Happy birthday," by the way, is *heri ya siku kuu ya kuzaliwa*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

The Kenyan whole wheat flat bread chapati is a popular bread accompaniment for any meal. It can be eaten at any time and with any meal time. Its presence in important events such as celebrations, births or weddings makes the party complete. Its flour can, therefore, make a great gift for someone.

Quick Tip 2

Chapati flour is found in almost every shop in Kenya. It will be an interesting adventure to buy and try cooking with it. You can get a recipe online, or ask a friend to demonstrate. Once you know how to cook, I bet you'll never stop cooking and eating it!

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #35

Learn to Write in Swahili without Lifting a Pen

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

35

SWAHILI

1. Unaweza kukiandika chini tafadhali?
2. Unaweza kukiandika hapa chini tafadhali?
3. Unatamkaje hii?
4. Je, una karatasi na kalamu?
5. Kunradhi, una karatasi na kalamu?

ENGLISH

1. Can you write it down, please?
2. Could you write it down here, please?
3. How do you pronounce this?
4. Do you have paper and pen?
5. Do you have paper and pen? (polite)

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
kukiandika chini	write it down	phrase
kukiandika hapa chini	write it down here	phrase
Unatamkaje	how do you pronounce it	phrase
karatasi	paper	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ni vyema kukiandika jina lako chini.

"It will be better if you write your name here."

Ni vyema kukiandika jina lako hapa chini.

"It will be better if you write your name down here."

Unakitamukaje jina lako?

"How do you pronounce your name?"

Naomba kalamu ili niandike jina langu.

"Could you please give me a pen so that I may write my name."

Nina kalamu tayari.

"I already have a pen."

GRAMMAR

In the last lesson, we covered how to ask, "How do you say this in Swahili?" It was *Unasemaje hii kwa Kiswahili*. Do you remember? In this lesson, because we don't want you to be caught off guard in any kind of situation in Kenya, we are going to introduce a new phrase that's very important to help you focus your skills—not on the sounds, but on the writing. So let's start.

In Swahili, "Can you write it down, please?" is:

Unaweza kukiandika chini tafadhali?

The first word, *Unaweza*, means "can you?"

Next we have *kukiandika*, which means "to write it."

chini literally means "down" but in this case it implies "on"

tafadhali is "please," as you may remember from previous lessons.

All together:

Unaweza kukiandika chini tafadhali?

Literally, this means, "Can you write it down, please?"

Next, we have another way to express the same meaning.

Unaweza kukiandika hapa chini tafadhali?

"Could you write it down here please?"

The only extra thing in this sentence is the word *hapa*, which is "in here" in English.

Unaweza kukiandika hapa chini tafadhali?

Once you have the written words, you may find that you have no idea how to pronounce them. In Swahili, "How do you pronounce this?" is:

Unatamkaje hii?

The first word, *Unatamkaje*, means "how do you pronounce"

Next we have *hii*, which means "this" as we have seen before. You should all be familiar with this by now.

The entire sentence again:

Unatamkaje hii?

It might happen that people are not carrying a piece of paper or a pen. So before asking *Unaweza kukiandika chini tafadhali?* try asking:

Je, una karatasi na kalamu?

"Do you have paper and pen?"

The first word, *je*, is used to make the sentence a question.

When we use *je* with the word that follows, *una*, for "you have," it becomes *je una* "do you have?"

Then comes the word *karatasi*, which means "paper"

Then you have *na*, which in English is "and."

The last word is *kalamu* which means "pen."

Here's the whole sentence:

Je, una karatasi na kalamu?

As usual, before asking about someone else's stationary supplies, it's a good idea to say "excuse me," *kunradhi*, at the beginning of the sentence. When you use *kunradhi*, you can eliminate the question word *je*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Swahili writing is not too complicated. You pronounce what you see.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #36

Read Swahili Instantly! No Knowledge of Swahili Required

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

36

SWAHILI

1. Unasomaje hii?
2. Unatamkaje hii?
3. Unakisemaje?
4. Inamaanisha nini?

ENGLISH

1. How do you read this?
2. How do you pronounce this?
3. How do you say it?
4. What does it mean?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
je	how	interjection
Inamaanisha	it means	phrase
unasomaje	how do you read	phrase
tamka	pronounce	verb
sema	say	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Je, unaendeleaje sasa? "How are you doing now?"	Neno hili linamaanisha nini? "What is the meaning of this word?"
Unasomaje hili jina? "How do you read this name?"	Jina lako ngumu. Unalitamkaje? "Your name is hard. How do you pronounce it?"
Naminatakasema yaliyojaa moyoni. "I want to say all that has filled my heart."	

GRAMMAR

In the last few lessons, we introduced you to some phrases you can use when you're in Kenya. This will be the last lesson of the series dedicated to learning from the people around you. In this lesson, we are going to cover "How do you read this?"

In Swahili, "How do you read this?" is:

Unasomaje hii?

The first word, *unasomaje*, is a single-word sentence that means "how do you read."

We can break it down like this:

una stands for the subject, in this case the person.

soma means "read"

je creates the question. In this case it implies "how?"

The last word, *hii* means, "this"

The entire sentence again is:

Unasomaje hii?

If you are pointing at something—probably a book, a newspaper, or simply a street sign—you might also like to ask, "How do you pronounce this?"

Unatamkaje hii?

The sentence construction is exactly the same with the above, except that we have replaced *soma* with *tamka*, which is a word for "pronounce."

The other alternative would be to ask "How do you say it?"

Unakisemaje?

The sentence construction is still the same. Just replace the *tamka* with *sema*, meaning "say."

After you have learned the reading and the pronunciation, you will probably want to know the meaning. So why don't you try to ask,

Inamaanisha nini?

Inamaanisha is a way of saying "it means"

The word *nini* means "what"

Together we have:

Inamaanisha nini?

This sentence can be literally read as "its meaning is what?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Swahili has lots of one-word sentence structures that combine the subject, the verb and the object. In cases where it is used as a question, and you are familiar with the context, you can eliminate the extra word that comes after it. For example, you can eliminate *nini* from the end of *Inamaanisha*?

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #37

Kenyan Hotel—Checking In

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

37

SWAHILI

1. Tayari ninahifadhi katika jina Daudi.
2. Ningelipenda kuhifadhi chumba.
3. Waweza kunipa jina lako tafadhali?
4. Waweza kukitahajia?

ENGLISH

1. I have a reservation under the name of David.
2. I would like a room.
3. Can I get your name, please?
4. Can you spell it?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
ninahifadhi	I have a reservation	phrase
chumba	room	noun
kunipa jina	give me a name	phrase
kukitahajia?	spell it	phrase
fulani	someone	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Nina hifadhi ya watu watano. "I have a reservation for five people."	Chumba moja ni kubwa. "One room is big."
Waweza kunipa jina lako tafadhali? "Could you please give me your name?"	Tafadhali, waweza kukitahajia jina lako? "Could you please spell your name?"
Mtu fulani alikuja hapa. "Someone came here."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll help you check in! In Kenya, there are hotels, guesthouses and hostels, among many other types of accommodation. Let's jump right into the lesson!

In Kenya, when you get to a hotel and you want to check in, you can use two possible phrases. If you have already booked the room and you want to say, "I have a reservation under the name David" in Swahili, it is:

Tayari ninahifadhi katika jina Daudi.

The first word, *tayari*, means "already."

The word that follows, *ninahifadhi*, is a one-word sentence meaning "I have a reservation." Let's break it down further:

nina means "I have."

Whereas *hifadhi* means "reserve"

Together we have:

ninahifadhi

Next we have *katika* which means "under"

Then we have *jina* for "name"

Then you have the name, which in this case is *Daudi* for "David."

Tayari ninahifadhi katika jina Daudi.

So if your name is "Jones," you would say:

Tayari ninahifadhi katika jina Jones.

Or "I have a reservation under the name of Jones."

If you have not booked the room yet, the phrase "I would like a room" in Swahili is

Ningelipenda kuhifadhi chumba.

The first word, *ningelipenda*, means "I would like to"

Then comes *kuhifadhi*, which means "to reserve."

As you recall, *chumba* means "room."

Altogether:

Ningelipenda kuhifadhi chumba.

"I would like one room."

You will most likely be asked, "Can I get your name, please." In Swahili, this is:

Waweza kunipa jina lako tafadhali?

The first word, *waweza*, implies "could you."

It is followed by *kunipa*, which means "give me."

You can recall that *jina* means "name." The word that follows, *lako*, means "your"

tafadhali of course means "please."

Altogether, that's:

Waweza kunipa jina lako tafadhali?

"Could I get your name, please?"

Please note, this phrase is only used in highly official situations, so don't try to start a conversation with this line in Kenya. People will think you're the police!

You might also be asked, "Can you spell it?" In Swahili, this is:

Waweza kukitahajia?

The first word, *waweza*, means "could you."

The next word, *kukitahajia*, means "spell it."

Altogether:

Waweza kukitahajia?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

It's generally sunny, dry and not too hot for most of the year in Kenya. This makes it suitable to visit Kenya at any time of the year. It is a good idea to reserve a room in advance before arriving in Kenya. It's more likely you'll get a cheaper rate if you make your reservation early.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #38

Kenyan Hotel—I'd Like More of This, Please

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

38

SWAHILI

1. Saa ya kutoka ni saa ngapi?
2. Naomba sabuni?

ENGLISH

1. What time is checkout?
2. Can I have some soap?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
kutoka	to leave	phrase
Saa ya kutoka	checkout	noun
saa ngapi	what time	phrase
sabuni	soap	noun
naomba	please	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ametoka sasa hizi kuelekea kazini. "He has just left to go to work."	Saa yangu ya kutoka ni saa moja asubuhi. "My checkout time is seven in the morning."
Mkutano ni saa ngapi? "What time is the meeting?"	Sabuni limo bafuni. "Soap is in the bathroom."

Naomba unisaidie kufanya kazi hii. "I request that you help me to do this work."	Naomba unielezee ninakoweza kupata msala. "I pray you tell me where I can find the bathroom."
Naomba msaada. "I am asking for a favor."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll introduce you to some more useful phrases for hotels and other types of accommodation. Let's get started! The first phrase is "What time is checkout?" In Swahili, this is:

Saa ya kutoka ni saa ngapi?

The first word, *saa*, means "time."

ya is the preposition "for."

It's followed with *kutoka*, which literally means "to leave," but in this case it implies "check out."

The next phrase *ni saa ngapi?* which means "is what time"

Breaking this down, we will have *ni*, which means "is"

saa is a familiar word meaning "time"

The word *ngapi* in this context means "what"

These become:

ni saa ngapi?

All together:

Saa ya kutoka ni saa ngapi?

"What time is check out?"

Let's try to ask, "Can I have some soap?" This is:

Naomba sabuni.

The first word, *naomba*, literally means "I ask" But whenever it's used, it implies a request, "may I."

and the last word *sabuni* which means 'soap?'

All together it is:

Naomba sabuni.

Here are some additional things you may ask for when you are staying in a hotel.

taulo: "Towel"

mswaki: "Toothbrush"

dawa ya meno: "Toothpaste"

shampu: "Shampoo"

You can use these words in the sentence above by replacing the noun *sabuni*. And don't forget to add *tafadhali* meaning "please" in order to be polite at the end of the sentence.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

There are many budget hotels and hostels in Kenya with quite high standards. If you decide to stay at a hotel, remember that you don't need to tip. Tipping is not part of the Kenyan culture, but of course if you feel like tipping after a delicious meal, I'm sure that your gesture will be more than welcome.

Quick Tip 2

In Kenya, the tourism industry is the second largest source of foreign exchange revenue after agriculture. It's a great boost to the Kenyan economy. Numerous gift shops have been set up in each area; these have created many new jobs and supported many businesses. The number of visitors each year is overwhelming. You can be assured that tourist services are better and better.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #39 Kenyan Post Office Part 1— Sending Letters, Postcards, and Packages

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

39

SWAHILI

1. Ningelipenda kutuma hii Italia.
2. Ningelipenda kutuma postkadi hii Italia.
3. Ningelipenda kutuma barua hii Italia.
4. Ningelipenda kutuma kifurushi hiki Italia.

ENGLISH

1. I would like to send this to Italy.
2. I would like to send this postcard to Italy.
3. I would like to send this letter to Italy.
4. I would like to send this package to Italy.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
posta	post office	noun
kifurushi	packet	noun
Ningelipenda kutuma	I would like to send	phrase
barua	letter	noun
postkadi	postcard	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Posta liko karibu na nyumba yangu. "There is a post office near my house."	Ndani ya kifurushi mna zawadi. "Inside the package is a gift."
Kifurushi chake ni nzuri sana. "Her package is very nice."	Kifurushi cha zawadi hii chapendeza. "This gift's packet is delightful."
Ningelipenda kutuma barua kwa dadangu. "I would like to send a letter to my sister."	Nimepokea barua kutoka kwa mchumba wangu. "I received a letter from my husband."
Babake alimletea postkadi. "His father brought him a package."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we're going to take a trip to the post office. The post office in Kenya is called:

posta

Its sign is red and blue, and normally the word *posta* is written in white on the red part of the sign. Every post box bears these features.

In this lesson, you're going to work on sending your postcards, letters, and packages home. The expression we need to accomplish this is, "I'd like to send this to..." and then the desired destination. For this lesson, we'll use Italy.

In Swahili, "I would like to send this to Italy" is:

Ningelipenda kutuma hii Italia.

The first word, *ningelipenda*, means, "I would like to."

Next we have *kutuma*, which in English is "to send"

Then we have *hii*, which is "this."

Finally we have *Italia*, which means "Italy."

Altogether, we have:

Ningelipenda kutuma hii Italia.

Literally, this means "I would like to send this to Italy."

Let's look at the other words. We were talking about packages, letters, and postcards, so let's try to send a postcard!

"Postcard" in Swahili is:

postkadi

"I would like to send this postcard to Italy" in Swahili is:

Ningelipenda kutuma postkadi hii Italia.

postkadi hii means "this postcard."

All we've done is add *postkadi* before *hii* in the first sentence structure to get:

Ningelipenda kutuma postkadi hii Italia.

Now let's try "letter," which in Swahili is:

barua

"This letter" is:

barua hii

By substituting this into the first sentence, we can get:

"I would like to send this letter to Italy"

Ningelipenda kutuma barua hii Italia.

Now let's try to send a package. In Swahili, "I would like to send this package to Italy" is:

Ningelipenda kutuma kifurushi hiki Italia.

"Package" in Swahili is *kifurushi*.

Altogether, we have:

Ningelipenda kutuma kifurushi hiki Italia.

Now the package requires a closer look, which we'll take in the next lesson.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

If you already have your letter or your postcards ready for sending, you don't need to look for a post office. You just need to find a postbox or a mailbox, which in Kenya you can identify by its bright red and blue color. You find them throughout neighborhoods all over the country. You can see the word POSTA on the red part and KENYA on the blue part of the sign. Slot it in there and wait to hear from your recipient!

Quick Tip 2

The Kenyan post has a reputation of being quite quick and not that expensive. The price for sending a postcard or letter is pretty normal but when it comes to parcels or letters, it's better to decide whether it's convenient to send or not. Also, on the weekends they are open on Saturday mornings until noon.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #40 Kenyan Post Office Part 2— What's in This Package?

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

40

SWAHILI

1. Nini limo ndani ya kifurushi?
2. Kuna nini kwa kifurushi?

ENGLISH

1. What's in the package?
2. What does the package contain?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
nini	What is it?	phrase
ndani	inside	noun
kuna nini	What is it	phrase
limo	is there	phrase
kifurushi	packet	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Nini liko kwenye barua? "What's in the letter?"	Ndani ya kifurushi mna zawadi. "Inside the package is a gift."
Tupige picha humu ndani. "Let's take a picture in here."	Kuna nini kwenye kifurushi? "What is inside the package?"

Zawadi limo kwenye kifurushi hicho. "There is a gift in that package."	Ndani ya kifurushi mna zawadi. "Inside the package is a gift."
Kifurushi chake ni nzuri sana. "Her package is very nice."	Kifurushi cha zawadi hii chapendeza. "This gift's packet is delightful."

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we're going to work on getting your package one step closer to its intended destination. In the last lesson, we talked about the phrase "I would like to send this package to Italy," which was:

Ningelipenda kutuma kifurushi hiki Italia.

Again, the location is interchangeable. We can change "Italy," which in Swahili is *Italia*, to any other country.

When sending a package, though, you will probably have to explain what's inside it. You might hear "What's in the package?" which in Swahili is:

Nini limo ndani ya kifurushi?

The first word, *nini*, means "what"

After this comes the word *limo*, which is used to indicate presence

Next, we have the word *ndani* which means "inside"

ya is used as the article "the."

Then we have *kifurushi*, which means "package."

Altogether, it's:

Nini limo ndani ya kifurushi?

"What's inside the package?"

If you want to be sure to name all the things you are sending correctly, English is

perfectly acceptable.

Another way they can ask you "What's in the package?" is:

Kuna nini kwa kifurushi?

The first two words, *Kuna nini*, mean "what is in"

Then you have *kwa kifurushi* meaning "the package"

Altogether, we have:

Kuna nini kwa kifurushi?

"What does the package contain?"

Please remember that even in Kenya, like in many other countries, there are some rules for things you can and cannot send. You can learn more about this by visiting the Kenya Post website.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Buying stamps in Kenya is very simple. They sell normal stamps at the posta, and some supermarkets, so saying *Ningelipenda kununua stampu* ("I would like some stamps") is the simplest and most common way of asking for them. Remembering your numbers comes in handy here, as they will most likely ask you how many you want. It's as easy as that!

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #41

A Guide to Foreign Exchange in Kenya

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

41

SWAHILI

1. Kuna ATM hapa karibu?
2. Kuna benki hapa karibu?
3. Kuna duka la kubadilisha pesa hapa karibu?
4. Naweza kubadilisha wapi pesa?
5. Nipe katika viwango vya chini tafadhali.
6. Zivunje hivi tafadhali.

ENGLISH

1. Is there an ATM near here?
2. Is there a bank near here?
3. Is there an exchange office near here?
4. Where can I exchange currency?
5. Smaller denominations, please.
6. Break this please.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
benki	bank	noun

wapi	where	interrogative word
kubadilisha	to exchange	verb
zivunje	break	verb
viwango vya chini	small denomination	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Kuna benki mwisho wa barabara his. "There is a bank at the end of this street."	Benki liko wapi? "Where is the bank?"
Bafu lililoko karibu liko wapi? "Where is the nearest bathroom around here?"	Nataka kubadilisha pesa. "I would like to exchange money."
Tafadhali zivunje hivi kwa viwango vya chini. "Please break these in small denominations."	Tafadhali zivunje hivi kwa viwango vya chini. "Please break these in small denominations."

GRAMMAR

Exchanging money in Kenya is quite convenient. You can exchange money at airports, special money exchange kiosks, and banks, or withdraw money from an ATM. The rates charged when you withdraw money from an ATM are likely to be higher. As a general rule, try to find one of the many exchange offices. So, first things first: let's find a location that will exchange money.

Let's review some phrases and patterns we've already covered.

In Swahili, "Is there an ATM near here?" is:

Kuna ATM hapa karibu?

We covered this sentence in a previous lesson. *Kuna* literally means "there is" but

in this case, it is asking the question, "is there?"

"ATM" remains as it is in Swahili.

hapa means "here"

The last word, *karibu*, means "near"

Altogether we have,

Kuna ATM hapa karibu?

Now, to ask for a bank, we can just replace the word for "ATM" with the word for "bank" and the phrase works just fine. "Is there a bank near here?" is:

Kuna benki hapa karibu?

It's not very different from the ATM sentence, and luckily for us, "bank" in Swahili is *benki*.

benki

Let's ask for an exchange office now. It is very similar: you just need to know the name *duka la kubadilisha pesa* "exchange office" and then add it in the place for *benki*:

duka la kubadilisha pesa

When we break this down, it will be:

duka which means "shop"

la which acts as the preposition "for"

kubadilisha means "exchange"

pesa is a word we learned in our previous lessons, and it means "money."

When inserted in the previous sentence, it will become:

Kuna duka la kubadilisha pesa hapa karibu?

For times when there is neither a bank nor an ATM, you can ask, "Where can I exchange currency?" In Swahili, this is:

Naweza kubadilisha wapi pesa?

The first word, *naweza*, literally means "can I." But in this case, it's used to convert the sentence into a really polite form.

Then we have *kubadilisha*, which in English is "to exchange":

Then there's *wapi*, which means "where."

Finally, we have the word *pesa* meaning "money"

Altogether, we have:

Naweza kubadilisha wapi pesa?

Literally, this means "Where can I change money?"

Exchanging currency is pretty straightforward—you need to fill out some forms, and then give them the amount you want exchanged. One extremely useful phrase is "Smaller denominations, please." It's usually beneficial to have smaller amounts of currency on you for paying the bus fare, taxi fare, and so on.

In Swahili, "Smaller denominations please" is:

Nipe katika viwango vya chini tafadhali.

The first word, *nipe*, is a polite way of saying "give me"

The next two words, *katika*, meaning "in," and *viwango*, meaning "denominations" when combined mean "in denominations"

Next we have *vya* meaning "in" and *chini* meaning "small" which combined are "in small,"

Then, you have *tafadhali*, "please,"

Altogether, we have:

Nipe katika viwango vya chini tafadhali.

In English, this means, "Could I get it as small change, please?"

Finally, you can also use the phrase "Break this, please" to indicate you would like smaller units of the currency. In Swahili, "Break this, please" is *Zivunje hivi tafadhali*.

The first word, *zivunje*, means "break" and is "to break," both literally and figuratively, in request form.

Then we have *hivi*, meaning "these"

Then *tafadhali*, which as we have already seen means "please."

Here's the request again:

Zivunje hivi tafadhali.

Say this when you have a big bill that you want to break.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Kenyan shopkeepers don't really like to break bills if you're not buying something. Sometimes it's a better idea to buy something small and get your bill broken that way.

Quick Tip 2

Kenyan money exchange places are safe even though they might charge more for the exchange than a bank would. Check the rates first and don't forget that a commission fee will be taken from your exchange amount.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #42

Buying Prepaid Cell Phone Cards in Kenya

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

42

SWAHILI

1. Je, unaunza kadi ya simu ya kulipia mapema?
2. Tafadhali nipe kadi ya Safaricom ya shilingi kumi.
3. Tafadhali nipe kadi ya Safaricom ya shilingi ishirini.
4. Kunradhi, kuna simu ya uma hapa karibu?

ENGLISH

1. Do you sell prepaid cell phone cards?
2. A 10 shilling Safaricom calling card, please.
3. A 20 shilling Safaricom calling card, please.
4. Is there a phone booth near here?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
unauza	sell	verb
kadi ya simu	cell phone card	phrase
kulipia mapema	prepaid	phrase
nataka	want	verb
simu ya uma	pay phone	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Unauza nini? "What are you selling?"	Natafuta kadi ya simu. "I am looking for a cell phone card."
Ningelipenda kadi ya simu ya kulipia mapema. "I would like a prepaid phone card."	Nataka kwenda dukani. "I want to go to the shop."
Simu ya uma ipo hapa karibu? "Is there a pay phone nearby."	

GRAMMAR

While most people wouldn't or couldn't usually step outside without their cell phones, when visiting another country, sometimes it's a little too far for your local carrier. You can use your cell phone when you get to Kenya of course, but you have to pay very expensive charges. So if you feel like saving your money, the good old ways work like a charm.

In Kenya, you can buy prepaid phone cards for cell phones. These prepaid cell phone cards are sold in kiosks and phone operator offices. They include a SIM card with PIN and PUK codes, and of course a Kenyan phone number. You can insert the SIM card into your mobile phone, and use it with a Kenyan number. It's so easy! And that's what we'll focus on in this lesson.

Before asking for a prepaid card, you'll want to know whether the shop you're at even carries them. In Swahili, "Do you sell prepaid cell phone cards?" is:

Je, unaunza kadi ya simu ya kulipia mapema?

The first word *je*, as we previously learned, converts the sentence into a question.

The word that follows, *unaunza*, means "you sell."

The next three words we have are *kadi ya simu*, which mean "cell phone card."

Let's break it down:

kadi means "card."

ya is the preposition "of."

You have already seen *simu*, it's the word for "phone"

These three joined together become,

kadi ya simu

Lastly are the three words, *ya kulipia mapema* which mean "to pay in advance."

In this phrase we have *ya*, which is the preposition "of," as we have learned in previous lessons.

The next word, *kulipia*, means "to pay"

The word that follows *mapema* means "in advance"

This becomes:

ya kulipia mapema

Altogether, we have:

Je, unaunza kadi ya simu ya kulipia mapema?

Literally, this means, "Do you sell prepaid cell phone cards?"

The answer to this will be "yes" - *ndio* - or "no" - *hapana*. If they do have the cards, they will ask you which line you want, since there are many cell phone services providers: Safaricom, yu, Zain and orange. "Which line do you want?"

Unataka laini ipi?

"Which line do you want?"

Let's imagine you want Safaricom. You can reply by saying,

Nataka Safaricom.

"I want Safaricom."

Nataka here means "I want"

Safaricom, a cell phone services provider, remains as it is.

Safaricom SIM cards are quite cheap to buy. All you will be required to do is to subscribe, and then you can top up your SIM card with scratch cards that come in different denominations, from as low as KSh 5. If you want a Ksh. 10 Safaricom scratch card, the sentence "A 10 shilling Safaricom calling card, please" will be:

Tafadhali nipe kadi ya Safaricom ya shilingi kumi.

We have already come across the first word, *tafadhali* ("please").

The next word *nipe* means "give me."

Next is the word *kadi*, which means "card"

Next up is the preposition *ya* meaning "for" again.

Safaricom is the name of a mobile service provider.

It is followed by the last three words, *ya shilingi kumi*, which mean "of ten shillings."

shilingi means "shillings"

kumi means "ten"

Together, this sounds like,

shilingi kumi

Here's the entire sentence:

Tafadhali nipe kadi ya Safaricom ya shilingi kumi.

This means, "A 10 shilling Safaricom calling card, please"

For a 20 shilling card, you just have to change the value this way: instead of *shilingi kumi* say *shilingi ishirini*

Tafadhali nipe kadi ya Safaricom ya shilingi ishirini.

Now, if you are looking for a payphone instead, you will have to ask:

Kunradhi, kuna simu ya uma hapa karibu?

Remember that the first word, *kunradhi*, means "excuse me," and is a polite way to attract someone's attention.

Then comes the word *kuna*, which literally means "there is" and is used to express the question "is there?"

The two words that follow *simu ya uma*, translate as "public phone."

You can remember that *simu* means "phone"

uma means "public"

That is,

simu ya uma

Lastly, we have the phrase *hapa karibu* for "nearby," as we have already learned in a previous Survival Phrases lesson.

Altogether, we have:

Kunradhi, kuna simu ya uma hapa karibu?

In English this means, "Is there a phone booth nearby?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

In Kenya, public phones are getting rarer and rarer. There are some, and they accept calling cards. You can find them near bus stations or market areas.

Quick Tip 2

Most people in Kenya don't really use telephone cards. They many times use cell phones or prepaid cell phone cards when they need to talk to someone abroad. It is easy to find them, usually they are sold in kiosks and telephone operators' shops.

Quick Tip 3

Kenya has a number of mobile service providers, all of whose services are fair. Safaricom has been popular but people have opted for having a number of cards because of their cheaper rates at different times. You can inquire about the kinds of services offered when you are buying the Sim cards.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #43

Renting a Vehicle in Kenya

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

43

SWAHILI

1. Ningelipenda kukodi gari.
2. Ningelipenda kukodi kijigari.
3. Ningelipenda kukodi pikipiki.
4. Ningelipenda kukodi baiskeli.
5. Napaswa kukirudisha lini?
6. Naweza kukirudisha pahali pengine?

ENGLISH

1. I would like to rent a car.
2. I would like to rent a scooter.
3. I would like to rent a motorbike.
4. I would like to rent a bike.
5. When must I return it?
6. Can I return it someplace else?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
kukodi	rent	verb

napaswa	required	adjective
kukirudisha	to return	verb
hauwezi	can	verb
pahali pengine	a different place	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ningelipenda kukodi nyumba. "I would like to rent a house."	Je, napaswa kulipa kwa miezi mingapi? "For how many months am I required to pay?"
Kukirudisha kitabu hiki ni baada ya wiki moja. "To return this book is after a week."	Hauwezi kuingia bila kibali. "You cannot enter without permission."
Kuna kiingilio pahali pengine? "Is there a gate in another different place."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll introduce you to a phrase that will help you get to the places you need to be! In some places, trains are the way to travel, but it's also very useful to know how to rent a car, scooter, or bicycle.

In Swahili, "I would like to rent a car" is:

Ningelipenda kukodi gari.

The first word, *ningelipenda*, means "I would like to."

Next comes *kukodi*, which means "to rent"

Then we have *gari*, which means "car"

The whole sentence again:

Ningelipenda kukodi gari.

"Motorbike" in Swahili is *pikipiki*.

Let's use it in our sentence now:

Ningelipenda kukodi pikipiki.

Renting a scooter is not as popular as in some Mediterranean countries, but you might want to try that too:

In Swahili, it is *kijigari*.

Ningelipenda kukodi kijigari.

Again, we only have one new word: *kijigari*.

Finally, why not rent a bike as well?

Ningelipenda kukodi baiskeli.

baiskeli means "bike" in this sentence.

If you're renting something, it's also important to know when you should return it. So here's a phrase you can use to make sure you return it on time.

In Swahili, "When must I return it?" is:

Napaswa kukirudisha lini?

The first phrase, *napaswa*, means "supposed" or "required."

Next we have *kukirudisha*, which means "to return."

Then we have *lini*, which in English is "when."

Altogether, we have:

Napaswa kukirudisha lini?

Literally, this means "When must I return it?"

Finally, you may want to return it at a different location. In Swahili "Can I return it somewhere else?" is:

Naweza kukirudisha pahali pengine?

The first word, *naweza*, means, "can I?" It is the word that converts the sentence into a question.

We've already seen the word *kukirudisha*, which means "to return"

And then we have *pahali pengine*, which refers to a location, "somewhere else."

pahali refers to "place"

The word *pengine* in this context means "different"

Altogether, it's:

pahali pengine.

The entire sentence again:

Naweza kukirudisha pahali pengine?

The answer could be a big yes and the name of the location.

If you're unlucky, they'll say *La, hauwezi kurudisha*. Which literally means "No, you cannot return."

La as you now know means "no"

Next *hauwezi* means "you cannot"

the last word, *kurudisha*, means "return"

Altogether, this will be:

La, hauwezi kurudisha.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Driving in Kenya might not be very convenient because there are a lot of traffic jams, especially in the big cities. The highway network is getting better every year, though certain areas are still not connected to the highways very well, and the two-lane roads are not so fast. And be careful when you're off the motorway.

Quick Tip 2

Pretty much the same goes for bikes. Each season Kenya has many beautiful places in the countryside that are nice for a ride. Riding a bike in the big city may not be a very good option, but you should definitely try the countryside. And remember that to drive a car or ride a motorbike in Kenya, you need an appropriate driver's license. Sometimes it takes a while to get the international one in your country, so remember to prepare yourself in advance before traveling.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #44

One Ticket to a Culturally Rich Stay in Kenya, Please

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

44

SWAHILI

1. Tiketi moja tafadhali.
2. Tiketi tatu tafadhali.
3. Tiketi tano tafadhali.
4. Tiketi lako tafadhali.

ENGLISH

1. One ticket, please.
2. Three tickets please.
3. Five tickets, please.
4. Your ticket, please.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
tano	five, 5	numeral
saba	seven, 7	numeral
nane	eight, 8	numeral
tiketi	ticket	noun
tiketi moja	one ticket	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Napenda nambari tano. "I like number five."	Ana watoto saba. "She has seven children."
Leo ni tarehe nane. "Today's date is eighth."	Tiketi za ndege ni ghali sana. "Plane tickets are very expensive."
Nipe tiketi ya kwenda Embakasi. "Give me a ticket that will take me to Embakasi."	Nipe tiketi la basi. "Give me a bus ticket."
Nipe tiketi moja ya hadi Mombasa. "Give me a ticket to Mombasa."	Nipe tiketi moja basi. "Then give me one ticket."

GRAMMAR

There is so much to do and see in Kenya, and there are times when access to some must-see places requires an admission ticket. So in this lesson, we're going to work on getting you through the gate, because we're looking at buying tickets.

In Swahili, "ticket" is:

tiketi.

In Swahili, "one ticket, please" is:

Tiketi moja tafadhali.

The first word, *tiketi*, means, "ticket."

Next, we have *moja*, which in Swahili is "one."

Then is *tafadhali*, which you know very well, and it means, "please."

So altogether, we have:

Tiketi moja tafadhali.

Literally, this means, "a ticket please."

We'll work on getting tickets for the rest of the party now.

Let's recap the numbers from one to ten.

"one" - *moja*

"two" - *mbili*

"three" - *tatu*

"four" - *nne*

"five" - *tano*

"six" - *sita*

"seven" - *saba*

"eight" - *nane*

"nine" - *tisa*

"ten" - *kumi*

"Three tickets, please" in Swahili is:

Tiketi tatu tafadhali.

First, we have *tiketi* in the same form as before.

Next, we have *tatu* which means "three."

So altogether, we have *Tiketi tatu tafadhali.*

Literally, this means, "Three tickets, please."

Let's try a different number. "Five tickets, please" in Swahili is:

Tiketi tano tafadhali.

Very often, you may be asked to show your ticket at places other than the entrance, so keep it with you until you leave the place you are visiting. They will ask you:

Tiketi lako tafadhali.

This means, "Your ticket, please."

The first word is *tiketi*, "ticket."

Then, you have *lako* which means "your."

Tafadhali, you will remember, means "please."

One more time altogether, that is: *Tiketi lako tafadhali*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

You can get discount tickets for groups, students, children, or the elderly at many places. A full-priced ticket for one person varies from place to place. In many museums, children under 18 don't need to buy a ticket.

Quick Tip 2

Remember this lesson well, because all of the words and sentences here are applicable when you buy tickets for any type of place where you need an entrance ticket. You can even use the same phrase using the same word (*tiketi*) to buy bus and train tickets. For example, *Tiketi mbili tafadhali* ("two tickets please").

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #45

Do You Have an English Guide? in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

45

SWAHILI

1. Je, una mwongozo wa safari kwa kingereza?
2. Je, una mwongozo wa safari kwa Kifaransa?
3. Je, una mwongozo wa safari kwa Kihispania?

ENGLISH

1. Do you have an English information guide?
2. Do you have a French information guide?
3. Do you have a Spanish information guide?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
mwongozo wa safari	information guide	noun
kingereza	English	noun
una	have	verb
kijapani	Japanese	noun
kifaransa	French	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Nimenunua mwongozo wa safari ya Kenya. "I bought an information guide for Kenya."	"Kiingereza ndilo lugha linaloongelewa zaidi duniani." "English is the most widely spoken language in the world."
Unapesa ya kutosha ya kuzuru sehemu tofauti za watalii. "Do you have enough money to visit different tourist areas?"	Najifunza kijapani. "I am learning Japanese."
Napenda nyimbo za kifaransa. "I like French songs."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll introduce you to a crucial phrase for you travelers who are interested in learning more about the tourist attractions you're going to visit. Learning about the history and the cultural significance of places you visit, can be just as rewarding as seeing them. So now we'll cover "Do you have an English information guide? "

In Swahili, "Do you have an English information guide?" is:

Je, una mwongozo wa safari kwa kingereza?

The first word, *Je*, is a word that is used to create a question. In this case it implies, "do you?"

Next we have *una*, which means "have?"

This is followed by *mwongozo wa safari*, which means "information guide."

The word *mwongozo* is a "guide" or "guideline"

wa is a possessive agreement "of"

And *safari* means "travel"

The last two words, *kwa* meaning "in" and *kingereza* meaning "English," are "in English."

Altogether, we have:

Je, una mwongozo wa safari kwa kingereza?

This sentence refers to a pamphlet at the entrance of a museum.

To ask for a guide in a different language, we can just replace the word for "English" with the word for any other language and it works just fine. Let's try "French" in Swahili.

"Do you have a French information guide?" is

Je, una mwongozo wa safari kwa kifaransa?

The only thing that changes is the language you are looking for. In this case it's *Kifaransa*.

Let's try now with a Spanish guide! It's not so unlikely to find an information guide in Spanish, because Kenya is very popular with Spanish tourists all year round. "Spanish" here will be *Kihispania*.

"Do you have a Spanish information guide?" is:

Je, una mwongozo wa safari kwa Kihispania?

Piece of cake!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

The official languages of Kenya are Swahili and English. Don't be surprised if you meet a local guide who speaks your language!

Quick Tip 2

Here are some other languages you might need to ask about:

"German": *Kijerumani*

"French": *Kifaransa*

"Turkish": *Kituruki*

"Italian": *Italiani*

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #46

How Do You Eat This Kenyan Food?

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

46

SWAHILI

1. Unakulaje hii?
2. Je, chakula hiki ni nzito?

ENGLISH

1. How do you eat this?
2. Is this food heavy?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
unakulaje	how do you eat	phrase
hii	this	noun
chakula	food	noun
nzito	heavy	adjective
hiki	this	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Unakulaje chakula cha nyama hii? "How do you eat this meat?"	Unakulaje hii? "How do you eat this food?"
Hii saa tafadhali. "This one please."	Chakula katika ile hoteli ni tamu sana. "Food in that hotel is very delicious."

Chakula nzito ni nzuri nikila chache. "Heavy food is good when I eat a little."	Chakula hiki ni tamu. "This food is delicious."
---	---

GRAMMAR

In Kenya, there are many delicious dishes! We've already covered how to order them, but now it's time to learn how to eat them! That is not always so obvious. In this lesson, we'll learn how to ask, "How do you eat this?"

In Swahili, "How do you eat this?" is:

Unakulaje hii?

The first word, *Unakulaje*, means "how do you eat."

Then you have *hii*, which means "this"

Literally, this means "How do you eat this one?" While most Kenyan dishes are quite straightforward, home cooking can get you more complicated dishes. Use this question when in doubt:

Unakulaje hii?

Kenyan food has different variations depending on the region, and while some of them are very healthy, some are also quite heavy. But in the end, they are all very delicious. But if you are worried about calories, we have a useful phrase for you.

The question "Is this food heavy?" in Swahili is:

Je, chakula hiki ni nzito?

The first word, *je*, as we learned in our previous lesson, makes the sentence a question.

The next word, *chakula*, means "food."

The next word, *hiki*, means "this,"

These two become *chakula hiki* to mean "this food."

Next are the two words, *ni* meaning "is" and *nzito* meaning "heavy," which together means "is heavy."

All together, it becomes:

"Is this food heavy?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Most households in Kenya have tea and bread with margarine for their breakfast. In some places, they may prefer prefer tea with *chapati* or *mandazi*, a local pastry. They cost \$1 in some of the cheap local restaurants. You can also find a more familiar three-course breakfast in major hotels which goes to around 11.30 am. English-style breakfast is available in mid-priced hotels and restaurants at affordable prices.

Quick Tip 2

There are many kinds of restaurants in Kenya. If you are having difficulties choosing one, try to ask some locals or your hotel staff where you can have a nice meal.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #47

Being a Vegetarian in Kenya

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

47

SWAHILI

1. Mimi mlaji mbogo.
2. Mimi sili nyama.
3. Mimi sili jibini.
4. Je, kuna nyama katika chakula hiki?

ENGLISH

1. I am a vegetarian.
2. I don't eat meat.
3. I don't eat cheese.
4. Does this food have meat in it?

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
mimi	me	pronoun
mlaji mboga	vegetarian	noun
kuna nyama	there is meat	phrase
sili	I don't eat	phrase
jibini	cheese	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mimi ni mzalendo wa Kenya. "I am Kenyan citizen."	Mamake ni mlaji mboga "Her mother is a vegetarian."
Kuna nyama kwenye friji. "There is meat in the fridge."	Mimi sili nyama ya mbwa. "I don't eat dog meat."
Mwana yule anapenda jibini kwenye mkate wake. "That child likes cheese on his bread."	

GRAMMAR

This lesson is not only for all of the vegetarians out there, but also for anyone with an aversion to a particular food! There are many reasons a person won't eat a particular food, and there may be times when communicating this is necessary. In this lesson, we'll go over some phrases to make sure you don't get any unwanted surprises on your plate.

In Swahili, "I am a vegetarian" is

Mimi mlaji mboga.

The first word, *mimi*, means "I am" or "me."

Then we have *mlaji* which means "eater."

Next is *mboga*, which means "vegetables"

Put together, *mlaji mboga* means "vegetarian."

Another way you can communicate that you don't eat a particular food, is by saying just that!

In Swahili, "I don't eat meat" is *Mimi sili nyama.*

The first word, *mimi*, means, "I" as we have just learned.

Next, we have *sili* which in English is "I don't."

Last we have *nyama*, which means "meat."

Altogether, we have *Mimi sili nyama*. Literally, this means, "(I) don't eat meat."

We can use this sentence pattern for other kinds of food, by simply changing just one word! So let's look at some other possibilities. Let's try "cheese," which in Swahili is *jibini*.

Now let's try the phrase with this word. "I don't eat cheese" in Swahili is *Mimi sili jibini*.

If you want to make sure a dish doesn't have an ingredient you can't or don't want to eat, you should simply ask about it. For example if you want to make sure a meal doesn't have meat, you should ask, *Je, kuna nyama katika chakula hiki?* "Is there meat inside this food"

The first word *je* as we learned earlier converts the sentence into a question.

Then you have *kuna*, which means "is there"

The next word *nyama*, as you might remember from the sentence before, means "meat."

The next word *katika* means "in"

The word that follows, *chakula*, is "food"

and the last word, *hiki*, means "this"

Therefore, *katika chakula hiki* means "in this food?" (slow) *katika chakula hiki?*
katika chakula hiki?

Let's hear it one more time.

Je, kuna nyama katika chakula hiki?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Kenya is regarded as a cosmopolitan country because it hosts people of different national, religion and ethnic backgrounds. This means many kinds, if not all kinds, of international cuisine are served. Hence, a vegetarian will have zero problems finding things to eat. For example, there are many varieties of lentils and so on at most hotels and small local establishments. If you are on safari, they will have many options for you. Just inform them in advance of your dietary restrictions.

Quick Tip 2

Refusing to eat anything when you're a guest of a Kenyan family is a little bit rude. Try to inform people of your eating habits beforehand, and I am sure they can prepare dishes suitable for you.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #48

Asking for Help in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

48

SWAHILI

1. Saidia!
2. Polisi!
3. Ita polisi!

ENGLISH

1. Help!
2. Police!
3. Call the police!

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
saidia!	help!	interjection
polisi	police	noun
ita	call	verb
ita polisi!	call the police!	expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Saidia! ninazama. "Help! I am drowning."	Kazi ya polisi ni kulinda usalama. "The work of the police is to keep law and order."
--	---

Nitakuita papo nitakapofika nyumbani. "I will call you once I arrive at home."	Ita polisi haraka! "Call the police quickly!"
--	---

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we'll introduce you to some phrases that we hope you won't have to use. While physical violence is not prevalent, when you're traveling to Kenya, you should always be careful. Also, this phrase is not limited to threatening situations, because you can also use it if you, or someone around you, is in need of immediate assistance. In this lesson, we'll learn how to call for help.

While we all hope nothing bad or dangerous happens while you're on holiday in Kenya, it's better if you know some important useful phrases to use in case of emergency.

In Swahili, "Help!" is:

Saidia!

Saidia! Literally, this means, "Help me."

If you need to call the police, shout,

polisi!

Literally, this means, "Police!"

You also want to learn to say: "Call the police!" This is:

Ita polisi!

The first word, *ita*, means "call,"

while the second word, *polisi*, means "police"

Here's the entire sentence again:

Ita polisi!

The phone number for the police in Kenya is 999. You can easily call it from a public phone or a cell phone. Make sure that in an emergency, you know how to ask for a public phone.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Getting mugged or jumped is rare in Kenya. If you want to be safe, the same considerations apply here, as in any other country. Watch out for pickpockets, avoid drunk people, watch your belongings, avoid walking alone in late hours of the night, and you should be fine. In the unlikely event that you become the victim of crime, contact the Police by dialing 999. In case of a health or fire emergency, visit the nearest health center or fire station, or dial 999. It is the general emergency number.

Quick Tip 2

Be careful when walking around *pahali pweke*, places that are lonely, and *mahali pomoni*, places that are crowded, in Kenya. Avoiding deserted and crowded places is good way to avoid being robbed. If you are approached by someone trying to help you to get on the bus or to carry your luggage, just refuse the person.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #49

Using Swahili to Get Medical Assistance

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

49

SWAHILI

1. Tafadhali nipeleke hospitalini!
2. Tafadhali nipeleke kwa daktari!

ENGLISH

1. Please take me to the hospital.
2. Please take me to the doctor.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
nipeleke	take me	phrase
hospitalini	hospital	noun
daktari	doctor	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tafadhali nipeleke kwa nyumba yangu. "Please take me to my house."	Wagonjwa wengi wamelazwa hospitalini. "Many sick people have been admitted in the hospital."
Daktari bado hajafika. "The doctor has not arrived yet."	

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll introduce you to some phrases you will find useful if you need medical assistance. When traveling, sometimes the body takes a little time to adjust, and the immune system is no different. In this lesson, you'll learn some phrases that will help get you to a location where you can get medical assistance. We'll start with the phrase "Please take me to the hospital."

In Swahili, "Please take me to the hospital" is:

Tafadhali nipeleke hospitalini.

First, we have *tafadhali*, which is "please" in English as you should remember by now. Next we have *nipeleke*, which means "take me"

After this is *hospitalini*, which literally means, "to the hospital."

Altogether, we have:

Tafadhali nipeleke hospitalini.

We translate it as "Please take me to the hospital."

If you would like someone to take you to visit a doctor, you can use the following phrase. "Please take me to the doctor," which is:

Tafadhali nipeleke kwa daktari.

As you can see, this phrase is very similar to the previous one.

the only thing that changes is *kwa daktari* in place of *hospitalini*.

Altogether, we have:

Tafadhali nipeleke kwa daktari.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

In Kenya, basic primary care is provided at primary healthcare centers and dispensaries where outpatient services for simple ailments such as the common cold and flu, uncomplicated malaria, and skin conditions are provided. Those patients who cannot be managed at the primary health centers are referred to secondary health centers where integrated curative, rehabilitative care and comprehensive medical and surgical services are offered. Provincial hospitals provide specialized care including intensive care, life support and specialist consultations.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #50

Explaining Symptoms in Swahili

CONTENTS

- 2 Swahili
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

50

SWAHILI

1. Kunradhi, una dawa ya homa?
2. Kichwa kinaniuma.
3. Tumbo linaniuma.

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me, do you have cold medicine, please?
2. I have a headache.
3. I have a stomachache.

VOCABULARY

Swahili	English	Class
dawa	medicine	noun
homa	cold	noun
kichwa	head	noun
kinaniuma	ache	verb
tumbo	stomach	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tafadhali uje na dawa ya homa. "Please come with medicine for cold."	Mjomba ana homa kali. "Uncle has a severe cold."
--	--

Kichwa chake kinauma. "Her head is aching."	Analalamika kwamba mwili wake wote unauma. "She is complaining that her whole body is aching."
Nimekula hadi tumbo langu likajaa. "I have eaten till my stomach was full."	

GRAMMAR

Once you're in the pharmacy, you will need to explain how you feel in order to let the pharmacist give you the right medicines. In this lesson, we'll work on explaining symptoms so you can get the proper treatment and any medicine you may need.

Let's try to make a list of all the possible things you might need.

In Swahili, "cold medicine" is *dawa ya homa*.

"Do you have cold medicine?" in Swahili is:

Kunradhi, una dawa ya homa?

The first word, *kunradhi* means, "excuse me."

Then you have *una* which literally means, "have" but in this case it poses a question, "do you have?"

Then we have *dawa*, which is "medicine"

Then we have the preposition *ya* which means "for"

The last word, *homa*, means "cold"

The phrase *dawa ya homa* means "medicine for a cold."

Altogether, that's:

Kunradhi, una dawa ya homa?

Let's see how to explain your symptoms.

In Swahili, "I have a headache" is:

Kichwa kinaniuma.

The first word is *kichwa*, which means "head."

Next we have *kinaniuma* which means, "is aching."

Altogether, we have *Kichwa kinaniuma*.

Literally, this means, "my head is aching me!" In this case, we've translated it as "I have a headache."

If it's your stomach that's hurting, you can say, *Tumbo linaniuma*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Here's a list of over-the-counter medicine for various problems:

Septine, rest - cold

Aspirin, Panadol - headache

quinine, coartem - malaria

Omoxylin - constipation

Omoxylin, ORS - diarrhea

Tetracycline - eye infections

Quick Tip 2

Malaria is one of the most prevalent diseases in Kenya. It is always a serious disease and may also be deadly. Humans get malaria from the bite of a mosquito infected with the parasite. Prevent this serious disease by seeing your healthcare provider for a prescription antimalarial drug and by protecting yourself against mosquito bites. For more information on Malaria visit:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/kenya.htm>

Quick Tip 3

Don't forget to consult a doctor or pharmacist before taking any of these medications!