



A quick review of Swahili Lesson 1

16.10.2021

A. Greetings and Salutations

These are the phrases we learned in Swahili Lesson 1:

Greeting

1. Habari gani?.....Njema!
(How are you?)

Response

Fine!
Njema sana!
Very fine!

B. Useful Swahili phrases

English (Kingereza)

Kiswahili

2. Thank you!Asante!
3. Thank you very much!.....Asante sana!
4. Welcome!.....Karibu!
5. Okay.....Sawa sawa!
6. Goodbye!.....Kwa heri!
7. Where is the washroom?.....Choo kiko wapi?
8. Where is the school/ house/work?
Shule/Nyumba/Kazi iko wapi?

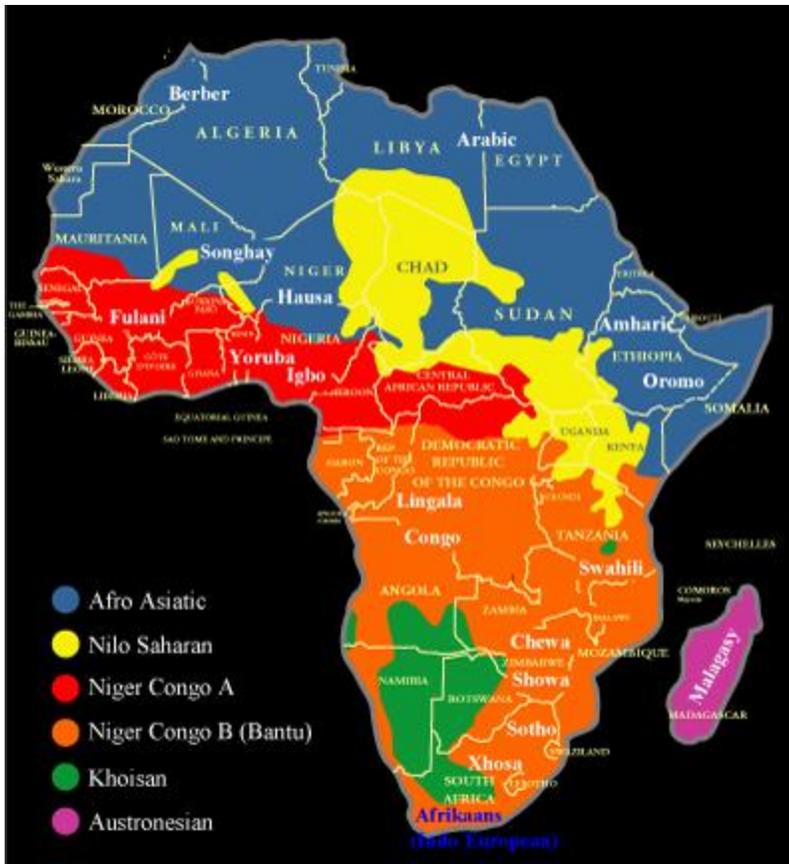
C. Family nouns

1. Father.....Baba
2. Mother.....Mama
3. Sister.....Dada
4. Brother.....Kaka
5. Husband.....Mume
6. WifeMke
7. Child.....Mtoto
8. Friend.....Rafiki

D. A Brief introduction to Kiswahili.

There are over 1,000 languages spoken in Africa.

Languages in East and Central Africa are broadly categorized into three major language groups.



1. The Nilotic Languages

- The Karamojong' in Uganda
- The Masai in Kenya and Tanzania
- The Luo in Uganda and Kenya
- The Nuer and Dinka in South Sudan

2. Cushitic Languages

- The Oromo in Ethiopia and Kenya
- The Somali language in Somalia and Kenya
- The Borana in Northern Kenya

3. Bantu Languages

Over 300 Bantu languages spoken in Africa South of the Sahara. Bantu languages are spoken from Southern Cameroon to Eastern Africa, all the way down to Southern Africa.

Here are a few examples of Bantu Languages:

- a. Zulu in South Africa
- b. Shona in Zimbabwe
- c. Tswana in Botswana
- d. Bemba in Zambia
- e. Lingala in the DRC
- f. Chichewa in Malawi
- g. Swahili in Eastern Africa.
- h. Luganda in Uganda and many, many other languages.

Swahili is spoken in Kenya, Tanzania, Western Uganda, Eastern D.R.C, Burundi, Rwanda, Northern Mozambique



1. The meaning of the word 'Swahili'

Swahili is a **Bantu** language that has borrowed a few words from other languages it has interacted with such as Arabic, English, Portuguese, Hindi, Persian and German.

The word Swahili is derived from Arabic '**Sawahil**' which means *the Coast*.

The Swahili language is spoken by over 160,000,000 people in East and Central Africa

Swahili pronunciation

The Swahili pronunciation is super easy!

How you read a word is how you pronounce it.

Unlike many Bantu languages, Swahili does not have tone.

a. The Kiswahili alphabet

A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P R S T U V W Y Z

There's no Q and X in the Kiswahili alphabet.

b. Swahili vowels

a e i o u

a as in alphabet

e as in egg

i as in ink

o as in off

u as in loop/Zulu

c. Long vowels

aa ee ii oo uu

aa ae ai ao au

ea ee ei eo eu

ia ie ii io iu

oa oe oi oo ou

ua ue ui uo uu

d. The Swahili consonants.

/b/ as in baba

/d/ as in dada

/f/ as in fisi

/g/ as in gari

/h/ as in Habari? Hakuna Hongera!

/j/ as in jambo

/k/ as in kuku

/l/ as in lala

/m/ as in mama

/p/ as in pole Iria

/r/as in rais

/s/ as in sawa sawa

/t/ as in Tanzania

/v/ as in viazi

/w/ as in wewe

/y/ as in yaya

/z/ as in zawadi

e. Combinations

Two consonants that produce one sound are known as a combination.

Here are a few examples:

/ch/ chai/Chapati/Choo

/dh/ **th**is dharura- emergency, tafadhali- please

/gh/- ghali -expensive

/mw/- mwalimu- teacher

/nd/- ndiyo - yes

/ng/- ngano -wheat

/ng'/ we pronounce this sound as in English '*sing, ring, young*'

A few Swahili words: ng'ombe- a cow, ng'ambo- abroad

Ng'ang'ana- struggle

/nj/- njia- path

/ny/- **on**ion nyanya- a tomato

/sh/- **sh**ule- school

/th/- **th**ink thelathini- thirty

Please pronounce the following words

Choo Chai Chapati

Tafadhali Dharura Dhahabu

Habari Njema Asante

Kiswahili Mswahili Waswahili Uswahilini

Self introduction

English	Swahili
My name is.....	Jina langu ni.....
What's your name?	Jina lako ni nani?

