

LIVING LANGUAGE® 

In-Flight

SWAHILI

LEARN BEFORE YOU LAND

BOARDING PASS

Karibu! Welcome to Living Language In-Flight Swahili. This short and simple program is designed to give you just enough of the basics that you'll need to get by in Swahili. Just listen to the native speakers of Swahili and repeat in the pauses. This short course is easy to master, and once you've completed the program, you'll be able to speak and understand some basic Swahili. Let's get started.

Pronunciation Guide

Vowels

Vowel	English Equivalent	Swahili Example
a	short o sound as in ah or mom	tatu (three)
e	long a as in hay	leo (today)
i	long e as in bee	jina (name)
o	long o as in toe	ona (see)
u	long u as in Luke	asubuhi (morning)

Consonants

Most consonant sounds are pronounced as in English: **b**, **ch**, **d**, **f**, **g** as in **goat**, **h**, **j** (a little softer than in English), **k**, **l**, **m**, **n**, **p**, **s**, **t**, **th** as in **thin**, **v**, **w**, **y**, and **z**.

The following sounds may require some practice:

Sound	English Equivalent/ Description	Swahili Example
r	Like Spanish tapped r , like the t in water (American pronunciation)	habari (news)
gh	Similar to French uvular r , like a gargled g	ghali (expensive)
dh	Pronounced like th in though	tafadhali (please)
ng	As in singer , but occurs as first sound of the word	ng'ombe (meat)

Swahili also has several sounds combining consonants with the **w** and **y** sound: **bw**, **mw**, **fy** as in **few**, **gw** as in **iguana**, **kw** as in **quick**, **ny** as **onion**, **pw**, **py** as in **pew**, **tw**, and **vy** as in **view**.

Finally, many Swahili words begin with nasal sounds **n** or **m** followed by another consonant, such as in **nzuri** (good) and **mlango**

(door). These sounds may look difficult to pronounce at first, but they are roughly pronounced as if humming **m** or **n** before pronouncing the rest of the word (nn-ZOO-ree, mm-LAHN-go). Note that **n** or **m** can appear before another nasal consonant, as in **mmoja** (unity), **nne** (four), or **mnama** (animal).

Lesson 1: Saying Hello

Hujambo. Hello.
(Any issue disturbing you?)

Sijambo. Hello. (reply)

Habari za asubuhi!
Good morning!

Habari za leo! Good day!

Habari za jioni!
Good evening!

Habari gani? How are you?

Nzuri. Fine.

Nzuri sana. Great.

Nzuri tu. So-so.

Jina lako nani?
What's your name?

Jina langu ni Hasina.
My name is Hasina.

Jina langu Rashidi.
My name is Rashidi.

Nimefurahi kukujua kukuona. It's nice to meet you.

Bwana Matongo
Mr. Matongo

Bi Amina/Bibi Amina
Mrs. Amina

Bibi Aisha Miss Aisha

Bwana Sir

Bibi Ma'am

Kwa heri. Good-bye.

Tutaonana. See you later.

Tutaonana hivi karibuni.
See you soon.

Kwa heri./Usiku mwena.
Good-bye./Good night.

Lesson 2: Basic Expressions

Asante. Thank you.

Asanteni. Thank you (*plural*).

Asante sana. Thank you very much (*singular*).

Asanteni sana Thank you very much (*plural*).

Si neno./Karibu.
You're welcome.

Tafadhali. Please.

ndiyo yes

hapana no

Tafadhali. Excuse me.

Nisamehe. Pardon me.

Samahani. I'm sorry.

Sifahamu. I don't understand.

Sisemi Kiswahili. I don't speak Swahili.

Unasema kiingereza?
Do you speak English?

Mimi sisemi kiswahili vizuri sana. I don't speak Swahili very well.

Tafadhali, sema polepole.
Speak slowly please.

Rudia tena tafadhali.
Repeat, please.

Lesson 3: Numbers

sifuri	0	kumi na tatu	13	ishrini na sita	26
moja	1	kumi na nne	14	ishrini na saba	27
mbili	2	kumi na tano	15	ishrini na nane	28
tatu	3	kumi na sita	16	ishrini na tisa	29
nne	4	kumi na saba	17	thelathini	30
tano	5	kumi na nane	18	arobaini	40
sita	6	kumi na tisa	19	hamsini	50
saba	7	ishrini	20	sitini	60
nane	8	ishrini na moja	21	sabini	70
tisa	9	ishrini na mbili	22	themanini	80
kumi	10	ishrini na tatu	23	tisini	90
kumi na moja	11	ishrini na nne	24	mia moja	100
kumi na mbili	12	ishrini na tano	25		
mia moja na moja	101	mia nne	400		
mia moja na mbili	102	mia tano	500		
mia moja na tatu	103	elfu moja	1,000		
mia mbili	200	milioni	1,000,000		
mia tatu	300				

Lesson 4: At the Airport

Wapi? Where?

Ofisi (ya Idara) ya Forodha iko wapi? Where is customs?

Ofisi ya pasipoti iko wapi? Where is passport control?

Una vitu vipya ya kuonyesha? Do you have anything to declare?

Sina vitu vipya vya kuonyesha. I have nothing to declare.

Nina vitu vipya vya kuonyesha. I have something to declare.

Sehemu ya kupata mizigo iko wapi?

Where is the baggage claim area?

Ndege za nchi za nje zinaondokea wapi? Where are the international departures?

Ndege za nchi za nje zinafikia wapi?/Ndege za kutoka nchi za nje zinapatikana wapi?

Where are the international arrivals?

Geti nambari mia moja thelathini na mbili liko wapi?

Where is gate 132?

Ofisi ya mapokezi iko wapi?

Where is the Information Desk?

Ofisi ya vitu vilivyopotea iko wapi? Where is the Lost and Found Office?

Ofisi ya kubadilisha fedha iko wapi? Where is the

Money Exchange?

Choo kiko wapi? Where is the restroom?

Ninataka... I would like...

Ninataka kununua tiketi ya hadi Mombasa. I'd like to buy a ticket to Mombasa.

Ninapenda kiti cha dirishani. I'd like a window seat.

Ninapenda kiti cha ndani.

I'd like an aisle seat.

Hii hapa tiketi yako. Here is your boarding pass.

Safari njema! Have a good trip!

Lesson 5: Getting Around

Mlango wa kutoka uko wapi?

Where is the exit?

Kituo cha tekisi kiko wapi?

Where are the taxis?

Basi liko wapi? Where is the bus?

Unaweza kunipeleka hapa, tafadhali. Take me to this address, please.

Nauli ni bei gani? What is the fare?

Simama hapa, tafadhali.

Stop here, please.

Basi hili linakwenda mpaka mtaa wa Biashara? Does this bus go to Biashara Street?

Ninataka ramani ya mji, tafadhali. A map of the city, please.

Ninataka ramani ya njia ya basi, tafadhali. A bus map, please.

Lesson 6: Asking Directions

Tafadhali, wapi...? Excuse me, where is...?

Nenda... Go...

Nenda moja kwa moja. Go straight ahead.

Fuata njia ile. Go that way.

Rudi nyuma. Go back.

Elekea... Go towards...

Pinda kwelekea... Turn (towards)...

Elekea kulia. Go to the right.

Elekea kushoto. Go to the left.

Zunguka. Go around.

Mwishoni mwa njia. At the end of the street.

Pembeni mwa njia. On the corner.

Njia ya kwanza kushoto. The first left.

Njia ya pili kulia. The second right.

Ni karibu? Is it near?

Ni mbali? Is it far?

Kando ya... Next to...

taa za barabarani the traffic light

mta the street

makutano ya njia the intersection

bustani the park/the flower garden

kituo cha basi the bus stop

hoteli the hotel

mkahawa the restaurant

Lesson 7: At the Hotel

Ninatalea kujiandikisha hotelini. I'd like to check in.

Ninataka chumba. I'd like a room.

Cha mtu moja. For one person.

Cha watu wawili. For two people.

Nina maagizo tayari. I have a reservation.

Ya siku ngapi? For how many nights?

Ya siku moja. For one night.

Ya siku mbili. For two nights.

Ya wiki moja. For one week.

Huu hapa ufunguo wako. Here is your key.

Hii hapa ni kadi yako ya ufunguo. Here is your key card.

Una chumba kingine? Do you have another room?

Chenye bafu? With a private bathroom?

Chenye deta-poti? With a data port?

Je, kuna chumba kitulivu zaidi? Is there a quieter room?

Je, kuna chumba kikubwa zaidi? Is there a larger room?

Je, kuna chumba cha mazoezi? Is there an exercise room?

Je, kuna bwawa la kuogelea? Is there a pool?

Chumba cha mkutano kiko wapi? Where is the conference room?

Ninawezaje kutuma faksi? How can I send a fax?

Yuko wapi mhudumu? Where is the concierge?

Ninataka kuondoka hotelini. I'd like to check out.

Lesson 8: Making Friends

Hujambo! Jina lako nani? Hello! What's your name?

Unatoka wapi? Where are you from?

Ninatoka New York. I am from New York.

Ninaweza kuketi hapa? May I sit here?

Unaishi wapi? Where do you live?

Ninaishi Nairobi. I live in Nairobi.

Huyu ni rafiki yangu. This is my friend.

Huyu ni mpenzi wangu. This is my boyfriend.

Huyu ni mpenzi wangu. This is my girlfriend.

Huyu ni mke wangu. This is my wife.

Huyu ni mume wangu. This is my husband.

Niko katika safari ya biashara. I'm on a business trip.

Ninasafiri na familia yangu. I'm traveling with my family.

Tuko katika likizo hapa. We are on vacation here.

Umepata kwenda Marekani? Have you been to the United States?

Nchi yako ni nzuri sana. Your country is very beautiful.

Ninapenda chakula cha hapa sana sana. I like the food here very much.

Unapenda kwenda sinema? Do you like to go to the movies?

Unapenda kucheza ngoma? Do you like to dance?

Twende! Let's go!

Ninataka ukutane na marafiki zangu. I'd like you to meet my friends.

Hii hapa nambari yangu ya simu. Here is my telephone number.

Nambari yako ya simu ni ngapi? What is your telephone number?

Ninakaa hoteli ya Whitesands. I'm staying at the Whitesands Hotel.

Tukutane leo jioni. Let's get together in the evening!

Tafadhali nitembelee. Please visit me!

Nilifurahi sana. I had a wonderful time.

Lesson 9: At the Restaurant

Mkahawa mzuri unapatikana wapi? Where is a good restaurant?

Tunaomba meza ya watu wawili, tafadhali. A table for two, please.

Unapenda eneo la wavutaji au hupendi? Smoking or nonsmoking?

Niletee orodha ya chakula tafadhali. The menu, please.

Niletee orodha ya mvinyo tafadhali. The wine list, please.

vionjo appetizers

mlo mkuu main course

dizati dessert

saladi salad

matunda fruit

Ninataka kinywaji. I would like something to drink.

Gilasi ya maji, tafadhali. A glass of water, please.

Kikombe cha chai, tafadhali. A cup of tea, please.

Kahawa yenye maziwa, tafadhali. Coffee with milk, please.

Bia, tafadhali. Beer, please.

Una chakula cha mboga mboga? Do you have a vegetarian dish?

Basi. That's all.

Niletee hesabu tafadhali. The check, please.

Bakshishi imo ndani? Is the tip included?

chakula cha asubuhi breakfast

chakula cha mchana lunch

chakula cha jioni dinner

Karibu chakula! Enjoy the meal!

Kwa afya yako! To your health!

Chakula kitamu sana! It's delicious!

sahani plate

uma fork

kisu knife

kijiko spoon

vijiti chopsticks

kitambaa cha mezani napkin

kikombe cup

gilasi glass

chupa ya mvinyo a bottle of wine

vipande vya barafu ice cubes

chumvi salt

manga pepper

sukari sugar

supu soup

saladi salad

mkate bread

siagi butter

tambi noodles

wali rice

jibini cheese

mboga vegetables

nyama ya kuku chicken

nyama ya nguruwe pork

nyama ya ng'ombe beef

Mimi hupenda mnofu ambao haujaiva kabisa. I would like the steak rare.

Mimi hupenda mnofu ulioiva wastani. I would like the steak medium.

Mimi hupenda steki iliyoiva vizuri sana. I would like the steak well-done.

maji ya matunda juice

andazi pie

aiskrimu ice cream

Tena, tafadhali. Another, please.

Zaidi, tafadhali. More, please.

Tafadhali, nilettee... Please pass the...

kali, ya "spice" spicy

tamu sweet

chachu sour

Lesson 10: Telling Time

Ni saa ngapi? What time is it?

saa sita mehana noon

saa sita usiku midnight

Ni saa saba. It's 1:00.

Ni saa nane. It's 2:00.

Ni saa tisa na nusu. It's 3:30.	asubuhi morning
Ni saa kumi. It's 4:00.	mchana afternoon
Ni saa kumi na mbili kisorobo. It's 5:45.	jioni evening
Ni saa moja na dakika tatu. It's 7:03.	usiku night
Filamu inaanza saa tatu na nusu. The movie starts at 9:30.	leo today
Treni itaondoka saa tano na dakika kumi na saba. The train leaves at 11:17.	kesho tomorrow
	jana yesterday
	sasa now
	baadaye later
	mara moja right away

Lesson 11: Money

pesa money

benki the bank

Benki iko wapi? Where is the bank?

Ninataka kubadilisha dola mia za Marekani. I'd like to change a hundred dollars.

Kiwango cha kubadilisha pesa ni kiasi gani? What is the exchange rate?

Ninataka noti ndogo ndogo. I'd like that in small bills.

Malipo ya riba ni kiasi gani? What is the commission?

Lesson 12: Shopping

Ni bei gani? How much does that cost?

Niandikie, tafadhali. Write that for me, please.

Duka hufunguliwa saa ngapi? At what time does the store open?

Duka hufungwa saa ngapi? At what time does the store close?

Unataka nini? What would you like?

Naweza kukusaidia? Can I help you?

Ninataka hii. I would like this.

Ninahitaji hii. I need this.

Nataka beteri. I would like some batteries.

Nahitaji filamu ya kamera. I need a roll of film. **I blauzi, sketi, gauni** blouse, skirt, dress

Nataka ramani ya mji. I would like a map of the city. **I mavazi ya wanaume** men's clothes

Nataka kuona postikadi. I'd like to see postcards. **I suruali, shati, tai** pants, shirt, tie

Chukua. Here it is. **I viatu na soksi** shoes and socks

Basi? Is that all? **I jinzi** jeans

Nataka kulipa na fedha taslimu. I'd like to pay with cash. **I T-shati** T-shirt

Nataka kulipa kwa kadi ya mkopo. I'd like to pay by credit card. **I duka la vitabu** bookstore

Naweza kununua kupitia kwa ungamano? Can I order this online? **I bekari** bakery

duka kuu department store **I supamaketi** supermarket

mavazi ya wanawake women's clothes **I duka la nyama, bucha** butcher shop

soko, marikiti market

Lesson 13: Staying in Touch

simu telephone

Lazima nipige simu. I have to make a phone call.

Kuna kibanda cha simu hapa? Is there a public phone here?

Ninaweza kutumia simu yako ya mkono? May I use your cell phone?

Namba ya simu, tafadhali? What is the number, please?

Simu inatumika. The line is busy.

faksi fax

Nahitaji kutuma faksi. I need to send a fax.

Kuna faksi yangu hapa? Is there a fax for me?

barua pepe e-mail

Kompyuta iko wapi? Where is the computer?

Nahitaji kutuma barua pepe I need to send an e-mail.

Naweza kuingia kwenye mtandao? Can I get on the Internet?

Una tovuti?/Una "Web site"? Do you have a Web site?

Posta iko wapi? Where is the post office?

Ninataka stampu, tafadhali. I'd like some stamps, please.

Kwa barua. For a letter.

Kwa postikadi. For a post-card.

Ada ya posta ni bei gani? How much is the postage?

Mpaka Marekani. To the United States.

barua ya ndege airmail

kufikishwa kwa usiku mmoja overnight delivery

Lesson 14: At the Train Station

Nataka tiketi, tafadhali. I would like a ticket, please.

Mpaka Dar-es-Salaam. To Dar-es-Salaam.

Kwenda tu. One way.

Kuenda na kurudi. Round-trip.

Daraja la kwanza au daraja la pili? First class or second class?

Naomba ratiba ya safari, tafadhali? May I have a travel schedule?

Sehemu gani ya kituo? Which platform?

Treni huondoka saa ngapi? When does the train leave?

Treni hufika saa ngapi? When does the train arrive?

Treni inawahi? Is the train on time?

Kuna behewa la kulia chakula? Is there a dining car?

Kuna behewa la kulala? Is there a sleeping car?

Lesson 15: Getting Help

Unaweza kunisaidia? Can you help me?

Nimepoteza mizigo yangu. I've lost my baggage.

Nimepoteza pochi yangu ya fedha. I've lost my wallet.

Nimepoteza pasipoti yangu. I've lost my passport.

Nimechelewa treni yangu. I've missed my train.

Nimepotea. I'm lost.

Nisaidie! Help!

Polisi! Police!

Nimeibiwa. I've been robbed.

Sijui mke wangu yuko wapi. I don't know where my wife is.

Sijui mume wangu yuko wapi. I don't know where my husband is.

Sijui mtoto wangu yuko wapi. I don't know where my child is.

Nimeumia. I'm hurt.

Nahitaji daktari/mganga. I need a doctor.

Niitie gari la hospitali. Call an ambulance.

Ninadhuriwa na penisilini. I'm allergic to penicillin.

Ninaona kizunguzungu. I'm dizzy.

Ninasikia kichefuchefu. I feel nauseous.

Mkono wangu unauma. My arm hurts.

Mguu wangu unauma. My leg hurts.

Kichwa changu kinauma. My head hurts.

Lesson 16: Days and Months

Jumatatu Monday

Jumanne Tuesday

Jumatano Wednesday

Alhamisi Thursday

Ijumaa Friday

Jumamosi Saturday

Jumapili Sunday

Mwezi wa kwanza, Januari
January

Mwezi wa pili, Febuari
February

Mwezi wa tatu, Machi March

Mwezi wa nne, Aprili April

Mwezi wa tano, Mei May

Mwezi wa sita, Juni June

Mwezi wa saba, Julai July

Mwezi wa nane, Agosti
August

Mwezi wa tisa, Septemba
September

Mwezi wa kumi, Oktoba October

Mwezi wa kumi na moja,
Novemba November

Mwezi wa kumi na mbili,
Desemba December

Jumatatu hii this Monday

wiki iliopita last week

mwezi ujao next month

Tarehe ishirini mwezi wa tatu.
On March 20.

Leo ni tarehe ngapi? What is
the date today?

Ni tarehe ishirini na tano
mwezi wa nne. It's April 25.

Lesson 17: Going Out

**Unaweza kunishauri mka-
hawa mzuri?** Can you recom-
mend a restaurant?

**Unaweza kunishauri mka-
hawa mzuri?** Can you rec-
ommend a café?

Kuna sinema hapa karibu?
Is there a theatre nearby?

**Kuna makumbusho hapa
karibu?** Is there a museum
nearby?

Baa nzuri iko karibu?
Is there a good bar nearby?

**Kuna vivutio gani vya
watalii hapa?** What are the
tourist attractions?

Ninaweza kuogelea wapi?
Where can I go to swim?

**Ninaweza kupanda baiskeli
wapi?** Where can I go to
bike?

**Wapi naweza kufanya
mazoezi ya kukimbia** Where
can I go to jog?

Wapi naweza kucheza dansi?
Where can I go to dance?

Lesson 18: Asking Questions and Describing Things

Wapi? Where?

Choo kiko wapi? Where is
the restroom?

Nini? What?

**Anwani yako ya barua pepe
ni ipi?** What is your e-mail
address?

Nani? Who?

Yule/Huyo ni nani? Who is that?

Saa ngapi?/Lini? When?

Ndege hufika saa ngapi?
When does the flight arrive?

Vipi? How?

Vipi napiga simu Marekani?
How do I dial the United States?

Kiasi gani?/Bei gani? How much?

Hii ni bei gani? How much does this cost?

kubwa/kidogo big/small

nzuri/mbaya good/bad

nzuri/mbaya beautiful/ugly

joto/baridi hot/cold

ndefu/fupi tall/short

mtu mnene/mwembamba
fat/thin (person)

mnyama mnono/mkonda
fat/thin (animal)

kongwe/mpya old/new

mzee/kijana old/young

enye furahi/ya huzuni
happy/sad

upes/polepole fast/slow

karibu/mbali near/far

nyekundu red

buluu blue

rangi ya manjano yellow

rangi ya kijani green

rangi ya machungwa orange

zambarau purple

nyeusi black

nyeupe white

rangi ya udongo/rangi ya kahawa brown

Safi sana! That's great!

Pole! That's terrible!

Haya. Okay.

Sijui. I don't know.

Ni muhimu! It's important!

Angalia vizuri! Be careful!

Furahia! Have fun!

Bahati njema! Good luck!

That brings us to the end of Living Language In-Flight Swahili. If you master just the words and expressions you've heard in this short survival course, you'll be able to get by in Swahili. We wish you the best of luck using all the Swahili that you've learned with us.

Kwa heri!

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