Learning Basics in Kiswahili

Kiswahili:

Origin

Developed originally in coastal areas of East Africa- stretching from Kilwa in Southern Tanzania to north of Mombasa in Kenya.

The language developed as result of interactions between the natives of the coastal areas and traders from Arabia, India, and in later years Europeans. The vocabulary is rich in words originating from African languages, Arabic, Portuguese, some Spanish, English and German.

Swahili became a common lingua franca for traders travelling into the interior of East and central Africa. It soon became a common language in trading centres in the central, south, north and west of Tanzania, across lake Tanganyika into Zaire (the current DRC), Malawi, Rwanda and Burundi.

From Mombasa, Swahili permeated into the interior to Nairobi, Nakuru and Kisumu to the rest of Kenya and to nearby Uganda. Several countries in East, Central and Southern Africa speak Swahili., with varying levels of fluency.
Kiswahili - Name originates from Arabic word ‘sawahil’ meaning coast

Estimated to be spoken by > 80 m people in east Central and Southern Africa

Used as official language in Tanzania and Kenya

Spoken in Uganda(largely urban ), Burundi, Rwanda, Eastern DR Congo, Southern Somalia, Comoro & Southern Sudan
Only 24 letters of the Roman alphabet are commonly used

- q and x not used and c does not stand alone used as ch

Special sounds are common and may be difficult to pronounce by non Swahili speakers: They include:

- ng’ is used like for mentioning - ng’ ombe, ng’ ambo
- ‘dh’ as dhahabu; madhumuni
- ‘th’ as thelathini; thamani, themanini
Kiswahili common vocabulary

Greetings - 1

Jambo/Hello

Answer

Jambo
Habari – means news; therefore you literally use ‘habari’ according to the time of the day.
Greetings – 3 – Habari?

- Habari za asubuhi?
- Habari za mchana?
- Habari za jioni?

Similar to saying: Good morning;, Good afternoon & God evening

Asubuhi= Morning
Mchana = Afternoon
Jioni= evening

Nzuri
‘Shikamoo’ is a greeting to a senior, age wise. Don’t use ‘shikamoo’ to greet your age mate or junior...people would find it amusing and may laugh.
Kiswahili common vocabulary

Greetings - 5

Mambo? – More common among the youth to symbolize life is good...COOL!
Appreciation

Asante - thanks

Be polite:

Tafadhalani – please, kindly

Accept/do not accept

Ndiyo/ Yes
hapana /no
Counting: 1-10

1 = Moja
2 = Mbili
3 = Tatu
4 = Nne
5 = Tano
6 = Sita
7 = Saba
8 = Nane
9 = Tisa
10 = Kumi

Counting: 11-20

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

(na = and)
Counting: 21-30

21 = Ishirini na Moja
22 = Ishirini na Mbili
23 = Ishirini na Tatu
24 = Ishirini na Nne
25 = Ishirini na Tano
26 = Ishirini na Sita
27 = Ishirini na Saba
28 = Ishirini na Nane
29 = Ishirini na Tisa
30 = Telathini

Counting: 31-40

31 = Thelathini na Moja
32 = Thelathini na Mbili
33 = Thelathini na Tatu
34 = Thelathini na Nne
35 = Thelathini na Tano
36 = Thelathini na Sita
37 = Thelathini na Saba
38 = Thelathini na Nane
39 = Thelathini na Tisa
40 = Arobaini

(na = and)
Counting: 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71-80, 81-90, 91-100

41-49
50 = Hamsini
51-59
60 = Sitini

61-69
70 = Sabini

71-79
80 = Themanini
80-89
90 = Tisini

91-99
100 = Mia

200 = Mia Mbili
300 = Mia tatu
400 = Mia nne
500 = Mia tano
600 = Mia sita
700 = Mia saba
800 = Mia nane
900 = Mia tisa
1000 = Elfu
2000 = Elfu Mbili
3000 = Elfu tato
4000 = Elfu Nne
5000 = Elfu tano
6000 = Elfu sita
7000 = Elfu saba
8000 = Elfu nane
9000 = Elfu tisa
10000 = Elfu Kumi
In Kiswahili the counting of time is based on a 12 hour cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 am</th>
<th>Saa moja asubuhi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Saa mbili asubuhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 am</td>
<td>Saa tatu asubuhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Saa nne asubuhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 am</td>
<td>Saa tano asubuhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 am</td>
<td>Saa sita mchana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Saa saba mchana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>Saa nane mchana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>Saa tisa mchana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>Saa kumi jioni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 pm</td>
<td>Saa kumi na moja jioni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>Saa kumi na mbili jioni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 pm</th>
<th>Saa moja usiku</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>Saa mbili usiku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 pm</td>
<td>Saa tatu usiku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 pm</td>
<td>Saa nne usiku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 pm</td>
<td>Saa tano usiku</td>
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<td>1 am</td>
<td>Saa saba usiku</td>
</tr>
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<td>2 am</td>
<td>Saa nane usiku</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 am</td>
<td>Saa tisa usiku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 am</td>
<td>Saa kumi asubuhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 am</td>
<td>Saa kumi na moja asubuhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 am</td>
<td>Saa kumi na mbili asubuhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**DAYS OF THE WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>JUMATATU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>JUMANNE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>JUMATANO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>ALHAMISI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>IJUMAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>JUMAMOSI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>JUMAPILI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relationships - 1

Mama/mother

Baba/father

Dada/sister

Kaka/brother

Mjomba/uncle

Shangazi/aunt

Bibi/Grand ma

Babu/Grand pa
Relationships 3...some simple expressions

Mama yangu/ my mother

Yangu = my

Baba yangu/my father

Dada yangu/my sister

Kaka yangu/my brother

Rafiki yangu/my friend

Shangazi yangu /my aunt

Bibi yangu /my Grand ma

Babu yangu /my grand pa
Instead of ‘yangu’ = my; ‘wangu’ is used in some expressions to mean ‘my’, even though people will still understand you if you use ‘yangu’
Vocabulary related to food and drinks

Chakula = Food

When the food is on the table and you want to welcome someone to eat...

Karibu Chakula Karibu = Welcome

Maji = Water
Bia = beer
Pombe = Alcohol

When you want to buy water in a shop...

Nipe Maji Nipe = Give me

Mkate = Bread

Ordering bread in a shop

Nipe mkate Nipe = Give me
Weather/hali ya hewa (Hali = condition; hewa = air)

Baridi = cold
Baridi sana = very cold

Joto = hot
Joto sana/very hot

Mvua/ rain

Barafu/theluji/ice/snow

Jua = The sun
Mwezi = the moon
Weather/hali ya hewa (Hali = condition; hewa = air)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body parts</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head</td>
<td></td>
<td>kichwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td>jicho/Macho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nose</td>
<td></td>
<td>pua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair</td>
<td></td>
<td>nywele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beard</td>
<td></td>
<td>ndevu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear</td>
<td></td>
<td>sikio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouth</td>
<td></td>
<td>mdomo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tongue</td>
<td></td>
<td>ulimi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tooth(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td>jino (meno)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chin</td>
<td></td>
<td>kidevu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neck</td>
<td></td>
<td>shingo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td>mkono (mikono)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leg(legs)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mguu (miguu)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some common expressions

- Asante/Thank you
- Kwaheri/Goodbye
- Lala salama/sleep well
- Usiku mwema/goodnight
- Safari njema/Good safari

Lala = sleep/lie down
Salama = safe
Usiku = night

Asante sana/Thank you very much
Asante sana/Thank you
Asante sana/Thank you

20/06/14
Maji – drinking water
Soda baridi – cold soft drink
Bia - Beer
Chakula – Food
Chakula gani? which food
Bia gani? - Which beer

Naomba/ nipatie
Please give me
Breakfast – Kifungua kinywa

Tafadhalini nipatie – Please give me

Chai/kahawa
Tea/Coffee
Ya maziwa/rangi
With milk/without milk
Juisi /Juice
Supu
Soup

Mkate
Bread
Andazi
Bun
Chapati/pancake
Lunch/ dinner

Tafadhali nipatie

Kuku – chicken meat
Nyama- beef
Mbuizi- goat meat
Samaki- fish meat
Mayai – fried eggs

Wali -rice
Ugali – stiff-porridge
Chips - chips
Ndizi – cooked banana

Kwa With
## Common foods in Restaurant

**Chakula/Food**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wali - Rice</th>
<th>Mbogamboga- Vegetables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ugali – Stiff porridge (maize flour meal)</td>
<td>Nyama – beef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viazi – potatoes</td>
<td>Nyama ya Kondoo – lamb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chipsi</td>
<td>Nyama ya mbuzi – Goat meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ndizi (boiled bananas in meat stew)</td>
<td>Kuku – Chicken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chai- Tea</td>
<td>Samaki – fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kahawa- Coffee</td>
<td>Eggs - mayai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bia/Beer; Maji /water; soda/soft drink</td>
<td>Juisi/Juice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AHSANTE SANA

THANK YOU VERY MUCH