

100 Everyday Swahili Phrases

A practical phrasebook for beginners

Tip: Learn phrases as complete chunks. You do not have to understand every grammar rule before you start speaking.

Free download for learners of Somali, Swahili and English.

Core phrases

1. Hello - Hujambo / Jambo
2. How are you? - Habari yako?
3. I am fine. - Nzuri.
4. What is your name? - Unaitwa nani?
5. My name is... - Ninaitwa...
6. Where are you from? - Unatoka wapi?
7. I am from Kenya. - Ninatoka Kenya.
8. Please. - Tafadhali.
9. Thank you. - Asante.
10. You are welcome. - Karibu.
11. Yes. - Ndiyo.
12. No. - Hapana.
13. I understand. - Ninaelewa.
14. I do not understand. - Sielewi.
15. Please speak slowly. - Tafadhali ongea polepole.
16. What does this mean? - Hii ina maana gani?
17. How much is it? - Ni bei gani?
18. Where is the toilet? - Choo kiko wapi?
19. Help me, please. - Nisaidie, tafadhali.
20. See you later. - Tutaonana baadaye.
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Practice

Choose ten phrases and write a short dialogue. Read it aloud twice. Then swap one word in each sentence to create a new version.