

Basic Swahili

Greetings & conversation:

Habari (Hi, how are you?) – Nzuri, Habari (Fine, how are you?)

Hujambo (Hi) – Sijambo (Hi – in reply)

Mambo (Hi, how are you?) – Safi or Poa (Cool) – amongst younger people

Shikamoo (I kiss your feet) – Marabar – a respectful greeting to elders/white people often from small children

Goodbye – Kwa Heri

See you tomorrow – (Tutaonana) Kesho

See you later – Baadaye

Excuse me – Samahani

I'm sorry – Pole (that happened to you) / Samahani (I did something to you)

Thank you (very much) – Asante (Sana)

No Thank you – Sitaki (literally 'I don't want')

Please - Tafadhali

You're welcome – Karibu(ni) (pl)

I speak very little Swahili – Ninaongea Kiswahili kidogo

Ok – Sawa

I understand - naelewa

I don't understand – Sielewa

No Problem – hamna sheda

Do you speak English? – Unaongea Kiingereza

What is your name? Jina lako nane

My name is... - Jina langu ni... / mimi.../ naitwa...

White person/Western - Mzungu

Numbers:

1 – moja	20 – isharini
2 – mbili	30 – thelathini
3 – tatu	40 - arobaini
4 – nne	50 - hamsini
5 – tano	60 - sitini
6 – sita	70 - sabini
7 – saba	80 – themaini
8 – nane	90 - tisini
9 – tisa	100 - mia
10 - kumi	1000 - elfu

Basics – small words:

And – na

Or - au

Then (after) – baada ya hapo

By - kwa

After – baada ya

Either...or... - ...ama...au...

With – pamoja na

Next - nyingine

Here – hapa

Now – sasa

Okay – sawa

No – hapana

Yes – ndio

Later – baadaye

Not yet - bado

Big – kubwa

Small – kidogo

Because – kwa sababu

For (belonging to) – kwa-

To (me) – kwa mimi

At – kwenye

You – wewe

Me – mimi

He/she – yeye

We – sisi

They – wale

Mine- yangu/langu/changu

Yours – yako

Useful Verbs:

I want – Nataka...

To buy - kununua

Do you want...? – Je, Unataka...?

To eat - kula

To drink - kunywa

I see – mimi angalia...

To say - kusema

Can you see? – wewe angalia...?

To listen - sikiliza

What can you see? – Je, unaweza kuangalia...?

To give - kumpa

I go – mimi naenda...

You go – wewe unakwenda

I like – napenda

Do you like – unapenda?

Children's general:

Child – mtoto

Children - watoto

Come here – njo hapa

Wait a minute - subili kidogo

Sit down – kaa

Stand up - simama

Stop it – acha

Look (at me) – angalia/nitazame mimi

Listen to me – niskilize mimi

Give me – nipe mimi

Be quiet – nyamaza

Shush (stop) – bass/shusha

Why are you crying? – kwanini unalia?

Careful/Look out! – angalia!/tazama!

Slowly /gently– polepole

Nicely - vizuri

What do you want? – unataka nini

Well done! – vizuri sana!

Don't... - Acha...

Hit - kupiga

Shout – piga kelele

Touch - shika

Eat - kula

Say... - Sema.../ongea...

Sorry - pole

Thankyou - asante

I'd like – naomba...

Please - tafadhali

It hurts – nimeumia

I am ill/hurt – mimi umia

Sorry (you're hurt) – pole sana

Are you – wewe...

Hurt – umia

Tired – kuchoka

Happy – furaha

Sad - majonze

Dirty – uchafu

Bathtime, Toilet time & Bedtime:

Sit on the potty – kaa potty
T-shirt - shirty
Nappy – nepi
Hat - kofia
Poo – kunya
Pants - chupi
Wee – kokojoa
Socks - socks
Go to Sleep – nenda kulala
Lie down - lala
Clothes – nguo
Shoes – viatu

Playtime:

Play – (ku)cheza
Sing - imba
Dance – (ku)cheza
Smile/laugh – (ku)cheka
Draw/colour – (ku)chola
Write - andika
Paint – paka
Colour - rangi
Shoes - viatu
Very pretty – maradani sana/mrembo
Catch – pata/kamata
Throw – rasha
Run – kimbua
Walk - tembea
Jump – luka
Music – muziki
Ball – mpila
Sand – mchanga
Swing – bembea
Push me – sukuma
Teddy – mtoto
Toy – dolly
Book – kitabu
Baby – mtoto
Inside – ndani
Outside – nje
Garden - bustani
Do you want to play? – unataka kucheza?
Do you want to eat? – unataka kula? (ungependa kula?)
Do you want to sleep? – unataka kulala

Body Parts:

Hands – mkono
Feet – mguu
Tummy – tumbo
Head – kichwa
Fingers/Toes – vidole
Arm – mkono
Leg – mguu

Meal times:

Wash your hands - kunawa
Sit nicely – kaa vizuri
Eat – kula
Drink - kunywa
Food – chakula
Eat nicely – kula vizuri
(Too) hot – moto (sana)
Cold – baridi
Hungry - njaa
Finished? – umesha maliza?

Full – umeshiba?
Tummy - tumbo
More? - tena
You can't have – Huwezi kupata
No, because you haven't eaten... - Hapana, kwa sababu wewe hujala...
Vegetables – mboga
Do you want water? – unataka maji?
Milk – mazewa
Juice – juisi
Biscuit – biscuti

Animals:

Monkey – tumbili
Lion – simba
Snake – nyoka
Frog – chula
Bird – ndege
Chicken – kuku
Duck – bata
Fish – samaki
Goat – mbuzi
Sheep - kondoo
Cow – n'gombe
Dog – mbwa
Cat – paka
Zebra – punda milia
Elephant – tembo
Mouse – panya
Insect – mdudu

Questions:

Who? – nani?
Which? – ipi?
What? – nini?
Where? – wapi?
When? – lini?
How? – vipi?
Are you ok? – uko sawa?
Where is...? – ...iko wapi?
What do you want? – unataka nini?
What time? – saa ngapi?
What are you saying? – unasema nini?
What is that? – hiyo ni nini?

Shopping & in town:

Welcome! – karibu
Where is ... - ...iko wapi?
Shop – duka
Do you know...? – unafahamu
I'd like – naomba...
Left - kushoto
I don't want – sitaki...
Right - kulia
How much? – hii ni beigani?
Straight on – moja kwa moja
How many shillings? – shilingi ngapi?
Near to... - karibu na...
Money - pesa
Half a kilogram – kilo nusu
Too much (£) – pesa kubwa/nyingi
Too little (£) – pesa ndogo/chache
More – tena
I want to look – nataka kuangalia
I don't have - hamna