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# Swahili QuickChat

Although Swahili may initially seem a bit daunting, its structure is fairly regular and pronunciation uncomplicated as every letter is pronounced as in English (with the exception of some consonant combinations). Throughout the region, attempting to speak even just a few words of Swahili will enrich your travels and be greatly appreciated by the people you meet, no matter how rudimentary your attempts. Good luck and *Safari njema!* (happy travels).

## QUESTION WORDS

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| How?   | Namwa? |
| What?  | Nini?  |
| When?  | Lini?  |
| Where? | Wapi?  |
| Who?   | Nani?  |

## CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| How are you? (to one person) | Hujambo?          |
| I'm fine                     | Sijambo           |
| How are you all?             | Hamjambo?         |
| We're fine                   | Hatujambo         |
| Good                         | Nzuri             |
| Fine                         | Salama            |
| Greetings (response)         | Shikamoo          |
| What's your name?            | Marahaba          |
| My name is ...               | Jina lako nani?   |
| Where are you from?          | Jina langu ni ... |
| I'm from ...                 | Unatoka wapi?     |
| I like ...                   | Natoka ...        |
| I don't like ...             | Ninapenda ...     |
| Goodbye                      | Sipendi ...       |
| Good night                   | Kwa heri          |
| Yes                          | Usiku mwema       |
| No                           | Ndiyo             |
| Please                       | Hapana            |
| Thank you (very much)        | Tafadhali         |
| You're welcome               | Asante (sana)     |
| Excuse me                    | Karibu            |
| Sorry                        | Samahani          |
| Just a minute                | Pole              |
|                              | Subiri kidogo     |

## DIRECTIONS

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Where's ...?          | ... iko wapi?            |
| It's straight ahead   | Iko moja kwa moja        |
| Turn ...              | Geuza ...                |
| at the corner         | kwenye kona              |
| at the traffic lights | kwenye taa za barabarani |
| left                  | kushoto                  |
| right                 | kulia                    |

## LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Do you speak (English)? | Unasema (Kiingereza)?     |
| What does ... mean?     | Neno ... lina maana gani? |
| Yes, I understand       | Ndiyo, naelewa            |
| No, I don't understand  | Hapana, sielewa           |

## TIME & DATES

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| What time is it? | Ni saa ngapi? |
| morning          | asubuhi       |
| afternoon        | mchana        |
| evening          | jioni         |
| today            | leo           |
| tomorrow         | kesho         |
| yesterday        | jana          |
| Monday           | Jumatatu      |
| Tuesday          | Jumanne       |
| Wednesday        | Jumatano      |
| Thursday         | Alhamisi      |
| Friday           | Ijumaa        |
| Saturday         | Jumamosi      |
| Sunday           | Jumapili      |

## SHOPPING & SERVICES

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| I'd like to buy ...    | Nataka kununua ...     |
| I'm just looking       | Naangalia tu           |
| How much is it?        | Ni bei gani?           |
| Can I look at it?      | Naomba nione           |
| I don't like it        | Sipendi                |
| That's too expensive   | Ni ghali mno           |
| Please lower the price | Punguza bei, tafadhali |
| I'll take it           | Nataka                 |
| Do you accept ...?     | Mnakubali ...?         |
| credit cards           | kadi ya benki          |
| travellers cheques     | hundi ya msafiri       |

## PLACES

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| bank           | benki               |
| embassy        | ubalozi             |
| hospital       | hospitali           |
| market         | soko                |
| post office    | posta               |
| public phone   | simu ya mtaani      |
| public toilet  | choo cha hadhara    |
| telecom centre | telekom             |
| tourist office | maarifa kwa watalii |

## TRANSPORT

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| What time is the ... leaving? | ... inaondoka saa ngapi?      |
| Which ... goes to ...?        | ... ipi huenda ...?           |
| bus                           | basi                          |
| minibus                       | daladala                      |
| plane                         | ndege                         |
| train                         | treni                         |
| When's the ... (bus)?         | (Basi) ... itaondoka lini?    |
| first                         | ya kwanza                     |
| last                          | ya mwisho                     |
| next                          | ijayo                         |
| A ... ticket to ...           | Tiketi moja ya ... kwenda ... |
| one-way                       | kwenda tu                     |
| return                        | kwenda na kurudi              |
| cancelled                     | imefutwa                      |
| delayed                       | imeche leweshwa               |
| platform                      | stendi                        |
| ticket window                 | dirisha la tiketi             |
| timetable                     | ratiba                        |

## EMERGENCIES

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Help!                     | Saidia!         |
| There's been an accident! | Ajali imetokea! |
| Call the police!          | Waite polisi!   |
| Call a doctor!            | Mwite daktari!  |
| I'm lost                  | Nimejipotea     |
| Leave me alone!           | Niache!         |

## SIGNS

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Entrance    | Mahali Pa Kuingia |
| Exit        | Mahali Pa Kutoka  |
| Information | Maelezo           |
| Open        | Imefunguliwa      |
| Closed      | Imefungwa         |
| Prohibited  | Ni Marufuku       |
| Police      | Polisi            |
| Toilets/WC  | Choo/Msalani      |
| Men         | Wanaume           |
| Women       | Wanawake          |