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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowel</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
<th>Swahili Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>short o sound as in ah or mom</td>
<td>tatu (three)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>long a as in hay</td>
<td>leo (today)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>long e as in bee</td>
<td>jina (name)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>long o as in toe</td>
<td>ona (see)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>long u as in Luke</td>
<td>asubuhi (morning)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

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

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.
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 languni Hasina.
My name is Hasina.

Jina langu Rashidi.
My name is Rashidi.

Nimefurahi kukujuia
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.

(doors). 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 3: Numbers

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

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 kuonye-sha?** Do you have anything to declare?

**Sina vitu vipya vya kuonye-sha.** I have nothing to declare.

**Nina vitu vipya vya kuonye-sha.** 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?
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?

Lesson 5: Getting Around

Mlango wa kutoka uko wapi?
Where is the exit?

Kituo cha teksi 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.

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 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  

hoteili  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?

Ninaweza 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?


Ninaweza kuketi hapa? May I sit here?

Unaishi wapi? Where do you live?


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.

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, niletee... Please pass the...
kali, ya “spice” spicy
tamu sweet
chachu sour

Lesson 10: Telling Time

Ni saa ngapi? What time is it?
saa sita mchana 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.
Ni saa kumi.  It's 4:00.
Ni saa kumi na mbili kasorobo.  It's 5:45.
Ni saa moja na dakika tatu.  It's 7:03.
Filamu inaanza saa tatu na nusu.  The movie starts at 9:30.
Treni itaondoka saa tano na dakika kumi na saba.  The train leaves at 11:17.

**Lesson 11: Money**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Swahili</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pesa</td>
<td>money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>benki</td>
<td>the bank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

**Lesson 12: Shopping**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Swahili</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ni bei gani?</td>
<td>How much does that cost?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niandikie, tafadhali.</td>
<td>Write that for me, please.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duka hufunguliwa saa ngapi?</td>
<td>At what time does the store open?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duka hufungwa saa ngapi?</td>
<td>At what time does the store close?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

Nataka ramani ya mji. I would like a map of the city.

Nataka kuona postikadi. I'd like to see postcards.

Chukua. Here it is.

Basi? Is that all?

Nataka kulipa na fedha taslimu. I'd like to pay with cash.

Nataka kulipa kwa kadi ya mkopo. I'd like to pay by credit card.

Naweza kununua kupitia kwa ungamano? Can I order this online?

duka kuu department store

mavazi ya wanaume men's clothes

blauzi, sketi, gauni blouse, skirt, dress

mavazi ya wanawake women's clothes

suruali, shati, tai pants, shirt, tie

viatu na soksi shoes and socks

jinzi jeans

T-shati T-shirt

duka la vitabu bookstore

bekari bakery

supamaketi supermarket

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?
**Lesson 14: At the Train Station**

- **Nataka tiketi, tafadhali.** I would like a ticket, please.
- **Sehemu gani ya kituo?** Which platform?
- **Mpaka Dar-es-Salaam.** To Dar-es-Salaam.
- **Treni huondoka saa ngapi?** When does the train leave?
- **Kwenda tu.** One way.
- **Treni hufika saa ngapi?** When does the train arrive?
- **Kuenda na kurudi.** Round-trip.
- **Treni inawahi?** Is the train on time?
- **Daraja la kwanza au daraja la pili?** First class or second class?
- **Kuna behewa la kulala?** Is there a sleeping car?
- **Naomba ratiba ya safari, tafadhali?** May I have a travel schedule?
- **Kuna behewa la kulia chakula?** Is there a dining car?

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**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 mkahawa mzuri?  
Can you recommend a restaurant?

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

Unaweza kunishauri mkahawa mzuri?  
Can you recommend a café?

Ninaweza kuogelea wapi?  
Where can I go to swim?

Kuna sinema hapa karibu?  
Is there a theatre nearby?

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

Kuna makumbusho hapa karibu?  
Is there a museum nearby?

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

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

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

Lesson 18: Asking Questions and Describing Things

Wapi?  
Where?

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

Choo kiko wapi?  
Where is the restroom?

Nini?  
What?

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

upesi/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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