

CHAPTER 6

THE NYANJA PHRASE BOOK David Sani Mwanza & Sitwe Benson Mkandawire

Guide to Nyanja pronunciation

Vowels

The following points are to be noted:

- (a) There are 5 vowel letters: **i**, **a**, **e**, **o** and **u** pronounced approximately as follows:
 - i** as **ea** in English ‘**heat**’, but not always long;
 - a** between the **a** in English ‘**hat**’ and **u** in English ‘**hut**’;
 - e** as **e** in English ‘**bet**’ or ‘**bed**’;
 - o** between the **o** in English ‘**hot**’ in British Standard English pronunciation and the first element of the pronunciation of the **o** in the English word ‘**no**’ in British Standard English pronunciation;
 - u** in English **u** in English ‘**put**’ but the Zambian **u** is more ‘closed’ than English **u** in ‘**put**’.
- (b) Tone, or pitch, may distinguish two or more different words. For example **mtengo** ‘tree’ and **mtengo** ‘price’ are pronounced differently with regard to pitch. However, tone, or pitch, is not indicated in this phrase book. In the absence of video materials, users are advised to listen to native speakers or those who know the language.
- (c) Vowel length may also distinguish two or more different words. Vowel length is indicated by doubling the vowel letter, for example **aa**. Thus in **kubola** ‘to rot’ and **kufula** ‘to dig out’ and **kufuula** ‘to shout’, the **uu** represents one long **u** and the other vowels are short.

Semi-vowels

Nyanja has two semi-vowels, written and pronounced like in English. Thus, the **y** in Nyanja **yama** ‘my maternal uncle’ is pronounced like the **y** in English **yes**. Likewise, the **w** in Nyanja **iwe** ‘yousingular’ is pronounced like the **w** in English **we**.

Consonants

Nyanja consonant sounds are written as follows: **b, bv, bz, c, ch, d, dz, f, g, j, h, j, k, kh, l, m, n, ny, ng', p, ph, pf, s, sh, t, th, ts, v, w, z**. The following should be noted:

The sound written **ny** does not exist in Standard British English and Standard American English. It is the sound written **gn** in French (as in **seigner** 'to bleed'), and **nh** in Portuguese (as in **vinho** 'wine');

r represents a very soft **r** in the sense that the **r** is a 'flapped' **r**, that is, an **r** produced with 'one vibration';

c is pronounced like the English **ch** (as in English **church**);

ch, ph, kh and **th** represent the same sounds as **c** (see previous bullet) **p, k** and **t**, respectively, pronounced with aspiration;

ng' is the sound realizing the **ng** in the English word **sing**;

The Nyanja letter **v** does not stand for the sound **v** of, for example, English, but for a very soft **b** written **b** in many Bantu languages, including Bemba, Kaonde and Lunda;

The letter **w** represents an extremely soft **b**, so close to **w** in pronunciation that some nonspeakers of the language mistake it for a **w**, which also exists in the language.

GREETINGS

Greetings to you Sir/Madam
Good morning Sir/Madam
It is day time Sir/Madam
Good day Sir/Madam
Good afternoon or evening
Good night Sir/Madam
Good bye Sir/Madam
Travel safely /Go well
You have returned Sir/Madam
How are you?
How do you live here?
How do you feel?
How does it feel?

MONI

Moni kwa inu bambo/mai.
Mwauka bwanji bambo/mai
Ndi mumasana bambo/mai.
Tsiku la bwino bambo/mai.
Mwacoma bwanji
Mwacoma bwanji bambo/mai.
Nayenda bambo/mai
Muyende bwino
Mwabwerera bambo/mai
Muli bwanji?
Mukhala bwanji kuno?
Mumverako bwanji?
Cimamveka bwanji?

CONVERSATION

How are you?

KUKAMBIRANA

muli bwanji ?

I am fine and how are you?
Good morning to you too?

I am well

What is your name/who are you?

I am...

Where do you come from

I come from...

Where are you going?

I am going to...

What are you going to do at....

I am going to visit my father

Who are you going to visit?

Thank you Sir/Madam.

Good bye.

Remain well

Go well/ Travel safely.

See you/ we will see each other.

Yes

AT THE POST OFFICE

Greetings to you Sir/Madam

Yes Sir, greeting to you as well.

I want help Sir/Madam

Yes Sir/Madam, I shall help you.

Which is the way to the Post Office

This is the one Sir/Madam.

Thank you Sir/Madam

Yes Sir, Travel/Go well

I want a stamp to...

How much does it cost?

Stamp to...

costs K...

Nilibwino imwe muli bwino?

Nauka bwino, imwe (inu) mwauka

Bwanji?

ndiri bwino (Nilibwino. Town

Nyanja)

Dzina lanu ndani? (Zina lanu

ndimwe andani? Town Nyanja)

ndine ...

mucokera kuti?

ndicokera ku...

Muyenda kuti? (Mupita kuti?)

Niyenda ku (ndipita ku...)

Muyenda kukacita ciani ku....?

Niyenda kutandalila atate anga

Ndipita kukacezera atate anga

Muyenda kutandalira ndani?

Mupita kukacezera ndani?

zikomo bambo/mai

Nayenda

Musale bwino.

Muyende bwino (mupite

bwino).

Tizakaonana.

Inde (ehee)

KU POSITI OFESI

Moni kwa inu bambo/mai.

inde bambo, moni kwa inu.

Ndifuna thandizo bambo/mai

inde bambo, ndizakuthandizani.

njira yopita ku positi ofesi ndi iti?

iyi, ndiye yamene bambo.

zikomo bambo/mai

inde bambo, mupite bwino

ndifuna sitampu ...

Ndizingati mtengo? (nizingati?)

sitampu ya ...

Mtengo ndi K...

I also want an envelope
An envelope costs K...
What is the total cost?
The total amount to pay is K...
Thank you very much,
Goodbye Sir.
Go/Travel well Sir.
See you/'ll see each other
Yes Sir/Madam.

AT THE HOTEL

Greetings to you Sir, you are welcome
Yes Sir, I am thankful
What do you want Sir?
I want a room Sir.
You want a room for how many people?

I want a room for one person
A room for one person is available.
How much is a room for one person?

A room for one person costs K...
per night.
How many days are you to stay?
I will stay for ... days.
nights cost K.....
Reserve a place for me today.
Is there any breakfast?

Yes, breakfast is included.

Is there lunch?

Yes Sir, there is lunch.

Is there any supper?
Yes Sir, there is supper

What time is supper?

ndifunanso envelopu
envelopu igulidwa pa K...
ndizingato pamozi?
malipilo onse pamozi ndi K....
zikomo kwambiri
Musale bwino bambo.
mupite bwino bambo/sir.
tizaonana.
inde bambo/mai.

PA HOTELO

moni kwa inu bambo, mwalandilidwa
inde bambo, nayamikila
mufuna ciani bambo?
ndifuna rumu/cipinda bambo
mufuna rumu yokwanira anthu
angati?

ndifuna rumu ya munthu umodzi
rumu ya munthu umodzi ilipo.
ndi zingati rumu ya munthu
umodzi?

Rumu ya muthu umodzi ndi K....
Usiku umodzi
Muzakhala masiku angati?
ndizakhala masiku...
masiku... ndi K...
mundisungile malo lelo.

Kuliko kadzutsa ali onse? (zakudya za
m'mawa/kuseniseni – most comon)
inde, kadzutsa ali momwemo
(cakudya cakuseni ciliko).

kuliko cakudya cam'masana
(camuzuwa)?
inde bambo, cakudya cam'masana
ciliko.

ciliko cakudya cam'madzulo?
inde bambo, ciliko cakudya
cam'madzulo.

cakudya cam'madzulo ndi nthawi

Supper is at 18:00 hours to 22:00 hours.

Where is the restaurant?

The restaurant is over there

Thank you very much Sir.

I want beer.

Beer is there.

How much is a bottle?

A bottle costs K.....

I want thick porridge with finish.

Thick porridge with fish are there

How much is thick porridge with fish?

Thick porridge with fish cost K...

Thank you Sir.

May be you want drinks?

Yes Sir, I want drinks.

Which drinks do you want?

I want orange and tea.

Orange and tea cost K...

You bring Sir.

They are coming just now Sir.

Thank you Sir.

AT THE MARKET

Greetings to you Sir.

What do you want Sir?

Greetings, I want eggs and vegetables.

Eggs are available and vegetables

I want ten eggs

Ten eggs cost K.....

Which vegetables do you want?

I want cabbage and carrots

Cabbages cost K5 per head

Carrots cost K3 a bundle

Thank you, here is money.

Thank you Sir.

What else do you want?

bwanji?

cakudya cam'madzulo ndi nthawi

kufika 22:00 koloko 18:00 koloko

kantini kali kuti?

kantini kali kuja.

zikomo kwambiri bambo

ndifuna mowa

mowa uli kuja.

ndizingati botolo

botolo ndi K...

ndifuna nsima ya nsomba

nsima ndi nsomba zili kuja

nsima ya nsomba ndizingati?

nsima ya nsomba ndi K...

zikomo bambo

mungafune zakumwa?

inde, ndifuna zakumwa

mufuna cakumwa cotani?

ndifuna lalanje ndi tii.

lalanje ndi tii ndi K...

mubwerese bambo

zibwera mosacedwa apa.

zikomo bambo.

PA MSIKA/MALIKETI

Moni kwa inu bambo

Mufuna cani bambo?

moni, ndifuna madzila ndi

zamasamba

madzila ndi zamasamba zilipo

ndifuna madzila khumi

madzila khumi ndi K...

Mufuna zamasamba zotani?

ndifuna khabici ndi makaloti

khabici imodzi ndi K5

Makaloti ndi K3 nthutu

zikomo, ndalama iyi

zikomo bambo,

Mufuna cani cina

Nothing else Sir?
Goodbye.
Go well
See you again.

AT THE HOSPITAL

Which is the way to the hospital?
This is the one, the hospital is over there
Can I help you?
Yes Madam, I am
What are you suffering from?
I have a headache, again I want
to see the doctor

Excuse me, I am going to tell the
doctor.

you come in Sir.

Have a seat.

Thank you Sir.

What are you suffering from?

I have a headache

I will take your temperature

When did your illness start?

I started yesterday.

I will give you medicine

I will give you an injection

And I hope that you will soon get
well.

Thank you Sir.

Goodbye

Go well.

AT SCHOOL

Where is the school Sir?

You go through this road

You will see it on your right.

Is it far?

kuli cina bambo?
Nayenda.
Muyende bwino
Tizakaonana

PA CHIPATALA

Njira ya ku Chipatala ndi iti?
ndi iyi, Chipatala cili uko kuja

Nasi: ndikuthandizeni?

inde mai, ndadwala

Nasi: mwadwala ciani?

Ndadwala mutu kupweteka,
komanso ndifuna kuona adotolo.

Nasi: conde, ndipita kukawauza
adotolo

Dotolo: lowani bambo

Khalani pa mpando.

zikomo adotolo

Dotolo: mudwala ciani?

mutu kupweteka.

Dotolo: ndizatenga kupsya ndi
kuzizira kwa thupi

Munayamba liti kudwala

ndinayamba dzulo

Dotol: Ndizakupasani mankhwala

Ndizakupasani nsingano

Ndiyembekezera kuti muzacila

mosacedwa

zikomo bambo

Nayenda.

Dotolo: Mupite bwino.

KU SUKULU

Sukulu ili kuti bambo?

mupite njira iyi

Muzaiona ku zanja lamanza lanu

Ndikutali?

No, it is near.
 Thank you, goodbye.
 You go well Sir.
 Where is the headmaster's office?
 It is over there Sir.
 Is he present?
 Yes he is present.
 Thank you Sir.
 Go well.
 Knock, knock Sir.
 You are welcome sir
 Thank you Sir.
 Greetings to you Sir.
 Have a seat.
 Greetings to you as well.
 Who are you?
 I am...
 Where do you come from?
 I come from.....
 What do you want here?
 I have come to visit.
 Whom have you come to visit?
 I have come to visit your school.
 Thank you Sir.
 How many children are in your
 School?
 There are 2000 children
 How many are girls?
 There are 980 girls.
 How many are boys?
 There are 1020 boys.
 How many teachers are there?
 There are twenty teachers.
 How many are female teachers?
 Female teachers are 12.
 How many are male teachers?
 Male teachers are 8.
 What time does school start?
 It starts at 07:30 hours.

iyai, ndipafupi
 zikomo, Nayenda.
 mupite bwino bambo.
 Ofesi ya akulu a sukulu ili kuti?
 ili kuja bambo.
 kodi alipo?
 inde, alipo?
 zikomo bambo.
 mupite bwino.
 Odi odi bambo.
 Takulandilani bambo
 zikomo bambo.
 moni kwa inu bambo.
 Khalani pa mpando.
 moni kwainunso.
 Ndinu yani (ndimwe andani)?
 ndine...
 mucokera kuti?
 ndicokera ku...
 mufuna ciani kuno?
 ndabwera kuceza.
 mwabwera kucezera ndani?
 ndabwera kucezera sukulu lanu.
 zikomo bambo.

Muli ndi ana angati musukulu lanu?
 muli ana 2000
 akazi ndi angati?
 pali akazi 980
 amuna ndi angati?
 amuna ali 1020.
 muli ndi aziphunzisi angati?
 pali aziphunzisi makhumi awiri
 aziphunzisi akazi ndi angati?
 aziphunzisi akazi ali 12
 aziphunzisi amuna ndi angati?
 aziphunzisi amuna ali 8.
 sukulu imayamba ndi nthawi yanji?
 Iyamba pa 07:30 hrs.

What time does it close?
It closes at 16:30hrs.

INTERROGATIONS QUESTIONING

what
why
where
when
which
who
how
whose
how much

QUESTIONS

What is this?
Why has he/she come
Where are you going?
When did you come?
Which one is my dog?
Who has come?
Who has eaten the scone?
How did you ask my father?
Whose house is this?
How much does this book cost?
Do you drink beer?
You drink beer isn't it ?
Do you understand what I am saying?
So you know how to ride a bicycle?
What do you want?
What are you doing?
How are you
You are waiting for him is it not so?
Do you speak English?
Yes. Why have you asked me?
I wanted to know
That's good. Thank you.

imavala nthawi yanji?
imavala ndi nthawi ya 16:30 .

MAFUNSO

Ciani/cani
cifukwa
kuti
liti
citi
ndani
motani
ndani mwini
zingati

MAFUNSO

Ndi ciani ici?
Cifukwa nicani cimene abwerela?
mupita kutii?
Munabwera liti?
Galu yanga ndi iti?
Ndani abwera?
Ndani adya cinkwa?
Munawafunsa bwanji atate
Ndi ya ndani nyumba iti?
Ndizingati buku iyi?
Mumamwa mowa?
Mumamwa mowa, Siconco?
Mukumva zomwe ndilankhula?
Tero,mudziwa kuchova njinga?
Mufuna ciani
Mucita ciani?
Muli bwanji?
Muli kumuyembekeza, sitelo?
Kodi mulankhula cizungu?
Inde. Cifukwa cani mwandifunsa?
ndinafunu kuziwa.
Cawama. zikomo.

My nose is paining.
Sorry that's bad.
Go to the hospital.
I am going soon. Thank you.
Good.

PARTS OF THE BODY

Hairs (Hair)
Head
Face
Eyes (Eye One)
Nose
Mouth
Teeth (Tooth One)
Chin
Ear
Neck
Chest
Shoulder
Back
Stomach
Heart
Lungs
Breasts
Hip
Thigh
Knee
Leg
Heel
Foot
Toes
Hand
Arm
Fingers

SENTENCES ON PARTS OF THE BODY

My hair is long
I want to cut hair

Mphuno yanga ikuwawa
Phepani caipa.
Yendani kuchipatala.
Ndiyenda manjemanje. Zikomo.
Cabwino

ZIWALO ZA THUPI

Sisi (Tsitsi)
Mutu
Pamaso
Maso (Diso One)
Mphuno
Kamwa
Mano (Dzino)
Kapavu
Kwatu
Khosi
Cifuwa
Phewa
Msana
Mimba
Mtima
Pwapwa
Maŵele
Ciuno
Ciŵero
Nkhongono
Mwendo
Katende
Phazi
Timbombo Ta Phazi
Zanja
Zanja
Vikumo

MAU PA ZIWALO ZA THUPI

Tsitsi yanga ndiyaitali
Ndifuna kugela tsitsi

I don't like short hair.
My grand mother/father has grey hair
Musa has a headache Musa
Musa's head aches
Miti has no head → Miti is stupid
Wash the face in the morning
His eye is not well
Luka's eyes are white.
Milika has a nice nose
His nose is flat.
Chisomo is bleeding from the nose
His/her neck is long.
Enock suffers from chest pains
Their chests are big
The dog is eating a bone
He/her bones are aching
He/She has a sore on the tongue
Mate is selling tongues.
My ear is painful
They have large ears
His/her nails are long.
Mebelo has black nails.
Thaulo has a broken rib
His/her ribs are painful
Alice has a swollen heel
Tasila has strained heels
A baby is sucking a breast
suckling from breasts is good

Sindikonda tsitsi yaifupi
Agogo anga ali ndi imvi
Musa amvera mutu kupweteka
Mutu wa Musa upweteka
Miti alibe mutu → Miti ndiopusa
Samba pamaso m'mawa
linso lake ndilodwala
Maso a Luka ndi oyela
milika ali ndi phuno yabwino
Phuno yake ndiyogona
Chisomo acoka gazi mumphuno
Mkosi wake ndiwautali
Enoki adwala mcifuwa kuwawa
Zifuwa zao ndizazikulu
gali ikudwa fupa
Mafupa ake anyeleza
ali ndi cilonda pa lilimi
Mate agulisa malilimi
kwatu yanga iwawa
Ali ndi matu akulu
Zala zake ndizazitali
Mebelo ali ndi zala zakuda.
Thaulo ali ndi mbambo yoduka
Mbambo za malita zipweteka
tasila ali ndi katende kotupa
Tasila ali ndi katende kovyungunuka
mwana akumwa meleki
Kuyamwa maŵele ndikwabwino

HUMAN BEING NAMES MAZINA (MAINA) A ANTHU

SINGULAR	PLURAL	UMODZI	AMBIRI
Person	people	munthu	anthu
woman	women	mkazi	akazi
man	men	mwamuna	amuna
boy	boys	munyamata	anyamata
girl	girls	mtsikana	atsikana
brother (young)	brothers	m'bale	abalebrotter (elder)
brothers	m'bale mkulu	abale akulu	herd boy
herd boys	msogoleri	munyamata	asogoleli anyamata
clerk	clerks	kalembela	akalembela
teacher	teachers	mphunzisi	aphunzisi
farmer	farmers	mulimi	alimi
slave	slaves	kapolo	akapolo
buyer	buyers	sogula	ogula

Singular	Plural	Umozi	ambiri/ulemu
father	fathers	tate	atate
mother	mothers	amai	azimai
uncle	uncles	Malume	amalume
sister/brother	sisters	mlongo	alongo
grand	grands	mbuye	ambuye
pumpkin	pumpkins	tanje	atanje
cattle egret	egrets	kang'ombe	ting'ombe
councilor	councilors	nkhoswe	mankhoswe
king	kings	mfumu	mafumu
family	families	banja	mabanja

NAMES OF OBJECTS

SINGULAR	PLURAL	CIMODZI	ZAMBIRI
mat	mats	mphasa	mamphasa
soap	soap(s)	sopo	sopo
plate	plates	mbale	mbale
bedroom	bedrooms	mcipinda	zipinda zogonamo
		cogona	
bed	beds	bedi	mabedi
fire	fires	moto	moto

canoe	canoes
drum	drums
lake	lakes
egg	eggs
stone	stones
dove	doves
cocroach	cocroaches
liar	liars

OTHERS

eye	eyes
tooth	teeth
basket	baskets
ghost	ghosts
big fat woman	big fat women
monster	monsters
dog	dogs
louse	lice
tree	trees
cow	cows
book	books
sieve	sieves
belt	belts
lightning	lightnings
fox	foxes
horn	horns
chamelion	chamelions
trap snare	traps snares
fishhook	fishhooks
swallow	swallows
razor blade	razor blades
quiz	quizes
night	nights
beer	beers
grass	grasses
meal	cakudya
bedding	beddings

bwato	mabwato
ng'oma	ng'oma
nyanja	manyanja
dzila	madzila
mwala	myala
nkhunda	nkhunda
nyandule	anyandule
wabodza	abodza

ENA

diso	maso
dzino/lino	mano
basiketi	mabasiketi
mzukwa	mizukwa
mkazi wonenepa	akazi onenepa
singolongoma	bingolongoma
galu	agalu
inda	inda
mtengo	mitengo
ng'ombe	ng'ombe
buku	mabuku
sefa	masefa
beluti	mabeluti
mphezi	mphezi
nkhandwe	ankhandwe
nsengo	mansengo
bilimankwe	abilimankwe
ukonde	maukonde
mbezo	mbezo
mela	amamela
kaleza	tileza
funso	mafunso
ustsiku	mautsiku
mowa	mowa
Udzu	udzu
zakudya	
cophimba	zophimba

WORD CONCORDS

A person is coming
People are coming
A woman is crying
Women are crying
Uncle is eating
uncles are eating
Father is ill
My father/fathers are
sister/my sister is writing
Sisters are writing
Brother/my brother is walking
Brothers are walking
Teacher is old
Teachers are old
clerk has written well
The plate is clean
plates are clean
the mat is torn
mats are torn
the drum is sounding
drums are sounding
A dove is flying
doves are flying
a stone is hot
stones are hot
a thief is running
a cocroach has flown
cocroaches have flown
a male chicken is dead
male chickens are dead
my basket is heavy
my baskets are heavy
a ghost is fearful
ghosts are fearful.
a big fat girl is singing
big fat girls are singing.
a cow is drinking water
cows are drinking water

MAU OGWIRIZANA

munthu abwera
anthu abwera
mkazi alira
akazi alira
mitsibweni akudya
atsibweni akudya
atate ndi odwala
ill azitate ndi odwala
mlongo/wanga ndi odwala
alongo anga ndi odwala
m'bale wanga ndi odwala
abale anga ndi odwala
m'phunzisi ndi wamkulu
aphunzisi ndi akulu
mlembi walembe bwino
mbale ndi yaudogo
mbale ndi zaudongo
mphasa ndi yong'ambika
mphasa ndi zong'ambika
ng'oma ilila
ng'oma zilila
nkhunda iwuluka
nkhunda ziuluka
mwala ndi wakupsya
myala ndi yakupsya
kawalala athamanga
nyandule wauluka
anyandule auluka
tambala ndi wakufa
atambala ndi akufa
basiketi yanga ndi yolema
mabasiketi anga ndi olema
mzukwa ndi woopysa
amizukwa ndi oopsya
msikana wonenepa aimba
atsikana onenepa aimba
ng'ombe ikummwa madzi
ng'ombe zikumwa madzi

a louse stings
 Lice sting
 a pitcher oozes out water
 pitchers ooze out water.
 a reed is growing
 reeds have growing
 a fence is falling
 fences are falling
 a jackal is coming
 jackals are coming
 a reed has grown
 reeds have grown
 a horn is broken
 horns are broken
 a snare/trap has sprung
 snares/traps have sprung
 A pair of shorts is torn
 pairs of shorts are torn
 whistle has sounded/blown
 whistles have sounded/blown
 the night has dawned
 nights have dawned
 the beer is highly intoxicating
 beers are highly intoxicating
 grass is burnt
 grasses are burnt.

LOCATIVES (Prepositions)

To
 On
 Across over there
 (On) between/middle
 On it
 On there
 Over there
 On top of (above)
 Near
 At (to)
 Beyond

inda iluma
 inda ziluma
 cikho citaya madzi
 zikho zitaya madzi
 bango lili kukula
 mabango ali kukula
 mpanda uli kugwa
 mipanda ili kugwa
 nkhadwe ili kubwera
 ankhandwe ali kubwera
 bango yakula
 mabango akula
 nsengo yapwanyika
 mansengo aphwanyika
 mbuna yatuluka
 mambuna atuluka
 kabudula wang'ambika
 akabudula ang'ambika
 pinto yalila
 mapinto alila
 utsika wafika
 mautsiku afika
 mowa ndi woledzeletsa kwambiri
 mamowa ndi oledzeletsa kwabiri
 udzu wapsya
 maudzu apsysa

MAU OLANGIZA (OLOZA)

Ku
 Pa
 Paja
 pakati
 pake/pace
 paja
 paja
 pamwamba pa
 pafupi
 pa
 kupitilila

To there	kuja
At there	paja
At there (far)	kuja
At top of (over/above)	pa mwamba pa...
Far	patali
Under/beneath	kunsi/pansi
In	mu
Across in there	mwabuse
Among/inside, in the middle	mukati
Inside/in the interior	mukati mwamene
Underneath/below	mwanyansi
In there (near)	muja

SENTENCES

I am going to the chief
 I shall go to him tomorrow
 The book is on the table
 The boy is on the roof
 The car is on the road
 People are on the boat
 Put that pen on it
 I saw you there
 I saw you over there
 The plane flies above the school
 The school is near the hospital.
 I live at Livingstone
 I am going to Kitwe
 mathews lives beyond the mountain
 Malio is going to there.
 Do not go there
 Go there by bicycle
 The bird is on top of the tree
 Kabwe is far from Lusaka
 The needle is under the mat
 The girl is in the house
 The King lives inside the capital
 The school is across the river
 The President is inside the court

MTANTHAUZIRA MAU

Niyenda (ndipita) kwa amfumu
 Ndizapita kwa iye m'mawa
 buku ili pa tebulo
 Munyamata ali pa mtenge
 Galimoto ili pa njira
 Anthu ali pa wato
 iyo peni ikapo
 Neze nakuona paja
 Neze nakuona kuja
 Ndeke iuluka pamwamba pasukulu
 Sikulu ili pafupi ndi Chipatala
 ndikhala pa Livingstone
 Ndipita ku kitwe
 Mateyu akhala kupitilila mphiri
 Malio ali kupita kuja
 Usapiteko kuja
 mupite kuja ndi njinga
 Mbalame ili pamwamba pa mtengo
 Kabwe ili kutali kucoka ku Lusaka
 Nyeleti ili pansu pa mphase
 mtsikana ali mnyumba
 Mfumu ikhala mu mzinda waukulu
 Sukulu ili kupitilila m'mana
 Mtsogoleri wa dziko ali mkati
 mwa khoti

RELATIONS FAMILY

Mother
Father
Daughter
Son
Grand father/mother
Aunt (paternal)
Uncle (maternal)
Paternal uncle (older than father)
Younger than the father.
Maternal aunt (older than the mother)
Maternal aunt (younger than mother)
Sister
Young brother
Older brother
Niece
Nephew
Step child
Son or father in law
Daughter or mother in law
Sister or brother in law
Parent in law
Child in law
Friend
Wife
Brother
Sister
Husband
Cousin/ relative
Comrade/ relative/

SENTENCES

My mother loves me
My father is coming
My daughter is ill
My son is eating

My paternal aunt is walking

UBALE WA M'BANJA

Amai
Atate
Mwana wa mkazi
Mwana wa mwamuna
Agogo
Atate akazi
Malume/atsibweni
Atate
Atate
Amai
Amai
M'longo
M'bale mng'ono
M'bale wamkulu
Mphwanga
Mphwanga
Mwana wopezamo
Apongozi
Apongozi
Mulamu
Apongozi amakolo.
Apongozi a mwana.
Mzanga.
Mkazi.
M'baale .
M'longo.
Mwamuna.
Msuweni/m'bale
Neighbour mzanga/m'bale.

MTANTHAUZIRA MAU

Amai anga andikonda.
Atate anga abwera.
Mwana wanga wamkazi adwala.
Mwana wanga wamwamuna
akudya.
Atate akazi anga ayenda.

My maternal uncle hates me
My sister is cultivating
I fear my in law
My wife is cooking
My wife does not like that
My husband is drinking beer
My friend loves me
My cousin is coming tomorrow
My neighbor helps much
My paternal uncle is fighting
My younger brother and my older
brother are talking

PRONOUNS

I/me
You
He/she
It
They

PLURALS

We/us
You
They
They

SENTENCES

Si- have a negative meaning in Nyanja

I do not like
You do not like
She/he does not like
It does not like
We are laughing
You are laughing
They are laughing
They are laughing

Amalume andizonda.
Mlongo wanga alima.
Ndiyopa apongozi anga.
Mkazi wanga aphika.
Mkazi wanga sacikonda ico.
Mwamuna wanga akumwa mowa.
Mzanga andikonda.
Msuweni wanga azabwera m'mawa.
Woyandikana nane athandiza kwambiri.
Atate acita ndeo .
M'bale wanga wamng'ono ndi .
wamkulu Alankhula.

MAU OIMILILAKO MAZINA

Ine.
Imwe/Inu/Iwe.
Iye/emve/a.
Ka/Ti/Tu.
a/ wemve

MAU OCULUKITSA

Ife/ti
Imwe, inu.
Iwo.
Zi/ci/a

MTANTHAUZIRA MAU

Sinikonda (Sindikonda).
Siukonda.
Sakonda.
Sikakonda.
Tiseka.
Museka.
Aseka.
Aseka .

OTHERS

I want to go home
You want to go home
It wants to go home
We want to drink water
You want to drink water
They want to drink water
They want to drink water

COLOUR (Common)

White
Black
Red
Green
Blue
Grey
Yellow

SENTENCES

My cow is black
His dog is white
This shirt is red
His suit is blue
This cup is yellow
He wants grey trousers

OTHERS

My cows are black
His dogs are white
These shirts are red
Their/ His suits are blue
The cups are yellow
He/ They want grey trousers

ON A JOURNEY

How are you?
I am fine and how are you?

ENA

Ndifuna kupita kunyumba.
Ufuna kupita kunyumba.
Kafuna kupita kunyumba.
Tifuna kumwa madzi.
Mufuna kumwa madzi .
Afuna kumwa madzi.
Afuna kumwa madzi.

MAONEKEDWE/KHALA

Yera.
Kuda.
Fiira.
Msipu.
Bulu.
Phulusa.
Cikasu.

MTANTHAUZIRA MAU

Ng'ombe yanga ndiyakuda.
Galu wake ndi woyera.
Malaya ake ndiofiira.
Suti yake ndi yabulu.
Kapu iyi ndi yacikasu.
Afuna buluku yaphulusa.

ENA

Ng'ombe zanga ndizakuda.
Agalu ake ndi oyera.
Malaya awa ndiofiira.
Masuti ao ndi a bulu.
Makapu ndi a cikasu.
Afuna mabuluku a phulusa.

PA ULENDU

Mulibwanji?
Ndilibwino imwe mulibwanji?

I am fine. Thank you.
How was your journey?
We travelled safely and we still travelling.

Who are you and where are you going?

I am a visitor, I am going to kalabo
Can I help you?
Yes, I want to know how to travel to
Kalabo

We always travel to Kalabo by speed
boat

Where is the harbour?

The harbour is at the canal

You descend and go to the right.

You will see canoes and boats

How much is it to Kalabo?

We always pay K30.

Which is the ticket office?

I shall escort you there

Thank you very much Sir.

This is the ticket office.

I want to buy a ticket to Kalabo

A ticket to Kalabo costs K50

Here is the money.

What time does speedy boat start off?

It leaves at 09.00 hrs.

You come tomorrow at 08.00 hrs.

AT THE HARBOUR

Greetings to you M

Greetings to you as well.

Where is the speed boat?

This is the one, you enter,

What time shall we arrive?

We shall arrive at 15.00 hrs.

What shall we see on the way?

We shall see many things

Ndilibwino. zikomo.

Munayenda Bwanji?

Tinayenda bwino kumanso tikali
kuyenda

Ndimwe andani komanso
muyendakuti?

Ndine mulendo, ndipita ku kalabo.

Kodi ndikuthandizeni?

Inde, ndifuna kudziwa moyendera
Kalabo

timapita ku kalabo ndi spidi boti
kokwerera ndi kuti?

kokwerera kuli pamathero

Musondoke, mupite ku zanja la
manja.

Muzaona mabwato.

ndizingati kupita ku Kalabo?

timalipila K30 kambiri.

ofesi yamatikiti ndi itii?

ndizakuperekezani..

Zikomo bambo

zikomo kwambiri bambo

ndifuna kugula tikiti ya ku kalabo

Tikiti ya ku kalabo tigula ndi K50

ndalama iyi. Sipidiboti

Imayambapo nthawi yanji spidi boti?

imanyaka pa 9 koloko.

Mukabwere m'mawa pa 8 koloko.

POKWERERA MA WATO

Moni kwa inu a

moni kwa inunso.

Sipidiboti ili kuti?

iyi ndiyo muzakwera.

tizafika nthawi bwanji?

tizafika pa 15 koloko

tizaonanji (tizaona ciani) munjira?

tizaona zambiri.

Birds	mbalame.
Crocodiles	ng'ona.
Hippos	adomondo.
I heard that we shall travel on	ndinamva kuti tizayenda pa
The river	Mumana.
Yes, we shall travel on the river	inde, tizayenda pa mumana
And on a boat	ndi pa wato
Is it a good journey?	ndi ulendo wabwino ?
Yes it is a good journey	inde, ndiulendo wabwino
but again it is tiresome	Komanso, ndiolemetsa
I shall be very happy when we arrive	ndizakhala okondwera kwambiri
	tikafika
Yes, we shall soon arrive	inde, tizafika mosacedwa.

APPROPRIATE SITUATIONS IN NYANJA

GENERAL APPROPRIATE GREETINGS IN CITIES

PART I: General Greetings

1. Muli bwanji? How are you? (used for respect or plural)
2. Uli bwanji How are you? (used for peer greeting or singular)
3. Nili bwino, muli bwanji? I am fine and how are you? (for respect)
4. Nili bwino, uli bwanji? Am fine, how are you (for peer and singular)
5. Sinili bwino, ndine wodwala. Am not fine, am ill or sick
6. Sinili bwino, nadwala I am not fine, I have become sick

PART II: In the Morning/Kuseni (00- 12 HOURS)

1. Mwauka bwanji? Goodmorning/how have you woken up? (for respect/plural)
2. Wauka bwanji? Goodmorning/ how have you woken up? (for peer or singular)
3. Nauka bwino, wauka bwanji? My morning is fine, how is your morning? (for peer and singular)
4. Tauka bwino, mwauka bwanji? Our morning is fine, how is your morning? (for respect and plural)
5. Uli bwanji? How are you? (for peer or singular)
6. Muli bwanji? How are you? (for respect or plural)
7. Nili bwino, uli bwanji? Am fine, how are you (for peer or

singular)

8. Nili bwino, mwauka bwanji? am fine, how are you (you alone answering an adult or many people)
9. Tili bwino, muli bwanji? we are fine, how are you? (as a group answering wither an adult or group of people)

PART III: In the afternoon/ M'mazulo (13 -17 HOURS)

1. Mwachoma bwanji? How is the afternoon? (for respect or plural)
2. Wachoma bwanji? How is the after noon? (for peer, child or singular)
3. Nacomu bwino, wachoma bwanji? My afternoon is fine, how is your afternoon?
4. Nacomu bwino, mwachoma bwanji? My afternoon is fine, how is your afternoon?
5. Chawama- that's good
6. Awe chawama- well, that's really nice/good

In the evening/ Usiku (18-23 hours)

NB: *In Nyanja, the greeting for the afternoon is the same for the evening.*

PART IV: Greeting someone who spent the day working/ who works

1. Mwasewenza bwanji ? How have you worked? (for respect and plural)
2. Wasewenza bwanji? How have you worked? (for singular and peer)
3. Nasewenza bwino, mwasewenza bwanji? I have worked well, how you have worked
4. Nasewenza bwino, wasewenza bwanji? I have worked well, how have you worked?
5. Muyende Bwino - bye
6. Zikomo, muyende bwino- thank you. Goodbye

PART V: Greeting someone who went or who was on a journey/trip

1. Mwayenda bwanji? how have you moved?

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 2. Munayenda bwanji? | How did you move? |
| 3. Nayenda bwino | I have moved well/ I have moved safely/
the journey was succesful |
| 4. Ninayenda bwino | I moved well/ I moved safely/ the journey/
trip was successful |
| 5. sininayende bwino | I have not moved well/ I have not moved
safely/ my journey has not been succesful |
| 6. Sininayende bwino | I did not move well/ I did not move safely/
the journey was not successful |

APPROPRIATE INTRODUCTIONS AS USED IN ZAMBIAN CITIES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. What is your name? | Zina lanu ndimwe andani? (Most
common for respect)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zina lako ndiwe ndani? (Most common
when asking peers and children) • Zina (Dzina) lanu ndani? For respect • Zina lako (Yako) ndani? For peers or
children |
| 2. I am Sarah. Or My name is sarah. | Ndine Sarah.or Zina langandine sarah |
| 3. Who are you? | Ndimwe andani? Or Ndinu andani?
for respect
Ndiwe ndani? For peers or children |
| 4. I am Sarah. Or My name is sarah. | Ndine Sarah.or Zina langa (yanga)
ndine sarah |
| 5. Who is this one? | Awa ni andani? Respect
Uyu nindani (Ni ndani uyu)?
Singular, peers or children. |
| 6. This one is Jane. | Awa ni aJane Respect
Uyu ni Jane Singular, peers or children. |
| 7. Who is that one? | Ni andani aja? For respect
Ni ndani uja? Singular/ peer |
| 8. That one is jane. | Aja ni aJane. Respect
Uja ni Jane. Singular, peers or
children. |
| 9. What is his/her name? | Zina yao (lao) ni andani? Respect |

10. His/her name is Thomas. **Zina lake ni ndani?** Peers
Zina yao (lao) ni aThomas. Respect
Zina lake ni Thomas. Singular, peers or children.
11. Where do you come from? **Mucoka kuti?** Respect
Ucoka kuti? Peers or children
12. I come from Kalundu. **Nicoka ku Kalundu.**
13. Where are you coming from? **Mucokela kuti?** Respect
Ucokela kuti? Peers or children
14. I am coming from Kabulonga. **Nicokela ku Kabulonga.**
15. Where are you going? **Muyenda kuti?** Respect
Uyenda kuti? Peers or children
16. I am going to Lusaland City and UNZA Niyenda ku mzinda wa Lusaland na UNZA
17. Where do you stay/live? **Mukhala kuti?** Respect
Ukhala kuti? Peers or children
18. I stay/live in Lusaka/Kalundu. **Nikhala ku Kalundu**

NOTE: If the place where you are referring to is far from where you are at the time of mention, you use **Nikhala ku Kalundu** BUT if you are within or very very close to the area you are referring to, you say: **Nikhala mu Kalundu.** Hence, **ku** connotes **far from speaker** while **mu** connotes **close** or **within the speaker.**

EXPRESSING WISHES/DESIRES

1. What do you want? (a) **Mufuna Cani? Respect**
(b) **Ufuna cani? Informal with peers or children**
2. You want? Question based on tone (a) **Mufuna? Respect**
(b) **Ufuna? Peers or with children**
3. You want nsima? (a) **Mufuna Nsima?**
(b) **Ufuna nsima?**
4. Yes I want **Eeeh Nifuna**

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 5. I don't want | Sinifuna |
| 6. Ask me. | Nifunsemi. |
| 7. Ask him or her | (a) Afunsemi. respect
(b) Mufunsemi. peers or children |
| 8. I want it | Nicifuna |
| 9. I don't want it | sinicifuna |
| 10. I want him/her | Nimufuna |
| 11. I don't want him/her | Sinimufuna |
| 12. I want you | Nikufuna |
| 13. I don't want you | Sinikufuna |
| 14. I love you. | Nikukonda |
| 15. I love you too | Naine nikukonda |
| 16. I don't love you | Sinikukonda |
| 17. I love my boyfriend or husband | Nimukonda mwamuna wanga |
| 18. I love my wife or girlfriend | Nimukonda mkazi wanga |
| 19. He/She doesn't love me. | Sanikonda |
| 20. He/she loves you | Akukonda |
| 21. I want food | Nifuna cakudya |
| 22. I don't want food | Sinifuna cakudya |
| 23. I want to go | Nifuna kuyenda |
| 24. I don't want to go | Sinifuna kuyenda |
| 25. I want to come | Nifuna kubwela |

26. I don't want to come	Sinifuna kubwera
27. I want to sleep	Nifuna kugona
28. I don't want to sleep	Sinifuna kugona
29. I want to drink (beer)	Nifuna kumwa (mowa)
30. I don't want to drink (beer)	Sinifuna kumwa (mowa)
31. I want to work	Nifuna kusewenza
32. I don't want to work	Sinifuna kusewenza
33. Can I help you?	Nikuthandizeni?
34. I want help?	Nifuna thandizo.
35. I am sorry am late.	Phepani nacedwa
36. My child is ill.	Mwana wanga adwala.
37. Sorry that is bad. Wish her/him quick recovery.	Phepani caipa. Tifuna apole musanga.
38. I am not well/good	Sinilibwino.
39. Sorry for that. Quick recovery.	Phepani caipa. Mupole musanga.
40. Go to the Hospital/clinic/health centre	Yendani kuchipatala.

