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WELCOME TO TANZANIA

About Tanzania: Tanzania is located on the east African continent near Kenya (to the north) and Zambia (to the southwest) and the Indian Ocean (to the east). The country is named after Tanganyika, its mainland part, and the Zanzibar islands off its east coast. Tanganyika united with Zanzibar in 1964, forming the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which later the same year was, renamed the United Republic of Tanzania. The “official” language of the country is Swahili, although most people speak only English.

Despite its attractions, Tanzania is one of Africa’s most unassuming and low-key destinations, and thus far has remained enviably untouched by the tribal rivalries and political upheavals that plague many of its neighbors. Tanzanians are known for their warmth and politeness. Some of the country’s natural features are: Mt. Kilimanjaro (the world’s tallest free-standing peak), N’gorongoro Crater (called the 8th wonder of the world – largest unbroken crater in the world), and its wildlife parks (Serengeti, Tarangire and N’gorongoro).

Safety Concerns: The situation in Kenya did not spill into Tanzania at all last year. No unusual safety concerns.

Climate: Mild in temperature during service (long sleeves, chilly at night). Very warm during safari.

Basic Swahili

All vowel sounds are short, thus:

A as in ‘far’ but cut short

E as in ‘bed’

I as the ‘ee’ in ‘feel’

O as in ‘off’

U as the ‘oo’ in ‘fool’

The stress in every word is always on the second to last syllable. For example, in mtu (person) the stress is on the first consonant, m. Mtu. For 'shikamoo' the stress is on 'ka.' Shikamoo.

Greetings

Greetings are an essential part of Tanzanian culture. It is considered rude to jump straight into a conversation without first exchanging a few greetings. In general, the more greetings you exchange, the happier people are to talk to you!

Greeting	Response	Meaning	When to use
Hujambo?	Sijambo!	Lit. Is there nothing wrong with you? Nothing!	When addressing one person.
Hamjambo?	Hatujambo!	Lit. Is there nothing wrong with you? Nothing!	When addressing more than 1 person.
Shikamoo? (Pronounced with a hard o not moo like a cow!)	Marahaba.	Lit. I hold your feet. Delightful!	A respectful greeting used to anyone older than you.
Habari za (or ya) asubuhi?	Nzuri njema salama.	Lit. News of your morning? Good Good Peaceful	In the morning!
Habari za mchana?	See above	Lit. News of your afternoon.	In the afternoon.
Mambo?	Poa! Or Safi!	Lit. Matters? Cool or clean!	Slang, but OK to use with people slightly older than you.
Vipi?	Safi or poa!	Lit. What kind? Clean or cool!	Slang, see above.
Mzima?	Mzima!	Lit. Health? Health!	Slang, see above.

Note on habari: Habari literally means news. The ya is used if you are talking about news singular and za if news is plural. They are used almost interchangeably. The phrase "habari za...." can be used to ask about almost anything and can therefore be followed by almost anything. Some examples are given below.

Jioni = evening	kazi = work
Usiku = night	kwako = your home (lit. "yours")
Mtoto = child	habari yako? = your news.
Watoto = children	kuamka = to wake up

The answer is always positive. If you answer negatively (i.e. vibaya) people will assume something is seriously wrong. You can use the tone of your voice while saying good to imply if things are just OK, good, or great!

Numbers

It is important to know your numbers for use when buying things and just in daily life. In Swahili there are eight different noun classes which you will learn about in your lessons. For each of these classes adjectives and some numbers are conjugated. For now, the following are the basic numbers.

0 = sifuri	12 = kumi na mbili
1 = moja	13 = kumi na tatu
2 = mbili	14 = kumi na nne
3 = tatu	20 = ishirini
4 = nne	25 = ishirini na tano
5 = tano	30 = thelathini
6 = sita	40 = arobaini
7 = saba	50 = hamsini

8 = nane
9 = tisa
10 = kumi
11 = kumi na moja

60 = sitini
70 = sabini
80 = themanini
90 = tisini

100 = mia
1,000 = elfu
100,000 = laki
A million = milioni

1,260 = elfu moja, mia mbili na sitini
245 = mia mbili, arobaini na tano
520 = mia tano na ishirini

Time

In Tanzania the day starts at 6am and goes until 6pm. In Swahili time is counted starting at 6am. To ask what time it is say: "Sasa ni saa ngapi?" Lit.: "now is how many hours?" The answer follows the form "Sasa ni saa _____" or just "saa _____." After saying how many hours you will say asubuhi, mchana, jioni, or usiku depending on the time of day.

Ex. 6am = Saa kumi na mbili asubuhi. 7am = Saa moja asubuhi
8am = Saa mbili asubuhi 9am = Saa tatu asubuhi
1pm = Saa saba mchana 3pm = Saa tisa mchana
5pm = Saa kumi na moja jioni 10pm = Saa nne usiku.

O'clock is expressed as kamili. Thus, seven o'clock is saa moja kamili. For times up to 30 minutes after the hour you say the hour and the amount of minutes dakika.) So for 5:20 we would say saa kumi na moja na dakika ishirini. For times before the hour we say the hour minus (kasoro) the number of minutes. So for 2:50 we would say saa tisa kasoro dakika kumi.

Days of the week

The days are taken from the Mohammedan calendar. They are counted, revolving around Friday the "important day."

Sunday = Jumapili Thursday = Alhamisi
Monday = Jumatatu Friday = Ijumaa
Tuesday = Jumanne Saturday = Jumamosi
Wednesday = Jumatano

Related vocabulary:

Kesho = tomorrow leo = today
Kesho kutwa = the day after tomorrow zamani = a long time ago
Jana = yesterday
Juzi = the day before yesterday

Verbs

Infinitive

The infinitive form of the verb is essentially Ku-____. For example ku-fanya = to do, make.

Some common verbs are:

ku-amka = to wake up ku-safiri = to travel
ku-jua = to know ku-fikiri = to think, consider
ku-elewa = to understand ku-fika = to arrive
ku-pika = to cook ku-penda = to like, love
ku-nunua = to buy ku-jaribu = to try
ku-uza = to sell ku-uliza = to ask
ku-rudi = to return ku-jibu = to answer

Subject prefixes for M/Wa class (people)

Manispaa/manispaa – municipality/municipalities (city government)
Chama/vyama – groups, parties
Vyama vya siasa – political parties

Groups/Clubs (Vikundi/Klabu)

Kikundi/vikundi – group/groups
Taasisi – organization; “Taasisi ya Jane Goodall”
Viongozi – leaders, leadership
Viongozi wa dini – religious leaders
Tawi/Matawi – branch/branches, as in Which branch of the bank do you go to?
Mwenyekiti – chairman
Mlezi/Walezi – patron/matron (s)
Mjumbe/wajumbe – member/members
Wanachama - members
Mradi/miradi – project/projects
Shughuli – activities
Malengo – goals
Sherika - organization

Environment/agriculture (Mazingira/Kilimo)

Miti - trees
Mimea - plants
Mlima – mountain/hill
Shamba - farm
Udongo - soil
kulima – to farm
Hali ya hewa – weather
Mvua – rain
Kuvuna – to harvest
Kupanda – to plant
Mmomonyoko (ya udongo) - (soil) erosion
Kuchoma moto – to burn
Kukata miti – to cut down trees
Kuni – firewood
Kuboresha mazingira – to improve mazingira
Mifugo – livestock
Wanyama – animals
Wanyama wa pori – wildlife
Kutunza – to take care of ie kutunza mazingira – to take care of environment
Kufuga – to keep ie kufuga mifugo – to keep livestock
Kutoa taka taka – to take away trash
Kufanya usafi – to clean up
Mabadiliko - change

Human community

Mzee – elder
Wazee – elders
Wagonjwa – sick people
Watoto wa mtaani – street children
Watoto wa yatima – orphans
Maendeleo – development

Elimu – education
Haki – rights ie haki ya watoto – children’s rights
Huduma – service/treatment ie huduma za afya – health services
Kuchanga – to contribute ie kuchanga hela – to contribute money
Kutoa msaada – to give help, often to give money
Jamii – society/community

Speeches

Kutoa shukrani – to give thanks; “Ninapenda kutoa shukrani kwa watu wote kwa kuja” – I’d like to give thanks to everyone for coming
Kushukuru – to be thankful, to thank; “Tunawashukuru sana nyinyi” – We thank you all very much
Mgeni rasmi – guest of honor
Kukaribisha – to make welcome, to welcome; “Ninamkaribisha mgeni rasmi” – I welcome the guest of honor
Siku ya Amani Duniani – Peace Day
Siku ya Mazingira Duniani – World Environment Day
Siku ya Ukimwi Duniani; HIV/AIDS day

Local/tribal languages

Maasai

Greetings: Supai, response is Epa

Kijiai Engarnaino.what is your name? Akaaji; Elizabeth

Numbers Counting

1..... Nabo
2.....Aree
3.....Uni
4.....Ong’wan
5.....Imiet
6.....Ile
7.....Napushana
8.....Isitye
9.....Enduruj
10.....Tomon

NB; If you have any questions about our work, Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at amanihostel@gmail.com or info@amanihostel.net or by Mobile phone at +255 784 707 352 / +255 784 707 352

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