

SWAHILI BASIC SAYINGS & UGANDAN COMMUNICATION

Since the official languages of Uganda are both English and Swahili, communication is likely to be possible in English much of the time. However, here are a few things you might want to know!

English Basics:

- ***I need to make a short call*** – I'm going to the bathroom
- Be **flexible** when waiting for events to begin and end. Schedules are not exact – "Africa time"
- Shaking hands is a common greeting in Uganda
- Well told stories are enjoyed and appreciated so use your testimony to share your faith!
- Family is **very** important in Uganda. Be prepared to talk about yours and ask about theirs.
- Ugandan dress, whether traditional or modern, is always very neat and clean.

Swahili basics:

Swahili pronunciation is fairly simple. Every letter in the word is simply sounded out. Even if you speak in broken sentences, locals appreciate it when you try to learn their native language.

- ***Habari*** – Hello
- ***Kwaheri*** – Goodbye
- ***Habari gani?*** – How are you?
- ***Nzuri*** – Fine (response)
- ***Tafadhali*** – Please
- ***Asante*** – Thank you
- ***Starehe*** – You're welcome
- ***Samahani*** – I'm sorry
- ***Ndio*** – Yes
- ***Hapana*** – No
- ***Rafiki*** – friend
- ***Jina langu ni...*** – My name is...
- ***Nafurahi kukuona*** – Nice to meet you
- ***Unasema kiingereza?*** – Do you speak English?
- ***Unasema Kiswahili?*** – Do you speak Swahili?
- ***Kidogo tu*** – Just a little bit
- ***Sielewi*** – I don't understand
- ***Ni wapi choo?*** – Where is the bathroom?
- ***Naomba kupiga picha?*** – May I take a photo?
(Always ask permission before taking a photo)