

Lesson 1

Greetings

Vocabulary

Words which have singular & plural

Singular Word	Meaning	Plural Word	Meaning
Asante	Thank you	Asanteni	Thank you all
Asante sana	Thank you very much	Asanteni sana	Thank you all very much
Baki	Stay	Bakini	Stay (to many)
Bibi	Lady	Mabibi	Ladies
Bwana	Gentleman	Mabwana	Gentlemen
Chai	Tea	Chai	Tea
Enda	Go	Endeni	Go (to many)
Hodi	May I come in?	Hodi	May we come in?
Karibu	Welcome	Karibuni	Welcome (to many)
Kiti	Chair	Viti	Chairs
Kwa heri	Goodbye	Kwa herini	Goodbye everyone
Mwalimu	Teacher	Walimu	Teachers
Mwanafunzi	Student	Wanafunzi	Students
Rafiki	Friend	Marafiki	Friends
Zako	You	Zenu	You all

__ jambo is a way of saying hello (more on its actual meaning later in the course): the dash is filled based on singular/plural and whether the person is greeting or replying to a greeting.

Hujambo – One greeting one

Sijambo – One replying to one.

Hamjambo – One/Many greeting many

Hatujambo – Many replying to one/many



Introduction to Spoken Kiswahili

By Julius Muange

Words which remain the same in both singular and plural

Word	Meaning	
Habari	News	
Nzuri	Well / Good	
Gani?	How?	
Asubuhi	Morning	
Mchana	Afternoon	
Jioni	Evening	
Usiku	Night	
Kidogo	A little	
Sana	A lot / very much	
Kabisa	Completely	
Nzuri	Well / Good	
Salama	Safe	
Safi	Clean	
Njema	Good	
Jamaa	Family	
Nyumbani	Home	