



Rukwangali. *made simple*

Learn how to speak quickly, correctly, and effectively
in just two months



Peace Corps Namibia

Rukwangali Language Manual

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Table of Contents

Section One

The Essential -The Building Blocks of Rukwangali

1. GREETINGS **pgs. 9-11**

- 1.1 Morning Greetings
- 1.2 Afternoon Greetings
- 1.3 Evening Greetings
- 1.4 Introducing Yourself
- 1.5 Saying Goodbye
- 1.6 Essential Starter Words

2. LIKES/WANTS/NEEDS/EMOTIONS **pgs. 12-13**

- 2.1 Likes, Wants, and Needs
- 2.2 How To Say The Negatives of Likes, Wants, or Needs
- 2.3 Feelings – How To Express What You Are Feeling

3. THE FIRST PHRASES YOU NEED TO KNOW **pgs. 14-15**

- 3.1 The Phrases You Just Can't Live Without
- 3.2 Basic Questions and Responses for Everyday Situations
- 3.3 The Best Questions To Use When.....

4. THE KEY TO UNLOCKING YOUR TONGUE **pgs. 16-20**

**How To Say Over 500 Phrases In Just 10 days.*

- 4.1 How To Use Present Tense Verbs
- 4.2 *****The Top 100 Most Important Verbs*****
- 4.3 The Basic Words

Section Two

The Technical – The Necessary Details

5. VERB TENSES **pgs. 22-23**

- 5.1 Past Tense Verbs
- 5.2 Present Tense Verbs
- 5.3 Future Tense Verbs

6. COMMANDS **pgs. 24-25**

- 6.1 How To Form Commands With Any Verb
- 6.2 The Best Commands To Use When....

7. POSSESSIVES **pgs. 26-27**

- 7.1 The 5 Possessive Stems
- 7.2 How to Form Possessives Correctly

8. COMMON GRAMMER ISSUES **pgs. 28-29**

- 8.1 How To Use *have* Correctly
- 8.2 How To Say with.... me, you, him/her, them, and us
- 8.3 Locatives (in, at, here, there.....)

9. ADJECTIVES **pgs. 30-31**

- 9.1 The Top 20 Most Important Adjective Stems
- 9.2 How To Use An Adjective Correctly

Section Three

The Practical – Applying What You Know

10. AT SCHOOL **pgs. 33-35**

- 10.1 Classroom Vocabulary
- 10.2 Phrases And Commands You Need To Know As A Teacher

11. AT THE CLINIC **pgs. 36-37**

- 11.1 Parts of the Body
- 11.2 Clinic Vocabulary
- 11.3 Phrases To Use At The Clinic

12. BUSINESS **pg. 38**

- 12.1 Important Vocabulary
- 12.2 Useful Phrases

13. AT HOME **pgs. 39-43**

- 13.1 Cooking, Food, and Drinks
- 13.2 Clothing
- 13.3 Family
- 13.4 Talking to Children
- 13.5 Useful Small Talk

14. IN THE VILLAGE	pgs. 44-46
14.1 Shopping	
14.2 Navigating and Directions	
14.3 Plants and Animals	
15. DAYS, TIME AND WEATHER	pgs. 47-48
15.1 Days Of The Week	
15.2 Time Related Words	
15.3 Useful Expressions About Weather	
15.4 Months and Seasons	
16. COUNTING – <i>How to count up to 100</i>	pg. 49
Numbers, from 1 to 100	
17. THE ROAD AHEAD	pg. 50
Putting The Puzzle Together	
10 Tips On How To Become Fluent	
Rukwangali Exercises	
Appendix A – Noun Classes	pgs. 51-54
Appendix B – Rukwangali Idioms, Expressions and Riddles	pgs. 56-57
Appendix C – Verb Chart	pgs. 58-64

Rukwangali 101

making sense of the madness

“I’m just not good at learning languages.”

“Rukwangali just doesn’t make any sense to me.”

“I tried learning but..... I gave up.”

Does that sound familiar to you? Well, the truth is - most people aren’t “bad” at learning languages. They are bad, as I am, at attempting to memorize zero-gratification tables, words, and charts that seem utterly useless, confusing, and are hard to apply. Most people start off strong and motivated, but end up confused or overwhelmed and then eventually give up learning before any real progress is made. If that sounds like you, I want you to forget everything you think about your “skill” in learning a new language. Do you have a brain? Good - then you have more than enough.

This book will break things down, cut out the fat, and ignore the unimportant. By avoiding boring memorization of the non-essential and focusing on high frequency words, learning Rukwangali will actually be easy. There is also very little linguistic jargon used in this book. You might say, “Well how am I supposed to learn all the rules without knowing what everything is called then?” That is a great question, but just think back to when you were a baby: Did you learn English by your parents telling you? -“Now, this is how you use the present progressive form of a being verb in noun class 8.” I *highly* doubt it. You learned by listening and practicing, regardless of whether you knew what the rules were called. If you learn everything in this book, you can expect to be relatively conversational in less than 2 months. How is that even possible? Well, high frequency words are the key, and here is why:

Let’s take, for example, the 20 volumes of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, which easily contain over 250,000 words. Ouch. If you were trying to learn English, how could you possibly learn that many words? The task is daunting and near impossible, unless you have the mind of Stephen Hawking and want to spend 30+ years memorizing words you will never use. Luckily, for the average minded person such as myself, the 100 most common words in English make up for 50% of all printed material in the U.S. If you expand that list to the top 300 words, then that percentage increases to 65%. So, learning a mere 300 words of English would theoretically allow you to be able to read 65% of any newspaper or book. You could learn just *ten* new words a day and be done with the task in *one* month. One month! That isn’t so bad is it? Language learning seems much less scary when you think about like that. As I said, learning **high frequency words** is the key to learning Rukwangali (or any language for that matter).

The Power of Grouping

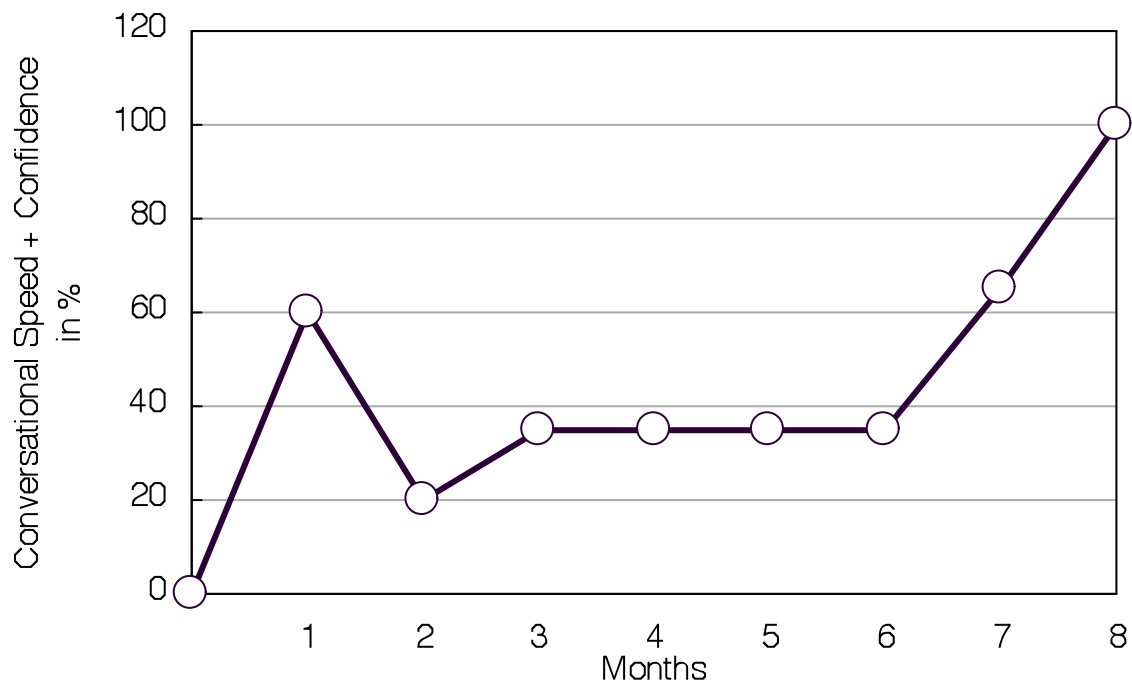
If you ever feel overwhelmed when learning a new language, it is probably because you are trying to learn *too* much, *too* fast. If you try to learn 100 new words a day, you most likely will only remember a small fraction of what you learned the *next* day, and even less the day *after*. Breaking the language down into manageable groups will do the trick. It has been proven that people can remember new vocabulary *better*

when it is broken into *related* groups of 10 words or less. It helps **anchor** the words into the brain, making them easier to recall when you need to say them. The good thing for you is, all of the words in this book have already been logically (somewhat logically at least) grouped into related sets of around 10 words. Grouping words will accelerate your learning and quickly lead you down the road of success.

The Importance of Small Wins

It is important to know that your learning progression will look something like the graph below. You will start off strong and motivated in your first month, then get confused and probably falter, then muster up a small amount of effort to continue, and *then* hit a long plateau just before you EXPLODE with knowledge after your brain and ears adapt to the new language. The problem is, most people give up after they get confused or are in the plateau stage when they are not seeing a noticeable improvement. If you plan ahead and *expect* your learning to be a roller coaster ride, you are much less likely to give up. **Because, if you give up, there is no point in trying at all.** If you focus on learning a small amount each day, you will stay more motivated because you will continually notice improvement on a daily basis - consider that a “small win”. You will end up having a smoother roller coaster ride with smaller lows and higher highs. And remember, the more that you learn, the easier everything will become. So stay positive, don’t give up, and remember to celebrate the small wins.

A Bipolar Graph of Language Learning



Section One

The Essential

The Building Blocks of Rukwangali

“One never realizes how much and how little he knows until he starts talking.”

*-Louis L' Amour
Author*

How much do you know already? If you are just starting to learn Rukwangali, probably not very much – yet. *The Essential* contains the first words and phrases you need to know, as well as the most important concepts to help get you speaking, *fast*. These are the building blocks of Rukwangali so you need to *drill* these words and phrases into your head with consistent repetition and verbal practice. The better understanding you have of the basics, the easier everything else will seem that follows. Before you move on to the other sections, make sure that you have mastered all of the contents found here. Once you have learned a word or phrase, put a check by it with a red pen. Seriously, it helps.

GREETINGS

1.1 Morning Greetings

*There are two types of greetings – The *short* one and the *long* one.

Type 1 – the short one

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| A. Morokeni | <i>Greetings / Good morning.</i> |
| B. Morokeni none. | <i>Good morning to you also.</i> |
| | |
| A. Ngapi? | <i>How are you?</i> |
| B. Nawa. Awo? | <i>I am fine. And you?</i> *Awo is the respectful form of you |
| | |
| A. Nawa. | <i>I am fine.</i> |
| B. Ewa. | <i>Ok.</i> |

Type 2 – the long one. This is like a rehearsed script. **The elder will always start.**

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. Morokeni | <i>Greetings / Good morning.</i> |
| B. Morokeni none. | <i>Good morning to you also.</i> |
| | |
| A. Nawa? | <i>Are you good?</i> |
| B. Yii. | <i>Yes.</i> |
| | |
| A. Ehh. | <i>Ohhhh.</i> |
| B. Awo? | <i>And you?</i> |
| | |
| A. Yii. | <i>Yes.</i> |
| B. Nawa. | <i>That is good.</i> |
| | |
| A. Nawa. | <i>That is good.</i> |

1.2 Afternoon Greetings

There is only **ONE** thing that changes in the afternoon. Instead of starting with *morokeni*, you start with *metaha*, which means *good afternoon*. This greeting is used from 11:00 am until about 3:00 pm.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Metaha. | <i>Good afternoon.</i> |
| B. Metaha none. | <i>Good afternoon to you also.</i> |

→ *Then*, the greeting will either proceed as **type 1** or **type 2**, by either asking “Ngapi?” or “Nawa?” Do you get it?

1.3 Evening Greetings

Just like with the afternoon greeting, the one thing that changes is - instead of saying *morokeni* or *metaha*, you start with *ngurova*, which means *good evening*. This greeting is used after dark.

- A. Ngurova. *Good evening*
 B. Ngurova none. *Good evening to you also.*

Cultural information:

- *If you meet someone in your village, they are likely to assume you do not speak Rukwangali, and therefore will not greet you. If this happens, you can politely ask an elder to greet you by saying “kundeninge” (literally – greet me).*
- *It is important to greet before starting a conversation, whether you are speaking in person, on the phone, or via SMS.*
- *When greeting an elder in the village, females should bend their knees slightly, and males should nod their heads.*
- *It is common to shake hands when greeting*
- *Morokeni can be used as a greeting throughout the day, even in the afternoon and early evening.*

1.4 Basic Phrases to Introduce Yourself

Key Words

Edina	<i>name</i>
Nomvhura	<i>years</i>
Dingapi	<i>how many?</i>
Kupi?	<i>where?</i>
Kara	<i>stay</i>
Tunda	<i>come from</i>
Lyange	<i>my (possessive)</i>
Lyoge	<i>your (possessive)</i>
Rugana	<i>do / work</i>
Mulizambeli	<i>volunteer</i>
Sure	<i>school</i>
Sipangero	<i>clinic</i>

Introduce Yourself

Edina lyoge yilye? - *What is **your** name?*

→ Edina lyange Maxima. - *My **name** is Maxima.*

(years) (yours) (how many)

Nomvhura doge dingapi? – *How old are you?*

→ Nomvhura dange norontatu. – *I am 30 years old.*

Kupi wa tunda? – *Where are you **from**?*

→ Ame kwa tunda koNkurenkuru. – *I am from Nkurenkuru.*

Yike o rugana? – *What do you do?*

→ Ame **mulizambeli** goPeace Corps. – *I am a Peace Corps **volunteer**.*

→ Ame mulizambeli kuronga posure. – *I am a volunteer teacher at the **school**.*

→ Ame mulizambeli kurugana kosipangero. – *I am a volunteer at the **clinic**.*

→ Ame mulizambeli gomunangesefa. – *I am a **business** volunteer.*

1.5 Saying Goodbye

You have several choices when you are leaving.

1. Mbaa. – *Bye.*
2. Kuna kuza. – *I am going. (If you are already on your way)*
3. Tani zi..... kembo / ko sitora. – *I am going..... home / to the store. (If you are leaving soon)*

Or, if you are feeling fancy, say:

1. **Kareni** po nawa. – *Stay well.* (Say this if you are the one **leaving**.)
2. Ewa, **gendeni** po nawa. – *Ok, go well.* (Say this if you are the one **staying**.)
3. Tani wiza ntaantani. – *I'm coming right back.*
4. Natu limona. – See you later.

1.6 Essential Starter Words

Personal Pronouns

Ame	<i>I</i>
Ove	<i>you</i>
One	<i>you (plural)</i>
Age	<i>he/she</i>
Awo	<i>them (or respectful form of you)</i>
Ose	<i>we</i>

Polite Words

Mpandu	<i>Thank you.</i>
Mbili	<i>Sorry/Pardon</i>

Question Words

Ngapi?	<i>How? / What?</i>
Yilye?	<i>Who?</i>
Yinke?	<i>What?</i>
Kupi?	<i>Where?</i>
Morwasinke?	<i>Why?</i>
Ezuvake?	<i>When? (Literally "what day")</i>

Likes/Wants/Needs/Feelings

2.1 Likes, Wants, and Needs

Ame kwa hara...	<i>I like / love...</i>	<i>Like, love and want are the same word (hara) but they're used in different ways to show meaning.</i>
Na hara...	<i>I want...</i>	
Na hepa...	<i>I need...</i>	

Examples

Ame kwa hara kudana mbara .	<i>I like to play soccer.</i>
Na kuhara.	<i>I like you. / I love you.</i>
Na hara kuza kembo .	<i>I want to go home.</i>
Na hepa kuranda mboroto .	<i>I need to buy bread.</i>

2.2 Negatives - Things you don't like, or want, or need

- To make it negative, add **kapi**:

Ame kapi na hara...	<i>I don't like / love...</i>
Kapi na hara...	<i>I don't want...</i>
Kapi na hepa...	<i>I don't need...</i>

2.3 Basic Feelings - How to express the way you are feeling

Expressing feelings (like many things) in Rukwangali is a little tricky, since there is not one universal way to say *I am _____* or *I feel _____*. So, you have to pair up the correct feelings with the correct expression. It might sound confusing at first, but there are only several expressions that you need to know to be effective.

- There are several different ways to express the way you are feeling. Here are four to help you get started:

- 1.) **Nzara** na ku zuvha. *I am **hungry**. (literally, hungry I feel)*
- 2.) Na **hafa**. *I am **happy**.*
- 3.) Ame tani **vera**. *I am **sick**.*
- 4.) Kuna kukumawuka. *I am **dozing/sleepy**.*

The feeling words are bolded, and the different expressions for *I am* are shown next to the bolded words. Now, lets pair everything up correctly

1.) The feelings that go with : *(feeling)* na kuzuvha

<u>Feeling</u>		<u>Phrase</u>	
Nzara	<i>hungry</i>	Nzara na ku zuvha.	<i>I am hungry.</i>
Enota	<i>thirsty</i>	Enota na ku zuvha.	<i>I am thirsty.</i>
Udwadwa	<i>bored</i>	Udwadwa na ku zuvha.	<i>I am bored.</i>
Woma	<i>afraid</i>	Woma na ku zuvha.	<i>I am afraid.</i>
Fudu	<i>jealous</i>	Fudu na ku zuvha.	<i>I am jealous.</i>

2.) The feelings that go with: Na (*feeling*)

<u>Feeling</u>		<u>Phrase</u>	
Hafa	<i>happy</i>	Na hafa.	<i>I am happy.</i>
Roroka	<i>tired</i>	Na roroka.	<i>I am tired.</i>
Handuka	<i>angry</i>	Na handuka.	<i>I am angry.</i>
Guvu	<i>sad</i>	Na guvu.	<i>I am sad.</i>
Tetuka	<i>surprised</i>	Na tetuka.	<i>I am surprised.</i>
Kuta	<i>full</i>	Na kuta.	<i>I am full. (or satisfied.)</i>

3.) The feelings that go with : Ame (ni/tani/no) (*feeling*)
(these phrases are irregular and have either **ni**, **tani**, **no** or **nothing** in front of them)

<u>Feeling</u>		<u>Phrase</u>	
Muwawa	<i>fine</i>	Ame ni muwawa.	<i>I am fine.</i>
Vera	<i>sick</i>	Ame tani vera.	<i>I am sick.</i>
Muga	<i>shy</i>	Ame no muga.	<i>I am shy.</i>
Ukenya	<i>rude</i>	Ame ukenya.	<i>I am rude.</i>
Muwa	<i>smart/good</i>	Ame muwa.	<i>I am smart/good.</i>

4.) The feelings that go with : Kuna (*feeling*)

<u>Feeling</u>		<u>Phrase</u>	
Kukumawuka	<i>to doze</i>	Kuna kukumawuka.	<i>I am sleepy/dozing.</i>
Kara nosinka	<i>to be worried</i>	Kuna kara nosinka.	<i>I am worried.</i>
Kuvera	<i>to be sick</i>	Kuna kuvera.	<i>I am sick.</i>

Note: For all of these expressions, you can use “**ame**” at the beginning if you choose, but for those in category 3 it is necessary all the time.

Common Questions About Feelings

Enota o ku zuvha? - *Are you thirsty?*
→Yii, enota na ku zuvha. – *Yes, I am thirsty.*

Nzara o ku zuvha? - *Are you hungry?*
→Yii, na hara kulya! – *Yes, I want to eat!*

O kuta? - *Are you full?*
→Hawe, kapi na kuta. – *No, I am not full.*
→Yii, na kuta. – *Yes, I am full*

The First Phrases You Need To Know

crash course for day one in the village

Key words

Kuuyunga	<i>to speak</i>	Kurugana	<i>to do</i>
Kulironga	<i>to learn/to study</i>	Kupi	<i>where</i>
Yimaliva	<i>money</i>	Kuza	<i>to go</i>
Kupura	<i>to ask</i>	Kembo	<i>house / home</i>
Kuzuvha	<i>to understand/to feel</i>	Kwato	<i>nothing</i>

3.1 The phrases you can't live without

Penge ko **yimaliva**. – *Give me money.*

→ Kwato yimaliva. – *I don't have any money.*

Wa ha **purange** yimaliva. – *Don't ask me for money.*

Hageka kupurange yuma. – *Stop asking me for things.*

Kapi na ku **yizuvha**. – *I don't understand.*

Kapi ani **uyunga** Rukwangali. – *I don't speak Rukwangali.*

Uyunga mo **Ruingilisa**. – *Speak in English.*

Ame kulironga Rukwangali **nkenye ezuvha**. – *I study Rukwangali everyday.*

Yimo na ku **gazara**. – *I think so.*

Kapi na ku yigazara ngoso. – *I don't think so.*

Kapi na diva. – *I don't know.*

Name. – *Me too.*

None? – *You too?*

Wiza. – *Come.*

Wiza oku. – *Come here.*

3.2 Basic Questions and Responses for Everyday Situations

Yinke o rugana? – *What are you doing?*

→ Kwato. – *Nothing.*

→ Tani resa **buke**. – *I am reading a book.*

Kupi o kuza? – *Where are you going?*

→ Tani zi ko sitora. – *I am going to the store.*

Kupi ko kere? – *Where were you?*

→ Kembo – *At home.*

→ KoRundu. – *In Rundu.*

3.3 The Best Questions To Use When....

*When you are **confused**.....

Ngapi o situmbura...?	<i>How do you say.....?</i>
Yinke ya ku tanta?	<i>What does that mean?</i>
Yinke o yo?	<i>What is that?</i>
Yinke o ku zora?	<i>Why are you laughing?</i>
Usili? – <i>Really? / Are you serious?</i>	
→ Usili. – <i>It's true. / I am serious.</i>	

*When you are **looking for someone**

Kupi o kara?	<i>Where are you?</i>
Kupi.... Steph?	<i>Where is.... Steph?</i>
Kupi ko kere?	<i>Where were you?</i>
Kupi o kuza?	<i>Where are you going?</i>
Yilye ogu?	<i>Who is he/she?</i>

*When you are **going somewhere**

O hara ku wiza name ? – <i>Do you want to go with me?</i>	
→ Yii, na hara kuza nove . – <i>Yes, I want to go with you.</i>	
O liwapa yikire? – <i>Are you ready?</i>	
→ Yii, na liwapa yikire. – <i>Yes, I am ready.</i>	
Ngapi kuwawa... ko sitora / ko ngereka ? – <i>Was (the store / church) good?</i>	
→ Kwa wapa unene ... ko sitora / ko ngereka. – <i>It was very good.</i>	

*When you **need clarification**....

O yizuvhu? - <i>Do you understand?</i>	
→ Yii, na yizuvhu. – <i>Yes, I understand.</i>	
O kara no mapuro? - <i>Do you have questions?</i>	
→ Yii, na kara nepuro. – <i>Yes, I have a question.</i>	
Yinke o rugana? - <i>What have you done? / What did you do?</i>	
→ Kwato. – <i>Nothing.</i>	
Yinke o hara? - <i>What do you want? (Or: what do you like / love?)</i>	
→ Na hara kuuyunga na Maxima. – <i>I want to talk to Maxima.</i>	
O mana? – <i>Are you finished?</i>	
→ Na mana. – <i>I am finished.</i>	
Vilike ezi? - <i>What time is it?</i>	

The Key to Unlocking Your Tongue

How to say 500 phrases in just 10 days

4.1 How to Use Present Tense Verbs

So, there are 5 practical ways to use verbs in the present tense when speaking about yourself. Look at the examples below to see how.

Kutjanga - to write

1. Ame kutjanga. *I write.*
2. Ame kwa ku tjanga. *I am writing.*
3. Na hara kutjanga. *I want to write.*
4. Ame kwa hara kutjanga. *I like to write.*
5. Na hepa kutjanga. *I need to write.*

Kuza- to go

1. Ame kuza. *I go.*
2. Ame kwa ku za. *I am going.*
3. Na hara kuza. *I want to go.*
4. Ame kwa hara kuza. *I like to go.*
5. Na hepa kuza. *I need to go.*

Or, if you are talking to someone

Kulironga- to study

1. Ove kulironga. *You study.*
2. Ove kwa kulironga. *You are studying.*
3. O hara kulironga? *Do you want to study?*
4. Wa hara kulironga? *Do you like to study?*
5. Wa hepa kulironga. *You need to study.*

Do you see how easy it is to express yourself using just those five expressions that you already know? You simply tag the verb on the end of the expression, and what you can say is nearly limitless. On the next two pages, you will find a list of the top 100 used verbs in any language.

You should focus on learning approximately 10 new verbs per day. Ten words? That is no problem at all! Do that, and you will be able to express yourself in 99% of all situations in merely 10 days. Keep with it. Focus on one group of words at a time and no more. Once you have mastered a verb and can recite it without looking at the definition, put a check next to it and move on. If there is a verb that you don't think you will ever need or use, skip it. There is no need to spend time on learning what you won't use. You will be able to say about 500 simple phrases when you are done. Enjoy.

4.2 The Top 100^{ish} Verbs

Feelings

Kuhara - *to want / to like / to love*
Kuhepa - *to need*
Kuzuvha - *to hear / to understand*
Kuzora - *to laugh*
Kumenya-menya - *to smile*
Kuteura - *to joke*
Kupura - *to believe / to ask*
Kuhafa - *to be happy*
Kulira - *to cry*
Kulizuvha - *to feel / to agree*

Travel

Kugenda - *to go / to walk / to travel*
Kurugana - *to do / to make / to work*
Kudingura - *to visit*
Kuhundira - *to borrow*
Kureta - *to bring*
Kugwana - *to find*
Kudana - *to dance*
Kudimba - *to sing*
Kuzigida - *to call*
Kuroka - *to rain*

At Home

Kurara - *to sleep*
Kupinduka - *to wake up*
Kudwara - *to dress*
Kutjindja - *to change*
Kukuhwa - *to wash*
Kulikuhwa - *to bathe*
Kuwarepeka - *to fix*
Kutunga - *to build / to live*
Kudiruka - *to leave (forever)*
Kuza - *to go*

Sports

Kuduka - *to run*
Kudana - *to play*
Kuvhura - *can / to be able to*
Kuzogana - *to swim*
Kuremana - *to hurt*
Kuzumbanesa - *to lose*
Kuvena - *to win*
Kutjimpuka - *to sweat*
Kutameka - *to start/begin*
Kumana - *to finish*

School Part 1

Kuuyunga - *to talk / to speak*
Kulironga - *to study / to learn*
Kuronga - *to teach*
Kutjanga - *to write*
Kuresa - *to read*
Kufaneka - *to draw*
Kukwita - *to paint / to smear*
Kutanta - *to tell*
Kuhingira - *to sit*
Kusikama - *to stand / to stop*

School Part 2

Kupurakena - *to listen*
Kufaturura - *to explain*
Kutara - *to watch / to see*
Kusikisamo - *to succeed*
Kugazara - *to think*
Kudivara - *to forget*
Kudiva - *to know*
Kutona - *to beat*
Kuvarura - *to count*
Kukomba - *to sweep*
Kuharaka - *to rake*

Kitchen

Kulya - *to eat*
Kunwa - *to drink*
Kutereka - *to cook*
Kumakera - *to taste*
Kuteta - *to cut*
Kunuka - *to smell*
Kurunga - *to stir*
Kutura - *to put*
Kutjira - *to pour*
Kuzwida - *to fill*

Health

Kuvera - *to be sick*
Kusivana - *to complain*
Kukohora - *to cough*
Kugwa - *to fall*
Kuteka - *to break*
Kukora - *to pain*
Kupwizumuka - *to rest*
Kureta - *to give birth / to bring*

The Store

Kuranda – *to buy*
Kurandesa – *to sell*
Kugusa – *to take*
Kugwana – *to get*
Kumona – *to see*
Kufuta – *to pay*
Kuzegurura – *to open*
Kupata – *to close*
Kuruganesa - *to spend*

Computers

Kuruganesa - *to use*
Kulimburura - *to reply*
Kutuma - *to send*
Kundindira - *to wait*
Kuliwapaikira – *to organize*
Kugwaneka – *to fit*
Kutopatopa (or Kutayipa) – *to type*
Kutambura - *to accept / to receive*
Kuhagekesa - *to cancel*
Kupulisira - *to allow*

Add your own helpful verbs here

4.3 THE BASIC WORDS

These are some of the most basic words you can use to form sentences and knowing them will help you tremendously in the long run. By using these words in combination with the verb phrases you just learned, you will be able to form much more complex and meaningful sentences.

Personal Pronouns

Ame	<i>I</i>
Ove	<i>you</i>
Age	<i>he / she</i>
Awo	<i>them</i>
One	<i>they / you (plural)</i>
Ose	<i>us / we</i>

Question Words

Ngapi?	<i>How? / What?</i>
Yilye?	<i>Who?</i>
Yinke?	<i>What?</i>
Kupi?	<i>Where?</i>
Morwasinke?	<i>Why?</i>
Ezuvake?	<i>When? (what day?)</i>
Yingapi?	<i>How much?</i>

Conjunctions

Morwa	<i>because</i>
Ntani	<i>and</i>
Mara	<i>but</i>
Nsene	<i>if</i>
Hena	<i>also</i>
Asi	<i>apparently</i>
Makura	<i>and then</i>
Ndi	<i>or</i>

Time Words

Mpamwe	<i>maybe / sometimes</i>
Rorunzi	<i>often</i>
Kenye apa	<i>always</i>
Kuhova	<i>first</i>
Ngesi	<i>now</i>
Kuhulilira	<i>last</i>

Quantity Words

Yoyinzi	<i>more / many</i>
Yoyinunu	<i>little / few</i>
Navenye	<i>most (people)</i>
Nayinye	<i>most / all (things)</i>
Vamwe	<i>some (people)</i>
Yimwe	<i>some (things)</i>
Tupu	<i>only</i>
Ntaantani	<i>almost / soon</i>

Nouns

Sininke	<i>thing</i>
Evega	<i>place</i>

Prepositions

Kumwe	<i>with</i>
Kutundilira	<i>from</i>
Komeho	<i>in front</i>
Konyima	<i>behind</i>
Konzega	<i>beside</i>
Pokatji	<i>between</i>
Keguru	<i>above</i>
Kohi	<i>below</i>
Monda	<i>inside</i>
Ponze	<i>outside</i>
Pepi	<i>near</i>
Ure	<i>far</i>

Examples of More Complex Sentences

Na hara kuza kositora **morwa** na hepa kuranda mboroto.
*I want to go to the store **because** I need to buy bread.*

Nsene kapi wa hara kulya yisima, **makura** waha yi lya!
*If you don't like to eat porridge, **then** don't eat it!*

Kwa hara kuza koRundu **ndi** koDivundu?

*Do you want to go to Rundu **or** Divundu?*

Po kuduka ame kutjimpuka, **makura** na hepa kulikuhwa **apa** nani mana.

*When I run I sweat, **so** I need to bathe **when/after** I am finished.*

Section Two

The Technical

The Necessary Details

Kate: “Are you reading the dictionary?”

White: “Oh, you caught me. I like to break a mental sweat too.”

- Dodgeball, the movie

Are you ready to break a mental sweat? *The Technical* contains the necessary details about Rukwangali that you need to know in the beginning. Even if you don't think you will need to know everything in this section, it will help you in one way or another. For example, you might think to yourself - *I don't want to waste my time learning about adjectives. I don't need that.* Well, you might not need to use adjectives when *you* are speaking, but it will help you understand other people when *they* are speaking, instead of getting “hung up” on part of the phrase that you don't understand. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the details, so expect to feel more frustrated in this section. However, once you learn everything here (notice how I did not say *if* you learn everything here), your understanding of Rukwangali will be much higher and the rules that guide the language will soon guide you.

Verb Tenses

verb usage decoded

First, let me start by saying that verb tenses in Rukwangali are often confusing for English speakers because of these little *punks* called concords. Concords do not exist in English, so it is hard for us to wrap our head around them. So instead of addressing a terribly confusing concept, I will simply avoid them – easy solution right? I will try to avoid linguistic jargon such as “concords” and aim for clear explanation on how to apply them, without even explaining what they are. Remember, understanding the nit picky details and names of rules won’t help you speak faster – recognizing patterns and using them *will*.

*Focus on understanding the 5 rules for each of the past, present, and future tenses. That is only 15 rules total you need to learn! Easy, easy, easy.

Key words

Nkera	<i>Yesterday</i>
Neina	<i>Today</i>
Mungura	<i>Tomorrow</i>

5.1 Past Tense Verbs

Kani zire kositora nkera.	<i>I went to the store yesterday.</i>
Kani dukire nkera.	<i>I ran yesterday.</i>
Kani resere buke nkera.	<i>I read a book yesterday</i>

→See the pattern? So, to say a phrase in the past tense, you simply say **Kani** (*I in the past tense*) and then take the *ku-* off the front of the verb, and then change the end of the verb to the past tense. You will need to memorize the past tense verb endings (see Appendix C for a list), but the more you learn, the more intuitive they will be.

Kani zire kositora nkera.	<i>I went to the store yesterday</i>
Ko zire kositora nkera.	<i>You went to the store yesterday.</i>
Ka zire kositora nkera.	<i>He/she went to the store yesterday.</i>
Kava zire kositora nkera.	<i>They went to the store yesterday.</i>
Katu zire kositora nkera.	<i>We went to the store yesterday.</i>

RULES FOR PAST TENSE

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. I | = kani | + past tense verb |
| 2. You | = ko | + past tense verb |
| 3. He/she | = ka | + past tense verb |
| 4. They | = kava | + past tense verb |
| 5. We | = katu | + past tense verb |

<u>Verb</u>	<u>Past Tense Verb</u>
kuza	zire
kurugana	rugene
kudimba	dimbire

5.2 Present Tense Verbs

You should already be very familiar with how to use verbs in the present tense about yourself, as learned in the previous section. However, we will introduce concords in this section, so things will look a bit different.

Tani resa buke.	<i>I am reading a book.</i>
To resa buke.	<i>You are reading a book.</i>
Ta resa buke.	<i>He/she is reading a book.</i>
Tava resa buke.	<i>They are reading a book.</i>
Tatu resa buke.	<i>We are reading a book.</i>

RULES FOR PRESENT TENSE

1. I	= tani	+ verb
2. You	= to	+ verb
3. He/she	= ta	+ verb
4. They	= tava	+ verb
5. We	= tatu	+ verb

5.3 Future Tense Verbs

Ngani za koNkurenkuru mungura.	<i>I will go to Nkurenkuru tomorrow.</i>
Ngo za koNkurenkuru mungura.	<i>You will go to Nkurenkuru tomorrow.</i>
Nga za koNkurenkuru mungura.	<i>He/she will go to Nkurenkuru tomorrow.</i>
Ngava za koNkurenkuru mungura.	<i>They will go to Nkurenkuru tomorrow.</i>
Ngatu za koNkurenkuru mungura.	<i>We will go to Nkurenkuru tomorrow.</i>

RULES FOR FUTURE TENSE

1. I	= ngani	+ future tense verb
2. You	= ngo	+ future tense verb
3. He/she	= nga	+ future tense verb
4. They	= ngava	+ future tense verb
5. We	= ngatu	+ future tense verb

(To form a verb in the future tense, you simply take off the “ku”, the same as you do for present tense)

Commands

The Key to Speaking With Authority

6.1 How To Form Commands

Forming commands out of verbs in Rukwangali is actually quite easy. All you have to do is take off the **ku-** at the beginning of the verb, and *voila!* You have a command!

Examples:

<u>Verb</u>	<u>Command</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Kulya	Lya!	Eat!
Kuduka	Duka!	Run!
Kutjanga	Tjanga!	Write!

These rules can be applied to nearly every verb you know. If you remember the list of the *Top 100 Verbs*, you can already form 100 commands.

6.2 The Best Commands To Use When...

*When telling someone **to come with you...**

Wiza tu ze kumwe. Tu zeni.	<i>Come, lets go together. Lets go.</i>
--------------------------------------	--

*When telling someone **to go away...**

Kaze kembo!	<i>Go home!</i>
Zende pena.	<i>Go there.</i>
Pwageni!	<i>Get out! (all of you)</i>
Wa ha dane na apa!	<i>Don't play here!</i>
Kadaneneni kwina!	<i>Go play there! (all of you)</i>

*When telling someone **wait for you...**

Ndindira na kauke!	<i>Wait a minute!</i>
Ndindirange!	<i>Wait for me!</i>

*When you are **asking for something...**

Penge ko...?	<i>Give me ...?</i>
Kuvhura o penge...?	<i>Can you give me...? (more polite)</i>

*When you are **in a hurry...**

Genderera!
Wiza usimbu-simbu!

Hurry up!
Come here quickly!

*When you **can't hear...**

Ziguruka **unene**.
Uyunga **nakauke**.
Tanterange...
Mweneni.
Rugurura mo
Yinke?

Speak loudly.
Speak slowly.
Tell me....
Be quiet. (all of you)
Repeat yourself
What?

Add your own commands here

Possessives

7.1 The 5 possessive stems. Memorize these.

-ange	<i>mine</i>
-oge	<i>yours</i>
-endi	<i>his/hers</i>
-awo	<i>theirs</i>
-etu	<i>ours</i>

7.2 How to form possessives correctly

Lets break it down and figure out when and how to use these possessives correctly in combination with their noun prefixes.

Noun Prefix	Possessive Prefix
mu-/va-	gw-/v-
mu-/nomu-	gw-/d
e-/ma-	ly-/g-
si-/yi-	s-/y-
n-/no-	z-/d-
ru-/maru-	rw-/g-
ka-/tu-	k-/tw-
u-/mau-	w-/g-
ku-/ma-	kw-/g-

You might look at this and say, “What the heck does this table mean?” Let me explain – if the noun begins with ka- (the noun *prefix*), then the possessive will start with k- (the possessive *prefix* – technically called a possessive concord). They are paired up.

Examples

Murongwa gwange.	<i>My learner.</i>
Nomutwe detu.	<i>Our heads.</i>
Edina lyendi.	<i>His/her name.</i>
Sindini sogu.	<i>Your container.</i>
Nobuke dawo.	<i>Their books.</i>
Rupasa rwetu.	<i>Our plate.</i>
Kana kange.	<i>My mouth.</i>
Usura woge.	<i>Your flour.</i>
Kutwi kwange.	<i>My ear.</i>

If you have trouble remembering the correct possessive prefixes in the table above, focus on remembering the **stems**. For example, whenever you hear the stem *-etu*, you know that the person speaking just said *ours*, regardless of what the prefix was. Basic understanding is what we are shooting for, not perfection – not yet anyway.

When you are the one speaking, even if you attach the wrong prefix to the possessive stem, you will still be understood. So as I said, focus on learning and recognizing the possessive **stems** – those are the keys to learning possessives.

Common Grammar Issues

Deciphering the Hieroglyphics

8.1 How to use **have** correctly.

Na kara no... *I have a...*
 Na kara **no** mbisi. *I have a cat.*

O kara no pena ndi? *Do you have a pen?*
 O kara no _____ ndi? *Do you have a _____?*

adding **ndi to the end of the phrase turns it into a question.*

Na	kara no...	<i>I have...</i>
O	kara no...	<i>You have...</i>
A	kara no....	<i>He/she has...</i>
Va	kara no...	<i>They have...</i>
Twa	kara no...	<i>We have...</i>

8.2 How to say **with.... me, you, him/her, them, or us.**

Name	<i>with me</i>
Nove	<i>with you</i>
Nage	<i>with him/her</i>
Nawo	<i>with them</i>
Nose	<i>with us</i>

Examples

O hara kuwiza name ?	<i>Do you want to come with me?</i>
Nove na kuuyunga.	<i>I am speaking with you.</i>
Na hara kuza nove .	<i>I want to go with you.</i>
Na hara kuza nage .	<i>I want to go with him/her.</i>
Tomu zi nawo ?	<i>Are you going with them?</i>
O hara kuwiza nose ?	<i>Do you want to come with us?</i>
Ame kwa kuuyunga na Thenga.	<i>I am speaking with Thenga.</i>

8.3 Locatives

This is certainly an advanced topic that you may or may not want to try to learn if you don't want to confuse yourself. If you are going for the gold, then try to learn these. They will help you in the long run.

* How to say *in, at, and on*

Mo = in

Mo nzugo.

In the house.

Zende mo.

Go in.

Wiza mo./Hwilira mo.

Come in.

Kara membo.

Stay **in** the house. (used as a prefix in this case)

Po = at

Hingira posipundi.

Sit **on** the chair.

Kara pembo

Stay **at** home. (used as a prefix in this case)

Ko = to

Tani zi kosure.

I am going **to** school.

Wiza kembo.

Come home. (used as a prefix in this case)

* How to say *here, there, over there, and in here.*

Apa = here

Tura nyama apa.

Put the meat **here**. (on top of something, like a plate)

Pena = there

Tura nyama pena.

Put the meat **there**. (nearby)

Kwina = over there

Ture nyama kwina.

Put the meat **over there**. (over yonder)

Omu = in here

Ture nyama omu.

Put the meat **in here**. (inside of a something, like a pot)

Adjectives

If you feel overwhelmed by this section, skip it and come back once you are more comfortable with the language. All of the adjectives listed below are called *adjective stems* – meaning, they come **after** the prefix. You will learn how to attach the correct prefix to the adjectives on the next page.

9.1 Important Adjective Stems

Appearance

-wa	<i>beautiful / nice</i>
-dona	<i>bad / ugly</i>

Difficulty/Weight

-digu	<i>difficult / heavy</i>
-reru	<i>easy / light</i>

Intelligence

-wa	<i>smart / good</i>
-nongo	<i>knowledgeable / science</i>
-gova	<i>dumb / stupid</i>

Condition

-kuwora	<i>wet</i>
-kukuta	<i>dry</i>
-zeresa	<i>clean</i>
-nyata	<i>dirty</i>
-twe	<i>sharp (as in a blade)</i>

Size

-nene	<i>big</i>
-nunu	<i>small</i>
-toswa	<i>fat</i>
-tongama	<i>thin</i>
-re	<i>tall / long</i>
-supi	<i>short</i>

Temperature

-upyu	<i>hot</i>
-utenda	<i>cold</i>

Taste

-tovara	<i>sweet / delicious</i>
-ruru	<i>sour</i>
-vihu	<i>not ripe</i>

Attitude

-nkenda	<i>friendly / kind</i>
-ukenya	<i>stern</i>
-wudwa	<i>lazy</i>
-ugara	<i>aggressive</i>
-utwini	<i>naughty</i>
-udumbe	<i>selfish / mean</i>

Colors

-geha	<i>red</i>
-sineguru	<i>blue</i>
-henga	<i>yellow</i>
-umburaageha	<i>purple</i>
-sinamahako	<i>green</i>
-kusamuka	<i>grey</i>
-umbombo	<i>brown</i>
-zera	<i>white</i>
-sovagani	<i>black</i>

Learning the adjective stems is easy, and learning the correct prefix to attach to the front of the adjective will be easy after you learn this rule:

9.2 The Rules for Adjective Prefixes

The adjective prefix corresponds to the prefix of the noun to which it refers.

Mugara mudwa. *The man is **l**azy.* (See the underlined prefixes?)

There are two common ways to use adjectives. Notice that the prefixes in both the noun and the adjective are identical. The fact that this is **usually** true makes using adjectives much easier than it seems after you get the hang of it. You can say either:

- 1.) Nonkaku nonene. *The shoes are **b**ig.*
- 2.) Nonkaku **do**nonene. *The **b**ig shoes.*

*So, to say *The big shoes*, you just have to add **do** to the front of the adjective. This will change depending on the noun class. Here are some examples.

More Examples

Mugara mudwa. *The man is **l**azy.*
Mugara **do**mudwa. *The **l**azy man.*

Eguni lyange evihu. *My orange is **n**ot **r**ipe.*
Eguni lyange **do**evihu. *My **u**nripe orange.*

Simbindja sigeha. *The shirt is **r**ed.*
Simbindja **do**sigeha. *A **r**ed shirt.*

Nzugo zange **n**unu. *My house is **s**mall. (no prefix needed)*
Nzugo zange **do**nunu. *My **s**mall house.*

Rtugo rwanyata. *The spoon is **d**irty.*
Rtugo **do**rwanyata. *The **d**irty spoon.*

Kayoro katwe. *The blade is **s**harp.*
Kayoro **do**katwe. *The **s**harp blade.*

Usuru uzera. *The flour is **w**hite.*
Usuru **do**wuzera. *The **w**hite flour.*

Again, notice that in all of these examples, the prefix of the adjective is usually same as the prefix of the noun. However, even if you don't use the prefix correctly, you will still be understood when speaking based on the stem that you use. Your speaking does not have to be perfect and it won't "come" to you overnight, but with practice – you will be able to use and understand adjectives with no problem at all.

Section Three

The Practical

Applying What You Know

“My words itch at your ears till you understand them.”

*-Walt Whitman
Author*

The Practical contains a lot of useful vocabulary that can be helpful depending on what your job is and where you live. Focus on learning what is applicable to *you*. For example, if you are a teacher, you probably don't need to learn the same words and phrases as a volunteer that works in the clinic. If you don't live in the village, then you might not need to learn about plants and animals. You are almost done with this book, so keep your spirits high and your tongue ready to speak!

At School

Teaching will seem much easier if you have a better understanding of words and phrases that are commonly used and can be helpful inside the classroom. You may not need to know all of the phrases below, but remember – the more you know, the more you can say to the learners and the more you will understand them if they ask questions. All of the phrases are broken up into smaller groups of related ideas. As always, focus on one group of phrases at a time and start *slowly* chipping away at the monster, one group at a time. If you feel overwhelmed, slow down and start with less.

10.1 School Vocabulary

About the School

Sure	<i>school</i>
Murongi	<i>teacher</i>
Murongwa	<i>learner</i>
Mukombi/Muzeresi	<i>cleaner</i>
Mukurona sure	<i>principal</i>
Vantu	<i>people</i>
Harade	<i>grade</i>
Pause	<i>break</i>

Subjects

Sirongwa	<i>Subject</i>
Ruingilisa	<i>English</i>
Muvaru	<i>Math</i>
Hisitori	<i>History</i>
Unongo	<i>Science</i>
Unandima	<i>Agriculture</i>

Classroom Vocabulary

Mapuro	<i>questions</i>
Maudigu	<i>problem</i>
Sitafura	<i>desk, table</i>
Sipundi	<i>chair</i>
Sipepa	<i>paper</i>
Sitendeso	<i>ruler</i>
Mpezo	<i>chalk</i>
Sitafuratjango	<i>chalkboard</i>
Sikombesa	<i>broom</i>
Hando	<i>trash</i>
Mbapira	<i>notebook</i>
Pena zekara	<i>pencil</i>
Pena	<i>pena</i>

10.2 Commands & Phrases - *You Need To Know As A Teacher*

Powerful Commands

Tareni kwange!	Look at me! (<i>all of you</i>)
Hingireni!	<i>Sit down!</i> (<i>all of you</i>)
Sikameni!	<i>Stand up!</i> (<i>all of you</i>)
Purakeneni!	<i>Pay attention!</i> (<i>all of you</i>)
Uyunga unene!	Speak loudly!
Mweneni!	<i>Be quiet!</i> (<i>all of you</i>)
Reta nonsapi!	<i>Bring the keys!</i>

About Comprehension

O yizuvhu?	<i>Do you understand?</i>
O kara nomapuro?	<i>Do you have questions?</i>
O hepa mbatero ?	<i>Do you need help?</i>
Mwa mana ?	<i>Are you done? (plural)</i>
Penge elimbururo ?	<i>What is the answer? (literally- give me the answer)</i>
Yilye a diva elimbururo?	<i>Who knows the answer?</i>
O yi pulisako ?	<i>Do you agree?</i>

Zerura ewoko meguru nsene o yizuvhu. – ***Raise** your arm if you understand.*

Zerura ewoko meguru **nsene** kapi o yizuvhu. – *Raise your arm **if** you don't understand.*

in Rukwangali you say raise your **arm instead of raise your hand*

Commands Regarding Learning

Tjanganeni eyi.	<i>Write this down.</i>
Tjanganeni usimbu .	<i>Write quickly.</i>
Yikwateni momutwe.	<i>Memorize this.</i>
Ruganeni pwa wowu udigu.	<i>Work on this problem. (plural)</i>
Ruganeni yirugana namupe.	<i>Do the work I gave you.</i>
Diworokeni kulironga.	<i>Remember to study.</i>

Phrases Regarding Books

Kudumikeni nobuke deni.	<i>Close your books.</i>
Kudumuneni nobuke deni.	<i>Open your books.</i>
Hagekeni kutjanga.	<i>Stop writing.</i>
Namuvyenye tjanganeni.	<i>Everyone should be writing.</i>
Reteni nombapria deni!	<i>Bring your notebooks!</i>
Mwa penge namuvyenye nombapira deni? -	<i>Did everyone give me their notebooks?</i>

Motivational Statements

Elirongo mulyo unene.	<i>Education is very important.</i>
Mwa kona kurugana unene.	<i>You need to try harder.</i>
Erugano eli tali kakara lyonopenta .	<i>This work will be for a grade.</i>
Mwa ha kara nowoma kulimburura.	<i>Don't be afraid to answer.</i>
Kapisi uhunga .	<i>That is not correct.</i>
Mohunga.	<i>That is correct.</i>
Wa kona kupurakena .	<i>You need to pay attention.</i>

Tomu piti **nsene** nomuheteka. *You will pass **if** you try.*

Basic Phrases and Questions About School In General

Kupi o rugana? – *Where do you work?*

→ Kurugana **kosure**. – *I work **at the school**.*

Ame murongi **goRuingilisa**. – *I am an **English** teacher.*

Ame murongi gomubaru posure zaMayenzere. – *I am a **math** teacher at Mayenzere*

Sirongwa musinke o rongo? – *What **subject** do you teach?*

→ **Kuronga** Ruingilisa. - *I teach **English**.*

Harade zaungapi o rongo? – *What **grade** do you teach?*

→Kuronga harade **zawu ntazimwe** nezi **zowu ntambali**. – *I teach grade **6 and 7**.*

Varongwa vangapi va kara monkondwarongero **zoge**? –

*How many **learners** are in **your** class?*

→Kwa kara novarongwa norontatu nkondworongero zange -

*I have **thirty** learners in my class.*

Add your own helpful phrases here

At the Clinic

head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

11.1 Parts of the body

Head

Mutwe	<i>head</i>
Sipara	<i>face</i>
Nohuki	<i>hair</i>
Nsingo	<i>neck</i>
Kana	<i>mouth</i>
Ezuru	<i>nose</i>
Eraka	<i>tongue</i>
Eho (<i>plural meho</i>)	<i>– eye</i>
Etwi (<i>pl. matwi</i>)	<i>- ear</i>
Ezego (<i>pl. mazego</i>)	<i>– tooth</i>

Mid – section

Ewoko (<i>pl. mawoko</i>)	<i>arm/hand</i>
Nyara (<i>pl. nonyara</i>)	<i>finger/toe</i>
Ezimo	<i>stomach</i>
Ehuli	<i>liver</i>
Mapunga	<i>lungs</i>
Mutjima	<i>heart</i>
Mavere	<i>breasts</i>

Lower Body

Eguru (<i>pl. maguru</i>)	<i>leg</i>
Mpadi (<i>pl. nompadi</i>)	<i>foot</i>
Ngoro (<i>pl. nongoro</i>)	<i>knee</i>
Matako	<i>buttocks</i>
Enino	<i>anus</i>
Eda	<i>penis</i>
Nyo	<i>vagina</i>

11.2 Clinic Vocabulary

muveli	<i>patient</i>
muhakuli	<i>nurse</i>
sipangero sosinunu	<i>clinic</i>
sipangero sosinene	<i>hospital</i>
vendwa	<i>injection</i>
honde	<i>blood</i>
nopera	<i>tablets</i>
vitamine	<i>vitamin</i>
singumi	<i>condom</i>
monzugo kokutawira	<i>operating room</i>
monzugo kokuhampurukira	<i>- maternity ward</i>
monzugo zovagara	<i>male ward</i>
monzugo zovakadi	<i>female ward</i>
monzugo zovanona	<i>children's ward</i>
kira	<i>mortuary</i>

Diseases/Conditions

kambumburu	<i>virus</i>
kukagura	<i>infection</i>

pyupyara	<i>fever</i>
kambumburu koHIV	<i>HIV virus</i>
AIDS (ehamba)	<i>AIDS</i>
tibi	<i>tuberculosis</i>
esakisa	<i>cold / flu</i>
kankwenyenye	<i>chicken pox</i>
marariya	<i>malaria</i>
erondolyohonde	<i>high blood pressure</i>
uvera wosuka	<i>diabetes</i>
kwa kara nezimo	<i>pregnant</i>
kukora	<i>pain</i>

Verbs

kukandana	<i>to prevent</i>
kuverura	<i>to cure</i>
kuhakura	<i>to treat</i>
kunwa	<i>to take medication</i>
kuhupira	<i>to use an enema</i>
kugusa upyu	<i>to take temperature</i>
kuviha	<i>to weigh</i>

Sample Dialogue in a Clinic

Kupi o kuzuvha **kukora**? – *Where are you feeling pain?*

→ Ame kuna kukora **mezimo**. – *I have a stomachache.*

Ezuvake kayi vare kere kukora? – *When did it start?*

→ Kayi vare kere **nkera lina**. – *It started the day before yesterday.*

Ewa, kazeni mukagwane nomutji deni. – *Ok, go collect your tablets.*

→ Ewa, mpandu unene. – *Ok, thank you very much.*

11.3 Basic Phrases Regarding Health

Tani **vere**.

I am sick.

Ame kuna kukora **mezimo**.

I have a stomachache.

Ame kuna kukora **mutwe**.

I have a headache.

Ame kuna kukora **meho**.

My eyes are paining.

Ame kwa kuzuvha **manterere**.

I am dizzy.

Ame kwa **kurusa**.

I am vomiting.

Ame kwa kuvera **ezimo lyoku pwaga-pwaga**.

I have diarrhea.

Ame tani vere **nturo**.

I have a cough.

Ame tani vere **asthma**.

I have asthma.

Ame tani vere marariya.

I have malaria.

Ame kwa kukora **ezego**.

I have a toothache.

Age kapi a **kulikwasa**.

He/she has constipation.

Age kwa kuvera kankwenyenye.

He/she has chickenpox.

Age kwa kupita **mukota**.

He/she has a nosebleed.

Age kwa kuvera **esakisa**.

He/she has a cold.

Business

12.1 Important vocabulary

Unangesefa	<i>business</i>	Epunguro	<i>savings</i>
Munangesefa	<i>business person</i>	Yimaliva	<i>money</i>
Mberewa	<i>office</i>	Makongo	<i>debt</i>
Erandeso	<i>selling</i>	Projeka	<i>project</i>
Erando	<i>buying</i>	Mapuragero	<i>interview</i>
Nzambi	<i>income</i>	Sigongi	<i>meeting</i>
Muzangu	<i>profit / harvest</i>	Murandi	<i>customer</i>
Egwanenopo	<i>profit</i>	Ekuliko	<i>develop</i>
Ezumbanesa	<i>loss</i>	Dimbura patjanga	<i>report</i>
Mukoso	<i>cost</i>	Mwenyangesefa	<i>business owner</i>
Gwedako	<i>increase</i>	Epungwiso	<i>investment</i>
Gusako	<i>decrease</i>	Vapungwisi wo yimaliva	<i>investors</i>

12.2 Useful Phrases

Ame mulizambeli gomunangesefa.	<i>I am a business volunteer.</i>
Ame kurugana ko...	<i>I work at...</i>
Ngapi za kugenda projeka zoge?	<i>How is your project going?</i>
Wa diva kutjanga business plan?	<i>Do you know how to write a business plan?</i>
Kuvhura o likidenge budget zoge?	<i>Can I see your budget?</i>
Siruwoke sigongi ?	<i>When is the meeting?</i>
Vili musinke sigongi?	<i>What time is the meeting?</i>
Mokwedi yingapi o randesa?	<i>In a month, how much do you sell?</i>
Mosivike yingapi o randa?	<i>In a week, how much do you buy?</i>
Makwedi musinke o gwana varandi wova nzi?	<i>In which month do you have the most customers?</i>
Makwedi musinke o pili kurandesa nawa?	<i>In which month do you sell the least?</i>

At Home

13.1 Cooking, Food, and Drinks

If you find yourself cooking often with locals or your host family, this section will be helpful. These are the basic words about food and drinks that you will need to know to get by. However, if you never cook and don't feel that you *will* ever cook, skip this section and come back later if you feel like learning it.

Meal Times

Mulihako	<i>breakfast</i>
Muzuhwa	<i>lunch</i>
Murarero	<i>supper</i>

In The Kitchen

Rupasa	<i>plate</i>
Rutugo	<i>spoon</i>
Rupandi	<i>wooden spoon</i>
Foroko	<i>fork</i>
Nkinda	<i>cup</i>
Nkinda zeharase	<i>glass</i>
Sindini	<i>small container</i>
Poto	<i>pot</i>
Stove	<i>esuga</i>
Mbere	<i>knife</i>

Key Verbs

Kulya	<i>to eat</i>
Kunwa	<i>to drink</i>
Kutereka	<i>to cook</i>
Kumakera	<i>to taste / to try</i>
Kuteta	<i>to cut</i>
Kunuka	<i>to smell</i>
Kurunga	<i>to stir</i>
Kutura	<i>to put</i>
Kutentura	<i>to remove from the fire</i>
Kutwa	<i>to pound (into flour)</i>
Kuhesa	<i>to sift</i>

Helpful Phrases About Cooking

Yapu kutereka?	<i>Is it ready?</i>
Kwa kutereka nondya .	<i>I am cooking food.</i>
Yinke o kutereka ?	<i>What are you cooking?</i>
Mpandu konondya.	<i>Thank you for the food.</i>
Nondya da tovara .	<i>The food tastes delicious.</i>
Nondya kwa kunuka nawa.	<i>The food smells delicious.</i>

Helpful Phrases About Chores

Tani ya veta mema.	<i>I am fetching water.</i>
Yepako lyange yazura mema.	<i>My water jugs are full.</i>
Kwa kuzeresha membo dyange.	<i>I am cleaning my yard.</i>

Kwa kukomba **nzugo** zange.

*I am sweeping my **house***

Vatereninge ko mema enota na kuzuvha - *Give me some water I am thirsty.*

Types of Food

The Staple Foods

nondya	<i>food</i>
yisima	<i>porridge</i>
mahangu	<i>millet</i>
mboroto	<i>bread</i>
roso	<i>rice</i>
makaroni	<i>macaroni</i>
magadi	<i>oil</i>
mbuta	<i>butter</i>
sopa	<i>soup</i>
yikuki	<i>cake/fat cake/biscuit</i>

Other Foods

mauta	<i>eggs</i>
usura	<i>flour</i>
suka	<i>sugar</i>
mungwa	<i>salt</i>
efuliso	<i>yeast</i>
ndjema	<i>jam</i>

Yikwanyango – Fruits

siapura	<i>apple</i>
eguni	<i>orange</i>
sipiyera	<i>pear</i>
ebanana	<i>banana</i>
mandjembere	<i>grapes</i>
sigwava	<i>quava</i>
sitoroni	<i>lemon</i>
simango	<i>mango</i>

Cultural information:

- *Smelling food before eating it is considered rude.*
- *In the village, it is normal for family members to eat from a shared plate.*
- *When eating from a common plate, you should use your right hand.*

13.2 Clothing

It is highly unlikely that you will have to talk about clothing very often, if ever. But just in case, here is everything you need to know.

Nyama – Meat

mfi	<i>fish</i>
nyama zonhunuhwa	<i>chicken</i>
nyama zosikombo	<i>goat</i>
nyama zomafuma	<i>frog</i>
muhaka	<i>sausage</i>
nyama zongombe	<i>beef</i>
nyama zombambi	<i>springbok</i>
nyama zosinguru	<i>pork</i>

Yikwahidi - Vegetables

kamundesesa	<i>carrot</i>
katafura	<i>potatoes</i>
kawandja	<i>sweet potatoes</i>
makunde	<i>beans</i>
nyanga	<i>onion</i>
etanga	<i>pumpkin</i>
ndongo	<i>groundnut</i>
ekovi	<i>cabbage</i>
mutete	<i>spinach</i>

Yikwakunwa – Drinks

mema	<i>water</i>
masini	<i>milk</i>
te	<i>tea</i>
kosiva	<i>coffee</i>
vhinyu	<i>wine</i>
bira	<i>beer</i>
marovhu	<i>alcohol</i>
fanta	<i>cool drink</i>

Types of Clothing

Upper – Body

Yidwara	<i>clothes</i>
Suta	<i>suit</i>
Hema	<i>shirt / dress</i>
Simbindja	<i>t-shirt</i>
Mbindja	<i>jersey / sweater</i>

Mbayikisa	<i>jacket</i>
Ndjafa	<i>coat</i>
Tayi	<i>necktie</i>
Hema zokuraresa	<i>– nightgown</i>
Kadoro	<i>bra</i>

Lower Body

Yiturumufe	<i>socks</i>
Nonkaku	<i>shoes</i>
Ranga	<i>trousers</i>
Ndoroko	<i>skirt</i>
Hondere	<i>underwear</i>
Kotje	<i>shorts</i>

Verbs

Kuliheteka	<i>to fit in</i>
Kukangura	<i>to iron</i>
Kuwapa	<i>to look nice</i>
Kukuhwa	<i>to wash</i>
Kusimpura	<i>to rinse</i>
Kuzaveka	<i>to soak</i>
Kutomoka	<i>to have a hole</i>
Kuhonza	<i>to sew</i>

Accessories

Embare	<i>cap / hat</i>
Sali	<i>scarf</i>
Sikayiwa	<i>head scarf</i>
Vili	<i>watch</i>
Liva	<i>belt</i>
Ekehe	<i>shitenge (traditional)</i>

Colors

-geha	<i>red</i>
-sineguru	<i>blue</i>
-henga	<i>yellow</i>
-umburaageha	<i>purple</i>
-sinamahako	<i>green</i>
-kusamuka	<i>grey</i>
-umbombo	<i>brown</i>
-zera	<i>white</i>
-sovagani	<i>black</i>

Helpful Phrases About Clothes

Ame kwa kukuhwa **yidwara** yange.

*I am washing my **clothes**.*

Yidwara yange kwa ku **kukuta**.

*My clothes are **drying**.*

Simbindja soge sosigehe siwa.

*I like your **red** shirt.*

(literally – “your red shirt is nice”)

Ame kuna dwara mbayikisa zosinamahako no uhenga.

*→ I am **wearing** a **green** and **yellow** jacket.*

Cultural information:

- Modest, professional dress is expected in most settings.
- Very short dresses or skirts, and very tight clothing may be offensive.
- When attending a funeral, females should bring a shitenge (traditional scarf).

13.3 Family

If your family comes to visit you from back home, or if you simply want to talk about your family with those in your community, these are the words that will help you get by.

Key Words

Epata	<i>Nuclear family</i>	Tamweyi	<i>Father in law</i>
Ekoro	<i>Extended family</i>	Ngumweyi	<i>Mother in law</i>
Onane	<i>Mother</i>	Mbeli	<i>First born</i>
Otate	<i>Father</i>	Nsiraura	<i>Last born</i>
Mumbyange	<i>Younger sibling</i>	Munona	<i>Child</i>
Mukurwange	<i>Older sibling</i>	Mukeke	<i>Baby</i>
Omama	<i>Grandmother / Grandfather</i>	Mugara	<i>Man</i>
Hekurwa	<i>Uncle</i>	Mumati	<i>Boy</i>
Onanegona	<i>Aunt</i>	Mukadi	<i>Woman</i>
Sipwa	<i>Cousin</i>	Mukdona	<i>Girl</i>
Simpumba	<i>Nephew / Niece</i>	Mukwetu	<i>Friend</i>
Swara	<i>Sister or brother in law</i>		

Brothers and sisters

Mumbyange gomumati.	<i>Younger brother (child).</i>
Mumbyange gomukadona.	<i>Younger sister (child).</i>
Mukurwange gomugara.	<i>Older brother (adult).</i>
Mukurwange gomukadi.	<i>Older sister (adult).</i>

Potentially Helpful Phrases

Eli ekoro lyange.	<i>This is my family.</i>
Ava onane.	<i>This is my mother.</i>
Ava otate.	<i>This is my father.</i>
Ogu mubyange.	<i>This is my younger sibling.</i>
Ogu mukurwange.	<i>This is my older sibling.</i>

Awo kava tundilire koAmerica vaya tutarerepo.
*They are **visiting** from America.*

Mekoro lyetu ame kwa kara na mumbyange gomumati **nogu** gomukadona.
*In my family I have one younger brother **and** one sister.*

13.4 Talking to children

Takamesa!	<i>Be careful!</i>
Siga!	<i>Leave it! (Don't touch that!)</i>
Yinke o kulira?	<i>Why are you crying?</i>
Yinke o mwena?	<i>Why are you quiet?</i>
Yinke o hafa?	<i>Why are you happy?</i>
Yinke o guvu?	<i>Why are you sad?</i>
Epuko musinke lya kara po? –	<i>What is the problem?</i>
Kuvhura nifaneke efano? –	<i>Can I take a photo?</i>
Zora!	<i>Smile!</i>

13.5 Useful Small Talk

Yinke o kukuna sinema esi?	<i>What are you planting this season?</i>
Ezuvake ngo purura?	<i>When will you plough?</i>
Kuvhura o vaterenge?	<i>Will you help me?</i>
Kuvhura o rongenge omu.....?	<i>- Can you teach me how to.....?</i>
Kuna dimi rutjeno?	<i>Is the electricity off?</i>
Mukeke gweni a kuru	<i>Your baby is growing</i>
Kwa reta mukeke gomu wa	<i>You have brought forth a beautiful baby</i>
Mukeke gweni muwa	<i>Your baby is beautiful</i>
Makwedi ga munoge ga ngapi? –	<i>How many months old is he/she? (baby)</i>
Makwedi gangapi ezimo lyeni? –	<i>How far along are you (pregnancy)?</i>

To ya veta mema? *Are you coming to fetch water?*
→ Yii, tani ya veta mema. *Yes, I am fetching water.*

Yinke o hara nika kupitwire ko doropa? – *What can I bring you from town?**
(*Note: only use this phrase if you plan to carry and pay for the requested items. For example, if you want to buy groceries for your host family)

In The Village

14.1 Shopping

Market Vocabulary

Sitora	<i>shop</i>	Fandisa	<i>sale</i>
Sitanda	<i>open market</i>	Yingapi	<i>how much?</i>
Ndiro	<i>expensive</i>	Kukosa	<i>cost</i>
Mbiliha	<i>cheap</i>	Kuranda	<i>to buy</i>
Yimaliva	<i>money</i>	Murandi	<i>buyer</i>
Dola	<i>dollar</i>	Kurandesar	<i>to sell</i>
Senda	<i>cent</i>	Murandesi	<i>seller</i>

Potential and Probable Village Dialogue

- A. Kupi o kuza? – *Where are you going?*
 B. Tani zi kositora. – *I am going to the store.*
- A. Yinke o hepa kuranda? – *What do you need to buy?*
 B. Na hepa kuranda mboroto **morwa** nzara.
I need to buy bread because I am hungry.
- A. **Yingapi** za kukosa mboroto? – *How much does the bread cost?*
 B. **Nodola** murongo. – *Ten dollars.*
- A. Nan, **ndiro**. – *Wow, that is expensive.*
 B. Aa – aa, **mbiliha**. – *No, it is cheap.*
- A. Ewa, **guseni** yimaliva. – *Ok, take the money.*
 B. Mpandu. Gendeni po nawa. – *Thank you. Go well.*
 A. Ewa, mpandu none. Kareni po nawa. – *Ok, thank you also. Stay well.*

14.2 Navigating and Directions

Directions and Key Words

Zumbana	<i>lost</i>	Sitaura	<i>road (for cars)</i>
Muzogo	<i>north</i>	Pate	<i>tire road</i>
Mbindakano	<i>south</i>	Nzira	<i>path (for walking)</i>
Upumezuvha	<i>east</i>	Piruka	<i>turn</i>
Utokero	<i>west</i>	Vyukilira	<i>go straight</i>
Korulyo	<i>to the right</i>	Sikama	<i>stop</i>
Korumoho	<i>to the left</i>	Kourundu	<i>inland (away from the river)</i>
Mesinyamwina	<i>– across from</i>	Komukuro	<i>toward the river</i>
Nzega	<i>next to</i>	Doropa	<i>town</i>
Pepi	<i>near</i>	Nkurumbara	<i>city</i>
Ure	<i>far</i>	Mukunda	<i>village</i>

Landmarks

Ngereka	<i>church</i>
Posa	<i>post office</i>
Sure	<i>school</i>
Mbanga	<i>bank</i>
Sitanda	<i>open market</i>
Sitora	<i>store</i>

Sipangero	<i>hospital / clinic</i>
Ntopa	<i>bridge</i>
Epya	<i>field (for cultivation)</i>
Sipata	<i>garden</i>
Apa daligwanekera nonzira	<i>– intersection</i>
Mukuro	<i>river</i>

Sample Dialogue – Practice Make Perfect.

This is a sample dialogue that you could perhaps engage in one day. Pay close attention to the key words in bold and focus on what the basic meanings of the questions and responses are – even if you don't understand everything in between. Go for basic understanding.

A: Ngapi, **mukwetu**? - *How are you, friend?*

B: Nawa. - *I am fine.*

A: Kupi ko Rupara? - *Where is Rupara?*

B: Rupara kwa karera **koutokero** waRundu. - *Rupara is west of Rundu.*

A: **Ngapi** omu nani genda nika **sikeko**? - *How do I travel to reach there?*

B: Kwama **pate ezi**. - *Follow this road.*

 Apa daligwanekera nonzira, to **piruka korumoho**. – *At the intersection, turn left.*

A: Ure woku sika kupi **kutunda apa**? - *How far is it from here?*

B: Nokilometre murongo kutunda apa. - *It is 10 kilometres from here.*

A: Azo sure zaRupara kwa karera **korulyo** ndi **korumoho** rositaura?

Is the school in Rupara on the right or left side of the road?

B: Kwa karera **korulyo** rositaura. - *It is on the right side of the road.*

A: Mpandu unene. - *Thank you very much.*

B: Ewa, gendeni po nawa. – *You're welcome, go well.*

14.3 Plants and Animals

If you find yourself working with animals, such as milking cows or goats, maybe this will be helpful for you. If you don't think you need any of it, at least learn the basic domestic animals. You *will* hear those words relatively frequently.

Domestic animals

Ngombe	<i>cow</i>
Ntwedu	<i>bull</i>
Sikombo	<i>goat</i>
Nzwi	<i>sheep</i>
Singuru	<i>pig</i>
Nhunhwa	<i>chicken</i>

Nkambe	<i>horse</i>
Sindongi	<i>donkey</i>
Mbwa	<i>dog</i>
Mbisi	<i>cat</i>

Wild animals

Nyime	<i>lion</i>
Nzovhu	<i>elephant</i>
Sivaradi	<i>zebra</i>
Ehumbu	<i>cheetah</i>
Ngwe	<i>leopard</i>
Mbahe	<i>giraffe</i>
Simbungu	<i>hyena</i>
Ndimba	<i>hare</i>
Nduno	<i>oryx</i>
Horongo	<i>kudu</i>
Mbambi	<i>springbok</i>
Mvhuu	<i>hippo</i>
Singuruve	<i>warthog</i>
Nkaka	<i>pangolin</i>
Kafukufuku	<i>bat</i>
Nsima	<i>monkey</i>
Mfi	<i>fish</i>
Ezama	<i>aardvark</i>
Mburu	<i>honey badger</i>
Mpuku	<i>mouse</i>

Birds

Mpungu	<i>fish eagle</i>
Nkutji	<i>dove</i>
Mpo	<i>ostrich</i>
Siimbi	<i>forest buzzard</i>
Ekuvu	<i>vulture</i>
Kakuru	<i>owl</i>
Nkanga	<i>guinea fowl</i>
Katjikilili	<i>waxbill</i>
Kambara	<i>weaver</i>

Reptiles

Ezoka	<i>snake</i>
Efuma	<i>frog</i>
Mbati	<i>turtle</i>
Sinzogoro	<i>tortoise</i>
Rugongoro	<i>chameleon</i>
Ngandu	<i>crocodile</i>

Insects

Mwe	<i>mosquito</i>
Ndi	<i>fly</i>
Nyiki	<i>bee</i>
Embondwe	<i>wasp</i>
Uhwa	<i>termite</i>
Simbumburu	<i>ant</i>
Nge	<i>scorpion</i>

Plants

Ugongo	<i>mangetti tree</i>
Uhahe	<i>African ebony tree</i>
Uwongo	<i>marula tree</i>
Wayi	<i>grass</i>
Nombu	<i>reeds</i>
Mutete	<i>wild spinach</i>
Undunga	<i>palm tree</i>
Uguni	<i>monkey orange tree</i>
Uguva	<i>bloodwood</i>

Helpful Phrases About Animals

Mbisi gwange kwa hara kulya **nompuku**. *My cat likes to eat **mice**.*

Monzugo zange kwa kara mo **nompuku**. *There are **mice** in my house.*

Yikombo yali **yidwara yange**. *The goats ate **my clothes**.*

Kapi na hara **ezoka!** *I don't like **snakes!***

Vaterange! Ezoka lya kara mo nzugo zange! **Help!** There is a snake in my house!

Kwa lya tanga nokulya vanzovhu mepya lyoge?

→ Are the elephants trampling and eating in your field?

Days, Time, and Weather

15.1 Days of the Week

Sondaha	<i>Sunday</i>
Mandaha	<i>Monday</i>
Uvali	<i>Tuesday</i>
Utatu	<i>Wednesday</i>
Une	<i>Thursday</i>
Utano	<i>Friday</i>
Mapeu	<i>Saturday</i>

* The days of the week are very similar to the numbers 2 through 5. You will learn about counting in Chapter 15.

A. **Neina** ezuvake? *What **day** is it (today)?*
 B. **Neina** Mandaha. ***Today** is Monday.*

A. Tani zi koRundu. I am going to Rundu.
 B. Ezuvake ngo ka **tengura**? When will you **return**?
 A. Tani ka tengure **moSondaha**. I will return **on Sunday**.

15.2 Time Related Words

Time Words

Ezuva	<i>day / the sun</i>
Neina	<i>today</i>
Nkera	<i>yesterday</i>
Mungura	<i>tomorrow</i>
Sivike	<i>week</i>
Kwedi	<i>month / the moon</i>
Mvhura	<i>year / rain</i>

Time of Day

Ngurangura	<i>morning</i>
Kaudiudi	<i>dawn</i>
Mutenya	<i>day time / sunshine</i>
Metaha	<i>afternoon</i>
Mutwekatji	<i>midday</i>
Kambombo	<i>dusk</i>
Ngurova	<i>evening</i>
Masiku	<i>night</i>

More Descriptions

Sivike sa tunduko	<i>last week</i>
Sivike sa ku wiza	<i>next week</i>
Mvhura za tunduko	<i>last year</i>
Mvhura za ku wiza	<i>next year</i>

Pinduko	<i>the day after tomorrow</i>
Nkera lina	<i>the day before yesterday</i>
Ntantani	<i>in just a few moments</i>
Ntantani yatoroka	<i>– a few moments ago</i>

Time Itself

Minute	<i>minute</i>
Sekonde	<i>second</i>
Vili	<i>hour</i>
Komutwe	<i>o'clock</i>

A fun Rukwanagli idiom:

Kwa kwatere nonhunhwa komurungu – Literally means: I was holding the beak of the chicken. Figuratively: I woke up very early. (See Appendix B for more!)

15.3 Useful Expressions About Weather

Weather Words

upyu	<i>hot</i>
mufu	<i>cold</i>
maremo	<i>clouds</i>
mpepo	<i>wind</i>
mvhura	<i>rain</i>
mundema	<i>dark</i>
rukukutu	<i>drought</i>
ruvadi/nombadi	<i>- thunder / lightning</i>

**Utenda* also means *cold*. But it is used to describe cold things, like a cool drink – not the weather.

15.4 Months and Seasons

It is highly unlikely that you will need to know the names of the months and seasons, but in case you have an inkling for learning more, here they are:

Seasons

Kurombo	<i>summer</i>
Epemba	<i>autumn</i>
Kufu	<i>winter</i>
Mangenyena	<i>spring</i>

Months

Murongagona	<i>January</i>
Murongankuru	<i>February</i>
Nsinano	<i>March</i>
Kudumogona	<i>April</i>
Kudumonkuru	<i>May</i>
Pembagona	<i>June</i>
Pembankuru	<i>July</i>
Siwogedi	<i>August</i>
Sitarara	<i>September</i>
Sikukutu	<i>October</i>
Magundu	<i>November</i>
Sindimba	<i>December</i>

Counting

Counting in Rukwangali is actually very simple. Once you learn the first 5 numbers, everything else is just addition. Take a look and try to recognize the pattern while counting.

The First 5 Numbers (1 – 5) the only five you need to know

Zimwe	<i>one</i>
Mbali	<i>two</i>
Ntatu	<i>three</i>
Ne	<i>four</i>
Ntano	<i>five</i>

The Next four Numbers (6 – 9) just add **nta**

Ntazimwe	<i>six (five and one)</i>
Ntambali	<i>seven (five and two)</i>
Ntantatu	<i>eight (five and three)</i>
Ntane	<i>nine (five and four)</i>

Counting to 10 and above (11 – etc.)

Murongo / Rozimwe	<i>ten</i>
Ronazimwe	<i>eleven (ten and one)</i>
Ronambali	<i>twelve (ten and two)</i>
Ronantatu	<i>thirteen (ten and three)</i>
Ronane	<i>fourteen (ten and four)</i>
Ronantano	<i>fifteen (ten and five)</i>
Ronantazimwe	<i>sixteen (ten and five and one)</i>

This pattern will just continue up to 100. In my experience, because it takes so long to say numbers in general, any number above 15 will usually just be said in English by everyone because it is shorter and easier. So save yourself the headache, and focus on the first 15 numbers unless you feel the need to learn more.

20 and Beyond

Norombali– *twenty (two tens)*

*break it down – **Noro** (*multiple tens*) mbali (*two*) = *two tens*

Norombali na ne – *twenty four (two tens and four)*

Example Phrases Using Numbers

Ame nomvhura dage norombali na ntazimwe. - *I am 26 years old*

Na hara kuranda yikuki ntambali. - *I want to buy 7 fat cakes.*

Na hara kuranda nomuhwi mbali do mboroto. - *I want to buy 2 loaves of bread.*

The Road Ahead

How To Become Fluent In Rukwangali

Becoming fluent? Isn't that really hard? Well, the simple answer is yes. Becoming fluent in a language will take a lot of practice and determination on your part. If you have finished this book and absorbed all of its contents, then you have certainly learned a lot of helpful vocabulary, verbs, and rules, but are by no means *fluent*. You have taken the first step to speaking the language well, but how exactly do you obtain fluency?

You have to change the way you approach speaking and more importantly - thinking. Instead of just saying something in English because it is easier, first **stop and think** – “Do I know how to say this in Rukwangali?” You may not know the exact words to say what you want, but you can *probably* piece it together. For example, if you wanted to say:

“I have to go to Rundu tomorrow to buy some books for my class. Tell my learners to work on the problem I gave them today.”

- That is a long phrase and not something that I directly covered in this book. But if you **stop and think**, you know how to say everything in that phrase. Take a look:

“Na hara kuza (*I have/want to go*) koRundu (*to Rundu*) mungura (*tomorrow*) nika rande (*to buy*) nombapira (*books*) do varongwa vange (*my learners*). Tantera (*tell*) varongwa vange (*my learners*) varugane yirugana (*to work on the problem*) na vape (*I gave*) neina (*today*).

The Puzzle Pieces

See, you already learned how to say everything in that phrase. You just have to put the pieces together. And guess what? Even if you don't say it perfectly, they will certainly understand the point you are trying to make. **Don't be afraid** to try to say things you don't know yet. You *can* put it together. Do you think the Namibians' English is perfect? No, but they get their ideas across by saying what they know after putting the pieces of the language puzzle together.

10 Tips On How To Become Fluent

1. **Stop** - Using English as a crutch to lean on
2. **Be Proactive** - tell people to only speak to you in Rukwangali unless you ask for English
3. **Think** - Do you know the words for what you want to say?
4. **Act** - Put the pieces (the words) together the best you can
5. **Follow Up** - Ask if what you said was correct
6. **Learn** - Take note of what you did wrong (if anything)
7. **Ask** - If you have *no idea* how to say something, ask someone and write it down
8. **Practice** - Continually practice everyday
9. **Be Persistent** – Keep trying and don't be lazy, you know more than you think
10. **Be Confident** - Don't be afraid to say things incorrect.

Rukwangali Exercises

Exercise 1. Phonetics

Listen to Exercise track 1 and record the beginning consonant combinations that you hear.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. _____ a | 11. _____ izumuka |
| 2. _____ a | 12. _____ a |
| 3. _____ a | 13. _____ i |
| 4. _____ e | 14. _____ uu |
| 5. _____ a | 15. _____ ato |
| 6. _____ aantani | 16. _____ a |
| 7. _____ aa | 17. _____ endi |
| 8. _____ i | 18. _____ umita |
| 9. _____ undu | 19. e _____ e |
| 10. _____ ukisa | 20. _____ anta |

Exercise 2. Plural Nouns

Using the noun class chart in Appendix A, make these nouns plural.

- | | Singular | Plural |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | sindini | _____ |
| 2. | embare | _____ |
| 3. | muntu | _____ |
| 4. | rutugo | _____ |
| 5. | undunga | _____ |
| 6. | nzugo | _____ |
| 7. | musingi | _____ |
| 8. | simbindja | _____ |
| 9. | kayoro | _____ |
| 10. | eguni | _____ |

11. mugara _____
12. nzwi _____
13. kuwoko _____
14. kambwa _____
15. usi _____
16. nhunhwa _____
17. murongwa _____
18. nesa _____
19. sidira _____
20. eho _____

Exercise 3. Introductions

Fill in the blanks with the following words:
(lyange, kupi, mulizambeli, tunda, rugana, edina)

A: Edina lyange Thenga. _____ lyoge yilye?

B: Edina _____ Namutenya.

A: _____ wa tunda?

B: Ame kwa _____ koAmerica.

A: Yinke o _____ ?

B: Ame _____ goPeace Corps.

Exercise 4. Possesive practice

Using the noun class chart in Appendix A and the possessive stems you learned in section 2, fill in the appropriate possessive.

1. My name → Edina _____

2. Your cat → Mbisi _____

3. Their fields → Mapya _____

4. His leg → Kuguru _____
5. My eyes → Meho _____
6. Your table → Sitafura _____
7. Her office → Mberewa _____
8. Our flour → Usura _____
9. Their cattle → Nongombe _____
10. My plate → Rupasa _____
11. His goat → Sikombo _____
12. Our family → Epata _____
13. My children → Vanona _____
14. Her hand → Kuwoko _____
15. Your notebook → Mbapira _____

Exercise 5. Adjective practice

Using the noun class chart in Appendix A and the adjective stems you learned in section 2, fill in the appropriate adjective.

1. Big man → Mugara _____
2. Blue bag → Ndjato _____
3. Wet clothes → Yidwara _____
4. Dirty plate → Rupasa _____
5. White bread → Mboroto _____
6. Hot water → Mema _____
7. Unripe orange → Eguni _____
8. Naughty children → Vanona _____
9. Short legs → Maguru _____
10. Brown eyes → Meho _____
11. Lazy woman → Mukadi _____

12. Sharp blade → Kayoro _____

13. Heavy container → Ndini _____

14. Small house → Embo _____

15. Beautiful girl → Mukadona _____

Exercise 6. Translating longer sentences

By now you know how to form possessives and adjectives properly. Now, let's put those skills together to translate some longer sentences.

1. My yellow shirt is dirty. → _____

2. Your child is naughty → _____

3. His red bag is lost. → _____

4. Their plate is clean. → _____

5. My fat cake is delicious. → _____

6. His orange is not ripe. → _____

7. Our black dog is aggressive. → _____

8. The house's door is short. → _____

9. My office is clean. → _____

10. Their clean clothes are dry. → _____

Appendix A – Noun Classes

For each noun class, the plural forms are italicized.

Class	Noun Prefix	Examples	Possessive Prefix	Adjectival Prefix	Example sentences
1	mu- va-	murongi <i>varongi</i>	gw- v-	mu- va-	Murongi gwange muwa <i>Varongi vange vawa</i>
1a	o-	<i>otate</i>	v-	va-	<i>Otate voge vare</i>
1b	- va-	mvhUU <i>vamvhUU</i>	n/a	go wo	MvhUU gougara <i>VamvhUU wougara</i>
2	mu- nomu-	mutwe nomutwe	gw- d-	mu- no-	Mutwe gwange munene <i>Nomutwe dawo nonene</i>
3	e- ma-	epya <i>mapya</i>	ly- g-	lye- ma-	Epya lyetu lyenunu <i>Mapya getu manunu</i>
4	si- yi-	sikombo <i>yikombo</i>	s- y-	sosi- yoyi-	Sikombo setu sosikadi <i>Yikombo yetu yoyikadi</i>
5	(n)- no(n)-	ngombe <i>nongombe</i>	z- d-	z- dono-	Ngombe zoge zogeha <i>Nongombe doge donogeha</i>
6	ru- maru-	rupasa <i>marupasa</i>	rw- g-	ru- g-	Rupasa rwange ruanyata <i>Marupasa gange ganyata</i>
7	ka- tu-	kanona <i>tunona</i>	k- tw-	koka- totu-	Kanona kange kokautwini <i>Tunona twange totutwini</i>
8	u- mau-	usura <i>mausura</i>	w- g-	wu- ma-	Usura wetu wuzera <i>Mausura getu mazera</i>
9	ku- ma-	kuguru <i>maguru</i>	kw- g-	ku- ma-	Kuguru kwoke kunene <i>Maguru goge manene</i>

Appendix B – Rukwangali Idioms, Expressions and Riddles

Idioms

Phrase: Kwa kwatere nonhunhwa komurungu.

Literally: I was holding the beak of the chicken.

Figuratively: I woke up very early today.

Phrase: Ana katjida nombambi.

Literally: Chasing a springbok.

Figuratively: The person has died.

Phrase: Saronda mpadi nomo ngoro ngasisika.

Literally: If it climbs onto your feet, it will also reach your knees.

Figuratively: If you share a secret it will spread around.

Phrase: Rera nyime ngaka kulye.

Literally: If you take care of a lion it will kill you.

Figuratively: No matter how much you take care of a stranger, he might turn against you.

Phrase: Mpuku zange pya usimbu kapi za wapa.

Literally: If you fry your mouse in a hurry it will not taste good.

Figuratively: If you rush into something, it won't work out well.

Phrase: Erago lyo mbwa pevhu.

Literally: For a dog luck is in the ground.

Figuratively: You find good luck when you do not expect it.

Phrase: Kanzimbu wateka nongundango danare.

Literally: The small axe breaks long grudges

Meaning: People who hold grudges for a long time.

Phrase: Magonga gavali galimba kutemba.

Literally: It is difficult to duck from two spears.

Meaning: It is difficult to solve two problems at once.

Expressions

Phrase: Kufa ko nkuruhupa, yitembe kuli haragana.

Meaning: When the head of the family has died, the family members will scatter.

Phrase: Nsene mbisi za tundupo nompuku kuliharangera.

Meaning: When the cat is away, the mice will play.

Phrase: Ogo ge pata.

Meaning: You are married.

Phrase: Ogo muse.

Meaning: You are dependable.

Riddles

Samana wayi nye kapi asi kuru. - *What finishes all the grass, but does not grow up?*

Answer: nompadi! - *feet! (because they trample, but don't grow bigger)*

Kapi ava sivarere. – *What can't you track?*

Answer: wato – *a canoe (it doesn't leave a trail)*

Appendix C – Rukwangali Verb Chart

English verbs	Present	Past	Future
afford	vhuru	vhulire	vhura
agree	pura	pulire	pura
accept	tambura	tambwire	tambura
act (drama)	dana	danene	dana
add	gweda / tura	gwedere / tulire	gweda / tura
admire	hara	here	hara
allow	pulisira	pulisilire	pulisira
amaze	tetuka	tetukire	tetuka
announce	zigira	zigilire	zigira
answer/reply	limburura	limbwilire	limburura
approach	hedera	hederere	hedera
arrive	sika	sikire	sika
bake	baka / kanga	bekere / kangere	baka / kanga
be able	vhura	vhulire	vhura
be alive	paruka	parukire	paruka
be born	hampuruka	hampurukire	hampuruka
be found	gwana	gwanene	gwana
be happy	hafa	hafere/ hefe	hafa
be ill	vera	verere	vera
be surprised	tetuka	tetukire	tetuka
be well	kara nawa	kere nawa	kara nawa
beat/hit	toona	toonene	toona
become	kara	kere	kara
begin	tameka	tamekere	tameka
believe	pura	pulire	pura
belong	hamena	hamenene	hamena
bite	huma	humine	huma
boil	vilisa	vilisire	vilisa
bother/annoy	sipageda	sipagedere	sipageda
bring / fetch	reta	retere	reta
brush	putja	putjire	putja
build	tungu	tungire	tunga
burn	hwika	hwikire	hwika
call	zigida	zigidire	zigida
care for	pakere mbili	pakerere mbili	pakera mbili
carry	simbi	simbire	simba
catch	kwata	kwatere	kwata
change into	litjindja	litjindjire	litjindja
choose	horowora	horowere	horowora
chop	teta	tetere	teta

climb	ronda	rondere	ronda
close	zedira	zedilire	zedira
confess	tongonona	tongwenene	tongonona
consider	tarurura	tarurwire	tarurura
count	vara	varere	vara
cover	dumika	dumikire	dumika
crash	myona	myonene	myona
create	hunga	hungire	hunga
cry	lira/ lili	lilire	lira
cut	teta / tete	terere	teta
cycle	lidinguruka	lidingurukire	lidinguruka
dance	dana	danene	dana
decide	tokora	tokwere	tokora
decline	gurumuka	gurumukire	gurumuka
defecate	kunya	nyine	kunya
define	faturura	fatwilire	faturura
demand	sininika	sininikire	sininika
depart	katuka	katukire	katuka
depend	huguvara	hugubarere	huguvara
die	fu	fire	fa
differ	lisiga	lisigire	lisiga
direct / show	likida	likidire	likida
disagree	patanesa	patanesere	patanesa
disappear	dongonoka	dongonokere	dongonoka
discover	gwana	gwanene	gwana
distribute	gavera	gaverere	gavera
dive	divire/mbwitire	divarere/ mbwitilire	divira/mbwitira
do	rugana	ruganene	rugana
doubt	tamangera	tamangerere	tamangera
draw	faneka	fanekere	faneka
dress	dwara	dwarere	dwara
drink	nwa	nwine	nwa
drive	singa	singire	singa
drown	dama	damene	dama
end	hageka	hagekere	hageka
endure	hepa	hepere	hepa
enjoy	bodjana	bodjanene	bodjana
enter	hwilira	hwililire	hwilira
escape	hena	henene	hena
explain	singonona	songonwene	singonona
fall	gwa	gwene	gwa
feed	lisa	lisire	lisa
feel	lizuvha	lizuvhire	lizuvha

fight	rwana	rwene	rwana
find	swana	swanene	swana
fit	swaneka	swanekerere	swaneka
fix	pangera	pangerere	pangera
fly	tuka	tukire	tuka
follow	kwama	kweme	kwama
force	sininika	sininikire	sininika
forget	divara	divarere	divara
gamble	mbetja	mbetjere	mbetja
gather	ponga	pongere	ponga
get	swana	swanene	swana
give	gava	gavere	gava
give back	tengwida	tengwidire	tengwida
go	za	zire	za
grow / grow up	kura	kulire	kura
guess	pumba	pumbire	pumba
hand / give	gava	gavere	gava
happen/occur	horoka	horokere	horoka
harvest	teza	tezere	teza
hate	nyenga	nyengere	nyenga
have	kara	karere/ kere	kara
heal	verura	verwire	verura
hear	zuvha	zuvhire	zuvha
hide	vanda	vende	vanda
hit	toona	toonene	toona
hold/keep	pungura	pungwire	pungura
hope	huguvara	huguvarere	huguvara
hurry	genderera	genderere	genderera
imagine	gazara	gazarere	gazara
implement	tura mosirugana	tulire mosirugana	tura mosirugana
interest	lituramo	lituliremo	lituramo
invite / call	zigida	zigidire	zigida
iron	kangura	kangwire	kangura
jog	duka	dukire	duka
joke	teura	tewire	teura
jump	vatuka	vatukire	vatuka
keep quiet	mwena	mwenene	mwena
kick	sanga	sangere	sanga
kiss	ncumita	ncumitire	ncumita
know	diva	divire	diva
laugh	zora	zorere	zora
lead	pitisira	pitisire	pitisira
learn	lironga	lirongere	lironga

leave/go away	za / zi	zire	za
lie	kumbagera	kumbagerere	kumbagera
lift	damuna	damwine	damuna
like	hara	harere/ here	hara
listen	purakena	purakenene	purakena
live	tunga	tungire	tunga
look at	tara	tere	tara
look for	papara	paparere	papara
lose	zumbanesa	zumbanesere	zumbanesa
love	hara	here	hara
make up	ligusirapo	ligusilirepo	ligusirapo
marry	kwara	kwere	kwara
mean	tamba	tembe	tamba
meet	gwanekera	gwanekerere	gwanekera
memorize	moma	monene	moma
mix	runga	rungire	runga
nod	nyongora	nyongorwe	nyongora
notice	nongonona	nongwenene	nongonona
obtain	gwana	gwanene	gwana
offer	gava	gavere	gava
open	zegurura	zegwilire	zegurura
order	panga	pangere	panga
paint	peinda	peindire	peinda
pass	pita	pitire	pita
paste	rameka	ramekere	rameka
pay	futa	futire	futa
pinch	ncwanta	ncwantere	ncwanta
pity	fira nkenda	filire nkenda	fira nkenda
plant	tapeka	tapekere	tapeka
play	dana	danene	dana
play (game)	dana	danene	dana
play (instrument)	sika	sikire	sika
please (someone)	hafesa	hafesere	hafesa
poke	tjoka	tjokere	tjoka
pound	twa	twire	twa
practice	yomberesa	yomberesere	yomberesa
prepare	wapaika	wapaikire	wapaika
present/introduce	lidivisa	lidivisire	lidivisa
press	diva	divire	diva
prevent	kandana	kandanene	kandana
pronounce	tumbura	tambwire	tumbura
pull	koka	kokere	koka
punish	tengeka	tengekere	tengeka

push	sindika	sindikire	sindika
put	tura	tulire	tura
reach	siki	sikire	sika
read	resa	resere	resa
realize	dimburura	dimbwilire	dimbrura
record (in writing)	tjanga	tjangerere/ tjenge	tjanga
regret	livera	liverere	livera
relax	pwizumuka	pwizumukire	pwizumuka
release	sigira	sigire	sigira
remember	diworoka	diworokere	diworoka
repeat	rugurura	rugwilire	rugurura
reply	limburura	limbwilire	limburura
report	rapota	rapotere	rapota
rest	pwizumuka	pwizumukire	pwizumuka
return	tengura	tengwire	tengura
reward	pa nzambi	pere nzambi	pa nzambi
ride	singa	singire	singa
run	duka	dukire	duka
save	pungura	pungwire	pungura
say	tanta	tanterere	tanta
search	papara	paparere	papara
see	mona	monene	mona
sell	randesa	randesere	randesa
send	tuma	tumine	tuma
serve	gavera	gaverere	gavera
shake (hand)	morora	morwere	morora
shoot	roya	royore	roya
shop	randa	randere	randa
shout	haruka	harukire	haruka
shove	sindika	sindikire	sindika
show	likida	likidire	likida
sift	hesa	hesere	hesa
sit	hingira	hingilirire	hingira
sleep	rara	rere/ rarere	rara
smell	fumbwira	fumbwilire	fumbwira
smile	menyuna	menywine	menyuna
smoke	koka	kokere	koka
sound	hagara	hagarere	hagara
spend	ruganesa	ruganesere	ruganesa
stand	sikama	sikamene	sikama
stay	kara	kere	kara
steal	vaka	veke/ vakere	vaka
stick	vambeka/kakatara	vambekere/kakatere	vambeka/kakatara

stink	nuka	nukire	nuka
stir	pirura	pirwire	pirura
stop (something)	hagekesa	hagekesere	hagekesa
strike	nyoka	nyokere	nyoka
struggle	kondja	kondjere	kondja
study	lironga	lirongere	lironga
succeed	tompoka	tompwere	tompoka
suggest (an idea)	tura po	tulire po	tura po
support	kwafa	kwafere	kwafa
swim	zoga	zogere	zoga
take	twara	twere/ twarere	twara
take	gusa	gusire	gusa
take care of	pakera mbili	pakerere mbili	pakera mbili
take out	pwagesa	pwagesere	pwagesa
talk	uyunga	uyungire	uyunga
taste	makera	makerere	makera
telephone	bela /toonena	tonene/belele	bela /toonena
tell	tantera	tanterere	tantera
think	gazara	gazarere	gazara
throw	zuguma	zugumine	zuguma
touch	kwata	kwatere	kwata
tour	dingura	dingwire	dingura
translate	toroka	torokere	toroka
transport	twara	twere/ twarere	twara
travel	gendagura	gendagwire	gendagura
try	heteka	hetekere	heteka
turn	piruka	pirukire	piruka
understand	zuvha	zuvhire	zuvha
undress	hutura	hutwire	hutura
urinate	huhwa	huhwire	huhwa
use	ruganesa	ruganesere	ruganesa
visit	dingura	dingwire	dingura
vomit	rusa	rusire	rusa
vote	horowora	horowere	horowora
wait	ndindira	ndindilire	ndindira
wake up	pinduka	pindukire	pinduka
walk	genda	gendere	genda
want	hara	here	hara
warn	rondora	rondere	rondora
wash	kuhwa	kuhwire	kuhwa
waste	zonagura	zonagwire	zonagura
watch	tara	tere	tara
water (a plant)	tekera	tekerere	tekera

wave	morora	morwere	morora
wear	dwara	dwarere	dwara
wish	harera	harere	harera
wonder	gendagura	gendagwire	gendagura
work	rugana	ruganene	rugana
worry	gazadara	gazadarere	gazadara
write	tjanga	tjangerere/ tjangere	tjanga

