

Forming Simple Sentences in Kiswahili

In Kiswahili, the verb is not conjugated. When you make a simple sentence, you only need to worry about four parts.

1. Subject (Personal Pronoun)
2. Tense
3. Verb
4. Object

| 1. Subject | 2. Tense | 3. Verb* | 4. Object |
|------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ni I | na Present | kutaka to want | maji water |
| u you | li Past | kupenda to love | chakula food |
| a he, she | ta Future | kuja to come | |
| tu we | me Present | kula to eat | |
| m you (pl) | Perfect | | |
| wa they | | | |

*Verbs in the infinitive add 'ku' to represent 'to'. If the verb has more than two syllables, it drops the 'ku' when it is the main verb in a sentence.

Put it all together: Subject + Tense + Verb + Object

I am eating.

Ni + na + kula = Ninakula

You wanted water.

U + li + taka maji = Ulitaka maji

They will want to eat food.

Wa + ta + taka kula chakula = Watataka kula chakula

He has come.

A + me + kuja = Amekuja