

Helpful Kiswahili Words & Phrases for GP Participants

(the most useful to memorize are starred)

| | | |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| *habari | ha-BA-ree | How are you? (most common) |
| habari yako | ha- <u>ba</u> -ree YA-ko | How are you?, to one |
| habari zenu | ha- <u>ba</u> -ree ZAY-noo | How are you?, to several |
| jambo | JAHM-bo | Hello |
| sijambo | <u>see</u> -JAHM-bo | I am OK. |
| salama | sa-LAHM-a | Peace. |
| *mzuri | <u>mm</u> -ZOO-ree | good |
| *mzuri sana. | mm- <u>zoo</u> -ree SA-na | very good |
| siyo mzuri | <u>see</u> -yo <u>mm</u> -ZOO-ree | not good |
| *Na wewe? | na WAY-way | And you? |
| Hodi? | HO-dee | May I come in? |
| *karibu | ka-REE-boo | welcome, to one |
| *karibuni | <u>ka</u> -ree-BOO-nee | welcome, to several |
| *kwa heri | kwa-HAY-ree | goodbye, to one |
| *kwa herini | <u>kwa</u> -hay-REE-nee | goodbye, to several |
| *kwa heri ya kuonana | kwa-HAY-ree ya <u>koo</u> -o-NA-na | goodbye and see you again |
| *ndiyo | nn-DEE-yo | yes |
| *hapana | ha-PA-na | no |
| *asante | a-SAHN-tay | thank you |
| *asante sana | a- <u>sahn</u> -tay-SA-na | thank you very much |
| *tafadhali | <u>ta</u> -fa-DHA-lee | please |
| bwana | BWA-na | sir, mister |
| mzee | mm-ZAY | older gentleman, elder |
| baba | BA-ba | father |
| mama | MA-ma | mother, maam, woman |
| *mtoto | mm-TO-to | child |
| watoto | wa-TO-to | children |
| Bwana | BWA-na | Lord |
| *Yesu | YAY-soo | Jesus |
| Mkristo | mm-KREE-sto | Christian |
| Wakristo | wa-KREE-sto | Christians |
| Kanisa | ka-NEE-sa | Church |
| *Tuombe. | too-OM-bay | Let's Pray. |
| *Bwana asifiwe! | BWA-na-sa- <u>fee</u> -way | Praise the Lord! |
| *Mungu akubariki. | MOON-goo a- <u>koo</u> -ba-REE-kee | God bless you. |
| Tunakwenda kanisani. | <u>too</u> -na-KWEN-da <u>ka</u> -nee-SA-nee | We're going to church. |
| leo | LAY-o | today |
| kesho | KAY-sho | tomorrow |
| usiku | oo-SEE-koo | tonight |
| jana | JA-na | yesterday |
| *nataka | na-TA-ka | I want |
| sitaki | si-TA-kee | I don't want |
| *Sipendi leo. | see-PEN-dee <u>lay</u> -o | I don't want anything today. |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| *sijui | see-JOO-ee | I don't know. |
| *Sijui Kiswahili. | see- <u>joo</u> -ee kee-swa-HEE-lee | I don't know kiswahili. |
| *nimeshiba | <u>nee</u> -may-SHEE-ba | I am full. |
| *nimemaliza | <u>nee</u> -may-ma-LEE-za | I am finished. |
| kabisa | ka-BEE-sa | completely |
| *nimechoka | <u>nee</u> -may-CHO-ka | I am tired. |
| wapi | WA-pee | where |
| _____ yuko wapi? | <u>yoo</u> -ko WA-pee | Where is (<u>person</u>) ? |
| | | |
| *chakula | cha-KOO-la | food |
| mchele | mm-CHAY-lay | uncooked rice |
| wali | WA-lee | cooked rice |
| ugali | oo-GA-lee | cornmeal polenta (staple) |
| viazi | vee-AH-zee | potatoes |
| nyama | NYA-ma | meat |
| chumvi | CHOOM-vee | salt |
| matunda | ma-TOON-da | fruit |
| mchungwa | mm-CHUN-gwa | orange |
| ndizi | nn-DEE-zee | banana |
| *maji | MA-jee | water |
| *chai | CHA-ee | tea |
| kahawa | ka-HA-wa | coffee |
| maziwa | ma-ZEE-wa | milk |
| soda | SO-da | soda (probably Coke, Sprite, or Fanta) |
| | | |
| joto | JO-to | hot |
| *baridi | ba-REE-dee | cold |
| | | |
| *Naomba soda baridi. | na- <u>ohm</u> -ba so-da ba-REE-dee | I would like a cold soda. |
| *Nimeshiba kabisa sana. | nee-may- <u>shee</u> -ba ka-BEE-sa SA-na | I am really full. |
| | | |
| *Nikupige picha? | nee-koo- <u>pee</u> -gay PEE-cha | May I take your picture? |
| | | |
| shamba | SHAHM-ba | farm |
| nyumba | NYOOM-ba | house |
| ngombe | nn-GOM-bay | cow |
| kondoo | kon-DO-o | sheep |
| mbuzi | mm-BOO-zee | goat |
| | | |
| kuja | KOO-ja | come |
| Kuja hapa! | <u>koo</u> -ja HA-pa | Come here! |
| *Bei gani? | bay GA-nee | How much does it cost? |
| ngapi | nn-GA-pee | How many? |
| moja | MO-ja | one |
| mbili | mm-BEE-lee | two |
| tatu | TA-too | three |
| nne | nn-NAY | four |
| tano | TA-no | five |
| sita | SEE-ta | six |
| saba | SA-ba | seven |
| nane | NA-nay | eight |
| tisa | TEE-sa | nine |
| kumi | KOO-mee | ten |
| *mzungu | mm-ZOON-goo | white person |
| wazungu | wa-ZOON-goo | white people |
| *matatu | ma-TA-too | small truck |
| | | |
| *Chumba cha kujisaidia kiko wapi? | CHOOM-ba CHA koo-jee-sa-ee-DEE-ah KEE-ko WA-pee | Where is the bathroom? |