

# Swahili Starter Words & Pronunciation Guide

Use this guide to practice words out loud. Swahili pronunciation is generally consistent: a = ah, e = eh, i = ee, o = oh, u = oo. Stress is often on the second-to-last syllable.

Swahili	Say it like this	Meaning
Jambo	JAHM-boh	Hello
Habari?	hah-BAH-ree	How are you?
Habari yako?	hah-BAH-ree YAH-koh	How are you?
Nzuri	n-ZOO-ree	Fine/good
Asante	ah-SAHN-teh	Thank you
Karibu	kah-REE-boo	Welcome
Tafadhali	tah-fah-DHAH-lee	Please
Samahani	sah-mah-HAH-nee	Excuse me/sorry
Kwaheri	kwah-HEH-ree	Goodbye
Ndiyo	n-DEE-yoh	Yes
Hapana	hah-PAH-nah	No
Sielewi	see-eh-LEH-wee	I do not understand
Polepole	POH-leh POH-leh	Slowly
Rafiki	rah-FEE-kee	Friend

## More Starter Words

Swahili	Say it like this	Meaning
Chakula	chah-KOO-lah	Food
Maji	MAH-jee	Water
Safari	sah-FAH-ree	Journey/travel
Leo	LEH-oh	Today
Kesho	KEH-shoh	Tomorrow
Unaitwa nani?	oo-nah-EET-wah NAH-nee	What is your name?
Jina langu ni...	JEE-nah LAHN-goo nee	My name is...
Ninafurahi kukutana nawe	nee-nah-foo-RAH-hee koo-koo-TAH-nah NAH-weh	Nice to meet you

## Mini Dialogue

Line	Pronunciation	Meaning
A: Jambo!	JAHM-boh	Hello!
B: Jambo! Habari yako?	JAHM-boh! hah-BAH-ree YAH-koh?	Hello! How are you?
A: Nzuri, asante. Unaitwa nani?	n-ZOO-ree, ah-SAHN-teh. oo-nah-EET-wah NAH-nee?	Fine, thank you. What is your name?
B: Jina langu ni Amina.	JEE-nah LAHN-goo nee ah-MEE-nah.	My name is Amina.