UNIT 1: PHONETICS AND GREETINGS

GREETINGS

1. **Shikamoo**: Proper greeting of younger to elder person. Always used to initiate greeting between younger and elder.
2. **Marahaba**: The only response to “shikamoo”.
3. **Hujambo**: Greeting literally meaning, “Is anything wrong with you?”
4. **Sijambo**: Response to “Hujambo”.
5. **Habari za ____**: Literally “News of”, but generally means “how is/are ____” (Used most often to refer to times (asubuhi, mchana, leo, jioni) and places (nyumbani, shamba)).
6. **Nzuri**: Good (response to “habari” questions).
7. **Njema**: Good / Well (response to “habari” questions).
8. **Salama**: Peaceful (response to “habari” questions).
9. **Mambo**: Casual greeting. Can also mean “things” or “issues”.
10. **Vipi**: Casual greeting.
11. **Sema**: Say! (What’s up?)
12. **Niambie**: Tell me!
13. **Poa**: Cool (response to “mambo”, “vipi”, or “mambo vipi”).
14. **Safi**: Clean (response mambo/vipi, also used as casual response to “habari”).
15. **Umeamkaje?**: How have you woken up? (u-me-amka-je?).
16. **Umeshindaje?**: How have you passed the day? (u-me-shinda-je?).
17. **Mzima**: Healthy / Whole.
18. **Kwema**: Rough translation: Are things well where you are/were?
19. **Unaitwaje?**: What is your name? (Who are you called?) (u-na-itwa-je?).
20. **Kwaheri**: Goodbye.
21. **Mchana mwema**: Good day (as a goodbye).
22. **Jioni njema**: Good evening (as a goodbye).
23. **Usiku mwma**: Goodnight.
24. **Baadaye**: Later.
POLITE EXPRESSIONS

25. **Asante(ni):** Thank you. Use “asanteni” when addressing more than one person
26. **Hodi:** Exclamation always said before entering a person’s home
27. **Karibu(ni):** Welcome. Use “karibuni” when addressing more than one person (used all the time, but also as the proper response to “hodi”)
28. **Ndiyo:** Yes
29. **Hapana:** No
30. **Samahani:** Excuse me / forgive me
31. **Pole:** Universal expression of sympathy, used in response to the most serious misfortunes (death) down to the most trivial (you’re walking very fast)
32. **Naomba:** Polite request, as in “Naomba maji”— “may I please have some water”

ADDITIONAL VOCABULARY USED WITHIN GREETINGS

33. **Asubuhi:** Morning
34. **Mchana:** Afternoon
35. **Jioni:** Evening
36. **Usiku:** Night
37. **Nyumba / Nyumbani:** House / Home (as a place)
38. **Shamba:** Farm
39. **Kazi:** Work