

Lesson 13:

Tenses

Tenses [wakati/nyakati]

There are five major tenses in Swahili:

- A). Present [wakati uliopo]
- B). Present Perfect [wakati uliopo hali timilifu]
- C). Past [wakati uliopita]
- D). Future [wakati ujao]
- E). Habitual [wakati wa mazoea]

A). Present [wakati uliopo]

The present tense uses **-NA-**

Sentensi:

1. Mimi **ninasoma** Kiswahili. [I am studying/reading Kiswahili.]
2. Sisi **tunasoma** Kiswahili. [We are studying/reading Kiswahili.]

B). Present Perfect [wakati uliopo hali timilifu]

The present perfect tense uses **-ME-**

Sentensi:

1. Mimi **nimesoma** Kiswahili. [I have read/studied Kiswahili.]
2. Sisi **tumesoma** Kiswahili. [We have read/studied Kiswahili.]

C). Past [wakati uliopita]

The past tense uses **-LI-**

Sentensi:

1. Mimi **nilisoma** Kiswahili. [I read/studied Kiswahili.]
2. Sisi **tulisoma** Kiswahili. [We read/ studied Kiswahili.]

D). Future [wakati ujao]

The future tense uses **-TA-**

Sentensi:

1. Mimi **nitasoma** Kiswahili. [I will read/study Kiswahili.]
2. Sisi **tutasoma** Kiswahili. [We will read/study Kiswahili.]

E). Habitual [wakati wa mazoea]

The habitual tense uses **HU-**

If your intention is to express an idea that happens on a regular basis, use the habitual tense which is represented by the **HU-** prefix on the verb.

Sentensi:

1. Mimi **huoga** kila asubuhi.
[I shower every morning.]
2. Mimi **hupiga** mswaki kila asubuhi.
[I brush my teeth every morning.]
3. Mimi **hula** kiamsha kinywa/ chakula cha asubuhi.
[I eat breakfast.]
4. Mimi **huenda** darasani saa tatu asubuhi.
[I go to class at 9am.]
5. Mimi **hula** chakula cha mchana saa sita mchana.
[I eat lunch at noon.]
6. Mimi **huenda** nyumbani saa kumi jioni.
[I go home at 4pm.]
7. Mimi **hucheza** jioni.
[I play in the evening.]
8. Mimi **hula** chakula cha jioni saa moja usiku.
[I eat dinner at 7pm.]
9. Mimi **husoma** saa moja na nusu usiku.
[I study at 7:30pm.]

10. Mimi hulala saa nne usiku.

[I go to sleep at 10pm.]

11. Wanafunzi husoma Kiswahili kila siku.

[Students read/study Kiswahili every day.]

12. Yeye huzungumza sana.

[He/She talks a lot.]

13. Mwalimu hufundisha saa tatu asubuhi.

[The teacher teaches at 9am.]

14. Yeye huimba kila saa.

[He/She sings every hour.]

15. Yeye huenda baani kila Ijumaa.

[He/She goes to the bar every Friday.]