

Lesson 46:

Reversives

Reversives [vinyume]

The opposite of any given noun refers to its other side. It is different from negation.

There are **three ways of showing the opposite** of a given word:

1. *Utanzu wa pindu*
[direct antonyms]
2. *Utanzu wa kufanyua au kulinyambua neno*
[reversed meaning of a given verb]
3. *Utanzu wa jinsia*
[gender - masculine/feminine]

A). Utanzu wa pindu [direct antonyms]

1. moto	[hot]	baridi	[cold]
2. refu	[tall]	fupi	[short]
3. keti	[sit]	simama	[stand]
4. njoo	[come here]	nenda	[go]
5. amani	[peace]	vita	[war]
6. elimu / akili	[education]	ujinga	[ignorance]
7. bara	[mainland]	bahari	[ocean]
8. haba / chache	[few; scarce]	tele; nyingi	[plenty; many]
9. mkwasi / tajiri	[rich man]	mkata	[pauper; poor man]
10. baraka	[blessings]	laana	[curse]
11. ndoa	[marriage]	talaka	[divorce]
12. unyama	[brutality]	utu	[humanity; kindness]
13. uhuru	[freedom]	utumwa	[slavery]
14. ardhi	[earth]	mbingu	[heaven]
15. jumla	[wholesale]	rejareja	[retail]
16. juu	[up]	chini	[down]
17. lala	[sleep]	amka	[wake up]
18. kale / zamani	[past]	sasa	[present; now]
19. sahou	[forget]	kumbuka	[remember]

20. konda	[become thin]	nenepa	[grow fat]
21. baada ya	[after]	kabla ya	[before]
22. mbele ya	[in front of]	nyuma ya	[behind of]
23. juu ya	[on top of]	chini ya	[under]
24. karibu na	[near]	mbali na	[far]
25. jana	[yesterday]	leo	[today]
26. usiku	[night]	mchana	[day]
27. ndani ya	[inside of]	nje ya	[outside of]
28. baya	[bad]	zuri	[good]
29. kubwa	[big]	dogo	[small]
30. shari	[rough]	shwari	[smooth]
31. mwema	[good]	mwovu	[evil]
32. bora	[superior]	duni	[inferior]
33. mwangaza	[light]	giza	[darkness]
34. shibe	[satisfaction]	njaa	[hungry]
35. utii	[respect]	ukaidi/uasi	[disrespect]
36. panda	[climb]	shuka	[alight]
37. vuna	[harvest]	panda	[plant]
38. lazima	[mandatory]	hiari	[optional]
39. hodari	[diligent]	goigoi	[lazy]
40. butu	[blunt]	makali	[sharp]
41. uza	[sell]	nunua	[buy]
42. kufa	[die]	fufuka	[resurrect]
43. zaa	[give birth]	avya	[abort]
44. kemea	[reprimand]	shangilia	[praise]
45. sifu	[praise]	kashifu	[reprimand]

B). Utanzu wa kufanya au kulinyambua neon [reversed meaning of a given verb]

For verbs which can be reversed in meaning, Kiswahili uses the vowels **-U-** or **-O-** to derive an opposite meaning. When the root vowel of the verb is **a, e, i,** or **u,** then the reverse marker is the vowel **-U-**. When the root vowel is **o,** then the reverse marker is **-O-**.

Reversives imply reversal of an action, and they are one form of opposites in Kiswahili. Logically not all verbs have reversive forms, and indeed, Kiswahili has very few.

Simple Verb		Reverse Meaning	
fuma	[weave]	fumua	[unweave]
choma	[poke in]	chomoa	[pluck out]
fukia	[fill in]	fukua	[dig out (something buried)]

chana	[comb]	chanua	[comb out]
tega	[trap]	tegua	[release]
funga	[close]	fungua	[open]
umba	[give form]	umbua	[take away the form]
zika	[bury]	zikua	[exhume]
ziba	[cork; plug]	zibua	[uncork; unplug]
tata	[tangle]	tatua	[disentangle]
tasa	[perplex]	tasua	[explain]
vaa	[wear]	vua	[undress]
kunja	[fold]	kunjua	[unfold]
shona	[sew]	shonoa	[undo sewing]
kosa	[make a mistake]	kosoa	[correct]
topea	[be inhibited]	topoa	[get out of a difficulty]
tenda	[do an act]	tendua	[undo the act]
ficha	[hide]	fichua	[reveal]
ganda	[stiffen; freeze; fasten]	gandua	[unstiffen; defrost; unfasten]
kaza	[tighten]	kazua	[loosen]
jenga	[construct]	jengua	[demolish]
fumba	[shut (eyes)]	fumbua	[open (eyes)]
pinda	[bend]	pindua	[reverse; capsize]
zinda	[be firm]	zindua	[remove something set firmly]
zima	[repress]	zimua	[reduce the intensity]
panga	[arrange]	pangua	[disarrange]
waza	[think]	wazua	[rethink]
anika	[spread]	anua	[gather]
bana	[fasten]	banua	[unfasten]
kucha	[sunset]	kuchwa	[sunrise]
inama	[bend]	inuka	[straighten]
ita	[call]	itikia	[respond]

Sentensi:

- | | |
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| 1. Ninafunga mlango.
Ninafungua mlango. | [I am closing the door.]
[I am opening the door.] |
| 2. Mama anapanga nguo.
Mama anapangua nguo. | [Mother is arranging the clothes.]
[Mother is disarranging the clothes.] |
| 3. Michael amefunika chakula.
Michael amefunua chakula. | [Michael has covered the food.]
[Michael has uncovered the food.] |
| 4. Kaka yake anavaa shati.
Kaka yake anavua shati. | [His/Her brother is putting on a shirt.]
[His/Her brother is taking off a shirt.] |

Special note:

There is a group of verbs which have identical meanings to their reversed representation:

1. kama/kamua [squeeze/wring wet clothes; act of milking a cow]

Ali alikamua chungwa. [Ali squeezed juice out of an orange.]

2. nyaka/nyankua [grab; snatch]

Waghana walinyankua uhuru. [Ghanaians attained (their) independence.]

3. ganga/gangua [treat]

Daktari aliganga jeraha la mtoto. [The doctor treated the child's wound.]

C). Utanzu wa jinsia [gender - masculine/feminine]

1. Adam	[Adam]	Hawa	[Eve]
2. kaka	[brother]	dada	[sister]
3. baba	[father]	mama	[mother]
4. babu	[grandfather]	nyanya	[grandmother]
5. bin	[son of]	binti	[daughter of]
6. bwana	[sir; Mr.]	bibi	[Mrs.; Miss; Ms.]
7. mume	[male]	mke	[female]
8. mvulana	[boy]	msichana	[girl]
9. bwanaharusi	[groom]	biharusi	[bride]
10. Amin	[male name]	Amina	[female name]
11. Saidi	[male name]	Saida	[female name]
12. mjomba	[maternal uncle]	shangazi	[paternal aunt]
13. baba wa kambo	[step-father]	mama wa kambo	[step-mother]
14. baba mkubwa	[uncle older than your father]	mama mkubwa	[aunt older than your mother]
15. baba mdogo	[uncle younger than your father]	mama mdogo	[aunt younger than your mother]
16. shemeji	[sister-in-law; brother-in-law]	wifi	[sister-in-law]
17. baba mkwe	[father-in-law]	mama mkwe	[mother-in-law]
18. mtwana	[butler]	yaya	[maid]
19. mwanamke	[woman]	mwanamume	[man]
20. koo	[hen]	jogoo	[rooster]
21. mbarika/ mtamba	[cow]	fahali	[bull]
22. mjakazi	[maid]	mtwana	[butler]
23. mrembo	[beautiful]	mtanashati	[handsome]

24. ajuza	[old woman]	shaibu	[old man]
25. mavyaa	[mother-in-law]	bavyaa	[father-in-law]
26. malkia	[queen]	mfalme	[king]
27. bintimfalme	[princess]	mwanamfalme	[prince]
28. pakajike	[female cat]	shume	[male cat]
29. mwanamwali	[spinster]	mseja	[bachelor]
30. mtawa	[nun]	walii	[monk]

Sentensi zaidi:	
1. Kaka ya Juma ni mrefu . Kaka ya Juma ni mfupi .	[Juma's brother is tall.] [Juma's brother is tall.]
2. Wanafunzi wame keti darasani. Wanafunzi wame simama darasani.	[The students have sat in class.] [The students have stood in class.]
3. Nina nguo nyingi . Nina nguo chache .	[I have many clothes.] [I have few clothes.]
4. Kuna chakula chini ya meza. Kuna chakula juu ya meza.	[There is food under the table.] [There is food on top of the table.]
5. Yeye alizaliwa zamani . Yeye alizaliwa sasa .	[He/She was born a long time ago.] [He/she was born just now.]
6. Ninakumbuka Kiswahili. Nimesahau Kiswahili.	[I remember Kiswahili.] [I have forgotten Kiswahili.]
7. Tutaonana kabla ya darasa. Tutaonana baada ya darasa.	[We will see each other before class.] [We will see each other after class.]
8. Baba ataenda sokoni na kaka . Mama ataenda sokoni na dada .	[Father will go to the market with brother.] [Mother will go to the market with sister.]
9. Huyu ni baba mdogo . Huyu ni mama mdogo .	[This is the uncle. (father's younger brother)] [This is the aunt. (mother's younger sister)]