

Lesson 54:

Reduplication

Reduplication of Verbs [kurudiarudia vitenzi]

When the verb stem is repeated consecutively, the process is called **reduplication**.

The purpose of reduplication in Kiswahili is to emphasize the given information, idea, or act. When information, an idea, or act is emphasized in Kiswahili, it denotes that the act is being done:

- repeatedly
- in small ways/proportions
- slowly
- in a fast way

Zingatia [Note]

The meaning of the act **depends on the context and the manner in which the act is being done**.

A). Reduplicated Verbs

soma	[read]	somasoma	[read a little, repeatedly]
piga	[hit]	pigapiga	[hit repeatedly, slowly]
kula	[eat]	kulakula	[eat halfheartedly, slowly, repeatedly]
tupa	[throw]	tupatupa	[throw repeatedly, slowly]
sema	[speak]	semasema	[speak repeatedly, slowly, a little]
zungumza	[speak]	zungumzazungumza	[speak repeatedly, slowly, a little]
onzea	[speak]	onzeaonzea	[speak repeatedly, slowly, a little]
anguka	[fall]	angukaanguka	[fall repeatedly, slowly]
haraka	[fast]	harakaharaka	[walk fast, speak fast, eat fast]
pole	[slow]	polepole	[walk slowly, speak slowly, talk slowly]
cheza	[play]	chezacheza	[play repeatedly, slowly]
ruka	[jump]	rukaruka	[jump repeatedly, slowly]
ona	[see, watch]	onaona	[watch repeatedly, slowly]
fanya	[do]	fanyafanya	[do repeatedly, slowly]
tembea	[walk]	tembeatembea	[walk slowly, roam]

lia	[cry]	lialia	[cry repeatedly, slowly, complain]
andika	[write]	andikaandika	[write repeatedly, slowly]
busu	[kiss]	busubusu	[kiss repeatedly, slowly]
gonga	[hit]	gongagonga	[hit repeatedly, slowly]
shika	[hold]	shikashika	[hold repeatedly, slowly]
kata	[cut]	katakata	[cut repeatedly, cut slowly]
omba	[pray]	ombaomba	[pray repeatedly, slowly]
imba	[sing]	imbaimba	[sing repeatedly, slowly]
lala	[sleep]	lalalala	[sleep little, repeatedly]
cheka	[laugh]	chekacheka	[laugh repeatedly, slowly]
pika	[cook]	pikapika	[cook repeatedly, slowly]
penda	[like]	pendapenda	[like repeatedly]
funza	[teach]	funzafunza	[teach repeatedly, slowly]
fundisha	[teach]	fundishafundisha	[teach repeatedly, slowly]
maliza	[end]	malizamaliza	[end repeatedly, slowly]
safisha	[clean]	safishasafisha	[clean repeatedly, slowly]
osha	[clean]	oshaosha	[clean repeatedly, slowly]
jaribu	[try]	jaribujaribu	[try repeatedly, slowly]
kimbia	[run]	kimbiakimbia	[run a little, repeatedly]
angalia	[look, watch]	angaliaangalia	[watch repeatedly, slowly]
anza	[start]	anzaanza	[start repeatedly, slowly]
sahau	[forget]	sahausahau	[forget a little, repeatedly]
chukua	[take]	chukuachukua	[take a little, repeatedly]
omba	[beg/pray]	ombaomba	[beg/pray repeatedly]
enda	[go]	endaenda	[go repeatedly, slowly]
keti	[sit]	ketiketi	[sit repeatedly, slowly]
kaa	[stay]	kaakaa	[stay repeatedly, slowly]
toka	[come from/get out]	tokatoka	[come from/get out repeatedly, slowly]
ondoka	[leave]	ondokaondoka	[leave repeatedly, slowly]
fika	[arrive]	fikafika	[arrive repeatedly, slowly]
ingia	[enter]	ingiaingia	[enter repeatedly, slowly]
leta	[bring]	letaleta	[bring repeatedly, slowly]
peleka	[take]	pelekapeleka	[take repeatedly, slowly]
lipa	[pay]	lipalipa	[pay repeatedly, slowly]
panga	[arrange]	pangapanga	[arrange repeatedly, slowly]
eleza	[explain]	elezaeleza	[explain repeatedly, slowly]
tafuta	[search]	tafutatafuta	[search repeatedly, slowly]
vaa	[wear/put on]	vaavaa	[wear/put on repeatedly, slowly]

choka	[tired]	chokachoka	[tired repeatedly, slowly]
agiza	[order]	agizaagiza	[order repeatedly, slowly]
potea	[lost]	poteapotea	[lost repeatedly, slowly]
poteza	[lose]	potezapoteza	[lose repeatedly, slowly]
chukua	[take]	chukuachukua	[take repeatedly, slowly]
fikiri	[think]	fikirifikiri	[think repeatedly, slowly]
taka	[want]	takataka	[want repeatedly, slowly]
beba	[carry]	bebabeba	[carry repeatedly, slowly]
pita	[pass a place or exam]	pitapita	[pass a place or exam repeatedly, slowly]
pumzika	[rest]	pumzikapumzika	[rest repeatedly, slowly]
shinda	[win]	shindashinda	[win repeatedly, slowly]
shindwa	[lose]	shindwashindwa	[lose repeatedly, slowly]
tumia	[use]	tumiatumia	[use repeatedly, slowly]
ngoja	[wait]	ngojangoja	[wait repeatedly, slowly]
bomoka	[collapse]	bomokabomoka	[collapse repeatedly, slowly]
chafuka	[become dirty]	chafukachafuka	[become dirty repeatedly, slowly]
gawa	[divide]	gawagawa	[divide repeatedly, slowly]
jaa	[be full]	jaajaa	[be full repeatedly, slowly]
kutana	[meet]	kutanakutana	[meet repeatedly, slowly]
pokea	[receive]	pokeapokea	[receive repeatedly, slowly]
tengeneza	[make]	tengenezatengeneza	[make repeatedly, slowly]
tisha	[scare]	tishatisha	[scare repeatedly, slowly]
toa	[subtract, reduce, remove]	toatoa	[subtract, reduce, remove repeatedly, slowly]
uza	[sell]	uzauza	[sell repeatedly, slowly]
nunua	[buy]	nunuanunua	[buy repeatedly, slowly]
vunja	[break]	vunjavunja	[break repeatedly, slowly]
weza	[be able]	wezaweza	[be able repeatedly, slowly]
geuka	[turn]	geukageuka	[turn repeatedly, slowly]
mwaga	[pour]	mwagamwaga	[pour repeatedly, slowly]
badili	[change]	badilibadili	[change repeatedly, slowly]
badilika	[become changed]	badilikabadilika	[become changed repeatedly, slowly]
ficha	[hide]	fichaficha	[hide repeatedly, slowly]
toboa	[open / make a hole]	toboatoboa	[open / make a hole repeatedly, slowly]
jenga	[build]	jengajenga	[build repeatedly, slowly]
panda	[climb / board]	pandapanda	[climb / board repeatedly, slowly]

endesha	[to drive]	endeshaendesha	[to drive repeatedly, slowly]
amua	[decide]	amuaamua	[decide repeatedly, slowly]
pata	[get]	patapata	[get repeatedly, slowly]
ita	[call]	itaita	[call repeatedly, slowly]
jua	[know]	juajua	[know repeatedly, slowly]
saidia	[help]	saidiasaidia	[help repeatedly, slowly]
iba	[steal]	ibaiba	[steal repeatedly, slowly]
gusa	[touch]	gusagusa	[touch repeatedly, slowly]
sali	[pray]	salisali	[pray repeatedly, slowly]
andaa	[prepare]	andaaandaa	[prepare repeatedly, slowly]

Sentence Formation

Mifano:

1. Mimi ninasomasoma kitabu.

[I am reading a book bit by bit.]

2. Yeye anakulakula chakula.

[He/She is eating food slowly/bit by bit.]

3. Wao wanaimbaimba nyimbo.

[They are singing a song over and over/slowly.]

4. Wanawake wanazungumza harakaharaka.

[Women are speaking fast.]

5. Yeye alifanyafanya kazi yake.

[He/She did his/her work repeatedly/slowly.]

Zingatia [Note]

Nouns can also be reduplicated.

B). Reduplicated Nouns

mjini	[city]	mjini mjini
msitu	[forest]	msitu msitu
kitanda	[bed]	kitanda kitanda
nyumbani	[home]	nyumbani nyumbani
nguo	[cloth]	nguo nguo
maji	[water]	maji maji
magari	[cars]	magari magari
moto	[fire]	moto moto
vitabu	[books]	vitabu vitabu

chai	[tea]	chai chai
kisu	[knife]	kisu kisu

Sentence Formation

Mifano:

1. Kaeni mjini mjini.

[You should stay in the *city*.]

2. Tuliona misitu misitu.

[We saw *forests*.]

3. Mambo ya nyumbani nyumbani

[Matters of *home*]

4. Alivaa nguo nguo.

[He/She wore *clothes*.]

5. Ardhi ilikuwa na maji maji.

[The ground had *water*.]

6. Kuna magari magari njiani.

[There are cars on the *road*.]