

# Lesson 43:

## Commands

### Commands [amri]

**A).** Commands using *regular verbs* (which generally end in -A) when indicating a single recipient will take the normal verb form, but commands indicating multiple recipients take the **-ENI** suffix, which is added after removing the final vowel **-A**.

(Mfano: Soma! → Someni!)

**B).** Commands using *borrowed verbs* (which in most cases do not end with -A) add the suffix **-NI** to the verb regardless of the number of recipients.

(Mfano: Jaribu! → Jaribuni!)

**C).** In Kiswahili, imperatives or commands are expressed in two ways:

- 1) **the direct, simple imperative;** and
- 2) **the polite imperative.**

**D).** Commands may take object markers to indicate the recipient of a command

Zingatia [note]: No tense is usually indicated in Kiswahili commands.

### A). Commands using Regular Kiswahili verbs

- When stating plural forms of commands with regular verbs, **-A** is removed and **-ENI** is added

| Umoja [singular] | Wingi [plural]     | Meaning  |
|------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Fanya!           | Fanyeni!           | Do!      |
| Funga!           | Fungeni!           | Close!   |
| Fungua!          | Fungueni!          | Open!    |
| Kamata!          | Kamateni!          | Catch!   |
| Ngoja!           | Ngojeni!           | Wait!    |
| Cheza!           | Chezeni!           | Play!    |
| Ona!             | Oneni!             | Observe! |
| Imba!            | Imbeni!            | Sing!    |
| Safisha! / Osha! | Safisheni! Osheni! | Clean!   |

Sikia!  
Soma!  
Penda!  
Cheka!  
Lia!  
Pika!  
Keti/Kaa!  
Simama!  
Nyamaza!  
Andika!  
Ondoka!  
Kunywa!  
Kula!  
Sema!  
Zungumza!  
Nenda/Enda!  
Kimbia!  
Ruka!  
Lala!  
Leta!  
Peleka!  
Angalia!  
Ambia!  
Anza!  
Maliza!  
Fika!  
Ingia!  
Soma kitabu!  
Piga simu!  
Fungua kitabu!  
Funga kitabu!  
Enda!  
Fundisha! / Funza!  
Toka!  
Tembea!  
Ongea!  
Angalia!  
Tazama!  
Sahau!  
Anguka!  
Funza!  
Osha!

Sikieni!  
Someni!  
Pendeni!  
Chekeni!  
Lieni!  
Pikeni!  
Ketini/Kaeni!  
Simameni!  
Nyamazeni!  
Andikeni!  
Ondokeni!  
Kunyweni!  
Kuleni!  
Semeni!  
Zungumzeni!  
Nendeni/Endeni!  
Kimbieni!  
Rukeni!  
Laleni!  
Leteni!  
Pelekeni!  
Angalieni!  
Ambieni!  
Anzeni!  
Malizeni!  
Fikeni!  
Ingieni!  
Someni kitabu!  
Pigeni simu!  
Fungueni kitabu!  
Fungeni kitabu!  
Endeni!  
Fundisheni! / Funzeni!  
Tokeni!  
Tembeeni!  
Ongeeni!  
Angalieni!  
Tazameni!  
Sahauni!  
Angukeni!  
Funzeni!  
Osheni!

Hear!  
Read! / Learn!  
Like!  
Smile! / Laugh!  
Cry!  
Cook!  
Sit/live/stay!  
Stand!  
Be quiet!  
Write!  
Leave!  
Drink!  
Eat!  
Say! / Speak!  
Say! / Speak!  
Go!  
Run!  
Jump!  
Sleep!  
Bring!  
Take!  
Look! / Watch!  
Tell!  
Start!  
Finish!  
Arrive!  
Enter!  
Read a book!  
Make a phone call!  
Open the book!  
Close the book!  
Go!  
Teach!  
Leave!  
Walk!  
Speak! / Talk!  
Look! / Watch!  
Look! / Examine!  
Forget!  
Fall!  
Teach!  
Clean!

## B). Commands using Irregular (borrowed) verbs

- When stating plural forms of commands with irregular verbs, the suffix **-NI** is added
- Whereas most Kiswahili verbs will end with **-A**, some borrowed verbs (e.g. from Arabic) *do not* follow that rule. In this case, the stem of such verbs is used to construct the singular form of the imperative, while the plural suffix **-NI** is added to the stem of the verb without modifying the final vowel **-E, -I, -O, or -U**.

| Umoja [singular] | Wingi [plural] | Meaning           |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Karibu!          | Karibuni!      | Welcome!          |
| Rudi!            | Rudini!        | Come back!        |
| Jaribu!          | Jaribuni!      | Try!              |
| Haribu!          | Haribuni!      | Destroy! / Spoil! |
| Jibu!            | Jibuni!        | Answer!           |
| Nipe!            | Nipeni!        | Give me!          |
| Niambie!         | Niambieni!     | Tell me!          |
| Njoo!            | Njoo ni!       | Come!             |
| Njoo hapa!       | Njoo ni hapa!  | Come here!        |
| Sahau!           | Sahauni        | Forget!           |

## C). The Polite Imperative

- Instructions can also be given in a form of **suggestion**, in which case the verb takes a different form.

| Umoja [singular] | Wingi [plural] | Meaning                   |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Usume kitabu!    | Msume kitabu!  | You (should) read a book! |
| Upige simu!      | Mpige simu!    | You (should) call!        |
| Ujaribu!         | Mjaribu!       | You (should) try!         |
| Urudi!           | Mrudi!         | You (should) come back!   |
| Usamehe!         | Msamehe!       | You (should) forgive!     |

## D). Commands with Object Markers

| Umoja [singular] |                       | Wingi [plural] |                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Nipe!            | Give <b>me</b> !      | Nipeni!        | (You all) give <b>me</b> !      |
| Mpe!             | Give <b>him/her</b> ! | Mpeni!         | (You all) give <b>him/her</b> ! |
| Tupe!            | Give <b>us</b> !      | Tupeni!        | (You all) give <b>us</b> !      |
| Wape!            | Give <b>them</b> !    | Wapeni!        | (You all) give <b>them</b> !    |

## Sentence Formation

Mifano:

- 1. Tafadhali leta vitabu!**  
[Please bring the books!]
- 2. Tafadhali leteni vitabu!**  
[(You all) Please bring the books!]
- 3. Tafadhali enda nyumbani.**  
[Please go home!]
- 4. Tafadhali endeni nyumbani.**  
[(You all) Please go home!]
- 5. Tafadhali kaa / keti!**  
[Please stay / sit!]
- 6. Tafadhali ketini!**  
[(You all) Please sit!]
- 7. Tafadhali kula!**  
[Please eat!]
- 8. Tafadhali kuleni!**  
[(You all) Please eat!]
- 9. Tafadhali nyamaza!**  
[Please be quiet!]
- 10. Tafadhali nyamazeni!**  
[(You all) Please be quiet!]
- 11. Tafadhali kunywa maji / pombe / jusi!**  
[Please drink water / alcohol / juice!]
- 12. Tafadhali kunyweni maji / pombe / jusi!**  
[(You all) Please drink water / alcohol / juice!]
- 13. Tafadhali njoo hapa!**  
Please come here!
- 14. Tafadhali njooni hapa!**  
[(You all) Please come here!]
- 15. Tafadhali zungumza polepole!**  
[Please speak slowly!]
- 16. Tafadhali zungumzeni polepole!**  
[(You all) Please speak slowly!]

**17.** Tafadhali zungumza haraka haraka!

[Please speak fast!]

**18.** Tafadhali zungumzeni haraka haraka!

[(You all) Please speak fast!]

**19.** Tafadhali enda dukani / sokoni!

[Please go to the store / market!]

**20.** Tafadhali endeni dukani / sokoni!

[(You all) Please go to the store / market!]

**21.** Tafadhali enda chumba cha mazoezi / kanisani / maktabani!

[Please go to the gym / church / library!]

**22.** Tafadhali endeni chumba cha mazoezi / kanisani / maktabani!

[(You all) Please go to the gym / church / library!]