

Swahili for Beginners

Practical Learning with SynapseLingo

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- Full audio version of this book
- Audio pronunciation guides
- Interactive exercises

- Additional vocabulary practice
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Lesson 1

Lesson 1: English to Swahili: have = kuwa na

Learn English – Swahili essentials with the verb “have” = kuwa na. In this funny mini-lesson, you’ll master “have, I have, you have, he has, she has, it has, we have, you have (plural), they have” alongside nina, una, ana, ina, tuna, mna, wana. Perfect for learners who want clear grammar, real-life examples, and smiles while learning Swahili. Practice fast drills, a short dialogue, and a quick quiz to lock it in.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Hey you, karibu! This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more resources anytime. Ready to have some fun?

Today you’ll learn the English – Swahili verb “have” → kuwa na, plus all the handy forms you need in daily life. Expect quick wins, laughs, and lots of you speaking out loud.

Your goal today

By the end, you can confidently say every form – short, sweet, and said out loud by you.

Goal check: have, I have, you have, he has, she has, it has, we have, you have (plural), they have – mapped to kuwa na, nina, una, ana, ana, ina, tuna, mna, wana.

Turbo forms: say it with me

Repeat after me – big voice, bigger smile!

- to have = kuwa na
- I have = nina (Example: I have a book → Nina kitabu)
- you have (singular) = una (You have time → Una muda)
- he has = ana (He has keys → Ana funguo)
- she has = ana (She has coffee → Ana kahawa)
- it has = ina (It has power → Ina nguvu)
- we have = tuna (We have water → Tuna maji)
- you have (plural) = mna (You have tickets → Mna tiketi)
- they have = wana (They have mangoes → Wana maembe)

Mini dialogue: keys, coffee, victory

Listen, then shadow the lines like a pro actor. You've got this!

- A: Do you have the keys? – You have?
- B: Yes, I have them. Ndio, nina funguo.
- A: Great! He has the tickets?
- B: Yes, ana tiketi.
- A: And the thermos? It has hot tea?
- B: Absolutely, ina chai moto!
- A: Perfect. We have snacks?
- B: Of course, tuna vitafunwa.
- A: Team, you have (plural) energy?
- Group: Yes, mna nguvu!
- A: Then they have no excuse – They have everything!
- B: Exactly – wana kila kitu!

Drills: your turn

Speak fast, loud, and proud. I'll cue English, you fire the Swahili.

- Say: I have time → Nina muda.
- Say: You have a pen (singular) → Una kalamu.
- Say: He has a bike → Ana baiskeli.
- Say: She has money → Ana pesa.
- Say: It has four wheels → Ina magurudumu manne.
- Say: We have a plan → Tuna mpango.

- Say: You have (plural) tickets → Mna tiketi.
- Say: They have ideas → Wana mawazo.
- Bonus: I want to have coffee → I want to kuwa na kahawa.

Culture tip: how Swahili says ‘have’

Quick nerdy nugget for mega clarity.

In Swahili, “to have” is literally “to be with”: kuwa na. That’s why present forms look like ‘subject + na’: nina (I + with), una, ana, ina, tuna, mna, wana. It’s elegant, logical, and super reusable.

Speed quiz

Rapid-fire! Answer before I do.

- Q: What is “you have” (singular)? A: una.
- Q: What is “we have”? A: tuna.
- Q: What is “they have”? A: wana.
- Q: What is “it has”? A: ina.
- Q: What’s the base verb “to have”? A: kuwa na.

Challenge: say the full set

One breath, one victory – go!

- Say all forms in order: I have, you have (sg), he has, she has, it has, we have, you have (pl), they have.

- Your turn in Swahili: nina, una, ana, ana, ina, tuna, mna, wana.
- Now mix one sentence with each: for example, “I have a book,” “you have time,” “he has keys,” “she has coffee,” “it has power,” “we have snacks,” “you have tickets,” “they have ideas.” Add kuwa na in one wish: “I want to have more time.”

Thanks and next steps

You crushed it – high five!

Thanks for listening to SynapseLingo. Keep practicing your ‘have’ superpower: have, I have, you have, he has, she has, it has, we have, you have (plural), they have – plus kuwa na, nina, una, ana, ina, tuna, mna, wana. For more lessons, drills, and laughs, visit www.synapse-lingo.com. See you next time!

Lesson 2

Lesson 2: English to Swahili: Master “to be” = kuwa with ni forms

Brought to you by SynapseLingo, this fun English – Swahili lesson helps you master the Swahili verb “to be” – kuwa – and the core identity forms. You’ll learn mimi ni (I am), wewe ni (you are), yeye ni (he/she is), ni (it is), sisi ni (we are), ninyi ni (you all are), and wao ni (they are) with jokes, drills, and a quick quiz. Perfect for beginners who want a clear, spoken-friendly guide to Swahili “to be” forms and everyday identity sentences.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Hey you, great to have you here! This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – grab more goodies at www.synapse-lingo.com.

Today you’ll nail the Swahili verb “to be” – kuwa – and the super-handy identity forms like mimi ni, wewe ni, and

ni. Imagine your knee reminding you of ni every time you point at something: “It is!”

Your goal today

In a few minutes, you’ll form clear identity sentences with confidence.

- Target unlocked: “to be” = kuwa.
- Identity forms: mimi ni (I am), wewe ni (you are), ye ye ni (he/she is), ni (it is), sisi ni (we are), ninyi ni (you all are), wao ni (they are).
- By the end, you’ll say lines like: “We are friends” → sisi ni marafiki.

The core verb: to be = kuwa

Let’s ground everything in one tiny powerhouse verb.

Remember: the dictionary form is kuwa – “to be.” You’ll often use identity forms like mimi ni or wewe ni in actual sentences, but kuwa pops up after other verbs: “I want to be...” → Nataka kuwa shujaa. To be today, just say kuwa your way!

Identity forms you need now

Say these out loud with me – yes, talk to me like I’m your study buddy.

- I am = mimi ni: mimi ni mwanafunzi. (I am a student.)
- You are (sing.) = wewe ni: wewe ni hodari. (You are capable.)

- He is / She is = yeye ni: yeye ni daktari. (He/She is a doctor.)
- It is = ni: ni kitabu. (It is a book.)
- We are = sisi ni: sisi ni timu. (We are a team.)
- You are (plural) = ninyi ni: ninyi ni marafiki wangu. (You are my friends.)
- They are = wao ni: wao ni wanafunzi. (They are students.)

A quick, funny dialogue

Smile while you speak – your brain remembers better.

- A: Who's the new teacher?
- B: yeye ni mwalimu mpya. (He/She is the new teacher.)
- A: And this mysterious object?
- B: ni kalamu. (It is a pen.)
- A: And us?
- B: Obvious – sisi ni genii – okay, geniuses might be a stretch, but sisi ni marafiki!

Rapid-fire drills

You answer first; I'll reveal the line after a beat.

- Say: I am a friend. Answer: mimi ni rafiki.

- Say: You are amazing. (sing.) Answer: wewe ni mzuri sana.
- Say: He is the captain. Answer: yeye ni nahodha.
- Say: It is early. Answer: ni mapema.
- Say: We are ready. Answer: sisi ni tayari.
- Say: You are champions! (to a group) Answer: ninyi ni mabingwa!
- Say: They are leaders. Answer: wao ni viongozi.
- Bonus: I want to be brave. Answer: Nataka kuwa shujaa.

Culture tip: identity vs. place

Here's a tiny pro tip to sound natural.

Use *ni* forms for identity and qualities – *wewe ni mzuri* (you are kind), *sisi ni timu* (we are a team). For location you'll learn forms like “*yuko/uko/mko/tuko*” later, but today keep it simple: stick to *ni* for who or what something is. Also, compliments land warmly – try “*wewe ni hodari!*” and watch smiles happen.

Quiz time

Answer out loud; I'll reveal the solution after a short pause.

- 1) Translate: They are friends. Answer: *wao ni marafiki*.
- 2) Translate: It is a book. Answer: *ni kitabu*.

- 3) Fill the blank: - - - - mwalimu. (I am a teacher.)
Answer: mimi ni.
- 4) Translate (to one person): You are ready. Answer: wewe ni tayari.
- 5) Translate: We are a team. Answer: sisi ni timu.
- 6) Translate (to a group): You are winners! Answer: ninyi ni washindi!
- 7) Translate: He/She is a doctor. Answer: yeeye ni daktari.
- 8) Dictionary form: to be = ? Answer: kuwa.

Your speak-up challenge

Tiny challenge, big win.

Introduce yourself and two others, then label an object: “I am a student” → mimi ni mwanafunzi; “She is a leader” → yeeye ni kiongozi; “They are students” → wao ni wanafunzi; “It is a pen” → ni kalamu. Finally, hype your crew: “sisi ni timu!” and cheer to the group: “ninyi ni bora!”

Wrap-up and next steps

You did great – high five!

Today you mastered “to be” = kuwa and the identity forms: mimi ni, wewe ni, yeeye ni, ni, sisi ni, ninyi ni, wao ni. Thanks for listening! Keep practicing, share a smile with “wewe ni hodari,” and visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more lessons, games, and downloads. See you next time!

Lesson 3

Lesson 3: English to Swahili: go = kwenda

Learn the English – Swahili verb for “go” fast and fun – go = kwenda. We’ll drill real-life present tense forms like unaenda, anaenda, inaenda, tunaenda, mnaenda, and wanaenda so you can speak with confidence. Perfect for beginners who want clear examples, pronunciation tips, and a friendly laugh while learning Swahili. English to Swahili made easy: verb “go,” daily phrases, and short quizzes you can answer on the go.

Welcome

Hey, du-style learner! This episode is brought to you by SynapseLingo – visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more resources and freebies. Ready to learn Swahili with smiles?

When I say “go,” you point forward and say kwenda. If your coffee is stronger than your willpower, I’ll still get you saying kwenda with a grin.

Your goal today

In a few minutes, you'll master the present tense of "go" in Swahili and use it in mini scenes. Stay with me; you've got this!

- to go = kwenda
- you go = unaenda
- he/she goes = anaenda
- it goes = inaenda
- we go = tunaenda
- you (plural) go = mnaenda
- they go = wanaenda

Forms with rhythm

Clap with me and speak out loud – tiny rhythm, big memory.
Ready?

- Clap – clap – You go: unaenda.
- Clap – clap – We go: tunaenda.
- Clap – clap – They go: wanaenda.
- Clap – clap – He goes: anaenda.
- Clap – clap – She goes: anaenda.
- Clap – clap – It goes: inaenda.
- Whisper the base verb: kwenda. Now say it like a superhero.

Mini dialogue: Let's roll

Act this out in your head – yes, with dramatic eyebrow moves.

- You: Ready to go?
- Friend: Always – twende! (let's go)
- You: Cool. Today, you go first: unaenda mbele.
- Narrator voice in your head: He goes to get snacks – anaenda kuchukua vitafunwa.
- You: Meanwhile, the bus... it goes, slowly – inaenda, polepole.
- Your crew joins: We go together – tunaenda pamoja.
- Guide waving at the group: You all go left – mnaenda kushoto.
- Crowd behind you: They go to the gate – wanaenda langoni.

Call-and-response drills

I say English, you shout the Swahili. Scare your houseplants with confidence.

- To go → kwenda
- You go → unaenda
- He goes → anaenda
- She goes → anaenda
- It goes → inaenda