Beginning Chichewa Lesson 4

We have begun to put sentences together using the present tense, past tense and habitual tense. Let’s do some more practice. Use the verbs and nouns from the following lists to make up a short conversation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kufika | To arrive |
| Kupika | To cook |
| Kuseka | To laugh |
| Kutseka | To close |
| Kukhala | To be or to live |
| Kukhala pansi | To sit down |
| Kuimilira | To stand |
| Kuli | To be |
| Kufuna | To want |
| Kuyenda | To go |
| Kuyimba | To sing |
| Kuyenda | To walk or go |
| Kuvina | To dance |
| Kuyendetsa | To drive |
| Kupita | To go |
| Kuyimba | To sing |
| Kulima | To farm |
| Kuphunzitsa | To teach |
| Kuphunzira | To learn |
| Kulankhulana | To talk with each other |
| Kuthokoza | To give thanks or be grateful |
| Kudya (one of the few exceptions in Chichewa) Use the infinitive for this verb, not just the stem: Kudya | To eat |
| Kuvala | To wear clothes |
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The Verb List

The Noun Lists:

In the people class use “a” for your noun prefix when you conjugate your verbs.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Singular: m-, mu-, mw-** |  | **Plural: a-** |  |
| Munthu | Person | Anthu | People |
| Mwana | Child | Ana | Children |
| Bambo | Man/Father | Abambo | Polite Address for Father |
|  |  | Azibambo | Men |
| Mayi | Woman/Mrs/Mother | Amayi | Polite Address for Mother |
|  |  | Azimayi | Women |
| Mzungu | Westerner (English speaking) | Azungu | Westerners (English Speaking) |
| Galu | Dog | Agalu | Dogs |
| Mtsikana | Girl | Atsikana | Girls |
| Mnyamata | Boy | Anyamata | Boys |

The Chi-Zi Class: Use Chi or Zi for the noun prefix when conjugating verbs.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Singular: chi-** |  | **Plural: zi-** |  |
| Chitenje | Cloth women wrap as a skirt | Zitenje | Clothes women wrap as a skirt |
| Chipatala | Hospital | Zipatala | Hospitals |
| Chimanga | Corn | --- | --- |
| Chikondi | Love | --- | --- |
| Chovala | Clothes | Zovala | Clothes |

Verb Tenses

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| -ku- | Present tense |
| -na- | Past Tense |
| -ma- | Habitual Tense |

Conjugating Verbs: Prefix + verb tense + verb stem Ndi + ma + vala chitenje ku Malawi.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ine | Ndi | I |
| Inu | Mu- | You |
| Ife | Ti- | We |
| Iye | A- | He, she |
| Awa | A- | They |

Some Dialogues to practice:

Ndikuphunzira Chichewa. Ndikufuna kulankhulana ndi anthu. Ndikuthokoza. Zikomo.

Dzina langa ndi \_\_\_\_\_. Ndimakhala ku \_\_\_\_\_. Ndikufuna kuphunzira Chichewa. Ndikuthokoza. Zikomo.