BEMBA

INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

ENGLISH	BEMBA	BEMBA PHONETIC
I am an American and I need your help, but I do not speak your language. I'll point to the question in your language and you can point to the answer in your language.	Ndi mwina Amelika ndefwaya cafwilisho cenu, lelo nshilanda icibemba. Nalasonta na icipusho mu icibemba elyo kuti ukusonta na casuko mu icibemba.	dee mwEE-na a-mEh-lee-ka de-fwAA-ya cha-fwee-lEE-shoh chEh-noo, le-lO shee-lAn-dah chee-bEm-ba. na-la-sOn-ta na chee-pOO-sho moo chee-bEm-ba el-yO koo-tEE oo-koo-sOn-ta na cha-sOO-ko moo chee-bEm-ba.

COMMUNICATION

ENGLISH	BEMBA	BEMBA PHONETIC
Will you help me?	Kuti mungefwako (singular)?	koo-tEE moo-ge-fwAA-koh (singular)?
Is there someone that speaks English?	Bushe kuli umuntu aleilanda* icisungu?	boo-shAy oo-mOOn-too ah-leh-lAn-dah* ii-chii-zOOn-goo.
Are they willing to help me?	Bushe kuti banalafwilisho**?	boo-shAy koo-tee ba-na-la-fwii-lII-sho?
Can they come here?	Kuti alaisa kuno?	koo-tEE a-lAh-ee-sa koo-no?
I must go now but, I want to thank you for your help.	Nafwile ukuya nomba, lelo ndefwaya ukutotela na cafwlisho cenu.	na-fwii-lay oo-kOO-ya noom-bAh, lay-lOO de-fwa-yAh oo-koo-to-tE-la na cha-fwi-lII-sho chE-noo.
My government will repay you for your kindness.	Kamfulumende lyandi akalipila na busuma wenu.	kahm-foo-loo-mEn-deh yAAn-dee ah-ka-lee-pEE-la na boo-sOO-ma wAy-noo.
I greatly appreciate your assistance.	Natotela sana na cafwilisho cenu.	na-to-tE-la sA-na na cha-fwee-lEE-shoh che-noo.

*The "a" form used in "aleilanda" is used for both the general form of the plural they, as the singular form he/she.
**When speaking of a specific person as in "banalafwilisho," you use the "ba" form of the verb.

BASIC NEEDS

ENGLISH	BEMBA	BEMBA PHONETICS
May I have some water?	Mpeeniko amenshi*?	pEh-nee-koh ah-mEn-shee?
May I have some food?	Mpeeniko ubwali**?	pEh-nee-koh oo-bwAA-lee?
I am injured. Is there someone that can help me?	Ndi cena. Bushe kuli uwingangafwako?	dee chE-na. boo-shAy kOO-lee oo-wing-gan-ga-fwAh-koh?
Do you have any bandages?	Bushe namukwata kakileko?	boo-shAy nah-moo-quA-ta kah-kee-lE-koh?
Can you contact someone to help me?	Kuti ukwita umuntu (singular) bangafweko?	kOO-tee oo-kwEE-ta oo-mOOn-too (singular) ba-ga-FWE-koh?
Where is the latrine?	Icimbusu cili kwisa?	ee-chim-bOO-soo chIh-lee kwEE-sah?
I am very tired. Is there a place I can sleep?	Nanaka sana. Bushe bulo ukulala?	na-na-ka sAh-nah. boo-shAy bOO-low oo-koo-lAh-lah?
May I have a blanket, or more clothing?	Mpeeniko bulangeti, nangu ifyakufwala?	pEh-nee-koh boo-lan-gEh-tee nan-goo ee-feeya-koo-fwAh-lah?

*In 'mpeeniko' the 'm' is silent.
**Ubwali is the staple food in Zambia, the word for food is ifyakulya, but it is rarely used.

TRAVEL

ENGLISH	BEMBA	BEMBA PHONETIC
Can you show me my location on a map?	Naangeeniko incende* yandi pa maapu?	naan-gEn-nee-ko in-chEn-deh yan-dEE pa mAA-poo?
Can you send word that I am alive?	Kuti mwatuma ba na mashiwi ndi no bumi?	koo-tEE mwah-tOO-mah ba na ma-shEE-wee dee no bOO-mee?
How far is it to friendly territory?	Bushe ku incende isuma kwalepa shani?	boo-shEh koo in-chEn-de EE-soo-ma kwa-lAh-pa sha-nEE?
Can you take me there?	Bushe kuti mwnashindika?	boo-shEh koo-tee mwa-na-shEEn-dee-ka?
If you cannot take me, will you give me directions?	Nga takuli mwanashindika, kuti mwanalapela ntunga?	nga ta-kOO-lee mwa-na-shEEn-dee-ka, koo-tEE mwa-nah-lah-pEh-lah tOOn-ga?
Is it safe to travel now?	Bushe nomba napusuka ukuwenda?	boo-shEh nom-bAh na-poo-sOO-ka oo-koo-wEn-da?
Which way do you advise me to travel?	Cinshi cingawamapo ukuwenda?	chEEn-shee chin-gah-wah-mAh-poh oo-koo-wEn-dah?
How can I travel?	Kuti nawenda shani?	koo-tEE na-wEn-dah shah-nEE?
Automobile	Motoka	moh-tOh-kah
Train	Ishitima	ee-shee-tEE-ma
Boat	Ubwato/Ishitima	oo-bwAh-to/ee-shee-tEE-ma
Cart/Wagon	Icikocikala	ee-chEE-kO-chEE-ka-la
Pack Animal	NO EQUIVALENT**	
On Foot	Ukwenda	oo-kwEn-da

*'C' is pronounced 'ch' as in 'church.'
**There is no equivalent in Bemba.

UNFRIENDLY

ENGLISH	BEMBA	BEMBA PHONETIC
What types of troops are in the area?	Bushe bali abantu canso pano pene?	boo-shEh ba-lee ah-ban-tOO chan-sOh pa-nOh peh-nEh?
Are they army troops?	Bali abantu ukufuma fita?	ba-lEE a-bAn-too oo-kOO-fOO-mah fEE-tah?
Are they militia?	Bushe bali abakaya canso?	boo-shEh ba-lEE ah-bAh-kAh-yah?
Have you noticed any increase of troops or patrolling?	Bushe mwalimona ukusanduluka na abantu canso nangu fita ?	boo-shEh mwAh-lEE-moh-nah oo-koo-sahn-dOO-loo-kah na abantu chAhn-soh nAn-goo fEE-tah?
When do they patrol?	Baleisoke fita lilali?	ba-lAy-sOh-kay fEE-tah lee-lAh-lee?
Are you aware of others like me?	Bushe mwaishibe bambi palene na ine ?	boo-shEh mwa-ee-shEE-beh bAm-bee pah-lEh-ne na EEh-neh ?
Can you take me to them?	Kuti mwanashindika na aba?	kOO-tee mwa-nah-shEEn-dee-kah na ah-bAh?

VOCABULARY

ENGLISH	BEMBA	BEMBA PHONETIC
Hello	Mwapoleeni	mwah-po-lEh-nee
Goodbye	Shaaleenipo	shaa-lEh-nee-po
Thank you	Natotela	na-toh-tEh-la
Please	Sansamwishe	san-som-wEE-shee
Ammunition	Cipolopolo*	chee-pOh-loh-pOh-loh
Armed Vehicle	Motoka na mfuti	moh-tOh-ka na mfOO-tee
Checkpoint	Amacheckpoint**	ah-mAhcheckpoint
Day	Bushiku	boo-shEE-koo
Danger	Busano	boo-sAh-no
Desert	Ciswebebe	chee-sweh-bEh-beh
East	Kabanga	kah-bAn-gah
Evening	Cungulo	chOO-ngoo-loh
Food	Ifyakulya	ee-fee-yah-kOO-lee-yah
Good	Suma	sOO-mah
Bad	Bipa	bEE-pah
Here	Kuno	kOO-noh
Hour	Nsa	nsah
Kilometer	Kilomita	kee-lo-mEE-tah
Knife	Mwele	mwEh-leh
Leader	Ntungulushi	toon-goo-lOO-shee
Medicine	Muti	mOO-tee
Men	Abalumendo	ah-bah-loo-mEn-doh
Women	Mwanakashi	wah-nah-kAh-shee
Minute	Bamineti	bah-mee-nEh-tee
Morning	Ulucelo	oo-loo-chEh-loh
Mountain	Lupili	loo-pEE-lee
Night	Bushiku	boo-shEE-koo
North	Kapinda ka ku kuso	kah-pEEn-dah ka koo kOO-so

Pass	Nshila	shEE-lah
Pistol	Mfuti	fOO-tee
Radio	Cilimba	chee-lEEm-bah
River	Mumana	moo-mAh-na
Road	Musebo	moo-sEh-boh
Shelter	Nsaka	sAh-kah
South	Kapinda ka ku kulyo	ka-pEEn-da ka koo koo-lEE-yo
There	Uku	OO-koo
Valley	Nika	nEE-kah
Village	Mushi	mOO-shee
Water	Amenshi	ah-mEn-shee
Weapon	Canso	chAn-soh
West	Masamba	mah-sAhm-ba
Yes	Ee	EE-yeh
No	Awe	AA-weh
1	Cimo*	chEE-moh
2	Fibili	fee-bEE-lee
3	Fitatu	fee-tAh-too
4	Fine	fEE-neh
5	Fisaano	fee-sAh-noh
6	Mutanda	moo-tAn-dah
7	Cine-lubali	chEE-ne – loo-bAh-lee
8	Cine-konse-konse	chEE-ne – kOn-seh – kOn-sey
9	Paabula	pah-bOO-la
10	Ikumi	ee-kOO-mee
20	Twenty	Twenty
30	Thirty	Thirty
40	Forty	Forty
50	Fifty	Fifty
60	Sixty	Sixty
70	Seventy	Seventy
80	Eighty	Eighty
90	Ninety	Ninety
100	One Hundred	One Hundred
500	Five Hundred	Five Hundred
1000	One Thousand	One Thousand

*'C' is always pronounced 'ch' as in 'church.'

**There is no equivalent for "checkpoint" in Bemba, but the prefix 'ama' is used in front of corrupted English words.

This is the general form of counting, however, when used with a verb, the number prefix must match the verb.
Example "Abantu babili=Two people."

For numbers higher than 10, English is used.