

**KAMBA**  
INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

ENGLISH	KAMBA	KAMBA 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.	Nĩ Mũamelika na nĩngwenda ũtethyo kuma bala wĩ indĩ ndinena kĩthyomo chaku. Nĩkwolotela ikũlyo na kĩthyomo chaku, naku wolote ũsũngĩo na kĩthyomo chaku	nay mow-a-me-LEA-ca na nay-go-END-ah awe-TETH-oh coo-MAR bar-LAR way-AY, ay-DAY dea-NEN-ah kay-thee- OR-mo char-COOL. Nay-quo- lot-AY-lar ay-COAL-yoh na kay-THREE-omo char-COO, na-COO war-LOT-eh owe-sow-GAY-oh na kay-THREE-omo char-COOL.

COMMUNICATION

ENGLISH	KAMBA	KAMBA PHONETIC
Will you help me?	Nũndethya?	know-DEATH-yah?
Is there someone that speaks English?	Be mũndũ ũnena Kĩsũngũ	be mow-DOUGH owe-ne KNAR kay- SOW-go?
Are they willing to help me?	Me tayalĩ kũndethya?	me tar-YAH-lay coa-DEATH- yah?
Can they come here?	Nĩ matonya kũka baa?	nay-matt-ON-yah coke-A bar?
I must go now but, I want to thank you for your help.	Nĩenda kũthi yu indĩ nĩngutũnga mũbea.	nay-END-are coo-THREE you ay-DAY nay-go-TOW nga mow-BAY-a
My government will repay you for your kindness.	Selikalĩ yakwa nĩkũkũiva tondũ wa kwĩyumia kwaku.	silly -CAR-lay ya-QUA nay-cook-AY-ver
I greatly appreciate your assistance.	Nĩngũtũnga mũbea kwa kũndethya.	nay- go-TOW-nga mow-BAY-a qua coa-DEATH-yah

BASIC NEEDS

ENGLISH	KAMBA	KAMBA PHONETIC
May I have some water?	Nĩndonya ũnewa kũwũ?	nay-DON-knar owe-NE- wa kay-WOW?
May I have some food?	Nĩndonya ũnewa liũ?	nay-DON-knar owe-NE-wa lay-U?
I am injured. Is there someone that can help me?	Nĩmũũmũ. Be mũndũ ũtonya kũndethya?	nay-MOW-may-u. Be- mow-DOUGH awe-TON-a coo-DEATH-yah?
Do you have any bandages?	Wĩna mabandeji mwĩĩnĩ?	way-KNAR mar-BAR-den-ji mow-AY-nay?
Can you contact someone to help me?	Nũtonya kwĩtana nĩtethwe?	know-TON-yah coo-ay TURN-a nay-t-ETH-we?
Where is the latrine?	Bandũ ba kwĩtethya nĩba?	bar-DOUGH bar-quit-ETH-yah nay-BAR?
I am very tired. Is there a place I can sleep?	Nĩmũnou mũno. Be vandũ nĩtonya ũkoma?	nay-mow-NO-u mow-NO. Be ban-DOUGH nay-TON-yah owe-COM-ah?
May I have a blanket, or more clothing?	Nĩndonya ũnewa ĩbula, kana ngũa mbingaingĩ?	nay-DON-yah owe-NE- wa ay-BOO-la, can-A go-ARE bin-ga-EE-gay?

*Note: Sections in capital letters are stressed.*

**Explanations of the bold parts:**

**me-** as in met

**ca-** as in can

**b-** Whenever it appears in front of a word it is pronounced as a soft bilabial implosive, which is produced by obstructing airflow in the vocal tract and then softly articulated with both lips.

**dea-** as in dean

**char-** as in charcoal

**ne-** as in net

**coa-** as in coal

**ver-** as in over

**NE-** as in net

**wa-** as in warp

**BE/Be/be/ba-** as in bet with the 'b' pronounced softly; which means, it is produced by obstructing airflow in the vocal tract and then softly articulated with both lips.

**ji-** as in jig

**ETH-** as in Beth

**we-** as in wet

**la-** as in lag

**ga-** as in gas

**EE-** as in week

TRAVEL

ENGLISH	KAMBA	KAMBA PHONETIC
Can you show me my location on a map?	Nūtonya kūmbonia bala nī mabunī?	know-TORN-yah coal-BORN -yah bar-lar nay mar-BOO-nay?
Can you send word that I am alive?	Nūtonya kūtūma ndeto ya afī kana nī thayū?	know-TORN-yah coal-TOW-mar debt-OH yah at-AY can- AH nay- <b>tha</b> -YOW?
How far is it to friendly territory?	Nī ūasa wīana ata kuma baa nginya kī- sionī kīna mūuo?	nay owe- <b>AS</b> -ah way-AN-a at-A coo-MAR bar ghee-KNAR kay-see-ON-ay kay-KNAR mow-U-o?
Can you take me there?	Nūtonya kūndwaa bo?	know-TORN-yah cold- <b>WA</b> -bo?
If you cannot take me, will you give me directions?	Ethīwa ndūtonya nūndethesya kubamanya?	eth-AY- <b>wa</b> dough-TORN- yah, know-death-AY-seer coal-bar-MAN-yah?
Is it safe to travel now?	Kwī mūuo mūdū wenda kūthi yu?	quay mow-U-or moon- DOUGH went-AH coo- <b>THEE</b> you?
Which way do you advise me to travel?	ūtonya kūndaa nīthi na nzīa ība?	ought-ON-yah coal- <b>DARL</b> nay- <b>THEE</b> na-zay-AH ay-BAR?
How can I travel?	Ndonya ūthi na nzīa ība?	don-A owe- <b>THEE</b> na zay-AH ay-BAR?
Automobile	Ngālī	Girl-AY
Train	Ngālī ya mwaki	Girl-AY yah mow-A-key
Boat	īsua	ay- <b>SOO</b> -a
Cart/Wagon	īkasya	ay-CAR-seer
Pack Animal	Nītongoewe nī nyamū	nay-torn-go-AY-way nay near-MOW.
On Foot	Na maī	na mar-OWE.

UNFRIENDLY

ENGLISH	KAMBA	KAMBA PHONETIC
What types of troops are in the area?	Askālī ala me kīisionī mailye ata?	a -SCAR-lay a-LLAH me kay- see-ON-ay ma- EE-lay at-A?
Are they army troops?	Nī askālī ma ami?	Nay a-SCAR-lay <b>ma</b> a-MAY?
Are they militia?	Nī mayeshi?	Nay ma- <b>YE</b> -shi?
Have you noticed any increase of troops or patrolling?	Noīthīwa wonete me mongelekeku kana maisūlūla mūno kīisionī kīī?	no-ay-THAY-wa wo-NET- ay <b>me</b> -monk-ay-lay- KAY-coo can-A ma-ee-saw-LOW-la mourn-OH kay-see-ON-ay?
When do they patrol?	Masūlūla saa siana?	ma-saw-LOW-la sir-see- AN-a?
Are you aware of others like me?	Noīthwa wonete angī mailye takwa ?	no-AY- <b>thwa</b> won-ET-ay an- GAY <b>ma</b> -ILL-yay tack-wa ?
Can you take me to them?	Nūtonya kūndwaa bo?	Know-TORN-yah cold- <b>WA</b> bow?

*Note: Sections in capital letters are stressed.*

**Explanations of the bold parts:**

<b>tha-</b>	as in that	<b>seer-</b>	as in overseer
<b>AS-</b>	Pronounced as in the word 'ask'.	<b>me-</b>	as in men
<b>WA-</b>	as in wag	<b>ma-</b>	as in man
<b>bo-</b>	as in born with 'b' pronounced softly; which means, it is produced by obstructing airflow in the vocal tract and then softly articulated with both lips.	<b>YE-</b>	as in yes
<b>wa-</b>	as in wag	<b>shi-</b>	as in ship
<b>DARL-</b>	as in darling	<b>wo-</b>	as in won
<b>SOO-</b>	as in soon	<b>ee-</b>	as in week
<b>a-</b>	as in ask	<b>la-</b>	lap
		<b>thwa-</b>	as in thwart
		<b>WA-</b>	as in watt

VOCABULARY

ENGLISH	KAMBA	KAMBA PHONETIC
Hello	Kūilie ata?	cue-EEL-e- at-A
Goodbye	Kwaeli	qua-E-lee
Thank you	Mūbea	mow-BAY-a
Please	tabathaalī	tar-bar-THA-lay
Ammunition	Isasi	ee-SA-see
Armed Vehicle	Ngalī yīna silaa	girl-AY yay-na see-LA
Checkpoint	Bandū ba kūbekes(w)a	band-OWE-bar coal- <b>BE</b> -kes- <b>wa</b>
Day	Mūthenya	MOW-then yah
Danger	Atalī	at-A-lay
Desert	Kūndū kūmū	coal-DOUGH coo-mow
East	Ngalīko ya kuoko kwa aka	gurley-CALL yah cue- ok-O qua a- <b>CA</b>
Evening	Wiyoo	way- OR
Food	līu	lay- U
Good	Nzīo	zay- OR
Bad	Nthūku	dhow- COOL
Here	Vaa	bar
Hour	saa	sir
Kilometer	Kīlomita	ki-LOO-me-ter
Knife	Kavyū	CAR-view
Leader	Mūtongoi	MOOT-on- <b>goi</b>
Medicine	Dawa	<b>DA</b> -wa
Men	Aūme	A-owe- <b>me</b>
Women	Aka	a-CAR
Minute	dakīka	<b>DA</b> -kay-car
Morning	kwacha	qua- <b>cha</b>
Mountain	kīima	kay-MAR
Night	ūtukū	oat-OO-coal
North	ītūlū	ay-OWE-law
Pass	Kībandī	kay-BAR-day
Pistol	ībuti	ay-BOO-tea
Radio	letio	LET-awe
River	ūsī	AWE-say
Road	Nzīa	zay-AH
Shelter	Bandū ba kūthyūmūa	BAR- dough bar coa-THAW-mow-AH
South	ītheo	ay-the-OR
There	Baya	bar-YAH
Valley	ītūwīku	ay-to-AY-cool
Village	ūtūi	awe-tow-EE
Water	kīwū	kay-WAW
Weapon	silaa	seal-AH
West	Ngalīko ya kuoko kwa aūme	gurley-CALL yah quo-CALL qua a-AWE- <b>me</b>

Yes	īi	a-AY
No	Ayee	a- <b>ye</b>
1	īmwe	ay -MOW- eh
2	ilī	ee-LAY
3	itatū	ee-TAR-too
4	inya	ee-NEAR
5	itano	ee-TURN-or
6	thanthatū	than-THA-tow
7	mūonza	mourn-SIR
8	nyanya	near-NEAR
9	kenda	ken-TAR
10	īkūmi	ay-COA-may
20	Mfongo īlī	may-OR -go-ay-LAY
30	Mfongo itatū	may-OR-go ay-TAR-tow
40	Mfongo īna	may-or-go ay-KNAR
50	Mfongo itano	may-OR-go ay-TURN-or
60	Mfongo thanthatū	may-OR-go than-THAT-owe
70	Mfongo muonza	may-OR-go mourn-SIR
80	Mfongo nyanya	may-OR-go near-NEAR
90	Mfongo kenda	may-OR-go ken-TAR
100	Yīana	yee-AN-ah
500	Maana atano	man-at-A-no
1000	Ngili īmwe	gill-EE ay-MOW-eh

*Note: Sections in capital letters are stressed.*

**Explanations of the bold parts:**

- ee- as in sweet
- EE- as in week
- be- as in bet with 'b' pronounced softly; which means, it is produced by obstructing airflow in the vocal tract and then softly articulated with both lips.
- wa- as in warp
- CA- as in cart
- goi- as in going
- DA- as in dart
- Me- as in met
- cha- as in chart
- coa- as in coal
- COA- as in coal
- ye- as in yet
- THA- as in that