

Swahili Morphology

[Source: *The Language Files*, Eighth Edition, Department of Linguistics, Ohio State University]

The following data come from *Swahili*, a language spoken in East Africa.

Strategy tip: As you solve any morphology problem like this one, keep in mind the order of affixes as you work towards a solution.

Note: If you kept track of the order of affixes, you should have found that they combine in this order: **subject-tense-object-root (verb)**
This was particularly useful for answering Section B.

1.	atanipenda	's/he will like me'
2.	atakupenda	's/he will like you'
3.	atampenda	's/he will like him/her'
4.	atatupenda	's/he will like us'
5.	atawapenda	's/he will like them'
6.	nitakupenda	'I will like you'
7.	nitampenda	'I will like him/her'
8.	nitawapenda	'I will like them'
9.	utanipenda	'you will like me'
10.	utampenda	'you will like him/her'
11.	tutampenda	'we will like him/her'
12.	watampenda	'they will like him/her'
13.	wametulipa	'they have paid us'
14.	tulikulipa	'we paid you'
15.	atanipiga	's/he will beat me'
16.	atakupiga	's/he will beat you'
17.	atampiga	's/he will beat him/her'
18.	ananipiga	's/he is beating me'
19.	anakupiga	's/he is beating you'
20.	anampiga	's/he is beating him/her'
21.	amekupiga	's/he has beaten you'
22.	amenipiga	's/he has beaten me'
23.	amempiga	's/he has beaten him/her'
24.	alinipiga	's/he beat me'
25.	alikipiga	's/he beat you'
26.	alimpiga	's/he beat him/her'
27.	atakusumbua	's/he will annoy you'
28.	unamsumbua	'you are annoying him/her'

A. Give the Swahili morphemes which mean:

1. I	<u>ni-</u>	6. we	<u>tu-</u>
2. him/her	<u>m-</u>	7. you (subject)	<u>u-</u>
3. s/he	<u>a-</u>	8. you (object)	<u>ku-</u>
4. me	<u>ni-</u>	9. us	<u>tu-</u>
5. they	<u>wa-</u>	10. them	<u>wa-</u>

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|-----|---------------------|------------|--|
| 11. | Future | <u>ta-</u> | |
| 12. | Past | <u>li-</u> | |
| 13. | Present Progressive | <u>na-</u> | (e.g. <i>we are trying, you are helping, etc.</i>) |
| 14. | Present Perfect | <u>me-</u> | (e.g. <i>we are have tried, you have tried, etc.</i>) |

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|-----|------|-------------|-----|-------|---------------|
| 15. | pay | <u>lipa</u> | 17. | like | <u>penda</u> |
| 16. | beat | <u>piga</u> | 18. | annoy | <u>sumbua</u> |

B. Give the Swahili word for the following English translations:
[Reminder: pay attention to the proper ordering of morphemes!]

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|-----|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 19. | 'I have beaten them.' | <u>nimewapiga</u> |
| 20. | 'They are beating me.' | <u>wananipiga</u> |
| 21. | 'They have annoyed me.' | <u>wamenisumbua</u> |
| 22. | 'You have beaten us' | <u>umetupiga</u> |
| 23. | 'We beat them.' | <u>tuliwapiga</u> |
| 24. | 'I am paying him/her.' | <u>ninamlipa</u> |

C. What is the meaning (in English) of the following Swahili words:

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|-----|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 25. | <i>walikupendaba</i> | <u>they liked you</u> |
| 26. | <i>utawapiga</i> | <u>you will beat them</u> |
| 27. | <i>nimemsumbua</i> | <u>I have annoyed him/her</u> |
| 28. | <i>atanilipa</i> | <u>s/he will pay me</u> |