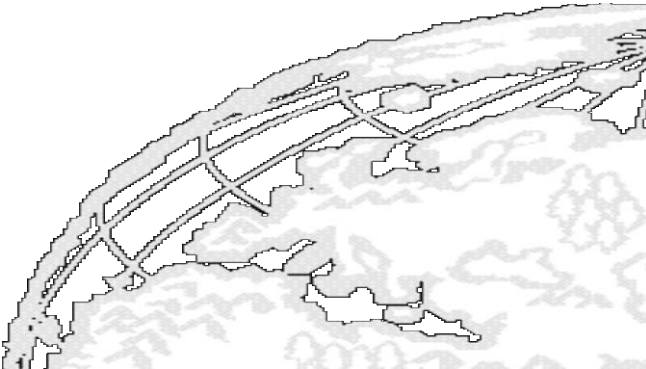


# PEACE CORPS UGANDA

## Survival Luganda



## **An Introduction to survival Luganda.**

This survival Luganda language learning production is prepared by the United States Peace Corps for use by its volunteers who live and work in Uganda.

Welcome to this program of learning survival Luganda, to teach you easy and simple phrases to help you get by in Uganda. In this program you will practice phrases in Luganda as used in various situations and conversations.

Luganda is predominantly spoken in central Uganda. It is spoken by people called Baganda. It is also spoken and understood by other Bantu language speaking people in other regions of Uganda. Luganda is a tonal language.

### **Lesson 1: The Alphabet**

In the alphabet of Luganda, there is no letter **Q** or **X**, but have **ŋ** and **ny**. **ŋ** as in singing and **ny** as in lasagna. Syllable **Ki** is pronounced ‘**chi**’.

Luganda has 5 vowels. These are: a, e, i, o, u. They may be pronounced as short or long sounds. **Listen carefully to the differences:**

Short <b>a</b> :	oku-saba , oku-saba	-	<i>to pray</i>
Long <b>aa</b> :	oku-saaba, oku-saaba	-	<i>to smear</i>
Short <b>e</b> :	oku-sera, oku-sera	-	<i>to night dance</i>
Long <b>ee</b> :	oku-seera, oku-seera	-	<i>to overcharge</i>
Short <b>i</b> :	oku-sika, oku-sika	-	<i>to pull</i>
Long <b>ii</b> :	oku-siika, oku-siika	-	<i>to fry</i>
Short <b>o</b> :	oku-kola, oku-kola	-	<i>to do</i>
Long <b>oo</b> :	oku-koola, oku-koola	-	<i>to weed</i>

Short <b>u</b> :	oku-kula, oku-kula	-	<i>to grow</i>
Long <b>uu</b> :	oku-kuula, oku-kuula	-	<i>to uproot.</i>

Luganda also uses stress to differentiate meanings. You have to listen carefully and try to put the stress on the correct syllable to avoid miscommunication. **Now listen carefully:**

Amazzi, amazzi	-	<i>water</i>
Amazi, amazi	-	<i>faeces</i>
Oku-tta, oku-tta	-	<i>to kill</i>
Okuta, oku-ta	-	<i>to release</i>

**Now repeat the word for water:** ----- amazzi, amazzi.

## Lesson 2: Formal greetings

Greetings are very important in Luganda. They are used often to begin a conversation with someone. In a formal setting, it is important to use titles of address. To a man, you say ‘**ssebo**’ and to woman you say ‘**nyabo.**’

**Now listen to the formal morning greetings as Herbert greets Ven.**

Herbert: Wasuze otyanno nnyabo? - *How did you spend the night madam?*

Ven: Bulungi ssebo - *Fine sir.*

Herbert: Hmm. - *Hmm.*

Ven: Wasuze otyanno ssebo? - *How did you spend the night sir?*

Herbert: Bulungi nnyabo. - *Fine, madam.*

Ven: Hmm. - *Hmm.*

Herbert: Hmm. - *Hmm.*

**Now listen to the flow of the same greetings in normal conversation.**

**Afternoon greeting:**

When you meet someone in the afternoon you may want to greet him. Listen carefully as Ven greets Herbert.

Ven: Osiibye otyanno ssebo?- *How have you spent the day sir?*

Herbert: Bulungi nnyabo. *Fine madam.*

Ven: Hmm.

*Herbert:* Osiibye otyanno nnyabo? - *How have you spent the day madam?*

Ven: Bulungi ssebo. *Fine sir.*

Herbert: Hmm.

Ven: Hmm.

**Now listen to the flow of the same greeting in a normal conversation.**

**Now say the word for “sir”.** ssebo

**And say the word for “madam”.** nnyabo

**Lesson 3: Informal greetings.**

**These are commonly used among peers and acquaintances.**

**Listen carefully as Ven greets her friend Herbert:**

Ven: Oli otya, Herbert? - *How are you, Herbert?*  
Herbert: Gyendi Ven. - *I am fine Ven.*  
Ven: Hmm. - *Hmm.*  
Herbert: Ate ggwe? - *How about you?*  
Ven: Gyendi. - *I am fine.*  
Herbert: Hmm. - *Hmm.*

**As part of any greeting it is common to thank someone for the general work they do:**

Ven: Gyebaleko. - *Thank you for your work.*  
Herbert: Kale naawe gyebale. - *Ok, thank you too.*

**Now listen to the natural flow of the whole informal greeting:**

Ven: Oli otya, Herbert?  
Herbert: Gyendi Ven.  
Ven: Hmm.  
Herbert: Ate ggwe?  
Ven: Gyendi.  
Herbert: Hmm.  
Ven: Hmm.

**Listen and repeat after short pauses:**

Oli otya?      Oli otya?  
Gyendi,        gyendi  
Gyebaleko,    gyebaleko.

**Now try it out yourself:**

Say hello to Ven:	(pause)	Oli otya Ven?
Say hello to Herbert:	(pause)	Oli otya Herbert?
Thank Herbert for his work:	(pause)	Gyebaleko
Say I am fine:	(pause)	Gyendi.

**Lesson 4: Introducing self**

When you meet new people you may want to know who they are. You need to introduce yourself first by simply saying: **I am- Nze: plus your name.**

**Herbert meets Ven for the first time:**

Herbert:      Nze Herbert. Ggwe ani, nnyabo? - *I am Herbert.*  
*Who are you, madam?*  
Ven:          Nze Ven.      -      *I am Ven.*

***Now listen to Ven introducing herself to Herbert:***

Ven:          Nze Ven. Ggwe ani, ssebo? -      *I am Ven. Who are you sir?*  
Herbert:      Nze Herbert. -      *I am Herbert.*

**It is common for people to tell and ask others where they are from:**

**Listen:** Nva, nva - *I come from*

Ven: Nva Chicago mu Amerika. Ova wa? - *I come from Chicago in America. Where are you from?*

Herbert: Nva Boston mu Amerika. - *I come from Boston in America.*

**It is polite to express your happiness when you meet a new person as in:**

Ven: Nsanyuse okukulaba, ssebo. - *I am glad to see you, sir.*

Herbert: Nange. - *Me too.*

**Now listen to the whole introduction conversation in a natural language flow:**

Herbert: Nze Herbert. Ggwe ani, nnyabo?

Ven: Nze Ven. Nva Chicago mu Amerika. Ova wa, ssebo?

Herbert: Nva Boston mu Amerika.

Ven: Nsanyuse okukulaba, ssebo.

Herbert: Nange nnyabo.

## **Lesson 5: Polite Expressions and Handy Phrases**

**There are polite expressions which you need to learn right away.**

**These are:**

Weebale	-	<i>thank you</i>
Weebale ssebo	-	<i>thank you sir</i>
Weebale nnyabo	-	<i>thank you madam</i>
Weebale okujja	-	<i>thank you for coming.</i>

**If you are happy to see someone or to welcome someone you say:**

Nsanyuse okukulaba	-	<i>I am happy to see you.</i>
--------------------	---	-------------------------------

**If you want to thank somebody for cooking you say:**

Weebale okufumba	-	<i>thank you for cooking.</i>
------------------	---	-------------------------------

**Other handy phrases are:**

Yee	-	<i>yes</i>
Nedda	-	<i>no</i>
Yogera mpola mpola	-	<i>speak slowly</i>
Genda mpola	-	<i>go slowly</i>
Saagala	-	<i>I don't want</i>
Njagala	-	<i>I want</i>
Sitegedde	-	<i>I have not understood</i>
Sitegeera	-	<i>I don't understand</i>
Simanyi	-	<i>I don't know</i>
Ssente mmeka?	-	<i>How much money?</i>
Mpa biilu yange	-	<i>Give me my bill</i>
Mpa lisiiti yange	-	<i>Give me my receipt</i>



Sirina ssent	-	<i>I have no money</i>
Ddamu	-	<i>Repeat</i>
Kituufu	-	<i>It is true</i>
Si kituufu	-	<i>It is not true</i>
Si kye kyo?	-	<i>Not so?</i>
Kye kyo	-	<i>That's it!</i>
Tompa	-	<i>Don't give me</i>
Webale, naye nzikuse	-	<i>Thank you, but I am full.</i>

## **Lesson 6: Ordering a meal**

**A typical meal in a Ugandan restaurant basically includes a starch food and a protein sauce.**

**Listen carefully as someone orders a meal:**

Herbert:	Nsanyuse okukulaba, nnyabo.	-	<i>I am glad to see you, madam.</i>
Ven:	Nange	-	<i>Me too..</i>
Herbert:	Nkuweyo ki, nnyabo?	-	<i>What can I give you, madam?</i>
Ven:	Olinayo mmere ki?	-	<i>What starchy foods do you have?</i>
Herbert:	Nninayo amatooke n'omuceere.	-	<i>I have matooke and rice.</i>
Ven:	Ate enva?	-	<i>How about sauce?</i>

Herbert: Nninayo ennyama, enkoko n'ebinyeebwa. -

*I have meat, chicken and peanut sauce.*

Ven: Ate eky'okunywa olinayo ki? - *How about*

*drinks, what do you have?*

Herbert: Nninayo sooda, obutunda n'amazzi. - *I have*

*soda, passion fruit juice and water.*

Ven: Ndeteera omuceere, enkoko n'obutunda. -

*Bring me rice, chicken and passion fruit juice.*

Herbert: Kale. - Okay.

Ven: Nsasula sente mmeka? - *How much do I*  
*pay?*

**Now listen to the same conversation in a natural language flow:**

Herbert: Nsanyuse okukulaba, nnyabo.

Ven: *Kale.*

Herbert: Nkuweyo ki, nnyabo?

Ven: *Olinayo ki?*

Herbert: Nninayo amatooke n'omuceere.

Ven: *Ate enva?*

Herbert: Nninayo ennyama, enkoko n'ebinyeebwa.

Ven: *Ate eky'okunywa olinayo ki?*

Herbert: Nninayo sooda, obutunda n'amazzi.

Ven: *Ndeteera omuceere, enkoko n'obutunda.*

Herbert: Kale.

**Other ways of ordering food:**

- You can say** Olinayo...? - *Do you have...?*
- Olinayo ku mmere? - *Do you have some food, please?*
- Olinayo ku mazzi ag'okunywa? - *Do you have some drinking water?*
- Or you can say** Nsabayo ... - *I request for some ...*
- Nsabayo ku mugaati - *I request for some bread*
- Nsabayo ku magi - *I request for some eggs*
- Or you can say** Mpaayo ... - *Give me some ...*
- Mpaayo ku caayi - *Give me some tea, please*
- Mpaayo ku kaawa - *Give me some coffee, please.*

**Listen to these phrases and repeat after the pause:**

- Oyagalayo ki? - *What would you like?*
- Olinaayo ki? - *What do you have?*
- Olina mmere ki? - *What food do you have?*
- Nkuweeyo ki? - *What can I get you?*

## Lesson 7: Asking for directions

To ask for directions you use the word wa? (Where?). Note that it is important to first greet the person before asking for directions.

Shirley ali wa?	-	<i>Where is Shirley?</i>
Ofiisi ziri wa?	-	<i>Where are the offices?</i>
Paaka ya takisi eri wa?	-	<i>Where is the taxi park?</i>
Paaka ya bbaasi eri wa?	-	<i>Where is the bus park?</i>
Posita eri wa?	-	<i>Where is the post office?</i>
Banka eri wa?	-	<i>Where is the bank?</i>
Nkyusiza wa ssente?	-	<i>From where can I exchange money?</i>
Akatale kali wa?	-	<i>Where is the market?</i>
Tooyi eri wa?	-	<i>Where is the latrine?</i>

## Lesson 8: Booking accommodation

To request for directions and to get a good room, here are some useful phrases to use:

Wooteeri ya <u>Sheraton</u> eri wa?	-	<i>Where is <u>Sheraton</u> hotel?</i>
Ekubbo erigenda ku wooteeri ya <u>Sheraton</u> liri wa?	-	<i>Where is the way to <u>Sheraton</u> hotel?</i>
Mukyalinayo ku bisenge?	-	<i>Do you still have some rooms?</i>

Mulina amazzi agookya mu binaabiro? - *Do you have hot water in the bathroom?*

Mulina obutimba bw'ensiri mu bisenge? - *Do you have mosquito nets in the rooms?*

Osobola okumpa ekisenge ky'omuntu omu? - *Can you give me a single room?*

## **Lesson 9: Apologizing and Sympathizing**

**There is no particular word for sorry; but depending on the situation you are in, there are various ways to apologize or sympathize.**

Nsonyiwa. - *Forgive me.*

Tofaayo. - *Don't mind.*

Ng'olabye! - *I am sorry for what has happened to you!*

Nga kitalo! - *What a horrible thing!* (This is only used for condolence).

## **Lesson 10: Useful phrases**

**For information gathering, different interrogatives can be used.**

Wa? - *Where?*

Ogenda wa? - *Where are you going?*

Ova wa? - *Where are you coming from? or Where are you from?*

Ki?	-	<i>What?</i>
Kiki?	-	<i>What is it?</i>
Okola ki?	-	<i>What are you doing? or What do you do?</i>
Oseka ki?	-	<i>What are you laughing at?</i>
Kino kiki?	-	<i>What is this?</i>
Obadde oyagala ki?	-	<i>What do you want, please?</i>
Ddi?	-	<i>When?</i>
Ogenda ddi?	-	<i>When are you going?</i>
Ojja ddi?	-	<i>When are you coming?</i>
Lwaki?	-	<i>Why?</i>
Lwaki oseka?	-	<i>Why are you laughing?</i>
Lwaki okaaba?	-	<i>Why are you crying?</i>

## **Lesson 11: Saying Good bye**

**There are many ways to say good bye depending on the situation. Here are some of the phrases and their responses:**

A: Weeraba! - *Goodbye!*  
 B: Kale, naawe weeraba - *Okay, good bye to you too!*

A: Ka ngende! - *I beg to leave!*  
 B: Kale, tambula bulungi - *Okay, travel safely*

A: Sula bulungi! - *Goodnight!*  
 B: Kale, naawe sula bulungi - *Okay, you too have a good night*

A: Siiba bulungi! - *Spend the day well!*  
 B: Kale, naawe siiba bulungi - *Okay, you too have a good day*

A: Beera bulungi! - *Stay well!*  
B: Kale, naawe genda bulungi - *Okay, you too go well*

A: Tunaalabagana! - *We will see each other!*  
B: Kale - *Okay*

A: Tambula bulungi! - *Travel well!*  
B: Weebale - *Thank you.*

## **Lesson 12: Travel**

**When traveling, you may need to tell the driver where to stop.**

Awo, ssebo. *There, sir.*  
Mu maaso awo. *In front there; or ahead there.*  
Ku siteegi. *At the stage.*

**If the driver is over speeding, you may need to tell him:**

Genda mpola mpola! *Go slowly!*  
Vuga mpola mpola! *Drive slowly!*  
Kendeeza ku sipiidi. *Reduce on the speed.*

**Other words for travel:**

Takisi ezigenda e Masaka ziri wa? - *Where are the taxis to  
Masaka?*  
Baasi etuuka saawa emmekaka? - *What time does the bus  
arrive?*

These 12 lessons are meant to teach you survival Luganda. You will find them very useful. We encourage you to continue learning and using them with other Luganda speakers. Weeraba (*Good bye*).

**Acknowledgements:**

**This production is made possible by the following:**

**Script writers:** Shirley Byakutaga, Training Manager  
Henry Kabayo, Language Coordinator

**Language Instructors:**

Herbert Sengendo  
Ven Kitone

**Directed by:**

McGrath Jean Thomas, Country Director, Peace Corps Uganda.