

Swahili Data Set

gloss	singular	plural
1. “piece”	ubale	m̩bale
2. “nut-grass”	udago	ᵇdago
3. “beer”	ugimbi	ᵇgimbi (with a syllabic diacritic beneath [ᵇ])
4. “way”	ud̩zia	ᵇd̩zia
5. “razor”	wembe	ᵇembe
6. “time”	wakati	ᵇakati
7. “heaven”	uwingu	m̩bingu
8. “song”	wimbo	ᵇimbo
9. “duality”	uwili	m̩bili
10. “costliness”	uᵇali	ᵇali
11. “(type of) knife”	upamba	pamba
12. “protection”	utunzo	tunzo
13. “uproar”	ukelele	kelele
14. “porch”	ukumbi	kumbi
15. “a burning”	ut̩joma	t̩joma
16. “small intestine”	ut̩jango	t̩jango
17. “imitation”	ufuasi	fuasi
18. “secrecy”	usiri	siri
19. “tongue”	ulimi	ᵇdimi
20. “length”	urefu	ᵇdefu

Phonology problem: KiSwahili I (due 12/5)

The following forms illustrate the regular pattern of singular and plural formation for one of the noun classes in KiSwahili (A Niger-Congo, Bantu, language spoken by about 22 million people in Kenya and Tanzania, and parts of Uganda, Zaire, Mozambique, and Somalia).

A. What is the underlying stem in 1-9?

1 bale

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

B. What is the underlying form of the singular prefix?

C. Write a rule that describes the pattern of alternation in the singular prefix.

Phonology problem: KiSwahili II (due 12/7)

The following forms illustrate the regular pattern of singular and plural formation for one of the noun classes in KiSwahili (A Niger-Congo, Bantu, language spoken by about 22 million people in Kenya and Tanzania, and parts of Uganda, Zaire, Mozambique, and Somalia).

A. What is the underlying stem in 10-20?

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

B. Is the underlying form of the plural prefix /n/, /ɲ/, or Ø (nothing)?

C. Write two rules that describe the pattern of alternation in the plural prefix.

D. Note the alternations in the stem for the words “tongue”, “heaven”, and “length”. Write a rule for these alternations.

E. What order do the rules have to apply in?