

Luganda Phrasebook

Small Talk

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Greetings & Civilities

Good morning Wasuze otya nno? (literally 'how was your night?')
 Good afternoon..... Osiibye otya nno? (literally, 'how was your day?')
 Good evening..... Osiibye otya nno?
*[The one asked responds with "**Bulungi**" (i.e. 'fine') and repeats the inquiry]*

Hi? (<i>informal</i>).....	Ki kati?
How are you?.....	Oli otya?
I am OK.....	Gyendi
Have a nice day.....	Siiba bulungi
Good night.....	Sula bulungi (on retiring)
Farewell (to one person).....	Weeraba
Farewell (to several people).....	Mweraba
Welcome (to one person).....	Tukusanyukidde
Welcome (to several people).....	Tubasanyukidde
See you later.....	Tunaalabagana
Please.....	Mwattu
Please shut the door.....	Mwattu ggalawo oluggi
Please clean my room.....	Mwattu longoosa ekisenge kyange
Please come in.....	Mwattu yingira
Please sit down.....	Mwattu tuula wansi
Thank you.....	Weebale
You are welcome.....	Kale
Excuse me (to get attention).....	Owange
Pardon? (What did you say?).....	Wangi? / Ogambye ki?
I'm sorry (apology).....	Nsonyiwa

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Meeting People

What is your name.....Erinnya lyo ggwe ani?

My name is.....Erinnya lyange nze....

Forms of Address

It is considered polite to show respect to older people regardless of their station in life. Respectful forms of address should be used when addressing superiors.

Sir.....Ssebo

Madam.....Nnyabo

Mr.....Mwami

Mrs.....Mukyala

Age

How old are you?.....Olina emyaka emeka?

I am.....Nina.....

20 years old.....Emyaka abiri (20)

35 years old.....Emyaka asatu mu etaano (35)

Body Language

Shaking hands in Buganda/Uganda is a common practice for both men and women. It is appropriate to shake hands when being introduced to somebody, when visiting somebody in their house, or when you haven't seen somebody for a while. Hugging is also common for both men and women. It is appropriate to hug if you haven't seen a friend for a while. Kissing in public is frowned upon.

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Nationalities

Where are you from?.....Ova ludda wa?

I am from.....Nva....

Belgium.....Bubirigi

Canada.....Kanada

Egypt.....Misiri

England.....Bungereza

Europe.....Bulaaya

France.....Bufalansa

Germany.....Budaaki

Greece.....	Buyonaani
India.....	Buyindi
Italy.....	Yitale
Japan.....	Japaani
Kenya.....	Kenya
Sudan.....	Sudaani
Tanzania.....	Tanzaniya
USA.....	Amerika

I am a/an.....Ndi

American.....	Mumerika
Arab.....	Muwalabu
Belgian.....	Mubirigi
British.....	Mungereza
Canadian.....	Mukanada
Egyptian.....	Mumisiri
French.....	Mufalansa
German.....	Mudaaki
Greek.....	Muyonaani
Indian.....	Muyindi
Italian.....	Muyitale
Japanese.....	Mujapaani
Kenyan.....	Munnakenya
Sudan.....	Musudani
Tanzania.....	Mutanzaniya
Foreigner.....	Mugwiira, Munnamawanga



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Occupations

What is your occupation?.....Okola mulimu ki?

I am a/an.....Ndi....

Accountant.....	Mubazi wa bitabo
Actor/Actress.....	Muzannyi wa katemba
Architect.....	Muzimbi
Businessperson.....	Musuubuzi
Carpenter.....	Mubazzi
Clerk.....	Kalaani
Doctor.....	Musawo
Driver.....	Dereeva
Engineer.....	Yinginiya
Farmer.....	Mulimi
Journalist.....	Munnamawulire
Lawyer.....	Looya/Puliida/Munnamateeka
Mechanic.....	Makanika

Musician.....	Muyimbi	
Nurse.....	Naasi / Mujjanjabi	
Civil Servant.....	Mukozi wa gavumenti	
Scientist.....	Munnasaayansi	
Secretary.....	Sekulitale/Muwandiisi Student.....	Muyizi
Teacher.....	Musomesa	
Volunteer	Nnakyewa	
Waiter.....	Musumaami	
Self Employed.....	Neekolera gyange	
Unemployed.....	Sirina mulimu	



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Religion

What is your religion?.....Oli wa ddiini ki?
I amNdi

Catholic.....	Mukatuliki
Christian.....	Mukulisitu
Anglican/Protestant.....	Mukulisitaayo
Born Again Christian	Mulokole
Hindu.....	Muyindu
Jewish.....	Muyudaaya
Muslim.....	Musiraamu
Orthodox.....	Musodookisi
Seventh-Day Adventist.....	Museveniside
Sikh.....	Musingasinga
Traditionalist.....	Musamize



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Family

This is my.....Ono ye...

Mother.....	Maama wange	
Father.....	Taata wange	
Wife.....	Mukyala wange Husband.....	Mwami
wange		
Child.....	Mwana wange	
Nephew/Niece.....	Mwana wange	
Grandchild.....	Muzzukulu wange	
Son.....	Mutabani wange	
Daughter.....	Muwala wange	
Older brother/sister.....	Mukulu wange	
Younger brother/sister.....	Muto wange	

Sibling (same sex).....	Muganda wange
Sibling (opposite sex).....	Mwannyinaze
Aunt (paternal).....	Ssenga wange
Aunt (maternal).....	Maama wange omuto
Uncle (paternal).....	Taata wange omuto
Uncle (maternal).....	Kojja wange
Cousin (paternal).....	Muganda wange / Mwannyinaze
Cousin (maternal).....	Kizibwe wange (also maama omuto/kojja)
Grandparent.....	Jjajja wange
Great uncle/aunt.....	Jjajja wange
Father-in-law.....	Ssezaala wange
Mother-in-law.....	Nnyazaala wange
Friend.....	Mukwano gwange

Do you have any brothers or sisters.....Olina bagandabo oba bannyoko?

Are you married?.....Oli mufumbo?

I am not married.....Siri mufumbo

I am married.....Ndi mufumbo

Do you have any children?.....Olina abaana?

I don't have any children.....Sirina baana

I don't have any children yet.....Sinnafuna baana

I have.....Nina..

One son.....Omutabani omu

One daughter.....Omuwala omu

Three sons.....Abatabani basatu

Two daughters.....Abawala babiri



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Feelings

I am.....

Angry.....Ndi munyiivu

Cold.....Mpulira empewo

Determined.....Ndi mumalirivu

Full.....Ndi mukufu

Happy.....Ndi musanyufu

Hot.....Mpulira ebbugumu

Hungry.....Enjala ennuma

Sad.....Ndi munakuwavu

Scared.....Ntidde

Sick.....Ndi mulwadde

Thirsty.....Ennyonta ennuma

Tired.....Nkooye

Worried.....Ndi mweraliikirivu

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Language Problems

Do you speak English?.....	Omanyi olungereza?
Yes, I do.....	Weewawo
No, I do not.....	Nedda
I can only speak a little Luganda.....	Oluganda mmanyi luto notono
Does any one here speak english?.....	Wano waliwo amanyi olungereza?
Do you understand?.....	Otegeera?
I understand.....	Ntegeera
I don't understand.....	Sitegeera
How do you say "...." in Luganda?..	Mu Luganda ogamba otya nti "...."?
What does this mean?.....	Kino kitegeeza ki?
Please speak slowly!.....	Mwattu yogera mpolampola
Write that word down for me.....	Ekigambo ekyo kimpandiikire
Please repeat it.....	Mwattu kiddemu
Please translate for me.....	Mwattu nzivuunulira

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Interests

What are your hobbies?.....	Biki by'oyagala okukola?
I like.....	Njagala.....
I do not like.....	Saagala.....

Discos.....	Disiko
Film.....	Firimu
Going shopping.....	Kugenda mu maduuka
Music.....	Nnyimba
Playing games/sports.....	Kuzannya mizannyo
Reading books.....	Kusoma bitabo
Swimming.....	Kuwuga
Jogging/Running.....	Kudduka
Biking.....	Kuvuga ggaali
Photography	Kukuba bifaananyi
To play soccer.....	Kuzannya kapiira
To play tennis.....	Kuzannya tena
Travelling/ going out.....	Kutambulako
Watching TV.....	Kulaba Tivvi

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Some Useful Phrases

Look!.....	Laba!
Listen!.....	Wulira!
I am ready.....	Nneetegese
Slow down!.....	Genda mpola!
Hurry up!.....	Yanguwa!
Come here.....	Jangu wano
Go away!.....	Genda eri!
Watch out!.....	Wegendereze!
Help me	Nnyamba
It is possible.....	Kisoboka
It is not possible.....	Tekisoboka
I forgot.....	Neerabidde
It is important.....	Kikulu
It is not important.....	Si kikulu
What is the time?.....	Saawa mmeka?
Where are you going?.....	Ogenda wa?
What is this called?.....	Kino kiyitibwa kitya?
What is that?.....	Ekyo kiki?
Can I take a photo (of you)?.....	Nsobola okukuba ekifananyi?
Can I take a photo (of that)?.....	Ekyo nsobola okukikuba ekifananyi?
Do you live here?.....	Obeera wano?
It doesn't matter.....	Ssi kigambo / Tofaayo

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