

Swahili Video Call Cards

For calls with Bibi, Babu, aunties and uncles: 5 words, 1 question and 1 game for each week



How to use: cut the cards apart and keep this week's card by the phone or tablet. The grown-up who speaks Swahili says each word first, then waits for the child to say it back. Learning too? Say them together.

Week 1

Hello and goodbye



Hujambo?

How are you?

Say: hoo-JAHM-boh

Sijambo

I'm fine

Say: see-JAHM-boh

Asante

Thank you

Say: ah-SAHN-teh

Kwaheri

Goodbye

Say: kwah-HEH-ree

Lala salama

Sleep well

Say: LAH-lah sah-LAH-mah

ASK

Habari za leo?

How was today?

Answer: **Nzuri!** (n-ZOO-ree), Good!

PLAY

Wave hello. Start the call with Hujambo? and answer Sijambo! End it with Kwaheri and a big wave. At bedtime, finish with Lala salama.

✂ cut here

Week 2

Family



Bibi

Grandmother

Say: BEE-bee

Babu

Grandfather

Say: BAH-boo

Mama

Mother

Say: MAH-mah

Baba

Father

Say: BAH-bah

Dada

Sister

Say: DAH-dah

ASK

Jina lako nani?

What's your name?

Answer: **Jina langu ni...** My name is...

PLAY

Who's who? Hold a family photo up to the camera, or point the phone around the room. The child says who it is in Swahili: Bibi! Mama!

Tip for the grown-up: five minutes is plenty. Finish while it's still fun, and use the same card all week, so the words come back again and again.

Week 3

Numbers 1 to 5



Moja

One

Say: MO-jah

Mbili

Two

Say: m-BEE-lee

Tatu

Three

Say: TAH-too

Nne

Four

Say: N-neh

Tano

Five

Say: TAH-no

ASK

Una miaka mingapi?

How old are you?

Answer: **Nina miaka...** I am ... years old

PLAY

Finger count. Hold up some fingers to the camera. The child shouts the number in Swahili. Then swap: the child holds up fingers and you count.

cut here

Week 4

Animals



Simba

Lion

Say: SEEM-bah

Tembo

Elephant

Say: TEHM-boh

Twiga

Giraffe

Say: TWEE-gah

Paka

Cat

Say: PAH-kah

Mbwa

Dog

Say: M-bwah

ASK

Unapenda mnyama gani?

Which animal do you like?

Answer: **Ninapenda...** I like...

PLAY

Animal sounds. One of you makes an animal sound or acts it out. The other guesses its Swahili name. Roar for simba!

★ Our call tracker

Colour in a star each time you use your card on a call.

Week 1



Week 2



Week 3



Week 4

