

Sample Chichewa sentences

Caveat: These sample Chichewa sentences were compiled by a beginning student of Chichewa based on class notes, and thus it is not particularly well organized nor guaranteed for accuracy; 2) This list may be downloaded from <http://nature.berkeley.edu/~alyons/chichewa/>.

WEEK 1

Bambo Andy a ma chokera ku Florida.
Mu ma pita kuti?
Mu ku funa chiyani?
A na nena kuti...
Mu ku funa chiyani?
Ti dza phunzira.
Ana a ma konda mitengo.
Mkango u ma thawa mitengo
Mipando i ma gwa.
Ana anga a ma phunzira chingerezi.
Mkango wanga (u+anga - anga starts with a vowel) u ku phunzira.
Mikango yanga (i+anga) i ku phunzira.
Kamkango kanga ka li bwino.
Msika u li pafudi ndi downtown.
Kodi ku li msika?
Mikango i ma dya anthu.
Mpanda wa mphunzitsi.
Muwa gula chiyani?
Mu a dya chiyani?
Ndi ku topa.
Nda topa. (ndi+a)
Nda kondwa.
Ana a topa.
Ife ti ma phunzira ku California.
Ndi a chokera.
Ndi ma chokera.
Nda chedwa.
Mu ku chedwa.
Mwa chedwa.
Uyu mayi
Dzina langa ndi Andy.
Dzina lake ndani?
Mkango uku werenga.
Funso langa li ku nena kuti
Mikango iku thawa munthu
Mkono wanga uku lemba.
Mikono yanga iku lemba.

Mr. Andy is from Florida.
Where do you go (habitually)?
What do you want?
He said that...
What do you want?
We will learn.
Children love trees.
The lion runs away from the trees.
Chairs fall.
My children learn English.
My lion is learning.

My lions are learning.
My small lion in ok.
There is a market near downtown.
Is there a market?
Lions eat people.
The teacher's chair.
What have you just bought?
What did you just eat?
I am getting tired.
I am tired.
I am happy.
The children are tired.
We learn in California.
I am just from.
I am from (originally)
I am late.
I am running late.
You are late.
This woman
My name is Andy.
What is his name?
The lion is reading.
My question says that
The lion runs away from people.
My arm is writing.
My arms are writing.

Kamkango kama kanda mtengo.
 Mphunzitsi a ku lota
 Mikango ya (i-a) mfumu i ku lota.
 Kodi mu ma mwa mowa?
 Mayi uyu a ku nena kuti...
 Mayankho aanu
 Ana aanu a li ndi nsabwe.
 Mwana wanu (u+anu) a li ndi nsabwe.
 Ku li mapiri.
 Mapiri athu a li ndi njovu.
 Funso lanu li li ndi bodza.
 Khomo li li ndi chutseko.
 Mphunzitsa a ku gula mkango
 Mphunzitsa a ku u gula.
 Mphunzitsa a ku li gula
 Ndi ku thamangitsa mkango.
 Ndi ku u thamangitsa.
 U ku ndi thamangitsa.
 Mkono wanu (u-anu) u li ndi chiyani?
 Ndi li ndi ludzu.
 Ndi li ndi njaba.
 Chipatala chanthu chi li ndi ziseko.

WEEK 2

Mikango ya (i-a) ku LA si (si-i-~~ma~~) bangula,
 koma ya ku Ohio i ma bangula.
 Ku Irvine kulibe wildlife.
 Inu bambo...
 Nda pita
 Mu dya chiyani?
 We shall see each other soon.
 Tamva (ti-a-mva)
 Ku Maryland ku libe mikango. Ku VA ku
 libenso mikango.
 Ndi libe assignment yanga (i-anga) chifukwa
 ndi libe printer.
 Ndi na funsa bambo Ken kuti...
 Ndi na u thamangitsa.
 U na ndi thamangitsa.
 A ku funa ku ti phunzitsa.
 Ndi ku funa kuti mu sambire.
 Muyende bwino.
 Mu nenenso.
 Si ndi kumva.
 Mu nenenso pang'ono pang'ono.

The little lion scratches the tree.
 The teachers are dreaming.
 The chief's lions are dreaming.
 Do you drink beer?
 This woman is saying...
 Our responses
 Your children have lice.
 Your child has lice.
 There are mountains.
 Our mountains have elephants.
 Your question has lies.
 The entrance has a door.
 The teacher is buying a lion.
 The teacher is buying it (class 3 noun - lion)
 The teacher is buying it (class 5 noun)
 I am chasing the lion.
 I am chasing it (class 3 noun - lion)
 It (class 3 noun) is chasing me.
 Your arm has what?
 I am thirsty.
 I am hungry.
 Our hospital has doors.

Lions from LA don't roar, but they of Ohio do
 roar.
 At Irvine there is no wildlife.
 You sir... (emphatic)
 I am about to go. (I'm off).
 What will you eat for lunch (soon)?
 Tionana posachedwa.
 We have heard.
 In Maryland there are no lions. In Virginia
 there are also no lions.
 I do not have my assignment because I do not
 have a printer.
 I asked Mr. Ken that....
 I chased it.
 It chased me.
 He wants to teach us.
 I want that you swim.
 Travel well.
 Say it again.
 I don't hear (understand).
 Say it again slowly.

Ti pite ku kalasi tsopano.
 Mu na samukira liti ku Santa Cruz?
 Ndi ku funa kuti mu ndi yahkhe.
 A (a-a) ndi yankha chiyani?
 A (a-a) ku-yankha-ni kuti a na samukira ku
 Santa Cruz chaka cha 1985.
 Si a ku khala ku Ohio.
 Mu a ti uza...
 Ndi ku funa kuti mu ndi uze
 Ti a tsiriza phunziro lathu la Chichewa.
 A dza tsiriza liti?
 Ndi ku ka gula chakudya.
 Mu ku ka chita chiyani?
 Ndi ku pita ku San Fransisco ku ka gulitsa
 mabuku anga (a-anga).
 Mu ku dza chita chiyani?
 Ti ku funa kuti mu ka chotse njoka yanu (i-
 anu).
 Pitani mu ka i chotse.
 Mu ku gula chiyani?
 Mu ku ka gula chiyani?
 Mu ku dza gula chiyani?
 Mu dza gula chiyani?
 Mu gula chiyani?
 Mu ka gula chiyani?
 Ndi ku ka zi gulitsa ku San Fransisco.

 Si ndi ku nena kuti mu gultise.
 Ndi ku nena kuti mu sa gultise.
 Mu sa (sa-a) mvere.
 Mu sa (sa-a) lembe.
 Iyayi, ndi libe funsa.
 Ndi ma ku-konda-ni.
 Dzina la nanga ndi chiyani?
 A ø ku-sokoneza-ni.
 Ndi ku funa kwambiri...
 I don't know.
 Mountains are in West Texas.
 Mu sa dandaule.
 Mu ø ka pume.
 U na tha liti?
 Galimoto yanga ndi ya mtundu wa Ford.
 Mu ti uze.
 Bambo Ken a nena kuti a li ndi jeep.
 Sa (si-a) khala ku VA.

Let's go to class now.
 When did you move to Santa Cruz?
 I want you to answer me.
 He responded to me what?
 He responded to you that he moved to Santa
 Cruz in 1985.
 He isn't living in Ohio.
 You have told us...
 I want you to tell us...
 We have finished our lesson of Chichewa.
 When will she finish?
 I am going (somewhere) to buy food.
 You are going (somewhere) to do what?
 I am going to San Fransisco to sell my books.

 You are coming (here) to do what?
 We want you to go (there) remove your snake.

 Go remove it (snake class 9).
 You are buying what?
 You are going (somewhere) to buy what?
 You are coming (here) to buy what?
 You will buy what?
 You will (soon) buy what?
 You will (soon) go to buy what?
 I am going to sell them (snakes, class 10) in
 San Fransisco.
 I am not saying that you sell them.
 I am saying that you not sell them.
 Don't listen to him.
 Don't write it.
 No, I don't have a question.
 I love you.
 Name of lake is what?
 He will confuse you.
 I like very much...
 Si ndi ku dziwa.
 Maphiri a li ku West Texas.
 Don't worry.
 You go (somewhere) rest.
 It (meeting class 3) ended when?
 My car is of type of Ford.
 You tell us.
 Bambo Ken (just) told us that he has a jeep.
 Hi is not from Virginia (ma omitted)

Week 3

Ndi ku li dziwa.
Ti li ndi muthu modzi (m-modzi)
Chipatala chimenu chili ndi mankhwala
ambiri chima lundira....
State ya Ohio ili ku dera liti la Amerika?
Anthu a ku TX a ma weta njoka zANJI (zi-
ANJI)?
Chibali ndi fupa, si chi ~~ma~~ ola
Tiyende pamodzi ndi mtima umodzi.

Week 4

Kuyendetsa galimoto ku ma ndi vuta.
Abale a ma vuta.
Ndi li ndi vuto.
Ndi li m'mavuto.
Ndi li pa mavuto.
Sabata yatha (i-a-tha).
Ndi na pita ku ka sambire.
Si mu na ka sambire ku Santa Monica.
Museum i-mene munapita ku-ka-i-ona ili
kuti?
Mbuzi zimene Mayi Jacqui a-ma-zi-weta zi-
li ku dambo.
Anyamata amene tinawaona ku nyanja...
Ku na li chiyani?
Ulendo wa bwino, koma tayenda (ti-a-yenda)
pansi.
Mzinda wa Santa Cruz uli ku mpoto ku a
California.
Ndi na ku-phunzitsa-ni.
Mutsogole.
Ndi li pa mnyenyo.
Ti yambanso.
Tinadya nyama ndi kumwa mowa ndi kuotcha
msomba.
Ndi na bwerako dzulo madzulo.
A na pita pa galimoto.
Ndi yani?
Ndi ndani?
Ku Chicago ku ma zizira.
Ku California ku ku tentha.
Ku California ku ma tentha.
Mpando wanga uku wawa.

I know it.
We have one person
The hospital with a lot of medicine receives....
State of Ohio is which region of Amerika?
People of Texas raise which snakes?
Brotherhood is bones. It does not rot. (proverb)
Let's walk together with one heart.

Driving car is giving me problem.
Relatives cause problems.
I have problem.
I am in problems (trouble).
I am in/at problems.
Last week.
I went to go swim.
I didn't go swim at Santa Monica.
The museum which you went to go see (it) is
where?
Goats which Mayi Jacqui herds (them) are in
the swamp.
The boys which we saw (them) at the lake...
There was what?
Good journey, but we traveled on foot.
City of Santa Cruz is at north at California.
I taught you.
You go ahead.
I am on break.
We will (shortly) begin again.
We ate meat and drank beer and roasted (on
open fire) fish.
I returned yesterday night.
He went on (by) car.
With who?
With who?
Chicago gets cold.
At California is getting hot.
At California is (habitually) hot.
My arm is hurting.

Mu ma tha...?
Nda (ndi-a) tha.
Tsopano ndi vuto lanu.
Mu a ti uza (zinthu omitted) zimene Bambo
Andy anandiyankha.
Ndikufuna ku ku-funsa-ni.
Mu ma chi (chilankhulo) phunzitsi kuti?
Kucheza kuathu ku ku khudza...
Kodi nkhani yanu i-ku-khudza chiyani.
Dziko la Mexico li li kumwera ku-a Amerika.
A ma chita research.
Pang'ono pang'ono ndi mtolo.

Tsokonombwe anatha mtunda ndi kulumpha.

Mfiti si-i lumpha maliro.

Si ndi nga ku-uze-ni.
Si ndi ~~ma~~ ku-uza-ni zimene ndimachita usiku.
Mkango u ku thamangitsa mbuzi.
U-na-li ndi yani?

Mu li ndi nsanje.
Mu ku chita nsanje.
Chidindo cha jombo chi-a-bwera bwanji,
mnyumba mwanga?
Nda chita mwawi.
Mu li ndi mwawi.
A ku chita manyazi.
Ndi li ndi tsoka.
Tsoka langa.
Zinthu za (zi-a) tsopano.
Nzeru za kale.
Tingathe ku-mu-yankha.
Mu khoza ku ka dya.

Can you....?
I am finished.
Now it's your problem.
You have told us the (things) which Andy has
answered me.
I want to ask you.
You have learned it (language) where?
Our chatting is touching upon...
Your news is touching (concerning) what?
Country of Mexico is south of America.
He does research.
Slowly is a bundle. Meaning: what you gather
in small quantities adds up to a big bundle.
Insect finishes (covers) land with jumps.
Meaning: tackle a big job in small bits.
Someone who practices witchcraft doesn't
jump (miss) funerals. Meaning: don't miss
opportunities that interest you.
I can not tell you.
I do not tell you (things) which I do at night.
Lion is chasing the goats.
You (familiar - because speaker is angry) were
with who?
You have jealousy.
You are jealousy.
The stamp of a print came how into my house?

I am doing lucky (you are lucky).
You have luck.
She is shy.
I have bad luck.
Just my luck (lit. my bad luck)
New things (lit. things of now.)
Ancient wisdom (lit intelligence of old)
We are able to answer him.
You are able to go eat.