

# Chichewa Vocabulary List

**Notes:** 1) this vocabulary list was compiled by a beginning student of Chichewa based on class notes, thus it is neither complete nor guaranteed for accuracy; 2) Chewa words beginning with a hyphen are either verbs or suffixes; 3) This list may be downloaded from <http://nature.berkeley.edu/~alyons/chichewa/>.

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- a** (pronoun) he/she/it/they.  
**a** (verb tense indicator) recently completed.  
**-a** (suffix) of. add noun class character before it.  
**-ake** (suffix) his/hers. put the appropriate noun-class character before it.  
**-ambiri** (adjective) very much. mitengo yambiri (i+ambiri). many trees.  
**-anga** (suffix) my. add the noun class character before it.  
**-anji** (suffix) which.  
**ansanga** (noun) friends, my.  
**-anu** (suffix) your (formal or plural). add the noun class character before it.  
**anyezi** (noun - 1a only) onions.  
**anzanu** (noun) your friends. possessive built in.  
**-ao** (suffix) their. put the appropriate noun-class character before it.  
**apo** (adjective) on there.  
**atate** (noun) father.  
**-athu** (suffix) our. put the appropriate noun-class character before it.  
**-ba** (verb) steal.  
**-badwa** (verb adjective) be born.  
**-bala** (noun - 5/6) sore, wound. rising-falling intonation.  
**-bala** (verb) give birth, carry child on back. flat intonation.  
**-balidwa** (verb adjective) give birth by.  
**bambo** (noun - 1/2, abambo) sir, form of address for men. Moni Bambo.  
**-bangula** (verb) roar.  
**banja** (noun - 5/6, mabanja) family. Can also mean husband or wife in more formal family sense.  
**basi** (connecting word) only, that's it, and then.  
**befu** (noun) quality of being out of breath. Use with -li ndi (to have) or -chita (to do).  
**bere** (noun - 5/6, mawere) breast.  
**-bereka** (verb) give birth, strap a child on the back.  
**-bisa** (verb) hide (something).  
**-bisala** (verb) hide (yourself).  
**bodza** (noun - 5/6, mabodza) lie (untruth). mabodza = rumours that have not been verified; malicious gossip.  
**bongololo** (noun - 1a/2) milipede (insect).  
**botolo** (noun - 5/6) bottle.  
**-bowa** (verb) be boring, do something boring.  
**bowa** (noun) mushrooms.  
**bungwe** (noun) organization, committee. Diminutive kabungwe = club.  
**buthu** (noun - 5/6) young (marriageable) girl.  
**-buula** (verb) groan (as in when you're sick).  
**bwalo ya ndege** (noun - 5/6) airport (lit. field of airplane).  
**bwalo la mlandu** (noun) court (courtyard of case).  
**bwanji** (question word) how.  
**bwato** (noun - 3/4) canoe.  
**bwalo** (noun - 5/6) clearing, courtyard, empty field for a particular purpose such as an airport or soccer field, or discussion. Bwalo wa mpira. Soccer field, literally field of ball.  
**bwenzi** (noun) friend.  
**-bweza** (verb) return, take back.  
**-bweretsera** (noun - 7/8) bring, lit make return.  
**-bwera** (verb) come. Don't confuse with bwerera = return from.  
**-bwereza** (verb) repeat.  
**-bwezera** (verb) return (something) to, hit back, revenge.  
**-bwerera** (verb) return, come back from. don't confuse with bwera = come.  
**bwino** (noun - 5/6) time afterwards, later. Ndi-ku-uzani bwino. I'll tell you later.  
**bwino bwino** (adverb) properly, well.  
**-bwino** (adjective) good. <chinthu> cha bwino. Good thing.  
**-byala** (verb) grow, plant.  
**-bzala** (verb) plant, grow.  
**chakudya cha mmawa** (noun - 7/8) breakfast (lit.

- food of morning).
- chaka cha mawa** (noun - 7/8) next year (lit. year of tomorrow).
- chamba** (noun - 7/8) pot, Malawian Gold.
- chaka chatha (chi-a-tha)** (noun - 9/10) last year (lit. year has just ended).
- cha** (verb) dawn. Kwatcha (ku-a-cha). It has dawned. Immoralized.
- chaka** (noun - 7/8, zaka) year. chaka cha 1985 = year of 1985.
- chakudya cha madzulo** (noun - 7/8) dinner, lit food of evening.
- chakudya** (noun - 7/8, ziakudya) food.
- chabwino** (phrase) ok.
- chala** (verb) finger, toe.
- chakutichakuti** (noun - 7/8) such and such. similar to ujeni, but when you don't want to say what it is. Can also say zakutizakuti.
- chamba** (noun) dancing. Flat tone.
- chedwa** (verb adjective) be late, delay. in general uses ma.
- chenjera** (verb) be clever.
- chepesta** (verb) make less, little.
- cheza** (verb) chat, visit.
- chepa** (verb adjective) be little, small.
- chenjezo** (noun - 5/6) warning.
- chenjeza** (verb) warn.
- chezera** (verb) visit someone, spend a long time doing something at night.
- chemwali** (noun) brother or sister, pick up line in a bar. borrowed from ChiYao.
- chikho** (noun) gourd.
- chiyembekezo** (noun - 7/8, ziyembekezo) expectation, hope.
- chifukwa chiyani** (question word) why (because what). can go at either the beginning or the end of the sentence.
- chilankhulo** (noun - 7/8, zilankhulo) language.
- chilonda** (noun - 7/8, zilonda) sore, wound.
- chithandizo** (noun - 7/8) assistance.
- chitseko** (noun - 7/8, zitseko) door.
- chimodzimodzi** (connecting word) likewise.
- chimbudzi** (noun - 7/8, zimbudzi) laboratory.
- chipangizo** (noun - 7/8, zipangizo) tools.
- chiritsa** (verb) make someone feel better (not necessarily by giving medicine).
- chilala** (noun) drought, famine.
- chitka** (verb) happen.
- chingwe** (noun) rope, string.
- chinsinsi** (noun - 7/8, zinsinsi) secret.
- chifukwa** (connecting word) because.
- chipupa** (noun - 7/8, zipupa ?) wall. pa chipupa = on the wall.
- chira** (verb) get cured, become better (from illness).
- chibale** (noun - 7/8) quality of being a brother or relative, brotherhood.
- chiwembu** (noun - 7/8) hostility.
- chisoti** (noun - 7/8, zisoti) hat.
- chilungamo** (noun - 7/8) justice, honesty.
- chi-** (suffix) big, huge. chi-munthu. big person. subsequently use chi as noun class marker.
- chiwaya** (noun - 7/8, ziwaya) frying pan.
- chitsivu** (noun - 7/8) fool, idiot.
- chipatala** (noun - 7/8, zipatala) hospital.
- chinthu** (noun - 7/8, zinthu) thing. zinthu zambiri. many things.
- chiuno** (noun - 7/8) waist line.
- chita chiwembu** (verb) be hostile.
- chikwati** (noun - 14) wedding. marriage ceremony.
- chidule** (noun - 7/8) brevity, shortness.
- chida** (noun - 7/8, zida) tool (of attacking), weapon.
- chiwerewere** (noun - 7/8) sexual immorality, promiscuity. Use with -chita.
- chiphini** (noun - 7/8, zipini) nose ring, body piercing.
- chita mantha** (verb adjective) be afraid. Can also use -opa.
- chipatso** (noun - 7/8, zipatso) a piece of fruit.
- chikopa** (noun - 7/8) animal hide.
- chiwanda** (noun) spirit (of the dead).
- chikwezo** (noun) slope going up, ascent.
- chibakhala** (noun - 9/10, zibakhala) blow, punch.
- chikuni** (noun - 7/8, zikuni (?)) log, big firewood stick.
- chipinda** (noun - 9/10, zipinda) room.
- chiyani** (question word) what.
- chinjera** (verb) be clever, cunning.
- chifundo** (noun - 7/8) pity.
- chifuniro** (noun - 7/8, zifuniro) desire.
- chithunzi** (noun - 7/8, zithunzi) picture.
- chititsa mantha** (verb) scare (make do fear).
- chinangwa** (noun - 7/8) casava.
- chitsa** (noun - 7/8, zitsa (?)) stump of a tree.
- chitambi** (noun - 7/8, zitambi) trunk.
- chilolo** (noun - 7/8) lap.
- chilombo** (noun - 7/8, zilombo) beast, animal.
- chibwenzi** (noun - 7/8) friendship, quality of being a

- friend, boyfriend, girlfriend.
- chi-** (prefix) language and customs of.  
Chichewa; Chingerezi. Language/customs of the chewa; English. Person of Chewa descent = Mchewa, Achewa.
- chipembere** (noun - 7/8, zipembere) rhino.
- chipanda** (noun - 7/8, zipanda) calabash.
- chinjiriza** (verb) protect (by blocking movement, like a fence, cage), enclose.
- chinamnwali** (noun - 7/8) initiation (ceremony).
- chigoba kumaso** (noun - 7/8) mask (lit. of frontside of body).
- chiweto** (noun - 7/8, ziweto) farm animal, livestock.
- chidindo** (noun - 7/8, zidindo) stamp, footprint.
- chisoni** (noun - 7 only) sadness. Ndi na mva chisoni. I felt sad. Use with -mva.
- chidindo cha jombo** (noun - 7/8) stamp of a boot, footprint.
- chita manyazi** (verb) be shy (lit. do shame).
- chidziwitso** (noun - 7/8) notice.
- chiwalo** (noun - 7/8, ziwalo) organ.
- chiza** (verb) administer medicine.
- chita** (verb) do.
- chikwi** (noun - 5/6, zikwi) one thousand. zikwi zikwi = thousands and thousands.
- chimwera** (noun - 7/8) watermelon.
- chisangalalo** (noun - 7/8) celebration.
- chigayo** (noun - 7/8, zigayo) mill (machine to grind corn).
- chitupa** (noun - 8 only) documents.
- chiwerengero** (noun - 7/8) amount, sum, total.
- chimwemwe** (noun - 7/8) joy, happiness.  
Doesn't have a verb connected to it. Popular name.
- chipululu** (noun - 7/8) wilderness (open territory, might have grass trees). variant of word for forest.
- chinayi** (adjective) 4th. Use of (-a) in front.
- chimanga** (noun - 7 only) corn.
- chilendo** (noun - 7/8) foreignness (lit. pertaining to a traveler or guest), strangeness.
- chilpululu cha mchenga** (noun - 7/8) dessert (lit wilderness of sand).
- chitati** (adjective) 3rd. Use of (-a) in front.
- chiwiri** (adjective) 2nd. Use of (-a) in front.
- chingerezi** (noun) English.
- chizolowezi** (noun - 7/8, zizolowezi) habit.
- chisanu** (adjective) 5th. Use of (-a) in front.
- chilango** (noun - 7/8) punishment.
- chochita** (noun - 7/8, zochita) things to do.
- chonde** (exclamation) please.
- chotupa** (noun - 7/8) swelling, bump.
- chombo** (noun - 7/8) ship, sailing vessel.
- chokera** (verb) depart from, come from. Mu-ma-chokera kuti?. You are from where?.
- chotsa** (verb) remove (lit. make something depart).
- choseketsa** (noun - 7/8) joke (lit. thing of to make laugh).
- cholembere** (noun - 7/8) writing instrument (pen, pencil), lit. 'thing (omitted) of writing with'.
- choncho** (connecting word) so.
- choka** (verb) leave, depart.
- chulukana** (verb) increase (in population growth).
- chuluka** (verb adjective) become many, numerous.
- chutseko** (noun) door.
- chuma** (noun - 7/8) wealth.
- chule** (noun - 1a/2, achule) frog.
- chulukistira** (verb) compound (something) for (someone).
- chulukitsa** (verb) multiply, compound, make more numerous.
- da** (verb adjective) be dark, black. Kwada (ku-ada). It's gotten dark. Can also mean 'to hate'.
- da** (verb) hate. A-ma-ndi-da. He hates me.
- dabwa** (verb adjective) be surprised, amazed, be uncertain.
- dalira** (verb) depend on.
- dambo** (noun - 5/6, madambo (?)) swamp, marshland.
- dambwe** (noun) place where initiation training takes place.
- dandaula** (verb) worry, be sad.
- dandaulo** (noun - 5/6, madandaulo) worry, anxiety.
- dengu** (noun - 5/6) basket.
- dera** (noun - 5/6, madera) area, region.
- di** (suffix) really, indeed. comes at the end of a verb.
- dinda** (verb) stamp (like a postmark or with foot), pack (soi).
- diso** (noun - 5/6, maso) eye.
- dodometsa** (noun - 6 only) make someone startled.
- dodoma** (verb) taken aback, shocked.
- dothi** (noun) gravel, dirt.
- dula** (verb) cut (all the way through), cut down.
- dutsa** (verb) cross, go through, cross a street.
- duwa** (noun - 5/6, maluwa) flower. Maluwa a ku phuka. Flowers are sprouting.

- dwala** (verb adjective) be ill.  
**-dwalitsa** (verb) make (someone) ill.  
**-dwaza** (verb) care for (a sick person).  
**-dwala** (verb) be ill.  
**-dya mutu** (idiomatic expression) think deeply (lit. eat head).  
**dyana** (noun) day before yesterday.  
**-dya** (verb) eat.  
**-dya miseche** (verb) gossip.  
**-dyetsa** (verb) feed (an animal or person).  
**-dza** (verb) come.  
**-dzandila** (verb) stagger.  
**dza** (verb tense indicator) future tense.  
**dzandidzandi** (noun) state of staggering back and forth.  
**dzanja** (noun - 5/6, ma-anja) hand.  
**dzana** (noun) day before yesterday.  
**dzenje** (noun - 5/6, ma-enje) hole.  
**-dzera** (verb) come for a particular reason.  
**-dzera** (verb) go past, go via {someplace}.  
**dziko lapansi** (noun - 5/6) earth, planet, land (lit. country of down).  
**dziko** (noun) country, land.  
**-dziwa** (verb) know.  
**dzino** (noun - 5/6, mano) tooth.  
**dzinalamodza (sp??)** (noun) nickname.  
**dzina** (noun - 1/2, maina) name.  
**-dziwitsa** (verb) inform (lit. make known).  
**dzira** (noun - 5/6, mazira) egg.  
**dziwe** (noun - 5/6) pool.  
**-dzola** (verb) apply to body (ex. ointment).  
**dzungu** (noun - 5/6, maungu) pumpkin.  
**-dzutsa** (verb) wake somebody up (irregular form of dzuk-its-a).  
**dzulo** (noun - 5/6) yesterday.  
**dzuwa** (noun - 5/6) sun.  
**-dzuka** (verb) wake up.  
**-dzudzula** (verb) criticize.  
**-enda** (verb) walk.  
**-fa** (verb) die.  
**fakitale** (noun - 5/6, mafakitale) factory. Can also be used as class 9 in singular.  
**-fala** (verb) spread (as in rumors, death, etc).  
**-fanana** (verb) be similiar, be like something.  
**-fiira** (verb adjective) be red.  
**-fika** (verb) arrive.  
**-fisula** (verb) break fast.  
**fisi** (noun) hyena.  
**fodya** (noun - 1a only) tobacco.  
**-fooka** (verb) be weak (often because of illness).  
**-fotokoza** (verb) explain, fix, repair.  
**-fotokoza ?** (verb) explain.  
**-fula** (verb) extract.  
**-fulumira** (verb) hurry.  
**fumbi** (noun) dust.  
**-funtha** (verb adjective) be crazy.  
**funso** (noun - 5/6, mafunso) question.  
**-funsira** (verb) propose (for marriage).  
**-funsa** (verb) question.  
**-funsira** (verb) ask (for a reason). Mu ku funsira chiyani?. You are asking for what?. Can also mean to propose.  
**-funtna** (verb adjective) become mad, crazy.  
**-funa** (verb) want.  
**fupa** (noun - 5/6, mafupa) bone.  
**-fupi** (pure adjective) short.  
**-futula** (verb) break fast (in afternoon, during Lent or Ramadan ).  
**-futa** (verb) erase the blackboard.  
**-fuula** (verb) holler, shout.  
**gaga** (noun) re-ground corn husks ate during times of no food.  
**galimoto** (noun - 5/6, magalimoto) car. fluctuates in classes.  
**galu** (noun - 1a/2) dog.  
**-ganiza** (verb) think.  
**ganizo** (noun - 5/6, maganizo) thought.  
**-gawa** (verb) divide.  
**gawo** (noun - 5/6, magawo) portion.  
**-gawana** (verb) share (lit. divide each other).  
**-gaya** (verb) grind.  
**gets** (noun - 5/6, magetsi) electricity.  
**-gogoda** (verb) knock (on the door).  
**-gomera** (verb) take one's hat off to someone. Nda ku-gomera-ni. I take my hat off to you.  
**-goma** (verb) salute, 'take my hat off', acknowledge that someone is good at something.  
**-gonja** (verb) be conquered, surrender. Ta (ti-a) gonja. We have lost.  
**-gonera** (verb) sleep with (as in food or dinner).  
**-gona** (verb) sleep, lie down.  
**-gonjesta** (verb) defeat, cause to lose, conquer.  
**-gulitisa** (verb) sell. don't confuse with -gula = to buy.  
**gule** (noun) dance, performance, usually traditional. Singular 1a. Plural class 6.  
**-gulitsa** (verb) sell.  
**-gula** (verb) buy. don't confuse with -gulitsa = to

- sell.
- gumula** (verb) demolish, pull down.
- gunda** (verb) crash, collide.
- gwa** (ideophone) solid (connotation: doing great).
- gwa** (verb) fall.
- gwetsa** (verb) drop.
- gwera** (verb) fall into. Ndi na gwera m'dziwe. I fell into the pool.
- gwira** (verb) catch, hold on to, grab.
- gwirizana** (verb) get along.
- gwiritsa ntchito** (verb) use (lit. to make work).
- gwira ntchito** (verb) work (as in a job or profession). from -gwira (to catch, grab, hold on to) and -chita (to do).
- hachi** (noun) horse.
- i** (suffix) equivalent of 'er'. mphunzitsi, mlimi. teacher, farmer. replace the last 'a' in the verb with 'i' and add something in the beginning so it fits into a noun class.
- ife** (emphatic pronoun) we.
- ika** (verb) put.
- ima** (verb) stand, stop (after moving).
- imba** (verb) sing, play an instrument.
- imba mluzu** (verb) whistle (lit. sing whistle).
- imira** (verb) stand for.
- ina** (adjective) other. mwana ina (u+ina); funso lina (li+ina). other child, other question. add noun class character before the 'ina', like possessive adjectives.
- inde** (exclamation) yes.
- ine** (emphatic pronoun) I.
- inu** (emphatic pronoun) you (plural or formal).
- ipa** (verb adjective) be bad.
- iwala** (verb) forget.
- iwe** (emphatic pronoun) you (familiar).
- owo** (emphatic pronoun) they.
- iyayi** (exclamation) no.
- iye** (emphatic pronoun) he/she/it.
- jambula** (verb) record, on film or a cassette.
- jombo** (noun - 9/10) boot.
- ka-** (prefix - 12) indicates small for singular noun. kamtengo; kamwana. small tree; small child (baby). functions as a separate class using the 'ka' as a noun class character.
- kabichi** (noun) cabbage.
- kabudula** (noun) shorts.
- kaduka** (noun - 1a only) jealousy, malicious envy. Jealousy in the sense that you want to deprive someone of something you want but can't have. Interchangable with njiru.
- kale** (noun - 5 only) oldness.
- kalavulagaga** (noun) difficultness (lit to spit up the gaga).
- kalulu** (noun) rabbit.
- kalasi** (noun) class.
- kali** (pure adjective) fierce.
- kalata** (noun - 9/10) letter.
- kala** (verb) scratch. Don't confuse with khala = to stay or live.
- kalamba** (verb) grow old.
- kale-kale** (noun - 5 only) long time ago.
- kama** (verb) milk (i.e. squeeze the cow's tits).
- kamodzi-kamodzi** (adverb) irregularly (lit. once-  
once).
- kambirana** (verb) discuss, talk to each other, (kamb-ir-an-a = talk - to - one another).
- kamodzi (ka-modzi)** (adverb) once.
- kamba** (verb) talk, speak.
- kangana** (verb) quarrel. has the -an- suffix built in for 'each other'.
- kanda** (verb) scratch. don't confuse with -konda = to like/love.
- kana** (verb) refuse, deny.
- kapena** (preposition) or, perhaps.
- kapolo** (noun - 1a/2) slave.
- katumba** (noun - 1/2) calf (leg).
- katatu** (adverb) three times.
- kati** (noun - 5 only) middle.
- katukwi** (noun) generic label for charms or medicine to make one strong for combat. Same as mangolomera.
- kawirikawiri** (adverb) often.
- kawiri** (adverb) twice.
- kaya inu?** (phrase) what about you?. from kaya (no idea) and inu (emphatic you).
- kazinga** (verb) fry.
- kazi** (pure adjective) female.
- kenaka** (connecting word) then.
- ketsa** (verb) make drip, flow, dribble (often used as to drip).
- keyala** (noun - 9/10) address (mailing). derived from "care of".
- keyala** (noun - 9/10) military. origin: King's African Rifles (KAR).
- kha** (ideophone) cutting sound.
- khazikika** (verb) get settled, established.
- khala** (verb) stay, live (in a place).

**khama** (noun - 5 only) persistence, diligence.  
**-kha** (verb) drip, flow, dribble.  
**-khazikitsa** (verb) establish.  
**-khoza** (verb) be able to. also to do something right.  
**kholo** (noun - 5/6, makolo) parent. singular means ancestor.  
**-khoma** (verb) hammer.  
**-khota** (verb) wind (i.e. crooked).  
**-khoma msonkho** (verb) pay tax.  
**khonde** (noun - 5/6) veranda, porch. pa khonde. on the porch.  
**-khoza** (verb) do something right. Indee, mwa (mu-a) khoza. Yes, you have got it right. also to be able to.  
**khollowa** (noun - 1a only) sweet potato leaves.  
**khola** (noun - 5/6) corral, place where you keep livestock.  
**-khoza** (verb) be able to (do something).  
**khoswe** (noun - 9/10, khoswe) rat.  
**khomo** (noun - 5/6, makomo) entrance.  
**-khulupirika** (verb) be dependable.  
**-khumbira** (verb) admire, covet.  
**khutu** (noun - 5/6, makutu) ear.  
**-khudza** (verb) touch, touch upon, concern.  
**khumi** (noun - 5/6, makumi) ten.  
**-khumba** (verb) desire.  
**khungu** (noun - 5/6) skin. Intonation: low-high-low.  
**khungu** (noun - 5 only) blindness. Intonation: high-high-low.  
**khwimbi** (noun - 5/6) a large but countable number.  
**-kocheza** (verb) dock.  
**-kodza** (verb) urinate.  
**kodi** (question word) indicates a question.  
**kodi** (connecting word) that. a na nena kodi.. he said that..  
**-koka** (verb) smoke, pull (inhale).  
**-kola** (verb) trip (somebody), catch in a trap.  
**-komalira** (verb) take lunch.  
**-komana** (verb) meet.  
**-koma** (verb adjective) taste good, be good.  
**koma** (connecting word) but.  
**-konda** (verb) like, love. mostly uses 'ma' as verb tense indicator.  
**-kongola** (verb adjective) be beautiful.  
**-konzekera** (verb adjective) be prepared for.  
**-kondwa** (verb adjective) be happy, rejoice.

interchangable with kondwera.  
**-konzeka** (verb adjective) be prepared.  
**-konza** (verb) fix, prepare.  
**-kopeka** (verb) attracted to, persuaded to. A ku kopeka <to the idea of going to>. They are getting attracted to the idea of going to..  
**-kopa** (verb) attract.  
**ku** (verb tense indicator) presently occurring.  
**ku** (preposition) at, to, from. class 17.  
**ku li** (phrase) there is/are. kodi ku li msika?. Are there markets?. Also written as kuli.  
**-kukuta** (verb) munch, eat something that makes a lot of noise. A ku ku kukuta ni. He's munching you.  
**-kula** (verb adjective) become big.  
**-kulu** (pure adjective) big.  
**-kumbuka** (verb) remember.  
**-kumbutsa** (verb) remind.  
**-kumba** (verb) dig, excavate.  
**kuno** (adjective) here at. ku-no.  
**kunsi** (adjective) underneath. ku is actually part of the word.  
**kunja** (noun) outside, weather, atmosphere.  
**kuti** (connecting word) that. a na nena kuti.. he said that.. rising-falling intonation (as opposed to kuti = where).  
**kuti** (question word) where. ku-ti, flat intonation (as opposed to kuti = that).  
**kwambiri** (phrase) very much.  
**-kwawa** (verb) crawl.  
**-kwata** (verb) make love.  
**-kwatiwa** (verb) get married. Passive form. Use when subject is female. See also -kwatira = marry (active form).  
**-kwatitsa** (verb) marry (perform wedding ceremony).  
**-kwatira** (verb) marry, web. Active form. Use when the subject is a man. See also -kwatiwa = get married.  
**-kwemba** (verb) smoke pot.  
**-kwera** (verb) climb up, ride.  
**kwenikweni** (adverb) really.  
**-kweza** (verb) raise.  
**-kwiya** (verb) get angry.  
**-kwiyitsa** (verb) anger (lit to make angry).  
**-kwitisa** (verb) annoy, make angry.  
**la chitati** (noun - 5/6) Wednesday, literally 'day of third' with day (tsiku) omitted.  
**la chiwiri** (noun - 5/6) Tuesday, literally 'day of

- 2nd' with tsiku omitted.
- la chinayi** (noun - 5/6) Thursday, literally 'day of 4th' with day (tsiku) omitted.
- la chisanu** (noun - 5/6) Friday, literally day of 5th with day (tsiku) omitted.
- labadira** (verb) pay attention, get concerned about.
- lakwa** (verb) make a mistake.
- lalikulu** (noun - 5/6) bigness (?).
- lalanje** (noun - 5/6, malalanje) oranges.
- laMulungu** (noun - 5/6) Sunday, literally day of God.
- landira** (verb) receive.
- langidwa** (verb) get punished.
- langa** (verb) punish.
- landa** (verb) take away, snatch. Often forcibly, when the person does not want to give.
- langiza** (verb) point.
- langa** (verb) advise, give advice. Also means to punish.
- lankhula** (verb) speak. Interchangable with -yankhula.
- laula** (verb adjective) be obscene.
- lavula** (verb) spit.
- ledzera** (verb) get drunk.
- lefuka** (verb adjective) be weak (from overwork).
- lefula** (verb) weaken (physically) someone.
- leka** (verb) quit.
- lela** (verb) bring up children, raise kids.
- lemba** (verb) write.
- lemekeza** (verb) respect, honor.
- lemera** (verb adjective) be rich.
- lengeza** (verb) announce, broadcast.
- lenga** (verb) create.
- lephera** (verb) fail.
- lero** (noun) today.
- leza** (ideophone) God in the form of lightning.
- li ndi** (verb) have.
- libe** (phrase) not have (irregular). Ndi libe assignment yanga (i-anga) chifukwa ndi libe printer. Ku Maryland ku libe mikango. I do not have my assignment because I do not have a printer. Maryland does not have lions. use noun class character before.
- lichero** (noun) winnowing pan.
- likulu** (noun - 5/6) headquarters, capital.
- lima** (verb) farm, cultivate.
- limbikira** (verb) work hard.
- lingana** (verb) be equal to.
- lira** (verb) cry.
- liti** (question word) when.
- lolemba** (noun - 5/6) Monday, literally 'day of writing' with tsiku omitted.
- lola** (verb) allow, grant permission.
- longosola** (verb) explain, fix, repair.
- lonjera** (verb) greet.
- londola** (verb) follow, get something right.
- longoloza** (verb) make someone involved with gabbing or yacking.
- longolola** (verb) yack, never know when to shut up.
- loto** (noun - 5/6, maloto) dream. Usually just use plural form.
- lota** (verb) dream.
- lowa** (verb) enter.
- loweruka** (noun - 5/6) Saturday, literally day of knocking off with day (tsiku) omitted.
- ludzu** (noun - 5/6) thirst. class 5 singular only.
- lumbira** (verb) swear (as in making an oath or promise).
- lumpha** (verb) jump.
- luma** (verb) bite.
- lungama** (verb adjective) be honest, just.
- m'malo mwa (mu-a)** (connecting word) instead (lit. in place of).
- ma** (verb tense indicator) habitual.
- madzi** (noun - 5/6, madzi) water. not in class 5, always plural.
- madzulo** (noun) afternoon to early evening.
- mafuta** (noun - 6 only) oil, lotions.
- magazi** (noun - 6 only) blood.
- makamaka** (adverb) especially.
- maka** (verb) mark.
- makamaka** (exclamation) especially.
- maluwamaluwa** (noun) colorfulness (lit. flowers flowers).
- malire** (noun - 6 only) boundary(s).
- malangizo** (noun - 6 only) instructions, directions.
- maliseche** (noun - 6 only) nakedness. Mwana a li maliseche. Child is naked. Use with -li.
- malungo** (noun) fever, malaria.
- maliro** (noun) funeral.
- malango** (noun - 6 only) advice.
- malonda** (noun - 6 only) trade, merchandise.
- malaulo** (noun) something or event very unusual, extraordinary, improper, and omnimous. Ex: solar eclipse.
- maliza** (verb) complete, finish. Interchangable with

- tsiriza.
- malonje** (noun - 6 only) greetings.
- malo** (noun - 6 only, malo) place.
- manga** (verb) build/construct, arrest, tie up.
- manga ulendo** (verb) setting out for a journey (lit tying a journey).
- mankhwal**a (noun - 5/6) medicine. Use with -mwa=drink, not -dya=eat, even if pills.
- mantha** (noun - 6 only) fear.
- manyazi** (noun - 6 only) shame. -chita manyazi. to be shy.
- manda** (noun - 6 only) grave; cemetery.
- mangolomera** (noun) generic label for charms or medicine to make one strong for combat. Same as katukwi.
- mapeto** (noun) conclusion, ending.
- maso** (noun - 6 only) face (lit. eyes).
- masikuonse** (noun) ordinariness (lit. all the days). Use with -a.
- masana** (noun - 3/4) noon, 10:30 - 2:30. rising falling intonation. may also be pronounced as msana (rising falling intonation) but not to be confused with msana (high high low intonation) = back.
- masano** (noun - 6 only) grave, graveyard.
- masula** (verb) untie, release (from custody).
- matchona** (noun) one who gets stuck in a foreign country.
- matenda** (noun - 6 only) illness.
- matsiku onse** (noun - 6 only) all the days.
- mau** (noun) word.
- mavalo** (noun) private parts.
- mawa** (noun) tomorrow.
- mayo** (exclamation) ouch!. When in mourning people say, "Mayo ine".
- mayi** (noun - 1/2, amayi) madame, form of address for women. Moni mayi.
- maziko** (noun) foundations.
- mbala** (noun) thief.
- mbandakucha** (noun) early morning before sunrise, after 1st to 3rd rooster.
- mbawala** (noun - 9/10) deer.
- mbadwo** (noun - 3/4) generation.
- mbali** (noun - 9/10, mbali) side.
- mbale (short m)** (noun - 9/10, mbale) plate.
- mbatata** (noun - 9/10, mbatata) potato. default is sweet potato. Irish potatoes = mbatata zi-a <ireland>.
- mbalame** (noun - 9/10) bird.
- mbalala** (noun - 5/6) nuts.
- mbale (long m)** (noun - 1/2) brother, relative, plate. long m - brother, relative, class 1/2.
- mbeu** (noun - 9/10, mbeu) crop, seed.
- mbewa** (noun - 9/10, mbewa) mouse.
- mbiri** (noun - 9/10) history.
- mbiya** (noun - 9/10) big pots used for brewing beer.
- mbidzi** (noun - 9/10) zebra.
- mbumba** (noun) all of the nephews, neices, younger siblings, etc. that an uncle who is nkhoswe is responsible for.
- mbuzi** (noun - 9/10, mbuzi) goat.
- mbuyo** (noun - 9/10) back, behind.
- mchira** (noun - 3/4, michira) tail.
- mchimwene** (noun - 1/2, achmwene) brother, standard way of politely addressing someone you don't know.
- mchenga** (noun - 3/4) sand, beach.
- mdani** (noun - 1/2, adani) enemy, opponent.
- mdyerekezi** (noun) devil.
- menya** (verb) hit.
- menya nkondo** (verb) make war (lit. hit war).
- mera** (verb) grow, as in plants.
- meta** (verb) shave.
- meza** (verb) swallow.
- mfedwa** (noun) someone who is in mourning.
- mfisulo** (noun) breakfast.
- mfiti** (noun - 9/10, mfiti) someone who practices witchcraft.
- mfuti** (noun) gun.
- mfumu** (noun - 1/2, afumu) chief.
- mgaiwa** (noun) flour you get when corn is ground with husks (skin of the kernal or endosperm). More nutritional than the other type of corn flour, but less respected.
- ngonero** (noun) dinner. Also refers to communion (last supper).
- mimba** (noun) stomach, pregnancy.
- miseche** (noun) gossip. To use as verb use -dya = eat.
- mitsidwa** (verb) extinguish.
- mkazi** (noun - 1/2, akazi) woman, mother, wife.
- mkati** (connecting word) inside. must use 'mu' noun class character subsequently.
- mkangano** (noun) quarrel, argument.
- mkango** (noun - 3/4, mikango) lion.
- mkaka** (noun - 3/4) milk. class 3 only, never plural.
- mkondo** (noun - 3/4, mikondo) spear.
- mkodzo** (noun - 3/4) urine.

- mkono** (noun - 3/4, mikono) arm.
- mkulu** (noun - 1/2) elder sibling of same sex, guy.
- mkuluwiko** (noun) ideomatic expression.
- mkuja** (noun) day after tomorrow.
- mkwiyo** (noun - 3/4) anger.
- mlato** (noun) bridge.
- mlandu** (noun - 3/4, milandu) case, suit (legal).  
Can be trivial or serious.
- mlatho** (noun - 3/4) bridge.
- mlamu** (noun - 1/2, alamu) brother or sister in-law.
- mjenje** (noun) hunter.
- mlengalenga** (noun) sky.
- mlendo** (noun - 1/2) traveler, visitor, guest.
- mlongo** (noun) sibling of opposite sex.
- mlonda** (noun) watchman.
- Mluya** (noun - 1/2, Aluya) Arab.
- mluzu** (noun - 3/4) whistle.
- mmacheza** (noun) time from 12:00 midnight to 3:30 am, until first rooster.
- mmawa** (noun) early morning, after sunrise.  
don't confuse with mawa = morning.
- mmawa mawa** (noun) early morning, 3rd rooster til sunrise. Will also hear 'mmamawa' (drop first 'wa').
- mmero** (adjective) down, inside the throat.
- mmphawi** (noun - 1/2) poor person.
- mng'ono** (noun - 1/2) younger sibling of same sex.
- mnikhwala** (noun - 3/4) substance that enables you to excel (herb, charm, etc.). don't confuse with mankhwala = medicine.
- mnikhwani** (noun - 3 only) pumpkin leaves.
- mnyamata** (noun - 1/2, anymata) boy.
- mnyenyo** (noun) break. Ndi li pa mnyenyo. I am on break.
- modzi** (suffix) one. malo amodzi. one place.  
add the noun class suffix before.
- moni** (phrase) hello, typical form of greeting when meeting someone for the first time.  
Moni mayi. Moni bambo.
- monga** (connecting word) such as., like.
- moto** (noun - 3/4) fire. usually no class 4.
- mowa** (noun) beer. always in class 3, never plural.
- moyo** (noun - 3/4) life.
- mpando** (noun - 3/4, mipando) chair.
- mpaka** (connecting word) until.
- mpanda** (noun - 3/4, mipanda) fence.
- mphindi** (noun - 9/10, mphindi) minute.
- mphwayi** (noun - 9/10) procrastination. use with -chita.
- mphira** (noun - 9/10) rubber.
- mphamvu** (noun - 9/10) strength.
- mphenzi** (noun) thunder.
- mpheto** (noun) private parts.
- mphika** (noun - 3/4) cooking pots (smaller size).
- mphatso** (noun - 9/10, mphatso) gift.
- mphepo** (noun) wind.
- mphunzitsi** (noun - 1/2, aphunzitsi) teacher.
- mphini** (noun) tattoo.
- mpira** (noun - 3/4) ball. Don't confuse with mphira = rubber.
- mpoto** (direction word) north. precede with 'ku'.
- mpunga** (noun - 3/4) rice.
- msanga** (noun - 3/4) quickness. Like tsopano, can use with -a or by itself.
- msala** (noun - 3/4, misala) lust/madness. msala = lust; misala = madness.
- msampha** (noun - 3/4, misampha) trap.
- msana** (noun - 3/4, misana) back (anatomy). don't confuse with msana = noon time; intonation goes up on 2nd syllable.
- msewu** (noun - 3/4, misewu) road.
- msewy** (noun) road.
- msika** (noun - 3/4, misika) market.
- msilikali** (noun - 1/2, asilikali) soldiers.
- msipu** (noun - 5/6, masipu) green grass for grazing.
- msonkhano** (noun - 3/4, misonkhano) meeting, conference.
- msodzi** (noun - 1/2, asodzi) fisherman.
- msomali** (noun - 3/4) nail.
- mtambo** (noun - 3/4) cloud.
- mtengo** (noun - 3/4, mitengo) tree, or price. mtengo = tree => rising-falling intonation, mtengo = price => steady intonation.
- mtedza** (noun - 5/6, mitedza) groundnuts (collectively). In plural form means different types of nuts.
- mtenthandevu** (noun) tea or coffee (lit. burn the beard)).
- mtendere** (noun) peace.
- mtunzi** (noun) shade (of a tree).
- mtima** (noun - 3/4, mitima) heart. rising falling intonation.
- mtolo** (noun - 3/4, mitolo) bundle.
- mtondo** (noun - 3/4, mitondo) mortar (pounding

- receptacle). rising falling intonation; don't confuse with mtondo -falling intonation = 2 days from now.
- mtsikama** (noun - 1/2, atsikama) girl.
- mitsuko** (noun - 3/4, mitsuko) water pot, usually clay.
- mitsinje** (noun - 3/4, mitsinje) river.
- mitsitso** (noun) slope going down.
- mtsogoleri** (noun - 1/2, atsogoleri) leader.
- mtundu** (noun - 3/4, mitundu) type, kind.
- mtundu wanji** (question word) which type.
- mu li bwanji?** (phrase) how are you?.
- mu** (pronoun) you.
- mu ma chokera?** (phrase) where are you from? (originally, regionally). Answer: Ndi ma chokera ku Florida. Variant: mu ku chokera? (where are you from right now?).
- mu** (preposition) in.
- mudzi** (noun - 3/4, midzi) village.
- mulungu** (noun - 3/4, milungu) god. use class 1 when referring to Christain God.
- muna** (pure adjective) male.
- muno** (adjective) here in.
- munda** (noun - 3/4) garden.
- munthu** (noun - 1/2, anthu) person.
- musi** (noun - 3/4, misi) pestle (pounding stick).
- mutu** (noun - 3/4, mitu) head.
- muzu** (noun - 3/4, mizu) root.
- mva** (verb) feel.
- mva** (verb) hear.
- mveka** (noun - 9/10) be heard, well known.
- mvera** (verb) listen (to).
- mvula** (noun - 9/10) rain.
- mwamuna** (noun - 1/2, awamuna) man. Used when you have to distinguish between men and women. Normally you can just use munthu and people will assume you're talking about a man.
- mwa chitsanzo** (connecting word) for example.
- mwakuti (also pronounced moti)** (connecting word) such that (in a manner that).
- mwano** (noun - 14) rudeness, insolence.
- mwamba** (noun) heaven.
- mwambo** (noun - 3/4, miyambo) traditions, culture, customs pertaining to, rules.
- mwadzidzidzi** (adverb) suddenly.
- Mwa dzuka bwanji?** (phrase) How did you wake up?. mwa = mu + a.
- mwa** (verb) drink.
- mwala** (noun - 3/4) stone, rock.
- mwambi** (noun - 3/4, miyambi) proverb.
- mwawera bwanji?** (phrase) How did you spend the time?. Said after you just say the person a little while ago. mu+a = mwa, recently done.
- mwana** (noun - 1/2, ana) child. mu + ana = mwana.
- mwawi** (noun - 3/4) good luck, opportunity. mwawi wanga (u-anga). my opportunity.
- mwa chidule** (adverb) in brief.
- mwera** (direction word) south. precede with 'ku'.
- mwezi wa (u-a) mawa** (noun - 3/4) next month (lit. month of tomorrow).
- mwezi watha (u-a-tha)** (noun - 3/4) last month (lit. month has past). could mean last month or the month has ended depending on intonation.
- Mwenechindongwa** (noun - 5/6) mphunzitsi wanga nickname.
- mwezi** (noun - 3/4, miyezi) moon, month. mwezi wa (u-a) June = month of June.
- mwendo** (noun - 3/4, miyendo) leg. mwendo = mu + endo; miyendo = mi + endo.
- mwini** (noun) owner.
- mzimu** (noun) spirit, soul.
- mzinda** (noun - 3/4, mizinda) city.
- mzungu** (noun - 1/2, azungu) white person.
- na** (verb tense indicator) past tense.
- nama** (verb) tell lies.
- namiza** (verb) deceive, lie, cheat. Most Chichewa speakers don't make a distinction between cheating and decieving.
- namwali** (noun - 1a/2, anamwali) maiden, initiate.
- nanga tsopano** (phrase) what about now.
- nanga** (phrase) and what about.. (connecting question word). nanga inu?. what about you?.
- nayi** (suffix) four.
- ndani** (question word) who.
- ndaswera bwino** (phrase) I passed the time well.
- ndemanga** (noun - 9/10) comment.
- ndevu** (noun - 9/10, ndevu) beard.
- ndege** (noun - 9/10) aeroplane.
- ndi** (connecting word) and.
- ndio za masamba** (noun - 9/10) vegetables (condiments of greens).
- ndithu** (exclamation) really, truly.
- ndiwo/ndio** (noun - 9/10, ndiwo/ndio) condiment you eat with nsima. ex: fish, greens, beans, meat, etc.
- ndi** (pronoun) I.
- ndi li bwino** (phrase) I am fine. variants: ndi li

- bwinonso (I am fine also); ndi li bwino pang'ono (I am a little bit fine).
- ndinu (ndi inu)** (phrase) it's you.
- ndine (ndi-ine)** (phrase) it's me. use low tone on ndi.
- ndipo** (connecting word) and (in the sense of connecting two whole expressions).
- ndowa (ndoo)** (noun - 9/10) bucket or pail, metal.
- ndudu** (noun - 9/10) cigarette.
- nena** (verb) say.
- ng'ono** (pure adjective) small.
- ng'oma** (noun - 9/10) drum.
- ng'amba** (verb) tear.
- ng'anima** (verb) flash, flicker.
- ngati** (suffix) how many.
- ngakhale** (connecting word) although, even though.
- ngati** (connecting word) if, like. as in this is like that.
- ngombe** (noun - 9/10, ngombe) cow.
- ni** (suffix) command indicator. pitani. (you) go - command.
- njala** (noun - 9/10) hunger. class 5 singular only ?. Can't use -chita form like you can with mwawi = good luck.
- njati** (noun - 9/10) buffalo.
- njenjenera** (verb) shake, tremble.
- njinga** (noun - 9/10, njinga) bicycle.
- njinga ya kapalasa** (noun) bicycle.
- njiwa** (noun) dove.
- njira** (noun) path, way.
- njiru** (noun - 9/10) jealousy, malicious envy. Jealousy in the sense that you want to deprive someone of something you want but can't have. Interchangeable with kaduka.
- njovo** (noun) elephant.
- njoya** (verb) enjoy.
- njoka** (noun - 9/10) snake.
- nkhani** (noun - 9/10) news, story, issue.
- nkhumba** (noun - 9/10) pig.
- nkhuni** (noun - 9/10, nkhuuni) firewood.
- nkhoswe** (noun - 9/10, nkhoswe) elder family member who bears responsibility for siblings, neices, etc.
- nkhalamba** (noun - 9/10) elderly, senior citizens, old people.
- nkhali** (noun - 9/10) cooking pot for nsima.
- nkhope** (noun) face.
- nkhosa** (noun - 9/10, nkhusa) sheep.
- nkhuku** (noun - 9/10, nkhusu) chicken.
- nkhondo** (noun - 9/10) war.
- nkhanza** (noun - 9/10) cruelty.
- nkhalango** (noun - 9/10) forest (which has trees).
- nkhata** (noun - 9/10) head pad (for carrying things on head). Made of grass or rolled up rag.
- nkhwangwa** (noun - 9/10) ax.
- nkhonya** (noun - 9/10, nkhusya) fist, blow.
- nkhomaliro** (noun) lunch.
- no** (suffix) shows proximity to speaker.
- nsanje** (noun - 9/10, nsanje) jealousy. Mu li ndi nsanje. or Mu ku chita nsanje. You have jealousy (you are jealous). You are doing jealousy. Jealousy, but not in the sense of wanting to hurt the person who has the thing. Most commonly used with human relations.
- nsalu** (noun) cloth. Comes from the Indian word 'sari'.
- nsapato** (noun - 9/10, nsapato) shoe.
- nsabwe** (noun - 9/10, nsabwe) louse, lice.
- nsawa** (noun - 5/6) nuts.
- nsima** (noun) corn porridge.
- nsomba** (noun) fish.
- nso** (suffix) too, also. ndi li bwinonso; inenso. I am fine also; me also.
- ntchito ya kalavulagaga** (noun) hard work (lit. work that gets all the food out of you).
- ntchafu** (noun - 9/10, ntchafu) thigh.
- ntchentche** (noun - 9/10, ntchentche) fly.
- nthano** (noun - 9/10) story (as in story telling).
- nthenda** (noun - 9/10, nthenda) disease.
- nthenga** (noun) feathers.
- nthambi** (noun - 9/10) branch.
- nthawi** (noun - 9/10, nthawi) time.
- nthochi** (noun) banana.
- nthabwala** (noun) humor.
- nthaka** (noun - 9/10) soil.
- nyanda** (noun) fibre gotten from bark of trees used to make clothing.
- nyali** (noun - 9/10, nyali) lamp.
- nyama** (noun - 9/10, nyama) meat, animal.
- nyaditsa** (verb) make proud.
- nyamula** (verb) carry (general), lift.
- nyanja** (noun - 9/10, nyanja) sea, lake, ocean.
- nyada** (verb adjective) be proud.
- nyanga** (noun - 9/10, nyanga) horn, tusk, ivory.
- nyamuka** (verb) get up, stand up.
- nyenya** (verb) goof off, take time from work when

- you're not supposed to.
- nyemba** (noun - 9/10, nyemba) beans.
- nyengo** (noun - 9/10) time (in sense of a season).
- nyezimira** (verb) twinkle, shine intermittantly. May also hear -nyezima.
- nyenga** (verb) seduce, deceive, proposing to a woman for a date or relationship. A ma nyenga akazi ambiri. He proposes to a lot of women.
- nyerere** (noun - 9/10, nyerere) ant.
- nyimbo** (noun - 9/10, nyimbo) song.
- nyonga** (noun - 9/10) stamina.
- nyundo** (noun) hammer.
- nyumba** (noun) house.
- nzeru** (noun) intelligence.
- odila** (verb) say 'odi-odi'.
- odi odi** (exclamation) announcement of presense walking up to a house.
- ola** (verb) rot.
- ola** (noun - 5/6, maola) hour.
- olotsa** (verb) make something cross.
- oloka** (verb) cross (road, river, etc.).
- ona** (verb) see.
- onetsa** (verb) show.
- oneka** (verb) appear, be visible.
- onjeza** (verb) add.
- ononga** (verb) damage.
- onse** (suffix) all.
- opa** (verb) be afraid.
- opsa** (verb) make afraid, intimidate.
- osati** (connecting word) not (as in that not that).
- otcha** (verb) roast on open fire, barbeque, burn.
- pa** (preposition) on. pa mpando pa li chisoti. On the chair is a hat. uses 'pa' as a subsequent noun-class character.
- pa-no** (adjective) here on.
- pachika** (verb) hang.
- pafupi** (adjective) near by.
- pafupi ndi** (preposition) near (something).
- pakati** (connecting word) between, on the middle of. Pakati pa principal ndi student. Between the principal and student. must use 'pa' noun class character subsequently.
- pakatikati** (direction word) central. precede with 'ku'.
- paka** (verb) smear, paint, brush.
- palibe kanthu** (idiomatic expression) there is no small thing, that's nothing, doesn't matter.
- palasa** (verb) row.
- palamula** (verb) do something for which you're likely to get criticized or rebuked.
- pamodzi** (adverb) together.
- panja** (noun) outside, outdoors (of some reference point).
- panthawi ya** (preposition) during.
- panda** (verb) lack, be without.
- panga** (verb) make.
- pangidwa** (verb) made by, crafted by.
- pansi pa** (adjective) below.
- pansi** (adjective) down, down on the ground. pa is actually part of the word.
- pang'ono pang'ono** (adverb) slowly.
- pang'ono** (adjective) little.
- pata** (verb) get.
- patali ndi** (preposition) far from (something).
- patsa** (verb) give (to someone). 'to' built in. See also -pereka = hand over.
- patali** (adjective) far away.
- pempho** (noun - 5/6) request.
- pemphera** (verb) pray, beg/request for or from.
- pempha** (verb) request, beg.
- pemphero** (noun - 5/6, mapemphero) prayer.
- pendapenda** (noun) act of trying to balance on one leg, going back and forth, or rocking back in forth in a canoe.
- pendama** (verb) lean, like when you're losing your balance.
- pepuka** (verb adjective) become easy (lit. become light).
- pepani** (phrase) sorry.
- pepala** (noun - 5/6, mapepala) paper.
- pereka** (verb) hand over (something).
- peta** (verb) winnow.
- peza** (verb) find.
- phazi** (noun - 5/6, maphazi (?)) foot.
- pha** (verb) kill.
- phewa** (noun - 5/6, mapewa) shoulder.
- phiri** (noun - 5/6, mapiri) mountain.
- phika** (verb) cook.
- phunziro** (noun - 5/6, maphunziro) lesson, course.
- phunzitsa** (verb) teach.
- phunzira** (verb) learn.
- phuka** (verb) sprout.
- phwiti** (noun) robin/finch.
- phweka** (verb) be easy.
- phwetekere** (noun - 1a only) tomatoes.
- phwando** (noun - 5/6, maphwando (?)) feast.

- piches** (noun - 5 only) peaches.
- pinda** (verb) bend, twist.
- pita pansi** (verb) go on foot, scheme maliciously (behind one's back).
- pita** (verb) go (to a place).
- pitani bwino** (phrase) go well.
- pitiriza** (verb) continue, proceed (as in working on a project).
- pitirira** (verb) go past.
- ponda** (verb) step on.
- posa** (verb) surpass, exceed.
- posachedwa** (adjective) soon (lit. not late).
- psya** (verb) be burn, ripen.
- pukuta** (verb) dry off by rubbing, remove liquid from, sponge dry.
- puma** (verb) breathe, rest. ti ku puma. we are breathing.
- pusa** (verb) be silly.
- puta** (verb) provoke.
- pweteka** (verb) hurt, ache.
- sabata** (noun - 9/10, sabata) week (origin sabbath).
- saka** (verb) hunt.
- sakasaka** (verb) search for something.
- salala** (verb adjective) be smooth.
- samba** (noun - 5/6, masamba) leaf.
- samuka** (verb) move from (ku + location).
- samukira** (verb) move to (ku + location).
- sambira** (verb) swim.
- samala** (verb) take care.
- samba** (verb) bathe.
- sanu** (suffix) five.
- sanza** (verb) vommit, throw up.
- sankha** (verb) choose, select.
- sangalatsa** (verb) amuse, please. use mostly with 'a'.
- sangalala** (verb adjective) be happy, rejoice.
- sasa** (verb) be somewhat rancid but not quite rotten.
- sasa** (verb) brush off.
- satana** (noun) devil.
- sautsa** (verb) cause problems, hardship.
- sauka** (verb) experience problems, hardship, poverty.
- seka** (verb) laugh.
- seketsa** (verb) amuse, make somebody laugh.
- seleula** (verb) joke, kid.
- sema** (verb) carve.
- senza** (verb) carry on head.
- sewero nkhonya** (noun - 5 only) boxing.
- sewera** (verb) play.
- sewero** (noun - 5/6, masewero) game.
- silira** (verb) admire, covet. No negative connotations.
- simikiza** (verb) assure.
- sinja** (verb) pound.
- sinkhasinkha** (verb) ponder, search for answers.
- sintha** (verb) change.
- sindano** (noun - 9/10, zingano) needle.
- siyira** (verb) leave for (someone).
- siyanasiyana** (verb adjective) be different, various.
- siyana** (verb) differ.
- sodza** (verb) fish (in general).
- sokoneza** (verb) confuse.
- soka** (verb) sew.
- sompho** (noun - 9/10) adze, small axe for carving.
- sonkha** (verb) light up (a fire), make a contribution.
- sonkhana** (verb) gather, congregate.
- sowa** (verb) miss something, disappear.
- soweka** (verb adjective) be missing.
- sukusula** (verb) wash the face.
- sukulu** (noun) school.
- sunga** (verb) keep.
- sungira** (verb) keep for someone.
- sungunula** (verb) melt (something).
- suta** (verb) smoke.
- suzumira** (verb) take a peak, peak at something.
- swa** (verb) smash, break.
- sweka** (verb adjective) be broken (by no one in particular).
- swedwa** (verb adjective) be broken (implies you know the cause). A na swedwa ndi mwana. It was broken by the child.
- tafuna** (verb) chew.
- tali** (pure adjective) long, tall.
- tamba** (verb) dance (of witches, usually naked).
- tamanga** (verb) laugh.
- tambala** (noun) rooster.
- tanthauza** (verb) mean.
- tanaposi** (noun) turnip leaves.
- tanthauzo** (noun - 5/6) meaning.
- tani** (verb) do what, irregular, 'what' built in., Mu ku tani?. You are doing what?.
- tar** (noun) tarmac.
- tatu** (suffix) three.
- taya** (verb) lose.
- tayika** (verb adjective) be lost.
- tchuka** (verb adjective) be famous.

- tcha** (verb) setting a trap. ku tcha msampha. to set a trap. can also mean to call or name.
- tcha** (verb) call, name. Mzinda wa Chicago anthu a-ma-u-tcha 'Windy City'. City of Chicago, people call it Windy City.
- tchera** (verb) set a trap for. Ndi-na-ku-tchera-ni msampha. I set a trap for you (either on your behalf or to get you).
- tema** (verb) cut (probably not all the way through).
- tembenuza** (verb) turn something around.
- tembenuka** (verb) turn (yourself) around.
- tentha** (verb adjective) be hot.
- tentha** (verb) burn.
- tenga** (verb) take.
- teteza** (verb) defend.
- thandiza** (verb) help, assist.
- thawa** (verb) escape (from a location), run away. don't need a preposition, 'from' built in.
- tha** (verb) finish.
- tha** (verb) be able to do something.
- thamanga** (verb) run.
- thamangitsa** (verb) chase.
- thawira** (verb) escape (to a location).
- thelele** (noun) okra. can also mean greens in general.
- thengo** (noun) bush.
- thira** (verb) pour. More common variation = -tsira.
- thima** (verb) extinguish (lights, a fire, etc.), get drunk. Nda thima. I have extinguished (my senses = gotten drunk). Can also mean to extinguish the senses (i.e. get drunk).
- thokoza** (verb) express thanks.
- thope** (noun - 5/6) mud.
- thonje** (noun - 5 only) cotton.
- thumba la pa msana** (noun) backpack (lit. bag of on back).
- thumba** (noun - 5/6, mathumba) bag.
- thupi** (noun) body.
- thukuta** (noun - 5/6) sweat.
- thunthu** (noun - 5/6) whole.
- thyola** (verb) break, snap (into two pieces).
- thyoka** (verb) be in state of having broke (a bone). Nda thyoka myendo. I am in the state of having a broken leg.
- ti ku puma** (phrase) we are breathing. response to 'muli bwanji?'.
- ti** (pronoun) we.
- ti-** (prefix - 13) indicate small for a plural noun.
- tikita** (verb) rub.
- timati** (noun - 5/6, matimati) tomato.
- tirigu** (noun - 9/10, tirigu) wheat.
- tola** (verb) pick up, find (something lying on the ground).
- tola phunziro** (verb) pick up a lesson, learn something the hard way.
- tola mwana** (idiomatic expression) have an illegitimate child (lit. pick up a child).
- topa** (verb adjective) be tired.
- tsalani bwino** (phrase) remain well. said when parting with someone.
- tsala** (verb) remain (behind). Tsalani bwino. Remain well (said when parting). Can be used in the general sense of remaining behind in your work, progress, life.
- tsanzika** (verb) take leave.
- tsamba** (noun - 5/6, masamba) leaf.
- tsata** (verb) follow. Will also hear -tsatira.
- tsatane-tsatane** (adverb) in detail.
- tsetsereka** (verb) coast, go at top speed.
- tseka** (verb) shut.
- tsekula** (verb) open.
- tsiku ndi tsiku** (noun - 5/6) every day.
- tsirika** (verb) cast a charm or spell to protect something.
- tsitsa** (verb) lower.
- tsira** (verb) pour. Other less common variation - thira.
- tsiriza** (verb) finish, complete. Interchangeable with maliza.
- tsira ndemanga** (verb) comment (lit. pour comment).
- tsiku lo kumbukira kwa balidwa** (noun - 5/6) birthday.
- tsimikiza** (verb) guarantee, ensure.
- tsika** (verb) descend, come down.
- tsiku** (noun - 5/6, masiku) day.
- tsitsi** (noun - 5/6, masitsi ??) hair.
- tsoka** (noun - 5/6) bad luck, misfortune.
- tsogolo** (noun - 5/6, matsogolo (?)) front.
- tsogola** (verb) take the lead, go ahead.
- tsopano** (noun - 5/6) now.
- tukwana** (verb) swear (at someone).
- tulo** (noun - 5 only) sleep. Ndi li tulo. I am having a problem staying awake. Some people put it in class 5.
- tulukamo** (verb) exit.

- tuluka** (verb) exit.
- tulutsa** (verb) bring into the open, pull out (make something go out, exit, make tuluka).
- tumiza** (verb) send (something).
- tuma** (verb) send (someone on an errand).
- tumiza kalata** (verb) send a letter.
- tunga** (verb) scoop, draw (as a liquid).
- tupa** (verb) swell.
- ubale** (noun - 14) brotherhood.
- uchi** (noun - 14) honey.
- udzu** (noun) grass.
- udzudzu** (noun - 14) mosquitoes.
- ufa** (noun - 14) flour.
- ufiti** (noun - 3/4) witchcraft. a person who practices witchcraft = mfiti.
- ujeni** (connecting word) uummm (filler word).
- ukapolo** (noun - 14) slavery.
- uka** (verb) get up. variant and interchangeable with -dzuka.
- uko** (adjective) over there.
- ukonde** (noun - 14) net.
- ukwati** (noun - 14) marriage, state of being married.
- ulalo** (noun - 14/6, maulalo) bridge.
- ulesi** (noun - 14) laziness. use with -chita.
- ulendo** (noun - 14) journey.
- ulemu** (noun - 14) respect. To show respect = -chita ulemu (or -lemekeza).
- ulimi** (noun - 14) agriculture.
- ulula** (verb) reveal.
- umba** (verb) mould (as in with clay).
- umboni** (noun - 14) evidence.
- umiriza** (verb) coerce, force.
- umoyo** (noun - 14) health.
- umo** (adjective) in there.
- umodzi** (noun - 14) unity, quality of one.
- umphawi** (noun - 14) poverty.
- una** (noun - 14) burrow.
- uphunzitsi** (noun - 14) teaching.
- usiku** (noun) night time, after dark.
- usodzi** (noun - 14) fishing, profession of.
- uta** (noun - 14/6, mauta) bow (and arrow).
- uta wa leza** (noun) rainbow (lit. bow of god).
- uthenga** (noun - 14/6, mauthenga) message.
- utsi** (noun - 9/10) smoke.
- utsa mkwiyo** (verb) anger (lit. to wake up anger).
- utsiru** (noun - 14) idiotocracy.
- utsa** (verb) wake someone up (cause to get up).
- uyu** (adjective) this. uyu bambo; bambo uyu. this man. can come either before or after the noun.
- uza** (verb) tell.
- vala** (verb) wear, dress.
- vina** (verb) dance.
- vomera** (verb) agree, assent.
- vula** (verb) undress.
- vuma** (direction word) east. precede with 'ku'.
- vuto** (noun - 5/6, mavuto) trouble, problem.
- vuta** (verb) cause problems, give problems. similar to vutitsa.
- vutitsa** (verb) make problems, create problems. similar to vuta.
- vutika** (verb) experience problems.
- vuula** (verb) take something (saturated) out of water.
- vuwa** (verb) fish with nets.
- wala** (verb) shine (continuously), appear bright.
- wankhanza (u-a-kunkhanza)** (noun - 7/8) cruel person (lit. person -omitted- of to be cruel).
- wawa** (verb) ache, hurt.
- wedza** (verb) fish with hooks.
- weruka** (verb) knock off (work).
- werenga** (verb) read, count.
- weta** (verb) herd.
- wiri** (suffix) two.
- wisi** (pure adjective) unripe, green.
- wophunzira (munthu u-a-kuphunzira)** (verb adjective) student (lit. person of to learn).
- wophunzira** (noun - 1a/2, ophunzira) student, someone who is educated. Derived from munthu wophunzira (u-a-ku-phunzira).
- ya** (verb) be deep (literally or figuratively).
- yaka** (verb) go up in flame.
- yala** (verb) spread.
- yamba** (verb) begin, start.
- yamika** (verb) express thanks, give praise. see also thokoza.
- yandikirana** (verb adjective) be close to each other.
- yandikira** (verb) be near, get close to.
- yankhula** (verb) speak. Interchangeable with -lankhula.
- yankho** (noun - 5/6, mayankho) response.
- yang'ana** (verb) look.
- yankha** (verb) respond, answer.
- yangana** (verb) look at, gaze.
- yang'anira** (verb) look after, take care, look for.
- yasamula** (verb) yawn.

- yatsa** (verb) set something ablaze, turn on electrical device. Yatsani nyali. Light (turn on) the lamp.
- yembekeza** (verb) wait, hope.
- enyeni** (connecting word) real.
- yenda** (verb) travel, walk, move.
- yenda pansi** (verb) travel on foot, do something behind another's back (figuratively).
- yendera** (verb) walk with, inspect, visit.
- yenda malonda** (verb adjective) be in demand.
- yendetsa** (verb) drive.
- yendayenda** (verb) wonder around (lit. walk walk).
- yera** (verb adjective) be white, clean.
- yeretsa** (verb) clear up.
- yesa** (verb) try.
- yomera** (verb) should, must, ought.
- zambwe** (direction word) west. precede with 'ku'.
- zama** (verb) go deep (into something) and hence be firm.
- zana** (noun - 5/6, mazana) hundred.
- zikomo** (phrase) thank you. zikomo kwambiri. thank you very much.
- zikomo kwambiri** (phrase) thank you very much.
- zima** (verb) extinguish (lamp or fire).
- zindikira** (verb) recognize.
- zinga** (verb) roll, slaughter.
- zizwana** (verb) have a disagreement.
- zizwa** (verb adjective) be surprised. Originated from Chitumbuka (spoken in northern part of Malawi).
- zizira** (verb adjective) be cold.
- zizwa** (verb) be surprised.
- zocheza** (phrase) just kidding.
- zolowera** (verb) get used to, develop a habit.
- zoona zake** (connecting word) in reality (lit. it's truth).
- zovala** (noun) clothes, garment. zinthu zovala (lit. things to wear).
- zunguza** (verb) make go around.
- zungulira mutu** (verb) go nuts (lit. go around head).
- zungulira** (verb) go round, surround.