

LESSON 3

PREPOSITIONS

Chimanga	maize	Pl.	-lima	hoe, cultivate, grow
Fodya I	tobacco		-dziwa	know
Munda	garden, field		-iwala	forget
Sukulu 4	school		-sewera	play
Mayi	mother		-pita	go
Nkhokwe	bin, garner		-chokera	come from (ku)
Ufa	flour		-yenera	must, should (ku)
Khomo	entrance		-ngathe	can, may (ku)

Pakhomo at the entrance, outside, in front of the house.

Ali pakhomo. Pita pakhomo! Tsekani pakhomo!

Kuti? Where? Muli kuti? Akupita kuti? Ukuchokera kuti?

PREPOSITIONS: Corresponding to the three Adverbs *pano, uko, umo*, here are three prepositions:

Pa on upon: Siya chingwe pachitseko! Ali kusewera pakhomo.

Kodi muli pantchito? Chatsani makasu pakhomo! o

Ku at, in, to: Ali kusukulu. Ali kuti? — Ali kuntchito.

Ndikuchokera kumunda. Akupita ku Lilongwe.

Mu in, inside: Ikani khasu munyumba! Usachotse kanthu mudengu!

Akuchita chiyani munyumba umo? also m'nyumba umo.

CONNECTIONS between words and clauses:

ndi and : Muyenera kulima chimanga ndi fodya. Bambo ndi mayi ali umo.

Musasiye makasu ndi madengu pakhomo!

with : Usasewera ndi mpeni! Sungathe kudula mtengo ndi mpeni. Ali kupita ndi ana ku Lilongwe.

ndipo and : Tengani makasu ndipo pitani kumunda!
Tsegula chitseko ndipe ika dengu munyumba!

koma but : Sindilima fodya koma chimanga.
Musaike dengu pakhomo koma munyumba.

kapena perhaps : Ali bwanji? Sindidziwa. Kapena ali bwino.
Ali kuti? ... Kapena ali m'nyumba umo.

either or Akuchokera kuti? ku Lilongwe kapena ku Salima?
Mungathe kulima fodya kapena chimanga.

THE VERB: When the subject is a noun, the verb still takes a pronoun-prefix:

Bambo ali kuti? Ana ali bwanji? Ama yi akupita uko.

Greetings: Moni Bambo!

Muli bwanji?

Ine sindili bwino.

Mukupita kuti?

Chabwino, pitani!

— Zikomo!

— Ndili bwino. Sindidziwa inu?

— Pepani!

— Ndikupita ku Lilongwe.

— Zikomo!

TO HAVE: There is no verb corresponding to "have"; we must use a special construction with the verb -li followed by the preposition *ndi*: "to be with."

Kodi muli ndi ana? — Inde. Bambo ali ndi nkhokwe

Ali ndi khasu, koma sadziwa kulima. Tili ndi munda uko.

In the negative form "have not", instead of the prefix *si-*, the verb takes the suffix *-be* : *-libe*.

Ndilibe fodya. Kodi muli ndi dengu? — Iyayi, ndilibe.

Akufuna kudula chingwe, koma alibe mpeni

Ndikupita kumunda, koma ndilibe khasu.

Musaiwale kutseka chitseko!

Mungathe kusewera pakhomo.

Ana ayenera kupita kusukulu.

Bambo ndi mayi ali kumunda.

Pepani sindidziwa chichewa.

Musaike kanthu mudengu umo!

Usasiye kanthu pakhomo!

Sitingathe kulima, tilibe makasu.

Ana akusewera ndi chiyani?

Pitani bwino! Have a good journey!

- Where do you come from? Do you know Chichewa?
- Where are they going? — They are going to (their) work.
- Leave the string on the door! don't take (it) off!
- Sorry, I cannot open the door. Have you a knife?
- You should not go to Lilongwe, but to Salima.
- You (will) not find anybody (people) in the garden.
- Don't leave anything outside, and close the door!
- I don't know (how) to cultivate tobacco.
- Please, put the baskets in the house, and close the door well!
- Do you want same work? — Yes! — All-right, take a hoe and go there!
- The child is playing outside; he does not want to go to school.
- You can leave the basket in the house or at the entrance.
- Don't forget to close the door! With what are you playing?
- What is Father doing in the garden? — I don't know.
- He has some maize, but no garner. You must know Chichewa well.