

Nzeru	wisdom, intelligence	-phunzira	learn, study
Mawu Pl	words, speech	-phunzitsa	teach
Bukhu	book	-werenga	read, count
Kalata 4	letter 5	-lemba	write
Nkhani	story, news	-funsa	ask, question
Mlandu	case, dispute	-yankha	answer
Choono	truth	-mvetsa	understand
Ulesi	laziness	-lankhula	speak
Liti? When?	Dzulo yesterday	Kale in the past	formerly long ago
	Lero to-day	Tsopano now	
	Maŵa to-morrow	Kutsogolo in the future	

THE PAST The past tense is formed by inserting the infix **-NA-** between the pronoun-prefix and the stem of the verb:

Munafika liti? When did you arrive? Unaphunzira chiyani kusukulu?  
Ndinalandira kalata dzulo: Ndanj anasiya katundu pakhomo?

There is another infix **-DA-** more or less similar: see the difference  
Adapita kumudzi He went home (supposes that he did not turn back)  
Anapita kumudzi He went home (supposes that he is back) : more common.

If the verb has another infix (object-pronoun), the tense infix always comes first; this is a rule for all verbal infixes.

Ndani anakupatsani bukhu? Munampempha chiyani?  
Kodi unawathandiza pang'ono? Ndinamfunsa ndipo anandiyankha.  
Kodi amakuphunzitsanj bwino? Tilandira alendo ndipo tikuwadikira.

In the negative form, the last vowel changes into **-E**:

Sindinaŵerenge buku. Sanandipatse kanthu.  
Sanadyo kanthu dzulo. Moŵa sunakwanire, anthu anachuluka.

FUTURE This tense is formed by inserting the infix **-DZA-** between the pronoun-prefix and the stem of the verb,

Ndidzalembe kalata. I will write a letter. Tidzakuthandizani.  
Mudzandipatsa chiyani? Sindidzakupatsani kanthu.  
Sindidzawaitana kumsankhano. Ndalama sizidzakwanira.

Remember that the ordinary Present tense often expresses a Future:  
Ino sindipita kumsankhano. Adapita kumudzi dzulo; abwera maŵa.  
Kodi sukulu atsegula liti? Musataye mtima! Ine ndikuthandizani.

—**KHALA** The verb **-li** has no Future, it never takes the infix **-dza-**; it has no Subjunctive either. So we must use another verb **-khala**.

Kutsogolo ire ndidzakhala mphunzitsi ndipo ndidzakuphunzitsani.  
Tidzakhala ndi ana ndipo tidzawasamala bwino.  
Msonkhano udzakhala liti? Kapena kutsogolo tidzakhala ndi njala.

Mulungu akhale nanu! (ndi inu) God be with you!  
Ana akakhale ndi n'ala! Muŵapatse chakudya!  
Sukulu ikakhale pafupi ndi msewu!  
Ndinamva kuti padzakhala msonkhano pamudzi pano.  
Mfumu amafuna kuti pamudzi pano pakhale sukulu.

The verb **-khala** sometimes means "stay away, not to go":

Iwe, unakhala kusukulu dzulo chifukwa chiyani? (sunapite kusukulu)  
Ife timapita kutchalitshi, koma iye amakhala kawirikawiri!

-chita ulesi be lazy: Ana inu, musamachite ulesi!

-li ndi mawu have something to say: Ife tilibe mawu.

-pempha nzeru ask for advice. -patsa nzeru give advice, a suggestion

**KWA** preposition is used instead of **Ku** when it is followed by a noun designating a person or a village: Kalafa ichokera kwa mfumu.  
Ndikupita (kumudzi) kwa Chimutu to Chimutu village.

1. I went to Chimutu village, but there was nobody.
2. Was there anything in the basket? — No, there was nothing.
3. He will ask you for money; but don't give him anything!
4. I won't write letters any more, because she does not answer.
5. She did not go to church, because she had a cold.
6. The girls are lazy; they don't put (their) heart in the work.
7. In Chimutu village, the boys who did not go to school are few.
8. The books which are on the table come from the teacher.
9. I cannot read letters any more because I have sore eyes.
10. Does he speak Chicheŵa well? Who teaches him?
11. When did you start learning Chicheŵa? Do you often read books?
12. Tell me the truth! Who wrote the letter which you received yesterday?
13. I did not count the money which you gave me yesterday.
14. Formerly he was a teacher; but now he does not teach any more.
15. The chiefs said that there will be a meeting here to-morrow.

Proverb: Safunsa anadya phula.