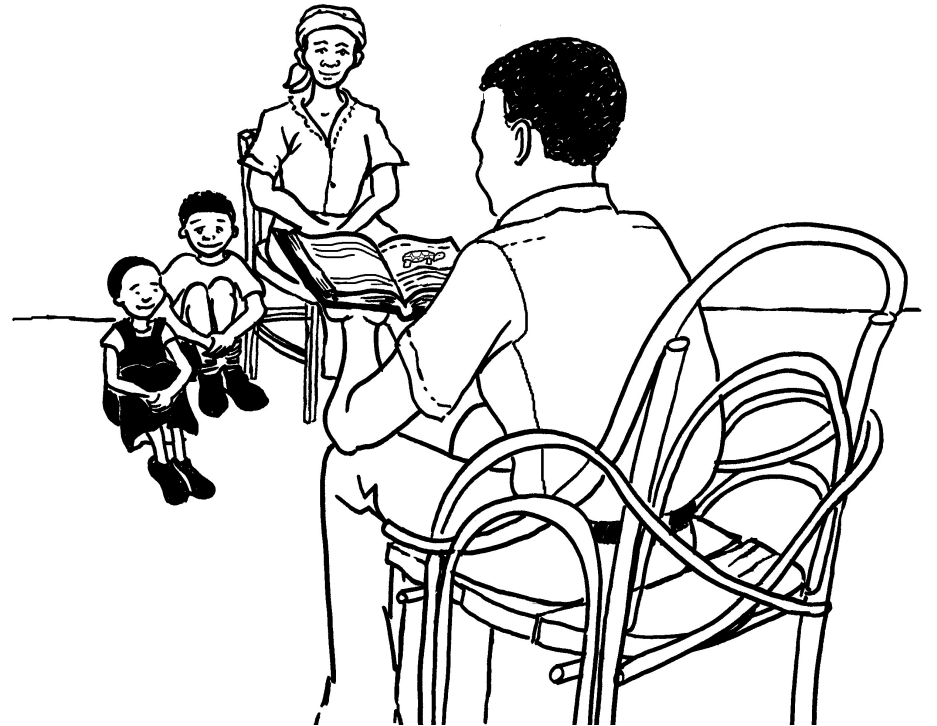


Tûthoome Kĩitharaka

Let's read Kitharaka



Self teaching Transition Primer

Tûthoome Kûtharaka
Let's read Kitharaka

A self teaching Transition Primer for Kitharaka

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PREFACE

These stories & lessons have been written to help Tharaka speakers who know how to read and write in other languages to use those skills to teach themselves to read their mother tongue.

The Tharaka people are Bantu speakers who live in the lower plains to the east of Mt. Kenya. They number about 120,000. Most Tharakas occupy Tharaka District in the Eastern Province of Kenya.

After completing Tûthoome Kîitharaka, the reader may want a certificate of Literacy in mother tongue. If so, the reader may bring his book to the BTL office in Marimanti, and take a simple test. After passing the test the reader will be given a certificate of accomplishment.

Ngono ino na ithoomo bibi birî gûkû bithuuranîrîtwe biteetheeria Atharaka bara baiyî kûthooma na kwandîka ndwaria ingî itarî ciao. Atharaka bara baiyî kûthooma na kwandîka ndwaria ingî nwa batûmîre ûmenyo bûra barî na bu bwa ndwaria inu bakeerutana na kabuku gaka bakamenya kûthooma na kwandîka rwaria rwao.

Atharaka i bamwe ba gîkundi gîitagwa Abantu, na batûûraga bwa iti ya kîrîma gîa Kîrînyaga. Atharaka bonthe i nkûrûki ya 120,000. Bara baingî batûûraga Tharaka.

Ûra akaathooma kabuku gaka, eenda akeegwa (certificate,) ta yo baarûa ya kwonania naiyî kûthooma na kwandîka rwaria rwake. Kwoogu, ûra akeenda baarûa nathi ûbiciini ya BTL, Marimanti arûthe kîgerio gîtarî kîûmo.

Self teaching Transition Primer

Lesson 1

You already have the skills for reading in English and Kiswahili. Learning to read your mother tongue will only take a few hours! Here are some words you can already read in Kitharaka, with some letters you know: **a,k,b,r,t,m**. The Kitharaka *b* has a softer sound than that of English or Kiswahili.



aka

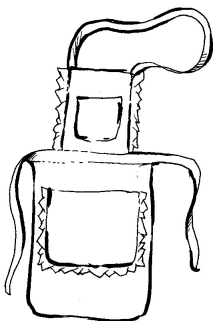
<u>Kĩitharaka</u>	<u>English</u>
aka	women
kabaka	kitten
kara	collar
mata	saliva
bata	desire to do something
raba	eraser

Try this exercise. Write the Kitharaka word for the English words:

kitten	k_____
eraser	r_____
women	a_____
saliva	m_____
road	b_____
count	t_____
to gnash (teeth)	k_____
to be surprised	l_____

Lesson 2

We'll add several more letters you already know: **e,i,o,u,g,n,p,w**, and **y**. The Kitharaka **g** has a softer sound than that of English or Kiswahili.



aburoni

Kĩitharaka

aburoni

baita

gana

burabura

garama

kura

keki

goro

muga

English

apron

profit

bitter food or medicine

to brush off

to lie down

to crawl

cake

expensive

hello

koko
kurura
wiki

cocoa
to scream
wedding

Practice your spelling skills with this crossword puzzle:

ACROSS

1.typist, secretary
3.women
4.cocoa
7.mother
8.bitter food / medicine
9.apron

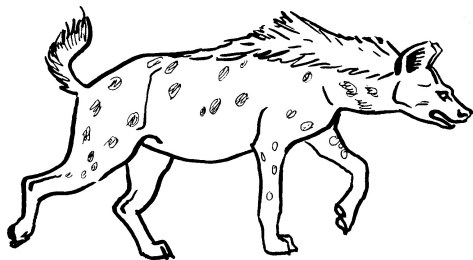
DOWN

1. Paper
2. Food
5. cake
6. lie down

1K	A	R	A	N	2I							
3				4		5						
				6								
7												
				8								
				9								

Lesson 3

The nasal consonants of Kitharaka, mb, mp, mw, nd, ng, nk, nt, and ny, can come at the beginning of a word, or in the middle. Ng', as in Kiswahili, is really just one sound, not a prenasalized consonant. We include it here because you are already familiar with it and because it looks a lot like the others.



mbiti

Kĩitharaka

mbiti
mbura
mbogo
wamba
yembe

English

hyena
rain
buffalo
theft
mango

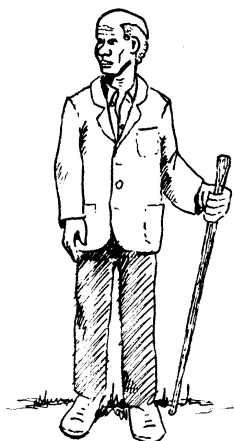
mpempe	maize
mwanya	special
nyama	meat
nyomba	house
nguo	clothes
ngi	fly
ngige	locust
nderi	vulture
ndeke	airplane
ntondo	muddy marsh
nkuru	tortoise
ng'ombe	cow

Practice your spelling skills by filling the blanks in these words:

Corn	mpe _ _ e
Locust	ng _ g _
Ground squirrel	n _ u r _
Infant	kage _ _ e
Sheep	_ _ o _ _ u
Mole	_ _ uko
Fire	_ _ anki
Ostrich	_ _ aga

Lesson 4

Kitharaka has two vowels which are not written in Kiswahili. They are û and î. This lesson gives you practice with the letter û.



mûkûrû

Kĩitharaka

mûkûrû

gûtû

ndengû

kûgarûka

mbûbûî

ûgûri

ngûkû

English

old man

ear

lentils, grams

to change

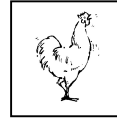
spider

price

chicken

Say the pictured words. Listen for the difference in sounds. Say the words below and listen.

Listening Practice



ngũkû



nguku

kûra

kura

tûra

tura

uma

uma

ngũkū

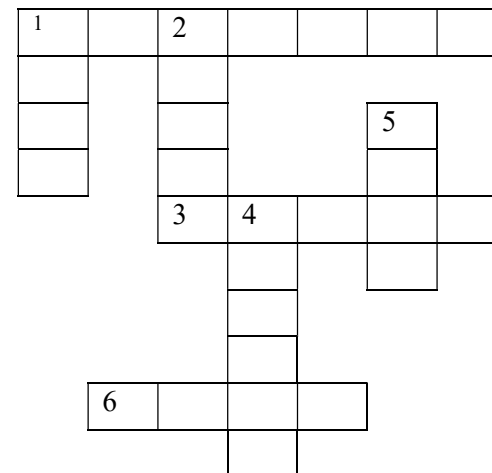
nguku

ACROSS

1. guava tree
3. fall over the edge
6. long ago

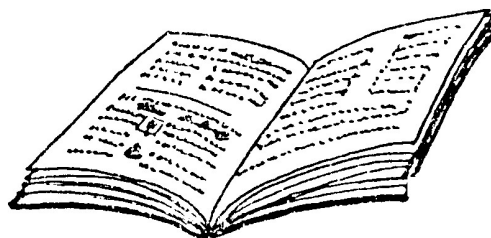
DOWN

1. flour
2. snatch
4. marriage
5. dirt



Lesson 5

Î is the other Kitharaka vowel which is not written in English or Kiswahili.



îbuku

Kĩitharaka

kîrîma

îbuku

ûrîmi

îra

ûrîrî

kîmbu

ngîrî

English

mountain

book

agriculture

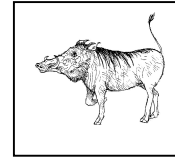
to tell

bed

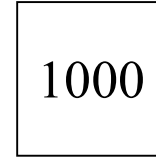
chameleon

warthog

Listening Practice



ngîrî



ngiri

îta	ita
ûrîrî	ûriri
kîra	kira
îra	ira
ngîrî	ngiri
înu	inu
rîra	rira

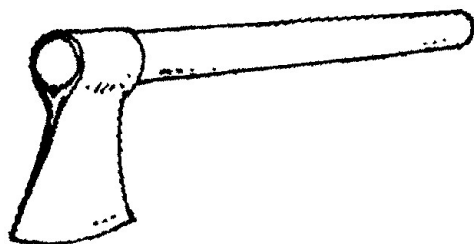
Now you may test your skills by filling the blanks in these sentences. Use a word from the list at the bottom of the page.

1. Mboti ititagaarawa, ti _____.
2. Mbûri îriyaga _____.
3. Ndanogo mamaga _____.
4. _____ ndiûngi îkinyaga mwene na Mûguî.
5. Kîarû kêga kîrî _____.
6. Ngenda mpora îkundaga _____.

ûrîrî	mûtarû	rwakemba
ûta	matî	kurû

Lesson 6

The letter "c" in Kitharaka sounds more like English or Kiswahili "s", but there are dialectal variations. There is no letter "s" in Kitharaka



cûmû

Kĩĩtharaka

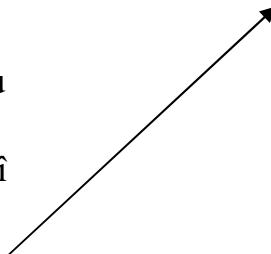
cuka
cambuca
ncini
coka
cûmû
ciringi
kĩbogici

English

loincloth
samosa (meat pie)
peppers
big axe
poison
shillings
cardboard box

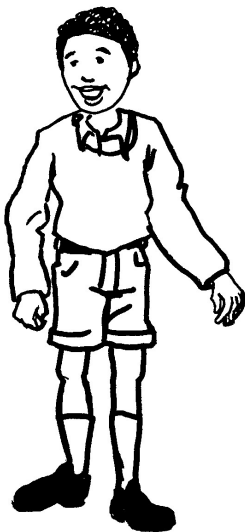
Now, draw a line connecting the English word to its Kitharaka counterpart:

ûcûrû	sugar
cukuru	mumps
curuarî	gruel
cukarî	school
ncûgû	shorts
mbucu	pigeon peas
baicikiri	Thursday
Aramici	bicycle



Lesson 7

In Kitharaka *th* is like the *dh* of Kiswahili (for example, *tafadhali*).



wîthî

Kîitharaka

wîthî
kîthima
nthakame
nthî
îthanta
mwathi

English

youthful
well
blood
ground, earth
raindrop
hunter

Now, draw a line connecting the English word to its Kitharaka counterpart:

telephone	thuuku
to hide	kwitha
cleanliness	thaa
to read	kûthooma
hump	thimû
time	ûtheru



Lesson 8

Each vowel in Kitharaka can be either long or short. The length distinction makes a big difference in the meaning of words!

Listen to the difference in the sounds:



Compare the short vowel sounds in the words on the left with the big ones on the right:

Short vowels

baba (these)
kura (to crawl)
gûkia (to grind)
era (winnow)

Long vowels

baaba (father)
kuura (to rain)
gûkiia (to groan)
eera (he told)

Try this spelling exercise. Write the Kitharaka word in the blank next to each English word below:

1. these _____

2. sleep _____

3. but _____

4. now _____

5. or _____

6. child _____

Most of the time, the long vowels are produced by two grammatical units coming together. For example, note what happens when these grammatical units come together:

tû + ug +e	=	tuuge (let's say)
ba + on +e	=	boone (let them see)
Ta + îra	=	teera (tell!)
Wa + îmwē	=	weemwe (each one)

Choose which sentence in each pair is correctly written:

1. **Aakire** nyomba yake mîanka yîrî mîthiru.
2. **Akire** nyomba yake mîanka yîrî mîthiru.

1. Ntigwa înu îkworua i Yiesû, **yaama** mûno.
2. Ntigwa înu îkworua i Yiesû, **yama** mûno.

1. **Aakaga** îkumbî rîake wakîra mwanka.
2. **Akaga** îkumbî rîake wakîra mwanka.

W and y are called semi-vowels. These letters make the vowel after them seem long. For example, watho, ‘law’, seems as if it has a long aa sound. But we know that the root of the word is –atha, to which is added the noun class prefix û.

The û changes to w before a vowel and the î changes to y before a vowel

û + atho becomes watho.

û + ega becomes _____.

û + ithi becomes _____.

û + endaga becomes _____.

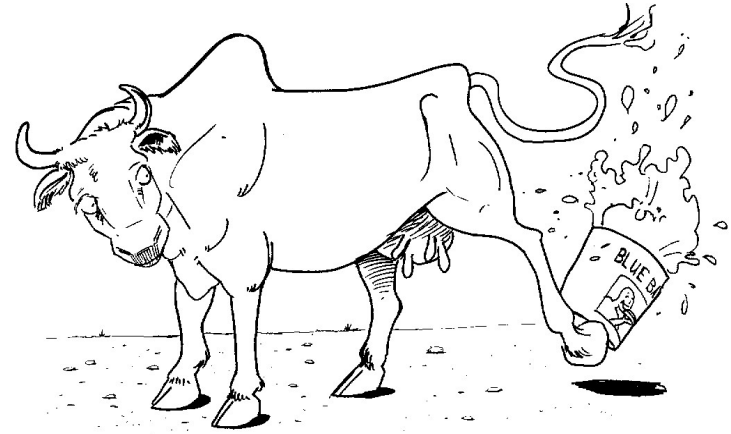
î + akwa becomes yakwa.

î + enu becomes _____.

î + athana becomes _____.

î + andaga becomes _____.

Extract taken from 'Rûgono rwa Ngi' (Îbuku rîa maîrî)



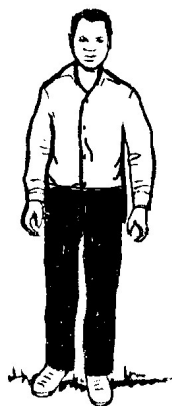
Ng'ombe yaamaka!
Yagera thiarî yaakûbûria
mûkeebe ûra warî na îria,
îria rîeetîga.

What words in the story begin with a semi-vowel?

yaamaka _____

Lesson 9

As in most languages, some sounds are completely dropped when two short words come together. In a few instances, the vowel that is dropped in speech is also left out in the writing, but an apostrophe is inserted to indicate its absence. For example, when *ta* and *we* come together, they may be written *t'we*. When *ti* and *antû* are joined, they may be written *t'antû*. Also, when *ni* joins with *antû*, they are written *n'antû*.



Read this short story:

Mûrango n'athire cibitaarî n'ûntû n'ûmwayie.
Agûkinya cibitaarî antû bonthe bamwîgu akîao,
n'ûntû n'ûmwayie mûno. Antû ibamwendeete
mûno.

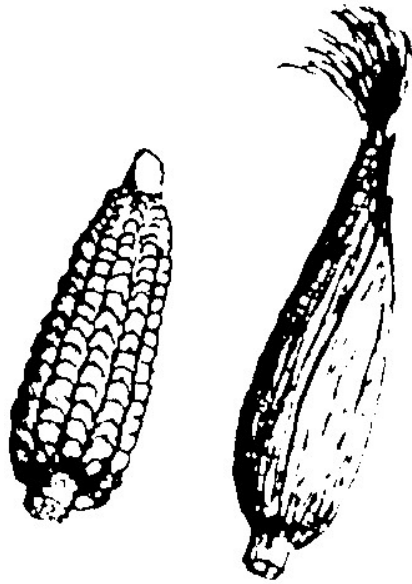
ni + we = n'we
ti + antû = t'antû
na + antû = n'antû

Now write these contractions:

1. ni + ûmwayie = n'ûmwayie
2. ni + ûntû = _____
3. ni + athiire = _____
4. ti + antû = _____
5. na + antû = _____

Now you should be ready to read some short stories in your mother tongue!

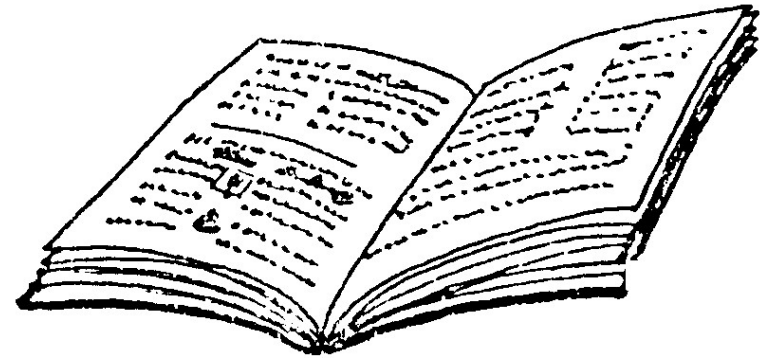
Mpempe



Îno i mpempe. Mpempe îrî mûndaani wa Njerû. Mpempe i biakûrîa biega mûno. Mûrîmi aanda mpempe, îkaraga bantû a mîeri îthatû îkîiya gûkûra îkinyia îgiita rîa kûrîîwa.

Mpempe îrî mûrîo mûno îrugaîrîtue na mbooco. Kaîrî mpempe îrî mûtu wa kûruga nkima. Ûrookia mpempe îmbîthî ûkeegua? Ûkamîokia, itû aba ûtitiga i mûrîo!

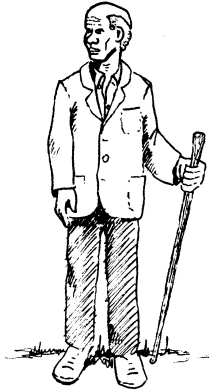
Îbuku



Njerû yûkia îbuku tûkathoome Kîîtharaka.
Njerû i mûrutwa wa kîraci kîa mbere. Nendeete
kûthooma îbuku rîa Kîîtharaka mûno.

Njerû aakinya mûciî akaanyua ûcûrû, rîru
acooke athoome îbuku rîake. Mûrutwa tuma
ûcoore na îbuku na ûgaakûrûka kîgerio bwega.
Mûrutwa înûka bwega na ûtigaatîire cukuru rûû.

Mûkûrû



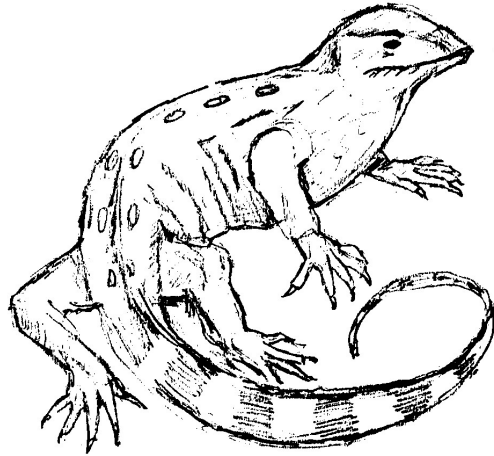
Ûyû i mûkûrû. Akûrû i beega n'ûntû
ibagwatithanagia mîciî. Mûkûrû Ûyû eetagwa
Ntamwenda. Ntamwenda n'wa îrika rîa
Kîandeke. Rîra arî mûciî nagonagia twana twa
mwana wake na agatûrutana gûkaraga na nthoni
imbega. Ntugû îmwê bakari nthî ûgoro, aanjîîria
kûbagonia ngono cia nyamû. Aacooka
abagwatithia ntaî. Abeera, "Wataani ntaî." Na
bo bauga, "Twagwata." Abeera, "Kaninkinayiû!"
Bonthe baûka na ntheko, n'ûntû bataamenyaga
îcookio. Abeera, "Ninteeni mbûri." Na bo
bamwîra, "Yûkia". Mûkûrû auga, "Kuruuu!
mbûri ciakwa imbeega i kanyiûrû ka ndaa!"
Baatheka nkûrûki. Ntamwenda akîthiria abeera,
"Mûkûrû natûmagwa i kûrumwa atarumagwa."

Cûcû



Cûcû eetagwa Ciarigicû. Ntugû îmwe
cûcû naayire wetû atûnintîra nkima ya matanka.
Tûkûmwonera aaraaya, niû na twana tûra tûngî,
itwamûthagaanire na rwîro. Kanyore amûûria,
"I mbi watûreetera cûcû?" Cûcû n'we amwîra,
"Ndabûreetera nkima ya matanka ûyû'akwa."
Twinthe twanjîria gûtûûbatûûba i gîkeno
tûkiugaga, "Guri, guri kaaba cûcû aaya."
Tûgûkinya mûciî Karigû amûkundia ûcûrû.
Cûcû akûbûnyua, eeta Karigû amwîra,
"Ûyû'akwa, n'wabu ûgaakiagîrwa i twana twa
mwana woogu." Tûkûrîa nkima, twathi
kûthekania kîaragooni.

Ncaana

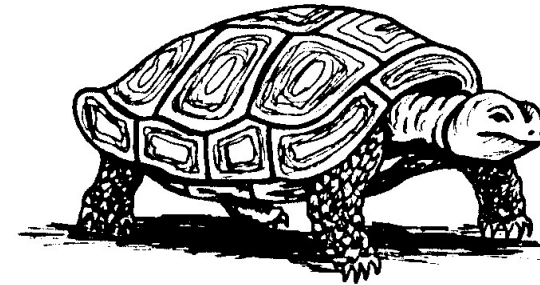


Ncaana i nyamû îkari ta nkou. Îrîyaga
tûnyamû tûniini ta marabuutia, mpandi, magu na
tûnyamû tûngî ta tûtu. Îgiita rîa thaano îtweyaga
mûtiîni îkamaama kii îgakara ta nyamû îнкуû,
îboobeete ta kîemba. Mbura yaura înyunyaga
mûguû îkaimba îkagana bûra gûkeere.

Ûkamîringithia rîru, tiga aba! Bûraûra bûra!

Ûkoona yincîtie îkîrîa magu îkiraga ki
îtakûng'unyia, nwa ta mbea mûtuuni.

Nkuru



Mûthenya ûmwe nkuru nîetire nyamû
cionthe mûceemano.
Nkuru yeera nyamû na nyoni ira ciayire,
"Imbîtîwe mûranûûni matuuni, na inkwenda
bwinthe bûmbira."

Nyamû cionthe cietîgîria. Nkuru yaromba
nyoni maguanje yecinîka kaingo yûmba
kûbuurûûka kîatho gîakinya. Nkuru yauga
wakîra nyamû yîcererie riîwa rîra îgeetawa
mûranûni. Yo yauga, "Niû ngeetagwa
'Bwinthe'." Kîatho gîgûkinya, nyamû cietia
cionthe mûranûni. Irio bikûreetwa cierwa "I
bia bwinthe." Nkuru yayûkia yatinda kûrîa
yonka. Nyamû ira ingî na nyoni ciatinda na

yûûra. Nyoni ciaûka igîkûûraga mbûî ira ciete nkuru. Ciatiga nkuru noogo yonka.

Nkuru yatûmana yauga, "Bwathi bwîre mwekûrû wakwa ambaigîre into biinyu nja nkaaya rûû." Nyamû inu cierire mwekûrû wake aige maiga, ibanga na mathoka nja. Nkuru yebarûkia yagwa intooni biûmo yarebûkanga. Mûgao agwîtwâ, i rîo aacookanîîrie nkuru. Agu noogo nkuru yaumire na mathendû.

Nthaka



Mwîyî aakûra ataanagwa agatuîka nthaka. Nthaka cia tene ciakaraga gaarûûni ikîrutanagwa kîrîra n'akûrû amwe na nthaka ira nkûrû. Nthaka cia tene iciarutanagwa nthoni imbega kaingo bataaga nthoni. Ibaarutanagwa bûra baûmba gûtîiyaga athoni, bagina, eekûrû ba nthuke cia bagina, akûrû, aîyî, aarî, beethe na marika monthe.

Nthaka yakinyithia îgiita rîa kûgûrana, yaathiyaga îgakeethia mwarî ûra îkwenda, beendana akamûkîria akamûreeta mûciî kwao. Mwarî aathiria ntugû ithatû kana inya kwa bamûthaka, neenûkagua n'aruagina ba

bamûthaka barî na kaana ga kaarî
gatongoreereetie mbûri. Weegua mûthaka
nakwendwa kinya n'aciari, mbûri îmwê
nîatigagwa kwa ba mwarî amwe na mwarî
mwene. Rîru îthe wa nthaka akîanjîîria
kûthooka na akîraayia, na riru i rîo
aanenkagîrwa mûk'wamwana.

Nthaka yaagûrana, îtuîkaga mûkûrû arî na
mûciî wake.

25 "Gîacooka kîithagîra nyomba yakîo îrî întheru na îkari bwega. 26 Kîona ûgu, kîthiyaga gîkagîira irundu bingî mûgwanja biithûûku nkûrûki ya kîo. Bikaaya bikathûngîra kîrî muntû ûyu bigakara ku. Rîra gukaraga ûgu, muntû ûyu athûûkaga agakûrûkîiria bûra aakari mbereeni." 27 Yiesû akwaria mantû mamu, mwekûrû ûmwe augîiria na inya arî gatîgatî ga antû, amwîra, "N'ûmûthaarime mwekûrû ûra aagûciarire agwonkia!" 28 Yiesû amwîra, "Bu nwa bu kûrî, îndî i bathaarime nkûrûki bara beegagua kiugo kîa Ngai bagakîathîkîra!"

Ruka 11: 25-28

Check your answers:

Lesson 1

kabaka	barabara
raba	tara
aka	kabakaba
mata	lama

Lesson 2

1K	A	R	A	N	2I					
A					R					
R					I					
3A	K	A			4K	O	5K	O		
T					E					
A					6G	K				
7T	A	A	T	A	I					
I					R					
			8G	A	N	A				
				M						
				9A	B	U	R	O	N	I

Lesson 3

mpempe	ng'onduru
ngige	mbuko
nduru	mwanki
kagenke	nyaga

Lesson 4

1M	U	2B	E	E	R	E
Û		Û				
T		R			5R	
U		I			Û	
		3A	4NG'	Û	K	A
			U		O	
			R			
			A			
	6T	E	N	E		
			E			

Lesson 5

1. mûtaru
2. matî
3. ûrîrî
4. kurû
5. ûta
6. rwakemba

Lesson 6

ûcûrû	→	sugar
cukuru	→	mumps
curuarî	→	gruel
cukarî	→	school
ncûgû	→	shorts
mbucu	→	pigeon peas
baicikiri	→	Thursday
Aramici	→	bicycle

Lesson 7

telephone	→	thuuuku
to hide	→	kwitha
cleanliness	→	thaa
to read	→	kûthooma
hump	→	thimû
time	→	ûtheru

Lesson 8

Spelling exercise:

mama/ino
maama
îndî
îîndî
kana
kaana

Grammatical exercise:

Aakire
yaama
Aakaga

Semi-vowel exercise: (Pg 17-18)

wega
withi
wendaga
yenu
yathana
yandaga

yaamaka
yaakûbûria
Yagera
warû

Lesson 9

1. n'ûmwayie
2. n'ûntû
3. n'athiire
4. t'antû
5. n'antû