



A Luganda Phrasebook

**Leah Sternefeld
and Sseguya Francis Nickshere**

2015

Contents

1. The Basics.....	3
2. Feelings and Discussions.....	8
3. Introducing yourself	13
4. Transport.....	15
5. At the Market / Shopping.....	18
6. Health, the Body and describing a Person	20
7. Age and Family.....	23
8. Food and the Ugandan Cuisine.....	27
9. Hobbies and Entertainment	31
10. Occupation and School	32
11. Learning Luganda	34
12. Religion.....	37
13. Time and Meeting.....	37
14. Around the House and being a Guest	42
15. The Weather, Nature and Wildlife	44
16. Politics, Speech and Debate	47
17. Ugandan English - Uglish	49
18. Sayings and proverbs.....	51
19. Tongue twisters	54

1. The Basics

Basics

Knowing how to say 'yes' and 'no' is considered to be vital when learning any language and is usually the first thing you learn. Luganda on the other hand doesn't have fixed terms for yes and no. Sometimes just a nod of the head and a 'mmh'-sound means yes.

Ye (ssebo/nnyabo)	Yes (Sir/Madam)
<i>Eh</i>	Yes
<i>Mmh</i>	Yes
Kale	Ok, all right, now then
Nedda	No
<i>Ah-ah</i>	No
Wangi?	Yes? / What is it?
Jangu (wano)!	Come (here)!
Neetonze.	I'm sorry.
Nsonyiwa.	Forgive me.
Kampitewo.	Let me pass (like "excuse me" when trying to pass).

Thanking

Weebale (nnyo)	Thank you (very much).
Mwebale (nnyo)	Thank you (plural) (very much)
Neyanzizza	Thank you (lit.: I'm grateful, stronger than weebale)
Tweyanzizza	Thank you (lit.: We are grateful)
Weebale nnyo, weebale endala	Thanks a lot (lit.: thank you very much, thank you again)
Omulala aganye.	Loosely translated: That was kind of you. (lit.: Another one (might have) refused)
Kale	You are welcome
Si nnyo.	Loosely translated: It is nothing (response to '(m)weebale nnyo') (lit.: not much)
Si ky'amaanyi.	Not much. (lit.: Nothing important)

Titles

Luganda	Literal translation	Usage
Ssebo (bassebo)	Sir (and plural)	Any man
Nnyabo (bannyabo)	Madam (and plural)	Any woman
Muzeyi	Boss	Any respected person
Mukama wange	My lord/master/god	Any respected person
Mukwano	Friend	Like "Dear" in English

Baaba	Big sister/brother	Friends (especially if older or around the same age)
Taata	Father	Any man far older than you
Maama	Mother	Any woman far older than you
Jjaja	Grandpa/grandma	Any old woman or man

Greetings:

In Luganda there are numerous ways of greeting people. A simple 'hello' doesn't exist. The type of greeting which is adequate to use always depends on the situation and your relationship to that other person. Usually a full and proper greeting consists of many questions which is why the word 'to ask' (okubuuza) also 'to greet' means.

Mubuuze ko!	Greet/ask him/her!
Mumubuuze ko!	You guys, greet/ask him/her!

When greeting **unknown people** while passing by or from a distance one can say:

Nkulamusizza, nnyabo/ssebo.	lit.: I greeted you, Sir/Madam.
Mbalamusizza, bannyabo/bassebo (bannyabo ne bassebo).	lit.: I greeted you (several people).

The next form of greeting can be used in pretty much **every situation**, both to unknown and known people, either when just passing or when starting a conversation:

Gyebale ko, ssebo/nnyabo.	Lit.: Thanks for your work, Sir/Madam.
Response: Kale ssebo/nnyabo, nawe gyebale ko.	You're welcome Sir, Madam, you too, thanks for your work.
Mugyebale bannyabo/bassebo (bannyabo ne bassebo).	lit.: Thanks for your work (several people)
Response: Kale bassebo/bannyabo, nammwe mugyebale ko.	You're welcome, you too (several people), thanks for your work

When showing **respect** or when actually starting a conversation, one can ask what loosely translates into 'Good morning' or 'Good afternoon' but is in fact a question:

From morning to noon:	
Wasuze otya (nno) nnyabo/ssebo?	lit.: How did you sleep, Sir/Madam?
Response: Bulungi. / Nasuze bulungi.	Good. / I slept well.
Mwasuze mutya bannyabo/bassebo (bannyabo ne bassebo).	lit.: How did you sleep (several people)?
Response: Bulungi. / Twasuze bulungi.	Good. / We slept well.
Ensula?	Lit.: The way of sleeping?
Nungi.	Good.
From noon to night:	
Wasiibe otya (nno) nnyabo/ssebo?	lit.: How did you pass your day?
Response: Bulungi. / Nasiibye bulungi.	Good. / I passed the day well.

Mwasiibye mutya bannyabo/bassebo
(bannyabo ne bassebo).
Response: Bulungi. / Twasuze bulungi.
Ensiiba?
Nungi.

Lit.: How did you pass your day (several
people)?
Good. / We passed the day well.
The way of spending the day?
Good.

When greeting a **friend or an acquainted person** and inquiring about their well-being one can say:

Oli otya (ssebo/nnyabo)?
Muli mutya?
Response 1: (Ndi) bulungi.
Response 1: Tuli bulungi.
Response 2: Gyendi.
Response 2: Gyetuli.
For more ways of responding see section
'Feelings'

How are you (Madam/Sir)?
How are you (plural)?
(I'm) fine.
We are fine.
I'm fine (lit.: I'm here)
We are fine (lit.: We're here)

Informal ways of greeting friends include:

Ka jambo!
Ogamba ki?
Response 1: Tewali.
Response 2: Sirina ebigambo.
Ogamba otya?
Response: Tewali/bulungi.
Ki ekiri wo? / Kyekiri wo?
Response 1: Tewali.
Response 2: Tewali kya amaanyi.

Hello!
What's up? (lit.: What do you say?)
Nothing.
Nothing (lit.: I don't have words).
What's up? (lit.: How do you say?)
Nothing/fine.
What's up? lit.: What is that here?
Nothing.
Nothing. (Lit.: Nothing of power)

Slang:

Ebintu olya?

Ki ekiganye?
Response: Tewali.
Okikola otya?
Okikoze otya?

Are you healthy? (Lit.: Are you eating things?)
Or: Are you having sex?
What is wrong (lit.: what has refused?)
Nothing.
What's up? (lit.: How do you do it?)
What's up? (lit.: How did you do it?)

Formal:

A formal greeting includes kneeling down: The women kneel down for the men, the children for the adults and traditionally the 'abakopi' (the non-royals) to the royals.

Eradde, (ssebo/nnyabo/bassebo/bannyabo)
Response: Eradde,
(ssebo/nnyabo/bassebo/bannyabo)

Is everything ok? (Lit.: Is the lake still?)
Everything is ok. (Lit.: The lake is still.)

Whenever a greeting is asked as a question the question is either repeated as a response or one says:

Ate ggwe?
Mpozzi ggwe?

How about you?
How about you?

A complete greeting in Luganda consists of **several phrases and questions**. When fully greeting another person, one should go through at least a few of them. For example:

Nsanyuse (nnyo) okulaba/okubalaba
Nange nsanyuse okulaba
(Mbadde) ndudde okulaba

Nange ndudde okulaba

I'm happy to see you.
I'm happy to see you too.
Long time no see (lit.: I have taken long to see you)
Me too, long time no see.

Version 1: Obulamu?
Version 2: Obulamu bugamba ki/butya?
Response 1: (Obulamu) bulungi.
Response 2: Bwe butyo bwe butyo.

How is life? (Lit.: Life?)
How is life? (lit.: What/How is life saying?)
(It is) good.
So so. (lit.: Like this like this)

Olunaku (lwo) lutambula lutyā?

Response 1: Lulungi.
Response 2: Lutambula bulungi.
Response 3: Bwe lutyō bwe lutyō
Olunaku (lwo) lubadde lutyā?
Response 1: Lulungi.
Response 2: Lubadde lulungi.

How is your day? (Lit.: How is the/your day walking?)
Good.
It is walking well.
So so. (lit.: Like this, like this)
How was your day?
Good.
It was good.

Version 1: Ab'eka?
Version 2: Ab'eka bali batya?
Version 3: Ab'ewuwo (bali batya)?
Response: Balungi

The people at home?
How are the people at home?
Your people?
They are good.

Nansana ali atya?
Response: Mulungi.

How is Nansana (place of residence)?
(It is) good.

Emirimu gitambula gitya?
Response 1: Mirungi.
Response 2: Gitambula bulungi
Response 3: Bwe gityo bwe gityo
Response 4: Mpola mpola.
Response 5: Gikooya

How is work? (lit.: walking)
(It is) good.
It is walking well.
So so
It is slow (business, etc).
It is tiresome.

Amawulire (ki)?
Response: Tetugalaba.

What's the news?
We don't see them (as in: no news is good news).

Kapya ki?

What is new?

Tewali.

Nothing.

Tewali buzibu.

I'm good (lit.: There are no problems)

Sirina taabu.

I'm good (lit.: I don't have any problem)

Sirina mutawaana.

I'm good (lit.: I don't have any problem)

After **not seeing one another** for a long time:

Version 1: Nga obuze! / wabuze! / wabula!

You don't come here anymore! (lit.: You are lost!)

Version 2: Wabulira wa?

Where did you get lost?

Response 1: Nkyaliwo.

I'm still around.

Response 2: Mbadde bize nnyo ennaku zino.

I have been really busy these days.

Onkyaaye! / Wankyaaye

You don't want to see me anymore! (sarcastic, as in: Come more often!) lit.: You hate me!

Response: Nedda, sikukyaaye!

No, I don't hate you!

Obadde otya ennaku zino?

How have you been these days?

Goodbyes

When parting there are several ways of saying goodbye. The equivalent of goodbye 'weraba' (for one person) or 'mweraba' (for several people) is hardly ever used.

In general:

Weraba!

Goodbye! (one person)

Mweraba!

Goodbye! (several people)

Instead the following ways of saying goodbye are much more common:

Morning until afternoon

Siiba bulungi (nnyabo/ssebo)!

Have a nice day (Sir/Madam)! (lit.: Spend your time well)

Response: Kale (nnyabo/ssebo), nawe siiba bulungi (nnyabo/ssebo)

Thanks (Sir/Madam), you too, have a nice day (Sir/Madam).

Musiibe bulungi ko bannyabo/bassebo (bannyabo ne bassebo).

Have a nice day (to several people).

Response: Kale bassebo/bannyabo, nammwe musiiibe bulungi.

Thank you, you too, have a nice day (to several people).

Afternoon until night

Sula bulungi (nnyabo/ssebo)!

Goodnight! (lit.: Sleep well)

Response: Kale (nnyabo/ssebo), nawe sula bulungi (nnyabo/ssebo)

Thanks (Sir/Madam), you too, well (Sir/Madam).

Musule bulungi bannyabo/bassebo (bannyabo ne bassebo).

Response: Kale bassebo/bannyabo, nammwe musule bulungi.

Goodnight! (to several people).

Thank you, you too, sleep well (to several people)!

At any time

Beera bulung (nnyabo/ssebo)!

Response: Kale (nnyabo/ssebo), nawe beera bulungi (nnyabo/ssebo)

Mubeere bulungi bannyabo/bassebo (bannyabo ne bassebo).

Response: Kale bassebo/bannyabo, nammwe musiibe bulungi.

Have a good time (lit: Be/stay well)

Thanks (Sir/Madam), you too, have a good time (Sir/Madam).

Have a nice day (to several people).

Thank you, you too, have a nice time (to several people).

Wishing a **safe journey**

Tuuka bulungi!

Mutuuke bulungi!

Safe journey

Safe journey (to several people)

Again, as a **religious** person you can say:

Mukama akukuume.

Mukama abakuume.

May the Lord protect you.

May the Lord protect you (several people).

2. Feelings and Discussions

Feelings

When answering the question 'Oli otya?' an honest answer is very acceptable (depending on your relationship to the person asking). That's why it is good to know how to express your feelings. The Lugandan vocabulary for feelings is very limited which might lead back to the fact that emotions used to be considered private and not talked about much. Grammatically feelings are sometimes expressed through adjectives, whereby the form of 'I am' is used and the adjective is added (except for the third person singular, see Chapter X) and adjusted according to number. At other times verbs are used and conjugated the usual way.

Positive

Ndi musanyufu

Nkisiima

Ndi mukuffu

Nzikuse

Newuunyeza

Ndi mukakamu / Nina obukakamu

Nina emirembe.

Njagala nnyo okumanya...

I'm happy

I'm grateful (lit.: I appreciate it)

I'm full

I'm satisfied (full)

I'm surprised

I'm calm/ at ease / I'm relaxed

I'm at peace

I'm curious about... (lit.: I really want to know)

Ndi mu mukwano	I'm in love
Nnina essuubi	I'm hopeful/optimistic (I have hope)
Neyagala	I'm enjoying myself.
Nyumirwa (Nanyumirdwa)	I'm enjoying myself (I enjoyed myself)
Nfunnye obudde obulungi	I had a good time.
Nesiimye	I'm lucky
Nesunze...	I'm excited / looking forward to...
Sikooye.	I'm not tired
Ntunula.	I'm awake.
Ndi mugumu.	I'm strong.
Nnina amaanyi.	I have energy/power.
Ndi mumalirivu	I'm determined

Negative

Nkooye.	I'm tired (attention: verb. See chapter..)
Enjala ennuma	I'm hungry (lit.: Hunger is hurting me)
Ennyonta ennuma.	I'm thirsty (lit.: Thirst is hurting me)
Ndi munakuwavu.	I'm sad (munaku – sadness)
Bwe ntyo bwe ntyo	I'm so so (when asked: How are you?)
Ndi mweralikirivu*.	I'm worried
Teweralikirira kulwange.	Don't worry about me.
Ndi mulwadde.	I'm sick. (for more expressions see Chapter X 'Health')
Siwulira bulungi.	I'm not feeling well.
Sirina emirembe	I'm not at ease / unruhig. (lit.: I don't have peace)
Nnina ebirowoozo bingi.	I'm stressed (lit.: I have lots of things to think about)
Ndi mwennyamivu	I'm disappointed
Neeralikiridde	I'm reluctant / hesitant
Obwomu bnuma	I'm lonely (lit.: Loneliness is hurting me)
Njoya waka	I'm homesick
Mpulira obuswaavu	I'm ashamed, I have a guilty conscious
Kimpisiza bubi	I'm offended
Nkangiddwa (okukanga)	I'm shocked
Ntidde (okutya)	I'm scared
Mpubaala (okuwubaala)	I'm bored
Nswadde (okuswala)	I'm ashamed
Nnina ensanyi	I'm shy
Ndi munyiivu.	I'm angry.

Obusungu bunnuma.

Nyiize

Mpulira ebbugumu.

Mpulira empewo.

Nnina nsisi

I'm angry. (lit.: anger is hurting me)

I'm annoyed.

I'm hot. (lit.: I feel heat)

I'm cold. (li.: I feel cold)

I'm traumatized (lit.: I have a trauma)

Examples:

Twabadde tukola olunaku lwonna nolwekyo tukooye.

Towulira ebbugumu?

Yesunze okugenda mukatale nawe.

Enjala tennuma nnyo.

We have been working all day therefore we are tired.

Aren't you hot?

He's looking forward to going to the market with you.

I'm not very hungry. (lit.: Hunger is not hurting me a lot)

Expressing sympathy

Ng'olabye.

Nkusaasidde.

Kitalo!

Poor you! (lit.: You have seen!)

I pity you.

What a pity!

Vocab: Character

eneeyisa	behavior
embeera	character
mulungi	friendly
muntumulamu	soft, soft-spoken, polite
wakisa	good-hearted
wattima	bad-hearted
mwangu	easy-going, easy (to deal with)
muzibu	mean, difficult (to deal with)
mwesigwa	reliable
musirise	quiet
okusirika	(to be) quiet
okulekaana	(to be) loud, to make noise
okusesa	funny
muwombefu	humble, polite
wa mpisa	polite, good-mannered
okwekanasa	to be picky
okelondalonda	to be picky
Okubeera n'emputo	(to be) stubborn, big-headed
Okubeera n'empaka	(to be) stubborn, argumentative
Okubeera n'eddaru	(to be) stubborn
Okubeera n'ensonyi	(to be) shy
okulina/okukola akajanja	(to be) finicky

Mwesigwa	trustworthy
Munaffu	lazy
Mugabi	generous
Agaba	generous (lit.: 'he/she gives')
omunta atagaba	a selfish person (lit.: a person who doesn't give)
mukodo	selfish
mutiitizi	coward
mugezi	smart, wise
musiru	silly, stupid
okwekakasa	(to be) confident
okwematira	(to be) self-confident
okwewulira	(to be) conceited
mukambwe	hard, tough, strict
muwulize	obedient
okubeera anyinyibadde	(to be) grumpy, unfriendly
wa njawulo	special, different
wa kabi	superstar

Examples:

Oli mutiitizi!
 Ndi mukyaala wa mpisa.
 Abaana baabwe balina eddaru
 Osesa nnyo.
 Abasajja bano balekaana buli kaseera.
 Abasomesa bange bakambwe naddala Mwami
 Mayiga abeera anyinyibadde buli lunaku.

You are a coward!
 I'm a lady of good manners.
 Their children are stubborn.
 You are very funny
 These men are always loud.
 My teachers are very strict, especially Mr.
 Mayiga, who is grumpy every day.

Arguing, defending oneself and apologizing

When people are disturbing you you should express yourself clearly that you don't want that. Worrying about being impolite should be a second thought since a lot of times situations might become uncomfortable and people don't take you seriously unless you speak up for yourself.

(Na)yе nawe!
 Kyokka nawe!
 Gend'eri (Genda eri)
 Vayo!
 Weyongereyo!
 Ki ekiganye? (kyekiganye?)
 Ki ekituuse wo? (kyekituusewo?)
 Kiki?
 Kakana!
 Leker'awo!

Come on! (Negative, lit.: and you!)
 Come on! (lit.: yet you!)
 Go way!
 Step back!
 Step back!
 What is wrong (lit.: what has refused?)
 What has happened?
 What (is it)?
 Calm down!
 Stop it! (lit.: stop there)

Tonkwata ko!

Nyamba ko!
Munyambe ko!
Tuyamba ko!
Mutuyambe ko!

Oli muyaaye!
Oli mwenzi!
Oli mubbi!
Okola ensobi!
Ng'enda kuyita polisi. / Kampite polisi!
Ng'enda kutwala ku polisi.
Ndeka!
Muleke!
Nvaako
Muwe emirembe!
Mwesonyiwe!
Oswadde (nnyo)!
Toswala?
Tontunulira botyo!
Tolabanga ku muntu?
Tolina lukusa...
Mpulira nkukooye.
Tosiima!
Onyiiza.
Nnyiize.
Ontamye.
Onyiizizza.
Tolina bwesiga / toli mwesigwa!
Sikyakwesiga.
Onkyaye?
Nkukyaye.

Solving conflict
Nsonyiwa.
Ebadde ensobi yange.
Neetonze.
Nkusonyiye.
Mbadde nsaaga.
Mbadde nkukanga
Tokitwala bubi
Onkanze
Tewali buzibu.
Kiri oke.
Sifaayo
Tofaayo
Nkyejusa

Don't touch me! (Careful: Tonkwata = Don't rape me)

Help me!
Help me (several people)!
Help us!
Help us (several people)!
Stop the thief!
You are a crook!
You are an adulteress/adulterer
You are a thief.
You are making a mistake!
I will call the police / Let me call the police
I will take you to the police.
Let go of me!
Leave her/him alone!
Leave me!
Give her/him peace!
Let her/him be!
Shame on you!
Aren't you ashamed?
Don't look/stare at me like that!
Have you never seen a human being?
How dare you...
I'm tired of you. (lit.: I feel tired of you)
You are ungrateful! (lit.: You don't appreciate)
You annoy me.
I'm annoyed / I'm pissed.
I'm fed up with you
You pissed me off.
You're unfaithful / not trustworthy.
I don't trust you anymore.
Do you have abandoned/dumped me?
I'm done with you. (lit.: I have abandoned/dumped you, I don't want to see you anymore)

I'm sorry.
It was my mistake.
I apologize.
I forgive you.
I was just kidding.
I was just teasing you.
Don't take offense
You have shocked me.
There is no problem.
It's ok.
I don't care/mind.
Don't worry.
I regret it.

Nkusaasidde (okusaasira)

I feel for you / I pity you / I have sympathy for you

Olina omutima musaasizi

You have a sympathetic heart.

Beera mugumu

Be strong

* In order to say 'to be worried about', the about has to be conjugated the following way:

Oli mweralikirivu kulwange?

Are you worried about me?

Ndi mweralikirivu kulwolwo.

I'm worried about you.

Taata mweralikirivu kulwe.

Dad is worried about him/her.

Muli beeralikirivu kulwaffe?

Are you (plural) worried about us?

Tuli beeralikirivu kulwammwe.

We are worried about you.

Bazadde beeralkirivu kulwaabwe.

The parents are worried about them.

3. Introducing yourself

We are providing you with the literal translation so that you actually understand the words you are using, but don't rely on the literal translation as an actual translation.

Your name(s)

In Uganda every person has a number of names. Usually name giving follows this scheme: There has to be a British/Christian (like Marc, Mary or Emmanuel) or an Islamic name (like Ali, Fatima or Mubarak), a traditional name (like Nasuna, Namulema) and a family name (like Kisakye, Tusiime, Kazibwe). There is no predefined order where to place which name and there is no point in asking for somebody's first or last name, but usually the family name is mentioned first and then the British/Christian/Islamic name. Neither is there a rule as to which name is used by family, friends or strangers. Usually though the last name is used by strangers, the first name by friends and the traditional name by family and friends/colleagues. In Luganda it is therefore common to ask for somebody's 'names'.

Luganda	English	Literal translation
Erinnya lyo gw'ani?	What's your name?	Your name you are who?
Amannya go gw'ani?	What's your name?	Your names you are who?
Bakuyita'ni?	What's your name?	They call you who?
Gw'ani?	What's your name?	Who are you?
Erinnya lyo lya wano gw'ani?	What is your Ugandan name?	
Erinnya lyo ely'ekika gw'ani?	What is your Clan name?	
Nze bampita Josh.	I'm called Josh.	They call me Josh.

Erinnya lyange nze Lilian.	My name is Lilian.	
Nze Mary.	I'm Mary.	
Amannya gange Kisakye Esther	My name is Esther Kisakye.	
Erinnye lye nnaalongo.	Her name is 'mother of twins'	
Erinnye lye ssaalongo.	His name is 'father of twins'	
Erinnye lye waswa.	His name is 'first born twin'	
Ani yakutuuma?	Who named you?	
Ani yakuwa erinnya lino?	Who gave you this name?	

Your origin

As a foreigner in Africa it is pretty obvious that you will be asked where you are from. When asking a Ugandan on the other hand it is common to ask for somebody's tribe.

Luganda	English	Literal translation
Ova wa?	Where are you from?	
Ova mu nsi ki?	What country are you (coming) from?	
Oli mu nsi ki?	What country are you from?	
Oli wa nsi ki?	What country are you from?	
Oli muki?	Where are you from?	
Ndi mugirimaani.	I'm from Germany.	I'm a German
Nsi yange Japan.	My country is Japan.	
Wakulira wa?	Where did you grow up?	
Nakulira mu Bungereza.	I grew up in the UK.	
Ozaalibwa wa?	Where were you born?	
Baakuzaalira wa?	Where were you born?	
Baanzaalira mu amelika	I was born in the US.	They gave birth to me in the US
Nzaalibwa mu yitali	I was born in Italy.	
Bazadde bo gyebali?	Is that where your parents are? / Are your parents there?	

Your time in Uganda:

Luganda	English	Literal translation
Omaze wo/ e Uganda banga ki?	How long have you been here for?	What time period have you finished around / in Uganda?
Mmaze wo ennaku/ emyezi/emyaka x	I have spent here x days/months/years	I have finished x days/months/years around.
Uganda ogisanga otya?	How do you find Uganda?	
Nsi nungi	It's a good country	
Ogenda kumala/kusigala wano banga ki?	How long will you be here for?	What time period are you going to finish/stay here?
Obeera wa?	Where do you live?	Where do you stay?
Osula wa?	Where do you live?	Where do you sleep?
Mbeera Ntebbe	I live in Entebbe	
Obeera n'ani?	Whom do you stay with?	
Mbeera nzekka	I live alone.	
Mbeera ne mikwano gyange.	I live together with my friends.	

Toty e waka?	Don't you get scared being alone at home?	Aren't you scared in at home?
Sitya, naye ebiseere ebimu obwomu bunnuma.	I don't get scared, but I get lonely at times.	I don't get scared, but sometimes loneliness hurts me.

Marital status and children

Luganda	English	Literal translation
Oli mufumbo?	Are you married?	
Siri mufumbo.	I'm not married.	
Ndi mufumbo.	I'm married	
Njagala kuwasa.	I want to marry you.	
Saagala kuwasa.	I don't want to marry you.	
Sinatuuka okufumbirwa	I am not ready to get married.	I have not arrived at getting married yet.
Nkyali muto.	I'm still young.	
	I'm engaged.	
	I'm about to get engaged.	
Nnina muganzi.	I have a girlfriend/boyfriend.	
Saagala mulala.	I don't want another one.	
Omu amala.	One partner is enough for me.	One is enough.
Omusajja wange ankuma nnyo.	My man is very protective.	My man protects me a lot.
Omusajja wange alina ebbuba.	My man is jealous.	
Olina abaana?	Do you have children?	
Sirina abaana	I don't have children.	
Sinazaala abaana	I don't have children yet.	I have not given birth yet.
Nnina babiri (omu, basatu, mukaaga, etc)	I have two (one, three, six, etc)	

4. Transport

Boarding a taxi

Taxis in Uganda are what they call matatos in Kenya: Small busses that take about 16 people (in Uganda easily 18). There are certain lines on the main streets, but no fixed ones. When there is lots of traffic they might take smaller streets to avoid getting stuck in a jam. Most taxis drive to the New Taxi Park in Old Kampala. When boarding a taxi all you have to do is waving with your hand and they will stop for you.

Ogenda wa?
Olaga wa?
Ng'enda Kabalagala.

Where are you going?
Where are you going?
I'm going to Kabalagala.

Njagala kuyimiriza takisi.

Njagala kulinnya takisi.
Ndagirira ewali sitegi y'e nansana.
Ndaga ewa sitegi y'e nansana.
Nkoma Namung'oono.
Nviiramu ku poliisi.
Tuula maaso!
Tuula e mabega!
Ntuule maaso?
Weeyongereyo!
Yanguwa!

I want to board a taxi (literally: 'I want to stop a taxi)

I want to board a taxi.
Can you show me the stage to Nansana?
Can you show me the stage to Nansana?
I'm getting out in Namungoona.
I'm getting out at the police.
Sit in the front!
Sit in the back!
May I sit in the front?
Move a bit!
Hurry up!

The conductor:

The conductor is the person informing people where the taxi is going and for how much. He also collects the money from the people. He might say things like:

Nansana ya nkumi biri. /Nansana nkumi biri
Nnyabo / Ssebo, oghenda?
Tambula! (to the driver)
Tugende maaso. (to the driver)
Mumpe ku ssente!
Basigadde mu maaso mumpe ko ssente!

Muziweereze!
Sitegi mwali?
Waliwo awaayo?

To the conductor:

Ssebo, ontwala wa?
Ssebo, mbadde njagala kugenda oldi kampala.
Ssebo, kwata. (when giving money)
Ssebo, nnina ssente nene zokka, oghenda kumpa balansi wange, eh?
Mpa ku balansi wange.

Nansana for two thousand.
Madam, Sir, are you going (with us)?
Drive! (lit.: walk)
Let's go on.
Give me your money!
The remaining ones in the front, give me the money!
Send it (the money) to me!
Somebody getting out at the stage?
Anybody getting out?

Sir, where are you taking me to?
Sir, I want to go to Old Kampala.
Sir, take it.
Sir, I only have 'big money' (like 20.000), you're going to give me my balance, right?
Give me my balance.

Getting out:

You don't have to wait for a stage or a 'bus stop' to get out, all you have to do is use one of the following phrases and the taxi will stop.

Maas'awo!
W'ofunna parking!
Ku stegi awo!

Stop there! (In front there!)
Stop there! (Where you find a place to park)
At the stage over there!

Awo!
Teeka awo!
Ku total!
Ofuluma? / Ovaamu? / Ovaayo?
Nvaamu! / Nvaayo!

Over there!
Stop at that place (lit.: put there)!
At the total petrol station!
Are you getting out?
I'm getting out!

Taking a boda

When taking a motorcycle in Kampala stopping a so called boda boda is not difficult. They will always look for customers and usually they will talk to you before you even see them. Bodas do not drive on lines, they will take you anywhere you want and since they are so small they hardly ever get stuck in jam. Although they are very convenient taking a boda is also very expensive. Unlike in the taxi where prices are fixed by the time of the day you will have to bargain a lot with the boda drivers.

Jangu tugende!
Tuula, tuula!
Gyebale ko/emirimu ssebo.
Emirimu gitambula gitya?
Ng'enda Nansana.
Osobola okuntwala e Bukoto?
Omanyi 'the surgery' w'eri?
Okakasa?
Vuga mpola mpola!

Come and we go!
Take a seat!
Thanks for the work you're doing.
How is work?
I'm going to Nansana.
Can you take me to Bukoto?
Do you know where the surgery is?
Are you sure?
Drive slowly!

Giving directions:
Eri kumpi ne Makerere.
Egenda Ntebbe.
Eri ku Jinja Road.
Vuga waggulu.
Vuga wansi.
Kyuuka ku ddyo
Kyuuka ku kkono

It is close to Makerere University.
It is on the way to Entebbe.
It is on Jinja Road.
Drive up the hill.
Drive down the hill.
Take a left
Take a right.

Bargaining:
Ya sseente meka?
Ogenda kumpa meka?
Ye nawe, oseera!
Sseente nyingi!
Kankuwe lukumi.
Njja kuwa nkumi biri.
Tonseera!
Ndi muzungu, naye siri mugagga.
Wala/si wala.
Kumpi/Si kumpi.

For how much?
How much will you give me?
Hey, you are overcharging!
That's a lot of money!
I shall give you 1000.
I will give you 2000.
Don't overcharge me!
I'm a muzungu, but I'm not a rich man/woman.
It is far/not far.
It is close/not close.

Stopping and thanking

Awo!
 Weebale kundeeta.
 Weebale obutanseera.
 Ovuga bulungi.
 Oli dereeva mulungi.
 Kankuwe namba yange.

 Nasaba ku namba yo.

Over there (stop there!).
 Thanks for bringing me.
 Thanks for not overcharging me.
 You drive well.
 You are a good driver.
 Let me give you my number (having a trusted boda driver is quite a safe option)
 I'd like to have your number.

Vocab: Transport

okuyimiriza takisi	to board a taxi (to make a taxi stop)
okulinnya takisi	to board a taxi (climb on a taxi)
okutambula ku bigere	to walk / go by foot
Emmotoka	car
Pikipiki	motorcycle
Ennyonyi	airplane
Emmeeri	ship
ekkubo (class x)	street
oluguudo	road
Okuvuga	to drive
Okutuula	to sit
Mabega	behind
Maaso	front
Awo	over there
wano	here
Wala	far
kumpi	close, near by
waggulu	up
wansi	down
okutwala	to take somebody
okuleeta	to bring somebody
okukoma	to stop
okufuluma	to get out
Okuviiramu (wali, wano)	to get out (here, there)
okuvaamu	to get out
okuvaayo	to get out
okuyita	to pass
omugoba	driver, pilot
dereeva	driver
akabenje	accident
kyabulabe	dangerous

5. At the Market / Shopping

The biggest market for fruits and vegetables in the center of Kampala is probably Nakasero market. It is located above the two taxi parks close to the Mapeera building. Coming from the old taxi park it is within walkable distance. The biggest but also most chaotic place to buy clothes (especially second hand) and shoes is Owino which is located between the new and the old taxi park close to the New City Supermarket.

Finding your way

Njagala kugenda mu katale
Waliyo akatale?
Kali wala / kumpi?
Bambi, ndagirira akatale gye kali.
Owino eri ludda wa?
Ogenda kulya ssente?

I want to go to the market
Is there are market somewhere?
Is it far/nearby?
Please, direct me to the market.
Where is Owino?
You're going to waste (lit.: eat)
money?

At the market

Abeeno?
Gyebale ko nnyabo/ssebo

Response: Kale nnyabo/ssebo nawe gyebale ko

Emirimu gitambula gitya?
Response: Mpola mpola.
Ndaba ko bulabi.
Njagala...
Mbadde njagala (ku)gula... (polite)
Mbadde nsaba ku... (polite)
Ekyo kiki? / Ki ekyo (kyekyo)?
Otunda obutunda?
Olina emiyembe?
Waliwo atunda ovaceddo?
Batundira wa enanaansi?

Somebody there?
Thanks for your work (said when
greeting).
You're welcome, you too, thanks for
your work.
How is work?
It is slow.
I'm just looking.
I want...
I want to buy
I'm asking for
What is this?
Are you selling passion fruits?
Do you have mangos?
Do they sell avocados somewhere here?
Where do they sell pineapples?

Inquiring about prices and bargaining

Otunda otya amenvu?
Ssente meka?
Njagala ya lukumi
Bitaano bitaano
Ovaceddo ono tayongedde

For how much do you sell bananas?
How much is it (lit.: how much money??)
I want some for 1000.
500, 500 (each one 500)
This avocado is not ripe.

Omuyembe guno gukalabe

This mango is hard.

Vocab: Shopping

edduuka	shop
essimu	phone
eyattayimu	airtime
emukutu	network
okulya ssente	to spend money extensively (lit: to eat money)
ssente	money
ensimbi	money (old term)
okutunda	To sell
okusasula	To pay
okunoonya	To look for
Okusala emiwendo	To bargain
okugula	To buy
Okuly ssente	To spend money

Clothes and textiles

engoye	Clothes
omusono	Fashion
ekiteeteeyi	Dress
ekitengi	african shirt
esaati	Shirt
mpale	pants, trousers
engatto	shoe(s)
akaakayi	blanket or big scarf rapped around the body.
gomesi	traditional ugandan dress for women
kanzu	traditional ugandan gown for men
okutunga	to saw
okunyuma	to be smart
okunyirira	to shine, to look good
okulabika bulungi	to look good

6. Health, the Body and describing a Person

Getting to a doctor/hospital

Ndi mulwadde.

I'm sick.

Siwulira bulungi.

I'm not feeling well.

Njagala kulaba musawo.

I want to see a doctor.

Njagala kugenda mu ddwaaliro

I want to go to a hospital.

Eddwaaliro liri ludda wa?

Where is a hospital?

Osobola kuntwala ku ddwaaliro?

Can you take me to a hospital?

At the doctors

Kiki kikuluma?

What are you suffering from? (lit: what is hurting you?)

Ndwooza nti nnina musujja.

I think I have malaria (lit. fever).

Nnina musujja.

I have a fever.

Omutwe (gwange) gunnuma

I have a headache. (lit.: My head is hurting me)

Ensingo yange ennuma.

My neck is hurting.

Olubuto lunnuma.

I have a stomachache.

Nnina ekifuba.

I have a cough.

Nnina ekikuddukana.

I have diarrhea.

Nnina ebbwa.

I have a wound.

Nali mu kabenje.

I was in an accident.

Ekibbada kinnuma.

I'm on my period.

Wawonye?

Did you get better?

Ogenda kuwona mangu.

You are going to get better soon.

Olubuto lukyakuluma?

Is your stomach still hurting?

Describing a person

Afaanana atya?

What does he look like?

Osobola okumunyonyola?

Can you describe her?

Timothy afaanana nga Frank.

Timothy resembles Frank.

Tebafaanagana.

They don't resemble.

Afaanana nga ggwe.

He looks like you.

Oli mwanvu kyenkana ki?

How tall are you?

Ozitowa kyenkana ki?

How much do you weigh?

Vocab: Describing a person

Enfaanana	appearance
Muwanvu	Tall
Si mumpi, si muwanvu	medium-heighted
Mumpi	Short
Munene	Big
Mutono	small
Muto	young
Mukulu	Old
amaaso maddugavu	dark eyes
enviiri za kitakka	brown hair
Enviiri enzirugavu	black hair
Mutono	slender

Munene	Fat
enviiri empanvu	long hair
enviiri enyimpi	short hair
Mudugavu	dark-skinned
Mweru	light-skinned / white
Wakatakkatakka	brown skinned
Ekirevu	beard

Vocab: Parts of the body

omutwe	head
omubiri	body
oluviri - enviri	hair
eriiso - amaaso	eye(s)
Ekisige	eyebrow
akakoowekoowe	eyelash
Ettana – amattama (Class V)	cheek
Feesi	face
okutu – amatu (class IX)	ear(s)
Ennyindo	nose
Omumwa	mouth
ekyenyi	forehead
Erinnyo – amannyo (Class V)	tooth
akalevu	chin
ensingo	neck
ekibegaabega	shoulder
ebbeere – amabeere (class V)	breast
ekiwato	waist
olubuto	stomach
Omugongo	back
omukono	arm/hand
olugalo - engalo	finger(s)
engalo ensajja	thumb
Enjala	fingernails
okugulu - amagulu (class IX)	leg(s)
ekigere	foot
evviivi	knee
obusajja	male private parts
obukazi	female private parts
omutima	heart
obwongo	brain
eggumba	bone
enkizi	spine
akagere - obugere	toe(s)
ekyenda – ebyenda	intestine(s)
ekibumba	liver
ensigo	kidney
omusuwa	Vein, artery

omusaayi	blood
----------	-------

Vocab: At the doctors

ekifuba	cough/chest
eddagala	medicine
okufiira mu ssanya	die in childbirth
eddwaaliro	hospital
okumira daggala (lit: to swallow)	to take medicine
mulwadde	sick
obulwadde	disease
akabenje	accident
ebbwa	wound
ekiwundu	wound
ekisago	wound
mulamu	alive/healthy
okuwona	to heal / become well again
okukwasa obulwadde	to spread a disease
omusawo w'amannyo	dentist
okulongoosa	to clean, to perform surgery, to operate
omusujja	fever
omusujja (gw'ensiri)	malaria
omusujja gw'omu byendo	typhoid fever
ekiddukano; embiro	diarrhea
siriimu	aids
omukenenya	hiv
kkaansa	cancer
kookolo	Cancer
omuwala	Muscle

7. Age and Family

Age

In Luganda the verb for ,significance'(amakulu) derives from the word for ,old'(mukulu) which indicates the way age is perceived in Buganda. Elderly people are treated with great respect, younger ones usually kneeling for them.

Olina emyaka emeka?

Nnina emyaka X

Oli muto nnyo!

Oli kaana.

How old are you? (lit.: How many years do you have?)

I'm X years old.

You are very young!

You are a baby.

Nedda, ndi mukulu.
 Birthday yo eri ddi?
 Amazaalibwa go ga ddi?
 Bakuzaala ddi?

Nazaalibwa mu 1991.
 Oli mukulu/muto kunze
 Onsing'obukulu.

Onsing'obuto.

Gw'asinga bukulu mu family yo?
 Gwe'asembayo mu family yo?
 Jjaja alina emyaka emmeke?
 Jjaja mukadde.
 Olabika nga muto/mukulu!
 Abakadde tebasobola kusitula ebintu bino.
 Abavubuka balina (oku)bisitula.

No, I'm an adult
 When's your birthday?
 When's your birthday?
 When were you born? (lit.: When did they give birth to you?)
 I was born in 1991.
 You are older than me.
 You are older than me (lit.: You exceed me in age)
 You are younger than me (lit.: You exceed me in youth)
 Are you the oldest in the family?
 Are you the last born in the family?
 How old is grandpa/ma?
 Grandma/pa is an old man/woman.
 You look young/old!
 The elders can't carry these things.
 The youth (the young people) have to carry them.

Family

Family is of great importance in the Buganda region. Even far relatives are considered family and there is no distinction between a cousin and a sibling, a mother and an aunt, a father and an uncle and so on.

Muli bameka mu family yo / amaka go?
 Tuli bataano: Abawala babiri, bazadde bange nange.
 Ono muto wange.
 Ono mukulu wange
 Maama wange yafa, naye taata wange mulamu.

How many people are there in your family?
 We are five: The two girls, m
 This is my little sister/brother.
 This is my older sister/brother.
 My mother died, but my father is alive.

There is a special way of saying 'taata wange' in Luganda whereby the possessive is included in the word.

Kitange	My father	Bakitange	My fathers
Kitaawo	Your father	Bakitaawo	Your fathers
Kitaawe	His/her father	Bakitaawe	His/her fathers
Kitaffe	Our father	Bakitaffe	Our fathers
Kitammwe	Your father	Bakitammwe	Your fathers
Kitaabwe	Their father	Bakitaabwe	Their fathers

The plural seems to make no sense to a non-Ugandan background, but in Uganda the brothers of the father are considered fathers.

The same applies to 'maama wange' (my mother):

Mmange	My mother	Bammange	My mother
Nyoko	Your mother	Banyoko	Your mother
Nnyina	His/her mother	Bannyina	His/her mother
Nyaffe	Our mother	Banyaffe	Our mother
Nyammwe	Your mother	Banyammwe	Your mother
Nyaabwe	Their mother	Banyaabwe	Their mother

In Luganda there is a special word for a sibling of the opposite gender. Just like Kitange the possessive is included as followed:

Mwannyinaze	My sister/brother	bannyinaze	My sisters/brothers
mwannyoko	Your sister/brother	bannyoko	Your sisters/brothers
Mwannyina	His/her sister/brother	bannyina	His/her sisters/brothers
Mwannyinaffe	Our sister/brother	bannyinaffe	Our sisters/brothers
Mwannyinammwe	Your sister/brother	bannyinammwe	Your sisters/brothers
Mwannyinaabwe	Their sister/brother	bannyinaabwe	Their sisters/brothers

Baze	My husband	Babaze	My husband's brothers
Bawo	Your husband	Babawo	Your husband's brothers
Bbaawe	His/her husband	Babbaawe	Her husband's brothers
Bbaffe	Our husband	Babbaffe	Our husband's brothers
Bbammwe	Your husband	Babbammwe	Your husband's brothers
Bbaabwe	Their husband	Babbaabwe	Their husband's brothers

Jjajjange	My grandfather	Bajjajjange	My ancestors
Jjajjaawo	Your grandfather	Bajjajjaawo	Your ancestors
Jjajjaawe	His/her grandfather	Bajjajjaawe	Her ancestors
Jjajjaffe	Our grandfather	Bajjajjaffe	Our ancestors
Jjajjammwe	Your grandfather	Bajjajjammwe	Your ancestors
Jjajjaabwe	Their grandfather	Bajjajjaabwe	Their ancestors

Vocab: Family

amaka	family
famire	family
taata	father or paternal uncle
maama	mother or maternal aunt
mwami	husband
Bba	husband
mukyala	wife/lady

omuzadde	parent
omwana	child/nephew/niece
mutabani	son (more often: omwana)
Muwala	daughter (more often omwana)
Akaana	baby
Jjaja	grandpa/ma
muganda	sibling (either gender)/cousin
mwannyinaze	sibling of the opposite gender (barely used)
baaba	older sister
owooluganda	relative
abooluganda	relatives
ssenga	paternal aunt
kojja	maternal uncle
muko	brother in law
mulamu	sister in law
ssezaala	father in law
nnyazaala	mother in law
omulongo	twin
ssaalongo	father of twins
nnaalongo	mother of twins
omukaamwana	daughter in law
	son in law
omujjanannyina	step-son, step-daughter ('coming with the mother')
nnamuwundu	widow
ssemuwandu	widower

Vocab: Family affairs

okwagala	to love
obufumbo	marriage
okufumbirwa	to get married
okuwasa	to wed
mufumbo	to be married
okwagala	to love
Embaga	wedding (or party in general)
omugole omukazi	bride
omugole omusajja	groom
okwanjula	introduction ceremony
okwawukana	to divorce
okunoba	to divorce
okuzaala	to give birth / to get a child (for men and women)
okuyonsa	to breastfeed
okuzinna	to dance or to have sex
okwegatta (mu mukwano)	to join or to have sex
obwenzi	adultery
omwenzi	adulterer/adulteress

okulabirira	to watch out for somebody / take care for somebody
okugunjula	to raise a child
okuvuma	to abuse
okukuba	to beat
okubonereza	to punish
Okukula	to grow (up)
okusuulirira	to neglect
Ekibonerezo	punishment

8. Food and the Ugandan Cuisine

The Ugandan cuisine is very much focused on carbohydrates as they are the best source of energy. Every meal contains one, two or even three of the staple foods, which differ by region. In the Buganda Kingdom Amatooke, a green cooking banana that tastes similar to potatoes, is the official staple food, while in the North and West Akalo (millet) is much more common. Since matooke is a little bit more on the expansive side posho, a white, tasteless maize porridge is eaten especially by schoolchildren and poor people. There are a few kinds of sauces that go along with the staple food, usually it's beans with posho, a G-nut-sauce with matooke and meat or fish in a soup for the more affluent. Salads are impossible to find in the local cuisine but cabbage and green beans are sometimes served as a side dish. There is not much variety in the cuisine and lots of Ugandans eat the same food every day, schools usually serve posho and beans every day.

Before eating

Enjala ennuma	I'm hungry (literally: hunger is hurting me (enjala = hunger; okuluma = to hurt))
Ennyonta ennuma.	I'm thirsty. (literally: thirst is hurting me (enyonta= thirst; okuluma = to hurt))
Enjala/Ennyonta ekuluma?	Are you hungry/thirsty?
Njagala kulya mmere.	I want to eat food.
Ogenda kunfumbira emmere?	Are you going to cook for me?
Eeh, ng'enda kufumbira kawunga ne bijanjalo.	Yes, I will cook posho and beans for you.
Tugende tufunne emmere wabweru.	Let's go and get food outside.
Ontwala mu restaurant?	Are you taking me to the restaurant?
Eeh, nkutwala awuti.	Yes, I'm taking you out.
Njagala kunaaba engalo zange.	I want to wash my hands (literally: fingers).
Emmere eyidde.	Food is ready.
Emmere tenajja.	The food is not ready yet. (lit.: the food has not come yet)

Ordering food

Oyagala kulya ki?	What would you like to eat?
Sinaba kusalawo	I have not decided yet
Njagala kulya..	I would like to eat...
Nsaba ku..	I'm asking for.. (polite)

Njagala kunywa soda.
Mulina jusi?
Tetulina/tewali...
Amatooke gaweddewo.

Caayi wa mata aweddewo.
Ekyenyanja kigenda okuggwa wo mangu.

I would like to drink a pop/soda.
Do you have juice?
We don't have / there is no...
We are out of matooke (matooke came to an end)
We are out of milk tea (milk tea came to an end).
Fish is coming to an end quickly.

Likes and dislikes

Olya ensenene?
Ndyā buli kimu.
Njagala kulya nsenene.

Sirya lumonde.
Saagala...
Emmere ki esinga okuwoomera?

Emmere eno y'esinga kumpoomerera.

Mpoomerwa nnyo amatooke n'enkoko.

Emmere ki etakuwoomera?

Do you eat grasshoppers?
I eat everything.
I like eating grasshoppers / I want to eat grasshoppers
I don't eat sweet potato.
I don't like...
What is your favorite food? (lit.: What food exceeds in being sweet to you?)
This food is my favorite food. (lit.: This food exceeds in being sweet to me.)
I really like matooke and chicken (lit.: I'm delighted (in terms of food) by matooke and chicken
What food don't you like? (lit.: What food is not delicious to you?)

After eating

Oli mukuffu? / Okkuse?
Ndi mukuffu. /Nzikuse.
Nkwongere ko?
Bambi, nyongera ko!
Weebale kufumba.
Ofumbye nnyo.
Weebale kulya.
Emmere ewooma.
Emmere ebadde ewooma.
Twagala kusasula.
Ng'enda kusalira.
Neetaga okozesa ebiyigo.

Are you full/satisfied?
I'm full/satisfied.
Shall I add you more?
Add me more please.
Thanks for cooking.
Thanks for cooking. (literally: you cooked a lot)
Thanks for eating. (response to 'ofumbye nnyo')
The food is delicious. (verb! see chapter 3).
The food was delicious.
We want to pay.
I will pay for you.
I need to use the restroom.

Meals of the day

Ekyenkya
Ekyemisana
Ekyeggulo
Walidde ekyenkya?
Ebiseera ebisinga olya ki ku makya?

Breakfast (eaten in the morning)
Lunch (eaten between 1-4 pm)
Dinner (eaten between 8-10 pm)
Have you had breakfast?
What do you usually eat for breakfast?

Ebiseera ebisinga ndya katogo, ebiseera ebimu ndya mugaati.

Most of the time I eat katogo, sometimes I eat bread.

First times

Gwe mulundi gwange ogusoose okulya fenne.
Sigezaangako nsenene.
Ndidde amatooke emirundi mingi.
Oyagala kugezaako?
Nkuwe olye ko?

It's my first time to eat jackfruit.
I have never had grasshoppers.
I have eaten Matooke lots of times before.
Would you like to try?
Shall I give you some to eat?

Lugandan name	English name	Explanation
amatooke	plantain	A mash made out of boiled plantain
aawunga	posho	A white maize porridge.
omuceere	rice	Sometimes white, sometimes with carrots and spices
ebinyebwa	g-nut-sauce	A pink peanut sauce, most commonly eaten with matooke
ebijanjaalo	beans	A sauce made out of means usually eaten with Posho
muwogo	cassava	A white root
ejuuni	yam	
kasooli	maize	
lumonde	sweet potato	Very different from the orange American sweet potato
bumonde	irish potato	Normal European potato
akatungulu	onion	
katungulu cumu	garlic	
butto	cooking oil	Sunflower oil
odii	g-nut-paste	Sometimes mixed with sesame, eaten especially in the north
chapatti (class)	chapatti	Much heavier than the Indian chapatti, available everywhere
kikomando	kikomando	Chapatti cut into pieces and added to a sauce of beans, available pretty much everywhere
katogo	stew, hotpot	A stew made out of any staple food and any sauce
ensuju	pumpkin	
doodo	greens	Spinach-like green
ennyanya	tomatoes	
kawo	peas	Green peas, not chickpeas
mboga	cabbage	
kaloti	carrot	
akatiko	mushroom	
etangawuzi	ginger	
modalasini	cinnamon	
majaani	tea leaves	

Biring'anya	eggplant	
omunnyo	sault	
kamulali	chili	Can be added if one wishes but is never added to a dish just like that
enva	sauce	Describes any kind of sauce
ekirungo	spice	Hardly used in Uganda, but by the Indians
emmwaanyi	coffee beans	
taaba	tobacco	
omugaati	bread	Toast bread
entungo	sesame	
sim-sim	sim-sim	Little balls or disks made out of sesame and sugar
mpaffu	carnolia nut	Cooked, Resembling an olive
makalooni	noodles/pasta	
entamu	saucepan	
essigiri ya manda	charcoal stove	
obuugi	porridge (corn)	
akalo	millet	Eaten mostly in the north and west
keeki	cake	
entende	dates	

Meat and fish

Ennyama	meat
ennyama y'... (ennyama y'embuzi)	meat of.. (goats meat)
Embuzi	goat
Endiga	lamb/mutton
Embizi	pig/pork
Enkoko	chicken
Ente	cow/beef
Ekyennyanja	fish
Empuuta	nile perch
Omukene	small silverfish (distinctive smell)
ensenene	grasshoppers
Enswa	white ants

Vocab: Fruits

omucungwa	orange
omuyembe	mango
enanaansi	pineapple
akatunda	passion fruit
ppaapaali	papaya
watermelon	watermelon
fenne (class i)	jackfruit
mangadda – obumangadda	tangerine

eryenvu – amenvu	banana
ndiizi (class i)	small banana
Eppeera	guava

Vocab: Beverages

amazzi agonyogoga	cold water
amazzi amafumbe	water that has been boiled
amazzi g'okunywa	water to drink
jusi	juice
mubisi	local juice
caayi (class I)	tea
Caayi ne ssukaali	tea with sugar
Caayi nga tekuli ssukaali	tea without sugar
Caayi n'amata	tea with milk
Caayi nga temuli mata	tea without milk
kaawa	coffee
mwenge	alcohol
Omubisi gwe nnanaansi	pineapple juice
Mwenge omuganda	local brew
Soda: Cooking	soda

Okufumba	to cook
Okulya	to eat
okuvuba	to fish
okulima	to dig
okulunda	to hold cattle
ebyobulimi	Agriculture
okukungula	To arvest
essigiri	Stove
manda	Charcoal
entamu	sauce pan
okuwooma	to be delicious
okukuta	to be satisfied/full
mukuffu	Full
okubeera mutamiivu	to be drunk

9. Hobbies and Entertainment

Mu biseera byo eby'eddembe okola ki?
Onyumirwa/Oyagala kola ki?

What do you do you do in your spare time?
What do you like/enjoy doing?

Njagala...
 okusamba mupiira
 okudduka
 okulaba firimu
 okukuba ekifaananyi
 okuvuga eggaali
 okuwuga
 okusoma ebitabo
 Okuzannya zaala
 Okucakala
 Ebikonde

I like...
 playing football
 Running
 watching movies
 Photography
 riding the bike
 Swimming
 reading books
 Playing cards
 To go out / party
 Boxing

10. Occupation and School

Work

Okola mulimu ki?

What is your occupation/job?

Okolera wa?

Where do you work at?

Okola ki?

What do you do?

Nsomesa.

I teach.

Nsoma.

I study (I'm a student).

Nkolera mu ddwaaliro.

I work at a hospital.

Sirina mulimu.

I'm unemployed

Nekozesa.

I'm selfemployed

Ndi...

omusomesa	Teacher
Omyuzi	Student
omusawo	Doctor
Yinginiya	Engineer
munnamateeka	Lawyer
Omuwaabi wa gavumenti	Prosecutor
omuduumizi	Inspector
omujjanjabi	Nurse
Omubulizi w'enjiri	Priest
Munnasayansi	Scientist
Kafulu	Professor
Omyuzi	Secretarian
Omubazi w'ebitabo	Accountant
Omyuzi	Singer
Munnakatamba	Actor/actress
Munnabyabufuzzi	Politician
Munnaamawulire	Journalist
omufumbi	Cook

Omuzimbi	Builder
omusambi wa mupiira	Football player
Omuvuzi/omugoba	Driver

Studies

Osoma ki?
Osoma subject ki?

What do you study?
What subject do you study?

Nsoma...

Byabongo	Psychology
Ebyobufuzi	Politics
Byabulimi	Agriculture
Okusomesa	Education
Byakukanika	Engineering
Ebyafayo	History

About work

Gyebale emirimu
Emirimu gitambula gitya?
Response 1: Mirungi
Response 2: Mpola mpola
Response 3: Si mibi.
Response 4: Bwe gityo bwe gityo
Response 5: Gikooya
Tokoowa?
Nkooye.
Okyali wo?
Nkyaliwo.
Ogenze?
Ng'enze kuwummula.

Thanks for your work.
How's work?
Work is good.
Work is slow.
Work is not bad.
So so.
Work is tiresome.
Don't you get tired?
I'm tired
Are you still around?
I'm still around.
Are you leaving?
I'm off to rest.

Okola buli lunaku?
Osomera wa?
Onyumirwa okukolera e Mulago Hospital?

Do you work everyday?
Where do you study?
Do you enjoy working at Mulago Hospital?

The future

Oyagala kola ki mu bisera bya mu maaso?
Oyagala kufuuka ki?
Oyagala kubeera ki?
Weeraba wa emyaka kumi okuva kati mu maaso?

What do you want to do in the future?
What do you want to become?
What do you want to be?
Where do you see yourself in ten years from now?

Money and salary

Ofuna mmeka?
Omusaala gwo gw'enkana gutya/ki?

Bakusasula?
Osasulibwa?
Sisasulibwa, Nkolera mu ekitongole
ky'obwanakyewa
Nsasulibwa.

How much do you earn?
What is your salary? (lit.: Of what equation is your salary?)

Do you get paid (lit.: Do they pay you?)
Do you get paid?
I don't get paid, I'm a volunteer (lit.: I work for an institution of voluntary work)
I get paid
Do you earn enough?

Vocab: occupation and school

omulimu	job, work
essomero	school
okukola	to do, to make, to work
okusuubula	to make business, to stock
okusoma	to read, to study
okusomesa	to teach
okuyiga	to learn
okuyigiriza	to teach
okusasula	to pay
okusasulibwa	to get paid
omusaala	salary
okufunna	to get, here: to understand
okukwata	here: to understand, to get, to learn
okutikkirwa	to graduate
essomo	subject, study
ebigezo	Exams
empapula	exams (lit.: papers)
ebibuuzo	exams (lit.: questions)
okuyita	to pass
ekibiina	class room
omukulu w'essomero	Headteacher
omusuubuzi	business man/woman
Mukama wa	Boss
Omukozi	Worker
Okuweerera	to pay school fees

11. Learning Luganda

Do you speak Luganda?

Oyiga oluganda?
Osoma oluganda?
Omanyi oluganda / Oluganda olumanyi?
Ye, manyi oluganda. / Ndumanyi.
Nedda, simanyi oluganda / silumanyi.
Oyogera oluganda?

Do you learn Luganda?
Do you study Luganda?
Do you know Luganda?
Yes, I know Luganda.
No, I don't know Luganda / I don't know it.
Do you speak Luganda?

Ye, njogera oluganda.
Nedda, silumanyi.
Oyogera olulimi ki?
Njiga oluganda.
Nsoma oluganda mu kibiina.
Ani akuyigiriza Oluganda?
Nze neyigiriza.
Baliraanwa bange bebanjigiriza oluganda.
Njiga mpola mpola.
Okwata mangu!

Yes, I speak Luganda.
No, I don't know Luganda.
What language do you speak?
I'm learning Luganda.
I'm studying (lit.: reading) Luganda in class.
Who teaches you Luganda?
I'm teaching myself.
My neighbors teach me Luganda.
I'm learning step by step (lit.: slowly slowly).
You are picking it up quickly!

About Luganda

Oluganda lulimi lulungi.
Oluganda lulimi lugagga.
Oluganda luzibu/lwangu.
Okuyiga oluganda kizibu.
Olulimi lwo oluzadde bwe luba lulimi lwa
bulaaya, kizibu okuyiga oluganda.
Oluganda lwa njawulo.
Oluganda n'oluzungu tebifaanagana (the 'bi'
infix is not referring to 'enimi' (the infix would
be 'zi') but to the implied word 'ebigambo' (the
words).
Oluganda n'oluzungu bya'njawulo.

Luganda is a nice language.
Luganda is a rich language.
Luganda is difficult/easy.
Learning Luganda is difficult.
If your mother tongue is a European language,
it is difficult to learn Luganda.
Luganda is different.
Luganda and English don't resemble.

Luganda and English are different.

Difficulties

Ono musomesa wange.
Nnina ebibuuzo bingi.
Sitegeera.
Okitegedde?
Sikitegedde.
Sikifunnye.
(O)wangi? Ogambye ki?
Bambi, yogera mpola mpola.
Yogera nnyo.
Sok'okiddemu ekyo.
Njagala kugamba ,xy' mu luganda.
Ekyo kitegeeza ki mu Luganda?
Neerabidde ekyo kitegeeza ki mu Luganda.
Nzijukira!
Nkijukira!

This is my teacher.
I have many questions.
I don't understand
Did you get it?
I didn't get (lit.: understand) it.
I didn't get it.
What's that? What did you say?
Talk slowly please.
Speak up (lit.: Talk a lot).
Please repeat that. (lit.: First repeat it)
I want to say ,xy' in Luganda.
What does this mean in Luganda?
I forgot what that means in Luganda.
I remember
I remember it

Motivation

Sirina buguminkiriza.
Toggwamu amaanyi!
Oluusi nziggwamu amaanyi.

Weebale kunzizamu amaanyi.
Nezzamu amaanyi.
Nfuba nnyo okuyiga oluganda, kubanga njagala kwogera n'abantu b'e Uganda.
Ndi mumalirivu okuyiga oluganda.
Ndwoowa nti okuyiga oluganda kya mugaso nnyo / kya muwendo.
Okumanya oluganda kimpa emigaso mingi.
Bw'oba omanyi oluganda, abantu tebakuseera.

Mpulira nga abantu boogera.
Abantu basanyufu bwe njogera nabbo mu oluganda.
Tosobola kuyiga luganda mpozzi ko ng'olwogera.
Njagala kwogera mu Luganda nga sirulowoozako.
Kyenduubirira kya kuguka oluganda.
Oyo mukugu wa Luganda.

I'm impatient.
Don't give up (don't come to an end of power!)
Sometimes I lose motivation. (lit.: Sometimes I come to an end of power)

Thanks for motivating me.
I motivate myself.
I make an effort to learn Luganda, because I want to talk to the Ugandan people.
I'm determined to learn Luganda.
I think learning Luganda is very important (lit.: of importance/value).
Knowing Luganda gives me lots of advantages.
When you know Luganda, people don't overcharge you.

I listen carefully when people speak.
People are happy when I talk in Luganda with them.
You can't learn Luganda unless you speak it.

I want to speak Luganda without thinking about it.
My aim/goal is to master Luganda.
That one is an expert of Luganda.

olulimi	language
okuyiga	to learn
okwogera	to speak
okumanya	to know
okusoma	to study / to read
okuwulira	to hear
okuwuliriza	to listen to
okusomesa	to teach
okukwata (olulimi)	to pick up (a language)
okutegeera	to understand
okufunna	to get
okukuguka	to master
omusomesa	teacher
omuyizi	student
omukugu	expert
ekibuuzo	question
okubuuzza	to ask
okubuzaabuza	to confuse
okubuzaabuzibwa	to get confused
okwerabira	to forget
okujukira	to remember
okuddamu	to answer, to repeat
okuggwamu amaanyi	to lose motivation (lit.: to fall out of power)

okuzzamu amaanyi	to motivate
okuluubirira	to aim at
okufaanagana	to resemble

12. Religion

Oli wa diini ki?	What's your religion?
Ndi musiraamu	I'm a Muslim.
Siri mukkirisa.	I'm not a believer
Sirina ddiini.	I don't have a religion
Osaba?	Do you pray?
Tusabe!	Let's pray?
Ogenda mu kkanisa?	Do you go to church?
Okolokose?	Are you born again?
Ssekukkulu enungi!	Merry Christmas!

Vocab: Religion

okusaba	to pray
mukama	the lord, god
mukkiriza	believer
katonda	god, the creator
Okutonda	to create
Diini	religion
musiraamu	muslim
obusiraamu	islam
obukristu	christianity
omukulisitu	christian
Mazigiti, muzikiti	mosque
kkanisa	church
okwebikkirikira	to cover oneself, to put on a veil
mukuukuutivu	pious
omusalaba	cross
okulokoka	to get saved / become born again
amasinzizo	religious places
paasika	Easter
amazukira	Easter (resurrection)
okusaala	to pray (muslims)
ssekukkulu	christmas
essaala	prayer
ettabi	palm leaf (used for palm sunday)

13. Time and Meeting

Time telling

In Uganda the day doesn't start at midnight but at dawn and since the sun rises and sets around the same time throughout the year this makes a lot more sense than it would in Europe. Therefore Ugandans start counting the clock at 6 am which therefore equals 12 o'clock. 7 am is 1 am and so on. The easiest way to convert is to subtract 6 hours from the given standard time or add 6 hours when given the Ugandan time.

6:00 am	=	Saawa kumi na biri (12 o'clock)
9:00 am	=	Saawa ssatu (3 o'clock)
12:00 am	=	Saawa mukaaga (6 o'clock)
3:00 pm	=	Saawa mwenda (9 o'clock)
6:00 pm	=	Saawa kumi na bbiri (12 o'clock)
9:00 pm	=	Saawa ssatu (3 o'clock)
12:00 pm	=	Saawa mukaaga (6 o'clock)
3:00 am	=	Saawa mwenda (9 o'clock)

From sharp to half past:

6:10 = Saawa kuminabiri ne ddakiika kumi.

6:20 = Saawa kuminabiri ne ddakiika abiri

6:30 = Saawa kuminabiri kitundu

From half past to sharp:

6:40 = Ebula (ddakiika) abiri okubeera saawa emu

6:50 = Ebula (ddakiika) kumi okuwera saawa emu

Days of the week

Mande / Olwokusooka (<i>first day</i>)//	Monday
Olwabbalaza	
Olwokubiri (<i>second day</i>)	Tuesday
Olwokusatu (<i>third day</i>)	Wednesday
Olwokuna (<i>fourth day</i>)	Thursday
Olwokutaano (<i>fifth day</i>)	Friday
Olwomukaaga (<i>sixth day</i>)	Saturday
Ssande / Sabiiti	Sunday

Talking about time

Essaawa	hour
Eddakiika	minute
Katikitiki	second
Saawa meka?	What time is it (lit.: how many hours?)?
Tusisinkana ddi/saawa meka?	When are we meeting?

Tusisinkane ku saawa nga kumi.
Ogenda kujja ddi/saawa meka?
Firimu etandiika ddi/ku saawa meka?
Wazukuse saawa mmeke?

Obudde
Obudde bugenda mangu.
Obudde buyise.
Obudde bukyali.
Obudde bwa kulya
Obudde tebanatuuka obudda e Nansana.

Nfunnye obudde obulungi.
Sirina budde, ndi mu bwangu.
Bw'ofunna obudde onyambe ko.
Embeera y'obuddu nungi.

Embeera ekyusa
Saawa ya kugenda.

Let's meet around 4 pm.
When are you coming?
When does the film start?
When did you get up?

Time
Time is passing quickly.
It is late (lit.: time has passed).
There is still time.
It is time to eat.
It's not time yet to go back to Nansana (lit.: the time has not yet reached going back to Nansana)
I had a good time.
I don't have time, I'm in a hurry.
When you find the time help me please.
The weather (lit.: the state of the time) is good.
Times (lit.: the state of time) change.
It's time to go.

Days

Olunaku
(olwa)leero
Jjo/eggulo
Enkya
Ennaku etaano eziwedde
Ennaku mukaaga mu maaso

day
today
yesterday
tomorrow
Five days ago.
In five days

Leero lunaku ki?
Wamulabye lunaku ki?
Ng'enda kujja ku Sande.
Babadde bakola olunaku lwonna
Mukubira buli lunaku.
Olunaku lwo lubadde lutyala?
Olunaku lutambula lutyala?
Olunaku olwo nali mu kkanisa.
Olwaleero tuwandiika ebibuuzo.
Yagenze jjo ku makya.
Agenda komawo enkya olweggulo.
Munnakuwavu ennaku zino.

What day is today?
On which day did you see him?
I'm coming on Sunday.
They were working the whole day.
I call her every day.
How was your day?
How is the day going?
I was in church that day.
Today we have exams.
She left yesterday morning.
She is coming back tomorrow evening.
He's sad these days.

Weeks

Wiiki
Wiiki eno
Wiiki ejja

week
This week
Next week

wiiki ewedde
Wiikisi etaano eziyiise
Wiikisi mukaaga mu maaso

Last week
Five weeks ago
In six weeks

Months

Omwezi
Omwezi guno
Omwezi ogujja
Omwezi oguwedde
Emyezi etaano egiyiise
Emyezi mukaaga mu maaso

Month/Moon
This month
Next month
Last month
Five months ago
In six months

Years

Omwaka
Omwaka guno
Omwaka ogujja
Omwaka oguwedde
Emyaka etaano egiyiise
Mu myaka mukaaga mu maaso
Kulik'omwaka
Weebale kutuuka mu mwaka

Omwaka omupya gutambula gutya?

Year
This year
Next year
Last year
Five years ago
In six years
Happy new year
Happy new year (lit.: Thanks for reaching the next year)
How is the new year going?

General terms

Kati
Kati kati
Kaakati
Edda
Nedda
Paka last
Oluusi
Olumu
Ekiseera
Ekiseera ekiwanvuko
Ebiseera ebimu
Ebiseera ebitono
Ebiseera ebisinga
Bulijjo
Buli kiseera
Buli kaseera
Buli lunaku/wiiki/omwezi

Now
Right now
Now, well
Later
Never
Forever
Sometimes
Sometimes
moment
Long moment
Sometimes, rarely
Sometimes, rarely
Most of the time / often
Usually, normally
Every moment
Every single(lit.: little) moment
Every day/week/month

Matumbibudde
obwedda

Late at night
All this long, all this time

Time frames

When talking about a time frame ('banga') in Luganda an equivalent of the word 'for' doesn't exist. Instead the Baganda would use the verb 'okumala' which means 'to finish' or 'to end'.

Examples:

Omaze wo banga ki?
Ogenda kumala e Uganda banga ki?
Mmaze wo emyezi egisukka mu mukaaga.
Nabadde ntudde wali okumala saawa nga biri.

For how long have you been here?
For how long are you staying in Uganda?
I have been here for more than six months.
I had been sitting there for about two hours.

After and before

To express that something happened after some time the word 'to pass' (okuyita) is used in Luganda. To express that something is happening after the expression 'oluvannyamu lwa'

Nga wayiisewo eddakiika abiri n'ajja.
Oluvannyuma lw'okukunkuba yagenze.
Nkubira nga tonayimiriza taxi.
Nga tanafa yang'ambye nsigale.

Twenty minutes after (had passed until) he came.
After he beat me he left.
Call me before you get in the taxi. (lit.: Call me when you have not stopped the taxi yet)
Before he died he told me to stay. (lit.: When he hasn't died yet..)

Until/to

The word until can be expressed in several ways in Luganda:

Ebula bbanga ki Mary okujja.
Kitwala bbanga ki okuva wano paka Bwaise?
Ng'enda kulinda wano okutuusa nga azze.
Ogenda kujja saawa meka?

How much time is remaining until Mary comes?
How long does it take from here to Bwaise
I will wait here until he comes.
When are you coming?

Being late

Ugandan time keeping is not like German time keeping. When meeting at 10, most Ugandans show up at 10:30, depending on the situation. That's why it is always good to inquire where the other person is at the moment. But be careful: Even when somebody is saying he or she will arrive in 10 minutes that can mean anything between 10 and 30 minutes.

Oli ludda wa?	Where are you at? (lit.: What side are you?)
Oludde!	You are taking long!
Ndi mu taxi/boda.	I'm in the taxi/on the boda.
Ndi mu jam.	I'm in a traffic jam.
Nzijja.	I'm coming.
Siri wala.	I'm not far.
Ndi kumpi okutuuka.	I'm about to reach.
Ng'enda kutuuka mu ddakiika nga kumi.	I'll arrive in about ten minutes.
Yanguwa!	Hurry up.
Jangu mangu!	Come, hurry up!
Tukulinze.	We are waiting for you.
Otuuse?	Have you reached?
Ntuuse Wandageya.	I have reached Wandageya.
Ng'enda kuyimiriza taxi.	I'm going to board a taxi.
	Where should I get out?
Ozze kikeerezi	You are late.

14. Around the House and being a Guest

Cleaning (okulongoosa)

Lots of Ugandans use only one kind of soap for laundry, dishes, mopping and even personal hygiene.

Nsiimura ennyumba.	I'm mopping the house.
Ng'enda okwera ennyumba – Njera ennyumba	I'm going to sweep the house, I'm sweeping the house.
Njoza engoye.	I'm washing clothes
Ng'enda kwoza ebintu.	I'm going to do the dishes.
Ng'enda kwanika engoye	I'll hang up the laundry.
Njanika ngoye	I'm hanging up the laundry.
Oyanika ngoye?	Are you hanging up the laundry?
Ng'enda kujjayo engoye.	I'll pick the laundry.
Nzijjayo ngoye.	I'm picking the laundry.
Neetaaga ssaabuuni w'okwoza engoye.	I need soap for washing clothes
Nsaba ku lweyo.	I'm asking for a broom
Okozesa ki okwoza ebintu?	What do you use for cleaning the dishes?
Nkozesa mazzi gokka.	I use only water.

Before visiting

Obeera wa?	Where do you stay?
Osula wa?	Where do you stay (literally: sleep)?
Mbeera Nansana.	I stay in Nansana.
Nsula Mengo.	I live in Mengo (lit.: sleep).
Ng'enda kutwala ewaffe.	I will take you to our place.
Ogenda kuntwala ewammwe?	Will you take me to your place?
Mbadde njagala kulaba/kukyaalira ko.	I wanted to see you/ to pay you a visit.

Ng'enda kuyita.

I will invite you.

Being a visitor/host

Mary wali? Mary gyali?
Mary taliwo.
Eh, Mary gyali.
Mbadde njagala kulaba Michael.
Waliyo muntu e nnyumba / munjju / munda?
Abeeno?
Nsanyuse nnyo okulaba.
Nange nsanyue okulaba.
Tukusanyukidde
Nyingire/Tuyingire?
Yingira/Muyingire!
Tuula!
Bambi galawo oluggi.
Bambi gulawo eddinisa.
Bambi, teeka ko etaala.
Bambi, gya ko etaala.
Nzigalewo oluggi?

Is Mary around?
Mary is not around.
Yes, Mary is there.
I wish to see Michael.
Is there somebody?
Is there somebody?
I'm happy to see you.
I'm happy to see you too.
Welcome!
May I/we enter?
Enter!
Have a seat.
Please close the door.
Please open the window
Please turn on the light
Please turn off the light
Shall I close the door?

After the Visit

Weebale kunnyaalira
Weebale kunnyaaza
Nesiimye nnyo.

Tufunnye mukisa
Kibadde kya kitiibwa nnyo.
Nkwerekere ko?
Weebale kumperekera.
Ogenda komawo ddi?
Njja komawo.
Omulundi omulala ggwe agenda okunkyalira.

Thanks for visiting me
Thanks for having me
It was a pleasure having you. (lit.: I was very lucky)
We were blessed. (lit.: We got luck)
It was an honor.
May I accompany you?
Thanks for accompanying me.
When are you coming back?
I'll come back.
Next time you will visit me.

Opangisa?
Ekisenge kino kinene.
Effumbiro liri ludda wa?
Tolina kitanda?
Nsula ku mufaliso.
Amasanyalaze gagenze.
Amasanyalaze tegaliwo.
Amasanyalaze gakomyewo.
Ofumbira ku ssigiri ya manda?
Essigiri eganye (oku)kwata.
Njagala ebibajjo byo.
Baliraanwa bange babeera wali.
Omukozi w'ewaka ayoza engoye zaabwe.

Do you rent
This room is big.
Where is the kitchen?
You don't have a bed?
I sleep on a mattress.
The electricity is gone.
There is no electricity.
The power is back.
Do you cook on a charcoal stove?
The charcoal stove doesn't catch fire.
I like your furniture.
My neighbors stay over there.
The maid is washing their clothes

Vocab: Around the House

ekisenge	room
oluggi	door
eddirisa/eddirisa	window
ennyumba (pl: amayumba)	house
Waka	home
Ebibajje	furniture
okulongoosa	to clean
effumbiro	kitchen
ssaabuuni (class i)	soap
ekikuuta	sponge
Ebintu	dishes (literally: things)
Ekikopo	cup
Ekicupa	bottle
ekijiiko	spoon
akambe	knife
okusiimura	to mop
essowani (pl: amassowani)	plate
okuyingira	to enter
Okwera	to sweep
Okwoza	to wash (dishes, clothes)
engoye	clothes
okutuula (wansi)	to sit (on the floor)
okufukamira	to kneel
okwanika engoye	to hang up clothes
okujjaye engoye	to pick the clothes
omukozi w'ewaka	maid
Ekitanda	bed
omufaliso	mattress
omusabawa	candle
Olweyo	broom
Okupangisa	to rent

15. The Weather, Nature and Wildlife

The Weather

The way people talk about the weather in Uganda is very different from other places. First and foremost, the weather doesn't change daily like in Europe where you can have a freezing cold

Wednesday and a sunny Thursday or a week of rain followed by a week of heat. In Kampala it might rain the one day and not the other day but every day it is sunny at one point and it is never colder than 16 degrees. Thus there is no such thing as a weather forecast and people are not concerned or excited about the weather of the next day. Due to its location close to equator there are no real seasons in Uganda. There is though a dry and a wet season. Global warming

Embeera y'obudde eri etya?	What's the weather like? Lit.: What is the state of the time like?
Embeera y'obudde nungi.	The weather is good.
Embeera y'obudde mbi.	The weather is bad.
Enkuba etonnya.	It is raining
Enkuba nyingi	Lots of rain
Enkuba egenda kutonnya	It is going to rain
Waliwo ebisooto bingi!	There is a lot of mudd!
Omusana gwaka	The sun is shining (lit.: sunlight is shining)
Omusana mungi	Lots of sunshine (as in: way too much sun)
Omusana gokya	The sun is burning
Waliwo enfuufu nyingi!	There is a lot of dust!
Waliwo ebbugumu	It is hot.
Waliwo empewo	It is cold.
Mpulira ebbugumu	I'm hot.
Mpulira empewo	I'm cold
Kideddede	It is cloudy
Empewo nyingi	Lots of wind/coldness
Tuli mu biseera bya bukalu.	We are in the dry season
Tuli mu biseera bya nkuba.	We are in the wet season
Ebiseera by'obukalu bitandiika ddi?	When is the dry season starting?
Ebiseera bya nkuba bitandiika omwezi gujja.	The wet season is starting next month.
	How long does the dry/wet season last?
Enkuba ekukubye?	Did it rain on you?
Enkuba ekukubidde wa?	Where did the rain find you?
Otambudde mu musana?	Did you walk in the sun?
Neetaga manvuli.	I need an umbrella.

Vocab: The Weather

embeera y'obudde	the weather (lit.: the state of the time)
Enkuba	rain
okutonnya	to drizzle, to rain
omusana	sunshine
Okwokya	to burn
Okwaka	to shine

ebbugumu	heat
empewo	coldness/wind
okuwulira	to feel, to hear
Ekire	cloud

Vocab: Nature

Ensiko	bush
Omuti	tree
omuuddo	grass
Ekiswa	anthill
ennyanja	lake
Amazzi	water
Omugga	river
Akagga	Small stream
Essubi	Spear grass
Eggulu	Sky, heaven
Ettaka	Earth, land
Ekibira	forest
Ekiggo	stick
omusenyu	sand
olusozi	mountain
akasozi	hill

Vocab: Animals

ekisolo	animal
ekiwuka	insect
enswa	ant
enswaswa	alligator
enswera	fly
ensiri	mosquito
ekyenyanja	fish
ente	cow
enkoko	chicken
embuzi	goat
embizi	pig
embwa	dog
embalaasi	horse
kkapa	cat
endiga	sheep
ekinyonyi	bird
embaata	duck
enjuki	bee
akamyu	rabbit
ekisodde	gorilla
embogo	buffalo
entugga	giraffe

enjovu	elephant
enkula	hippopotamus
ggonya	crocodile
empologoma	lion
engo	tiger, leopard
omusota	snake

16. Politics, Speech and Debate

Agreeing

Ekyo kituufu	That's right.
Oli mutuufu.	You're right.
Amazima.	The truth.
Nzikiriza nawe/naye/nammwe/nabbo.	I agree with you/him/you/them.
Nange ndowooza bwentyo.	I think so too.
Ekyo kyengambye.	That's what I said.
Tukkiriziganye mu butakkiriziganya.	Let's agree on disagreeing
Tukkiriziganye.	Let's agree with eachother.

Disagreeing

Ekyo kifu.	That's wrong.
Oli mufu.	You're wrong.
Oli musobya.	You're wrong.
Olimba.	That's a lie (you're lying).
Sikikiriza.	I don't believe this.
Sikkiriza nawe/naye/nammwe/nabbo.	I disagree with you/him/you/them.
Ekyo si kyengambye.	That's not what I said.
Nkibusabuusa.	I doubt this.
Sikirowooza	I don't think so.
Sekakasa ku kyo.	I'm not sure about that.

Politics

ebyobufuzi	politics ((things) of
ekitongole	organization
ekitongole ky'obwannakyewa	organisation of voluntary work
Ssentebbe	chairman, head of
omubaka	member of parliament, messenger
okulonda	to elect, to vote
eddembe ly'obuntu	human rights

okulwanirira	to fight for something
okuvunaanyizibwa	to be responsible for something
enguzi	bribery
ensonga	reason, matter
okukubirizza	to alert, inform, educate
omutuuze	citizen
okusinziira ku..	according to
ekikwekweto	operation, razzia
malaaya	prostitute
lukung'ng'aana	meeting
ekiragiro	command, order
akakiiko	committee
olukiiko	meeting
pulezidenti	president
gavumenti	government
enkaayana	dispute
Ofiisi	office
omuwagizi	supporter
omutegesi	organizer
obutujju	terrorism
omutujju	terrorist
omukulembeze	leader

ministule y'..	Ministry of..
ebyenjigiriza	education
ebyemizannyo	sports
ebyobulimi	agriculture
ebyamazzi	water
ebyentambula	transport

Poliisi	police
Amagye	army
omusango	crime
Okuzza omusango	To commit a crime
Omubbi	thief
omufere	thug
obukumpanya	Theft
Okuwaaba omusango	To file a complaint
omuduumizi	inspector
omumyuka	assitant
Erawuna	patrol
omulambo	corpse
Ekitebe	Headquater, embassy
obulumbaganyi	attack
okusimatuuka	To survive
Okulojja	To testify something horrible
mbega	Spy

Vocab: Verbs of dispute

Okukaayana	to argue
Okuyomba	to quarrel
Okulwana	to fight
Okwemulugunya	to complain
Okubonabona	to suffer
Okubonyabonya	to torture
Okubonereza	to punish
Okusuulirira	to neglect
Okuvuma	to abuse
Okujolonga	to mistreat
Okwewozaako	to defend oneself verbally
okuyisa bubi	to treat somebody badly
Okutulugunya	to torcher
Okutabukira	to get aggressive
Okutama	to fed somebody up
Okwetooloola	to beat around the bush
okunyiiza	to annoy
Okusunguwaza	to anger
Okulumba	to attack
Okutama	to despise of something around
Okutamya	to make somebody hate something
Okukwata	to rape (euphemism from ,to touch')
Okukuba	to beat
Okukaka	to force
Okukuluusanya	to force somebody into something
Okusuna	to pinch
Okugoberera	to follow
Okuddira	to follow
Okutiisatiisa	to threaten
Okutta	to kill
Okutemula	to murder
Okuwolera	to take revenge
Okugoba	to chase away
Okulemaza	to cripple somebody
okulina eddaru	to be stubborn
okulina mbuto	to be stubborn
okulina mpaka	to be argumentative
Okukkaanya	to be peace, come to good terms
Okutoloka	to escape
okuvunaana	to accuse, to blame
okulumiriza	to accuse

17. Ugandan English - Uglish

English is the national language of Uganda and though most Baganda and even non-Baganda use Luganda as a lingua franca in their country, the language of education, business and the language used to deal with foreigners is English. Just like American English or Australian English has parted from British English, Ugandan English is unique not only when it comes to the accent. Yet it is important to stress that it is in no way less correct than the British English, just like American English isn't.

Syntax

It is common for Ugandans to take over the syntax of Luganda into English. For example the question participles that are often placed at the end of the sentence in Luganda but at the beginning in English. Likewise some Ugandan verbs are directly translated into English, which doesn't make much sense for non-Ugandans.

Lugandish	Luganda	Standard English
They call you who?	Bakuyita'ni?	What's your name?
They found you where?	Bakusanze wa?	Where did they meet you?
You are going where?	Olaga wa?	Where are you going?
You know Luganda?	Omanyi oluganda?	Do you know Luganda?

Vocab

There are certain words that are used in a different way in Ugandan English than in Standard English:

Lugandish	Luganda	Standard English
Extend!	Weyongereyo!	Stand back! / Move a bit!
Well be back		Welcome back
I need to make a short call		I need to go to the restroom.
What are your names?	Amanya go gw'ani?	What is your name?
They call me...	Bampita...	My name is...
You're lost.	Obuze.	You haven't been here for a long time. / Long time no see.
Are you satisfied?	Okuse?	Are you full?
Send me..	Mpereeza..	Give me / Pass me
Not so?	Si ekyo?	isn't it? Right?
To booze	-	To drink alcohol
To happen		To party
To Foot		To walk
Even me!	nange	Me too!
For me I... (e.g.: For me I don't work)		Me, I don't work.
To produce children	Okuzaala abaana	To give birth to children
To check somebody	Okukyaawa	To have dumped someone, to have
Your side	Ku ludda lwo	Your country
Eating money	Kulya sente	To spend money

Are we together?		Do you understand what I'm saying? (usually to students)
Where is home?		Where are you from?
Irish		Potatoes (while potatoes means sweet potatoes)
Witch doctor		Traditional healer
Nightdancer	musezi	cannibal
Ever (I have ever gone there)	Dda	Already, a long time ago

Slang:

To give somebody a buzz.
'my size' or 'sayizi yange'

To call somebody up.
My type

Lugandan Pronunciation

Assume
Occupy, document
Pizza

'ashume'
'ochuppy', 'document'
Pronounced with a z

Lugandan Spelling

Pulezidenti
Pulojekiti
balaaza
Pulogulaamu
Diiru
heedimasita
paasita
Ssita

president
project
brother
Programme
deal
headmaster
pastor
star

18. Sayings and proverbs

Atannayitaayita y'atenda nnyina okufumba.

He who has not gotten around praises his own mothers cooking.

Agoba obumyu bubiri takwata ko wadde n'akamu.

He who is chasing two rabbits is not going to catch even one.

Gw'owola otudde, omubanja oyimiridde.

You lend sitting but demand back standing.

Omukulu tasobyaa.

An old person doesn't do wrong.

Ky'osiga ky'okungula	You reap what you sow.
Alina omusaayi mummyuffu.	She/he has red blood. (meaning: She/he is no different from you)
Asiika obulamu tassa mukono.	He who fries life doesn't set down his hand. (meaning: When dealing with life one shouldn't be reckless)
Omulungi tabulako kamogo.	A beautiful person can't be without a flaw.
Ekibaawo kimala, ennyindo y'enkoko kye kyenyi.	What is there is sufficient, the nose of the chicken is (his) forehead. (Meaning: Make the best of what you have)
Abikka ebibiri tabojja.	He who (tries to) cover two (anthills) will not pick up (any termites).
Bbugubugu si muliro.	Mere splattering is not a fire (meaning: haste is waste).
Ogutateganya, teguzza nvuma.	(Work) that does not require an effort does not produce any real profit.
Abalungi ndagala.	Good people (women) are like banana leaves. (meaning: There are so many women and it is hard to tell which ones are the good ones, just like banana leaves)
Ekijja omanyi kitwala bitono.	What comes with you knowing about it doesn't do much (harm).
Ekiyita waggulu, otegera wansi empungu terya bire.	What travels on high, you trap it when it goes down, an eagle doesn't eat clouds (but must come down to eat). Meaning: What goes up must come down.
Gy'otosula tosalirayo bibya.	Where you do not live you do not serve the dishes. (meaning: You are master only in your own home)
Kinyiigo tekiyuza lubugo.	Complaining doesn't tear the backcloth. (meaning: mere complaining doesn't achieve anything)
Empande emu eyiwa ekisero.	One fallen groundnut causes the whole basket to spill (because the person carrying the basket bends down to pick it up). Meaning: Don't let small failures get in the way of achieving something bigger.

Akwata empola atuuka wala.	Who proceeds slowly goes far.
Kamu kamu gwe muganda.	One by one (stick) makes a bundle.
Omuto anyumya ne muto munne.	A child converses with a fellow child. (birds of a feather flock together)
Omuzadde tafa.	A parent does not die (because he lives on in his children).
Enjala esaza magezi.	Hunger makes one use one's wits. (Necessity gives birth to invention).
Enkoko bw'esula mu nsiko efuuka nkwale.	When a chicken lives in the bush it becomes a partridge. (meaning: One changes according to the company he keeps)
Gw'owonya eggere, y'alikusambya.	The person whose foot you heal will kick you with it.
Sserwajja okwota, lukiza nnyinimu entannama.	The one who comes and warms himself at the fire prevents the owner of the house from squatting down (at the fire).
Agali awamu gegaluma ennyama.	The teeth which are together bite the meat.
Ow'enzina mbi azinira mu baabe.	A bad dancer dances at his place.
Enda muwogo ezaala abalungi n'ababi	The womb is like a cassava root: it produces good and bad (children). (meaning: A mother cannot always be blamed for a misbehaving child just like the cassava root can have tasty and bitter roots (offspring) to it.)
Omusango oguzzanga ku busense n'otaguzza gye bakuzaala.	You commit a crime in a foreign land but you wouldn't do it where you were born.
Amazzi amasabe tegamala nnyonta.	Water that has been asked for does not quench one's thirst. (meaning: Things you had to beg for cannot truly satisfy you.)
Ekyoto ekiboola nku tekyaza vvu.	The fireplace that discriminates tenacious grass does not receive ashes. (meaning: Somebody who is very picky and shows prejudice ends up being lonely)
'Weebale, weebale' amala ebintu.	'Thank you, thank you' and everything is gone. (meaning: People who long for approval and being thanked give away what they have in an unrational way.)

19. Tongue twisters

Amazzi gakulukutira gye gali gakulukutidde.

Water flows where it has flown before.

Singa ssenga y'asenga Essingo, singa sesiimye.

If aunt would move to Essingo, I wouldn't be happy.

Omusomesa abuuza abaana ebibuuzo
ebibuzaabuza ne bibabuzaabuza.

The teacher asks the students confusing questions and they (the questions) confuse them (the students).