

1	Mw-ana	child	Pl. A-	-gwira	catch, hold, grip
2	M-peni	knife	Mi-	-taya	drop, lose, throw away
3	Ch-itseko	door	Z-	-sunga	keep
4	Ntchito	work, job		-dula	cut
5	Dengu	basket	Ma-	-tseka	Close, shut
6	Udzu	grass	Ma-	-tsegula	open
	Kanthu	something		-gwira	ntchito work (verb)
1	Bambo	father, sir; Mr.		-chita	do

THE NOUN: It is very important to know the class of every new noun  
We can identify them through the initial letter:

1	M-, Mu-, Mw- (persons) . . .	Pl. A-	This is a general rule; we shall mention some exceptions in the next lessons. So, from now on, try to discover the class and the plural form of every new noun.
2	M-, Mu-, Mw- (objects) . . .	Mi-	
3	Ch- . . . . .		
4	N-, Mb-, Mph- Mw-, I . . .		
5	any other letter . . . . .		
6	U- . . . . .		

THE VERB: The negative form is expressed by the prefix:

Si- in front of a consonant: Si-ndi-li-bwino.

Present	S-in front of a vowel	s-a-li bwino.
1	Si-ndi-ona	Sindipeza dengu
2	S-u-ona	Sutenga mpeni
3	S-a-ona	Sagwira ntchito
4	Si-ti-ona	Sitisiya ana pano
2	Si-mu-ona	Simuona kanthu
3	S-a-ona	Sachita kanthu

Sinditsegula chitseko.  
Sudula bwino mtengo.  
Satsaka bwino chitseko.  
Sitifuna kugwira ntchito.  
Simugwira bwino dengu.  
Sasunga bwino ana.

Infinitive: Note the infix -sa- negative: Ku-sa-ona not to see.

Imperative: Note the infix -sa- and the last vowel -e. (subjunctive)

U -sa-one! Usasiye uta pano! Usadule mitengo!  
Mu-sa-one! Musatseke chitseko! Musaike makasu umo!

Interrogation: Avoid the negative form in questioning, because the answer will be ambiguous: Kodi simugwira ntchito?

—Inde! here means "No!" (sindigwira ntchito).

—Iyayi! here means "Yes!" (ndigwira ntchito).

Ichi ndi chiyani? — What is this? (a most useful question)

Ichi ndi chiyani pa Chichewa? — What do you call this in Chichewa?

Greetings: When approaching a person or the entrance of a house:

—Zikomo! or Odi! May I come near, or pass? Excuse-me!

—Ee (sometimes Odini) ... Moni Bambo!

—Zikomo! Paying a visit to somebody, it is up to him to start

—Muli bwanji? the salutations. Wait! But receiving a visitor, it is

—Ndili bwino. up to you to greet him first: Moni!

Chabwino! All-right! Exclamation.

Musatseke chitseko! —Chabwino!

Pepani! Sorry! Exclamation.

Sindili bwino. —Pepani!

PRESENT CONTINUOUS: When an action is taking place right now at this moment, we use the verb -li followed by Infinitive; or simply the infix -ku- (contracted form):

Muli kuchita chiyani? What are you doing?

Ndili kutseka chitseko.

Muli kufuna chiyani? What do you want?

Mukufuna chiyani?

Ali kugwira ntchito. He is working.

Akugwira ntchito.

The ordinary Present tense is less precise and often expresses an immediate Future. Note the difference between these sentences:

Ndikutseka chitseko (at this moment). Nditseka chitseko. I will close.  
Sakugwira ntchito. He is not working. Sagwira ntchito. He does not work.  
Simupeza ntchito pano. You won't find any job here. Sindikupeza mpeni.

From now on, let us make a clear distinction between the two tenses.

1. Do not cut the string! Leave the knife here!
2. Please, open the door! I want to put the basket in there.
3. Look! You do not hold the basket well.
4. I don't want to work over there. I am not well.
5. I don't find the children. Are they in there?
6. Excuse-me! How do you open the door?
7. Hold the string well! Don't drop (it)!
8. Look! What do you call this in Chichewa?
9. Do you want a job? All-right, take a hoe!
10. She is not well. She wants to leave the job.

11. I don't want to leave anything here.
12. Sorry, you don't work well. Leave the hoe here!
13. What are you doing here? She does not want to do anything.
14. I want to see (your) father. — He is working over there.
15. Please, do something! — All-right! I (will) cut the trees.