

LESSON 13

PERFECT TENSE

Moyo	health, life	-dwala	be sick
Matenda	sickness	-chira	recover, be cured
Mankhwala	remedy	-pweteka	hurt, cause pain
Malungo	fever	-tupa	swell, be swollen
Mphamvu	strength	-topa	be tired
Chironda	sore, wound	-pumula	rest, relax
Chipatala	hospital	-lawira	take leave, say good-by
Maliro	funeral	-mwalira	die

PERFECT TENSE suggests that the action has taken place recently and is finished: Ndamanga nyumba I have built a house.

- 1 Nda- It is characterized by the vowel -A- infix, with some modifications
- 2 Wa- in the pronoun-prefix (the vowel -I- is dropped).
- 3 Wa- Waononga ndalama zingati? have you spent, or, has he spent?
- 1 Ta- Ife tabwera ndi mawu. Taiwala kulawira mfumu.
- 2 Mwa- Kodi mwapweteka? Mwagona bwanji? Ndagona bwino.
- 3 A- Anatupa mutu ndipo patapita masiku atatu anamwalira.

There is no negative form; they just use the Past tense:
Kodi mwapeteka mwendo?—Iyayi, sindinapweteke.

- 1 Wa- A- Mphunzitsi wamwalira. Ana anadwala kwambiri koma achira.
- 2 Wa- Ya- Mwezi watuluka. Milandu yatha; tiribenso mawu.
- 3 Cha- Za- Chitseko chagwa. Chimanga chaonongeka ndi mvula.
- 4 Ya- Za- Nkhokwe yagwa usiku. Ndalama zatsala pang'ono.
- 5 La- A- Dzuwa lalowa. Dzuwa lapita: tiyeni kumudzi!
- 6 Wa- A- Uta wathyoka. Ufa watha.

The last examples "the bow is broken," "the flour is finished", show that the Perfect tense is often used instead of the Present, in verbs which express a situation or condition resulting from something which has happened: "the bow has broken..."

Dengu lichepa will be too small. ...lachepa is too small (post factum)
Ndalama zikwanira will be enough ...zakwanira is enough.
Ndalama zinalipo khumi; ndachotsa zisanu; zatsala zisanu.

AGO: Kwapita... : Munafika ku Malaŵi kwapita zaka zingati?
Papita... : Ndinayamba kuphunzitsa papita miyezi itatu.
Matenda anamuyamba kwapita milungu inayi.

AFTER: Patapita... : Anatupa mutu ndipo patapita masiku atatu anamwalira.
Ndidzakuyankhani patapita milungu iwiri.

Creetings Mwagona bwanji? Mwadzuka bwanji? — Ndadzuka.
Mwayenda bwanji?

Mwatandala bwanji? Mwaswera bwanji?
Kumudzi mwasiya kuli bwanji?

-li moyo be alive, in good health -li (ndi) moyo
-pweteka cause pain: Mutu ukundipweteka. Kulima kumapweteka msana.

hurt somebody: Mwandipweteka, Ndani wapweteka?
hurt oneself : Kodi mwapweteka? Ndapweteka dzan'a.
pain (infinitive used as a noun) :Mukumva kupweteka?

-tupa : Ndatupa mwendo My leg is swollen. Note the similar expressions.
Wapweteka dzan'a. Mwana wathyoka miyendo.

-dwa'a : Akudwala ndani? akudwala chiyani? : Akumva chiyani?

Matenda sickness: Ali kudwala matenda. Matenda anamuyamba bwanji?
sick person: Kwa Chimutu kuli matenda. Anapita kumatenda. Matenda
ali m'nyumba umu.

Maliro funeral : Ndinapita kumaliro. Ika maliro: -chotsa maliro. bury
dead person : Maliro ali umu. Muika maliro nthawi yansi?
Masiku onse every day : Anapita ku mowa masiku onse.
Nthawi zonse always : Kodi dzuwa limawala nthawi zonse?
Nthawi zina sometimes : Nthawi zina ndimamva malungo.

1. Have you done what I told you? — Sorry, I have forgotten.
2. Where does he feel pain, in the head, the back or the chest?
3. He is alive but (his) wife died five years ago.
4. I will give you a remedy and you won't feel pain any more.
5. (My) leg is swollen and causes me much pain. I cannot walk.
6. Sorry, we have got lost. Let us follow the way he told us!
7. I have received a letter, but I don't know who wrote it.
8. You boys don't be lazy! Get up quickly! The sun is out.
9. There were four chairs but one is broken; there remain three.
10. If you are tired, have a rest! Don't stay in the sun!
11. I had five children: two are alive, but three died last year.
12. He often has a fever: now he has no strength any more.
13. She became sick two months ago: I don't know if she will recover.
14. The chief has died at night: we will make the burial in the evening.
15. He went to the hospital 2 weeks ago and came back home after 5 days.

Proverb: Mwana wa kaya sachira.