Beginning Chichewa Lesson 2

Nouns consist of a stem and a prefix. Chichewa has 17 noun classes. We will work on the first two noun classes today, the singular and plural classes of the People class (not every noun in this class refers to people, but many of them do).

Singular Prefixes for the People Class: M-, mu-, mw-

Plural Prefix for the People Class: A-

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Singular: m-, mu-, mw-** |  | **Plural: a-** |  |
| Munthu | Person | Anthu | People |
| Mwana | Child | Ana | Children |
| Bambo | Man/Father | Abambo | Polite Address for Father |
|  |  | Azibambo | Men |
| Mayi | Woman/Mrs/Mother | Amayi | Polite Address for Mother |
|  |  | Azimayi | Women |
| Mzungu | Westerner (English speaking) | Azungu | Westerners (English Speaking) |
| Galu | Dog | Agalu | Dogs |
| Mtsikana | Girl | Atsikana | Girls |
| Mnyamata | Boy | Anyamata | Boys |

Make sentences using the nouns above and these verbs: Remember remove the ku and add the verb prefix that agrees with your noun. We are starting with the easy one because the singular and the plural prefix for third person is a-.

For example:

Mwana akuyenda. The child walks.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kuyenda | To walk or go |
| Kuvina | To dance |
| Kuyendetsa | To drive |
| Kupita | To go |
| Kuyimba | To sing |
| Kulima | To farm |
| Kuphunzitsa | To teach |
| Kuphunzira | To learn |
| Kulankhulana | To talk with each other |
| Kuthokoza | To give thanks or be grateful |
| Kudya (one of the few exceptions in Chichewa) Use the infinitive for this verb, not just the stem: Kudya | To eat |

A Short Dialogue

Ndikuphunzira Chichewa. Ndikufuna kulankhulana ndi anthu. Ndikuthokoza. Zikomo.

Translate the dialogue above. Practice saying it.