

I have compiled this manual because I found almost no resources for volunteers and their partners who wished to gain some competency in using the Runyankole language. This language is also called Runyankore and is also nearly identical to the Rukiga language with a few changes including spelling and pronunciation.

I have combined the following in one pdf file.

- [*Personal Lesson Notes*] Notes I have taken from lessons with the Bishop Stuart PTC nurse, Catherine
- [*Peace Corps Manual*] A manual written for Peace Corps volunteers. A copy of the original manual was discovered in the VSO library. It appears to be quite dated but this shouldn't affect the accuracy. However, I can't vouch for its complete accuracy, especially the spelling of words in Runyankole. I have chosen the sections I thought would be helpful.

This file is separate:

- [*Runyankole Lessons VSO*] The handout given to VSO volunteers at In Country Training. Since I wasn't able to attend ICT1 I have no notes and can't expand on or explain some of the notes.

The audio and the the guide for it are two files:

- [*Audio guide*] I recorded our language tutor pronouncing some basic greetings and other commonly used words. This guide follows the audio file which is a separate file.

It was difficult to organize these files into easily indexed sections, so I suggest that if you are looking for something in particular that you do a find/search.

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PERSONAL NOTES

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Key to pronunciation:

Ki or ky – ch

J as in Je' taime.

Omu – is, in, into

Omuri – used with proper names and pronouns

Aha – on, to, to, about, of, concerning

Ahari – used with pronouns and proper nouns

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GREETINGS:

English	Runyankole	Pronunciation key
Good morning – how are you?	Oraire ota	(ori-rotā)
I'm fine. I'm fine.	Ndaire gye Ndyaho	(indi-regee) (indi-ya-ho) –anytime of day
Good morning, did you sleep well?	Oriregye?	
Yes.	Ego or eh	
Did you sleep well? (group)	Muriregye?	
Good afternoon – how are you?	Osiibirota	(o-see'-bur-ota)
I'm fine.	Nsibire gye	(insi-bur regee)
How are all of you? Group	Musiibiremuta	
Good afternoon, are you okay?	Osiibire gye	
Yes.	Ego or eh.	
Good afternoon, how was the day?	Wasibota	(wasi-wota)
Fine. Good.	nasibagye	soft b nasi-wahgee
How are you? (good news?)	Agandi	
I'm good. Good news.	nimarungi or nimarunj or ni gye	
How are all of you? A group – morning	Murire muta	(Mireeree mootā)
Fine.	Turyaho or turegye	
How are all of you? – afternoon – group of women or group of men	Mwasibamuta ba-nyabo na ba-sebo	
We are fine.	Turyaho or tusiibiregye	
Ok, all right, same to you.	Kare	Car - e

Goodbye, keep well, enjoy the rest of the day (morning) Same to you.	Osiibegye Kare	(o-see'-ba-gee)
See you later	Turebane bwanyima	
Have a good night Same to you.	Oraregye Kare.	(ora-regee)
See you tomorrow	Turebane nyenkyakare	(turay ba nay nyen cha kare)
See you tomorrow morning afternoon	Turebane nyenkyakare akasheshe omwihangwe	
Nice to see you here – singular Nice to see you as well	Nashemererwa kukureba Ninye nakira	
Nice to see you – more than one Nice to see you as well	Nashemererwa kubareba Nitwe twakira	
Nice to see you (said by person arriving to the person already there)	Nashemererwa okukushanga	
Goodbye to a group-- afternoon	Musibegye	(moo-see'-bagee)
What is your name? My name is..... I am	eiziina ryawe oryoha? Iziina ryangye ni..... Or ndi	(izeena ryowee oryoha) (izeena ryawngee nee.....)
After not seeing someone for a longish time – are you okay? Fine. Fine. Fine.	Buhoro? Buhorogye? Agandi? Replies: mmm mmmm nimarungi	
Welcome back Good to be back	Kurukayo narugayo	
Have a safe journey. Reply: thank you or okay	Ogyendegye Webare or kare	(long O – gyen dege)

Thank you for the good work you are doing.	Webare omurimo (work) murungi (good) gworikukora/guwakora (you are doing.	
Well done	Webare oguwakora	

BASICS:

English	Runyankole	Pronunciation key
Sir	Sebo	(say-bo)
Group of men	Ba-sebo	
Madame	Nyabo	
Group of women	Ba-nyabo	
Bad	Nikibi	
Too hot – too bad – very unpleasant	kanikibi	
Yes	Ego	(eggo)
No	Ngaha	(in-ga-ha)
Thank you	Webare	(way-ba ree)
Thank you very much	Webare munonga	
You're welcome	Webare kusiima	
Home	Omuka	
My husband	Omwami wangye	
My	Wangye	
My wife	Omukazi wangye	
Pardon, didn't understand? Or in reply to being called – ie yes, what?	WanJl	
Or	ninga	G as in game

SHOPPING

Thank you	Webare	(way-ba ree)
Thank you very much	Webare munonga	
You're welcome	Webare kusiima	
How much does it cost?	Noguza ota?	(no-guz-ota)
What do you want?	Noyenda ki?	Ki - (chi)
I want – I would like....	Ninyenda	
(I want a pen)	Ninyenda akacumu	akachumu

How much does the milk cost?	Noguza ota amate	
I have come to buy salt.	Nija kugura omwonyo	
How much for the tray of eggs?	Noguza ota tureyi ya mahuri.	
I have come to buy a tray of eggs.	Nija kugura tureyi ya mahuri.	(Neeja coogar-a tray-e ya mahoori)
I want to buy a ½ tray of eggs.	Ninyenda ekicweka kya tureyi ya mahuri.	Echi-chwayka-cha traye (1/2) (of) (tray)
Small amount	Kakye	(kachi)
Bakery	bekeri	
Shop shops	Eduka amaduka	
Market	akatare	
Tailor	omubazizi	
Pay	shashura	
I want to pay.	Ninyenda kushashura	
Make me (build, sew, etc.)	Nkorera....	

TIMES OF DAY – DAYS OF THE WEEK - MONTHS

Today	Erizooba	(aire-e-zoba)
Tomorrow	Nyenkyakare	(nyen-cha-karee)
Morning	Akasheshe	
Daytime after noon	Omwihangwee	
Yesterday	Nyemwebazyo	
evening	omumwaabazyo	
Night	nyekiro	
Tonight	zekiro	
Noon	Eihangwe	
Eshaaha	Hour/time/clock	
Amazoba gesande. (days of the week)		
Monday	orwokubanza	Soft rw
Tuesday	Orwakabiri	
Wednesday	orwakashatu	
Thursday	Orwakana	
Friday	orwakatano	
Saturday	orwamukaga	
Sunday	Sande; saabiiti	

Days of the week are usually preceded by ah (on)	e.g. aha Rwakana – on Thursday	
Today is Monday	Erizooba norwokubanza.	
.....Tuesday	Erizooba norwakabiri.	
.....Wedsnorwakashatu.	
.....Thursnorwakana.	
.....Frinorwakataano	
.....Satnorwamukaaga	
.....Sunnisande	
Months		
January	Okw'okubanza	
February	Okwakabiri	
March	Okwakashatu	
April	Okwakana	
May	Okwakataano	
June	Okwamukaaga	
July	Okwamushanju	
August	Okwamunaana	
September	Okwamwenda	
October	Okwikumi	
November	Okw'ikumi na kumwe	
December	Okw'ikumi n'ebiri	
Months of the year are usually preceded by omu (in)	e.g. omu Kwakashatu – in March	
Sample sentences:		
Yesterday I went to town.	Nyemwebazyo ngire omu town.	injeerey
I shall go to Kampala on Tuesday.	Ninza kuza Kampala aha Rwakabiri.	Aha rwakabiri (run together as one word)
I was born in February.	Nkazarwa omu kwakabiri.	
I shall pay you a visit in May.	Ninyiija kukutaayaayira omu Kwakataano.	
I shall go to America in August.	Ninza kuza America omu Kwamunaana.	
I ate too much on Sunday.	Nkarya munonga aha Sande.	Nkarya (past tense – not recently)
I am going to have a holiday in May.	Ninza kuhuumura omu Kwakataano.	
I am going to drive to Queen Elizabeth Park in April.	Ninza kuvuga QE Park omu Kwakana.	
I eat too much every Sunday.	Nindya munonga buri Sande.	

Time in Runyankole	English	
Shaha emwe yakashese (singular)	7 am	
Shaha ibiri zakashese	8 am	
Shaha ishatu zakashese	9 am	
Shaha ina zakashese	10 am	
Shaha itaano zakashese	11 am	
Shaha mukaaga zihangwe	12 noon	
Shaha mushanju zihangwe	1 pm	
Shaha munaana zihangwe	2 pm	
Shaha mwenda zihangwe	3 pm	
Shaha ikumi zihangwe	4 pm	
Shaha ikumi nemwe zomwabazyo	5 pm	
Shaha ikumi nibiri zomwabazyo	6 pm	
Shaha emwe yomwabazyo	7 pm	
Shaha ibiri zomwabazyo	8 pm	
Shaha ishatu zomwabazyo	9 pm	
Shaha ina zekiro	10 pm	
Shaha itaano zekiro	11 pm	
Shaha mukaaga zekiro	12 midnight	
Shaha mushanju zekiro	1 am	
Shaha munaana zekiro	2 am	
Shaha mwenda zekiro	3 am	
Shaha ikumi zekiro	4 am	
Shaha ikumi nemwe zekiro	5 am	
Shaha ikumi nibiri zakasheshe	6 am	
Sample sentences:		
Ninza kukareba shaha munaana nekiweka zihangwe.	I will see you at 2.30 pm.	
Ninza kuzikuha orwarataano.	I am going to give you money on Friday.	
Ninza kukikuha orwakataano.	I will give you (item) on Friday.	
Eshaha Shaha Minutes	Time Hour nedakika	

Munaana nedakika ikumi nitaano	8.15	
Munaana nekiweka	8.30	

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, ETC.

Who?	Oha	
How?	Ota	
Where?	Nkahi	
When?	Ryari	Soft r (er yari)
Why?	Ahabwenki	
What?	Ki	(chi)
Who told you?	Noha owakugambira	
That	ekyo	
Is it?	tikwo?	
When will I see you?	Turebane ryari?	Soft r – er-yari
Where are you going?	Nozahi	(no-zahee)
I am going to Mbarara.	Ninza Mbarara	
I am going to drink tea.	Ninza kuyinwa chai	
I am going dancing .	Ninza kuzina.	
I am going to class .	Ninza omukibina.	
I am going to class to learn .	Ninza Kushoma.	
I am going to teach .	Ninza kushomesa.	
I am going to do washing .	Ninza kwozya.	
I am going to sit .	Ninza kushutama.	
Where are you coming from?	Norugahi	(noru ga hee)
I am coming from...	Ninduga	
Why are you late?	Ahabwenki wakyerererwa?	
What class are you in? (P1, Replies: I am in Primary 1: P2 P3 P4 P5	Noshoma ekyakangahi Ninshoma ekyokubanza. Ninshoma ekyakabiri. Ninshoma ekyakashatu. Ninshoma ekyakana. Ninshoma ekyakataano. Ninshoma ekyamukaaga.	(echi kangahi)

P6 P7	Ninshoma ekyamushanju.	
How much?	zingahi	
there	kuriya	
Here	aha	
What did you eat? Reply: singular	Waryaki? (singular) Narya (I ate...)	
Reply: plural	Mwaryaki? (plural) Twarya (we ate.....)	
What did you eat for lunch?	Kyamushana waryaki?	

VOCABULARY - MISC

Chair	Entebbe	
Table	Emeza	
Book	Ekitabo	(echitabo)
Rain	Enjura	
Paper plural	Orupapura empapura	
room	ekyishengye	
Garden	Omusiri	Emisiri
Customer/buyer	Omuguzi	Abaguzi
Thirst	Eiriho	
Man	Omushaija	Abashaija
Fire	Omuroiro	Emiroiro
Time-space	Omwanya	emwanya
Half/part	Ekwicwika	Ekwicwika
habit	Omwicwe	Emwicwe
Problem	Enshonga	
Dress	Ekwitetyi	
Skirt	Sikati	skati
Shirt	Esati	
Trousers	Empare ningwa engufu??	
Shoes	Enkito	K not ch sound

MISC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS

Have you finished? Yes, finished - singular Yes, finished – plural	waheza? (singular) Mwaheza? (plural) Naheza Twaheza	
Have you seen.....	Wamurebire	(wamu raybiray)
Have you seen my husband?	Omwami wangye wamurebire?	

Have you seen my wife?	Omukazi wangye wamurebire?	
Give me the salt.	Mpa omwonyo.	
I hope you feel better (to someone ill)	Nyinamatsiko noza kubagye.	
Can you take my slasher to be sharpened?	Nobasa kutwara sirasha yangye kugityaza? Nobasa – can you Sirasha – slasher Yangye – my Kugityaza – sharpened Nibagityariza zingahi.	
How much does it cost?		
Can we give you a lift?	Nitubasa kukutwaraho? Nitubasa kubatwaraho? (pl)	
I am going to slash the grass.	Ninza kutemurira ebinyasi byangye. Ebinyasi - grass	

FOOD: Ebyokurya

	Singular		Plural
Avocado	Avocado		
Banana - large Small, sweet Roasted banana Ripe banana	bogoya Kabaragara Gonje omunekye		eminekye
Banana juice (sweet)	eshande		
Bean	Ekihimba		ebihimba
Beer	Amaarwa		
Bread	Omugati		Emigaati
Cabbage	Cabbage/kabegi		
Carrot	Karoti		
Cassava	Muhogo		
Coffee drink	Kaahwa/kaawa		
Coffee bean	omwani		
(a) drink	Eky'okunywa		Eby'okunywa
Egg	Euhuri		amahuri
Egg plant Small eggplant	biringanya entonga		
Fish	Ekyenyanja		Ebyenyanja
Flour	Esaano		esaano
Fruit	Ekijuma		ebijuma
Ginger	Entangahuzzi		
Grasshopper	Oruseeneene		Enseeneene
Ground nut	Ekinyobwa		Ebinyobwa

maize	Ekicoori		Ebicoori
Mango	Omuyembe		Emiyembe
Matoke -1 bunch -small bunch	Ekitokye akatokye		ebitokye
Meat Goat Beef Chicken Mutton Pork Duck meat	Enyama Y'embuzi Y'ente Y'enkoko Y'entaama Y'empunu Y'embaata		
Meat (dried)	Omukaro gwe nyama		
Meat (roasted)	muchomo		
Milk	Amate		
Millet drink	Akaro/oruro ? Obushera		oburo
Onion	Orutunguru		obutunguru
Orange	Omucungwa		Emicungwa
Passionfruit	Akatunda		Obutunda
Paw paw	eipapari		amapapaari
Pea	Orushaza		Obushaza
Peri peri/red pepper	eshenda		
Pineapple	enaanasi		
Porridge	obushera		
Potato (sweet) Yam	Ekitakuri ekitekyere		Ebitakuri ebitekyere
Potato (Irish)	Emondi		
Posho – maize	Obuhunga		
Pumpkin	Ekyozi		Ebyozi
Rice	omukyeeri		
Salt	omwonyo		
Sorghum	Omugusha		Emigusha
Soup (gravy)	Omucuzi		
Soya bean	Empoca		
Spinach	Doodo		
Sugar	Shukaari		
Sugar cane	Ekikwijo/ekikoijo	Echi-cwijo	ebikoijo
Tea – black (dry)	kyayi mukaru		
Tea leaves	Amajaani		
Tomato	Enyanya/orunyaanya		enyaanya
Water	Amaizi	(amaze)	

UTENSILS			
Fork	Ehuuma		ehuuma
Teaspoon	Akagiiko		Obugiiko
Spoon	Ekigiiko		Ebigiiko
Knife	Omusyo		Emisyo
Plate	Esohaani		Amasohani
Cup	Ekikopo		Ebikopo
Glass	Egiraasi		Amagirasi
Bowl	Ebakuri		Amabakuri
Jug	Jaaga		jaaga
kettle	Ebinika		Ebinka
Saucer	Akasoosi		Obusosi
Hand	Engaro		engaro
Bottle	Ecupa		Amacupa
Saucepan	Esafuriya		Amasafuriya
Fire	Omuriro		emiririo
MEALS			
Breakfast	kyansya		
Lunch	kyamushana	(cha-mushana)	
Supper	kyakiiro		
waiter	Omuheereza		abaheereza

ADJECTIVES:

Delicious/good	Nibirungi	
Bad	nikibi	

VERBS:

I was coming from teaching .	Naba ninduga kishomesa.	
I was teaching.	Naba nishomesa	
I was gardening (digging) .	Naba nimpiinga.	
I was planting .	Naba nimbyara (veg etc.)	
I was planting greens (any vegetable)	Naba nimbyara emboga.	

I was hungry .	Naba nyine enjara.	
I was eating .	Naba nindya	
I was cooking	Naba ntekyire	
I was washing .	Naba ninyozya.	
I was drinking tea.	Naba ninywa chai.	
I am tired .	Naruha.	Nar U ha - soft h
I am hungry .	Nyine enjara	(ninay)
I am going dancing .	Ninza kuzina.	
I am going to class .	Ninza Kushoma.	
I am going to teach .	Ninza kushomesa.	
I am going to do washing .	Ninza kwozya.	
I am going to sit .	Ninza kushutama.	
I am going for lunch .	Ninza aha kymushana.	
I am going to the computer room .	Ninza omu kyashengye kanyabwengye.	
I ate too much.	Narya munonga. Or Narya byingii.	
I ate too much matoke.	Narya ebitokye byingii.	
Have you eaten ?	Warire?	(soft r)
Do you want to eat ?	Noyenda kurya?	
What do you want to eat ?	Noyenda kuryaki?	
Washing	Okwozya	
May I take your photograph ?	Nkutere ekischushani (inkootair-ee echi-shoe-shahni) or ekishani	
Let's go	Tugyende (tugendee)	
Rain is coming	Enjura yazza kugwa	koogwa
Rain has gone	Enjura yahwayo	(ya why o)
Give me that book .	Mpa ekitabo ekyo	(echo)
Give me the book .	Mpe ekitabo	(impechitabo)
In reply to Q "do you speak Runyankole ?" I speak a little	Ningambamu kakye	(Nin-gambamu kachi)
This food tastes good .	Ebyokurya ebi nibirungi.	(run 1 st 2 words together quickly)
I shall go .	Ninza kugyenda.	
I hope you feel better. You will be better.	Nyinamatsko noza kubagye. Noza kubagye.	
Thank you for teaching me.	Webare kunshomesa. Webare kutshomesa.	

Thank you for teaching us.		
I don't know.	Tinkumanya.	
Speak slowly.	Gamba mpora mpora.	
Thank you for learning.	Webare kushoma.	
We were...	twaba	
To go to	Kuza	
To buy/purchase	Kugura	
To love/to like	Kukunda	
To eat	kurya	
To go home	Kutaaha	
To be	Kuba	
To see	Kureeba	
To bring	Kureeta	
To cultivate/do gardening	Kuhinga	
To look for	Kuronda	
To drink	Kunywa	
To mean	Kumanyisa	
To go together	Kugyendana	
To give/assist	Kuhereza	
To ask for/to pray for	Kushaba	
To order/send for	Kutumisa	
To help	Kuyamba	
To serve	Kugabura	
To want	Kwenda	
To cook/boil	Kuteeka	
To do first	Kubanza	
To finish	Kuheza	
To put	Kuta	
To cover	kufundikira	
To finish	kumara	

PRONOUNS

English	Runyankole	Pronunciation
You	Iwe	(eeway)
me		
we		
us		
they		

NUMBERS - Eshura

0. nought

1. emwe
2. ibiri
3. ishatu
4. ina
5. itaano
6. mukaaga
7. mushanju
8. munaana
9. mwenda
10. ikumi
11. ikumi nemwe
12. ikumi nibiri
13. ikumi nishatu
14. ikumi nina
15. ikumi nitaano
16. ikumi namukaaga
17. ikumi namushanju
18. ikumi namunaana
19. ikumi namwenda
20. makumi abiri
21. abiri nemwe
22. abiri nibiri
23. abiri nishatu
24. abiri nina
25. abiri nitaano
26. abiri namukaaga
27. abiri namushanju
28. abiri namunaana
29. abiri namwenda
30. makumi ashatu
31. ashatu nemwe
32. ashatu nibiri
33. ashatu nishatu
34. ashatu nina
35. ashatu nitaano
36. ashatu namukaaga
37. ashatu namushanju
38. ashatu namunaana
39. ashatu namwenda
40. makumi ana or makumiana (makumyana)
41. makumiana nemwe
42. makumiana nibiri
43. makumiana nishatu
44. makumiana nina
45. makumiana nitaano
46. makumiana namukaaga

- 47.makumiana namushanju
- 48.makumiana namunaana
- 49.makumiana namwenda
- 50.makumi ataano
- 51.ataano nemwe
- 52.ataano nibiri
- 53.ataano nishatu
- 54.ataano nina
- 55.ataano nitaano
- 56.ataano namukaaga
- 57.ataano namushanju
- 58.ataano namunaana
- 59.ataano namwenda
- 60.nkaaga
- 61.nkaaga nemwe
- 62.nkaaga nibiri
- 63.nkaaga nishatu
- 64.nkaaga nina
- 65.nkaaga nitaano
- 66.nkaaga namukaaga
- 67.nkaaga namushanju
- 68.nkaaga namunaana
- 69.nkaaga namwenda
- 70.nshanju
- 71.nshanju nemwe
- 72.nshanju nibiri
- 73.nshanju nishatu
- 74.nshanju nina
- 75.nshanju nitaano
- 76.nshanju namukaaga
- 77.nshanju namushanju
- 78.nshanju namunaan
- 79.nshanju namwenda
- 80.kinaana
- 81.kinaana nemwe
- 82.kinaana nibiri
- 83.kinaana nishatu
- 84.kinaana nina
- 85.kinaana nitaano
- 86.kinaana namukaaga
- 87.kinaana namushanju
- 88.kinaana namunaana
- 89.kinaana namwenda
- 90.kyenda
- 91.kyenda nemwe
- 92.kyenda nibiri
- 93.kyenda nishatu
- 94.kyenda nina
- 95.kyenda nitaano
- 96.kyenda namukaaga

97. kyenda namushanju
 98. kyenda namunaana
 99. kyenda namwenda

100	igana (or kikumi) (use igana for 100 only)	150	igana ataano
200	Bibiri	250	Bibiri ataano
		251	Bibiri ataano nemwe
300	bishatu	350	bishatu ataano
400	Bina	450	Bina ataano
500	Bitano	550	Bitano ataano
600	Rukaga	650	Rukaga ataano
700	Rushanju	750	Rushanju ataano
800	runana	850	Runana ataano
900	Rwenda	950	Rwenda ataano
1000	Rukumi	1050	Rukumi ataano
1100	Rukumi nakikumi		
1200	Rukumi nabibiri		
1300	Rukumi nabishatu		
1400	Rukumi nabina		
1500	Rukumi nabitano		
1600	Rukumi narukaaga		
1700	Rukumi narushanju		
1800	Rukumi narunana		
1900	Rukumi narwenda		
2000	Enkumibiri	2500	Enkumibiri nabitano
3000	Enkumishatu	3500	Enkumishatu nabitano
4000	Enkumina	4500	Enkumina nabitano
5000	Enkumitano	5500	Enkumitano nabitano
6000	Kakaga	6500	Kakaga nabitano
7000	Kashanju	7500	Kashanju nabitano
8000	Kanaana	8500	Kanaana nabitano
9000	Kenda	9500	Kenda nabitano
10000	omutwaro	10500	Omutwaro nabitano
11000	Omutwaro narukumi	11500	Omutwaro rukumi nabitano
12000	Omutwaro nenkumibiri	12500	Omutwaro nenkumibiri nabitano
13000	Omutwaro nenkumishatu	13500	Omutwaro nenkumishatu nabitano
14000	Omutwaro nenkumina	14500	Omutwaro nenkumina nabitano
15000	Omutwaro nenkumitano	15500	Omutwaro nenkumitano nabitano
16000	Omutwaro nakaaga?	16500	Omutwaro nakaaga?

			Nabitano
17000	Omutwaro nakashanju	17500	Omutwaro nakashanju nabitano
18000	Omutwaro nakanaana	18500	Omutwaro nakanaana nabitano
19000	Omutwaro nakenda	19500	Omutwaro nakenda nabitano
20000	Emitwaro ebiri	20500	Emitwaro ebiri nabitano
21000	Emitwaro ebiri narukumi	21500	Emitwaro ebiri narukumi nabitano
22000	Emitwaro ebiri nenkumi ibiri	22500	Emitwaro ebiri nenkumi ibiri nabitano
23000	Emitwaro ebiri nenkumi ishatu	23500	Emitwaro ebiri nenkumi ishatu nabitano
24000	Emitwaro ebiri nenkumi ina	24500	
25000	Emitwaro ebiri nenkumi itaano	25500	
26000	Emitwaro ebiri nenkumi nakakaga	26500	
27000	Emitwaro ebiri nenkumi nakashanju	27500	
28000	Emitwaro ebiri nenkumi nakanaana	28500	
29000	Emitwaro ebiri nenkumi nakenda	29500	
30000	Emitwaro eshatu	30500	
35000	Emitwaro eshatu necicweka		
40000	Emitwaro ena		
45000	Emitwaro ena necicweka		
50000	Emitwaro etano		
55000	Emitwaro etano necicweka		
60000	Emitwaro mukaaga		
65000	Emitwaro mukaaga necicweka		
70000	Emitwaro mushanju		
75000	Emitwaro mushanju necicweka		
80000	Emitwaro munaana		
85000	Emitwaro munaana necicweka		
90000	Emitwaro mwenda		
95000	Emitwaro mwenda necicweka		
100000	Emitwaro ikumi		

BODY PARTS

Runyankole	English – singular	Plural	
Eishokye	Hair	Amashokye	Ri-ma
Oruju	Grey hair	Enju	Ru-n
Omutwe	Head	Emitwe	Mu-mi
Ahamaisho	Face	Ahamaisho	n-n
Obuso	Forehead	Obuso	n-n
Eriisho	Eye	Amaisho	Ri-ma
Enyindo	Nose	Enyindo	n-n
Okutu	Ear	Amatu	Ku-ma
Bahungu	Eyebrow	Bahungu	n-n
Obwonko	Brain	Obwonko	n-n
Omunwa	Lip	Eminwa	Mu-mi
Akanwa	Mouth	Akanwa	n-n
Eriino	Tooth	Amaino	Ri-ma
Orurimi	Tongue	Endimi	Ru-n
Eitama	Cheek	Amatama	Ri-ma
Ekireju	Chin	Ebireju	Ki-bi
Enkomo	Back of head	Enkomo	n-n
Ebitsya	Neck	Ebitsya	n-n
Amaraka	Outer throat	Amaraka	n-n
Omumiro	Inner throat	Emimiro	Mu-mi
Ekifuba	Chest	Ebifuba	Ki-bi
Eibega	Shoulder	Amabega	Ri-ma
Omukono	Arm	emikono	Mu-m

RUNYANKOLE/RUNYANKORE

**(from the manual by Henry Kabwayo of Makioki Language Services
for the Peace Corps, USA)**

The sound system:

There are ten main vowel sounds and three diphthongs in Runyankole. Five are short vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u) and the other five are long vowel sounds (aa, ee, ii, oo, uu). The three diphthongs are combinations with (ai, ei, oi).

The short vowels:

Vowel	Example	English
A as in mat	Kubara	To count
E as in berry	Kuheza	To finish
I as in lit	Kurira	To cry
O as in doll	Kukora	To do/to work
U as in courier	Kubura	To get lost

The long vowels:

Aa as in father	Kubaaga	To slaughter
Ee as in flee	Kuteeka	To cook
Ii as in ?	Kuhiiga	To hunt
Oo as in corner	Kuroota	To dream
Uu as in stoop	Kubuuza	To ask

Diphthongs:

Ai as in height	Baitu	But
Ei as in reign	Eizooba	Sun
Oi as in quoit	Kwetomboita	To grumble

There are only 18 consonants of the alphabet though 21 consonant sounds exist in Runyankole. The consonant sounds are as follows:

B – it is soft except after m.

e.g. embogo – buffalo

C – always pronounced ch. It is never as in ceiling or curious.

Eg. Ecupa – bottle

D – it only occurs after n except in some words of foreign origin.

Eg. Enda – stomach

Ediini – religions (foreign)

F – sometimes pronounced as fw.

Eg. Kufa – to die

G – it is hard when followed by a, e, o, u or w. But when followed by l or y, it is soft.

Eg. Kugwa – to fall (hard)

Kuhandiika – to write

H – it is always hard.

Eg. Enjojo – elephant

K – it is hard when followed by a, e, o, u, or w. However, it is soft when followed by l or y.

Eg. Kureeba – to see (hard as in kangaroo)

Ekitabo – book (soft as in cheese)

M – as in many.

Eg. Emiti – trees

N – as in no.

Eg. Kunaga – to throw or throw away

Ny as in French baigner

Eg. Enyaanya – tomatoes

P – it is rare except after m and in words of foreign origin.

Eg. Empare – trousers, knickers, pants, shorts

Paasi – flat iron

R – has entirely replaced L in writing.

Eg. Kurara – to spend the night

S – as I say

Eg. Kusa – to grind

Sh – as in shop

Eg. Kushoma – to read

T – its sound is dental

Eg. Taata – (my) father

Ts – as in its and does not occur in Rukiga language

V – as in very

Eg. Kuvuga – to driver/to steer

W – as in way. It occurs in many compounds such as bw, cw, mw, nw, nyw, etc.

Eg. Ebwa – dog

Y – as in yes. It also occurs in compounds like ky, my, sy, tsy etc.

Eg. Kuyomba – to shout

Z – as in zero

Eg. Kuzaana – to play

Sound changes:

The letter n, to be followed by b or p changes to m. e.g. ni-m-baaga

I am slaughtering. (for ni-n-baaga)

Ni-m-pinga – I am digging – for ni-n-hinga

Noohinga – You are digging.

The letter r when preceded by n changes to d.

e.g. ni-n-deeba – I am seeing (for ni-n-reeba)

naareeba – He is seeing

Letter n when followed by m is either dropped or where it is a pronoun change to m.

Eg. Nibammanya – they know

Note:

Double consonants are seldom written and the only ones which occur are double n and mm which are found only when the pronoun n (I, me) directly precedes a verb stem or another pronoun beginning with n or m.

Letters X, I, and Q don't exist in Runyankole.

The vowel u cannot begin words in Runyankole.

Pronunciation of vowels is practically the same way as they are written. Hence:

A is not pronounced as ei

Ee is not pronounced as ei

Oo is not pronounced as ei

When a word ends in a particular vowel and it occurs with another word which begins with a different vowel, then one of them can be deleted, and the remaining one must be lengthened with an apostrophe.

Eg. Omwana ogu omwan'ogu (this child)

Ekikyere eki ekikyer'eki (this toad)

Chapter 1

VOCABULARY: (ebigambo – words)

Runyankole	English	Plural	Noun class
Endamutsyo	Greeting	Endamutsyo	n-n
Ekigaaniiro	Conversation/dialogue	Ekigaaniiro	Ki-bi
Akasheeshe	Morning	Akasheeshe	n-n
Ekigambo	Word	Ebigambo	Ki-bi
Eiziina	Name	Amaziina	Ri-ma
Munywani	Friend	Banywani	Mu-ba
Omugyenyi	Visitor	Abagyenyi	Mu-ba
Sebo	Sir	Basebo	
Nyabo	Madame	Banyabo	
Nyineeka	Host/head of house	Banyineeka	
Omushomesa	Teacher	Abashomesa	Mu-ba
Eka	Home	Amaka	
Omuntu	Person	Abantu	Mu-ba

VERBS:

Ku-raara	To spend the night
Ku-siiba	To spend the day
Ku-gaaniira	To converse
Ku-gamba	To speak
Ku-ruga	To come from
Ku-gyenda	To go to
Kw-eta	To call
Ku-shemererwa	To be glad
Ku-reeba	To see
Ku-kira	To exceed/to outstrip
Ku-ramutsya	To greet
Ku-taaha	To go home
Ku-ronda	To look for
Ku-za	To go to
Ku-taayaaya	To visit
Ku-garuka	To return
Ku-tegyereza	To wait for
Ku-taahamu	To enter/to go in
Ku-siga	To leave behind
Kw-ija	To come
Ku-kunda	To love/to like
Kw-anga	To hate

Adjectives:

-rungi

} well, beautiful

gye

eg. Omukazi murungi a beautiful woman
 ekitabo kirungi a good book

Conjunctions:

Shana perhaps
 Kwonka but, nevertheless
 Ni is, are
 Kandi and

Other expressions:

Agandi	what is the news
Ni marungi	it is good, well
Eego	Yes
Ngaaha	No
Omuka	Home, at home
-ta	How?
Ndyaho	I am there, I am okay
Turyaho	We are there, we are okay
iwe	You (singular)
Ndigye	I am fine
Oriyo	Are you there?
Niiwe	It is you (singular)
Niinye	It is me
Ryangye	My/mine
Ryawe	Yours (singular)
Oha?	Who?
Owaanyu	Your home
Owaitu	Our/my home
-ti	That (when reporting)
Baranyeta	They are calling you
barakweta	They call me
Ogumeho	Stay well, bye bye
kare	okay
Turimu	We are in
Wangye	Mine
Haihi	near
Kodi kodi	Knock at the door
Omu/omuri	Is in, into
Waawe	Yours
Buri	Every
Bingi	Many
Munonga	Very much
Ka ngyende	Let me go

Grammar explanation:

VERBS:

The infinitive in Runyankole is formed by prefixing 'ku' or 'kw' before a vowel to the stem of the verb. Eg.

Runyankole	English	Plural
-heza	Ku-heza	To finish
-gyenda	Kw-iba	To go
-iba	Kw-iba	To steal
-oreka	Kw-oreka	To show
-rya	Ku-rya	To eat

Subject Prefixes:

For the MU-BA class of nouns which contains all the words for human beings, the subject prefixes are:

Singular	Plural
N – I, me	Tu – we
O – You	Mu – You
A – he/she	Ba - They

For the other noun classes, the subject prefixes are:

Runyankole	Plural	Noun Class
Ki	Bi	Ki-bi
Ku	Ma	Ku-ma
Mu	Mi	Mu-mi
Ri	Ma	Ri-ma
Ru	N	Ru-n
N	N	n-n
Ka	Bu	Ka-bu

Present indefinite or everyday tense:

It is a habitual tense in Runyankole. It is formed by putting the above subject prefixes (SP) before the verb stem (VS) thus:

Everyday tense = SP + VS

Eg.

Kukunda	To love/like	Tukunda	We love
Nkunda	You love	Mukunda	You love
Akunda	He loves	Bakunda	They love

The very near past tense:

It is used for all actions which have just happened or have occurred that day. It is formed by infixing –aa- between the subject prefix and the verb stem. I.e. SP + aa + VS

Note: in this tense the subject prefixes for you (singular) and he/she change to w and y respectively. The SP for we and you (plural) change to tw and mw respectively. E.g

Kusiiba	To spend the day
Naasiiba	I've spent the day
Waasiiba	He has spent the day
Twasiiba	We have spent the day
Mwasiiba	You have spent the day
Baasiiba	They have spent the day

The verb 'to be'

This verb is very irregular in Runyankole. The correct use of the verb 'to be' is somehow difficult to master. However, two points in particular must be borne in mind:

That there are two verbs the stems of which are:

-iba which has all the usual tenses

-ri which appears only in the present either alone or as the main verb with a compound tense of -ba.

That there are many different ways of expressing the present tense of the verb 'to be'.

One form of the present tense is take from a now otherwise obsolete verb stem -ri and indicates simple 'to be'. Eg.

Ndi	I am
Ori	You are (singular)
Ari	He/she is
Turi	We are
Muri	You are
Bari	They are

For the rest of the noun classes, the verb stem -ri indicates primarily 'to be in a place'.

Eg. Kiri omunju. It is in the house.

Runyankole	English	Plural	Noun class
Kiri	It is	Biri	Ki-bi
Kuri	It is	Gari	Bu-bi
Buri	It is	Eri	Mu-mi
Guri	It is	Gari	Ri-ma
Riri	It is	Ziri	Ru-n
Kari	It is	Buri	Ka-bu
Eri	It is	Ziri	n-n

Emphatics:

These appear in Runyankole as follows:

Runyankole	English	Plural	Noun class
Nikyo	It is it	Nibyo	Ki-bi
Nikwo	It is it	Nigo	Ku-ma
Nibwo	It is it	Nigo	Bu-ma
Nigwo	It is it	Niyo	Ri-ma
Niryo	It is it	Nigo	Ru-ma
Nirwo	It is it	Nizo	Ru-ma
Niko	It is it	Nibwo	Ka-bu
Niyo	It is it	Niyo	n-n

Cultural note:

Greeting is a polite way of initiating a conversation. Greetings in Runyankole take the form of a request about ones wellbeing, about the past, just overcome and the like.

It is traditionally extremely rude for one to pass other people (be they working) without greeting them and showing this appreciation for what they are doing.

Mwebare Thank you (plural)

Shaking of hands is common while greeting each other. Further, it is a show of respect to use titles of address (sebo, nyabo) more especially to superiors and elders.

Kneeling is also important but is mostly done by ladies/women and in most cases by children when greeting edlers and superiors.

Men usually bow their head slightly as a humble gesture when greeting superiors.

Lastly, nouns in Runyankole are not divided into masculine, feminine and neuter but into several classes according to their prefixes.

Chapter 2

VOCABULARY:

Nouns:

Runyankole	Eng. Equivalent	Plural Noun class	
Omusiri	garden	emisiri	mu-mi
Omuheereza	waiter	abaheereza	mu-ba
Omuguzi	customer/buyer	abaguzi	mu-ba
Esaano	flour	esaano	n-n
Eiriho	thirst	eiriho	n-n
Omushaija	man	abashaija	mu-ba
Ecupa	bottle	ecupa	n-n
Kyantsya	breakfast	kyantsya	n-n
Kyamushana	lunch	kyamushana	n-n
Kyakiro	supper	kyakiro	n-n
Esafuriya	saucepan	esafuriya	n-n
Amaizi	water	amaizi	n-n
Omuriro	fire	emiro	mu-mi
Omwanya	time-space	emyanya	mu-mi
Ekicweka	half/part	ebicweka	ki-bi
Omucwe	habit	emicwe	mu-mi
Eihangwe	noon	eihangwe	n-n
Enshonga	problem	enshonga	n-n
Eshaaha	hour/time/clock/watch	eshaaha	n-n

Runyankole	Eng. Equivalent	plural	Noun
Ekitookey	banana	ebitookeye	ki-bi
Ekitakuri	sweet potato	ebitakuri	n-n
Emondi	irish potato	emondi	n-n
Omukyeeri	rice	omukyeeri	n-n
Muhogo	cassava	muhogo	n-n
Ekitekyere	yam	ebitekyere	ki-bi
Ekyozi	pumpkin	ebyozi	ki-bi
Ekihimba	bean	ebihimba	ki-bi
Orushaza	pea	obushaza	
Ekinyobwa	ground nut	ebinyoobwa	ki-bi
Ekicoori	maize	ebicoori	ki-bi

Ekyenyanja	fish	ebyenyanja	ki-bi
Oruro	millet	oburo	
Eihuri	egg	amahuri	ri-ma
Omugati	bread	emigaati	mu-mi
Doodo	spinach	doodo	n-n
Oruseeneene	grasshopper	enseeneene	ru-n
Bogoya	large sweet banana	bogoya	n-n
Kabaragara	small sweet banana	kabaragara	n-n
Omunekye	ripe banana	eminekye	mu-mi
Obuhunga	maize meal	obuhunga	n-n
Orunyaanya	tomato	enyaanya	ru-n
Orutunguru	onion	obutunguru	
Omugusha	sorghum	emigusha	mu-mi
Karoti	carrot	karoti	n-n
Kabegi	cabbage	kabegi	n-n
Ekikoijo	sugar cane	ebikoijo	ki-bi
Empoca	soya bean	empoca	n-n
Eshenda	red pepper	eshenda	n-n
Enyama	meat	enyama	n-n
“y’ente	beef	“y’ente	n-n
“y’embuzi	goat’s meat	“y’embuzi	n-n
“y’enkoko	chicken	“y’enkoko	n-n
“y’entaama	mutton	“y’entaama	n-n
“y’empunu	pork	“y’empunu	n-n
“y’embaata	duck’s meat	“y’embaata	n-n
omwonyo	salt	omyonyo	n-n
ekijuma	fruit	ebijuma	ki-bi
omuyembe	mango	emiyembe	mu-mi
omucungwa	orange	emicungwa	mu-mi
akatunda	passion fruit	obutunda	ka-bu
enanaasi	pineapple	enanaasi	n-n
vakedo	ovakedo (avocado?)	vakedo	n-n
eipapaari	pawpaw	amapapaari	ri-ma
ekifeneesi	jack fruit	ebifeneesi	ki-bi
endimu	lemon	endimu	n-n
eky’okunywa	a drink	eby’okunywa	ki-bi
amate	milk	amate	n-n
obushera	porridge	obushera	n-n

kyayi	tea	kyayi	n-n
amaarwa	beer	amaarwa	n-n
eshande	sweet banana juice	eshande	n-n
obuhunga	maize porridge	obuhunga	n-n
amajaani	tea leaves	amajaani	n-n
kaahwa/kaawa	coffee drink	kaahwa/kaawa	n-n
omwani	coffee bean	omwani	n-n
shukaari	sugar	shukaari	n-n

UTENSILS:

Ehuuma	fork	ehuuma	n-n
Akagiiko	teaspoon	obugiiko	ka-bu
Ekigiiko	spoon	ebigiiko	ki-bi
Omusyo	knife	emisyo	mu-mi
Esohaani	plate	esohani	n-n
Ekikopo	cup	ebikopo	ki-bi
Egiraasi	glass	egiraasi	n-n
Ebakuri	bowl	ebakuri	n-n
Jaaga	jug	jaaga	n-n
Ebinika	kettle	ebinika	n-n
Akasoosi	saucer	akasoosi	n-n
Engaro	hand	engaro	n-n

VERBS:

Runyankole	English equivalent
Ku-za	to go to
Ku-gura	to buy/to purchase
Ku-kunda	to love/to like
Ku-rya	to eat
Ku-taaha	to go home
Ku-ba	to be
Ku-reeba	to see
Ku-reeta	to bring
Ku-hinga	to cultivate/to do gardening
Ku-ronda	to look for
Ku-nywa	to drink
Ku-manyisa	to mean

Ku-gyendana	to go together
Ku-hereza	to give/assist
Ku-shaba	to ask for/to pray for
Ku-tumisa	to order for/to send for
Ku-yamba	to help
Ku-gabura	to serve
Kw-enda	to want
Ku-teeka	to cook/to boil
Ku-banza	to do first
Ku-heza	to finish
Ku-ta	to put
Ku-fundikira	to cover
Ku-mara	to finish
Ku-riisa	to eat with
Ku-tebeekanisa	to prepare
Kw-anga	to refuse/to hate
Kw-ija	to come
Ku-shanga	to find
Ku-nura	to eat at/to eat in
Ku-nywera	to drink at/to drink in
Ku-shiisha	to spoil
Ku-sinda	to get drunk

ADJECTIVES:

-kye		small	mu-ba	
e.g.	omuntu	mukye	small person	mu-ba
	abantu	bakye	small people	
	ekitabo	kikye	small book }	ki-bi
	ebitabo	bikye	small books }	
	-bi		bad/ugly	
e.g.	omuti	mubi	bad/ugly tree }	mu-mi
	emiti	mibi	bad/ugly trees }	
	omushaija		mubi bad/ugly man }	
	abashaija		babi bad/ugly men }	mu-ba

Compare:

Omuti murungi	good tree	mu-mi
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Abashaija barungi good men mu-ba

Adverbs:

Obundi - at times, sometimes, at other time
Buzima - truly
Aha - here

Conjunctions:

Ninga - or
Kandi - and, again, moreover
Kwonka - but, nevertheless
Na or n' - and

Other expressions:

Tikiine - it doesn't have
Webare - thank you
Munonga - very, very much
Ahanki? }
Ahabw'enki } - why?

Ya or y' before a vowel – of (singular in the n-n class)

COMPREHENSION:

Fill in the blanks:

Ninkunda kurya _____, _____ n' _____
Kwonka tinkunda kurya _____ ninga _____
Ninkunda kunywa _____, _____ n' _____

Amaarwa ni marungi kwonka nyowe tinganywa.

Ninyanga _____ amaarwa. Tindikwenda kusinda. Amate ni marungi kandi n'obushera ni burungi. Munyani waawe naakunda kurya ki?

Kandi iwe nookunda kunywa

Ki na ki?

A. Hindura omu Rujungu (translate into English)

- (i) Ebihima n'obushaza nookunda ki?
- (ii) Engaro ziry gye oburo.
- (iii) Niturya eminekye.
- (iv) Hati niinyenda kurya ebitookye byonka.

- (v) Nitunywa amate gatarimu shukari.
- (vi) Joseph naakunda kaawa kwonka munywani we Peter naakunda obushera.
- (vii) Amaarwa gashiiisha amaka.

B. Hindura omu Runyankole:

- (i) I like tea without sugar.
- (ii) He is not eating meat.
- (iii) He doesn't eat meat.
- (iv) Petering is drinking beer in a glass and conversing with his friend Joseph.
- (v) It is good to eat with a fork.
- (vi) Knives peel well potatoes.
- (vii) Thank you very much.
- (viii) Do you have rice, chicken and cassava?
- (ix) You are welcome.
- (x) What have you ordered for, Sir?
- (xi) We don't have beans and fish.
- (xii) Give me a glass of banana juice.

GRAMMAR EXPLANATION:

(i) The negative:

In Runyankole, the general rule for forming the negative of any particular verb is to place TI- before the subject prefix. When the subject prefix is a vowel, the Ti- contracts to T-. e.g.

Ku-teeka	to cook
Tinteeka	I do not cook.
Toteeka	you do not cook (singular)
Tituteeka	we do not cook.
Timuteeka	you do not cook (plural)
Tibateeka	they do not cook.

(ii) The imperative

The present imperative consists of a second person singular only, and is simply the stem of the verb. E.g.

Reeta	bring
Ija	come

Kora	work
Rya	eat
Haata	peel

To form imperatives in the negative, the negative particle –ta- is inserted between the subject prefix and the verb stem. If the stem of the verb begins with a vowel other than I, the a of –ta is dropped and the following vowel lengthened.

i.e.	Negative imperative	=	SP + ta + VS e.g.
	otareeta		don't bring
	otaija		don't come
	oteeta		don't call (verb stem – eta)
	otakora		don't do
	otarya		don't eat
	otaanga		don't refuse (verb stem – anga)
	otoozya		don't wash (verb stem – osya)

(iii) The initial vowel:

Most nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions have an initial vowel which stands before the class prefix of the word. Thus the word E-ki-tabo consists of the initial vowel, the class prefix and the stem of the word.

Formation of the initial vowel:

Nouns whose prefix contain 'u' take the initial vowel 'o'.

e.g.	o-mu-ti	tree	o-mu-siri	garden
	o-mukyeeri	rice	o-mu-hingi	farmer
	o-mu-gusha	sorghum	o-mu-teeki	cook

Nouns whose prefix contain 'a' take the initial vowel 'a'

e.g.	a-ma-huri	eggs	a-ma-te	milk
	a-ma-izi	water	a-ka-tunda	passion fruit
	a-ba-teeki	cooks	a-ka-soosi	saucer

The rest of the nouns take the vowel 'e'

e.g.	e-n-te	cow	e-n-yama	meat
	e-mi-ti	trees	e-l-huri	egg
	e-ki-him-ba	bean	e-ki-coori	maize

The above rules equally apply to adjectives, prepositions and adverbs

e.g.	o-mu	in
	a-ha	on, here
	o-bu-ndi	at other time, sometimes, at times

Use of the initial vowel:

It is not possible to give infallible rules for the omissions or retention of the initial vowel. The following are, however, general rules which will form a useful guide.

Nouns: Nouns normally retain their initial vowel. It is, however, dropped:
After the prepositions aha and omu.

e.g.	omu kasheeshe	in the morning
	aha muriro	on fire
	omu musiri	in the garden

after the invariable adjectives buri and ibara

buri/ibara	every
nindeeba buri muntu	I am seeing every person.

In most cases after a negative verb.

e.g.	tinywa maarwa	I don't drink beer.
	Tandya mugaati	he doesn't eat bread.

After a demonstrative when it precedes the noun.

e.g.	ogu mukazi naayeda kurya	This woman wants to eat.
	Eki kitabo nikirungi?	This book is nice.
	Ezindi mbuzi ziri nkahi?	Where are the other goats?

If, however, the verb is in the imperative or if particular emphasis is required, the initial vowel is retained.

e.g.	Otandeetera omugati	-	don't bring me bread
	otarya enyama	-	don't eat meat.

When the noun is directly followed by the interrogative 'ki':

Ni muntu ki owaarya amagufa?
What sort of person has eaten bones?

Wateeka nyama ki?
What sort of meat have you cooked?

Adjectives:

Adjectives usually don't retain their initial vowel. They appear with the initial vowel when they are used to particularise the noun. This use corresponds to that of the definite article in English and sometimes to the English 'which is'.

e.g. Niinyenda ekitookye kihango.
I want a big banana.

Niinyenda ekitookye ekihango.
I want the big banana.

(iv) The Present Imperfect tense:

It is used for action which is still continuing. In Runyankole, this tense is formed by prefixing Ni- to the subject prefix followed by the verb stem. Ni- becomes N- before a vowel which is accordingly lengthened.

Present imperfect	-	Ni-N + SP + VS e.g.
Ninteeka		I am cooking
Nooteeka		you are cooking (singular)
Naateeka		he/she is cooking
Nituteeka		we are cooking
Nimuteeka		you are cooking
Nibateeka		they are cooking

This tense is commonly used in place of the present indefinite tense.

e.g. Ninkunda kurya omukyeeri.
I like eating rice.

Compare: Nkunda kurya omukyeeri.
Nibanyeta Henry.
They call me Henry.

Compare: Banyeta Henry.

(v) Interrogation:

There is no difference in the order of words between a question and a statement. In writing, a question is clearly shown by a question mark at the end. In speech the difference is intonation which is intended.

e.g. Oraire gye? Did you spend the night well?

Oraire gye. You spend the night well.

Some of the interrogative adverbs are:

Nkahi? Where? Ahanki? }
Ryari? When? Ahabw'enki } why?

Oha? Who? Ki/enki? What?
-ta How?

The suffix –ta is added to the subject prefix of any noun class to make it a questions.
The above adverbs generally come at the end of the questions.

e.g. Nooza nkahi? Where are you going?
 Eki ni ki? What is this?

(vi) Use of 'kandi' or 'na'

These two conjunctions (kandi, na) are equivalent to the English 'and' though kandi may further mean 'again' or 'moreover'. The only difference is that Na or N' before a vowel joins nouns, infinitives and adjectives; whereas kandi joins verbs and clauses. Kandi may also begin a sentence whereas Na cannot.

e.g. Kandi iwe nookunda kurya ki?
 And what do you like to eat?
 Ninyeenda ebitookye kandi ompe ehuuma.
 I want bananas and give me a fork.
 Naarya omukyeeri n'ebihimba.
 He is eating rice and beans.

(vii) Verb 'to have'

The possessive suffix for the above verb or the stem of that verb is –ine. The present tense of this verb can be conjugated as follows:

Singular	English equivalent	Negative
Nyine	I have	Tiinyine
Oine	you have (singular)	toine
Aine	he/she has	taine
Twine	we have	titwine
Mwine	you have (plural)	timwine
Baine	they have	tibaine

Note:

Before the 'i' of the verb stem, 'n' becomes ny and tu and mu become tw and mw. In the first person negative the prefix is tii- and not ti-.

The stem of this verb equally agrees with the rest of the noun classes. e.g.

Singular	English equivalent	Plural	Noun class
Kiine	it has	biine	ki-bi
Kwine	it has	gaine	ku-ma
Gwine	it has	eine	mu-mi
Riine	it has	gaine	ri-ma
Rwine	it has	ziine	ru-n
Kaine	it has	bwine	ka-bu
Eine	it has	ziine	n-n

Note:

To form negatives, the negative prefix ti- or t- before a vowel is put before the above possessive nouns. E.g.

Singular	English equivalent	Plural	Noun class
Tikiine	it doesn't have	tibiine	ki-bi
Tikwine	it doesn't have	tigaine	ku-ma
Tibwine	it doesn't have	tigaine	bu-ma
Tigwine	it doesn't have	teine	mu-ma
Tiriine	it doesn't have	tigaine	ri-ma
Tirwine	it doesn't have	tibwine	ka-bu
Tikaine	it doesn't have	tibwine	ka-bu
Teine	it doesn't have	tiziine	n-n

(vii) Adverbial suffixes:

In Runyankole, certain adverbial ideas can be added to a verb by means of suffixes. Some of these suffixes are: -ho, -yo, -mu, and -hi.

The suffix -ho conveys the idea of an action on something and also of an action done by hand but without the place being definitely indicated. It may be translated either by 'here' or 'there' e.g.

Naareebaho ente - I have seen cows there.

The suffix –yo indicates an action done at a distance. It may be translated by ‘there’ though the place is not revealed e.g.

Yaagarukayo - he/she has gone back there
Oineyo ki? - What do you have there?

The suffix –mu conveys the idea of a state within something or of motion into or out of something e.g.

Taahamu - enter (in)
Baashangamu omukazi - they have found in a woman.
Nintamu amaizi - I am putting in water.

The interrogative suffix –hi is translated ‘where’.

It is a contraction of ‘nkahi?’ e.g.

Nooza hi? - where are you going?
Nibahinga hi? - where are they cultivating?

(ix) Use of ‘shi’

This word is very common in Runyankole particularly in conversation. It indicates doubt and is normally used in a question. It can either be used alone or coupled with conjunctions baitu (but), mbenu (now, we...), nari (or) etc. In most cases, it conveys the idea of impatience or irritation e.g.

Ogure ebitabo bishatu nari shi bina.

You should buy three of four books.

Kandi shi omugaati?

And what about bread?

CULTURAL NOTE:

One is expected to invite any person who finds him/her eating regardless the quantity or quality of food. Sharing of a meal is a tradition. A visitor is normally welcomed by a drink and it is considered very rude to ask a visitor whether he or she wants a drink. It is the visitor to decline the invitation politely saying or assuming that he/she has already had a meal or drink.

Some of the eating utensils in the N-N class are these days pluralized to the N-MA class.

e.g. ehuuma - amahuuma
 esohaani - amasohaani
 jaaga - amajaaga
 egiraasi - amagiraasi

CHAPTER 3 (eshuura ya kashatu)

Numbers (enamba)

The numbers 1-5 agree with the noun they qualify. The remainder of the numerals do not change. The numerals 1-10 agree with the noun class n-n and are always used when counting without reference to any particular class. Eg

Omukazi emwe one woman
Abakazi babiri two women

Ente emwe one cow
Ente ibiri two cows

See Personal Notes for list of numbers.

Nouns:

Singular	English	Plural	Noun class
Enamba	Number	Enamba	n-n
Esente/empiiha	Money	Esente/empiiha	n-n
Enshonga	Problem	Enshonga	n-n
Ekizibu	Difficulty	Ebizubu	Ki-bi
Shiringi	Shilling	Shiringi	n-n
Omwabazyo	Evening	Omwabasyo	Mu-mi
Omwonyo	Salt	Omwonyo	n-n
Kiro	Kilo	Kiro	n-n
Ekindi	Other	Ebindi	Ki-bi
Omwenda	Cloth	Emyenda	Mu-mi
Empare	Trouser	Empare	n-n
Mita	Metre	Mita	n-n
Omukyebe	Tin	Emikyebe	Mu-mi
Buto	Cooking oil	Buto	n-n
Edebe	Tin (large)	Edebe	n-n
Omukyebe	Tin (small)	Emikyebe	Mu-mi
Ekipimiso	A weight	Ebipimiso	Ki-bi
Ekipimo	Measurement	Ebipimo	Ki-bi
Omuhendo	Price	Emihendo	Mu-mi

VOCABULARY:

Ekyaro	Village	Ebyaaro	Ki-bi
Ekicweka	Half/part	Ebicweka	Ki-bi
Omuguzi	Buyer/customer	Abaguzi	Mu-ba
Omutunzi	Seller	Abatunzi	Mu-ba
W'eduuka	Shopkeeper	B'amaduuka	Mu-ba
Akatare	Market	Obutare	Ka-bu
Esaati	Shirt	Esaati	n-n
Omufarasi	Mattress	Emifarasi	Mu-mi
Ekitanda	Bed	Ebitanda	Ki-bi

Burangiti	Blanket	Burangiti	n-n
Ebeeyi	Price	Ebeeyi	n-n
Etaara	Lamp	Etaara	n-n
Stoovu	Stove	Stoovu	n-n
Egaari	Bicycle	Egaari	n-n
Enyonyi	Aeroplane	Enyonyi	n-n
Ekintu	Thing	Ebintu	Ki-bi
Eibaati	Corrugated iron	Amabaati	Ri-ma
Entebe	Chair	Entebe	n-n
Emeeza	Table	Emeeza	n-n
Ekirago	Carpet	Ebirago	Ki-bi
Orwigi	Door	Enyigi	Ru-n
Edirisa	Window	Edirisa	N-n
Omukyeeka	Mat	Emikyeeka	Mu-mi
Eshuuka	Bed sheet	Eshuuka	n-n
Akamoori	Ventilator	Obumoori	Ka-bu
Eitegura	Roofing tile	Amategura	Ri-ma
Eitafaari	Brick	Amatafaari	Ri-ma
Edaari	Ceiling	Edaari	n-n
Omwana	Child	Abaana	Mu-ba

VERBS:

Runyankole	English
Ku-gura	To buy
Ku-guza	To lend (money)
Ku-tunda	To sell
Ku-reeba	To see
Ku-shaba	To ask for, to pray
Ku-reeta	To bring
Ku-ruga	To come from or out
Oku-hika	To reach
Ku-rindaho	To wait a bit
Ku-ha	To give
Ku-sigaza	To remain
Ku-gumisiriza	To be patient
Ku-pima	To measure
Ku-toora	To take away
Ku-garuka	To return
Ku-tuura	To live
Ku-seera	To overcharge
Ku-gira	To say
Ku-shushana	To look like
Ku-yamba	To help
Kw-ongyera	To add on
Ku-shara	To cut
Ku-vuga	To drive, ride, steer
Ku-shakaara	To thatch/roof

Ku-bara	To count
Ku-manya	To know
Ku-baasa	To be able
Kw-egyesa	To teach
Kw-ega	To learn
Ku-koresa/ku-kozesa	To use
Kw-ikiriza	To accept

ADVERBS:

Hati	Now, today
Butoosha	Always
Bwanyima	Later, afterwards
Hoona	Even, yet
Zinka	Only
Ahab'ekyo	therefore

ADJECTIVES:

Buri	every
Yaawe (pl. zaawe)	Yours
Bingi	Many
Obundi	Others
Zoona	all

Other Expressions:

Ngu	That (when reporting)
Bambe	Please, dear you
Nyaabura'we	(pl. nyaabura'mwe, please)

Preposition:

Nka	Like, be like
Kuhitsya	until

Grammar explanation:

The subjunctive:

There is only one subjunctive tense for past, present, future. The subjunctive tense is formed by adding the subject prefix to the verb stem and changing the final a to e.
eg.

Ngende	that I may go
Ogyende	that you may go (singular)
Oreete	that you may bring (singular)
Mureete	that you may bring (pl)

The negative is formed by inserting –ta- between the subject prefix and the verb stem ie.

Negative subjunctive = SP + ta + vs eg.

Ntarya	that I many not eat
Otateera	that you may not beat (singular)
Atareeta	that he/she may not bring
Batanywa	that they may not drink

An abrupt imperative is avoided where possible and the more polite subjunctive is substituted. The subjunctive is used:

To express a wish or command e.g.

Ngyende?	Should I go (do you wish me to go?)
Tugure?	Should we buy (do you wish us to buy?)
Bapime?	Should they measure (do you wish them to measure?)
Ntwenda baana bashome	we like children to read.

To express the second and subsequent of several commands eg.

Gyenda ogambire petero aije.

Go and tell peter to come.

To express purpose eg.

Arye ebitookye

Let him eat bananas.

Use of 'ka'

The article 'ka' is shortened form for 'reka' which when translated is equivalent to the English 'let....'. It is normally used with the subjunctive eg.

Ka ngyende	let me go
Ka tugarukeyo	let us go back there
Ka nkuhe	let me give you
Ka tugyende	let us go

Possessive particle 'of'

The preposition 'of' is formed by attaching the correct prefix to –a. This –a is replaced by an apostrophe when followed by a word beginning with a, e, or o. As most of the nouns have an initial vowel, this is the more common form. The prefix to –a varies according to the noun class of the thing possessed and not according to the possessor eg.

Singular	English	Plural	Noun class
Wa	Of	Ba	Mu-ba
Kya	Of	Bya	Ki-bi
Kwa	Of	Ga	Ku-ma
Bwa	Of	Ya	Bu-ma
Gwa	Of	Ga	Mu-mi
Rya	Of	Ya	Ri-ma
Rwa	Of	Za	Ru-n
Ka	Of	Bwa	Ka-bu
Ya	Of	Za	n-n

Possessive adjective '-angle'

The possessive adjective is a suffix and has the stem ending in –ngye eg.

Singular	English	Plural	Noun class
Wangye	Mine	Bangye	Mu-ba
Kyangye	Mine	Byangye	Ki-bi
Kwangye	Mine	Gangye	Ku-ma
Bwangye	Mine	Yangye	Mu-mi
Gwangye	Mine	Gangye	Bu-ma
Ryangye	Mine	Zangye	Ru-n
Kangye	Mine	Bwangye	Ka-bu
Yangye	Mine	Zangye	n-n

It should be noted that the above possessive adjective –ngye is used for only the first person singular.

The near past tense:

The near past tense is used to describe action which took place yesterday or in the more remote past, provided the time is not specified. This tense is formed by placing the subject prefix before the modified stem of the verb. It should be noted that all verbs in Runyankole have modified stems which are used instead of the simple stem in forming certain tenses. Also note that all modified verb stems end in e. There are eight rules for modifying the stem:

Monosyllabic verb stems change the final a or ya to –iire, -eire, or aire eg.

Verb stem	English	Modified stem
-fa	Die	-fiire

-ba	Be	-baire
-sa	Grind	-seire
-rya	Eat	-riire

Thus, *afire* he died (yesterday)
Turiire enyama we ate meat (yesterday)

Most stems ending in –ra and –za, polysyllabic stems ending in –na and passives ending in bwa (except passives of monosyllabic stems) insert I before the last syllable and change the final a to e eg.

Verb stem	English	Modified stem
-raara	Spend the night	-raire
-ikiriza	Agree/believe	-ikiriize

Disyllabic stems ending in –ra with a short vowel and stems ending in –nda and –ja change the last two letters to –zire eg.

-kora do/work -kozire
 -gyenda go -gyenzire
 -ronda look for -ronzire

Stems in –ba, –ga, –ha, –ka, –ma, and –ya (except causatives) and most disyllabic stems in –na change the final a to –ire. Verbs in –sha change this syllable to –sire eg.

Verb stem	English	Modified stem
-gamba	Speak	-gambire
-tunga	Get	-tungire
-taaha	Enter	-taahire
-hika	Arrive/reach	-hikire
-shutama	Sit	-shutamire
-shiisha	Spoil	-shiisire
-tiina	Fear	-tiinire

Stems in –ta change the –ta to –tsire eg.

Verb stem	English	Modified stem
-ita	Kill	-tsire
-haata	Peel	-haatsire
-cumita	Spear	-cumitsire
-reeta	Bring	-reetsire
-eta	Call	-etsire

Disyllabic and few polysyllabic stems in –za change the –za to –rize eg.

Verb stem	English	Modified stem
-heza	Finish	-herize
-tangaaza	Astonish	-tangaarize
-raaza	Blow out fire	-raarize
-guza	Lend money	-gurize

Causatives in –ya and verbs ending in –sa change the –ya to –ize and –sa to –size eg.

Verb stem	English	Modified stem
-hamya	Confirm	-hamize
-baasa	Be able	-Baasize
-egyesa	Teach	-egyysize
-koresa	Use	-koresize

Passive ending in –wa (as opposed to bwa) and passives of monosyllables in –bwa make their modified form by inserting w before the final e of the modified form of the active eg.

Verb stem	English	Modified stem
-korwa	Be done	-kozirwe
-haabwa	To be given	-hairwe
-teerwa	Be beaten	-teirwe

The adjective 'other' and 'others' in Runyankole, the equivalent of 'other' can be conjugated thus:

Other	English	Plural	Noun class
Ondiijo	Other	Abandi	Mu-ba
Ekindi	Other	Ebindi	Ki-bi
Okundi	Other	Agandi	Ku-ma
Obundi	Other	AGANDI	Bu-ma
Agundi	Other	Endiijo	Mu-mi
Erindi	Other	Agandi	Ri-ma
Orundi	Other	Ezindi	Ru-ma
Akandi	Other	Obundi	Ka-bu
Endiijo	Other	Ezindi	n-n

Note:

The adjective 'other' is formed by prefixing the relative subject prefix to the stem –ndi. The initial vowel is normally used. The singular of the mu-ba class and n classes and the plural of the mu-mi class usually appear ijo added to the end of –ndi.

Omuntu ondiijo afire.

Another person died (yesterday).

Abantu abandi bagyenzire.

Other people went (yesterday)

The 'whole' or 'all' suffix:

The suffix –na is added to separate pronouns. For the mu-ba class of people, it appears thus:

Weena all of you

Weena all of him/her

Twena all of us

Mwena all of you (pl)

Boona all of them

For the rest of the noun classes, the 'all/whole' suffix –na is conjugated thus:

Singular	English	Plural	Noun class
Kyona	All of it	Byona	Ki-bi
Kwona	All of it	Goona	Ku-ma

Bwona	All of it	Goona	Bu-ma
Gwona	All of it	Yoona	Mu-ma
Ryona	All of it	Goona	Mu-mi
Rwona	All of it	Zoona	Ru-n
Koona	All of it	Bwona	Ka-bu
Yoona	All of it	Zoona	n-n

Cultural note:

The shortened forms for the numerals are commonly used. Thus:

30	ashatu	instead of makumi ashatu
50	ataana	instead of makumi abiri
200	bibiri	instead of magana abiri
400	bina	instead of magana ana
900	rwenda	instead of magana mwenda

In a market situation, more especially where the goods do not carry the price tags, one is always expected to bargain. If one does not bargain, the people around may take it that he/she has excess money. Hence, even if the prices are fixed, there is a tendency to bargain.

Chapter 4

VOCABULARY

Nouns

Runyankole	English	Plural	Noun Class
Karenda	calendar	karenda	n-n
Omwaka	year	emyaka	mu-mi
Ekiro	day and night; night	ebiro	ki-bi
Ebiro by'okwezi	month; moon	ebiro by'okwezi	ki-bi
Tauni	town	tauni	n-n
Omwenda	cloth	emyenda	mu-mi
Noiri	Christmas	noiri	n-n
Ekiro kukuru	Christmas day	ebiro bikuru	n-n
Sikuukuru}		sikukuru	n-n
Omushomesa	teacher	abashomesa	mu-ba
Omwegi	Student	Abeegi	Mu-ba
Paasika	Easter	Paasika	n-n
Eshaaha	Hour, time, watch	Eshaaha	n-n
Omukuru	Old, important	Abakuru	Mu-ba
Embaga	Party?	Embaga	n-n
Omwabazyo	Afternoon, evening	Emyabazyo	Mu-mi
Obugyenyi	Party?	Amagyenyi	Bu-ma
Eishomero	School	Amashomero	Ri-ma
Omushuubuzi	Trader	Abashuubuzi	Mu-ba
Empare	Trouser, shorts	Empare	n-n
Eibare	Stone	Amabaare	Ri-ma
Ekintu	Thing	Ebintu	Ki-bi
Edakiika	Minute	Edakiika	n-n
Omuteeki	Cook	Abateeki	Mu-ba
Munyani	Friend	Banywani	Mu-ba
Siniya	Senior	Siniya	n-n
Omukazi	Woman	Abakazi	Mu-ba
Omwana	Child	Abaana	Mu-ba
Esande	Week	Esande	n-n
Omuntu	Person	Abantu	Mu-ba
Omujungu	European, white	Abajungu	Mu-ba

	person		
Obwire	Time	Obwire	n-n
Akatare	Market	Obutare	Ka-bu
Enkaito	Shoe	Enkaito	n-n
Akajuma	Tablet	Obujuma	Ka-bu
Amaizi	Water	Amaizi	n-n
Orutookye	Banana plantation	Entookye	Ru-n
Omurimo	Work; job	Emirimo	Mu-mi
Omushaija	Man	Abashaija	Mu-ba
Omwojo	Boy	Aboojo	Mu-ba
Omwishiki	Girl	Abaishiki	Mu-ba
Enju	House	Enju	n-n
Ekyapa	Sign post	Ebyapa	Ki-bi
Omuzaire	Parent	Abazaire	Mu-ba
Omujigaijo	Firstborn	Abjigaijo	Mu-ba
Ebaruha	Letter	Ebaruha	n-n
Enshao	Bag, pocket	Enshaho	n-n
Omushango	Criticism; judgement; case	Emishango	Mu-mi
Orukiiki	Meeting	Enkiiko	Ru-n

Days of the week

Runyankole	English	
Orwokubanza	Monday	
Orwakabiri	Tuesday	
Orwakashatu	Wednesday	
Orwakana	Thursday	
Orwakataano	Friday	
Orwamukaaga	Saturday	
Sande; saabiiti	Sunday	
Months of the year		
Okw'okubanza	January	
Okwakabiri	February	
Okwakashatu	March	
Okwakana	April	
Okwakataano	May	

Okwamukaaga	June	
Okwamushanju	July	
Okwamunaana	August	
Okwamwenda	September	
Okwikumi	October	
Okw'ikumi na kumwe	November	
Okw'ikumi n'ebiri	December	

Abanyabuzaare (relatives)

Runyankole	English – singular	Plural	Noun Class
Taata; tata	My father	Baataata	Mu-ba
Maama; maawe	My mother	Baamaama; baamaawe	Mu-ba
Munyaanyazi	My sister, brother	Banyaanyazi	Mu-ba
Munyaanya	His/her sister, brother	Banyaanya	Mu-ba
Munyanyaanyako	Your (sing) sister, brother	Banyaanyako	Mu-ba
Munyanyaakoimwe	Your sister, brother	Banyaanyakoimwe	Mu-ba
Munyanyaaziitwe	Our sister, brother	Banyanyaziitwe	Mu-ba
Mukuru wangye	My elder brother, sister	Bakuru bangye	Mu-ba
Murumuna wangye	My younger brother, sister	Barumuna bangye	Mu-ba
Shwento; tatento	My paternal uncle	Baashwento; baatatento	Mu-ba
Ishento	His/her paternal uncle	Baishento	Mu-ba
Ishentobo	Their paternal uncle	Baishentobo	Mu-ba
Nyakoromi; maarumi	My maternal uncle	Baanyakoromi	Mu-ba
Nyinarimi	His/her maternal uncle	Baanyinarimi	Mu-ba
Nyinarimibo;	Their maternal uncle	Banyinarimibo	Mu-ba
Shwenkazi; Tatenkazi	My paternal aunt	Baashwenkazi	Mu-ba

Ishenkazi	His/her paternal aunt	Baishenkazibo	Mu-ba
Ishenkazibo	Their paternal aunt	Baishenkazibo	Mu-ba
Nyakwento; maawento	My maternal aunt	Banyakwento	Mu-ba
Nyinento	His/her maternal aunt	Banyinento	Mu-ba
Nyinentobo	Their maternal aunt	Banyinentobo	Mu-ba
Sho	Your (sing) father	Baasho	Mu-ba
Ishe	His/her father	Baisho	Mu-ba
Tataitwe	Our father	Baatataitwe	Mu-ba
Shoimwe	Your (pl) father	Baamaaweitwe	Mu-ba
Maaweitwe	Our mother	Baamaaweitwe	Mu-ba
Nyoko	Your (sing) mother	Baanyoko	Mu-ba
Nyokoimwe	Your (pl) mother	Baanyina	Mu-ba
Nyina	His/her mother	Baanyinabo	Mu-ba
Nyinabo	Their mother	Baanyinabo (?)	Mu-ba
Tatenkuru; ishenkuru	Grandfather	Bashwenkuru	Mu-ba
Maawenkuriitwe	Our grandmother	Baanyakwenkuroitwe	Mu-ba
Nyokwenkuriimwe	Your (sing) grandmother	Banyakwenkuru iimwe	Mu-ba
Maazaara	My mother-in-law	Baamazaara	Mu-ba
Mazaaraaitwe	Our mother-in-law	Baamazaaraaitwe	Mu-ba
Tatazaara	My father-in-law	Baatatazaaraaitwe	Mu-ba
Tatazaaraaitwe	Our father-in-law	Baatazaaraaitwe	Mu-ba
Nyokozaara	Your (sing) mother-in-law	Baanyinazaara	Mu-ba
Nyokozaaraaimwe	Your (pl) mother-in-law	Baanyokozaara aimwe	Mu-ba
Tatazaara	My father-in-law	Baatatazaara	Mu-ba
Nyinenkuru	His/her grandmother	Baanyineenkuru	Mu-ba
Ishenkuru	His/her grandfather	Baishenkuru	Mu-ba
Nyokoromi	Your (sing) maternal uncle	Baanyokoromi	Mu-ba
Mwijukuru	His/her grandchild	Abaijukuru	Mu-ba

Muramu	Brother/sister-in-law		Mu-ba
Omuramu	His/her sister-in-law	Abaramu	Mu-ba
Omuhara	His/her daughter	Abahara	Mu-ba
Mutabani wa	Son of	Batabani ba	Mu-ba
Omutabani	His/her son	Abatabani	Mu-ba
Omukwe	Son-in-law	abakwe	Mu-ba
Omukamamwana	Daughter-in-law	Abakaamwana	Mu-ba
Muka	Wife of	Baka	Mu-ba
Omukyara	Lady, wife, Mrs, Miss	Abakyara	Mu-ba
Omwami	Gentleman, Mr, Master, chief, husband	Abaami	Mu-ba
Iba	Her husband	Baiba	Mu-ba
Baro	Your (sing) husband	Baabaro	Mu-ba
Ibanyi	My husband	Baibanyi	Mu-ba
Ibanyiitwe	Our husband	Baibanyiitwe	Mu-ba
Omugurusi	Old woman	Abagurusi	Mu-ba
Omukaikuru	Old woman??	abakaikuru	Mu-ba
Omutsigazi	Young man, bachelor	Abatsigazi	Mu-ba
Empangare	Young lady	Empangare	Mu-ba

Emyoga (professions)

Omushaho	Doctor	Abashaho	Mu-ba
Inginiya	Engineer	Bainginiya	Mu-ba
Naasi	Nurse	Baanaasi	Mu-ba
Omujanjabi; omubaizi	Carpenter	Ababaizi	Mu-ba
Omwombeki	Builder	Abombeki	Mu-ba
Omujubi	Fisherman	Abajubi	Mu-ba
Omushomesa	Teacher	Abashomesa	Mu-ba
Omwegyesa;	Farmer	Abahingi	Mu-ba

omuhingi			
Omushuubuzi	Trader	Abashuubuzi	Mu-ba
Makanika	Mechanic	Baamakanika	Mu-ba
Omuteeki	Cook	Abateeki	Mu-ba
Dereeva	Driver	Baadereeva	Mu-ba
Omuriisa	Herdsman	Abariisa	Mu-ba
Omuzaarisa	Midwife	Abazaarisa	Mu-ba
Omuzihi	Swimmer	Abazihi	Mu-ba
Omweshongozi	Singer	Abeeshongozi	Mu-ba
Omubaagi	Butcher	Ababaagi	Mu-ba
Omwibi; omushuma	Thief	Abaibi; abashuma	Mu-ba
Omuserukare	Soldier	Abaserukare	Mu-ba
Omubaziizi	Tailor	Ababaziizi	Mu-ba
Omufukaani	Wrestler	Abafukaani	Mu-ba
Omufumu	Traditional medicineman	Abafumu	Mu-ba
Omuhiigi	Hunter	Abahiigi	Mu-ba
Omuhingisa	Agriculturalist	Abahingisa	Mu-ba
Omwegi	Student	Abeegi	Mu-ba
Omuzaani	Player	Abazaani	Mu-ba

VERBS:

Runyankole	English
Ku-gura	To buy
Ku-reeba	To see
Ku-hwa	To get finished, end
Ku-beiha	To tell lies; deceive
Ku-hika	To arrive; be right
Ku-gyendana	To go together
Ku-tandika	To begin; start
Ku-baho	To be present; there
Kw-tegyeka	To rule oneself
Ku-manya	To know
Ku-kiza	To exceed; outstrip; recover
Ku-shwera	To marry a wife
Ku-manyisa	To tell; state; mean

Ku-zaarwa	To be born
Ku-zaara	To give birth; produce
Ku-tebeekanisa	To arrange; organize
Kw-eteekateeka	To prepare oneself
Ku-shuubuza	To trade in
Ku-kundana	To love one another; make friends
Ku-tambura	To walk
Ku-shanga	To find; meet
Ku-kwata	To hold
Ku-rwara	To become ill; fall sick
Ku-rahuka	To hurry
Ku-garuka	To return
Ku-bura	To get lost; disappear; be lacking
Ku-kyeererewa	To be late
Ku-haata	To peel
Ku-teeka	To cook; boil
Ku-taha amaizi	To draw water
Ku-shushana	To look like
Ku-shatura	To chop up (eg wood)
Ku-kama	To milk
Kw-ombera	To weed
Ku-sheenya	To gather firewood; pull down
Ku-riisa	To look after cattle while feeding
Kw-ombeka	To build
Kw-eyerera	To sweep
Ku-shakaara	To thatch; roof
Kw-eshera	To water cattle
Kw-ozya	To wash (eg clothes)
Ku-shangwa	To be found
Ku-naga	To throw away; to lose unknowingly
Ku-yamba	To help
Ku-raguza	To consult a doctor
Ku-janjaba	To nurse
Ku-baija	To do carpentry
Kw-egyesa; ku-shomesa	To teach
Ku-juba	To fish; to get wet
Ku-ziha	To swim

Kuhinga	To cultivate; do gardening
Ku-shuubura	To trade; peel (eg sweet bananas)
Ku-kanika	To repair
Kw-eshongora	To sing
Ku-baaga	To slaughter
Kw-iba	To steal; cheat
Ku-fukaana	To wrestle
Ku-hiiga	To hunt
Kw-ega	To learn
Ku-zaana	To play
Kw-osha	To omit a day

Adverbs:

Nyenkyakare	Tomorrow
Nyentsya; kwosha nyenkyakare	Day after tomorrow
Nyomwabazyo	Yesterday
Ijo; kwosha nyomwabazyo	Day before yesterday
Buzima	Truly; real
Hati	Now; today
Omumaisho	Ahead; in front
Nangwa	And; even

Adjectives:

Obukuru	Age; importance; responsible position
Bikye	Few; a few; little
Irooko	You (sing) may go

Pronouns:

Ou	Whom
Abo	They; them

Other expressions:

Naanye	And me/I
Eriho	It is there (N class)
Harimu	In which there is
Nikwo	It is (emphatic ku class)
Obwo	Then; when
Kaije!	Welcome! (let you come)
Buhooro?	Are you well? (safety; well-being)
Hoonaa	Even; yet
Ninyetwa	They call me (my name is...)
Na mbwenu	And now
Tikwo?	Isn't it: is it now so?
Turiyo	We are there
Bambe!	Dear me! Please!

Grammar Explanation:

Separate personal pronouns:

When written separately from the verb, the personal pronouns for the MU-BA class take the following forms:

Singular	English	Plural	
Nyowe	I	Itwe	We
Iwe	You	Imwe	You (pl)
We	He/she	Bo	they

For the rest of the noun classes, O is added to the subject prefix to form this pronoun. Eg.

Singular	English	Plural	Noun class
Kyo	It	Byo	Ki-bi
Kwo	It	Go	Ku-ma
Bwo	It	Go	Bu-ma
Ryo	It	Go	Ri-ma
Gwo	It	Yo	Mu-mi
Rwo	It	Zo	Ru-n

Ko	It	Bwo	Ka-bu
yo	it	Zo	n-n

However, the separate pronouns in –O are not very much used by themselves. The above given forms of separate pronouns combine with na to translate ‘and I’ ‘I also’ ‘with me’ etc. Thus:

Singular	English	Plural	Noun class
Naanye	And I	Naitwe	Mu-ba
Naiwe	And you	Naimwe	Mu-ba
Nakyo	And he/she	Nabo	Mu-ba
Nakwo	And it	Nabyo	Mu-ba
Nabwo	And it	Nago	Bu-ma
Naryo	And it	Nago	Ri-ma
Nagwo	And it	Nayo	Mu-mi
Narwo	And it	Nazo	Ru-n
Nako	And it	Nabwo	Ka-bu
Nayo	And it	Nazo	n-n

e.g.

akagyenda naanye
He went with me.

Naiwe nooyenda kurya?
Do you (singular) also want to eat?

Nabo baaza omu tauni
They also have gone to town.

The far past tense:

It is used to describe action which took place two or more days ago or many months or years. It is formed by simple infixing –ka- between the subject prefix and the verb stem. I.e. SP + ka + vs e.g.

Okazaarwa you were born
Nkarya I ate
Bakateera they beat
Mukahaata you (plural) peeled
Akahinga he cultivated

Ekanywa it drank
 Tukabyama we went to bed

The negative of this tense is irregular. It is formed by inserting –ra- before the modified form of the verb stem i.e. –ve = ti + sp + ra + mvs

e.g. torazairwe you were not born
 tindariire* I did not eat.
 Tibarateire they did not beat
 Timurahaatsire you (plural) did not peel
 Tarahingire he did not cultivate
 Teranyweire it did not drink
 Titurabyamire we didn't go to bed

* note the sound change from r to d after n.

The only/alone suffix –nka:

It is used to describe a situation in which one did something alone or was simply alone. To describe this situation, the suffix –nka is inserted to the separate pronouns. Though it is slightly irregular in the MU-BA class, the suffix –nka is added to the personal pronouns to appear thus.

Singular	English	Plural	
Nyenka	I alone	Twenka	We alone
Wenka	You alone	Mwenka	You (plural) alone
Wenka	He/she alone	Bonka	They alone

For the rest of the noun classes, it is regular –nka agrees with the noun by suffixing it to the separate pronouns. Hence:

Singular	English	Plural	Noun class
Kyonka	Only	Byonka	Ki-bi
Kwonka	Only	Gonka	Ku-ma
Bwonka	Only	Gonka	Bu-ma
Byonka	Only	Gonka	Ri-ma
Gwonka	Only	Yonka	Mu-mi
Rwonka	Only	Bwonka	Ka-bu
Konka	Only	Zonka	n-n

Examples:

Nkaita enjoka nyenka
I killed a snake alone.

Baagyenda bonka.
They have gone alone.

Aine ebitabo byonka.
He has books only.

Mukarya embuzi ibiri zonka.
You ate two goats only.

Ente nizirya zonka.
Cows are grazing alone.

Demonstratives:

There are three forms of demonstratives commonly used:

This: (proximal) i.e. near at hand and the exact position is known.

That: (referential) ie. Near at hand and the exact position is known.

That: (distal) i.e. far away of position more vaguely known.

The three forms appear according to their noun class as follows:

	This (proxima) near	That (referential) just over there	That (Distal) far	Noun class
Omuntu	Ogu	Ogwo	Oriya}	Mu-ba
Abantu	Aba	Abo	Baryia}	Mu-ba
Ekitabo	Eki	Ekyo	Kiriya}	Ki-bi
Ebitabo	Ebi	Ebyo	Biriya}	Ki-bi
Okutu	Oku	Okwo	Kuriya}	
Amatu	Ago	Ago	Buriya}	
Omuti	Ogu	Ogwo	Guriya	Bu-ma
Emiti	Egi	Egyo	Eriya	Bu-ma
Obusyo	Obu	Obwo	Buriya	Bu-ma
Amasyo	Aga	Ago	Gariya	Bu-ma
Eriisho	Eri	Eryo	Ririya	Ri-ma

Amaisho	Aga	Ago	Gariya	Ri-ma
Orushozi	Oru	Orwo	Ruriya	Ru-n
Enshozi	Ezi	Ezo	Ziriya	Ru-n
Akagiiko	Aka	Ako	Kariya	Ka-bu
Obugiiko	Obu	Obwo	Buriya	Ka-bu
Ente	Egi	Egyo	Eriya	n-n
Ente	Ezi	Ezo	Ziriya	n-n

Demonstrative of place:

Demonstratives can also be applied to place class HA. To translate 'here' and 'there', the demonstrative is made to agree with the word ahantu, a place.

Here (near)	aha
There (just over there)	aho
There (far)	hariya

The near future tense:

This tense is a compound one composed of the present imperfect of the verb kwija (to come) followed by the infinitive of the verb concerned used without its initial vowel. This tense is used for all action to take place within the next day and also for any future action for which no defined time is specified. E.g.

Ninyiija kukutaayaayira nyencakare.

I shall pay you a visit tomorrow.

Nibaija kunywa kyayi.

???

Naija kuhaata muhogo.

She will peel cassava.

Nitwija kubaaga ente.

We shall slaughter a cow.

Nimwija kuhiiga engwe.

You (plural) will hunt leopards.

Neija kurya obunyaantsi.

It will eat grass.

The negative in this tense is regular. It is formed by prefixing the negative particle Ta or T before a vowel to the subject prefix followed by Vi and the infinitive of the verb kwija plus the infinitive of the verb concerned. I.e. –ve = ti + sp + ri + kwija + verb infinitive. E.g.

Tindikwija kukutaayaayira nyencakare.
I shall not pay you a visit tomorrow.

Tibarikwija kunywa kyayi.
They won't drink some tea.

Torikwija kureeba ekicuncu.
You won't see a lion.

Tarikwija kuhaata muhogo.
She won't peel cassava.

Titurikwija kubaaga ente.
We shall not slaughter a cow.

Timurikwija kuhiiga engwe.
You (plural) won't hunt leopards.

VOCABULARY

Runyankole	English	Plural	Noun Class
Ekicweka	Part; half; section	Ebicweka	Ki-bi
Omubiri	Body	Emibiri	Mu-mi
Endwara	Illness; disease	Endwara	n-n
Spidi	Speed	Spidi	n-n
Omubazi	Drug; medicine; ointment	Emibazi	Mu-ba
Eirwariro	Hospital; clinic	Amarwariro	Ri-ma
Amate	Milk	Amate	n-n

Omushaho	Doctor	Abashaho	Mu-ba
Miishani	Mission	Miishani	n-n
Omurwaire	Patient	Abarwaire	Mu-ba
Omuka	Home; at home	Omuka	n-n
Omuhanda	Path; way; road	Emihanda	Mu-mi
Embabazi	Grace; kindness; mercy	Embabazi	n-n
Enkaito	Shoe	Enkaito	n-n
Embeho	Cold; air; wind	Embeho	n-n
Enjara	Hunger; famine	Enjara	n-n
Akatunda	Passion fruit	Obutunda	Ka-bu
Eiriho	Thirst	Eiriho	n-n
Amatsiko	Hope	Amatsiko	n-n
Ekyoya (nyine ekyoya)	I am hot.	Ekyoya	n-n
Oburofa	Filth; dirt; dirty	Oburofa	n-n
Oturo	Sleepiness	Oturo	n-n
Dokita	Doctor	Baadokita	Mu-ba
Naasi	Nurse	Baanaasi	Mu-ba
Eshagama	Blood	Eshagama	n-n
Ekikatu	Injection	Ebikatu	Ki-bi
Ebomba	Syringe	Ebomba	n-n
Empitirizo	Needle	Empitirizo	n-n
Omuringo	Type; kind; sort	Emiringo	Mu-mi
Omurundi	Time; occasion	Emirundi	Mu-mi
Egiraasi	Glass	Egiraasi	n-n
Amaizi	Water	Amaizi	n-n
Amaani	Power; force; strength	Amaani	n-n
Omugasho	Use	Emigasho	Mu-mi
Omuyaga	Wind; air	Emiyaga	Mu-mi
Oruzengyerera	Dizziness	Oruzengyerera	n-n
Omuhuru	End	Emihuru	Mu-mi
Obusingye	Peace; freedom	Obusingye	n-n
Obuyonjo	Clean; cleanliness; hygiene	Obuyonjo	n-n

Ebicweka by-omubiri (parts of the body)

Runyankole	English – singular	Plural	
Eishokye	Hair	Amashokye	Ri-ma
Oruju	Grey hair	Enju	Ru-n
Omutwe	Head	Emitwe	Mu-mi
Ahamaisho	Face	Ahamaisho	n-n
Obuso	Forehead	Obuso	n-n
Eriisho	Eye	Amaisho	Ri-ma
Enyindo	Nose	Enyindo	n-n
Okutu	Ear	Amatu	Ku-ma
Bahungu	Eyebrow	Bahungu	n-n
Obwonko	Brain	Obwonko	n-n
Omunwa	Lip	Eminwa	Mu-mi
Akanwa	Mouth	Akanwa	n-n
Eriino	Tooth	Amaino	Ri-ma
Orurimi	Tongue	Endimi	Ru-n
Eitama	Cheek	Amatama	Ri-ma
Ekireju	Chin	Ebireju	Ki-bi
Enkomo	Back of head	Enkomo	n-n
Ebitsya	Neck	Ebitsya	n-n
Amaraka	Outer throat	Amaraka	n-n
Omumiro	Inner throat	Emimiro	Mu-mi
Ekifuba	Chest	Ebifuba	Ki-bi
Eibega	Shoulder	Amabega	Ri-ma
Omukono	Arm	emikono	Mu-m
Engaro	Hand	Engaro	n-n
Enda	Stomach; belly	Enda	n-n
Omutima	Heart	Emitima	Mu-mi
Amara	Intestines	Amara	n-n
Ekine	Liver	Ebine	Ki-bi
Entsigo	Kidney	Entsigo	n-n
Ekihaha	Lung	Ebihaha	Ki-bi
Orubaju	Rib	Embaju	Ru-n
Eibeere	Breasts (of women)	Amabeere	Ri-ma
Omwitsyo	Breath	Emiitsyo	Mu-mi
Omukundi	Navel	Emikundi	Mu-mi
Okwahwa	Armpit	Amaahwa	Ku-mi
Ebyakwahwa; ebyakyeeri	Armpit hair	Ebyakwahwa; ebyakyeeri	n-n
Ebireju	Beard; moustouche	Ebireju	n-n
Eigufa	Bone	Amagufa	Ri-ma
Enkokora	Elbow	Enkokora	n-n
Omushaya	Jaw	Emishaya	Mu-mi
Orushaya	Jaw	Enshaya	n-n
Enjino	Gum	Engino	n-n
Orugino	Joint	?	Ru-n
Omunofa	Muscle	Eminofa	Mu-mi

Amacwante	Saliva	Amacwante	n-n
Ekiganja	Palm of hand	Ebiganja	Ki-bi
Oruhi	Palm of hand??	Empi ??	Ru-n
Orukumu	Finger	Enkumu	Ru-n
Ekikumi (e) kishaija	Thumb	Ebikumu	Ki-bi
Ekibero	Thigh	Ebibero	Ki-bi
Okuju	Knee	Amaju	Ku-ma
Entegye	Back of the knee	Entengye	n-n
Okuguru	Leg	Amaguru	Ku-ma
Ekigyere	Foot	Ebigyere	Ki-bi
Ekitsintsiino	Heel	Ebinstiino	Ki-bi
Eiganja; amunda y'ekigyere	Sole	Amaganja	Ri-ma
Orukumu rw'e kigyere	Toe	Enkumu z'ebigyere	Ru-n
Ekubunu	Buttock; bottom	Ebibunu	Ki-bi
Enyugunyu	Hip	Enyugunyu	n-n
Ekakongoijo	Ankle	Obukongoijo	Ka-bu
Etuutu; empiita	Sweat	Etuutu; empiita	n-n
Amarira	Tear	Amarira	n-n
Orukizi	Spinal cord	Enkizi	n-n
Omutsi	Vein; artery	Emitsi	Mu-mi
Eshagama	Blood	Eshagama	n-n
Orurera	Umbilical cord	Endera	Ru-n
Ekyara	Finger nail; toe nail	Ebyara	Ki-bi

Endwara z'obutoosha (common ailments)

Runyankole	English	Plural	Noun Class
omushwija	Fever; malaria	Emishwija	Mu-mi
Kuteerwa omutwe	Headache	Kuteerwa emitwe	Mu-mi
Ekihinzi	Cold in the head	Ebihinzi	Ki-bi
Senyiga; muyego	Influenza	Senyiga; muyego	Ki-bi
Kushaasha eriisho	Itching eye	Kushaasha amaisho	Ri-ma
Kushaasha eriino	Toothache	Kushaasha amaino	Ri-ma
Kuribwa omunda	Stomach pain	Kuribwa omunda	n-n
Ekyata	Heartburn	Ekyata	n-n
Ekirukano	Diarrhoea	Ekirukano	n-n
Enbiku	Venereal disease	Enziku	n-n
Ekironda	Ulcer; sore; wound	Ebironda	Ki-bi
Sirimu (slim)	Aids	Sirimu	n-n
Akahere	Septic sore;		

	gooseflesh; skin rash	Obuhere	Ka-bu
Ebibembe	Leprosy	Ebibembe	n-n
Esheshe	Dysentery	Esheshe	n-n
Obusheru	Measles	Obusheru	n-n
Orukororo	Cough	Enkororo	Ru-n
Ensundo	Tonsillitis	Ensuundo	n-n
Eizoomba	Ringworms	Amazoomba	Ri-ma
Omuze	Small pox	Omuze	n-n
Amatojo	Chicken pox	Amatojo	n-n
Rukaka	Yellow fever	Rukaka	n-n
Akakonko	Whooping cough	Obukonko	Ka-bu
Rubyamira	Combination of fever, flu, cold, cough	Rumbyamira	n-n
Enjoka	Stomach worms	Enjoka	n-n

Personal Feelings:

Nyine enjara.	I am feeling hungry.
Nyine eiriho.	I am thirsty.
Nyine ekyoya.	I am hot.
Nyine embeho.	I am feeling cold.
Ninterwa omutwe.	I am feeling headache.
Nindiibwa omunda.	Stomach ache/pain
Ninshaasha amaguru.	Pain in the legs.
Ninyenda kwoga.	I want to bathe/shower.
Nyine oturo.	I am feeling sleepy.
Nimpurira nduhire.	I am tired.
Niinyenda kugwejegyera.	I want to sleep.
Niinyenda kunywa amaarwa.	I want to drink beer/alcohol.
Nimpurira ndikwenda kurwara. Nimpurira naarwara.	I am feeling sick.
Nyine oruzengyerera.	I am feeling dizzy.
Naiguta.	I am satisfied (with food).

Verbs:

Ku-rwara	To become ill
Ku-vuga	To drive; steer; ride
Ku-ronda	To look for; trace
Ku-teerwa	To be beaten
Ku-shaasha	To be in pain; feel unwell; sad
Ku-riibwa	To be eaten
Ku-tanaka	To vomit
Ku-shabira	To pray for
Ku-gira	To do; say; have
Ku-kira	To recover; be healed; get better; exceed
Ku-shusha	To seem; look
Ku-zengyererea	To be dizzy; hover; be homeless
Ku-remwa	To be unsuccessful
Kw-eyongyera	To increase; continue
Ku-jwara	To wear; put on
Ku-hurira	To hear; feel
Ku-reetwa	To come about; come
Ku-huumura	To rest; have a holiday
Ku-gwejegyera	To fall asleep
Ku-gwejegyeza	To send to sleep; make one sleep
Ku-tungura/ ku-piipa?	To be feverish
Ku-kiza	To heal; cure
Ku-rwaza	To make ill; to nurse???
Ku-ragurira	To treat (medically)
Ku-kyebera	To consult (a doctor)
Ku-tiina	To fear; be afraid
Ku-guma	To remain; continue; be hard and firm
Ku-renzya	To have too much; to exceed
Ku-hweza ??	To see clearly
Ku-cugura	To have diarrhoea
Ku-bemba	To become leprous
Ku-muga	To become crippled
Ku-remara	To become lame
Ku-korora	To cough
Kw-iguta	To be satisfied (with food)

Ku-tuutuka	To sweat
Ku-rira	To cry; weep
Ku-sinda	To get drunk

Exercise:

Make the following sentences plural:

Ngyendesa okuguru n'ekigyere.

Omugasho gw'enyindo n'okukaga.

Eriino eririkushaasha ni riiha?

Buri kiro mbyama omu nju.

Omushaija ogwo arwaire, ari aha kitanda.

Translate into Runyankole:

Dentist

12 armpits

14 ribs

He speaks 4 languages.

He had a toothache yesterday.

I am having a hot shower.

He injected me last year.

She has a running stomach.

I have a big butt.

There is blood in my veins.

Grammar:

The passive.

In Runyankole, the passive is used when the action is being done to the subject.

Most verbs in Runyankole make their passives by inserting w before the final a of the verb stem. E.g.

Ku-teera ku-teerwa

To beat to be beaten

Ku-kunda ku-kundwa

To love to be loved

Ku-reeba ku-reebwa

To see to be seen

Ku-shabira	kushabirwa
To pray for	to be prayed for

Kwita	kw-itwa
To kill	to be killed

e.g. akaita ekicuncu	he killed a lion
akaitwa ekicuncu	he was killed by a lion

However, some have passives in –bwa as given below:

Verbs ending in sa and za change the final a to ibwa

e.g.

ku-buuza	ku-buuzibwa
to ask	to be asked

ku-manyisa	ku-manyisibwa
to inform	to be informed

ku-batiza	ku-batizibwa
to baptise	to be baptised

ku-riisa	ku-riisibwa
to feed; herd	to be fed

Causatives in –ya change the ya into iba e.g.

Ku-ramya	ku-ramibwa
To praise	to be praised

Ku-hamya	ku-hamibwa
To confirm	to be confirmed

Monosyllabic verbs are irregular. To these, the passives always end in bwa preceded by a long vowel e.g.

Ku-rya	ku-riibwa
To eat	to be eaten

Ku-sa ku-siibwa
To grind to be ground

Ku-cwa ku-cuubwa
To break to be broken

Ku-ta ku-teebwa
To put to be put

e.g.

yaarya embwa He has eaten a dog.
Yaariibwa embwa He has been eaten by a dog

Okacwa egaari You (singular) broke the bicycle.
Okacuubwa egaari You were broken by the bicycle.

The 'ever' tense:

The 'ever' tense is used to express the idea of an action which has ever been performed. This tense is formed by infixing –ra- between the subject prefix –ho is often added for emphasis. Eg.

Ever tense sp + ra + mvs (+ho) eg.

Orariire enyama y'empunu?
Have you ever eaten pork?

Stephen arashweireho?
Has Stephen ever married?

Murareebireho enjubu ziri omu maizi?
Have you ever seen hippos in water?

Omuntu weena orazaireho.
Anyone who has ever given birth

The 'never' tense:

This tense, in Runyankole, is a negative one and is used to express the idea of an action which has never been performed. To form this tense the infix –ka- is inserted

before the verb stem and adding suffix –ga. The suffix –ho may sometimes occur as well for further emphasis and normally occurs before the suffix –ga if both are used at the same time. le.

Never tense = ti + sp + ka + vs (+ho) + ga

Eg.

Tinkaibaga sente

I've never stolen money.

Tokarwarahoga muze.

You have never suffered from smallpox.

Tibakahandiikaga.

They have never written.

Titukahuumurahoga.

We have never rested or We have never had a holiday.

Takarwanahoga n'entare.

He has never fought (with) a lion.

Tinkamureebahoga omu kanisa.

I've never seen her at all in church.

Formation of nouns from verbs:

As you may have noticed, the same verb stem can appear with different affixes to form verbs and nouns which contain a common idea. Every verb can make a noun and most can make several. Eg.

The infinitive (of the verb) can be used as a noun. Eg.

Okushemererwa	happiness
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Okushiisha	sin
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Okukunda	love
----------	------

When bu- is prefixed to the verb stem, an abstract noun is formed. However, this alters according to two rules:

Generally the final a of the changes to i. Eg.

-hinga	obuhingi
cultivate	agriculture, cultivation

-hiiga	obuhiigi
hunt	hunt

-huma	obuhumi
become blind	blindness

-guma	obugumi
be hard and firm	toughness; firmness

But stems ending in ra, da and ja, which follow this rule, however, change the r, d and j to z. eg.

-ragura	oburaguzi
prophecy	divination; prophecy

-hwera	obuhwezi
help	help

-rahura	oburahuzi
bully	oppression

-baija	obubaizi
carpenter	carpentry

-sinda	obusinzi
get drunk	drunkenness

-rinda	oburinzi
look after/guard	guardianship; protection

-shara	obushazi
be mad; run mad	madness

Also stems ending in **ta** and follow the same rule change the **t** to **ts** eg

-hweisa go dry (cow)	obuhwitsi ?
-tagata be warm	obutagatsi temperature
-tata spy	obutatsi espionage
-teta be spoilt (child)	obutetsi spoilt behaviour

In some cases, however, the final **a** changes to **e** or **o** or remains unchanged. e.g.

-esiga trust	obwesigye confidence
-temba climb/go up hill	obutembo upward slopes/hill
-ruha get tired	oburuhe fatigue
-ruga come from	oburogo source
-muga become crippled	obumuga disablement

A noun expressing the 'doer' is formed by prefixing mu- or n- to the stem of the verb and altering the final a to i. E.g.

-shoma read	omushomi pupil; a reader
-hinga cultivate	omuhingi a cultivator; a farmer

-hiiga	omuhiigi
hunt	a hunter
-huma	empumi
become blind	blindman/woman
-shamba	enshambani
commit adultery	adulterer
-tiga	entigi
be stubborn	obstinate person/animal

However, there are exceptions:

Stems ending in ra, da, and ja change this syllable to zi. E.g.

-kora	omukozi
work	a worker
-baija	omubaizi
do carpentry	carpenter
-hwera	omuhwezi
help	a helper; assistant
-sinda	omusinzi
get drunk	drunkard
-rinda	omusinzi
guard	guardian
-shara	omushazi
be mad	madman

Stems ending in ta change this syllable to tsi. E.g.

-tata	omutatsi
-------	----------

spy a spy

-teta omutetsi
be spoilt a spoilt child

Some stems, most of which are causative, remain unchanged. e.g.

-shomesa omushomesa
teach a teacher

-pangisa omupangisa
hire a passenger

-gyesa omwegyesa
teach a teacher

The stems –zara (give birth), and –rwara (be ill), make omuzaire (a parent) and omurwaire (an invalid; patient) respectively.

A noun expressing the person to whom the action is done is formed by prefixing mu- or n- to the passive form of the stem. E.g.

-kundwa omukundwa
be loved beloved, favourite

-tumwa entumwa
be sent a messenger; an apostle

To express the result of the action of a verb, the prefixes of the most classes can be placed before the stem and the final a changed to o. e.g.

-teekateeka ekiteekateeko
think a thought

-naaba ekinaabiro
bathe; shower bathroom

-gaba omugabo

divide	a share
-gyenda go	orugyendo a journey
-roota dream	ekirooto a dream
-eshongora sing	ekyeshongoro a song
-kiiko discuss/meet	orukiiko a meeting

Nouns expressing the method doing an action can be formed in two ways:
By giving the verb stem the prefix of the N-N class. E.g.

-hinga cultivate	empinga way of cultivation
-gyenda go	engyenda means of going (means of transport)
-shoma read	enshoma way of reading

By prefixing mi- to the prepositional form of the verb stem and changing the final a to e. e.g.

Emigambire
Way of speaking

Emishomere
Way of reading

Ekihingire
Way of cultivation

To indicate an area in which an action takes place, bu- is prefixed to the stem and to the final a changed to o. This is often obtained from the prepositional form. E.g.

-tuura dwell	obutuuro a dwelling
-riira eat at	oburiiro pasture; feeding place
-riisiza feed at	oburiisizo grazing land
-raare sleep at	oburaaro lodging; accommodation
-reebera see through	obureebero sight; view
-raba pass at	oburabo passage
-ruhuukira rest at	oburuhuukiro resting place
-tungama be steep; ascend	obutungamo ascents

To indicate the place where an action can take place, the i-prefix of the RI-MA class is prefixed to the prepositional form of the stem and the final a changed to o. e.g.

-shomera read at	eishomero a school
-rwarira fall sick at	eirwariro a hospital
-baizira do carpentry at	eibaiziro carpenter's workshop

-batiriza	eibatirizo
baptise at	a font
-rwanira	eirwaniro
fight at	battlefield
-teeranira	eiteeraniro
meet at	meeting place
-tendekyera	eitendekyero
train at	training place
-zaarira	eizaariro
give birth at	maternity ward

There is a noun form indicating something done with difficulty, which is obtained using the prefix I- of the RI-MA class. It is normally used with the verb 'to have'. E.g.

Egaari egi eine eivuga.

This bicycle is difficult to ride.

Orushozi oru rwine eitemba.

This mountain is difficult to climb.

Ekitabo ekyo kiine eishoma.

That book is difficult to read.

Omuti ogu gwine eitema.

This tree is difficult to cut.

Muhogo egyo eine eihaata.

That cassava is difficult to peel.

Cultural notes:

There are some words which are considered to be taboo. These words must always be avoided most especially in public. Never use them in public except, maybe, when you are with a friend or with your peers but even then avoid them. They are

considered obscene according to culture. These include some parts of the body and some verbs relating actions done by these parts. Hence to be on the safe side, learn them and avoid at all times.

Nouns:

Runyankole	English	Plural	Noun class
Enio	Anus	Enio	n-n
Omwoyo	Anus	Emyoyo	n-n
Enza	Genital/pubic hair	Enza	n-n
Amazi	Dung; feces	Amazi	n-n
Emana	Vagina	Emana	n-n
Emboro	Penis	Emboro	n-n
Enkari	Urine	Ekari	n-n
Omusino	Clitoris	Emisino	Mu-mi
Ekimira	Mucus	Ebimira	Ki-bi
Eizinio	Butt	Amazinio	Ri-ma
Eigosi	Testes	Amagosi	Ri-ma
Encugura	Slimy dung/feces	Encugura	n-n
Ekinyampo	Fart; gas	Ebinyampo	Ki-bi

Verbs:

Ku-cugura	To have diarrhoea
Ku-tanaka	To vomit
Ku-cuga	To fuck; play sex
Ku-nia	To defecate
Ku-nyaara	To urinate
Ku-hinisa	To have an erection
Ku-nyampa	To fart; pass gas

Response to a question using eego or ngaaha.

Care must be taken when a munyankore answers a question using eego or ngaaha. Confusion often results from the fact that in Runyankole the reply to a question in the negative is given in affirmative. This is so when the reply is in agreement with the facts asked in the question. In English a negative reply would be given. E.g.

Tarimu?

Isn't she in?

Eego. Yes (she isn't in).

Timukariire kyakiro?

You haven't eaten supper?

Eego. (yes I haven't).

Omushaho tiyaakuteera kikatu?

Hasn't the doctor given you an injection?

Eego. Yes, he has not given me an injection.

Arimu?

Is he in?

Ngaaha. No he is not in.

Mwariire kyakiro?

Have you eaten supper?

Ngaaha. No, we haven't eaten supper.

Appendix A

Grammar summary

The present indefinite tense (everyday tense) is formed by adding the subject prefix to the stem of the verb. No affix is required to show the tense.

Present indefinite tense = SP + VS

The present imperfect tense (present continuous tense) is formed by prefixing ni- before the subject prefix followed by the plain verb stem. Ni- contracts to n- before the vowel which is accordingly lengthened.

Present imperfect tense = Ni + SP + VS e.g.

Nintwara I am taking

Nootwara You are taking

Nibatwara They are taking

Naatwara He is taking

The very near past tense. To form this tense, the tense infix –aa- is inserted between the subject prefix and the verb stem.

Very near past tense = SP + aa + VS

Note that in this tense, the subject prefixes for you (singular), he/she, you (plural) and we change to w, y, mw, and tw respectively.

The near past tense (yesterday tense) is formed by placing the subject prefix before the modified verb stem (MVS).

Yesterday tense = SP + MVS

Note that all modified verb stems end in e.

The far past tense is formed by simply infixing –ka- between the subject prefix and the verb stem.

Far past tense = SP + Ka + VS

The near future tense is formed by inserting –rya- between the subject prefix and the verb stem.

Far future tense = SP + rya + VS

The already tense is formed by inserting –aa- before the modified form of the verb.

Already tense = SP + aa + MVS

Note that the subject prefixes are:

W – you (singular)

Tw – we

Y – he/she

The 'not yet' tense is a negative tense. It is formed by inserting –ka- before the modified form of the stem of the verb.

Not yet tense = Ti + SP + Ka + MVS

The 'ever' tense is obtained by inserting –ra- before the modified form of the stem; -ho is often added for emphasis.

Ever tense = SP + ra + MVS

The 'never' tense is a negative tense formed by inserting –ka- before the stem and adding the suffix –ga. The suffix –ho may at times occur as well for further emphasis and when used normally occurs before suffix –ga.

Never tense + Ti + SP + Ka + VS (+ho) + ga

Note that Ti contracts to T before a vowel.

The 'still' infix is used to express an action which is still being carried out. It is formed by infixing –ka- after the subject prefix but before the verb stem.

Still condition = SP +Ki + VS (everyday)

= Ni + Ki + VS (continuous)

The general rule for forming the negative of any particular verb is to place Ti- before the subject prefix. When the latter is a vowel, the Ti- contracts to T-

Use of omu and omuri:

Both omu and omuri mean the same thing: is, in, into. However, omuri is used for proper names and pronouns.

Use of aha and ahari:

Both aha and ahari mean the same thing: on, to, at, about, of, concerning. However, ahari is reserved for use on pronouns and proper nouns.

Noun classes:

MU-BA class:

In this class are included all words for human beings which begin with mu-

Where the stem of the noun begins with e or o, in plural the a of the prefix ba- is dropped and the e or o lengthened. E.g.

Omushaija abashaija

Omwojo aboojo

Omwegyesa abeegyesa

For the nouns without the prefix mu in singular (such as divine and human beings and personified animals) the plural is normally got by the prefix baa- e.g.

Nyakwento baanyakwento

KI-BI class:

This class, although for the most part containing inanimate nouns, also includes the names of some crops, birds and animals.

Note that words apparently in this class may be augmentatives of words in other classes e.g.

Omushaija man

Ekishaija ebishaija

A big man big men

Entaama sheep

Ekitaama ebitaama

A fat sheep fat sheep

KU-MA class:

This class has relatively less nouns in comparison with other noun classes. Some of the nouns in this class denote parts of the body.

In singular of this class is found the infinitive of the verb used as a noun. E.g.

Kugura to buy

Okugura buying

BU-MA class:

This class contains:

Certain nouns formed from verb stems which indicate an area. E.g.

Oburiisizo amariisizo

Grazing land grazing lands

Collective nouns. E.g.

Obusyo amasyo

A herd herds

Abstract nouns with a singular prefix only. E.g.

Oburungi goodness (from –rungi)

A few other nouns. E.g.

Obuta amata

A bow bows

Obwato amaato

Boat boats, canoes

Note that this class has few members.

MU-MI class:

This class contains the names of most trees, most of those animals which are not in the N-N class, and the numbers mukaaga (6), mushanju(7), munaana(8), mwenda(9), and omutwaro (10,000) hence emitwaro ebiri (20,000).

RI-MA class:

The nouns in this class may be divided into two groups; those with stems which begin with a vowel and those with stems which do not. The prefix ri- only appears with nouns of the first group, of which there are only a few. E.g.

Eriisho amaisho

Eye eyes

Eriino amaino

Tooth teeth

The second group has the prefix l- in place of ri- in the singular. Note that the e and not the l is the initial vowel. E.g.

Eihuri amahuri

An egg eggs

Eishaza amashaza

A county counties

Eigufa amagufa

A bone bones

Eitagaari amatafaari

A brick bricks

Note also that the prefix I only occurs in nouns. Elsewhere the prefix in the singular is always ri. E.g.

Eishomero a school
(from –shoma)

eikorero a factory, workshop
(from –kora)

eijwariro a dressing room
(from –jwara)

RU-N class:

The prefix ru- appears in the singular of this class in all agreements which are regular throughout. In the plural the agreements are exactly the same as those of the plural of the N-N class.

This class contains the numerals 1,000 to 9,000 and the names of languages. E.g.

Rukumi enkumi itaano
A thousand five thousand

Oruganda luganda language

Orujungu/orungyereza English language

Orukiga rukiga language

Note the sound changes when it comes to plurals. E.g.

Oruhita empita (from en-hita)
A plain land plain lands

Orureere endeere (from en-reere)
A banana leaf banana leaves

When the stems begin with n or m, the prefix n is dropped. E.g.

Orunana	enana (from en-nana)
Sickle-shaped panga	sickles

Orumuri	emuli
Candle, torch	candles, torches

When the stem begins with a b and its second syllable begins with n or m, then in the plural this b is often dropped, the prefix changing to m e.g.

Orubanja	emanja (from en-banja)
A court case	court cases

Orubango	amabango (from en-bango)
A javelin; spear shaft	javelins, spear shafts

Orubimbi	emimbi (from en-bimbi)
A set task	set tasks

Orubengo	emengo (from en-bengo)
A grindstone	grindstones

However, some are regular though these are few and very rare. E.g.

Orubindi	embindi
Large milk pot	large milk pots

KA-BU class:

This is a diminutive class, though some other nouns are also found in it. In the singular the prefix ka- appears throughout for all agreements.

In the plural the prefix bu- will always appear as in the singular of the BU-MA class already covered.

The N-N class:

Some nouns in this class have not got a class prefix. Most of the words of foreign origin are found in this class. E.g.

Esimu	telephone
Muhogo	cassava
Paasi	flat iron
Ebaruha	letter(s)

Other words in this class include:

Names of animals and common objects. E.g.

Enkoko	hen(s), fowl(s)
Embwa	dog(s)
Enju	house(s)

Certain nouns which are at times personified and put in this class. They have no initial vowel. E.g.

Rufu	death
Bugurusi	old age
Rukundo	love
Rwango	hatred

Note that:

The prefix n, when followed by b, m, or p, changes to m. Nh and nr change to mp and nd respectively. Nn and mm become n and m. The adjective –runji takes the irregular form nungi (not ndungi). E.g.

Ente nungi	good cow(s)
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There are a few nouns, mostly of recent importation which sometimes appear with a plural in zaa. E.g.

Baasi	zaabaasi
A bus	buses
Muha	zaamuha
Fox, jackal	foxes, jackals

Maapu	zaamaapu
Map	maps
Cooka	zaacooka
Chalk	pieces of chalk
Pikipiki	zaapikipiki
Motorcyle	motorcycles
Paipu	zaapaipu
Pipe	pipes

Chapter 5

VOCABULARY:

NOUNS

Runyankole	English	Plural	Noun class
Omuringo	Kind, sort, type	Emiringo	Mu-mi
Orugyendo	Journey	Engyendo	Ru-n
Omuhanda	Path; way	Emihanda	Mu-mi
Eirwariro	Hospital	Amarwariro	Ri-ma
Ekigyere	Foot	Ebigyere	Ki-bi
Obusingye	Peace; freedom	Obusingye	n-n
Dereva	Driver	Baadereva	Mu-ba
Bureeki	Brake	Bureeki	n-n
Eshaaha	Time; watch; hour	Eshaaha	n-n
Kondakita	Conductor	Baakondakita	Mu-ba
Edakiika	Minutes	Edakiika	n-n
Ekicweka	Half; space; piece	Ebicweka	Ki-bi
Eihangwe	Noon; daytime	Eihangwe	n-n
Omwanya	Place; space; time; room	Emyanya	Mu-mi
Akasheeshe	Morning	Akasheeshe	n-n
Ekiro	Night; day & night	Ebiro	Ki-bi
Ekintu	Thing	Ebintu	Ki-bi
Obwira	Haste	Obwira	n-n
Makanika	Mechanic	Baamakanika	Mu-ba
Posta	Post office	Posta	n-n
Paaka	Park	Paaka	n-n
Omugyenyi	Visitor; stranger	Abagyenyi	Mu-ba
Banka	Bank	Banka	n-n
Ruhanga	God	Ruhanga	n-n
Omuporiisi	Policeman	Abaporiisi	Mu-ba
Ekibira	Forest	Ebibira	Ki-bi
Orutindo	Bridge	Entindo	Ru-n
Ekyombeko	Building	Ebyombeko	Ki-bi
Eibaati	Corrugated ironsheet	Amabaati	Ri-ma

Ekishaayi	Airfield	Ebishaayi	Ki-bi
Oruguuto	Road	Enguuto	Ru-n
Enteeraniro	Join; joint	Enteeraniro	n-n
Entaaniro	Crossroads	Entaaniro	n-n
Ahamaisho	Face	Ahamaisho	n-n
Omukono	Arm; hand	Emikono	Mu-mi
Ekisharara	Swamp	Ebisharara	Ki-bi
Eikorero	Factory; workshop	Amakorero	Ri-ma
Eitafaari	Brick	Amatafaari	Ri-ma
Eitegura	Tile	Amategura	Ri-ma
Omugisha	Blessing; luck	Emigisha	Mu-mi
Koregi	College	Koregi	n-n
Ekanisa	Church (protestant)	Ekanisa	n-n
Ekrezia	Church (catholic)	Ekrezia	n-n
Orubaju	Side; rib	Embaju	Ru-n
Omuti	Tree	Emiti	Mu-mi
Omuyembe	Mango	Emiyembe	Mu-mi
Oburaaro	Accommodation; lodging	Eburaaro	n-n
Ekishengye	Room	Ebishengye	Ki-bi
Risiiti	Receipt	Risiiti	n-n
Ekinaabiro	Bathroom	Ebinaabiro	Ki-bi
Ekitanda	Bed	Ebitanda	Ki-bi
Enyanja	Lake; sea	Enyanja	n-n
Emeeza	Table	Emeeza	n-n
Omuheereza	Waiter; servant	Abaheereza	Mu-ba
Omushaabazi	Passenger	Abashaabazi	Mu-ba
Eshaho	Bag; pocket; sack	Enshao	n-n
Omufarasi	Mattress	Emifarasi	Mu-mi
Tikiti	Ticket	Tikiti	n-n
Enjura	Rain	Enjura	n-n
Takisi	Taxi	Takisi	n-n
Baasi	Bus	Baasi	n-n
Egaari	Bicycle	Egaari	n-n
Egaari y'omwika	Train	Egaari z'omwika	n-n
Omwika	Smoke; gas	Emiika	n-n
Roore	Lorry	Roore	n-n

Enyonyi	Aeroplane	Enyonyi	n-n
Obwato	Boat; canoe	Amaato	Bu-ma
Emeeri	Steamer	Emeeri	n-n
Omugyera	River	Emigyera	Mu-mi
Eibaare	Stone	Amabaare	Ri-ma
Mairo	Mile	Mairo	n-n
Orushozi	Mountain; hill	Enshozi	Ru-n
Oruhanga	Valley	Empanga	Ru-n
Orufunjo	Papyrus swamp	Enfunjo	Ru-n
Omuzigiti	Mosque	Emizigiti	Mu-mi
Akatimba	Net	Obutimba	Ka-bu
Ensiri	Mosquito	Ensiri	n-n
Ekinyonyi	Bird	Ebinyonyi	Ki-bi
Emotoka	Car	Emotoka	n-n

VERBS:

Ku-gyenda	To travel; to leave; to go away
Ku-shoma	To study; to read
Ku-kyererwa	To be late
Ku-temba	To climb; to get on board of...
Ku-mara	To be enough; put a stop to
Kw-iruka	To run
Ku-gyendesa ebigyere	To walk
Ku-shanga	To find out; to meet
Ku-tsigwa	To leave behind
Ku-sharamu	To decide
Ku-cwamu	
Ku-bona	To find; manage to
Ku-ribata	To walk
Ku-ruha	To grow tired
Ku-hurira	To hear; feel; smell; understand; obey
Ku-tsiba	To fasten; brake; lock; imprison
Ku-buuza	To ask
Ku-hika	To arrive; amount to; be right; pass exam
Ku-rahuka	To do quickly; do easily
Kw-imuka	To get up; wake up

Ku-hondeeza	To lie abed; wake up late in the morning
Ku-byama	To go to bed; lie down
Ku-manyisa	To mean; tell; state
Ku-koma	To tie up; to fasten; imprison; roll up
Ku-kyera	To wake up early in the morning; to arrive very early in the morning
Ku-heza	To finish
Ku-naaba	To wash (hands or feet, etc)
Ku-naga	To throw; throw away; to lose
Kw-irukanga	To run fast
Ku-ronda	To look for; trace
Ku-shangwa	To be found
Ku-rinda	To look after; watch; care; keep
Ku-hwera	To help
Ku-teganisa	To bother
Ku-cwekanisa	To cross (as in a river)
Ku-ragiira	To order; give directives
Ku-toora	To take (a path); to direct
Ku-kyama	To deviate; to bend; to be crooked
Ku-raba	To pass by
Kw-etegyereza	To understand; take note of recognise
Ku-hingura	To go past
Ku-garukayo	To go back (there); return (there)
Ku-kiikama	To bend; be crooked
Ku-gumizamu	To continue; go ahead; remain in
Ku-heta	To bend; negotiate a corner
Ku-pangisa	To hire (a car)
Ku-shashura	To pay
Ku-rugamu	To come out; get off

Chapter 6?????

Chapter 7

VOCABULARY:

Nouns

Runyankole	English	Plural	Noun class
Enshusha	Shape; resemblance	Ensusha	n-n
Omwanya	Place; space	Emyanya	Mu-mu
Obwire	Weather; time	Obwire	n-n
Akatara	Market	Obutara	Ka-bu
Manvure	Umbrella	Manvure	n-n
Omutaka	Umbrella	Emitaka	Mu-mi
Amatsiko	Hope	Amatsiko	n-n
Eitumba	Wet season; famine; winter	Eitumba	n-n
Omwegemura	Flood	Emyegemure	Mu-mi
Obutiti	Cold weather	Obutiti	n-n
Omurombe	Cold and damp	Emirombe	Mu-mi
Akanda	Autumn	Akanda	n-n
Obufuki	Coldness	Obufuki	n-n
Ebyondo	Mud	Ebyondo	n-n
Omucuucu	Dust	Emicuucu	Mu-mi
Omusheenyi	Sand	Emisheenyi	Mu-mi
Eitaka	Soil	Eitaka	n-n
Eihunga	Hurricane; storm	Eihunga	n-n
Orubaare	Hail; snow; ice; frost	Orubaare	n-n

EBIJWARO (clothing)

Enkofiira	Hat	Enkofiira	n-n
Esaati	Shirt	Esaati	n-n
Vesiti	Vest	Vesiti	n-n
Eshweta	Sweater	Eshweta	n-n
Ekooti	Coat	Ekooti	n-n
Kabuutu	Overcoat	Kabuutu	n-n
Empare naingwa	Trouser	Empare naingwa	n-n

Empare ngufu	Shorts	Empare ngufu	N-n
Pagyema	Pant; underwear	Pagyema	N-n
Enkaito	Shoe	Enkaito	n-n
Estookisi	Stocking	Estookisi	n-n
Esookisi	Sock	Esookisi	n-n
Butusi	Boot	Butusi	n-n
Etaayi	Tie	Etaayi	n-n
Ekiteetei	Dress	Ebiteetei	Ki-bi
Burawuzi	Blouse	Burawuzi	n-n
Sikaati	Skirt	Sikaati	n-n
Orukwanzi	Necklace; bead	Enkwanzi	Ru-n
Gaarubindi	Eyeglasses	Gaarubindi	n-n
Jaketi	Jacket	Jaketi	n-n

Misc

Obunaku	Time; season	Obunaku	n-n
Obuhooro	Safety; well being	Obuhooro	n-n
Omugisha	Blessing; luck; fortune	Emigisha	Mu-mi
Eiguru	Sky	Eiguru	n-n
Obwoba	Fear	Obwoba	n-n
Orutookye	Banana plantation	Entookye	Ru-n
Omusiri	Garden	Emisiri	Mu-mi
O mucwe	Habit; way	E micwe	Mu-mi
Ensi	The world; the ground	Ensi	n-n
Eihanga	Country; nation	Amahanga	Ri-ma
Obuseeri	The other side	Obuseeri	N-n
Mugyenzi	Brother; friend	Bagyenzi	Mu-ba
Omugaiga	Rich person	Abagaiga	Mu-ba
Omworo	Poor person	Abooro	Mu-ba
Amazima	Truth; real	Amazima	n-n
Ekikomera	Weekly market	Ebikomera	Ki-bi
Enkora	Shape; method; make	Enkora	n-n
Orukoba	Belt; strap; whip	Enkoba	Ru-n
Erangi	Colour	Erangi	n-n

Omutooro	Pattern; design; sort	Emitooro	Mu-mi
Mukama wa	Owner of; master of	Bakama ba	Mu-ba

WEATHER:

Enjura	Rain	Enjura	n-n
Omuyaga	Wind	Emiyaga	Mu-mi
Omushana	Sunshine	Emishana	Mu-mi
Ekibunda	Shadow; gloom; shade	Ebibunda	Ki-bi
Ekicu	Cloud	Ebicu	Ki-bi
Oruho	Mist	Empo	Ru-n
Embeho	Cold	Embeho	n-n
Amabeho	Fresh air	Amabeho	n-n
Orutoonyerera	Drizzling rain; shower	Entoonyerera	Ru-n
Orwanyaanya	Haze	Orwanyaanya	n-n
Ekyanda	Dry season; summer	Ekyanda	n-n

COLOURS AND PATTERNS erangi n'emitooro

-rikwera	'be white' hence white
-rikutukura	'be red' hence red
-rikwiragura	'be black' hence black
Reedi	Red
Gruriini	Green
Orengi	Orange
Yero	Yellow
Bururu	Blue
Paapu	Purple
Pinka	Pink
Buraaka	Black
Burawunu; kitaka	Brown
Gure	Grey
Kurimu	Silver
Ya kapere	With square designs

Y'amabara	Spotted; with spots
Eitaine rangi	Plain; without colour
Y'erangi emwe	With one colour
Y'obunyarara	With stripes; striped
Y'ebitanga	With big patches or big designs
Y'obugondo	With small spots especially white

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS ebintu by'imunju

Entebe	Chair	Entebe	n-n
Emeeza	Table	Emeeza	n-n
Akatebe	Stool	Obutebe	Ka-bu
Omukyeeka	Mat	Emikyeeka	Mu-mi
Ekirago	Carpet	Ebirago	Ki-bi
Orutimbe	Curtain	Entimbe	Ru-n
Edirisa	Window	Adirisa	n-n
Orwigi	Door	Enyigi	Ru-n
Omunyororo	Door handle	Eminyororo	Mu-mi
Ekufuru; egufuru	Padlock; lock	Ekufuru; egufuru	n-n
Akamori	Ventilator	Obumori	Ka-bu
Ekisiika	Wall	Ebisiika	Ki-bi
Esafuriya	Saucepan	Esafuriya	n-n
Sigiri	Charcoal stove	Sigiri	n-n
Stovu	Stove	Stovu	n-n
Ekabada	Cupboard	Ekabada	n-n
Ekikopo	Cup; mug	Ebikopo	Ki-bi
Eshuhaani; esohaani	Plate	Eshuhaani; esohaani	n-n
Ekiyungu	Kitchen	Ebiyungu	Ki-bi
Omusyo	Knife	Emisyo	Mu-mi
Ekigiiko	Spoon; ladle	Ebigiiko	Ki-bi
Akagiiko	Teaspoon	Obugiiko	Ka-bu
Ehuuma	Fork	Ehuuma	n-n
Amashanyarazi	Electricity	Amashanyarazi	n-n
Barabu	Bulb	Barabu	n-n
Rediyo	Radio	Rediyo	n-n
Esimu	Telephone	Esimu	n-n
Kaseti	Cassette	Kaseti	n-n

Burangiti	Blanket	Burangiti	n-n
Eshuuka	Bedsheet	Eshuuka	n-n
Ekitanda	Bed	Ebitanda	Ki-bi
Omushego	Pillow	Emishego	Mu-mi
Orubaaho	Form; bench	Embaaho	Ru-n
Ebaafu	Basin	Ebaafu	n-n
Ekgirkani	Jerrycan	Ebigirikani	Ki-bi
Egirikani	Jerrycan	Enigirikani	n-n
Edobo; endobo	Pail; bucket	Edobo; endobo	n-n
Ekiibo	Basket	Ebiibo	Ki-bi
Paasi	Flat-iron	Paasi	n-n
Etaara	Lamp	Etaara	n-n
Etadoba	Small oil lamp like a candle torch	Etadoba	n-n
Tooki	Torch	Tooki	n-n
Edaari	Ceiling	Edaari	n-n
Etahuro	Towel	Etahuro	n-n
Esabuuni	Soap	Esabuuni	n-n
Buraashi	Brush	Buraashi	n-n
Buraashi y'amino	Toothbrush	Buraashi z'amaino	n-n
Buraashi y'enkaito	Shoebush	Buraashi z'enkaito	n-n
Ekyeyerezo	Broom	Ebyeyerezo	Ki-bi

VERBS:

Ku-shusha	To look; seem
Ku-baiha	To tell lies; deceive
Ku-hiika	To threaten (as clouds bringing rain)
Ku-gwa	To fall
Kw-itsa	To kill with; cause death
Ku-juura	To strip off clothes
Ku-jwa	To shine; flow
Ku-zibira	To prevent
Ku-huuha	To blow
Ku-hinda	To thunder
Kw-iririmba	To grow cloudy; become angry
Kw-shiisha	To spoil; do wrong; sin

Ku-tandika	To start
Ku-titira	To shiver
Ku-shweka	To cover; shut a book
Kw-oma	To dry up
Ku-bura	To be lacking; fail to get; be lost
Kw-itwa	To be killed
Ku-rabaho	To pass along
Kw-erarikirira	To worry; get worried
Kw-terera	To be slippery
Ku-shaaya	To be stuck (in the mud)
Ku-gyezaho	To try; attempt
Ku-furuka	To emigrate; settle in a new place
Kw-ijuka	To remember; recall
Ku-fayo	To be concerned about
Ku-bonabona	To suffer
Ku-garukayo	To return; go back again (there)
Ku-gumizamu	To continue; remain in
Ku-sharamu	To decide
Ku-reka	To leave alone; let; stop doing
Ku-tegyereza	To wait for
Kw-anga	To refuse; hate
Ku-jwara	To wear; put on
Ku-shabira	To pray for; beg for
Ku-zinduka	To pay a long visit (with bundles of food)
Ku-kura	To grow up; get worn out; ripen
Ku-hamya	To confirm; be sure
Kw-ebwa	To forget
Kw-ezirika	To put on; put in
Ku-shanga	To meet; find
Ku-toorana	To choose
Ku-siima	To thank; say thank you; praise
Ku-hika	To fit; amount to; arrive
Ku-tsigaza	To remain with
Ku-tambira	To save from; cure; heal save
Ku-tutuka	To sweat
Ku-tegana	To be bothered
Kw-etenga	To desire; want; need; have to

Ku-yambana	To help one another
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Other words, phrases, expressions

Omu mwanya gwa	Insead of; in place of
Aheeru	Outside
Kurikayo	Welome back
Obuseeri bw'amayanja	Overseas
Mpora mpora	Slowly slowly; carefully; quietly; a little
Neeshusha nungi	It looks nice; seems nice
Nyine amatsiko	I hope
Obunaku bwahika	The time has come
Enkora nungi	Good make
Okwihaho	Except
Kunuuya	Here
Obwahati	Nowadays; now; as of now
Titurikufayo	We don't mind
Hamwe	Together
Nooteekwa	You must

Grammar explanation

Use of 'fa:

In Runyankole, -fa is used in the imperative followed by the infinitive to convey some such idea as 'having to do something without choice' or 'having to do something for the sake of it'. Eg

Fa okuza Kampala.
Just go to Kampala.

Mufe kygyezaho omu katare.
Just try in the market.

Tufe kugyenda tureebe.
Just let us go and see.

Also fa can be followed by aga- or simply ga- and the verb stem to convey the same idea. Eg

Fa agaza Kampala.
Just go to Kampala.

Tufe agagyezaho omu Katare.
Just try in the market.

Tufe agayenda tureebe.
Just let us go and see.

Fa garya ebihimba.
Just eat the beans.

The reflexive:

In Runyankole a verb is made reflexible by prefixing e- to the stem of the verb. Eg.

Ku-himbisa	kw-ehimbisa
To praise	to praise oneself; boast

Ku-teera	kw-eteera
To beat	to beat oneself

Ku-ruma	kw-eruma
To bite	to bite oneself

Ku-kunda	kw-ekunda
To love	to love oneself; to be selfish

The reflexive of a verb whose stem begins with a, e, or o, prefixes ey- to the stem.
Eg.

Kw-eta	kw-eyeta
To call	to call oneself

Kw-anga	kw-eyanga
To hate; refuse	to hate oneself

Kw-otsya	kw-eyotsya
To roast; heat; burn	to burn/roast oneself

The static:

It is obtained by changing the final a of the stem into: ika, eka, uka, era, or ikara.

Eg.

Ku-cwa	ku-cweka
To break	to be broken

Ku-shara	ku-sharuka
To cut	to be cut

Ku-henda	ku-hendeka
To break	to be broken

Ku-shiisha	ku-siisikara
To spoil	to be spoilt

Ku-tsigá	kutsigara
To leave	to be left

Ku-reeba	ku-reebeka
To see	to be visible; seen

Ku-baasa	ku-baasika
To be able	to be possible

The static form has two uses:

To translate 'to become done' when an idea of state is to be conveyed.

To translate 'to be do-able'.

The reversive:

Some verbs have a reversive form changing the meaning from 'to do' to 'undo'. This is formed by changing the final a of the stem into uura, urura, oorara or in the case intransitive verbs into uuka eg.

Ku-kinga To shut; close	ku-kinguura to open
Ku-zinga To roll	ku-zingurura to unroll
Ku-koma To fasten	ku-komoorora to unfasten
Ku-zaaha To go into exile	ku-zaahuuka to come out of exile
Ku-tsiba To tie; imprison	ku-tsiburura to untie; let free

The 'if' constructions:

In Runyankole the 'if' construction is very irregular. Its construction depends on certain conditions:

When 'if' introduces an unfilled condition then it takes the conditional mood. In this case 'kur' is used. Eg

Kuri naguzire emotoka nkaagyenzire.
If I had bought a car, I would go.

Kuri ndi omukazi tinkaashweirwe.
If I were a woman, I wouldn't get married.

When 'if' really means 'when' then ku with a future indicative in its relative form is used. Eg.

Kuoraabe oine enjara, za kuteeka.
If you are hungry, go and cook.

Ku ariba aine sente, aryagura eduuka
If he has money, he will buy a shop.

When 'if' introduces a condition, upon the existence of which a present or future state of affairs depends, the very near past of the verb 'to be' (aba) is used, in agreement with the subject of the 'if' clause. Eg.

Waaba nooyenda kuza omu tauni, ovugye egaari.
If you want to go to town, ride a bicycle.

When 'if' introduces a clause indicating a doubt whether or not a state of affairs exists, the invariable yaaba may be used. Eg.

Ku-vuga ovugye (for ovuge)
To drive; ride

Ku-hinga ahingye (for ahinge)
To cultivate

Kw-anga baangye (for baange)
To refuse; hate

However, both can now be heard being used by Runyankole speakers. Hence one cannot say the one without a y since a good number of people use it.

APPENDIX:

Agandi	Another; the other(s)
Agandi?	How are you? (what other news)
Aha	Here, at, on, to , about
Ahabiso	Ago, formerly
Ahabwa	For, on account of, on behalf of
Ahabwa ki? Ahabwenki? Ahanki?	Why
Amerika	America
Angahi?	How many? How much?
Ansa	Answer
Apaana	No! Swahili origin
Arahi	Where is he/she?
Arifu	Alphabet
Abaabandize	Previous; first (people)
Abaafrika	Africans

Baagi	Badge
Abaahure	Reverends; clergyman
Ababiiki	Treasurer
Ababirigi	Belgians
Abafaransa	The French
Abafiire	The dead
Abaganda	The baganda
Abagyendanwa	Ankore royal drum
Abagyenyi	Visitors, customers, strangers
Abaharabu	Arabs
Abaheburaayo	Hebrews
Abahima	The bahima
Abahinda	Ankore princes
Abahindakazi	Ankore princesses
Abahindi	Indians; Asians
Abahooranda	The dutch
Abahuuku	Slaves
Abahuuru	Bachelors
Baiburi	Bible(s)
Abairaguju	Blacks, Africans
Abairu	Peasants
Abajungu	Europeansq
Abakatoroiki	Catholics
Abakiga	The bakiga
Abamisiri	Egyptians
Abancwanga	7 th day Adventists
Abakristaayo	Protestant Christians
Abagyereza	English; british people
Abanyankole	The banyankole
Abarooma	Romans
Obuto	Childhood
Obutoosha	Always; usually
Butunu	Openly
Obwegyese	Education
Obwengye	Knowledge; ability; wisdom
Obwiru	Servitude
Obwoki	Honey

Obworo	Poverty
Ebyafayo	History
Ebyashuri	Nests
Ecepe	Badge(s), medal(s)
Ecupa	Bottle
Edazini	Dozen(s)
Edakiika	Minute(s)
De!	Look!
Edebe	Tin(s)
Ediini	Religion(s)
Diisi	District
Edubu	Bear(s)
Eha?	Which one
Eky'obusaasi	Unfortunately
Engahi?	How many?
Enyima	Afterwards, back, at the back
Erahi	Where is it?
Eriizooba	Today
Erikufuka	Cold
Erikutukura	Red
Erikwera	White
Erikwiragura	Black
Erikwotsya	Hot
Elaana	Tape worms
Eleeza	Silver
Eiizi	Fees
Efirimbi	Whistle
Efuka	Hoe(s)
Efukuzi	Mole(s)
Efumu	Proverb; saying; parable
Efunjo	Papyrus (dry)
Efura	Sociable person; gentleman
Efura-nkye	Unsociable one(s)
Efuuzi	Orphan(s)
Egaari	Bicycle(s)
Egaari y'omwika	Train(s)
Garagi	Governor

Gavumenti	Government
Geehena	Hell
Goonya	Crocodile(s)
Egutiya	Sack
Ahabwa	For; because of
Ahabw'ekyo	Therefore
Ahabw'okuba	Because; because of
Ahagati	Between
Ahakuba	Because
Ahandi	Elsewhere; somewhere
Ahare	Far off; a long way
Haza	Then; next; and; while
Aheekiikire	Secret place(s)
Aheeru	Outside
Ehiika	Acre(s)
Ahonaho	At once; soon
Ehuuma	Fork(s)
Ehuuzi	Thread
Eibaare	Stone; slate; record
Eibabi	Leaf
Eibanja	Debt; duty; obligation
Eihamba	Potter's clay
Eicumu	Spear
Eidaara	Step; grade; ladder
Eigufa	Bone
Eiguru	Sky; heaven
Eigyasha	Harvest season
Eihanga	Country; nation
Eihe	Army; troop
Eihema	Tent
Eihembe	Horn
Eihira	Rabbit's tail
Eihwa	Thorn
Eiju	Ash; dust
Inci	Inch(es)
Ingini	Engine
Eipapa	Wing

Eipeesha	Button
Eiranzi	Sun-ray
Eirembo	Gateway
Eisaasi	Bullet
Eishamba	Grey eagle
Eishamba	Estate??
Eishaza	County
Eishumi	Knot
Isreali	Isreal
Eitaagi	Branch
Ekaraamu	Pencil
Karaani	Clerk
Karakita	Tractor(s)
Karantiine	Quarantine
Kareebi	Witness (person)
Karenakare	Long ago
Karoori	Flamingo
Akarooro	Chicken flea
Karoti	Carrot
Karutuusi	Eucalyptus tree(s)
Akaruuru	Ballot paper; toss
Kasheeny-nku	Fern caterpillar
Akashonda-buro	Uvula
Akasooroora	Whirl/wind
Akatimba	Net; gauze, filter
Kasuku	Parrot
Akatambaara	Handkerchief
Keeki	Cake(s)
Ekibira	Forest
Ekibiriiti	Matchbox
Ekibuuzo	Question
Ekiconco	Gift; prize
Ekicuncu	Lion
Ekikade	Bell
Ekifa-matu	Deaf person
Ekifeera	Idiot; halfwit
Ekifundikizo	Cover; lid; cork; stopper

Ekifubiro	Punishment; penalty
Ekigigo	Molar
Ekihama	A secret
Ekihangare	Agama lizard; gecko
Ekiharara	Bald locust
Ekihihizi	Owl
Ekihome	Prison
Ekihosho	A shovel
Eitima	A grudge; spite; mischief
Eitondo	A drop
Eitongo	Deserted place
Eityazo	Whetstone
Eiziba	Pond; well
Eziikiro	Cemetery
Eziina	Name
Eizooba	Day; sun
Juba	Recently; soon; quickly
Enjwa	Foot and mouth disease
Eka	Home; family
Kaaki	Khaki
Kaamuzinzi	Hammerkop
Kaanyinaabiri	Double stoned building/house
Kaanyonza	Robin chat
Ekabada	Cupboard
Kabaragara	Small sweet bananas
Akabonero	Sign; mark
Akaca	Sparrow hawk
Akacumu	Pen
Akacwa-bazaire	Centipede
Akagiiko	Teaspoon
Akahundu	Bat
Akajagararo	Commotion
Akajuma	Table; seed; grain
Akamanyiso	Mark; sign; seal
Akameeme	Breastbone
Akami	Small rabbit
Kampuni	Company

Kankomangwa	Woodpecker
Kanyaamunyu	Pied wagtail
Kanyamushungushungu	Crested eagle
Akanyankogote	Tortoise; turtle
Akanyarara	Stripe
Kanywa-taabe	Sunbird
Ekihuguuhugu	Butterfly
Ekihumi	Beehive
Ekijutsyo	Reminder; memorial
Ekiishamuttut	Cuckoo
Ekiito	Riddle; puzzle
Ekijegye	Fungus; toadstool
Ekijuju	Tsetse fly
Ekijuma	Fruit; seed
Ekijumo	An abuse
Ekijunjuure	Carpenter bee
Ekikubyo	Nickname
Ekikungu	Ant hill
Ekikurumo	Spleen
Ekikwatsi	Safety pin
Ekikyere	Toad
Ekimbuuro	Crowd
Ekimera	Plant
Ekimuri	Flower
Kinekye	Yellow
Ekingonzi	Wave
Ekiniga	Hunger
Ekinombe	Mine
Ekinya	Lizard
Ekinyantinda	Snail
Ekinyerere	Long straight hair
Ekinyogote	Porcupine quill
Ekinyonyi	Large bird
Ekinyoro	Law; command
Ekirahuri	Glass
Ekireere	Banana fibre
Ekirooto	Dream

Ekirwa	Island
Ekisegyesi	Porcupine
Ekishaakuzo	Riddle
Ekishaka	Bush
Ekishansha	Dry banana leaf??
Ekishansha	Stomach (of a cow)??
Ekishate	Wood chip
Ekishogashoga	Castor oil plant
Ekishoma-bwire	Nightjar
Ekishoshonkoro	Empty case; shell
Ekishuba	A lie
Ekishwaga	Eland
Kishwera	Bridegroom
Ekitangaazo	Telescope; binoculars
Ekitara	Granary
Ekiteekateeko	Thought; idea
Ekiteera	Ape; chimp
Ekiteta	Dumb person
Ekitiiho	Spade
Ekitiinisa	Honour; glory; respect
Ekitogi	Collar
Ekitondoro	Bird's crop
Ekitori	Ball of soap
Ekituuru	Grave
Ekituuti	Platform; pulpit
Ektivune	Ham; thigh of an animal
Ekiyenje	Cockroach
Ekiyoyo	Cormorant
Ekiziba	Dam; large pond; artificial lake
Ekizibu	Difficulty
Ekizimba	Painful swelling
Ekizimbe	Building
Ekiziriga	Dirty mark
Ekoona	Corner(s)
Kristo	Christ – protestant
Kristu	Christ – catholic
Kunuuya	Here

Kurahi?	Where is it?
Kuri	If
Okuruga	From; since
Kurungi	Well; fine; good
Okutu	Ear
Kuuha?	Which one?
Okuzimu	Down below
Okwihaho	Except
Ekwirwa	Biting ant(s)
Kwonka	But, only, itself, alone, only
Ekyaka	Thirst
Kyakiro	Supper
Kyamushana	Lunch
Ekyangu	Sponge (for scrubbing body)
Ekyanira	Buzzard
Kyantsya	Breakfast
Ekyanzi	Milkpot
Ekyapa	Signpost
Ekyaro	Village
Ekyenjanja	Fish
Ekyeshongoro	Song; hymn
Ekyeyerezo	Broom
Eky'okureeberaho	Example
Ekyoma	Iron; metal; metallic article
Ekyombeko	Building
Ekyaoombo	Steamer
Amaani	Power; strength; force
Maaya	Ostrich
Amacanda	Sunflower; sesame
Amagara	Life; soul
Magaro	Pliers; pincers; tongs
Amahasha	Twins
Amairu	Appetite for meat
Makansi	Scissors
Amakuru	News; meaning(s)
Amamanzi	Heroes
Maraaya	Prostitute

Maraika	Angel
Amarari	Squint
Amarebe	Water lilies
Mareere	Kite-hawk
Amarobo	Fish hooks
Amasha	Cow dung
Amashanyarazi	Electricity
Amashemererwa	Great joy
Amashereka	Mother's milk (human)
Amata	Bows
Embaaho	Timber; forms; blackboard; benches
Embaga	Party
Embeba	Mouse; rat
Embiire	Beer bananas
Emboga	Vegetables
Embogo	Buffalo
Embuga	Compound; courtyard
Embundu	Gun
Embuzi	Goat
Embwa	Dig
Emondo	Serval cat(s) large
Empiita	Body heat; perspiration
Empikye	Termite hills
Empindahinduka	Changes
Empindura	Pancreas
Empiri; empoma	Puff adders
Empitirizo	Needle(s)
Empoca	Soya beans
Empumi	Blind person(s)
Omubanda	Flute; pipe
Omubaziiro	Seam
Omubirigi	Belgian
Omububuuru	Pimple
Omubyamo	Anthrax
Omucunguzi	Redeemer
Omudaari	Medal
Omufaakazi	Widow

Omufu	Dead peson
Omugaara	Mane
Omugaati	Loaf; bread
Omugaba	King
Omugabekazi	Queen regent
Omugi	Louse's egg
Omuguha	Rope; string
Omuguta	Hide; king's corpse
Omugyere	Kick
Muha	Jackal; fix
Omuhanga-nzima	Rainbow
Omuhoro	Panga
Omukuufu	Chain
Omupiira	Ball
Omurabyo	Lightening
Omurambwe	Corpse
Omuraramo	Meningitis
Omushega	Wolf; wild dog
Omushema	Fool
Omushenga	Bundle of food taken when visiting
Omushonga	Sharp pain
Omushoro	Tax
Omushororongu	Verse; line
Omushure	Mouse-bird; coly
Omuskautu	Boy scout
Omusimeeno	Saw
Omusumaari	Nail
Omutaano	Difference
Omutaho	Funnel
Omutaka	Umbrella; villager
Omutatsi	Spy
Omutegi	Trapper
Omutego	Trap
Omutororo	Yolk of an egg
Omutundo	Footstep
Omuzaabibu	Grape; grapevine
Omuzaana	Female slave

Omuzaani	Player; sportsman; competitor
Omuzaano	Sport; game; occupation
Muzee	Old person
Omuzeituuni	Olive tree
Omuzi	Root
Omuzigu	Enemy
Muziiki	Wisdom tooth
Omuzinga	Cannon; swarm ??
Omwambi	Arrow
Orwaro	Part; harbour; landing site
Omwata	Weed
Mwembi	Both of you
Omwesigwa	Reliable person; trustworthy
Omweyangye	Pollen
Omwiko	Trowel
Omwino	Elephant's tusk
Omwirima	Darkness
Omwonyo	Salt
Na	And; with
Enaama	Secret plan
Enaku	Trouble(s); sorrow(s)
Enamba	Number(s)
Enanga	Harp(s); organ(s)
Nari	Or; nor; perhaps
Nari shi	Or else
Encwa-mutwe	Newborn calf
Encwera	Cobra
Endagaano	Agreement
Endahi	Quail
Endiijo	Another; the other(s)
Endiisa	Yellow wagtail
Endimi	Languages; tongues; flames
Endimu	Lemon
Endirira	Tree-hyrax ?
Endogoya	Donkey
Enduuru	Alarm
Engaara	Crab

Engabi	Bushbuck
Engagi	Gorilla
Engamira	Camel
Enganda	Acacia plants
Engano	Wheat
Enganzi	Prime minister
Engiri	Warthog
Engoha	Tick(s)
Engoma	Drum; the throne
Engondore	Large ram
Engongi	Otter
Engoro	Ivory bracelets (worn by priests)
Engugye	Coccyx
Engumba	Barren (as in sterile)
Engundu	Leading bull
Engwe	Leopard
Engyeya	Colobus monkey
Enimi	Bull
Enjaangu	Cat
Enjobe	Water buck; marsh antelope
Enjojo	Elephant
Enjoki	Bee(s)
Enjubu	Hippo(s)
Enkambi	Rest camp
Enkanga	Guinea fowl
Enkindo	Palm leaves
Enkanka	Palate
Enkobe	Baboon(s)
Enkombe	Dove; pigeon
Enkoni	Walking stick
Enkoro	Animal's chest
Enku	Firewood
Enkuba	Thunder
Enkura	Rhino(s)
Enkura-ruhembe	Horned beetle; rhino
Enkushu	Parrot
Enkyebebe	White ants

Enkende	Vervet monkey
Nseeri	Across; the other side
Enshama	Reedbuck
Enshobi	Mistake(s)
Enshoni	Shyness
Enshozi	Mudfish
Enshwa	Flying ants
Ensunu	Uganda kob
Entamaamu	Salute(s)
Entaratambi	Swallow(s)
Entare	Lion
Entomi	Fist(s)
Entunguuka	Development
Entwature	Lapwing(s)
Enturegye	Zebra
Entuuha	Crested crane
Entuuru	Wild cat
Entwiga	Giraffe(s)
Enuuma	Brown duicker(s)
Enwa	Hornet(s); wasp(s)
Nyamagoya	Albino
Enyamaishwa	Animal(s)
Enyamurumi	Anteater; ant-bear
Nyamurunga	Bishop bird
Enyangi	White egret(s)
Enyaruju	Chameleon
Enyawaawa	Green ibis
Enyemera	Topi
Enyondo	Hammer
Enyonyozi	Star
Enyuguta	Letter(s) of the alphabet
Enyungu	Pot; smoking pipe
Enzamba	Trumpet
Enzaza	Reedbuck
Enzigye	Locust(s)
Obabariremu	Including
Ofiisa	Officer

Ogumeho	Goodbye
Omweija	The other (of 2 people)
Orahi?	Where are you?
Osiibe gye	Goodbye
Otyo	Like that; all right!
Ou	Whom
Epa	Woman/women w/o breasts
Paapa	Pope
Paasi	Flat-iron
Pamiti	Permit(s)
Epata	Hinge(s)
Peterori	Petro
Pikipiki	Motorcycle
Puraani	Plan
Eraatiri	Pound(s)
Eranda	Plane(s)
Ripoota	Report(s)
Orubu	A turn; a go; series
Orugamba	Battle
Orugamwa	Famous
Oruganda	Clan
Oruhago	Bladder
Oruhanga	A valley
Oruhu	Hide; skin; leather
Orujegyere	Chain
Rujuguta	Civet-cat
Orume	Dew
Orura	Intestine
Rurara	Sword; dagger; knife for slaughtering
Orurembo	Capita; town
Orusa	Permission
Orushekye	Tube; pipe; grass; straw
Orushura-ibiba	Pennant wing night jar
Orutangura	Spider
Orutarago	Cheetah; fierce old leopard
Oruyongoyongo	Heron
Oruzimu	Mantis; stick insect

Oruziramire	Python
Rwakupumpuru	Tripanosomosis
Esaano	Flour; powder
Esaasi	Sympathy; sorrow; trouble
Sabuuni	Soap
Esapuri	Rosary
Eshega	Vulture
Eshekuro	Motar(s)
Eshenda	Chilli; red pepper
Eshenzya	Edible rats; cane rats
Esheshemi	Nausea
Eshihera	Fly/flies
Esigara	Cigarette(s)
Simenti	Cement
Esimu	Telephone
Sineema	Cinema; film
Esirabo	Common drinker
Sitaane	Satan; devil
Skweya	Square
Stampu	Stamp
Stooha	Store
Supu	Soup
Switi	Sweet(s)
Etaabe	Tobacco
Etaamu	Term(s)
Taani	Ton(s)
Etanka	Tank(s)
Ou	Whom
Viinyo	Wine
Wnaganga	Elate hornbill
Wangi?	Yes? Pardon?
Waringa	Phantom; hallucination
Wayereesi	Wireless
Yaaba	Whether; either or
Yaadi	Yard
Yeezu	Jesus – catholic
Yesu	Jesus – protestant

Yerinde!	Mind! Look out!
Yombi	Both
Ezaabibu	Grape(s)
Zaaburi	Psalm(s)
Ezaabu	Gold
Zeero	Zero; nought
Ziiha?	Which ones?
Zirahi?	Where are they?
Ezimweija	The others (of 2 groups)
Ziti	Like this
Zityo	Like that
Zombi	Both
Zonka	Only; alone; themselves
Ezookize	Roasted