

# Chichewa Noun System Summary

## Noun Class Prefix System

Class #	Name of class	Singular Starts with	Plural Starts with	Basic Verb Prefix (near future)	Perfect Verb or Qualifying Adj. Prefix	Qualifying Adjective Double Prefix*	Verbal Adjective Prefix**
1	Mu A	Mu-, M-, Mw-	A-	A-/A-	Wa-/A-	Wam-/Aa-	Wo-/O-
2	Mu Mi	Mu-, M-, Mw-	Mi-	U-/I-	Wa-/Ya-	Wau-/Yai-	Wo-/Yo-
3	Chi Zi	Chi-	Zi-	Chi-/Zi-	Cha-/Za-	Chachi-/Zazi-	Cho-/Zo-
4	I Zi or N	N, Mph, Mb, Mv, I	no change	I-/Zi-	Ya-/Za-	Yai-/Zazi-	Yo-/Zo-
5	Li Ma	others (b,d,l, k,g,t,etc.)	add Ma - <sup>3</sup>	Li-/A-	La-/A-	Lali-/Aa-	Lo-/O-
6	U Ma	U-	add Ma-	U-/A-	Wa-/A-	Wau-/Aa-	Wo-/O-
7	Ka Ti	Ka-	Ti-	Ka-/Ti-	Ka-/Ta-	Kaka-/Tati-	Ko-/To-
8	Ku	Ku-	no plural	Ku-	Kwa-	Kwaku-	Ko-
9	Ku	Ku-	change the main noun	Ku-	Kwa-	Kwaku-	Ko-
10	Pa	Pa-	change the main noun	Pa-	Pa-	Papa-	Po-
11	Mu	Mu-	change the main noun	Mu-	Mwa-	Mwamu-	Mo-

\*Seven adjectives take the double prefix: -tali (tall, long), -fupi (short), -wisi (green, fresh), -kazi (female), -muna (male/ the 1<sup>st</sup> class form is commonly wamwamuna, an irregular form), -kulu (large, great), -ng'ono (small)

\*\*This column is only for multiple-syllable verbs, single syllable verbs take the adjective prefix + ku to show partial forms. E.g. munthu wakuba, chinthu chakudya, but munthu wobadwa, chinthu chozama.

<sup>3</sup>Often initial hard sounds in the root of words in this class are changed as well. (E.g. dzungu > maungu, diso > maso, phiri > mapiri. Learn each word individually.)

## This, That, These, Those

#	That (pointing)	This (pointing)	That (contracted)	This (contracted)	This (enveloping)	That (previously mentioned)
1	uyo/awo	uyu/awa	-yo/-wo	-yu/-wa	uno/ano	uja/aja
2	uwo/iyo	uwu/iyi	-wo/-yo	-wu/-yi	uno/ino	uja/ija
3	icho/izo	ichi/izi	-cho/-zo	-chi/-zi	chino/zino	chija/zija
4	iyo/izo	iyi/izi	-yo/-zo	-yi/-zi	ino/zino	ija/zija
5	ilo/awo	ili/awa	-lo/-wo	-li/-wa	lino/ano	lija/aja
6	uwo/awo	uwu/awa	-wo/-wo	-wu/-wa	uno/ano	uja/aja
7	ako/ito	aka/iti	-ko/-to	-ka/-ti	kano/tino	kaja/tija
8	uko	uku	-ko	-ku	kuno	kuja
9	uko	uku	-ko	-ku	kuno	kuja
10	apo	apa	-po	-pa	pano	paja
11	umo	umu	-mo	-mu	muno	muja

\*Stem -ja, the subject of a conversation, "the one you know which". Chinthu chija the thing (you know which, we were just talking about it)