

Swahili nouns 5/6 and 9/10 in Helsinki Corpus of Swahili

Preface

Swahili language has several nouns that are classified alternatively into classes 9/10 and 5/6. The class 9/10 is considered the default class when a new noun is introduced to the language. However, there are hundreds of nouns that are also used according to the rules of the class 5/6. The reason for this variation is not known. One could guess, however, that because the class 5/6 is often used for augmenting the basic meaning of the noun, augmentation might be one of the reasons for using this class.

This is a list of such nouns that are classified into classes 5/6 and 9/10. The words were extracted from Helsinki Corpus of Swahili with 25 million words. The first number is 5/6 class and the second number 9/6 class.

The words are in frequency order according to class 5/6.

Word	5/6	9/10	Gloss
suala	34494	1541	issue
kofi	29469	224	slap
bunge	22636	4359	parliament
gari	13483	3861	car
swali	11446	3173	question
funzo	9644	78	teaching
jukumu	8662	406	responsibility
dai	8615	46	assertion
badiliko	8113	34	change
dini	4997	937	religion
shindano	4849	29	competition
somo	4201	299	teaching subject
kampuni	4121	12569	company
benki	3641	7181	bank
kombe	3561	141	shallow shell
daraja	3318	1684	bridge
bao	3311	921	goal
basi	3068	597	bus
shambulio	2911	279	attack
kabila	2357	674	tribe
darasa	2254	2797	class; classroom

shirikisho	2208	482	federation
shule	1994	22203	school
jaribio	1890	75	test
radhi	1687	250	disease
bara	1662	3038	continent
kusudi	1629	59	purpose
tamko	1618	558	statement
shaka	1496	1004	doubt
silaha	1400	7431	weapon
bandari	1394	2140	harbour
onyesho	1381	37	exhibition
chozi	987	6	tear
sakata	920	110	chaos
gome	882	2	bark
kambi	871	6772	cambium
hospitali	866	10618	hospital
ghala	856	225	storeroom
hesabu	822	1631	arithmetic
daftari	762	155	copybook
pindi	756	775	time
panga	755	306	machete
boma	732	109	enclosure
shinikizo	715	256	pressure
sikitiko	713	15	sadness
tusi	623	19	insult
punda	595	118	donkey
bango	595	61	placard
ofisi	566	16112	office
pembe	562	1062	horn; corner
kesi	559	12161	case
kamati	557	22191	committee
balaa	549	273	calamity
kandarasi	533	128	contract
suluhisho	515	354	solution
hoteli	497	2811	hotel
jela	472	834	prison
jedwali	451	120	table of statistics
saa	445	3426	clock
kozi	442	208	course of studies
jasho	430	241	sweat
tabaka	428	199	class
umbile	416	23	nature
baki	412	24	remainder
tume	382	8713	commission
jumuisho	376	1	generalisation
barabara	370	22418	road

goli	361	135	goal
dhambi	331	721	sin
karatasi	321	912	piece of paper
teka	317	2	captive
pepo	313	810	spirit; demon
pesa	312	6038	money
kanuni	307	5790	rule
kusudio	306	22	intention
joto	306	273	heat
baa	306	709	disaster
posho	288	2541	allowance
gongo	288	295	club
tunzo	283	41	reward
tairi	252	58	tyre
korosho	252	1297	cashewnut
ghorofa	245	696	storey
tofali	240	33	brick
chupa	238	601	amniotic membrane and waters
vuguvugu	235	23	movement
semina	235	2977	seminar
tuta	222	24	terrace
hema	218	49	tent
tope	216	107	mud
komba	212	505	bushbaby
fujo	204	764	disturbance
nyasi	201	96	grass
hifadhi	201	3954	protected area
tundu	198	145	hole
fungamano	198	2	alliance
shughuli	195	13971	activity
kompyuta	192	1581	computer
vumbi	189	220	dust
kuti	187	18	palm leaf frond
giza	187	349	darkness
fahari	187	104	bull
jawabu	181	131	answer
kaa	178	33	charcoal
idara	176	6098	division
koloni	175	30	colony
hotuba	175	9341	speech
tanki	166	18	tank
lawama	166	952	blame
kondo	162	121	war
gofu	161	76	ruin
fumbo	161	45	parable
televisheni	153	1859	television

bunduki	153	1227	gun
tetemeko	141	24	tremble
fisi	141	159	hyena; greedy person
kongwa	140	477	slave yoke
ziara	139	4441	sacred place
wodi	137	792	ward
shuka	136	142	bed sheet
ripoti	133	4672	report
hela	128	1308	money
pikipiki	127	707	motorcycle
dege	126	9	large bird
ngumi	125	725	punch of a fist
kokoto	125	148	grit
zahanati	124	1919	dispensary
tani	124	2891	ton
ungo	123	6	joint
tegemezi	122	17	expectation
kelele	121	586	noise
panya	120	218	rat
korongo	117	24	gully
sahihisho	112	4	correction
ganda	111	11	skin
boti	110	523	boat
tanga	109	46	formal mourning period
swala	109	973	problem; gazelle
raha	109	598	bliss
chaka	106	32	clump of trees
tuzo	101	994	prize
nyanya	100	257	tomato; grandmother
kafara	99	140	offering
dosari	99	617	blemish
siha	98	383	health
kabati	98	77	cupboard
sanamu	97	225	idol
dua	96	635	prayer
jumuiya	95	5669	club
simulizi	94	100	story
nazi	94	241	coconut
tone	93	46	drop
tete	92	160	reed
hitimisho	91	82	end
kovu	89	10	scar
karakana	88	146	workshop
embe	86	35	mango
shavu	85	46	cheek
boksi	81	36	box

roketi	79	39	rocket
bohari	79	136	godown
saburi	78	49	patience
dari	75	33	ceiling
paji	74	5	gift
likizo	74	574	holiday
takataka	72	330	rubbish
bia	71	990	earthenware vessel
chanjo	69	600	vaccination
treni	67	1130	train
hundi	67	460	cheque
bura	67	21	muscat cloth
kemikali	66	725	chemical
noti	65	636	bank note
gauni	62	26	dress
jabali	60	33	rock
ini	60	65	liver
geda	60	23	grader
dodoso	59	18	questionnaire
zuio	58	63	prohibition
trafiki	57	20	traffic
karo	57	125	wash-basin
dalili	57	1851	sign
bidhaa	57	7486	merchandise
jenereta	56	149	generator
hangaiko	56	3	anxiety
chui	56	106	leopard; cruel person
tenga	55	112	bamboo basket
shangwe	51	201	rejoicing
dansi	50	298	dance
tongo	49	1	deserted place
shingo	49	419	neck
kopa	48	64	dried cassava
pua	47	352	nose
plastiki	47	240	plastic
shada	45	16	bundle of flowers in hair or clothes
dafu	43	7	unripe coconut
tuko	42	288	event
tezi	42	21	stern
parokia	42	1144	parish
buibui	42	30	spider
helikopta	41	379	helicopter
dharau	41	264	contemp
sufuria	39	93	metal pot
guni	38	21	free verse
disko	38	92	discotheque

bungo	38	21	fruit with saplike Indian rubber
sepetu	37	6	shovel
fundo	37	20	knot
johari	36	66	jewel
jadi	36	145	tradition
hongo	36	218	bribe
tozo	34	153	fine
kunguru	33	68	crow
dunga	32	6	borer
tao	30	36	arch
nundu	29	36	hump; bat
kumbi	29	229	outer fibrous husk of coconut
kanzu	29	162	cassock
gereji	29	111	garage
uru	28	4	monitor lizard
kamusi	28	196	dictionary
wadi	27	68	hospital ward
povu	27	18	foam
porojo	27	120	light conversation
sakramenti	26	311	sacrament
pochi	26	38	wide bangle
fungo	26	21	fasting period
tanuru	25	12	kiln
fataki	25	6	seducer
tanuri	24	7	kiln
taya	23	18	jaw
popo	23	23	bat
ajenti	23	9	agency
dude	23	1	despicable person; unknown massive thing
tetesi	22	210	whisper
taulo	22	38	towel
plau	22	35	plow
kunde	22	70	cow pea
konokono	22	2	snail
kofia	22	260	hat
kamasi	22	25	nose mucus
godauni	22	4	godown
buku	22	11	book
ungamo	21	3	confession
ua	21	621	fence
thibitisho	21	16	proof
fulana	21	184	undershirt
chizi	21	21	person with bad habits
bundi	21	38	owl
goma	20	119	type of hard skinned fish; coastal stick-dance
buti	20	33	boot

bafu	20	61	bathroom
panzi	19	19	flying fish
kumba	19	17	braided coconut leaf
chuchu	19	23	nipple
tapo	18	8	troupe
skuli	18	106	school
skendo	18	19	scandal
panda	18	33	forehead
koja	18	48	garland of flowers
korokoro	17	1	worthless thing
fikira	17	229	thought
bua	17	1	stalk
tegu	16	3	tapeworm
sofa	16	35	sofa
kupe	16	85	tick; exploiter
gunda	16	4	horn
funda	16	6	mouthful
puto	15	3	balloon
koroboi	15	28	oil lamp
gesti	15	109	guest house
fuu	15	5	skull
friji	15	45	fridge
zindikio	14	11	protection charm
zana	14	1385	honey-comb
susu	14	2	hammock
birika	14	15	kettle
tarakimu	13	175	numeral
sefu	13	49	safe
kaki	13	7	bread-sticle pores
hando	13	7	pancake dipped into boiled sugar
chujio	13	7	filter
baibui	13	22	pardah
sinia	12	22	platter
sinagogi	12	7	synagogue
liwazo	12	2	consolation
kesha	12	13	vigil
keki	12	103	cake
goigoi	12	1	exorcising dance
fumo	12	24	broad tipped spear
sururu	11	7	pickaxe
koo	11	2	throat
kadi	11	1591	caddy
digrii	11	120	degree
tengo	10	3	outrigger of canoe
sweta	10	6	sweater
sega	10	36	honeycomb

pipi	10	76	sweet
pantoni	10	83	ferry-boat
nyigu	10	4	kind of insect for killing pests
kumbo	10	3	shove
kago	10	12	charm
chicha	10	5	remains of grated coconut
chango	10	4	small intestine
toroli	9	3	trolley
koleo	9	23	pincers
guru	9	10	x
vumba	8	7	bad smell associated with fish
kwapa	8	52	arm pit
kreti	8	21	crate
juba	8	7	jellaba
hori	8	3	creek
ekari	8	597	ecre
tini	7	4	fig
tikiti	7	80	watermelon
soga	7	23	idle chatter
lepe	7	13	drowsiness
koma	7	47	fruit of the hyphaene or dwarf palm
jando	7	52	circumcision rites
helkopta	7	60	helicopter
tari	6	1	small drum
nyundo	6	179	big hammers
koromeo	6	21	larynx
komeo	6	5	bolt
kome	6	26	stick used in special functions
jazi	6	8	spiritual reward
bandeji	6	16	bandage
tufani	5	28	hurricane
rijali	5	4	man with sexual powers
juzuu	5	26	chapter of Quran
hekari	5	45	hectar
dodoki	5	9	loofah fruit
bukta	5	8	shorts
batobato	5	6	coloured spots or strips
vuvuzela	4	5	vuvuzela horn
tumba	4	25	bud
para	4	11	bald patch on head
pakiti	4	31	packet
kombati	4	9	combat
kangaja	4	1	type of long grass
kala	4	15	kind of wild cat
ganja	4	4	type of two masted vessel
fikara	4	45	fancy

bapa	4	4	blade
tasa	3	1	metal bowl for washing
sufi	3	8	kapok
pure	3	4	dish of boiled maize
komamanga	3	1	pomegranate
kayamba	3	4	rattle
diko	3	1	wharf
dasturi	3	6	bowsprit
chekeche	3	5	sifter
wengu	2	2	spleen
tanzi	2	5	loop
pungu	2	1	float of a fishing net
pukusa	2	3	gift given to nubile girl
piramidi	2	4	pyramid
omo	2	10	forepart of ship
nyumba	2	15701	big houses
korija	2	2	score
jaribosi	2	2	foil
glovu	2	13	glove
durufu	2	1	copy
chungio	2	1	sift
chekecheke	2	2	sifter
chanuo	2	3	comb
burudisho	2	2	entertainment
burashi	2	4	brush
tangamano	1	9	togetherness
sigiri	1	5	x
shata	1	3	lees
pingo	1	8	barrier
kope	1	33	eyelid
kano	1	24	large sinew or tendon
kandili	1	17	lantern
kafi	1	3	paddle
jua	1	1095	sun
joya	1	1	spongy substance inside coconut shell
gololi	1	8	cornea
gamu	1	2	reception parade
dutu	1	1	small hill
chonge	1	4	canine tooth
beluwa	1	1	evil
bangili	1	20	bangle