

## Swahili nouns 9/10 and 5/6 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 9/10 class and the second number 5/6 class.

The words are in frequency order according to class 9/10.

Word	9/10	5/6	Gloss
barabara	22418	370	road
shule	22203	1994	school
kamati	22191	557	committee
ofisi	16112	566	office
nyumba	15701	2	house
shughuli	13971	195	activity
kampuni	12569	4121	company
kesi	12161	559	case
hospitali	10618	866	hospital
hotuba	9341	175	speech
tume	8713	382	commission
bidhaa	7486	57	merchandise
silaha	7431	1400	weapon
benki	7181	3641	bank
kambi	6772	871	cambium
idara	6098	176	division
pesa	6038	312	money

kanuni	5790	307	rule
jumuiya	5669	95	club
ripoti	4672	133	report
ziara	4441	139	sacred place
bunge	4359	22636	parliament
hifadhi	3954	201	protected area
gari	3861	13483	car
saa	3426	445	clock
swali	3173	11446	question
bara	3038	1662	continent
semina	2977	235	seminar
tani	2891	124	ton
hoteli	2811	497	hotel
posho	2541	288	allowance
bandari	2140	1394	harbour
zahanati	1919	124	dispensary
televisheni	1859	153	television
dalili	1851	57	sign
daraja	1684	3318	bridge
hesabu	1631	822	arithmetic
kadi	1591	11	caddy
kompyuta	1581	192	computer
suala	1541	34494	issue
zana	1385	14	honey-comb
hela	1308	128	money
korosho	1297	252	cashewnut
bunduki	1227	153	gun
darasa	1199	3852	class; classroom
parokia	1144	42	parish
treni	1130	67	train
jua	1095	1	sun
pembe	1062	562	horn; corner
shaka	1004	1496	doubt
swala	1003	109	problem; gazelle
tuzo	994	101	prize
bia	990	71	earthenware vessel
lawama	952	166	blame
dini	934	4997	religion
bao	921	3311	goal
karatasi	912	321	piece of paper
jela	834	472	prison
pepo	810	313	spirit; demon

wodi	792	137	ward
pindi	775	756	time
fujo	764	204	disturbance
ngumi	725	125	punch of a fist
kemikali	725	66	chemical
dhambi	721	331	sin
baa	709	306	disaster
pikipiki	707	127	motorcycle
ghorofa	696	245	storey
kabila	674	2357	tribe
noti	636	65	bank note
dua	635	96	prayer
ua	621	21	fence
dosari	617	99	blemish
chupa	601	238	amniotic membrane and waters
chanjo	600	69	vaccination
raha	598	109	bliss
ekari	597	8	ecre
basi	597	3068	bus
kelele	586	121	noise
likizo	574	74	holiday
tamko	558	1618	statement
boti	523	110	boat
komba	505	212	bushbaby
shirikisho	482	2208	federation
kongwa	477	140	slave yoke
hundi	460	67	cheque
shingo	419	49	neck
jukumu	406	8662	responsibility
siha	383	98	health
helikopta	379	41	helicopter
suluhisho	354	515	solution
pua	352	47	nose
giza	349	187	darkness
takataka	330	72	rubbish
sakramenti	311	26	sacrament
panga	306	755	machete
somo	299	4201	teaching subject
dansi	298	50	dance
gongo	295	288	club
tuko	288	42	event

shambulio	279	2911	attack
joto	273	306	heat
balaa	273	549	calamity
dharau	264	41	contemp
kofia	260	22	hat
nyanya	257	100	tomato; grandmother
shinikizo	256	715	pressure
radhi	250	1687	disease
nazi	241	94	coconut
jasho	241	430	sweat
plastiki	240	47	plastic
kumbi	229	29	outer fibrous husk of coconut
fikira	229	17	thought
sanamu	225	97	idol
ghala	225	856	storeroom
kofi	224	29469	slap
vumbi	220	189	dust
goma	220	20	type of hard skinned fish; coastal stick-dance
panya	218	120	rat
hongo	218	36	bribe
tetesi	210	22	whisper
kozi	208	442	course of studies
shangwe	201	51	rejoicing
tabaka	199	428	class
kamusi	196	28	dictionary
fulana	184	21	undershirt
nyundo	179	6	big hammers
tarakimu	175	13	numeral
kanzu	162	29	cassock
tete	160	92	reed
fisi	159	141	hyena; greedy person
daftari	155	762	copybook
tozo	153	34	fine
jenereta	149	56	generator
kokoto	148	125	grit
karakana	146	88	workshop
tundu	145	198	hole
jadi	145	36	tradition
shuka	142	136	bed sheet
kombe	141	3561	shallow shell
kafara	140	99	offering

bohari	136	79	godown
goli	135	361	goal
jawabu	131	181	answer
kandarasi	128	533	contract
karo	125	57	wash-basin
kondo	121	162	war
porojo	120	27	light conversation
jedwali	120	451	table of statistics
digrii	120	11	degree
punda	118	595	donkey
tenga	112	55	bamboo basket
gereji	111	29	garage
sakata	110	920	chaos
gesti	109	15	guest house
boma	109	732	enclosure
tope	107	216	mud
skuli	106	18	school
chui	106	56	leopard; cruel person
fahari	104	187	bull
keki	103	12	cake
simulizi	100	94	story
nyasi	96	201	grass
sufuria	93	39	metal pot
disko	92	38	discotheque
kupe	85	16	tick; exploiter
pantoni	83	10	ferry-boat
hitimisho	82	91	end
tikiti	80	7	watermelon
funzo	78	9644	teaching
kabati	77	98	cupboard
pipi	76	10	sweet
gofu	76	161	ruin
jaribio	75	1890	test
kunde	70	22	cow pea
wadi	68	27	hospital ward
kunguru	68	33	crow
johari	66	36	jewel
ini	65	60	liver
kopa	64	48	dried cassava
zuio	63	58	prohibition
bango	61	595	placard
bafu	61	20	bathroom

helkopta	60	7	helicopter
kusudi	59	1629	purpose
tairi	58	252	tyre
kwapa	52	8	arm pit
jando	52	7	circumcision rites
sefu	49	13	safe
saburi	49	78	patience
hema	49	218	tent
koja	48	18	garland of flowers
koma	47	7	comma
tone	46	93	drop
tanga	46	109	formal mourning period
shavu	46	85	cheek
dai	46	8615	assertion
hekari	45	5	hectar
fumbo	45	161	parable
fiji	45	15	fridge
fikara	45	4	fancy
tunzo	41	283	reward
roketi	39	79	rocket
taulo	38	22	towel
pochi	38	26	wide bangle
bundi	38	21	owl
onyesho	37	1381	exhibition
tao	36	30	arch
sega	36	10	honeycomb
boksi	36	81	box
nundu	36	29	hump; bat
sofa	35	16	sofa
plau	35	22	plow
embe	35	86	mango
badiliko	34	8113	change
tofali	33	240	brick
panda	33	18	forehead
kope	33	1	eyelid
kaa	33	178	charcoal
jabali	33	60	rock
dari	33	75	ceiling
buti	33	20	boot
chaka	32	106	clump of trees
pakiti	31	4	packet
koloni	30	175	colony

buibui	30	42	spider	
shindano	29	4849	competition	
tufani	28	5	hurricane	
koroboi	28	15	oil lamp	
juzuu	26	5	chapter of Quran	
gauni	26	62	dress	
kome	26	6	stick used in special functions	poisonous creeping plant
tumba	25	4	bud	
kamasi	25	22	nose mucus	
tuta	24	222	terrace	
tetemeko	24	141	tremble	
korongo	24	117	gully	
kano	24	1	large sinew or tendon	
fumo	24	12	broad tipped spear	
baki	24	412	remainder	
vuguvugu	23	235	movement	
umbile	23	416	nature	
soga	23	7	idle chatter	
popo	23	23	bat	
koleo	23	9	pincers	
greda	23	60	grader	
chuchu	23	19	nipple	
sinia	22	12	platter	
kusudio	22	306	intention	
baibui	22	13	purdah	
tezi	21	42	stern	
kreti	21	8	crate	
koromeo	21	6	larynx	
guni	21	38	free verse	
fungo	21	26	fasting period	
chizi	21	21	person with bad habits	
bura	21	67	muscat cloth	
bungo	21	38	fruit with saplike Indian rubber	
trafiki	20	57	traffic	
fundo	20	37	knot	
bangili	20	1	bangle	
tusi	19	623	insult	
skendo	19	18	scandal	
panzi	19	19	flying fish	
taya	18	23	jaw	

tanki	18	166	tank
povu	18	27	foam
kuti	18	187	palm leaf frond
dodoso	18	59	questionnaire
tegemezi	17	122	expectation
kumba	17	19	braided coconut leaf
kandili	17	1	lantern
thibitisho	16	21	proof
shada	16	45	bundle of flowers in hair or clothes
bandeji	16	6	bandage
sikitiko	15	713	sadness
kala	15	4	kind of wild cat
birika	15	14	kettle
lepe	13	7	drowsiness
kesha	13	12	vigil
glovu	13	2	glove
tanuru	12	25	kiln
kago	12	10	charm
zindiko	11	14	protection charm
para	11	4	bald patch on head
ganda	11	111	skin
buku	11	22	book
omo	10	2	forepart of ship
kovu	10	89	scar
guru	10	9	x
tangamano	9	1	togetherness
kombati	9	4	combat
dodoki	9	5	loofah fruit
dege	9	126	large bird
ajenti	9	23	agency
tapo	8	18	troupe
sufi	8	3	kapok
pingo	8	1	barrier
jazi	8	6	spiritual reward
gololi	8	1	cornea
bukta	8	5	shorts
vumba	7	8	bad smell associated with fish
tanuri	7	24	kiln
sururu	7	11	pickaxe
sinagogi	7	12	synagogue
kaki	7	13	bread-sticle pores



juba	7	8	jellaba
hando	7	13	pancake dipped into boiled sugar
dafu	7	43	unripe coconut
chujio	7	13	filter
ungo	6	123	joint
sweta	6	10	sweater
sepetu	6	37	shovel
funda	6	16	mouthful
fataki	6	25	seducer
dunga	6	32	borer
dasturi	6	3	bowsprit
chozi	6	987	tear
batobato	6	5	coloured spots or strips
vuvuzela	5	4	vuvuzela horn
tanzi	5	2	loop
paji	5	74	gift
komeo	5	6	bolt
fuu	5	15	skull
chicha	5	10	remains of grated coconut
chekeche	5	3	sifter
uru	4	28	monitor lizard
tini	4	7	fig
sahihisho	4	112	correction
rijali	4	5	man with sexual powers
pure	4	3	dish of boiled maize grains and beans
piramidi	4	2	pyramid
nyigu	4	10	kind of insect for killing pests
kayamba	4	3	rattle
gunda	4	16	horn
godauni	4	22	godown
ganja	4	4	type of two masted vessel
chonge	4	1	canine tooth
chango	4	10	small intestine
burashi	4	2	brush
bapa	4	4	blade
ungamo	3	21	confession
toroli	3	9	trolley
tengo	3	10	outrigger of canoe
tegu	3	16	tapeworm
shata	3	1	lees

puto	3	15	balloon
pukusa	3	2	gift given to nubile girl
kumbo	3	10	shove
kafi	3	1	paddle
hori	3	8	creek
hangaiko	3	56	anxiety
chanuo	3	2	comb
wengu	2	2	spleen
teka	2	317	captive
susu	2	14	hammock
liwazo	2	12	consolation
korija	2	2	score
koo	2	11	throat
konokono	2	22	snail
jaribosi	2	2	foil
gome	2	882	bark
gamu	2	1	reception parade
fungamano	2	198	alliance
denge	2	53	x
chekecheke	2	2	sifter
burudisho	2	2	entertainment
tongo	1	49	deserted place
tasa	1	3	metal bowl for washing
tari	1	6	small drum
pungu	1	2	float of a fishing net
korokoro	1	17	worthless thing
komamanga	1	3	pomegranate
kangaja	1	4	type of long grass
jumuisho	1	376	generalisation
joya	1	1	spongy substance inside coconut shell
goigoi	1	12	exorcising dance
dutu	1	1	small hill
durufu	1	2	copy
dude	1	25	despicable person; unknown massive thing
diko	1	3	wharf
chungio	1	2	sift
bua	1	17	stalk
beluwa	1	1	evil