

WRITING WORKSHEETS

Must-Know **Swahili** Idioms

Anayetoa kwa hiari, hupokea bila aibu; anayetoa
kwa shingo upande hupoteza hata hedhi

Ana



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1. Anayetoa kwa hiari, hupokea bila aibu; anayetoa kwa shingo upande hupoteza hata hedhi

Literal Translation: Anyone who gives willingly gets without being ashamed; but anyone who gives unwillingly, she loses even the menstruation.

Natural Translation: When someone gives something with a clean heart, he will always get more. But when someone gives without a clean heart, he loses everything

2. Inayofichwa moyoni ndio siri; ikisemwa hata kwa kimya sio siri tena

Literal Translation: A secret is in the heart; if it is said even in silence, it is not a secret anymore.

Natural Translation: Do not tell someone a secret because he will tell someone else

3. Endelea kungoja vya mbali; vya karibu ulividharau sasa unaviona kwa umbali

Literal Translation: If you continue waiting for things in a long distance; the things near you will soon be in a long distance.

Natural Translation: Pick something you can see even if it's small instead of choosing big things you cannot see

4. Hukomi kucheka kwa sababu umezeeka; unazeeka kwa sababu umeacha kucheka

Literal Translation: You cannot stop laughing because you are old; but you can get old if you do not laugh.

Natural Translation: Help someone if you can because a time will come when you will wish to give but you can't

5. Heri kuambiwa ukweli unaozua uchungu; kuliko kuambiwa uongo unaokufurahisha

Literal Translation: Better to be told a bitter truth than a sweet lie.

Natural Translation: It's good to be told the truth even if it hurts because the truth will come out eventually

6. Tamani vikubwa lakini jua vina uzito; kama unaunyonge ridhika na vyembamba

Literal Translation: Wish big things but understand they are heavy; if you are weak, be satisfied with narrowed things.

Natural Translation: If you desire to have many things, keep in mind they come with costs

7. Rafiki mjue kwa undani; adui mfahamu kwa njia na sura

Literal Translation: Know your friend in and out; know your enemy with his ways and appearance.

Natural Translation: Know your enemies more than your friends

8. Shida hukunoa akili; raha hukutia kutu

Literal Translation: Problems sharpen the mind; entertainment brings rust.

Natural Translation: You learn through bad times but not in good times

9. Moto utauzima kwa maji; lakini maji yakikuzidi hutayazuiya kwa moto.

Literal Translation: You can put out fire with water; but stop water overflow with fire.

Natural Translation: There are people you can help without expecting a favor from them

10. Heri kuwa na wachache unaowajua; kuliko kuwa na wengi wasiokujua.

Literal Translation: Better to have a few people you know than many who do not know you.

Natural Translation: It's better to have few supportive friends than many unsupportive friends

11. Ukiwa hai hatutajua mazuri yako; lakini ukifa hata mabaya tutayajua.

Literal Translation: When you are alive we may not know your good deeds; but when you are dead we will know even the bad deeds.

Natural Translation: Not everyone will appreciate you when you are alive

12. Salamu hazishibishi; lakini kosa kuzitoa ama kuzijibu.

Literal Translation: Greetings cannot make your stomach full but fail to say hello or to respond to greetings.

Natural Translation: It is wise to greet people all the time

13. Lugha ya kicheko ni moja; inaeleweka bila kujali kabila, dini wala jinsia

Literal Translation: Laughing language is the same; it's known without checking the tribe, religion, or sex.

Natural Translation: It is important to be happy all the time

14. Wenye macho huona; lakini mwenye hamu hutafuta.

Literal Translation: Someone with eyes sees but someone with desire searches.

Natural Translation: Having a dream is more important than having your eyes

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