

## KIKONGO GRAMMAR – BITE SIZE

**Mu**; Mu(si) = singular

**Ba**; Be(si) = plural

e.g:

**MU**–KONGO(Mukongo)

**BA**–KONGO(Bakongo); NOTE: THERE IS NO “s”

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**MU**–NTU(Muntu)

**BA**–NTU(Bantu)

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**MU**–Zombo(Muzombo, N’zombo) = of Makela do Zombo county(Angola) [originally MAKELA MA ZOMBO ]

**BA**–Zombo(Bazombo) = people from Makela do Zombo county(Angola) [originally MAKELA MA ZOMBO ]

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**MU**–Ana(Muana or Mwana) = son/daughter  
= children

**B**–Ana(Bana)

**Mwana Kongo Día Ntontela      Bana Ba Kongo Día Ntontela**

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**Musi Nkusu-Mpete** = a person from(native) Nkusu-Mpete district in Damba county(Angola)

**Besi Nkusu-Mpete** = people from Nkusu-Mpete

**Mind the nasals M and N**

**NKUMBU** = A NOUN

**KUMBU** = FAME

Note: by omitting or ignoring “**M**” or/and “**N**” you will be corrupting: nouns, adjectives, verbs etc... (In this way you may “redefine” Kikongo language itself).

Will you please make an effort to preserve kikongo grammar as it was originally setup by the honorable Mr. João NLEMVO in 1885?

The list below is by no mean exhaustive. There is hundreds of words in Kikongo language to which a small change in writing (misspelling) will definitely change and corrupt the original meaning of the word.

Good pronunciation is critical in Kikongo language for the sake of the original meaning of the word (etymology), as it is in Shakespeare’s language.

## MUNA NDINGA KONGO DÍA NTONTELA

**Baka** = 1. to obtain; 2. explanation, sense, preface(to a book)

**Mbaka** = short(height) man/woman

**Buka** = come in a great crowd

**Mbuka** = bedstead

**Bungu** = reason(motive)

**Mbungu** = ants' bread

**Dinga**(dinga-dinga) = larynx

**Ndinga** = voice

**Fula** = to blow, forge

**Mfula** = n., the powder (cam-wood powder, pepper, crushed ironstone, ochre, &c.) in a bundle of fetish(ebunda)

**Funa** = leavened (Funisa, v.t., to leaven)

**Nfuna** = starving

**Fuka** = to cover

**Mfuka** = debt

**Fwidi** = bereavement

**Mfwidi** = n., one who has been bereaved

**Kanda** = clan (dynasty?...)

**Nkanda** = v., to present with one's freedom

**Kanga** = to tie

**Nkanga** = bunch(banana bunch)

**Kaka** = alone

**Nkaka** = grandparent

**Kenda** = go (should go)

**Nkenda** = sad(sadness)

**Kongo** = west Africa ancient kingdom

**Nkongo** = good hunter (sniper)

**Koko** = arm

**Nkoko** = river (small river)

**Kuba** = v.t., to contribute, give a contribution

**Nkuba** = n., a grass tick.

**Kuna** = to

**Nkuna** = 1. plant(planted); 2.kind

**Kumbu** = fame

**Nkumbu** = a noun

**Kunga** = v.t.,to gather together

**Nkunga** = song

**Kulu** = foot

**Nkulu** = a patriarch

**Kusu** = to rub on or smear

**Nkusu**, (- mingyende) = adv., day by day

**Longo** = marriage

**Nlongo** = 1. holy; 2. only; 3. medicine

**Lula** = pathway,

**Nlula** = n., anger, rage, bitterness. O nlula, adv., in an angry mood; wele o nlula, he went away in an angry mood.

**Ludi** = truth

**Nludi** = ceiling

**Sambu** = 1. Psalm; 2. Prayer meeting; 3. Sunday church service

**Nsambu** = grace, favour

**Sanga** = the adverbial particles, also require the Prefix in k.

**NSanga** = 1. necklace: 2, n., a brother or sister of the opposite sex only, i.e. a brother uses it of a sister & vice-versa

**Simba** = 1. to hold; 2. to keep

**Nsimba** = older brother/sister twin(the one that was delivered first during birth)

**Sita** = barren

**Nsita** = anger

**Suka**(suka-suka) = 1. Cramp and stiffness after sitting a long while; 2. stab, v.,

**Nsuka**(oku nsuka ntu) = 1. finally; 2. at least; 3. in the end

**Sunda** = v.t. + to overreach, get an advantage over.

**Nsunda** = n., the excelling

**Suku** = chamber

**Nsuku** = stocks, fetters.

**Têka**: v.i. to shine, come out as sunshine after dullness, shine forth

**Nteka** = a man's name, implying that now that he is born the family which had become diminished will soon increase.

**Tona**(tonena) = recognize

**Ntona** = 1. genius; 2. instinct

**Tunga** = to build

**Ntunga** = jigger(jigger flea)

**Vunda** = v., to halt for rest

**Mvunda** = Debauch, evil effects of, n.,; Drunkenness, the after-effects of, n.,

**Vula**: 1. disperse of crowds, clouds; 2. be enlarged; 3. nation

**Mvûla**: selfishness

**Zadi**(zadi-zadi) = quickness

**Nzadi** = river (big river)

**Zala** = v.i. +to rise (of the tide)

**Nzala** = hunger

**Zengo** = n., a woman who has ceased bearing or who has never borne a child, although long married; used also of a man or animal in like condition, a castrated animal, a eunuch.

**Nzengo** = n., a sentence, judgment, decision in a law court or in one's own mind, opinion, a price agreed upon, contract price.

**Zinga** = to live or remain alive

**Nzinga** = an angle, corner

**Zola** = love

**Nzola** = desire

**Zombo**: (one of species)Kola nut, a genus of about 125 species of trees

**Nzombo**: a siluroid(mud fish?), cat-fish

**Zumba** = adultery

**Nzumba** = a woman's name

Kikongo language, as any other language deserves a "linguist respect". Hole is not the same word as *Whole*; Night is not Knight. *The list of words sounding alike, is very long in English language.*

Although they share the same pronunciation, each word has different meaning.

William Holman BENTLEY wrote on his preface to the “Appendix to the Dictionary and Grammar of Kongo Language”:

On page xi. Of the preface of the work of 1887, reference is made to an old translation of a Portuguese treatise on Christian Doctrine, published in Lisbon in 1624. Fr. Bernardo Maria de Cannecattim, author of the Bunda Grammar(1804), says that the above was “the first work printed in Kongo language”, and we may be most probably correct in saying that it was the first work printed in any of the Bantu languages.

The Rev. G. R. Macphail, who was minister of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in Lisbon, very kindly arranged to have the work copied for me by hand. It is a Catechism in Portuguese and Kongo interlinear. Two copies are in the National Library at Lisbon, and one in the Library of the Propaganda in Rome.

The Portuguese from which the translation was made “by the order of Matteus Cardoso,” is still in use in the schools in Madeira, as a standard Catechism; it was written by Marcos Jorge, S.J.

**Kikongo language top linguist was the honourable Mr(nkaka). João Nlemvo.**

(To Bakongo people Mr. Nlemvo is their William Shakespeare (Brits); pour les Bakongo Mr. Nlembo c'est l'équivalent de Mr. Jean-Baptiste Poquelin[Molière] (les Gaulois); para nós Bakongo o Senhor Nlemvo é o nosso Luís Vaz de Camões(Os Lusos)).

Talking about Kikongo dictionary translation work, in the "Appendix to the Dictionary and Grammar of Kongo Language", William H. Bently in 1895 said: "In this translation and linguistic work, Nlemvo, who rendered such valuable assistance in the preparation of what was published in 1887, has still continued his aid, rendered all the more efficient by these fourteen years of work, which have trained and developed his great natural aptitude. This gives the uniformity which is to such great importance".

*Tutondele wawu vo e nding'eto kayi vila ko. E vo ngeye u mwana Kongo día Ntontela, tuku dodokele mpasi vo watoma kebunga e nding'eto. Tanina yo, ye toma tumba bena be zolanga fwasanga (be fwasanga) ye soba (be sobanga) e nding'eto; Sunguna nkutu e nkumbu zeto za mbote za tuvana mase ye zingudi zeto. Tufuetu toma yo tanina; ye nwanina yo muna kibakala... "ye nzala, ye meno meto..."*

Mfoko,

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