

LESSON NOTES

# Learn Swahili in Three Minutes #1 Self Introductions

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# GRAMMAR

## The focus of this lesson is Self Introductions in Swahili

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### Topic 1: How to introduce yourself in an informal way

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Sentence from the lesson:

*Habari, Mimi ni Medina. Ninafuraha kukutana na wewe.*

"Hi, I'm Medina. Nice to meet you."

1. Let's break it down. Start with the greeting: *Habari*, then *Mimi ni ....* which is followed by your name.
2. Next, say the phrase *Ninafuraha kukutana na wewe*.  
"Nice to meet you."

### Topic 2: How to introduce yourself in the formal way

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Sentence from the lesson:

*Shikamoo. Jina langu ni Medina Ninafuraha kukutana na wewe.*

"Hello, my name is Medina. Nice to meet you."

1. It's important to note that *habari*, can be used in both casual and formal settings. However, it is more formal and respectful to use the word *shikamoo* especially when addressing an older person. *Shikamoo* implies "good day" or simply "hello."
2. You will notice that the section *mimi ni ...*for "I am" changes to *Jina langu ni Medina* for "My name is Medina."
3. During a formal self introduction, it is advisable to mention your last name too.
4. Finally, *Ninafuraha kukutana na wewe*. is the same for both. This phrase means "nice to meet you."

### Language Tip

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When you introduce yourself, it's a good habit to shake hands. Usually, the right hand is accompanied by a slight support by the left hand. If you're concerned about politeness, a slight bend forward while shaking the hand adds to the sign of respect in the Kenyan business world. However, if you speak too formally, people will think you sound unnatural. In Kenya, simplicity is best!