

LEARNING ACTIVITY GUIDE

Guide For Grammar Study

1. Study **patterns**, not rules or explanations.
2. Repeat many variations using the **same** sentence structure or grammar feature (tense, person prefixes, pronouns, etc.)
3. Use the exercise sections of lessons from graded readers or grammar reference books, choosing the feature, usage or type of sentence you want to work on.
 - a. **Repeat** them after your language helper,
 - 1) Without looking
 - 2) While looking

(This will build subconscious awareness on one feature or sentence, with some changes in other words in the sentence.)
 - b. Make up **substitution drills** in which a basic sentence is given, and various words substituted. Have your helper read the cue word, you make up the new sentence (using the same pattern) with the new word, without looking.

(Looking keeps you from hearing and forcing yourself to remember the pattern.)
 - c. **Repeat** the new sentence you have made, after your language helper. This reinforces or corrects the pattern.
 - d. **Read** all the sentences in the drill, and have language helper correct pronunciation, etc.
4. You must practice **orally**, repeating, making up sentences. You will remember what you **say**, but forget what you only read. **Repeat** patterns, make up new sentences, **use** what you practice.
5. Take about 15 to 20 minutes on each feature or type of sentence. This will build awareness of one feature to a higher level and keep you from having to remember many things at once. Study **one thing** at a time.
 - a. Learn **certain** features, not just all of Swahili. Use key word-association for tenses, or pronouns with personal subject prefixes.
 - b. You are trying to build **familiarity** with each feature: recognizing (hearing, seeing), saying, so that it sounds right when you hear yourself say it.

- c. Practice concords by drill lists: noun-adjective, noun-possessive, noun-verb subject, noun-verb object, noun- demonstrative.
- 1) For **one** class: several nouns, **all** with several adjectives; go through **all** classes thus on **one** pattern.
 - 2) For contrasting different classes of nouns: one adjective, match in phrase for some nouns of various classes; repeat mixed list with a second adjective, use 5-7 adjectives in this manner. Practice orally with language helper.
 - 3) Then go back and make complete sentences of such phrases, or do question/answer practice where answer repeats the question. This emphasizes the patterns, and gives you **oral** pattern practice in using each feature.
6. Make reference on each feature to your standard grammar books. Study explanations, **orally** practice examples, do exercises at home in writing, **then** orally with language helper.

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