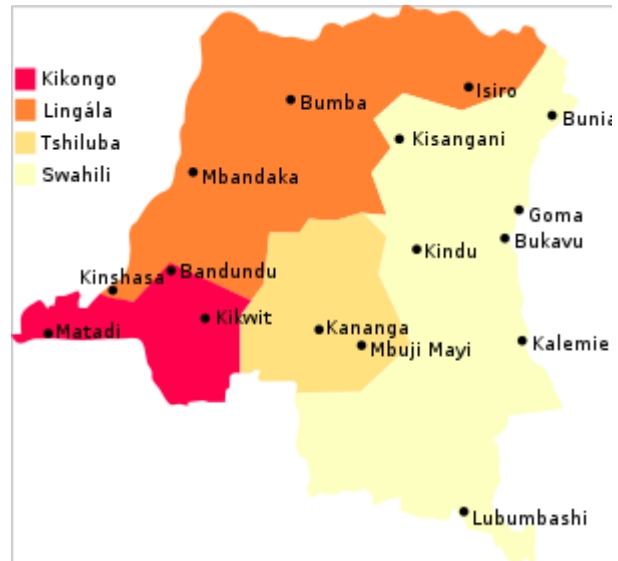


UGANDA

Swahili is the language most commonly spoken in the tourist regions of DRC.

French is the most common language broadly spoken in The DRC and as such the two language and phrase tables below are French and Swahili.



French[edit]

French is the official language of the country since its colonial period under **Belgian** rule. Therefore, the variety of French used in the DRC has many similarities with **Belgian French**. French has been maintained as the official language since the time of independence because it is widely spoken around the educated groups in the country, it belongs to none of the indigenous ethnic groups and eases communication between them as well as with the rest of the **Francophonie**, which includes many African countries. According to the OIF,^[2] 6,080,000 or 10% of the population were proficient French speakers in 2005 whereas another 18,240,000 or 30% were partially French speaking. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is currently the most populous French-speaking country outside France.

Kikongo[edit]

The **constitution** says **Kikongo** is one of the national languages, but in fact it is a Kikongo-based creole, **Kituba** (*Kikongo ya Leta* "Kikongo of the government", *Leta* being derived from French *l'État* "the State") that is used in the constitution and by the administration in the provinces of **Bas-Congo** (which is inhabited by the **Bakongo**), **Kwango**, and **Kwilu**. Kituba has become a **vernacular language** in many urban centres including **Kikwit**, **Bandundu**, **Matadi**, **Boma** and **Muanda**.

Lingala[edit]

Lingala is a language which gained its modern form in the colonial period, with the push of missionaries to uniformize and teach a local **vehicular language**. It was originally spoken in the upper Congo river area but rapidly spread to the middle Congo area and eventually became the major **Bantu language** in Kinshasa for many reasons.

Lingala was made the official language of the army under **Mobutu**, but since the rebellions the army has also used Swahili in the east. With the transition period and the consolidation of different armed groups into the Congolese Army, the linguistic policy has returned to its previous form and Lingala is again the official language of the Army.

Swahili[edit]

Swahili is the most spoken vehicular language spoken in Eastern **Equatorial Africa**. Many variations of Swahili are spoken in the country but the major one is Kingwana, sometimes called *Copperbelt Swahili*, especially in the Katanga area.

Tshiluba[edit]

The constitution does not specify which variation of **Tshiluba** is a national language. There are two major variations of Tshiluba: **Luba-Kasai**, spoken in the **East Kasai Region** (**Luba people**) and **Luba-Lulua**, in the **West Kasai Region** (**Bena Lulua people**). Luba-Kasai seems to be the language used by the administration. A related language, known as **Luba-Katanga**, is spoken in **Katanga Province**.

FRENCH

A collection of useful phrases in French.

Key to abbreviations: frm = formal, inf = informal, sg = singular (said to one person), pl = plural (said to more than one person).

English	français (French)
Welcome	Bienvenue
Hello (General greeting)	Bonjour (frm) Salut (inf)
Hello (on phone)	Allô ?
How are you?	Comment allez-vous ? (frm/pl) Comment ça va ? Ça va ? (inf)
Reply to 'How are you?'	Ça va bien, merci. vous ? (frm/pl) Ça va bien, merci. Et toi ? (inf)
Long time no see	Ça fait longtemps ! Ça fait longtemps qu'on s'est pas vu !
What's your name?	Comment est-ce que vous vous appelez ? Comment vous appelez-vous ? (frm/pl)

	Comment t'appelles-tu ? Comment tu t'appelles ? (inf/sg)
My name is ...	Je m'appelle ...
Where are you from?	D'où êtes-vous ? (frm) D'où venez-vous ? (frm) Tu viens d'où ? (inf) Tu es d'où ? (inf)
I'm from ...	Je viens de ... Je suis de ...
Pleased to meet you	Enchanté(e) Je suis enchanté(e)
Good morning (Morning greeting)	Bonjour
Good afternoon (Afternoon greeting)	Bonjour Bon après-midi
Good evening (Evening greeting)	Bonsoir
Good night	Bonne nuit
Goodbye (Parting phrases)	Au revoir À bientôt
Good luck	Bonne chance !
Cheers! Good Health! <i>(Toasts used when drinking)</i>	Santé ! À votre santé ! À la vôtre ! À la tienne !
Have a nice day	Bonne journée !
Bon appetit / Have a nice meal	Bon appétit !
Bon voyage / Have a good journey	Bon voyage !

I understand	Je comprends
I don't understand	Je ne comprends pas
Yes	Oui
No	Non
Maybe	Peut-être
I don't know	Je ne sais pas Je sais pas Je pas
Please speak more slowly	Est-ce que vous pourriez parler plus lentement, s'il vous plaît? (frm) Pouvez-vous parler plus lentement s'il vous plaît (frm) Parlez plus lentement, s'il vous plaît Peux-tu parler plus lentement s'il te plaît (inf)
Please say that again	Pouvez-vous répéter, s'il vous plaît ? Pourriez-vous répéter, s'il vous plaît ?
Please write it down	Pourriez-vous me l'écrire ? (frm) Pourriez-vous me l'écrire, s'il vous plait ? (frm) Auriez-vous l'obligeance de me l'écrire, s'il vous plait ? (vfrm)
Do you speak English?	Parlez vous anglais ?(frm) Parles-tu anglais ? (inf)
Do you speak French?	Vous parlez français ? (frm) Parlez-vous français ? (frm) Est ce-que vous parlez français ? (frm) Tu parles français ? (inf) Parles-tu français ? (inf) Est ce-que tu parles français ? (inf)
Yes, a little (reply to 'Do you speak ...?')	Oui, un peu Oui, un petit peu
Speak to me in French	Pouvez-vous me parler en français ? (frm) Parlez-moi français (frm) Tu peux me parler en français (inf)

	Parle-moi français (inf)
How do you say ... in French?	Comment dit-on ... en français ?
Excuse me	Excusez-moi ! Pardon ! Pardonnez-moi !
How much is this?	C'est combien ? Ça fait combien ? Ça coûte combien ?
Sorry	Désolé ! Je suis désolé ! Excusez-moi ! Je m'excuse ! Pardon ! Oh, pardon, excusez-moi ! Je vous demande pardon
Please	S'il vous plaît (frm) S'il te plaît (inf)
Thank you	Merci Merci beaucoup
Reply to thank you	De rien Il n'y a pas de quoi Je vous en prie Avec plaisir À votre service
Where's the toilet?	Où sont les toilettes ?
This gentleman will pay for everything	Ce monsieur va tout payer
This lady will pay for everything	Cette dame va tout payer
Would you like to dance with me?	Voudriez-vous danser avec moi ? (frm) Veux-tu danser avec moi ? (inf)
I miss you	Tu me manques (inf) Vous me manquez (frm/pl)

I love you	Je t'aime Je t'adore
Get well soon	Remets-toi vite Guéris vite Soigne-toi bien Bon rétablissement Prompt rétablissement J'espère que tu iras mieux très vite Je vous souhaite un prompt rétablissement
Go away!	Va t'en !
Leave me alone!	Laisse-moi tranquille ! (inf) Laissez-moi tranquille ! (frm)
Help!	Au secours ! À l'aide !
Fire!	Au feu !
Stop!	Arrêtez !
Call the police!	Appellez la police ! (frm) Appele la police ! (inf)
Christmas and New Year greetings	Joyeux Noël et bonne année
Easter greetings	Joyeuses Pâques
Birthday greetings	Joyeux anniversaire <u>Bon anniversaire</u> Bonne fête (<i>used in Quebec</i>)
One language is never enough	Une seule langue n'est jamais suffisante
My hovercraft is full of eels <i>Why this phrase?</i>	Mon aéroglisseur est plein d'anguilles

SWAHILI

A collection of useful phrases in Swahili, a Bantu language spoken in much of east Africa by about 140 million people.

Key to abbreviations: sg = singular (said to one person), pl = plural (said to more than one person), inf = informal

English	kiSwahili (Swahili)
Welcome	Karibu (sg) Karibuni (pl)
Hello (General greeting)	Habari (inf) Hujambo (sg) Hamjambo (pl) Sijambo (reply)
How are you?	Habari? Hujambo? Habari yako? Habari gani?
Reply to 'How are you?'	Nzuri Sijambo
What's your name?	Jina lako ni nani?
My name is ...	Jina langu ni ...
Where are you from?	Unatoka wapi?
I'm from ...	Natoka ...
Pleased to meet you	Nafurahi kukuona Nimefurahi kukutana nawe
Good morning (Morning greeting)	Habari ya asubuhi
Good afternoon (Afternoon greeting)	Habari ya mchana
Good evening (Evening greeting)	Habari ya jioni
Good night	Usiku mwema Lala salama (<i>sleep well</i>)
Goodbye	Kwaheri

(Parting phrases)	
Good luck	Kila la kheri!
Cheers! Good Health! (Toasts used when drinking)	Maisha marefu! Afya! Vifijo!
Have a nice day	Nakutakia siku njema!
Bon appetit / Have a nice meal	Ufurahie chakula chako (sg) Furahieni chakula chenu (pl) Chakula chema
Bon voyage / Have a good journey	Safari njema!
I understand	Naelewa
I don't understand	Sielewi
I don't know	Sijui
Please speak more slowly	Tafadhali sema polepole
Please write it down	Waweza kuiandika?
Do you speak English?	Unazungumza Kingereza?
Do you speak Swahili?	Unazungumza Kiswahili?
Yes, a little (reply to 'Do you speak ...?')	Ndiyo, kidogo tu
How do you say ... in Swahili?	Unasemaje ... kwa Kiswahili?
Excuse me	Samahani nipishe (to get past) Samahani (to get attention or say sorry)
How much is this?	Hii ni bei gani?
Sorry	Samahani
Please	Tafadhali
Thank you	Asante

	Asante sana (sg) Asanteni (pl)
Reply to thank you	Asante kwa kushukuru
No thanks	Hapana asante
Where's the toilet?	Choo kiko wapi?
This gentleman/lady will pay for everything	Mtu huyu atalipia kila kitu
Would you like to dance with me?	Tucheze ngoma? Utapenda kudansi?
I love you	Ninakupenda
Get well soon	Ugua pole
Help!	Msaada!
Fire!	Moto!
Stop!	Usifanye hivyo!
Go away!	Nenda zako!
Leave me alone!	Usinisumbue!
Call the police!	Mwite polisi!
Christmas and New Year greetings	Krismasi Njema Heri ya krismasi Heri ya mwaka mpya
Easter greetings	Heri ya Sikukuu ya pasaka
Birthday greetings <i>Swahili birthday song</i>	Nakutakia mema katika siku yako ya kuzaliwa! Sikukuu njema ya kuzaliwa! Furaha katika siku yako ya kuzaliwa! <u>Heri katika siku yako ya kuzaliwa!</u>
My hovercraft is full of eels <i>Why this phrase?</i>	Gari langu linaloangama limejaa na mikunga
One language is never enough	Lugha moja haitoshi