

Lesson 3

Grammar

1. a. Using 'hamba': To say 'I go' or 'I go with', one has to use the word '-hamba-'
- e.g. Ngihamba ngezinyawo. I am walking (by foot).
Uhamba ngebhasi. He/She goes (travels) by bus.
- b. Using 'ya': To say 'I go to' (go + destination) one has to use the word '-ya-'.
- e.g. Siya ekhaya. We are going home.
Baya esitolo ngamabhayisekili. They go to the shop with bicycles.
Abayi esikolweni ngesithuthuthu. They don't go by motor bike.
2. a. '-na-': with/and: The '-na-' has different meanings. e.g.
- Umntwana uhamba nomama. The child goes with mum.
(Umntwana akahambi nomama.) The child does not go with mum.
Ugogo nobabamkhulu bayavakasha. Grandma and granddad are visiting.
(Ugogo nobabamkhulu abavakashi). Grandma and granddad are not visiting.

In both cases the '-na-' is changing to '-no-' and this is because of the rule about vowels not being able to appear next to each other.

na + u (umntwana) = o = no
na + o (obaba) = o = no
na + i (ingane) = e = ne
na + a (amantombazane) = a = na

NOTE: In the negative these merges stay unchanged as the '-na-' is not a verb.

- a. '-na-': to have / not to have:
- The '-na-' in this case is a VERB.
- Izingane zinemali ukuthenga amaswidi. The children have money to buy some sweets.
Izingane azinamali ukuthenga amaswidi. The children have no money to buy some sweets.
Abantwana banamakhekhe. The children have biscuits.
Abantwana abanamakhekhe. The children do not have biscuits.

As above the rule in the positive is the same:

na + u (ugogo) = o = no
na + o (obhanana) = o = no
na + i (ihola) = e = ne

na + a (amaswidi) = a = na

BUT when the '-na-' is negated, NO MERGE of the vowels takes place. The '-na-' remains 'na' and the first vowel of the noun is dropped.

e.g. Nginemali. (positive) I have money.
Anginamali. (negative) I don't have money.
Umfana unobhuti. (positive) The boy has a brother.
Umfana akanabhuti. (negative) The boy does not have a brother.

3. '-nga-': by means of:

USipho uya ngesithuthu esikoleni. Sipho goes by motorbike to school.
USipho akayi ngesithuthu esikoleni. Sipho does not go by motorbike to school.

Amadoda ahamba ngemoto. The men go by car.
Amadoda awahambi ngemoto. The men don't go by car.

The vowels are also merging like in the case of the '-na-'.

nga + u(umjikeli) = o = ngo
nga + o = o = ngo
nga + i(ibhayesikili) = e = nge
nga + a(amabhasi) = a = nga