UNCAMSILE UKHUMBULA — USUKU LOKUZALWA — KWAKHE

Ncamsile celebrates her birthday

In this unit you will learn

- how to congratulate people
- how to wish someone well
- how to wish someone a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year
- some exclamations and how to use them
- how to express the concept ‘for’
- a further way to ask about someone’s health
- about object concords and how to use them

Imibuzo

1. Kuyiqiniso noma akusilo? (True or false?) Correct and rewrite the false ones.
   
   (a) UNcamsile ukhumbula usuku lokuzalwa kwakhe
   (b) U-Edith noKen abajabali kakhum
   (c) U-Edith noKen bafisela uNcamsile okuhle
   (d) UNcamsile ufisela u-Edith okuhle

2. Phendula imibuzo elandelayo:
   
   (a) U-Edith ufisela uNcamsile? (-ni what?)
   (b) UKen ufisela uNcamsile?
   (c) U-Edith noKen bamlathelani uNcamsile?
   (d) UNcamsile ukhumbulani?
1 Congratulating people/wishing them well

There are various expressions you may use to congratulate people or to wish them well. Here are few suggestions.

1.1 I/We wish you ...

This is expressed as follows:

Ngikufisela .../Sikufisela ...

I/We wish (for) you
(sing.) (= -ku-) ....
We wish (for) you (pl.) (= -ni-) ....

Sinifisela ...

To this you may add okuhle kodwa only the best, e.g.:

Sikufisela okuhle kodwa.

We wish (for) you only the best.

or usuku oluule a nice day, e.g.:

Nginifisela usuku oluule.

I wish (for) you (pl.) a nice day.

or impilontle a beautiful/prosperous life, e.g.:

Ngikufisela impilontle.

I wish (for) you a prosperous life
(i.e. health and happiness).

or impilonde a long life, e.g.:

Sinifisela impilonde.

We wish (for) you (pl.) a long life.

ukhisinguzi omuhle (nonaka omusha omuhle) a happy Christmas (and a prosperous New Year!)

Sinifisela ukhisinguzi omuhle nonaka omusha omuhle.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

In English you sometimes say Cheers! when sharing a drink with friends. In Zulu you say Impilontle!

1.2 Congratulations!

When congratulating someone you can either say Halala! Congratulations!, e.g.

Halala Ron! Wenze kahle.

Congratulations Ron! You have done well.
or use the verbal stem -halalisela as in:

Siyakuhalalisela Angela! We congratulate you, Angela! (-ku = you)

1.3 Congratulations on ...

When you want to say Congratulations on you use nga- for on. However, this nga- becomes ngo- when followed by a noun starting with u-, and it becomes nge- when followed by a noun beginning with i.

Halala ngokukhumbula Congratulations on (the (< nga-ukukhumbula) usuku remembrance of) your birthday, lokuzalwa kwakhe, Paul.

or:

Sikuhalalisela We (I) congratulate you on (Ngikuhalalisela) ngesuku your birthday. lokuzalwa kwakho.

2 Pronunciation of sisi and bhuti

The words sisi (sister) and bhuti (brother) which are popular forms of address among contemporaries, especially in metropolitan areas, are frequently pronounced without their final vowel.

Sawubona sis' Pamela Good day, sister Pamela. Halala sis' Nomsa Congratulations, sister Nomsa. Ngiyabonga bhut' John Thank you, brother John. Uphi ubhut' Jake? Where is brother Jake?

In the last example ubhut' Jake is not addressed, which explains why the initial u- is not omitted.

3 Exclamations!

Exclamations are a regular ingredient of Zulu. Here are a few popular examples.

(emphatic) negation

Hhayi/Hhayibol/Hhayikhona! No! Most definitely not!

Hhayikhona! Akunjalo. No! It's not so. You are lying!
Ukhuluma amanga! (Lit. You are talking lies)
Hhayibol Angifuni. Definitely not! I don't want to.

drawing someone's attention

We! Hey!

We Mike! Ngiyakufuna. Hey Mike! I'm looking for you.
We bafana! Thulani! Hey boys! Be quiet!

wonder/surprise

Hawu! Hurrah!, My word!, Good heavens!

Hawu! Basilike! Hurrah! They have come!

Awu! My!

Awu! Uphasile Sipho! My! You have passed, Sipho!

Mehlamadala! (Lit. Old eyes) What a pleasure! Good gracious! (at meeting an old acquaintance)

Mehlamadala! Sakubona Lindi! What a pleasure to see you again Unjani? after such a long time, Lindi! How are you?

This last exclamation is very popular. You use it when greeting people whom you have not seen for a fairly long time.
pardon

Nxepe! Pardon!, Never mind! Sorry!

Nxepe mfwethu, angifuni ukukuphazamisa. Sorry brother! I don’t mean to bother you.

4 Expressing the concept ‘for’

In Zulu, the concept for, as in ‘I work for him’, is expressed by changing the final vowel -a of the verb stem to -ela.
- fisela wish, desire
- lethela bring for
- sebenzela work for

Ngisebenzela iGolden City Furnishers.

I work for Golden City Furnishers.

-biza call

Ngizokubizela ithokisi.

-bizela call for

I’ll call a taxi for you.

In the past tense -ela becomes -ele:

Sithengele umama isipho. We bought (for) mother a present.

Ngisebenzele uHulumeni. I worked for the Government.

-el-a also becomes -ele when used in friendly requests:

Awusilethele imeni-yu. Please bring (for) us the menu.

Awungiphathela ibhotel-a. Please pass (for) me the butter.

Finally it must be noted that not all verbs that end in -ela incorporate the concept for, e.g.:
- tshela tell
- vela come from

5 The object concords

In English when you do not want to repeat the name of a person or an object in your discourse, you use a pronoun instead, as in ‘Do you know Mr Ntuli? Yes, I know him’, where the object noun Mr Ntuli has been replaced with the object pronoun him.

In Zulu you do not use pronouns to replace object nouns in your discourse, but you use object concords instead. Like its counterpart the subject concord (see Unit 6), the object concord is not an independent word but forms part of the verb. Its position in the verb is immediately before the verb stem as can be seen here:

- Ufuna uGilbert?

- Uthanda amazambane?
  Yebo, ngi-y-a-wa-thanda. Do you like potatoes? Yes, (I-them-like = ) I like them.

- Ukhuluma isiZulu na?
  Yebo, ngi-y-a-si-khuluma. Do you speak Zulu? Yes, (I-it-speak = ) I speak it.

Notice the difference in word order between Zulu and English. In English the object pronoun comes after the verb, as in ‘I know him, We like it’, whereas in Zulu it comes before the verb (stem): I him know, We it like.

Like the subject concords, the object concords are derived from the noun class prefix, which is why many objectival concords have the same or almost the same form as their subjectival counterparts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>noun class</th>
<th>subject concord</th>
<th>object concord</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st p. sing.</td>
<td>ngi-</td>
<td>-ngi-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st p. pl.</td>
<td>si-</td>
<td>-si-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd p. sing.</td>
<td>u-</td>
<td>-ku-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd p. pl.</td>
<td>ni-</td>
<td>-ni-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>um(u)-</td>
<td>-m-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 2</td>
<td>ab-a-</td>
<td>-ba-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 1a</td>
<td>u-</td>
<td>-m-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 2a</td>
<td>o-</td>
<td>-ba-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 3</td>
<td>um(u)-</td>
<td>-wu-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 4</td>
<td>imi-</td>
<td>-yi-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 5</td>
<td>i(i)-</td>
<td>-yi-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 6</td>
<td>ama-</td>
<td>-wa-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 7</td>
<td>isi-</td>
<td>-si-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 8</td>
<td>izi-</td>
<td>-zi-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 9</td>
<td>in-/im-</td>
<td>-yi-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 10</td>
<td>izin-/izim-</td>
<td>-yi-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 11</td>
<td>u(u)-</td>
<td>-lu-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 14</td>
<td>u(bu)-</td>
<td>-bu-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 15</td>
<td>uku-</td>
<td>-ku-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subject concords that consist of a vowel only get w- or y- before them when they are used as object concords. Note, however, the form of the object concord in the case of classes 1 and 1(a).

Before vowel verb stems (see Unit 13) the vowel-part of most object concords is discarded, except in the case of the concords -ku- and -lu- which change to -kw- and -lw- respectively when appearing before vowel verb stems that begin with a or e:

Ngiyakwazi (< ngi-ya-ku-azi)  I know you
Uyangazi na? (< u-ya-ngi-azi)  Do you know me?

Let’s briefly exercise the use of some of the object concords listed above by providing the missing concord in the following examples. Note what the noun class prefix looks like before deciding on the appropriate object concord.

- Utshele umnumzane Khumalo na?
  Yebo, ngi____tshelile.

- Ukhuluma isiNgisi?
  Yebo, ngi____khuluma.

- Ubongi i(l)ibhubesi na?
  Yebo, ngi____bonile.

- Siya____fisela usuku oluhle
  Maria.
  Siya____fisela usuku oluhle.

- Asi____azi (ubaba Gumede).

- Ulethe imali (class 9) yami Zodwa?
  Yebo, ngi____lethile.

- Usa____khumbula Simon?

- Yebo, ngiya____khumbula.

Have you told Mr Khumalo?
Yes, I have told him.
Do you speak English?
Yes, I speak it.
Did you see the lion?
Yes, I saw it.
We wish (for) you a nice day,
Maria.
We wish (for) you (pl.) a pleasant
day.
We do not know him (baba
Gumede that is).
Did you bring my money,
Zodwa?
Yes, I brought it.
Do you still remember me
Simon?
Yes, I remember you (sing.).

1 It’s your friend Mary’s wedding anniversary. Write a card to congratulate her and her husband on (= nga-) this happy occasion (ukukhumbula usuku lokushada kwenu) and to wish them (ni = you) a long and prosperous life. Begin your card with:

Mary othandekayo  Dearest Mary
And end it:
Yimi  It is I
Umngane wakho  Your friend
_______  (your name)

UROBERT DLOMO UFISA UKUNIMEMELA
EDILINI  LOSUKU LOKUZALWA
MHLA KA-24 SEPTEMBA NGO 8
KUSHIHLWA E ac LE  LANE STREET, ARCADIA

ROBERT DLOMO WOULD LIKE YOU TO COME TO HIS
BIRTHDAY PARTY
ON 24 SEPTEMBER AT 8 PM.
LONG LANE STREET, ARCADIA

2 Supply the appropriate exclamation
(a) ____ Susan! Yisikhathi eside sagingana! (surprised)  Hello
Susan. It’s such a long time since we’ve seen each other.