

Luo word	Eng. gloss	Plural/	Notes
[bilabial click]			call to a dog or cat
achu			sound of sneeze
busi			call to a cat ~pussy?
mmmN			exclamation of good smell
mN			exclamation of foul smell
mOrpolo			sound of thunder/sky
nyahOn			after someone sneezes
pspsps			sound of whisper
wiu wiu			police siren
bup	"pow"		sound of punching/falling
dhel	(human) body		modify for "body of X" reading; velar l?
kendo	again		
kOd	among		voiced final cons.
ga	and		or kOd
ichwan	anger		
ochuNglo	ant		
bat	arm, hand		
nyathi	baby		
!	bad girl!		for calling someone to task
balun	balloon	balunde	

rabwUlo	banana	
kOriath	bark	lit. chest of tree
kikapu	basket	kikape
Oganda	beans	LHL?
jEbEl	beautiful, nice	a kind of compliment
ber	beauty, good, kind, beautiful	
kitanda	bed	kitEndni
kich	bee	
riNgo	beef	riN- = meat
piplp	beep	sound of a car horn
musip	belt	musibe
bwo	beneath	
bwOm	big	
win	birds	
kEch	bitter	
raten	black	
ubarateNga	black pepper	
[voiced uvular fricative] or [voiced pharyngeal fricative]?	boo!	to scare someone
buk	book	buge
chupa	bottle	chupni
wUi	boy	
badyath	branch	badyiEn
thuno	breast	sg. is sg. only, pl. can be either
jooi	buffalo	

kiande	butt	a fronted to æ(ae) plus nasalization; E finally?
zzzz	buzz	bee sound
nyarOia	calf	
dhyiaN	car	
mutoka	car	mutokni
karat	carrot	
wOgo	cassava	
paka	cat	pekni/peke no aspiration
wiOt	ceiling	Ot=house
kOm	chair	
chEk	check	chEge
lem	cheek	lembe
kor	chest	
riNgweno	chicken meat	
tik	chin, beard, jaw	contextually determined
chwi chwi	chirp	sound of a bird chirping
OlwaOre	circle	
ler	clean	
kOkoriOri	cockadoodledoo	rooster sound
oluende	cockroach	
nas	coconut	
k'ahawa	coffee	
ragol	comb	ragonde l-n alternation?
saU	communion (in church)	saw?
Uruma	corn	

ugali	cornmeal	
dhiEn	cow	
riEn	cow	
nyaN	crocodile	nyaNge
agak	crow	final affricate kx?, initial schwa
katIn	curtain	katInde
nyar	daughter of (human)	
chiEN	day	
OdiochiEn	daytime	
mesa	desk, table	
obEl	devil/Satan	
thin	dhero	
jido	dirty	
dOnyo	divided by	
gwUk	dog	gwUgi
jatich	domestic employee, housekeeper, "the help"	jotich lit. worker
punda	donkey	
dhOt	door	dhodi
laU	dress	lewi
it	ear	vowel lengthened before voiceless cons.?
chamo	eat	trans. or intrans., ~chamachama
chiEmo	eat	final [u]; only intrans.,

		LHM/HM?; ~chiemachiema
aboro	eight (8)	LHM
apargaboro	eighteen (18)	
okumbo	elbow	final o sounds slightly high, like [U]
liEch	elephant	devoiced j?
adiambo	evening	
waN	eye	
luwar	failure	
bor	far, tall	
malek	fast	
piyo	fast	
rikni	fast, smart	
chue	fat	
wUnwa	father	formal; lit. our father
baba	father, dad, paternal uncle	voc.; usually babana, lit. my father
pOrdho	field, farm, land	
apargabich	fifteen (15)	LHL?
mach	fire	maje
kendo	fire (cooking)	differs from wed in tone
mokwuNgo	first	
rech	fish	partially devoiced j?
abich	five (5)	LH
dierOt	floor	Ot=house
maUwa	flower	maUpe

chiEmu	food	
tiElo	foot, leg	
bUNgu	forest	
lwOno	forgiveness	
aNguEn	four (4)	LLH
nOno	free, nothing	
tich-abich	Friday	
matunga	fruit	
olebo	fruit	
rajit	furry	
mwande	gazelle, antelope	
tiga	giraffe	
nyako	girl	a fronted
glas	glass	glase fronted like Eng!?
diEl	goat	diek
riNdiEl	goat meat	
bim	gorilla	bimbe
kwara	grandfather	lit. my grandfather
lum	grass	
deede	grasshopper	
duka	grocery store	dukni
yir	hair	
nus	half	
luedo	hand, arm, fingers	flap?
tibEti	handbag	tibEde
mOr	happiness	
Opwao	hare	Opwache

jOk	hatred	
wich	head	wiye
hek	heavy	not w/smoking
kON	help	
gwEno	hen, chicken	gwen
eri	here	
raU	hippo	raw?
arusa	holiday	both a's reduced to schwa?
morkich	honey	
tUN	horn	
liEt	hot	
Ot	house	
nade	how?	
lwOm	huge	
dhano	human	
otiEnu	human being	
kech	hunger	
chuara	husband	lit. my man; same for our
OtOio	hyiena	OtOiche
UndiEk	hyiena	UndiEge
riEko	intelligence	
rwiEk	intelligent	
dhOk lochin	intestines	(same)
ntie	is available, is there	
En	is, equals	
nyego	jealous	

mateo	junior	as in dhako mateo = junior wife; ma prefix?
tlfoNgu	key	
nyardiEl	kid	
aiduno	kidney	final mid vowel?, fronted initial vowel
NwOno	kindness	
pala	knife	pande
Ngas	ladder	Ngase
nyarobEl	lamb	
stima	lamp	
stima	lamp	stimbe
ObOke	leaf	(same) pl.
chwuN	liver (animal); heart	or chyN (high front rounded)?
obONgo- bOngo	lizard	
ogweo	lizard	ogweche
ogwEyo	lizard	ogwEche
kiful	lock	kifunde
hera	love	
hawi	luck	
obo	lung	ObOke
thwUn	male	
chuar	man	
maiambé	mango	both a's fronted
nera	maternal uncle	
chuma	metal	chumbe
dyerotino	midnight	

chak	milk	
gol	minus	
wOktich	Monday	
kwan	money	
pesa	money	
oNEl	monkey	oNeche
due	moon	
molOio	more, -er	
Okinyi	morning	
sunE	mosquito	
mogik	most, -est	
minwa	mother, maternal aunt	
mama	mother, mom	usually minwa, lit. our mother
gOt	mountain	gOde
oyieo	mouse, rat	
dhOk	mouth, lip	coda half-devoiced?
nyeN	much	
japidi	nanny	
chiegni	near	
Nut	neck, throat	Nude
gazEt	newspaper	gazEde
otiEno	night	
ochiko	nine (9)	
odiochiEn	noon	
um	nose	(same) [Um]?, short vowels seem neutralized before nasals

Ok	not	
mor	oil, fat	
oti	old	
jadwuN	old man, authority figure	
achiEl	one (1)	LHL
kitUNgu	onion	
ai	ouch	
rwath	ox	(same)
lich	painful, to have pity on someone, not good	
ION	pants	from "long"
pOiyē	papaya	
kalatas	paper	kalatase
kalotas	paper	
kalo	pass	
gwaia	paternal aunt	or gwaiawa
jugu	peanuts, nuts	
kalam	pen, pencil	any writing instrument
piElo	pepper	o=[u]
plrfyum	perfume	plrfyumbe
uruwe	pig	
pilo	pillow	
mananas	pineapple	
san	plate	sande
mwOl	polite	
riNguruwe	pork	
rabuUn	potato	

OpUrawum	praying mantis	
wiErno	python	
apOyO	rabbit	apOche
kOth	rain	
omugE	rhino	long u?
mchale	rice	a fronted after all palatals?
ochale	rice	alt.
aUra	river	aUcha
kidi	rock, stone	kite
thwUn	rooster	thwUnde
gwEno		lit. male chicken
tiEndiath	root	tiEndiEn
sIn	sadness	
Ngeso	Saturday	
ratil	scale	ratinde
kodhi	seed	
majUn	senior	as in dhako majUn = senior wife; ma prefix?
abrio	seven (7)	5+2;
rOmbo	sheep	
mEli	ship	mEnde
shErti	shirt	from. Engl.
nyadundo	short	
onyasa	shorts	onyase
nyathiwa	sibling, cousin	lit. our child
two	sick	
yaminwa	sister, cousin	nimine
aUchiel	six (6)	5+1; FR
polo	sky	

goio	slam	
apat	slap	
mabuus	slave	mabuuse
mos	slow	
tem	small	
tIn	small	
thwUI	snake	
sabUm	soap	
sabun	soap	sabunde
yom	soft	
lo	soil	
bEl	sorgum	
mOr	sound	
aedha	squirrel	
otich	star	
ich	stomach	
fuO	stupid	
skari	sugar	
nyiaN	sugarcane	a fronted;
chiEn	sun	
jumapil	Sunday	
rabuUn- nyalluo	sweet potato	lit. potatos from Luoland; a fronted after ny
mint	tastes good	
chai	tea	
apar	ten (10)	
cha	that	
machA	that	adj.
n(i)	that	complementizer

owecha	the day before yesterday	
owadwa	their brother, cousin	
maagi	these	
apargadEk	thirteen (13)	
mae	this	
ni	this	
adik	three (3)	final affricate?, a fronted; LH
tich- aNgwen	Thursday	
tlk	tick (-tock)	sound of a clock
sa	time, watch	
dalo	times	multiply
chopo	to arrive	
gweo	to bark	
nyalo	to be able	
gwelo	to beckon	
kelo	to bring	
lao	to chase	[u]
biro	to come	flap?
paro	to contemplate	
fUolo	to cough	
kweno	to count	
kwano	to count, math	
yEwak	to cry	yuak
miEl	to dance	
tho	to die	
goro	to draw	
leko	to dream	

madho	to drink	drink, trans.;
metho	to drink	intrans.;
nOno	to examine	
luodo	to fear	
dhaο	to fight	final [u]
fliyo	to fly	
miyo	to give	
dhe	to go	
jok	to hate, dislike, be tired of, detest, resent	
kOONo	to help	
gOOyo	to hit	
mako	to hold, arrest	
kano	to keep	
nyero	to laugh (at)	
hera	to like, love, adore	
Nicho	to look	HL or HH!
Niyo	to look	LL
NiaNia	to look a long time?	LLHH
NichaNicha	to look a long time?	LLHH
jao	to open	
layo	to pee, urinate	
mor	to please	
lemo	to pray	
somo	to read, study	
wEyo	to release, give up, leave	

chao	to ridicule	
rINgo	to run	
nana	to see	definitely æ (ae)
uso	to sell	
Oro	to send	
tweNgo	to sew	
gOyOkoko	to shout	gokoko, LHL
wedh	to sing	
wer	to sing	
betabeta	to sit	a long time; LLMM
bet	to sit, perch	L
apado	to slap	
nindo	to sleep	nIno?
jer	to sneeze	
raNgo	to stare, search	
chuN	to stop, stand	
gamo	to take	
losو	to talk	
woio	to talk, speak	
paro	to think	
Nok	to throw up	
thiu	to wake up	
thiyo	to wake up	
wUTho	to walk	voicing part way through fricative
kendo	to wed	differs from fire in tone
lOyo	to win	

tiyo	to work		
ndiko	to write		
kawUno	today		
nyanya	tomato		a fronted
kiny	tomorrow		
leo	tongue	IEp	not language
ahinya	too		
lak	tooth	lake	HL on pl.?
malo	top		
opuk	tortoise	opuge	
gari	train	gache	
chilo	trash, dirt		
yath	tree, plant	yiEn	a fronted; iath?; pl.=wood;
tich-ario	Tuesday		
apargario	twelve (12)		
piEario	twenty (20)		HHLF
ario	two (2)		LHL
lach	urine		
yuech	vacuum	yueje	
thir	very		
IOch	victory	(same)	no possessive
vUmvUm	vroom		car (engine)
otega	vulture		
nyaanyaa	wah		sound of a baby crying
korsisi	wall		or korOt, Ot=house;
pino	wasp		
pii	water		

tich-adek	Wednesday		
Ngano	wheat		
rachaa	white		
lach	wide		
chiega	wife		lit. my wife
jaOt	wife		lit. person of the house
drisa	window	drise	
dhako	woman, wife		
mon	women		minwa = our mother;
wach	words, saw	weche	pl. for words only
tich	work		
wuwu	wroof wroof		dog bark
nduma	yam	(same)	
nyuru	yesterday		
magwa	zebra		

This page is copyrighted by Betsy McCall, 1999.

Explanation of orthography:

ch=± (voiceless palatal (alveo-palatal?) affricate); y=j(palatal glide); j=@ (voiced palatal affricate); cApItAl vOwEls=[-ATR] vowels; other vowels have normal IPA(not English) values; th=theta (voiceless interdental fricative); dh=p(voiced interdental fricative); N=? (velar nasal); double vowel=long vowel; ny=... (palatal nasal); sh=• (voiceless palatal fricative);