Swahili is a Bantu language spoken by various ethnic groups that inhabit large areas of eastern Africa. Although only 5-10 million people speak it as their native language, Swahili is a lingua franca for much of the region, it is a national or official language of four nations, and it is the only language of African origin among the official working languages of the African Union.

Study the following sentences with their English translations, given in order, and then translate the sentences given below. Swahili does not have any words for ‘the’ or ‘a’.

I. Translate the following phrases into Swahili:

- Mtu ana watoto wazuri.
- Mto mrefu una visiwa vikubwa.
- Wafalme wana vijiko vidogo.
- Watoto wabaya wana miwavuli midogo.
- Kijiko kikubwa kinatosha.
- Mwavuli una mfuko mdogo.
- Kisiwa kikubwa kina mfalme mbaya.
- Watu wana mifuko mikubwa.
- Viazi vibaya vinatosha.
- Mtoto ana mwavuli mkubwa.
- Mito mizuri mirefu inatasha.
- Mtoto mdogo ana kiazi kizuri.

The man has good children.
The long river has large islands.
The kings have small spoons.
The bad children have small umbrellas.
A large spoon is enough.
The umbrella has a small bag.
The large island has a bad king.
The men have large bags.
The bad potatoes are enough.
The child has a large umbrella.
Good long rivers are enough.
A small child has a good potato.

II. Translate the following phrases into Swahili:

a. The small children have good spoons.

b. A long umbrella is enough.
c. A bad potato has a good bag.

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d. Good kings are enough.

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e. The long island has bad rivers.

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f. The spoons have long bags.

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12. If the Swahili word for ‘the prince’ is *mkuu*, what do you think the word for ‘the princes’ is, and why?

a. Write the Swahili word for ‘the princes’ in the box below.

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b. Explain your answer to (a). (Write your explanation on the following page.)
(I) A Large Spoon is Enough (3/3)

n → a → c → l → o