

BeingAfrican, LLC Curriculum-Lesson 23

Objectives

Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

- 1. Learn shona names and their meanings.**
 - 2. Understand some life situations shona names are derived from.**
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The culture of Shona names

Shona people have the habit /culture of naming children relative to what is happening in their lives at the time. Therefore most names tell a story in the history of naming the family. Here are the names of my own children to illustrate this:

- o Ruvimbo(munashe)- Meaning “Faith”- Faith and trust in God’s providence.
- o Rufaro(munashe)-Joy in the Lord for giving me a son. Joy was my overriding feeling at this gift of a son.
- o Kuziva(kwashe)-I felt that it was by God’s grace that I had this third child. The name is an expression of gratitude.

Here are some common names often given with a religious reference to God-Mwari

Ruva-rashe	God's flower
Nyasha/Tsitsi/Ngoni-dzashe	God's mercy/grace
Vimbai-nashe	Trust in God
Vanesuishe or Isheanesu	God is with us (Emmanuel)
Tapiwa-nashe	Given by God

Challenge Task: Find out the meanings/messages behind other ten (10) Shona names you have heard among the people you know.

Also answer the questions below:

- o What does your surname mean?
- o Find out as many names of your extended family relatives as you can. Any Shona ones??
- o What do they mean??

Word building-increase Shona vocabulary

Learn Shona names and their meanings. See illustration below and give own examples

Name	Meaning
Tinei	What do we have?
Tongai	Rule
Mukundi	Victor

The culture of Shona names

Here is a fun fact:

Shona names carry meanings. Names usually refer to:

1. Circumstances
2. Feelings
3. Namesakes

Names given based on different circumstances and experiences

Shona	English
Ndaizevei	What did I know?
Sekesayi	Laugh some more
Dudzai	Make it known or make it clear. Disclose

Gamuchirayi	Receive/Accept
Kupakwashe	The Lord's giving

Names given based on feelings

Feelings	English
Tsitsi	Mercy
Rufaro	Joy
Rudo	Love
Tatenda	Gratitude
Rutendo	Faith

Practise exercise

- What are the namesake Shona names in your family?
- What do they mean?
- What does your surname mean