THE SESOTHO BOOK

A Language Manual Developed By a Peace Corps Volunteer During Her Service in Lesotho
To the reader:

I have attempted to make this book as comprehensive and yet as concise as possible. It is largely an adaptation of “Everyday Sesotho Grammar” by M.R.L Sharpe. I have included most of the vocabulary words, phrases, and grammatical points that I WISH someone had explained to me earlier on. I know learning Sesotho can seem like an incredibly daunting task, but it can be done.

Here are my words of advice:

- Start USING Sesotho whenever possible. Carry around a dictionary and a little notebook to look up and write down the new words you come across. The more you practice (and the more mistakes you make), the easier it gets.

- If you reach a point where your language ability seems to have plateaued and you want to improve quickly, I recommend that you make a firm decision to ONLY speak Sesotho when in your village, explaining to those in your community that you would like them to only speak Sesotho with you as well. The communication barrier will be a big challenge at first, but soon you will start to see a rapid improvement in your language ability.

- Keep trying out language tutors until you find one that is helpful. It may take many tries, but it’s worth it.

- Finally, READ any material in Sesotho that you can get your hands on. Reading Sesotho (rather than just listening to people speak a mile a minute) gives you time to pick sentences apart. Also, a reading project provides great material to work on with your language tutor. (For example, you can read a chunk of text on your own, look up the words you don’t know, and then go over it with your tutor for clarification).

In this book, more advanced or obscure concepts appear in grey boxes. Beginners may want to disregard these boxes at first and come back to them as their Sesotho improves.

I would like to thank ‘Mè ‘Malineo Sephooko for all of her help on this book and ‘Mè ‘Mamohato Setlaee-a-Fonya for taking the time to expain so, so many things to me.

Best of luck,

Anne (Khethang) Schoeneborn
CHED 2006-2008 (Mazenod, Lesotho)
email: aschoene@gmail.com
# Table of Contents

1. Guide to Pronunciation 5
2. Pronouns and Greetings 7
3. Introductions 12
4. Infinitive Tense, Commands, Short and Long Present Tense 16
5. Negative Present Tense, Negative Commands 20
6. Noun Classes and Pronouns 24
7. 3 Irregular Verbs: To Be, To Have, To Say 29
8. Numbers 33
9. There is, There are, There is None 38
10. Verbs that express ability and inability 41
11. Future, Future Continuous and Negative Future Continuous Tense 44
12. Negative Future Tense 48
13. Immediate Future Tense and its Negative 51
14. Locations and the Locative Suffix (-ng) 54
15. Prepositions and Basic Conjunctions 57
16. Possessive Construction, Possessive Pronouns and Substantive Pronouns 62
17. Adjectives 67
18. Which? (-fe?) 71
19. Demonstrative Adjectives 74
20. Object Pronouns 78
21. Making a Verb Reflexive with the Prefix (I-) 82
22. Perfect Tense 85
23. Negative Perfect Tense 89
24. Imperfect and Preterite (Distant Past) Tense 93
25. Negative Imperfect Tense 98
26. Short past tense 102
27. Auxiliary Verbs: Ntse, Se, Sa, E-s'o and More 105
28. More Conjunctions 109
29. Direct Relative Clause and Three Further Conjunctions 113
30. Subjunctive/Potential Tense and its Negative 116
31. Passive Voice 119
32. Changing the Suffix of a Verb to Alter its Meaning 122
33. Ho (It is, It was) 125
34. Indirect Relative Clause 126
35. Conditional Tenses 127
36. Appendix 1 – Business Vocabulary 129
37. Appendix 2 – HIV/AIDS Vocabulary 130
38. Explanation of Grammatical Terms 131
39. Answers to Practice Exercises 132
40. Glossary 142
LESSON 1

GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION

In Sesotho, the accent usually rests on the syllable before the last. For example: rata (to like), morena (chief), tsamæa (to walk), ntoa (war).

-ng at the end of a word is considered a syllable, so the accent in words ending in -ng falls on the syllable preceding it. For example: morenɛng (the chief's place), tsamææng! (walk! pl.), ntoenɡ (in/to war), lumelæŋ (hello, pl.).

SOUNDS

(only those sounds which may present difficulty are listed here)

1. Vowels

a as in “father” ho bala, to read
ē as i in “sin” sēfate 1, tree
ē as in “there” (the mouth is more widely opened than for ē) ho ēma, to stand
i as e in “even” ho tlisa, to bring
ō as in “boo” (closed sound) bōsiu, night
ô as in “ought” (open sound) ho bona, to see
u as “cool” ho buila, to open

2. The syllables oe, oa, ea and eo

o before a or e has the same sound as the English w, forming only one syllable with the following vowel. For example, ho oa (pronounced ho wa), to fall; o oele (pronounced o wele), he/she has fallen.

e before a and o has the same sound as the English y. For example: nku e ka (pronounced nku ya ka), my sheep; eona (yona), it.

3. Single Consonants

l before i or u is pronounced as a d lumela (pronounced dumela), hello
(although before a,e and o, l is pronounced as in English) lifate (pronounced difate), trees

q is a click sound lifaqane, the mass movement of people that occurred as Shaka conquered neighboring communities in order to expand his kingdom

1 These symbols showing the pronunciation are only used in the text in the cases of è and ò and only when there are two words with the same spelling, but with different pronunciations.
4. **Double Consonants**

- **hl** – **h** and **l** sounded simultaneously in the back of mouth
  - ho *hlaba*, *to slaughter*
- **kh** – no English equivalent
  - khomo, *cow*
- **ny** – like **ni** in “*onion*”
  - ho *nyala*, *to marry*
- **ph** – aspirated² **p**, as in “*pair*”
  - ho *pheha*, *to cook*
- **qh** – aspirated **q** (click); click is followed by k sound
  - leqheku, *old person*
- **th** – aspirated **t**, as in “*tell*”
  - thaba, *mountain*
- **tj** – like English **ch**
  - tjena, *like this*
- **tl** – **t** and **l** sounded simultaneously in the back of mouth
  - ho *tlama*, *to tie*
- **tš** – aspirated **ts**
  - ho *tšaba*, *to fear*
- **tlh** – an aspirated **tl**
  - tlhompho, *respect*

**Double m and n** are written **mm** or **nn** in the middle of a word and both are sounded. For example: monna, *man*; hammohoho, *together*. At the beginning of a word, they are written ’**m** and ’**n**, but are pronounced **mm**, **nn**. For example: ’**mè** (pronounced mmè), *mother*.

---

² When a consonant is aspirated, it is accompanied by the release of a strong burst of air.
LESSON 2

PRONOUNS AND GREETINGS

1. Subject pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke</td>
<td>re</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>le</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o/ke</td>
<td>ba/ke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ke</th>
<th>I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o/ke</td>
<td>he or she</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re</td>
<td>we</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le</td>
<td>you all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba/ke</td>
<td>they</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For example:

Ke Refiloe. I am Refiloe.
U Mosotho. You are Mosotho.
O lula Maseru. He/she stays in Maseru.
Re phela hantle. We are fine. (literally: We are living well.)
Le tua Sekhooa. You all speak English.
Ba tua Sesotho. They speak Sesotho.

Note: In the 3rd person singular and plural (ie he/she/they) “ke” is used with nouns, while “o” is used with verbs (other than the verb “to be.” For explanation, see lesson 7).

For example:

Ke Refiloe. He/she is Refiloe.
Ke Tau le Maki. They are Tau and Maki.
O lula Lesotho. He/she stays in Lesotho.
Ba lula Maseru. They stay in Maseru.

Therefore, “ke,” in addition to being a 1st person subject pronoun, also has the meaning “he/she/it is; they are.” The meaning is determined by the pronunciation of the “ke.”

For example:

Ke Mosotho (when “ke” has low tone) means: I am Mosotho
Ke Mosotho (when “ke” has high tone) means: He/she is Mosotho
Ke Basotho (when “ke” has high tone) means: They are Basotho

3 When spoken, au and o both have the same sound. Therefore, au (you) and o (he/she) must be distinguished based on context.
2. Substantive Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'na</td>
<td>rona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uena</td>
<td>lona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eena</td>
<td>bona</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For example:

Ke rata uena.  | I like/love you.
Ba bitsa eena. | They call him/her.
U tseba bona.  | You know them.

Substantive pronouns are also often used for emphasis.

For example:

'Na, ke Refiloe.  | Me, I am Refiloe,
Uena, u mang?   | You, who are you?
Lona, le lula kae? | You all, where do you all live?
Rona, re Maamerica  | We, we are Americans.

Other uses of substantive pronouns are shown in the lessons that follow.

3. Greetings

General Formal Greeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thabiso</th>
<th>Palesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lumela 'Mè.</td>
<td>Hello mother (used to address any married and/or mature woman).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(or Khotso 'Mè.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumela Ntate.</td>
<td>Hello father (used to address any married and/or mature man).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U phela joang?</td>
<td>How are you? (lit: How are you living?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ke phela hantle.</td>
<td>I am fine. (lit: I am living well.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uena, u phela joang?</td>
<td>You, how are you? (lit: You, how are you living?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ke phela hantle. Kea leboha.</td>
<td>I am fine. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kea leboha.</td>
<td>Thank you.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Informal Greeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mpho</th>
<th>Kananelo:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lumela abuti.</td>
<td>Hello brother (used to address any non-married male and/or young boy).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U kae? (or Le kae?) (^5)</td>
<td>Hello brother.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ke teng. (or Re teng.)</td>
<td>How are you? (lit: where are you?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ke teng. (or Re teng.)</td>
<td>I am fine. (lit: I am here.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

4 Substantive pronouns will be covered more thoroughly in Lesson 16.

5 U kae/ke teng technically refers to a single person, and le kae/re teng refers to more than one person. However, le kae/re teng are the forms usually used by Basotho (whether talking to one or more people).
U kae? (or Le kae?) How are you?
Mpho: Ke teng. (or Re teng.) I am fine.

**Very Informal Greeting:**

Puleng: Ho joang? How is it?
Khethang: Ho sharp! Ho joang? It's fine! How is it?
Puleng: Ho sharp! It's fine!
(or Ho monate!)

**In the morning:**

Lira and Mpho: Lumela ausi. Hello sister (used to address any non-married female and/or young girl).
Lira and Mpho: U robotse joang? How did you sleep?
Lineo: Ke robotse hantle. I slept well.
Lona, le robotse joang? You (plural), how did you all sleep?
Lira and Mpho: Re robotse hantle. We slept well.

OR

Puleng: Lumela ausi Nthabiseng. Hello sister Nthabiseng.
Nthabiseng: Lumela ausi. Hello sister.
Puleng: U tsohile joang? How are you? (lit: How did you wake?)
Nthabiseng: Ke tsohile hantle. I'm fine. (lit: I woke up well.)
Uena, u tsohile joang? You, how are you?
Puleng: Ke tsohile hantle. I'm fine.

---

⁶ For greeting more than one person, -ng is added to the verb. For explanation, see Lesson 4.
Vocabulary—Lesson 2

e, yes

che or e-e, no

'mè (bo-’mè?), mother

ntate (bo-ntate), father

ausi (bo-ausi), sister

abuti (bo-abuti), brother

Mosotho (Basotho), person from Lesotho

Leamerika (Maamerika), person from the United States

lumela (lumetse), hello (ho lumela (lumetse§), to consent/to accept/to believe)

khotso, peace/hello

ho sala (setse), to stay/to remain (sala hantle, good-bye (lit: stay well); said by person leaving)

ho tsamaea (tsamaile), to walk/to leave (tsamaea hantle, good-bye (lit: go well); said by person staying behind)

fonane, good night

ho robala (robotse), to sleep (robala hantle, sleep well) (ke robotse, I am sleeping)

kea leboa or tanki, thank you (ho leboa (lebohile), to thank/to be grateful)

hantle, well/good

hampe, badly

hamonate, nicely/well

ho monate or ho sharp, it's fine

ho tsoha (tsohile), to wake up/to get up/to rise

ho phela (phetse), to live

ho lula (lutse), to stay (ie to live somewhere)/to sit (ho lula (lutse) fatše, to sit down)

ho bua (buile), to speak

ho rata (ratile), to love/to like

ho bitsa (bitsitse), to call

ho tseba (tsebile), to know

7 The plural of each noun is given in brackets.
8 The perfect tense of each verb is given in brackets. This verb tense is fully explained in lesson 22.
Exercises—Lesson 2

Write responses to the following questions:

1. U mang?
2. U lula kae?
3. U phela joang?
4. Le kae?
5. U robetse joang?
6. U tsobile joang?
7. Ho joang?
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTIONS

1. What is your name?

Lebitso la ka ke Thabo. My name is Thabo.
Lebitso la hao u mang? What is your name?
Lebitso la ka ke Khethang. My name is Khethang.
Uena, u mang? You, who are you?
'Na, ke Khethang Me, I am Khethang.
Lebitso la hao u Thabiso. Your name is Thabiso.
Lebitso la ka ke mang? What is your name?
Lebitso la hao u Mapaseka. Your name is Mapaseka.
Lebitso la hae ke Khosi. His name is Khosi.
Lebitso la hae ke mang? What is his/her name?
Lebitso la hae ke Relebohile. Her name is Relebohile.
Eena, ke mang? He/she, who is he/she?
Eena, ke Relebohile. She, she is Relebohile.
Mabitso a lona le bo-mang? What are your (plural) names?
'Na, ke Palesa, eena ke Nthabiseng. Me, I am Palesa, she is Nthabiseng.
Mabitso a bona ke bo-mang? What are their names?
Mabitso a bona ke Thabo le Tefo Their names are Thabo and Tefo.

Sample dialogue:

Lebohang: Lumela ausi. Hello sister.
Maki: Lumela abuti. Hello brother.
Lebohang: Lebitso la hao u mang? What is your name?
Maki: Ke Maki. Uena, u mang? I am Maki. You, who are you?
Lebohang: 'Na, ke Lebohang. Me, I am Lebohang.
2. Where are you from (ie your country of origin)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haeso ke California.</td>
<td>I am from California.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haeno ke Maseru.</td>
<td>You are from Maseru.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hahabo ke New York.</td>
<td>He/She is from New York.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hahabo Refileoe ke Morija.</td>
<td>Refileoe is from Morija.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hahabo rona ke Amerika.</td>
<td>We are from America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hahabo lona ke Lesotho.</td>
<td>You all are from Lesotho.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hahabo bona ke South Afrika.</td>
<td>They are from South Africa.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haeno ke kae?</td>
<td>Where are you from?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haeso ke Leribe.</td>
<td>I am from Leribe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haeso ke kae?</td>
<td>Where am I from?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haeno ke Chicago.</td>
<td>You are from Chicago.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hahabo Thabo ke kae?</td>
<td>Where is Thabo from?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hahabo ke Quthing.</td>
<td>Thabo is from Quthing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hahabo lona ke hokae?</td>
<td>Where are you all from?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hahabo rona ke Amerika.</td>
<td>We are all from America.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hahabo bona ke hokae?</td>
<td>Where are they from?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hahabo bona ke Zambia.</td>
<td>They are from Zambia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fane ea hao ke mang?</td>
<td>What is your surname?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fane ea ka ke Mopeli.</td>
<td>My surname is Mopeli.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** To express where someone is currently living, the verb **ho lula** (*to stay, to sit*) is used. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U lula kae?</td>
<td>Where do you stay?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ke lula Maseru.</td>
<td>I stay in Maseru.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U lula le mang?</td>
<td>Who do you stay with?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ke lula le 'Mè Mathabo.</td>
<td>I stay with 'Mè Mathabo.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Vocabulary—Lesson 3**

lebitso (mabitso), *name*

kharebe (likharebe), *girlfriend*

haeso, *my place of origin*

mohlankana (bahlankana), *boyfriend*

haeno, *your place of origin*

moahisani (baahisani), *neighbor*

heso, *my home/my parent’s home*

thaka (lithaka), *peer (of same age)*

heno, *your home/your parent’s home*

mocha (bacha), *young person*

hahabo, *his/her place of origin*

hahabo rona, *our place of origin*

hahabo lona, *your (plural) place of origin*

hahabo bona, *their place of origin*

khaitsele (likhaitsele or bo-khaitsele) *sibling of the opposite sex*

ngoan'eso (bana b'eso), *my sibling*

ngoan'eno (bana beno), *your sibling*

ngoan'abo (bana babo), *his/her sibling*

ngoan'abo rona (bana babo rona), *our sibling*

ngoan'abo lona (bana babo lona), *your (plural) sibling*

ngoan'abo bona (bana babo bona), *their sibling*

le, *and/with*

nkhono (bo-nkhono), *grandmother*

ntate-moholo (bo-ntate-moholo), *grandfather*

morena (marena), *chief*

motho (batho), *person/someone (ke bua le motho, I am speaking to someone)*

ngoana (bana), *child*

ngoanana (banana), *girl*

moshanyana (bashanyana) or moshemane (bashemane), *boy*

mosali (basali), *woman/wife*

monna (banna), *man/husband*

motsoali (batsoali), *parents*

morali (barali), *daughter*

mora (bara), *son*

mokhotsi (bakhotsi) or motsoalle (metsoalle), *friend*
Exercises—Lesson 3

How would you respond to the following questions?

1. Lebitso la hao u mang?
2. Fane ea hao ke mang?
3. Haeno ke kae?
4. U lula kae?
5. U lula le mang?
LESSON 4

INFINITIVE TENSE, COMMANDS, SHORT AND LONG PRESENT TENSE

Singular commands are formed by taking the infinitive tense of a verb and removing the ho. Plural commands are formed by adding -ng to the singular command.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Infinitive</th>
<th>2. Command (Singular)</th>
<th>3. Command (Plural)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ho nka, to take</td>
<td>nka!, take!</td>
<td>nkang!, take!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho bua, to speak</td>
<td>bua!, speak!</td>
<td>buang!, speak!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho mamela, to listen</td>
<td>mamela!, listen!</td>
<td>mamelang!, listen!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exception:

| ho tla, to come | tlo!, come here! | tlong!, come here! |

There is no word for a or the in Sesotho. It is simply omitted.

For example:

Nka bohobe!  Take (the) bread!

4. Short Present Tense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ke rata</th>
<th>I like</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>u rata</td>
<td>you like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o rata</td>
<td>he/she likes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re rata</td>
<td>we like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le rata</td>
<td>you all like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba rata</td>
<td>they like</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The short present tense is used when an object or another word follows the verb closely.

For example:

Ke rata metsi.  I like water.
U bua haholo.   You talk a lot.
Ke rata ho bina. I like to sing.

To ask a question, na is usually put either at the beginning or the end of the sentence.

For example:

Na u rata ho bina?  Do you like to sing?
U rata ho bina na?  Do you like to sing?

But not always:

U ea kae?  Where are you going?
Ke ea Maseru. I am going to Maseru.
U tsoa kae?  Where are you coming from?
Ke tsoa Roma. I am coming from Roma.
When asking a question that ends with eng? (what?), eng is often shortened to ‘ng.
For example:

Na u batla eng?  
Na u batla'ng?  
O re eng?  
O re'ng?  
What do you want?  
What do you want?  
What are you saying?  
What are you saying?

5. Long Present Tense

| kea bona  | I see          |
| ua bona   | you see       |
| oa bona   | he/she sees   |
| rea bona  | we see        |
| lea bona  | you all see   |
| ba bona   | they see      |

The long present tense is used when no object or other word follows the verb.
For example:

Kea bona.  
Ua utloa?  
I see.  
You hear?

This common greeting is a good example of the long present tense:

Ua phela?  
Kea phela.  
How are you? (lit: are you living?)  
I am fine. (lit: I am living.)

Exception: There are some cases when the long form of the pronoun is used even if something follows the verb.
For example:

Kea kholoa o rata lijo.  
Kea utloa ua kula.  
I think he likes food.  
I hear you are sick.  
I

---

9 The present tense in Sesotho corresponds to two English present tenses. Thus “o re eng?” Can mean either “what do you say?” or “what are you saying?”
Vocabulary—Lesson 4

koano, here (tlo koano!, come here!)  ho thola (thotse), to be quiet
mona, here (hona mona, right here)  ho ja (jele), to eat
koana, there/yonder  ho noa (noele), to drink
mane, over there  lijo, food
moo, there (hona moo, right there)  metsi (no pl.), water
haholo, a lot/too much/aloud  nama (linama), meat/flesh
hanyane, a little  bohobe (mahobe), bread
butle, slowly/quietly (bua butle, speak slowly) (butle!, hold on!)
kaele, quickly
hape, again/moreover (bua hape, say that again)
‘nete (linnete), truth (ka ‘nete, truly/indeed) (bua ‘nete, speak the truth)
hae, home (ke ea hae, I am going home)
ho ea (ile), to go
ho tsoa (tsoile), to go out/to come from
ho tla (tlile), to come
ho nka (nkile), to take
ho tlisa (tlisitse), to bring
ho mamela (mametse), to listen
ho ema (eme), to stand up/to stop (ema hanyane, wait a minute)
ho kopa (kopile), to ask for (ke kopa lijo, I am asking for food)
ho batla (batlile), to want/to seek/to look for
ho bina (binne), to sing
ho jaefa (jaefile), to dance
ho kula (kutse), to be sick
ho re (itse), to say
ho bona (bone), to see
ho utloa (utloile), to hear/to understand/to taste/to feel
ho khoola (khotsoe), to think something is so (kea khoola o Maseru, I think he/she is in Maseru)
ho tšaba (tšabile) or ho tšoha (tšohile), to fear/to be afraid
Exercises—Lesson 4

1. Repeat the whole present tense with the following sentences.


   a. Ke rata lijo.
   b. Kea kula.
   c. Ke batla ho bina.
   d. Kea phela.
   e. Kea utloa.

2. Put these sentences in the plural:

   a. Lumela, Ntate!
   b. Sala hantle, ‘mè!
   c. Tsamaea hantle, ausi!

3. Answer the following questions in the affirmative.

   For example: Na u noa metsi? **E, ke noa metsi.**

   a. Na u ja bohobe?
   b. U batla nama na?
   c. Na u tseba ho bua Sesotho?
   d. Na le rata ho bina?
   e. Ua utloa?
   f. Ba kula?

4. Fill in the correct form of the pronoun.

   a. Morena ____ bitsa.
   b. Bana ____ tla.
   c. ____ (I) tlisa metsi.
   d. ____ (You) bona.
   e. Mosali ____ utloa.
   f. Monna ____ bitsa moshanyana.
LESSON 5

NEGATIVE PRESENT TENSE, NEGATIVE COMMANDS

1. Negative Present Tense

The negative present tense is formed by placing the negative marker ha in front of the present tense of the verb, while also changing the final -a of the verb to an -e. Note the change of pronoun in the 3rd person singular.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>Negative Present Tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ha ke rate</td>
<td>I do not like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha u rate</td>
<td>you do not like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha a rate</td>
<td>he/she does not like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha re rate</td>
<td>we do not like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha le rate</td>
<td>you all do not like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ba rate</td>
<td>they do not like</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: When asking why something is, the word hobaneng? (why?) can be used at the beginning of the question. Or, if the verb is in the negative, the why? can be conveyed by putting ke eng? (what is it?) at the end of the question. For example:

- Hobaneng u bua haholo? Why are you talking so much?
- Ha u bue ke eng? Why aren't you talking?

2. Negative Commands

Informal Singular:

- u se ke ua tla! (often pronounced s'k'a tla!) Do not come!
- u se ke ua nka bohobe! (s'k'a nka bohobe!) Do not take (the) bread!

Informal Plural:

- Le se ke la tsuba! (le s'k'a tsuba!) Do not smoke!
- Le se ke la kena! (le s'k'a kena!) Don't come in!

Formal Singular:

- Se tsube. Please do not smoke.
- Se bue. Please do not speak.

---

10 Basotho also sometimes insert “ba,” for example: “s'k'a ba tla,” which does not change the meaning.
Formal Plural:

Se tsubeng.  
Se bueng.  

Please do not smoke.  
Please do not speak.
Vocabulary—Lesson 5

ho etsa (entse), to do/to make
ho fa (file), to give
ho isa (isitse), to take to
ho botsa (botsitse), to ask
ho hloka (hlokile), to need
ho pheha (phehile), to cook
ho sebetsa (sebelitse), to work
mosebetsi (mesebetsi), work/job
ho khutla (khutlile), to return
ho sheba (shebile), to look at
ulotlisisa (ulotlisisitse), to understand

ing?, what?
neng? or neneng?, when?
hobaneng?, why?
hobane, because
lebese (mabese), milk
kofi (no pl.), coffee
tee (no pl.), tea
tsoekere (no pl.), sugar
letsoai (no pl.), salt
oli or fishoil, oil
mafura (no pl.), fat/oil
boroso (liboroso), boerwurst
tlapi (litlapi), fish
lehe (mahe), egg
phofo (liphofo), flour (phofo ea papa, cornflour)
reisi (no pl.), rice
lesheleshele (masheleshele), soft porridge (made from sorghum)
motoho (metoho), sour porridge (made from sorghum)
moroho (meroho), leafy greens (meroho can also mean vegetables)
Exercises—Lesson 5

1. Repeat the whole negative present tense with the following sentences.
   a. Ha ke bine hantle.
   b. Ha ke tsebe ho pheha.
   c. Ha ke je nama.

2. Change these sentences into the negative (both formal and informal).
   For example: Nka nama! Se nke nama. U se ke ua nka nama.
   a. Isa lebese kantle!
   b. Tlong koano!
   c. Tlisa litapole!
   d. Phehang lijo!

3. Change these sentences into the negative.
   a. Re batla kofi.
   b. Kea tsuba.
   c. Ke sebetsa haholo.
   d. Ba noa lebese.
   e. Le bua haholo.
   f. O tseba ho jaefa.
   g. Kea utloisisa.

4. Answer these questions in the affirmative and in the negative.
   a. Na morena oa tla?
   b. Ba batla mosebetsi na?
   c. Ua utloa?
   d. Na u rata ho sebetsa?
   e. Na lea tsamaea?
LESSON 6

NOUN CLASSES AND PRONOUNS

1. **Noun Classes**
Nouns are classified according to their prefixes. The plural is formed by changing these prefixes. Here are the first six noun classes with their prefixes in bold type:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. motho</td>
<td>batho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. motse</td>
<td>metse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. letsatsi</td>
<td>matsatsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. sefate</td>
<td>lifate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. ntja</td>
<td>lintja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. borikhoe</td>
<td>marikhoe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Most nouns describing people belong to **Class 1**. Most nouns describing animals, as well as most words borrowed from other languages, belong to **Class 5**.

**Irregular Class 1 nouns:**
- ngoana: child
- ngoanana: girl
- ntate: father
- 'mè: mother
- morena: chief

**Irregular Class 5 nouns:**
- ntlo: house
- tichere: teacher

2. **Pronouns**
Each class of noun has its own pronoun:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noun</td>
<td>Pronoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. motho</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. motse</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. letsatsi</td>
<td>le</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. sefate</td>
<td>se</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. ntja</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. borikhoe</td>
<td>bo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The pronouns are, in most cases, the same as the prefixes of the nouns. However, **m** is always omitted in the pronouns. In Class 5, **e** is used. Unlike in English, the subject of a sentence in Sesotho is **always** directly followed by its corresponding pronoun.
Exception:

**Metsi** (*water*), which is actually short for **maetsi**, takes the pronoun **a**.

Sample sentences in the short present tense:

**Singular**

- motho o ruta bana  
  *the person teaches children*
- mollo o chesa patsi  
  *the fire burns the firewood*
- letsatsi le chaba butle  
  *the sun rises slowly*
- sefate se mela kapele  
  *the tree grows quickly*
- ntja e ja nama  
  *the dog eats meat*
- borikhoe bo futhumatsa ngoana  
  *the pants warm the child*

**Plural**

- batho ba ruta bana  
  *the people teach the children*
- mello e chesa patsi  
  *the fires burn the firewood*
- matsatsi a feta kapele  
  *the days pass quickly*
- lifate li mela kapele  
  *the trees grow quickly*
- lintja li ja nama  
  *the dogs bite*
- marikhoe a futhumatsa bana  
  *the pants warm the children*

3. **Long form of the pronoun for different noun classes**

We have already seen that a long form of the pronoun must be used in the present tense when nothing follows the verb. For example:

Kea tla  
*I am coming*

Here is an example of each noun class with its corresponding long pronoun:

**Singular**

- motho oa tla  
  *somebody is coming (lit: a person is coming)*
- mollo oa chesa  
  *the fire burns*
- letsatsi lea chaba  
  *the sun rises*
- sefate sea mela  
  *the tree grows*
- ntja ea loma  
  *the dog bites*
- bosiu boa tla  
  *night is coming*

**Plural**

- batho ba tla  
  *people are coming*
- mello ea chesa  
  *the fires burn*
- matsatsi a feta  
  *the days pass*
- lifate lia mela  
  *the trees grow*
- lintja lia loma  
  *the dogs bite*
- masiu a tla  
  *nights are coming*
Note: Both the long and short forms of the pronouns can stand alone before the verb when the meaning is clear. They must still, however, agree with the noun to which they refer. For example:

(speaking of lintja, dogs)  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>linga</th>
<th>loma</th>
<th>they bite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>li</td>
<td>loma batho</td>
<td>they bite people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(speaking of monna, man)  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>oan</th>
<th>fihla</th>
<th>he arrives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>fihla Maseru</td>
<td>he arrives in Maseru</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. The 7th Noun Class: The HO class

There is a seventh noun class in which the infinitive of the verb or ho + an adjective is used to mean “it is____.” Although in-depth knowledge of this noun class is not essential to the beginner, one should be aware of it. Some common examples are:

- Ho joang? How is it? (Lit: It is how?)
- Ho sharp It's fine
- Hoa bata It is cold (note the long form, hoa, is used in this case because nothing follows the verb)
- Hoa chesa It is hot
- Ho11 lekane It is enough (or that is enough)
- Ho lokile It is all right
- Ho monate It is nice
- Ho thata ho jaefa It is difficult to dance

11 The short form (ho) is used here because the verb is in the perfect tense. This tense is covered in Lesson 22.
**Vocabulary—Lesson 6**

motse (metse), *village*
sechaba (lichaba), *community/nation*
ntlo (matlo), *house*
ntja (lintja), *dog*
borikhoe (marikhoe), *pants*
tichere (litichere or matichere),
*teacher*
mollo (mello), *fire/matchstick*
sefate (lifate), *tree*
joang (majoang), *grass*
letsatsi (matsatsi), *sun/day*
bosiu (masiu), *night*
khoeli (likhoeli), *moon/month*
leholimo (maholimo), *sky/heaven*
naleli (linaleli), *star*
pula (lipula), *rain*
leru (maru), *cloud*
moea (mea), *wind/air/spirit*
lerole (marole), *dust* (often pronounced “leroele”)
sefefo (lifefo), *storm*
letolo (matolo) or letono (matono),
*lightning*
lehloa (no pl.), *snow*
sefako (lifako), *hail*
komello (likomello), *drought*
serame, *coldness*
lefifi, *darkness* (*ho lefifi, it is dark*)
thata, *hard/difficult* (*o sebetsa ka*
*thata, he/she works very hard*)
monate, *nice/good to eat* (*ho monate, it
is nice*) (*hamonate, nicely/well*)
ho chaba (chabile), *to rise (of the sun)*
ho likela (liketse), *to set (of the sun)*
ho na (nele), *to rain* (*pula ea na, it is
raining*)
ho khethela (khethehile), *to snow*
(*lehloa lea khethela, it is snowing*)
ho fahla (fahlile), *to get in one’s eye*
ho mela (metse), *to germinate/to grow*
ho ruta (rutile), *to teach*
ho feta (fetile), *to go by/to pass*
ho loma (lomme), *to bite*
ho cha (chele), *to burn*
ho chesa (chesitse), *to burn/to be hot*
(*hoa chesa, it is hot*)
ho bata (batile), *to be cold* (*hoa bata, it
is cold*)
ho futhumala (futhumetse), *to be warm*
(*ho futhumetse, it is warm*)
ho futhumatsa (futhumelitse), *to warm
up/to heat*
ho phola (pholile), *to become cool* (*ho
pholile, it is cool*)
ho lekana (lekane), *to be enough/to be
equal* (*ho lekane, it is enough*)
ho loka (lokile), *to become right/to be
in order* (*hoa loka or ho lokile, it is all
right*)
Exercises—Lesson 6

1. Give the plural of the following words:
   a. bosiu
   b. ntja
   c. sefate
   d. letsatsi
   e. motse

2. Give the singular of the following words:
   a. mahobe
   b. lichaba
   c. linaleli
   d. basali
   e. bo-ntate

3. Fill in the correct pronouns:
   a. Batho _____ bona bashanyana.
   b. Sefate _____ mela.
   d. Lintja _____ ja nama.
   e. Pula _____ na.
   f. Mollo _____ chesa patsi.

4. Complete the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular of Noun</th>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>Plural of Noun</th>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>Long Pronoun (sing. and pl.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ntja</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>lintja</td>
<td>li</td>
<td>ea, lia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>motse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>khoeli</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ntlo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moshanyana</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>naleli</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘mè</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sefefo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leru</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Put in the plural:
   a. Mosali o bitsa ngoanana.
   b. Ntja e loma ngoana.
   c. Tichere ea ruta.
   d. Bohobe boa cha.
   e. Mokopu oa mela.
LESSON 7

3 IRREGULAR VERBS: TO BE, TO HAVE, TO SAY

1. To be (ho ba)

In the present tense, the verb to be is omitted.

For example:

Ke ngaka  I (am a) doctor
U botsoa  You (are) lazy
Re baithaopi  We (are) volunteers

Negative:

Ha ke ngaka  I am not a doctor
Ha u botsoa  You are not lazy
Ha re baithaopi  We are not volunteers

“Ke” becomes “ha se” in the negative when it is used with the third person singular and plural.

For example:

Ke moruti  He (is a) minister
Ke baruti  They (are) ministers
Ke letsoai  It (is) salt
Ke lechina  He/she (is) Chinese

Negative:

Ha se moruti  He is not a minister
Ha se baruti  They are not ministers
Ha se letsoai  It is not salt
Ha se lechina  He/she is not Chinese

2. To have (ho ba le)

Present Tense:

ke na le  I have
u na le  you have
o na le  he/she has
re na le  we have
le na le  you all have
ba na le  they have

Negative Present:

ha ke na  I do not have
ha u na  you do not have
ha a na  he/she does not have
ha re na  we do not have
ha le na  you all do not have
ha ba na  they do not have
3. To say (ho re)

Present Tense:

- ke re  I say (or I am saying)
- u re   you say
- o re   he/she says
- re re  we say
- le re  you all say
- ba re  they say

Negative Present:

- ha ke re  I do not say
- ha u re   you do not say
- ha a re   he/she does not say
- ha re re  we do not say
- ha le re  you all do not say
- ha ba re  they do not say

Note: As new verb tenses are introduced throughout this book, these three verbs will usually be explained separately as they are often irregular.

Note: Another irregular verb which means “to say” is ho cho. It is most often used as follows:

- ke cho joalo  I say so (or that is what I'm saying)
- u cho joalo   you say so
- o cho joalo   he/she says so
- re cho joalo  we say so
- le cho joalo  you all say so
- ba cho joalo  they say so
### Vocabulary—Lesson 7

**Phoofolo** (liphoofofo), *animal*

**Lelinyane** (malinyane), *young of an animal*

**Khomo** (likhomo), *cow (likhomo tseo)*, traditional Basotho greeting

**Namane** (manamane), *calf (le manamane a tsona)*, response to above greeting

**Poli** (lipoli), *goat*

**Nku** (linku), *sheep*

**Konyana** (likonyana), *lamb/ kindergartner (likonyaneng, kindergarten)*

**Perè** (lipèrè), *horse*

**Tonki** (litonki), *donkey*

**Fariki** (lfariki) or **Kolobe** (likolobe), *pig*

**Khoho** (likhoho), *chicken*

**Katse** (likatse), *cat*

**Nonyana** (linonyana), *bird*

**Toeba** (litoeba) or **Tali** (litali), *mouse*

**Khoto** (likhoto), *rat*

**Seboko** (liboko), *worm*

**Kokoanyana** (likokoanyana), *insect*

**Ntsintsi** (lintsintsi), *fly*

**Monoang** (menoang), *mosquito*

**Sekho** (likho), *spider*

**Koena** (likoena), *crocodile (also, slang for prostitute)*

**Lesaka** (masaka), *corral*

**Ho ba** (bile), *to be*

**Ho ba le** (bile le), *to have*

**Ho cho** (chulo), *to say*

**Ho reka** (rekile), *to buy*

**Ho rekisa** (rekitse), *to sell*

**Ho patala** (patetse) or **Ho lefa** (lefile), *to pay*

**Ho hira** (hirile), *to hire/to rent*

**Ho lapa** (lapile), *to be hungry (ke lapile, I am hungry)*

**Ho nyoroa** (nyoriloe/nyoruo), *to become thirsty (ke nyoruo, I'm thirsty)*

Ke bokae?, *How much does it cost?*

Poreisi (liporeisi) or theko (litheko), *price*

Chelete (lichelete), *money*

Chenche (no pl.), *change (ke kopa)*

Chenche, *I would like my change*

Botsoa, *lazy*

Moithaopi (baithaopi), *volunteer*

Moruti (baruti), *minister*

Lechina (Machina), *person from China*

Mookameli (baokameli), *boss/supervisor*

Mong'a (beng ba), *owner of/boss of*

(Mong'a shopo, *the owner of the shop*)

(Mong'a ka, *my boss*)

Molimo (melimo), *god*

Balimo (no singular), *ancestors*
Exercises—Lesson 7

1. There are 16 questions here. Read these questions and then answer them, first in the affirmative, and then in the negative.

   o chelete?
   Na u na le pèrè?
   le katse?
   ba likhoho?

2. Answer the following questions in the affirmative and in the negative.

   a. Ke ngaka? (ie Is he/she a doctor?)
   b. U moruti?
   c. Ba baithaopi?
   d. Le lingaka?

3. Put the second part of the sentence in the negative:

   a. Ba re ba batla chelete.
   b. Ke re kea u rata.
   c. O re o na le mosali.
LESSON 8

NUMBERS

Numbers take different forms according to the noun class of the noun to which the number is referring (at least for numbers 1-5). Here, numbers 1-10 will be covered thoroughly. Numbers over 10 are more complicated. One can get by using the English numbers as most Basotho know how to count in English, and often use English numbers themselves.

1. How many?

1. batho ba bakae? how many people?
2. metse e mekae? how many villages?
3. matsatsi a makae? how many days?
4. lifate tse kae? how many trees?
5. linku tse kae? how many sheep?
6. masiu a makae? how many nights?

2. One - 'Ngoe

1. motho a le mong one person
2. motse o le mong one village
3. letsatsi le le leng one day
4. sefate se le seng one tree
5. nku e le 'ngoe one sheep
6. bosiu bo le bong one night

When the le is omitted in the above phrases, the meaning changes to another/a certain (note that the a changes to an e in the first noun class):

1. motho e mong another person, a certain person
2. motse o mong another village, a certain village
3. letsatsi le leng another day, a certain day
4. sefate se seng another tree, a certain tree
5. nku e 'ngoe another sheep, a certain sheep
6. bosiu bo bong another night, a certain night

The plural of 'ngoe means some/other:

1. batho ba bang some people/other people
2. metse e meng some villages/other villages
3. matsatsi a mang some days/other days
4. lifate tse ling some trees/other trees
5. linku tse ling some sheep/other sheep
6. masiu a mang some nights/other nights
For example: Batho ba bang ba noa Hansa, ba bang ba noa Black Label.

_Some people drink Hansa, others drink Black Label._

Matichere a mararo a fihlile. Ke emetse a mang.  
_Three teachers have arrived. I am waiting for others._

**Every** is as follows:

1. motho _e mong le e mong_ every person
2. motse _o mong le o mong_ every village
3. letsatsi _le leng le le leng_ every day
4. sefate _se seng le se seng_ every tree
5. nku _e 'ngoe le e 'ngoe_ every sheep
6. bosiu _bo bong le bo bong_ every night

**OR**

The suffix _-ohle_, meaning all, can be used:

1. batho _bohle_ all people
2. motse _oohle/metse eohle_ all villages
3. letsatsi _lohle/matsatsi 'ohle_ all days
4. sefate _sohle/lifate tsohle_ all trees
5. nku _eohle/linku tsohle_ all sheep
6. bosiu _bohle/masiu 'ohle_ all nights

**The first** is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. motho <em>oa pele</em> the first person</td>
<td>batho <em>ba pele</em> the first people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. motse <em>oa pele</em> the first village</td>
<td>metse <em>ea pele</em> the first villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. letsatsi <em>la pele</em> the first day</td>
<td>matsatsi <em>a pele</em> the first days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. sefate <em>sa pele</em> the first tree</td>
<td>lifate <em>tsa pele</em> the first trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. khomo <em>ea pele</em> the first cow</td>
<td>likhomo <em>tsa pele</em> the first cows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. bosiu <em>ba pele</em> the first night</td>
<td>masiu <em>a pele</em> the first nights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**3. Two – Five**

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>2 – peli</em></td>
<td><em>3 – tharo</em></td>
<td><em>4 – 'ne</em></td>
<td><em>5 - hlano</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. batho <em>ba babeli</em> ba bararo ba bane ba bahlano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. metse <em>e 'meli</em> e meraro e mene e mehlano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. matsatsi <em>a mabeli</em> a mararo a mane a mahlano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. lifate <em>tse peli</em> tse tharo tse 'ne tse hlano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. linku <em>tse peli</em> tse tharo tse 'ne tse hlano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. masiu <em>a mabeli</em> a mararo a mane a mahlano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

12 In this example, the verbs take the perfect tense, which will be covered in Lesson 22.
1. motho oa bobeli
2. motse oa bobeli
3. letsatsi la bobeli
4. sefate sa bobeli
5. nku ea bobeli
6. bosiu ba bobeli

4. Six – Ten

6 – tšeletseng
7 – supileng
8 – robeli
9 – robong
10 – leshome

These numbers take no prefixes and do not change when referring to a noun, **except** in these two cases: tšeletseng becomes tšeletseng, and supa becomes supileng.

For example:
- batho ba tšeletseng
- metse e supileng
- matsatsi a robeli
- lifate tse robong
- linku tse leshome
- masiu a leshome

How many times? Hakae?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ha ’ngoe</th>
<th>once</th>
<th>hatšelela</th>
<th>six times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>habeli</td>
<td>twice</td>
<td>hasupa</td>
<td>seven times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hararo</td>
<td>three times</td>
<td>harobeli</td>
<td>eight times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hane</td>
<td>four times</td>
<td>harobong</td>
<td>nine times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hahlano</td>
<td>five times</td>
<td>haleshome</td>
<td>ten times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hangata</td>
<td>often</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

13 These phrases are used for some of the days of the week (see the vocabulary list at the end of this lesson).
Vocabulary—Lesson 8

Mantaha, Monday
Labobeli, Tuesday
Laboraro, Wednesday
Labone, Thursday
Labohlano, Friday
Moqebelo, Saturday
Sontaha, Sunday
ke labokae?, what day of the week is it?
ke Labobeli, it is Tuesday
ke likae?, what is the date?
ke li 15, it is the 15th
Laboraro ke li kae?, what is the date on Wed?
Laboraro ke li 21, Wed. is the 21st.
nako (no pl.), time (ka nake e'ngoe, sometimes)
nako ke mang?, what is the time?
nako ke 5. (or ke 5), it is five o'clock
hoseng, morning
motšeare, midday
mantshiboea, evening
bosiu (masiu), night
tsatsing le or tsatsing lena or kajeno, today
hosasa or hosane, tomorrow
maobane, yesterday
maoba, the day before yesterday
beke (libeke), week
khoeli (likhoeli), month/moon
selemo (lilemo), year/spring
lehlabula or hlabula, summer
hoetla, autumn
mariha, winter

Pherekhong, January
Hlakola, February
Hlakubele, March
'Mesa, April
Motšeanong, May
Phupjane, June
Phupu, July
Photo, August
Loetse, September
Mphalane, October
Phulunganoana, November
Tšite, December

11 – leshome le motso o mong
12 – leshome le metso e 'meli
13 – leshome le metso e meraro
14 – leshome le metso e mene
15 – leshome le metso e mehlano
16 – leshome le metso e tšeletseng
17 – leshome le metso e supileng
18 – leshome le metso e robeli
19 – leshome le metso e robong
20 – mashome a mabeli
21 – mashome a mabeli a motso o mong
30 – mashome a mararo
40 – mashome a mane
100 – lekholo
200 – makholo a mabeli
1000 – sekete
2000 – likete tse peli
Exercises—Lesson 8

1. Follow the example given using the nouns listed below.

Example: Motho a le mong, one person; motho oa pele, the first person; batho ba bang, some people, motho e mong le e mong, batho bohle, all people

a. sekhho
b. lelinyane
c. poli
d. mokhotsi
e. bosiu
f. mosebetsi

2. Complete the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>basali ba babeli</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>merara e mebeli</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>mahe a mane</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>lihoete tse ‘ne</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>malinyane a mahlano</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LESSON 9

THERE IS, THERE ARE, THERE IS NONE

1. There is/there are:

To say something/someone is present, *teng* is used.

For example:

- Metsi a teng. *There is water.*
- Nthati o ka? *Where is Nthati?*
- Nthati o teng. *Nthati is present.*

In a more general sense, one uses *ho na le*:

- Ho na le metsi. *There is water.*
- Ho na le lijo. *There is food.*

2. There is none:

**Method 1:** Using *ha ho na*:

- Ha ho na metsi. *There is no water.*
- Ha ho na batho. *There are no people.*

**Method 2:** Another way to say something/someone is absent, is to say *ha __ eo* (this varies according to noun class). For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Nthati</td>
<td>1. batho ha ba eo the people are absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha a eo</td>
<td>2. mese ha e eo the skirts are absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nthati is not here</td>
<td>3. masale ha a eo the earrings are absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. motlakase</td>
<td>4. lifate ha li eo there are no trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha o eo</td>
<td>5. likhomo ha li eo the cows are not here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is no electricity</td>
<td>6. mahobe ha a eo there are no loaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. lesale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha le eo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the earring is not here</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. sefate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha se eo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the tree is not here</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. khomo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha e eo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is no cow here</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. bohobe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha bo eo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is no bread</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Method 3:** A third way to say something/someone is absent is to use *sico*\(^{14}\). It is correct to use it in all tenses except the present. However, even though it is not technically correct to use it in the present tense, Basotho sometimes do so anyway.

For example:

- Ke tla ba sico hosasa.\(^{15}\) *I will be absent tomorrow.*
- Ba ne ba le sico maobane.\(^{16}\) *They were absent yesterday.*

---

\(^{14}\) Basotho often use *siko* in place of sico, although this is not correct Sesotho.

\(^{15}\) The future tense will be covered in Lesson 11.

\(^{16}\) The imperfect tense will be covered in Lesson 24.
Vocabulary—Lesson 9

liaparo (no pl.), clothing  sekepe (likepe), boat
phahlo (liphahlo), clothing/luggage/goods  katiba (likatiba), hat seeta (lieta),
    shoe  tuku (lituku), headscarf
kausi (likausi), sock/stockings  mose (mese), dress/skirt
sekipa (likipa), t-shirt  kobo (likobo), blanket
jesi (lijesi), sweater  lebanta (mabanta), belt
hempe (lihempe), collared shirt  motlakase (no pl.), electricity
baki (libaki), suit jacket
lumber (lilumber), winter jacket
tjale (litjale), checkered blanket/lightweight blanket
seshoeshoe (lishoeshoe), traditional Basotho cloth or dress
onnoroko (lionnoroko), slip/petticoat
ho thusa (thusitse), to help (ha ho na thuso, it's useless)
ho bapala (bapetse), to play
ho kopana (kopane) or teana (teane), to meet/to come together
ho khanna (khanne), to drive
ho lisa (lisitse), to herd/to take to graze
ho oela (oetse), to fall
ho bula (butse), to open
ho koala (koetse), to close
ho pata (patile), to hide/to conceal
ho shoa (shoele), to die (used mostly for animals and plants)
ho hlokahala (hlokahetse), to die (used for people)/to be needed
ho palama (palame), to ride
ho theoha (theohile), to go down/to get off
koloi (makoloi or likoloi), car
tekesi (litekesi), taxi
bese (libese), bus
sethuthuthu (lithuthuthu), motorcycle
beisekele (libisekele), bicycle
sefofane (lifofane), plane
Exercises—Lesson 9

1. Answer these questions first by saying that the person/thing is present, and then, by saying that the person/thing is absent (in as many ways as possible).

   a. Thabiso o kae?
   b. Chelete e kae?
   c. Seeta se kae?
   d. Bana ba kae?
   e. Likhoho li kae?
   f. Mollo o kae?
LESSON 10

VERBS THAT EXPRESS ABILITY AND INABILITY

1. To express ability

- nka bua  
  *I can speak*

- u ka bona  
  *you can see*

- o ka bapala  
  *he/she can play*

- re ka reka lijo  
  *we can buy food*

- le ka tsamaea  
  *you all can leave*

- ba ka khanna  
  *they can drive*

The pronoun varies according to noun class, for example:

- ntja e ka shoa  
  *the dog may die* (lit: *the dog can die*)

- mahe a ka oela  
  *the eggs may fall* (lit: *the eggs can fall*)

2. To express inability

**Method 1:** using *ho sitoa*, *to be unable*

For example:

- Ke sitoa ho ea.  
  *I am unable to go.*

- Re sitoa ho kopana le uena.  
  *We are unable to meet with you.*

**Method 2:** using *ho khona*, *to be able*

For example:

- Ha ke khone ho ea.  
  *I am unable to go.*

- Ha re khone ho kopana le uena.  
  *We are unable to meet with you.*

**Note:** The conjugations of these verbs in all other tenses (such as future, perfect etc.) are regular. For example:

- Ke tla khona ho ea.  
  *I will be able to go.*

- Ke tla sitoa ho ea.  
  *I will be unable to go.*

---

17 The future tense is covered in the next lesson.
Vocabulary—Lesson 10

ho sitoa (sitiloce), to be unable terata (literata), fence
ho khona (khonne), to be able seterata (literata), street
ho hana (hanne), to refuse (also used for an object that doesn't work as it should, koloi ea hana, the car isn't working)
ho koahela (koahetse), to cover
ntho (lintho), thing
kamore (likamore), room
lemati (mamati) or monyako (menyako), door
setulo (litulo), chair
tafole (litafole), table
bete (libete), bed
mosamo (mesamo), pillow
kerese (lierese), candle
lebone (mabone), lamp
lebekere (mabekere), mug
khalase (likhalase), glass
khaba (likhaba), spoon
fereko (liferako), fork
thipa (lithipa), knife
poleiti (lipoleiti), plate
sekotlolo (likotlolo), bowl
botlolo (libotlolo), bottle
pitsa (lipitsa), pot
sekoahelo (likoahelo), lid/cover
fatuku (lifatuku), dishcloth
nkho (linkho), bucket
baskomo (libaskomo), basin (used for washing or bathing)
khase (no pl.), gas
fenstere (lifenstere), window
lebote (mabote), wall
marulelo (no pl.), roof
Exercises—Lesson 10

1. First say you are able, and then, that you are unable, to do the following:
   a. ho koala monyako
   b. ho pata chelete
   c. ho lísa likhomo
   d. ho palama tonki
   e. ho rekisa likerese

2. Answer the questions in the affirmative and in the negative in as many ways as you can.
   a. Na ba ka ea Maseru hosasa?
   b. Na u ka kopana le rona tsatsing le?
   c. Na o ka tsamaea le ‘na?
   d. Na nka bua le uena?
   e. Na le ka sebetsa ka Mantaha?
LESSON 11

FUTURE, FUTURE CONTINUOUS AND NEGATIVE
FUTURE CONTINUOUS TENSE

1. Future Tense

ke tla\textsuperscript{18} rata I will like
u tla rata you will like
o tla rata he/she will like
re tla rata we will like
le tla rata you all will like
ba tla rata they will like

Future tense of to be (ho ba):

ke tla ba I will be
u tla ba you will be
o tla ba he/she will be
re tla ba we will be
le tla ba you all will be
ba tla ba they will be

Future tense of to have (ho ba le):

ke tla ba le I will have
u tla ba le you will have
o tla ba le he/she will have
re tla ba le we will have
le tla ba le you all will have
ba tla ba le they will have

Future tense of to say (ho re):

ke tla re I will say
u tla re you will say
o tla re he/she will say
re tla re we will say
le tla re you all will say
ba tla re they will say

When there is an object pronoun\textsuperscript{19}, it is placed between tla and the main verb. For example:

Ke tla mo patala I will pay him
O tla ba botsa He/she will ask them

\textsuperscript{18} Sometimes Basotho replace this tla with tl'o. In general, the meaning does not change.

\textsuperscript{19} Object pronouns will be covered in Lesson 20.
2. **Future Continuous Tense**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verbs &amp; Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ke tla be ke pheha</td>
<td><em>I will be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U tla be u pheha</td>
<td><em>you will be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O tla be a pheha</td>
<td><em>he/she will be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re tla be re pheha</td>
<td><em>we will be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le tla be le pheha</td>
<td><em>you all will be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ba tla be ba pheha</td>
<td><em>they will be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**To be (ho ba), to have (ho ba le)** are as follows in this tense:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verbs &amp; Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ke tla be ke le</td>
<td><em>I will be being</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ke tla be ke na le</td>
<td><em>I will be having</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For example:

**Selemong se tlang** ke tla be ke bua Sesotho hantle.
*Next year I will be speaking Sesotho well.*

**Khethang o tla be a lula Mazenod khoeli e tlang.**
*Khethang will be living in Mazenod next month.*

3. **Negative Future Continuous Tense**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verbs &amp; Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ke tla be ke sa phehe</td>
<td><em>I will not be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U tla be u sa phehe</td>
<td><em>you will not be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O tla be a sa phehe</td>
<td><em>he/she will not be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re tla be re sa phehe</td>
<td><em>we will not be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le tla be le sa phehe</td>
<td><em>you all will not be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ba tla be ba sa phehe</td>
<td><em>they will not be cooking</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**To be (ho ba), to have (ho ba le)** are as follows in this tense:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verbs &amp; Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ke tla be ke se</td>
<td><em>I will not be being</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ke tla be ke se na</td>
<td><em>I will not be having</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For example:

**Ke tla be ke se tichere selemong se tlang.**
*I will not be a teacher next year.*

**Ha ke khone ho ea hobane ke tla be ke se na chelete.**
*I am unable to go because I will not have any money.*

---

20 See Lesson 29 for explanation of “selemong se tlang” and “khoeli e tlang.”
### Vocabulary—Lesson 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bophelo (maphelo), life/health</td>
<td>ho opa (opile), to be sore</td>
<td>lefu (mafu), death/disease (lefung, funeral)</td>
<td>mokokotlo (mekokotlo), back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sepetlele (lipetlele), hospital</td>
<td>serope (lirope), thigh</td>
<td>ngaka (lingaka), doctor</td>
<td>leihlo (mahlo), eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mooki (baoki), nurse</td>
<td>mala (no pl.), bowels</td>
<td>mokuli (bakuli), sick person/patient</td>
<td>mpa (limpa), stomach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'mele (no pl.), body</td>
<td>pelo (lipelo), heart</td>
<td>hloho (lihloho), head</td>
<td>letlalo (matlalo), skin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sefahleho (lifahleho), face</td>
<td>lesapo (masapo), bone</td>
<td>nko (liniko), nose</td>
<td>boko (liboko), brain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tsèbè (litsèbè), ear</td>
<td>leino (meno), tooth</td>
<td>monoana (menoana), finger/toe</td>
<td>leleme (maleme), tongue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lenala (manala), fingernail</td>
<td>molomo (melomo), mouth</td>
<td>letsoho (matsoho), hand/arm</td>
<td>lengole (mangole), knee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leoto (maoto), foot (ka maoto, on foot)</td>
<td>letole (matsoele), breast</td>
<td>nko (liniko), nose</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sefuba (lifuba), chest, lungs (ke tsoeroe ke sefuba, I have a cold)</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nyoko (no pl.), bile (ke tsoeroe ke nyoko, I have indigestion)</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lekhopho (makhopho), pimples/bumps on skin</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kotsi (likotsi), accident/danger (ke tsoile kotsi, I had an accident)</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mali (no pl.), blood (ho tsoa mali, to bleed)</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moriana (meriana) or setlhare (litlhare), medicine</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pilisi (lipilisi), pill</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ente (liente), injection</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho hlatsa (hlatsitse), to vomit</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho kulisa (kulisitse), to make sick</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho phekola (phekotse), to heal/to cure</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho fola (folile), to recover from illness (ke folile, I have recovered)</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho kohlela (kohletse), to cough</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho tsolla (tsotlote), to have diarrhea (letsollo, diarrhea)</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho ruruha (ruruhile), to swell</td>
<td>leqeba (maqeba), wound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercises—Lesson 11

1. Change the verbs in the following sentences from the present tense to the future tense.
   
   a. U etsa mosebetsi.
   b. Ke luba bohobe.
   c. Ngoanana o bula fenstere.
   d. Ba patala Refiloe 20R.

2. Give suitable answers to the following questions:

   a. U tla tla neng?
   b. O tla khona ho reka koloi neng?
   c. Ba tla khona ho thusa bana ka li kae?
   d. Le tla joetsa batho ba bang neng?
   e. Re tla tsamaea ka labokae?
LESSON 12

NEGATIVE FUTURE TENSE

1. **Negative Future Tense**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ha ke tl'o rata</td>
<td><em>I will not like</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha u tl'o rata</td>
<td><em>you will not like</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha a tl'o rata</td>
<td><em>he/she will not like</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha re tl'o rata</td>
<td><em>we will not like</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha le tl'o rata</td>
<td><em>you all will not like</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ba tl'o rata</td>
<td><em>they will not like</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The negative future tense of *to be* (*ho ba*), *to have* (*ho ba le*) and *to say* (*ho re*) are all regular. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ha ke tl'o ba</td>
<td><em>I will not be</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ke tl'o ba le</td>
<td><em>I will not have</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ke tl'o re</td>
<td><em>I will not say</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Alternative Negative Future Tense** This tense has a slightly different meaning because it implies refusal, i.e. “I won't do something.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nke ke ka rata</td>
<td><em>I will not like</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u ke ke ua rata</td>
<td><em>you will not like</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a ke ke a rata</td>
<td><em>he/she will not like</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re ke ke ra rata</td>
<td><em>we will not like</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le ke ke la rata</td>
<td><em>you all will not like</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba ke ke ba rata</td>
<td><em>they will not like</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary—Lesson 12

hlama (no pl.), *dough*  
ho alola (alotse), *to make (a bed)*

sesepa (lisepa), *soap*

sekafutini (likafutini), *tupperware*

pompo (lipompo), *pump/water tap*

patsi (no pl.), *firewood*

koae, *tobacco*

matekoane or dagga, *marijuana*

mosi (mesi), *smoke*

joala (majoala), *beer (joala ba basotho, traditional beer)*

lijelello, *any food that accompanies the starch in a meal (ie meat, vegetables, beans etc.)*

ho soka (sokile), *to stir (specifically papa)*

ho tsoaka (tsoakile), *to mix*

ho fuluha (fuluhile), *to stir*

ho luba (lubile), *to knead (bread) (oa nluba!, you're mixing me up!)*

ho khabela (khabetse), *to cut/to chop (especially vegetables and meat)*

ho ebola (ebotse), *to peel*

ho tšèla (tšètse), *to pour*

ho kha (khele), *to fetch water from tap or well/to pick vegetables*

ho qhala (qhalile), *to pour out/to throw out*

ho butsoa (butoitse), *to be cooked/to be ripe (papa e butoitse, the papa is done)*

ho besa (besitse), *to light a fire/to roast*

ho halika (halikile), *to fry*

ho tsuba (tsubile), *to fry*

ho ritela (ritetse), *to smoke*

ho ngoathela (ngoathetse), *to give food to*

ho fepa (fepile), *to feed*

ho tima (timme), *to refuse to give someone something/to put out/to extinguish*

ho khantsa (khantsitse), *to light/to turn on*

ho hlatsoa (hlatsoitse), *to wash*

ho hlapa (hlapile), *to bathe (ho hlapa matsoho, to wash one's hands)*

ho hloeka (hloekile), *to become clean (e hloekile, it is clean)*
Exercises—Lesson 12

1. Change the tense of the verb in the following sentences to the negative future tense:

   a. Ke qhala metsi.
   b. O ritela joala.
   c. Re ngoathela batho.
   d. Ba na le chelete.
   e. O kha moroho.
LESSON 13

IMMEDIATE FUTURE TENSE AND ITS NEGATIVE

1. Immediate Future Tense

   ke i'lo pheha  I am going to cook (or I am about to cook)
   u i'lo pheha   you are going to cook
   o i'lo pheha   he/she is going to cook
   re i'lo pheha  we are going to cook
   le i'lo pheha  you all are going to cook
   ba i'lo pheha  they are going to cook

2. Negative Immediate Future Tense

There are three ways to express the negative form of the immediate future tense. All three are shown here; the first is commonly spoken, the third is the correct written form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ha ke na pheha</td>
<td>ha ke no pheha</td>
<td>ha ke e'o pheha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha u na pheha</td>
<td>ha u no pheha</td>
<td>ha u e'o pheha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha a na pheha</td>
<td>ha a no pheha</td>
<td>ha a e'o pheha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha re na pheha</td>
<td>ha re no pheha</td>
<td>ha re e'o pheha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha le na pheha</td>
<td>ha le no pheha</td>
<td>ha le e'o pheha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ba na pheha</td>
<td>ha ba no pheha</td>
<td>ha ba e'o pheha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: As it is unrealistic to expect to learn all of the different forms of the negative future tense right away, it is recommended that you initially focus on the negative future tense explained in Lesson 12, as it is widely applicable.
ho tšeha (tšehile), to laugh
ho lla (llile), to cry
ho thaba (thabile), to be happy (ke thabile, I am happy)
ho koata (koatile), to be sad (ke koatile, I am sad)
ho koatisa (koatisetse), to make sad (oa nkoatisa, you’re making me sad)
ho matha (mathile), to run
ho rapela (rapetse), to pray
ho ngola (ngotse), to write
ho toroea (toroile), to draw
ho bala (balile), to read
ho qala (qalile), to begin
ho qeta (qetile), to finish/to end
ho fela (felile), to finish/to be gone (e felile, it is finished)
ho qoqa (qoqile), to chat
ho tsuba (tsubile), to smoke
ho tsoarela (tsoaretse), to forgive (ntsoarele, excuse me)
ho nahana (nahane), to think
hore, that (ke nahana hore..., I think that...) (...hore na...?, ... if...?)
joalo, in that manner/so (ke nahana joalo, I think so) (ha ke nahane joalo, I don't think so) (ho joalo, it is like that) (ha ho joalo, it is not like that)
tjena, like this
lengolo (mangolo), letter
'mino (mebino), music
pina (lipina), song
bothata (mathata), problem/difficulty
Sekhooa, English (Lekhooa (Makhooa), European)
ha ke re?, right?
ho thoe, it is said (ho thoce u tseba Sekhooa, it is said you know English)
e hlile!, it is so! (used to express agreement with something someone has just said)
Exercises—Lesson 13

1. Change the verbs in the following sentences from the future tense to the immediate future tense.

   a. U tla qeta ho hlatsoa neng?
   b. Re tla rapela ka Sontaha.
   c. Ho tho e u tla reka khomo.
   d. Ba tla khabela moroho.
   e. Le tla soka papa hangata.
LESSON 14

LOCATIONS AND THE LOCATIVE SUFFIX (-NG)

1. Adding -ng to the end of a noun means in, at, on, to or from. (Note: when the noun ends in a, this a changes to an e before the -ng is added). For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Locative Suffix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tafole</td>
<td>table</td>
<td>tafoleng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jarete</td>
<td>garden</td>
<td>jareteng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kereke</td>
<td>church</td>
<td>kerekeng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ofisi</td>
<td>office</td>
<td>ofising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ntlo</td>
<td>house</td>
<td>ka tlung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lelapa</td>
<td>home</td>
<td>lapeng</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beha tsoekere tafoleng! Put the sugar on the table!

Ke jareteng. I am in the garden.

Ke tsoa kerekeng. I am coming from church.

Ke ea ofising. I am going to the office.

Ke kena ka tlung. I am going in the house.

Ke ea lapeng. I am going to my home.

Exceptions:

- Names of places or countries do not require any preposition.

Examples:

Ke ea Qacha's Nek. I am going to Qacha’s Nek.

Ba tsoa Angola. I am coming from Angola.

2. When referring to a person, -ng is not added. Instead, the prepositions ha (meaning “the place of”) and ho (meaning “to” or “the place someone is at the moment”) are used. For example:

Ke ea ho ausi Palesa. I am going to ausi Palesi.

Ke tsoa ho ntate Mpho. I come from Ntate Mpho.

O tsoa ha 'Mè Malineo. She is coming from the place of 'Mè Malineo.

3. Names of places or countries do not require any preposition. For example:
Vocabulary—Lesson 14

jarete (lijarete), garden  ho tsela (tsetse), to cross
ofisi (liofisi), office  ka tlung, inside (ie indoors)
kereke (likereke), church  kante, outside (ie outdoors)
shopo (lishopo) or lebenkele (mabenkele), shop  lelapa (malapa), home/family
moreneng (mareneng), the chief's place
mokete (mekete), feast
joaleng or shebeen or bareng, bar
toropo (litoropo), city
setopo (litopo), taxi rank
feme (lifeme), factory
tliniki (litliniki), clinic
pitso (lipitso), village meeting
ntloana (matloana) or toilete (litoilete), bathroom
moeti (baeti), visitor
leeto (maeto), journey
poso (liposo), post office
ho posa (positse), to post
ho beha (behile), to put/to place
ho chakela (chaketse), to visit (ke chaketse Thabo, I am visiting Thabo)
ho mema (memile), to invite
ho atamela (atametse), to come near/to approach
ho fihla (fihlile), to arrive
ho kena (kene), to go in/to enter/to attend (ie school/church)
ho hlahla (hlahile), to come into sight/to appear/to be born
ho nyamela (nyametse), to disappear
ho fumana (fumane), to find
ho lata (latile), to fetch
ho siea (siile), to leave behind
ho felehetsa (felehelitse), to accompany
ho pòta (pòtile), to go around something/to go via a place
ho kahhlanyetsa (kahhlanyelitse) or ho kahhlametsa (kahhlamelitse), to go and meet
Exercises—Lesson 14

1. Use the following words, altering them as necessary, to complete the following sentences. Then translate the sentences into English.

   a. morena; Ke lula ________.
   b. toropo; Hosasa ke ea ________.
   c. lifeme; O sebetsa ________.
   d. poso; Re i’lo ea ________ ho posa lengolo.
   e. pitso; Ke tla u felehetsa ha u ea ________.
   f. mokete; Re i’lo ja haholo ________.
   g. setopo; U ka siea batho ________.
   h. ngaka; Ke tla isa ngoana ________.
LESSON 15

PREPOSITIONS AND BASIC CONJUNCTIONS

1. Prepositions

ka, about, with, by, in (to emphasize place)

Re bua ka HIV le AIDS.  
We are talking about HIV/AIDS.

Batho ka koloing…  
The people in the car...

Ke ja ka khaba.  
I am eating with a spoon.

Ke utloile ka Teboho.  
I heard it from Teboho (lit: I heard by Teboho).

(ka) tlas'a, ka tlase ho or (ka)tlase, under, below

Sheba tlas'a bete.  
Look under the bed.

(ka) holim'a, ka holimo ho or (ka)holimo, above, upon, on top of

Beha lintho holim'a tafole.  
Put the things on the table.

ka mora' or ka morao ho, after, behind

Thabo o kamora' ntlo.  
Thabo is behind the house.

ka pele ho, in front of, before

Ke ka pele ho Shoprite.  
I am in front of Shoprite.

pel'a, by, beside, near

Re sebetsa pel'a sepetlele.  
We work by the hospital.

ka thoko ho, on the side/beside

Ke tla beha pitsa ka thoko ho tafole.  
I will put the pot beside the table.

har'a, amongst, between, during

Ke batla ho kopana le uena har'a beke.  
I want to meet with you during the week.
bohareng ba, mahareng a, *in the middle of*

Molaetsa o teng bohareng ba buka. *The message is in the middle of the book.*
Mahareng a mariha, letsatsi le likela kapele.

*In the middle of* winter, the sun sets quickly.

pakeng tsa, *between*

Sekolo se teng pakeng tsa Roma le Maseru.

*There is a school between* Roma and Maseru.

kahar’a, *inside of*

Ha ke bone letho kahar’a lebokose. *I don't see anything inside of the box.*

2. Basic Conjunctions

le, *and, also, with*

Thabo le puleng ba tla. Thabo *and* Puleng are coming.
Ke ea toropong le uena. *I am going to town with you.*
Le ‘na ke hloka chelete! *I also need money! (lit: I also, I need money)*

'me, *and*

Ho nkha lijo ‘me ke lakatsa nama. *I smell food and I desire meat.*

empa, *but*

Bana ba bang ba batla ho kena sekolong empa ha ba na lieta. *Some children want to attend school but they do not have shoes.*

kapa, *or*

Na u batla kofi kapa tee? *Do you want coffee or tea?*

mohlomong, *perhaps*

Mohlomong ke tla ea moketeng. *Maybe I will go to the feast.*

hobane, *because*

Ke tla tsamaea ka maoto hobane ke batla ho pota posong. *I am going by foot because I want to go via the post office.*

haeba, *if*

Haeba pula ea na, ke i’lo sala. *If it is raining, I am going to stay.*
feelə, however, but

Ke rata ho ja mahe feelə a nkulisa. I like to eat eggs but they make me sick.

hape, again, moreover

Hosasa ke tla u ngoathela hape. Tomorrow I will give you food again.
Ha ke batle ho ea toropong, hape I don't want to go to town, moreover, I ke tsoanetse ho ea pitsong. have to go to a village gathering.

joale; hona joale, now; right now

Tlo koano hona joale! Come here right now!
U batla'ng joale? What do you want now?

joale ka/Joalo ka, as, like

O jaifa joalo ka Mosotho. He/she dances like a Mosotho.

ebe/ebile, then

U tla boloka chelete ebe u You will save money, then you will buy reka21 koloi. a car.

O bolokile chelete ebile o rekile He/she saved money, then she bought a car. koloi.

eaba, and then (often used when telling stories)

Maobane ke ile Mazenod, eaba ke Yesterday I went to Mazenod, and then ea ho ausi Makoena. I went to ausi Makoena.

kahoo, therefore

Ke tla hopola Lesotho haholo. I will miss Lesotho a lot. Therefore, I will Kahoo ke tla khutla hangata. return often.

21 Sometimes in Sesotho the present tense is used even though in the same case in English the past or future tense would be used
Vocabulary—Lesson 15

(the prepositions and conjunctions covered in this lesson are not repeated here)

kamorao, afterwards
kaofela, all
letho, nothing (ha ke na letho, I have nothing)
ka mehla, always
ka nqena, this side
ka nqane, that side
fatše, floor/on the ground
hammo ho or 'moho, together
hole, far
haufinyane or haufi, soon/near
khale, a long time ago/far in the future
hohle or kahohle, everywhere
hamorao or hamamorao, later on today
ka moso, later (at least a day later)
mafelo, end (mafelo a khoeli, end of the month)
hang hang, at once/suddenly
ho hang, not at all (ha ke batle ho hang, I don't want to, not at all)
hakaakang! or hakalekale! or hakalo!, so much!/too much!
ho joetsa (joetsitse), to tell
ho bolela (boletse), to tell/to mean (e bolela'ng?, what does it mean?)
ho etsahala (etsahetse), to happen (ho etsahala'ng? or ho etsahala joang?, what's happening?) (ho etsahetse'ng?, what happened?)
ho nkha (nkhile), to smell/to smell of
ho lakatsa (lakalitse), to desire
ho lebala (lebetse), to forget
ho boloka (bolokile), to keep/to save
ho hopola (hopotse), to remember/to think/to miss
ho hopotsa (hopolitse), to remind
ho hloloheloa (hlolohetsoe), to long for/to miss
Exercises—Lesson 15

1. Fatuku e kae? Translate the following statements:

   a. The dishcloth is next to the candle.
   b. The dishcloth is in front of the bowl.
   c. The dishcloth is inside the basin.
   d. The dishcloth is on top of the table.
   e. The dishcloth is by the plate.
   f. The dishcloth is under the chair.
   g. The dishcloth is among the mugs.
   h. The dishcloth is between the pots.
   i. The dishcloth is behind the bucket.
LESSON 16

POSSESSIVE CONSTRUCTION,
POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS AND SUBSTANTIVE PRONOUNS

1. Possessive Construction

**Singular**

- mosali **oa** Thabo: the wife of Thabo, Thabo's wife
- motse **oa** morena: the village of the chief, the chief's village
- letsatsi **la** tsoalo: the day of birth, the birthday
- sefate **sa** liperekisi: the peach tree
- nku **ea** molisana: the sheep of the herdboy, the herdboy's sheep
- bohobe **ba bana**: the bread of the children, the children's bread

**Plural**

- basali **ba** Thabo: the wives of Thabo, Thabo's wives
- metse **ea** morena: the villages of the chief, the chief's villages
- matsatsi **a** beke: the days of the week
- lifate **tsa** liperekisi: the peach trees
- linku **tsa** molisana: the sheep of the herdboy, the herdboy's sheep
- mahobe **a** bana: the loaves of the children, the children's loves

2. Possessive Pronouns

- ‘mè **oa** ka: my mother
- likhomo tsa **ka**: my cattle
- mora **oa** hao: your son
- likhomo tsa **hao**: your cattle
- morali **oa** **hae**: his/her daughter
- likhomo tsa **hae**: his/her cattle
- bo-ntate **ba** **rona**: our fathers
- likhomo tsa **rona**: our cattle
- bara **ba** **lona**: your (pl.) sons
- likhomo tsa **lona**: your (pl.) cattle
- barali **ba** **bona**: their daughters
- likhomo tsa **bona**: their cows

Note: These pronouns are also used as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; person</td>
<td>'na I, me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; pers.</td>
<td>uena you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; pers.; Cl. 1.</td>
<td>eena he/she/him/her/it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. oona</td>
<td>eona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. lona</td>
<td>'ona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. sona</td>
<td>tsona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. eona</td>
<td>tsona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. bona</td>
<td>'ona</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These pronouns are used:

a) In the **possessive construction** in all cases except the first, second, and third person singular. For example:

Likhomo tsa **bona**  
Leholimo le linaleli tsa **lona**

I Their cattle  
The sky and its stars

b) **After a preposition.** For example:

Ke ea le **uena** I go with you  
Ke ea ho **een**a I go to him

c) In sentences **where the pronoun stands by itself.** For example:

Ke **'na** It is I  
Ke **een**a It is he
d) In sentences containing **two object pronouns**\(^{22}\). For example:

```
Lieta li kae? Mphe *tsona*. Where are the shoes? Give them to me.
Ke *u fa* tsona. I give them to you.
```

e) To translate the English **too** (meaning **also**). The construction will be seen from the following examples:

```
Phēha litapole le *tsona* lihoete. Cook the potatoes and the carrots too.
Lipalesa li ntle; le *eona* meroho e mela hantle. The flowers are pretty; the vegetables, too, are growing well.
Le *bona* bohobe bo senyehile. The bread, too, has gone bad.
```

---

\(^{22}\) Object pronouns will be covered in Lesson 20.
Vocabulary—Lesson 16

buka (libuka), book
pampiri (lipampiri), paper
leqephe (maqephe), page/sheet
pen (lipene), pen
pensele (lipensele), pencil
nomoro (linomoro) or palo (lipalo), number
hlahlobo (lihlahlobo), examination
karabo (likarabo), answer
thuto (lithuto), lesson/subject
sekere (likere), scissors
setšoantšo (litšoantšo), picture
setempe (litempe), stamp
fono (lifono), phone
karete (likarete), card
phoso (liphoso), mistake/error (ka phoso, by mistake) (ka boomo, on purpose)
ho phètha (phèthile), to finish/to accomplish (ke phètho, that's it)
lebaka (mabaka), cause/reason (ho phètha mabaka, to take care of one's personal business)
ka lebaka la, because of (lit: with the reason of)
bakeng sa (short for sebakeng sa), for/on behalf of (followed by ka, hao, hae...)
lekhetlo (makhetlo), period/time (lekhetlo la bobeli, the second time) (makhetlo a mabeli, two times)
ho kuta (kutile), to cut (with scissors)
ho bontša (bontšitse), to show
ho ithuta (ithutile), to learn
ho araba (arabile), to answer
ho hlahlobo (hlahlobile), to examine
ho nepa (nepile), to be correct (ke nepile, I am correct)
ho nepahala (nepahetse), to become right (phepo e nepahetseng, the correct diet)
ho fosa (fositse), to make a mistake/to be wrong (ke fositse, I made a mistake)
ho fosahala (fosahetse), to become wrong (lijo tse fosahetseng, the wrong food)
Exercises—Lesson 16

1. Insert the right form of the possessive particle in the following phrases:
   
a. karobo ________ ngoana  
b. lengolo ________ sekolo  
c. setempe ________ ka  
d. moroho ________ bona  
e. libuka ________ bana  
f. mosali ________ hae  
g. bakhotsi ________ rona  
h. borikhoe ________ hao

2. Change the pronoun in brackets into its possessive form. 
   For example: morali oa (ke): morali oa ka
   
a. batsoali ba (ke)  
b. leleme la (o)  
c. lithuto tsa (re)  
d. morali oa (u)  
e. bohobe ba (ba)  
f. pene ea (ke)
LESSON 17

ADJECTIVES

Adjectives are joined to the noun they describe by means of a pronoun. These pronouns are the same as the noun class pronouns learned in Lesson 6, except in the case of the 1st noun class singular (ie motho, monna etc.) and in the 4th and 5th noun class plural (lifate, linku etc.) These are marked with an asterisk (*) in the following examples.

1. Some adjectives have stems which take the prefix of the nouns they describe
For example:

   -ntle     good/beautiful

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. motho e motle*</td>
<td>a good/beautiful person batho ba batle good/beautiful people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. motse o motle</td>
<td>a beautiful village metse e metle beautiful villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. lesale le letle</td>
<td>a beautiful earring masale a matle beautiful earrings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. sefate se setle</td>
<td>a beautiful tree lifate tse ntle* beautiful trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. khomo e ntle</td>
<td>a good/beautiful cow likhomo tse ntle* good/beautiful cows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. borikhoe bo botle</td>
<td>beautiful pants marikhoe a matle beautiful pants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here is a list of more examples of adjectives with stems (the form the adjective takes in the noun class 5 singular and plural and noun class 4 plural is given before the stem):

- mpe (-be)  bad, ugly
- kholo (-holo)  big, old
- nyane (-nyane)  small, young, few
- ngata (-ngata)  many
- tenya (-tenya)  fat
- tsesane (-sesane)  thin
- khutšoanyane (-khutšoanyane)  short
- telele (-lelele)  tall
- ncha (-cha)  new
- tona (-tona)  male, right
- tšehali (-tšehali)  female, left

Colors:

- ntšo (-tšo)  black
- tšoeu (-soeu)  white
- sootho (-sootho)  brown
- khubelu (-fubelu)  red
- tšehla (-sehla)  yellow
- tala (-tala)  green
- putsoa (-putsoa)  blue, grey
2. Other adjectives are nouns that can be used as adjectives:

For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>litšila</th>
<th>dirty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>Plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. motho ea litšila*</td>
<td>batho ba litšila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. motse o litšila</td>
<td>a dirty village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. lesale le litšila</td>
<td>a dirty earring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. sefate se litšila</td>
<td>a dirty tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. khomo e litšila</td>
<td>a dirty cow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. brikhoe bo litšila</td>
<td>dirty pants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In the 1st person singular noun class, for adjectives that have a stem, the pronoun e is used, and for adjectives that do not have a stem, the pronoun ea is used. However, many Basotho do not follow these rules when speaking Sesotho. For example, some may use the pronoun a for all adjectives in the 1st noun class singular:

motho a motle
motho a litšila

a beautiful person
a dirty person

The pronoun you hear Basotho using in these cases will likely differ depending on the geographic region of Lesotho in which you find yourself.

More examples of adjectives that do not take a prefix:

thata
bonolo
boima
bobebe
bohlale
bohale
sethoto
monate
molemo
mosa
botsoa
boluto
bohloko
matla
makhethe
bohlasoa
metsi
mofuthu
bohlokoa
khopo
mona
tsoekere
bolila
difficult, hard, tough, stingy
easy, soft, tender
heavy, difficult
light, easy
smart, clever
aggressive, short-tempered
stupid, foolish
nice, good to eat
useful, good
kind (can imply being a pushover)
lazy
lonely, bored
painful, sore
strong, powerful
tidy, clean
careless, untidy
wet
warm
important
crooked, bad, wicked
jealous
sweet
sour
Vocabulary—Lesson 17

ntle (-tle), good/beautiful
mpe (-be), bad/ugly
ngata (-ngata), many
tenya (-tenya), fat
sesane (-sesane), thin
khutšoanyane (-khutšoanyane), short
telele (-telele), tall
ncha (-cha), new
kholo (-holo), big/old
nyane (-nyane) or nyenyane (-nyenyane), small/young/few
tona (-tona), male/right (letsoho le tona, right hand)
tšehali (-tšehali), female/left (letsoho le tšehali, left hand)
litšila, dirty
thata, difficult/hard/tough/stingy
bonolo, easy/soft/tender
boima, heavy/difficult
bobebe, light/easy
bohlale, smart/clever
bohale, aggressive/short-tempered
sethoto, stupid/foolish
monate, nice/good to eat
molemo, useful/good
mosa, kind (can imply being a pushover)
botsoa, lazy
boluto, lonely/bored (ke tsoeroe ke boluto, I am lonely/bored)
bohloko, painful/sore (ha bohloko, painfully/so much)
matla, strong/powerful
makhthe, tidy/clean
metsi, wet
mofuthu, warm
bohlokoa, important
Exercises—Lesson 17

1. Give the correct form of the pronoun and of the adjective in the brackets.
   For example: lesale (-tle): lesale le letle
   a. motho (-nyane)
   b. lebesè (-be)
   c. pèrè (-holo)
   d. khomo (-ntšo)
   e. lijo (-be)
   f. sekipa (-cha)
   g. mangolo (-kae)?
   h. lieta (-fubelu)
   i. banana (-ngata)
   j. linku (-tle)
   k. katse (-soeu)

2. Fill in the correct form of the pronoun.
   a. lieta ______ litšila
   b. borikhoe ______ botle
   c. mekopu ______ monate
   d. mosebetsi ______ thata
   e. moshanyana ______ sethoto
   f. likausi ______ tšoeu
   g. basali ______ matla
   h. katiba ______ putsoa
   i. liaparo ______ nча
   j. jesi ______ mofuthu
   k. mabenkele ______ maholo
LESSON 18

WHICH? (-FE?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. motho <em>ofe?</em></td>
<td>batho <em>bafe?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>motho <em>ofe ng?</em></td>
<td>batho <em>bafe ng?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which person?</td>
<td>which people?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. motse <em>ofe?</em></td>
<td>metse <em>efe?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>motse <em>ofe ng?</em></td>
<td>metse <em>efe ng?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which village?</td>
<td>which villages?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. letsatsi <em>lefe?</em></td>
<td>matsatsi <em>afe?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>letsatsi <em>lefe ng?</em></td>
<td>matsatsi <em>afe ng?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which day?</td>
<td>which days?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. sefate <em>sefe?</em></td>
<td>lifate <em>life?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sefate <em>sefe ng?</em></td>
<td>lifate <em>life ng?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which tree?</td>
<td>which trees?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. khomo <em>efe?</em></td>
<td>likhomo <em>life?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>khomo <em>efe ng?</em></td>
<td>likhomo <em>life ng?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which cow?</td>
<td>which cows?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. bohobe <em>bofe?</em></td>
<td>mahobe <em>afe?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bohobe <em>bofe ng?</em></td>
<td>mahobe <em>afe ng?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which bread?</td>
<td>which loaves?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** When spoken, an -ng sound is usually added to the end of -fe.

For example,

- Motho ofeng? *Which person?*
- Batho bafeng? *Which people?*

With the verb to be the construction is as follows:

- Ke sefate sefe? *Which tree is it?*
- Sefate ke sefe? *Which is the tree?*
- Ka nako efe? *At what time?*
- Nako ke efe? *What is the time?*
Vocabulary—Lesson 18

eng kapa eng, whatever
mang kapa mang, whomever
kae kapa kae, wherever
neng kapa neng, whenever
joang kapa joang, however
ofe kapa ofe, efe kapa efe etc..., whichever (varies depending on noun class)
mokhoa (mekhoa), manner, way (ka mokhoa ofe?, in which manner?)
tsela (litsela), path, way (ka tsela efe?, in which way?)
‘mila (mebila), road (used by cars)
mofuta (mefuta), type, kind (ka mofuta ofe? which kind?) (mefuta-futa, many kinds)
lefatše (mafatše), earth/world
naha (linaha), land/country
palesa (lipalesa), flower
noka (linoka), river
seliba (maliba), well/spring
setlama-tłama (litlama-tlama), plant/herb/weed
thaba (lithaba), mountain
lejoe (majoe), stone
lefika (mafiaka), big rock
lengope (mangope), donga (gully caused by soil erosion)
kholo (likholo), valley
leoatle (maoatle), sea
letša (matša), lake
letamo (matamo), dam
borokho (marokho), bridge (Maseru Border Gate is also called Borokho)
sekoti (likoti), hole (in the ground)
lesoba (masoba), hole (that goes all the way through something)
moriti (meriti), shade
seriti (liriti), shadow
lekala (makala), branch
ho hola (hotse), to grow (humans and animals)
Exercises—Lesson 18

1. Give the right form of –fe (which?) with each of the following nouns. Then give the plural of your answer (if possible).

   a. nako
   b. mokete
   c. ntho
   d. lekala
   e. sekoti
   f. borokho
   g. motho

2. Complete the following phrases with the correct form of the adjective –fe.

   a. Naleli ke ______?
   b. Ba bohlale ke ______?
   c. Lipalesa ke ______?
   d. Thaba ke ______?
   e. Letamo ke ______?
   f. Seliba ke ______?
   g. Monna oa hao ke ______?
LESSON 19

DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This, these</th>
<th>That, those</th>
<th>That way over there, Those way over there</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. sing. (eg motho)</td>
<td>enoa/ee</td>
<td>eno(^{22})/eo(^{24})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. (eg batho)</td>
<td>bana/baa</td>
<td>bano/bao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. sing. (eg motse)</td>
<td>ona/oo</td>
<td>ono/oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. (eg metse)</td>
<td>ena/ee</td>
<td>eno/oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. sing. (eg lesale)</td>
<td>lena/lee</td>
<td>leno/leo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. (eg masale)</td>
<td>ana/aa</td>
<td>ano/ao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. sing. (eg sefate)</td>
<td>sena/see</td>
<td>seno/seo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. (eg lifate)</td>
<td>tsena/tsee</td>
<td>tseno, tseo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. sing. (eg khomo)</td>
<td>ena/ee</td>
<td>eno/oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. (eg likhomo)</td>
<td>tsena/tsee</td>
<td>tseno/tseo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. sing. (eg bohobe)</td>
<td>bona/boo</td>
<td>bano/boo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. (eg mahobe)</td>
<td>ana/aa</td>
<td>ano/ao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. sing. (ho class)</td>
<td>hona/hoo</td>
<td>hono/hoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no plural</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some examples:

**Hoo ke eng?**  
*What is this?*  
Ke pene.  
*It is a pen.*

**Ntho ee ke eng?**  
*What is this thing?*  
Ke buka.  
*It is a book.*

**Ntho eo ke eng?**  
*What is that thing?*  
Ke pitsa.  
*It is a pot.*

**Ntho eane ke eng?**  
*What is that thing way over there?*  
Ke ntlo.  
*It is a house.*

Ke pene ntho ee?  
*Is this thing a pen?*  
E-e, ha se pene.  
*No, it is not a pen.*

Ke sefate ntho eo?  
*Is that thing a tree?*  
E, ke sefate.  
*Yes, it is a tree.*

---

23 Some Basotho, when speaking, add an extra -no to these pronouns (eg eno becomes enono, bano becomes banono etc…)

24 These pronouns (eo, bao, oo etc) are used when referring to something mentioned previously, and are used in indirect relative clauses (see lesson 34).

25 These pronouns (eloa, bale, ola etc..) are not as common as the others.
Ke ntja nthro **eane**? *Is that thing way over there a dog?* E-e, ha se ntja. *No, it is not a dog.*

Ke litšoantso lintho **tsee**? *Are these things pictures?* E, ke litšoantso. *Yes, they are pictures.*

Lintho **tsee** ke li'ng? *What are these things?* Ke litulo. *They are chairs.*

Lintho **tseo** ke li'ng? *What are those things?* Ke mahe. *They are eggs.*

Lintho **tsane** ke li'ng? *What are those things way over there?* Ke litamate. *They are tomatoes.*

Likhomo **tsane** li kholo. *The cows way over there are big.*

Ntja **ena** ea loma. *This dog bites.*

Ke batla ntho **eno**. *I want that thing.*

U batla ee? *You want this (one)?*

These adjectives may also be used as pronouns in phrases like the following:

Mosali o hokae? *Where is the woman?* Ke enoa. *Here she is.*

Thabo o hokae? *Where is Thabo?* Ke eane. *He is way over there.*

Batho ba kae? *Where are the people?* Ke bana. *Here they are.*

Bo-ntate ba kae? *Where are the men?* Ke bane. *They are way over there.*

Buka e hokae? *Where is the book?* Ke ena tafoleng. *Here it is on the table.*

Masale a hokae? *Where are the earrings?* Ke ana ka tlung. *Here they are in the house.*
Vocabulary—Lesson 19

ho emara (emere), to be pregnant (used for animals)  lesoe (masoefe), albino
ho tsoala (tsoetse), to give birth (used for animals)
ho pepa (pepile), to carry on one's back/to give birth (used for people)
ho nyantša (nyantšitse), to breastfeed
ho shobelisa (shobelisitse), to kidnap a girl with the intent of marrying her
ho hlala (hlalile), to divorce
ho arohana (arohane), to part
ho chata (chatile), to marry
ho nyala (nyetse), to marry (used for men) (ke nyetse, I am married)
ho nyaloa (nyetsoe), to marry (used for women) (ke nyetsoe, I am married)
lenyalo (manyalo), wedding/marriage
tsoalo, birth (letsatsi la tsoalo, birthday)
motsoetse (batsoetse), woman who has just had baby
nyatsi (nyatsi), mistress
ngoetsi (lingoetsi), daughter-in-law
‘mè-matsale (bo-’mè-matsale), mother-in-law
mokhachane (bakhachane), pregnant woman
rakhali (bo-rakhali), aunt (father's sister)
mangoane (bo-mangoane), mother's younger sister (mother's older sister is nkhono)
malome (bo-malome), uncle (mother's brother)
rangoane (bo-rangoane), father's younger brother (father's older brother is ntate-moholo)
setloholo (litloholo), grandchild
moroetsana (baroetsana), unmarried adolescent girl
leqheku (maqheku), old person
mofumahali (mafumahali), queen/wife of chief
morui (barui), wealthy person
mofutsana (bafutsana), poor person
molisana (balisana), herdboy/shepherd
molemi (balemi), farmer
khutsana (likhutsana), orphan
thokolosi (lithokolosi), a mythical dwarf that people acquire through witchcraft
Exercises—Lesson 19

1. Give the right form of the demonstrative adjective –\textit{na} (\textit{this}) for the following nouns. Then put your answers into the plural.

   a. khutsana
   b. setloholo
   c. nyatsi
   d. lesoefe
   e. moriti

2. Give the right form of the demonstrative adjective –\textit{ane} (\textit{that}) with the following nouns.

   a. thokolosi
   b. mokopu
   c. setlama-llama
   d. moroetsana
   e. leqhoku
LESSON 20

OBJECT PRONOUNS

So far we have only used pronouns as the subject of the sentence. When pronouns are used to take the place of the object of the sentence, a change occurs in two of them:

ke (I) becomes n (me)
o (he/she) becomes mo (him/her)

For example,

Ba ntseba. They know me. (lit. they me know)
Ke mo fa bohobe. I give him bread. (lit. I him give bread)

Note: a) n is joined to the front of the verb
b) The object pronoun is placed between the subject and the verb

Exception: In some cases, a change takes place in the first consonant of the verb to which the n is joined. Also, the n itself becomes m before verbs that start with p, ph, or m. These changes are as follows:

b becomes p ho bona, to see ba mpona, they see me
f becomes ph ho fa, to give ba mpha, they give me
h becomes kh ho hana, to refuse ba nkhana, they refuse me
hl becomes tlh ho hloea, to hate ba ntlhoea, they hate me
j becomes tj ho ja, to eat ba ntja, they eat me
l becomes t ho lata, to fetch ba ntata, they fetch me
r becomes th ho rata, to love ba nthata, they love me
s becomes ts ho siea, to leave behind ba ntšiea, they leave me behind
vowel; add nk ho araba, to answer ba nkaraba, they answer me

All other object pronouns are the same as the short form of the pronouns covered in Lesson 4.

For example,

Re ba fa bohobe. We give them bread. (lit. we them give bread).
Likhomo lia tla; kea li bona. The cows are coming; I see them. (lit. I them see).

---

26 Basotho do not always follow these “rules” when speaking. For example, you may hear “mfa” instead of “mpha” etc..

27 The long form of the pronoun (kea) is used here because the object comes before the verb and not after it.
When the singular command (see Lesson 4) is preceded by a pronoun, its ending changes from -a to -e. For example:

- Mo fe bohobe! \( \rightarrow \) Give him bread! (lit. him give bread)
- Li nke! \( \rightarrow \) Take them! (lit. them take)
- Mphe! \( \rightarrow \) Give me! (from ho fa, to give)

Finally, mo (him/her) both changes itself and causes a change in all verbs beginning with b. For example:

- Kea 'mona (instead of Kea mo bona) \( \rightarrow \) I see him
- Kea 'motsa (instead of Kea mo botsa) \( \rightarrow \) I ask him
- Kea 'mitsa (instead of Kea mo bitsa) \( \rightarrow \) I call him
**Vocabulary—Lesson 20**

- **ho emela** (emetse), *to wait for*
  - **mabele** (no pl.), *sorghum*
- **ho sebelisa** (sebelisitse), *to use*
  - **koro** (likoro), *wheat*
- **ho leka** (lekile), *to try*
- **ho emisa** (emisitse), *to cause something to stop*
- **ho kenya** (kentse), *to put in/to insert*
- **ho ntša** (ntšitse), *to take out*
- **ho lebella** (lebeletse), *to expect*
- **ho soaba** (soabile), *to become sorry/to become embarrassed*
- **ho touta** (toutile), *to worry/to have one’s thoughts be far away* (ua touta?, *are you worried/is your mind wandering?*)
- **ho khathatseha** (khathatsehile), *to worry* (s’k’a khathatseha, *don’t worry*)
- **ho makala** (maketse), *to be surprised* (ke maketse, *I am surprised*)
- **ho sokola** (sokotse) or **sotleha** (sotlehile), *to have a hard time (usually due to poverty)*
- **ho sokolisa** (sokolisitse), *to give someone a hard time*
- **ho lema** (lemme), *to plough/to cultivate*
- **ho nosetsa** (noselitse), *to water (specifically plants)*
- **ho hlaola** (hlaotse), *to weed/to hoe*
- **ho cheka** (chekile), *to dig*
- **ho kotula** (kotutse), *to harvest*
- **ho hama** (hamme), *to milk (a cow)*

**temo**, *agriculture*

- **tšimo** (masimo), *field*
- **peo** (lipeo), *seed*
- **mobu** (mebu), *soil*
- **moiteli** (meiteli), *manure*
- **kharafu** (likharafu), *shovel/spade*
- **kiribaea** (likiribaea), *wheelbarrow*
- **terekere** (literekere), *tractor*
- **haraka** (liharaka), *rake*
- **lijalo** (no sing.), *crops (in field or garden)*
- **limela** (no sing.), *edible plants*
Exercises—Lesson 20

1. Replace the nouns in the following sentences by pronouns and change the existing pronouns from their short to their long form if necessary.

For example: Ke bona ntlo. **Kea e bona.**

a. Ke sebelisa kiribae.
b. Bo-ntate ba ntša chelete.
c. Ngoanana o batla mokopu.
d. O lema lipeo.
e. Nka likharafu!
f. Kotula mabele tsatsing le.
g. Monna o kopa moiteli.
h. ‘Mè oa ka o koa koa lemati.
i. Tlisa litulo.
j. Ba bona ‘mè.
LESSON 21

MAKING A VERB REFLEXIVE WITH THE PREFIX (I-)

To express an action that one does to oneself, add the prefix i- to the verb. The same consonant changes occur that we covered in the previous lesson (ie the consonant changes that happen at the beginning of a verb are the same regardless of whether we are attaching i-, m- or n- to the front of the verb). Some commonly used examples are:

- **ho tseba, to know** becomes **ho itseba, to know oneself**
- **ho pata, to hide** becomes **ho ipata, to hide oneself**
- **ho bona, to see** becomes **ho ipona, to see oneself**
- **ho botsa, to ask** becomes **ho ipotsa, to ask oneself**
- **ho bolaea, to kill** becomes **ho ipolaea, to kill oneself**
- **ho thusa, to help** becomes **ho ithusa, to help oneself**
- **ho hlatsoa, to wash** becomes **ho ithlatsoa, to wash oneself**
- **ho hlokomela, to take care of** becomes **ho ithlkomela, to take care of oneself**
### Vocabulary—Lesson 21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tswana</th>
<th>English Description</th>
<th>Tswana</th>
<th>English Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ho itseba (itsebile)</td>
<td>to know oneself</td>
<td>hamore (lihamore)</td>
<td>hammer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho ipata (ipatle)</td>
<td>to hide oneself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho ipotsa (ipositsi)</td>
<td>to ask oneself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho bolaea (bolaile)</td>
<td>to kill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho ipolaea (ipolaile)</td>
<td>to commit suicide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho ithusa (ithusitsi)</td>
<td>to help oneself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho itthatsoa (ithatsitsi)</td>
<td>to wash oneself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho hlokola (hlokoltsi)</td>
<td>to take care of/to realize</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho itlhokola (itlhokoltsi)</td>
<td>to take care of oneself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho tlotsa (tlotitsi)</td>
<td>to grease/to apply (specifically lotion, vaseline etc...)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho itlota (itlotitsi)</td>
<td>to apply lotion/vaseline to oneself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho tahoa (taholoe/tahoue)</td>
<td>to get drunk (u tahoue?, are you drunk?)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho tloaela (tloaeltsi)</td>
<td>to become used to (ke tloaela ho luzo Lesotho, I am used to living in Lesotho) (oa ntolaela hampe, you are treating me badly)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moetlo (meetlo)</td>
<td>manner/custom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho haha (hahile)</td>
<td>to build</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho roba (robile)</td>
<td>to break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho robehla (robehile)</td>
<td>to get broken (e robehile, it's broken)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho pshatla (pshaltile)</td>
<td>to break to pieces/to smash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho tabola (tabotsi)</td>
<td>to tear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho seha (sehile)</td>
<td>to cut</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho khaola (khaotsi)</td>
<td>to cut with the result of dividing something in two (such as a string)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho arola (arotsi)</td>
<td>to divide/to separate/to share</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho lokisa (lokisitsi)</td>
<td>to repair/to prepare/to organize</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho hlophisa (hlophitsi)</td>
<td>to organize/to arrange</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>letahoa (matahoa)</td>
<td>drunkard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lithole (no pl.)</td>
<td>trash/rubbish (often pronounced “lithole”)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moqomo (meqomo)</td>
<td>trashbin/trash pile</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>setene (litene)</td>
<td>brick</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ropo (liropo)</td>
<td>rope</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sepekere (leighere)</td>
<td>nail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercises—Lesson 21

1. Change the following verbs into reflexive verbs and give the English translations.

   a. bitsa
   b. fa
   c. seha
   d. rata
   e. shapa
   f. lahla
LESSON 22

PERFECT TENSE

1. **Perfect Tense**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Pronoun</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke phehile</td>
<td>I have cooked, I cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u phehile</td>
<td>you have cooked, you cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o phehile</td>
<td>he/she has cooked, he/she cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re phehile</td>
<td>we have cooked, we cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le phehile</td>
<td>you all have cooked, you all cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba phehile</td>
<td>they have cooked, they cooked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perfect tense of **to be (ho ba)**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Pronoun</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke bile</td>
<td>I have been, I was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u bile</td>
<td>you have been, you were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o bile</td>
<td>he/she has been, he/she was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re bile</td>
<td>we have been, we were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le bile</td>
<td>you all have been, you all were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba bile</td>
<td>they have been, they were</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perfect tense of **to have (ho ba le)**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Pronoun</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke bile le</td>
<td>I had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u bile le</td>
<td>you had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o bile le</td>
<td>he/she had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re bile le</td>
<td>we had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le bile le</td>
<td>you all had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba bile le</td>
<td>they had</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perfect tense of **to say (ho re)**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Pronoun</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke itse</td>
<td>I have said, I said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u itse</td>
<td>you have said, you said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o itse</td>
<td>he/she has said, he/she said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re itse</td>
<td>we have said, we said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le itse</td>
<td>you have said, you said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba itse</td>
<td>they have said, they said</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perfect tense of **to say (ho cho)**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Pronoun</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke chulo</td>
<td>I have said, I said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u chulo</td>
<td>you have said, you said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o chulo</td>
<td>he/she has said, he/she said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re chulo</td>
<td>we have said, we said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le chulo</td>
<td>you all have said, you all said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba chulo</td>
<td>they have said, they said</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note: The perfect tense is often used in Sesotho when, in English, the present tense would be used. Specifically, with verbs that express emotions (such as happy, sad etc…) or states of being (such as hungry, tired etc…), the perfect tense is used, even though they express a present situation. See below for examples (in bold).

2. Irregularities in the formation of the Perfect Tense

a) Most verbs ending in -sa, -tsa, -tsa, -ntša take the ending -itse

- ho sebelisa to use ke sebelisitse I used, I have used
- ho bitsa to call ke bitsitse I called, I have called
- ho hlatsoa to wash ke hlatsoitse I washed, I have washed
- ho ntša to take out ke ntšitse I took out, I have taken out

b) Most verbs ending in -la take the ending -tse

- ho lula to sit ke lutse I sat, I am sitting
- ho hatsela to be cold ke hatsetse I am cold
- ho khathala to be tired ke khathetse I am tired
- ho robala to sleep ke robetse I am sleeping

c) Other examples:

- ho bona to see ke bone I saw, I have seen
- ho kena to enter/attend ke kene I entered/I attended
- ho palama to ride ke palame I rode, I have ridden
- ho fumana to find ke fumane I found, I have found
- ho lema to cultivate ke lemme I cultivated
- ho hana to refuse ke hanne I refused, I have refused
- ho bina to sing ke binne I sang, I have sung
- ho tena to put on, to wear ke tenne I have put on, I am wearing
- ho apara to dress, to wear ke apere I dressed, I am dressed

I am wearing
Vocabulary—Lesson 22

ho hatsela (hatsetse), to become cold          lekunutu (makunutu), secret
ho khathala (khathetse), to become tired
ho tena (tenne), to wear/to put on (specifically pants/dress/skirt) (oa ntena!, you disgust me!)
ho apara (apere), to dress/to wear (specifically blanket)
ho roala (roetse), to wear/to put on/to carry/wear on one's head (specifically, hat/headscarf/bucket/shoes)
ho rola (rotse), to take down (from head)/to take off
ho hlobola (holbotse), to take off (clothing)
ho tsola (tsotse), to undress (u tsotse, you're naked)
ho phakisa (phakisitse), to hurry
ho tata (tatile), to be in a hurry (ke tatile, I'm in a hurry)
ho lieha (liehile), to delay/to be late
ho chaisa (chaisitse), to get off work/to crash into something
ho tloha (tlohile), to leave/to go away
ho tlohela (tlohetse), to leave/to give up (ntlohelle!, let go of me!)
ho lahla (lahlile), to throw away
ho lahleha (lahlehile), to be lost (e lahlehile, it is lost)
ho meta (metile) or ho aka (akile) or ho suna (sunne), to kiss (mphe meta!, give me a kiss!)
ho fereha (ferehile), to court
moriri (meriri), hair
mohoete (mehoete), body hair
litelu (no pl.), beard
boea (no pl.), wool/hair of animal
senotlolo (linotlolo), key
mokotla (mekotla), bag
lebokose (mabokose), box
mpho (limpho), gift
turu, expensive (e turu, it's expensive)
mahala, free of charge
mohlala (mehlala), example (ke kopa mohlala, I am asking for an example)
Exercises—Lesson 22

1. Give the perfect tense of the verb in brackets.
   a. Tichere e (hlalosa) hantle.
   b. Ngoana o (ngola) lengolo.
   c. Ke mo (thusa) maobane.
   d. Bana ba matha haholo; ba (khathala).
   e. Moruti o (bala) buka
   f. U (ea) kae?

2. Make up questions to which these sentences might be the answers.
   a. E, ke ithutile haholo sekolong.
   b. E, re mametse hantle.
   c. Ba ile Maseru.
   d. Ke chaisitse ka 12 maobane.
   e. E, o jele haholo.
   f. Bana ha ba sebetse hantle hobane ba khathetse.
   g. E, ke tatile.
   h. Ke tene seshoeshoe ‘me ke apere kobo.
LESSON 23

NEGATIVE PERFECT TENSE

1. Negative Perfect Tense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORM</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ha kea pheha</td>
<td>I have not cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ua pheha</td>
<td>you have not cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha a pheha</td>
<td>he/she has not cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha rea pheha</td>
<td>we have not cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha lea pheha</td>
<td>you all have not cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ba pheha</td>
<td>they have not cooked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perfect tense of to be (ho ba):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORM</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ha kea ba</td>
<td>I have not been, I was not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ua ba</td>
<td>you have not been, you were not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha a ba</td>
<td>he/she has not been, he/she was not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha rea ba</td>
<td>we have not been, we were not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha lea ba</td>
<td>you all have not been, you all were not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ba ba</td>
<td>they have not been, they were not</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future tense of to have (ho ba le):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORM</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ha kea ba le</td>
<td>I did not have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ua ba le</td>
<td>you did not have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha a ba le</td>
<td>he/she did not have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha rea ba le</td>
<td>we did not have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha lea ba le</td>
<td>you all did not have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ba ba le</td>
<td>they did not have</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future tense of to say (ho re):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORM</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ha kea re</td>
<td>I have not said, I did not say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ua re</td>
<td>you have not said, you did not say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha a re</td>
<td>he/she has not said, he/she did not say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha rea re</td>
<td>we have not said, we did not say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha lea re</td>
<td>you all have not said, you all did not say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha ba re</td>
<td>they have not said, they did not say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note: To express the negative of the verbs that are conjugated using the perfect tense because they express emotions or states of being, the **negative perfect tense** is used, and **not** the negative present tense. For example,

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke khathetse</td>
<td><em>I am tired</em></td>
<td>ha kea khathala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ke hatsetse</td>
<td><em>I am cold</em></td>
<td>ha kea hatsela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ke lapile</td>
<td><em>I am hungry</em></td>
<td>ha kea lapa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ho lekane</td>
<td><em>It’s enough</em></td>
<td>ha hoa lekana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary—Lesson 23

ho thetsa (thetsitse), to deceive/to cheat  ho hloea (hloile), to hate
ho tebela (tebetse), to chase away  ho loea (loile), to bewitch
ho baleha (balehile), to flee  thupa (lithupa), stick
ho loana (loanne), to fight (physically)  phafa (liphafa), whip
ho loantša (loantšitse), to attack  lebitla (mabitla), grave
ho otla (otlile), to hit  hlapa (lihlapa), insult
ho raha (rahile), to kick  poulelo, jealousy
ho shapa (shapile), to beat  molamo (melamo), large stick carried by men
ho mula (mutse), to beat severely  sono (lisono), something/someone
ho hlaba (hlabile), to slaughter/to stab  characterized by misfortune (ke sono, how unfortunate)
ho omanya (omantse), to scold with anger  ngoana tooe! (bana ting!), you naughty child!
ho rohaka (rohakile), to insult  ho qabana (qabane), to argue/to be in an argument
ho ferekana (ferekane), to be confused/to be troubled  ho khalemela (khalemetse), to reprimand without anger
ho ferekanya (ferekantse), to confuse  ho rohaka (rohakile), to insult
ho hlanya (hlantse), to be crazy (oa hlanya!, you're crazy!)  ho tefa (tefile), to be spoiled (oa tefa, you are spoiled)
ho phapha (phaphile), to get uppity  ho bora (borile), to be boring (hoa bora, it's boring)/(kea boreha, I'm bored)
ho hlolica (hloliile), to annoy by being noisy  ho phoqa (phoqile), to disappoint (ke tla u phoqa, I will make you sorry)
ho hlola (hotlo), to beat/to conquer (ke hlotsoe, I am beaten/I can't do it)  ho phoqa (phoqile), to disappoint (ke tla u phoqa, I will make you sorry)
ho imela (imetse), to be too heavy for, to overload (ke imetsoe ke..., I am overloaded by...)  ho hlola (hotlo), to beat/to conquer (ke hlotsoe, I am beaten/I can't do it)
ho boulela (bouletse), to be jealous (kea boulela, I am jealous)  ho imela (imetse), to be too heavy for, to overload (ke imetsoe ke..., I am overloaded by...)
leshano (mashano) or maaka, lie (u leshano! or u maaka!, you lie!)  lehano (mashano) or maaka, lie (u leshano! or u maaka!, you lie!)
sefapano (lifapano), cross (sefapano!, I swear!)  sefapano (lifapano), cross (sefapano!, I swear!)
lerata (marata), noise (u lerata!, you are noisy!)  lerata (marata), noise (u lerata!, you are noisy!)
Exercises—Lesson 23

1. Put the following sentences into the negative, and give the English translation of your answer.

   a. Ke mo shapile tsatsing le.
   b. Thabo o nkomantse.
   c. ‘Mè oa ka o otlile motho.
   d. U mphoqile.
   e. Maqheku a mo loile.
   f. Ke tebetse monna oa ka.
   g. Ua hlanya?

2. Answer the following questions in the affirmative, and then in the negative.

   a. U hatsetse?
   b. Le lapile?
   c. Na u thusitse abuti oa hao?
   d. U khathetse?
   e. Na ngoana o robetse?
   f. Na abuti oa hao o mo loantšitse?
   g. Na mokhotsi oa hae o koatile?
   h.
LESSON 24

IMPERFECT AND PRETERITE (DISTANT PAST) TENSE

1. Imperfect Tense

ke ne ke pheha\(^{28}\)  
I was cooking

e u ne u pheha\(^{29}\)  
you were cooking

o ne a pheha
he/she was cooking

re ne re pheha
we were cooking

le ne le pheha
you all were cooking

ba ne ba pheha
they were cooking

Imperfect tense of **to be** (ho ba):

ke ne ke le
I was

u ne u le
you were

o ne a le
he/she was

re ne re le
we were

le ne le le
you all were

ba ne ba le
they were

Imperfect tense of **to have** (ho ba le):

ke ne ke e-na le
I had

u ne u e-na le
you had

o ne a e-na le
he/she had

re ne re e-na le
we had

le ne le e-na le
you all had

ba ne ba e-na le
they had

Imperfect tense of **to say** (ho re):

ke ne ke re
I was saying

u ne u re
you were saying

o ne a re
he/she was saying

re ne re re
we were saying

le ne le re
you all were saying

ba ne ba re
they were saying

\(^{28}\) “Ke ne ke” is used with the perfect tense of the verb if it is a verb that takes the perfect in the present tense (such as *ke khatsetse, I am tired*). When the perfect tense is used with other verbs, the meaning changes from *ke ne ke pheha, I was cooking*, to *ke ne ke phehile, I had cooked*.

\(^{29}\) When spoken, this is often shortened, so *o ne a* becomes *o'na*, and *u ne u* becomes *u'n'u.*
Using the imperfect in a relative clause\(^{30}\):
Add -ng to the ne. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Batho ba neng ba bina...</td>
<td>The people who were singing...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motho o neng a rekisa joala...</td>
<td>The person who was selling beer...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some examples using the imperfect tense:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ha kea kena sekolo maobane hoabane ke ne ke kula.</td>
<td>I did not attend school yesterday because I was sick.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ke ne ke nahana hore u ile moketeng.</td>
<td>I was thinking that you went to the feast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E ne e le labokae maobane?</td>
<td>What day was it yesterday?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E ne e le labohlano.</td>
<td>It was Friday.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Preterite Tense

This tense is not used as often as the perfect or the imperfect tense. It is used to express an event that happened in the past and that is over and done with.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke ile ka pheha</td>
<td>I cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u ile ua pheha</td>
<td>you cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o ile a pheha</td>
<td>he/she cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re ile ra pheha</td>
<td>we cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le ile la pheha</td>
<td>you all cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba ile ba pheha</td>
<td>they cooked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preterite tense of to be (ho ba):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke ile ka ba</td>
<td>I was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u ile ua ba</td>
<td>you were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o ile a ba</td>
<td>he/she was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re ile ra ba</td>
<td>we were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le ile la ba</td>
<td>you all were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba ile ba e-ba</td>
<td>they were</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preterite tense of to have (ho ba le):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ke ile ka ba le</td>
<td>I had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u ile ua ba le</td>
<td>you had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o ile a ba le</td>
<td>he/she had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re ile ra ba le</td>
<td>we had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le ile la ba le</td>
<td>you all had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba ile ba e-ba le</td>
<td>they had</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{30}\) Direct relative clauses will be covered in Lesson 29.
Preterite tense of *to say* (*ho re*):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ke ile ka re</th>
<th>I said</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>u ile ua re</td>
<td>you said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o ile a re</td>
<td>he/she said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re ile ra re</td>
<td>we said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le ile la re</td>
<td>you all said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba ile ba re</td>
<td>they said</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using the preterite tense in a **relative clause**:
Add -ng to the *ile*. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Batho ba ileng ba bina...</th>
<th>The people who sang...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motho o ileng a rekisa joala...</td>
<td>The person who sold beer...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary—Lesson 24

ho roka (rokile), to sew
ho loha (lohile), to knit/to braid
ho thata (thatile), to braid
ho phunya (phuntse), to pierce/to bore a hole
ho hula (hutse), to pull
ho hlakola (hlakotse), to wipe off/to erase
ho fofa (fofile), to fly
ho tšoara (tšoere), to catch/to grab/to hold/to arrest
ho itšoara (itšoere), to behave (ho itšoara hampe, to misbehave)
ho kalima (kalimme), to lend
ho kolota (kolotile), to owe (o nkolota 5 Maloti, you owe me 5 Maloti)
ho amohela (amohetse), to receive/to welcome
ho tsotella (tsoteletse), to care (ha ke tsotelle!, I don’t care!)
ho tšepa (tšepile), to trust/to hope
ho tšepisa (tšepisitse), to promise
ho hlompha (hlomphile), to respect
ho tlontlolla (tlontlolotse), to dishonor
ho phomola (phomotse), to rest
ho khaleha (khalehile), to fall asleep (ke khalehile, I fell asleep)
ho lora (lorile), to dream
ho tlameha (tlamehile), to should/to have to (do something), (ke tlameha ho tsamaea, I have to leave)
ho tšoanela (tšoanetse), to should/to have to (do something), (ke tšoanela ho pheha, I have to cook)
ho sesa (sesitse), to urinate
mosese or moroto, urine
lemao (mamao), safety pin
nale (linale), needle
lesela (masela) or lelapı (malapi), cloth/material
boroko (no pl.), sleep (ke tsoeroe ke boroko, I am tired)
toro (litoro), dream
Exercises—Lesson 24

1. Give suitable answers to the following questions, and then give the English translation of your answers.

   a. Ba ne ba re’ng?
   b. O ne a roka seshoeshoe sa ka?
   c. U ne u bua le mang?
   d. Le ne le batla mang?
   e. U ne u ile kae maobane?
   f. Ba ne ba etsa’ng?

2. Change the verbs in the following sentences from the perfect to the imperfect tense, and give the English translations of your answers.

   a. Ke khalemetse ngoan’a ka.
   b. O u thetsitse.
   c. Ba qabane ha bohloko.
   d. Re hlakotse lijana.
   e. Ba sesitse pel’a shopong.
   f. Ke itse o khalehile.
LESSON 25
NEGATIVE IMPERFECT TENSE

1. Negative Imperfect Tense

- **ke ne ke sa phehe** 31 I was not cooking
- **u ne u sa phehe** you were not cooking
- **o ne a sa phehe** he/she was not cooking
- **re ne re sa phehe** we were not cooking
- **le ne le sa phehe** you all were not cooking
- **ba ne ba sa phehe** they were not cooking

Negative imperfect tense of **to be (ho ba):**

- **ke ne ke se** I was not
- **u ne u se** you were not
- **o ne a se** he/she was not
- **re ne re se** we were not
- **le ne le se** you all were not
- **ba ne ba se** they were not

Negative imperfect tense of **to have (ho ba le):**

- **ke ne ke se na** I did not have
- **u ne u se na** you did not have
- **o ne a se na** he/she did not have
- **re ne re se na** we did not have
- **le ne le se na** you all did not have
- **ba ne ba se na** they did not have

Negative imperfect tense of **to say (ho re):**

- **ke ne ke sa re** I was not saying
- **u ne u sa re** you were not saying
- **o ne a sa re** he/she was not saying
- **re ne re sa re** we were not saying
- **le ne le sa re** you all were not saying
- **ba ne ba sa re** they were not saying

---

31 “Ke ne ke sa” is used with the present tense of the verb if it is a verb that takes the perfect in the present tense (such as **Ke khathetse**, I am tired). When the present tense is used with other verbs, the meaning changes from **Ke ne ke sa phehe**, I was not cooking, to **Ke ne ke sa pheha**, I had not cooked.
Using the negative imperfect in a **relative clause:**
Add -ng to the ne. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Batho <em>that was not singing</em>...</td>
<td>Batho ba neng bsa bine...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motho <em>that was not selling beer</em>...</td>
<td>Motho o neng a sa rekise joala....</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Negative Preterite Tense**
This tense is not used very often, but it is shown here as reference. More commonly, the negative perfect tense or the negative imperfect tense is used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I did not cook</td>
<td>ha kea ka ka pheha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you did not cook</td>
<td>ha ua ka ua pheha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he/she did not cook</td>
<td>ha a ka a pheha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>we did not cook</td>
<td>ha rea ka ra pheha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you all did not cook</td>
<td>ha lea ka la pheha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>they did not cook</td>
<td>ha ba ka ba rata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary—Lesson 25

malimabe or bomalimabe, bad luck/misfortune
lehlohonolo (mahlohonolo), good luck/blessing
molaetsa (melaetsa), message
'muso (mebuso), government
phutheho (liputheho), meeting/assembly
khetho (likhetho), choice/election (likhetho, elections)
ho khetha (khethile), to choose/to elect
ho phutha (phuthile), to fold/to gather
ho letsa, to ring (ho letsa mololi, to whistle)
ho letsetsa (letselitse), to call (on the phone)
ho khetholla, (khetholotse), to discriminate
ho bola (bolile), to rot
ho senya (sentse), to waste/to spoil/to damage
ho senyeha (senyehile), to be spoiled (e senyehile, it is spoiled)
ho tšoana (tšoanne), to be alike, to resemble (ke tšoana le uena, I resemble you)
ho fapana (fapane), to differ (mantsoe a fapana kae?, where do the words differ?)
ho fapanya (fapantse), to change places/to alternate (u fapantse dieta, your shoes are on the wrong feet)
ho pheta (phetile), to repeat
ho fetola (fetotse), to change
ho tlala (tletse), to get full (noka e tletse, the river is full)
ho tlatsa (tlatsitse), to fill (ntlatse!, what people say when they need a little more money in order to buy something, and want you to give it to them; Lit: fill me up!)
ho eketsa (ekelitse), to add/to increase
ho theola (theotse), to lower/reduce
ho phahama (phahame), to rise, to become high
ho phahamisa (phahamisitse) or nyolla (nyolotse), to lift up
ho kuka (kukile), to take up
ho kukisa (kukisitse), to help to take up (nkukise, help me with what I'm carrying)
ho nyoloha (nyolohile), to go up, to ascend
Exercises—Lesson 25

1. Change the following sentences into the negative.

   a. Ke ne ke tseba ka likhetho.
   b. O ne a batla ho u chakela.
   c. Ba ne ba e-na le chelete.
   d. Re ne re kena sekolong.
   e. Le ne le rata ho ea mosebetsing.
   f. Ke ne ke tseba ho bua Sesotho.
# LESSON 26

## SHORT PAST TENSE

### 1. Short Past Tense

This tense is most often used when narrating past events. It is especially useful to the beginner because it is so simple.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ka Pheha</th>
<th>I cooked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ua Pheha</td>
<td>you cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Pheha</td>
<td>he/she cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ra Pheha</td>
<td>we cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Pheha</td>
<td>you all cooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ba Pheha</td>
<td>they cooked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Short past tense of **to be** (ho ba):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ka Ba</th>
<th>I was</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ua Ba</td>
<td>you were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Ba</td>
<td>he/she was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ra Ba</td>
<td>we were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Ba</td>
<td>you all were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ba Ba</td>
<td>they were</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Short past tense of **to have** (ho ba le):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ka Ba Le</th>
<th>I had</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ua Ba Le</td>
<td>you had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Ba Le</td>
<td>he/she had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ra Ba Le</td>
<td>we had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Ba Le</td>
<td>you all had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ba Ba Le</td>
<td>they had</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Short past tense of **to say** (ho re):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ka Re</th>
<th>I said</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ua Re</td>
<td>you said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Re</td>
<td>he/she said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ra Re</td>
<td>we said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Re</td>
<td>you all said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ba Re</td>
<td>they said</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Vocabulary—Lesson 26**

**hantle-ntle, really/more specifically**

**bonyane, at least**

**boholo, majority (boholo ba batho..., the majority of people...)**

**'mala (mebala), color**

**leseli (maseli), light**

**kopo (likopo), request/application**

**kelello (no pl.), intelligence/smarts (u na le kelello, you have smarts)**

**ho benya (bentse), to shine**

**ho thòła (thòtse), to find/to pick up**

**ho fufuleloa (fufuletsoe), to sweat**

**ho hata (hatile), to tread on/to put one's foot on the ground**

**ho sala (setse) morao, to follow**

**ho ota (otile), to become skinny (u otile, you are skinny)**

**ho nona (nonne), to become fat (u nonne, you have become fatter)**

**ho baba (babile), to be bitter (ea baba, it's bitter)**

**ho soasoa (soasoile), to joke**

**ho koloba (kolobile), to become wet (ke koloble, I am wet)**

**ho kolobisa (kolobisitse), to wet**

**ho oma (omme), to become dry**

**ho thiba (thibile), to stop**

**ho thibela (thibetse), to prevent**

**ho fokola (fokotse), to be weak/to be delicate**

**ho fokotsa (fokositse), to diminish/to reduce**

**ho elelloa (eleletsoe), to notice/to realize**

**ho tiisa (tisitse), to affirm/to pull tight**

**ho qabola (qabotse), to amuse/to make laugh**

**ho khotsofala (khotsofetse), to become satisfied (ke khotsofetse, I am satisfied)**

**ho khora (khotse), to be full/to be satisfied (ke khotse, I am full)**

**ho tsofala (tsofetse), to be growing old (ke tsofetse, I am old)**

**ho tsoafa (tsoafile), to not feel like doing something**

**ho itulela (ituletse), to sit by oneself doing nothing**
Exercises—Lesson 26

1. Translate into English:

Lebohang o ne a batla ho nchapa. Ka re “s’k’a nchapa!” A re “u nkolota chelete e ngata; mphe chelete!” Ka re “ke tla u fa eona hosasa.” Ka baleha. A ntšala morao empa a khathala kapele hobane o motenya. Ka batla ho ea hae feel ka mo tsaba.

2. Change the verbs in the following sentences from the imperfect tense into the short past tense. Then give the English translation of your answer.

a. Ke ne ke tsoafa ho pheha.
   b. O ne a nqabola.
   c. Ba ne ba itulela hae.
   d. Re ne re batla ho tsamaea.
   e. Ke ne ke hlatsoa lipitsa.
   f. Ke ne ke tiisa lebanta.
LESSON 27

AUXILIARY VERBS: NTSE, SE, SA, E-S'O AND MORE

1. **ntse**, an auxiliary verb used to form the **present continuous tense**. It is also used, depending on the context, to mean “to still be doing something...” The construction is the same as that used with the auxiliary **ne** in the imperfect tense.

   For example:
   
   - U ntse u etsa'ng? (or u nts'u etsa'ng?)  
     *What are you doing?*
   - Ke ntse ke bala buka.  
     *I am reading a book.*
   - O ntse a etsa'ng?  
     *What is he/she doing?*
   - O ntse a hlapa.  
     *He/she is bathing.*
   - Ba ntse ba sebetsa.  
     *They are (still) working.*

2. **se**, already\(^\text{32}\)

   - Ke se ke fihlile (or Se ke fihlile)  
     *I have already arrived.*
   - Ke se ke ile. (or Se ke ile.)  
     *I have already gone. (often said as someone is walking out the door)*
   - O se a tsamaile.  
     *He/she has already left.*
   - Re se re jele (or Se re jele)  
     *We have already eaten.*

3. **sa**, still

   - Ke sa phela.  
     *I am still living.*
   - O sa bua.  
     *He/she is still speaking.*
   - U sa le monyane.  
     *You are still young.*

   **In the negative**, it means **not any longer**. The verb takes no negative ending; only the **ha** shows that the sentence is negative. For example:

   - Ha ke sa ea.  
     *I do not go anymore.*
   - Ha a sa kena kereke.  
     *He/she doesn't attend church anymore.*
   - Ha ba sa sebetsa toropong.  
     *They don't work in town anymore.*

4. **e-s'o**, not yet

   - Ha a e-s'o fihle.  
     *He/she has not arrived yet.*
   - Ha ke e-s'o 'mone.  
     *I have not seen him/her yet.*
   - Ha ba e-s'o fumane chelete.  
     *They have not received money yet.*

---

\(^{32}\) These auxiliary verbs are also often combined, for example: **Ke se ntse ke tla**, *I am already coming.*
5. **batla (batlile)**, *almost*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stewart</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ka batla ke bona.</td>
<td><em>I almost see.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ke batlile ke hlokahala.</td>
<td><em>I almost died.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **ka (kile)**, *before*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stewart</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U kile ua fihla Maseru?</td>
<td><em>Have you gone to Maseru before?</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. **mpa/mpile**, *but*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stewart</th>
<th>Setswana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ba mpile ba robale hobane ke ba qobeletse.</td>
<td><em>But they went to sleep because I forced them.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khethang o ne a batla hore re lule fatše nka mpa ka tsamaea.</td>
<td><em>Khethang wanted us to sit down but would rather leave.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary—Lesson 27

mokhatlo (mekhatlo), association/organization  ho atleha (atlehile), to succeed
sehlopha (lihlopha), group  ho qobella (qobeletse), to force/to compel
setho (litho), member/limb
taba (litaba), matter/subject/news
tlhoko (litlhoko), need
sepheo (lipheo), aim/objective
thahasello (lithahasello), interest
monyetla (menyetla), opportunity
morero (merero), project
moralo (meralo), plan
ho tsoela pele (tsoetse pele), to continue
tsoelo-pele, progress/development
ho sireletsa (sirelelitse), to protect
tšireletso, protection
thero, decision (thero ea malapa, family planning)
qeto (liqeto), decision/conclusion
tokelo (litokelo), right
tharollo (litharollo), solution
mamello, patience
boikarabelo, responsibility
boikokobetso, humility
boikhantšo, pride
ho itokisetsa (itokiselitse), to prepare oneself
ho hlalosa (hlalositse), to explain
ho ama (amile), to touch/to concern
ho eletsa (elelitse), to advise
ho lumella (lumeletse), to allow/to permit (tumello, permission)
ho lumellana (lumellane), to agree
ho rera (rerile), to plan/to decide
ho ithaopa (ithaopile), to volunteer
ho khothaletsa (khathalelitse), to encourage
Exercises—Lesson 27

1. Translate into Sesotho (using auxiliary verbs).

   a. Who are you talking to?
   b. Have you seen Ntate Teboho already?
   c. I haven’t seen him yet.
   d. You don’t want him anymore.
   e. I have already finished.
   f. My brother has not finished yet.
   g. What does she want?
LESSON 28
MORE CONJUNCTIONS

ntle le/ka ntle ho/ntle ho, without/besides

Ke ea toropong ntle le uena.  I am going to town without you.
Ka ntle ho sekhooa re tla ithuta  Besides English, we will learn French.
Sefora.

hoja/hojane, if only

Hoja ke morui, nka be ke 33 u fa chelete.  If only I were rich, I could give you money.

ho tloha, from

Ho tloha February ke tla lula Roma.  From February on I will stay in Roma.

ho feta, used to express comparison

O bua Sesotho ho feta uena.  He/she speaks Sesotho more than you.
Ke motelele ho feta uena.  I am taller than you.

ho feta moo or ho tloha moo, from there/furthermore

Ho tloha moo re tla sebelisa metsi.  From there, we will use water.
Kea u rata.  Ho feta moo ke batla ho u nyala.  I love you. Furthermore, I want to marry you.

ka ho fetisisa, exceedingly, (-est)

O matla ka ho fetisisa.  He/she is exceedingly strong/the strongest.

athe, whereas

Ke tseba Sekhooa athe uena ha u se tsebe.  I know English whereas you don't know it.

33 For more on this potential tense, “nka be ke” see lesson 35.
ha, if, when

**Ha** ke fumana chelete, ke tla u patala.  
*When I receive money, I will pay you.*

**Note:** After **ha**, as well as in other cases in which the verb is part of a dependent clause (ie a clause that cannot stand alone), the 3rd person singular (ie he/she) pronoun **o** changes to **a**. For example:

Ha a rata...  
If he/she likes...

Ha a qetile...  
When he/she has finished...

**Note:** In these cases, the **negative dependent present tense** is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(if) I do not like</th>
<th>(if) I am not</th>
<th>(if) I have not</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(ha) ke sa rate</td>
<td>(ha) ke se</td>
<td>(ha) ke se na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ha) u sa rate</td>
<td>(ha) u se</td>
<td>(ha) u se na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ha) a sa rate</td>
<td>(ha) a se</td>
<td>(ha) a se na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ha) re sa rate</td>
<td>(ha) re se</td>
<td>(ha) re se na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ha) le sa rate</td>
<td>(ha) le se</td>
<td>(ha) le se na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ha) ba sa rate</td>
<td>(ha) ba se</td>
<td>(ha) ba se na</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This tense is also often used to mean **without + (a verb ending in –ing)**. However, if the first verb is in the past tense, or if it is a verb that takes the perfect in the present tense (such as **ke khathetse, I am tired**), the last letter in the verb following **sa** does not change. Here are two examples illustrating the difference:

**Kajeno ke tla palama tekesi ke sa bue Sesotho.**  
*Today I will ride the taxi without speaking Sesotho.*

**Re robetse re sa ja.**  
*We went to sleep without eating.*

eitse ha, at the time when

**Eitse ha** a fihla Lesotho, a fumana batho ba thabile.  
*When he arrived in Lesotho, he found that people were happy.*

leha, although

**Ke i’lo ja leha** ke sa lapa.  
*I am going to eat although I am not hungry.*

**Leha** ho le joalo, re tla tsamaea.  
*Although it’s like that, we will go.*

ho fihlela, until

**Re tla mo emela ho fihlela** a fihla.  
*We will wait for her until she arrives.*

---

110
Vocabulary—Lesson 28

Paseka, Easter

mohlolo (mehlolo), miracle

botsikinyane, itchy (ho botsikinyane, it's itchy/it tickles)

hanong, in the mouth (ho kena motho hanong, to interrupt someone)

moputso (meputso), salary/wages

molao (melao), law

lesholu (masholu) or tsotsi (litsotsi), thief

lepolesa (mapolesa), policeman

lesole (masole), soldier

ntoa (lintoa), war

teronko (literonko), prison

sethunya (lithunya), gun

molato (melato), fault/guilt (u molato, you're guilty) (molato ke'ng? what's the problem?)

lekhotla (makhotla), court

ho thunya (thuntse), to shoot

ho utsoa (utsoitse), to steal

ho qosa (qositse), to accuse

ho tseka (tsekile), to claim

ho belaela (belaetse), to complain/to be suspicious

ho tletleba (tletlebile), to be discontented/to be dissatisfied (kea tletleba, I am dissatisfied)

ho paqama (paqame), to lie down

ho hloa (hloele), to climb

ho tsikinyetsa (tsikinyelitse), to tickle someone

ho ahlama (ahlame), to open mouth
Exercises—Lesson 28

1. Translate into Sesotho.
   a. I work at the factories from Monday until Friday.
   b. When he arrives at the prison, give him the gun.
   c. He stole the most beautiful cow in the village.
   d. You left without your father’s permission.
   e. The child will grow up without knowing his father.
LESSON 29

DIRECT RELATIVE CLAUSE AND THREE FURTHER CONJUNCTIONS

The direct relative clause is used to express “something which/who/that _____...” For example, “People who speak Sesotho....,” “the dog that bites....,” “the man who works at the shop....”

In relative clauses, -ng is added to the verb, except in the future tense, which takes no ending. With direct relative clauses, we use the same pronouns that we used to link a noun to an adjective. For example:

1. Present Tense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basotho</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moshanyana ea34 sebetsang shopong.</td>
<td>The boy who works at the shop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ntate ea buang Sechina.</td>
<td>The man who speaks Chinese.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metsi a chesang</td>
<td>Hot water (lit: the water which is hot)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   a) to be – the relative form is leng:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basotho</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Khomo e leng boima…</td>
<td>The cow that is heavy…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batho ba leng ka koloing…</td>
<td>The people who are in the car…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   b) to not be – the relative form is seng:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basotho</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Khomo e seng boima…</td>
<td>The cow that is not heavy…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batho ba seng ka koloing…</td>
<td>The people who are not in car…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   c) to have – the relative form is nang le:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basotho</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Na u tseba motho ea nang le terekere?</td>
<td>Do you know a person who has a tractor?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batho ba nang le likhomo tse ngata ke barui.</td>
<td>People who have many cows are rich.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   d) to not have – the relative form is se nang:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basotho</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Na u tseba motho ea se nang terekere?</td>
<td>Do you know a person who does not have a tractor?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batho ba se nang likhomo tse ngata ha se barui.</td>
<td>People who do not have many cows are not rich.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

34 Similar to what was discussed in the lesson on adjectives (Lesson 17), with the direct relative clause, some Basotho will say “ea sebetsang,” while others may say “a sebetsang.” Both are understood.
2. Negative Present Tense

Moshanyana ea sa sebetseng shopong… *The boy who does not work at the shop…*

Ntate ea sa bueng Sechina… *The man who does not speak Chinese…*

3. Perfect Tense

Bo-ntate ba fihlileng maobane… *The men who arrived yesterday…*

Ntja e shoeleng ka mantaha… *The dog that died on Monday…*

4. Negative Perfect Tense

Bo-ntate ba sa fihlang maobane… *The men who didn't arrive yesterday…*

Ntja e sa shoang ka mantaha… *The dog that didn't die on Monday…*

5. Future Tense

Bo-ntate ba tla fihla hosasa… *The men who will arrive tomorrow…*

Ntja e tla shoa hosasa… *The dog that will die tomorrow…*

6. Negative Future Tense
This tense (like the future tense) does not change when used in a direct relative clause.

7. Conjunctions that utilize the direct relative clause

a) *moo . . . (teng), where*

Ke ea *moo* u lulang *teng*. *I am going to (the place) where you live.*

Ke ea *moo* u lulang. *I am going to (the place) where you live.*

O ile *moo* ba bapalang bolo. *He/she went to where they are playing ball.*

b) *kamoo . . . (kateng), how, as, the way*

*Kamoo* ke buileng *kateng…* *As I have said…*

O bina *kamoo* a ratang… *He/she sings the way he/she likes…*

Note: As indicated by the brackets, *teng* and *kateng* in the previous two conjunctions are sometimes omitted.

c) *mohla, when*

*Mohla* ke fihlang… *When I arrive…*

*Mohla* a tlang hape… *When he/she comes again…*
Vocabulary—Lesson 29

hlahlama (hlahlamile) or latela (latetse), to succeed/to follow (mantsoe a latelang; the following words:)

beke e hlahlamang or bekeng e hlahlamang, the following week (lit: the week that follows)

selemo se tlang or selemong se tlang, next year (lit: the year that comes)

khoeli e fetileng or khoeling e fetileng, last month (lit: the month that passed)

Exercises—Lesson 29

1. Translate the following sentences into Sesotho.

   a. I am looking for people who know a lot about HIV/AIDS.
   b. I am looking for somebody who does not know a lot about HIV/AIDS.
   c. I will find the boys who helped me yesterday.
   d. I saw many people who don’t have anything.
   e. He does not like dogs that bite people.
   f. They hired people who will work very hard.
   g. When I arrive at the place I am going, I will call you.
LESSON 30

SUBJUNCTIVE/POTENTIAL TENSE AND ITS NEGATIVE

1. Subjunctive/Potential Tense

| ke rate | I like |
| u rate | you like |
| a rate | he/she likes |
| re rate | we like |
| le rate | you all like |
| ba rate | they like |

The subjunctive/potential tense is used:

a) After ak'u (please). For example:

Ak'u bule fenstere. Please open the window.
Ak'u mphe bohobe. Please give me (the) bread.
Ak'u mamele. Please listen.

b) After hore (that), when expressing a wish. This “hore” may also be omitted. For example:

Ke batla (hore) a tle hosasa. I want him/her to come tomorrow.
Ba kopa (hore) u ba fe buka. They are asking that you give them the book.
Ke kopa (hore) u nkemele. I am asking that you wait for me.

c) In a sentence containing two commands, the second verb is put in the subjunctive. For example:

Tlo u bone. Come and see.

d) To express, “let's ______,” you say “ha re _____,” and the verb is takes the subjunctive. For example:

Ha re ee. Let's go.
Ha re eeng. Let's go. (plural)
Ha re bue. Let's talk.
Ha re bueng. Let's talk. (plural)

e) To express “let me ______,” you say “e re ke _____,” and the verb takes the subjunctive. For example:

E re ke bone. Let me see.
E re ke tsamaee. Le me leave.
2. **Negative Subjunctive tense**

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} person sing. and pl. of this tense form the negative command, which was covered in Lesson 5. This may make the negative subjunctive tense easier to remember.

- ke se ke ka pheha (or s'k'a pheha) \hspace{1cm} I do not cook
- u se ke ua pheha (or u s'k'a pheha) \hspace{1cm} you do not cook
- a se ke a pheha (or a s'k'a pheha) \hspace{1cm} he/she does not cook
- re se ke ra pheha (or re s'k'a pheha) \hspace{1cm} we do not cook
- le se ke la pheha (or le s'k'a pheha) \hspace{1cm} you all do not cook
- ba se ke ba pheha (or ba s'k'a pheha) \hspace{1cm} they do not cook

This tense is used in all the situations described above except for c).

For example:

- a) Ak'u s'k'a pheha. \hspace{1cm} Please do not cook.
- b) Ke kopa (hore) a s'k'a nkemela. \hspace{1cm} I am asking that he not wait for me.
- c) \textit{Not applicable} \hspace{1cm} ------
- d) Ha re s'k’a tsamaea. \hspace{1cm} Let us not go.
- e) E re ke s’k’a bona. \hspace{1cm} Let me not see.
1. Translate the following sentences into Sesotho.

   a. I am asking that you visit me.
   b. He is asking that she visit him.
   c. Let me talk!
   d. Please call the following people: (ie the people that follow): Palesa and Morai.
   e. Let’s leave.
   f. Come and bathe!
   g. I am asking you not to talk.
LESSON 31

PASSIVE VOICE

1. Present Passive Voice

“I beat” is an example of the active voice. “I am beaten,” on the other hand, is an example of the passive voice. To form the passive voice, an “o” is inserted before the last vowel of the verb. For example:

- ho thusa, to help becomes ho thuso, to be helped
- ho rekisa, to sell becomes ho rekiso, to be sold
- ho bitsa, to call becomes ho bitso, to be called

Additionally, the last consonant of some verbs changes in the passive voice. These changes are as follows:

- b becomes j tseba, to know tsejoa, to be known
- p becomes pj tsepa, to trust tsepjoa, to be trusted
- f becomes fh lefa, to pay lefshoa, to be paid
- ph becomes psh hlompha, to respect hlompshoa, to be respected
- m becomes ng roma, to send rongoa, to be sent
- ny becomes nng senya, to spoil senngo, to be spoiled

Verbs ending in -oa or -ua take the the ending -uoa. Also, many Basotho form the passive voice simply by adding this ending (-uoa) to any verb. For example:

- ho hlatsoa, to wash becomes ho hlatsuo, to be washed
- ho bua, to speak becomes ho buuoa, to be spoken of
- ho ntša, to take out becomes ho ntsuo, to be taken out
- ho shapa, to beat becomes ho shapuo, to be beaten

Exception:

- ho ja, to eat becomes ho jeoa or ho joa, to be eaten,
  to be afflicted, to be edible

For example:

- u jeoa ke'ng? what is wrong? (lit: what are you eaten by?)
- setlama-tlama sea joa? is the plant edible? (lit: is the plant eaten?)

Note: In the case of the passive voice, the translation of “by” is “ke.”

For example:

The apples are sold by Theresa. Liapole li rekisoa ke Theresa.
2. **Past Passive Voice**

**Method 1:** Insert an “o” before the last vowel of the perfect tense of the verb. For example:

- ho thusa, *to help* becomes ho thusits**oe**, *to have been helped*
- ho reka, *to buy* becomes ho rekilo**e**, *to have been bought*

**Method 2:** The ending *-uoa* is changed to *-uoe*. For example:

- ho shapa, *to beat* becomes ho shapuo**e**, *to have been beaten*
- ho thusa, *to help* becomes ho thusuo**e**, *to have been helped*
Vocabulary—Lesson 31

moratuoa (baratuoa), loved one (term of endearment) (from ho rata)
ho roma (romme), to send (ke ronngoe ke Refiloe, I was sent by Refiloe)
ho tšoaroa (tšoeroe), to be grabbed/to get arrested (ke tšoeroe, I was arrested)
u tšoeroe ke eng? what is wrong? (lit: what are you grabbed by?)
ke tšoeroe ke hloho, I have a headache (lit: I am grabbed by my head)

Exercises—Lesson 31

1. Give suitable answers to the following questions, and then translate your answers into English.
   a. U ronngoe ke mang?
   b. U shapuoe ke mang?
   c. Na Ntate Mopeli o tsoeroe?
   d. U tsoeroe ke eng?
   e. Kea bitsoa?
   f. Ke bitsoa ke mang?
   g. U se u thusitsoe?
LESSON 32

CHANGING THE SUFFIX OF A VERB TO ALTER ITS MEANING

1. Reciprocal Suffix, -ana, one another

For example: ho thusa, to help  
ho thusana, to help one another
ho bona, to see  
ho bonana, to see one another
ho tseba, to know  
ho tsebana, to know one another
ho rata, to love  
ho ratana, to love one other
ho nyala, to marry  
ho nyalana, to marry one another
ho ruta, to teach  
ho rutana, to teach one another
ho utloa, to hear  
ho utloana, to hear/understand one another

2. Causative Suffix, -isa, -tša, -tsa, -osa, -esa, to cause to do

For example: ho tseba, to know  
ho tsebisa, to cause to know/to inform
ho bona, to see  
ho bontša, to cause to see/to show
ho hopola, to remember  
ho hopotsa, to cause to remember/to remind
ho tloha, to leave  
ho tlosa, to cause to leave/to remove
ho cha, to burn  
ho chesa, to cause to burn/to burn
ho reka, to buy  
ho rekisa, to cause to buy/to sell
ho ea, to go  
ho isa, to cause to go/to take
ho tla, to come  
ho tìsa, to cause to come/to bring
ho tlala, to get full  
ho tìtsa, to cause to get full/to fill
ho robala, to sleep  
ho robatsa, to cause to sleep/to put to sleep
ho sebetsa, to work  
ho sebelisa, to cause to work/to use
ho tšoha, to fear  
ho tšosa, to cause to fear/to scare

3. Directive Suffix, -ela, -etsa, -la, to or for

For example: ho pheha, to cook  
ho phehela, to cook for
ho bolela, to tell  
ho bolella, to tell to/to inform
ho etsa, to do  
ho etsetsa, to do for
ho tlisa, bring  
ho tlisetsa, to bring to
ho sebetsa, to work  
ho sebeletsa, to work for
ho ngola, to write  
ho ngolla, to write to
ho khutla, to return  
ho khutlela, to return to
ho reka, to buy  
ho rekela, to buy for
ho chaka, (to take a walk)  
ho chakela, to take a walk/to visit
ho eketsa, to add  
ho ekeletsa, to add to
ho bina, to sing  
ho binela, to sing for
ho qoqa, to chat  
ho qoqela, to chat to

Note: The perfect tense of these verbs, followed by eng, is often used to ask why something is.
For example,
4. **Intensive Suffix, -iswa, -ella**, intensified meaning

For example:
- ho utloa, *to hear*
  - ho utloiswa, *to hear well/to understand*
- ho talima, *to look at*
  - ho talimiswa, *to look at carefully/to scrutinize*
- ho oma, *to dry up*
  - ho omella, *to dry up completely*

5. **Stative Suffix, -eha, -ahala, -ala**, describes a state or condition

For example:
- ho rata, *to love*
  - ho rateha, *to be lovable, dear*
- ho roba, *to break*
  - ho robaha, *to be broken*
- ho bona, *to see*
  - ho bonahala, *to be visible/to be evident*
- ho tšepa, *to trust*
  - ho tšepahala, *to be trusted/to be trustworthy*
- ho etsa, *to do*
  - ho etsahala, *to be done/to happen*

6. **Inversive Suffix, -olla, -oloha, -olosa**, un-

For example:
- ho fasana, *to tie, to bind*
  - ho fassolla, *to untie, to unbind*
- ho tlama, *to tie, to bind*
  - ho tlamolla, *to untie, to unbind*
- ho notlela, *to lock*
  - ho notlolla, *to unlock*
- ho khathala, *to get tired*
  - ho khatholla, *to refresh (lit: to get untired)*
Vocabulary—Lesson 32

(the new verbs learned in this lesson are not repeated here)

ho halefa (halefile), to get angry (o halefile, he/she is angry)
ho halefisa (halefisitse), to make angry
ho ntlafatsa (ntlafalitse), to make beautiful
ho nchafatsa (nchafalitse), to renew/to reform
ho apesa (apesitse), to clothe/to dress
ho khutlisa (khutlisitse), to give back/to send back

Exercises—Lesson 32

1. Translate the following sentences into Sesotho.
   a. I am asking you to cook for me.
   b. Are you trustworthy?
   c. Will you write to him?
   d. We will see each other next week.
   e. Chat with me!
   f. When will you return home?
   g. I will remind you.
LESSON 33

HO (IT IS, IT WAS)

“It is” is translated by ke when it is followed by a noun, a pronoun, an adverb of place, or the adverbs hantle or hampe. For example:

| Noun:       | Ke moshanyana. | It is a boy. |
| Pronoun:    | Ke uena.       | It is you.   |
| Adverb of place: | Ke mane.   | It is over there. |
| Hantle:     | Ke hantle.     | All right, good (lit: it is well) |
| Hampe:      | Ke hampe.      | Too bad. (lit: it is bad) |

When “it is” is followed by an adjective, or an adverb other than those mentioned above, it is translated by ho. For example:

| Ho monate. | It is nice. |
| Ho joalo.  | It is so.   |

Negative Present: Ha ho joalo. It is not so.

“If it is”:

Ha ho le joalo... If it is so...

“If it is not”:

Ha ho se joalo... If it is not so...

Imperfect tense:

Ho ne ho le joang? How was it?
Ho ne ho le monate. It was nice.

Note: This, and the last two lessons, have no vocabulary lists or exercises. The only way to get the hang of the more difficult concepts covered in these lessons is to listen to the ways Basotho say things, to ask for clarification whenever possible, and to try to mimic their usage.
LESSON 34

INDIRECT RELATIVE CLAUSE

In an indirect relative clause, the object of the clause precedes the subject. For example, “the chicken that the people eat....,” “the girl who the friend helps.....,” “the book that I am reading....”

In these clauses, the object is followed by the corresponding demonstrative adjective (-o, see Lesson 19), and then by the subject. The structure of the rest of the clause differs depending on the sentence. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sesotho</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buka eo ke e balang...</td>
<td>The book that I am reading...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liapole tseo a li nkileng...</td>
<td>The apples that he/she has taken...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bohobe boo ba bo jang...</td>
<td>The bread that they eat...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motho eo ke tla 'mona hosasa...</td>
<td>The person whom I will see tomorrow...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motse oo ke lulang ho ona…</td>
<td>The village that I live in...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monna eo ke eang ho eena…</td>
<td>The man who I am going to...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelete eo u rekileng lijo ka eona...</td>
<td>The money that you bought food with...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bo-ntate bao re buisanang le bona...</td>
<td>The men who we are conversing with...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebenkele leo u tsebang mong’a lona…</td>
<td>The shop whose owner you know...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monna eo ke lulang ha hae...</td>
<td>The man whose place I stay at...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosali eo ke boneng bana ba hae...</td>
<td>The woman whose children I have seen...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Although these English translations are not necessarily “correct English,” they have been translated this way to match the Sesotho more closely.
LESSON 35

CONDITIONAL TENSES

1. Tense #1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke ne ke</td>
<td>tla pheha</td>
<td>I would cook/I was going to cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u ne u</td>
<td>tla pheha</td>
<td>you would cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o ne a</td>
<td>tla pheha</td>
<td>he/she would cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re ne re</td>
<td>tla pheha</td>
<td>we would cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le ne le</td>
<td>tla pheha</td>
<td>you all would cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba ne ba</td>
<td>tla pheha</td>
<td>they would cook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For example:

Ke ne ke tla bua Sesotho haeba tichere a ruta hantle.
I would speak Sesotho if the teacher taught well.

U ne u tla reka koloi ha u na le chelete.
You would buy a car if you had money.

Ke ne ke t’o u chakela empa pula ea na.
I was going to visit you but it’s raining.

To be (ho ba), to have (ho ba le) are as follows in this tense:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke ne ke</td>
<td>tla ba</td>
<td>I would be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ke ne ke</td>
<td>tla ba le</td>
<td>I would have</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Tense #2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke ne nka</td>
<td>pheha</td>
<td>I might cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u ne u</td>
<td>ka pheha</td>
<td>you might cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o ne a</td>
<td>ka pheha</td>
<td>he/she might cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re ne re</td>
<td>ka pheha</td>
<td>we might cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le ne la</td>
<td>ka pheha</td>
<td>you all might cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba ne ba</td>
<td>ka pheha</td>
<td>they might cook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ke ne nka rata ho bua Sesotho.
I might like to speak Sesotho.

Ke ne nka rata ho lula Lesotho haeba ke tseba ho etsa mosebetsi oa ka.
I might like to stay in Lesotho if I know how to do my job.

To be (ho ba), to have (ho ba le) are as follows in this tense:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke ne nka</td>
<td>ba</td>
<td>I might be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ke ne nka</td>
<td>ba le</td>
<td>I might have</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Tense #3

- nka be ke pheha  
  *I could cook*
- u ka be u pheha  
  *you could cook*
- a ka be a pheha  
  *he/she could cook*
- re ka be re pheha  
  *we could cook*
- le ka be le pheha  
  *you all could cook*
- ba ka be ba pheha  
  *they could cook*

For example:

Nka be ke bua empa ha ke tsebe Sesotho.  
*I could speak but I don't know Sesotho.*

Hoja ke na le chelete nka be ke reka mose.  
*If I had money, I could buy a dress.*

To be (ho ba), to have (ho ba le), and other forms of this tense are as follows:

- nka be ke le  
  *I could be*
- nka be ke na le  
  *I could have*
- nka be ke se  
  *I could not be*
- nka be ke sa ba le  
  *I could not have*
- nka be ke phehile  
  *I could have cooked*
- nka be ke sa phehe  
  *I could not cook*
- nka be ke sa pheha  
  *I could not have cooked*

**Note:** The concepts represented by the words *could/would/might* are difficult and the ways these concepts differ can be very subtle. I asked as many Basotho as possible to clarify the differences between these tenses and this lesson results from the answers I received. The information is not as comprehensive as it could be, but it’s a start 😊.
Appendix 1—Business Vocabulary

khoebo (likhoebo), business/trade
‘maraka (limmaraka), market
poloko ea libuka, book-keeping
moralo oa chelete, budget
tlaleho (litlaleho), report
rekoto (lirekoto), record
phaello (liphaello), profit
tahleheloa (litahleheloa), loss
tšenyehelo (litšenyehelo), expenditure
thepa, furniture/property/goods
lengolo la khoebó, business-license
morekisi (barekisi), seller
moreki (bareki), buyer/customer
kalimo (likalimo), loan
tsoala, interest
sekoloto (likoloto), debt
lekhetho la thekiso, sales tax
khafa, tax
mohoebi (bahoebi), trader/businessman
hlahisoa (lihlahisoa), products
thepa e kenang, import
thepa e tsoang, export
karollelelineo ea thepa, sharing of goods
boikopanyo, cooperation/partnership
ho kopanya (kopantse), to add
ho tlosa (tlositse), to subtract
ho arola (arotse), to divide
ho atisa (atisitse), to multiply
ho boloka (bolokile) chelete, to save money
ho khafa (khafile), to pay a tax
ho nka (nkile) sekoloto, to buy on credit
Appendix 2—HIV/AIDS Vocabulary

HIV le AIDS or koatsi, *HIV/AIDS*  
ho thimola (thimotse), *to sneeze*

boemo, *status (na u tseba boemo ba hao?*, *do you know your (HIV) status?*)

kokoana-hloko (likokoana-hloko), *virus*

tšoaetso, *infection*

masole a ‘mele, *immune system*

botho ba ‘mè, *vagina*

botho ba ntate, *penis*

lipeo tsa ntate, *sperm*

mathe, *saliva (ho tšoela (tšoetse) mathe, *to spit*)*

mokhathala, *fatigue*

mocheso, *fever*

kanyeso, *breastfeeding*

khohlopo (likhohlopo), *condom*

kopano ea mali, *exchange of blood*

letšoao (matšoao), *symptom*

lefuba, *tuberculosis*

lefu la (maf u a) likobo, *sexually transmitted infection*

mokaola, *syphilis*

seso se seholo, *gonorrhea*

seso (liso), *sore*

lero (maro), *bodily fluid (lero la botho ba ‘mè, vaginal fluid)*

lesea (masea), *infant*

molekane (balekane), *mate/partner*

thokomelo ea lapeng, *home-based care*

ho theoha (theohile) ‘meleng, *to lose weight*

ho qoba (qobile), *to avoid*

ho etsa (entse) thobalano, *to have sex*

ho oka (okile), *to nurse (a sick person)*

ho feba (febile), *to commit adultery/to have casual sex*

ho beta (betile), *to rape*

ho ba le molekane a le mong, *to be monogamous (lit: to have one partner)*
Explanation of Grammatical Terms

1. **Noun** – A noun is a naming word. It names a person, place, thing, idea, living creature, quality, or action. Examples: cowboy, theatre, box, thought, tre, kindness.

2. **Verb** – A verb is a word which describes an action (doing something) or a state (being something). Examples: walk, talk, think, believe, live, like, want.

3. **Auxiliary Verb** – A verb which is used in conjunction with another verb in order to create a variation of its meaning. Example: Ke se ke buile, I have already spoken.


5. **Adjective** – An adjective is a word that describes a noun. It tells you something about the noun. Examples: big, yellow, thin, amazing, beautiful, quick, important.

6. **Adverb** – An adverb is a word which usually describes a verb. It tells you how something is done. It may also tell you when or where something happened. Examples: slowly, intelligently, well, yesterday, tomorrow, here, everywhere.

7. **Pronoun** – A pronoun is used instead of a noun, to avoid repeating the noun. Examples: I, you, he, she, it, we, they

8. **Conjunction** – A conjunction joins two words, phrases or sentences together. Examples: but, so, and, because, or.

9. **Preposition** – A preposition usually comes before a noun, pronoun or noun phrase. It joins the noun to some other part of the sentence. Examples: on, in, by, with, under, at.

10. **Subject** – A noun which is doing the action in a sentence.

11. **Object** – A noun which has an action done to it. Example: Ke noa lebese, I drink milk.

12. **Object Pronoun** – The pronoun which represents the object and, in Sesotho, falls between the subject and the verb. Example: Kea le noa (referring to lebese), I drink it (referring to milk)

13. **Possessive Pronoun** – The pronoun which represents an owner in statements showing possession. Examples: abuti oa ka, my brother; sefate sa bona, their tree.

14. **Noun Class** – A grouping of nouns which share properties, such as a common prefix in the singular and plural form, and a set of pronouns.

15. **Prefix** – A word particle which attaches to the beginning of a word or stem. For example: i+tseba = itseba

16. **Suffix** – A word particle which attaches to the end of a word. For example: rata+na = ratana

17. **Clause** – A group of words containing a subject and a verb. A clause may be either a sentence (independent clause), or a part of a sentence (dependent or independent clause).
Answers to Practice Exercises

Lesson 2:
1. Ke ___(your name)___.
2. Ke lula ___(where you stay)___.
4. Ke teng. or Re teng.
5. Ke robetse hantle/hampe.
7. Ho sharp! or Ho monate!

Lesson 3:
1. Lebitso la ka ke ___(your name)___.
2. Fane ea ka ke ___(your surname)___.
3. Haeso ke Amerika.
4. Ke lula ___(the place you are currently staying)___.
5. Ke lula le ___(the names of the people you are currently living with)___.

Lesson 4:
   2. a. Lumelang, bo-ntate!
      b. Salang hantle, bo-‘mè!
      c. Tsamaeang hantle, bo-ausi!
   3. a. E, ke ja bohobe.
      b. E, ke batla nama.
      c. E, ke tseba ho bua Sesotho.
      d. E, ke rata ho bina.
      e. E, kea utloa.
      f. E, ba kula.
   4. a. Morena oa bitsa.
      b. Bana ba tla.
      c. Ke tlisa metsi.
      d. Ua bona.
      e. Mosali oa utloa.
      f. Monna o bitsa moshanyana.

Lesson 5:
2. a. **Formal:** Se ise lebese kantle. **Informal:** U se ke ua isa lebese kante.
b. **Formal:** Se tleng. **Informal:** Le se ke la tla koano.
c. **Formal:** Se tlise litapo. **Informal:** U se ke ua tlisa litapo.
d. **Formal:** Se pheheng lijo. **Informal:** Le se ke la pheha lijo.

3. a. Ha re batle kofi.
b. Ha ke tsube.
c. Ha ke sebetse haholo.
d. Ha ba noe lebese.
e. Ha le bue haholo.
f. Ha a tsebe ho jaefa.
g. Ha ke utloisise.

4. a. **Aff:** E, morena oa tla. **Neg:** E-e, morena ha a tle.
b. **Aff:** E, ba batla mosebetsi. **Neg:** E-e, ha ba batle mosebetsi.
c. **Aff:** E, kea utloa. **Neg:** E-e, ha ke utloe.
d. **Aff:** E, rea tsamaea. **Neg:** E-e, ha re tsamae.

**Lesson 6**

1. a. masiu
b. lintja
c. lifate
d. matsatsi
e. metse

2. Give the singular of the following words:

   a. bohobe
   b. sechaba
c. naleli
d. mosali
e. ntate

3. Fill in the correct pronouns:

   a. Batho ba bona bashanyana.
b. Sefate sea mela.
c. Ntja e noa metsi.
d. Lintja li ja nama.
e. Pula ea na.
f. Mollo o chesa patsi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular of Noun</th>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>Plural of Noun</th>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>Long Pronoun (sing. and pl.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ntja</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>lintja</td>
<td>li</td>
<td>ea, lia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>motse</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>metse</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>oa, ea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>khoeli</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>likhoeli</td>
<td>li</td>
<td>ea, lia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ntle</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>matlo</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>ea, a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moshanyana</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>bashanyana</td>
<td>ba</td>
<td>oa, ba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>naleli</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>linaleli</td>
<td>li</td>
<td>ea, lia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘mè</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>bo-‘mè</td>
<td>ba</td>
<td>oa, ba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sefefo</td>
<td>se</td>
<td>lifefo</td>
<td>li</td>
<td>sea, lia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leru</td>
<td>le</td>
<td>maru</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>lea, a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Put in the plural:

a. Basali ba bitsa banana.
b. Lintja li loma bana.
c. Matichere a ruta.
d. Mahobe a cha.
e. Mekopu ea mela.

**Lesson 7:**

1. 1. O na le chelete. Ha a na chelete.
   2. Ke na le chelete. Ha ke na chelete.
   3. Re na le chelete. Ha re na chelete.
   4. Ba na le chelete. Ha ba na chelete.
   5. O na le pèrè. Ha a na pèrè.
   7. Re na le pèrè. Ha re na pèrè.
   8. Ba na le pèrè. Ha ba na pèrè.
  11. Re na le katse. Ha re na katse.
  13. O na le likhoho. Ha a na likhoho.
  15. Re na le likhoho. Ha re na likhoho.
  16. Ba na le likhoho. Ha ba na likhoho.

2. a. E, ke ngaka. E-e, ha se ngaka.
   b. E, ke moruti. E-e, ha ke moruti.
   c. E, ba baothaopi. E-e, ha ba baihaopi.
   d. E, re lingaka. E-e, ha re lingaka.

3. a. Ba re ha ba batle chelete.
   b. Ke re ha ke u rate.
   c. O re ha a na mosali.
Lesson 8:

1. a. sekho se le seng, *one spider*; sekho sa pele, *the first spider*; likho tse ling, *some spiders*; sekho se seng le se seng / likho tsohle, *all spiders*

   b. (let’s say we’re talking about a piglet): lelinyane le le leng, *one piglet*; lelinyane la pele, *the first piglet*; malinyane a mang, *some piglets*; lelinyane le leng le le leng / malinyane ‘ohle, *all piglets*

   c. poli e le ‘ngoe, *one goat*; poli ea pele, *the first goat*; lipoli tse ling, *some goats*; poli e ‘ngoe le e ‘ngoe / lipoli tsohle, *all goats*

   d. mokhotsi a le mong, *one friend*; mokhotsi oa pele, *the first friend*; bakhotsi ba bang, *some friends*; mokhotsi e mong le e mong / bakhotsi bohle, *all friends*

   e. bosiu bo le bong, *one night*; bosiu ba pele, *the first night*; masiu a mang, *some nights*; bosiu bo bong le bo bong / masiu ‘ohle, *all nights*

   f. mosebetsi o le mong, *one job*; mosebetsi oa pele, *the first job*; mesebetsi e meng, *some jobs*; mosebetsi o mong le o mong / mesebetsi eohle, *all jobs*

2. basali ba babeli basali ba bararo basali ba bane basali ba bahlano basali ba tšeletseng merara e mebeli merara e meraro merara e mane merara e mehlano merara e tšeletseng mahe a mabeli mahe a mararo mahe a mahlano mahe a tšeletseng lihoete tse peli lihoete tse tharo lihoete tse ‘ne lihoete tse hlano lihoete tse tšeletseng mali… a mabeli mali… a mararo mali… a mahlano mali… a tšeletseng

Lesson 9:

1. a. Thabiso o teng. Ho na le Thabiso. Thabiso ha a eo. Ha ho na Thabiso.


   c. Seeta se teng. Ho na le seeta. Seeta ha se eo. Ha ho na seeta.


   e. Likhoho li teng. Ho na le likhoho. Likhoho ha li eo. Ha ho na likhoho.


Lesson 10:


b. E, nka kopana le lona tsatsing le. Ke sitoa ho kopana le lona tsatsing le. Ha ke khone ho kopana le lona tsatsing le.

Lesson 11:
1. a. U tla etsa mosebetsi.
b. Ke tla luba bohobe.
c. Ngoanana o tla bula fenstere.
d. Ba tla patala Refiloe 20R.

2. a. Ke tla tla hosane.
b. Ke tla khona ho reka koloi selemo se tlang.
c. Ba tla khona ho thusa bana ka li 20 tsa September.
d. Re tla joetsa batho ba bang beke e tlang.
e. Re tla tsamaea ka labohlano.

Lesson 12:
1. a. Ha ke tl’o qhala metsi.
b. Ha a tl’o ritela joala.
c. Ha re tl’o ngoathela batho.
d. Ha ba tl’o ba le chelete.
e. Ha a tl’o kha moroho.

Lesson 13:
1. a. U i’lo qeta ho hlatsoa neng?
b. Re i’lo rapela ka Sontaha.
c. Ho thoe u i’lo reka khomo.
d. Ba i’lo khabela moroho.
e. Le i’lo soka papa hangata.

Lesson 14:
1. a. Ke lula moreneng. *I stay at the chief’s place.*
b. Hosasa ke ea toropong. *Tomorrow I am going to town.*
c. O sebetsa lifemeng. *He/she works at the factories.*
d. Re i’lo ea posong ho posa lengolo. *We are going to go to the post office to send a letter.*
e. Ke tla u felehetsa ha u ea pitsong. *I will accompany you when you go to the village meeting.*
f. Re i’lo ja haholo moketeng. *We are going to eat a lot at the feast.*
g. U ka siea batho setopong. *You can leave (ie drop off) the people at the taxi rank.*
h. Ke tla isa ngoana ngakeng. *I will take the child to the doctor.*

**Lesson 15:**
1. a. Fatuku e ka thoko ho kerese.
   b. Fatuku e ka pele ho sekotlolo.
   c. Fatuku e kahar’a baskomo.
   d. Fatuku e holim’a tafole.
   e. Fatuku e pel’a poleiti.
   f. Fatuku e tlas’a setulo.
   g. Fatuku e har’a mabekere.
   h. Fatuku e pakeng tsa lipitsa.
   i. Fatuku e ka mora’ nkho.

**Lesson 16:**
1. a. karobo ea ngoana
   b. lengolo la sekolo
   c. setempe sa ka
   d. moroho oa bona
   e. libuka tsa bana
   f. mosali oa hae
   g. bakhotsi ba rona
   h. borikhoe ba hao

2. a. batsoali ba ka
   b. leleme la hae
   c. lithuto tsa rona
   d. morali oa hao
   e. bohobe ba bona
   f. pene ea ka

**Lesson 17:**
1. a. motho e monyane
   b. lebese le lebe
   c. pèrè e kholo
   d. khomo e ntšo
   e. lijo tse mpe
   f. sekipa se secha
   g. mangolo a makae?
   h. lieta tse khubelu
   i. banana ba bangata
   j. linku tse ntle
   k. katse e tšoeu

2. a. lieta tse litšila
   b. borikhoe bo botle
   c. mekopu e monate
   d. mosebetsi o thata
e. moshanyana ea sethoto  
f. likausi tse tšoeu  
g. basali ba matla  
h. katiba e putsoa  
i. liaparo tse ncha  
j. jesi e mofuthu  
k. mabenkele a maholo  

**Lesson 18:**
1. a. nako efe? (no plural)  
b. mokete ofe? mekete efe?  
c. ntho efe? lintho life?  
d. lekala lefe? makala afe?  
e. sekoti sefe? likoti life?  
f. borokho bofe? marokho afe?  
g. motho ofe? batho bafe?  

2. a. Naleli ke efe?  
b. Ba bohlale ke bafe?  
c. Lipalesa ke life?  
d. Thaba ke ofe?  
e. Letamo ke lefe?  
f. Seliba ke sefe?  
g. Monna oa hao ke ofe?  

**Lesson 19:**
1. a. khutsana ena; likhutsana tsena  
b. setloholo sena; litloholo tsena  
c. nyatsi ena; linytatsi tsena  
d. lesoefe lena; masoefe ana  
e. moriti ona, meriti ena  

2. a. thokolosi eane  
b. mokopu oane  
c. setlama-tlama sane  
d. moroetsana eane  
e. leqheku lane  

**Lesson 20:**
1. a. Kea e sebelisa.  
b. Bo-ntate ba e ntša.  
c. Ngoanana oa o batla.  
d. Oa li lema.  
e. Li nke!  
f. A kotule tsatsing le.  
g. Monna oa o kopa.  
h. ‘Mè oa ka oa le koala.  
i. Li tlise.  
j. Ba ‘mona.
Lesson 21:
1. a. ho ipitsa; *to call oneself*
b. ho ipha; *to give oneself*
c. ho itšeha; *to cut oneself*
d. ithata; *to like/love oneself*
e. ichapa; *to beat oneself*
f. itahla; *to lose oneself*

Lesson 22:
1. a. Tichere e hlalositse hantle.
b. Ngoana o ngotse lengolo.
c. Ke mo thusitse maobane.
d. Bana ba mathile haholo; ba khathetse.
e. Moruti o balile buka.
f. U ile kae?

2. a. Na u ithutile haholo sekolong?
b. Le mametse hantle?
c. Ba ile kae?
d. U chaisitse neng?
e. O jele haholo?
f. Hobanitse ha ba sebetse?
g. U tatle?
h. U tene’ng?

Lesson 23:
1. a. Ha kea mo shapa tsatsing le. *I did not beat him today.*
b. Thabo ha a nkomanya. *Thabo did not scold me.*
c. ‘Mè oa ka ha a otla motho. *My mother did not hit anyone.*
d. Ha ua mphoqa. *You did not disappoint me.*
e. Maqheku ha a mo loea. *The old people did not bewitch him.*
f. Ha kea tebela monna oa ka. *I did not chase away my husband.*
g. Ha ke hlanye. *I am not crazy.*

2. a. E, ke hatsetse. Ha kea hatsela.
b. E, re lapile. Ha rea lapa.
c. E, ke mo thusitse. Ha kea mo thusa.
d. E, ke khathetse. Ha kea khathala.
e. E, o robetse. Ha a robala.
f. E, o mo loantšitse. Ha a mo loantša.
g. E, o koatile. Ha a koata.

Lesson 24:
1. a. Ba ne ba re ba batla ho bua le uena. *They were saying they want to talk to you.*
b. E, o ne a roka seshoeshoe sa hao. *Yes, she was sewing your dress.*
c. Ke ne ke bua le mokhotshi oa ka. *I was talking to my friend.*
d. Re ne re batla morena. *We were seeking/looking for the chief.*
e. Ke ne ke ile mosebetsing. *I had gone to work.*
f. Ba ne ba bapala bolo. *They were playing ball.*
2. a. Ke ne ke khalemela ngoan’a ka. *I was scolding my child.*
   b. O ne a u thetsa. *He/she was deceiving you.*
   c. Ba ne ba qabana ha boholo. *They were arguing a lot.*
   d. Re ne re hlakola lijana. *We were wiping off the dishes.*
   e. Ba ne ba sesa pel’a shopong. *They were peeing near the shop.*
   f. Ke ne ke re o khalehile. *I was saying that he/she fell asleep.*

**Lesson 25:**

1. a. Ke ne ke sa tsebe ka likhetho.
   b. O ne a sa batle ho u chakela.
   c. Ba ne ba se na chelete.
   d. Re ne re sa kene sekolong.
   e. Le ne le sa rate ho ea mosebetsing.
   f. Ke ne ke sa tsebe ho bua Sesotho.

**Lesson 26:**

1. Lebohang wanted to beat me. I said “don’t beat me!” He said “you owe me a lot of money; give me the money!” I said “I will give it to you tomorrow.” I fled. 
He followed me but he tired quickly because he is fat. I wanted to go home but I was scared.

2. a. Ka tsoafa ho pheha. *I did not feel like cooking.*
   b. A nqabola. *He amused me.*
   c. Ba itulela hae. *They sat at home doing nothing.*
   d. Ra batla ho tsamaea. *We wanted to leave.*
   e. Ka hlatsoa lijana. *I washed the dishes.*
   f. Ka tiisa lebanta. *I tightened the belt.*

**Lesson 27:**

1. a. U ntse u bua le mang?
   b. U se u bone Ntate Teboho?
   c. Ha ke e’so ‘mone.
   d. Ha u e’so ‘matle.
   e. Ke se ke qetile. (or: Se ke qetile.)
   f. Abuti oa ka ha e’so qete.
   g. O ntse a batlang?

**Lesson 28:**

   b. Ha a fihla teronkong, mo fe sethunya.
   c. O utsoitse khomo e ntle ka ho fetisisa motseng.
   d. U tsamaile ntle le tumello ea ntate oa hao.
   e. Ngoana o tla hola a sa tsebe ntate oa hae.
Lesson 29:
1. a. Ke batla batho ba tsebang haholo ka HIV le AIDS.
   b. Ke batla motho ea sa tsebeng haholo ka HIV le AIDS.
   c. Ke tla fumana bo-abuti ba nthusitseng maobane.
   d. Ke bone batho ba bangata ba se nang letho.
   e. Ha a rate lintja tse lomang batho.
   f. Ba hirile batho ba tla sebetsa ka thata.
   g. Ha ke fihla moo ke eang, ke tla u letsetsa.

Lesson 30:
1. a. Ke kopa (hore) u nchakele.
   b. O kopa (hore) a mo chakele.
   c. E re ke bue!
   d. Ak’u letsetse batho ba latelang: Palesa le Morai.
   e. Ha re tsamaee.
   f. Tlo u hlape!
   g. Ke kopa (hore) u se ke ua bua.

Lesson 31:
1. a. Ke ronngoe ke ntate oa ka. *I was sent by my father.*
   b. Ke shapuoe ke tichere. *I was beaten by the teacher.*
   c. E, Ntate Mopeli o tsoeroe maobane. *Yes, Ntate Mopeli was arrested yesterday.*
   e. E, ua bitsoa. *Yes, you are being called.*
   f. U bitsoa ke morena. *You are being called by the chief.*
   g. E-e, ha ke e’so thusoe. *No, I have not been helped yet.*
   Or: E, ke se ke thusitsoe. *Yes, I have already been helped.*

Lesson 32:
1. a. Ke kopa u nphehele.
   b. Ua tšepahala?
   c. Na u tla mo ngolla?
   d. Re tla bonana beke e tlang.
   e. Nqoqele!
   f. U tla khutlela hae neng?
   g. Ke tla u hopotsa.
GLOSSARY: Sesotho - English

A

abuti (bo-abuti), brother
ahlama (ahlame), to open mouth
aka (akile), to kiss
alola (alotse), to make (a bed)
amai (amile), to touch/to concern
amohela (amohetes), to receive/to welcome
apara (aperen), to dress/to wear (specifically blanket)
apesa (apesitse), to clothe/to dress
apole (liapole), (specifically blanket)
apesa (apesitse), to receive/to welcome
aka (akile),
ahlama (ahlame),
abuti (bo-abuti),

B

ba (bile), to be
ba le (bile le), to have
baba (babile), to be bitter (ea baba, it's bitter)
bakeng sa (short for sebakeng sa), for/on behalf of (followed by ka, hao, hae...)
baki (libaki), suit jacket
bala (balile), to read
baleha (balehile), to flee
balimo (no singular), ancestors
bapala (bapatse), to play
baskomo (libaskomo), basin (used for washing or bathing)
bata (batile), to be cold (hoa bata, it is cold)
battla (batile), to want/to seek/to look for
beha (bebile), to put/to place
beisekele (libeisekele), bicycle
beke (libeke), week
beke e hlahlamang or bekeng e hlahlamang, the following week (lit: the week that follows)
belaela (belaeets), to complain/to be suspicious
benya (bentse), to shine
besa (besitse), to light a fire/to roast
bese (libese), bus
beta (betile), to rape
bete (libete), bed
bina (binne), to sing
bitsa (bititsite), to call
bobebe, light/easy
boce (no pl.), wool/hair of animal
boemo, status (na u tseba boemo ba hao?, do you know your (HIV) status?)
bohale, aggressive/short-tempered
bohareng ba, in the middle of
bohlale, smart/clever
bohlosa, careless/untidy
bohloko, painful/sore (ha bohloko, painfully/so much)
bohlokoa, important
bohoe (mahobe), bread
boholo, majority (boholo ba batho..., the majority of people...)
boikarabelo, responsibility
boikhantšo, pride
boikoketsos, humility
boikopanyo, cooperation/partnership
boima, heavy/difficult
boko (liboko), brain
bola (bolile), to rot
bolae (bolailo), to kill
bolela (boletse), to tell/to mean (e bolela'ng?, what does it mean?)
bolella (boleletse), to tell to/to inform
bolila, sour
boloka (bolokile), to keep/to save; ho boloka chelete: to save money
boluto, lonely/bored (ke tseoro e boluto, I am lonely/bored)
bona (bone), to see
bonahala (bonahetse), to be visible/to be evident
bonana (bonane), to see one another
bonola, easy/soft/tender
bontša (bontšite), to show
bonyane, at least
boom; ka boom, on purpose
bophelo (maphelo), life/health
bora (borile), to be boring
borkho (marihko), pants
boroko (marokho), bridge
(Maseru Border Gate also called Borokho)
boroko (no pl.), sleep (ke tseoro e boroko, I am tired)
boroso (liboroso), boerwurst

bosa (masiu), night
bothata (mathata), problem/difficulty
botho, humanity; botho ba ‘më: vagina; botho ba ntate: penis
botlolo (libotlolo), bottle
botsa (botsitse), to ask
botsikinyane, itchy (ho botsikinyane, it's itchy/it tickles)
botsao, lazy
bouela (bouletse), to be jealous
(kea bouela, I am jealous)
bua (buile), to speak
buka (libuka), book
bula (butse), to open
butle, slowly/quietly (bu butle, Speak slowly!) (butle! Hold on!)
butsoa (butsoitsie), to be cooked/to be ripe (papa e butsoitsie, the papa is done)

C

cha (chele), to burn
chabang (chabile), to rise (of the sun)
chaisa (chaitse), to get off
work/to crash into something
chaka (chakile), to go visiting/to take a walk
chakela (chaketsie), to visit (ke chaketsie Thabo, I am visiting Thabo)
chata (chatile), to marry
che, no
cheka (chekile), to dig
chelete (lichelete), money
chenche (no pl.), change (ke kopa chenche, I would like my change)
chesa (chesitse), to burn/to be hot (hoa chesa, it is hot)
cho (chulo), to say

D

dagga, marijuana
e, yes
e, it is
ea (ile), to go
eaba, and then (often used when telling stories)
ebe, then
ebile, then
ebola (ebotsie), to peel
e-e, no
eee (lieiee), onion
eketsa (ekelitse), to add/to increase
elelloa (eleletse), to notice/to realize
eletsa (elelitse), to advise
ema (eme), to stand up/to stop (ema hanyane, wait a minute)
emara (emere), to be pregnant (used for animals)
emela (emetse), to wait for
emisa (emisitse), to cause something to stop
empa, but
eng kapa eng, whatever eng?, what?
ente (lente), injection
erekisi (lierekisi), pea
eseng, not (eseng uena, not you)
etsa (entse), to do/to make
etsahla (etsahetse), to happen (ho etsahla-ng? or ho etsahala joang?, what's happening?) (ho etsahete'seng?, what happened?)
etsetsa (etselitse), to do for
F
fa (file), to give
fahla (fahlile), to get in one's eye
fapano (fapano), to differ
(mantsoe a fapano kae?, where do the words differ?)
fapanya (fapantsa), to change places, to alternate
fariki (ifariki), pig
fasa (fasitse), to tie/to bind
fatše, floor/on the ground
fatuku (lfatuku), dishcloth
feba (febile), to commit adultery/to have casual sex
feela, however/but
fela (fellile), to finish/to be gone (e fellile, it is finished)
felahetsa (felahelitse), to accompany
feme (lifeme), factory
fenstere (lifenstere), window
fepa (fepile), to feed
fereha (ferehile), to court
ferekanana (ferekanana), to be confused/to be troubled
ferekanya (ferekanitse), to confuse
fereko (lifereko), fork
feta (fetile), to go by/to pass
fetola (fetotse), to change
fhla (fhile), to arrive
fofa (fofile), to fly
fokola (fokotse), to be weak/to be delicate
fola (folile), to recover from illness (ke folile, I have recovered)onane, good night
fono (lfono), phone
fosa (fositse), to make a mistake/to be wrong (ke fositse, I made a mistake)
fosahala (fosahetse), to become wrong (lijo tse fosahetseng, the wrong food)
fokotsa (fokolitse), to diminish/to reduce
fufuleloa (fufuletsoe), to sweat
fuluha (fuluhile), to stir
fumanana (fumane), to find
futhumala (futhumetse), to be warm
futhumatsa (futhumletse), to warm up/to heat
H
ha ke re?, right?
habeli, twice
hae, home (ke ea hae, I am going home)
haeba, if
haeno, your place of origin
haeso, my place of origin
haha (hahile), to build
hababo bonana, their place of origin
hababo lona, your (plural) place of origin
hababo rona, our place of origin
hababo, his/her place of origin
hahelo, a lot/too much/aloud
hakaakang! or hakalekale! or hakalo!, so much/too much!
halefa (halefile), to get angry (o halefile, he/she is angry)
halefisa (halefiletsi), to make angry
haliaka (haliikile), to fry
hamha (hamme), to milk (a cow)
hammoh, together
hamonane, nicely/well
hamorao or hamamorao, later on today
hamore (lihamore), hammer
hampe, badly
haha (hahane), to refuse (also used for an object that doesn't work as it should (koloi ca hana, the car isn't working))
hang hang, at once/suddenly
ha ‘ngoe, once
hanong, in the mouth (ho kena
motho hanong, to interrupt someone)
hante, well/good
hantle-nте, really/more specifically
hanyane, a little
hanyanese (lihanyanese), onion
hape, again/moreover (bua
hape, say that again)
har’a, amongst/between/during
haraka (liharaka), rake
hararo, three times
hata (hatitude), to tread on/to put one's foot on the ground
hatsela (hatsetse), to become cold (ke hatsetse, I am cold)
haufinyane or haufi, soon/near
hempe (lhempe), collared shirt
heno, your home/your parent's home
heso, my home/my parent's home
hira (hirile), to hire/to rent
hlaba (hlabile), to slaughter/to stab
hlaha (hahile), to come into sight/to appear/to be born
hlahisa (lihlahisa), product
hlahlama (hlahlamile), to succeed/to follow
hlahloba (hlahloble), to examine
hlahloba (hlahlobo), examination
hlakola (hlakotsa), to wipe off/to erase
Hlakola, February
Hlakubele, March
hlala (hlalile), to divorce
hlalosa (hlalositse), to explain
hlama (no pl.), dough
hianya (hlantse), to be crazy (oa hianya!), you're crazy!)
hlaoa (hlaotsa), to weed/to hoe
hlapa (hlapile), to bathe (ho hlapa matsoho, to wash one's hands)
hlapa (ihhlapa), insult
hlatsa (hlatsitse), to vomit
hlatsoa (hlatsoitse), to wash
hloa (hloele), to climb
hlobolaa (hlobolote), to take off (clothing)
hloe (hloele), to hate
hloeka (hloekile), to become clean (e hloe kil, it is clean)
hloho (ihhlho), head
hloka (hlokile), to need
hlakahala (hlakahetse), to die (used for people/to be needed)
hlokomela (hlokometse), to take care of/to realize
hlola (hlotse), to beat/to conquer
(ke hlotsoe, I am beaten/I can't do it)
hloliea (holile), to annoy by being noisy
hlolohonela (holohonetsoe), to long for/to miss
hlompha (holmophile), to respect
hlrophisa (hloripsite), to organize/to arrange
ho hang, not at all (ha ke battle
ho hang, I don't want to, not at all)
ho tho, it is said (ho tho utseba Sekhooa, it is said you know English)
hobane, because
hobaneng?, why?
hoetla, autumn
holhe, everywhere
hokae?, where?
hola (hotse), to grow (humans and animals)
hole, far
holimo, above
holim’a, above/upon/on top of
hopola (hopotse), to remember/to think/to miss
hopotsa (hopolitse), to remind
hore, that (ke nahana hore... I think that...) (...hore na...?, ...if...?)
hosasa or hosane, tomorrow
hoseng, morning
hula (hutse), to pull
I
imela (imetse), to be too heavy
for, to overload (ke imetsoe ke... I am overloaded by...)
ipata (ipatile), to hide oneself
ipolaea (ipolailie), to commit suicide
ipotsa (ipotsite), to ask oneself
isa (isite), to take to
ithaopa (ithaopile), to volunteer
ithusa (ithuisite), to help oneself
ithuta (ithuitile), to learn
ithatsaoa (ithatsoitse), to wash oneself
ithokomela (ithokometse), to take care of oneself
ithompa (ithompile), to respect oneself
itlota (itlotsite), to apply lotion/vaseline to oneself
itokisetse (itokisetlise), to prepare oneself
itseba (itsibile), to know oneself
itšoara (itsoerle), to behave (ho itšoara hampe, to misbehave)
itulela (ituletse), to sit by oneself doing nothing
J
ja (jele), to eat
jaefa (jafile), to dance
jarete (lijaretse), garden
jesi (ljesi), sweater
joala (majoala), beer (joala ba basotho, traditional beer)
joale, now; hona joale: right now
joale ka, as/like
joaleng, bar
joalo, in that manner/so (ke nahana joalo, I think so) (ha ke nahane joalo, I don't think so)
(ho joalo, it is like that) (ha ho joalo, it is not like that)
joalo ka, as/like
joang (majoang), grass
joang kapa joang, however
joang?, how?
joetsa (joetsitse), to tell
K
ka, about/with/by/in (to emphasize place)
kae?, where
kae kapa kae, wherever
kahar’a, inside of
kaholimo, above
kahohle, everywhere
kahoo, therefore
kajeno, today
ka lebaka la, because of (lit: with the reason of)
kalima (kalimme), to lend
kalimo (likalimo), loan
ka mehla, always
kamora, after/behind
kamorao, afterwards
ka moro ho, after, behind
kamore (likamore), room
ka moso, later (at least a day later)
ka nqane, that side
ka nqena, this side
kantle, outside (ie outdoors)
kanyeso, breastfeeding
koafela, all
kapa, or
kepele, quickly
ka pele ho, in front of/before
karabo (likarabo), answer
karete (likarete), card
ka thoko ho, on the side/beside
katiba (likatiba), hat
katlase, below
ka tlung, inside (ie indoors)
katsa (likatsa), cat
kausi (likausi), sock/stockings
ke bokae?, how much does it cost?
kea leboha, thank you
kelelo (no pl.), intelligence/smarts (u na le
kelelo, you have smarts
kena (kene), to go in/to enter/to attend (school/church)
kenya (kente), to put in/to insert
kereke (likereke), church
kerese (likerese), candle
kha (khela), to fetch water from tap or well/to pick vegetables
khaba (likhaba), spoon
khabela (khatsetse), to cut/to chop (especially vegetables and meat)
khafa, tax
khafa (khafile), to pay a tax
khahlametsa (khahlamelitse), to go and meet
khahlanyetsa (khahlanyelitse), to go and meet
khaitse (likaitsei or bo-
khaitsei) sibling of the opposite sex
khalase (likhalase), glass
khale, a long time ago/far in the future
khaleha (khalehile), to fall asleep (ke khalehile, I fell asleep)
khalemela (khalemetsetse), to reprimand without anger
khanna (khanne), to drive
khantsa (khantsite), to light/to turn on
khaola (khaotsa), to cut with the result of dividing something in two (such as a string)
kharafu (likharafu), shovel/spade
kharebe (likharebe), girlfriend
khase (no pl.), gas
khathala (khathetse), to become tired
khathatsa (khathatshele), to worry (s’k’a khathatsa, don’t worry)
khena (khenne), to get angry (ke khenne, I'm angry)
khetha (khethile), to choose/to elect
khetha (khethile), to snow (lehoa lea khetha, it is snowing)
khetso (khetho), choice/election (khetho, elections)
khetso, holl, (khetholla, to discriminate
khetho, (likhetho), trade/khosha
khetho (likhetho), trade/business
khelela (kholele), to cough
khole (likhole), valley
kholelopo (likholelopo), condom/gum boot
khoana (khonne), crooked/bad/wicked
khojobo (likhojobo), discriminate
khoena (khenne), tobacco
khenne, (lehleha, to desire
khoane, (lela, to desire
khoana (koana), wheelbarrow
koae, tobacco
koahela (koahetse), to cover
koala (koetse), to close
koana, there/yonder
koano, here (tlo koano!, come here!)
koata (koatile), to be sad (ko khotsofela, I am sad)
koatula (koatisate), to be sad (oa nkoatula, you're making me sad)
khotso, HIV/AIDS
koba (likobo), blanket
kofi (no pl.), coffee
kokoana-hlolo (likokoana-hlolo), virus
kokoanyana (likokoanyana), insect
koloba (kolobile), to become wet
kolobe (likolobe), pig
kolobisa (kolobisite), to wet
koloi (makoloi or likoloi), car
kolota (kollotile), to owe (o nkolota 5 Maloti, you owe me 5 Maloti)
kolotisa (kolotisite), to give credit
komello (likomello), drought
konyana (likonyana), lamb, kindergartner (likonyaneng, kindergarten)
kopana (kopane), to meet/to come together
kopano (likopano), meeting/union; kopano ea mali: exchange of blood
kopanya (kopantile), to add
kopo (likopo), request/application
koro (likoro), wheat
kotsi (likotsi), accident/danger (ke tsoile kotsi, I had an accident)
kotula (kotsite), to harvest
kuka (kukile), to take up
kukisa (kukisite), to help to take up (nkukise, help me with what I'm carrying)
kula (kutesi), to be sick
kulisa (kulisite), to make sick
kuta (kutile), to cut (with scissors)

L
Labobeli, Tuesday
Labohlano, Friday
Labone, Thursday
Laboraro, Wednesday
lahla (lahille), to throw away
lahleha (lahleile), to be lost (e lahleile, it is lost)
lakatsa (lakalitis), to desire
lamuni (lilamuni), orange
lapa (lapile), to be hungry (ke lapile, I am hungry)
lata (latile), to fetch
latela (latsetse), to succeed/to follow
le, and/also/with
Leamerika (Maamerika), person from the United States
lebaka (mabaka), cause/reason (ho phetha mabaka, to take care of one's personal business)
lebala (lebetsi), to forget
lebanta (mabanta), belt
lebekere (mabekere), mug
lebella (lebetsete), to expect
lebenkele (mabenzele), shop
lebese (mabese), milk
lebitla (mablitla), grave
lebitso (mabitso), name
leboha (lebohile), to thank; to be grateful
lebokose (makabokose), box
lebene (mabone), lamp
lebote (mabote), wall
Lechina (Machina), person from China
leeto (maeto), journey
lefatshe (mafatshe), earth/world
lefifi, darkness (ho lefifi, it is dark)
lefika (mafika), big rock
lefu (mafu), death/disease
lefun (funera); lefu la (mafu a) likobo, sexually transmitted infection
lefuba, tuberculosis
lehe (mahel), egg
lehabula or habula, summer
lehoa (no pl.), snow
lehlohono (mahlohono), good luck/blessing
lehlotse (mahlotse), sky/heaven
lehiho (mahlo), eye
leino (meno), tooth
lejoe (majoe), tooth
leka (lekile), to try
lekala (makala), branch
lekanne (lekane), to be enough/to be equal (ho lekanne, it is enough)
lekhetho la thekiso, sales-tax
lekheto (makheto), period/time
lekheto la bokeli, the second time (makheto a mabeli, two times)
lekhoao (Makhhoa), European
lekhofho (makhofho), pimples/bumps on skin
lekkhotla (makhotla), court
lekununu (makununu), secret
lelapa (malapa), home/family
lelapilai (malapili), cloth/material
lele (male), tongue
lelinyane (malinyane), young of an animal
lema (lemme), to plough/to cultivate
lemao (mamao), safety pin
lemat (mamati), door
lenala (manala), fingernail
lengole (mangole), knee
lengolo (mangolo), letter,
lengolo la khoobo: business-license
lengope (mangope), danga (gully caused by soil erosion)
lenyalo (manyalo), wedding/marriage
leo (maoje), sea
leoto (moeto), foot (ka moeto, on foot)
lepesela (mapesela), policeman
leqeba (maqeba), wound
leqepe (maqephe), page/book
leqheku (maqheku), old person
lerata (marata), noise (u lerata!, you are noisy!)
lero (maro), bodily fluid
lerole (marole), dust (often pronounced “lerolee”)
leru (maru), cloud
lesaka (masaka), corral
lesapo (masapo), bone
lesea (masea), infant
lesela (masela), cloth/material
leseli (maseli), light
leshano (mashano), lie (u leshano!, you lie!)
leshelehele (mashelelehele), soft porridge (made from sorghum)
leshulu (mashulu), thief
lesoba (masoba), hole (that goes all the way through something)
lesoef (masoef), albino
lesole (masole), soldier
letlhobo (matlhobo), drunkard
letamo (matamo), dam
letho, nothing (ha ke na letho, I have nothing)
letlalo (matlalo), skin
letolo (matolo) or letono (matono), lightning
letša (matša), lake
lets, to ring (ho letsa mololi, to whistle)
letsatsi (matsatsi), sun/day
letsetsa (letseltse), to call (on the phone)
letsoai (no pl.), salt
letšao (matšao), symptom
letsoei (matseoi), breast
letsoho (matsoho), hand, arm
letsoolo, diarrhoea
liaparo (no pl.), clothing
lieh (liehile), to delay/to be late
likalo (no sing.), crops (in field or garden)
lijelello, any food that accompanies the starch in a meal (meat, vegetables, beans etc...)
lajo, food
likela (liketse), to set (of the sun)
lime (lime), edible plants
lisa (lisetse), to herd/to take to graze
litetu (no pl.,) be in order
litshila, dirty
llo (lile), to cry
loana (loane), to fight (physically)
loanta (loantsetse), to attack
loa (lole), to bewitch
Loetse, September
loh (lohi), to knit/to braid
lom (lok), to become right/to be in order (hoa loka or ho lokile, It is all right)
lóxatša (loatšatše), to repair/to prepare/to organize
loma (lome), to bite
lora (lori), to dream
luba (lubile), to knead (bread)
(la luba!, you’re mixing me up!)
Luletse, September
lula (lule), to stay (ie to live somewhere)/to sit
lulapalo (lulapaloe), to sit down
lumber (lilumber), winter jacket
lumela (lumetse), hello/to consent/to accept/to believe
lumella (lumelotše), to allow/to permit
Lumelana (lumelana), to agree
M
mabole (no pl.), sorghum
mafelo, end (mafelo a khoeli, end of the month)
mafura (no pl.), fat/oil
mahala, free of charge
maaka, lie (u maaka!, you lie!)
mahareng a, in the middle of
makalase (maketse), to be surprised (ke maketse, I am surprised)
makethethe, tidy/clean
’mala (mbelela), color
mala (no pl.), bowels
mali (no pl.), blood (ho tsoa)
mali, to bleed
malimabe or bomalimabe, bad luck/misfortune
malome (bo-malome), uncle
(mother’s brother)
mane, to listen
master (mametse), to listen
mamello, patience
mane, over there
mang kapa mang, whomever
mang? (bo-mang?), who?
mangoane (bo-mangoane)
(mother’s younger sister (mother’s older sister is nkholo)
Mantaha, Monday
mantsiboea, evening
maoba, the day before yesterday
maobane, yesterday
‘maraka (limmaraaka), market
mariha, winter
marulelo (no pl.), roof
masole a ‘mele, immune system
matekoane, marijuana
matha (mathile), to run
mathe, spit
matla, strong/powerful
‘mè (bo-mè), mother
‘me, and
mela (metse), to germinate/to grow (plants)
‘mele (no pl.), body
mema (memile), to invite
‘mè-matsale (bo-mè-matsale), mother-in-law
‘Mesa, April
meta (metile), to kiss (mphe meta! give me a kiss!)
meteli (no pl.), water/wet
‘mila (mebila), road (used by cars)
‘min (mibina), music
moaleng (baaleng), neighbor
mobu (mebu), soil
mocha (bacha), young person
mocheso, fever
moea (meea), wind/air/spirit
moet (meeti), visitor
moeto (metetlo), manner/custom
mofumahali (mofumahali), queen/wife of chief
mofuta (mefuta), type, kind (ka mofuta ofe? which kind?)

(mefuta-futa, many kinds)
mofuthu, warm

mofutsana (bafutsana), poor person
mohala (mehlala), example (ke kopa mohala, I am asking for an example)
mohlanaka (bahlanaka), boyfriend
moholo (mehlolo), miracle
mohebo (bahahebo), businessman
moheote (mehoote), body hair
’moho, together
mohloma, perhaps
moiti (meiti), manure
moitaophi (baithaphi), volunteer
mokala, pyre
mokete, feast
mokachane (bakhachane), pregnant woman
mokhatlo (mekhatlo), association/organization
mokhatlo (mekhatlo), association/organization
mokhob (mekho), manner, way
(ma mokhob ofe?, in which manner?)
mokhotsi (bakhotsi), friend
mokhachane (bakhachane), pregnant woman
mokhalo (mekhalo), association/organization
mokho (mekho), manner, way
(ma mokho ofe?, in which manner?)
mokhotshi (bakhotsi), friend
mokokotlo (mekokotlo), back
mokopu (mekopu), pumpkin/squash
mokotla (mekotla), bag
mokuli (bakuli), sick person/patient
molaetsa (melaetsa), message
molumo (melamu), large stick
carried by men
molao (melao), law
molato (melato), fault/guilt (u molato, you're guilty) (molato ke'ng? what's the problem?)
molekane (balekane), mate/partner
molemi (balem), farmer
molemo, useful/good
molimo (melimo), god
molisana (balisana), herdboy/shepherd
mollo (mello), fire/matchstick
molomo (melomo), mouth
mona, here (hona mona, right here)/jealous
monate, nice/good to eat (ho monate, it is nice) (hamonate, nicely/well)
mong'a (beng ba), owner of/boss
(of mong’a shopo, the owner of
the shop) (mong’a ka, my boss)
monna (banna), man/husband
monoa (menoa), finger/toe
monoa (menoa), mosquito
monyakdi (menyakdi), door
monyetla (menyetla),
opportunities
moo, there (hona moo, right
there)
mookameli (baokameli),
boss/supervisor
moeki (baeki), nurse
moputso (meputso), salary/
wages
Moqebelo, Saturday
moqomo (meqomo), trashbin/
trash pile
mora (bara), son
morali (barali), daughter
moralo (meralo), plan; moralo
oa chetele: budget
morara (merara), grape
moratua (baratua),
loved one (term of endearment)
morokisi (barekisi),
seller
moroka (meroka),
wealthy person
mororo (meroro),
project
moriana (meriana),
medicine
moriri (meriri),
friend
moriri (meriri),
friend
moroetsana (baroetsana),
unmarried adolescent girl
morohe (merohe),
leafy greens
(merohe can also mean
vegetables)
moroto, urine
morui (barui),
wealthy person
moruti (baruti),
minister
mosa (mesa),
kind (can imply being a
pushover)
mosali (basali),
woman/wife
mosamo (mesamo),
pillow
mose (mesi),
dress/skirt
mosebe (mesbe),
work/job
mose, urine
moshanyana (bashanyana),
boy
moshoane (bashoane),
boy
mosi (mesi), smoke
Mosotho (Bosotho),
person from
Lesotho
motho (batho),
person/someone
(ke bua le motho, I am speaking
to someone)
motlakase (no pl.),
electricity
motoho (metoho), sour porridge
(made from sorghum)
motse (metsi), village
Motsanong, May
motsare, midday
motsaali (batsaali), parents
motsaalle (metsaalle), friend
motsoetsi (batsoetsi),
woman who has just had baby
mpa (limpa), stomach
mpe (-be),
bad/ugly
Mphalane, October
mpho (limpho),
gift
mula (mutse),
to beat severely
'musotse (mebuso),
government

N
na (nele), to rain (pula ea na, it
is raining)
naha (linaha), land/country
nahana (nahan), to think
nako (no pl.), time (nako ke
mang?, what is the time?) (ka
nako e'ngoe, sometimes)
nale (linale),
nail
naleli (linaleli),
star
nama (linama),
meat/flesh
namane (manamane),
calf (Le manamane a tsona,
response to the greeting
"likhomo tseo")
naoa (linaoa),
beans
ncha (-cha),
new
nchafatsa (nchafate),
to renew/to reform
neng kapa neng, whenever
neng or neneng?, when?
nepa (nepile),
to be correct (ke nepile, I am correct)
nepahala (nepahetse),
to become
correct (phepo e nepahetseng,
the correct diet)
'nete (linnete),
truth (ka 'nete, truly, indeed) (bua
'nete, speak the truth)
ngaka (lingaka),
doctor
ngata (-ngata),
many
ngoana (bana),
child
ngoan'abo (bana babo),
his/her
sibling
ngoan'abo bana (bana babo)
bona),
their sibling
ngoan'abo bana (bana babo)
lona),
your (plural) sibling
ngoan'abo rona (bana babo
rona), our sibling
ngoanana (banana),
girl
ngoan'eno (bana beno),
your sibling
ngoan'eso (bana b'eso), my sibling
ngoathela (ngoathetse), to give food to
ngoetsi (lingoetsi), daughter-in-law
ngola (ngotse), to write
ngolla (ngoletse), to write to/for
nka (nkile), to take
nkha (nkhile), to smell/to smell of
nkho (linkho), bucket
nkholo (bo-ngoletse), grandmother
nko (linko), nose
nku (linku), sheep
noa (noele), to drink
noka (linoka), river
nomoro (linomoro), number
nonne (nomoro), to become fat (u nonne, you have become fatter)
onyana (linonyana), bird
nosetsa (noselitse), to water (specifically plants)
notela (notletse), to lock
notlolla (notlolotse), to unlock
ntate (bo-ntate), father
ntate-moholo (bo-ntatemoholo), grandfather
ntho (lintho), thing
ntja (lintja), dog
ntlafatsa (ntlafalitse), to make beautiful
ntla (-tle), good/beautiful
ntlo (matlo), house
ntloana (matloana), bathroom
ntoa (lintoa), war
ntša (ntšitse), to take out
ntshitsi (litsintsi), fly
ntšo (-tsó), black
nyala (nyetse), to marry (used for men) (ke nyetse, I am married)
nyalana (nyalane), to marry one another
nyaloa (nyetsoe), to marry (used for women) (ke nyetsoe, I am married)
nyamela (nyametse), to disappear
nyane (-nyane) or nyenyane (-nyenyane), small/young/few
nyantsa (nyantsitse), to breastfeed
nyatsi (linyatsi), mistress
nyoko (no pl.), bile (ke tsoreo)
nyoloha (nyolohile), to lift up
nyoloha (nyolohile), to go up, to ascend
nyoroa (nyoriloe/nyoruo), to become thirsty (ke nyoruo, I'm thirsty)
O
oela (oetse), to fall
ofe kapa ofe, efe kapa efe etc..., whichever (varies depending on noun class)
ofisi (liofisi), office
oka (okile), to nurse (a sick person)
oil or fishoil, oil
oma (omme), to become dry
omanya (omantse), to scold with anger
ononoroko (liononoroko), slip/petticoat
opa (opile), to be sore
ota (otile), to become skinny (u otile, you are skinny)
otla (otlile), to hit
P
pakeng tsa, between
palama (palame), to ride
palesa (lipalesa), flower
palo (lipalo), number
pampiri (lipampiri), paper
paqama (paqame), to lie down
Paseka, Easter
pata (patile), to hide/to conceal
patala (patetse) or lefa (lefile), to pay
patsi (no pl.), firewood
pe'a, by/beside/_near
peo (lipoelo), heart
pen (lipene), pen
pensele (lipensele), pencil
peo (lipoelo), seed; lipoelo tsa ntate: sperm
pepa (pepile), to carry on one's back/to give birth (used for people)
pere (lipere), pear
perere (liperere), peach
phaelo (liphaelo), profit
phafa (liphafa), whip
phahama (phahamite), to rise, to become high
phahamisa (phahamisitse), to lift up
phahlo (lipahlho), clothing/luggage/goods
phakisa (phakisitse), to hurry
phapha (phaphile), to get uppity
Phato, August

Pheha (phhile), to cook
Phhela (phhethse), to cook for
Phekola (phkotse), to heal/to cure
Phela (phetse), to live
Pherekhong, January
Pheta (phetile), to repeat
Phetha (phethile), to finish/to accomplish (ke phetho, that's it)
Phoho (liphofo), flour (phoho ea papa, cornflour)
Phola (pholile), to become cool (ho pholile, It is cool)
Phomola (phomotse), to rest
Phofofo (liphofofo), animal
Phoqa (phooqile), to disappoint (ke tla u phoqp, I will make you sorry)
Phoso (liphos) mistake/error
(ka phoso, by mistake) (ka boomo, on purpose)
Phulungoana, November
Phunya (phuntsle), to pierce/to bore a hole
Phupjane, June
Phupa, July
Phutha (phuthile), to fold/to gather
Phutheho (liputhheho), meeting/assembly
Pilisi (lipilisi), pill
Pina (lipina), song
Pitsa (lipitsa), pot
Pitso (lipitso), village meeting
Poleiti (lipoleiti), plate
Poli (lipoli), goat
Poloko ea libuka, book-keeping
Pombo (lipombo), pump/water tap
Pompong (lipompong), candy
Poone (lipoone), corn
Poreisi (liporeisi), price
Posa (positse), to post
Poso (liposo), post office
Pota (potile), to go around something/to go via a place
Pota (potile), to talk nonsense (oa pota!, you're talking nonsense!)
Poulelo, jealousy
Psatla (psatlitse), to break in pieces/to smash
Pula (lipula), rain
Putsoa (-putsoa), blue/grey
Q
Qabana (qabane), to argue/to be in an argument
malapa, mythical dwarf that people call thokolosi (litokolosi), thobalano, thipa (litipa), thimola (thimotse), thibela (thibetse), cheat thetsa (thetsitse), tholoana (litholoana), thòla (thòtse), thupa (lithupa), thunya (thuntse), tebela (tebetse), teana (teane), tatile, thero, tsoang: tefo, tefa (tefile), (specifically tena (tenne), temo, tekesi (litekesi), tanki, talima (litliniki), tliniki (litliniki), tlisa (litisitse), tlhapi (lithapi), fish tlhoko (lithoko), need thokomelo, care; thokomelo ea lapeng: home-based care tiniki (litiniki), clinic tìsa (litìsitse), to bring tìsetsa (lìsetsitse), to bring to tlaela (lìtlae), to become used to (ke tlae tse la hula Lesotho, I am used to living in Lesotho) tla (tlile), to come tlala (tlale), to get full (noka e tlale), the river is full) tlaleho (lìtlae), report tlama (tlamme), to tie/to bind tlameha (tlamehile), to should/to have to do (something), (ke tlameha ho tsamae, I have to leave) tlas’a, under, below tlase, below tlatsa (tlatsitse), to fill tlase, below tlatsa (tlatsitse), to fill (ntlatse!) tlola (tlale), to get off; ho theoha (theohile), ‘meleng, to lose weight theola (theothe), to lower/reduce thepa, furniture/property/goods: thepa e kenang: import; thepa e tsona: export therò, decision (thero ea malapa, family planning) thetsa (thetsitse), to deceive/to cheat thiba (thible), to stop thibela (thibetse), to prevent thimola (thimotse), to sneeze thipa (lithipa), knife thobalano, sex thokolosi (litokolosi), a mythical dwarf that people acquire through witchcraft thola (thotse), to be quiet thòla (thòtse), to find/to pick up tholoana (litholoana), fruit thunya (thuntse), to shoot thupa (lithupa), stick thusa (thitsitse), to help /ha ho na thu, it’s useless) thusana (thusane), to help one another thuto (lithuto), lesson/subject tìchere (litìchere or matìchere), teacher tiisa (tiitsitse), to affirm/to pull tight tima (timme), to refuse to give someone something/to put out/to extinguish tjale (lìjale), checkered blanket/lightweight blanket tjena, like this tla (tlile), to come tlala (tlale), to get full (noka e tlale), the river is full) tlaleho (lìtlae), report tlama (tlamme), to tie/to bind tlameha (tlamehile), to should/to have to do (something), (ke tlameha ho tsamae, I have to leave) tlasse, below tlatsa (tlatsitse), to fill tlase, below tlatsa (tlatsitse), to fill (ntlatse!) What people say when they need a little more money in order to buy something, and want you to give it to them; lit: Fill me up!) tleleba (tlitlùle), to be discontented/to be dissatisfied (kea tleleba, I am dissatisfied) tlhapi (lithapi), fish tlhoko (lithoko), need thokomelo, care; thokomelo ea lapeng: home-based care tiniki (litiniki), clinic tìsa (litìsitse), to bring tìsetsa (lìsetsitse), to bring to tlaela (lìtlae), to become used to (ke tlae tse la hula Lesotho, I am used to living in Lesotho) tla (tlile), to come tlale, to go away tlhela (tlhële), to leave/to go away tlhela (tlhële), to leave/to give up (ntlhelle!, let go of me!) tlonthola (tlonthotse), to dishonor tlosa (tlositse), to remove/to take away/to subtract tlote (tlotsitse), to grease/to apply (specifically lotion, vaseline etc...) toeba (litoeba), mouse tokelo (litokelo), right tona (-tona), male/right (letsoho le letona, right hand) toiete (litolilete), bathroom tonki (litonki), donkey tòo: ngoana too! (bana ting!): naughty child! toro (lìtoro), dream toroea (toroile), to draw toropolo (litoropolo), city toughta (toulate), to worry/to have one’s thoughts be far away (ua toughta?, are you worried?/is your mind wandering?) tìshà (tìshabile), to fear/to be afraid tsamæa (tsamaile), to walk/to leave tsamæa hantle, good-bye (lit: go well); said by person staying behind tsatsing le or tsatsing lena, today tseba (tsebile), to know tsebana (tsbene), to know one another tsebisa (tsbisisite), to inform tsëbe (litsëbe), ear tìsìha (tìshìle), to laugh tìshali (-tìshali), female/left (letsoho le letšëhali, left hand) tìsìha (tsëhla), female/tsëhla, yellow tseka (tsekile), to claim tsla (litsela), path, way (ka tselal efe?, in which way?) tsela (tsete), to cross tìšëla (tìshële), to pour tìsènyëhelo (litìsènyëhelo), expenditure tìšëpa (tìshëpile), to trust/to hope tìsèphàlala (tìshëphàtsete), to be trustworthy tìsëpisë (tìsëpisite), to promise tìsìkinyetsa (tìsìkinyelitse), to tickle someone tìsìmo (masìmo), field tìsìrëleto, protection Tsìtöe, December tsoa (tsioile), to go out/to come from tìsoaetse, infection tsoafa (tsoafile), to not feel like doing something tsoaka (tsoakile), to mix
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Sesotho</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>able; to be able: ho khona</td>
<td>khonne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about, ka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>above, (ka) holim’a, ka holimo ho</td>
<td>(ka)holimo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accept, ho lumela (lumetse)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accident, kotsi (likotsi)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accompany, ho felehetse (felehetse)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accomplish, ho phetha (phethile)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accuse, ho qosa (qosite)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accustom; to become used to: ho khona</td>
<td>(khonne)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>add, ho eketsa (ekelitse); ho kopanya (kopantse)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adultery; to commit adultery: ho feba (febile)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>advise, ho eletsa (elelitse)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affirm, ho tiisa (tiisite)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after, ka mola, ’ka mora ho</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>afterwards, kamorao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>again, hape</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aggressive, bokale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agree, ho lumellana (lumellane)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agriculture, temo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aim, sepheo (lipheo)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>application, kopo (likopo)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apply; to apply lotion, vaseline etc: ho itlotsa (itlotsite); to apply lotion/vaseline to oneself: ho itlotsa (itlotsite)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>approach, ho atamela (atametse)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April, ’Mesa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>argue, ho qabana (qabane)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arm, letsoho (matsoho)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around; to go around</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>something, pota (pote)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrange, ho klophisa (hlophisite)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrest, ho tšoara (tšore); to get arrested: ho tšoaroa (tšore)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive, ho fihla (fihile)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as, joale ka/Joalo ka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ascend, ho nyoloha (nyolohile)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ask, ho botsa (botsite); to ask</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for: ho kopa (kopile); to ask oneself: ho ipotsa (ipotsite)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assembly, phutheho (liputheho)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>association, mokhatlo (mekhatlo)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attack, ho loantša (loantšite)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attend, ho kena (kene)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August, Phato</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GLOSSARY: English - Sesotho

A

able; to be able: ho khona (khonne)
about, ka
above, (ka) holim’a, ka holimo ho, (ka)holimo
accept, ho lumela (lumetse)
accept, ho lumela (lumetse)
accept, ho lumela (lumetse)
alternater, ho fapanya (fapantse)
always, ka mela
American, Leamerika (Maamerika)
amongst, har’a
amuse, ho qabola (qabotse)
ancestors, balimo (no singular)
and, le/’me
angry; to get angry: ho halefa (halefile)/ho khena (khenne); to make angry: ho halefisa (halefisite)
animal, phoofolo (liphoofolo); young of an animal: lelinyane (malinyane)
annoys; by being noisy: ho hlolela (holilile)
answer, karabo (likarabo); ho araba (arabile)
appear, ho hlaha (hlahile)
apple, apole (liapole)
aunt; father’s sister: rakahi (bo-rakahi); mother’s younger sister: mangoane (bo-mangoane); mother’s older sister: nkono
autumn, hoetla
avoid, ho goba (gobile)

B
back, mokokotlo (mekokotlo)
bad, khopo; mpe (-be)
badly, hampe
bag, mokota (mekotla)
bar, joaleng/bareng/shebeen
basin, baskomo (libaskomo)
bathe, ho hlapa (hlapile)
bathroom, ntlaoana (matloana)/toilet (litolite)
be, ho ba (bile)
beans, naa (linaaa)
beard, litelu (no pl.)
beat, ho hlola (holo)/ho shapa (likhopho)
bone, lesapo (masapo)
book, buka (libuka)
book-keeping, poloko ea libuka
boot; gum boot: khophoko (likhopho)
bore; to be bored: bolo; ho hora (bore)
born; to be born: ho hlaha
boss, mookameli (baokameli);
boss of: mong’ a (beng ba)
bottle, botlolo (libotlolo)
bowels, mala (no pl.)
bowl, sekotlolo (likotlolo)
box, lebokose (mabokose)
boy, moshanyana (bashanyana)/moshemean (bashemean)
boyfriend, mohlankana
break, break:
branch, lekala (makala)
break, bohohe (mahobe)
brick, kholo (-holo)
bridge,
build,
burn, ho cha (chele);
to cause to burn: ho chesa (chesite)
bus, bese (libese)
business, khoebo (likhoebo);
businessman: mohoebi

(bahoebi); business license:
lengolo la khoebo
but, empa/feela
buy, ho reka (rekile);
to buy for:
ho rekela (reketse)
buyer, moreki (bareki)
by, pel’a

C
calf, namane (manamane)
call, ho bitisa (bitisite); on the phone: ho letsetsa (letselitse)
candle, kerese (likerese)
candy, pompong (lipompong)
car, koloi (makoloi ot likoloi)
card, karete (likarete)
care, ho tsotella (tseotele);
to take care of:
ho hlokome (hlokometse);
to take care of oneself:
ho ilthokome (ilthokometse);
home-based care:
thokomelo ea lapeng
careless, bohlasoa
carrot, sehoete (lihoete)
carry; to carry on one’s head:
ho roala (roetse);
to carry on one’s back:
ho pepa (pepile)
cat, katse (likatse)
catch, tšoara (tšoere)
cause, lebaka (mabaka)
chair, setulo (litulo)
change, cheno (no pl.);
ho fetola (fetotsie);
to change
places:
ho fapany (fapanse)
chase; to chase away:
ho tebela (tebete)
chat, ho qoqa (qoqile), to chat
to:
ho qoqela (qoqetse)
cheat, ho thetsa (thetsitse)
chest, sefuba (lfuba)
chicken, khoho (likhoho)
chief, morena (maren)
child, ngoana (bana)
Chinese person, Lechina (Machina)
choice, khetho (likhetho)
choose, ho khetha (khithela)
chop; to chop vegetables/meat:
ho khabela (khabetse)
church, kereke (likereke)
city, toropo (litoropo)
claim, ho tseka (tselile)
clean, makhethe; to become clean:
ho hoeka (hokekel)
clever, bohlale
climb, ho hloa (hloele)
clinic, lliniki (liliniki)
close, ho koala (koetse)
cough, nephala (nepahetse) correct; to be correct:
corral, corn, cooperation, (pholile) cool; to become cool:

to be cooked:

corn, (nepile);

cook for:

complain, compel, community,
conquer, ferekana (ferekane)

come together:

confuse, conclusion,
concern,.community, country,
conceal, ho pata (patile)

come, ho ila (itlele); to come from:

ho tsoa (tsoile);

come near: ho atamela (atametse);

come together: ho kopana (kopane)/ho teana (teane)

community, sechaba (líchaba) compel, ho qobella (qobelese) complain, ho belaela (belaetse)

conceal, ho pata (patile)

come, color, coldness, to become cold:
cold; to be cold:

clean, liphahlo, (nkile) sekoloto

credit; to buy on credit:

come, ho ila (itlele); to come from:

ho tsoa (tsoile);

come near: ho atamela (atametse);

come together: ho kopana (kopane)/ho teana (teane)

community, sechaba (líchaba) compel, ho qobella (qobelese) complain, ho belaela (belaetse)

conceal, ho pata (patile)

come, color, coldness, to become cold:
cold; to be cold:

candy, lekhotla (makhotla); ho

lelu (marlu)

cross, sefa pano; ho tsela (tsetse)
cry, ho ila (itlele)
cultivate, ho lema (lemme)
cure, ho phekola (phekotse)
custom, moeto (meeto)
customer, moreki (bareki)
cut, ho seha (sehole); to cut vegetables/meat: ho khabela (khabetse);
to cut with scissors:

ho kata (kITLE); to cut with the result of dividing something in two (such as a string): ho khaola (khaotse)

D
dam, letamo (matamo)
damage, ho senyala (sentse)
dance, ho jaefal (jaefile)
danger, kotsi (likotsi)
darkness, lefifi
day, letsatsi (matsatsi)
death, lefifi
debt, sekoloto (likoloto)
decide, ho rera (revile)
decision, geto (ligeto); thero
delay, ho lieha (liehile)
delicate; to be delicate:

ho fokola (fokotse)
desire, ho lakatsa (lakalitse)
development, tsoelo-pele
diarrhea, letso llo; to have

diarrhea: ho tsolla (tsolotse)
die; when referring to people:

ho hlokohala (hihokatsetse); when referring to animals:

ho shoa (shoele)
differ, ho fapano (iapane)
difficult, thata boima
difficulty, bothato (mathata)
dig, ho cheka (chekile)
diminish, ho fokota (fokotsete)
dirty, litšila
disappear, ho nyamela

disappear, ho nyamela

disappear, ho nyamela

bo na (naele)
disappearing, ho phoqa (phoqile)
discontent; to be discontented:

ho tleleba (tletlebe)
discriminate, ho khetholla

(khetholotse)
disease, lefu (mafu)
dishcloth, fatuka (fitafatuka)
dishonor, ho tlonolowa (tlo lomotsete)

dissatisfy; to be dissatisfied:

do, ho tleleba (tletlebe)
divide, ho arola (arosetse)
divorce, ho hlala (he hile)
do, ho etsa (ente); to do for:

do, ho etseta (etsetile)
doctor, ngaka (lingaka)
do, ho atlamela; ho lana

did, ho lana

dissing good,
dishcloth, ho phele,
dishname;

dissatisfied:

do, ho ngaka (langoaka)
dog, njja (linitja)
donga, lenga (mangoaka)
donkey, tonki (lizintoki)
door, lema (limama)/mnyako

(menyako)
dough, hlama (no pl.)
draw, ho torooa (torole)
dream, toro (titori); ho lora (lorile)
dress, mose (meso); ho apara

(apere)/ho tena (tenne)/ho apesa

(apesite)
drink, ho noa (noele)
drive, ho khanna (khanne)
drought, komello (likomello)
drunk; to get drunk:

ho tlaho (tahlhoe/tahowe)
drunkard, letahoa (mataho)
dry; to become dry:

ho oma (omme)
during, har'a
dust, lerole (marole) (often pronounced “lerolee")

E
ear, tshebe (litšebe)
earth, lefatshe (mafatshe)

Easter, Paseka
easy, bonolo/boboebe
eat, ho ja (jile)
egg, lebe (mahe)
elect, ho okheha (khete)
election, khetho (likhetho)
electricity, motlakase (no pl.)

embarrassed; to become

embarrassed; ho soaba (soabile)

encourage, ho khotholetsa

(khothalelise)

end, ho qeto (qetile); mafelo

English, Sekhooa

enough; to be enough:

ho lekane (lekane)

enter, ho kena (kene)
equal; to be equal:

ho lekane (lekane)
erase, ho hlakola (hlakotse)

error, phoso (liphosotse)

European, Lekhooa (Makhooa)

expenditure, tšenyelelo

(litšenyelelo)
evening, mantsiboea
everywhere, kholo/kaholo

cloth, lelapo (malap)/lesela

(masela)
clothing, liaparo (no pl.)/phahlo

(liphahlo)
cloud, leru (maru)
coffee, kofí (no pl.)
cold; to be cold: ho bata (batile);
to become cold: ho hatsela

(hatese);
to suffer from a cold:

to be cooked:

ho tsoa (kote)

come, ho ila (itlele); to come from:

ho tsoa (tsoile);

come near: ho atamela

(atametse);
to come together:

ho atamela (atametse);
to come:

ho tsoa (kote)

come near: ho atamela

(atametse);
to come together:

ho atamela

(atametse);
to be cooked:

ho tsoa (kote)

come, color, coldness, to become cold:
cold; to be cold:

can, liphalohlo, (nkile) sekoloto

credit; to buy on credit:

come, ho ila (itlele); to come from:

ho tsoa (tsoile);

come near: ho atamela

(atametse);
to come together:

ho atamela (atametse);
to come:

ho tsoa (kote)

come near: ho atamela

(atametse);
to come together:

ho atamela

(atametse);
to be cooked:

ho tsoa (kote)

come, color, coldness, to become cold:
cold; to be cold:

complain, compel, community,
conquer, ferekana (ferekane)

come together:

confuse, conclusion,
concern, community, country,

come, color, coldness, to become cold:

dam, letamo (matamo)
damage, ho senyala (sentse)
dance, ho jaefal (jaefile)
danger, kotsi (likotsi)
darkness, lefifi
day, letsatsi (matsatsi)
death, lefifi
debt, sekoloto (likoloto)
decide, ho rera (revile)
decision, geto (ligeto); thero
delay, ho lieha (liehile)
delicate; to be delicate:

ho fokola (fokotse)
desire, ho lakatsa (lakalitse)
development, tsoelo-pele
diarrhea, letso llo; to have

diarrhea: ho tsolla (tsolotse)
die; when referring to people:

ho hlokohala (hihokatsetse); when referring to animals:

ho shoa (shoele)
differ, ho fapano (iapane)
difficult, thata boima
difficulty, bothato (mathata)
dig, ho cheka (chekile)
diminish, ho fokota (fokotsete)
dirty, litšila
disappear, ho nyamela

bo na (naele)
disappearing, ho phoqa (phoqile)
discontent; to be discontented:

ho tleleba (tletlebe)
discriminate, ho khetholla

(khetholotse)
disease, lefu (mafu)
dishcloth, fatuka (fitafatuka)
dishonor, ho tlonolowa (tlo lomotsete)

153
evident; to be evident: ho bonahala (bonahetse)
examination, hlalahlobo (hlalahlobo)
examine, ho hlalahlobo (hlalahlobo)
example, mohlala (mohlala)
expect, ho lebella (lebeletse)
expensive, turu
explain, ho hlasa (hlalosite)
export, thepa e tsaoang
extinguish, ho tima (timme)
eye, leihla (mahlo): to get in
one’s eye: ho fahla (fahlile)

F
face, sefahleho (lifahleho)
factory, feme (lifeme)
fall, ho oela (oetse)
family, lelapa (malapa); family planning: theroa ea malapa
far, hole
farmer, molemi (balemi)
fat, mafura (no pl.); tenya (-tenya); to become fat: ho nona (nonne)
father, ntate (ho-ntate)
fault, molato (melato)
fear, ho tšaba (ho tšabile)/ho fumana (fumane)/ho tšaba (ho tšabile)/ho

G
garden, jarete (lijarete)
gas, khase (no pl.)
gather, ho phutha (phuthile)
germinate, ho mela (metse)
give; to get off: ho theoha (theohile); to get up: ho tsoha (tšohile)
gonorrhrea, seso se seholo
gift, mpho (lumpho)
girl, ngoananana (banana);
unmarried adolescent girl: moroetsana (baroetsana)
girlfriend, kharebe (likharebe)
give, ho fa (file); to give back: ho khutlisa (khutlisite); to give
good food: ho ngoaithela
(ngoaithetse); to give up: ho tloha (tlohetse)
glass, khalase (likhalase)
go, ho ea (ile); to be gone: ho fela (felile); to go away: ho tloha (tlohetse); to go by: ho feta
(fetile); to go down: ho theoha (theohile); to go in: kena (kene);
to go out: ho tsoa (tsőile); to go up: ho nyoloha (nyolohile)
goat, poli (lipoli)
god, molimo (melimo)
good, hantle: ntle (-tle);
molimo; good to eat: monate
goods, phahlo (liphahlo)/thepa;
sharing of goods: karolilelana ea
thepe
gossip, ho seba (sebile)
government, ‘muso (mehoso)
grab, ho tsara (tsore)
grandchild, setloholo (titloholo)
grandfather, ntate-molohob (bo-
nate-moloho)
grandmother, nkho (bonkho)
grape, morara (merara)
grass, joang (mjoang)
grateful; to be grateful: ho lebolla (lebohile)
grave, lebitla (mabita)
green, tala (-tala)
greens, moro ho (meroho)
grey, potsoa (-mutsoa)
ground; on the ground: fatše
group, sehlopha (lifelopa)
grow, ho melo (metsè); when
referring to humans and
animals: ho hola (hotse)
guilt, molato (melato)
gun, seithunya (lihunya)

H
hail, sefako (lifako)
hair, moriri (meriri); body hair:
mohoe (mehoete)/bega (no pl.)
hammer, hamore (limohe)
hand, letsoho (matsoho)
happen, ho entshala (entsahe)
happy: to be happy: ho thaba
(thabile)
hard, thata
harvest, kotula (kotutse)
hat, kafa (likafa)
hate, ho hloea (hloele)
have, ho ba le (ble le)
head, hloho (lihloho)
headscarf, tiku (litiku)
heal, ho pekhola (pehokse)
health, bophelo (maphelo)
hair, ho utloa (utoile)
heart, pelo (lipelo)
heat, ho futhumatsa
(futhumilsetse)

Heaven, leholimo (maholimo)
heavy, boima; to be too heavy
for: ho imela (imele)
hello, lumela/hotso
help, ho thusa (thusite); to help
oneself: ho ithusa (ithusite); to
inform, increase, in the house: if, indeed, husband, infection, infant, indoors, import, kindergarten, kindergarten, lake, letša (matša)

interest, thahasello (lithahasello)
interrupt, ho kena (kene) motho hanong
invite, ho mema (memile)
itchy, ho botsikiyane
J
jacket; suit jacket: baki (libaki)
January, Pherekhung
jealous, boulela (bouletse); mono
jealousy, poulelo
job, mosebetsi (mesebetsi)
joke, ho soasoa (soasoile)
journey, leeto (maeto)
July, Phupu
June, Phupjane

K
keep, ho boloka (bolokile)
key, senotlolo (linotlolo)
kick, ho raha (rahile)
kidnap (with the intent of marrying): ho shobelisa (shobelisiteitse)
kill, ho bolae (bolaila)
kind, mosi, as in type: mofuta (mefuta)
kinder Garten, likonyaneng
kiss, ho meta (metile)/ho aka (akile)/ho suna (sunne)
knead (bread): ho luba (lubile)
knife, thipa (lithipa)
knit, ho loha (lohile)
know, ho tseba (tsebile); to know oneself: ho itseba (itsebite) to know one another: ho tsebana (tsebene)

L
lake, letša (matša)
lamb, konyana (likonyana)
lamp, lebone (mabone)
land, naka (linaka)
later, thipata (tipathi)
later, hamorporo/hamamorlop/kosello
laugh, tšeha (tšehile); to make laugh: ho qabola (qabotse)
laugh, tšeha (tšehile); to make:

lie, leshano (mashano)/maaka: to lie down: ho paqama (paqame)
life, bophelo (maphelo)
lift, to lift up: ho nyolla (nyolotse)/ho phakama (phahame)
light, bobebe/lesli (maseli): ho khansa (khantsitse): to light a fire: ho besa (hesite)
lightning, letolo (matolo)/letono (matono)
like, joale ka/joalo ka; ho rata (ratile)
limit, Setho (litlo)
listen, mamela (mametsi)
little, hanyane
live, ho phela (phetse)
loan, kalimo (likalimo)
lock, ho notlela (notletse)
lonely, boluto
look: to look at: ho sheba (shebe)/ho talima (talimile): to look for: ho batla (batile)
lose: to lose weight: ho theola (theohile) 'meleng
loss, tahlehelo (lithlehelo)
lost: to be lost: ho halhele (lalhele)
lot; a lot: haholo
love, ho rata (ratile); to love one another: ho ratana (ratane);
loved one: moratua (maraatu);
lower, ho theola (theotse)
luck: good luck: lehlohono (mahlohono); bad luck: malimame/bomalimame
luggage, phahlo (lipahlo)
lungs, sefuba (lifuba)
limit, seka (sile)
left, tšehali (-tšehali)
leap, ho kalima (kalimme)
lessen, thuto (lithuto)
letter, lengolo (mangolo)

lie, leshano (mashano)/maaka: to lie down: ho paqama (paqame)
life, bophelo (maphelo)
lift, to lift up: ho nyolla (nyolotse)/ho phakama (phahame)
light, bobebe/lesli (maseli): ho khansa (khantsitse): to light a fire: ho besa (hesite)
lightning, letolo (matolo)/letono (matono)
like, joale ka/joalo ka; ho rata (ratile)
limit, Setho (litlo)
listen, mamela (mametsi)
little, hanyane
live, ho phela (phetse)
loan, kalimo (likalimo)
lock, ho notlela (notletse)
lonely, boluto
look: to look at: ho sheba (shebe)/ho talima (talimile): to look for: ho batla (batile)
lose: to lose weight: ho theola (theohile) 'meleng
loss, tahlehelo (lithlehelo)
lost: to be lost: ho halhele (lalhele)
lot; a lot: haholo
love, ho rata (ratile); to love one another: ho ratana (ratane);
loved one: moratua (maraatu);
lower, ho theola (theotse)
luck: good luck: lehlohono (mahlohono); bad luck: malimame/bomalimame
luggage, phahlo (lipahlo)
lungs, sefuba (lifuba)

M
majority, boholo
make, ho etsa (entse); to make a bed: ho alola (alotse)
make, ho tsalala (tsalole)/mokho/a (mokhoa)
man, monna (banna)
manner, moetlo (meetlo)/mokho/a (mokhoa)
mane, moiteli (meiteli)
many, ngata (-ngata)
March, Halakube
marijuana, matekoane/dagga
market , ‘maraka (limaraka)
mariage, lenyalo (malyalo)
marry, ho chata (chatcha); when referring to a male: ho nyala (nyetse); when referring to a female: ho nyaloa (nyetsoe); to marry one another: ho nyalana (nyalane)
matchstick, mollo (mello)  
mate, molekane (balekane)  
material, lelapi (malapi)/lesela (masela)  

matter, taba (litaba)  
May, Motšeanong  
mean, ho bolela (boletse)  
meat, nama (linama)  

medicine, moriana (meriana)/sethlare (litlhare)  
meet, ho kopana (kopane)/ho teana (teane); to go and meet: ho khahlametsa (khahlamelitse)/khahlanyetsa (khahlanyelitse)  
meeting, phuthelo (liphuthelo)/kopano (likopano); village  

money, mix, mistress, (fositse)  
make a mistake:  
mistake, to make a mistake: ho fosa (fosite)  
mistress, nyatsi (linyatsi)  
mix, ho tsoaka (tsaokile)  
Monday, Mantaha  
money, chelete (lichlete)  
month, khoe (likhoei); last month: khoe (likhoei) e fettle; next month: khoe (likhoei) e tang  

moon, khoe (likhoei)  
moreover, hape  
morning, hobeng  
mosquito, moaong (menoang)  
mother, ‘mē (bo-‘mē)  
mother-in-law, ‘mē-matsale (bo-‘mē-matsale)  

motorcycle, sethuthu (lituthuthu)  

mountain, thaba (lichaba)  

mouse, toeba (litoeba)/tali (litali)  
mouth, molomo (melomo); in the mouth: hanong  
much; too much: haholo; so much!: hakaakang!/hakalekale!/hakalo!  
mug, lebekere (mabekere)  
multiply, ho atisa (atisite)  
music, ‘mino (mebino)  
must; to must (do something): ho tlameha (tlamehile)/ho tšoanela (tšoanetse)  
N  
nail, sepekere (lipekere)  
name, lebitso (mbatso)  
nation, sechaba (lichaba)  
nauyy; naughty child!: ngoana tooe! (bana tooe!)  
need, haufinyane/haufi/pel’a  

need, tlhoko (tlhokile)  

need, ncha (-cha)  

neighbor, moaheisani (baaheisani)  
new, ncha (-cha)  
news, taba (litaba)  
nice, monate  
nicely, hamonate  
night, bosiu (masiu); good-night: fonane  
no, che; e-e  
noise, lerata (marata)  
nonsense; to talk nonsense: ho pota (potile)  
nose, nko (linko)  
nor, eseng  
nothing, letho  
notice, ho elleloa (eleletse)  
November, Phulungoana  

now, joale; right now: hona joale  
number, nomoro (linomoro)/palo (lipalo)  
nurse, mooki (baoki); to nurse a sick person: ho oka (okile)  
O  

objective, sepeho (lipheo)  
October, Mphalane  
office, ofisi (loitisi)  
oil, mafura (no pl.)/oli/fishoil  
old, khoilo (-hilo); to be growing old: ho tsofala (tsotfete)  
once, ha ‘ngoe; at once: hang hang  
onion, hanyane (lihanyane)/eie (lileie)  
open, ho bula (butse); to open mouth: ho ahlama (ahlame)  
opportunity, monyetla (menyetla)  
or, kapa  

orange, lamuni (linamuni)  
organization, mokhalto (mekhalto)  
organize, ho hlophisa (hlophisitsite); ho lokisa (liksitsite)  
orphan, khusana (likhusana)  
outside (outdoors), kante  

overload, ho imela (imsetse)  
ove, ho kolota (kolotile)  

owner; owner of: mong’a (beng ba)  


P  

page, leqephe (mqephe)  
painful, bohloko  
pants, borikhoe (marikhoe)  
paper, pampiri (lipampiri)  
parents, motsoali (batsoali)  
part, ho arohana (arothane)  
partner, molekane (balekane)  
partnership, boikapanyo  
pay, ho patala (patsetsi)/ho lefa (lefile)  
pea, erekisi (lierekisi)  
peace, khotso  

peach, perekipisi (liperekisi)  
pear, mere (lipere)  
peel, ho ebola (ebotse)  
peel, thaba (khele)  

period, lekhetla (makhetlo)  
permission, tumelo  

permit, ho lumella (lumeletse)  
person, motho (batho); young person: moch(achache); old person: leqheku (maphheku)  

petticoat, onnoroko (lionnoroko)  
phone, fono (lifele)  
pick; to pick up: ho thola (thothe); to pick vegetables: ho kha (khele)  

picture, sešoanšo (litsoanši)  

pierce, ho phonu (phunle)  

pig, fariki (lfarikile)/kolobe (likolobe)  

pill, pilisi (lipilisi)  

pillow, mosamoa (mesamoe)  

pimples, lekkopo (makphapo)  

pin; safety pin: lemao (mamao)  
place, ho beha (behile)  
plan, moralo (meralo); ho rera (rerile)
plane, sefofane (lifofane)
plant, setlama-tlama (litlama-tlama); edible plants: limela (no sing.)
plate, poleitii (lipoleitii)
play, ho bapala (bapetse)
plough, ho lema (lemme)
policeman, lepolesa (mapolessa)
poor; poor person: mofutsana (bafutsana)
porridge: soft porridge made from sorghum: lesheleshele (masheleshele); sour porridge made from sorghum: mokopu (mekopu)
post, ho posa (posite); post office: poso (liposo)
pot, pitsa (lipitsa)
potato, tapoli (litapole)
pour, tsela (tsetete); to pour out: ho qhala (qhale)
powerful, matla
pray, ho kapa (rapetse)
prepare oneself: emara (emere)
pull, ho tena (tenete)
protection, ho hula (hutse); protect, ho sirelela (sirelelie)
property, ho sirelela (sirelelie)
project, ho ke re?
profit, ho kapa (rapetse)
problem, ho kapa (rapetse)
product, ho kapa (rapetse)
product, ho kapa (rapetse)
 Protest, ho kapa (rapetse)
quest, ho kapa (rapetse)
quiet, ho thola (thotse)
quietly, butle
quickly, kapele
R
rain, pula (lipula); ho na (nele)
rake, haraka (liharaka)
rank; taxi rank: setopo (litopo)
rake, ho beta (betile)
rat, khele (khetile)
read, ho bala (balile)
really, halite-nile
reason, lebaka (mabaka)
receive, ho amohela (amohetse)
record, reketo (lirekoto)
recover; to recover from illness: ho fola (folile)
red, khubelu (-fubelu)
reduce, ho fokotsa (fokolitse)/ho theola (thotse)
report, tlaheho (tlitse)
reform, ho nchafatsa (nchafalitse)
refuse, ho hana (hannë)
to refuse to give someone something: ho tima (timme)
remain, ho sala (setse)
remember, ho hopotsa (hopolitse)
reminde, ho hopotsa (hopolitse)
remove, ho tlosa (tlositse)
renew, ho nchafatsa (nchafalitse)
rent, ho hira (hirile)
repair, ho lokisa (lokisitse)
repeat, ho pheta (phetile)
reprimand, hlahisoa (lihlahisoa)
respect, ho lema (lemme)
resemble, ho tsoana (tšaana) (no pl.)
respect, ho klopho (klophile)
to respect oneself: ho koata (kotile)
restructure, ho lela (leltse)
return to: ho khalo (khale)
return: ho tima (timme)
return to: ho khutlela (khutletse)
right, ho tena (tenete)
right; ho arola (arotse)
ring, ho tena (tenete)
ring, ho bapala (bapetse)
roll, ho bala (balile)
run, ho bala (balile)
rush, ho bala (balile)
rubbish, lithole (no pl.) (often pronounced “litholee”) run, ho matha (mathile)
sad; to be sad: ho koata (koatilile)
to make sad: ho koatisa (koatisitse)
saline, mafutse (meputse)
saliva, mathe
salt, lesoai (no pl.)
satisfy; to become satisfied: khotsofale (khotsofetse)
saturday, Mqebelo
save, ho boloka (bolokile)
to save money: ho boloka chelete say, ho re (tse)/ho cho (chulo); “it is said”: ho tho
scissors, sekere (likere)
scold, ho omany (omantse)
sea, leaqale (maaqale)
secret, lekunuta (makunuata)
see, ho bona (bone); to see one another: ho bonana (bonane)
seed, peo (lipoe)
seek, ho batla (batile)
sell, ho rekisa (rekitse)
seller, morekisi (barekisi)
send, ho romana (rommetse)
to send back: ho khutlisa (khutlitisitse)
separate, ho arola (arotse)
September, Loetse
set; of the sun: likela (liketse)
sew, ho roka (rokile)
sex, thobalano; to have sex: ho etsa thobalono; to have casual sex: ho feba; sexually transmitted infection: lefu la mafu a liko
shade, moriti (meriti)
shadow, seriti (liriti)
share, ho arota (arote)
sherpa, molisana (balisana)
shine, ho benya (bentse)
shirto, collared shirt: hempe (lhempe)
shoe, seeta (lieta)
shoot, ho thunya (thuntse)
shop, shopo (lishopo)/lebenkele (mabenkele)
short, khothoanyane, (-khothoanyane)
should; to should (do)
something: ho tlameha (tlamehile)/ ho tšoanela (tšoanetse)
shovel, kharafu (likharafu)
show, bontha (bontšitse)
sibling: my sibling: ngoan’e eo (bana b’eso); your sibling:
ngoaneno (bana bino); his/her sibling: ngoan’abo (bana babo);
sibling of the opposite sex: khaitseli (likhaitseli or bo-
sibling: smarts,
solution, tharlolo (litharlolo)
someone, motho
sometimes, ka nako e’ngoe
son, mora (bara)
song, pina (lipina)
soon, haufinyane/haufi
sore, bokholo; seso (liso); to be
sore: ho opa (opile)
sorghum, mabele (no pl.)
sorry; to become sorry: ho
soaba (soabile)
sour, bolina
spade, kharafu (likharafu)
specifically; more specifically:
hantle-ntle
sperm, lipo e sa ntate
spider, seko (likho)
spirit, moea (meea)
spirit, ho tšoela (tšoetse) mathe
spoil, ho senyana (sentse); to be
spoiled: ho senyeha (senyehile);
to be spoiled (when referring to
a child): ho tefo (tefile)
spoon, ho kla (likha)
spring (of water): seliba/maliba
squash, mokopu (mekopu)
stab, ho hla (hlabile)
stamp, setempe (litempe)
stand, ho ema (eme)
star, nleli (linaleli)
status, boemo
stay, ho sala (setse)/ho lula
(lutse)
steal, ho utsoa (utsoitse)
stick, thupa (lithupa);
large stick
carried by men: molamu
(melamu)
strong, thata
stir, ho fuluha (fuluhile);
to stir
papa: ho soka (sokile)
stockings, kausi (likausi)
stomach, mpa (limpa)
stone, lejoe (majoe)
stop, ho ema (eme)/ho thiba
(thibile); to cause to stop:
ho emisa (emisite)
storm, sefo (lifefo)
street, sefera (literata)
strong, matla
stupid, setheto
subject, taba (litaba)/thuto
(lithuto)
subtract, ho tlosa (litosite)
succeed, ho athena (atlehile);
ho hlhalama (hlhalamile)/ho latela
(latsete)
suddenly, hang hang
suffer (esp. due to poverty): ho
sokola (sokotse)/ho sotela
(sotlehile)
sugar, tsoekere (no pl.)
suicide; to commit suicide: ho
ipoloea (ipolaile)
summer, lehlabula/lhlabula
sun, lesatsi (matatsi)
Sunday, bono
supervisor, moomakemi
(baomakemi)
surprised; to be surprised: ho
makala (maketse)
swear; “I swear!”: sefapano!
sweat, ho fufuleloa (fufuletse)
sweater, jesi (lijesi)
sweet, tsoekere
swell, ho rurua (ruruhile)
syphilis, mokaola
symptom, letšoao (matšoao)
T
table, tafole (litafole)
take, ho nka (nkile); to take out:
ho niša (nisite);
to take to: ho
isa (isite);
to take down/to take
off: ho rola (roise);
to take off
(clothing): ho hlobola
(hlobote);
to take up: ho kuka
(kukile);
to help to take up: ho
kukisa (kukisite);
to take away:
ho tlosa (tlosite)
tall, telele (-telele)
tap; water tap:
pompo
(lipompo)
taste, ho utloa (utoile)
tax, khafa: ho khafo (khafile);
sales-tax: lekhetho la thekiso
taxi, teki (litechesi)
tea, tee (no pl.)
teach, ho ruta (rutile);
to teach
one another: ho rutana (rutane)
teacher, tichere
(litechere/matchere)
tear, ho tabola (tabotse)
tell, ho joetsa (joetsite)/
ho bolela (boleletse);
to tell to: ho
bolela (boleletse)
temper; short-tempered: bohale
tender, bonolo
thank, ho leboha (lebohile);
thank you: kea leboha/tanki
that, hore
then, ebe, ebile; and then (often
used when telling stories): eaba
there, kosana/moo; right there:
hona moo; over there: mane
therefore, kahoo
woman, mosali (basali); woman who has just had baby: motsoetse (batsoetse)
wool, boea (no pl.)
work, mosebetsi (mesebetsi); ho sebetsa (sebelitse); to work for: ho sebeletsa (sebelelitse); to get off work: ho chaisa (chaisitse);
to not work properly: ho hana (hanne)
world, lefatše (mafatše)
worm, seboko (liboko)
worry, ho khathatseha (khathatsehile)/ho touta (toutile)
wound, leqeba (maqeba)
write, ho ngola (ngoite); to write to/for: ho ngolla (ngoiletse)
wrong, to be wrong: ho fosa (fositse); to become wrong: ho fosahala (fosahetse)
year, selemo (lilemo); next year: selemo se tlang; last year: selemo se fetileng
yellow, tšehla (-sehla)
yes, e
yesterday, maobane; the day before yesterday: maoba
young, nyane (-nyane)/nyenyane (-nyenyane)