

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-Fonya for taking the time to explain so, so many things to me.

Best of luck,

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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), *tsamaea* (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: *moreneng* (the chief's place), *tsamaeang!* (walk! pl.), *ntoeng* (in/to war), *lumelang* (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
è as in “there” (the mouth is more widely opened than for ē)	ho èma, to stand
i as e in “even”	ho tlisa, to bring
ō as in “boo” (closed sound)	bōsiu, night
ò as in “ought” (open sound)	ho bona, to see
u as “cool”	ho bula, 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 ea ka** (pronounced **nku ya ka**), my sheep; **eona** (**yona**), it.

3. Single Consonants

l before i or u is pronounced as a d (although before a, e and o , l is pronounced as in English)	lumela (pronounced dumela), hello lifate (pronounced difate), trees ho lata, to fetch
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 , <i>to slaughter</i>
kh – no English equivalent	khomo , <i>cow</i>
ny – like ni in “onion”	ho nyala , <i>to marry</i>
ph – aspirated ² p , as in “pair”	ho pheha , <i>to cook</i>
qh – aspirated q (click); click is followed by k sound	le qheku , <i>old person</i>
th – aspirated t , as in “tell”	thaba , <i>mountain</i>
tj – like English ch	tjena , <i>like this</i>
tl – t and l sounded simultaneously in the back of mouth	ho tlama , <i>to tie</i>
tš – aspirated ts	ho tšaba , <i>to fear</i>
tlh – an aspirated tl	tlhompho , <i>respect</i>

Double m and n are written **mm** or **nn** in the middle of a word and both are sounded. For example: **monna**, *man*; **hammoho**, *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

Singular		Plural	
ke	<i>I</i>	re	<i>we</i>
u³	<i>you</i>	le	<i>you all</i>
o/ke	<i>he or she</i>	ba/ke	<i>they</i>

For example:

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

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

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

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

2. Substantive Pronouns⁴

Singular		Plural	
'na	<i>I, me</i>	rona	<i>we, us</i>
uena	<i>you</i>	lona	<i>you all</i>
eena	<i>he/she/him/her/it</i>	bona	<i>they, them</i>

For example:

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

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:

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

General Informal Greeting:

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

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?)	<i>How are you?</i>
Mpho:	Ke teng. (or Re teng.)	<i>I am fine.</i>

Very Informal Greeting:

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

In the morning:

Lira and Mpho:	Lumela ausi.	<i>Hello sister</i> (used to address any non-married female and/or young girl).
Lineo:	Lumelang ⁶ bo-abuti.	<i>Hello brothers.</i>
Lira and Mpho:	U robetse joang?	<i>How did you sleep?</i>
Lineo:	Ke robetse hantle.	<i>I slept well.</i>
	Lona, le robetse joang?	<i>You (plural), how did you all sleep?</i>
Lira and Mpho:	Re robetse hantle.	<i>We slept well.</i>

OR

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

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**⁷), *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**⁸), *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 leboha or **tanki**, *thank you* (**ho leboha** (**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*

kae? or **hokae?**, *where*

joang?, *how?*

mang? (**bo-mang?**), *who?*

eseng, *not* (**eseng uena**, *not you*)

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 tsohile joang?
7. Ho joang?

LESSON 3

INTRODUCTIONS

1. What is your name?

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

Sample dialogue:

Lebohang:	Lumela ausi.	<i>Hello sister.</i>
Maki:	Lumela abuti.	<i>Hello brother.</i>
Lebohang:	Lebitso la hao u mang?	<i>What is your name?</i>
Maki:	Ke Maki. Uena, u mang?	<i>I am Maki. You, who are you?</i>
Lebohang:	'Na, ke Lebohang.	<i>Me, I am Lebohang.</i>

2. Where are you from (ie your country of origin)?

Haeso ke California.	<i>I am from California.</i>
Haeno ke Maseru.	<i>You are from Maseru.</i>
Hahabo ke New York.	<i>He/She is from New York.</i>
Hahabo Refiloe ke Morija.	<i>Refiloe is from Morija.</i>
Hahabo rona ke Amerika.	<i>We are from America.</i>
Hahabo lona ke Lesotho.	<i>You all are from Lesotho.</i>
Hahabo bona ke South Afrika.	<i>They are from South Africa.</i>
Haeno ke kae?	<i>Where are you from?</i>
Haeso ke Leribe.	<i>I am from Leribe.</i>
Haeso ke kae?	<i>Where am I from?</i>
Haeno ke Chicago.	<i>You are from Chicago.</i>
Hahabo Thabo ke kae?	<i>Where is Thabo from?</i>
Hahabo ke Quthing.	<i>Thabo is from Quthing.</i>
Hahabo lona ke hokae?	<i>Where are you all from?</i>
Hahabo rona ke Amerika.	<i>We are all from America.</i>
Hahabo bona ke hokae?	<i>Where are they from?</i>
Hahabo bona ke Zambia.	<i>They are from Zambia.</i>
Fane ea hao ke mang?	<i>What is your surname?</i>
Fane ea ka ke Mopeli.	<i>My surname is Mopeli.</i>

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

U lula kae?	<i>Where do you stay?</i>
Ke lula Maseru.	<i>I stay in Maseru.</i>
U lula le mang?	<i>Who do you stay with?</i>
Ke lula le 'Mè Mathabo.	<i>I stay with 'Mè Mathabo.</i>

Vocabulary—Lesson 3

lebitso (mabitso) , <i>name</i>	kharebe (likharebe) , <i>girlfriend</i>
haeso , <i>my place of origin</i>	mohlankana (bahlankana) , <i>boyfriend</i>
haeno , <i>your place of origin</i>	moahisani (baahisani) , <i>neighbor</i>
heso , <i>my home/my parent's home</i>	thaka (lithaka) , <i>peer (of same age)</i>
heno , <i>your home/your parent's home</i>	mocha (bacha) , <i>young person</i>
hahabo , <i>his/her place of origin</i>	
hahabo rona , <i>our place of origin</i>	
hahabo lona , <i>your (plural) place of origin</i>	
hahabo bona , <i>their place of origin</i>	
khaitsetli (likhaitsetli or bo-khaitsetli) <i>sibling of the opposite sex</i>	
ngoan'eso (bana b'eso) , <i>my sibling</i>	
ngoan'eno (bana beno) , <i>your sibling</i>	
ngoan'abo (bana babo) , <i>his/her sibling</i>	
ngoan'abo rona (bana babo rona) , <i>our sibling</i>	
ngoan'abo lona (bana babo lona) , <i>your (plural) sibling</i>	
ngoan'abo bona (bana babo bona) , <i>their sibling</i>	
le , <i>and/with</i>	
nkhono (bo-nkhono) , <i>grandmother</i>	
ntate-moholo (bo-ntate-moholo) , <i>grandfather</i>	
morena (marena) , <i>chief</i>	
motho (batho) , <i>person/someone (ke bua le motho, I am speaking to someone)</i>	
ngoana (bana) , <i>child</i>	
ngoanana (banana) , <i>girl</i>	
moshanyana (bashanyana) or moshemane (bashemane) , <i>boy</i>	
mosali (basali) , <i>woman/wife</i>	
monna (banna) , <i>man/husband</i>	
motsoali (batsoali) , <i>parents</i>	
moralali (barali) , <i>daughter</i>	
mora (bara) , <i>son</i>	
mokhotsi (bakhotsi) or motsoalle (metsoalle) , <i>friend</i>	

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.

1. <u>Infinitive</u>	2. <u>Command (Singular)</u>	3. <u>Command (Plural)</u>
ho nka , <i>to take</i>	nka! , <i>take!</i>	nkang! , <i>take!</i>
ho bua , <i>to speak</i>	bua! , <i>speak!</i>	buang! , <i>speak!</i>
ho mamela , <i>to listen</i>	mamela! , <i>listen!</i>	mamelang! , <i>listen!</i>

Exception:

ho tla , <i>to come</i>	tlo! , <i>come here!</i>	tlong! , <i>come here!</i>
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There is no word for **a** or **the** in Sesotho. It is simply omitted.
For example:

Nka bohobe!	<i>Take (the) bread!</i>
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4. Short Present Tense

ke rata	<i>I like</i>
u rata	<i>you like</i>
o rata	<i>he/she likes</i>
re rata	<i>we like</i>
le rata	<i>you all like</i>
ba rata	<i>they like</i>

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

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

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?	<i>Do you like to sing?</i>
U rata ho bina na ?	<i>Do you like to sing?</i>

But not always:

U ea kae?	<i>Where are you going?</i>
Ke ea Maseru.	<i>I am going to Maseru.</i>
U tsoa kae?	<i>Where are you coming from?</i>
Ke tsoa Roma.	<i>I am coming from Roma.</i>

When asking a question that ends with **eng?** (*what?*), **eng** is often shortened to **'ng**.
For example:

Na u batla eng?	<i>What do you want?</i>
Na u batla'ng?	<i>What do you want?</i>
O re eng? ⁹	<i>What are you saying?</i>
O re'ng?	<i>What are you saying?</i>

5. Long Present Tense

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

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

Kea bona.	<i>I see.</i>
Ua utloa?	<i>You hear?</i>

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

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

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

Exercises—Lesson 4

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

For example: **Ke batla metsi.** U batla metsi. O batla metsi. Re batla metsi. Le batla metsi. Ba batla metsi.

- 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) __ tliša 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.

ha ke rate	<i>I do not like</i>
ha u rate	<i>you do not like</i>
ha a rate	<i>he/she does not like</i>
ha re rate	<i>we do not like</i>
ha le rate	<i>you all do not like</i>
ha ba rate	<i>they do not like</i>

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?	<i>Why are you talking so much?</i>
Ha u bue ke eng?	<i>Why aren't you talking?</i>

2. Negative Commands

Informal Singular:

u se ke ua tla! (often pronounced s'k'a tla!) ¹⁰	<i>Do not come!</i>
u se ke ua nka bohobe! (s'k'a nka bohobe!)	<i>Do not take (the) bread!</i>

Informal Plural:

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

Formal Singular:

Se tsube.	<i>Please do not smoke.</i>
Se bue.	<i>Please do not speak.</i>

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 (pehile), *to cook*

ho sebetsa (sebelitse), *to work*

mosebetsi (mesebetsi), *work/job*

ho khutla (khutlile), *to return*

ho sheba (shebile), *to look at*

utloisisa (utloisisitse), *to understand*

eng?, *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*

tlhapi (litlhapi), *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*)

tholoana (litholoana), *fruit*

poone (lipoone), *corn*

hanyanese (lihanyanese) or **eiee (lieiee)**,

onion

tapole (litapole), *potato*

sehoete (lihoete), *carrot*

naoa (linaoa), *beans*

erekisi (lierekisi), *pea*

tamati (litamati), *tomato*

mokopu (mekopu), *pumpkin/squash*

perekisi (liperekisi), *peach*

apole (liapole), *apple*

lamuni (lilamuni), *orange*

pere (lipere), *pear*

morara (merara), *grape*

pompong (lipompong), *candy*

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 kante!
 - 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:

Singular		Plural	
1. motho	<i>person</i>	batho	<i>people</i>
2. motse	<i>village</i>	metse	<i>villages</i>
3. letsatsi	<i>sun, day</i>	matsatsi	<i>days</i>
4. sefate	<i>tree</i>	lifate	<i>trees</i>
5. ntja (no prefix)	<i>dog</i>	lintja	<i>dogs</i>
6. borikhoe	<i>pants (1 pair)</i>	marikhoe	<i>pants</i>

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	<i>child</i>	bana	<i>children</i>
ngoanana	<i>girl</i>	banana	<i>girls</i>
ntate	<i>father</i>	bo-ntate	<i>fathers</i>
'mè	<i>mother</i>	bo-'mè	<i>mothers</i>
morena	<i>chief</i>	marena	<i>chiefs</i>

Irregular Class 5 nouns:

ntlo	<i>house</i>	matlo	<i>houses</i>
tichere	<i>teacher</i>	litichere	<i>teachers</i>
		or matichere	

2. Pronouns

Each class of noun has its own pronoun:

Singular		Plural	
<u>Noun</u>	<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Noun</u>	<u>Pronoun</u>
1. motho	o	batho	ba
2. motse	o	metse	e
3. letsatsi	le	matsatsi	a
4. sefate	se	lifate	li
5. ntja (no prefix)	e	lintja	li
6. borikhoe	bo	marikhoe	a

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	<i>the person teaches children</i>
mollo o chesa patsi	<i>the fire burns the firewood</i>
letsatsi le chaba butle	<i>the sun rises slowly</i>
sefate se mela kapele	<i>the tree grows quickly</i>
ntja e ja nama	<i>the dog eats meat</i>
borikho bo futhumatsa ngoana	<i>the pants warm the child</i>

Plural

batho ba ruta bana	<i>the people teach the children</i>
mello e chesa patsi	<i>the fires burn the firewood</i>
matsatsi a feta kapele	<i>the days pass quickly</i>
lifate li mela kapele	<i>the trees grow quickly</i>
lintja li ja nama	<i>the dog eats meat</i>
marikho a futhumatsa bana	<i>the pants warm the children</i>

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>I am coming</i>
---------	--------------------

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

Singular

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

Plural

batho ba tla	<i>people are coming</i>
mello ea chesa	<i>the fires burn</i>
matsatsi a feta	<i>the days pass</i>
lifate lia mela	<i>the trees grow</i>
lintja lia loma	<i>the dogs bite</i>
masiu a tla	<i>nights are coming</i>

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) **lia** loma *they bite*
 li loma batho *they bite people*

(speaking of monna, man) **oa** fihla *he arrives*
 o fihla Maseru *he arrives in Maseru*

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?	<i>How is it?(Lit: It is how?)</i>
Ho sharp	<i>It's fine</i>
Hoata	<i>It is cold</i> (note the long form, hoata , is used in this case because nothing follows the verb)
Hoata chesa	<i>It is hot</i>
Ho ¹¹ lekane	<i>It is enough</i> (or <i>that is enough</i>)
Ho lokile	<i>It is all right</i>
Ho monate	<i>It is nice</i>
Ho thata ho jaefa	<i>It is difficult to dance</i>

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

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.
- c. Ntja _____ noa metsi.
- d. Lintja _____ ja nama.
- e. Pula _____ na.
- f. Mollo _____ chesa patsi.

4. Complete the following table:

<u>Singular of Noun</u>	<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Plural of Noun</u>	<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Long Pronoun (sing. and pl.)</u>
ntja	e	lintja	li	ea, lia
motse				
khoeli				
ntlo				
moshanyana				
naleli				
'mè				
sefefe				
leru				

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>I (am a) doctor</i>
U botsoa	<i>You (are) lazy</i>
Re baithaopi	<i>We (are) volunteers</i>

Negative:

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

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

For example:

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

Negative:

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

2. To have (ho ba le)

Present Tense:

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

Negative Present:

ha ke na	<i>I do not have</i>
ha u na	<i>you do not have</i>
ha a na	<i>he/she does not have</i>
ha re na	<i>we do not have</i>
ha le na	<i>you all do not have</i>
ha ba na	<i>they do not have</i>

3. To say (ho re)

Present Tense:

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

Negative Present:

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

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>I say so (or that is what I'm saying)</i>
u cho joalo	<i>you say so</i>
o cho joalo	<i>he/she says so</i>
re cho joalo	<i>we say so</i>
le cho joalo	<i>you all say so</i>
ba cho joalo	<i>they say so</i>

Vocabulary—Lesson 7

phoofolo (liphoofolo) , <i>animal</i>	ho ba le (bile le) , <i>to have</i>
lelinyane (malinyane) , <i>young of an animal</i>	ho cho (chulo) , <i>to say</i>
khomo (likhomo) , <i>cow (likhomo tseo, traditional Basotho greeting)</i>	ho reka (rekile) , <i>to buy</i>
namane (manamane) , <i>calf (le manamane a tsona, response to above greeting)</i>	ho rekisa (rekisitse) , <i>to sell</i>
poli (lipoli) , <i>goat</i>	ho patala (patetse) or ho lefa (lefile) , <i>to pay</i>
nku (linku) , <i>sheep</i>	ho hira (hirile) , <i>to hire/to rent</i>
konyana (likonyana) , <i>lamb/ kindergartner (likonyaneng, kindergarten)</i>	ho lapa (lapile) , <i>to be hungry (ke lapile, I am hungry)</i>
pèrè (lipèrè) , <i>horse</i>	ho nyoroa (nyoriloe/nyoruoe) , <i>to become thirsty (ke nyoruoe, I'm thirsty)</i>
tonki (litonki) , <i>donkey</i>	Ke bokae? , <i>How much does it cost?</i>
fariki (lifariki) or kolobe (likolobe) , <i>pig</i>	poreisi (liporeisi) or theko (litheko) , <i>price</i>
khoho (likhoho) , <i>chicken</i>	chelete (lichelete) , <i>money</i>
katse (likatse) , <i>cat</i>	chenche (no pl.) , <i>change (ke kopa chenche, I would like my change)</i>
nonyana (linonyana) , <i>bird</i>	botsoa , <i>lazy</i>
toeba (litoeba) or tali (litali) , <i>mouse</i>	moithaopi (baithaopi) , <i>volunteer</i>
khoto (likhoto) , <i>rat</i>	moruti (baruti) , <i>minister</i>
seboko (liboko) , <i>worm</i>	Lechina (Machina) , <i>person from China</i>
kokoanyana (likokoanyana) , <i>insect</i>	mookameli (baokameli) , <i>boss/supervisor</i>
ntsintsi (lintsintsi) , <i>fly</i>	mong'a (beng ba) , <i>owner of/boss of (mong'a shopo, the owner of the shop)</i>
monoang (menoang) , <i>mosquito</i>	(mong'a ka, my boss)
sekho (likho) , <i>spider</i>	molimo (melimo) , <i>god</i>
koena (likoena) , <i>crocodile (also, slang for prostitute)</i>	balimo (no singular) , <i>ancestors</i>
lesaka (masaka) , <i>corral</i>	
ho ba (bile) , <i>to be</i>	

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.

- Ke ngaka? (ie Is he/she a doctor?)
- U moruti?
- Ba baithaopi?
- Le lingaka?

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

- Ba re ba batla chelete.
- Ke re kea u rata.
- 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?	<i>how many people?</i>
2. metse e mekae?	<i>how many villages?</i>
3. matsatsi a makae?	<i>how many days?</i>
4. lifate tse kae?	<i>how many trees?</i>
5. linku tse kae?	<i>how many sheep?</i>
6. masiu a makae?	<i>how many nights?</i>

2. One - 'Ngoe

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

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

The plural of **'ngoe** means **some/other**:

1. batho ba bang	<i>some people/other people</i>
2. metse e meng	<i>some villages/other villages</i>
3. matsatsi a mang	<i>some days/other days</i>
4. lifate tse ling	<i>some trees/other trees</i>
5. linku tse ling	<i>some sheep/other sheep</i>
6. masiu a mang	<i>some nights/other nights</i>

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.¹²
Three teachers have arrived. I am waiting for others.

Every is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. motho e mong le e mong | <i>every person</i> |
| 2. motse o mong le o mong | <i>every village</i> |
| 3. letsatsi le leng le le leng | <i>every day</i> |
| 4. sefate se seng le se seng | <i>every tree</i> |
| 5. nku e 'ngoe le e 'ngoe | <i>every sheep</i> |
| 6. bosiu bo bong le bo bong | <i>every night</i> |

OR

The suffix **-ohle**, meaning **all**, can be used:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. batho bohle | <i>all people</i> |
| 2. motse oohle/metse eohle | <i>all villages</i> |
| 3. letsatsi lohle/matsatsi 'ohle | <i>all days</i> |
| 4. sefate sohle/lifate tsohle | <i>all trees</i> |
| 5. nku eohle/linku tsohle | <i>all sheep</i> |
| 6. bosiu bohle/masiu 'ohle | <i>all nights</i> |

The first is as follows:

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

3. Two – Five

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

¹² In this example, the verbs take the perfect tense, which will be covered in Lesson 22.

<u>2nd</u>	<u>3th</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>
1. motho oa bobeli	oa boraro	oa bone	oa bohlanano
2. motse oa bobeli	oa boraro	oa bone	oa bohlanano
3. letsatsi la bobeli	la boraro	la bone	la bohlanano ¹³
4. sefate sa bobeli	sa boraro	sa bone	sa bohlanano
5. nku ea bobeli	ea boraro	ea bone	ea bohlanano
6. bosiu ba bobeli	ba boraro	ba bone	ba bohlanano

4. Six – Ten

6 – tšelela
7 – supa
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: **tšelela** becomes **tšelelseng**, and **supa** becomes **supileng**.

For example:

batho ba tšelelseng	<i>6 people</i>
metse e supileng	<i>7 villages</i>
matsatsi a robeli	<i>8 days</i>
lifate tse robong	<i>9 trees</i>
linku tse leshome	<i>10 sheep</i>
masiu a leshome	<i>10 nights</i>

<u>6nd</u>	<u>7th</u>	<u>8th</u>	<u>9th</u>	<u>10th</u>
1. oa botšelela	oa bosupa	oa borobeli	oa borobong	oa leshome
2. oa botšelela	oa bosupa	oa borobeli	oa borobong	oa leshome
3. la botšelela	la bosupa	la borobeli	la borobong	la leshome
4. sa botšelela	sa bosupa	sa borobeli	sa borobong	sa leshome
5. ea botšelela	ea bosupa	ea borobeli	ea borobong	ea leshome
6. ba botšelela	ba bosupa	ba borobeli	ba borobong	ba leshome

How many times? Hakaē?

ha 'ngoe	<i>once</i>	hatšelela	<i>six times</i>
habeli	<i>twice</i>	hasupa	<i>seven times</i>
hararo	<i>three times</i>	harobeli	<i>eight times</i>
hane	<i>four times</i>	harobong	<i>nine times</i>
hahlano	<i>five times</i>	haleshome	<i>ten times</i>
hangata	<i>often</i>		

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*

motšea, *midday*

mantsiboea, *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*

Phato, *August*

Loetse, *September*

Mphalane, *October*

Phulungoana, *November*

Tšitoe, *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 tšeleletseng*

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. sekho
- b. lelinyane
- c. poli
- d. mokhotsi
- e. bosiu
- f. mosebetsi

2. Complete the following table:

2	3	4	5	6
basali ba babeli	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	merara e mebeli	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	mahe a mane	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	lihoete tse 'ne	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	malinyane a mahlano

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.	<i>There is water.</i>
Nthati o kae?	<i>Where is Nthati?</i>
Nthati o teng.	<i>Nthati is present.</i>

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

Ho na le metsi.	<i>There is water.</i>
Ho na le lijo.	<i>There is food.</i>

2. There is none:

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

Ha ho na metsi.	<i>There is no water.</i>
Ha ho na batho.	<i>There are no people.</i>

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

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

Method 3: A third way to say something/someone is absent is to use **sieo**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 sieo hosasa. ¹⁵	<i>I will be absent tomorrow.</i>
Ba ne ba le sieo maobane. ¹⁶	<i>They were absent yesterday.</i>

¹⁴ Basotho often use **siko** in place of sieo, 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.), <i>clothing</i>	sekepe (likepe) , <i>boat</i>
phahlo (liphahlo) , <i>clothing/luggage/goods</i> <i>shoe</i>	katiba (likatiba) , <i>hat seeta (lieta)</i> , tuku (lituku) , <i>headscarf</i>
kausi (likausi) , <i>sock/stockings</i>	mose (mese) , <i>dress/skirt</i>
sekipa (likipa) , <i>t-shirt</i>	kobo (likobo) , <i>blanket</i>
jesi (lijesi) , <i>sweater</i>	lebanta (mabanta) , <i>belt</i>
hempe (lihemphe) , <i>collared shirt</i>	motlakase (no pl.), <i>electricity</i>
baki (libaki) , <i>suit jacket</i>	
lumber (lilumber) , <i>winter jacket</i>	
tjale (litjale) , <i>checkered blanket/lightweight blanket</i>	
seshoeshoe (lishoeshoe) , <i>traditional Basotho cloth or dress</i>	
onnoroko (lionnoroko) , <i>slip/petticoat</i>	
ho thusa (thusitse) , <i>to help (ha ho na thuso, it's useless)</i>	
ho bapala (bapetse) , <i>to play</i>	
ho kopana (kopane) or teana (teane) , <i>to meet/to come together</i>	
ho khanna (khanne) , <i>to drive</i>	
ho lisa (lisitse) , <i>to herd/to take to graze</i>	
ho oela (oetse) , <i>to fall</i>	
ho bula (butse) , <i>to open</i>	
ho koala (koetse) , <i>to close</i>	
ho pata (patile) , <i>to hide/to conceal</i>	
ho shoa (shoele) , <i>to die (used mostly for animals and plants)</i>	
ho hlokahala (hlokahetse) , <i>to die (used for people)/to be needed</i>	
ho palama (palame) , <i>to ride</i>	
ho theoha (theohile) , <i>to go down/to get off</i>	
koloi (makoloi or likoloi) , <i>car</i>	
tekesi (litekesi) , <i>taxi</i>	
bese (libese) , <i>bus</i>	
sethuthuthu (lithuthuthu) , <i>motorcycle</i>	
beisekele (libeisekele) , <i>bicycle</i>	
sefofane (lifofane) , <i>plane</i>	

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>I can speak</i>
u ka bona	<i>you can see</i>
o ka bapala	<i>he/she can play</i>
re ka reka lijo	<i>we can buy food</i>
le ka tsamaea	<i>you all can leave</i>
ba ka khanna	<i>they can drive</i>

The pronoun varies according to noun class, for example:

ntja e ka shoa	<i>the dog may die (lit: the dog can die)</i>
mahe a ka oela	<i>the eggs may fall (lit: the eggs can fall)</i>

2. To express inability

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

For example:	Ke sitoa ho ea.	<i>I am unable to go.</i>
	Re sitoa ho kopana le uena.	<i>We are unable to meet with you.</i>

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

For example:	Ha ke khone ho ea.	<i>I am unable to go.</i>
	Ha re khone ho kopana le uena.	<i>We are unable to meet with you.</i>

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

Ke tla khona ho ea. ¹⁷	<i>I will be able to go.</i>
Ke tla sitoa ho ea.	<i>I will be unable to go.</i>

17 The future tense is covered in the next lesson.

Vocabulary—Lesson 10

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

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 lisa 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 tla¹⁸ rata	<i>I will like</i>
u tla rata	<i>you will like</i>
o tla rata	<i>he/she will like</i>
re tla rata	<i>we will like</i>
le tla rata	<i>you all will like</i>
ba tla rata	<i>they will like</i>

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

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

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

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

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

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

When there is an **object pronoun¹⁹**, it is placed **between tla and the main verb**.
For example:

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

¹⁸ Sometimes Basotho replace this tla with **tl'o**. In general, the meaning does not change.

¹⁹ Object pronouns will be covered in Lesson 20.

2. Future Continuous Tense

ke tla be ke pheha	<i>I will be cooking</i>
u tla be u pheha	<i>you will be cooking</i>
o tla be a pheha	<i>he/she will be cooking</i>
re tla be re pheha	<i>we will be cooking</i>
le tla be le pheha	<i>you all will be cooking</i>
ba tla be ba pheha	<i>they will be cooking</i>

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

ke tla be ke le	<i>I will be being</i>
ke tla be ke na le	<i>I will be having</i>

For example:

Selemong se tlang²⁰ 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

ke tla be ke sa phehe	<i>I will not be cooking</i>
u tla be u sa phehe	<i>you will not be cooking</i>
o tla be a sa phehe	<i>he/she will not be cooking</i>
re tla be re sa phehe	<i>we will be not cooking</i>
le tla be le sa phehe	<i>you all will not be cooking</i>
ba tla be ba sa phehe	<i>they will not be cooking</i>

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

ke tla be ke se	<i>I will not be being</i>
ke tla be ke se na	<i>I will not be having</i>

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

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

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

ha ke tl'o rata	<i>I will not like</i>
ha u tl'o rata	<i>you will not like</i>
ha a tl'o rata	<i>he/she will not like</i>
ha re tl'o rata	<i>we will not like</i>
ha le tl'o rata	<i>you all will not like</i>
ha ba tl'o rata	<i>they will not like</i>

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

ha ke tl'o ba	<i>I will not be</i>
ha ke tl'o ba le	<i>I will not have</i>
ha ke tl'o re	<i>I will not say</i>

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

nke ke ka rata	<i>I will not like</i>
u ke ke ua rata	<i>you will not like</i>
a ke ke a rata	<i>he/she will not like</i>
re ke ke ra rata	<i>we will not like</i>
le ke ke la rata	<i>you all will not like</i>
ba ke ke ba rata	<i>they will not like</i>

Vocabulary—Lesson 12

hlama (no pl.), <i>dough</i>	ho alola (alotse), <i>to make (a bed)</i>
sesepa (lisepa), <i>soap</i>	
sekafutini (likafutini), <i>tupperware</i>	
pompo (lipompo), <i>pump/water tap</i>	
patsi (no pl.), <i>firewood</i>	
koae , <i>tobacco</i>	
matekoane or dagga , <i>marijuana</i>	
mosi (mesi), <i>smoke</i>	
joala (majoala), <i>beer</i> (joala ba basotho , <i>traditional beer</i>)	
lijelello , <i>any food that accompanies the starch in a meal (ie meat, vegetables, beans etc..)</i>	
ho soka (sokile), <i>to stir (specifically papa)</i>	
ho tsoaka (tsoakile), <i>to mix</i>	
ho fuluha (fuluhile), <i>to stir</i>	
ho luba (lubile), <i>to knead (bread)</i> (oa nluba! , <i>you're mixing me up!</i>)	
ho khabela (khabetse), <i>to cut/to chop (especially vegetables and meat)</i>	
ho ebola (ebotse), <i>to peel</i>	
ho tšèla (tšètse), <i>to pour</i>	
ho kha (khele), <i>to fetch water from tap or well/to pick vegetables</i>	
ho qhala (qhalile), <i>to pour out/to throw out</i>	
ho butsoa (butsoitse), <i>to be cooked/to be ripe</i> (papa e butsoitse , <i>the papa is done</i>)	
ho besa (besitse), <i>to light a fire/to roast</i>	
ho halika (halikile), <i>to fry</i>	
ho tsuba (tsubile), <i>to smoke</i>	
ho ritela (ritetse), <i>to brew (beer)</i>	
ho ngoathela (ngoathetse), <i>to give food to</i>	
ho fepa (fepile), <i>to feed</i>	
ho tima (timme), <i>to refuse to give someone something/to put out/to extinguish</i>	
ho khantsa (khantsitse), <i>to light/to turn on</i>	
ho hlatsoa (hlatsoitse), <i>to wash</i>	
ho hlapa (hlapile), <i>to bathe</i> (ho hlapa matsoho , <i>to wash one's hands</i>)	
ho hloeka (hloekile), <i>to become clean</i> (e hloekile , <i>it is clean</i>)	

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

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:

(1)	(2)	(3)	
ha ke na pheha	ha ke no pheha	ha ke e'o pheha	<i>I am not going to cook</i>
ha u na pheha	ha u no pheha	ha u e'o pheha	<i>you are not going to cook</i>
ha a na pheha	ha a no pheha	ha a e'o pheha	<i>he/she is not going to cook</i>
ha re na pheha	ha re no pheha	ha re e'o pheha	<i>we are not going to cook</i>
ha le na pheha	ha le no pheha	ha le e'o pheha	<i>you all are not going to cook</i>
ha ba na pheha	ha ba no pheha	ha ba e'o pheha	<i>they are not going to cook</i>

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.

Vocabulary—Lesson 13

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 (koatisitse), *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 thoe 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 thoe 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:

tafole	<i>table</i>	tafoleng	<i>on the table</i>
	Beha tsoekere tafoleng!		<i>Put the sugar on the table!</i>
<hr/>			
jarete	<i>garden</i>	jareteng	<i>in the garden</i>
	Ke jareteng.		<i>I am in the garden.</i>
<hr/>			
kereke	<i>church</i>	kerekeng	<i>at/to/from church</i>
	Ke tsoa kerekeng.		<i>I am coming from church.</i>
<hr/>			
ofisi	<i>office</i>	ofising	<i>at/to/from the office</i>
	Ke ea ofising.		<i>I am going to the office.</i>

Exceptions:

ntlo	<i>house</i>	ka tlung	<i>in the house</i>
	Ke kena ka tlung.		<i>I am going in the house.</i>
<hr/>			
lelapa	<i>home</i>	lapeng	<i>at home or to/from home</i>
	Ke ea lapeng.		<i>I am going to my home.</i>

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>I am going to ausi Palesi.</i>
Ke tsoa ho ntate Mpho.	<i>I come from Ntate Mpho.</i>
O tsoa ha 'Mè Malineo.	<i>She is coming from the place of 'Mè Malineo.</i>

3. Names of places or countries do not require any preposition. For example:

Ke ea Qacha's Nek.	<i>I am going to Qacha's Nek.</i>
Ba tsoa Angola.	<i>I am coming from Angola.</i>

Vocabulary—Lesson 14

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

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.
Batho **ka** koloing...
Ke ja **ka** khaba.
Ke utloile **ka** Teboho.

*We are talking **about** HIV/AIDS.
The people **in** the car...
I am eating **with** a spoon.
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.*

feela, *however, but*

Ke rata ho ja mahe **feela** 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*

hammoho 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	<i>the wife of Thabo, Thabo's wife</i>
motse oa morena	<i>the village of the chief, the chief's village</i>
letsatsi la tsoalo	<i>the day of birth, the birthday</i>
sefate sa liperekisi	<i>the peach tree</i>
nku ea molisana	<i>the sheep of the herdboy, the herdboy's sheep</i>
bohobe ba bana	<i>the bread of the children, the children's bread</i>

	Plural
basali ba Thabo	<i>the wives of Thabo, Thabo's wives</i>
metse ea morena	<i>the villages of the chief, the chief's villages</i>
matsatsi a beke	<i>the days of the week</i>
lifate tša liperekisi	<i>the peach trees</i>
linku tša molisana	<i>the sheep of the herdboy, the herdboy's sheep</i>
mahobe a bana	<i>the loaves of the children, the children's loaves</i>

2. Possessive Pronouns

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

Note: These pronouns are also used as follows:

ha ka	<i>my place/my house</i>
ha hao	<i>your place</i>
ha hae	<i>my place</i>

Note: Some nouns of the family are shortened in speech.

For example:

ngoana oa ka	becomes	ngoan'a ka	<i>my child</i>
ntate oa hae	becomes	ntat'ae	<i>his/her father</i>
moralì oa ka	becomes	moralì'a ka	<i>my daughter</i>

3. Substantive Pronouns

The substantive pronouns for all noun classes are as follows:

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	'na <i>I, me</i>	rona <i>we, us</i>
2 nd pers.	uena <i>you</i>	lona <i>you all</i>
3 rd pers.; Cl. 1.	eena <i>he/she/him/her/it</i>	bona <i>they, them</i>
2.	oona	eona
3.	lona	'ona
4.	sona	tsona
5.	eona	tsona
6.	bona	'ona

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	<i>Their cattle</i>
Leholimo le linaledi tsa lona	<i>The sky and its stars</i>

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

Ke ea le uena	<i>I go with you</i>
Ke ea ho eena	<i>I go to him</i>

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

Ke 'na	<i>It is I</i>
Ke eena	<i>It is he</i>

d) In sentences containing **two object pronouns**²². For example:

Lieta li kae? Mphe tsona.	<i>Where are the shoes? Give them to me.</i>
Ke u fa tsona.	<i>I give them to you.</i>

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

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

22 Object pronouns will be covered in Lesson 20.

Vocabulary—Lesson 16

- buka (libuka)**, *book*
- pampiri (lipampiri)**, *paper*
- leqephe (maqephe)**, *page/sheet*
- pene (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 hlahloba (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	<i>good/beautiful</i>		
	Singular		Plural	
1.	motho e motle*	<i>a good/beautiful person</i>	batho ba batle	<i>good/beautiful people</i>
2.	motse o motle	<i>a beautiful village</i>	metse e metle	<i>beautiful villages</i>
3.	lesale le letle	<i>a beautiful earring</i>	masale a matle	<i>beautiful earrings</i>
4.	sefate se setle	<i>a beautiful tree</i>	lifate tse ntle*	<i>beautiful trees</i>
5.	khomo e ntle	<i>a good/beautiful cow</i>	likhomo tse ntle*	<i>good/beautiful cows</i>
6.	borikho bo botle	<i>beautiful pants</i>	marikho a matle	<i>beautiful pants</i>

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)	<i>bad, ugly</i>
	kholo (-holo)	<i>big, old</i>
	nyane (-nyane)	<i>small, young, few</i>
	ngata (-ngata)	<i>many</i>
	tenya (-tenya)	<i>fat</i>
	tseane (-seane)	<i>thin</i>
	khutšoanyane (-khutšoanyane)	<i>short</i>
	telele (-lelele)	<i>tall</i>
	ncha (-cha)	<i>new</i>
	tona (-tona)	<i>male, right</i>
	tšehali (-tšehali)	<i>female, left</i>
Colors:	ntšo (-tšo)	<i>black</i>
	tšoeu (-soeu)	<i>white</i>
	sootho (-sootho)	<i>brown</i>
	khubelu (-fubelu)	<i>red</i>
	tšehla (-sehla)	<i>yellow</i>
	tala (-tala)	<i>green</i>
	putsoa (-putsoa)	<i>blue, grey</i>

2. Other adjectives are nouns that can be used as adjectives:

For example:

litšila		<i>dirty</i>	
Singular		Plural	
1. motho ea litšila*	<i>a dirty person</i>	batho ba litšila	<i>dirty people</i>
2. motse o litšila	<i>a dirty village</i>	metse e litšila	<i>dirty villages</i>
3. lesale le litšila	<i>a dirty earring</i>	masale a litšila	<i>dirty earrings</i>
4. sefate se litšila	<i>a dirty tree</i>	lifate tse litšila*	<i>dirty trees</i>
5. khomo e litšila	<i>a dirty cow</i>	likhomo tse litšila*	<i>dirty cows</i>
6. borikho e bo litšila	<i>dirty pants</i>	marikho e a litšila	<i>dirty pants</i>

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	<i>a beautiful person</i>
motho a litšila	<i>a dirty person</i>

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

Vocabulary—Lesson 17

ntle (-tle) , <i>good/beautiful</i>	khopo , <i>crooked/bad/wicked</i>
mpe (-be) , <i>bad/ugly</i>	mona , <i>jealous</i>
ngata (-ngata) , <i>many</i>	ntšo (-tšo) , <i>black</i>
tenya (-tenya) , <i>fat</i>	tšoeu (-soeu) , <i>white</i>
sesane (-sesane) , <i>thin</i>	sootho(-sootho) , <i>brown</i>
khutšoanyane (-khutšoanyane) , <i>short</i>	khubelu (-fubelu) , <i>red</i>
telele (-telele) , <i>tall</i>	tšehla (-sehla) , <i>yellow</i>
ncha (-cha) , <i>new</i>	tala (-tala) , <i>green</i>
kholo (-holo) , <i>big/old</i>	putsoa (-putsoa) , <i>blue/grey</i>
nyane (-nyane) or nyenyane (-nyenyane) , <i>small/young/few</i>	
tona (-tona) , <i>male/right (letsoho le letona, right hand)</i>	
tšehali (-tšehali) , <i>female/left (letsoho le letšehali, left hand)</i>	
litšila , <i>dirty</i>	bohlasoa , <i>careless/untidy</i>
thata , <i>difficult/hard/tough/stingy</i>	tsoekere , <i>sweet</i>
bonolo , <i>easy/soft/tender</i>	bolila , <i>sour</i>
boima , <i>heavy/difficult</i>	
bobebe , <i>light/easy</i>	
bohlale , <i>smart/clever</i>	
bohale , <i>aggressive/short-tempered</i>	
sethoto , <i>stupid/foolish</i>	
monate , <i>nice/good to eat</i>	
molemo , <i>useful/good</i>	
mosa , <i>kind (can imply being a pushover)</i>	
botsoa , <i>lazy</i>	
boluto , <i>lonely/bored (ke tsoeroe ke boluto, I am lonely/bored)</i>	
bohloko , <i>painful/sore (ha bohloko, painfully/so much)</i>	
matla , <i>strong/powerful</i>	
makhethe , <i>tidy/clean</i>	
metsi , <i>wet</i>	
mofuthu , <i>warm</i>	
bohlokoa , <i>important</i>	

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. lebese (-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 _____ ncha
- j. jesi _____ mofuthu
- k. mabenkele _____ maholo

LESSON 18

WHICH? (-FE?)

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

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

Motho ofeng?	<i>Which person?</i>
Batho bafeng?	<i>Which people?</i>

With the verb **to be** the construction is as follows:

Ke sefate sefe?	<i>Which tree is it?</i>
Sefate ke sefe?	<i>Which is the tree?</i>
Ka nako efe?	<i>At what time?</i>
Nako ke efe?	<i>What is the time?</i>

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 (mafatshe), *earth/world*

naha (linaha), *land/country*

palesa (lipalesa), *flower*

noka (linoka), *river*

seliba (maliba), *well/spring*

setlama-tlama (litlama-tlama), *plant/herb/weed*

thaba (lithaba), *mountain*

lejoe (majoe), *stone*

lefika (mafika), *big rock*

lengope (mangope), *donga* (*gully caused by soil erosion*)

khohlo (likhohlo), *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

	<u>This, these</u>	<u>That, those</u>	<u>That way over there, Those way over there</u>
1. sing. (eg motho) pl. (eg batho)	enoa/ee bana/baa	eno²³/eo²⁴ bano/bao	eane/eloa²⁵ bane/bale
2. sing. (eg motse) pl. (eg metse)	ona/oo ena/ee	ono/oo eno/eo	oane/ola eane/ela
3. sing. (eg lesale) pl. (eg masale)	lena/lee ana/aa	leno/leo ano/ao	lane/lela ane/ale
4. sing. (eg sefate) pl. (eg lifate)	sena/see tsena/tsee	seno/seo tseno, tseo	sane/sela tsane/tsela
5. sing. (eg khomo) pl. (eg likhomo)	ena/ee tsena/tsee	eno/eo tseno/tseo	eane/ela tsane/tsela
6. sing. (eg bohobe) pl. (eg mahobe)	bona/boo ana/aa	bono/boo ano/ao	bane/bola ane/ale
7. sing. (ho class) no plural	hona/hoo	hono/hoo	hane/hola/hoane

Some examples:

Hoo ke eng?	<i>What is this?</i>	Ke pene.	<i>It is a pen.</i>
Ntho ee ke eng?	<i>What is this thing?</i>	Ke buka.	<i>It is a book.</i>
Ntho eo ke eng?	<i>What is that thing?</i>	Ke pitsa.	<i>It is a pot.</i>
Ntho eane ke eng?	<i>What is that thing way over there?</i>	Ke ntlo.	<i>It is a house.</i>
Ke pene ntho ee ?	<i>Is this thing a pen?</i>	E-e, ha se pene.	<i>No, it is not a pen.</i>
Ke sefate ntho eo ?	<i>Is that thing a tree?</i>	E, ke sefate.	<i>Yes, it is a tree.</i>

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 ntho eane ?	<i>Is that thing way over there a dog?</i>	E-e, ha se ntja.	<i>No, it is not a dog.</i>
Ke litšoantso lintho tsee ?	<i>Are these things pictures?</i>	E, ke litšoantso.	<i>Yes, they are pictures.</i>
Lintho tsee ke li'ng?	<i>What are these things?</i>	Ke litulo.	<i>They are chairs.</i>
Lintho tseo ke li'ng?	<i>What are those things?</i>	Ke mahe.	<i>They are eggs.</i>
Lintho tsane ke li'ng?	<i>What are those things way over there?</i>	Ke litamate.	<i>They are tomatoes.</i>
Likhomo tsane li kholo.	<i>The cows way over there are big.</i>		
Ntja ena ea loma.	<i>This dog bites.</i>		
Ke batla ntho eno .	<i>I want that thing.</i>		
U batla ee ?	<i>You want this (one)?</i>		

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

Mosali o hokae?	<i>Where is the woman?</i>	Ke enoa.	<i>Here she is.</i>
Thabo o hokae?	<i>Where is Thabo?</i>	Ke eane.	<i>He is way over there.</i>
Batho ba kae?	<i>Where are the people?</i>	Ke bana.	<i>Here they are.</i>
Bo-ntate ba kae?	<i>Where are the men?</i>	Ke bane.	<i>They are way over there.</i>
Buka e hokae?	<i>Where is the book?</i>	Ke ena tafoleng.	<i>Here it is on the table.</i>
Masale a hokae?	<i>Where are the earrings?</i>	Ke ana ka tlung.	<i>Here they are in the house.</i>

Vocabulary—Lesson 19

- ho emara (emere)**, *to be pregnant (used for animals)* **lesoefe (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 (linyatsi)**, *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 **–na** (*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 **–ane** (*that*) with the following nouns.
 - a. thokolosi
 - b. mokopu
 - c. setlama-tlama
 - d. moroetsana
 - e. leqheku

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 .	<i>They know me.</i> (lit. <i>they me know</i>)
Ke mo fa bohobe.	<i>I give him bread.</i> (lit. <i>I him give bread</i>)

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 follows²⁶:

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

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

For example,

Re ba fa bohobe.	<i>We give them bread.</i> (lit. <i>we them give bread</i>).
Likhomo lia tla; kea li bona ²⁷ .	<i>The cows are coming; I see them.</i> (lit. <i>I them see</i>).

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

Li **nke**!

Mp**he**!

Give him bread! (lit. *him give bread*)

Take them! (lit. *them take*)

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 '**m**ona (instead of Kea **mo** bona)

Kea '**m**otsa (instead of Kea **mo** botsa)

Kea '**m**itsa (instead of Kea **mo** bitsa)

I see him

I ask him

I call him

Vocabulary—Lesson 20

ho emela (emetse) , <i>to wait for</i>	mabele (no pl.), <i>sorghum</i>
ho sebelisa (sebelisitse) , <i>to use</i>	koro (likoro) , <i>wheat</i>
ho leka (lekile) , <i>to try</i>	
ho emisa (emisitse) , <i>to cause something to stop</i>	
ho kenya (kentse) , <i>to put in/to insert</i>	
ho ntša (ntšitse) , <i>to take out</i>	
ho lebella (lebeletse) , <i>to expect</i>	
ho soaba (soabile) , <i>to become sorry/to become embarrassed</i>	
ho touta (toutile) , <i>to worry/to have one's thoughts be far away (ua touta?, are you worried?/is your mind wandering?)</i>	
ho khathatseha (khathatsehile) , <i>to worry (s'k'a khathatseha, don't worry)</i>	
ho makala (maketse) , <i>to be surprised (ke maketse, I am surprised)</i>	
ho sokola (sokotse) or sotleha (sotlehile) , <i>to have a hard time (usually due to poverty)</i>	
ho sokolisa (sokolisitse) , <i>to give someone a hard time</i>	
ho lema (lemme) , <i>to plough/to cultivate</i>	
ho nosetsa (noselitse) , <i>to water (specifically plants)</i>	
ho hlaola (hlaotse) , <i>to weed/to hoe</i>	
ho cheka (chekile) , <i>to dig</i>	
ho kotula (kotutse) , <i>to harvest</i>	
ho hama (hamme) , <i>to milk (a cow)</i>	
temo , <i>agriculture</i>	
tšimo (masimo) , <i>field</i>	
peo (lipeo) , <i>seed</i>	
mobu (mebu) , <i>soil</i>	
moiteli (meiteli) , <i>manure</i>	
kharafu (likharafu) , <i>shovel/spade</i>	
kiribaea (likiribaea) , <i>wheelbarrow</i>	
terekere (literekere) , <i>tractor</i>	
haraka (liharaka) , <i>rake</i>	
lijalo (no sing.), <i>crops (in field or garden)</i>	
limela (no sing.), <i>edible plants</i>	

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 kiribaea.
- 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 koala 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 , <i>to know</i>	becomes	ho itseba , <i>to know oneself</i>
ho pata , <i>to hide</i>	becomes	ho ipata , <i>to hide oneself</i>
ho bona , <i>to see</i>	becomes	ho ipona , <i>to see oneself</i>
ho botsa , <i>to ask</i>	becomes	ho ipotsa , <i>to ask oneself</i>
ho bolaea , <i>to kill</i>	becomes	ho ipolaea , <i>to kill oneself</i>
ho thusa , <i>to help</i>	becomes	ho ithusa , <i>to help oneself</i>
ho hlatsoa , <i>to wash</i>	becomes	ho itlhatsoa , <i>to wash oneself</i>
ho hlompa , <i>to respect</i>	becomes	ho itlhompa , <i>to respect oneself</i>
ho ruta , <i>to teach</i>	becomes	ho ithuta , <i>to learn (lit: to teach oneself)</i>
ho hlokomela , <i>to take care of</i>	becomes	ho itlhokomela , <i>to take care of oneself</i>

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

ke phehile	<i>I have cooked, I cooked</i>
u phehile	<i>you have cooked, you cooked</i>
o phehile	<i>he/she has cooked, he/she cooked</i>
re phehile	<i>we have cooked, we cooked</i>
le phehile	<i>you all have cooked, you all cooked</i>
ba phehile	<i>they have cooked, they cooked</i>

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

ke bile	<i>I have been, I was</i>
u bile	<i>you have been, you were</i>
o bile	<i>he/she has been, he/she was</i>
re bile	<i>we have been, we were</i>
le bile	<i>you all have been, you all were</i>
ba bile	<i>they have been, they were</i>

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

ke bile le	<i>I had</i>
u bile le	<i>you had</i>
o bile le	<i>he/she had</i>
re bile le	<i>we had</i>
le bile le	<i>you all had</i>
ba bile le	<i>they had</i>

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

ke itse	<i>I have said, I said</i>
u itse	<i>you have said, you said</i>
o itse	<i>he/she has said, he/she said</i>
re itse	<i>we have said, we said</i>
le itse	<i>you have said, you said</i>
ba itse	<i>they have said, they said</i>

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

ke chulo	<i>I have said, I said</i>
u chulo	<i>you have said, you said</i>
o chulo	<i>he/she has said, he/she said</i>
re chulo	<i>we have said, we said</i>
le chulo	<i>you all have said, you all said</i>
ba chulo	<i>they have said, they said</i>

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, -tsoa, -ntša** take the ending **-itse**

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

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

ho lula	<i>to sit</i>	ke lutse	<i>I sat, I am sitting</i>
ho hatsela	<i>to be cold</i>	ke hatsetse	<i>I am cold</i>
ho khathala	<i>to be tired</i>	ke khathetse	<i>I am tired</i>
ho robala	<i>to sleep</i>	ke robotse	<i>I am sleeping</i>

c) Other examples:

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

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 (hlobotse)**, *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*
- туру**, *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

ha kea pheha	<i>I have not cooked</i>
ha ua pheha	<i>you have not cooked</i>
ha a pheha	<i>he/she has not cooked</i>
ha rea pheha	<i>we have not cooked</i>
ha lea pheha	<i>you all have not cooked</i>
ha ba pheha	<i>they have not cooked</i>

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

ha kea ba	<i>I have not been, I was not</i>
ha ua ba	<i>you have not been, you were not</i>
ha a ba	<i>he/she has not been, he/she was not</i>
ha rea ba	<i>we have not been, we were not</i>
ha lea ba	<i>you all have not been, you all were not</i>
ha ba ba	<i>they have not been, they were not</i>

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

ha kea ba le	<i>I did not have</i>
ha ua ba le	<i>you did not have</i>
ha a ba le	<i>he/she did not have</i>
ha rea ba le	<i>we did not have</i>
ha lea ba le	<i>you all did not have</i>
ha ba ba le	<i>they did not have</i>

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

ha kea re	<i>I have not said, I did not say</i>
ha ua re	<i>you have not said, you did not say</i>
ha a re	<i>he/she has not said, he/she did not say</i>
ha rea re	<i>we have not said, we did not say</i>
ha lea re	<i>you all have not said, you all did not say</i>
ha ba re	<i>they have not said, they did not say</i>

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,

ke khathetse	<i>I am tired</i>	ha kea khathala	<i>I am not tired</i>
ke hatsetse	<i>I am cold</i>	ha kea hatsela	<i>I am not cold</i>
ke lapile	<i>I am hungry</i>	ha kea lapa	<i>I am not hungry</i>
ho lekane	<i>It's enough</i>	ha hoa lekana	<i>It's not enough</i>

Vocabulary—Lesson 23

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

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>I was cooking</i>
u ne u pheha ²⁹	<i>you were cooking</i>
o ne a pheha	<i>he/she was cooking</i>
re ne re pheha	<i>we were cooking</i>
le ne le pheha	<i>you all were cooking</i>
ba ne ba pheha	<i>they were cooking</i>

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

ke ne ke le	<i>I was</i>
u ne u le	<i>you were</i>
o ne a le	<i>he/she was</i>
re ne re le	<i>we were</i>
le ne le le	<i>you all were</i>
ba ne ba le	<i>they were</i>

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

ke ne ke e-na le	<i>I had</i>
u ne u e-na le	<i>you had</i>
o ne a e-na le	<i>he/she had</i>
re ne re e-na le	<i>we had</i>
le ne le e-na le	<i>you all had</i>
ba ne ba e-na le	<i>they had</i>

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

ke ne ke re	<i>I was saying</i>
u ne u re	<i>you were saying</i>
o ne a re	<i>he/she was saying</i>
re ne re re	<i>we were saying</i>
le ne le re	<i>you all were saying</i>
ba ne ba re	<i>they were saying</i>

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 khathetse**, *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 n'a**, and **u ne u** becomes **u n'u**.

Using the imperfect in a **relative clause**³⁰:
Add **-ng** to the **ne**. For example:

Batho ba neng ba bina...	<i>The people who were singing...</i>
Motho o neng a rekisa joala....	<i>The person who was selling beer....</i>

Some examples using the imperfect tense:

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

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.

ke ile ka pheha	<i>I cooked</i>
u ile ua pheha	<i>you cooked</i>
o ile a pheha	<i>he/she cooked</i>
re ile ra pheha	<i>we cooked</i>
le ile la pheha	<i>you all cooked</i>
ba ile ba pheha	<i>they cooked</i>

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

ke ile ka ba	<i>I was</i>
u ile ua ba	<i>you were</i>
o ile a ba	<i>he/she was</i>
re ile ra ba	<i>we were</i>
le ile la ba	<i>you all were</i>
ba ile ba e-ba	<i>they were</i>

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

Ke ile ka ba le	<i>I had</i>
u ile ua ba le	<i>you had</i>
o ile a ba le	<i>he/she had</i>
re ile ra ba le	<i>we had</i>
le ile la ba le	<i>you all had</i>
ba ile ba e-ba le	<i>they had</i>

³⁰ Direct relative clauses will be covered in Lesson 29.

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

ke ile ka re	<i>I said</i>
u ile ua re	<i>you said</i>
o ile a re	<i>he/she said</i>
re ile ra re	<i>we said</i>
le ile la re	<i>you all said</i>
ba ile ba re	<i>they said</i>

Using the preterite tense in a **relative clause**:

Add **-ng** to the **ile**. For example:

Batho ba ileng ba bina...	<i>The people who sang...</i>
Motho o ileng a rekisa joala...	<i>The person who sold beer...</i>

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 (tlontlotse), *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 tšoanetse 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 **lélapi (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>I was not cooking</i>
u ne u sa phehe	<i>you were not cooking</i>
o ne a sa phehe	<i>he/she was not cooking</i>
re ne re sa phehe	<i>we were not cooking</i>
le ne le sa phehe	<i>you all were not cooking</i>
ba ne ba sa phehe	<i>they were not cooking</i>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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:

Batho ba neng ba sa bine...	<i>The people that were not singing...</i>
Motho o neng a sa rekise joala....	<i>The person that was not selling beer....</i>

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.

ha kea ka ka pheha	<i>I did not cook</i>
ha ua ka ua pheha	<i>you did not cook</i>
ha a ka a pheha	<i>he/she did not cook</i>
ha rea ka ra pheha	<i>we did not cook</i>
ha lea ka la pheha	<i>you all did not cook</i>
ha ba ka ba rata	<i>they did not cook</i>

Vocabulary—Lesson 25

malimabe or **bomalimabe**, *bad luck/misfortune*

lehlohonolo (mahlohonolo), *good luck/blessing*

molaetsa (melaetsa), *message*

'muso (mebuso), *government*

phutheho (liphutheho), *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 (ntlatsa!, 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.

ka pheha	<i>I cooked</i>
ua pheha	<i>you cooked</i>
a pheha	<i>he/she cooked</i>
ra pheha	<i>we cooked</i>
la pheha	<i>you all cooked</i>
ba pheha	<i>they cooked</i>

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

ka ba	<i>I was</i>
ua ba	<i>you were</i>
a ba	<i>he/she was</i>
ra ba	<i>we were</i>
la ba	<i>you all were</i>
ba ba	<i>they were</i>

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

ka ba le	<i>I had</i>
ua ba le	<i>you had</i>
a ba le	<i>he/she had</i>
ra ba le	<i>we had</i>
la ba le	<i>you all had</i>
ba ba le	<i>they had</i>

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

ka re	<i>I said</i>
ua re	<i>you said</i>
a re	<i>he/she said</i>
ra re	<i>we said</i>
la re	<i>you all said</i>
ba re	<i>they said</i>

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 thòla (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 soaso (soasoile), *to joke*

ho koloba (kolobile), *to become wet (ke kolobile, 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 (fokolitse), *to diminish/to reduce*

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

ho tiisa (tiisitse), *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?)	<i>What are you doing?</i>
Ke ntse ke bala buka.	<i>I am reading a book.</i>
O ntse a etsa'ng?	<i>What is he/she doing?</i>
O ntse a hlapa.	<i>He/she is bathing.</i>
Ba ntse ba sebetsa.	<i>They are (still) working.</i>

2. **se**, *already*³²

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

3. **sa**, *still*

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

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>I do not go anymore.</i>
Ha a sa kena kereke.	<i>He/she doesn't attend church anymore.</i>
Ha ba sa sebetsa toropong.	<i>They don't work in town anymore.</i>

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

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

³² These auxiliary verbs are also often combined, for example: **Ke se ntse ke tla**, *I am already coming*.

5. **batla (batlile)**, *almost*

Ka batla ke bona.
Ke batlile ke hlokahala.

I almost see.
I almost died.

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

U kile ua fihla Maseru?

Have you gone to Maseru before?

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

Ba mpile ba robale hobane
ke ba qobeletse.

*But they went to sleep because I
forced them.*

Khethang o ne a batla hore re
lule fatše **nka mpa ka** tsamaea.

*Khethang wanted us to sit down
but would rather leave.*

Vocabulary—Lesson 27

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

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.
Ka ntle ho sekhoaa re tla ithuta
Sefora.

*I am going to town **without** you.
Besides English, we will learn French.*

hoja/hojane, *if only*

Hoja ke morui, nka be ke³³ 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 Sekhoaa **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:

(if) <i>I do not like</i>	(if) <i>I am not</i>	(if) <i>I have not</i>
(ha) ke sa rate	(ha) ke se	(ha) ke se na
(ha) u sa rate	(ha) u se	(ha) u se na
(ha) a sa rate	(ha) a se	(ha) a se na
(ha) re sa rate	(ha) re se	(ha) re se na
(ha) le sa rate	(ha) le se	(ha) le se na
(ha) ba sa rate	(ha) ba se	(ha) ba se na

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 robotse 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 il'o 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.*

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

Moshanyana ea ³⁴ sebetsang shopong.	<i>The boy who works at the shop..</i>
Ntate ea buang Sechina..	<i>The man who speaks Chinese..</i>
Metsi a chesang	<i>Hot water (lit: the water which is hot)</i>

a) **to be** – the relative form is **leng**:

Khomo e leng boima...	<i>The cow that is heavy...</i>
Batho ba leng ka koloing...	<i>The people who are in the car...</i>

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

Khomo e seng boima...	<i>The cow that is not heavy...</i>
Batho ba seng ka koloing...	<i>The people who are not in car...</i>

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

Na u tseba motho ea nang le terekere?	<i>Do you know a person who has a tractor?</i>
Batho ba nang le likhomo tse ngata ke barui.	<i>People who have many cows are rich.</i>

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

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

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...	<i>The boy who does not work at the shop...</i>
Ntate ea sa bueng Sechina...	<i>The man who does not speak Chinese...</i>

3. Perfect Tense

Bo-ntate ba fihlileng maobane...	<i>The men who arrived yesterday...</i>
Ntja e shoeleng ka mantaha...	<i>The dog that died on Monday...</i>

4. Negative Perfect Tense

Bo-ntate ba sa fihlang maobane...	<i>The men who didn't arrive yesterday...</i>
Ntja e sa shoang ka mantaha...	<i>The dog that didn't die on Monday...</i>

5. Future Tense

Bo-ntate ba tla fihla hosasa...	<i>The men who will arrive tomorrow...</i>
Ntja e tla shoa hosasa...	<i>The dog that will die tomorrow...</i>

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>I am going to (the place) where you live.</i>
Ke ea moo u lulang.	<i>I am going to (the place) where you live.</i>
O ile moo ba bapalang bolo.	<i>He/she went to where they are playing ball.</i>

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

Kamoo ke buileng kateng ...	<i>As I have said...</i>
O bina kamoo a ratang...	<i>He/she sings the way he/she likes...</i>

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

c) **mohla**, *when*

Mohla ke fihlang...	<i>When I arrive...</i>
Mohla a tlang hape...	<i>When he/she comes again...</i>

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>I like</i>
u rate	<i>you like</i>
a rate	<i>he/she likes</i>
re rate	<i>we like</i>
le rate	<i>you all like</i>
ba rate	<i>they like</i>

The subjunctive/potential tense is used:

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

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

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

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

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

Tlo u bone.	<i>Come and see.</i>
-------------	----------------------

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

Ha re ee.	<i>Let's go.</i>
Ha re eeng.	<i>Let's go. (plural)</i>
Ha re bue.	<i>Let's talk.</i>
Ha re bueng.	<i>Let's talk. (plural)</i>

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

E re ke bone.	<i>Let me see.</i>
E re ke tsamaee.	<i>Let me leave.</i>

2. Negative Subjunctive tense

The 2nd 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)	<i>I do not cook</i>
u se ke ua pheha (or u s'k'a pheha)	<i>you do not cook</i>
a se ke a pheha (or a s'k'a pheha)	<i>he/she does not cook</i>
re se ke ra pheha (or re s'k'a pheha)	<i>we do not cook</i>
le se ke la pheha (or le s'k'a pheha)	<i>you all do not cook</i>
ba se ke ba pheha (or ba s'k'a pheha)	<i>they do not cook</i>

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

For example:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| a) Ak'u s'k'a pheha. | <i>Please do not cook.</i> |
| b) Ke kopa (hore) a s'k'a nkemela. | <i>I am asking that he not wait for me.</i> |
| c) <i>Not applicable</i> | ----- |
| d) Ha re s'k'a tsamaea. | <i>Let us not go.</i> |
| e) E re ke s'k'a bona. | <i>Let me not see.</i> |

Exercises—Lesson 30

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 , <i>to help</i>	becomes	ho thusoa , <i>to be helped</i>
ho rekisa , <i>to sell</i>	becomes	ho rekisoa , <i>to be sold</i>
ho bitsa , <i>to call</i>	becomes	ho bitsoa , <i>to be called</i>

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

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

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 , <i>to wash</i>	becomes	ho hlatsuoa , <i>to be washed</i>
ho bua , <i>to speak</i>	becomes	ho buuoa , <i>to be spoken of</i>
ho ntša , <i>to take out</i>	becomes	ho ntšuoa , <i>to be taken out</i>
ho shapa , <i>to beat</i>	becomes	ho shapuoa , <i>to be beaten</i>

Exception:

ho ja , <i>to eat</i>	becomes	ho jeoa or ho joa , <i>to be eaten, to be afflicted, to be edible</i>
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For example:

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

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, <i>to help</i>	becomes	ho thusitsoe, <i>to have been helped</i>
ho reka, <i>to buy</i>	becomes	ho rekiloē, <i>to have been bought</i>

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

ho shapa, <i>to beat</i>	becomes	ho shapuoe, <i>to have been beaten</i>
ho thusa, <i>to help</i>	becomes	ho thusuoe, <i>to have been helped</i>

Vocabulary—Lesson 31

moratuo (**baratuo**), *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 shapuo 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, <i>to help</i>	ho thusana , <i>to help one another</i>
ho bona, <i>to see</i>	ho bonana , <i>to see one another</i>
ho tseba, <i>to know</i>	ho tsebana , <i>to know one another</i>
ho rata, <i>to love</i>	ho ratana , <i>to love one other</i>
ho nyala, <i>to marry</i>	ho nyalana , <i>to marry one another</i>
ho ruta, <i>to teach</i>	ho rutana , <i>to teach one another</i>
ho utloa, <i>to hear</i>	ho utloana , <i>to hear/understand one another</i>

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

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

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

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

Note: The **perfect tense** of these verbs, followed by **eng**, is often used to ask **why** something is.

For example,

U ipatetse'ng? *Why are you hiding? (lit: what are you hiding for?)*
U e reketse'ng? *Why did you buy it? (lit: what did you buy it for?)*

4. Intensive Suffix, -isisa, -ella, intensified meaning

For example: ho utloa, *to hear* **ho utloisisa**, *to hear well/to understand*
 ho talima, *to look at* **ho talimisisa**, *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 robeha**, *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 fasa, *to tie, to bind* **ho fasolla**, *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.	<i>It is a boy.</i>
Pronoun:	Ke uena.	<i>It is you.</i>
Adverb of place:	Ke mane.	<i>It is over there.</i>
Hantle:	Ke hantle.	<i>All right, good (lit: it is well)</i>
Hampe:	Ke hampe.	<i>Too bad. (lit: it is bad)</i>

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.	<i>It is nice.</i>
	Ho joalo.	<i>It is so.</i>
Negative Present:	Ha ho joalo.	<i>It is not so.</i>
“If it is”:	Ha ho le joalo...	<i>If it is so...</i>
“If it is not”:	Ha ho se joalo...	<i>If it is not so...</i>
Imperfect tense:	Ho ne ho le joang?	<i>How was it?</i>
	Ho ne ho le monate.	<i>It was nice.</i>

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:

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

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

ke ne ke tla pheha	<i>I would cook/I was going to cook</i>
u ne u tla pheha	<i>you would cook</i>
o ne a tla pheha	<i>he/she would cook</i>
re ne re tla pheha	<i>we would cook</i>
le ne le tla pheha	<i>you all would cook</i>
ba ne ba tla pheha	<i>they would cook</i>

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 tl'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:

Ke ne ke tla ba	<i>I would be</i>
Ke ne ke tla ba le	<i>I would have</i>

2. Tense #2

ke ne nka pheha	<i>I might cook</i>
u ne u ka pheha	<i>you might cook</i>
o ne a ka pheha	<i>he/she might cook</i>
re ne re ka pheha	<i>we might cook</i>
le ne la ka pheha	<i>you all might cook</i>
ba ne ba ka pheha	<i>they might cook</i>

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:

Ke ne nka ba	<i>I might be</i>
Ke ne nka ba le	<i>I might have</i>

3. Tense #3

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

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>I could be</i>
nka be ke na le	<i>I could have</i>
nka be ke se	<i>I could not be</i>
nka be ke sa ba le	<i>I could not have</i>
nka be ke phehile	<i>I could have cooked</i>
nka be ke sa phehe	<i>I could not cook</i>
nka be ke sa pheha	<i>I could not have cooked</i>

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), <i>business/trade</i>	ho fana (fane) ka sekoloto or ho
‘maraka (limmaraka), <i>market</i>	kolotisa (kolotisitse), <i>to give credit</i>
poloko ea libuka, <i>book-keeping</i>	
moralo oa chelete, <i>budget</i>	
tlaleho (litalaleho), <i>report</i>	
rekoto (lirekoto), <i>record</i>	
phaello (liphaello), <i>profit</i>	
tahlehelo (litahlehelo), <i>loss</i>	
tšenyehelo (litšenyehelo), <i>expenditure</i>	
thepa, <i>furniture/property/goods</i>	
lengolo la khoebo, <i>business-license</i>	
morekisi (barekisi), <i>seller</i>	
moreki (bareki), <i>buyer/customer</i>	
kalimo (likalimo), <i>loan</i>	
tsoala, <i>interest</i>	
sekoloto (likoloto), <i>debt</i>	
lekhetho la thekiso, <i>sales tax</i>	
khafa, <i>tax</i>	
mohoebi (bahoebi), <i>trader/businessman</i>	
hlahisoa (lihlahisoa), <i>products</i>	
thepa e kenang, <i>import</i>	
thepa e tsoang, <i>export</i>	
karollelano ea thepa, <i>sharing of goods</i>	
boikopanyo, <i>cooperation/partnership</i>	
ho kopanya (kopantse), <i>to add</i>	
ho tlosa (tlositse), <i>to subtract</i>	
ho arola (arotse), <i>to divide</i>	
ho atisa (atisitse), <i>to multiply</i>	
ho boloka (bolokile) chelete, <i>to save money</i>	
ho khafa (khafile), <i>to pay a tax</i>	
ho nka (nkile) sekoloto, <i>to buy on credit</i>	

Appendix 2—HIV/AIDS Vocabulary

HIV le AIDS or koatsi , <i>HIV/AIDS</i>	ho thimola (thimotse) , <i>to sneeze</i>
boemo , <i>status (na u tseba boemo ba hao?, do you know your (HIV) status?)</i>	
kokoana-hloko (likokoana-hloko) , <i>virus</i>	
tšoaetso , <i>infection</i>	
masole a ‘mele , <i>immune system</i>	
botho ba ‘mè , <i>vagina</i>	
botho ba ntate , <i>penis</i>	
lipeo tsa ntate , <i>sperm</i>	
mathe , <i>saliva (ho tšoela (tšoetse) mathe, to spit)</i>	
mokhathala , <i>fatigue</i>	
mocheso , <i>fever</i>	
kanyeso , <i>breastfeeding</i>	
khohlopo (likhohlopo) , <i>condom</i>	
kopano ea mali , <i>exchange of blood</i>	
letšoa (matšoa) , <i>symptom</i>	
lefuba , <i>tuberculosis</i>	
lefu la (mafua) likobo , <i>sexually transmitted infection</i>	
mokaola , <i>sypilis</i>	
seso se seholo , <i>gonorrhoea</i>	
seso (liso) , <i>sore</i>	
lero (maro) , <i>bodily fluid (lero la botho ba ‘mè, vaginal fluid)</i>	
lesea (masea) , <i>infant</i>	
molekane (balekane) , <i>mate/partner</i>	
tlhokomelo ea lapeng , <i>home-based care</i>	
ho theoha (theohile) ‘meleng , <i>to lose weight</i>	
ho qoba (qobile) , <i>to avoid</i>	
ho etsa (entse) thobalano , <i>to have sex</i>	
ho oka (okile) , <i>to nurse (a sick person)</i>	
ho feba (febile) , <i>to commit adultery/to have casual sex</i>	
ho beta (betile) , <i>to rape</i>	
ho ba le molekane a le mong , <i>to be monogamous (lit: to have one partner)</i>	

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.
- 4. Infinitive** – The neutral form of the verb. Example: **ho bua**, *to speak*.
- 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)___.
3. Ke phela hantle.
4. Ke teng. **or** Re teng.
5. Ke robetse hantle/hampe.
6. Ke tsohile 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:

1. a. Ke rata lijo. U rata lijo. O rata lijo. Re rata lijo. Le rata lijo. Ba rata lijo.
b. Kea kula. Ua kula. Oa kula. Rea kula. Lea kula. Ba kula.
c. Ke batla ho bina. U batla ho bina. O batla ho bina. Re batla ho bina. Le batla ho bina. Ba batla ho bina.
d. Kea phela. Ua phela. Oa phela. Rea phela. Lea phela. Ba phela.
e. Kea utloa. Ua utloa. Oa utloa. Rea utloa. Lea utloa. Ba utloa.
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:

1. a. Ha ke bine hantle. Ha u bine hantle. Ha **a** bine hantle. Ha re bine hantle. Ha le bine hantle. Ha ba bine hantle.
b. Ha ke tsebe ho pheha. Ha u tsebe ho pheha. Ha **a** tsebe ho pheha. Ha re tsebe ho pheha. Ha le tsebe ho pheha. Ha ba tsebe ho pheha.

- c. Ha ke je nama. Ha u je nama. Ha **a** je nama. Ha re je nama. Ha le je nama.
Ha ba je nama.
2. a. **Formal:** Se ise lebese kante. **Informal:** U se ke ua isa lebese kante.
b. **Formal:** Se tleng. **Informal:** Le se ke la tla koano.
c. **Formal:** Se tlise litapole. **Informal:** U se ke ua tlisa litapole.
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 tsamaee.

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
- 4.

<u>Singular of Noun</u>	<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Plural of Noun</u>	<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Long Pronoun (sing. and pl.)</u>
ntja	e	lintja	li	ea, lia
motse	o	metse	e	oa, ea
khoeli	e	likhoeli	li	ea, lia
ntlo	e	matlo	a	ea, a
moshanyana	o	bashanyana	ba	oa, ba
naleli	e	linaleli	li	ea, lia
'mè	o	bo-'mè	ba	oa, ba
sefefe	se	lifefe	li	sea, lia
leru	le	maru	a	lea, a

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.
6. Ke na le pèrè. Ha ke na pèrè.
7. Re na le pèrè. Ha re na pèrè.
8. Ba na le pèrè. Ha ba na pèrè.
9. O na le katse. Ha a na katse.
10. Ke na le katse. Ha ke na katse.
11. Re na le katse. Ha re na katse.
12. Ba na le katse. Ha ba na katse.
13. O na le likhoho. Ha a na likhoho.
14. Ke na le likhoho. Ha ke 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 baathaopi. E-e, ha ba baithaopi.
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*; mosebetsi e meng, *some jobs*; mosebetsi o mong le o mong / mosebetsi eohle, *all jobs*

2.

2	3	4	5	6
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 mane	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 mane	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.
- b. Chelete e teng. Ho na le chelete.
Chelete ha e eo. Ha ho na chelete.
- c. Seeta se teng. Ho na le seeta.
Seeta ha se eo. Ha ho na seeta.
- d. Bana ba teng. Ho na le bana.
Bana ha ba eo. Ha ho na bana.
- e. Likhoho li teng. Ho na le likhoho.
Likhoho ha li eo. Ha ho na likhoho.
- f. Mollo o teng. Ho na le mollo.
Mollo ha o eo. Ha ho na mollo.

Lesson 10:

1. a. Nka koala monyako. Ke sitoa ho koala monyako. Ha ke khone ho koala monyako.
- b. Nka pata chelete. Ke sitoa ho pata chelete. Ha ke khone ho pata chelete.
- c. Nka lisa likhomo. Ke sitoa ho lisa likhomo. Ha ke khone ho lisa likhomo.
- d. Nka palama tonki. Ke sitoa ho palama tonki. Ha ke khone ho palama tonki.

- e. Nka rekisa likerese. Ke sitoa ho rekisa likerese. Ha ke khone ho rekisa likerese.
2. a. E, ba ka ea Maseru hosasa. Ba sitoa ho ea Maseru hosasa. Ha ba khone ho ea Maseru hosasa.
 - 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.
 - c. E, o ka tsamaea le uena. O sitoa ho tsamaea le uena. Ha a khone ho tsamaea le uena.
 - d. E, u ka bua le 'na. U sitoa ho bua le 'na. Ha u khone ho bua le 'na.
 - e. E, re ka sebetsa ka Mantaha? Re sitoa ho sebetsa ka Mantaha. Ha re khone ho sebetsa ka Mantaha.

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. borikho 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. borikho 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 bohlae 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. Hobaneng ha ba sebetse?
g. U tatile?
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 otlala 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 hatsitse. 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 loantsitse. Ha a mo loants'a.
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 mokhotsi 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 bohloko. *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:

1. a. Ke sebetsa lifemeng ho tloha Mantaha ho fihlela Labohlano.
- 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 shapuo e ke tichere. *I was beaten by the teacher.*
- c. E, Ntate Mopeli o tsoeroe maobane. *Yes, Ntate Mopeli was arrested yesterday.*
- d. Ke tsoeroe ke mahlo. *My eyes hurt.*
- 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. Nqoqe!
- 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)
ama (amile), to touch/to concern
amohela (amohetse), to receive/to welcome
apara (apere), to dress/to wear (specifically blanket)
apesa (apesitse), to clothe/to dress
apole (liapole), apple
araba (arabile), to answer
arohana (arohane), to part
arola (arotse), to divide/to separate/to share
atamela (atametse), to come near/to approach
atisa (atisitse), to multiply
atleha (atlehile), to succeed
ausi (bo-ausi), sister

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 (bapetse), to play
baskomo (libaskomo), basin (used for washing or bathing)
bata (batile), to be cold (**hoa bata**, it is cold)
batla (batlile), to want/to seek/to look for
beha (behile), 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 (belaetse), 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 (bitsitse), to call
bobebe, light/easy
boea (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
bohlasoa, careless/untidy
bohloko, painful/sore (**ha bohloko**, painfully/so much)
bohlokoa, important
bohobe (mahobe), bread
boholo, majority (**boholo ba batho...**, the majority of people...)
boikarabelo, responsibility
boikbantšo, pride
boikokobetso, humility
boikopanyo, cooperation/partnership
boima, heavy/difficult
boko (liboko), brain
bola (bolile), to rot
bolaea (bolaile), 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 tsoeroe ke boluto**, I am lonely/bored)
bona (bone), to see
bonahala (bonahetse), to be visible/to be evident
bonana (bonane), to see one another
bonolo, easy/soft/tender
bontša (bontšitse), to show
bonyane, at least
boomo; ka boomo, on purpose
bophelo (maphelo), life/health
bora (borile), to be boring
borikho (marikho), pants
borokho (marokho), bridge (Maseru Border Gate also called **Borokho**)
boroko (no pl.), sleep (**ke tsoeroe ke boroko**, I am tired)
boroso (liboroso), boerwurst

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

C

cha (chele), to burn
chaba (chabile), to rise (of the sun)
chaisa (chaisitse), to get off work/to crash into something
chaka (chakile), to go visiting/to take a walk
chakela (chaketse), to visit (**ke chaketse 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

e, yes
ea (ile), to go
eaba, and then (often used when telling stories)
ebe, then
ebile, then
ebola (ebotse), to peel
e-e, no
eiee (lieiee), onion
eketsa (ekelitse), to add/to increase

elelloa (eleletsoe), 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 (liente), injection
erekisi (lierekisi), pea
eseng, not (eseng uena, not you)
etsa (entse), to do/to make
etsahala (etsahetse), to happen (ho etsahala'ng? or ho etsahala joang?, what's happening?) (ho etsahetse'ng?, what happened?)
etsetsa (etselitse), to do for

F

fa (file), to give
fahla (fahlile), to get in one's eye
fapana (fapane), to differ (mantsoe a fapana kae?, where do the words differ?)
fapanya (fapantse), to change places, to alternate
fariki (lifariki), pig
fasa (fasitse), to tie/to bind
fatše, floor/on the ground
fatuku (lifatuku), dishcloth
feba (febile), to commit adultery/to have casual sex
feela, however/but
fela (felile), to finish/to be gone (e felile, it is finished)
felehetsa (felehelitse), to accompany
feme (lifeme), factory
fenstere (lifenstere), window
fepa (fepile), to feed
fereha (ferehile), to court
ferekana (ferekane), to be confused/to be troubled
ferekanya (ferekantse), to confuse
fereko (lifereko), fork
feta (fetile), to go by/to pass
fetola (fetotse), to change
fihla (fihlile), to arrive
fofa (fofile), to fly
fokola (fokotse), to be weak/to be delicate

fofa (folile), to recover from illness (ke folile, I have recovered)
fonane, good night
fono (lifono), 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
fumana (fumane), to find
futhumala (futhumetse), to be warm
futhumatsa (futhumelitse), 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
hahabo bona, their place of origin
hahabo lona, your (plural) place of origin
hahabo rona, our place of origin
hahabo, his/her place of origin
haholo, 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 (halefisitse), to make angry
halika (halikile), to fry
hama (hamme), to milk (a cow)
hammoho, together
hamonate, nicely/well
hamorao or **hamamorao**, later on today
hamore (lihamore), hammer
hampe, badly
hana (hanne), to refuse (also used for an object that doesn't work as it should (koloji ea 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)
hantle, well/good
hantle-ntle, 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 (hatile), 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 (lihempe), 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 (hlahile), to come into sight/to appear/ to be born
hlahisoa (lihlahisoa), product
hlahlama (hlahlamile), to succeed/to follow
hlahloba (hlahlobile), to examine
hlahlobo (lihlahlobo), examination
hvlakola (hvlakotse), to wipe off/to erase
Hvlakola, February
Hvlakubele, March
hlala (hlalile), to divorce
hlalosa (hhalositse), to explain
hlama (no pl.), dough
hlanya (hlantse), to be crazy (oa hlanya!, you're crazy!)
hlaola (hlaotse), to weed/to hoe
hlapa (hlapile), to bathe (ho hlapa matsoho, to wash one's hands)
hlapa (lihlapa), insult
hlatza (hlatzitse), to vomit
hlatsoa (hlatsoitse), to wash
hloa (hloele), to climb
hlobola (hlobotse), to take off (clothing)
hloea (hloile), to hate
hloeka (hloekile), to become clean (e hloekile, it is clean)
hloho (lihloho), head
hloka (hlokile), to need

hlokahala (hlokahetse), 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)
hlolea (hloliile), to annoy by being noisy
hloloheloa (hlolohetsoe), to long for/to miss
hlompha (hlomphile), to respect
hlophisa (hlophisitse), to organize/to arrange
ho hang, not at all (ha ke batle ho hang, I don't want to, not at all)
ho thoe, it is said (ho thoe u tseba Sekhooa, it is said you know English)
hobane, because
hobaneng?, why?
hoetla, autumn
hohle, 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 (ipolaile), to commit suicide
ipotsa (ipotsitse), to ask oneself
isa (isitse), to take to
ithaopa (ithaopile), to volunteer
ithusa (ithusitse), to help oneself
ithuta (ithutile), to learn
itlhatsoa (itlhatsoitse), to wash oneself
itlhokomela (itlhokometse), to take care of oneself
itlhompaa (itlhompile), to respect oneself

itlotsa (itlotsitse), to apply lotion/vaseline to oneself
itokisetsa (itokiselitse), to prepare oneself
itseba (itsebile), to know oneself
itšoara (itšoere), to behave (ho itšoara hampe, to misbehave)
itulela (ituletse), to sit by oneself doing nothing

J

ja (jele), to eat
jaefa (jaefile), to dance
jarete (lijarete), garden
jesi (lijesi), 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 morao 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
kaofela, all
kapa, or
kapele, 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)
katse (likatse), cat
kausi (likausi), sock/stockings
ke bokae?, how much does it cost?
kea leboha, thank you
kelello (no pl.), intelligence/smarts (u na le kelello, you have smarts)
kena (kene), to go in/to enter/to attend (school/church)
kenya (kentse), to put in/to insert
kereke (likereke), church
kerese (likereke), candle
kha (khele), to fetch water from tap or well/to pick vegetables
khaba (likhaba), spoon
khabela (khabetse), 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
khaitsele (likhaitsele or bo-khaitsele) 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 (khalemetse), to reprimand without anger
khanna (khanne), to drive
khantsa (khantsitse), to light/to turn on
khaola (khaotse), 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
khathatseha (khathatsehile), to worry (s'k'a khathatseha, don't worry)

khena (khenne), to get angry (**ke khenne**, I'm angry)
khetha (khethile), to choose/to elect
khetheha (khethehile), to snow (**lehloa lea khetheha**, it is snowing)
khetho (likhetho), choice/election (**likhetho**, elections)
khetholla (khetholotse), to discriminate
khoebo (likhoebo), business/trade
khoeli (likhoeli), moon/month
khoeli e fetileng or khoeling e fetileng, last month (lit: the month that passed)
khohlela (khohletse), to cough
khohlo (likhohlo), valley
khohlopo (likhohlopo), condom/gum boot
khoho (likhoho), chicken
kholo (-hlo), big/old
kholoa (khotsoe), to think something is so (**kea kholoa o Maseru**, I think he/she is in Maseru)
khomo (likhomo), cow (**likhomo tseo**, traditional Basotho greeting)
khona (khonne), to be able
khopo, crooked/bad/wicked
khora (khotse), to become full (**ke khotse**, I am full)
khothaletsa (khothalelitse), to encourage
khoto (likhoto), rat
khotso, peace/hello
khotsofala (khotsofetse), to become satisfied (**ke khotsofetse**, I am satisfied)
khubelu (-fubelu), red
khutla (khutlile), to return
khutlela (khutletse), to return to
khutlisa (khutlisitse), to give back/to send back
khutsana (likhutsana), orphan
khutšoanyane (-khutšoanyane), short
kiribaea (likiribaea), 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 (**ke koatile**, I am sad)
koatisa (koatisitse), to make sad (**oa nkoatisa**, you're making me sad)
koatsi, HIV/AIDS
kobo (likobo), blanket
kofi (no pl.), coffee
kokoana-hloko (likokoana-hloko), virus
kokoanyana (likokoanyana), insect
koloba (kolobile), to become wet (**ke kolobile**, I am wet)
kolobe (likolobe), pig
kolobisa (kolobisitse), to wet
koloi (makoloi or likoloi), car
kolota (kolotile), to owe (**o nkolota 5 Maloti**, you owe me 5 Maloti)
kolotisa (kolotisitse), to give credit
komello (likomello), drought
konyana (likonyana), lamb, kindergartner (**likonyaneng**, kindergarten)
kopa (kopile), to ask for/to want (**ke kopa lijo**, I am asking for food)
kopana (kopane), to meet/to come together
kopano (likopano), meeting/union; **kopano ea mali**: exchange of blood
kopanya (kopantse), to add
kopo (likopo), request/application
koro (likoro), wheat
kotsi (likotsi), accident/danger (**ke tsoile kotsi**, I had an accident)
kotula (kotutse), to harvest
kuka (kukile), to take up
kukisa (kukisitse), to help to take up (**nkukise**, help me with what I'm carrying)
kula (kutse), to be sick
kulisa (kulisitse), to make sick
kuta (kutile), to cut (with scissors)

L

Labobeli, Tuesday
Labohlano, Friday
Labone, Thursday
Laboraro, Wednesday
lahla (lahlile), to throw away
lahleha (lahlehile), to be lost (**e lahlehile**, it is lost)

lakatsa (lakalitse), to desire
lamuni (lilamuni), orange
lapa (lapile), to be hungry (**ke lapile**, I am hungry)
lata (latile), to fetch
latela (latetse), to succeed/to follow
le, and/also/with
Leamerika (Maamerika), person from the United States
lebaka (mabaka), cause/reason (**ho phètha mabaka**, to take care of one's personal business)
lebala (lebetse), to forget
lebanta (mabanta), belt
lebekere (mabekere), mug
lebella (lebeletse), to expect
lebenkele (mabenkele), shop
lebese (mabese), milk
lebitla (mabitla), grave
lebitso (mabitso), name
leboha (lebohile), to thank; to be grateful
lebokose (mabokose), box
lebone (mabone), lamp
lebote (mabote), wall
Lechina (Machina), person from China
leeto (maeto), journey
lefatše (mafatše), earth/world
lefifi, darkness (**ho lefifi**, it is dark)
lefika (mafika), big rock
lefu (mafufu), death/disease (**lefung**, funeral); **lefu la (mafufu a) likobo**, sexually transmitted infection
lefuba, tuberculosis
lehe (mahe), egg
lehlabula or hlabula, summer
lehloa (no pl.), snow
lehlohonolo (mahlohonolo), good luck/blessing
leholimo (maholimo), sky/heaven
leihlo (mahlo), eye
leino (meno), tooth
lejoe (majoe), stone
leka (lekile), to try
lekala (makala), branch
lekana (lekane), to be enough/to be equal (**ho lekane**, it is enough)
lekhetho la thekiso, sales-tax
lekhethlo (makhetlo), period/time
lekhethlo la bobeli, the second time (**makhetlo a mabeli**, two times)

Lekhooa (Makhooa), *European*
lekhopho (makhopho),
pimples/bumps on skin
lekhotla (makhotla), *court*
lekunututu (makunututu), *secret*
lelapa (malapa), *home/family*
lelapi (malapi), *cloth/material*
leleme (maleme), *tongue*
lelinyane (malinyane), *young of*
an animal
lema (lemme), *to plough/to*
cultivate
lemao (mamao), *safety pin*
lemati (mamati), *door*
lenala (manala), *finger nail*
lengole (mangole), *knee*
lengolo (mangolo), *letter;*
lengolo la khoebo: *business-*
license
lengope (mangope), *donga*
(gully caused by soil erosion)
lenyalo (manyalo),
wedding/marriage
leotle (maotle), *sea*
leoto (maoto), *foot (ka maoto,*
on foot)
lepolesa (mapolesa), *policeman*
leqeba (maqeba), *wound*
leqephe (maqephe), *page/sheet*
leqheku (maqheku), *old person*
lerata (marata), *noise (u lerata!,*
you are noisy!)
lero (maro), *bodily fluid*
lerole (marole), *dust (often*
pronounced “leroele”)
leru (maru), *cloud*
lesaka (masaka), *corral*
lesapo (masapo), *bone*
lese (masea), *infant*
lesela (masela), *cloth/material*
leseli (maseli), *light*
leshano (mashano), *lie (u*
leshano!, you lie!)
lesheleshele (masheleshele), *soft*
porridge (made from sorghum)
lesholu (masholu), *thief*
lesoba (masoba), *hole (that goes*
all the way through something)
lesoefe (masoefe), *albino*
lesole (masole), *soldier*
letahoa (matahoa), *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*

letsa, *to ring (ho letsa mololi, to*
whistle)
letsatsi (matsatsi), *sun/day*
letsetsa (letselitse), *to call (on*
the phone)
letsoai (no pl.), *salt*
letšoa (matšoa), *symptom*
letsoele (matsoele), *breast*
letsoho (matsoho), *hand, arm*
letsollo, *diarrhea*
liaparo (no pl.), *clothing*
lieha (liehile), *to delay/to be late*
lijalo (no sing.), *crops (in field or*
garden)
lijelello, *any food that*
accompanies the starch in a meal
(meat, vegetables, beans etc...)
lijo, *food*
likela (liketse), *to set (of the sun)*
limela (no sing.), *edible plants*
lisa (lisitse), *to herd/to take to*
graze
litelu (no pl.), *beard*
lithole (no pl.), *trash/rubbish*
(often pronounced “lithoele”)
litšila, *dirty*
lla (llile), *to cry*
loana (loanne), *to fight*
(physically)
loantša (loantšitse), *to attack*
loea (loile), *to bewitch*
Loetse, *September*
loha (lohile), *to knit/to braid*
loka (lokile), *to become right/to*
be in order (hoa loka or ho
lokile, It is all right)
lokisa (lokisitse), *to repair/to*
prepare/to organize
loma (lomme), *to bite*
lora (lorile), *to dream*
luba (lubile), *to knead (bread)*
(oa nluba!, you’re mixing me
up!)
lula (lutse), *to stay (ie to live*
somewhere)/to sit
lula (lutse) fatše, *to sit down*
lumber (lilumber), *winter jacket*
lumela (lumetse), *hello/to*
consent/to accept/to believe
lumella (lumeletse), *to allow/to*
permit
lumellana (lumellane), *to agree*

M

mabele (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*
makala (maketse), *to be*
surprised (ke maketse, I am
surprised)
makhethe, *tidy/clean*
'mala (mebala), *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)
mamela (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 nkhono)
Mantaha, *Monday*
mantsiboea, *evening*
maoba, *the day before yesterday*
maobane, *yesterday*
'maraka (limmaraka), *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!)*
metsi (no pl.), *water/wet*
'mila (mebila), *road (used by*
cars)
'mino (mebino), *music*
moahisani (baahisani), *neighbor*
mobu (mebu), *soil*
mocha (bacha), *young person*
mocheso, *fever*
moea (meca), *wind/air/spirit*
moeti (baeti), *visitor*
moetlo (meetlo), *manner/custom*
mofumahali (mafumahali),
queen/wife of chief

mofuta (mefuta), type, kind (**ka mofuta ofe?** which kind?) (**mefuta-futa**, many kinds)
mofuthu, warm
mofutsana (bafutsana), poor person
mohlala (mehlala), example (**ke kopa mohlala**, I am asking for an example)
mohlankana (bahlankana), boyfriend
mohlolo (mehlolo), miracle
mohoebi (bahoebi), businessman
mohoete (mehoete), body hair
'moho, together
mohlomong, perhaps
moiteli (meiteli), manure
moithaopi (baithaopi), volunteer
mokaola, syphilis
mokete (mekete), feast
mokhachane (bakhachane), pregnant woman
mokhatlo (mekhatlo), association/organization
mokhoa (mekhoa), manner, way (**ka mokhoa ofe?**, in which manner?)
mokhotsi (bakhotsi), friend
mokokotlo (mekokotlo), back
mokopu (mekopu), pumpkin/squash
mokotla (mekotla), bag
mokuli (bakuli), sick person/patient
molaetsa (melaetsa), message
molamu (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 (balemi), 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
monoana (menoana), finger/toe
monoang (menoang), mosquito
monyako (menyako), door
monyetla (menyetla), opportunity
moo, there (**hona moo**, right there)
mookameli (baokameli), boss/supervisor
mooki (baoki), 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
moratuo (baratuo), loved one (term of endearment)
moreki (bareki), buyer/customer
morekisi (barekisi), seller
morena (marena), chief
moreneng (mareneng), the chief's place
morero (merero), project
moriana (meriana), medicine
moriri (meriri), hair
moriti (meriti), shade
moroetsana (baroetsana), unmarried adolescent girl
moroho (meroho), leafy greens (**meroho** can also mean vegetables)
moroto, urine
morui (barui), wealthy person
moruti (baruti), minister
mosa, kind (can imply being a pushover)
mosali (basali), woman/wife
mosamo (mesamo), pillow
mose (mese), dress/skirt
mosebetsi (mesebetsi), work/job
mosese, urine
moshanyana (bashanyana), boy
moshemane (bashemane), boy
mosi (mesi), smoke
Mosotho (Basotho), 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 (metse), village
Motšeanong, May
motseare, midday
motsoali (batsoali), parents
motsoalle (metsoalle), friend
motsoetse (batsoetse), woman who has just had baby
mpa (limpa), stomach
mpe (-be), bad/ugly
Mphalane, October
mpho (limpho), gift
mula (mutse), to beat severely
'muso (mebuso), government
N
na (nele), to rain (**pula ea na**, it is raining)
naha (linaha), land/country
nahana (nahane), to think
nako (no pl.), time (**nako ke mang?**, what is the time?) (**ka nako e'ngoe**, sometimes)
nale (linale), needle
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 (nchafalitse), 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 right (**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 bona (bana babo bona), their sibling
ngoan'abo lona (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*
nkhono (bo-nkhono), *grandmother*
nko (linko), *nose*
nku (linku), *sheep*
noa (noele), *to drink*
noka (linoka), *river*
nomoro (linomoro), *number*
nona (nonne), *to become fat (u nonne, you have become fatter)*
nonyana (linonyana), *bird*
nosetsa (noselitse), *to water (specifically plants)*
notlela (notletse), *to lock*
notlolla (notlolotse), *to unlock*
ntate (bo-ntate), *father*
ntate-moholo (bo-ntate-moholo), *grandfather*
ntho (lintho), *thing*
ntja (lintja), *dog*
ntlafatsa (ntlafalitse), *to make beautiful*
ntle (-tle), *good/beautiful*
ntlo (matlo), *house*
ntloana (matloana), *bathroom*
ntoa (lintoa), *war*
ntša (ntšitse), *to take out*
ntsintsi (lintsintsi), *fly*
ntšo (-tšo), *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*
nyantša (nyantšitse), *to breastfeed*
nyatsi (linyatsi), *mistress*
nyoko (no pl.), *bile (ke tsoeroe ke nyoko, I have indigestion)*
nyolla (nyolotse), *to lift up*

nyoloha (nyolohile), *to go up, to ascend*
nyoroea (nyoriloe/nyoruoe), *to become thirsty (ke nyoruoe, I'm thirsty)*

O

oela (oetse), *to fall*
ofe kapa ofe, efe kapa efe etc..., *whichever (varies depending on noun class)*
ofisi (lio fisi), *office*
oka (okile), *to nurse (a sick person)*
oli or fishoil, *oil*
oma (omme), *to become dry*
omanya (omantse), *to scold with anger*
onnoroko (lionnoroko), *slip/petticoat*
opa (opile), *to be sore*
ota (otile), *to become skinny (u otile, you are skinny)*
otla (otile), *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*
pel'a, *by/beside/near*
pelo (lipelo), *heart*
pene (lipene), *pen*
pensele (lipensele), *pencil*
peo (lipeo), *seed; lipeo tsa ntate: sperm*
pepa (pepile), *to carry on one's back/to give birth (used for people)*
pèrè (lipèrè), *horse*
pere (lipere), *pear*
perekisi (liperekisi), *peach*
phaello (liphaello), *profit*
phafa (liphafa), *whip*
phahama (phahame), *to rise, to become high*
phahamisa (phahamitse), *to lift up*
phahlo (lipahlo), *clothing/luggage/goods*
phakisa (phakisitse), *to hurry*
phapha (phaphile), *to get uppity*
Phato, *August*

pheha (phehile), *to cook*
phehela (pheetse), *to cook for*
phekola (phekotse), *to heal/to cure*
phela (phetse), *to live*
Pherekhong, *January*
pheta (phetile), *to repeat*
phètha (phèthile), *to finish/to accomplish (ke phètho, that's it)*
phofa (liphofa), *flour (phofa ea papa, cornflour)*
phola (pholile), *to become cool (ho pholile, It is cool)*
phomola (phomotse), *to rest*
phofo (liphofo), *animal*
phoqa (phoqile), *to disappoint (ke tla u phoqa, I will make you sorry)*
phoso (liphoso), *mistake/error (ka phoso, by mistake) (ka boomo, on purpose)*
Phulungoana, *November*
phunya (phuntse), *to pierce/to bore a hole*
Phupjane, *June*
Phupu, *July*
phutha (phuthile), *to fold/to gather*
phutheho (liphutheho), *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*
pompo (lipompo), *pump/water tap*
pompong (lipompong), *candy*
poone (lipoone), *corn*
poreisi (liporeisi), *price*
posa (positse), *to post*
poso (liposo), *post office*
pòta (pòtile), *to go around something/to go via a place*
pota (potile), *to talk nonsense (oa pota!, you're talking nonsense!)*
poulelo, *jealousy*
pshatla (pshatfile), *to break in pieces/to smash*
pula (lipula), *rain*
putsoa (-putsoa), *blue/grey*

Q

qabana (qabane), *to argue/to be in an argument*

qabola (qabotse), to amuse/to make laugh
qala (qalile), to begin
qeta (qetile), to finish/to end
qeto (liqeto), decision/conclusion
qhala (qhalile), to pour out/to throw out
qoba (qobile), to avoid
qobella (qobeletse), to force, to compel
qoqa (qoqile), to chat
qoqela (qoqetse), to chat to
qosa (qositse), to accuse

R

raha (rahile), to kick
rakhali (bo-rakhali), aunt (father's sister)
rangoane (bo-rangoane), father's younger brother (father's older brother is **ntate-moholo**)
rapela (rapetse), to pray
rata (ratile), to love/to like
ratana (ratane), to love one another
re (itse), to say
reisi (no pl.), rice
reka (rekile), to buy
rekela (reketse), to buy for
rekisa (rekisitse), to sell
rekoto (lirekoto), record
rera (rerile), to plan, to decide
ritela (ritetse), to brew (beer)
roala (roetse), to wear/to put on/to carry/wear on one's head (specifically, hat/headscarf/bucket/shoes)
roba (robile), to break
robala (robetse), to sleep (**ke robetse**, I am sleeping) (**robala hantle**, sleep well)
robatsa (robalitse), to put to sleep
robeha (robehile), to get broken (**e robehile**, it's broken)
rohaka (rohakile), to insult
roka (rokile), to sew
rola (rotse), to take down (from head)/to take off
roma (romme), to send (**ke ronngoe ke Refiloe**, I was sent by Refiloe)
ropo (liropo), rope
ruruha (ruruhile), to swell
ruta (rutile), to teach
rutana (rutane), to teach one another

S

sala (setse), to stay/to remain

sala hantle, good-bye (lit: stay well); said by person leaving
sala (setse) morao, to follow
seba (sebile), to gossip
sebeletsa (sebelelitse), to work for
sebelisa (sebelisitse), to use
sebetsa (sebelitse), to work
seboko (liboko), worm
sechaba (lichaba), community/nation
seeta (lieta), shoe
sefahleho (lifahleho), face
sefako (lifako), hail
sefapano (lifapano), cross (sefapano!, I swear!)
sefate (lifate), tree
sefefe (lifefe), storm
sefofane (lifofane), plane
sefuba (lifuba), chest/lungs (**ke tsoeroe ke sefuba**, I have a cold)
seha (sehile), to cut
sehlopha (lihlopha), group
sehoete (lihoete), carrot
sekafutini (likafutini), tupperware
sekepe (likepe), boat
sekere (likere), scissors
sekho (likho), spider
Sekhooa, English
sekipa (likipa), t-shirt
sekoahelo (likoahelo), lid/cover
sekoloto (likoloto), debt; **ho fana (fane) ka sekoloto**: to give credit; **ho nka (nkile) sekoloto**: to buy on credit
sekoti (likoti), hole (in the ground)
sekotlolo (likotlolo), bowl
selemo (lilemo), year/spring
selemo se tlang or **selemong se tlang**, next year (lit: the year that comes)
seliba (maliba), well/spring
senotlolo (linotlolo), key
senya (sentse), to waste/to spoil/to damage
senyeha (senyehile), to be spoiled (**e senyehile**, it is spoiled)
sepekere (lipekere), nail
sepetlele (lipetlele), hospital
sepheo (lipheo), aim/objective
serame, coldness
seriti (liriti), shadow
serope (lirope), thigh
sesa (sesitse), to urinate
sesane (-sesane), thin
sesepa (lisepa), soap

seshoeshoe (lishoeshoe), traditional Basotho cloth or dress
seso (liso), sore; **seso se sehoho**: gonorrhoea
setempe (litempe), stamp
setene (litene), brick
seterata (literata), street
setho (litho), member/limb
sethoto, stupid/foolish
sethunya (lithunya), gun
sethuthuthu (lithuthuthu), motorcycle
setlama-tlama (litlama-tlama), plant/herb/weed
setlhare (lithhare), medicine
setlohoho (litlohoho), grandchild
setopo (litopo), taxi rank
setšoantšo (litšoantšo), picture
setulo (litulo), chair
shapa (shapile), to beat
sheba (shebile), to look at
shebeen, unlicensed bar
shoa (shoele), to die (used mostly for animals)
shobelisa (shobelisitse), to kidnap a girl with the intent of marrying her
shopo (lishopo), shop
siea (siile), to leave behind
sireletsa (sirelelitse), to protect
sitoa (sitiloe), to be unable
soaba (soabile), to become sorry/to become embarrassed
soasoa (soasoile), to joke
soka (sokile), to stir (specifically papa)
sokola (sokotse), to have a hard time (usually due to poverty)
sokolisa (sokolisitse), to give someone a hard time
sono (lisono), sad event (**ke sono**, too bad)
Sontaha, Sunday
sootho(-sootho), brown
sotleha (sotlehile), to have a hard time
sunu (sunne), to kiss

T

taba (litaba), matter/subject/news
tabola (tabotse), to tear
tafole (litafole), table
tahlehelo (litahlehelo), loss
tahoa (tahiloe/tahoue), to get drunk (**u tahoue?**, are you drunk?)
tala (-tala), green
tali (litali), mouse

talima (talimile), to look at
tamati (litamati), tomato
tanki, thank you
tapole (litapole), potato
tata (tatile), to be in a hurry (**ke tatile**, I'm in a hurry)
teana (teane), to meet/to come together
tebela (tebetse), to chase away
tee (no pl.), tea
tefa (tefile), to be spoiled (**oa tefa**, you are spoiled)
tekesi (litekesi), taxi
telele (-telele), tall
temo, agriculture
tena (tenne), to wear/to put on (specifically pants/dress/skirt) (**oa ntena!**, you disgust me!)
tenya (-tenya), fat
terata (literata), fence
terekere (literekere), tractor
teronko (literonko), prison
thaba (lithaba), mountain
thaba (thabile), to be happy (**ke thabile**, I am happy)
thahasello (lithahasello), interest
thaka (lithaka), peer (of the same age)
tharollo (litharollo), solution
thata (thatile), to braid
thata, difficult/hard/tough/stingy (**o sebeta ka thata**, he/she works very hard)
theko (litheko), price
theoha (theohile), to go down/to get off; **ho theoha (theohile)**
'meleng, to lose weight
theola (theotse), to lower/reduce
thepa, furniture/property/goods:
thepa e kenang: import; **thepa e tsoang**: export
thero, decision (**thero ea malapa**, family planning)
thetsa (thetsitse), to deceive/to cheat
thiba (thibile), to stop
thibela (thibetse), to prevent
thimola (thimotse), to sneeze
thipa (lithipa), knife
thobalano, sex
thokolosi (lithokolosi), 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 (thusitse), to help (**ha ho na thuso**, it's useless)
thusana (thusane), to help one another
thuto (lithuto), lesson/subject
tichere (litichere or matichere), teacher
tiisa (tiisitse), to affirm/to pull tight
tima (timme), to refuse to give someone something/to put out/to extinguish
tjale (litjale), checkered blanket/lightweight blanket
tjena, like this
tla (tlile), to come
tlala (tletse), to get full (**noka e tletse**, the river is full)
tlaleho (litlaleho), report
tlama (tlamme), to tie/to bind

tlameha (tlamehile), to should/to have to (do something), (**ke tlameha ho tsamaea**, I have to leave)
tlas'a, under, below
tlase, below
tlatsa (tlatsitse), to fill (**ntlats!** 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!*)
tletleba (tletlebile), to be discontented/to be dissatisfied (**kea tletleba**, I am dissatisfied)
tlhapi (litlhapi), fish
tlhoko (litlhoko), need
tlhokomelo, care; **tlhokomelo ea lapeng**: home-based care
tliniki (litliniki), clinic
tlisa (tlisitse), to bring
tlisetša (tliselitse), to bring to
tløaela (tløaetse), to become used to (**ke tløaetse ho lula Lesotho**, I am used to living in Lesotho)
tløha (tløhile), to leave/to go away
tløhela (tløhetse), to leave/to give up (**ntløhelle!**, let go of me!)
tløntlølla (tløntlølotse), to dishonor
tløsa (tløsitse), to remove/to take away/to subtract

tløtsa (tløtsitse), to grease/to apply (specifically lotion, vaseline etc...)
tløeba (litøeba), mouse
tløkelo (litøkelo), right
tløna (-tløna), male/right (**letsoho le letøna**, right hand)
tløilete (litøilete), bathroom
tløнки (litøнки), donkey
tløøe; ngoana tløøe! (bana ting!): naughty child!
tløro (litøro), dream
tløroea (tløroile), to draw
tløropo (litøropo), city
tløuta (tløutile), to worry/to have one's thoughts be far away (**ua tløuta?**, are you worried?/is your mind wandering?)
tløšaba (tløšabile), to fear/to be afraid
tløšamaea (tløšamaile), to walk/to leave
tløšamaea hantle, good-bye (lit: go well); said by person staying behind
tløtsatsing le or tsatsing lena, today
tløseba (tløsebile), to know
tløsebana (tløsebane), to know one another
tløsebisa (tløsebisitse), to inform
tløšèbè (litšèbè), ear
tløšeha (tløšehile), to laugh
tløšehali (-tløšehali), female/left (**letsoho le letšehali**, left hand)
tløšehla (-sehla), yellow
tløseka (tløsekile), to claim
tløsela (litøsela), path, way (**ka tløsela efe?**, in which way?)
tløsela (tløsetse), to cross
tløšèla (tløšètse), to pour
tløšenyehelo (litšenyehelo), expenditure
tløšepa (tløšepile), to trust/to hope
tløšepahala (tløšepahetse), to be trustworthy
tløšepisa (tløšepisitse), to promise
tløsikinyetsa (tløsikinyelitse), to tickle someone
tløšimo (masimo), field
tløšireletso, protection
tløšitøe, December
tløsoa (tløsoile), to go out/to come from
tløšøaetso, infection
tløsoafa (tløsoafile), to not feel like doing something
tløsoaka (tløsoakile), to mix

tsoala, *interest*
tsoala (tsoetse), *to give birth (used for animals)*
tsoalo, *birth (letsatsi la tsoalo, birthday)*
tšoana (tšoanne), *to be alike, to resemble (ke tšoana le uena, I resemble you)*
tšoanela (tšoanetse), *to should/to have to (do something), (ke tšoanetse ho pheha, I have to cook)*
tšoara (tšoere), *to catch/to grab/to hold/to arrest*
tsoarela (tsoaretse), *to forgive (ntsoarele, excuse me)*
tšoaroa (tšoeroe), *to be grabbed/to get 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)) (Ke tšoeroe, I was arrested)*
tsoekere (no pl.), *sugar*
tsoekere, *sweet*

tšoela (tšoetse) mathe, *to spit*
tsoela pele (tsoetse pele), *to continue*
tsoelo-pele, *progress/development*
tšoecu (-soeu), *white*
tsofala (tsofetse), *to be growing old (ke tsofetse, I am old)*
tsoha (tsohile), *to wake up/to get up/to rise*
ho tšoha (tšohile), *to fear/to become afraid*
tsola (tsotse), *to undress (u tsotse, you're naked)*
tsolla (tsolotse), *to have diarrhea*
tšosa (tšositse), *to frighten*
tsotella (tsoteletse), *to care (ha ke tsotelle!, I don't care!)*
tsotsi (litsotsi), *thief*
tsuba (tsubile), *to smoke*
tuku (lituku), *headscarf*
turu, *expensive (e turu, it's expensive)*
tumello, *permission*

U

utloa (utloile), *to hear/to understand/to taste/to feel*
utloana (utloane), *to understand one another*
utloisisa (utloisisitse), *to understand*
utsoa (utsoitse), *to steal*

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)*
accident, *kotsi (likotsi)*
accompany, *ho felehetsa (felehelitse)*
accomplish, *ho phètha (phèthile)*
accuse, *ho qosa (qositse)*
accustom; to become used to: *ho tloaela (tloaetse)*
add, *ho eketsa (ekelitse); ho kopanya (kopantse)*
adultery; to commit adultery: *ho feba (febile)*
advise, *ho eletsa (elelitse)*
affirm, *ho tiisa (tiisitse)*
after, *ka mora, 'ka morao ho*
afterwards, *kamorao*
again, *hape*
aggressive, *bohale*
agree, *ho lumellana (lumellane)*
agriculture, *temo*
aim, *sepheo (lipheo)*

air, *moea (meea)*
albino, *lesoeфе (masoeфе)*
all, *kaofela*
allow, *ho lumella (lumetsetse)*
aloud, *haholo*
also, *le*
alternate, *ho fapanya (fapantse)*
always, *ka mehla*
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 (halefisitse)*
animal, *phoofolo (liphoofofo); young of an animal:* *lelinyane (malinyane)*
annoy; by being noisy: *ho hloliea (hloliile)*
answer, *karabo (likarabo); ho araba (arabile)*
appear, *ho hlaha (hlahile)*
apple, *apole (liapole)*

application, *kopo (likopo)*
apply; to apply lotion, vaseline etc: *ho tlotsa (tlotsitse); to apply lotion/vaseline to oneself:* *ho itlotsa (itlotsitse)*
approach, *ho atamela (atametse)*
April, *'Mesa*
argue, *ho qabana (qabane)*
arm, *letsoho (matsoho)*
around; to go around something: *pòta (pòtile)*
arrange, *ho hlophisa (hlophisitse)*
arrest, *ho tšoara (tšoere); to get arrested:* *ho tšoaroa (tšoeroe)*
arrive, *ho fihla (fihlile)*
as, *joale ka/joalo ka*
ascend, *ho nyoloha (nyolohile)*
ask, *ho botsa (botsitse); to ask for:* *ho kopa (kopile); to ask oneself:* *ho ipotsa (ipotsitse)*
assembly, *phutheho (liphutheho)*
association, *mokhatlo (mekhatlo)*
attack, *ho loantša (loantšitse)*
attend, *ho kena (kene)*
August, *Phato*

aunt; father's sister: *rakhali* (*bo-rakhali*); **mother's younger sister:** *mangoane* (*bo-mangoane*); **mother's older sister:** *nkhono*
autumn, *hoetla*
avoid, *ho qoba* (*qobile*)

B

back, *mokokotlo* (*mekokotlo*)
bad, *khopo*; *mpe* (*-be*)
badly, *hampe*
bag, *mokotla* (*mekotla*)
bar, *joaleng/bareng/shebeen*
basin, *baskomo* (*libaskomo*)
bathe, *ho hlapa* (*hlapile*)
bathroom, *nloana* (*matloana*)/*toilete* (*litoilete*)
be, *ho ba* (*bile*)
beans, *naoa* (*linaoa*)
beard, *litelu* (no pl.)
beat, *ho hlola* (*hlotse*)/*ho shapa* (*shapile*)/*ho mula* (*mutse*)
beautiful, *ntl* (*-tle*); **to make beautiful:** *ntlafatsa* (*ntlafalitse*)
because, *hobane*; **because of:** *ka lebaka la*
bed, *bete* (*libete*)
beer, *joala* (*majoala*)
before, *ka pele* *ho*
begin, *ho qala* (*qalile*)
behave, *ho itšoara* (*itšoere*), **to behave well:** *ho itšoara* (*itšoere*) *hantle*
behind, *ka mora*, ' *ka morao* *ho*
believe, *ho lumela* (*lumetse*)
below, (*ka*) *tlas'a*, *ka tlase* *ho*, (*ka*) *tlase*
belt, *lebanta* (*mabanta*)
beside, *pel'a*, *ka thoko* *ho*
between, *pakeng tsa*, *har'a*
bewitch, *ho loea* (*loile*)
bicycle, *beisekele* (*libeisekele*)
big, *khola* (*-holo*)
bile, *nyoko* (no pl.)
bind, *ho fasa* (*fasitse*)/*ho tlama* (*tlamme*)
bird, *nonyana* (*linonyana*)
birth, *tsoalo*; **to give birth (used for people):** *ho pepa* (*pepile*); **to give birth (used for animals):** *ho tsoala* (*tsoetse*)
birthday, *letsatsi la tsoalo*
bite, *ho loma* (*lomme*)
bitter, *baba* (*babile*)
black, *ntšo* (*-tšo*)
blanket, *kobo* (*likobo*);
checkered or lightweight blanket: *tjale* (*litjale*)

blessing, *lehlohonolo* (*mahlohonolo*)
blood, *mali* (no pl.); **to bleed:** *ho tsoa mali*
blue, *putsoa* (*-putsoa*)
boat, *sekepe* (*likepe*)
body, ' *mele* (no pl.)
boerwurst, *boroso* (*liboroso*)
bone, *lesapo* (*masapo*)
book, *buka* (*libuka*)
book-keeping, *poloko ea libuka*
boot; gum boot: *khohlopo* (*likhohlopo*)
bore; to be bored: *boluto*; *ho bora* (*borile*)
born; to be born: *ho hlaha* (*hlahile*)
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*)/*moshemane* (*bashemane*)
boyfriend, *mohlankana* (*bahlankana*)
braid, *ho loha* (*lohile*); **to braid hair:** *ho thata* (*thatile*) *moriri*
brain, *boko* (*liboko*)
branch, *lekala* (*makala*)
bread, *bohobe* (*mahobe*)
break, *ho pshatla* (*pshatlile*)/*ho roba* (*robile*); **to get broken:** *ho robeha* (*robehile*)
breast, *letsoele* (*matsoele*)
breastfeed, *ho nyantša* (*nyantšitse*); **breastfeeding:** *kanyeso*
brew; to brew beer: *ho ritela* (*ritetse*)
brick, *setene* (*litene*)
bridge, *borokho* (*marokho*)
bring, *ho tliša* (*tlišitse*); **to bring to:** *ho tlišetse* (*tlišelitse*)
brother, *abuti* (*bo-abuti*)
brown, *sootho* (*-sootho*)
bucket, *nkho* (*linkho*)
budget, *moralo oa chelete*
build, *ho haha* (*hahile*)
bumps; bumps on skin: *lekhopho* (*makhopho*)
burn, *ho cha* (*chele*); **to cause to burn:** *ho chesa* (*chesitse*)
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 bitsa* (*bitsitse*); **on the phone:** *ho letsetsa* (*letselitse*)
candle, *kerese* (*likerese*)
candy, *pompong* (*lipompong*)
car, *koloi* (*makoloi* or *likoloi*)
card, *karere* (*likarere*)
care, *ho tsotella* (*tsoteletse*); **to take care of:** *ho hlokomela* (*hlokometse*); **to take care of oneself:** *ho itlhokomela* (*itlhokometse*); **home-based care:** *tlhokomelo 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, *chenche* (no pl.); *ho fetola* (*fetotse*); **to change places:** *ho fapanya* (*fapantse*)
chase; to chase away: *ho tebela* (*tebetse*)
chat, *ho qoqa* (*qoqile*), **to chat to:** *ho qoqela* (*qoqetse*)
cheat, *ho thesa* (*thetsitse*)
chest, *sefuba* (*lifuba*)
chicken, *khoho* (*likhoho*)
chief, *morena* (*marena*)
child, *ngoana* (*bana*)
Chinese person, *Lechina* (*Machina*)
choice, *khetho* (*likhetho*)
choose, *ho khetha* (*khethile*)
chop; to chop vegetables/meat: *ho khabela* (*khabetse*)
church, *kereke* (*likereke*)
city, *toropo* (*litoropo*)
claim, *ho tseka* (*tsekile*)
clean, *makhetho*; **to become clean:** *ho hloeka* (*hloekile*)
clever, *bohlale*
climb, *ho hloa* (*hloele*)
clinic, *tliniki* (*litliniki*)
close, *ho koala* (*koetse*)

cloth, *lelapi (malapi)/lesela (masela)*
clothing, *liaparo (no pl.)/phahlo (liphahlo)*
cloud, *leru (maru)*
coffee, *kofi (no pl.)*
cold; to be cold: *ho bata (batile); to become cold*: *ho hatsela (hatsetse)*; **to suffer from a cold**: *ho tsoaroa ke sefuba*
coldness, *serame*
color, *'mala (mebala)*
come, *ho tla (tlile)*; **to come from**: *ho tsoa (tsoile)*; **to come near**: *ho atamela (atametse)*; **to come together**: *ho kopana (kopane)/ho teana (teane)*
community, *sechaba (lichaba)*
compel, *ho qobella (qobeletse)*
complain, *ho belaela (belaetse)*
conceal, *ho pata (patile)*
concern, *ho ama (amile)*
conclusion, *qeto (liqeto)*
condom, *khohlopo (likhohlopo)*
confuse, *ho ferekanya (ferekantse)*; **to be confused**: *ho ferekana (ferekane)*
conquer, *ho hlola (hlotse)*
consent, *ho lumela (lumetse)*
continue, *ho tsoela (tsoetse) pele*
cook, *ho pheha (pnehile)*; **to cook for**: *ho phehela (pnehetse)*; **to be cooked**: *ho butsoa (butsoitse)*
cool; to become cool: *ho phola (pholile)*
cooperation, *boikopanyo*
corn, *poone (lipoone)*
corral, *lesaka (masaka)*
correct; to be correct: *ho nepa (nepile)*; **to become right**: *ho nepahala (nepahetse)*
cough, *ho khohlela (khohletse)*
country, *naha (linaha)*
court, *lekhlotla (makhotla)*; *ho fereha (ferehile)*
cover, *ho koahela (koahetse)*; *sekoahelo (likoahelo)*
cow, *khomo (likhomo)*
crash, *ho chaisa (chaisitse)*
crazy; to be crazy: *ho hlanya (hlantse)*
credit; to buy on credit: *ho nka (nkile) sekoloto*; **to give credit**: *kolotisa (kolotisitse)/ho fana (fane) ka sekoloto*
crooked, *khopo*
cropped, *lijalo (no sing.)*

cross, *sefapano; ho tsela (tsetse)*
cry, *ho lla (llile)*
cultivate, *ho lema (lemme)*
cure, *ho phekola (phekotse)*
custom, *moetlo (meetlo)*
customer, *moreki (bareki)*
cut, *ho seha (sehile)*; **to cut vegetables/meat**: *ho khabela (khabetse)*; **to cut with scissors**: *ho kuta (kutile)*; **to cut with the result of dividing something in two (such as a string)**: *ho khaola (khaotse)*

D

dam, *letamo (matamo)*
damage, *ho senya (sentse)*
dance, *ho jaefa (jaefile)*
danger, *kotsi (likotsi)*
darkness, *lefifi*
daughter, *moralali (barali)*
daughter-in-law, *ngoetsi (lingoetsi)*
day, *letsatsi (matsatsi)*
death, *lefu (mafufu)*
debt, *sekoloto (likoloto)*
deceive, *ho thesa (thetsitse)*
December, *Tšitoe*
decide, *ho rera (rerile)*
decision, *qeto (liqeto)*; *thero*
delay, *ho lieha (liehile)*
delicate; to be delicate: *ho fokola (fokotse)*
desire, *ho lakatsa (lakalitse)*
development, *tsoelo-pele*
diarrhea, *letsollo*; **to have**
die; when referring to people: *ho hlokahala (hlokahetse)*; **when referring to animals**: *ho shoa (shoele)*
differ, *ho fapana (fapane)*
difficult, *thata/boima*
difficulty, *bothata (mathata)*
dig, *ho cheka (chekile)*
diminish, *ho fokotsa (fokolitse)*
dirty, *litšila*
disappear, *ho nyamela (nyametse)*
disappoint, *ho phoqa (phoqile)*
discontent; to be discontented: *ho tletleba (tletlebile)*
discriminate, *ho khetholla (khetholotse)*
disease, *lefu (mafufu)*
dishcloth, *fatuku (lifatuku)*
dishonor, *ho tlontlolla (tlontlolotse)*

dissatisfy; to be dissatisfied: *ho tletleba (tletlebile)*
divide, *ho arola (arotse)*
divorce, *ho hlala (hlalile)*
do, *ho etsa (entse)*; **to do for**: *ho etsetsa (etselitse)*
doctor, *ngaka (lingaka)*
dog, *ntja (lintja)*
donga, *lengope (mangope)*
donkey, *tonki (litonki)*
door, *lemati (mamati)/monyako (menyako)*
dough, *hlama (no pl.)*
draw, *ho toroia (toroile)*
dream, *ho toroia (toroile)*; *ho lora (lorile)*
dress, *mose (mese)*; *ho apara (apere)/ho tena (tenne)/ho apesa (apesitse)*
drink, *ho noa (noele)*
drive, *ho khanna (khanne)*
drought, *komello (likomello)*
drunk; to get drunk: *ho tahoia (tahoie/tahouie)*
drunkard, *letahoa (matahoa)*
dry; to become dry: *ho oma (omme)*
during, *har'a*
dust, *lerole (marole)* (often pronounced "leroele")

E

ear, *tsèbè (litsèbè)*
earth, *lefatshe (mafatshe)*
Easter, *Paseka*
easy, *bonolo/bobebe*
eat, *ho ja (jele)*
egg, *lehe (mahe)*
elect, *ho khetha (khethele)*
election, *khetho (likhetho)*
electricity, *motlakase (no pl.)*
embarrassed; to become embarrassed: *ho soaba (soabile)*
encourage, *ho khothaletsa (kothalelitse)*
end, *ho qeta (qetile)*; *mafelo*
English, *Sekhooa*
enough; to be enough: *ho lekana (lekane)*
enter, *ho kena (kene)*
equal; to be equal: *ho lekana (lekane)*
erase, *ho hlakola (hlakotse)*
error, *phoso (liphoso)*
European, *Lekhooa (Makhooa)*
expenditure, *tšenyehelo (litšenyehelo)*
evening, *mantsiboea*
everywhere, *hohle/kahohle*

evident; to be evident: *ho bonahala (bonahetse)*
examination, *hlahlobo (lihlahlobo)*
examine, *ho hlahloba (hlahlobile)*
example, *mohlala (mehlala)*
expect, *ho lebella (lebeletse)*
expensive, *туру*
explain, *ho hlalosa (hlalositse)*
export, *thepa e tsoang*
extinguish, *ho tima (timme)*
eye, leihlo (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: *thero ea malapa*
far, hole
**farmer, molemi (balemi)
fat, mafura (no pl.); tenya (-tenya); to become fat: *ho nona (nonne)*
**father, ntate (bo-ntate)
**fault, molato (melato)
**fear, ho tšaba (ho tšabile)/ho tšoha (tšohile)
**feast, mokete (mekete)
February, Hlakola
**feed, ho fepa (fepile)
feel, ho utloa (utloile); to not feel like doing something: *ho tsoafa (tsoafile)*
**female, tšehali (-tšehali)
**fence, terata (literata)
fetch, ho lata (latile); to fetch water: *ho kha (khele)*
fever, mocheso
**few, nyane (-nyane)/nyenyane (-nyenyane)
**field, tšimo (masimo)
**fight, ho loana (loanne)
**fill, ho tlatsa (tlatsitse)
**find, ho fumana (fumane)/ho thòla (thòtse)
**finger, monoana (menoana)
**finger nail, lenala (manala)
**finish, ho qeta (qetile)/ho fela (felile)/ho phètha (phèthile)
**fire, mollo (mello)
**firewood, patsi (no pl.)
**fish, tlhapi (litlhapi)
**flee, ho baleha (balehile)
**flesh, nama (linama)
floor, fatše
flour, phofo (liphofo)

**flower, palesa (lipalesa)
fluid; bodily fluid: *lero (maro)*
**fly, ho fofa (fofile); ntsintsi (lintsintsi)
**fold, ho phutha (phuthile)
**follow, ho sala (setse) morao/ho hlahlama (hlahlamile)/ho latela (latetse)
**food, lijo
**foolish, sethoto
**foot, leoto (maoto)
**for, bakeng sa (short for sebakeng sa)(followed by ka, hao, hae...)
**force, ho qobella (qobeletse)
**forget, ho lebala (lebetse)
**forgive, ho tsoarela (tsoaretse)
**fork, fereko (lifereko)
free; free of charge: mahala
Friday, Labohlano
**friend, mokhotsi (bakhotsi)/motsoalle (metsoalle)
**frighten, ho tšosa (tšositse)
**fruit, tholoana (litholoana)
**front; in front of: ka pele ho fry, ho halika (halikile)
**full; to become full: ho khora (khotse)/ho tlala (tletse)
funeral, lefung
furniture, thepa**********************************

G

**garden, jarete (lijarete)
**gas, khase (no pl.)
**gather, ho phutha (phuthile)
**germinate, ho mela (metse)
**get; to get off: ho theoha (theohile); to get up: ho tsoha (tsohile)
gonorrhoea, seso se seholo
**gift, mpho (limpho)
**girl, ngoanana (banana); unmarried adolescent girl: moroetsana (baroetsana)
**girlfriend, kharebe (likharebe)
**give, ho fa (file); to give back: ho khutlisa (khutlisitse); to give food to: ho ngoathela (ngoathetse); to give up: ho tlohela (tlohetse)
**glass, khalase (likhalase)
**go, ho ea (ile); to be gone: ho fela (felile); to go away: ho tloha (tlohile); to go by: ho feta (fetile); to go down: ho theoha (theohile); to go in: kena (kene); to go out: ho tsoa (tsoile); to go up: ho nyoloha (nyolohile)
goat, poli (lipoli)**********************

**god, molimo (melimo)
good, hantle; ntle (-tle); molemo; good to eat: monate
goods, phahlo (lipahlo)/thepa; sharing of goods: karollelano ea thepa
**gossip, ho seba (sebile)
**government, 'muso (mebuso)
**grab, ho tšoara (tšoere)
**grandchild, setloholo (litloholo)
**grandfather, ntate-moholo (bo-ntate-moholo)
**grandmother, nkhone (bo-nkhono)
**grape, morara (merara)
**grass, joang (majoang)
**grateful; to be grateful: ho leboha (lebohile)
**grave, lebitla (mabitla)
**green, tala (-tala)
**greens, moroho (meroho)
**grey, putsoa (-putsoa)
ground; on the ground: fatše
**group, sehlopha (lihlopha)
**grow, ho mela (metse); when referring to humans and animals: ho hola (hotse)
**guilt, molato (melato)
gun, sethunya (lithunya)**********************************

H

**hail, sefako (lifako)
**hair, moriri (meriri); body hair: mohoete (mehoete)/boea (no pl.)
**hammer, hamore (lihamore)
**hand, letsoho (matsoho)
**happen, ho etsahala (etsahetse)
**happy; to be happy: ho thaba (thabile)
hard, thata
**harvest, kotula (kotutse)
**hat, katiba (likatiba)
**hate, ho hloea (hloile)
**have, ho ba le (bile le)
**head, hloho (lihloho)
**headscarf, tuku (lituku)
**heal, ho phekola (phekotse)
**health, bophelo (maphelo)
**hear, ho utloa (utloile)
**heart, pelo (lipelo)
**heat, ho futhumatsa (futhumelitse)
**heaven, leholimo (maholimo)
**heavy, boima; to be too heavy for: ho imela (imetse)
hello, lumela/khotso
help, ho thusa (thusitse); to help oneself: ho ithusa (ithusitse); to

help one another: *ho thusana (thusane)*
herb, *setlama-tlama (litlama-tlama)*
herd, *ho lisa (lisitse)*
herdboy, *molisana (balisana)*
here, *koano/mona*
hide, *ho pata (patile); to hide oneself:* *ho ipata (ipatile)*
hire, *ho hira (hirile)*
hit, *ho otlā (otlile)*
HIV/AIDS, *HIV le AIDS/koatsi*
hoe, *ho hlaola (hlaotse)*
hold, *tšoara (tšoere)*
hole; hole in the ground: *sekoti (likoti); hole that goes all the way through something:* *lesoba (masoba)*
home, *hae/lelapa (malapa)*
hope, *tšepa (tšepile)*
horse, *pèrè (lipèrè)*
hospital, *sepetlele (lipetlele)*
hot; to be hot: *ho chesa (chesitse)*
house, *ntlo (matlo)*
how?, *joang?*
however, *feela/joang kapa joang*
humanity, *botho*
humility, *boikokobetso*
hungry; to be hungry: *ho lapa (lapile)*
hurry, *ho phakisa (phakisitse); to be in a hurry:* *ho tata (tatile)*
husband, *monna (banna)*

I

if, *haeba/...hore na...?*
immune system, *masole a 'mele*
import, *thepa e kenang*
important, *bohlokoa*
in; used to emphasize place: *ka;*
in the house: *ka tlung*
increase, *ho eketsa (ekelitse)*
indeed, *ka 'nete*
indoors, *ka tlung*
infant, *lesea (masea)*
infection, *tšoaetso*
inform, *ho tsebisa (tsebisitse)/ho bolella (boleletse)*
injection, *ente (liente)*
insect, *kokoanyana (likokoanyana)*
insert, *ho kenya (kentse)*
inside; indoors: *ka tlung; inside of:* *kahar'a*
interest, *tsoala*
insult, *hlapa (lihlapa); ho rohaka (rohakile)*
intelligence, *kelello (no pl.)*

interest, *thahasello (lithahasello)*
interrupt, *ho kena (kene) motho hanong*
invite, *ho mema (memile)*
itchy, *ho botsikinyane*

J

jacket; suit jacket: *baki (libaki)*
January, *Pherekhong*
jealous, *boulela (bouletse); mona*
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 (shobelisitse)*
kill, *ho bolaea (bolaile)*
kind, *mosa; as in type:* *mofuta (mefuta)*
kindergarten, *likonyaneng*
kiss, *ho meta (metile)/ho aka (akile)/ho suna (sunne)*
knead (bread): *ho luba (lubile)*
knee, *lengole (mangole)*
knife, *thipa (lithipa)*
knit, *ho loha (lohile)*
know, *ho tseba (tsebile); to know oneself:* *ho itseba (itsebile); to know one another:* *ho tsebana (tsebane)*

L

lake, *letša (matša)*
lamb, *konyana (likonyana)*
lamp, *lebone (mabone)*
land, *naha (linaha)*
late; to be late: *ho lieha (liehile)*
later, *hamorao/hamamoraolka moso*
laugh, *tšeha (tšehile); to make laugh:* *ho qabola (qabotse)*
law, *molao (melao)*
lazy, *botsoa*
learn, *ho ithuta (ithutile)*
least; at least: *bonyane*
leave, *ho tsamaea (tsamaile)/ho tloha (tlohile); to leave behind:* *ho siea (siile)*
left, *tšehali (-tšehali)*
lend, *ho kalima (kalimme)*
lesson, *thuto (lithuto)*
letter, *lengolo (mangolo)*
lid, *sekoahelo (likoahelo)*

lie, *leshano (mashano)/maaka; to lie down:* *ho paqama (paqame)*
life, *bophelo (maphelo)*
lift; to lift up: *ho nyolla (nyolotse)/ho phahama (phahame)*
light, *bobebe/lesli (maseli); ho khantsa (khantsitse); to light a fire:* *ho besa (besitse)*
lightning, *letolo (matolo)/letono (matono)*
like, *joale ka/joalo ka; ho rata (ratile)*
limb, *setho (litho)*
listen, *mamela (mametse)*
little, *hanyane*
live, *ho phela (phetse)*
loan, *kalimo (likalimo)*
lock, *ho notlela (notletse)*
lonely, *boluto*
look; to look at: *ho sheba (shebile)/ho talima (talimile); to look for:* *ho batla (batlile)*
lose; to lose weight: *ho theola (theohile) 'meleng*
loss, *tahlehelo (litahlehelo)*
lost; to be lost: *ho lahleha (lahlehile)*
lot; a lot: *haholo*
love, *ho rata (ratile); to love one another:* *ho ratana (ratane); loved one:* *moratuoā (baratuoā)*
lower, *ho theola (theotse)*
luck; good luck: *lehlohonolo (mahlohonolo); bad luck:* *malimabe/bomalimabe*
luggage, *phahlo (liphahlo)*
lungs, *sefuba (lifuba)*

M

majority, *boholo*
make, *ho etsa (entse), to make a bed:* *ho alola (alotse)*
male, *tona (-tona)*
man, *monna (banna)*
manner, *moetlo (meetlo)/mokhoa (mekhoa)*
manure, *moiteli (meiteli)*
many, *ngata (-ngata)*
March, *Hlakubele*
marijuana, *matekoane/dagga*
market, *'maraka (limmaraka)*
marriage, *lenyalo (manyalo)*
marry, *ho chata (chatile); 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)/setlhare (litlhare)*
meet, *ho kopana (kopane)/ho teana (teane); to go and meet: ho khahlametsa (khahlamelitse)/khahlanyetsa (khahlanyelitse)*
meeting, *phutheho (liphutheho)/kopano (likopano); village meeting: pitsa (lipitso)*
member, *setho (litho)*
message, *molaetsa (melaetsa)*
midday, *motseare*
middle; in the middle of: *bohareng ba, mahareng a*
milk, *lebese (mabese); to milk a cow: ho hama (hamme)*
minister, *moruti (baruti)*
miracle, *mohlolo (mehlolo)*
misbehave, *ho itšoara (itšoere) hampe*
misfortune, *malimabe/ bomalimabe*
miss, *ho hloloheloa (hlolohetsoe)/ho hopola (hopotse)*
mistake, *phoso (liphoso); to make a mistake: ho fosa (fositse)*
mistress, *nyatsi (linyatsi)*
mix, *ho tsoaka (tsoakile)*
Monday, *Mantaha*
money, *chelete (lichelete)*
month, *khoeli (likhoeli); last month: khoeli e fetileng; next month: khoeli e tlang*
moon, *khoeli (likhoeli)*
moreover, *hape*
morning, *hoseng*
mosquito, *monoang (menoang)*
mother, *'mè (bo-'mè)*
mother-in-law, *'mè-matsale (bo-'mè-matsale)*
motorcycle, *sethuthuthu (lithuthuthu)*
mountain, *thaba (lithaba)*
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 (atisitse)*
music, *'mino (mebino)*
must; to must (do something): *ho tlameha (tlamehile)/ho tšoanela (tšoanetse)*

N

nail, *sepekere (lipekere)*
name, *lebitso (mabitsa)*
nation, *sechaba (lichaba)*
naughty; naughty child!: *ngoana tooe! (bana tooe!)*
near, *haufinyane/haufi/pel'a*
need, *tlhoko (litlhoko); ho hloka (hlokile); to be needed: ho hlokahala (hlokahetse)*
needle, *nale (linale)*
neighbor, *moahisani (baahisani)*
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)*
not, *eseng*
nothing, *letho*
notice, *ho eelloa (eleletsoe)*
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, *sepheo (lipheo)*
October, *Mphalane*
office, *ofisi (lifofisi)*
oil, *mafura (no pl.)/oli/fishoil*
old, *khola (-holo); to be growing old: ho tsofala (tsotetse)*
once, *ha 'ngoe; at once: hang hang*
onion, *hanyanese (lihanyanese)/eiee (lieiee)*
open, *ho bula (butse); to open mouth: ho ahlama (ahlame)*
opportunity, *monyetla (menyetla)*
or, *kapa*

orange, *lamuni (lilamuni)*
organization, *mokhatlo (mekhatlo)*
organize, *ho hlophisa (hlophisitse); ho lokisa (lokisitse)*
orphan, *khutsana (likhutsana)*
outside (outdoors), *kantle*
overload, *ho imela (imetse)*
owe, *ho kolota (kolotile)*
owner; owner of: *mong'a (beng ba)*

P

page, *leqephe (maqephe)*
painful, *bohloko*
pants, *borikhoe (marikhoe)*
paper, *pampiri (lipampiri)*
parents, *motsaoli (batsoali)*
part, *ho arohana (arohane)*
partner, *molekane (balekane)*
partnership, *boikopanyo*
pass, *ho feta (fetile)*
path, *tsela (litsela)*
patience, *mamello*
patient, *mokuli (bakuli)*
pay, *ho patala (patetse)/ho lefa (lefile)*
pea, *erekisi (lierekisi)*
peace, *khotsa*
peach, *perekisi (liperekisi)*
pear, *pere (lipere)*
peel, *ho ebola (ebotse)*
peer, *thaka (lithaka)*
pen, *pene (lipene)*
pencil, *pensele (lipensele)*
penis, *botho ba ntate*
perhaps, *mohlomong*
period, *lekhetho (makhetlo)*
permission, *tumello*
permit, *ho lumella (lumeletse)*
person, *motho (batho); young person: mocha (bacha); old person: leqheku (maqheku)*
petticoat, *onnoroko (lionnoroko)*
phone, *fono (lifono)*
pick; to pick up: *ho thòla (thòtse); to pick vegetables: ho kha (khele)*
picture, *setšoantšo (litšoantšo)*
pierce, *ho phunya (phuntse)*
pig, *fariki (lifariki)/kolobe (likolobe)*
pill, *pilisi (lipilisi)*
pillow, *mosamo (mesamo)*
pimples, *lekhopho (makhopho)*
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, *poleiti (lipoleiti)*
play, *ho bapala (bapetse)*
plough, *ho lema (lemme)*
policeman, *lepolesa (mapolesa)*
poor; poor person: *mofutsana (bafutsana)*
porridge; soft porridge made from sorgum: *lesheleshele (masheleshele)*; **sour porridge made from sorghum**: *motoho (metoho)*
post, *ho posa (positse)*; **post office**: *poso (liposo)*
pot, *pitsa (lipitsa)*
potato, *tapoli (litapole)*
pour, *tšela (tšetse)*; **to pour out**: *ho qhala (qhalile)*
powerful, *matla*
pray, *ho rapela (rapetse)*
pregnant; pregnant woman: *mokhachane (bakhachane)*;
when referring to animals: *ho emara (emere)*
prepare, *ho lokisa (lokisitse)*; **to prepare oneself**: *ho itokisetsa (itokiselitse)*
prevent, *ho thibela (thibetse)*
pride, *boikhantšo*
price, *poreisi (liporeisi)/theko (litheko)*
prison, *teronko (lironko)*
problem, *bothata (mathata)*
product, *hlahisoa (lihlahisoa)*
profit, *phaello (liphaello)*
progress, *tsoelo-pele*
project, *morero (merero)*
promise, *tšepisa (tšepisitse)*
property, *thepa*
protect, *ho sireletsa (sirelelitse)*
protection, *tšireletso*
pull, *ho hula (hutse)*; **to pull tight**: *ho tiisa (tiisitse)*
pump, *pompo (lipompo)*
pumpkin, *mokopu (mekopu)*
purpose; on purpose: *ka boomo*
put, *ho beha (behile)*
put; to put in: *ho kenya (kentse)*;
to put on (specifically pants/dress/skirt): *ho tena (tenne)*; **to put on (specifically hat/shoes/bucket/headscarf)**: *ho roala (roetse)*

Q

queen, *mofumahali (mafumahali)*

quickly, *kapele*
quiet, *ho thola (thotse)*
quietly, *butle*

R

rain, *pula (lipula)*; *ho na (nele)*
rake, *haraka (liharaka)*
rank; taxi rank: *setopo (litopo)*
rape, *ho beta (betile)*
rat, *khoto (likhoto)*
read, *ho bala (balile)*
realize, *ho ekeloa (eleletsoe)/ho hlokomela (hlokometse)*
really, *hantle-ntle*
reason, *lebaka (mabaka)*
receive, *ho amohela (amohetse)*
record, *rekoto (lirekoto)*
recover; to recover from illness: *ho fola (folile)*
red, *khubelu (-fubelu)*
reduce, *ho fokotsa (fokolitse)/ho theola (theotse)*
report, *tlaleho (litlaleho)*
reform, *ho nchafatsa (nchafalitse)*
refuse, *ho hana (hanne)*; **to refuse to give someone something**: *ho tima (timme)*
remain, *ho sala (setse)*
remember, *ho hopola (hopotse)*
remind, *ho hopotsa (hopolitse)*
remove, *ho tlosa (tlositse)*
renew, *ho nchafatsa (nchafalitse)*
rent, *ho hira (hirile)*
repair, *ho lokisa (lokisitse)*
repeat, *ho pheta (phetile)*
reprimand, *khalemela (khalemotse)*
request, *kopo (likopo)*
resemble, *ho tšoana (tšoanne)*
respect, *ho hlompha (hlomphile)*;
to respect oneself: *ho itlhompisa (itlhompile)*
responsibility, *boikarabelo*
rest, *ho phomola (phomotse)*
return, *ho khutla (khutlile)*; **to return to**: *ho khutlela (khutletse)*
rice, *reisi* (no pl.)
ride, *ho palama (palame)*
right, *tokelo (litokelo)*; *tona (-tona)*; **to become right**: *ho loka (lokile)*; **right?**: *ha ke re?*
ring, *ho letsa (letsitse)*
ripe, *ho butsoa (butsoitse)*
rise, *ho phahama (phahame)/ho tsoha (tsohile)*; **of the sun**: *ho chaba (chabile)*
river, *noka (linoka)*
road, *mila (mebila)*

roast, *ho besa (besitse)*
rock; big rock: *lefika (mafika)*
roof, *marulelo* (no pl.)
room, *kamore (likamore)*
rope, *ropo (liropo)*
rot, *ho bola (bolile)*
rubbish, *lithole* (no pl.) (often pronounced “lithoele”)
run, *ho matha (mathile)*

S

sad; to be sad: *ho koata (koatile)*; **to make sad**: *ho koatisa (koatisitse)*
salary, *moputso (meputso)*
saliva, *mathe*
salt, *letsoai* (no pl.)
satisfy; to become satisfied: *khotsofala (khotsofetse)*
Saturday, *Moqebelo*
save, *ho boloka (bolokile)*; **to save money**: *ho boloka chelete*
say, *ho re (itse)/ho cho (chulo)*;
“it is said”: *ho thoe*
scissors, *sekere (likere)*
scold, *ho omanya (omantse)*
sea, *leoatle (maoatle)*
secret, *lekunutu (makunutu)*
see, *ho bona (bone)*; **to see one another**: *ho bonana (bonane)*
seed, *peo (lipo)*
seek, *ho batla (batlile)*
sell, *ho rekisa (rekisitse)*
seller, *morekisi (barekisi)*
send, *ho roma (romme)*; **to send back**: *ho khutlisa (khutlisitse)*
separate, *ho arola (arotse)*
September, *Loetse*
set; of the sun: *likela (liketse)*
sew, *ho roka (rokile)*
sex, *thobalano*; **to have sex**: *ho etsa thobalano*; **to have casual sex**: *ho feba*; **sexually transmitted infection**: *lefu la (mafua) likobo*
shade, *moriti (meriti)*
shadow, *seriti (liriti)*
share, *ho arola (arotse)*; **sharing of goods**: *karollelano ea thepa*
sheep, *nku (linku)*
sheet, *leqephe (maqephe)*
shepherd, *molisana (balisana)*
shine, *ho benya (bentse)*
shirt; collared shirt: *hempe (lihempe)*
shoe, *seeta (lieta)*
shoot, *ho thunya (thuntse)*
shop, *shopo (lishopo)/lebenkele (mabenkele)*

short, khutšoanyane, (-khutšoanyane)
should; to should (do something): *ho tlameha* (tlamehile)/ *ho tšoanela* (tšoanetse)
shovel, kharafu (likharafu)
show, bontša (bontšitse)
sibling; my sibling: *ngoan'eso* (bana b'eso); **your sibling**: *ngoaneno* (bana beno); **his/her sibling**: *ngoan'abo* (bana babo); **sibling of the opposite sex**: *khaitseli* (likhaitseli or bo-khaitseli)
sick; to be sick: *ho kula* (kutse); **to make sick**: *kulisa* (kulisitse); **sick person**: *mokuli* (bakuli)
side; this side: *ka nqena*; **that side**: *ka nqane*; **on the side**: *ka thoko ho*
sing, *ho bina* (binne)
sister, *ausi* (bo-ausi)
sit, *ho lula* (lutse); **to sit down**: *ho lula* (lutse) *fatše*; **to sit by oneself doing nothing**: *ho itulela* (ituletse)
skin, *letlalo* (matlalo)
skinny; to become skinny: *ho ota* (otile)
skirt, *mose* (mese)
sky, *leholimo* (maholimo)
slaughter, *ho hlaba* (hlabile)
sleep, *boroko* (no pl.); *ho robala* (robetse); **to fall asleep**: *ho khaleha* (khalehile); **to put to sleep**: *ho robatsa* (robalitse)
slip, *onmoroko* (lionnoroko)
slowly, *butle*
small, *nyane* (-nyane)/*nyenyane* (-nyenyane)
smart, *bohlale*
smarts, *kelello* (no pl.)
smash, *ho pshatla* (pshatlile)
smell; to smell/to smell of: *ho nkha* (nkhile)
smoke, *mosi* (mesi); *ho tsuba* (tsubile)
sneeze, *ho thimola* (thimotse)
snow, *lehloa* (no pl.); *ho khetheha* (khethehile)
so, *joalo*
soap, *sesepa* (lisepa)
sock, *kausi* (likausi)
soft, *bonolo*
soil, *mobu* (mebu)
soldier, *lesole* (masole)
solution, *tharollo* (litharollo)

someone, *motho*
sometimes, *ka nako e'ngoe*
son, *mora* (bara)
song, *pina* (lipina)
soon, *haufinyane*/haufi
sore, *bohloko*; *seso* (liso); **to be sore**: *ho opa* (opile)
sorghum, *mabele* (no pl.)
sorry; to become sorry: *ho soaba* (soabile)
sour, *bolila*
spade, *kharafu* (likharafu)
speak, *ho bua* (buile)
specifically; more specifically: *hantle-ntle*
sperm, *lipeo tsa ntate*
spider, *sekho* (likho)
spirit, *moea* (meea)
spit, *ho tšoela* (tšoetse) *mathe*
spoil, *ho senya* (sentse); **to be spoiled**: *ho senyeha* (senyehile); **to be spoiled (when referring to a child)**: *ho tefa* (tefile)
spoon, *khaba* (likhaba)
spring (of water): *seliba/maliba*
squash, *mokopu* (mekopu)
stab, *ho hlaba* (hlabile)
stamp, *setempe* (litempe)
stand, *ho ema* (eme)
star, *naleli* (linaleli)
status, *boemo*
stay, *ho sala* (setse)/*ho lula* (lutse)
steal, *ho utsoa* (utsoitse)
stick, *thupa* (lithupa); **large stick carried by men**: *molamu* (melamu)
stingy, *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* (emisitse)
storm, *sefefe* (lifefe)
street, *seterata* (literata)
strong, *matla*
stupid, *sethoto*
subject, *taba* (litaba)/*thuto* (lithuto)
subtract, *ho tlosa* (tlositse)
succeed, *ho atleha* (atlehile); *ho hlahlama* (hlahlamile)/*ho latela* (latetse)
suddenly, *hang hang*

suffer (esp. due to poverty): *ho sokola* (sokotse)/ *ho sotleha* (sotlehile)
sugar, *tsoekere* (no pl.)
suicide; to commit suicide: *ho ipolaea* (ipolaile)
summer, *lehlabula/hlabula*
sun, *letsatsi* (matsatsi)
Sunday, *Sontaha*
supervisor, *mookameli* (baokameli)
surprised; to be surprised: *ho makala* (maketse)
swear; "I swear!" : *sefapano!*
sweat, *ho fufuleloa* (fufuletsoe)
sweater, *jesi* (lijesi)
sweet, *tsoekere*
swell, *ho ruruha* (ruruhile)
syphilis, *mokaola*
symptom, *letšoao* (matšoao)
T
table, *tafole* (litafole)
take, *ho nka* (nkile); **to take out**: *ho ntša* (ntšitse); **to take to**: *ho isa* (isitse); **to take down/to take off**: *ho rola* (rotse); **to take off (clothing)**: *ho hlobola* (hlobotse); **to take up**: *ho kuka* (kukile); **to help to take up**: *ho kukisa* (kukisitse); **to take away**: *ho tlosa* (tlositse)
tall, *telele* (-telele)
tap; water tap: *pompo* (lipompo)
taste, *ho utloa* (utloile)
tax, *khafa*; *ho khafa* (khafile);
sales-tax: *lekhetho la thekiso*
taxi, *tekesi* (litekesi)
tea, *tee* (no pl.)
teach, *ho ruta* (rutile); **to teach one another**: *ho rutana* (rutane)
teacher, *tichere* (litichere/matichere)
tear, *ho tabola* (tabotse)
tell, *ho joetsa* (joetsitse)/ *ho bolela* (boletse); **to tell to**: *ho bolella* (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, *koana/moo*; **right there**: *hona moo*; **over there**: *mane*
therefore, *kahoo*

thief, *lesholu (masholu); tsotsi (litsotsi)*
thigh, *serope (lirope)*
thin, *sesane (-sesane)*
thing, *ntho (lintho)*
think, *ho nahana (nahane); ho hopola (hopotse); to think something is so: ho kholoa (khotsoe)*
thirsty; to become thirsty: *ho nyoroa (nyoriloe/nyoruo)*
throw; to throw away: *ho lahla (lahlile); to throw out: ho qhala (qhalile)*
Thursday, *Labone*
tickle; to tickle someone: *ho tsikinyetsa (tsikinyelitse)*
tie, *ho fasa (fasitse)/ho tlama (tlamme)*
tidy, *makhethe*
time, *nako (no pl.); lekhetlo (makhetlo)*
tired; to become tired: *ho khathala (khathetse)*
tobacco, *koae*
today, *tsatsing le/tsatsing lena/kajeno*
toe, *monoana (menoana)*
together, *'moho/hammoho*
tomato, *tamati (litamati)*
tomorrow, *hosasa/hosane*
tongue, *leleme (maleme)*
tooth, *leino (meno)*
top; on top of: *(ka) holim'a/ka holimo ho/(ka)holimo*
touch, *ho ama (amile)*
tractor, *terekere (literekere)*
trade, *khoebo (likhoebo)*
trader, *mohoebi (bahoebi)*
trash, *lithole (no pl.) (often pronounced "lithoele"); trash pile: moqomo (meqomo)*
trashbin, *moqomo (meqomo)*
tread, *ho hata (hatile)*
tree, *sefate (lifate)*
trouble; to be troubled: *ho ferekana (ferekane)*
truly, *ka 'nete*
trust, *tšepa (tšepile)*
trustworthy; to be trustworthy: *ho tšepahala (tšepahetse)*
truth, *'nete (linnete)*
try, *ho leka (lekile)*
t-shirt, *sekipa (likipa)*
tuberculosis, *lefuba*
Tuesday, *Labobeli*
tupperware, *sekafutini (likafutini)*

turn; to turn on: *ho khantsa (khantsitse)*
twice, *habeli*
type, *mofuta (mefuta)*
U
ugly, *mpe (-be)*
unable, *ho sitoa (sitiloe)*
uncle; father's younger brother: *rangoane (bo-rangoane); father's older brother: ntate-moholo (bo-ntate-moholo); mother's brother: malome (bo-malome)*
under, *(ka) tlas'a/ka tlase ho/(ka)tlase*
understand, *ho utloa (utloile)/ho utloisisa (utloisisitse); to understand one another: ho utloana (utloane)*
undress, *ho tsola (tsotse)*
union, *kopano (likopano)*
unlock, *ho notlolla (notlolotse)*
untidy, *bohlasoa*
upon, *(ka) holim'a/ka holimo ho/(ka)holimo*
uppity, *ho phapha (phaphile)*
urinate, *ho sesa (sesitse)*
urine, *mosese/moroto*
use, *ho sebelisa (sebelisitse)*
useful, *molemo*
useless; it's useless: *ha ho na thuso*
V
vagina, *botho ba 'mè*
valley, *khohlo (likhohlo)*
vegetables, *meroho*
village, *motse (metse)*
virus, *kokoana-hloko (likokoana-hloko)*
visible, *ho bonahala (bonahetse)*
visit, *ho chakela (chaketse); to go visiting: ho chaka (chakile)*
visitor, *moeti (baeti)*
volunteer, *moithaopi (baithaopi); ho ithaopa (ithaopile)*
vomit, *ho hlatsa (hlatsitse)*
W
wages, *moputso (meputso)*
wait; to wait for: *ho emela (emetse)*
wake; to wake up: *ho tsoha (tsohile)*
walk, *ho tsamaea (tsamaile)*
wall, *lebote (mabote)*
want, *ho batla (batlile)*
war, *ntoa (lintoa)*

warm, *mofuthu; to be warm: ho futhumala (futhumetse); to warm up: ho futhumatsa (futhumelitse)*
wash, *ho hlatsoa (hlatsoitse); to wash oneself: ho itlhatsoa (itlhatsoitse)*
waste, *ho senya (sentse)*
water, *metsi (no pl.); to water plants: ho nosetsa (noselitse)*
way, *mokhoa (mekhoa)/tsela (litsela)*
weak; to be weak: *ho fokola (fokotse)*
wealthy; wealthy person: *morui (barui)*
wear, *ho apara (apere)/ho tena (tenne)/ho roala (roetse)*
wedding, *lenyalo (manyalo)*
Wednesday, *Laboraro*
weed, *setlama-tlama (litlama-tlama); ho hlaola (hlaotse)*
week, *beke (libeke)*, **next week**: *beke e tlang; last week: beke e fetileng*
welcome, *ho amohela (amohetse)*
well, *hantle; hamonate; as in a water source: seliba (maliba)*
wet, *metsi; to wet: ho kolobisa (kolobisitse); to become wet: ho koloba (kolobile)*
what?, *eng?*
whatever, *eng kapa eng*
wheat, *koro (likoro)*
wheelbarrow, *kiribaea (likiribaea)*
when?, *neng?/neneng?*
whenever, *neng kapa neng*
where?, *kae?/hokae?*
wherever, *kae kapa kae*
whichever, *ofe kapa ofe/e/efe kapa efe etc... (varies according to noun class)*
whip, *phafa (liphafa)*
whistle, *ho letsa (letsitse) mololi*
white, *tšoeu (-soeu)*
who?, *mang? (bo-mang?)*
whomever, *mang kapa mang*
why?, *hobaneng?*
wicked, *khopo*
wife, *mosali (basali); wife of chief: mofumahali (mafumahali)*
wind, *moea (mee)*
window, *fenstere (lifenstere)*
winter, *mariha*
wipe, *ho hlakola (hlakotse)*
with, *le/ka*

woman, *mosali (basali)*; **woman who has just had baby:** *motsoetse (batsoetse)*
wool, *boea* (no pl.)
work, *mosebetsi (mesebetsi)*; *ho sebeta (sebelitse)*; **to work for:** *ho sebeta (sebeletse)*; **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 (ngotse)*; **to write to/for:** *ho ngolla (ngoletse)*
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)*