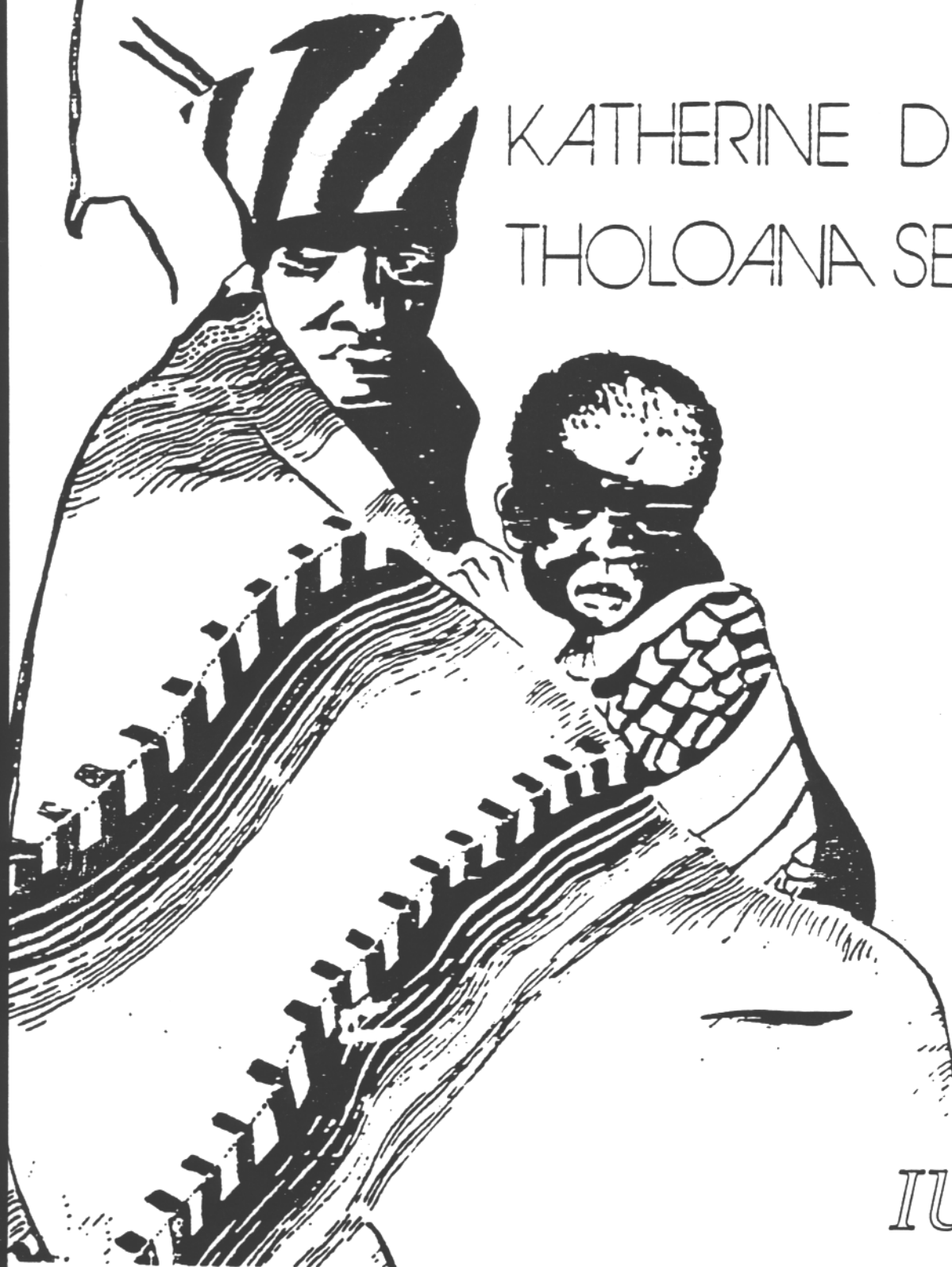


BASIC SESOTHC

AN ORAL APPROACH

KATHERINE DEMUT
THOLOANA SEKHES



IULC

BASIC SeSOTHO - AN ORAL APPROACH
SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT

by

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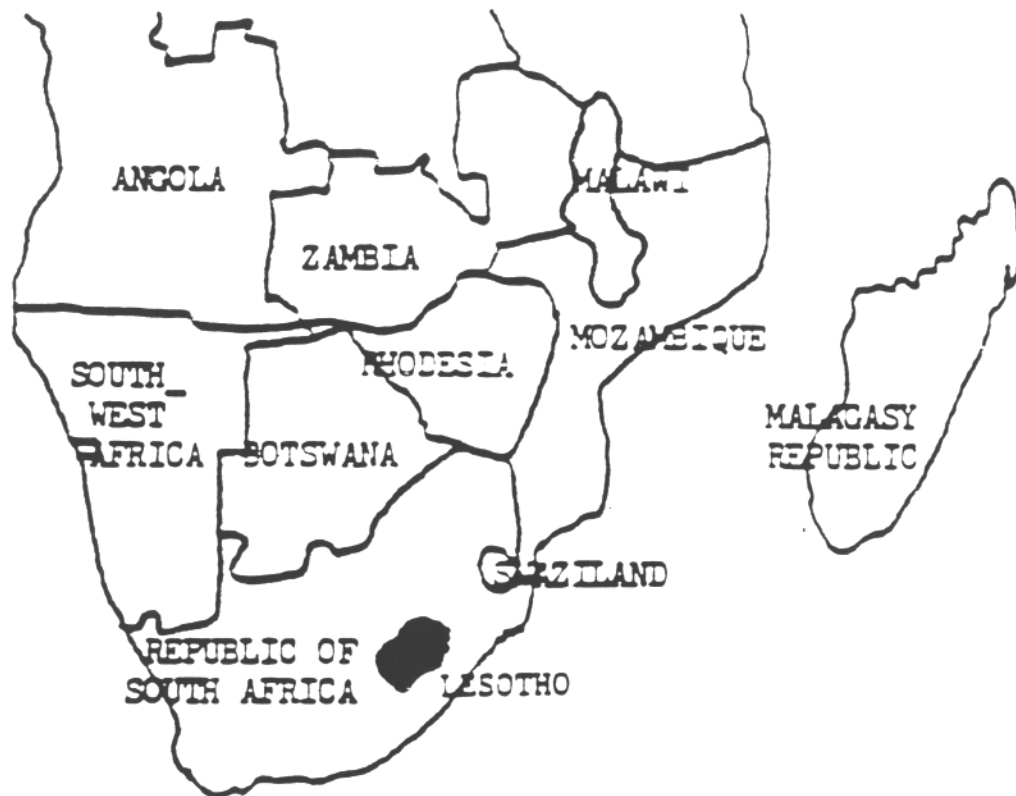
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INTRODUCTION

SeSOTHO

Bantu

The Bantu language family consists of numerous languages spoken in Sub-Saharan Africa. Swahili and Zulu are the Bantu languages perhaps most familiar to the western world. SeSotho too is a Bantu language and is spoken by the people of Lesotho in southern Africa.



Noun Class

Bantu languages are characterized by some common properties, not the least of which is noun classes. All nouns in SeSotho belong to a class identifiable by its prefix. This prefix, or part of it, is then used after the noun before verbs or adjectives. Thus:

Motho o rata bana.

This person likes children.

Batho ba rata bana.

The people like children.

There are seven noun classes in SeSotho, each with its plural and singular prefixes. These class prefixes, with their agreement forms are:

CLASS	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
	<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Agreement</u>	<u>Prefix</u>	
<u>Agreement</u>				
1	mo	o	ba	ba
2	mo	o	me	e
3	le	le	ma	a
4	se	se	li	li
5	-	e	li	li
6	bo	bo	ma	a
7	ho	ho		

Infinitives are classified under Class 7 (*ho bona*, to see; *ho reka*, to buy) and therefore have no plural form. Class 1 is the “human” class and consists primarily of people nouns (man, child, etc.). Class 5 is the “thing” class and consists mostly of concrete objects. Many borrowed words are absorbed into this class (*kereke*, from Afrikaans *kerk*; *ring* from English *ring*). As noted in the chart above, Class 5 singular nouns do not begin with any specific prefix. Class 5 nouns have a few human nouns, but again, many of these are borrowed words (*nese*, nurse; *tichere*, teacher).

It should be noted that the agreement forms are identical to the noun prefix with the exception of those prefixes which start with *m*. In these cases the *m* drops, i.e. Mosali o...

As you can see, some of the prefixes are the same in different classes. Once the forms are learned, however, there should be no problem of ambiguity.

Tone

Many African languages have tonal patterns which are specific to words and grammatical constructions. SeSotho too demonstrates the use of tone, but only those constructions that would otherwise be ambiguous are marked in this text, usually with a note in the vocabulary section. In listening to the tapes, however, one should be aware that the tonal patterns are important and should try to reproduce them as closely as possible.

BASIC GRAMMATICAL CONSTRUCTION

SeSotho has the same basic word order as English, that is, Subject - Verb - Object:

Monna o rata mosadi.	The man likes the woman.
(Man the likes the woman.)	

When an object is pronominalized, it comes before the verb, that is, Subject - Object

Pronoun - Verb:

Monna oa mo rata.	The man likes her.
(Man the her likes.)	

Vowels

Sesotho has nine vowel sounds. These are:

i	u
(ē) i	u (ō)
e	o
(è) e	o (ò)
a	

Sesotho dictionaries use the diacritics seen in parentheses above. In this text the vowels are unmarked unless they are ambiguous. Distinctions between these vowel sounds may be difficult to perceive or produce. The tapes give some listening practice for the following vowel sounds:

ē	lesēla	cloth
e	sela	that yonder (Class 4 singular)
è	sèla	buy food in time of scarcity
ō	hōna	to rain

o	hona	this (Class 7)
ò	hòna	it (Class 7)

Consonants

SeSotho distinguishes aspirated from ejective sounds. Listen to the tape and try to repeat the following words:

<u>p</u> ela	rock	<u>t</u> ata	to hurry	<u>k</u> ama!	come!
<u>ph</u> ela!	rabbit	<u>th</u> ata	to braid	<u>kh</u> ama!	choke!
<u>t</u> sela	live!	<u>h</u> lama	dough		
<u>tš</u> ela!	way	<u>tl</u> ama	tie		
	cross!	<u>tlh</u> api	fish		

Long consonants are also distinguished from short ones:

<u>m</u> ela	lines	mon <u>a</u>	here	mo <u>l</u> omo	mouth
<u>me</u>	body	mon <u>na</u>	man	mo <u>llo</u>	fire
		<u>na</u>	me		
		<u>ng</u> aka	doctor		

The entire inventory of SeSotho consonants is found on page v.

It is important to note that:

-There is no orthographic *d* in Sesotho. The sound *d* only occurs when *l* is followed by either *i* or *u* :

<u>L</u> umela	hello	Bas <u>a</u> li	women
----------------	-------	-----------------	-------

-An underlined nasal represents a syllabic nasal.

-The glides *w* and *j* are represented in the orthography as *o* and *i* . When these symbols occur before another vowel they are pronounced as glides:

tsoa = /tswa/ - one syllable	ea = /ya/ - one syllable
------------------------------	--------------------------

-SeSotho demonstrates the use of one click which is articulated in the alveo-palatal region. It has nasalized and aspirated variants.

CONSONANT CHART

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Prepalatal	Velar	Glottal
STOPS						
-Voice						
Ejective	p		t		k	
Aspirated	ph		th		kh	
+Voice	b		d			
FRICATIVES						
-Voice		f	s	š	x	h
+Voice		v				
AFFRICATES						
-Voice						
Ejective			ts	tš		
Aspirated			tsh	tšh	kxh	
+Voice				dž		
LATERAL AFFRICATE						
-Voice						
Ejective			tʎ			
Aspirated			tʎh			
LATERAL						
-Voice + Fric			ʎ			
+Voice			ʎ̣			
NASAL	m		n	ɲ	ŋ	
	<u>m</u>		<u>n</u>	<u>ɲ</u>	<u>ŋ</u>	
ROLLED			r			
GLIDES	(w)			j	w	

CULTURAL NOTES

Names

SeSotho names are used in most of the dialogues in the text. Names usually have some kind of meaning and are given to children with certain ideas in mind. Some of the ones most commonly used in this text are:

MALE		FEMALE	
Thabiso	making one happy	Neo	talent, gift
Thabo	happiness	Tseleng	born on the way
Lira	enemies	Puleng	born in the rain
Teboho	acknowledgement, thanksgiving	Putseletso	giving back
Tebello with me	waiting	Nthabiseng	share my happiness
Khotso	peace	Palesa	flower
Tumelo	believing, having faith	Teboho	acknowledgement, thanksgiving
Tefo	payment		

The mother of a family often assumes the name of the eldest child, especially when it is a male child. Thus, 'Mathabiso means Thabiso's mother and 'Mathabiseng means Nthabiseng's mother.

USE OF THE TEXT

Vocabulary

New vocabulary is presented at the end of each unit or, occasionally, at the end of a section. Nouns are written in the singular with the plural prefix written after the slash:

khomo/li

khomo, cow; likhomo, cows

Learning the singular and plural forms together eliminates problems which would otherwise arise at a later stage.

Verbs are written with the perfect form of the verb after the slash. (Perfect forms tend to be very irregular, so it is good to learn them from the beginning.)

tsoha/tsohile to get up/to have gotten up

The SeSotho-English and English-SeSotho glossaries at the end of the text cover the vocabulary introduced in the lessons.

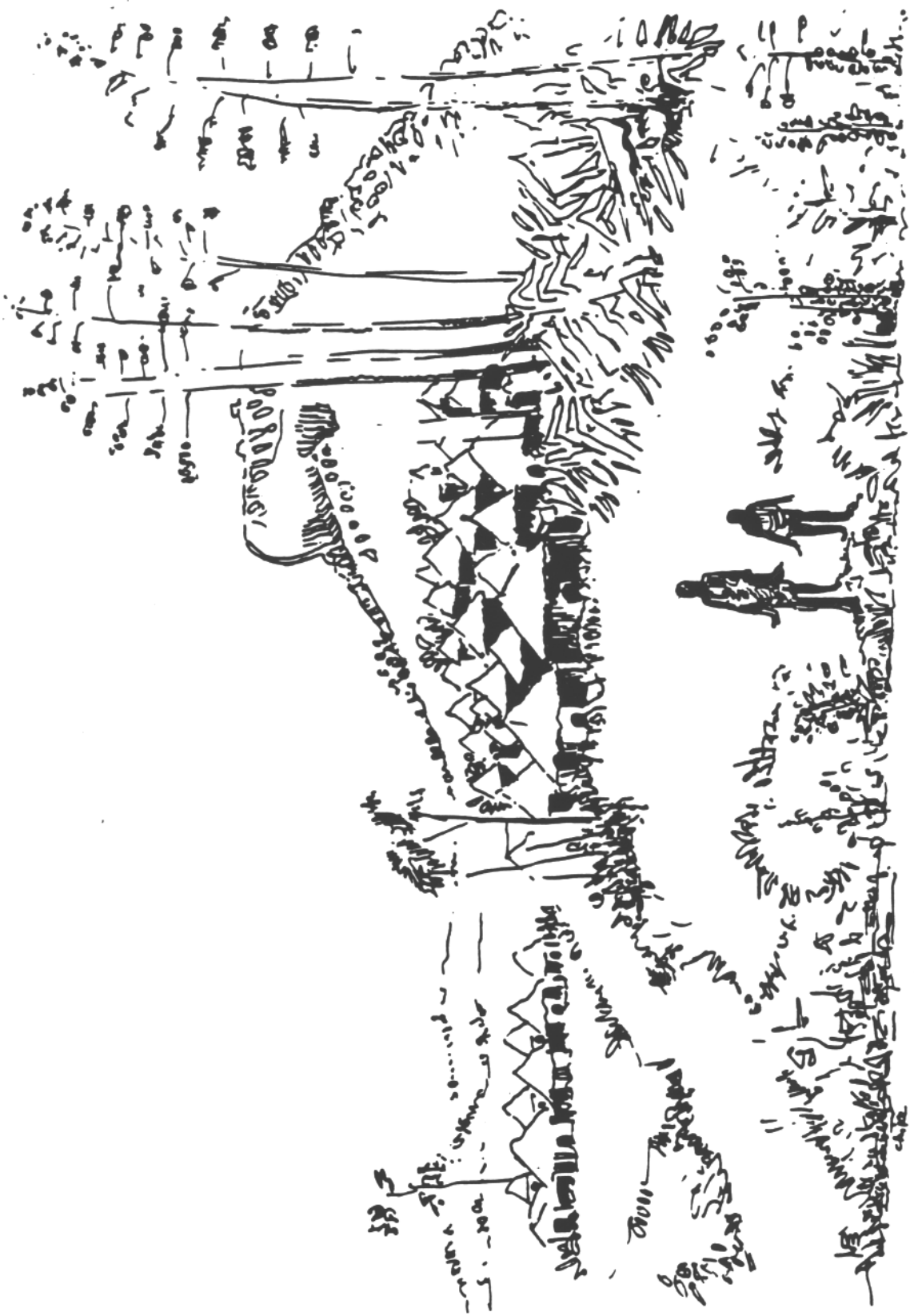
Orthography

Standard SeSotho orthography is used in this text. Initial double consonants *mm* and *nn* are written 'm and 'n. Contractions are indicated by an apostrophe. Only those vowels which are marked in the literature are marked here.

Basic Lesson Format

New constructions are introduced at the beginning of each unit. The meaning of a single translation accompanies the first example and the student is left to deduce the remaining examples. Questions and answers follow, answers being given in both the affirmative and negative. After all the new material has been introduced, it is utilized in the context of a dialogue and a paragraph accompanied by short comprehension questions. Vocabulary and explanatory notes are found at the end of the unit. Exercises have not been included in the text. The teacher or student may develop his or her own exercises where it is felt that extra practice is needed. Detailed linguistic explanation has been included on some points where problems are anticipated.

This text is designed to accompany the use of a regular textbook, providing supplementary drills and opportunities for the student to increase his or her fluency in speaking and comprehension. It is geared toward the student who has some knowledge of language in general and who is capable of assimilating concentrated material with minimal repetition. The tapes cover most everything presented in the text so that the student could conceivably complete this part of the course on his or her own. It would be beneficial, however, to have the assistance of a teacher if one is available. This text is in no way conclusive. It attempts only to give the student increased exposure to the basics of SeSotho grammar and acquaint him or her with some of the commonly found cultural situations of the Sotho. It is, in a sense, only a taste of the varied richness that further study of this language has to offer.



Unit I
LITUMELISO: Greetings

Thabiso:	Lumela 'M'e.	Hello, Ma'am (mother).
Neo:	E, lumela Ntate.	Hello, Sir (father).
Thabiso:	U tsohile joang?	How are you? (How did you get up?)
Neo:	Ke tsohile hantle. Uena u tsohile joang?	I'm fine. (I got up fine.) Yourself, how are you?
Thabiso:	Ke tsohile hantle.	I'm fine.

In the morning...

Palesa:	Lumela Ntate.	Hello, Sir (father).
Thabo:	E, lumela 'M'e.	Yes, hello, Ma'am (mother).
Palesa:	U robetse joang?	How did you sleep?
Thabo:	Ke robetse hantle. Uena u robetse joang?	I slept fine. How did you sleep?
Palesa:	Ke robetse hantle.	I slept fine.

At the end of the day...

Tefo:	Lumela Lineo.	Hello, Lineo.
Lineo:	E.	Yes.
Tefo:	U hlotse joang?	How are you? (How did you spend the day?)
Lineo:	Ke hlotse hantle. Uena u hlotse joang?	I'm fine. (I spent the day well.) How about yourself?
Tefo:	Le 'na ke hlotse hantle.	I also spent the day well.
Lineo:	Sala hantle.	Good bye. (Stay well.)
Tefo:	Tsamaea hantle.	Good bye. (Go well.)

After a long period of time...

Thabiso:	Lumela 'M'e.	Hello, Ma'am (mother).
Neo:	E, lumela Ntate.	Yes, hello, Sir.
Thabiso:	U phela joang?	How are you? (How are you living?)
Neo:	Ke phela hantle. Uena u phela joang?	I'm fine. How are you?
Thabiso:	Ke phela hantle.	I'm fine.

General...

Mpho:	Lumela, Maria.	Hello, Maria.
Maria:	E, lumela.	Yes, hello.
Mpho:	U kae.	How are you? (Where are you?)
Maria:	Ke teng. Uena u kae?	I am fine. How are you?
Mpho:	Ke teng.	I am fine. (I am here.)

Vocabulary

lumela	hello, to agree, to accept, to believe
khotso	peace
fonane	good night
robala hantle	good night (sleep well)
sala hantle	good bye (remain well)
tsamaea hantle	good bye (go well)
'm'e/bo	mother
e (è low tone)	yes
tsoha/tsohile	to get up, to rise, to wake up
hantle	fine
robala/robetse	to sleep
hlola/hlotse	to spend a period of time
phela/phetse	to live, to be alive
u	you (2nd person singular subject pronoun)
kae?	where?
teng	there, here
sala/setse	to remain, to stay
tsamaea/tsamaile	to leave
uena	yourself, you
ntate/bo	father
joang?	how?

Notes

For greeting more than one person, *-ng* is added to the verbs:

Lumelang bo-ntate.

Hello, Sirs.

Unit II

LEBITSO LA HAU U MANG? What is your name?

Lebitso la ka ke Thabo.
 Lebitso la ka ke Palesa.
 Lebitso la ka ke Teboho.

My name is Thabo.

Lebitso la hau u mang?
 Lebitso la hau u mang?
 Lebitso la hau u mang?

Lebitso la ka ke Palesa.
 Lebitso la ka ke Teboho.
 Lebitso la ka ke Thabo.

Lebitso la hau u Thabiso.
 Lebitso la hau u Nthabiseng.
 Lebitso la hau u Mpho.

Your name is Thabiso.

Lebitso la ka ke mang?
 Lebitso la ka ke mang?
 Lebitso la ka ke mang?

Lebitso la hau u Thabiso.
 Lebitso la hau u Nthabiseng.
 Lebitso la hau u Mpho.

Lebitso la hae ke Khotso.
 Lebitso la hae ke Lerato.
 Lebitso la hae ke Paseka.

His name is Khotso.

Lebitso la hae ke mang?
 Lebitso la hae ke mang?
 Lebitso la hae ke mang?

Lebitso la hae ke Khotso.
 Lebitso la hae ke Lerato.
 Lebitso la hae ke Paseka.

A: Lumela.

B: E, lumela.

A: Lebitso la hau u mang?

B: Ke Tefo. Uena u mang?

A: Ke Palesa.

Vocabulary

lebitso/ma	name
la	of (3rd class singular possessive pronoun -- see Appendix I)
ke	I (low tone)
...hau	your, yours (2nd person singular possessive pronoun)
mang?	who?
...ka	my (1st person singular possessive pronoun)
...hae	his, her (3rd person singular possessive pronoun)

Unit III

HAENO KE KAE? Where is your home?

Haeso ke Roma.	My home is in Roma.
Haeno ke Maseru.	
Hahabo ke Morija.	
Hahabo Thabo ke Morija.	

Hahabo rōna ke Roma.
 Hahabo lōna ke Quthing.
 Hahabo bona ke Butha-Buthe.

Haeno ke kae?	Haeso ke Maseru.
Haeso ke kae?	Haeno ke Morija.
Hahabo Thabo ke kae?	Hahabo Thabo ke Hlotse.

Hahabo lōna ke hokae?	Hahabo rōna ke Roma.
Hahabo bona ke hokae?	Hahabo bona ke T. Y.

Thabo o tsoa kae?	O tsoa Roma.
Batho ba tsoa kae?	Ba tsoa Botswana.

U mong? What is your nationality (clan)?

Ke mosotho.	Re basotho.
Ke lezulu.	Re mazulu.
U lejeremane.	Le majeremane.
U lefora.	Le mafora.
Ke lerashea.	Ke marashea.
Ke leamerika.	Ke maamerika.
Thabo ke lekhooa.	Thabo le Thabiso ke makhooa.
Palesa ke lenyesemane.	Palesa le Paseka ke manyesemane.

Thabo ke lezulu?	E, ke lezulu.	Ee, ha se lezulu.
Uena u leamerika?	E, ke leamerika.	Ee, ha ke leamerika.
Re batswana?	E, le batswana.	Ee, ha le batswana.

Ke lenyesemane?	E, ke lenyesemane.	Ee, ha se lenyesemane.
Ke mafora?	E, ke mafora.	Ee, ha se mafora.
Thabo ke lezulu?	Ee, ha se lezulu.	Ke motswana.
Uena u leamerika?	Ee, ha ke leamerika.	Ke leswatsi.
Re batswana?	Ee, ha le batswana.	Le basotho.
Ke lenyesemane?	Ee, ha se lenyesemane.	Ke lejeremane.
Ke mafora?	Ee, ha se mafora.	Ke marashea.

Thabiso o na le motsoalle. Lebitso la hae ke Tom. O lula Lesotho, feela ha se mosotho. Ke lenigeria.

Lipotso

Lebitso la motsoalle oa Thabiso ke mang?
 O lula hokae?
 Ke mosotho?
 Hahabo ke hokae?

Vocabulary

haeso	my home, where I was born, where my parents live
haeno	your home
hahabo	his/her home
ke	it is (high tone)
ro-na	we, ourselves (1st person plural reflexive pronoun)
lo-na	you, yourself (2nd person plural reflexive pronoun)
hokae?	where?
tsoa/tsoile	to come from, to get out
mong?	what nationality, ethnic group or clan?
ee	no (tone is high-low: éè)
na le	to have
motsoalle/me	friend
lula/lutse	to live or stay at some place, to sit down
feela	but, only, however
ha	negative marker
ha se	it is not (negative of ke (it is))
oa	of (2nd class singular possessive pronoun)

potso/li	question
mosotho/ba	Sotho person
lezulu/ma	Zulu person
lejeremane/ma	German person
lefora/ma	French person
lerashea/ma	Russian person
leamerika/ma	American person
lekhooda/ma	a white person
lenyesemane/ma	British person
lenigeria/ma	Nigerian person
motswana/ba	Tswana person

Notes

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

Subject Pronouns

The subject pronouns for Class 1 nouns are:

ke	I	re	we
u	you	le	you
o	she, he	ba	they

Subject pronouns for the other classes are the same as the noun class markers discussed in the introduction.

Ke

Ke serves both as a 1st person singular subject pronoun (low tone) and has the meaning, "*It is...*" (high tone). This latter usage of *ke* is found with 3rd person constructions.

` = low tone

´ = high tone

Kè m̀sóthò.	I am mosotho.
Ké m̀sóthò.	She/he is mosotho.
Ké basóthò.	They are basotho.

u/o

U and *o* are pronounced as *o*, but the 2nd person pronoun has low tone and the 3rd person pronoun has high tone. They are distinguished orthographically to make reading easier.

Thàbò ó rátá bàná.

Does Thabo like children?

Thàbò, ò rátá bàná?

Thabo, do you like children?



Unit IV
MATSATSI A VEKE: Days of the week

Ke mantaha kajeno. Ke laboraro kajeno.	Today is Monday.
Ke labokae kajeno? Ke labohlano kajeno? Ke sateretaha kajeno?	Ke labobeli. E, ke labohlano. Ee, ha se sateretaha. Ke sontaha.
Hosane ke labone. Hosane ke laboraro.	Tomorrow is Thursday.
Ke labokae hosane? Ke labohlano hosane? Ke labobeli hosane? Ke sontaha hosane?	Ke labohlano. E, ke labohlano. Ee, hase labobeli. Ke laboraro. Ee, hase sontaha. Ke mantaha.
Maobane e ne e le labone. Maoba e ne e la laboraro.	Yesterday was Thursday.
E ne e le la bokae maobane? E ne e le la bokae maoba? E ne e le laboraro maobane? E ne e le labone maoba? E ne e le laboraro maobane? E ne e le labohlano?	E ne e le labohlano. E ne e le labobeli. E, e ne e le laboraro. E, e ne e le labone. Ee, e ne e se laboraro. E ne e le labone. Ee, e ne e se labohlano. E ne le sateretaha.
Ke ea sekolong kajeno. Ke ea mosebetsing ka mantaha le ka laboraro. Ke ea baesekopong ka sateretaha. Bana ba ea sekolong ka mehla. Matichere a ea phuthehong ka labohlano. Thabo o ithuta histori ka labone. Neo o sebetsa ka mehla. Re hlatsoa ka sateretaha. Re toka ka labobeli.	

U etsa eng ka laboraro.	Ke ea mosebetsing.	Ke ea mosebetsing ka laboraro.
Thabo o ithuta eng ka labone?	O ithuta histori.	Thabo o ithuta histori ka labone.
Le roka neng?	Re roka ka laboraro.	
Matichere a ea phuthehong nenb?	A ea ka labohlano.	Matichere a ea phuthehong ka labohlano.
Neo o sebetsa neng?	O sebetsa ka mehla.	Neo o sebetsa ka mehla.
Bana ba ea kerekeng neng?	Ba ea ka sontaha.	Bana ba ea kerekeng ka sontaha.

Vocabulary

veke/li	week
letsatsi/ma	day
mantaha	Monday
labobeli	Tuesday
laboraro	Wednesday
labone	Thursday
labohlano	Friday
sateretaha/moqebelo	Saturday
sontaha	Sunday
kajeno	today
hosane	tomorrow
maobane	yesterday
maoba	day before yesterday
la bokae?	what day?
e ne e le/e ne e se	it was/it was not
ea/ile	to go
sekolo/li	school
mosebetsi/me	work
mosebetsing	at work
ka	on
le	and
ngoana/bana	child
baesekopo/li	movie
baesekopong/li	at the movies
ka mehla	daily, every day

tichere/li	teacher
phutheho/li	gathering, assembly, meeting
o	he/she (3rd person singular subject pronoun-high tone)
ruta/rutile	to teach
ithuta/ithutile	to study
hlatsoa/hlatsoitse	to wash
roka/rokile	to sew
etsa/entse	to do, to make
eng?	what?
histori	history
kereke/li	church
...ng	locative marker
neng?	when?
'ngoe	one
pele	two
tharo	three
'ne	four
hlano	five
tšelela	six
supa	seven
robeli	eight
robong	nine
leshome	ten

Notes

Days of the Week

Some of the days of the week come from numbers:

labobeli	pele
laboraro	tharo
labone	'ne
labohlano	hlano

Some SeSotho numbers are not frequently used among people who have gone to

school. The SeSotho system for numbers is quite cumbersome, especially when dealing with large numbers. For example, if one were to say 1978, it would be:

Selemo sa sekete, makholo a robong, mashome a supileng a metso e robeli.

English numbers have been substituted instead and are widely used in telling time, dates, etc.



Unit V
NAKO: Time

Nako ke mang?	Ke 8 (ke hora ea borobeli).
Nako ke mang?	Ke 1 (ke hora ea pele).
U tsamaea ke nako mang?	Ke tsamaea ka 4 (ka hora ea bone).
U tla khutla ka nako mang?	Ke tla khutla ka 6 (ka hora esa botšelela).
Sekolo se kena ka nako mang?	Se kena ke 8:30 (ka half past eight). (ka nako ea mashome a mararo a metsotso ka mora hora ea borobeli).

Ke la mang? What is the date?

Ke la 8 kajeno.
Ke la 25 kajeno.

Ke la mang kajeno? Ke la 9.
Ke la mang hosane? Ke la 10.

Ke la 12 ke jano? Ee, ha se la 12. Ke la 13.
Ke la 2 hosane? Ee, ha se la 2. Ke la 3.

Maobane e ne e le la 8.
Maoba e ne e le la 7.
Maobane e ne e le la mang? E ne e le la _____.
Maoba e ne e le la mang? E ne e le la _____.

Maobane e ne e le la 5? Ee, e ne e se la 5. E, ne e le la 6.
Maoba e ne e le la 12? Ee, e ne e se la 12. E, ne e le la 11.

Vocabulary

nako/li	time
nako ke mang?	what time is it? what is the time?
hora/li	hour
khutla/khutlile	to return, to come back
ka	at, with, by
ea	of

tla	will (future marker)
bese/li	bus
kena/kene	to enter
ke la mang?	what is the date?
pele	1st
bobeli	2nd
boraro	3rd
bone	4th
bohlano	5th
botšelela	6th
bosupa	7th
borobeli	8th
borobong	9th
shome	10th

'Mathabo: Tsoha! Ke nako ea ho ea sekolong.
 Thabo: Nako ke mang? Ke sontaha kajeno?
 'Mathabo: Ee, ha se sontaha. Ke mantaha. Tsoha ke 7.
 Thabo: Bese e tsamaea neng?
 'Mathabo: E tsamaea ka 7:30.

Neo o ea sekolong.	Neo ha a ee sekolong.
Palesa o ja lijo.	Palesa ha a je lijo.
Thabiso o ithuta sefora.	Thabiso ha a ithute sefora.
Ke batla ho pheha.	Ha ke batle ho pheha.
Ke hlatsoa lijana.	Ha ke hlatsoe lijana.
U rata Neo.	Ha u rata Neo.
U tsoha ka 5 hoseng.	Ha u tsohe ka 5 hoseng.
Re batla ho reka lijo.	Ha re batle ho reka lijo.
Re tla mosebetsing ka mehla.	Ha re tle mosebetsing ka mehla.
Le noa metsi.	Ha le noe metsi.
Le bua SeSotho.	Ha le bue SeSotho.
Bana ba rata Thabo.	Bana ha ba rate Thabo.
Batho ba ea Maseru.	Batho ha ba ee Maseru.

Thabo o ea mosebetsing ka 7 ka mehla. Hosane ha a ee hobane ke la 25 December (25 Tšitoe). O tla ea hape ka mantaha oa la 27. Kajeno, ka 10 ea bosiu o tla ea parting ha Thabiso.

Lipotso

1. Thabo o ea mosebetsing ka nako mang?
2. O ea mosebetsing hosane? Hobaneng?
3. O tla ea mosebetsing neng?
4. O tla etsa eng kajeno?
5. O ea parting ka nako mang?
6. Party e ha mang?

Vocabulary

ja/jela	to eat
lijo	food
batla/batlile	to want, to seek, to look for
pheha/phehile	to cook
rata/ratile	to love
reka/rekile	to buy
noa/noele	to drink, to drink liquor
bua/buile	to talk, to speak
Maseru	capital city of Lesotho
hobaneng?	why?
hobane	because
hape	again
ha	at (a place of someone, i.e. home, store, house)
ha mang?	at whose place/home?

Notes

Imperatives

The command forms in SeSotho use the regular verb form with no subject:

Tsoha!	Get up!
Tsamaea!	Leave!

Exceptions are:

Tlo mona!	Come here! (from <i>tla</i>)
Eea!	Go! (from <i>ea</i>)

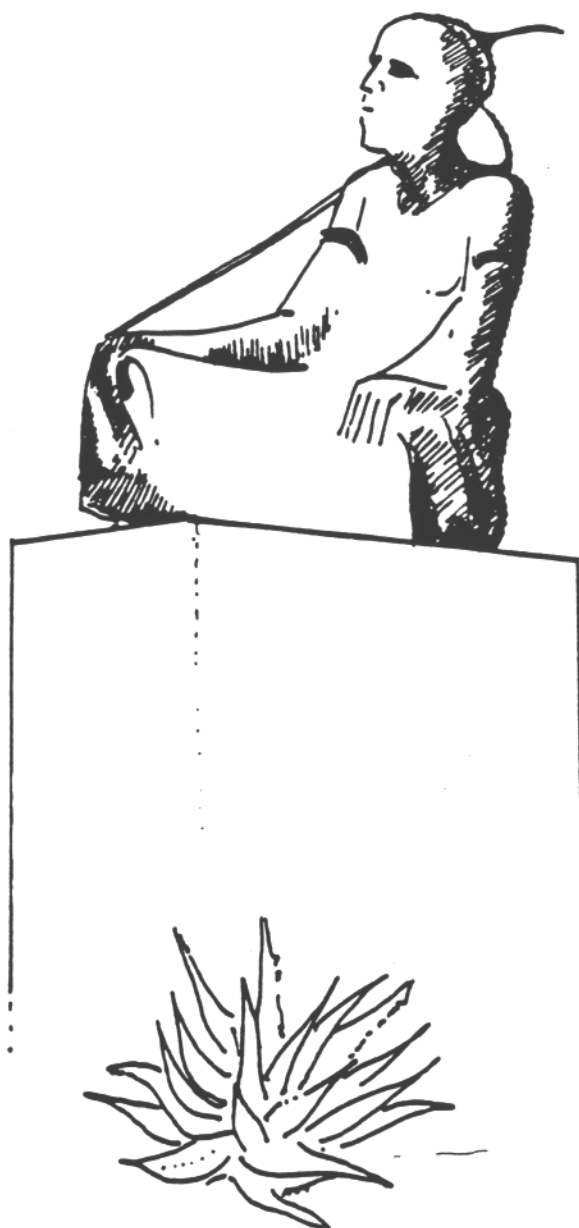
To make the plural of an imperative, add *-ng* :

Tsohang! Get up!

Tsamaeang! Leave!

Tlong mona! Come here!

Eang! Go!



Unit VI
HOO KE'NG? What is this?

Hoo ke'ng?	What is this?	Ke pene.	It is a pen.
Hoo ke'ng?		Ke buka.	
Hoo ke'ng?		Ke setulo.	
Hoo ke'ng?		Ke tafole.	
Ntho ee ke'ng?	What is this thing?	Ke pene.	It is a pen.
Ntho ee ke'ng?		Ke buka.	
Ntho eo ke'ng?		Ke pitsa.	
Ntho eo ke'ng?		Ke buka.	
Ntho ela ke'ng?		Ke fesetere.	
Ntho ela ke'ng?		Ke ntlo.	
Ke pene ntho ee?	E, ke pene.	Ee, ha se pene.	
Ke lehe ntho ee?	E, ke lehe.	Ee, ha se lehe.	
Ke buka ntho eo?	E, ke buka.	Ee, ha se buka.	
Ke jesi ntho eo?	E, ke jesi.	Ee, ha se jesi.	
Ke sefate ntho ela?	E, ke sefate.	Ee, ha se sefate.	
Ke motho ntho ela?	E, ke motho.	Ee, ha se motho.	
Lintho tsee ke li'ng?	What are these things?	Ke lipene.	They are pens.
Lintho tsee ke li'ng?		Ke libuka.	
Lintho tseo ke li'ng?		Ke lipitsa.	
Lintho tseo ke li'ng?		Ke libuka.	
Lintho tsela ke li'ng?		Ke lifesetere.	
Lintho tsela ke li'ng?		Ke matlo.	

Vocabulary

hoo	this (demonstrative)
...ke'ng?	what is....?
pene/li	pen
buka/li	book
setulo/li	chair
tafole/li	table
pitsa/li	pot
fesetere/li	window
ntlo/ma	house
lehe/ma	egg
jesi/li	sweater, jersey
sefate/li	tree
motho/ba	person
ntho/li	thing
tsee	these (demonstrative class 4 and 5 plural, 1st position)
li'ng?	what?
ee	this (demonstrative class 5 singular, 1st position)
eo	that (demonstrative class 5 singular, 2nd position)
ela	that (demonstrative class 5 singular, 3rd position)
tsee	these (plural of ee)
tseo	those (plural of eo)
tsela	those (plural of ela)

(See APPENDIX I for complete list of demonstratives)

Notes

Contractions

SeSotho makes use of some contractions and uses an apostrophe to indicate that something has been omitted. Among the commonly contracted forms is the use of *eng?* (*what?*) which, when following a verb, drops the *e* :

rata + eng = rata'ng

etsa + eng = etsa'ng

The non-contracted form is also used in speaking and in this text.

Ke lipene lintho tsee?	E, ke lipene.	Ee, ha se lipene.
Ke mahe lintho tsee?	E, ke mahe.	Ee, ha se mahe.
Ke libuka lintho tseo?	E, ke libuka.	Ee, ha se libuka.
Ke lijesi lintho tseo?	E, ke lijesi.	Ee, ha se lijesi.
Ke lifate lintho tsela?	E, ke lifate.	Ee, ha se lifate.
Ke batho lintho tsela?	E, ke batho.	Ee, ha se batho.

Buka e hokae?	Ke ena tafoleng.
Libuka li hokae?	Ke tsena tafoleng.
Setulo se hokae?	Ke sena pel'a lemati.
Litulo li hokae?	Ke tsena pel'a lemati.
Lebese le hokae?	Ke lena holim'a tafole.
Mabese a hokae?	Ke ana holim'a tafole.
Setšoantšo se hokae?	Ke sena leboteng.
Litšoantšo li hokae?	Ke tsena leboteng.
Mosali o hokae?	Ke enoa katlung.
Basali ba hokae?	Ke bana katlung.
Mose o hokae?	O teng.
Mese e hokae?	E teng.
Borikho bo hokae?	Bo pel'a lebone.
Marikho a hokae?	A pel'a lebone.

Buka ee ke ea mang?	Ke ea ka.
Libuka tsee ke tsa mang?	Ke tsa ka.
Setulo see ke sa Thabo?	E, ke sa Thabo.
Litulo tsee ke tsa Thabo?	E, ke tsa Thabo.
Lebese lee ke la hau?	E, ke la ka.
Mabese ae ke a hau?	E, ke a ka.
Setšoantšo see ke sa hae?	E, ke sa hae.
Litšoantšo tsee ke tsa hae?	E, ke tsa hae.
Ngoana eo ke oa Palesa?	E, ke oa Palesa.
Bana baa ke ba Palesa?	E, ke ba Palesa.

Mollo oo ke oa lōna?	E, ke oa rōna.
Mello ee ke ea lōna?	E, ke ea rōna.
Borikhoe boo ke ba ka?	E, ke ba hau.
Marikhoe aa ke a ka?	E, ke a hau.

Puleng:	Lumela.
Pule:	E, lumela.
Puleng:	U robetse joang?
Pule:	Ke robetse hantle. Uena, u robetse joang?
Puleng:	Ke robetse hantle.
Pule:	Katiba ea ka e hokae?
Puleng:	Ha ke tsebe. Ee ke ea mang?
Pule:	Ke ea Thabo eno. Ea ka e tala.
Puleng:	Eo e tafoleng ke ea mang?
Pule:	Ee! Ke ea ka.

Pule o ka tlung. O eme pel'a lemati. O batla ho ea reka katiba e ncha. Ha a bone katiba ea hae e tala. Katiba ea Thabo e tafoleng. Mohlomong ea Pule e betheng ea hae.

Lipotso

1. Pule of hokae?
2. O eme pela'ng?
3. O batla ho reka eng?
4. Katiba ea Thabo e hokae?
5. Ea Pule eona e hokae?

Vocabulary

tseba/tsebile	to know
hokae?	where?
pel'a (pela + ha)	near
lemati/ma	door
ke ena	here it is
ke tsena	here they are
ke sena	here it is

ke lena	here it is
ke ana	here they are
ke enoa	here he/she is
ke bana	here they are
holim 'a (holimo ha)	on, upon, above
lebota/ma	wall
lebone/ma	lamp
lebese/ma	milk
setšoantšo/li	picture
mosali/ba	woman
mose/me	dress
borikho/ma	men's trousers
ngoana/ba	child
mollo/me	fire
bethe/li	bed
mohlomong	maybe, perhaps
ncha	new
katiba/li	hat
eona	it, itself

Notes

Demonstratives and Possessive Forms

See APPENDIX I for demonstratives and possessive agreement forms.

Unit VII
U BATLA TEE? Do you want tea?

Ke batla buka.	I want a book.
Kea e batla.	I want it.
Ha ke e batle.	I do not want it.

Ke roka mese.	Kea e roka.	Ha ke e roke.
U noa tee.	Ua e noa.	Ha u e noe.
U shapa ngoana.	Ua mo shapa.	Ha u mo shape.
Palesa o ruta bana.	Palesa oa ba ruta.	Palesa haa ba rute.
O reka lijo.	Oa li reka.	Haa li reke.
Re hlatsoa lijana.	Rea li hlatsoa.	Ha re li hlatsoe.
Re bapala bolo.	Rea e bapala.	Ha re e bapale.
Le kha metsi.	Lea a kha.	Ha le akhe.
Le lema ts [^] imo.	Lea e lema.	Ha le e leme.
Neo le Nthabiseng	Neo le Nthabiseng	Neo le Nthabiseng
ba bala buka.	baa e bala.	ha ba e bale.
Thabo le Thabiso ba	Baa se haha.	Ha ba se hahe.
haha sekolo.		

The same construction applies to direct objects which are persons:

Bana ba rata Thabo.	Baba baa morata.	Bana ha ba morate.
Thabiso o ruta bana.	Thabiso oa ba ruta.	Thabiso haa ba rute.
	Ke batla ho u thusa.	Ha re batle ho u thusa.
	Palesa oa re fepa.	Palesa haa re fepe.

Neo: U batla tee?
 Thabiso: E, kea e batla.
 Neo: U e noka ka tsoekere?
 Thabiso: E, kea e noka.
 Neo: Lebese?
 Thabiso: Ee, ha ke le noe.
 Neo: Ha u noe lebese hobaneng?
 Thabiso: Hobane ha ke le rate.

Thabiso o lula Bloomington. O kena sekolo Universiting ea Indiana. O rata literature empa haa e tsebe. Buka eno ke ea hae. O e bala bosiu. Ke buka ea literature.

Lipotso

1. Thabiso o lula kae?
2. O kena sekolo hokae?
3. O rata'ng?
4. O bala buka neng? (O e bala neng?)
5. Ke buka ea eng?

Vocabulary

shapa/shapile	to spank
sejana/lijana	dish
bapala/bapetse	to play
bolo/li	ball
kha/khile	to draw water
metsi	water
lema/lemme	to plough
tšimo/masimo	field, land, garden
bala/balile	to read, to count
haha/hahile	to build
thusa/thusitse	to help
fepa/fepile	to feed
empa	but
bosiu/ma	night
tee	tea
noka	to sugar or season food
tsoekere	sugar
hobaneng?	why?
hobane	because

Notes

Long Present

When a transitive verb takes no object, or the object is pronominalized and precedes the verb, *-a* is attached to the subject.

Ke ja lijo.
I eat food.

Kea li ja.
I eat them.

Kea ja.
I eat.

Ha ke je lijo.
I don't eat food.

Ha ke li je.
I don't eat them.

Ha ke je.
I don't eat.

Unit VIII
U TLA EA HOKAE? Where will you go?

Thabiso o tla tsamaea.
Thabiso will leave.

Thabiso ha a tl'o tsamaea.
Thabiso will not leave.

Bana ba tla robala.
Ke tla ea sekolong.
U tla hlatsoa lijana.
Le tla lapa.
Re tla sala.
Neo o tla ea Maseru.
Banna ba tla pheha lijo.
Ke tla ngola lengolo.
U tla reka lieta.
Le tla oela.
Re tla tla bosiu.

Bana ha ba tl'o robala.
Ha ke tl'o ea sekolong.
Ha u tl'o hlatsoa lijana.
ha le tl'o lapa.
Ha re tl'o sala.
Neo haa tl'o ea Maseru.
Banna ha ba tl'o pheha lijo.
Ha ke tl'o ngola lengolo.
Ha u tl'o reka lieta.
Ha le tl'o oela.
Ha re tl'o tla bosiu.

Thabo o tla tsamaea?
Bana ba tla robala?
Ke tla ea sekolong?
U tla hlatsoa lijana?
Le tla lapa?
Re tla sala?

Ee, ha a tl'o tsamaea.
Ee, ha ba tl'o robala.
Ee, ha u tl'o ea sekolong.
Ee, ha ke tl'o li hlatsoa.
Ee, ha re tl'o lapa.
Ee, ha le tl'o sala.

O tla sala.
Ba tla tsoha.
U tla ea toropong.
Ke tla li hlakola.
Re tla khora.
Le tla ea.

A: U tla ea Maseru?

B: E ke tla ea.

A: U tla ea neng?

B: Hosane.

A: Hosane ka nako mang?

B: Ka 2.

A: U tla khutla neng?

B: Ke tla khutla ka 5.

Lira o tla ea Maseru hosane. O tla tsamaea ka 8 hoseng. O tla khutla ka 5 mantsiboea.
Ha a tl'o ea le mosali oa hae. Eena o tla ea mosebetsing.

Lipotso

1. Lira o tla ea kae hosane?
2. O tla tsamaea ka nako mang?
3. O tla khutla neng?
4. Na o tla ea le mosali oa hae?
5. Mosali oa hae eena o tla ea hokae?

Vocabulary

tla	shall (future marker)
tl'o (tla + ho)	shall not (negative of tla)
lapa/lapile	to get hungry, to starve
ngola/ngotse	to write
seeta/li	shoe
oela/oetse	to fall
tla/tlile	to come
tsamaea/tsamaile	to leave
hoseng	morning, in the morning
eena	herself/himself, her/him
mosali/ba	woman
mohats'a	wife/husband
na	question marker (optional; used at beginning or end of a question)

Unit IX
MOKETE OA LETSATSI LA TSOALO: Birthday Party

Ke ja bohobe.
Ke ja nama.
U noa metsi.
U noa joala.
O pheha reisi.
O pheha moroho.
Re ritela khemere.
Le luba bohobe.
Ba luba likuku.
Le etsa tee.
Thabo o seha nama.
'Mathabo o seha lesela.
Tom o halika mahe.
Neo o halika tamati.

- A: Hosane ke la 14. Ke letsatsi la tsoalo ea Teboho.
B: U tla etsa mokete?
A: E.
B: Ho lokile. Ke tla u thusa ho pheha.
A: Kea leboha. Ke na le nama ea nku le ea likhoho.
B: U tla ritela'ng?
A: Ke tla ritela khemere.
B: U tla reka joala?
A: Ee, ha ke na ho bo reka hobane ke mokete oa bana. U tla pheha eng?
B: Ke tla pheha moroho le reisi. Ke batla joala 'na.
A: U tla bo noa hahao. 'Na ke tla pheha nama. Hape ke tla etsa salad.
B: Ke tla o fa lettuce le tamati. U tla qala ho pheha ka nako mang?
A: Ka 10 hoseng. Tebello o tla pheha likuku kajeno mantsiboea.
B: U tla mema bana ba tichere ea Teboho?
A: E ke tla ba mema.

Hosane ke mokete oa letsatsi la tsoalo ea Teboho. 'Mateboho o tla etsa mokete. O tla mema bana feela. O tla pheha nama ea nku le ea likhoho. Hape o tla ritela khemere. 'Mamokete o tla mothusa ho pheha. Eena o tla pheha moroho le reisi. O tla fa 'Mateboho

lettuce le tamati.

Mokete o tla qala mots'ehare oa mantsiboea ka 2. Bana ba tla fihla ka 1:30. Tebello le 'Mamokete ba tla thusa 'Mateboho ho ba fepa.

Tebello o tseba ho pheha likuku haholo. O tla fepa likuku le khemere. Mokete o tla fela ka 6 mantsiboea.

Lipotso

1. Hosane ke mokete oa'ng?
2. 'Mateboho o tla pheha eng?
3. O tla ritela eng?
4. 'Mamokete eena o tla etsa'ng?
5. O tla fa 'Mateboho eng?
6. Mokete o tla qala ka nako mang?
7. Bana ba tla fihla ka nako mang?
8. Mokete o tla fela ka nako mang?
9. Na 'Mateboho o tla ritela joala?
10. Hobaneng?

Vocabulary

mokete/me	feast, celebration
tsoala/tsoetse	to give birth
tsoalo	birth
bohobe/ma	bread
nama/li	meat
joala/ma	beer
reisi	rice
moroho/me	any green vegetable
ritela/ritetse	to brew
khemere	ginger
luba	to knead dough for bread, cakes, etc.
kuku/li	cake
seha/sehile	to cut with a knife or scissors
halika/halikile	to fry
ho lokile	it's all right
leboha/lebohile	to thank, to be grateful

nku/li	sheep
khoho/li	domestic fowl
nama ea khoho	chicken meat
tamati/li	tomato
qala/qalile	to begin, to start
hape	again
fa/file	to give
mantsiboea	late afternoon, evening
mema/memme	to invite
feela	only
motšehare	
oa mantsiboea	afternoon
fihla/fihlile	to arrive
haholo	very much
fela/felile	to finish, to end

Notes

A few verbs are used only with certain nouns. Many of the verbs introduced in this lesson are of this type. The verb *ritela* is immediately associated with *joala* or *khemere*, just as *brew* is associated with *beer* in English.

Unit X

BA ILE TOROPONG KAJENO: They have gone to town today

The Perfect is indicated by the suffix *-ile* which replaces the final vowel of the verb stem. It usually indicates the completedness of an action and translates as "have...".

ea	ile	(go)	Thabo o ile Maseru. (Thabo has gone to Maseru.)
ruta	rutile	(teach)	Ke rutile bana. (I have taught children.)

There are many phonological variations to this rule. The ending of the verb stem determines the form that the Perfect suffix will take:

Verb Ending	Suffix		Examples	
V-ea	<u>ile</u>	tsamaea walk	tsamaile have left	(walk, leave)
Monosyllabic verbs	<u>ile</u>	tla ea fa	tfile ile file	(come) (go) (give)
	<u>ele</u>	ja shoa noa	jēle shoele noele	(eat) (die) (drink)
V-sa, -tsa, -tsoa, -ntša	<u>itse</u>	thusa botsa hlatsoa bontša	thusitse botsitse hlatsoitse bontšitse	(help) (ask) (wash) (show)
Monosyllabic exception		tsoa etsa	tsoile entse	(go out) (do)
V-na	<u>ne</u>	hana	hanne	(refuse)
Exceptions		bona fana kena na	bone fane kene nele	(see) (give away) (enter) (fall (rain))
V-ana	<u>ane</u>	fumana bonana	fumane bonane	(find) (see each other)
V-ma	<u>eme</u> <u>ame</u>	ema inama	eme iname	(stand) (stoop)

Verb Ending	Suffix			Examples
V-ara	<u>ere</u>	apara jara	apere jere	(wear) (carry)
V-ra	<u>tše</u>	khora	khotše	(to be full, satisfied after eating)
V-ala	etse	robala	robotse	(sleep)
-ela	etse	rekela	reketse	(buy for)
-ola	otse	ohlola	ohlotse	(cough)
-ula	utse	bulula	bulutse	(blow)
-ila	itse	silila	silitse	(rub)
V-lla	letse	ngolla	ngoletse	(write)
	lotse	bōlla	bōlōtse	(be circumcised)
V-ala	ile	bala	balile	(read)
-ela	tse	tšela	tšetse	(pour)
-ula	tse	kula	kutse	(sick)
-ola	ile	phola	pholile	(cool)
	tse		photse	

Many verbs ending in *-la* have both *-tse* and *-ile* forms.

Ke hlahetse Maseru.	I was born in Maseru.
Ke hlahile ka la 10 June 1960.	
Ke balile buka.	
Ke balile lengolo.	
U jele tlhapi.	
U jele papa.	
Neo o bone Thabo.	
Re bone bakuli.	
Teboho o fihlile.	
Bo Tumisang ba fihlile.	
Lioli li bapetse le Matlama.	
Ba bapetse likarete.	
Ke botsitse poreisi.	
Tim o apere jesi.	
Mpho o apere baki.	
Suzan o tenne mose.	

The negative of the Perfect is formed by using the negative marker *ha* and the long present *-a* with the regular verb stem thus:

Ba jele? Ee, **ha** baa ja.
Have they eaten? No, they haven't eaten.

Ha kea bala buka.
Ha kea ja thlapi.
Neo haa bona Thabo.
Batho ha baa fihla.
Lioli ha lia bapala le matlama.
Ha kea botsa poreisi.

U balile buka ee? E, ke e balile.
Bo-Thabo ba balile lipampiritseo? E, ba li balile.
Neo o rekile pampiri? E, o e rekile.

U bone ngoana oa Lineo? E, ke 'mone.
Na ngoana o jele? E, o jele.

Na Bo-Thabiso ba fihlile. Ee, ha baa fihla.
Bana ba robetse? Ee, ha baa robala.
Lijo li lokile? Ee, ha lia loka.

Sefate se robehile? Ee, ha sea robeha.

Ntlo e chele? Ee, ha e ea cha.

Khotso: Lumela.
Puleng: E!
Khotso: U tsohile joang?
Puleng: Ke tsohile hantle. Uena u tsohile joang?
Khotso: Hantle, feela ke lapile.
Puleng: O batla ho ja'ng?
Khotso: Ke batla ho ja bohobe le mahe.
Puleng: U ithatsoitse?
Khotso: Ee, ha kea ithlatsoa. Ke batla ho noa tee pele.

Puleng: Ha ke e-so e etse. Itlhatsoe pele.

Khotso: Ho lokile. Hempe ea ka e kae?

Puleng: Ke e behile betheng. Roala likausi. Lijo li lokile. Tl'o je!

Kajeno Puleng o tsohile hoseng. O ngoathetse monna oa hae bohobe le mahe. O tenne seshoeshoe. Monna oa hae eena o tenne borikhohe le hempe, hape o roetse likausi. Ha a e-so roale lieta.

Ba tsoanela ho ea mosebetsing ka 8 (hora ea borobeli). Puleng o sebetsa Sea-le moeengsa Lesotho (Lesotho Radio). Monna oa hae o sebetsa posong. Ha ba tle hae ka tinare. Ba ja restauranteng. Ba khutla mosebetsing ka 5 (hora ea bohloano) mantsiboea.

Lipotso

1. Puleng o tsohile neng?
2. Monna oa hae o jele eng?
3. O tenne eng?
4. Puleng o apere eng?
5. Ba ea mosebetsing ka nako mang?
6. Ba khutla neng?

Vocabulary

hlaha/hlahile/hlahetse	to be born (time) (place)
tlhapi/li	fish
papa	mealie pap
mokuli/ba	sick person
karete/li	playing cards
botsa/botsitse	to ask
poreisi	price, cost
apara/apere	to put on clothes, to dress
pampiri/li	paper, newspaper
bona/bone	to see
loka/lokile	to be all right, to be good, mended, straightened
robeha/robehile	to break
cha/chele	to burn
itlhatsoa/itlhatsoitse	to wash oneself

beha/behile	to put, to place
bethe/li	bed
roala/roetse	to put on shoes, socks, hat, head-scarves, bracelets, rings; to carry on one's head
kausi/li	sock
seshoeshoe/li	Basotho women's dress
tena/tenne	to put on dress, trousers, underwear
hempe/li	shirt
e-so	not yet
tšoanela/tšoanetse	must, to be obliged to
sebetsa/sebelitse	to work
sea-le-moea/li	radio
poso/li	post office
tinare	midday meal
restaurante	restaurant

Notes

The Perfect

The Perfect, which often translates into English as "have...", is translated with some verbs as being present tense. In such cases, the regular form of the verb usually indicates a habitual act, the beginning of a situation, or the entering into a state of being, while the forms with the *-ile* suffix express the continuation of a state or the consequence of an earlier action:

robala (to sleep)	Bana baa robala. Bana ba robetse.	The children are getting ready to sleep. The children are sleeping.
apara (to put on a coat, shirt, etc)	Ke apara borikhoe. Ke apere borikhoe.	I put on pants every day. OR I am putting on (my) pants. I'm wearing pants.
roala (to put on shoes, hat, etc)	O roala lieta. O roetse lieta.	He puts on shoes every day. OR He is putting on (his) shoes. He is wearing shoes.
tena (to put on a dress)	Ke tena mose. Ke tenne mose.	I put on a dress every day. OR I am putting on a dress. I'm wearing a dress.

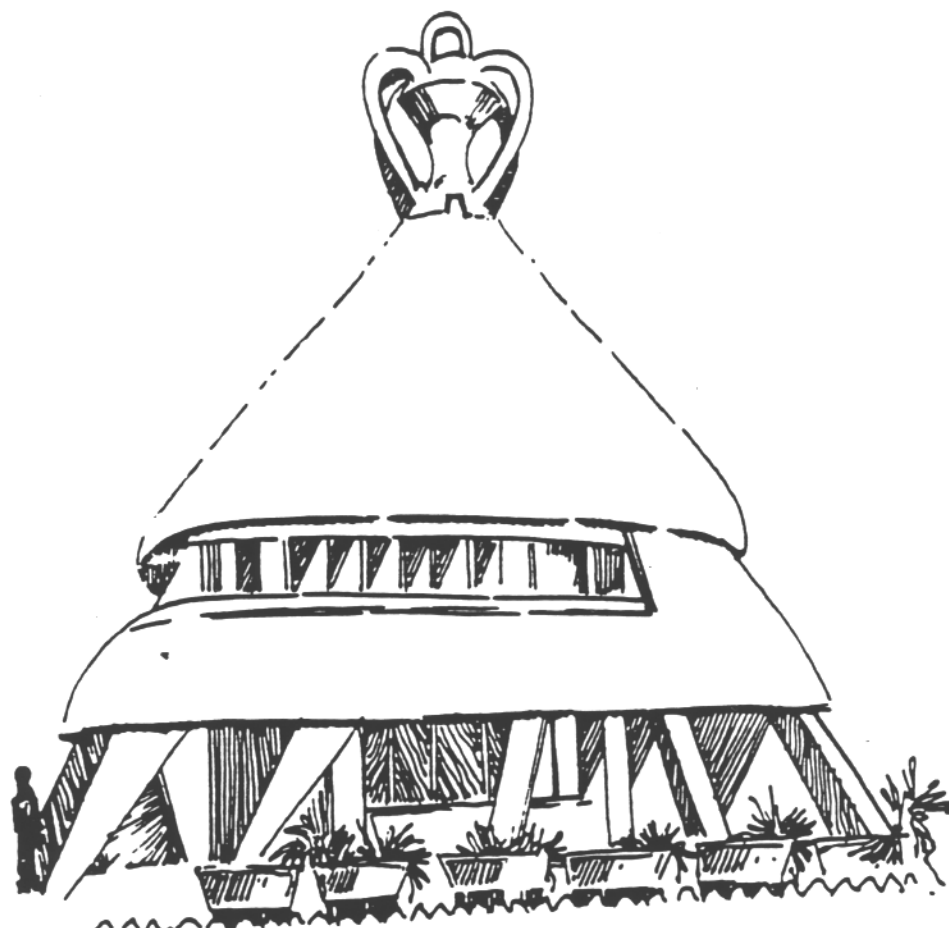
lapa (to be hungry)	Rea lapa. Re lapile.	We are starving. OR We don't get enough food every day. We're hungry.
khora (to be full, to have plenty)	Oa khora. O khotše.	He is rich. He's full. (i.e. satisfied after eating)

Imperative + Verb

A command can be used with a verb following it to mean "...and...":

Tl'o je! Come and eat!

The second verb takes the subjunctive *e* instead of *a*.



Unit XI

THABO LE PALESA BA NA LE BANA BA BABELI:**Thabo and Palesa have two children**

Monna e monnyane o teng. The small man is there.

Monna e motenya o teng.

Monna e moholo ha a eo.

Batho ba baholo ba tsamaile.

Bana ba Sekolo ba a tla.

Basali ba batle ba fihlile.

Mose o motle o holim'a tafole.

Motse o moholo o chele.

Moroho o motala o monate.

Mese e mecha e turu.

Metse e mennyane e mengata.

Meroho e meholo e meraro ka 20 cents.

Lepolesa le khopo le tsamaile.

Lemati le lecha le boima.

Masale a masoeu a matle.

Majoe a maholo a boima.

Mabone a mabeli a fihlile.

Sefate se setelele se robehile.

Sejana se secha se setle.

Setulo se seholo se boima.

Lingaka tse bohlaile li ile.

Likhomo tse khunong li shoele.

Lieta tse sootho li ntle.

Ntlo e kholo e ntle.

Ntja e tšoeu e mpe.

Tafole e 'nyane e khutsoanyane.

Bohobe bo bosootho bo monate.

Borikhoe bo thata bo bohloko.

Mahobe a mangata a bolile.

Marikhoe a macha a makhutšoanyane.

Na ke motho ea monate?

E, ke motho ea monate.

U bone batho ba molemo?	E, ke ba bone.	
U hlatsoitse liphahlo tse litšila?	Ee, ha kea li hlatsoa.	
Na nthabiseng o rata papa e thata?	E, oa e rata.	
Thabo o rotse lieta tse metsi?	E, o li rotse.	
Ba rekile mese e mecha?	E, ba e rekile.	
Re tla haha ntlo e ncha?	E, re tla e haha.	
Mosali eo o motle?	Ee, ha a motle.	O mobe.
Buka ee e monate?	Ee, ha e monate.	E mpe.
Lebese lee le bolila?	Ee, ha le bolila.	Ke motselili.
Na SeSotho se thata?	Ee, ha se thata.	Se bonolo.
Sefate see se setelele?	Ee, ha se setelele.	Se sekhutšoanyane.
Mose oo o mocha?	Ee, ha o mocha.	Ke oa khale.
Nko eo e kholo?	Ee, ha e kholo.	E 'nyane.
Bana bao ba batle?	Ee, ha ba batle.	Ba babe.
Majoe aa a masoeu?	Ee, ha a masoeu.	A matšo.
Linku tsela li tšoeu?	Ee, ha li tšoeu.	Li ntšo.

Ba ha Thabo ba rekile ntlo e ncha. Ba na le bana ba babeli. Ke batho ba monate haholo. Ngoana e moholo o lilemo li 10. E monnyane o lilemo li 8. Ba na le ntja e ntšo. Ba e fepa lijo tse ngata empa ha se ntja e tenya. Bana ba na le metsoalle e meraro. Mabitso a bona ke Pule, Tumelo le Teboho. Bona ba lula Moshoeshoe. Ba na le libuka tse kholo tse ntle. Ba rata ho bala haholo.

Lipotso

1. Ba ha Thabo ba rekile'ng?
2. Ba na le bana ba bakae?
3. Na ke batho ba monate?
4. Bana ba na le lintja tse kae?
5. Mabitso a metsoalle ea bana ke bo-mang?
6. Ba na le libuka tse kae?

Vocabulary

monnyane	small, little, young
tenya	fat (negative, i.e. not desirable)
nona/nonne	fat (positive, i.e. desirable)
-holo	big, large, especially when describing human beings
-tle	beautiful, good
-tala	green
-cha	new
-soeu	white
khopo	cruel
boima	heavy
pele	two
telele	tall, long
bohlale	intelligent, smart
khunong	light brown, red
sootho	brown
thata	hard, difficult, strong
motselili	fresh
-ngata	many, numerous
bola/bolile	to rot
-fubelu	red
bolela	to tell on someone, to tell, to name
nka/nkile	to take
ho joalo?	is that so?
lata/latile	to fetch
sepetlele/li	hospital
pere/li	horse
na le	to have
mong	one
-be	ugly, bad
monate	nice, interesting
bolila	sour
bonolo	easy, soft
khutšoanyane	short
khale	old

molemo	kind, good
rola/rotse	put off
tšila/li	dirt, dirty
metsi	water, wet
ntja/li	dog
-raro	three
bona	them, themselves
batho ba baholo	adults
-tšo	black

Notes

Bantu languages as a whole have very few adjectives, and SeSotho is no exception. Those given in this lesson are almost exhaustive of those which exist in SeSotho.

The agreement markers for the adjectives are the same as the noun class agreement markers with a few exceptions: 1st class singular is *e*, not *o*, and 4th and 5th class plural are *tse*, not *li*. The tone on adjective agreement forms is high.

Adjective Agreement Forms

<u>Class</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
1	e, ea	ba
2	o	e
3	le	a
4	se	tse
5	e	tse
6	bo	a

Adjectives also take a prefix which agrees with the prefix of the noun it qualifies, e.g. mosali e motle (a beautiful woman); basali ba batle (beautiful women). 5th class adjectives take the same prefix form in the plural and singular, e.g. ngaka e ntle (the good doctor); lingaka tse ntle (the good doctors), or take no prefix at all, e.g. khomo e sootho (the brown cow); likhomo tse sootho (the brown cows).

Examples

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. mosali e <u>motle</u> | a beautiful woman |
| 2. motse o <u>motle</u> | a beautiful village |
| 3. leru le <u>letle</u> | a beautiful cloud |
| 4. setulo se <u>setle</u> | a beautiful chair |

5. nko e <u>ntle</u>	a beautiful nose
6. bohobe bo <u>botle</u>	a fine bread
1. basali ba <u>batle</u>	beautiful women
2. metse e <u>metle</u>	beautiful villages
3. maru a <u>matle</u>	beautiful clouds
4. litulo tse <u>ntle</u>	beautiful chairs
5. linko tse <u>ntle</u>	beautiful noses
6. mahobe a <u>matle</u>	fine bread

Some adjectives undergo phonological changes when used with 5th class and 4th class plural nouns. Some of these are:

Stem	5th and 4th Class Plurals	
-be	mpe	ugly, bad
-holo	kholo	big, old
-sehla	tšehla	yellow
-soeu	tšoeu	white
-fubelu	khubelu	red
-tle	ntle	good, fine, nice, beautiful
-cha	ncha	new, young
-tšo	ntšo	black

Ntlo e ncha e chele.
Matlo a macha a chele.

The new house has burned down.
The new houses have burned down.

Ntja e ntšo e shoele.
Lintja tse ntšo li shoele.

The black dog is dead.
The black dogs are dead.

Seeta se sesoeu ke sa ka.
Lieta tse tšoeu ke tsa ka.

The white shoe is mine.
The white shoes are mine.

Another kind of adjective takes the agreement marker but no prefix. The agreement marker for 1st class singular is *ea*, not *e*.

Motho ea khopo o fihlile.
Ngoana ea bohlale o pasitse.
Lieta tse thata li turu.

The cruel person has arrived.
The intelligent child has passed (the exam).
Hard (strong) shoes are expensive.

Adjectives

khopo	cruel
bohloko	painful, hurts
boima	heavy
bohlale	intelligent, smart
thata	hard, difficult, strong, stingy
monate	good, nice, interesting
molemo	kind, good
bonolo	soft, easy
botsoa	lazy
metsi	wet, water
litšila	dirty
mofuthu	warm

As mentioned above, the adjective agreement forms have high tone. If the noun class agreement markers are used, with low tone, a different meaning is given and the phrase is a complete sentence in itself:

Ntlo e ncha.	The house is new.
Lintja li ntšo.	The dogs are black.
Ngoana o bohlale.	The child is intelligent.

Unit XII
‘MARAKENG: At the market

Conjunctions

‘me	and
empa	but
hobane	because
ha	if, when
kapa	or
hoja	if only
feela	however, but
hojane	if only

Ke rata buka eno <u>empa</u> e turu.	I like that book <u>but</u> it is expensive.
Ka batla ho tsamaea <u>hobane</u> ke khathetse.	I want to leave <u>because</u> I am tired.
Ke tla ja, <u>ha</u> ke qetile ke tsamaee.	I will eat; <u>when</u> I have finished, I will leave.
Ua tla <u>kapa</u> ua sala?	Are you coming <u>or</u> staying?
<u>Hoja</u> ho bonolo, ke ne ke tla tsamaea ke mo siee.	<u>If only</u> it were easy, I would go and leave him.
Ke rata ho ea, <u>feela</u> ha ke na chelete.	I want to go, <u>but</u> I don't have the money.
Ke ne ke tla e reka <u>hojane</u> ke na le chelete.	I would buy it <u>if only</u> I had the money.
U rata buka ee?	E, kea e rata <u>empa</u> e turu.
U batla ho tsamaea?	E, kea batla <u>hobane</u> ke khathetse.
U tla ja le ‘na?	E, ke tla ja <u>ha</u> ke qetile ke tsamaee.
Ua tla <u>kapa</u> ua sala?	Kea tla.
Ba rata ho ea baesekopong?	E, baa rata <u>feela</u> ha ba na chelete.
U tla e reka?	Ke ne ke tla e reka <u>hojane</u> ke na le chelete.
Lipuo:	Moroho oo ke bokae?
‘Manthabiseng:	O monnyane oono ke 15 cents. O moholo ke 25 cents.
Lipuo:	Basali! O turu ha kakang!
‘Manthabiseng:	Ha o turu. Le tamati ke eno (pointing at them). Li ‘ne ka 20 cents.
Lipuo:	U na le tamati e ntle empa ke na le tamati e ngata hae. (She turns to another seller.) Uena Ntate lishoeshoe tseo tsa hau u li rekisa joang?
Ntate Tefo:	Ke ranta tse peli le lisente tse mashome a mahlano (R2.50).
Lipuo:	Kea leboha. (She turns to ‘Manthabiseng.) ‘Manthabiseng, na u na le moroho o motala?

'Manthabiseng: Ha ke na o motala. Ke na le o mosoeu feela.
 Lipuo: Hoja ha kea khathala ke ne ke tla ea 'marakeng o toropong.
 Mohlomong teng ba na le o motala.

Lipuo o tlile 'marakeng. O batla ho reka moroho o motala, empa ha o eo. Ho na le o mosoeu feela. Ho na le tamati e ntle empa Lipuo o na le tamati hae. O qamaka eiee le sepaile. O bona eiee 'me o botsa poreisi ea eona. O fumana hore li hlano ka 30 cents. O reka lieiee tse leshome le lishobana tse peli tsa sepaile. O bona lishoeshoe. O botsa poreisi ea tsona. Ha a li reke. O li sheba feela. Ha a qetile oa tsamaea.

Lipotso

1. Lipuo o hokae?
2. O batla ho reka'ng?
3. Ho na le moroho 'marakeng?
4. O 'mala o joang?
5. Lipuo o batla o joang?
6. O qamaka eng?
7. O reka lieiee tse kae?
8. O patala bokae ho reka lieiee?
9. O reka sepaile se sekae?

Vocabulary

туру	expensive
qeta/qetile	to finish, to end
khathala/khathetse	to be tired
oo	this (low-high tone òó) that (high-low tone óò)
oono	that one
hakakang!	how much! (too much! --refers to money here)
tamati/li	tomato
ranta	Rand (South African currency)
ke ne ke tla	I would
'maraka	market
ho na le	there is..., there are...
sepaile	spinach

fumana/fumane	to find out, to find, to discover, to get as payment
shobana/li	bundle
sheba/shebile	to look at
qamaka/qamakile	to look around
'mala	color

Notes

Hoja and *hojane* take the conditional form of the verb:

Hoja ho bonolo, ke re ke tla
tsamaea ke mo sie.

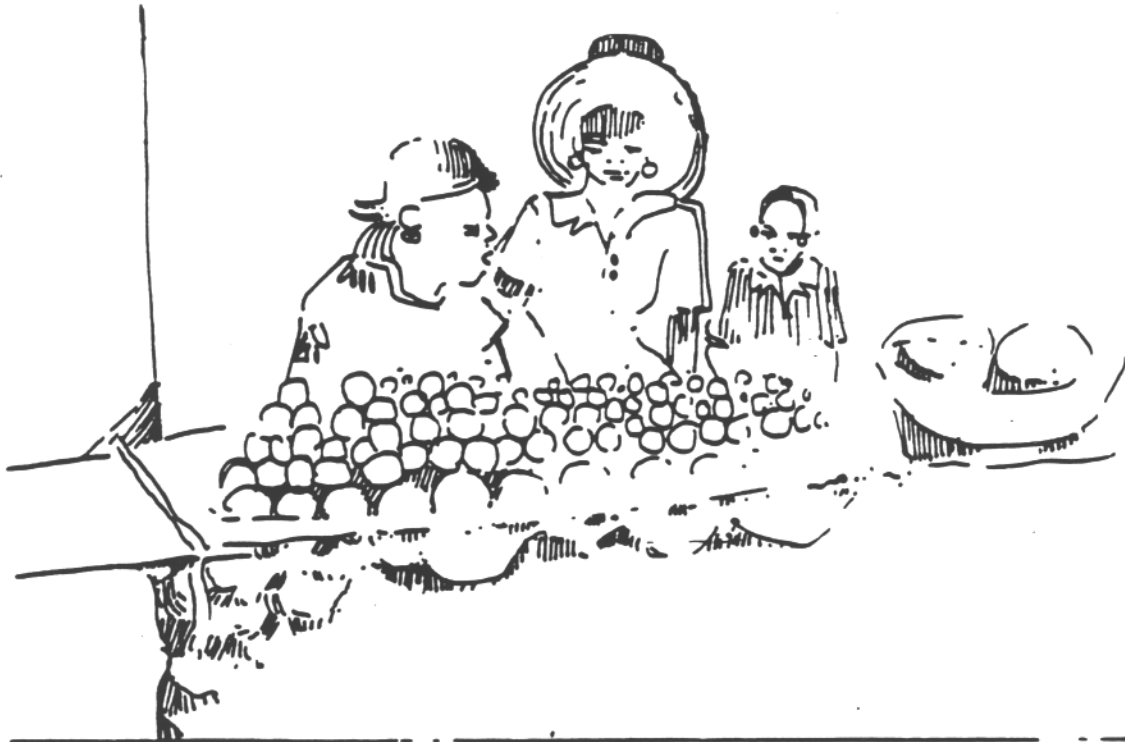
If only it were easy, I would go
and leave him.

When *ha* is used with two verbs, the second takes the subjunctive form:

Ke tla ja, ha ke qetile ke tsamaee. I will eat; when I have finished, I will leave.

Nouns in SeSotho often take the singular form when used collectively. Thus, *tamati* is used, not *litamati*, in:

U na le tamati? Do you have tomatoes?



Unit XIII
TSIETSI O ILE A EA NAHENG:
Tsietsi went to the pastures

Ke ile ka ja.	I ate.	Ha kea ka ka ja.	I didn't eat.
Ke ile ka 'mona.		Ha kea ka ka 'mona.	
O ile a tsamaea.		Ha a ka a tsamaea.	
Ba ile ba bina.		Ha baa ka ba bina.	
Ba ile ba robala.		Ha baa ka ba robala.	
Ba ile ra pheha.		Ha baa ka ba pheha.	
Le ile la ja.		Ha lea ka la ja.	
U ile ua botsa.		Ha ua ka ua botsa.	

The Compound Past tense is used to describe a past action which occurred at one point in time. It is formed by the use of *ile -a* immediately preceding the verb with the appropriate concord agreement forms. The negative uses *ha*, the noun class marker, plus *-a*, *ka* and the possessive pronoun.

U ile ua bona Thabo?	E, ke ile ka 'mona.
U ile ua ja lijo?	E, ke ile ka li ja.
Le ile la bapala bolo?	Ee, ha rea ka ra e bapala.
Le ile la bina?	E, re ile ra bina.
Thabo o ile a reka bohobe?	Ee, ha a ka a bo reka.
Thabiso o ile a bona Palesa?	Ee, ha a ka a 'mona.
Bo-Thabo ba ile ba reka bohobe?	E, ba ile ba bo reka.
Ba ile ba noa tee?	Ee, ha baa ka ba e noa.
Ba ile ba tsamaea?	Ee, ha baa ka ba tsamaea.
Le ile la utloa litaba?	Ee, ha rea ka ra li utloa.
U ile ua koala lemati?	E, ke ile ka le koala.

The Passive tense is formed by the use of *o* before the last vowel of the verb. The verb is then used with *ke* to indicate that the action is carried out by something or someone else:

busa	govern	busoa ke	governed by
thehile	found	thehiloe ke	founded by

Bana ba rutoa ke Teboho.	The children are taught by Teboho.
Ke rongoa ke tichere.	I am being sent by the teacher.
Ngoana o apesoa ke 'ma 'e.	The child is being dressed by her mother.
Buka e baloa ke Ntate.	The book is read by my father.

History ea Lesotho

- A: Lesotho le thehiloe ke mang?
 B: Le thehiloe ke Moshoeshoe I.
 A: Le thehiloe neng?
 B: Le thehiloe ka 1820.
 A: Moshoeshoe o ile a shoa a le lilemo li kae?
 B: O ile a shoa a le lilemo li.
 A: Lesotho le ile la fumana boipuso neng?
 B: Le ile la fumana boipuso ka 1966.
 A: Lesotho le ile la kena tlas'a tšireletso ea Engelane neng?
 B: Le ile la kena ka 1868.
 A: Le busoa ke mang honajoale?
 B: Le busoa ke King Moshoeshoe II.

- Makhaola: Tsietsi o kae?
 'Matsietsi: O ile naheng.
 Makhaola: Nako e ile, bona letsatsi. Ho tla hangoa neng?
 'Matsietsi: Mohlomong o ile a nkeha ke papali.
 Makhaola: E, empa ke bosiu.
 'Matsietsi: Oh! Ke eo, oa tla.
 Tsietsi: Lumelang.
 Makhaola: E lumela. U ile ua lieha hokae?
 Tsietsi: Re ile ra lisetsa hole kajeno.
 'Matsietsi: Hlapa o e'o hama.
 Makhaola: Ha u qetile ak'u qhanolle pere ea ka.

Makhaola o ile a ea Mafeteng ka 'mantaha hoseng, ho ea rekisa likhomo tse peli. O ile a fumana liranta tse mashome a robeli (R80.00). Ha a qetile o ile a rekela mosali oa hae mose le tjale. O ile a ithekela katiba le lieta tse Sootho. Mantsiboea o ile a ea ha khaitseteli ea

hae. A roabaletsa teng. Ka labobeli hoseng o ile a ea toropong ho reka nama le lijo tse ling. Ha a qetile a khutlela hae. Joale o tšoanela ho rekela Tsietsi liphahlo tsa sekolo le libuka. Hape o tšoanela ho lefa chelete ea sekolo.

Lipotso

1. Makhaola o ile a ea Mafeteng neng?
2. O ile a ea etsa'ng?
3. O ile a fumana bokae?
4. O ile a robaletsa ha mang?
5. O ile a reka eng labobeli?
6. O ile a rekela mosali oa hae eng?
7. Eena o ile a ithekala eng?
8. O tšoanela ho rekela Tsietsi eng?

Vocabulary

theha/thehile	to found
thehoa/thehiloe	to be founded
shoa/shoele	to die
boipuso	independence
tšireletso	protection
tlas'a (tlase + ha)	under, below
busa/busitse	to govern, to rule
busoa	to be governed, to be ruled
naheng	in the pasture
letsatsi/ma	sun, day
nkeha/nkehile	to get carried away
papali/li	play
lieha/liehile	to delay
lisa/lisitse	to herd
lisetsa/liselitse	to herd at (place)
hole	far away
hama/hamme	to milk
hangoa	to be milked
ak'o	please

qhanolla/qhanolotse
khomo/li
rekisa/rekisitse
tjale/li
ithekela/itheketse
robaletsa/robalelitse
tse ling
chelete/li
lefa/lefile
khaitsele

to unsaddle
cattle
to sell
shawl
to buy for oneself
to spend the night at
other
money
to pay
sibling of the opposite sex

APPENDIX I: AGREEMENT FORMS

Noun class		Prefix		Agreement Markers		Object Pronouns	
<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>P</u>
1. mosali	basali	mo	ba	o	ba	mo	ba
2. mose	mese	mo	me	o	e	o	e
3. lejoe	majoe	le	ma	le	a	le	a
4. setulo	litulo	se	li	se	li	se	li
5. buka	libuka	-	li	e	li	e	li
6. bohobe	mahobe	bo	ma	bo	a	bo	a
7. hoja	--	ho	-	ho	-	ho	-

APPENDIX I: AGREEMENT FORMS (cont.)

Noun class	Demonstrative Pronouns						Adjective/Possessive Agreement Markers	
	3 Positions Singular			Plural			S/P	S/P
<u>S/P</u>	1	2	3	1	2	3	<u>S/P</u>	<u>S/P</u>
1. mosali/basali	èó enoa	e eno	eane eloa	baa bana	bao bano	bane bale	e/ba (ea/ba)	oa/ba
2. mose/mese	òó ona	óò ono	oane ola	ee ena	eo eno	eane ela	o/e	oa/ea
3. lejoe/majoe	lee lena	leo leno	lane lola	aa ana	ao ano	ane ale	le/a	la/a
4. setulo/litulo	see sena	seo seno	sane sela	tsee tsena	tseo tseno	tsane tsela	se/tse	sa/tsa
5. buka/libuka	ee ena	eo eno	eane ela	tsee tsena	tseo tseno	tsane tsela	e/tse	ea/tsa
6. bohobe/mahobe	bòó bona	bóò bono	bahe bola	aa ana	ao ano	ane ale	bo/a	ba/a
7. hoja/ --	hòó hona	hóò hono	hoane hola	- -	- -	- -	ho/-	ha/-

APPENDIX II: SUMMARY OF TENSE

Tense	Affirmative	Negative
Copulative	<u>Ke</u> mosali. She is a woman.	<u>Ha se</u> mosali. She is not a woman.
Present	Thabo o rata likhomo. Thabo likes cows. Bana ba bona Neo. The children see Neo.	Thabo <u>ha a</u> rate likhomo. Thabo doesn't like cows. Bana <u>ha</u> ba bone Neo. The children don't see Neo.
Long Present	Kea ngola. I write. Kea e ngola. I write it. (I it write.)	Ha ke ngole. I don't write. Ha ke e ngole. I don't write it. (I don't it write.)
Future	Pule o tla tsamaea. Pule will leave. Re tla bala. He will read.	Pule <u>ha a tl'o</u> tsamaea. Pule won't leave. <u>Ha re tl'o</u> bala. He won't read.
Perfect	Ba <u>ile</u> toropong. They have gone to town. Re hlatsoitse lijana. We have washed the dishes.	Ha ba <u>a ea</u> toropong. They haven't gone to town. Ha re <u>a hlatsoa</u> lijana. We haven't washed the dishes.
Past	U <u>ile ua</u> bona bo-Thabo. You saw Thabo and his friends. Ke <u>ile ka</u> ithuta sefora. I studied French.	Ha u <u>a ka ua</u> bona bo-Thabo. You didn't see Thabo and his friends. Ha ke <u>a ka ka</u> ithuta sefora. I didn't study French.

Passive

Lesotho le thehil_oe ke
Moshoeshoe I.

Lesotho was founded by
Moshoeshoe I.

Le busga ke Leabua Jonathan.

It is governed by Leabua
Jonathan.

Lesotho ha lea the_hoa
Moshoeshoe I.

Lesotho was not founded by
Moshoeshoe I.

Ha le bus_oe ke Leabua
Jonathan.

It is not governed by Leabua
Jonathan.

Imperative

Bitsa Neo!
Call Neo!

Noa lebese!
Drink the milk!

Se bitse Neo!
Don't call Neo!

Se noe lebese!
Don't drink the milk.

APPENDIX III: VERBAL DERIVATIVES

Verbs in SeSotho change meaning when certain suffixes or prefixes are attached to the stem; all verbs will not be found using all the suffixes. Some of the most common usages are given below with the two verbs, *reka* and *rata*.

<u>reka</u>	<u>to buy</u>
-eha	rekeha - to be sellable, cheap
-ana	rekana - to buy each other
-isa	rekisa - to cause to buy, i.e. to sell, to help someone to buy
-isana	rekisana - to cause each other to buy
-ela	rekela - to buy for
-setsa	rekisetso - to sell to, to sell for
-isetsana	rekisetsana - to sell to for one another
-elana	rekelana - to buy for one another

ho ithekela - to buy oneself something

moreki - one who buys

morekisi - seller

theko - buying price

thekiso - selling

<u>rata</u>	<u>to love</u>
-eha	rateha - to be lovable
-ana	ratana - to love one another
-isa	ratisa - to cause to love
-isana	ratisana - to cause one another to love
-ela	ratela - to love for
-isisa	ratisisa - to like very much

ho ratisnoa - to be obliged to love, to crave for (of a pregnant woman desiring things to eat)

morati - lover

moratuo - beloved one

lerato - love

APPENDIX IV: PRONOUNS

	<u>Person</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
SUBJECT:			
	1	ke	re
	2	ù	le
	3	ó	ba

OBJECT:			
	1	n	re
	2	ù	le
	3	mo	ba

(object pronouns come before the verb)

REFLEXIVE:			
	1	'na	rōna
	2	uena	lōna
	3	eena	bona

(reflexive pronouns are used for emphasis or contrast)

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a	class 3 plural agreement form; 3rd person singular subject pronoun when negative.
aa, ana	demonstrative; class 3 plural, 1st position: class 6 plural, 1st position.
abuti/bo	brother (older).
akó akó tle	please; always followed by a subjunctive. please come.
alola/alotse	to make a bed.
ane, ale	demonstrative; class 3 plural, 3rd position: class 6 plural, 3rd position.
ao, ano	demonstrative; class 3 plural, 2nd position: class 6 plural, 2nd position.
apara/apere apere	to put on (coat, sweater, jacket, shirt, vest, skin trousers blanket) wearing
araba/arabile	to answer
ausi/bo	sister (older)
ba	they, 3rd person plural pronoun.
ba	to be, to become.
baa, bana	demonstrative; class 1 plural, 1st position.
baesekopo/li	movie.
baki/li	jacket.
bala/balile	to read, to count.
banka/li	bank.
bane, bale	demonstrative; class 1 plural, 3rd position.
bane, bola	demonstrative; class 6 singular, 3rd position.
bao, bano	demonstrative; class 1 plural, end position.
bapala/bapetse	to play.
basali!	exclamation -used by women.
bata/batile	to be cold.
batla/batile	to want, to seek, to look for.

-be	ugly, bad.
beha/behile	to place, to put.
bese/li	bus.
bethe/li	bed.
bo	prefix of noun class 1A plural, used with proper nouns, collective.
bobeli	second.
boemo ba leholimo	weather.
bohlale	smart, intelligent.
bohlano	fifth.
bohloko/ma	pain, painful.
bohobe/ma	bread.
boima	heavy.
boipuso	independence.
bokae	quantity, number.
Bohobe bo bokae?	How much bread?
Ke la bokae?	What day is it?
bokate/li	jeans.
bola/bolile	to rot, to decay.
bolela/boletse	to tell, to tell on someone, to mention, to preach.
bolella/boletse	to tell to.
bolila	sour.
bolo/li	ball.
bona	them, themselves.
bona	it, itself; class 6 singular.
bona/bone	to see.
bonana	to see each other.
bone	fourth.
bonolo	easy, soft.
boo, bono	demonstrative; class 6 singular, 2nd position.
boo, bona	demonstrative; class 6 singular, 1st position.

bophelo/ma	life, health.
boraro	third.
borikhoē/ma	men's trousers.
borobeli	eighth.
borobong	ninth.
bosiu/ma	night, at night.
bosupa	seventh.
botsa/botsitse	to ask.
botšelela	sixth.
bua/buile	to speak, to talk.
buka/li	book.
busa/busitse	to govern, to reign.
cente/li	cent.
cha/chele	to burn.
-cha	new, young.
chelete/li	money.
e	yes. class 1 singular adjective pronoun. class 2 plural agreement form. class 5 singular agreement form. class 5 singular relative pronoun.
ea/ile	to go.
ea	of. class 5 singular possessive particle. class 2 plural possessive particle.
eane, ela	demonstrative; class 5 singular, 3rd position; class 2 plural, 3rd position.
ee	no (high-low tone).
ee, ena	these, demonstrative; class 2 plural, 1st position.
ee, ena	this, demonstrative; class 5 singular, 1st position.
eena	herself/himself; him, her.

eiee	onion.
ela	demonstrative; class 5 singular, 3rd position; class 2 plural, 3rd position.
eloa	that, demonstrative; class 1 singular, 3rd position.
ema/eme	to stand.
empa	but.
e ne e le	it was.
eng?	what?
eo, eno	demonstrative; class 1 singular, 2nd position; class 5 singular, 2nd position; class 2 plural, 2nd position.
eo, enoa	demonstrative; class 1 singular, 1st position.
e-so ho (e-s'o)	not yet.
etsa/entse	to do, to make.
Europo	Europe.
fa/file	to give.
mphe	give me.
fatše	ground, down.
feela	only, but, however (adverb); empty, naked (adjective).
fepa/fepile	to feed, to nourish.
fesetere/li	window.
fihla/fihlile	to arrive.
fonane	good night.
-fubelu	red.
fumana/fumane	to find, to discover.
futhumala/futhumetse	to be warm.
galase/li	glass.
ha	if, when; negative particle.
ha	prefix put on or with cardinal numbers to make them adverbs, eg. pedi (two), habedi (twice).

ha (cont.)	prefix put on adjectives to make them adverbs, eg. mpe (bad, ugly), hampe (badly).
	possessive particle, eg. ha Thabo (at Thabo's place).
hae	home, residence.
hae	hers/his, possessive pronoun class 1 singular, 3rd position.
haeno	your home, where you were born.
haeso	my home, where I was born.
hahabo	his home, where he was born.
haha/hahile	to build, to dwell, to settle, to live.
haholo	very, very much, too much.
hakakang!	very, too much, so much (exclamation).
O turu hakakang!	How expensive!
hangoa	to be milked.
hantle	fine.
hape	again.
ha se	it is not (negative of ke).
hau	your, possessive pronoun class 1 singular, 2nd person.
ha re	let us...
histori	history.
hlaha/hlahile	to be born, to appear.
hlano	five.
hlatsoa/hlatsoitse	to wash.
hloeka/hloekile	to be clean.
hlola/hlotse	spent (a period of time).
hobane	because.
hobaneng?	why?
hoja	if only.
hojane	if only.
hokae?	where?

-holo	big, large.
hoo	this, neuter demonstrative pronoun class 7.
hora/li hora ea bokae?	hour. what hour?
hosane	tomorrow.
hoseng	morning, in the morning.
ile + ho = il'o	going to, gone to...
ithuta/ithutile	to study (to teach oneself).
ja/jele	to eat.
jesi/li	sweater.
joala/ma	beer.
joalo	so.
joang?	how?
ka	in, about, by, with.
-ka	my.
kae?	where?
-kae?	how many, how much?
kajeno	today.
ka mehla	every day.
kapa	or.
karete/li	playing cards.
katiba/li	hat.
kausi/li	sock.
ke (high tone)	it is.
ke (low tone)	I.
Ke la mang?	What is the date?
kena/kene	to enter.
ke ne ke tla...	I would...
ke'ng?	what is it?

kha/khile	to draw liquids, eg. water.
khale	of old, long ago.
khathala/khathetse	to be tired.
khomo/li	cow, cattle.
khopo	cruel.
khora/khotše	to be satisfied with food, to be full.
khotso	peace (used as a greeting); also a male proper name.
khutla/khuthile	to return.
-khutšoanyane	short.
-khunong	light brown, red.
kobo/li	blanket.
ko-ko-ko	knock-knock.
koloi/li	car.
kula/kutse mokoli	to be sick, ill. a sick person.
la	of, possessive pronoun class 3 singular.
labobeli	Tuesday.
labohlano	Friday.
labone	Thursday.
laboraro	Wednesday.
lakatsa/lakalitse	to wish, to desire.
lane, lela	demonstrative; class 3 singular, 3rd position.
lapa/lapile	to get hungry, to starve.
lapile	hungry.
le	and, with.
le	you, 2nd person plural pronoun.
leamerika/ma	American person.
lebese/ma	milk.

lebitso/ma	name.
leboha/lebohile	to thank, to be grateful.
lebone/ma	lamp.
lebota/ma	wall.
leburu/ma	Afrikaaner.
lee, lena	demonstrative; class 3 singular, 1st position.
lefora/ma	French person.
lehe/ma	egg.
lejeremane/ma	German person.
lejoe/ma	stone.
lekholo/ma	hundred.
lekhooa/ma	white person.
-lelele	long.
lema/lemme	to plow.
lemati/ma	door.
lenigeria/ma	Nigerian person.
lenyese/ma	British person.
leo, leno	demonstrative; class 3 singular, 2nd position.
lepolesa/ma	police.
lerashea/ma	Russian person.
leshome	ten.
letho	nothing, anything.
letsatsi/ma	sun, day.
letsoho/ma	hand.
levenkele/ma	store, shop.
lezulu/ma	Zulu person.
liaparo (se-sing.)	clothes.
libaese/ma	the movies.

lijo	food.
-ling	other things.
ling?	what? class 4 and 5 plural.
lira (plural of sera)	enemies. also male proper name.
lisa/lisitse	to herd.
loka/lokile ho lokile	to be all right, to be kind, fixed, mended. it's all right.
lōna	yourselves, you plural.
luba/lubile	to knead dough for bread, cakes, etc.
lula/lutse lula fatše	to sit, to live, to stay some place. sit down.
lumela/lumetse	to agree, to accept, to believe; also used as a greeting--hello.
mang?	who?
mamela/mametse	to listen.
Mantaha	Monday.
maoba	day before yesterday.
maobane	yesterday.
maobane bosiu	last night.
'Mapaseka	female name for "born at Easter time".
'maraka/li	market.
Maseru	capital city of Lesotho.
matšelisō	consolation. also a female proper name.
'm'e/bo-	my mother.
metsi	water, wet.
mohla/me	day.
mohlomong	perhaps, maybe.
mokete/me	feast, celebration.
mokuli/ba	sick person.

molemo	goodness, kindness, kind.
mona	here (specific).
monate	nice, interesting, delicious, friendly, good.
mong	alone, one, another.
mong?	used when asking what nationality a person is, what clan, ethnic group or nationality.
monna/ba	man.
Moqebelo	Saturday; see sateretaha.
moriana/me	medicine.
moroho/me	vegetable, green leafy vegetable like cabbage, spinach.
mosali/ba	woman.
mose/me	dress.
mosebetsi/me	work, job.
moshemane/ba	boy.
mosotho/ba	Sotho person.
motho/ba	person.
motse/me	village.
motšehare	day time.
motšehare- oa-mantsiboea	afternoon.
motsoalle/me	friend.
motsoali/ba	parent.
motswana/ba	Tswana person.
mpho	gift, present. also proper name, male or female.
na/nele	to rain.
'na	myself, me.
na le	to have.
naha/li	country, land.
nako/li	time.

nako e ile	it is late (time is gone).
nama	meat.
nama ea khoho	chicken meat.
nama ea nku	mutton.
nama ea khomo	beef.
nama ea fariki	pork.
'ne	four.
neng?	when?
neo/li	talent, gift. also female proper name.
ngaka/li	doctor.
-ngata	many, much.
ngoana/ba	child.
ngoan'a sekolo/ bana ba sekolo	student.
ngoanana/ba	girl.
'ngoe	one.
ngola/ngotse	to write.
ngolla/ngoletse	to write to.
nka/nkile	to take.
nkeha/nkehile	to get carried away.
nku/li	sheep.
noa/noele	to drink.
nona, nonne	fat (desirable).
ntate/bo	my father.
ntho/li	thing.
Nthabiseng	proper name (means "share my happiness with me" or, literally, "you (plural) make me happy").
ntja/li	dog.
-ntle	beautiful.
hantle	fine, well.
ntlo/ma	house.

-nyenyane, 'nyane	small, little.
o	she, he; 3rd person singular subject pronoun.
oa	of, possessive pronoun; class 2 singular; class 1 singular.
oache/li	clock, watch.
oo, ona	demonstrative; class 2 singular, 1st position.
oo, ono	demonstrative; class 2 singular, 2nd position.
palesa	flower. also female proper name.
papa	mealie pap.
papali/li	play, performance.
party/li	party.
paseka	Easter. also male proper name.
pel'a	near.
pele	first.
pele	two.
pene/li	pen.
pensele/li	pencil.
phahlo/li	clothes.
pheha/phehile	to cook.
phela/phetse	to live.
phutheho/li	gathering, assembly, meeting.
pitsa/li	pot.
poli/li	goat.
poreisi/li	price, cost.
poso/li	post office.
potso/li	question.
-putsoa	grey, blue.
qala/qalile	to start, to begin.

qeta/qetile	to finish.
qhala/qhalile	to scatter, to spill.
qoqa/qoqile	to converse.
ranta/li	rand (South African currency).
rata/ratile	to love.
ratisa	to cause to love.
re	we.
re/itse	to say, to tell.
reka/rekile	to buy.
rekela	to buy for someone.
nthekele	buy me (buy for me).
rekisa/rekisitse	to sell.
reisi/li	rice.
reng/li	ring.
roala/roetse	to put on (accessories like shoes, socks, rings, hat, etc.).
roetse	wearing shoes, earrings, socks, etc.
robala/robetse	to sleep.
robaletsa/robalelitse	to spend the night at (place).
robaha/robehile	to break.
robeli	eight.
robong	nine.
rōka/rōkile	to sew.
rōna	us, ourselves; 1st person plural pronoun.
rua/ruile	to become rich, to own, to possess.
morui	one who owns, possesses; a rich person.
ruta/rutile	to teach, to preach, to educate.
sala/setse	to stay, to remain.
sane, sela	demonstrative; class 4 singular, 3rd position.
Sateretaha	Saturday.
science	science.
science ea lipolotiki	political science.

sea-le-moea/li	radio.
sebetsa/sebelitse mosebetsi/me	to work. work.
see, sena	demonstrative; class 4 singular, 1st position.
seeta/li	shoe.
sefate/li	tree.
sefofane/li	airplane.
sefora	French.
setaliana	Italian language.
sejana/li	dish.
sejeremane	German language.
sekete/li	thousand.
sekhooa	English language.
sekolo se phahameng	university.
selemo/li	year, spring.
senotlolo/li	key.
seo, seno	demonstrative; class 4 singular, 2nd position.
sepaile	spinach.
sepetlele/li	hospital.
serashea	Russian language.
seroki/li	tailor.
-sesane, -sesanyane	narrow, thin.
sesepa/li	soap.
seshoeshoe/li	Basotho women's dress.
SeSotho	Sotho language.
swahili	Swahili language.
setempe/li	stamp.
setšoantšo/li	picture.
setulo/li	chair.

sezulu	Zulu language.
shapa/shapile	to spank.
sheba/shebile	to look at.
shebahala	look like, seem to be.
shebella	to watch.
shoa/shoele	to die.
siea/siile	to leave behind.
-soeu	white.
Sontaha	Sunday.
sootho	brown.
supa	seven.
supa/supile	to point.
tafole/li	table.
-tala	green.
tamati/li	tomato.
tata/tatile	to be in a hurry.
taba/li	news.
teboho	acknowledgement, thanksgiving. also a proper name, male or female.
tee	tea.
television	television.
temo	agriculture.
tena/tenne	to put on (dress, etc.).
tenne	wearing.
teng	here, there.
-tenya	fat (undesirable when used with human beings).
thaba/thabile	to be happy, to be glad, to rejoice.
ke thabile	I am happy.
thabo	happiness. also male proper name.
tharo	three.

thata	difficult, hard, strong.
theha/thehile	to found.
thusa/thusitse	to help.
thuto/li	subject, lesson, education.
tichere/li	teacher.
tinare/li	midday meal.
tla	will (future marker).
tla/tlile	to come.
tlase ho = tla'sa	under.
-tle	beautiful.
tle+ ho = tl'o	come.
tl'o!	come!
tl'o mona!	come here!
tl'o koano!	come here!
tlhapi/li	fish.
tloha/tlohile	to go away.
tola/totse	to take a bath.
tsa	of; class 5 plural possessive marker.
tsamaea/tsamaile	to leave.
tsane, tsela	demonstrative; class 4 plural, 3rd position.
tseba/tsebile	to know.
tse, tsena	these (ones), demonstrative; class 4 plural, 1st position.
tsee, tsena	these (ones), demonstrative; class 5 plural, 1st position.
tsela, tsane	those (ones), demonstrative; classes 4 and 5 plural, 3rd position.
tseo, tseno	those (ones), demonstrative; class 5 plural, 2nd position.
tšireletso	protection.
tšehali	female, left.
tšelela	six, to cross over.
tšila/li	dirt, dirty.
-tšo	black.

tsoa/tsoile	to come from, to get out.
tšoanela/tšoanetse	to ought to.
tsoha/tsohile	to get up.
туру	expensive.
u (o)	2nd person singular subject pronoun, low tone.
oena	yourself.
utloa/utloile	to hear.
utloisisa/utloisisitse	to understand.
veke/li	week.

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about, in, for, on, by, with, at	ka.
Afrikaaner	leburu/ma.
afternoon	motsehare-oa-mantisboea.
again	hape.
to agree, also used as a greeting	lumela.
agriculture	temo.
airplane	sefofane/li.
all right, fixed, mended	lokile/loka.
alone, one, another; used when asking what nationality a person is	mong.
American person	leamerica/ma.
and, with	le.
another, alone, one	mong.
to answer	araba/arabile.
to appear, to be born	hlaha/hlahile.
to arrive, to get, to reach	fihla/fihlile.
to ask	botsa/botsitse.
at, in, for, on, about, by, with	ka.
bad, ugly	-be.
ball	bolo/li.
to bathe	tola/totse.
beautiful	-tle.
because	hobane.
bed	bethe/li.
beer	joala/ma.

to begin, to start	qala/qalile.
big, large	-holo.
black	-tšo.
blanket	kobo/li.
blue, gray	-putsoa.
book	buka/li.
to be born, to appear	hlaha/hlahile.
boy	moshemane/ba.
bread	bohobe/ma.
to break	robaha/robehile.
British person	lenyesemane/ma.
brother	abuti/bo.
brown	-sootho.
light brown, red	-khunong.
to build, to dwell, to settle, to live	haha/hahile.
to burn	cha/chele.
bus	bese/li.
but	empa.
but, only, however	feela.
to buy	reka/rekile.
to buy for someone	rekela.
to buy (for) me	nthekele.
to buy for oneself	ithekela/itheketsa.
by, for, in, on, about, with, at	ka.
car	koloi/li.
cards (playing)	karete/li.
to (get) carried away	nkeha/nkehile.
celebration, feast	mokete/me.
cent	cente/li.

chair	setulo/li.
chicken meat	khoho.
child	ngoana/ba.
church	kereke/li.
(What) clan? ethnic group? nationality?	mong?
to clean	hloeka/hloekile.
clock, watch	wache/li.
clothes	phahlo/li.
to be cold	bata.
to come	tlā/tlile.
come! come here!	tle + ho = tl'o. tl'o mona! tl'o koano!
to confess, to tell, to mention, to preach	bolela/boletse.
to converse	qoqa/qoqile.
to cook	pheha/phehile.
cost, price	poreisi/li.
to count, to read	bala/balile.
country, land	naha/li.
cow	khomo/li.
cruel	khopo.
(What's the) date?	ke la mang?
day every day	letsatsi/ma, mohla/me. ka mehla.
day before y esterday	maoba.
daytime	motshare.
to decay, to rot	bola/bolile.
to desire, to wish	lakatsa/lakalitse.
to die	shoa/shoele.

difficult, hard	thata.
dirt, dirty	tsila/li.
to discover, to find (out)	fumana/fumane.
dish	sejana/li.
to do, to make	etsa/entse.
doctor	ngaka/li.
dog	ntja/li.
door	lemati/ma.
down, ground	fatše.
to draw water	kha.
dress	mose/me.
to drink	noa/noele.
to dwell, to settle, to live, to build	haha/hahile.
Easter, born around Easter, a proper name (male)	paseka.
easy, soft	bonolo.
to eat	ja/jele.
education, lesson, subject	thuto/li.
egg	lehe/ma.
eight	robeli.
eighth	borobeli.
empty, naked	feela.
to end, to finish	qeta/qetile.
enemies, a proper name (male)	lira.
English language	sekhooa.
to enter	kena/kene.
(What) ethnic group? clan? nationality?	mong?

Europe	Europo.
exclamation	basali!
expensive	туру.
to become fat (positive)	nona/nonne.
fat (undesirable)	-tenya.
father	ntate/bo
feast, celebration	mokete/me.
to feed, to nourish	fepa/fepile.
female, left	tšehali.
fifth	bohlano.
to find	theha/thehile.
to find (out), to discover	fumana.
to finish, to end	fela/felile, qeta/qetile.
fine, well	hantle.
first	pele.
fish	tlhapi/li.
five	hlano.
to fix, to mend	loka/lokile.
flower, also female proper name	palesa/li.
food	lijo.
for, at, in, on, about, by, with	ka.
four	'ne.
fourth	bone.
French language	sefora.
French person	lefora/ma.
Friday	labohlano.
friend	motsoalle/me.

gathering, assembly, meeting	phutheho/li.
German language	sejeremane.
German person	lejeremane/ma.
to get, to arrive, to reach	fihla/fihlile.
to get up	tsoha/tsohile.
gift, present; also a proper name (male or female)	mpho.
girl	ngoanana/ba.
to give	fa/file.
give me	mphe.
to go	ea/ile.
going to, gone to	ile + ho = il'o.
goodness	molemo.
good night	fonane.
to govern, to reign	busa/busitse.
to be grateful, to thank	leboha/lebohile.
green	-tala.
grey, blue	-putsoa.
ground, down	fatše.
hand	letsoho/ma.
to be happy, to be glad, to rejoice	thaba.
I am happy	ke thabile.
hat	katiba/li.
to have	na le.
he, she	o (high tone).
to hear	utloa.
heavy	boima.
hello	lumela.

to herd	lisa/lisitse.
here (specific)	mona.
here, there	teng.
to help	thusa/thusitse.
herself/himself; him, she	eena.
history	histori.
home, residence, place	hae.
the home of...	habo-.
his home, where he was born	hahabo.
my home, where I was born	haeso.
your home, where you were born	haeno.
hospital	sepetele/li.
hour	hora/li.
house	ntlo/ma.
how	joang.
how many, how much	-kae.
how much (used with reference to the day)	bokae.
What day of the week is it?	ke la bokae?
however, but, only	feela.
hundred	lekholo/ma.
to get hungry, to starve hungry	lapa/lapile. lapile.
to be in a hurry	tata/tatile.
if, of, when	ha.
if only	hoja, hojane.
ill, sick	kula.
in, for, on, about, by, with, at	ka.

independence	boipuso.
intelligent, smart	bohlale.
interesting, nice	monate.
invalid, a sick person	mokoli/ba.
I	ke (low tone).
it is	ke (high tone).
Italian language	setaliana.
jacket	baki/li.
jeans	bokate/li.
key	senotlolo/li.
to knead dough for bread, cakes, etc.	luba/lubile.
knock-knock	ko-ko-ko.
to know	tseba/tsebile.
lamp	lebone/ma.
land, country	naha.
large, big	-holo.
last night	maobane bosiu.
it is late (time is gone)	nako e ile.
to leave	tsamaea/tsamaile.
to leave behind	siea/siile.
left, female	tsehali.
lesson, subject, education	thuto/li.
let us....; we are not	ha re.
life	bophelo/ma.
little, small	-nyenyane, 'nyane.
to listen	mamela.
to live	phela/phetse.

to live, to sit, to stay someplace	lula/lutse.
to live, to settle, to dwell, to build	haha/hahile.
long	-lele.
to look at	sheba/shebile.
to look like, to seem	shebahala.
to love to cause to love	rata/ratile. ratisa.
to make, to do	etsa/entse.
to make a bed	alola.
man	monna/ba.
many, much	-ngata.
market	'maraka/li.
maybe, perhaps	mohlomong.
mealie pap	papa.
meat	nama.
medicine	moriana/me.
meeting, assembly, gathering	phutheho/li.
mend, fix	loka/lokile.
to mention, to preach, to tell, to confess	bolela/boletse.
milk	lebese/ma.
Monday	mantaha.
money	chelete/li.
more, again	hape.
morning	hoseng.
my mother	'm'e/bo.
movie	baesekopo/li.

much, many	-ngata.
much, very, too much, very much	haholo.
mutton	nama ea nku.
my	-ka.
myself	'na.
naked, empty	feela.
name	lebitso/ma.
narrow, thin	-sesane, -sesanyane.
(What) nationality? clan? ethnic group?	mong?
near	pel'a.
new, young	-cha.
news	taba/li.
nice, interesting	monate.
Nigerian person	lenigeria/ma.
night	bosiu/ma.
nine	robong.
ninth	borobong.
no	ee (high-low tone).
to nourish, to feed	fepa/fepile.
not, negative marker	ha.
it is not (negative of ke)	ha se.
not yet (used with con- ditional form of verb -e)	e-so ho (e-s'o).
of, if, when	ha.
(of) old people	khale.
on, for, in, about, by, with, at	ka.
one	'ngoe.

one, alone, another	mong.
onion	eiee/li.
only, but, however	feela.
or	kapa.
to ought to	tsoanela/tsoanetse.
to own, to possess, to become rich	rua/ruile.
pain, painful	bohloko/ma.
parent	motsoali/ba.
party	party/li.
peace (used as a greeting) also a male proper name	khotso.
pen	pene/li.
pencil	pensele/li.
perhaps, maybe	mohlomong.
person	motho/ba.
picture	setšoantšo/le.
to place, put	beha/behile.
to play	bapala/bapetse.
play, performance	papali/li.
please (always followed by subjunctive, e.g. ako tle, 'please come')	ako.
to plow	lema.
police	lepolesa/ma.
political science	science ea lipolotiki.
to possess, to own, to become rich	rua/ruile.
post office	poso/li.
pot	pitsa/li.

to preach, to mention, to tell, to confess	bolela/boletse.
present, gift (also a proper name, male or female)	mpho/li.
price, cost	poreisi/li.
protection	tšireletso.
to put, to place	beha/behile.
to put on (i.e. coat, sweater, jacket, shirt, vest, skirt, trousers, blanket)	apara/apere.
to put on (i.e. accessories-- shoes, socks, rings, hats, etc.)	roala/roetse.
question	potso/li.
radio	sea-le-moea/li.
to rain	na/nele.
rand	ranta/li.
to reach, to arrive, to get	fihla/fihlile.
to read, to count	bala.
red	-fubelu.
red, light brown	-khunong.
to reign, to govern	busa/busitse.
to remain, to stay	sala/setse.
to return	khutla/khutlile.
rice	reisi/li.
to become rich, to own, to possess	rua/ruile.
one who owns, possesses; a rich person	morui.
ring	reng/li.
to rot, to decay	bola/bolile.
Russian language	serashea.

Russian person	lerashea/ma.
to be satisfied	khora/khotše.
Saturday	satereraha.
to say, to tell	re/itse.
to scatter	qhala/qhalile.
school	sekolo/li.
science	science.
second	bobeli.
to see	bona/bone.
to see each other	bonana.
to seek, to want, to look for	batla/batlile.
to sell	rekisa/rekisitse.
to settle, to dwell, to live, to build	haha/hahile.
seven	supa.
seventh	bosupa.
to sew	rōka/rōkile.
she, he (3rd person singular subject pronoun)	o (high tone).
sheep	nku/li.
shoe	seeta/li.
short	-khutšoanyane.
to be sick, ill	kula.
sister	ausi/bo.
sit down	lula fatše.
to sit, to live, to stay someplace	lula/lutse.
six	tšelela.
sixth	botšelela.
skirt, Basotho women's dress	seshoeshoe/li.

small, little	-nyenyane, 'nyane.
smart, intelligent	bohlale.
so	joalo.
so much, too much, very	hakakang!
soap	sesepa/li.
sock	kausi/li.
soft, easy	bonolo.
Sotho language	sesotho.
Sotho person	mosotho/ba.
sour	bolila.
to spank	shapa/shapile.
to speak, to talk	bua/buile.
to spend (i.e a period of time-day)	hlola/hlotse.
to spend the night at	roabaletsa/roabalelitse.
spinach	sepaile.
spring (the season), year	selemo/li.
stamp	setempe/li.
to stand	ema/eme.
to start, to begin	qala/qalile.
to stay, to remain	sala/setse.
to stay someplace, to live, to sit	lula/lutse.
stone	lejoe/ma.
store, shop	levenkele/ma.
student	ngoan'a sekolo/bana ba sekolo.
to study (to teach oneself)	ithuta/ithutile.
subject, lesson, education	thuto/li.
sun	letsatsi/ma.

Sunday	sontaha.
supper	tinare.
Swahili language	swahili.
sweater	jesi/li.
table	tafole/li.
tailor	seroki/li.
to take	nka/nkile.
to talk, to speak	bua/buile.
tea	tee/li.
to teach	ruta/rutile.
teacher	tichere/li.
television	television/li.
to tell, to say	re/itse.
to tell, to tell on someone; to mention, to preach, to confess one's thoughts or feelings	bolela.
to tell to	bolella.
ten	leshome.
to thank, to be grateful	leboha/lebohile.
themselves	bona.
there, here	teng.
they (3rd person plural pronoun)	ba.
three	tharo.
thin, narrow	-sesane, -sesanyane.
third	boraro.
thing	ntho/li.
thousand	sekete/li.
Thursday	labone.
time	nako/li.

to be tired	khathala/khathetse.
today	kajeno.
tomorrow	hosane.
tomato	tamati/li.
too much, so much, very	hakakang!
tree	sefate/li.
trousers (men's)	borikhoe/ma.
Tswana person	motswana.
Tuesday	labobeli.
two	pele.
ugly, bad	-be.
under	tla se ho = tla'sa.
to understand	utloisisa/utloisisitse.
university	sekolo se phahameng.
us, ourselves (first person plural pronoun)	rōna.
vegetable, green leafy vegetable like cabbage, spinach	moroho/me.
very, too much, so much	hakakang!
very, very much, much, too much	haholo.
village	motse/me.
wall	lebota/ma.
to want, to seek, to look for	batla/batlile.
to be warm	futhumala/futhumetse.
to wash	hlatsoa/hlatsoitse.
to watch	shebella.
watch, clock	wache/li.

water	metsi.
we (1st person plural subject pronoun)	re.
weather	boemo ba leholimo.
Wednesday	laboraro.
week	veke/li.
well, fine	hantle.
wet	metsi.
What...? What is...?	...eng? ...ke'ng?
at what time?	hora ea bokae?
when?	neng?
when, if, of	ha.
where?	kae, hokae?
white	-soeu.
white person	lekhooa/ma.
who? whose?	mang?
why?	hobaneng?
will (future marker)	tla.
to wish, to desire	lakatsa/lakalitse.
with, and	le.
with, in, for, on, about, by, at	ka.
woman	mosali/ba.
to work	sebetsa/sebelitse.
work (noun)	mosebetsi/me.
to write	ngola/ngotse.
year, spring (the season)	selemo/li.
yes	è.
yesterday	maobane.

you (2nd person subject singular pronoun)	u (low tone - pronounced ò).
you (2nd person subject plural pronoun)	le.
young, new	-cha.
yourself	uena.
yourselves	lōna.
Zulu language	sezulu.
Zulu person	lezulu/ma.

