

SOTHO
INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

ENGLISH	SOTHO	SOTHO PHONETIC
I am an American and I need your help, but I do not speak your language. I'll point to the question in your language and you can point to the answer in your language.	Kemo Amerika kekupa thuso yahao, empa aketsibi hoboa . lelemi lahao Ketla supa potsiso kalelemi lahao, wena usupe karabo kalelemi lahao	Key- MOO Amerika Key- COOPER two-so yah- HOW imper a-key-see be hoo- BOOWER lee- LEE -me lah- HOW . Keet- LAH -super pot-see- SAW kah-lee- LEE -me lah- HOW we-nah oo-sou PAY -kah lee- LEE me-lah- HOW

Note:

Poo as spoon
Oo as loot

we as wet
poo as spoon

imper as impossible
keet as keep

hoo as hooter

COMMUNICATION

ENGLISH	SOTHO	SOTHO PHONETIC
Will you help me?	Ukanthusa Nah	Oon-kah TWO sah NAH ?
Is there someone that speaks English?	Utheng obuang sengisimani Nah	Oo- TANG o- BOOWER say- NGEE -see-money NAH ?
Are they willing to help me?	Batla ntusa na?	Butler NTWO -sah NAH ?
Can they come here?	Bakatla mona nah?	bah CUTTLER more NAH ?
I must go now but, I want to thank you for your help.	Ke tswnetsi hutsamaya impa kebatla hoho lebuha ka huntusa	Keet- SEE -wah net-see who Sum- UYYER imper key BUTTLER who-who LAY -boo- HAH kah-hoo- NTWO -sah
My government will repay you for your kindness.	Bam mmuso waka batlau puseletsa kabothu bahuo	Bah moo- SOW wak-kah ba TLA -who Poo-say- LAY -tsa kah-boo TWO -bah HOW
I greatly appreciate your assistance.	Kealebuha hahulo	Kee- YAH lay-boo- HAH hah-hoo- LOO

Note:

boo-as boot
Sah- nah as apple
Cuttler as buttler

Muyyer as buyer
Buttler as buttler
Hoon as hoop

Poo as poodle
Bah as apple
Lay as may

Tsa as hats

BASIC NEEDS

ENGLISH	SOTHO	SOTHO PHONETIC
May I have some water?	Kekupa metsi	Key COOPER met- SEE
May I have some food?	Kekupa dijo	Key COOPER dee- JO
I am injured. Is there someone that can help me?	Kelemetsi honale okang thusang nah?	Key- LEE met- SEE hoo na LEE o-ka- NTWO -sung NAH ?
Do you have any bandages?	Unale bandeji nah	Oo na- LEE banday-ji NAH ?
Can you contact someone to help me?	Uka fumana okanthusang?	Oo-ka- FOO -mana o-ka- NTWO -sung?
Where is the latrine?	I kae nhloana	Ee- KUY NTWO -wa NAH ?
I am very tired. Is there a place I can sleep?	Ke gathetsi huna lemo enka robala teng nah?	Key-kahate- SEE Hoo-nah- LEE -more En- KAH row BULLER tang NAH ?
May I have a blanket, or more clothing?	Kekupa kubo yahorobala kappa diyaparo tse ding?	Key- COOPER koo- BO -yah-who robber- LAH , CUPPER dee-yah-par- ROW tsee- DING

Note:

Oo as loop
Jo- as joy
Ba as apple
Ji as jim
Foo- as foot

Mana- as money
Ee as eel
Ha as apple
Te as ten
Wa as want

Kuy as come
Nah -as apple
Buller-as butter
Coo as cooper
Bo as boy

Cupper as cup
Tang- as sang
Ts as hats

TRAVEL

ENGLISH	SOTHO	SOTHO PHONETIC
Can you show me my location on a map?	Ukamponsa lekheisi laka ko mmapang	Oo-come PONSER lee- CAY -see LUCKER ma-pang
Can you send word that I am alive?	Uka romela lentswi hore kesa pila	Oo-kah roo- MAY -lah Leent- SWEE hoory key SA - pee-lah
How far is it to friendly territory?	Ehule hakakang tulo ya galelano	E hoo- LAY hah CUCUNG too- LOW yah HA lee-lano
Can you take me there?	Ukankisa teng	Oo- CUNG kisser TANG
If you cannot take me, will you give me directions?	Hau sankesi kekupa umbonse tsela	How sun KISSY Kee- COOPER oompon-say see- LAH
Is it safe to travel now?	Hoseifi hu tsamaya nah?	Who SAY-FEE who SUMMER-YER NAH?
Which way do you advise me to travel?	Unahana hure ketsamaye kaefing tsela nah?	Oo nah- HA-NAH hoory keet- SUMMER-YER Kah- ifing - SEE -la NAH?
How can I travel?	Nkatsamaya joang?	Nka-sum- MER-YER jowung?
Automobile	koloi	Co- LOY
Train	tireni	Tea- RAINY
Boat	sikepe	See- CAY-PAY
Cart/Wagon	Karikana	Kah REEK - ah- nah
Pack Animal	dipoofolo	Dee- PO -fall- LOW
On Foot	kamaoto	Kah-ma-oo- TWO

Note:

u in lukker as lucky
a in Mapang as mother
u in Ru as ruller

swee as sweet
hoory as hoop
U in Cucu as cut
U in Luna as under

U in muyyer as buyer
a as apple
sum as summer
wung as sung

a in capay as cat

UNFRIENDLY

ENGLISH	SOTHO	SOTHO PHONETIC
What types of troops are in the area?	Kemufuta ofeng wamasole kosakong	Key-moo FOOTER o- FING wa-ma-so- LAY co-su- KONG
Are they army troops?	Kemasole antwa nah?	Key-ma-so- LAY ant- WAH nah?
Are they militia?	Baferikanyi	Ba-fee-ree- KANYEE
Have you noticed any increase of troops or patrolling?	Uyele walemoga hoata gwama sole a patrolang nah ?	Oo-yee- La Wah-lee- MOOHAH Hoo- UTTER wamma so- LAY a part-rol- LANG nah?
When do they patrol?	A patrola ning	Bah part- ROLLER ning
Are you aware of others like me?	Useke wabona babang batswanang lena ?	Oo-see kee-la wah Bona babang ba-swa- NANG Lee-nah ?
Can you take me to them?	Ukankisa teng?	Oo-kang KEY -sah TENG

Note:

footer as footer
Co as co-payment
Oo as loop
La as lap

Bo as boy
Wah ma as apple
Wamma as apple
Babang as apple

Ning as sing
Nang as nut
Ba-see as but
Kang as apple

Patrolling as part
Teng as ten

VOCABULARY

ENGLISH	SOTHO	SOTHO PHONETIC
Hello	Dumela	Doo-MELAH
Goodbye	Sala hantle	Salah han-CLAY
Thank you	Kea leboa	Kee-YAH lay-BOOHAH
Please	Kea kupa	Kee-yah COOPER
Ammunition	Dibetsa	Dee-BEET-SER
Armed Vehicle	Koloi yantwa	Kolow-YEE yah 'NTEA-wah
Checkpoint	Tsheka nthla	Shekant-LAH
Day	Letsatsi	Leet-sa-SEE
Danger	Kotsi	Caught-SEE
Desert	Lesokeng	Lee-SOO-kang
East	Bohlabelo	Boot-la-BAYLOW
Evening	Mantsiboa	Mant-see-BOOWER
Food	Dojo	Dee-JOW
Good	Huseame	Who-see-yah-ME
Bad	Dimpe	Deem-PEE
Here	Mo	More
Hour	Hora	Ho-RAH
Kilometer	Kekilo	Key-KEY-low
Knife	Thipa	Tea-PAR
Leader	Katapele	Cutter-PILLY
Medicine	Sehlaré	See-TLA-hurry
Men	Banna	BANNA
Women	Basadi	Ba-SUDDY
Minute	Mutsutsu	Moo-TSOO-tsoo
Morning	Hosing	Who-SANG
Mountain	Thaba	Tub-BER
Night	Busio	Boo-see-WHO
North	Leboa	Lee-boo-WAH
Pass	Feta	Feet-TAR
Pistol	Sethunya	See-two-NEEYAH
Radio	Keradiyo/seyalemoya	KeyRADIYO/see-yah-lee-MOYER
River	Noka	Nooc-KER
Road	Tsela	Tse-LLER

Note:

A as apple
Ts as hats
Cau as caught
Kang as sang
Boo as boot
Tlo as little
Jo as joy

Hora as torah
Tla as little
Tuber as tub
Mang as mother
E as may -
Yah as apple
Yee as feet

Shelter	Bosirelo	Boo-see-RAY-low
South	Borwa	Boer-WAH
There	Mane	Mo-NEY
Valley	Molapo	Moo-lah-POH
Village	Motse	Moot-SEE
Water	Metsi	Met-SEA
Weapon	Sebetsa	Seabee-TSHA
West	bophirima	Booh-pee-RIMMER
Yes	Ea	a-YAH
No	Ae	Eye-yee
1	Nngwe	Ng-WAY
2	Pedi	Pe-DDY
3	Tharo	Ta-ROW
4	Nne	NEH
5	Hlano	Hla-NO
6	Tshelela	See-lay-LAH
7	Supa	Su-PER
8	Robedi	Row-BEDDY
9	Robong	Row-BOONG
10	Leshumi	Lee-SHOO-me
20	Mashumemapedi	Mashoo-ME mah peDDY
30	Mashumemararo	Mashoo-ME mah ruROW
40	Mashume amane	Mashoo-ME amahnNAY
50	Mashume amahlano	Mashoo-ME maHLANO
60	Mashume atseletsing	Mashoo-ME ah-see-lay-SING
70	Mashume asupa	Mashoo-ME amaSUPER
80	Mashume amarobedi	Mashoo-ME amma-ROW peDDY
90	Mashume amarobong	Mashooma amma ROW-bong
100	Logohlo	LoohoTLO
500	Magohlo amamhlano	Ma-hot-lo-ama HLANO
1000	Sekete	See key TEA

Wa as what
We as wet
Ne as net
Hla as welsh
Shoome as shoot
Mah as mother
Ra as run

Ah as apple
Ama as apple
Loo as look
Tle as little
Hlano as welsh