



MASIFUNDE **isiXHOSA** KUNYE
LET'S LEARN **XHOSA** TOGETHER

LEVEL 1:

Confident Beginners

(V12)

This manual and accompanying Audio material (CDs or mp3's) can be used to teach oneself at home or as part of an Ubuntu Bridge facilitated **“Confident Beginners”** Conversational Language course.

Connecting Cultures * Learning together * Bridging gaps
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This manual where possible is produced with the environment in mind. Please reduce, re-use, recycle.

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Introduction and Intentions

I should probably warn you now that I never officially studied Xhosa or teaching and yet I have taught Xhosa to many people. This is as much to excuse any mistakes I make as it is to hopefully inspire you. I learnt Xhosa as an adult, through a process of self-study, chosen immersion and sustained effort. I have had many misunderstandings along the way and learnt tremendously from the process, which I'm sure will continue for my whole life. However, it is this process which I believe has equipped me to fully empathise with third language learners and to break things down in a way that makes it palatable and practical. Ultimately I hope to take you to a place where you can pick up any of the other amazing Xhosa books out there and find them instantly accessible. In a sense I am trying to provide a bridge to the work of the teachers before me. (More on them later).

When I was 23, I felt called to find a rural village in the Eastern Cape or KwaZulu where I could simultaneously learn about the culture and ways of the Xhosa people, a number of whom had so lovingly cared for me throughout my life, and to offer myself as a resource in their homes, to serve in whatever way life and spirit felt appropriate.

It turned out that I would be invited to a ceremony for a *thwasa*, which is an initiate and trainee in the traditional healing tradition of *amagqirha*, also

know as *Sangomas*. At this ceremony my calling to serve was acknowledged by the *sangomas* present and I was advised to become a *thwasa*. I resonated with so much of what they spoke of and the way they interpreted life, spirit, the ancestors and human health.

I felt immediately that it was what I needed to do, and so began an 8 month process of living in a small village in Mpondo Land, where I literally served my sangoma family and learnt to connect with the Ancestors. I fetched wood and water at dawn, I washed many dishes, I cleaned the homestead, I prepared and served meals, amidst a whole host of other tasks, duties, teachings and missions. It was a challenging and fulfilling period of my life.

The story has many aspects, but essentially I one day felt called by the Ancestors to leave the training and return to Cape Town, where I became a volunteer teacher in the Life Orientation and drama classes at a Xhosa school. After another 8 months, I began to be asked by people to teach them Xhosa, from individuals to corporates. The CDs were made and the rest has unfolded.

It is my passion to inspire people to make the effort to honour the indigenous cultures from around the world, where so much wisdom lies buried, and whose people have recently endured such incredible hardships in the name of progress.

The recent global history of oppression did a lot of damage to those that were 'victimised' - socially, economically, politically, psychologically. However, the 'oppressors' were just as damaged, even if they did or do not know it, for to hurt/abuse/exploit others is to lose aspects of one's own soul, one's own humanity, one's own self. This is part of the nature of ubuntu, the fundamental essence of inter-connectedness that underlies all of life - we build ourselves, when we build others. We destroy ourselves when we destroy others!

As the world picks up the economic and political pieces of unsustainable, unconscious 'development at all costs', one of the most crucial to heal wounds is that of the psychological, especially here in South Africa, where systematic attacks on education, the dignity and human rights of many people led often to an indoctrinated sense of inferiority and hopelessness, which to some extent inspired the black consciousness movement.

When learning the language of a previously oppressed people, we are actually engaging on a journey of potential healing for both sides. One can reflect dignity and respect to people, and generate humility and forgiveness for and within oneself.

In her book, "Learn Xhosa with Anne Munnik", Mama Nomvula (Anne) reminds us that when **Nelson Mandela** became president, he urged the people of South Africa to learn each others' languages. This, he

said, would be “the best way to contribute to nation building and reconciliation”.

Xhosa, like any language, is not easy, but it is in essence a beautifully and intuitively structured language. The effort alone will help you to cultivate the attitudes of awareness, communication, empathy and respect that Madiba was subtly referring to. There are many delightful benefits to the learning of Xhosa and I wish you and all of us the patience, persistence and motivation to move forward quickly.

This journey will require you to be disciplined, patient and to keep a sense of humour. Besides the serious reasons above, the joys and benefits of learning Xhosa are far reaching, and they will transform your experience of visiting or living in South Africa for the dramatically better. You will have many teachers beside myself and I am honoured to help you start on this endeavour.

It is important to remember that you won't be speaking flawless Xhosa after these few weeks. Nor will you be professionals on Xhosa culture. Any language and culture foreign to one's own takes time to understand the nuances and subtleties. Just have patience and clarity will surely come. Even I continue daily to learn and improve my Xhosa.

What you should be able to do by the end of this first Level is feel confidently equipped to enter into brief Xhosa conversations, particularly greetings and

introductions, use polite Xhosa expressions, tell a bit about your Xhosa ability and have the knowledge and vocabulary to leave a conversation when you feel out of your depth. Even these simple interactions will prove rewarding and are sure to inspire you and motivate you to improve your Xhosa. The following levels and CDs build on your grammatical knowledge in such a way as to expand your practical speaking abilities.

I am grateful to the many teachers whose books have helped me to learn Xhosa these last 8 years (see the reference at the back, though there are many more), I am grateful to the many people and friends who have been so kind and helpful in real life situations when I have stumbled along in broken Xhosa. Not once have they made me feel like a fool, not once have they ridiculed me (except when I was a *thwasa*, and then it was good for me), but instead have encouraged me and supported me with genuine warmth. Only my own mind has made me feel like a fool, as I strive for the perfection that is actually always in front of me.

I honour you for your efforts to learn Xhosa. May you make the most of the tools provided, may you keep a sustained effort, and most of all, may you have fun as you learn to speak this beautiful language with the beautiful people who speak it (or try to ;).

Masifunde kunye (*Let's learn together*)

Craig Charnock (*uMakhosimvelo*),

Cape Town 2007 - 2011

How to Use these Materials

The accompanying Audio CDs correspond with these printed manuals, and you will find the numbers in square brackets [#] indicate the track number on the CD where you can hear the content explained again. You can download the track names from the Internet when your CD is in your computers media player using the Gracenote CDDb. In Itunes or Winamp, click advanced -> get cd tracks names (look for the version that matches your manual cover). Put on your ipod or phone if you want and carry the tracks and their names with you.

The CDs are also interactive in that they introduce an English word, there is a gap and then the Xhosa word is said out loud, followed by another gap where you can repeat the word out loud. This is very important to start getting yourself to hear yourself speaking Xhosa. When you re-listen you will hopefully be able to pre-empt the Xhosa word in the first gap, and then hear if you were right when the Xhosa is said out loud.

Corresponding Conversations

Every lesson is followed by a sample conversation which try to include lesson essentials as well as further useful vocab that is heard in the everyday usage of Xhosa. These conversations are of great value as it allows you to hear the content we have learnt in

conversational contexts, and each lesson will have at least one conversation incorporating the essential elements of the lesson content. It is also a way to improve your ear for Xhosa. You should be able to fully follow and reproduce each conversation before moving on to the next lesson.

Further Resources

Sometimes **we reference Xandi Bryant's book as XB**, where you can study further on a topic. It is an excellent and comprehensive book of grammar.

I have chosen sometimes to keep things simple for the learner's benefit and to exclude exceptions to rules or sometimes even the long forms. This is partly because my courses are designed for people who a) want to learn Xhosa as quickly as possible and who b) are wanting to learn conversational Xhosa rather than an academic style. Too many exceptions and knowledge can be counterproductive to effective learning. You guys can always study further in time. For now we want to get your confidence up and your conversational ability flowing as quickly as possible.

Lesson Essentials and Homework

Each class usually covers one lesson in the manual. "Homework" before moving onto the next lesson is to know the section at the end of each lesson titled

“Lesson Essentials” and to know the corresponding conversations.

I have done my best to make learning Xhosa as fun and as convenient as possible for us learners who live in such a busy, demanding and information over-loaded world.

Notes on so-called Cultural ‘insights’:

Culture and language are two sides of the same coin, and hopefully your learning is because of or will facilitate your interaction with Xhosa culture. I have also included little cultural tips and insights, which I have learnt along the way and are useful to know. I apologise if you have a different interpretation or a different experience.

- Please note that none of these, which show up in different places throughout the manual, mean that you will not observe the opposite happening quite naturally or commonly. Every circumstance and context will yield a different manifestation of behavioural dynamics. Don't get stuck in dogma, rules, limitations. We live in a changed and changing world.
- Many Xhosa people have adapted their customs and habits and accepted cultural differences and practices after a long period of cross-cultural exposure. Besides there is no such thing as pure

Xhosa culture or language. There are multitudes of dialects and a wide spectrum of cultural beliefs. Different families from different clans from different heritage from different regions from different degrees of exposure to western culture over centuries and varying degrees of adaptation all contribute to a dynamic melting pot of what some might call “Xhosa culture”.

- Having said that, these that I have chosen are quite common cultural traits or behaviours and can provide insights to many of the other Southern African peoples, not just the AmaXhosa.

Some Basic History¹:

It's important to realize that language and culture are two sides of the same coin, so it helps bring context to many things that usually seem so odd about other cultures, but let's start with some basic history.

Origin:

Xhosa falls into a group of languages known as the **Bantu** languages. This is because all these languages use a sound similar to ***ntu*** to describe a person or

¹ Becker, Dr. Peter: Tribe To Township

people. Um**ntu** - a person, ab**antu** - people, then Zulu (um**untu**, ab**antu**) and sotho (mo**tho**, ba**tu**) versions and there are many others, including Swahili, Himba, etc. The people from whom the Xhosa and most other tribes inhabiting Southern Africa at this time descend based on their linguistic ancestry, are believed to have originally come from the Central African area of modern day Congo.

Expansion of the Nguni:

The expansion southwards through Africa was as a result of a gradual expansion due to population growth and the accompanying need for more land. They split into many groups, one of the most prominent being the Nguni speakers, which also includes Zulu, Ndebele and Swati. Along with the other languages of Southern Africa, such Sotho, Pedi, Tswana, Venda and Tsonga they make up what are known as the Bantu (people) languages, those predominant south of the Sahara.

Clicks:

Clicks are thought to have been incorporated into the language of Xhosa after contact with and incorporation of Khoi communities. It is disputed as to whether the name Xhosa is from an ancestor who separated the modern day Xhosa from the Nguni nation in the 16th

Century, or whether it is taken from the Khoi word for 'Angry men'.

Tribes:

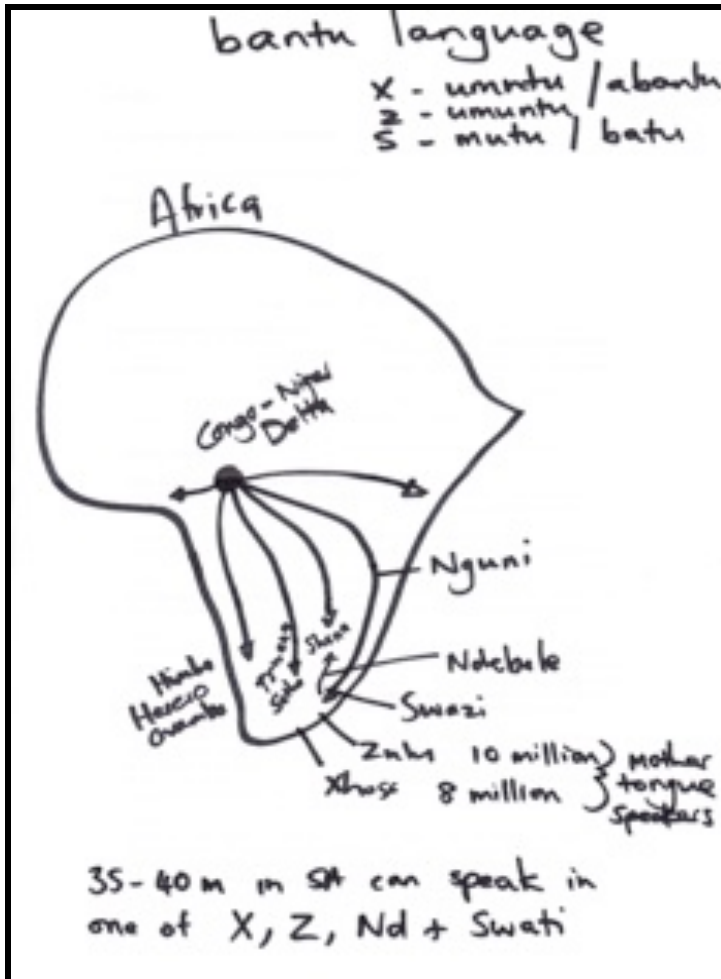
The AmaXhosa of today actually consists of numerous smaller tribes, including the AmaBhaca, AmaMpondo, AmaMpondomise, AbaThembu, AmaBomvana, AmaXesibe, as well as the AmaGcaleka and the AmaRharhabe, from whom the "Xhosa proper" language is derived. Thus, Xhosa has dialects in different parts of the country, but it is inconsequential to the early learning stages of the language.

Most Common Languages in SA:

There are approx 12 million mother tongue Zulu speakers and 9 million mother tongue Xhosa speakers². Many more speak these languages and if you know one of these, you can communicate in Swazi and Ndebele, 42% of the population's home languages. Sotho, Tswana and Sepedi are all very similar so knowing one from that group will open up another world of communication, as that's another 25% of the population's home languages. By learning Xhosa, you are opening yourself to a wide area of greater communication.

² According to 2011 Census

Diagram of Africa's People Flow*:



*Map inspired by Peter Becker's book: Tribe To Township

Lesson 1: Pronunciation and Greeting

Goal:

To get a feel for pronunciations, and to learn to greet and say good-bye.

Hello [9]

saying hello to one person:	Molo
saying hello to more than one person:	Molweni

Molo/Molweni, although deriving from the English and Afrikaans greetings, “Morning and More”, can be used any time of the day or night and is usually followed by a name or title of the person being greeted, variations of which we will learn later on.

Rhythm and Tempo [10]

Important to learning a language is rhythm. Here is a basic tip. In Xhosa the accent falls on the second last syllable. Notice, in a two syllable word like *molo*, followed by another *mama*, the accent is thus on the *mo* and the *ma*. The accent is like a slight lengthening:

Greetings, Mother	- <i>Molo, Mama</i>
Whilst, <i>molweni</i> , a three syllable word, the accent is on the <i>lwe</i> :	
Greetings, Mother and others	- <i>Molweni, Mama</i>

Pronunciation [11]

An important place to start is with pronunciation. This will be learnt and re-learned as your experience with the language grows. It is important to make an effort from the start as we all know how much an accent can affect ability to communicate and early habits tend to stick.

English is a non-phonetic language, which means that a letter can be pronounced in many different ways or different letter can represent the same sound in different words. The following example reveals four such ways for A:

Ape Arm Apple Air

Xhosa **is** a phonetic language. The letters correspond to the sounds consistently, so it is an easy language to learn to read quickly.

Vowels [12]

Vowel: pronounced like: as in word for: in Xhosa:

A	<u>ah</u>	mother	mama
E	<u>egg</u>	yourself	wena
I	<u>igloo</u>	well	philile
O	<u>or</u>	hello	molo
U	<u>oo</u> -la-la	brother	ubhuti

Consonants [13]

Are generally easy and may be learnt as one learns the language. There are a few important exceptions:

Ph peanut **not** phone (alive - phila, well - philile)

Th talk **not** thought (talk - thetha)

Hl hlala **not** shlala (live,sit - hlala) (down - phantsi)

TIP: (keep front tip of tongue against palette whilst making a sh sound) well/beautifully - kakuhle

Rh in Gauteng/goud - eRhawutini (as in Afrikaans)
AmaRharhabe – One of the main Xhosa proper tribes.

Now try this:

‘Nelson’ Mandela’s actual Xhosa first name –

Rholihlahla

The Clicks [14]

With the clicks it is important to remember that many people struggle at first, purely because they are not used to them. However, every human is capable of making such sounds, many of us have made them in different contexts and everyone we have taught has

gotten the clicks after some practice, whether that be ten minutes of practice or three days. It depends on one's attitude as well as effort.

Be patient with oneself. You may have to reprogram certain muscles in your mouth. For such situations it is best to practice often, but to rest whenever one starts to feel strained by the effort. This may happen quickly in the beginning, but this will change with time.
Patience and practice.

Writing the Clicks [15]

Interestingly, the letter k can be used to phonetically represent the sound of the following three letters as used in English.

X	exam	e k sam	/	rela k s
C	clean	k lean	/	k lever
Q	quiet	k westion	/	re k west

Which frees these three letters to represent the three clicking sounds, as introduced below.

X ‘Sideways’ click [16]

(spurring a horse)

Press the side of the tongue against the upper side teeth and pull it away rapidly.

Practice the isolated clicks with the five vowels:

xa xe xi xo xu

Xhosa language	-	isiXhosa
a Xhosa person	-	umXhosa
Xhosa people	-	amaXhosa
Peace	-	uxolo

C Click ‘Tongue in front’ [17]

(the ‘ag, shame’ tut-tut-tut/ticking clock, click)

Press the tip of the tongue against the upper front teeth and rapidly pull it away.

Help a little bit request politely

Nceda kancinci cela

Q Click ‘Tongue top middle’ [18]

(cork popping/door knocking)

Press the front part of the tongue against the hard palate behind the front teeth and rapidly pull it away.

Understand western doctor traditional doctor

Qonda **Ugqirha** **igqirha**
(isangoma)

Agglutination [19]

Xhosa is a ‘glutinous’ language, meaning that vowels at the beginning and end of words are often swallowed, words or syllables thus becoming ‘glued’ together.

Thank you, *lady* - *Enkosi, nkosikazi*

Becomes Enkos’ ‘nkosikazi (‘kos’kas’)

* * *

Greetings [20]

This is a basic greeting to get us through the first few lessons. You may know some variations and we will certainly cover them in time, but for now we are going to stick to this simple formula.

Vocab for Greetings:

Hello (sing) - Molo

Hello (plural) – Molweni

Brother - (u)bhuti

Father - (u)tata

Sister - (u)sisi

Mother - (u)mama

Teacher - (u)Titshala

Students - (a)bafundi

(The vowels in brackets above are part of the full noun when referring to a mother or the father, but is dropped when speaking to someone directly.)

It - ku how? - njani?

So... how's it? - Kunjani?

Well

- philile

Thanks

- enkosi

Yourself

- wena

Me too/also me - nam

Class Greeting:

Class response in bold:

Molweni, Bafundi

Molo, Titshala

kunjani?

philile, enkosi

kunjani, wena?

philile nam, enkos'

Greeting between individuals:

Molo, bhuti / tata

Molo, sisi / mama

kunjani?

philile, enkosi

kunjani, wena?

philile nam, enkos'

Good byes

[21]

Person going says:

Stay - **sala** or **salani** (pl) well - kakuhle

Person staying says:

Go - **hamba** or **hambani** (pl) well - kakuhle*,

* *kahle* is also widely used, though strictly speaking it is isiZulu

hamba/ni – go sala/ni – stay

ni - plural kakuhle – well

Another word to use is *so*bonana** – *we will see each other* (again)

So -	bona -	na
we will	see	each other

Additional words in good-bye:

From English: Sharp Bhayibhayi

It's ok - Kulungile Yes - Ewe

Excuse Me

[22]

Excuse me, sorry, pardon, peace are all the same word
- uxolo

sorry - uxolo

excuse me - uxolo

beg your pardon - uxolo

peace - uxolo

Excuse me, I don't know

Uxolo, andiyazi

Vocab recap

[23]

how's it? – kunjani?

well – philile

yourself – wena

me too – nam

sit down – hlala phantsi

excuse me – uxolo

I'm sorry, teacher –

uxolo, titshala

I don't know –

andiyazi

excuse me, I don't know – uxolo, andiyazi

help – nceda

a little – kancinci

a lot – kakhulu

well – kakuhle

beautifully - kakuhle

yes – ewe

no – hayi

thank you, enkos

thanks a lot – enkos kakhulu

now – ngoku

its good – kulungile

it is ok – kulungile

its right – kulungile

its fine – kulungile

Sharp!

Lesson 1 Conversation - Greeting and Good-bye [24-25]

(The male teacher [Titshala] greets the students [abafundi])

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. T: <i>Hello (pl) Students</i> | T: <i>Molweni, Bafundi</i> |
| 2. A: Hello Teacher | A: Molo, Titshala |
| 3. T: <i>How's it??</i> | T: <i>kunjani?</i> |
| 4. A: Well, thanks, | A: philile, enkosi |
| 5. How is it, yourself? | kunjani, wena? |
| 6. T: <i>Fine also, thank you.</i> | T: <i>philile nam, enkos'</i> |
| 7. <i>Go well (plural)</i> | <i>hambani kakuhle</i> |
| 8. A: Stay well, Titshala | A: Sala kakuhle, titshala |
| 9. T: <i>We will see each other</i> | T: <i>Sobonana</i> |
| 10. A: Yes, goodbye. | A: Ewe, bhabhayi. |

Notes:

Lesson 1 Essentials and HW test: [26]

Be able to:

- greet and do the handshake
- pronounce the clicks alone and in words

1. Excuse me, brother.
2. Hello to a group.
3. Hello to a girl. How's it?
4. Fine, thanks. Yourself?
5. Fine me too.
6. Stay well to a group
7. Go well to one
8. Thanks a lot.
9. We will see each other again
10. Yes, alright.

Answers:

1. Uxolo, bhuti
2. Molweni.
3. Molo sisi. Kunjani?
4. Philile, enkosi. Wena?
5. Philile nam.
6. Salani kakuhle.
7. Hamba kakuhle
8. Enkosi kakhulu.
9. Sobonana.
10. Ewe, kulungile.

CULTURE Insight - Handshakes: [27]

- handshakes are common between genders, mostly using the 'African handshake', consisting of the standard western grip, followed by a loose gripping of each others thumbs by the fingers, and then reverting back to a western grip.
- Handshakes are usually soft, though it has slowly adapted to the traditionally firmer western grip (excluding the 'wet fish' handshake, which gives most people the woobly woo's). They are also often accompanied by touching the right elbow with the left hand, a sign of respect that will be explained further in a later week.
- Handshakes between good friends can last for minutes, often the whole conversation, with the action (thumb clasp) repeating itself as a sign that the conversation is ending.
- it is common for men to hold hands, even whilst walking down the road. It speaks to the often far more public displays of affection shown within the separate gender groups, compared to across genders. You are far more likely to see a man holding the hand of another man than that of his wife. The other man is likely to be a good friend and peer, and they may well have passed through the manhood initiation *ulwaluko* together.

- And also so for women. This is because the culture generally separates out the groups, which each group having their own place to hang out at public gatherings, as well as expectations, taboos, roles assigned to people not only dependent on their gender, but on their age group. Of course, in a modern and urban context, these dynamics do not always exist to the same extent.

Lesson 2: Introduction to Verbs and Prefixes

goal:

To be introduced to the verbs and the prefixes, and to learn some basic vocab.

Verbs

[29]

In Xhosa, we have basic verbs, what we know as 'doing words'. They are **actions**, and **appropriately**, they **always end** with an '**a**' in their basic present tense, positive form. Below are examples:

Learn - funda	Talk - thetha
Listen - mamela	Try - zama
Go - hamba	Stay - sala
Live - hlala	Work - sebenza
Do/Make - enza*	Repeat - phinda
Go home - goduka	Ask - buza
Want/need - funa	Look - jonga
See - bona	Request - cela
Help - nceda	Praise/be grateful - bulela
Like/love – thanda	Remember - khumbula

Hear/perceive -- (i)va* Understand - qonda

Use - sebenzisa

Greet - bulisa

Quiet - thula

Hurry, be quick - khawuleza

* enza and (i)va work slightly differently from the rest, due to them starting with a vowel, and it is recommended that you not use them in the initial exercises of this lesson. As the course progresses, you will see how and when they are used.

* Three exceptions (Don't end in-a):

Say – thi

know – azi

Exclaim - tsho

Don't worry about these for now, and don't use them when making examples or practicing in class.

Speaking Commands to a Group [30]

When speaking to a group, add '**ni**' e.g.

Such as: Go well (to a group) - hamb**ani** kakuhle

listen (to a group) - mamel**ani**

Sit (to a group) - hlal**ani** phantsi

Quiet (to a group) - thul**ani**

Beginners Trick: Cheating with Nouns [31]

In the early stages of this course, we focus on verbs for rapid conversational ability. We will cover the learning intensive nouns in Level 3, so for now, for any thing just add i- to the English or Afrikaans equivalent, for plural add ama- to the front.

e.g. a computer - ikomputa computers - amakomputa

The six subject prefixes [32]

Next we have six prefixes, which allow us to say I learn, you learn, he or she learns, we learn, etc.

Remember, they are prefixes. They always attach themselves onto the front of a verb, forming a new word.

	Singular	Plural
1st	I – ndi-	We – si-
2nd	You – u-	You – ni-
3rd	He/she – u-	They – ba-

For example: ***we*** learn/***we*** are learning – ***si***funda

*You can remember that -ni is added (i.e. not as a prefix) to molo, hamba, sala when speaking to a group – a whole bunch of you's - this is as a command, not as the subject of an action, such as above, where it is a prefix.

The difference: Hambani! - Go! (talking to you plural)

Nihamba - You (pl.) are going.

Interesting Fact: In Zulu, the prefixes are the same, except that ndi- is replaced by ngi-

Combination of prefix and verb [33]

Example: learn – funda

I learn – ndifunda we learn - sifunda

you learn - ufunda you (pl) learn - nifunda

he/she learns – ufunda they learn - bafunda

The 'ya' rule [34]

When the above prefixes are added to a verb such as I learn: ndi+funda = ndifunda, and it stands alone as a sentence in itself, in other words there are no other words in the sentence, a ya is placed inbetween:

Ndiyafunda

NB. The ya is only ever used when the action word is in the present and positive. You know this because they end in -a (see all above).

Examples:

learn - funda	I am learning - ndiyafunda
praise - bulela	I am praising - ndiyabulela
go home - goduka	I am going home - ndiyagoduka
try - zama	You are trying - uyazama
help - nceda	He is helping - uyanceda
listen - mamela	We are listening - siyamamela

Note: 'ya' does not translate as 'am'/'are'/'is', although it sometimes fits in that place where those are used in English.

The meaning of ya [35]

*** The ya serves the express purpose of lengthening the word. It has no meaning!! So, if another word is added into the sentence, the ya would fall away:

I learn is ndiyafunda but

I learn Xhosa is ndifunda isiXhosa (**no ya**)

you are trying - uyazama

you are trying a lot - uzama kakhulu

we are talking - siyathetha

we are talking Xhosa - sithetha isiXhosa

they're going home – bayagoduka

they're going home now – bagoduka ngoku

*Use the CD, use all the prefixes, with as many verbs as you can come up with. The sooner you have this down, the better.
Seriouuuuss!*

Extended Greetings with the Prefixes [38]

You can now also use these prefixes learnt to expand your greeting capability by adding prefixes to what we have already learnt as our greeting words:

How are **YOU**? - **Unjani**? **I** am well - **Ndi**philile.

And when talking to a group:

How are you plural ?	Nin jani?
We are well	Sip hilile
We are well too	Siphilile nathi *

See the culture section for when these would be used other than the obvious, when talking to a group.

*Nathi is plural form of nam - we too, also us, and us!

Distinguishing you, he, she [36]

To differentiate between 2nd and 3rd persons, we would probably use the person's name if not talking to someone direct:

Unjani ?	how are you ?
Unjani uJustin?	How is Justin?

But, we could also use pronouns:

yourself - wena

him/herself - yena

e.g.

How are **you**?

unjani **wena**?

How is **he/she**?

unjani **yena**?

Important combinations with pronouns [37]

To add to this we learn myself – mna

Think of me – mna

(*mina* - zulu)

Myself, **I** am trying

Mna, **ndiyazama**

Yourself, **you** are trying

Wena, **uyazama**

Himself, **he** is trying

Yena, **uyazama**

which can also be said with the mna/wena/yena
afterwards, like this:

myself, I am trying

ndiyazama, mna

you are trying, you

uyazama, wena

He is tryin, as for him

uyazama, yena

Notes:

Lesson 2 Essentials and Test:

[39]

Be able to:

- Use the six subject prefixes with the verb stems
- Know at least 10 verbs off by heart
- Know how to use mna, wena, yena
- Greet a group of people

Questions (write out the Xhosa):

1. You guys are learning.
2. Yes, we are learning well.
3. No, he talks a little
4. Myself, I am trying
5. As for her, she is going home
6. Thanks, we are grateful
7. Hello, How are you all?
8. We are well, thanks, how are you?

Answers:

1. Niyafunda
2. Ewe, sifunda kakuhle
3. Hayi, uthetha kancinci (yena)
4. Mna, ndiyazama
5. Yena, uyagoduka (uyatshayisa - slang)
6. Enkosi, siyabulela
7. Molweni, ninjani?
8. Siphilile, enkosi, unjani wena?

Lesson 2 Convo - Greetings and basic sentences [40-41]

(Two Xhosa students greet each other in a class)

1. B: *Molo, sisi*
2. S: Molo bhuti
3. B: *Ninjani?*
4. S: Siphilile enkosi. Unjani wena?
5. B: *Ndiphilile nam enkosi.*
6. S: Uyaqonda ititshala wena?
7. B: *Ewe, mna ndiqonda kakuhle. UBrendon uyazama yena?*
8. S: Ewe, ufunda kakuhle yena.
9. B: *Kulungile. Sobonana ngomso sisi.*
10. S: Ewe, bhuti. Hamba kakuhle.
11. B: *Sharp!*

English:

1. B: *Hello, sister*
2. S: Hello, brother
3. B: *How are you all?*
4. S: We are fine thanks. How are you?
5. B: *I am also fine, thanks.*
6. S: Do you understand the teacher?
7. B: *Yes, I understand nicely. Does Brendon try himself?*
8. S: Yes, he is studying well.
9. B: Ok. See ya tomorrow, sister.
10. S: Yes, brother. Go well.
11. B: Sharp!

CULTURE Insight - Greetings: [42]

- traditionally, a greeting from afar would be preceded with the raising of both hands raised in the air, bent at the elbow, with perhaps a shake of the hands, a gesture of friendship and non-aggression. This is obviously not appropriate in most formal western, urban settings, but keep an eye open for it and you will still see it on the streets. It is still common on the rural areas (ezilalini).

- it is usual for a younger person to greet an elder person first, and to expect to at least exchange how do you do's and possibly a few other questions as well around their origins. This does not mean you need to wait to be greeted (if you are elder). See the first point above.

- it is usual for an arriving person to greet first, rather than those in a location greeting the person arriving.

- it is common, though not necessary, to use the plural in greetings, including the person's family, community and ancestors, even when greeting a single person. It implies the connectedness between the well-being of an individual and that of their community, or family, and wider levels, including spiritual beliefs. This takes the form often of 'ninjani?' and 'siphilile', even though there may be only one person.

Lesson 3: Sentence Building Blocks

goal: To introduce two more important building blocks – ‘uku’ and ‘sa’ and the first important sentences.

Still – ‘SA’ and to - ‘uku’ [44-45]

Last lesson we learnt how the six prefixes fit onto the front of verbs, and how a ‘ya’ is placed between them, when they form the only word of the sentence.

Today we learn two rules:

1. The first is that if you wish to say that you are *still* doing something, you can replace the ‘ya’ with a ‘sa’

For example, I am learning	- Ndi ya funda
I am still learning	- Ndi sa funda

You are working	- uyasebenza
You are still working	- u sa sebenza

We are looking	- siyajonga
We are still looking	- si sa jonga

They want	- bay a funa
They still want	- bas a funa (<i>they are still looking for</i>)

Note: Unlike the ya, the sa is retained regardless of whether there are further words added to the sentence.

2. The second is that if you wish to say “to” do a verb/action, you only need add an ‘uku’ onto the front of the verb. For example,

like - thanda	to like - uku thanda,
try - zama	to try - uku zama
learn - funda	to learn - uku funda
talk - thetha	to talk - uku thetha

When ‘ya’ is dropped

[46]

Notice that the ‘ya’ is dropped from the following sentence because there are additional words.

We are learning - Siyafunda

We are learning	to talk	Xhosa
Sifunda	ukuthetha	isiXhosa

Verbs with uku-:

[47]

learn or read or study	- funda
to learn or to read or to study	- ukufunda
talk - thetha	to talk - ukuthetha
try - zama	to try - ukuzama
go - hamba	to go - ukuhamba
live - hlala	to live - ukuhlala
like or love - thanda	to like - ukuthanda
want or need - funa	to want - ukufuna
ask - buza	to ask - ukubuza
request politely - cela	to request - ukucela
give thanks or be grateful - bulela*	
to give thanks - ukubulela	*(careful: kill - bulala)
help - nceda	to help - ukunceda
see - bona	to see - ukubona
listen - mamela	to listen - ukumamela
work - sebenza	to work - ukusebenza
to use - ukusebenzisa	to greet - ukubulisa

So, it is easy, any word in the present, positive i.e. ending with an -a, just add uku- to the front.

First Important Sentences Context

These sentences are crucial for the time when, after impressing the socks off a Xhosa person with your excellent greeting, introduction and pronunciation, they start speaking to you as if you know the whole language, at which point you make use of these sentences instead of using English, or confused silence...

Vocab for our first important sentences: [48]

excuse me - uxolo	But - kodwa
it's difficult - kunzima	it's nice, pleasant - kumnandi
serious - nyani!	a little - kancinci
only, just - nje	request - cela
or - okanye	now - ngoku
English (language)	- isiNgesi
Afrikaans	- isiAfrikansi

First Important Sentences

[49]

***Uxolo**, *kodwa* ndisafunda **ukuthetha** isiXhosa.

Excuse me, *but* I am **still** learning **to** speak Xhosa

***Ndithetha** kancinci **nje**.

I **speak** a little bit **only**

Ndithanda **ukuthetha** isiXhosa.

I like **to** speak Xhosa.

Kumnandi **kodwa** kunzima

It is **nice** **but** it is *difficult*

Truthfully or seriousssss! - Nyani!

***Ndicela** ukuthetha isiNgesi *okanye* isiAfrikaansi **ngoku**

I **request** to **speak** English *or* Afrikaans **now**

A star * indicates you must learn these!

Lesson 3 Essentials and Test: [50]

Be able to:

- Say the first important sentences off by heart

Questions:

1. **I** request peace or I am sorry
2. **They** request to enter
3. **He** requests to ask
4. **We** request to sit *down*
5. **You** (pl) request to go home
6. Excuse me teacher, I request to ask.
7. I'm still learning to speak Xhosa
8. I speak a little bit only
9. It is nice but difficult
10. I request to speak English now

Answers:

1. **Ndicela** uxolo
2. **Bacela** ukungena
3. Ucela **ukubuza** yena
4. **Sicela** ukuhlala *phantsi*
5. **Nicela** ukugoduka
6. Uxolo titshala, ndicela ukubuza (*and use it in class*)
7. Ndisafunda ukuthetha isiXhosa
8. Ndithetha kancinci
9. Kumnandi kodwa kunzima
10. Ndicela ukuthetha isiNgesi ngoku

Notes:

Lesson 3 Convo - The 3 NB Sentences [51-52]

(A young Xhosa student [sisi] greets an old Xhosa man [tata])

Vocab: And you or you too - nawe

1. S: *Molo Tata*
2. T: *Molo sisi, kunjani?*
3. S: *Philile. Kunjani wena?*
4. T: *Ndiphilile nam. Usifundiswa ngubani?*
5. S: *Uxolo. Ndisafunda ukuthetha isiXhosa. Ndithetha kancinci nje.*
6. T: *Ok, usafunda.*
7. S: *Ewe, ndiyazama. Ndicela ukuthetha isiNgesi ngoku.*
8. T: *Kulungile*
9. S: *Sala kakuhle tata*
10. T: *Sala kakuhle nawe sisi.*

English:

1. S: *Hello, Father*
2. T: *Hello, young lady, how are you?*
3. S: *Fine. How are you?*
4. T: *I am also fine. (A confusing line you don't know)?*
5. S: *Excuse me. I am still learning to speak Xhosa. I speak a little bit only.*
6. T: *Ok, you are still learning.*
7. S: *Yes, I am trying. But I request to speak English now.*
8. T: *Fine.*
9. S: *Stay well, father.*
10. T: *Stay well too, sister*

CULTURE INSIGHT - In the home: [53]

- it is usual and considered polite by Xhosa people to seat yourself quietly and unobtrusively, rather than wait to be asked to sit – standing in someone's home on arrival is considered impolite, aggressive and implies that you have come to pick a quarrel.

- This is interesting in its contrast to western culture, where it is considered good manners to wait until you are asked to be seated or offered a seat. So try to have seating easily available for Xhosa guests, else you risk making them feel uncomfortable. Of course, many urban Xhosa people have long since adapted to western ways, but showing awareness, respect, courtesy is a great thing to all people.

- it's polite to tell someone that you will be making tea for them. They must then refuse you. To offer tea is to put a guest in an uncomfortable position of choice. Milk is usually cooked with the tea and then taken with separate sugar to the guest.

Level 1 Part 1 disc is complete. Please insert Level 1 Part 2 Disc for continued audio lessons.

Notes:

Lesson 4: Titles, Names and Identifying Xhosa people

Goal:

Learning the correct titles for people and a quick way to introduce yourself, as well as to identify Xhosa speakers as far as possible.

Naming, Names and Titles [2]

Naming has a deep and meaningful role in Xhosa culture, let alone African culture. A name is often used to give social identity or to convey a quality wished for the child, and may often have subtle implications, not understood other than by those close to the family³. A child will often be named after person present or an event or scenario occurring at the time of the child's birth, sometimes good and sometimes bad.

What is interesting is that Xhosa names are borrowed from everyday words within the spoken language, and thus contrast with the English language, where names are not words in everyday use, except the odd exception, such as Hope, Joy, Faith, Destiny, etc. This allows you to recognize Xhosa people often by their names as you recognize their name from your xhosa

³ pg.10, Mthembu-Salter, L. *Call me by my name*. Kwela Books, 2001.

vocabulary. Xhosa people often took or were given English names (Prudence, Patience, Mavis, etc), as white people could not pronounce their real names (or did not make the effort). There were not usually direct translations of their names, with initial generations just given them by the white folks, and later generations actively giving their children English names as well. This is where the creativity, humour and the culture of the Xhosa people crept in, with interesting, inspiring and sometimes ridiculous names being chosen.

Xhosa folk graciously accepted their names being pronounced badly, or having new names thrust upon them and it is my belief that we, as learners of Xhosa, should be prepared to take on Xhosa names for ourselves. More on this in lesson 5.

Basic Titles

[3]

The biggest thing to remember about titles, is that the very act of using them is respectful and affectionate, they establish a relationship between two people, or at least the intention or possibility of forging one. Unless it is specifically rude, it is *almost* irrelevant what title you use. In other words, you could use *bhuti* for a boy and *bhuti* for an older man, and either way it is more about the respect and courtesy and friendliness with which you greet, then the actual word that comes out.

Very occasionally people have a chip on their shoulder, deal with it graciously and remember that you can't help it if people take offence, but you can do your best to communicate respect.

However, it is common to address people with the **following titles**, even when you do not necessarily know them:

(u)Mama – *mama* anyone roughly the same age as your mother

(u)tata – *father*, anyone roughly the same age as your father (*tata*- *affectionate/bawo* - *respectful to your own father*)

(u)bhuti – *brother*, anyone roughly the same age as you/r brother, or younger

(u)sisi – *sister*, anyone roughly the same age as you/r sister, or younger

(u)makhulu – *grandmother*

(u)tatomkhulu – *grandfather*

All personal names in Xhosa start with u (just like the above).

E.g. uCraig, uBongo, but when calling someone by a name, you drop the initial vowel.

For example uBongo becomes “Molo, Bongo”.

When Greeting a group [4]

When **greeting a group**, you would use only the name of the person you know the best, or who is deserving of the most respect.

i.e. “Molweni, Makhulu” meaning “*Greetings Grandma and others*”(molweni is the plural form of greeting)

It is usual to prefix **bo-** when **greeting a group of similar people**. E.g. “Molweni **bomama**”, when greeting a group of mamas. Again, “Molweni, **bosisi**”, when greeting a group of young women.

Other titles [5]

Remember the initial vowel (in brackets) is dropped when addressing someone by the title.

<i>Sir</i>	*(u)mhleka^z (<i>mhlekaz</i>)
<i>mister</i>	*(u)mnumzaⁿ (<i>mnumzan</i>)
<i>fellow</i>	(u)mfondini
<i>man</i>	(i)ndoda
<i>men</i>	(a)madoda
<i>young man</i>	(u)mfana
<i>our chap</i>	(u)mfowethu (<i>mfethu</i>)
<i>lady</i>	*(i)nkosika^z (<i>kos'kas</i>)
<i>miss</i>	*(i)nkosazana
<i>the teacher</i> *	(u)titshala

<i>the female teacher</i>	(u)titshalakazi
<i>a teacher*</i>	(i)titshala
<i>a female teacher</i>	(i)titshalakazi
<i>child</i>	(u)mntwana
<i>children</i>	(a)bantwana
<i>my friend</i>	(u)mhlobo wam
<i>all</i>	(ni-) onke
<i>everyone, you all -</i>	*nonke

* titshala is one of the few nouns that has a different noun prefix based on this distinction of the *a* and *u*, and is actually differentiated by whether one personalizes the title ‘teacher’ as someone specific (*u*-) or refers to some non-specific teacher (*i*). Most nouns, for instance *umntwana*, can mean a child or the child.

Some slang greetings:

Note: Slang is not to be used with elders, or people you don’t know! Best to ask Xhosa friends!

Baby/babe	- (u)sana (used between girlfriends)
My buddy	- (i)tshomi yam
My pal	- (i)mpintsh ‘am
Hello (to one or group)	- Heita / Hola
Young men	- (a)majita

I am, you are, he/she is....

[6]

In English, we say “I **am**, you **are**, he/she **is**”, but in Xhosa we need only use **ngu** after each of the singular prefixes, e.g.

I	am...	<i>ndi-</i>	ngu...
you,	are...	<i>u-</i>	ngu...
he or she	is...	<i>u-</i>	ngu....

ngu... works for all nouns starting with **u-**

I am a student **ndi..ngu..umfundi** = ndingumfundi

You are a student **ungumfundi** (wena)

She is a student **ungumfundi** (yena)

Who are you? Who is he/she?

[7]

Who? - Bani?

Who are you? Ungu**bani**?

To differentiate we use **wena** and **yena**:

Who are **you**? ungubani, **wena**?

Me, I am Craig **mna**, ndinguCraig

Who is **he**? ungubani **yena**?

Him, he is Desmond **Yena**, unguDesmond

***Note:** Be careful **of including the question (bani)** with the answer (i.e. the name of the person or yourself). For instance, ndingubaniCraig or ungubaniDesmond yena. This is wrong – it is either bani or the name? Unless your name is Barney.

Is someone a Xhosa person? [8]

This is an important consideration. Just because a person is dark skinned, it does not mean they are Xhosa and you can cause offence (occasionally) by assuming so.

There are a couple of good ways of guessing if someone is Xhosa:

- a. you have been told by someone that they are
- b. you recognise their name as Xhosa
- c. you hear them speaking a language with clicks in it, and you are in the Western Cape. If in Jozi, they might be Zulu. In which case you can greet them too.
- d. you will begin to recognise the way Xhosa mamas dress
- e. Otherwise, using the above grammar and remembering that umXhosa is a Xhosa person, you can ask:

Are you Xhosa

Do you speak Xhosa?

ungumXhosa na?

uthetha isiXhosa na?

Note: ('na' makes it a query - more on this in Level 2)

Lesson 4 Essentials and Test:

[9]

Questions:

1. Hello, sir
2. Hello, group of mamas
3. Hello, madam and others
4. How are you all?
5. As for me, I am Craig
6. As for you, who are you?
7. As for her, who is she?
8. Is she Xhosa?
9. Do you speak Xhosa?
10. Good bye, children.

Answers:

1. Molo, mhlekazi
2. Molweni, bomama
3. Molweni Nkosikazi
4. Ninjani?
5. Mna ndingu Craig
6. Wena, ungubani?
7. Yena, ungubani?
8. Ungumxhosa na?
9. Uthetha isiXhosa na?
10. Bhabhayini, bantwana

Lesson 4 Convo Breakdown [10-11]

(A young Xhosa male [Makhosi] greets a group of young ladies and introduces himself to one lady [Zandile])

Vocab: With you - kuwe

1. M: Molweni bosisi
2. Z: Ewe, bhuti
3. M: Ninjani?
4. Z: Sisaphila, bhuti, enkosi, kunjani kuwe?
5. M: Hayi, ndiyaphila nam, enkosi. NdinguCraig, mna. Wena ungubani?
6. Z: NdinguZandile, mna.
7. M: UngumXhosa na, sisi?
8. Z: Hayi, ndingumzulu, kodwa ndithetha isiXhosa.
9. M: Ok, kulungile. Yena ungubani?
10. Z: Yena unguZodwa.
11. M: ok, Ungumxhosa, yena?
12. Z: Eh eh, ungumxhosa!
13. M: Enkosi, sisi.
14. Z: Ok, bhuti Sobonana.
15. M: Sharp!

English:

1. M: Hello (pl) sisters.
2. Z: Yes (meaning 'Hi'), brother
3. M: How are you (pl)?
4. Z: We are still fine, brother, thank you, how is it with you?

5. M: No I'm also fine thank you. My name is Craig.
Who are you?
6. Z: *I am Zandile.*
7. M: Are you Xhosa, sister?
8. Z: *No, I am Zulu, but I speak Xhosa.*
9. M: Ok, that's fine. Who is she?
10. Z: *She is Zodwa.*
11. M: Ok, is she Xhosa?
12. Z: *Yes, she is Xhosa.*
13. M: Thanks, sister.
14. Z: *Ok, brother, we will see each other.*
15. M: Sharp!

CULTURE INSIGHT - Ubuntu: [12]

Ubuntu:

Umntu ngumntu ngabantu/(ngabanye) abantu

A person is a person because of (other) people.

Besides the Xhosa way of defining it above, this is how I like to phrase it: "UBuntu is when people are aware of the intricate and immense inter-connectedness on many different levels between themselves, all other people, their environment, nature, spirit and life, and thus act accordingly in every moment".

Practically, it's similar in a way to the proverbs "What goes around, comes around", or "Love your neighbour as you would love yourself", in the sense that how you treat others is ultimately how you will be treated, and if you have the above understanding of Ubuntu i.e.

knowing that we are all connected, it makes sense that you will treat people with kindness and generosity, and ultimately that is what you will receive yourself. Those people who you really fear, 'hate' or struggle to like are wonderful opportunities for growth. Find compassion for them and you begin to find it for yourself.

By learning Xhosa you are taking a step at not only being more a part of the new SA, but you are including all those Xhosa people in your vision of what you want in this life and in this country: friendly, respectful, considerate, caring humans working together without fear. So keep it up. Sharp! Makhosi!

Notes:

Lesson 5: Introductions

Goal:

To learn how to introduce oneself and another by name and surname, and ask about others. Also asking a person's Xhosa name.

First name

[14]

Ngubani igama lakho – *what is your name?*

Q: Ngubani igama **lakho**
what is name your

A: Ngu..... igama **lam**
It is..... name my

NguCraig igama lam or
igama lam nguCraig Either way is fine.

*A useful trick to remember **lam** is that lammm ends in mm, which is the letter that 'my' starts with, so **my** name – igama **lam**.

Lakho on the other hand rhymes with **your**. **Your** name – igama **lakho**.

Surname

[15]

Ngubani ifani yakho – what is your surname?
(ifani – van/surname)

Q: Ngubani ifani **yakho**
What is surname your

A: Ngu..... ifani **yam***
It is..... surname my

* Again, although the my or your comes after the noun, which is the opposite to English or Afrikaans, where you put the actual name does not matter, before or after. If you are wondering why it is lam and lakho for igama and yet yam and yakho for ifani, this is due to different noun classes, which you do not need to worry about now.

They seem terribly complicated, but are really rather easy. In time they will make sense. The easiest way to differentiate between these two at this time is that the word funny in English ends in y, so ifani yam, ifani yakho That leaves igama to use the l, igama lam, igama lakho

My name is, what is yours?

[16]

My name is Craig. What is your name?

nguCraig igama lam. ngubani igama lakho?

my surname is Charnock. what is your surname?

nguCharnock ifani yam. ngubani ifani yakho?

His name/her name

[17]

If you want to ask what **his** or **her** name is, you ask

ngubani igama lak**he**? Tip: ak**he** rhymes with his or her!

or what is **his/her** surname - ngubani ifani yak**he**?

my name - igama lam**m**

your name - igama lak**ho**

his or her name - igama lak**he**

my surname - ifani ya**m**

your surname - ifani yak**ho**

his or her surname - ifani yak**he**

Although the letter to begin the word changes with the noun group, which you will learn later, important to remember is the endings

my - am

your - akho

his/her - akhe

Clan Names (isiduko): [18]

Every Xhosa person has a clan name. Clan names are based on the idea that groups of people are descended from a common male ancestor, and are thus part of the same family. Men and woman may not marry each other if they have the same clan name and the term may be used to convey friendship, respect and praise upon another⁴. It is a remarkable aspect of Xhosa culture in that it recognizes the larger family one belongs to other than one's immediate family. Cousins in our culture would call each other siblings in Xhosa culture.

uMandela, Ngubani isiduko **sakhe?**

What is clan name his?

Ngu	isiduko	
It is	clan name	his

⁴ Pg. 22, Kirsch, B and Skorge, S. *Clicking with Xhosa*.

Other useful terms during introductions:[19]

Ndiyavuya ukukwazi	- <i>I am pleased to meet (know) you</i>
Ndiyavuya ukunazi	- <i>I am pleased to meet you (plural)</i>
Vuya	- <i>glad/joyful</i>
ukukwazi	- <i>to know you</i>
Yena - <i>As for him/her</i>	uNgu..... - <i>He/she is....</i>

Asking a person's Xhosa name [20]

What is your Xhosa or English name?

Ngubani igama **lakho lesiXhosa / lesiNgesi?**

(You will understand the use of the **l** when you learn noun groups.)

You may ask someone you know or encounter with an English name what their Xhosa (real) name is. Of course, for some people, their English name is their real name, or they prefer to use it, but most of the time, you will find that Xhosa people have a Xhosa name and they appreciate your effort to know it and pronounce it properly, as by now you surely can, though it does help to ask for it to be spelt or written down.

As you are learning Xhosa, it makes sense (to help with pronunciation) that you acquire and use a Xhosa name, as most Xhosa people have acquired English names for the same reason. You may choose one that is special to you, or request one from someone who knows you and whom you respect.

I request you to give **me** a Xhosa name - Ndicela wena uk**undinika** igama lesiXhosa

CULTURE INSIGHT - Names:

It is not usual to be on first name terms with an older person (unless they ask specifically, in which case they are bridging into your culture) - close acquaintances never sacrifice respect terms i.e. first names are not used, no matter how well you know them, unless of your own age (Sydney Zotwana – Xhosa in context).

This has relaxed in modern times and different people will express different ways they wish to be called. But consider all those mama's and tata's (in kitchens and gardens) who were being called by first names that were quite often not even their real name, and many are used to it, and may even prefer it now (each to their own after all). Here we see the humility and patience of the people. We are repaying this kindness, tolerance and acceptance when we make the effort to engage people in their own language, especially pronouncing their names correctly.

Lesson 5 Essentials and Oral 1 Preparation: [22]

The oral you will perform as a class is below with class responses in **BOLD**. Perform it exactly. You will be prompted in English if needs be.

Molweni Nonke	(Hello, everyone)
Molo Mhlekezi / Nkosikazi	(Hello, Sir / Madam)
Ninjani?	(How are you plural?)
Siphilile, enkosi.	(We are well, thanks)
Kunjani wena?	(How's it yourself?)
Ndiphilile nam.	(I am also well)

Ndingu(first name) (surname)	(I am)
Ngu(first name) igama lam	(It is.... my first name)
Ngu(surname) ifani yam	(It is.... my surname)

Ndiyavuya ukunazi.	(Im pleased to know y'all)
Siyavuya ukukwazi	(We are pleased to know you)
Yena, ungu.....	(as for him/her, he/she is..)

Uxolo, ndisafunda ukuthetha isiXhosa.

Ndithetha kancinci nje.

(*optional*: Kumnandi ukufunda kodwa kunzima)

Enkosi. Ndiyabulela. Salani kakuhle.

Sala kakuhle nawe. (**nawe - and you**)

Titshala, ndicela ukuhlala phantsi / ukuthula ngoku.

(Teacher, I request to sit down/be quiet now)

Notes:

Lesson 5 Convo - Intro and Xhosa name [23-24]

(A young Xhosa man introduces himself to an old Xhosa woman)

1. B: Molo, Magogo.
2. T: *Molo, ndoda.*
3. B: Unjani?
4. T: *Ndiphilile, enkosi, unjani wena?*
5. B: Ndiphilile nam enkos. NdinguCraig, ngubani igama lakho?
6. T: *NdinguPatience, mna.*
7. B: Makhulu, ngubani igama lakho lesiXhosa?
8. T: *NguAndiswa igama lam lesixhosa. Wena?*
9. B: NdinguMakhosimvelo, mna.
10. T: *Kulungile, Makhosimvelo, ndiyavuya ukukwazi.*
11. B: Nam ndiyavuya, Makhulu. Enkos.

English:

1. B: Hello, Granny.
2. T: *Hello, man.*
3. B: How are you?
4. T: *I'm fine, thanks, how are you?*
5. B: I am also well thanks. I am Craig, what is your name?
6. T: *I am Patience.*
7. B: Grandmother, what is your Xhosa name?
8. T: *My Xhosa name is Andiswa. Yours?*
9. B: I am Makhosimvelo.
10. T: *Alright Makhosimvelo, I am pleased to meet you.*
11. B: I am also pleased, Granny, thank you.

CULTURE BITE - Eye Contact: [21]

- it is usual for Xhosa folk to be taught to not look elders in the eyes, but rather to keep their eyes low, and to only make occasional eye contact to show that attention is there. In contrast, I was taught as a child that this implied dishonesty and shiftiness, and that direct eye contact was considered respectful in my culture, so bear this in mind before judging others from different cultures.

Lesson 6: How do you know Xhosa?

Goal:

To be aware of and answer these questions with new vocab.

The Inevitable Xhosa Questions [26]

Once you have engaged in a Xhosa conversation, people are always interested to know where you learnt to speak Xhosa, or who taught you. No, this is not a marketing gimmick. After all, Xhosa people are not exactly my target market, haha. Often, people might ask about your Xhosa with these three common questions:

Usifundela **phi** isiXhosa?

Usazela **phi** isiXhosa?

Usifundiswa **ngubani** (isiXhosa)?

What do you notice about all three sentences? They all end with Xhosa, and therein lies the secret to recognizing them! (phi - where?; ngubani - it is who?)

Otherwise they are beyond your grammatical understanding for now, but they are commonly asked and very often quite early in a conversation, so familiarize yourself with them and some of the potential answers I have provided below.

Where are you learning Xhosa?

[27]

- Usifundela **phi** isiXhosa? / usazela **phi** isiXhosa?

I learn - Ndifunda.....	with UB - neUBuntu Bridge
At a school - esikolweni	at night – ebusuku
In town - eDolophini	at work – emsebenzini
In a book - encwadini	at home - ekhaya
I listen to an audio Cd	Ndimamela i-audio CD
In the car - emotweni	in Newlands - eNewlands
I watch films - Ndibukela ifilim	
Talking with people - Ukuthetha nabantu	

Who is teaching you it (Xhosa)?

[28]

- Usifundiswa **ngubani** (isiXhosa)?

I learn - Ndifunda	
With a teacher - Netitshala	He is... - ungu...
White person - umlungu	(ungumlungu)
With a white guy - nomlungu	
He is... - unguCraig Charnock	

Combo Answer:

The best thing is to create an answer that is relevant to you, which combines both questions.

e.g. I learn at with
Ndifunda e no....

Extra Vocab in Greetings

[29]

Other common variations in greetings:

Present - khona (also meaning fine in this context)

There is nothing - akukho 'nto (meaning wrong)

This gets shortened to *akhonto* and can be used after any form of greeting.

For examples, study the following examples:

I am well, nothing is wrong - Ndikhona akhonto*

We are well, nothing's wrong - Sikhona, akhonto

We are well, there is nothing wrong - siphilile akhonto

I am well, nothing's wrong - ndiphilile, akhonto

*These are completely optional.

Lesson 6 Essentials and Test:

[30]

Questions:

1. Where are you learning Xhosa?
2. I am studying in.....
3. I learn with a teacher - he is Craig.
4. He is a white ou.
5. I listen to an audio Cd.
6. I learn in a book.
7. I like to speak with people.
8. We watch a film at work.
9. There is nothing wrong.

Answers:

1. Usifundela phi isiXhosa?
2. Ndifunda e.....
3. Ndifunda netitshala - unguCraig
4. Ungumlungu yena
5. Ndimamela i-Audio Cd
6. Ndifunda encwadini
7. Ndithanda ukuthetha nabantu
8. Sibukela ifilim emsebenzini
9. Akhonto

Lesson 6 Convo - Where are you learning Xhosa?

(A young Xhosa student speaks to an old Xhosa woman)

Vocab:

[31]

For real/truthfully - nyani Like that - njalo
It's like that / it is so - kunjalo Nicely - kamnandi

1. B: Molweni, Nkosikazi, [32-33]

2. T: *Molo, mfondini,*

3. B: Ninjani?

4. T: *Sikhona, akhonto. unjani, wena?*

5. B: Hayi, ndiphillile, enkosi, akhonto. Ndicela ukungena, Mama.

6. T: *Lungile. Ngena. Hlala phantsi. Usifundela phi isiXhosa?*

7. B: Ndifunda netitshala eNewlands ebusuku.
Ndifunda encwadini ndimamela i-Audio Cd.
Ndithetha nabantu.

8. T: *Hayi ndoda, uyazama wena!*

9. B: Kunjalo, mama, ndiyazama nyhani!

10. T: *Uthetha kamnandi, mfana. Sala kakuhle.*

11. B: Enkosi, Hamba kakuhle, Mama.

English:

1. B: Hello, Madam (and others).

2. T: *Hello, young man*

3. B: How are you (pl)?

4. T: *We are here, there is nothing. How are you?*

5. B: No, I am well, thanks, there's nothing wrong. I request to come in, mother.
6. *T: Alright, come in, sit down. Where are you learning Xhosa?*
7. B: I learn with a teacher in Newlands at night. I read from a book and listen to an audio CD. I speak with people.
8. *T: No man, you are trying!*
9. B: It is so, mother, I really am trying.
10. *T: You speak well, young man. Stay well.*
11. B: Thanks. Go well, mother.

CULTURE BITE - Speaking Loudly:

People often complain or cannot comprehend why 'African' people speak so loudly. Well, there were a couple of insights I had whilst living in the rural villages.

- firstly, for many centuries there have been no phones in the rural villages and homesteads and therefore neighbours are often separated by valleys, ridges, small hills. It is often necessary for a mother to shout after her child to call her home or give an additional instruction. This would thus be done with a very loud voice with no concern for what the neighbours might think.

- secondly, when social gatherings occur there are usually any number of people even beyond 100 sitting in one round mudhut, with drums beating, people singing, children shouting and everyone chatting. Needless to say, a soft manner of speech is not going to serve you in such a context.

- thirdly, it is considered impolite and suspicious if you speak softly or whisper. You may be gossiping or plotting, so the cultural practice is the louder the better.

Notes:

iBonus Lesson: Clarification Phrases

Goal: To use Xhosa to improve your Xhosa

The Escape Sentences:

You remember your first two important sentences from Lesson 3:

I'm still learning Xhosa - ndisafunda isiXhosa.

I speak only a little bit - ndithetha kancinci nje

Then we would try **escape** "Xhosa" by asking:

I request to speak in English or Afrikaans now

Ndicela ukuthetha isiNgesi okanye isiBhulu ngoku

Clarification Phrases:

Well, now we add the following to the mix as an alternative to the escape sentence above. These phrases are vital to learn and use in class and in your conversations as quickly as possible. These phrases allow you to coach the Xhosa person in to how to speak with you, and how to use them to help you improve your Xhosa. These phrases will be explained grammatically in later levels, but some explanations follow briefly:

I do not understand **you** – and**iku**va

(a- on front of a prefix indicates negative in the present tense - to be practiced in Level 2, ku - object conchord - level 3)

Please repeat – **Khawu**phinde

(-e on the end - Level 2)

Be quick/hurry - khawuleza

Write - bhala

Ask - buza

Do not talk so fast – **Musa ukuk**hawuleza

Don't talk so fast – **Suku**khawuleza

*(**Musa uku...** means **do not...** or **desist to...** and can be added on front of any verb ending with -a as we learnt in lesson 2 - in fact it must be followed by a verb and cannot be used alone).*

Suku... is the abbreviated form - again, it can't be used alone!

What are you saying in *English*? – **uthini** ngesi*Ngesi*

(nga + i = nge - it means 'in' or 'by means of' - Level 3)

Translations System:

To be used in class as often as possible, if it's a thing/word:

What is "hayibo" **in** English?

Yintoni "hayibo" **ngesiNgesi?**

What is "elephant" **in** Xhosa?

Yintoni "elephant" **ngesiXhosa?**

If a phrase or other, you can use:

You say what for in English / in Xhosa?

Uthini ngesiNgesi / NgesiXhosa?

***To be used in Class:**

Sorry, I request to ask **Uxolo**, ndicela ukubuza

Please **ask** in Xhosa Khawubuze ngesiXhosa

You see? Uyabona?

Do you all **understand** ? Niyaqonda na?

Please **write** it down. Khawubhale phantsi.

On the board - ebhodini In the book - encwadini

Further Clarification Phrases

So you have learnt the above and you have coached the person in to speaking slower with you, and even to translate various words or phrases. These additional constructs using grammar you know will help you to learn from the other person.

Please repeat in Xhosa now.

Khawuphinde ngesiXhosa ngoku.

I would like to **hear you** in Xhosa.

Ndifuna ukuku**kuva** ngesiXhosa.

I'm trying to grow my Xhosa.

Ndizama ukukhulisa isiXhosa sam.

I request politely - ndiyacela

I am grateful - ndiyabulela

Notes:

Sample Clarification Conversation

You should know this conversation and its mechanics backwards before moving on with your learning! And use these constructs in class with the teachers!!

1. B: Molo, Sisi.
2. S: Molo, Tata
3. B: Unjani?
4. S: Ndikhona. Wena unjani?
5. B: Ndiyaphila nam akhonto. Unqabile wena.
6. S: Uxolo, tata, andikuva. Ndisafunda ukuthetha isiXhosa. Sukukhawuleza. Ndithetha kancinci nje.
7. B: Ndiyabona sisi. Usifundela phi isiXhosa?
8. S: Andikuva, tata. Khawuphinde?
9. B: Usifundela phi isiXhosa?
- 10.S: Owu, ndifunda emsebenzini netitshala.
- 11.B: Ndawoni?
- 12.S: Uxolo, tata. Uthini ngesiNgesi?
- 13.B: Where about?
- 14.S: Ah, khawuphinde ngesiXhosa ngoku. Ndifuna uku-improva isiXhosa sam.
- 15.B: Kulungile! N-d-a-w-o-n-i?
- 16.S: Ndiyabulela, tata
- 17.B: Uthetha kamnandi wena.
- 18.S: Eish! Yintoni “kamnandi” ngesiNgesi,tata?
- 19.B: Nicely!
- 20.S: Ah, enkosi, khawubhale encwadini yam.
- 21.B: Kulungile. Uyabona na?

22.S: Ndiyabona, tata. Siyabulela.

23.B: Ndiyavuya ukukwazi!

English (PTO):

1. B: Hello, young lady.
2. S: Hello, older man (respectfully)
3. B: How are you?
4. S: I am well, how are you?
5. B: I'm well too, there is nothing (as in wrong or to complain about). You are scarce.
6. S: Excuse me father, I do not understand you. I am still learning to speak Xhosa. Do not go fast. I speak a little bit only.
7. B: I see, sister. Where are you learning Xhosa?
8. S: I don't understand you, father, please repeat.
9. B: Where are you learning Xhosa?
10. S: Oh, I'm learning at work with a teacher.
11. B: Whereabouts?
12. S: Sorry, father. What are you saying in English?
13. B: Where about?
14. S: Ah, Please repeat it in Xhosa now. I want to improve my Xhosa.
15. B: Ok, "Ndawoni?")
16. S: I am grateful, father.
17. B: You talk nicely!
18. S: Eish (embarrassed in this instance), what is "kamnandi" in English, father?

- 19. B: Nicely!
- 20. S: Ah, thanks! I request you write it in my book.
- 21. B: Ok, Do you see?
- 22. S: I see, father. We are grateful
- 23. B: I am pleased to meet you!

Notes:

Level 1 Assessment

So in this last lesson of Level 1 we may just practice conversationally with you and give you an opportunity to really integrate and use your clarification phrases, asking the teachers for everyday phrases relating to weather, food, etc. Or you may have an assessment, depending on the context of your learning. There is little point moving onto Level 2 without spoken confidence in Level 1. The oral and written assessment is exactly as follow:

1. Greetings to a group of sisters. How are you (plural)?
2. We are well, thanks.
3. How are you, yourself?
4. I am fine too, nothing is wrong.
5. My name isWhat is your name?
6. My surname isWhat is your surname?
7. Nice to meet you (I am pleased to know you)
8. I am also pleased to meet you
9. Who is he or she?
10. She is...., as for her.
11. Are you Xhosa?
12. Sorry, brother, I am still learning to speak Xhosa.
13. I speak only a little bit.
14. Where are you learning Xhosa? (Write your response to this)

15. Who is teaching you? (Write your response to this)
16. Please repeat.
17. Don't rush!
18. Eish, I don't understand you well.
19. What are you saying in English?
20. Please write it down.
21. What is in English / in Xhosa?
22. You say what for in English / in Xhosa?
23. Do you like Xhosa?
24. Yes, Its nice but it is hard.
25. I request to speak English now.

Xhosa Answers:

1. Molweni, bosisi. Ninjani?
2. Siphilile enkosi.
3. Unjani wena?
4. Ndiphilile nam, akhonto.
5. Ngu.....igama lam. Ngubani igama lakho?
6. Ngu.... Ifani yam. Ngubani ifani yakho?
7. Ndiyavuya ukukwazi.
8. Nam ndiyavuya ukukwazi.
9. Ungubani yena?
10. Ungu..... , yena.
11. Ungumxhosa na?
12. Uxolo, bhuti, ndisafunda ukuthetha isiXhosa
13. Ndithetha kancinci nje

14. Ndifunda emsebenzini edolophini e....
15. Ndifunda neUBuntu Bridge. Utitshala ungu
16. Khawuphinde.
17. Sukukhawuleza
18. Eish! Andikuva kakuhle.
19. Uthini ngesingesi?
20. Khawubhale phantsi.
21. Yintoni ngesiNgesi / ngesiXhosa?
22. Uthini ngesiNgesi / ngesiXhosa?
23. Uthanda isiXhosa na?
24. Ewe, kumnandi kodwa kunzima
25. Ndicela ukuthetha isiNgesi ngoku

Notes:

Conclusion:

I hope you have gained much from working with this CD and manual. You should now be at a stage where you can greet and engage a Xhosa person in polite introductions, as well as excuse yourself from the conversation. There is plenty of mileage to be gained from this level of proficiency. I wish you the very best. Work patiently and persistently – all languages take effort, but remember to have fun. If you enjoy your Xhosa, you will maintain motivation. Set yourself small goals, practice the escape phrases in a safe place and then venture out there and try it on a Xhosa person that you encounter. Remember to congratulate yourself - The effort alone is commendable. Don't let high expectations cut your efforts short. *Indlela 'nhle – may your path be beautiful!* Ngenene. Makhosemvelo.

Let's Learn Xhosa with



Level 2: Conversational Progression

will continue with further lessons to extend both your conversations and your grammatical understanding.

We encourage volunteer opportunities and language / culture immersions in the villages and townships, bringing sustainable, sensitive development, where it's needed most.

AUDIO/MANUAL Credits

Xhosa support courtesy of Deon Xhamela Nebulane,
ooMaDlamini, nabanye abantu besiXhosa abaninzi.

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