

BeingAfrican, LLC Curriculum-Lesson 12

Objectives:

1. To understand 6 personal pronouns and use them in sentence construction.
2. To further practice common verbs in Xhosa.
3. To construct simple sentences in Xhosa using the Pronoun + Formative + Verb construction.
4. Familiarize with different food categories.

Let's speak simple Xhosa! (A) (Simple present tense)

Now that you know some Xhosa verbs, lets try speaking the language.

Below is an illustration of 6 personal pronouns one must know.

I		
You (singular)	Wena	Wena e.g. to a friend (kumhlobo)
You (plural)	Nina	(Often used when referring to the adults and high authority as below) UTHixo – God Tatomkhulu – grandfather Makhulu – grandmother Tata – father Mama – mother Malume – uncle
We	Thina	
He/she	Yena	

Build up vocabulary using the personal pronouns in sentence construction as guided below:

Mna (ndi)	I	Ndiphela ukutya	I cook food.
Yena (u) – (singular)	You	Ulanda iinkuni zokubasa	You fetch the firewood.
Thina (so)	We	Sonwabile	We are happy.
Bona (bo)	They	Bonwabile	They are happy.
Bona (ba) – (plural)	You	Nidla inyama	You eat meat.

The personal pronouns need helping syllables called, “formatives” when one uses them to

say something. See illustrations below on how to use these:

Lesson IV continued

PRONOUNS	+ FORMATIVES	+ VERBS	MEANING
1) Mna (ndi)	Ndiya	hlala	I sit
2) Yena (u)	Uya	hleka	Mandy laughs
3) Yena (u)	Uya	khala	Sipho is crying or Sipho cries
4) Thina (si)	Siya	lala	We sleep
5) Yena (u)	Uya	thatha	Father you take
6) Bona (ba)	Baya	bamba	They hold
7) Mna (ndi)	Ndiya	hamba	I go

The word-for-word translation sounds very ungrammatical that's in English. Such is the nature of Xhosa.

Learn the pronouns and the formatives that go with them.

Once you know them well, you can start EXPLORING the language on your own!

Here are some more everyday verbs for your language exploration!!

1. Sukuma / phakama - stand (up)	9. Hamba - walk	17. Baleka - run
2. Gibisela - throw away	10. Chola - pick-up	18. Phakamisa – lift
3. Sika - cut	11.Nqunqa – chop	19.Pheka – cook
4. Hlamba - wash	12. Nxiba - wear	20. Susa / Khulula – remove/ take off
5. Rhalela - like	13. Thanda - love	21. Thenga -buy
6. Thengisa - sell	14. Ncuma - smile	22. Hleka – laugh
7. betha - beat/hit	15. Yifa - die	23. Yitya – eat
8. Sela - drink	16. Lala - sleep	24.Vuka - wake up

General Word building:

Food category People need food to be healthy and strong – Abantu badinga ukutya ukuze babe sempilweni bomelele.

Inyama	Meat
Iziqhamo	Fruit
Amanzi	Water
Umbona	Maize
Imifuno	Vegetables
Intlanzi	Fish
Irayisi	Rice
Umgubo	Mealie-meal
Iziselo	Drinks
Umqwayito	Biltong
Isidudu	Porridge
Peanuts	Amantongomane