

Sesotho

Theme 1: Greetings and Courtesies

Hello! (to one person)	Ahee!
Hello! (to more than one person)	Dumelang!
How are you?	Le kae?
I am well.	Ke teng.
Hoodbye! Stay well! (to one person)	Sala hantle!
Hoodbye! Ho well! (to one person)	Tsamaya hantle!
Hoodbye! Stay well! (to more than one person)	Salang hantle!
Hoodbye! Ho well! (to more than one person)	Tsamayang hantle!
Hood evening.	Dumelang
Hood night.	Robalang hantle.
See you soon.	Ke tla o bona haufinyane.
See you later.	Ke tla o bona ka mora nakwana.
<i>Courtesies</i>	
Thank you.	Ke a leboha.
Thank you very much.	Ke leboha haholo.
Please.	Ke a kopa
You are welcome.	O a amohelwa.
Excuse me.	Ntshwarele.
Excuse me, what did you say?	Ha ke utlwe, o itseng?
It doesn't matter.	Ha ho na mathata.
Sorry, excuse me.	Ntshwarele hle.
It's my pleasure.	Ka thabo.
Yes	Êe
No	Tjhee
I don't know.	Ha ke tsebe.
I don't understand.	Ha ke utlwisise
Please repeat.	Pheta hape.
Please talk slower	Bua butle
Repeat slowly.	Pheta butle
Will you please write it down?	Na o ka e ngola?

COMMENTS:

Greeting:

The most important and effective way to reach out to a person is to greet him/her in his/her own language. In true Sesotho tradition greeting is a very important procedure. It is a structured encounter and it is considered ill-mannered not to greet either a friend or a stranger in passing. *Ubuntu* (humanity towards others) plays a prominent role in the African culture. It is therefore not sufficient to merely say "Dumelang!". You should also take the time to enquire about the other person's well-being. "Le kae?" is actually a plural form, which indicates that you are inquiring about the person and his/her family members. It is also an indication of respect.

Who greets first?

The person who arrives somewhere is supposed to greet those present first - status or seniority does not play a role. Should it happen that two people arrive at the same place simultaneously, e.g. if they meet in town, it does not matter who greets first.

Forms of address:

When greeting a person older than yourself (more or less your parents' age), **ntate** 'father' would be used for a man and **mme** 'mother' for a woman. For greetings of people of your grandparents' age **ntatemoholo** 'grandfather', and **nkgono** 'grandmother' are used as forms of address. Greeting someone of your own age you would address her as **mme**, 'misses/miss', and rra, 'sir' for the male counterpart.

Saying goodbye:

The person leaving first, should be the first to say goodbye. It would be impolite of the other person(s) to terminate the conversation first. When saying goodbye to one person you would say **Tsamaya hantle** ('Go well') or **Sala hantle** ('Stay/remain well'). When saying goodbye to more than one person, **Tsamayang hantle** or **Salang hantle** would be used.

Sesotho

Video 1: Greetings and Courtesies

A: Tourist B: Sesotho speaker	Theme1: Greetings and Courtesies
A: Dumelang, ntate!	Hello!
B: Dumela, mme!	Yes, hello!
A: Le kae?	How are you?
B: Re teng. Lona le kae?	I am fine. How are you?
A: Le rona re teng.	I am also fine.
B: Ke tla o bona.	See you.
A: Pheta hape hle!	Can you please repeat?
B: Ke – tla – o - bona.	See – you – soon.
A: Ke a leboha. Tsamaya hantle!	Thank you. Go well!
B: Sala hantle!	Stay well!