

## Xhosa

### Theme 2: Asking for Help, Emergencies

#### Asking for help

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Excuse me, Sir.                     | Uxolo, Mnumzana.                                |
| Excuse me, Miss.                    | Uxolo, Nkosazana.                               |
| Do you speak English?               | Uyakwazi ukuthetha isiNgesi?                    |
| Yes.                                | Ewe.  |
| No.                                 | Hayi.   |
| I'm sorry.                          | Uxolo.  |
| I'm sorry but I don't understand.   | Uxolo kodwa andiqondi.                          |
| I don't speak Zulu.                 | Andisithethi isiXhosa.                          |
| I don't understand.                 | Andiqondi.                                      |
| I understand a little.              | Ndiqonda kancinci.                              |
| Yes, I understand.                  | Ewe, ndiyaqonda                                 |
| Please speak more slowly.           | Ndicela uthethe ungangxami.                     |
| Could you please speak more slowly? | Khawuthethe ungangxami.                         |
| Please repeat.                      | Khawuphinde.                                    |
| Can you please help me?             | Ndicela undincede./ Ungandinceda?               |
| Okay.                               | Kulungile.                                      |
| Of course.                          | Kunjalo.  |
| Where is ...?                       | Iphi...?  |
| I'm lost, could you help me please? | Ndilahlekile, Ndicela undincede./ Ungandinceda? |

#### Emergencies

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fire!                        | Umlilo! Kuyatsha!            |
| Hurry!                       | Khawuleza!                   |
| Help!                        | Ndincede torho!              |
| Call the fire department!    | Biza isebe lezomlilo!        |
| Stop, thief!                 | Bamba, isela!                |
| Stop him!                    | Mise! Mbambe!                |
| Leave me alone!              | Ndiyeke!                     |
| Where is the police station? | Siphi isitishi samapolisa?   |
| I want a lawyer.             | Ndifuna igqwetha.            |
| Someone stole my car!        | Kukho umntu obe imoto yam!   |
| ... my watch                 | Iwotshi yam ibiwe lisela!    |
| ... my wallet                | Isispaji sam sibiwe lisela!  |
| ... my passport              | Ipasspoti yam ibiwe lisela!  |
| ... my belongings            | Iimpahla zam zibiwe lisela!  |
| Thanks for your help!        | Ndiyabulela ngoncedo lwakho! |
| It's my pleasure!            | Nam ndiyabulela!             |

#### COMMENTS:

##### Friendly requests

Xhosas are very friendly and hospitable people and will assist anybody asking for help. However, in Xhosa there is no actual word for 'please'. The notion of 'please' is expressed by starting the sentence with *Ndicela* (I request...). For example, *Ndicela iCoke* (Coke please), *Ndicela ibhotolo* (Butter please), *Ndicela ubisi* (Milk please). When a verb is used it also changes to accommodate the meaning of 'please', e.g. *Ndicela uzise itshintshi* (Please bring me the change), *Ndicela uhlale phantsi* (Please sit down). Note that the verb ends in –

e to denote a request.

*Expressing the negative*

In order to say something in the negative, one usually adds an *a-* in front of the positive form and let the verb end in *-i*, e.g. *Andiqondi* (I do not understand) and *Andithethi* (I do not speak). When giving a command for one person, the verb is used as is, e.g. *Baleka!* (Run!), *Biza uThandi!* (Call Thandi!)

## Xhosa

### Video 2: Asking for Help, Emergencies

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>A: Tourist</b><br><b>B: Xhosa speaker</b>            | <b>Theme 2: Asking for Help, Emergencies</b>      |
| <b>A: Uxolo, Mnumzana. Uyakwazi ukuthetha isiNgesi?</b> | Excuse me, Sir. Do you know how to speak English? |
| <b>B: Hayi, ndithetha isiXhosa.</b>                     | No, I speak Xhosa.                                |
| <b>A: Ndicela undincedo.</b>                            | Can you please help me.                           |
| <b>B: Kulungile. Ndingakunceda njani?</b>               | Alright. How can I help you?                      |
| <b>A: Ndilahlekile. Siphi isitishi samapolisa?</b>      | I am lost. Where is the police station?           |
| <b>B: Unengxaki na?</b>                                 | What is the problem?                              |
| <b>A: Ewe, isipaji sam sibiwe lisela!</b>               | My wallet was stolen!                             |
| <b>B: Isitishi samapolisa siphaya.</b>                  | The station is over there.                        |
| <b>A: Ndiyabulela ngoncedo lwakho!</b>                  | Thank you for your help!                          |
| <b>B: Nam ndiyabulela!</b>                              | It's my pleasure!                                 |