

Theme 2: Asking for Help, Emergencies

TRACK 4: Asking for help

Excuse me, sir...	Tshwarelo, tate...
Excuse me, miss ...	Tshwarelo, mma...
Do you speak English?	Na o bolela Seisimane?
Yes.	Ee.
No.	Aowa.
I'm sorry.	Ntshwarele.
I'm sorry but I don't understand.	Ntshwarele, ga ke kwešiše.
I don't speak Northern Sotho.	Ga ke bolele Sesotho sa Leboa.
I don't understand.	Ga ke kwešiše.
I understand a little.	Ke kwešiša gannyane.
Yes, I understand.	Ee, ke a kwešiša.
Please speak more slowly.	Ke kgopela gore o bolele ka go iketla.
Could you please speak more slowly?	A o ka bolela ka go iketla?
Please repeat.	A nke o boeletše hle.
Can you please help me?	A o ka nthuša?
Okay.	Go lokile.
Of course.	Go bjalo.
Where is the doctor?	Ngaka e kae?
I'm lost, could you help me please?	Ke timetše, nthuše hle!

TRACK 3: Emergencies

Fire!	Mollo!
Hurry!	Phakiša!
Help!	Thuša!
Call the fire department!	Bitša borasetimamollo!
Stop!	Ema!
Stop him!	Mo emiše!
Leave me alone!	Ntlogele!
Where is the police station?	Na seteišene sa maphodisa se kae?
I want a lawyer.	Ke nyaka moemedi.
They stole my car!	Ba utswitše koloi ya ka!
They stole my watch!	Ba utswitše watšhe ya ka!
They stole my wallet!	Ba utswitše sepatšhe sa ka!
They stole my passport!	Ba utswitše pasporoto ya ka!
They stole my cellphone!	Ba utswitše sele ya ka!
Thank you for helping me.	Ke leboga thušo ya gago.
It is a pleasure/You are welcome.	Go leboga rena.

COMMENTS:

Friendly requests

Northern Sotho people are very friendly and hospitable people and will assist anybody asking for help. The word for 'please' is *hle*. A friendly request is also formulated by starting the sentence with *A nke*. 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 *ga-* in front of the positive form and let the verb end in *-e*, e.g. *Ga ke kwešiše*. (I do not understand).

Video 2: Asking for Help, Emergencies

A: Tshwarelo, tate. Do you speak English?	Excuse me, Sir. Do you speak English?
B: Aowa, ke bolela Sesotho sa Leboa.	No, I speak Northern Sotho.
A: A o ka nthuša?	Can you please help me?
B: Ee, nka go thuša ka eng?	Alright. How can I help you?
A: Na seteišene sa maphodisa se kae?	Where is the police station?
B: Molato ke eng?	What is the problem?
A: Sepatšhe sa ka se utšwitšwe!	My wallet was stolen!
B: Seteišene sa maphodisa se gona kua.	The police station is over there.
A: Aowa, ke leboga thušo ya gago.	No, thank you for your help!
B: Go leboga rena.	It's my pleasure!