

Theme 1: Greetings and Courtesies

Hello! (to one person)	Ahee!
Hello! (to more than one person)	Dumelang!
How are you?	O/Le kae?
I am well.	Ke teng.
Goodbye! Stay well! (to one person)	Sala sentle!
Goodbye! Go well! (to one person)	Tsamaya sentle!
Goodbye! Stay well! (to more than one person)	Salang sentle!
Goodbye! Go well! (to more than one person)	Tsamayang sentle!
Good evening.	Dumelang mo masigong.
Good night.	Robalang sentle.
See you soon.	Ke tla go bona kgantele.
See you later.	Ke tla go bona mo morago ga nakonyana.
<i>Courtesies</i>	
Thank you.	Ke a leboga.
Thank you very much.	Ke leboga go menagane.
Please.	Tswêê-tswêê.
You are welcome.	O a amogelwa.
Excuse me.	Intshwarele.
Excuse me, what did you say?	Intshwarele, o rileng?
It doesn't matter.	Ga go na mathata.
Sorry, excuse me.	Intshwarele, tthe.
It's my pleasure.	Ka boitumelo.
Yes	Êê
No	Nnyaa/Ê-ê
I don't know.	Ga ke itse.
I don't understand.	Ga ke tthaloganye.
Please repeat.	Boeletsa gape.
Please talk slower	Bua ka boiketlo, tsweetswee
Repeat slowly.	Busetsa ka boiketlo
Will you please write it down?	A o ka kwala?

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 Setswana 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), **rra** 'father' would be used for a man and **mma** 'mother' for a woman. For greetings of people of your grandparents' age **rramogolo** 'grandfather', and **mmemogolo** 'grandmother' are used as forms of address. Greeting someone of your own age you would address her as **mma**, '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 sentle** ('Go well') or **Sala sentle** ('Stay/remain well'). When saying goodbye to more than one person, **Tsamayang sentle** or **Salang sentle** would be used.

SETSWANA	ENGLISH
A: Tourist B: Setswana speaker	Theme1: Greetings and Courtesies
A: Dumelang!	Hello!
B: Ahee, dumelang!	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 go bona.	See you.
A: A o ka busetsa, tsweetswee?	Can you please repeat?
B: Ke – tla – go - bona.	See – you – soon.
A: Ke a leboga. Tsamaya sentle!	Thank you. Go well!
B: Sala sentle!	Stay well!