

At Workplace Mo Tirong

職場にて

Mpho



Command

命令形

The most basic form of communication in Setswana is the command. It consists of one word, the verb stem. We'll start with the positive version.

Verb stem + !

Here are some examples.

Tsena! = Come in! (if someone is at your door)

Tla! = Come! (if you just want someone to come over)

To do this properly, you must memorize some vocabulary. This works for any verb, but Table 2.7 gives a list of some simple ones to start.

To tell someone not to do something, simply add *se* to the beginning of your command and change the verb ending to *e*:

Table 2.7: Commands in Setswana.

Setswana	English
Dula!	Sit!
Ema!	Stand!
Taboga!	Run!
Bona!	Look!
Bula!	Open!
Tswala!	Close!
Suta!	Move away!
Tsaya!	Take!
Thusa!	Help!

COMMANDS

1. Listen and repeat:

Infinitive	Perfect		Infinitive	Perfect	
go amogêla	amogetse	.. to receive	go tsêna	tsenye	.. to enter, start
go boloka	bolokile	.. to save, keep, preserve	go duba	dubile	.. to mix, knead
go roka	rokile	.. to sew	go phimola	phimotse	.. to clean, dust
go bedisa	bedisitse	.. to boil	go jesa	jesitse	.. to feed
go nna	ntse	.. to sit, stay	go fisa	fisitse	.. to burn, be hot
go nna		.. to dwell, live, be—			
fatshe	ntse fatse	.. to sit down			

2. Study and learn this dialogue:

Pule: Tsênang, borra.

Neo: Odirile, tisa ditilô.

Pule: Nnang fatshe, banna;
Odirile, bitsa Joe.

Come in, men.

Odirile, bring chairs.

Sit down, men;

Odirile, call Joe.

3. **The Command to one person (Singular Command) is formed by taking the verb stem as it is (Root + a). Change the following into the Singular after the example given:**

Ex. O simolola go ja.

You are beginning to eat.

S. Simolola go ja.

Begin eating.

1. O bedisa metsi.

Boil the water.

Bedisa metsi.

2. O tlhatswa dikopi.

Wash the cups.

Tlhatswa dikopi.

3. O phimola difôrôkô.

Dry the forks.

Phimola difôrôkô.

4. O roka mesese.

Sew the dresses.

Roka mesese.

5. O duba borôthô.

Make bread.

Duba borôthô.

6. O kopa pula.

Ask for rain.

Kopa pula.

7. O bala dithipa.

Count the knives.

Bala dithipa.

N.B. One-syllable verbs follow the above rule but add an 'a-' to the verb to lengthen it.
Imitate:

O ja dijô

jaa dijô

eat the food

O nwa tee

nwaa tee

drink tea

O tla kwano

tlaa kwano

come here

4. **The plural Command is formed by adding 'ng' to the Root + a.**
(R-a-ng) One syllable verbs may drop the lengthening 'a' in the plural.

Change into the plural:

Ex. Amogêla mae.

S. Amogêlang mae.

1. Tlisa maina, monna.

Bring the names, man.

Tlisang maina, banna

2. Tlhatswa ditafolê.

Wash the tables

Tlhatswang ditafolê.

3. Bedisa metsi.

Boil the water.

Bedisang metsi.

4. Tlhatswa dilori.

Wash the lorries.

Tlhatswang dilori.

5. Itse Setswana.

Know Setswana.

Itseng Setswana.

6. Duba borôthô.

Make bread.

Dubang borôthô.

7. Tlaa kwano.

Come here.

Tlang kwano.

More examples

Bidisa metsi = Boil water

Tlhatswa dijana = Wash the dishes

Dula fatshe fa= Sit down here

Tlisang dipampiri = Bring the papers (you all)

Kwalang mafoko ao = Write those words

Balang dibuka = Read the books

Mo fe = Give him

Re thuse = Help us

Nthekele = Buy me (n + reka + ela)

Se bule dibuka = Don't open the books

Se tle kwano = Don't come here

Se jeseng diphologolo = Don't feed the animals

O seka wa tima TV = Don't turn off the TV

Le seka la bua sepe = Don't say anything (you all)

O seka wa ja nama ya tonki = Don't eat donkey meat

Lo seka la sutla faele = Don't delete the file

Se mphe = Give it to me (selepe)

O ska a ba adima = Don't lend it to him (magwena)

Polite

Ke (a) kopa: Ke kopa go adima buka

Tswee tswee: Ke adima buka tswee tswee

Subjunctive: Nkadime buka

With Mood

Polite Imperative: A nke ke adime buka

Optative: O be o nkadime buka

Hortative: Nkadime buka tlhe

Imperative: Nkadime buka

Please note that this is only for grammar. Tone of voice, body language, and any curse words inserted will alter the nature of the request. For example:

Tswana Tsotsi: *A o ke o nkadime madi kgotsa ke tla kgaola molala wa gago.*

(This is based on an old joke about the difference between a Tswana tsotsi and a Zulu tsotsi. Ask a local for an explanation.)

出典

Ryan Cooper - Setswana Grammer Manual

<http://www.ryanlouiscooper.com/2011/06/setswana-grammar-manual.html>

First step in spoken setswana - Pula Press