



1042 Sixth Avenue North • Naples, FL 34102
(239) 434-7183 • fax (239) 434-2839
www.hopeforhaiti.com • info@hopeforhaiti.com

COMMON CREOLE WORDS AND PHRASES

CREOLE - ENGLISH

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Bonjou! - Good morning!

Bonswa! - Good afternoon!/Evening! (used after 11 AM)

Komon ou ye? - How are you?

N'ap boule! (most common greeting and response) - Good!

Wi - Yes

yo - they, them

Non - No

Mesi - Thanks

Anmwe! - Help!

Non, mesi - No, thanks

Souple - Please

Merite - You're welcome

Pa gen pwoblem - No problem

Oke - OK

Eskize mwen - Excuse me

Mwen regret sa - I'm sorry

Gen... - There is/are...

Pa genyen! - There is/are not any!

Mwen pa genyen! - I don't have any!

Sekonsa! - That's right!

Piti piti - A little bit

Anpil - A lot

Gen anpil... - There are a lot of...

Isit - Here

La - There

Tout bagay anfom? - Is everything OK?

Pa kounye-a - Not now

Toupatou - Everywhere

Anyen - Nothing

Preske - Almost

Atansyon! - Attention!/Watch out!

Prese prese! - Hurry!

Dife! - Fire!

Rete! - Stop!

Kounye-a - Now

Nou ap chache... - We are looking for...

Souple, ban mwen... - Please give me...

Separe sa ant nou - Divide this among you
Ye - Yesterday
Jodia - Today
Demen - Tomorrow
Maten an - This morning
Apremidi a - This afternoon
Aswe a - This evening
lendi - Monday
madi - Tuesday
mekredi - Wednesday
jedi - Thursday
vandredi - Friday
samdi - Saturday
dimanch - Sunday
Ou byen? - You OK?
Mwen pa two byen - I'm not too well
Mwen malad - I'm sick
Te gen yon aksidan - There was an accident
Nou bezwen yon dokte/yon mis touswit - We need a doctor/a nurse right now
Kote Iopital Ia? - Where is the hospital?
Kote li ou fe mal? - Where does it hurt you?
Li ansent - She's pregnant
Mwen pa ka manje/domi - I cannot eat/sleep
Mwengendjare - I have diarrhea
Mwen anvi vonmi - I feel nauseated
Tout ko mwen cho - My whole body is hot
Mwen toudi - I'm dizzy
Nou bezwen pansman/koton - We need bandages/cotton
Mwen bezwen yon bagay pi blese sa a - I need something for this cut
Ou gen SIDA - You have AIDS
Mwen grangou - I'm hungry
Mwen swaf anpil - I'm very thirsty
Nou ta vle manje - We would like to eat
Konben - How much?/How many?
Poukisa? - Why?
Kote? - Where?
Kisa? - What?
Kile? - When?
Ki moun? - Who?
Kijan? - How?
Kiles? - Which?
Eske gen...? - Is/Are there...?
Eske ou gen...? - Do you have...?
Eske ou ka ede nou, souple? - Can you help us please?
Kote nou ka achte...? - Where can we buy...?
Eske ou ka di mwen...? - Can you tell me...?
montre - show
ban - give
Ki moun ki Ia? - Who is there?
Kisa ou vle? - What do you want?

Kisa ou ta vIa? - What would you like?
Kisa ou ap fe Ia? - What are you doing there?
Kisa sa a ye? - What is that?
Sa k'genyen? - What's the matter?
Kisa pi nou fe? - What must we do?
Eske ou te we...? - Have you seen...?
Eske ou pale angle/franse? - Do you speak English/French?
Ki moun isit ki pale angle? - Who speaks English here?
Ou konprann? - You understand?
Kij an yo rele sa an kreyol? - What do they call that in Creole?
Kij an yo di...an kreyol? - How do they say... in Creole?
Kisa ou bezwen? - What do you need?
Kisa ki rive ou? - What happened to you?
Ki kote li ale? - Where did he go?
Kilaj ou? - How old are you?
Kote ou rete? - Where do you live?
Eske ou gen petit? - Do you have any children?
Kote nou ye? - Where are we?

genyen - to have

chita - to sit

manje - to eat

rete - to stop

kouri - to run

kouche - to lie down

vini - to come

ale/prale - to go

ban - to give

rete trankil - to be quiet

pran - to get, receive

leve - to get up

sede - to give up

touye - to kill

frape - to hit

kache - to hide

konnen - to know

manti - to lie (not truth)

gade - to look

koupe - to cut

kwit-manje, fe-manje - to cook

fimen - to smoke

atake - to attack

ban pemi - to authorize

kri - to shout, yell, scream

achte - to buy

fe-apel - to call, name

netwaye - to clean

femen - to close

fose - to coerce, force

fini - to finish

obeyi - to obey

fe - konfyans - to trust
console - to comfort
pati - to leave, depart
mouri - to die
fe-desen - to draw, sketch
bwe - to drink
tonbe - to drop, fall
mete abo - embark, load, board
atoure - to surround
ranfose - to enforce
ou - you, your
mwen - I, me, my, mine
nou - us, our, you (plural)
li - him, her, his, hers
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PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Creole is written phonetically. Each letter is pronounced, and each word is spelled as it is pronounced. Creole has only been recognized as the official language of Haiti in the last few years. Therefore, there are many different ways in which the Haitians write and spell Creole words. There is an official standard that has been set, and this standard will be maintained in this publication. The following is a pronunciation guide using this standard; most of the sounds are French.

ch-share chache-to look for
o-claw fo-strong
e-aim ede-to aid, help
ou-you ou-you
e-leg mesi-thank you
r-(not rolled) respire-to breathe
g-go gen-to have
I-see isit-here
s-(always s) prese-in a hurry
j-(avoid the d sound) jou-day
y-yes pye-foot
o-toe zo-bone

There are nasal sounds in Creole just as there are nasal sounds in French, which are pronounced partially through the nose, but without the “n” itself pronounced (a rare exception to the general pronunciation rule of pronouncing every letter). Some English equivalents which come close to the nasal sounds are as follows:

an-alms dan-tooth
en-chopin pen-bread
on-don't bon-good

A. When a nasal sound is followed by another “n”, or “m,” the nasal sound is pronounced, then the “n” or “m” is pronounced separately.

B. If an accent is placed over the vowel, there is no nasal sound.

C. In never indicates a nasal sound.

The letter c is only used in the ch combination.

The letter k is used for the hard sound.

The letter s is used for the soft sound.