

Xhosa

Theme 4: Question words, Quantities, Weather and Time

Question words

Who?	Ngubani?
What?	Ntoni?
Why?	Ngoba?
When?	Nini?
Where?	Phi?
How?	Njani?
How much is it?	Yimali ni?

Quantities

Many, a lot of	Kuninzi; okuninzi
A little of	Okuncinci/ intwana
A dozen of	Idazini, ishumi nambini
A few	Mbalwa
Enough	Okwaneleyo
Too little	Kuncinci nje
Too much	Kuninzi kakhulu
A kilo of	Ikilo

Weather

What will be the weather today?	Linjani izulu namhlanje?
What will be the weather tomorrow?	Lizoba njani izulu ngomso?
It's cold.	Kuyabanda.
It's warm.	Kuyatshisa.
It's raining.	Liyana.
It's snowing.	Liyakhithika.
It's foggy.	Kunkungu.

Time

What time is it?	Lithini ixesha?
It's five o'clock.	Intsimbi yesihlanu.
Five fifteen.	Mkhono emva kwentsimbi yesihlanu
Five-thirty.	Isiqingatha emva kweyesihlanu
At four forty-five.	Umkhono phambi kweyesine.
At five ten.	Imizuzu elishumi emva kweyesihlanu.
Four-fifty.	Imizuzu elishumi phambi kweyesihlanu.
It's midnight.	Kusezinzulwini zibusuku.
It's noon.	Emini emaqanda
Ten minutes ago.	Imizuzu elishumi egqithileyo.
In half an hour.	Ngesiqangatha seyure.
Since nine p.m.	Kusukela ngentsimbi yesithoba ebusuku.
After seven p.m.	Emva kwentsimbi yesixhenxe
Before eight a.m.	Phambi kwentsimbi yesibhozo.
When does it begin?	Iqala nini?
He's on time.	Ufike ngexesha.
He's late.	Ufike emva kwexesha.
Earlier.	Ngaphambi lixesha.
Later	Emva kwexesha.

Before	Phambi kwexesha.
After	Emva kwexesha.
Soon	Kwangoku
On Wednesdays	NgoLwesithathu
Each month	Inyanga nganye
Each week	Iveki nganye
Since yesterday	Kusukela izolo
Since May	Kusukela ngoMeyi
Since last week	Kusukela ngeveki egqithileyo
Since last month	Kusukela ngenyanga egqithileyo
Next year	Kunyaka ozayo.

COMMENTS:

Time in the olden times was measured by the sun (*ilanga*). The Xhosa people observed the natural cycles of changes of the day and events which accompanied these changes. For example, the early dawn was described by the names of the stars which appeared at dawn. Morning again was marked by the activities of the day. For example, mid-morning (*intlazane*) was marked by the return of the cattle from the fields for milking. The position of the sun played an important factor in naming time as well; e.g. noon was termed *emini emaqanda*, which means that the eggs would have been laid. This traditional concept of African time was changed by the Western concept of clock time.

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Video 4: Question words, Quantities, Weather and Time

A: Tourist B: Xhosa speaker	Theme 4: Question words, Quantities, Weather and Time
A: Ungubani wena?	Who are you?
B: NdinguNcedile.	I am Ncedile.
A: UNcedile wakwabani?	Ncedile who?
B: UNcedile wakwaSaule.	Ncedile Saule.
A: Ncedile, ndicela ukutya okuncane.	Ncedile, may I please have a little food.
B: Kulungile. Uzowubukela nini umdlalo?	Alright. When will you watch the match?
A: Ndizowubukela ngomso ngo-5 ngqo.	I will watch it tomorrow at 5 o'clock.
B: Liza kuba njani izulu ngomso?	How will the weather be tomorrow?
A: Liza kutshisa ngomso. Lithini ixesha ngoku?	It will be warm tomorrow. What is the time now?
B: Kusemini enkulu.	It is noon.

A: Yhu! Ndishiywe lixesha!	O dear! I am late!
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