

## ONLINE BASIC COURSE IN ZULU

### Theme 1: Greetings and Courtesies

#### *Greetings*

Hello! (to one person)	Sawubona!
Hello! (to more than one person)	Sanibonani!
How are you? (to one person)	Unjani?
How are you? (to more than one person)	Ninjani?
I am well.	Ngikhona, ngiyaphila.
We are well.	Sikhona, siyaphila.
Goodbye! Stay well! (to one person)	Sala kahle!
Goodbye! Go well! (to one person)	Hamba kahle!
Goodbye! Stay well! (to more than one person)	Salani kahle!
Goodbye! Go well! (to more than one person)	Hambani kahle!
Good night!	Ulale kahle/ ulale kamnandi!
See you soon.	Siyobonana masinyane.
See you later.	Siyobonana emva kwesikhashana.

#### *Courtesies*

Thank you.	Ngiyabonga.
Thank you very much.	Ngiyabonga kakhulu/ ngibonga kakhulu.
Please.	Ngicela ...
You are welcome.	Kubonga mina.
Excuse me.	Uxolo.
Excuse me, what did you say?	Uxolo, utheni?
It doesn't matter.	Akunandaba
Sorry, excuse me.	Ngiyaxolisa, uxolo.
It's my pleasure.	Kubonga mina.
Yes.	Yebo.
No.	Cha/Qha.
I don't know.	Angazi.
I don't understand.	Angiqondi.
Please repeat.	Ngicela uphinde.
Please talk slower.	Ngicela ukhulume ngokunensa/ ngicela ukhulume kancane.
Repeat slowly.	Phinda ngokunensa / kancane.
Will you please write it down.	Ngicela ukubhale phansi.

#### 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 Zulu 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. One should always greet. *Ubuntu* (humanity towards others) plays a prominent role in the African culture. It is therefore not sufficient to merely say "Sawubona!" You should also take the time to enquire about the other person's well-being: "Unjani?" Greeting one person in the plural form is an indication of respect as well as inquiring about the person's family members. In Zulu the greeting always stays the same whether it is morning, noon or night.

##### *Who greets first?*

Normally, the person who arrives somewhere is supposed to greet those present first but according to Zulu custom the junior person should greet the senior person first. 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), **baba** 'father' would be used for a man and **mama** 'mother' for a woman. For greetings of people of your grandparents' age **mkhulu**, 'grandfather', and **gogo** 'grandmother' are used as forms of address. Greeting someone of your own age you would address her as **sisi**, 'sister', and **bhuti**, 'brother' 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 **Hamba kahle** ('Go well') or **Sala kahle** ('Stay/remain well'). When saying goodbye to more than one person, **Hambani kahle** or **Salani kahle** would be used.

ZULU	ENGLISH
<b>A: Tourist</b> <b>B: Zulu speaker</b>	<b>Theme1: Greetings and Courtesies</b>
<b>A: Sawubona!</b>	Hello!
<b>B: Yebo, sawubona!</b>	Yes, hello!
<b>A: Unjani?</b>	How are you?
<b>B: Ngikhona. Wena unjani?</b>	I am fine. How are you?
<b>A: Nami ngikhona.</b>	I am also fine.
<b>B: Sizophinda sibonane masinyane.</b>	See you soon.
<b>A: Ngicela uphinde?</b>	Can you please repeat?
<b>B: Sizophinda sibonane masinyane.</b>	See – you – soon.
<b>A: Ngiyabonga. Hamba kahle!</b>	Thank you. Go well!
<b>B: Sala kahle!</b>	Stay well!