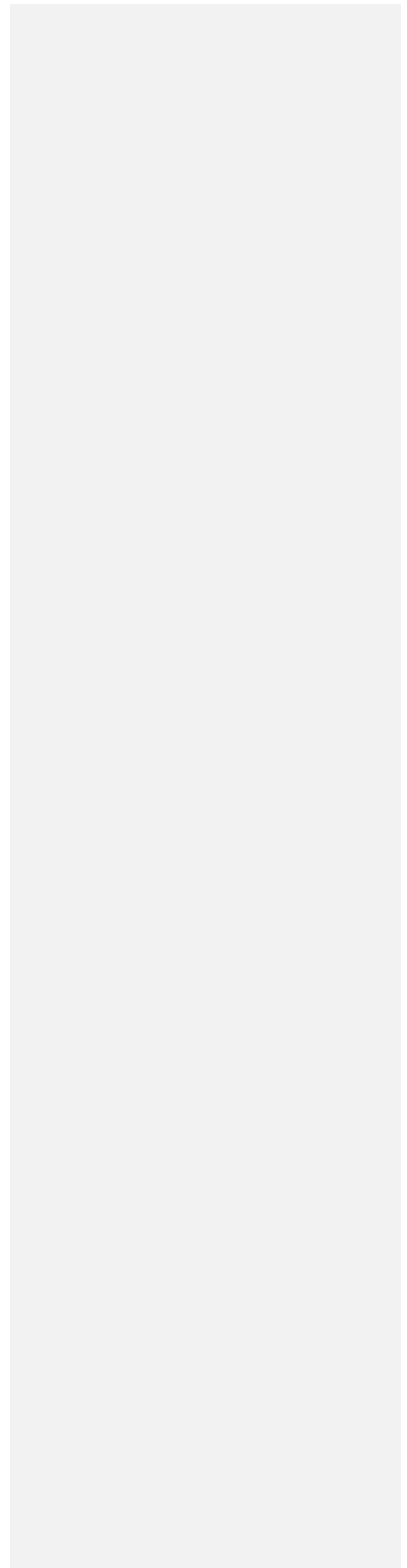


Khoekhoegowab. *made simple*



Learn how to speak quickly, correctly, and effectively
in just two months



Peace Corps Namibia

Khoekhoegowab Language Manual

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Introduction – A Must Read
Khoekhoegowab 101
making sense of the madness

“I’m just not good at learning languages.”
“Khoekhoegowab just doesn’t make any sense to me.”
“I tried learning but..... I gave up.”

Does that sound familiar to you? Well, the truth is - most people are not “bad” at learning languages. They are bad, as I am, at attempting to memorize zero-gratification tables, words, and charts that seem utterly useless, confusing, and are hard to apply. Most people start off strong and motivated, but end up confused or overwhelmed and then eventually give up learning before any real progress is made. If that sounds like you, I want you to forget everything you think about your “skill” in learning a new language. Do you have a brain? Good - then you have more than enough.

This book will break things down, cut out the fat, and ignore the unimportant. By avoiding boring memorization of the non-essential and focusing on high frequency words, learning Khoekhoegowab will actually be easy. There is also very little linguistic jargon used in this book. You might say, “Well how am I supposed to learn all the rules without knowing what everything is called then?” That is a great question, but just think back to when you were a baby back in America: Did you learn English by your parents telling you? -“Now, this is how you use the present progressive form of a being verb in noun class 8.” I *highly* doubt it. You learned by listening and practicing, regardless of whether you knew what the rules were called. If you learn everything in this book, you can expect to be relatively conversational in less than 2 months. How is that even possible? Well, high frequency words are the key, and here is why:

Let’s take, for example, the 20 volume *Oxford English Dictionary*, which easily contains over 250,000 words. Ouch. If you were trying to learn English, how could you possibly learn that many words? The task is daunting and near impossible, unless you have the mind of Stephen Hawking and want to spend 30+ years memorizing words you will never use. Luckily, for the average minded person such as myself, the 100 most common words in English make up for 50% of all printed material in the U.S. If you expand that list to the top 300 words, then that percentage increases to 65%. So, learning a mere 300 words of English would theoretically allow you to be able to read 65% of any newspaper or book. You could learn just *ten* new words a day and be done with the task in *one* month. One month! That isn’t so bad is it? Language learning seems much less scary when you think about like that. As I said, learning **high frequency words** is the key to learning Khoekhoegowab, or any language for that matter.

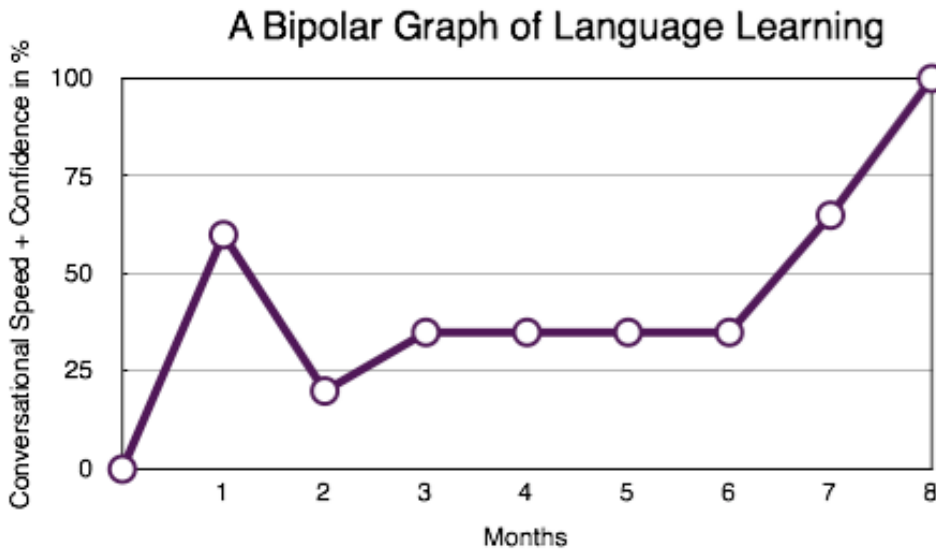
It is important to realize that Khoekhoegowab is an umbrella term for both the Damara and the Nama language. While these languages are similar they are not the same and some of the sayings will be different depending on the tribe you are surrounded by. (Ex. Telling someone to come: ha re (used largely by Damaras) and /khí re (used largely by Namas)).

The Power of Grouping

If you ever feel overwhelmed when learning a new language, it is probably because you are trying to learn *too* much, *too* fast. If you try to learn 100 new words a day, you most likely will only remember a small fraction of what you learned the *next* day, and even less the day *after*. Breaking the language down into manageable groups will do the trick. It has been proven that people can remember new vocabulary *better* when it is broken into *related* groups of 10 words or less. It helps **anchor** the words into the brain, making them easier to recall when you need to say them. The good thing for you is, all of the words in this book have already been logically (somewhat logically at least) grouped into related sets of around 10 words. Grouping words will accelerate your learning and quickly lead you down the road of success.

The Importance of Small Wins

It is important to know that your learning progression will look something like the graph below. You will start off strong and motivated in your first month, then get confused and probably falter, then muster up a small amount of effort to continue, and *then* hit a long plateau just before you EXPLODE with knowledge after your brain and ears adapt to the new language. The problem is, most people give up after they get confused or are in the plateau stage when they are not seeing a noticeable improvement. If you plan ahead and *expect* your learning to be a roller coaster ride, you are much less likely to give up. **Because, if you give up, there is no point in trying at all.** If you focus on learning a small amount each day, you will stay more motivated because you will continually notice improvement on a daily basis -



consider that a “small win”. You will end up having a smoother roller coaster ride with smaller lows and higher highs. And remember, the more that you learn, the easier everything will become. So stay positive, don’t give up, and remember to celebrate the small wins.

Section One

The Essential

The Building Blocks of Khoekhoegowab

“One never realizes how much and how little he knows until he starts talking.”

*-Louis L' Amour
Author*

How much do you know already? If you are just starting to learn Khoekhoegowab, probably not very much – yet. *The Essential* contains the first words and phrases you need to know, as well as the most important concepts to help get you speaking, *fast*. These are the building blocks of Khoekhoegowab so you need to *drill* these words and phrases into your head with consistent repetition and verbal practice. The better understanding you have of the basics, the easier everything else will seem that follows. Before you move on to the other sections, make sure that you have mastered all of the contents found here. Once you have learned a word or phrase, put a check by it with a red pen. Seriously, it helps.

The Inner Workings of Khoekhoegowab

Explaining the 4 clicks:

/ dental click: tip of the tongue is pressed against the front teeth and quickly withdrawn.

// lateral click: click sound produced at the side of the tongue when tongue is held pressed against the palate.

! palatal click: tongue is pressed against the upper palate and released sharply downwards, something like when a cork is pulled from a bottle.

≠ alveolar-palatal click: tip of the tongue is pressed against the alveolar ridge and adjacent palate, then released sharply downwards.

Alphabet:

The Khoekhoegowab Alphabet (Abetseb)

The language has 20 letters plus the 4 clicks, which brings the alphabet to 24

Fun fact: If someone has a click in front of his or her surname (//Awases) then you alphabetize it by the click

a	g	m	s	/	(/g	/h	/kh	/n)
b	i	n	t	//	(//g	//h	//kh	//n)
d	(j)*	o	u	!	(!g	!h	!kh	!n)
e	k	p	w	≠	(≠g	≠h	≠kh	≠n)
(f)*	l	r	x					
(v)*								

*The following are only found in loanwords: f, j and l.

1. VOWELS:

A *circumflex* is added to vowels ,e.g. â, î, û) to indicate nasalization. A *length-mark* ,indicated through a horizontal line on top of the vowel) is added ,e.g. ā, ȳ, ī, œ, ȷ) to indicate that the vowel is pronounced for a longer duration than normal.

Khoekhoegowab vowel	English with similar pronunciation	Khoekhoegowab example
A	'o' in dog	mapa? (where)?
E	'ay' in hay	pere-i (<i>bread</i>)
I	'ee' in bee	pirib (<i>male goat</i>)
O	'o' in 'clock'	/oro (<i>old</i>)
U	'oo' in moose	!upus (<i>egg</i>)

2. Diphthongs (Vowel combinations):

The following non-nasalized diphthongs (vowel combinations) are found in Khoekhoegowab.

Khoekhoegowab diphthongs	English with similar pronunciation	Khoekhoegowab example
Ae	'uy' in guy	≠gaes (<i>ear</i>)
Ai	'ay' in play	kai (<i>big</i>); ≠ais (<i>foot</i>)
Ao	'ow' in cow	aob (<i>man</i>)
Au	'ow' in slow	≠au (<i>slow</i>)
Oa	'oi' in abbatoir	!hoa (<i>speak</i>)
Oe	'oy' in toy	khoeb (<i>man</i>); khoes (<i>woman</i>)
Ui	'ooey' in gooey	/gui (<i>one</i>)

Clicks with vowels and consonants

	/a	//a	!a	≠a
g	/ga	//ga	!ga	≠ga
h	/ha	//ha	!ha	≠ha
n	/na	//na	!na	≠na
kh	/kha	//kha	!kha	≠kha

Diphthongs

Non-nasalised diphthongs

ae ai ao au oa oe ui

Nasalised diphthongs

âi âu ôa ûi îa

GREETINGS

1.1 Morning Greetings

*There are two types of greetings – Formal and Informal.

Type 1 – Formal Greetings (recommended)

- A. !Gâi //Goas. Good morning.
B. !Gâi //Goas. Good morning.

- A. Mî du re? How are you?
B. !Gâi a. Aitsama du mi re? I am fine. And you?

- A. !Gâi a. I am fine.

Type 2 – Informal (for friends).

- A. Moro. Morning.
B. Moro. Morning.

- A. Matisa? What's up?
B. !Gâi a. Aitsama? Fine. And you?

- A. !Gâi a. Fine.

1.2 Afternoon Greetings

There is only ONE thing that changes in the afternoon. Instead of starting with !Gâi //Goas or Moro, you start with !Gâi Tses (formal) or Metax (informal), which means good afternoon.

- A. !Gâi Tses. Good afternoon.
B. !Gâi Tses. Good afternoon.

Then, the greeting will either proceed as type 1 or type 2, by either asking Mî du re? or Matisa?

1.3 Evening Greetings

Just like with the afternoon greeting, the ONE thing that changes is !Gâi !Oes (formal) or Xoentax or Xoênâu (informal) - which means good evening.

- A. !Gâi !Oes. Good evening.
B. !Gâi !Oes. Good evening.

1.4 Basic Phrases to Introduce Yourself

Key Words

/Ons	name
Kurigu	years
Matiko?	How many/much?
Mapa?	Where?

Introduce Yourself

Ti /ons ge a Tim. My **name** is Tim.
 Mati du /on hâ? What is your name?

(how many) (years) (you have)

Matiko kurixa du a? How old are you?
 -Tita ge 24 kurixa. I am 24 years old.

Mapaxu du ra ha? Where are you *from*?
 -Tita ge Amerikaba xu ra ha. I am from America.

1.5 Leave Taking

You have several choices when you are leaving.

- A: !Gâise hâ re. Stay Well (If you are leaving them)
 B: !Gâise i re. Go Well (If they are leaving you)
- !Gâi tsesa û hâ re. Have a nice day.
- /khî ta ge ra nesi I'm coming now (if you'll be right back)
- Ī / !gû ta ge ra I'm going.
- Ēga da nî /hao We will meet later (many people 3+)
 Ēgam nî /hao. (for only 2 -2 females or 1 female and 1 male)
- //Khawa mûgus. See you again.

Personal Pronouns

ENGLISH	KHOEKHOEGOWAB
I	Tita (ta)
You mas.(fem.)	Sats (Sas)
He/She	//îb //îs
We	Sida (da)
You (plural)	Sadu (du)
They	//în

Polite Words

Gangans.	Thank you.
Kai Aios	<i>Great Thanks</i>
Toxoba.	Please.
/ûba te re	Excuse me/I'm sorry.
≠an	Sorry

Question Words

Mati?	What?	Mapa?	Where?
Tari-e? or	Who?	Mati i ĩ o? or	Why?
Hâm-e?		Tare-i !aroma?	
		Ma//ae?	When

Likes/Wants/Needs/Feelings

2.1 Likes, Wants, and Needs

Tita ge ____ !gâibahe.	I like...
Tita ge ____ ra ≠gao.	I want...
Tita ge ____ ra ≠hâba.	I need...

Examples

Tita ge ≠ai-!gais xa !gâibahe.	I like to play soccer .
Tita ge stors //ga ra ī ≠gao	I want to go to the store.
Tita ge pere-e ra ≠hâba	I need bread.
Tita ge pere-e ra //ama ≠gao	I want to buy bread

*Technically, ≠hâba means to need and ≠gao means to want. But we normally don't say you need to buy bread but instead you want to buy bread.

The questions for these will be written like this:

Tare-i xa du !gâibahe?

2.2 **Negatives** - Things you simply don't like, or want, or need. The question will be:

Tare-i xa du !gâibahe tama hâ? What do you not like?

- To make it negative, add Tama.

Tita ge ____ !gâibahe tama hâ.	I don't like...
Tita ge ____ ≠gao tama hâ.	I don't want...
Tita ge ____ ≠hâba tama hâ.	I don't need...

2.3 **Basic Feelings** - How to express the way you are feeling

Khoekhogowab takes the English form when talking about feelings.

1.) Tita ge a !âsa.	I am hungry.
2.) Tita ge a ≠khî.	I am happy.
3.) Tita ge /aesen hâ.	I am sick.
4.) Tita ge tsâu hâ.	I am tired.
Tita ge tsâusa.	

*example: Tita ge ra //om. Tita ge //om hâ
 - I am going to sleep. -I am sleeping.

These both tenses are correct but ra is meaning you're doing it while the use of hâ means it is already happening.

Feelings

<u>Feeling</u>		<u>Phrase</u>	
!âsa	hungry	Tita ge a !âsa.	I am hungry.
//gâsa	thirsty	Tita ge a //gâsa.	I am thirsty.
/ope	lazy/bored	Tita ge go /ope.	I got lazy/bored.
≠khî	happy	Tita ge a ≠khî.	I am happy.
tsâusa	tired	Tita ge a tsâusa.	I am tired.
//aixa	mad, angry	Tita ge go //aixa.	I got angry.
!ao	afraid	Tita ge ra !ao.	I am afraid.
!oa	sad	Tita ge ra !oa.	I am sad.
buru	surprised	Tita ge ra buru.	I am surprised.
//âsa	full	Tita ge a //âsa. Tita ge //â hâ	I am full. (like with food) (Most common I'm full)
sûrîxa/tâuxa	jealous	Tita ge a sûrîxa / tâuxa.	I am jealous.
		*Sûrîxa jealous of someone's progress. Tâuxa is when quarreling about a boyfriend (being jealous).	
tao	shy	Tita ge ra tao.	I am shy.
//khoa≠gao	brave	Tita ge a //khoa≠gao.	I am brave.
≠û//oa	mean	Tita ge a ≠û//oa	I am mean.
/khe / ≠khaisa	smart	Tita ge a /khe / ≠khaisa	I am smart.
	**(≠khaisa more common)		
Ga-ai	clever	Tita ge a ga-ai	I am clever
Sâsa	relaxed	Tita ge a sâsa .	I am relaxed.
≠âi≠hansen	worried	Tita ge ra ≠âi≠hansen.	I am worried.

Common Questions About Feelings

//gâsa du a? - Are you thirsty?
-î. //gâsa ta a – Yes, I am thirsty.

!âsa du a? - Are you hungry?
-î. !âsa ta a! – Yes, I'm hungry!

//â du hâ? //âsa du a?- Are you full?
-hî-î !âsa ta a– No, I am hungry.

Social/Classroom Language.

ENGLISH	KHOEKHOEGOWAB
To speak	!hōa re
Speak Slower	≠ause !hōa re
Speak louder	!gárise !hōa re
Please Repeat	//Khawa mî re toxoba
How do you say ... in KKG?	Mati du ra KKG !nâ ... mî?
What does ... mean?	... tare-e ra ≠âibasen
Word?	Mîs?
I don't understand	//nâu!a tama ta ge hâ
I can't hear you	//Nâu du tama ta ge hâ
What is that/this?	Tare-e //na-e/ ne-e?

3.1 The phrases you can't live without

/U ta a. – I don't know.

Tita ge a Khoekhoegowaba !hōa tama hâ. –	I don't speak Khoekhoegowab.
/Apa!aogowab !nâ !hōa u te. –	Speak to me in English.
Tita ge khoekhoegowaba /orose ra !hōa. –	I speak KKG less.
Tita ge khoekhoegowaba ≠kharirose ra !hōa.	I speak a little bit of KKG.

Tita ge khoekhoegowaba ra //kha//khasen. –	I study Khoekhoegowab.
--	------------------------

Ha re. Come.	Ū re. – To Take
/Khī re	
Ha re neba Come here.	Au te re Give me
/Khī re neba	Ma te re Give me

3.2 Basic Questions and Responses for Everyday Situations

Tare-e du ra dī?	What are you doing?
- Xu-e ta dī tama hâ.	Nothing.
- Tita ge ≠khanisa ra khom-ai	I am reading a book.

Mapa du ra ī? / Mapa du ra !gû/ī?	Where are you going?
- Tita ge stors //gar a ī!/gû?	I am going to the store.

Mapa du go hâ i?	Where were you?
- Oms tawa	At home.
- Okahandjas !nâ.	In Okahandja.

***When you are looking for someone**

Mapa du hâ?	Where are you?
Chrissa mapa hâ?	Where is Chris?
//îba //îsa a tari?	Who is he/she?

***When you are going somewhere**

/Khida î.	Let's go
Toa du go?	Are you done?
//Khoaxa i go i?	Was it good?
-Kaise go //khoaxa i.	It was very good.

***When you need clarification....**

//Nâu!a du ra?	Do you understand?
- î. //nâu!a ta ra	Yes, I understand.
Tîna du u hâ?	Do you have questions?
- Tî-e ta u hâ	Yes, I have a question.
Tare-e du go dî?	What did you do?
- xu-e ta dî tama hâ.	Nothing.
Tare-e du ra ôa?	What are you looking for?
- Chrissa ta ra ôa	I want Chris.
Toa du go?	Are you finished?
- î. toa ta go.	I am finished.
Matiko //aexa i go?	What time is it?
- Disi(10) ir go.	It's 10 o'clock.

The Key to Unlocking Your Tongue

4.1 How to Use Present Tense Verbs

In Khoekhoegowab the present tense word is **ge ra**. See how it is used in the examples below!

Xoa – to write

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Tita ge ra xoa. | I write/I'm writing |
| 2. Tita ge ra xoa #gao. | I want to write. |
| 3. Tita ge xoas xa !gâibahe. | I like to write. |

ī / !gû- to go

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Tita ge ra ī / !gù | I am going. |
| 2. Tita ge ra !gù #gao. | I want to go. |

Or, if you are talking about someone

//Kha//khasen- to study/to learn

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. //fīb / //fīs ge ra //kha//khasen. | You are studying. |
| 2. //fīb / //fīs ge ra //kha//khasen #gao . | You want to study. |
| 3. //fīb / //fīs ge //khakhasens xa !gâibahe. | You like to study. |

Do you see how easy it is to express yourself using just those three expressions that you already know? On the next two pages, you will find a list of the most used verbs in any language.

You should focus on learning approximately 10 new verbs per day. Ten words? That is no problem at all! Do that, and you will be able to express yourself in 99% of all situations in merely 10 days. Keep with it. Focus on one group of words at a time and no more. Once you have mastered a verb and can recite it without looking at the definition, put a check next to it and move on. If there is a verb that you don't think you will ever need or use, skip it. There is no need to spend time on learning what you won't use. You will be able to say about 500 simple phrases when you are done. Enjoy.

4.2 The Most Used Verbs

Feelings

//nâu	– to hear
âi	– to laugh
/nam	– to love
/gâipe	– to joke
≠gôm	– to believe
ã –	– to cry
/hūpuba ta ge	– to suffer

Travel

/noba	– to walk
Dī	– to do
Sari	– to visit
/khupi	– to borrow
/khi-u	– to bring
ho	– to find
hō	– to touch
≠na	– to dance
//nae	– to sing
≠gāi	– to call
/api	– to rain

At Home

//om	– to sleep
≠khai	– to wake up
ana	– to dress
daba	– to change
//ā	– to wash
//āsen	– to bathe
dī-unu	– to fix
om	– to build
//an	– to live
ī // aru	– to leave

Sports

!khoe	– to run
/huru	– to play
//kha	- can/to be able to
tsâ	– to swim
tsûtsû	- to hurt
≠oa!nâ	- to lose
aosen	– to sweat
tsoatsoa	- to start/begin
toa	- to finish

School Part 1

!hōa	– to speak
//kha//khasen	– to learn
//kha//kha	– to teach
khom-ai	– to read
teken	– to draw
verf	– to paint
mîba // gamba	– to tell
!gâ	– to listen
≠nû	– to sit
Mâ	– to stand
Khaimâ	– to stand up

School Part 2

Mî!a	– to explain
Sîsen	– to work
Tî	– to ask
!lream	– to answer
Kō	– to watch
Ho-ām	– to succeed
≠âi	– to think
/uru	– to forget
≠an	– to know
!gōa	– to count
/napu	– to sweep

Kitchen

≠û	– to eat
a	– to drink
sâi	– to cook
tsâtsâ	– to taste
!gao	– to cut
ham	– to smell
huni	– to stir
≠nûi // gui / mai	– to put
≠nâ // ho	– to pour
/oa/oa	- to fill

Health

/aesen	– to be sick
≠gae	– to smoke
!gae	– to complain
//ui	– to cough
!anu	- to clean
//na	- to fall
khôa	- to break

The Store

//ama	– to buy / to shop
//amaxu	– to sell
u	– to take
u hâ	– to get / to have
mû	– to see
ma / matare	– to give / to pay
//khowa-am	– to open
≠gan-am	– to close
!nari	– to drive
mā-≠ui	– to spend

Computer

Sîsen-u	– to use
!ream	– to reply
sî	– to send
!âu	– to wait
≠humi	– to organize
kuru / di-unu	– to fix
tek	– to type
u-!oa	– to accept
//naxu-≠ui	– to cancel
ma-am	– to allow

Present tense

Tita ge ra ≠û ≠û ta ra
I am eating

Sida ge ra ≠û ≠û da ra
We are eating

Sadu ge ra ≠û ≠û du ra
You are eating

Future Tense

Tita ge nî ≠û ≠û ta nî
I will eat

Past Tense (recent past)

Tita ge go ≠û ≠û ta go
I have eaten.

Past Tense (Far Past)

Tita ge ge ≠û ≠û ta ge ge
I had eaten.

Using hâ

Tita ge //om hâ //om ta hâ
I'm sleeping

Tita ge go //om hâ i. //om ta go hâ i.
I slept

Tita ge nî //om. //om ta nî
I will sleep

4.3 THE BASIC WORDS - the one page to success

These are some of the most basic words you can use to form sentences and knowing them will help you tremendously in the long run. By using these words in combination with the verb phrases you just learned, you will be able to form much more complex and meaningful sentences.

Conjunctions

Amaga / !aroma	because
Tsî	and
Xawe	but
//khati	also
ai-lâ	before
khao-!gâ	after
tamas ka i o	or

Timely Words

/ni//ae	sometimes
!na-korobe	often
hoa//ae	always
≠gúro	first
nesi	now
/úni	last

Quantity Words

!nása	more
≠kharise	little
!násaase	most
≠gūi	many
/gúi	only
//aupexa	almost

Nouns

Xu-i	thing
!khaib	place

Prepositions

/kha	with
xu	from

Examples of More Complex Sentences

Pere-i xa du ga !gâibahe tama i o tã ≠û re (then)
If you don't like to eat bread, then don't eat it!

Outjob tamas ka i o /Anes //ga du ra i ≠gao? (or)
Do you want to go to Outjo or Rehoboth?

!Khoe ta ga o ta ge ra asen, //na amaga ta ge ra //asen. (that's why)
When I run I sweat, that's why I am washing/bathing.

The Technical

The Necessary Details

Kate: “Are you reading the dictionary?”

White: “Oh, you caught me. I like to break a mental sweat too.”

- Dodgeball, the movie

Are you ready to break a mental sweat? The Technical contains the necessary details about Khoekhoegowab that you need to know in the beginning. Even if you don't think you will need to know everything in this section, it will help you in one way or another. For example, you might think to yourself - I don't want to waste my time learning about adjectives. I don't need that. Well, you might not need to use adjectives when you are speaking, but it will help you understand other people when they are speaking, instead of getting “hung up” on part of the phrase that you don't understand. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the details, so expect to feel more frustrated in this section. However, once you learn everything here (notice how I did not say if you learn everything here), your understanding of Khoekhoegowab will be much higher and the rules that guide the language will soon guide you.

Commands

The Key to Speaking With Authority

6.2 The Best Commands To Use When...

*When telling someone **to come with you...**

ī //kha da a?	Can we go?
Î, a da i re.	Yes, Let's go.

*When telling someone **to go away...**

oa oms //ga!	Go home!
//naba sī	Go there.
≠oa hoado	Get out! (all of you)
//naxu te	Leave me alone.
Tā neba /huru!	Don't play here!
Be	Go away (rude)
Be xu te	Get away from me (rude)
Tā tsâ /kha te	Don't touch me.
Tare-e?	What is it?

*When telling someone **wait for you...**

//nam re!	Wait a minute!
!âu te re.	Wait for me.

*When you are **asking for something...**

Au te re....	Give me ...
Ma te re	

*When you are **in a hurry...**

!haese di re.	Do it fast.
!noe re	Hurry up
Ha re !haese.	Come here quickly
/Khi re !haese	

*When you **can't hear...**

!gārise !hōa re.	Speak loudly.
≠ause !hōa re	Speak slowly.
Mība te re	Tell me....
!hōa/û re	Stop talking. (all of you)
//Khawa mī re?	Say it again

Possessives

6.1 The 5 possessive **stems**. Memorize these.

-Ti a	mine
-Sa a	yours
-//îb / //îs di a	his/hers
-//în di a	theirs
-sida di a	ours

Examples

Ti penciili.	My pencil.
Sa oms.	Your house.
//îb / //îs di chalk-i	His/her chalk.
//în di stuls.	Their chair.
Sida di #haweb.	Our paper.

Common Grammar Issues

7.1 How to use **have** correctly.

Tare-e du u hâ?	What do you have?
-Tita ge penna u hâ.	I have a pen

7.2 How to say **with.... me, you, him/her, them, or us.**

Tita ge //îb /kha hâ.	I'm with him
//îb ge //în /kha hâ	He's with them.

7.3 Locatives

This is certainly an advanced topic that you may or may not want to try to learn if you don't want to confuse yourself. If you are going for the gold, then try to learn these. They will help you in the long run.

* How to say in, on, and at

<u>!Nâ (≠Gâ)</u>	<u>in</u>
//Naba ≠gâ.	Go in there.
≠gâxa .	Come in.
<u>Tawa</u>	<u>at</u>
oms tawa hâ.	Stay at home.
<u>Ai</u>	<u>on</u>
Stuls ai ≠nû.	Sit on the chair.

* How to say here, there, over there, and in here.

Neba = here
//gan-e neba ≠nûi re. Put the meat here. (on top of something, like a plate)

//Naba = there
//gan-e //naba ≠nûi re. Put the meat there. (nearby)

Nauba = over there
//gan-e nauba ≠nûi re. Put the meat over there. (over yonder)

Adjectives

If you feel overwhelmed by this section, skip it and come back once you are more comfortable with the language. All of the adjectives listed below are called adjective stems – meaning, they come after the prefix. You will learn how to attach the correct prefix to the adjectives on the next page.

8.1 The 20 Most Important Adjective Stems

Appearance

-!sa / !xa beautiful / nice
-//gaisi bad / ugly

Difficulty

-!gōm difficult/heavy
-súpu easy / light

Intelligence

-#khaisa smart
-gâre dumb / stupid

Size

-Kai big
-#khari small
-gaxu tall / long
-!nubu short

Colors

-!luri white
-#nu black
-/apa red
#hoa blue
/hai grey
#gama brown
!huni yellow

Temperature

-/gāmsa hot
-!khāi cold

Taste

-//khoaxa sweet / delicious
-/khuru sour/salty

Weight

-!gōm heavy
-súpu light / easy

Attitude

-!gâi kind
-khoexa!nâ friendly
-#u//oa mean
-/opesa lazy

Section Three

The Practical

Applying What You Know

“My words itch at your ears till you understand them.”

-Walt Whitman
Author

The Practical contains a lot of useful vocabulary that can be helpful depending on what your job is and where you live. Focus on learning what is applicable to you. For example, if you are a teacher, you probably don't need to learn the same words and phrases as a volunteer that works in the clinic. If you don't live in the village, then you probably don't need to learn about plants and animals. You are almost done with this book, so keep your spirits high and your tongue ready to speak!

At School

Teaching will seem much easier if you have a better understanding of words and phrases that are commonly used and can be helpful inside the classroom. You may not need to know all of the phrases below, but remember – the more you know, the more you can say to the learners and the more you will understand them if they ask questions. All of the phrases are broken up into smaller groups of related ideas. As always, focus on one group of phrases at a time and start slowly chipping away at the monster, one group at a time. If you feel overwhelmed, slow down and start with less.

9.1 School Vocabulary

About the School

Skolli	school
Skol-i	a school
//Gau!nâ-ao-i	teacher
skol-/gôan	learners
khoen	people
!gubis	grade
!gubis	class

Subjects

/apa!aogowab	English
!gôan	Math
≠ans	Science

Classroom Vocabulary

Tîn	questions
!gõmsi-i	problem
tafels	desk, table
stuls	chair
≠haweb	paper
rulerb	ruler
chalk-i	chalk
chalkboards	chalkboard
/napus	broom
/apoxawab	trash
xóa!nâ≠khanisnotebook	
xóaxúrub	a pencil

Tita ge a //gau!na-ao masenxa-sisen-ao -I am a volunteer teacher

9.2 Commands & Phrases - You Need To Know As A Teacher

Powerful Commands

Tita kō	Look at me!
≠âisa ≠nûi!	Pay attention!
!gārise !hōa!	Speak loudly!
!hōa /û hoado!	Stop talking! (all of you)
//khowa-ama hâ ū!	Bring the key!

About Comprehension

//nâu!a te du ra?

Tîna du ū hâ?

Huiba du ≠hâba hâ?

Toa du go?

Masa !ere-am?

Tari-e / hām-e !ereamsa a ≠an?

/khunuba ukhâi ≠an du ga o.

Do you understand me?

Do you have questions?

Do you need help?

Are you done? (plural)

What is the answer?

Who knows the answer?

Raise your arm if you know.

Commands Regarding Learning

Xoa //nâ.

!haese xoa.

≠âis !nâ u hâ.

Ne !gōmsib ai sîsen.

≠âis !nâ //kha//khasensa u hâ.

Write this down.

Write quickly.

Remember.

Work on this problem.

Remember to study.

Phrases Regarding BOOKS

≠khanina ≠ganam.

≠khanina //khowa-am.

≠khanina ma !khunigu .

Xōa /û.

Hoadu ge nî xōa.

Sadu xōa !nâ ≠khanina hâ u!

Hoadu xoa!nâ ≠khanina ta u hâ?

Close your books.

Open your books.

Switch notebooks.

Stop writing.

Everyone should be writing.

Bring your notebooks!

Do I have everyone's notebooks?

Motivational Statements

//Gāu!nâs ge ≠hâ≠hâsa.

Kaise ≠hâ≠hâsa.

/Gaisase ditsâ.

Nen ge nî merk-e.

Tā !ao !ereamsa.

//Na-i ge ≠hanu tama hâ.

//Na-i ge ≠hanu.

≠âisa ≠nûi.

!Kharu du nî ditsâ du ka o.

Education is important.

It is very important.

Try harder.

This will be for a grade.

Don't be afraid to answer.

That is not correct.

That is correct.

Pay attention.

You will pass if you try.

Basic Phrases and Questions About School In General

Mapa du ra sisen? à Tita ge skolli dawa ra sisen.	– Where do you work? – I work at the school.
Tita ge /apa!aogowab di //gau!nâ-ao.	– I am an English teacher.
Tita ge !gōan di //gau!nâ-ao.	– I am a math teacher
Tare-e du ra //kha//kha? à Tita ge !gōana ra //kha//kha - I teach math.	– What do you teach?
Ma !gubisa du ra //kha//kha? àTita ge //khaisa //î !gubisa ra //kha//kha.	– What grade do you teach? – I teach grade 8.
Matiko /gōana du u hâ sadu !gubis !nâ? àTita ge !nonadisi /gōana u hâ.	– How many learners are in your class? - I have 30 learners.
≠nu pen-e du u hâ? à Ti oms !nâ ta ge pen-e u hâ.	– Do you have a black pen? – I have a pen in my house.

Add your own helpful phrases here:

At the Clinic

Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

10.1 Parts of the body

Head

Danas	head
Ais	face
/ûn	hair
!aos	neck
âms	mouth
≠Guis	nose
nammi	tongue
mûs	eye
//Gaes	ear
//Gûb	tooth

Mid – section

//ôab	arm
!ommi	hand
/khunub / ≠ai/khunub	finger/toe
!Nab	stomach
Âis	liver
Sôgu	lungs

Lower Body

/Nugu	leg
≠Ais	foot
//Góas	knee
≠Aredi	buttocks

I am a Health Volunteer: Tita ge a ≠urisib masenxa-sîsen-ao

10.2 Clinic Vocabulary

/ae-ao-i	patient
/Aedi-ao-i	nurse
/Aedi//gâus	clinic
/Aedi//gâub	hospital
pel-i	tablets
vitamin-i	vitamin
viris-i	virus
Kai hakas	AIDS
Kondom-i	condom
Sat-i	sperm
Naldi	syringe
!hôa!nâ-oms	operating room
//Ora !nâ-oms	maternity ward

Sample Dialogue in a Clinic

Mati ta hui du //kha?
à Tita ge !nâ-tsûba u hâ.

How can I help you?
I have a stomachache.

Ma//ae-i go tsoatsoa?
à Aetse ge tsoatsoa.

When did it start?
It started the day before yesterday.

!gâi a. u si sadu pelna
àKai gangans.

Ok, go collect your tablets.
Thank you very much.

Homecorp 4/6/15 12:58 PM

Comment [1]:

10.3 Basic Phrases Regarding Health

Tita ge /aesen hâ.	I am sick.
Tita ge danatsûba uhâ.	I have a headache.
Tita ge mû !gômsiba u hâ.	I have an eye problem.
Tita ge ra somge-ai.	I am dizzy.
Tita ge ra /khûi.	I am vomiting.
Tita ge ra uixa	I am feeling nauseas
Tita ge !haba u hâ.	I have diarrhoea.
Tita ge //uiba u hâ.	I have a cough.
Tita ge ra //ui.	I am coughing.
Tita ge xansa u hâ.	I have asthma.
Tita ge malarisa u hâ.	I have malaria.
Tita ge //gûtsûba u hâ	I have a toothache.
//îb / //îs ge karo!naba u hâ.	He/she has constipation.
//îb / //îs ge chickenpoksa û hâ.	He/she has chickenpox.
//îb / //îs ge dora≠guiba u hâ.	He/she has a nosebleed.
//îb / //îs ge ra dora.	He/she is bleeding.
//îb / //îs ge measlesa u hâ.	He/she has measles.
//îb / //îs ge //khaisa u hâ.	He/she has a cold.

Healthcare in Namibia

Namibia is generally a healthy country compared to many African countries (including those where Peace Corps Volunteers are working), but is not without its problems. Although the Namibian Government operates a comprehensive health care system, it is limited in its capacity due to limited resources. Namibia does not have a medical school of its own and therefore the large majority of doctors are from other countries and often do not speak the local language (and some do not speak English fluently either). Consequently the Namibian health care system relies heavily on its nurses and other medical staff. If you require immediate attention at a local clinic you will most likely be conversing with the nurses, who in most cases will speak the local language but may or may not be conversant in English. For this reason it is imperative that volunteers know basic phrases regarding their physical and emotional health.

Additionally, transport may be difficult to and from clinics and hospitals in extremely rural areas. Namibians in these areas are accustomed to using canoes (in areas near a river), cattle, and donkey carts to transport extremely ill patients to the clinic. It may be a good idea to assess the plausibility of transport from your site in case of an extreme emergency. However, most urban volunteers or volunteers at larger schools will most likely not encounter this situation. Otherwise, it is best to assume the old Peace Corps adage; an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

At Home

11.1 Cooking, Food, and Drinks

If you find yourself cooking often with locals or your host family, this section will be helpful. These are the basic words about food and drinks that you will need to know to get by. However, if you never cook and don't feel that you will ever cook, skip this section and come back later if you feel like learning it.

Meal Times

//Goa#ûs	breakfast
Metax#ûs	lunch
!ui#ûs	supper

In The Kitchen

!ores	plate
//goab	spoon
verkheb	fork
Kopis	cup
Xlas	glass

Key Verbs

#û	to eat
A	to drink
Sâi	to cook
tsâtsâ	to taste / to try
!gao	to cut
!khâba	to smell
Huni	to stir

Helpful Phrases About Cooking

#hûmisa i a?	Is it ready?
Tita ge #û-e ra sâi.	I am cooking food.
Tare-e du ra sâi?	What are you cooking?
Gangans #û-i !aroma.	Thank you for the food.
!gâise ra //khoa.	It tastes delicious.
!gâise ra ham.	It smells delicious.

Helpful Phrases About Chores

//gam-e ta ra u.	I am fetching water.
//gam-e da #gao tama hâ.	We don't want water.
Sida //gamxaban ge /oa hâ.	Our water jugs are full.
Tita ge ti jarsa ra !anu.	I am cleaning my yard.
Tita ge ti omsa ra /napu.	I am sweeping my house.

Types of Food

The Staple Foods

≠û-i	food
Mai-i	porridge
Pere-i	bread
Raisi-i	rice
Macaroni-i	macaroni
//nui-i	oil
boter-i	butter
sop-i	soup
tsámperre-i	cake

Hai≠ûn – Fruits

Apels	apples
lemuns	orange
per-i	pear
banana-i	banana
draiwe-i	grapes
guava-i	quava
sirlemuns	lemon
mango-i	mango

//Gan-i – Meat

//au-i	fish
ani//gan-i	chicken
piri//gan-i	goat
/ho-i	sausage
Goma//gan-i	beef

!hana≠ûn - Vegetables

/ari-i	carrot
!aia-i	potatoes
Pata-i	sweet potatoes
Bonjin	beans
ui-i	onions
papus	pumpkin
peanut-i	groundnuts
kol-i	cabbage

áxun – Drinks

//gam-i	water
dai-i	milk
te-i	tea
kofi-i	coffee
≠auxûib	wine
!khari-i	beer
whisky-i	whisky
!khai ≠khon-i	cool drink
Sap-i	juice

11.2 Clothing

It is highly unlikely that you will have to talk about clothing very often, if ever. But just in case, here is everything you need to know.

Types of Clothing

Upper – Body

Saran	clothes
Paks	suit
Hems	shirt
t-hems	t-shirt
Jersis	jersey/sweater
Bajis	jacket
//gāb	necktie
bras	bra
caps	cap
/gapas	hat
scarffi	head scarf/beanie
//ae!gôas	watch

Lower –Body

kausigu	socks
//harodi	shoes
purukhoeb	trousers
skers	skirt
rokhoes	dress
!nâ!gun	underwear
purukhoes	shorts
blusis	blouse
bels	belt

Verbs

Anatsâ	to fit in
≠hau≠hau	to iron
!gâise ra mûsen	it looks nice

Helpful Phrases About Clothes

Tita ge ti sarana ra //a. I am washing my clothes.

Ti saran ge ra ≠nâ. My clothes are drying.

Tita ge sadu di /apa hems tsî ≠hoa /gabas xa !gâibahe.
I like your red shirt and blue hat.

Tita ge !am hems tsî !huni jaketsa ana hâ.
I am wearing a green shirt and a yellow jacket.

11.3 Family

If your family comes to visit you from back home, or if you simply want to talk about your family with those in your community, these are the words that will help you get by.

Key Words

Familib/omáris	Family
Mamas	Mother
Dadab	Father
//nurisab/s	Cousin
Khoeb	Man
Khoes	Woman

Brothers and sisters

≠kham !gâsab	Younger brother
≠kham !gâsas	Younger sister
Kai !gâsab (Aputib)	Older brother
Kai !gâsas (Auis)	Older sister

Potentially Helpful Phrases

Neb ge ti familiba.	This is my family.
Nes ge ti mamasa.	This is my mother.
Neb ge ti dadaba.	This is my father.

//ín ge Amerikaba xu ra sari. They are visiting from America.

Tita ge /gui ≠kham !gâsab tsî /gui !gâsasa u hâ.
I have one younger brother and one sister in my family.

In The Village

12.1 Shopping

Market Vocabulary

Stors	shop	Sent-i	cent
Mark	market	//amaxus	sale
Dir a	expensive	matiko?	how much?
Xudkop a	cheap	//ama	to buy
Mari-i	money	//amaxu-ao-i	seller
Dollar-i	dollar	//ama-ao-i	buyer

Potential and Probable Village Dialog

- A. Tare-e du ra //ama ≠gao? – What do you want to buy?
 B. Tita ge pere-e ra //ama ≠gao, !âsa ta a amaga.
 I need to buy bread because I am hungry.
- A. Mari-i au te re. – Give me money.
 B. Hî-î, Tita ge ti mari-e ≠hâba hâ. – No, I need my money.
 A. Tita ge a !âsa. – But I am hungry.
 B. Tita tsîn. – Me too.
- A. Pere-e matiko-e ra ≠gan? – How much does the bread cost?
 B. Disi Dollarga ra ≠gan. – Ten dollars.
- A. Dir a. – Wow, that is expensive.
 B. Hî-î, xudkop a. – No, it is cheap.
- A. O marisa u re. – Ok, take the money.
 B. Gangans. !gâise î re. – Thank you. Go well.
 A. !Gâise hâ re. – Stay well.
- A: Mapa du go //ama? Where did you buy it?
 B: Mr. Price dawa ta go //ama. I bought it at Mr. Price
 *You can add an article of clothing by adding it to the end
 Ex: Mapa du go //ama hemsâ? Where did you buy that shirt?
- A: Matiko-e go ≠gan? How much did it cost?
 B: korodisi dollarga go ≠gan. It cost \$50.

12.2 Navigating and Directions

Directions and Key Words

/apas north
!khawagas south
ai≠oas east
huri≠oas west

/gapise on top of
!naga on the bottom of
Ams-ai to the right
//ares-ai to the left

!ab river
daob road
drae turn
≠hanuse / !oa go straight

Sample Dialogue – Practice Make Perfect.

This is a sample dialogue that you could perhaps engage in one day. Pay close attention to the key words in bold and focus on what the basic meanings of the questions and responses are – even if you don't understand everything in between. Go for basic understanding.

A: Matisa ti /ho? - How are you, friend?
B: !gâi a. I am fine.

A: Postkantorsa mapa hâ? - where is the post office?
B: Postkantors ge dorb !nâ ≠nôa. – It's in town.

A: Mati ta //naba nî si? – How to I get there?
B: daoba sao. - Just follow this road.
Stors dawa //ares-ai drae. – At the store, turn left.

A. Nebaxu matikose i a !nu? - How far is it from here?
B. nebaxu a disi kilometre. - It is 10 kilometres from here.

A: Postkantorsa //are/khab ai ≠nôa? Is the post office on the left side of the road?
B: Hî-î, daob am/khab ai. – No, It is on the right side of the road.

A: Kai gangans ti /ho. - Thank you very much friend.
B: !gâi a. – Fine.

12.3 Plants and Animals

If you find yourself working with animals, such as milking cows or goats, maybe this will be helpful for you. If you don't think you need any of it, at least learn the basic domestic animals. You will hear those words relatively frequently.

Domestic animals

Gomas	cow
Gomab///gob	ox/bull
//Gob	ox
Piris	goat
Gus	sheep
Varkheb	pig
Anis	chicken
Hāb	horse
Arib	dog
/hōas	cat

Wild animals

Xammi	lion
≠khoab	elephant
!góreb	zebra
!árub	cheetah
!garo!naib	giraffe
!naib	Camel
≠hirab	hyena

Plants

/gân	grass
------	-------

/has hare

Birds

!ari!khas	eagle
≠napus	dove
/amis	ostrich
kai anis	vulture
/honos	owl

Reptiles

/aob	snake
≠gabib	turtle
khurutsikhūbeb	chameleon
Crocodil-i	crocodile

Insects

/entsib	mosquito
/ginas	fly
!habub	bee

Days, Time, and Weather

13.1 Days of the Week

Mantaxtsēs	Monday
Denstaxtsēs	Tuesday
Wunstaxtsēs	Wednesday
Donertaxtsēs	Thursday
Fraitaxtsēs	Friday
Satertaxtsēs	Saturday
Sontaxtsēs	Sunday

A: Netsesa ma tsē?
B: Netsēs ge a Mantaxtsē.

What day is it (today)?
Today is Monday.

A: //arisa go mâtse i?
B: //aris ge go Sontaxtsē i.

What day was yesterday?
Yesterday was Sunday.

A: //arisa matse?
B: //aris ge Denstaxtsē.

What day is tomorrow?
Tomorrow is Tuesday.

A: Aetsesa go matse i?
B: Aetses ge go Satertaxtsē.

What was the day before yesterday?
It was Saturday.

A: Aetsesa matse?
B: Aetses ge Wunstaxtsesa.

What is the day after tomorrow?
It will be Wednesday.

Wunstaxtsēs ge go !gâi tsē i.

Wednesday was a nice day.

13.2 Time Related Words

Days, Weeks, Months

Tsēs	day
Netsē	today
//aris	yesterday / tomorrow
Wekheb	week
//khâb	month / the moon

Which Day or Year?

≠oago kuri	last year
Ne kuri	this year
Aetsē	the day after tomorrow
Aetsē	the day before yesterday

Time of Day

//Goas	morning
Tsēb	afternoon
!oes	evening
!oes	night

Descriptions of WHEN

!nubu //aeb !nâ	in a short while
//aero-i !kharuhâse	a few moments ago
nesi	just now

Time of Day – less common words

Vru //goaga	early in the morning
tsēa	day time
/hōpob	moonlight / starlight

Time Itself

haib	minute
/gâub	second
Kamab //aeb	hour

13.3 Useful Expressions About Weather

Kaise /gāmsa	It is very hot.
!khai a.	It is cool/cold.
/nanuxa ai a.	It is cloudy.
≠oaxa a.	It is windy.
/api ra	It is raining.
!khae a.	It is dark.
/khurub	drought.

A: Netsesa mati tsâ? How is the day?
B: Netses ge ≠oaxa. Today is windy.

13.4 Months and Seasons

It is highly unlikely that you will need to know the names of the months and seasons, but in case you have an inkling for learning more, here they are:

Seasons

!khā//khaeb	spring
//khúnab	summer
sāob	winter
hai!kharub	autumn

Names of the Months

!khanni (Januari//khâb)	January
!khan/gôab (februari//khâb)	February
/khū//khâb (mar//khâb)	March
!hōa≠khaib (aprel//khâb)	April
!khaitsâb (mai//khâb)	May
Gama/aeb (juni//khâb)	June
≠khoesāob (juli//khâb)	July
Ao//khumû//khâb (Axoste//khâb)	August
Tara//khumû//khâb (September//khâb)	September
≠nu//nâiseb (Oktober//khâb)	October
/Ho≠gaeb (November//khâb)	November
hōasoreb (Desember//khâb)	December

A: Neba ma kuri? Which year is it?
B: Neb ge 2015. It is 2015.

A: Neba ma //khâ?
B: Neb ge gama/aeba. Which month is this?
It is June.

A: !goaxa //khâba ma? What is next month?
B: !goaxa ge /ho≠gaeb. Next month is November.

A: ≠oago //khâba go ma i? What was last month?
B: ≠oago //khâb ge go Oktober//khâb. Last month was October.

Counting

Counting in Khoekhoegowab is actually very simple.

The First 10 Numbers (1 – 10)

/gúí	one
/gam	two
!nona	three
haka	four
koro	five
!nani	six
hû	seven
//khaisa	eight
khoesa	nine
disi	ten

Counting from 11 to 20

Disi/gui/a (/gui/a)	eleven
Disi/gam/a (/gam/a)	twelve
Disi!nona/a (!nona/a)	thirteen
Disihaka/a (haka/a)	fourteen
Disikoro/a (koro/a)	fifteen
Disi!nani/a (!nani/a)	sixteen
Disihû/a(hû/a)	seventeen
Disi//khaisa/a (/khaisa/a)	eighteen
Disikhoesa/a (khoesa/a)	nineteen
/gamdisi	twenty

Counting beyond 20

!nonadisi	30
hakadisi	40
korodisi	50
!nanidisi	60
hûdisi	70
//khaisadisi	80
khoesedisi	90
kaidisi	100
kai/oadisi	1000

Example Phrases Using Numbers

Tita ge /gamdisi!nani/a (26) kurixa. - I am 26 years old
/Gamdisi!nani/a kurixa ta a

Tita ge hû vetkukde ra //ama #gao. - I want to buy 7 fat cakes.
Hû vetkukde ta ra //ama #gao

Tita ge /gam perekha ra //ama #gao. - I want to buy 2 loafs of bread.
/Gam perekha ta ra //ama #gao

A: Matiko //aexa i go?	What time is it?
B: Disi/gam/a ir go?	It is 12 o'clock.
OR	
B: Koron go #oa disisa xu?	It is 5 past 10
OR	
B: !khare disi go.	It is half past 9

The Phrases You Wish You Knew Coming Into Site:

**A note from PCV Kaitlynn:*

It took me a while to figure out these fun (and more practical) things to say at site. Have a little fun with the language and the people! I do stay with Damaras and our language differs from the Namas, so some things are different depending on the tribe.

For many of these you can insert your own words (ex: where I put Clinic feel free to say skolli or oms)

/hûb or /hûs	White man or lady (Make sure to remember this one!)
Huiba ta ge ≠haba hâ.	I want help.
U ha re ī <u>Nicole</u> sa si ma.	Come take this to Nicole.
/Hoe te its koro?	Are you gossiping me?
//Ae ma ta ge hâ.	I don't care.
//Ore xats ge a.	You are naughty (easily my most used phrase)
<u>kliniks</u> //gâ ta ge ra i.	I'm going to the Clinic.
<u>Outjob</u> //gâ ta ge ra i.	I'm going to Outjo
<u>/ae//gams</u> //gâ ta ge go i.	I went to Windhoek .
<u>Kai//khaes</u> //gâ ta ge nî i.	I will go to Okahandja .
Ta !ga si.	Don't Listen.
Matiko //aeba nî ū.	How long will it take?
≠oa re i tsi /huru.	Go outside and play.
!nō re	Quiet
Mati tsâ <u>Kamanjaba</u> ?	How is Kamanjab?
Sa naweksa mati go tsâ î?	How was your weekend? (for one person)
Sa omaris xa mi re?	How is your family?
/Gam xu /gui ge	One or the other (ex. You either say or you go.) Can be used for any this or that scenario.
≠Na re	Dance (telling someone to do it)
xu-i /khai	There is nothing
Toa go	It's finished
Matits ta mî?	What did you say? (less polite i.e. for friends or people talking about you while you're standing right there.)

The Road Ahead

How To Become Fluent In Khoekhoegowab

Becoming fluent? Isn't that really hard? Well, the simple answer is yes. Becoming fluent in a language will take a lot of practice and determination on your part. If you have finished this book and absorbed all of its contents, then you have certainly learned a lot of helpful vocabulary, verbs, and rules, but are by no means *fluent*. You have taken the first step to speaking the language well, but how exactly do you obtain fluency?

You have to change the way you approach speaking and more importantly - thinking. Instead of just saying something in English because it is easier, first **stop and think** – “Do I know how to say this in Khoekhoegowab?” You may not know the exact words to say what you want, but you can *probably* piece it together.

The Puzzle Pieces

See, you already learned how to say everything in that phrase. You just have to put the pieces together. And guess what? Even if you don't say it perfectly, they will certainly understand the point you are trying to make. **Don't be afraid** to try to say things you don't know yet. You *can* put it together. Do you think the Namibians' English is perfect? No, but they get their ideas across by saying what they know after putting the pieces of the language puzzle together.

10 Tips On How To Become Fluent

1. **Stop** - Using English as a crutch to lean on
2. **Be Proactive** - tell people to only speak to you in Khoekhoegowab unless you ask for English
3. **Think** - Do you know the words for what you want to say?
4. **Act** - Put the pieces (the words) together the best you can
5. **Follow Up** - Ask if what you said was correct
6. **Learn** - Take note of what you did wrong (if anything)
7. **Ask** - If you have *no idea* how to say something, ask someone and write it down
8. **Practice** - Continually practice everyday
9. **Be Persistent** – Keep trying and don't be lazy, you know more than you think
10. **Be Confident** - Don't be afraid to say things incorrectly

I would seriously encourage you to continue on with language learning at site. Learning the language has helped greatly in my integration (If people are unsure of my name they always describe me as the one who can speak Damara). As you well know/will learn becoming integrated into your community will make you feel more secure and safe in your community. Not only will it help with integration but you will be able to listen, understand, and respond to people in your community which makes life much easier, and slightly more fun if/when people are talking about you and don't think you know how to speak the language! There will be times when you hate it and don't think you will ever get it (I still have these days) but just keep trying because eventually it just clicks! (pun intended)

Last advice: Even though it is very hard at times language is what you make it so make it fun!

Cultural Information



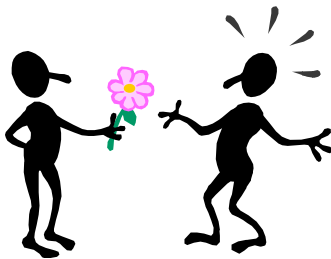
Meet and Greet

Although there are many different traditions in Namibia, it is generally accepted that upon entering a room, one should greet each individual and shake his or her hand using the 'African' handshake. One should always greet elders first. One should also greet another person before engaging in conversation. In some tribes it is considered respectful to support one arm while shaking hands, while in others it is expected that one should bend at the knee and /or clap their hands. Also, in some traditions, it is a form of respect to stand upon greeting another, to remove one's hat, and to use eye contact. It is important to be culturally sensitive to cultural taboos when introducing yourself. For example, in the Ovaherero tradition, younger persons are not to ask their elders how they are, and in many cases, it is disrespectful to offer the left hand in greeting.



Cultural Note

As you are walking around, you will find that you attract a lot of attention. Children will want to touch your hair or your clothes or your skin. Adults will ask you many questions about who you are, where you come from, and why you are in their village. A certain degree of attention to foreigners in a small community is completely natural, and you can expect this kind of curiosity.



It is also very normal for individuals to express very strong feelings towards volunteers. Some will say things like, "I love you," "I want to marry you," or "You must take me home to America." They may request your phone number or claim they will visit you soon. Sometimes this is just a joke, or a casual way of expressing admiration. It can safely be treated as such, and you may find yourself sharing a laugh with this stranger. However, if the individual persists and makes you uncomfortable, you should find a way to get out of the situation. Depending upon the situation, you could respond firmly, "You are making me uncomfortable," walk away, or find people you trust.

Namibian Eating

When visiting different parts of Namibia, you may come across different people eating different types of food. Go to the North and north west and you will find that the Khoekhoegowab-speaking Namibians, the Damara people eating donkey.

Visit the south of Namibia, where the Nama people mostly live, and you will see them eating **a lot** of goat meat and lamb, as well as drinking a lot of tea, especially when it is hot during the day to cool them down.

The Culture of Eating

Namibians eat very differently from Americans. Children will often sit on the floor. Both children and adults usually eat with their fingers, and you will find that if you join them, they will believe that you are a true African at heart. The customary drink with meals is *maxau* or just water.

Mealtime is an important part of socializing in Namibia. *Braais*, or barbecues as we say in America, are often held as social functions with families and friends. Picnics—during which Namibians travel outside their home area to eat together—are also a common occurrence.

You will find that any important celebration or ritual involves food. Weddings often last for days, and every guest expects to be fed, and fed well. While Americans tend to consider it polite to turn down food, Namibians will feel honored by your acceptance of their food and drink

House Calls

When you receive visitors in your new Namibian home, there are some general practices to consider. If your home has multiple rooms, then your private bedroom should be off limits to acquaintances, and they should instead be entertained in your kitchen or sitting room. Be careful of receiving a visitor of the opposite sex alone—this invites gossip, which can be harmful to a volunteer's reputation and at worst can result in a dangerous situation.

It is polite to offer your visitor refreshment. Often, tea, juice, cool drink, or even cool water is an appropriate beverage. If you have small food items—crackers, chips, sweets—your guest will undoubtedly appreciate those as well, particularly if they are unusual to the culture or sent/brought from America.

When you have visitors, be aware that Namibians tend to be more accustomed to silence, and though it may feel awkward to you, it is probably more normal to your guest.

Cultural Note

- *In our culture, men are not permitted to enter a woman's bedroom, and vice-versa. Therefore, be careful about which rooms you are wandering into!*
- *Also, children are not permitted to enter an adult's bedroom. If the kids of the house are charging in and want to play, tell them no way.*
- *Most importantly, do not leave your underwear in the bathroom! It's taboo!*

My Cousin "It"

The definition of "brother" and "sister" can be somewhat confusing to Americans new to Namibian society. This is due to a very interesting cultural norm. In several cultures in Namibia it is considered that your mother's sisters are also your mothers and therefore that her children are considered your brothers and sisters. Similarly, your father's brothers are considered your fathers, and his children are consequently also considered your siblings.



It is also interesting to note that in many cultures in Namibia the uncles are responsible for their nieces' and nephews' well being. This can include financial well being, education, and approving a marriage partner. What exactly the uncles are responsible for varies by culture and to lesser extent by family, but is particularly prevalent in our Damara and Nama culture and traditions.

Age & Beauty

Weight may also seem to be an awkward introduction. Female volunteers are often shocked when their community members say enthusiastically, "You are getting fat!" Far from an insult, this is a comment on the general perception of beauty and happiness. It tends to be a very high compliment and should be taken as such! Though it may take some getting used to, consider that your village is proud of you for being a beautiful and healthy woman.

Prayer time

It is important to note that, as a largely Christian country, meetings in Namibia- official and unofficial- are very commonly opened and closed with prayer.

The Joy of Farming

Farming is one of the most predominant jobs in Namibia. You will find that almost everyone either owns and works a farm, or is related to someone who does. Cattle and goats are the most popular livestock, and in fertile areas, crops like *mahangu*, mielie, grapes, vegetables, sorghum, and sugar cane abound.



Many people practice farming as a hobby and not as an occupation. Men and women will do one job during the week—perhaps teacher or banker—but will spend weekends and holidays at their farm with the rest of their family.

Finding Your Way

Namibians are very generous people. They are always willing to help in whatever way they can. As the saying goes “Your mouth is your passport”, you are expected to always be vocal about your needs. In a village, if you are walking around, and someone suspects you are lost, they can walk up to you and ask you if you need help. They will direct you and can even offer to walk you or take you to the place. If you feel comfortable being walked to the place, you should say, “Thank you, I really appreciate that”. If you would rather take the directions and find your way, you would say “Thank you very much sir/madam, I’m sure I’ll find my way”. Like in most other places in the world, people have their intentions, good or at times bad. It is therefore much safer to ask for help when lost from an elderly, or a security guard if there is one in sight.

Inviting People Out

If you have not experienced this yet, you will notice that when you are invited out, your host will usually pay for everything. This is common in Namibia: if you invite another person out, you are expected to pay for them. Therefore, be careful when you make plans with a colleague! Be prepared to pay for your friend, or make it clear that you will each be paying your own way.

Bargaining

In the open market people will stop you and ask you to buy an item from them. They will offer a price. If the price seems to be too expensive for you, just say: “I don’t have much money. Please come down with your price.” If you are insistent but polite, they will surely do it.

Though the vendors are usually very friendly, they may mistake you for someone you are not. Many foreigners who visit their country are tourists with far more money than the average volunteer. Using the local language is a great way to show respect to them, and to explain your unique financial situation. You can say ‘ I am a volunteer, I do not get paid for my work. I do not have much money. If they refuse to lower the price, consider saying “ Thank you, I cannot afford this, I will try another vender/shop,” and walking away. For expensive purchases, returning at a later time often helps convince a vendor to lower his price.

Avoiding Harassment

My name is Hannah, and I'm a volunteer in a very beautiful, small village in the northern Namibia. I have great pride in my local language ability because it is my only tool to deal with unwanted attention. It allows me to diffuse potentially irritating situations much easier and quicker than I would be able to if I was using English. In Namibia, just like in most other African cultures, the term 'harassment' is a relatively foreign concept. Many people, especially in more remote/rural areas might not even know what you are talking about if you say someone is harassing you. This is more so if the term is expressed in English (it appears to be one term that has found no connection yet in the culture). If someone is always harassing me, I say to them "I do not like being bothered or played around with like that. You must stop it". I then leave the situation right away if I can to show that I mean what I have just said. If someone is touching me while talking to me, I say "I do not touch people when I talk to them, I do not like to be touched when being talked to". If someone proposes to marry me, I tell them "I do not want to get married". If they say they love me, I tell them "I love someone else, I cannot love you back". When one driver once insisted on dropping me off at my house, I told him "Thank you, but I always pass by my friend's place on my way home. I am not going straight home, I have to get off here".

Getting a Ride:

You will find that most Namibians are friendly, helpful people. Especially in rural areas, almost anyone will offer you a lift if they have room in their vehicle. But remember that transportation can be an important source of income for which drivers compete. Because of this, you will find that many combi and mini-bus drivers will grab your luggage and YOU to try to bring your business to their vehicle. Watch your bags closely – you could end up on one combi and your bags in another.

Combis and mini-busses generally leave only when full. If they leave before they are completely full, you will stop for more passengers. So that their vehicle looks more full than others, drivers will hire people to sit on their mini-bus and wait. You may see people leave as the mini-bus fills.

There are official rates for almost all transportation – even for hitchhiking. While people from your village may not have it, mini-bus drivers must show you an official document with price lists if you ask to see it. Sometimes the driver may add a small fee for large bags, but remember, the driver probably has competition. Learn the busy times for your combi ranks. Especially if you are in a large group, you may be able to negotiate a lower fare. Also, drivers do not always collect the money for their vehicle; other people may do this. Just be certain that the person you negotiate price with is the one responsible for the mini-bus you are boarding. During some times of the day, there may only be one driver still waiting to fill his vehicle, and the best fare you will get is the official price.

Because of police checkpoints on long trips, it is unusual for combis and mini-busses to overload. However, this is not the case for taxis and hikes to villages. Sometimes a sedan will have 7 people in its 5 seats. Bakkies (pickup trucks) may have 10 or 11 adults in the back – more if people can stand. It will be difficult to communicate with the driver in these cases, but remember that Namibians frequently navigate by landmarks – if your taxi driver does not know where your destination is, or recognize the street name, you may need to give directions using landmarks.

FOR YOUR SAFETY:

- Watch your bags
- If someone drives unsafely, stop and get a different ride. But remember:
- Be sure you can get another ride or place to stay if something goes wrong
- Learn when you can and cannot get rides easily to avoid getting stranded

Quality Time

Integrating not only satisfies the goals of Peace Corps but also has many personal benefits to the volunteer. When a volunteer begins to integrate into the community they are much more safe than those who have not, as they are looked after by the community members. Additionally, (and you may not believe this now) it is imperative to both the success and the emotional well being of volunteers to have close relationships in their communities. Also, integration into your community guarantees opportunity to learn more about your new culture. Volunteers are often expected to attend events in the community (e.g. church services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc.) and must be careful to conform to cultural norms, within reason, at such events. Fortunately, you can expect to eat and drink a great deal at nearly all such events in most Namibian cultures. Each culture in Namibia has very different attitudes towards these important events.

Weddings

While nearly all cultures in Namibia have, and often celebrate traditional weddings, Church weddings (traditional Christian weddings) are also very popular. Another option for a wedding is simply to go to the magistrate and be married legally. Often people will be married in a traditional ceremony or in the church and not be married by the magistrate. In these cases the couple, while considered married by society is not legally married. This can cause serious problems if one partner then passes away. This is due to cultural differences in inheritance laws. In some cultures if a woman's husband passes away, she may find herself penniless, as the husband's family has the right to take all of his belongings. To avoid this tragedy, many men now have a living will, or will be married in the magistrate specifically to avoid this situation. Also, in some cultures in Namibia men are required to pay a "Bride Price" or Lobola. This is a price paid to the parents of the bride, as a payment for transferring the woman from her family to her husband's care. However, all of these traditions differ drastically by culture, so you may want to explore the issue with your host family or facilitator.

Exercises

1. What would you say?
You are meeting your host father for the first time. Greet and introduce yourself to him.
PCT: _____. Good morning Dad.
Dadab: !Gâi //goas ti ôa.
 !Gâi ,angus
PCT: !Gâi ≠angus
Dadab: Mati du /on ha? [Matits (*male*); Matis, *female*); du (*respect or plural*)
PCT: _____. My name is ...
2. You are thirsty. Your family is offering you *maxau* you do not like it. You want water instead.
Host Mom : Maxau-e ū re î a.
PCT: _____. I do not like Maxau.
 Toxoba //gam-e au te re.
3. Some one stops you on your way to the shop / school. He is asking for money.
Axarob: Mari-e au te re toxoba.
PCT: _____. I don't have money.
 Tita ge a masenxa sîsenao.

Dictation exercise

1. Money
Hungry
2. Draw up / compile a list eat / like and another one for those that you do not eat / like.
3. Compile a list of 5 verbs you need to know and 5 nouns.

Homework.

1. Trainees go and listen to the news broadcast in Khoekhoegowab. Trainees will report what they understood.
2. Trainees learn the names of their host family members and try to correctly pronounce them the following day.



Exercise

Hello! What's up? Brian is walking around town, and he is meeting many people—some that he knows and others that he doesn't know. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words and expressions from this unit. Be sure to pay careful attention to how you should address a person in each situation.

Brian and his neighbor Mother Goreses (formal)

- 1. **Brian:** _____? Good Morning How are you?
- Mother Goreses:** _____? I am fine, and you?
- Brian:** _____. I am fine too.
- Brian:** _____. Good. Stay well.
- Mother Goreses:** _____. Go Well.

Brian and his friend Mia (informal)

- 2. **Brian:** Moro Mia _____? What's up?
- Mia:** _____? I'm fine and you?
- Brian:** _____. It's good. Enjoy the day!
- Mia:** _____! Yes. You too!

Brian meeting Mr. Xoagub for the first time

- 3. **Brian:** _____ Good afternoon sir.
- Mr. Xoagub:** _____?. Where are you from?
- Brian:** _____ I'm from the United States.
- Mr. Xoagub:** _____? What are you doing in Namibia?
- Brian:** _____. I am a volunteer teacher.



Exercise

Beneath each picture, write one sentence in the local language to describe what is happening. Use I, You, or He/She to complete your sentences in the continuous present tense.



_____.

_____.



_____.

_____.

Exercise

- 1) After class tonight, discuss with a friend or host family member your food preferences.
- 2) Learn 5 food related words you didn't know before from your friend or host family member.
- 3) Cook dinner with or for your host family. If they refuse watch and try to recite the steps that they take when preparing dishes.

4) Answer the following questions using full sentences:

a. What are you eating?

_____.

b. Are you hungry?

_____.

c. What do you like to eat?

_____.

d. Do you drink alcohol?

_____.

e. Where is the food?

_____.

Exercise

Label Italiana's Family:



_____ (grandfather)



_____ - (elder brother)



_____ (mother)



_____ (Father)



_____ (baby sister)



_____ (Grandma)



Exercise

Below are some pictures of different professions. Listen to the facilitator read a description of a family [including their professions]. Then, write the name of each family member under the picture of his or her correct profession.





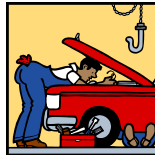












Homework

1. When you go home to your homestead tonight, create labels in the local language for some of the household items there.

2. Make flash cards or matching cards, with pictures of household items and the vocabulary word in Khoekhoegowab. Use the cards with other trainees in your group, or ask your host siblings to play with you.



Exercise:

Fill in the blank with numbers to describe how many of different items.

Learners do not need to understand proper adjective formation.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| (5) goats _____ | (25) people _____ |
| (6) friends _____ | (12) doctors _____ |
| (39) trees _____ | (15) cows _____ |
| (95) dollars _____ | (50) houses _____ |
| (3) schools _____ | (100) dogs _____ |
| (4) books _____ | (20) clocks _____ |

Exercise 1:

Find a ball, toy, or other small item with which to play catch. Each time you catch the ball you must tell the group one thing you enjoy doing as a hobby. Throw the ball on to anyone in the group, and continue. You may not repeat anything that has been said before. If you can think of nothing to say, you are out. Winner is the last one standing.

Variation: The person throwing the ball asks a question, and the person who catches it must answer.



Exercise 2:

Draw a poster of yourself that includes many of your likes, dislikes, hobbies, and interests. If you like to play tennis, draw a tennis racket in one hand, for example, label each interest in the local language. Present your posters to the training class using the vocabulary.

Exercise:

'My sister is...' game

PCT1: _____ . *My sister is short.*

PCT2: _____ . *My sister is short and thin.*

PCT3: _____ . *My sister is short and thin and she has green eyes.*

PCT4: _____ .
My sister is short and thin and she has green eyes and she is American.



Homework

What would you say in each of the following situations? Write your response on the lines below and share your answer in class tomorrow.

1. In an open market a vender offers you an item you really like. You do not have enough money.

2. A woman in your villages, who makes traditional dresses is selling you a dress. She says she has made it specifically for you.

NOTES:

NOTES: