



Haiti: Useful Creole Phrases

English	Creole	English	Creole
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GREETINGS/PLEASANTRIES

Good morning	<i>Bonjou</i>	Good afternoon/ evening	<i>Bonswa</i>
How are you?	<i>Koman ou ye?</i>	Very well	<i>Mwen Byen</i>
And you?	<i>E ou menm?</i>	I miss you	<i>Mwen manke ou</i>
What is your name?	<i>Kijan ou rele?</i>	My name is...	<i>Mwen rele ...</i>
Did you sleep well?	<i>Ou te domi byen?</i>	Excuse me	<i>Eskize mwen</i>
Where are you from?	<i>Ki kote ou sòti?</i>	I am from...	<i>Mwen sòti ...</i>
Goodbye	<i>Babay/orevwa</i>	No problem	<i>Pa gen pwoblem</i>
Yes	<i>Wi</i>	No	<i>Non</i>
Thanks	<i>Mesi</i>	Please	<i>Souple</i>
What's up?	<i>Sak pase?</i>	I'm chilling	<i>Nap boule</i>

CHURCH

I am happy to worship with you	<i>Mwen kontan adore avek nou</i>	God bless you	<i>Bondye beni nou</i>
Praise God!	<i>Beniswa Letènèl</i>	Hallelujah	<i>Alelouya</i>
Thank you God	<i>Mèsi Seyè</i>	Pray	<i>Priye</i>

AT THE LODGING SITE

Sheet	<i>Dra</i>	towel	<i>Sèvyèt</i>
Soap	<i>Savon</i>	Plastic bag	<i>Sachè</i>
wastebasket	<i>Poubèl</i>	trash	<i>Fatra</i>
water	<i>Dlo</i>	shower	<i>Douch</i>
sink	<i>evye</i>	Be careful	<i>Atansyon !</i>
slippery	<i>Glise</i>	Good night	<i>Bòn nwit</i>

AT THE WORKSITE

Work	<i>Travay</i>	I want to work	<i>Mwen vle travay</i>
Start	<i>Kòmanse</i>	I want to help you	<i>Mwen vle ede ou</i>
Move	<i>Avanse</i>	Help me please	<i>Ede mwen silvouplè</i>
Continue	<i>kontinye</i>	Wait	<i>Tann</i>
Put down	<i>Depoze</i>	Take a break	<i>Fe yon ti poze</i>
sand	<i>Sab</i>	Roller	<i>Woulo</i>
brush	<i>Bwòs</i>	Gravel	<i>Gravye</i>
rock	<i>Wòch</i>	Nail	<i>Klou</i>
rebar	<i>Fè</i>	Cement	<i>Siman</i>
concrete	<i>Beton</i>	Mortar	<i>Mòtye</i>
block	<i>Blòk</i>	#	

TOOLS

Bucket	<i>Bokit</i>	Pick	<i>Pikwa</i>
Shovel	<i>Pèl</i>	Trowel	<i>Tiwèl</i>
Hammer	<i>Mato</i>	Wheelbarrow	<i>Bourèt</i>
Pliers	<i>Pens</i>	#	



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VBS

Sit down	<i>Chita</i>	Silence	<i>Fè silans</i>
Share crayons	<i>Pataje kreyon</i>	Color	<i>Kolore</i>
Sing	<i>Chante</i>	Clap your hands	<i>Frape men</i>
Dance	<i>Danse</i>	Stand up	<i>Kanpe</i>
Jump	<i>Sote</i>	Laugh	<i>Ri</i>
See you later	<i>Na wè pita</i>	#	

GENERAL EXPRESSIONS

Nice to see you	<i>Mwen kontan wè ou</i>	I like / love	<i>Mwen renmen</i>
I want	<i>Mwen vle</i>	I am thirsty	<i>Mwen swaf</i>
I am hungry	<i>Mwen grangou</i>	I am tired	<i>Mwen fatigue</i>
The food is good!	<i>Manje a bon</i>		

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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*.
- When a nasal sound is followed by another “n”, or “m,” the nasal sound is pronounced, then the “n” or “m” is pronounced separately.
- If an accent is placed over the vowel, there is no 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.