

Bryant C. Freeman, Ph.D.

SURVIVAL CREOLE

**Institute of Haitian Studies
University of Kansas**

**La Presse Evangélique
Port-au-Prince**

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**Dedicated to those who would work to better
the condition of the Haitian people, in the name
of God, in the name of humanity —
or of both.**

Fifth Edition

**Institute of Haitian Studies
University of Kansas**

**La Presse Evangélique
Port-au-Prince**

2002

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Bryant Freeman and Jowel Laguerre, *Haitian-English Dictionary*. Fourth Edition. Lawrence: University of Kansas Institute of Haitian Studies; Port-au-Prince: La Presse Evangélique, 2002. Pp. xliii-844. (Contains more than 49,000 Haitian words and expressions.)

Bryant Freeman, *Chita Pa Bay: Elementary Readings in Haitian Creole, with Illustrated Dictionary*. Second Edition. Port-au-Prince: Bon Nouvèl, 1990. Pp. 100. (Uses only the 950 basic words of Haitian.)

Bryant Freeman, *Ti Koze Kreyòl: A Haitian-Creole Conversation Manual*. Port-au-Prince: Bon Nouvèl, 1987. Pp. 126. (Nineteen easy conversations, with topical vocabulary. Tape available.)

Carrié Paultré, *Tonton Liben: Annotated Edition for Speakers of English*, ed. Bryant Freeman. Second Edition. Lawrence: University of Kansas Institute of Haitian Studies; Port-au-Prince: La Presse Evangélique, 2001. Pp. xviii-138. (Intermediate level.)

WHERE HAITIAN TEXTS CAN BE FOUND:

In Haiti

La Presse Evangélique
(Boîte Postale 458)
27, boulevard Harry Truman
Port-au-Prince (Tel.: 222-4045)

Bon Nouvèl
143, rue Pavée (Boîte Postale 1594)
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SUGGESTIONS FOR USE

This work is intended as a brief, practical guide for speakers of English in Haiti on a short-term basis. As the title implies, you will find here only a very minimum of essentials concerning one of Haiti's two official languages - but the only language spoken by *all* Haitians. It is hoped you will thus not be entirely at the mercy of an interpreter, who in any case will not always be available.

You may want first to familiarize yourself with the PRONUNCIATION GUIDE and TO HELP UNDERSTAND THE PHRASES, and then go through marking the expressions you think will be most useful to you. Of help also will be to listen to the tape and/or to enlist the aid of a Haitian speaker. (Note: Haitian pronunciation is much easier for an English speaker than is for example French or Spanish.)

The official Haitian government spelling system is used throughout. Included are some of the best-known proverbs, since they form an integral part of Haitian speech and culture, and when fully understood, can be a great source of wisdom.

You will probably find that speaking is easier than understanding. As with any language, many people tend to speak rapidly and run words together. At first you may have to rely mainly upon an occasional word, and hand signals. However these phrases are a start, and will at least give you some direct contact with Haiti's greatest resource: its people.

Bòn chans, blan! (Good luck, foreigner!)

Lawrence, Kansas
August 2002

Bryant C. Freeman

Sa ki pa touye ou, li angrese ou.
That which doesn't kill you, makes you fat.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

The pronunciation of Haitian is not a great problem for speakers of English. First, the language has few of the seemingly exotic sounds of French; and secondly, its almost phonetic spelling system is a clear guide.

HAITIAN IS SPELLED AS IT IS PRONOUNCED - AND PRONOUNCED AS IT IS SPELLED. EACH LETTER IS PRONOUNCED - AND EACH SOUND IS WRITTEN ONLY ONE WAY. Naturally to acquire a good accent, one will need to work with tapes and/or a Haitian teacher. You will find, however, that Haitians are flattered by those who want to learn their true language, and are only too willing to help.

Sounds which could initially puzzle the speaker of English are:

ch - as in <u>sh</u> ow: chache (to look for)	ò - as in paw , saw : fò (strong)
e - as in <u>ai</u> m: ede (to help)	ou - as in <u>fo</u> od: ou (you, your)
è - as in <u>leg</u> : mèsi (thank you)	r - <i>not</i> rolled, very soft, pronounced at back of throat: respire (to breathe)
g - always “hard,” as in go : gen (to have)	s - always pronounced as an “s,” never like a “z”: prese (in a hurry)
i - as in <u>bee</u> : isit (here)	y - as in <u>yes</u> : yon (a, an), bagay (thing)
j - avoid a “d” in front: jou (day)	
o - as in <u>toe</u> : yo (they, their, them)	

NASAL SOUNDS are pronounced partially through the nose, but *without the “n” itself pronounced*. There are no real English equivalents, but are close to:

an - somewhat like <u>a</u> lms: nan (in)
en - as in the name Chop <u>i</u> n: mwèn (I, my, me)
on - somewhat like <u>do</u> n't: bon (good)

NOTES:

- 1) When a nasal sound is followed by a second “n” or by an “m,” pronounce the nasal sound as usual, plus the “n” or “m” separately: **senmenn** (week), **chanm** (room).
- 2) When **an**, **en**, or **on** are *not* meant to indicate a nasal sound, a grave accent (`) is placed over the vowel: **pàn** (mechanical breakdown), **Ayisyèn** (Haitian woman), **mòn** (hill, mountain).
- 3) The combination **in** never indicates a nasal sound: **gazolin** (gasoline) - the last syllable pronounced like “lean.”

TO HELP UNDERSTAND THE PHRASES

Haitian is a beautifully efficient, therefore quite sophisticated, language. It conveys meaning with a minimum of words, avoiding complicated forms and complex constructions.

- 1) Haitian words normally have only one form. **NOUNS** have no gender, and their plural is formed simply by adding **yo** after the word. The term for “a” or “an” is placed *before* the noun, the term for “the” *after* the noun:

a house - **yon kay**

the house - **kay la**

the houses - **kay yo**

- 2) There are only five **PRONOUNS**:

mwen - I, my, me

ou - you, your

li - he, she, it; his, her, its; him, her, it

nou - we, our, us; you (plural), your (plural)

yo - they, their, them

- 3) **VERB** tenses are expressed in five ways:

Present: I eat - **mwen manje**

Present
Progressive: I am eating - **mwen ap manje**

Past: I ate - **mwen te manje**

Future: I will eat - **mwen pral manje**

Conditional: I would eat - **mwen ta manje**

- 4) For the **NEGATIVE**, put **pa** in front of the verb forms:

I do not eat - **mwen pa manje**

I did not eat - **mwen pa te manje**

- 5) **POSSESSION** is shown by placing the person or thing possessed before the possessor:

kay David - David’s house

papa mwen - my father

HELLO! / **BONJOU!**

Good morning!	Bonjou!
Good afternoon! / Good evening!	Bonswa!
How are you?	Kijan ou ye?
Not bad.	Pa pi mal.
And yourself?	E ou menm?
Great!	Anfòm!
I'm getting along.	M ap kenbe.
Hang in there!	Kenbe, pa lage!
Have a good trip!	Bon vwayaj!
Bye-bye.	Babay.
See you (God willing).	N a wè (si Dye vle).

Bondye bon.
God is good.

(Whatever God does is for the best. / It's God's will. /
What is, is good. - *Haiti's eternally optimistic fatalism -
good for mental well-being, terrible for national development.*)

Dèyè mòn, gen mòn.
Behind the mountains, there are mountains.

(If it's not one thing, it's another. /
There's more there than meets the eye.)

STARTERS / POU KONMANSE

Yes. / No.

Wi. / Non.

Thanks (a lot)!

Mèsi (anpil)!

No, thanks.

Non, mèsi.

Please.

Souple.

You're welcome.

Merite.

No problem.

Pa gen pwoblèm.

OK.

Oke.

Excuse me.

Eskize.

I am sorry.

Mwen regrèt sa.

I did not do it on purpose.

Se pa fòt mwen.

There is... / There are...

Gen...

There is not / are not any.

Pa genyen.

Fine.

Byen.

That's right!

Se konsa!

A little bit.

Yon ti kras.

A lot.

Anpil.

There are a lot of...

Gen anpil...

Here. / There.

Isit. / La.

Everything OK?

Tout bagay anfòm?

Isn't it? (Don't you? etc.)

Pa vre?

I can (not).

Mwen (pa) kapab.

You ready?

Ou pare?

Me too.

Mwen menm tou.

(Not) Many. / (Not) Very.

(Pa) Anpil.

(Not) Now.

(Pa) Kounyeya.

(Not) Always.

(Pa) Toujou.

(Not) Often.

(Pa) Souvan.

(Not) Everything.

(Pa) Tout bagay.

Everywhere.

Toupatou.

Nothing.

Anyen.

Almost.

Prèske.

Soon.

Talè.

Sometimes.

Kèkfwa.

Not at all!

Ditou ditou!

Exactly!

Se sa menm!

It is (not) true.

Se (pa) vre.

HELP! / ANMWE!

Help!

Anmwe!

Watch out!

Atansyon!

Hurry!

Prese prese!

Fire!

Dife!

Help me, please.

Ede mwen, souple.

Give me a hand,
please.

**Ban mwen yon koutmen,
souple.**

I have lost...

Mwen te pèdi...

They have stolen...

Yo te vòlò...

EVERYDAY PHRASES / **SA YO KONN DI****NEEDS / BEZWEN**

I need...	Mwen bezwen...
We would like...	Nou ta vle...
We are looking for...	Nou ap chache...
Please give me...	Souple, ban mwen...
Please bring... for us.	Souple, pote... pou nou.
May we look at...?	Èske nou mèt gade...?

MONEY / KÒB

Here is a little money for you.	Men yon ti kòb pou ou.
I don't have any small change.	Mwen pa gen ti monnen.
Divide this among you.	Separe sa ant nou.

TIME / LÈ

Yesterday / today / tomorrow.	Yè / jòdi a / denmen.
For how long?	Pou konben tan?
Just a moment, please.	Yon ti moman, souple.
This morning.	Maten an.
This afternoon.	Apremidi a.
This evening.	Aswè a.
Three days ago.	Gen twa jou.
In four days (from now).	Nan kat jou.
Each week / month.	Chak senmenn / mwa.

KNOWING / KONNEN

I (do not) know.	Mwen (pa) konnen.
I (do not) think so.	Mwen (pa) kwè sa.
I am (not) certain.	Mwen (pa) sèten.

FEELING / SA OU SANTI

I (do not) like that.

That is (not) good.

We are (not) happy.

I am hot / cold / tired.

I am surprised!

I hope so.

REACTIONS / SA OU PANSE

That does not matter.

Too bad!

How beautiful!

REQUESTS / DEMANN

Come in! / Sit down!

Come! / Look!

Let's go!

Listen! / Hear!

Wait for me! / Stop!

Do not worry!

Do not forget!

PROBLEMS / PWOBLÈM

There is a (little) problem.

Where are our suitcases?

This is broken.

Can they fix it?

TAXIS / TAKSI

I need a taxi.

Hey! Taxi!

How much (does it cost) to go to...?

Stop here, please.

Mwen (pa) renmen sa.

Sa (pa) bon.

Nou (pa) kontan.

Mwen cho / frèt / fatigue.

Mwen sezi!

Mwen swete sa.

Sa pa fè anyen.

Donmaj!

Ala bèl!

Antre, wi! / Chita, wi!

Vini, non! / Gade, non!

Ann ale!

Koute! / Tande!

Tann mwen! / Rete!

Pa chaje tèt ou!

Pa bliye, non!

Gen yon (ti) pwoblèm.

Kote malèt nou yo?

Sa a kase.

Èske yo ka ranje li?

Mwen bezwen yon taksi.

Woy! Taksi!

Konben (li koute) pou ale...?

Rete isit, souple.

QUESTIONS? / KÈSYON?

How much? / How many?	Konben?
Why?	Poukisa?
Where?	(Ki) kote?
What?	Kisa?
When?	(A) kilè?
Who?	Ki moun?
How?	Kijan?
Which?	Kilès?
Is / Are there...?	Èske gen...?
Do you have...?	Èske ou gen...?
Can you help us, please?	Èske ou ka ede nou, souple?
Where can we find...?	(Ki) kote nou ka jwenn...?
Where can we buy...?	(Ki) kote nou ka achte...?
Can you tell me...? give me...? show me...?	Èske ou ka di mwen ...? ban mwen...? montre mwen...?
Who is there?	Ki moun ki la?
What do you want?	Kisa ou vle?
What are you doing there?	Kisa ou ap fè la?
What is that?	Kisa sa a ye?
What do they do with that?	Kisa yo fè ak sa?
What's going on?	Sa k pase?
What's the matter?	Sa k genyen?
What must we do?	Kisa pou nou fè?
Have you seen...?	Èske ou te wè...?

DO YOU SPEAK...? / ÈSKE OU PALE...?

Do you speak English / French?	Èske ou pale angle / franse?
Who here speaks...?	Ki moun isit ki pale...?
We need an interpreter.	Nou bezwen yon entèprèt.
I am / We are American.	Mwen se / Nou se Ameriken.
We are Canadian.	Nou se Kanadyen.
I do not speak Haitian.	Mwen pa pale kreyòl.
I speak only a little Haitian.	Mwen pale sèlman yon ti kras kreyòl.
I have problems understanding Haitian.	Mwen gen pwoblèm konprann kreyòl.
Repeat, please.	Repete, souple.
Slowly, please.	Dousman, souple.
You understand?	Ou konprann?
I (do not) understand.	Mwen (pa) konprann.
What does... mean?	Kisa... vle di?
What do they call that in Haitian?	Kijan yo rele sa an kreyòl?
How do they say... in Haitian?	Kijan yo di... an kreyòl?

Pale franse pa di lespri.
Speaking French doesn't mean you're smart.

Kreyòl pale, kreyòl konprann.
Creole spoken is Creole understood.

(Haitian means straight talk.)
WHICH WAY? / **KI KOTE?**

Where is..., please?
the toilet, please?
the road to..., please?
the hotel, please?

the post office, please?
the telephone, please?
the bank, please?

Port-au-Prince, please?
the beach, please?
the gas station, please?

(Ki) kote..., souple?
twalèt la, souple?
wout..., souple?
otèl lan, souple?

lapòs, souple?
telefòn lan, souple?
bank lan, souple?

Pòtoprens, souple?
plaj la, souple?
ponp gaz la, souple?

I would like to go to...

Can you lead me to...?

I am / We are lost.

Where are we?

Where does this road lead?

Where must we turn?

We turn left or
right?

Straight ahead?

It's far?

Mwen ta vle ale...

Èske ou ka mennen mwen...?

Mwen / Nou pèdi.

(Ki) kote nou ye?

(Ki) kote wout sa a mennen?

(Ki) kote pou nou vire?

**Nou vire agòch oubyen
adwat?**

Tou dwat?

Li lwen?

SOME ANSWERS / KÈK REPONS

Turn left / right.

Go straight ahead.

Go this way.

Go back to...

You are (not) on the right road.

Give me a ride, please.

Vire agòch / adwat.

Ale tou dwat.

Fè sa.

Tounen jouk...

Ou (pa) sou wout la.

Ban mwen woulib, souple.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU / **POU KONNEN OU**

What is your name?	Kijan ou rele?
My name is...	Mwen rele...
What is his / her name?	Kijan li rele?
I am happy to know you.	Mwen kontan konnen ou.
This is my wife.	Se madanm mwen.
This is my husband.	Se mari mwen.
This is my friend.	Se zanmi mwen.
Where do you live?	(Ki) kote ou rete?
I live in the United States / in Canada.	Mwen rete Ozetazini / Okanada.
How old are you?	Ki laj ou?
How old is he / she?	Ki laj li?
How many brothers and sisters do you have?	Konben frè ak sè ou genyen?
Where were you born?	(Ki) kote ou te fèt?
Are you a student?	Èske ou se yon elèv?
What is your occupation?	Ki metye ou?
What is the occupation of your mother / your father?	Ki metye manman ou / papa ou?
Do you have a girl friend / boy friend?	Èske ou gen mennaj?
Do you have a wife / husband?	Èske ou gen madanm / mari?
Do you have children?	Èske ou gen pitit?
How many sons do you have?	Konben pitit gason ou genyen?
How many daughters?	Konben pitit fi?

How many grandchildren?

Konben pitit pitit?

You are very nice.

Ou janti anpil.

Your hair is beautiful.

Cheve ou bèl.

What a beautiful place!

Ala you bèl kote!

Haiti is beautiful!

Ayiti bèl!

May I take your photo?

Èske mwen mèt pran foto ou?

BUYING / ACHTE

Do you sell...?

Èske ou vann...?

Where can I buy...?

(Ki) kote mwen ka achte...?

At what time do they open / close?

A kilè yo louvri / fèmen?

BARGAINING / FÈ JIS PRI

How much (does that cost)?

Konben (sa koute)?

It is (very) expensive!

Li chè (anpil)!

Too expensive (for me)!

Twò chè (pou mwen)!

If I give you...

Si mwen ba ou...

What is your last price?

Ki dènye pri ou?

Agreed!

Dakò!

Santi bon koute chè.
Smelling good is expensive.

(A big front doesn't come cheaply.)

IN THE STREET / NAN LARI

No thanks, I do not need that.

Non mèsi, mwen pa bezwen sa.

We do not need anything, thanks.

Nou pa bezwen anyen, mèsi.

I have that already.

Mwen gen sa deja.

I do not have any money (today).

Mwen pa gen kòb (jòdi a).

I will give it to you tomorrow.

Mwen ap ba ou li denmen.

We do not need a guide.

Nou pa bezwen gid.

GO AWAY! / KITE MWEN TRANKIL!

Excuse us, we are in a hurry.

Eskize, nou prese.

Leave me alone!

Kite mwen trankil!

Do not do that to me!

Pa fè mwen sa!

Get lost!

Al fè wout ou!

Bay kou bliye, pote mak sonje.

The giver of the blow forgets, the bearer of the scar remembers.

Wòch nan dlo pa konnen doulè wòch nan solèy.

The rock in the water does not know the pain of the rock in the sun.

(There is no way fully to comprehend another's pain.)

EATING AND DRINKING / **MANJE AK BWÈ**

We are looking for a restaurant, please.

Nou ap chache yon restoran, souple.

We are (very) hungry / thirsty.

Nou grangou / swaf (anpil).

What do you have to eat / drink?

Kisa ou gen pou manje / bwè?

We would like breakfast.

Nou ta vle manje maten an.

We would like lunch.

Nou ta vle manje midi a.

We would like supper.

Nou ta vle manje aswè a.

A little snack, please.

Yon ti soloba, souple.

What sandwiches are there?

Ki sandwich ki genyen?

Do you have...?

Èske ou gen...?

Give me (a)..., please.

Ban mwen (yon)..., souple.

We would like (a)..., please.

Nou ta vle (yon)..., souple.

There is not / are not any more.

Pa gen(yen) ankò.

HOW MUCH / KONBEN

Only a little bit, please.

Sèlman yon ti kras, souple.

A lot, please!

Anpil, souple!

More..., please.

... ankò, souple.

Nothing more, thanks.

Anyen ankò, mèsi.

Is this Culligan [purified] water?

Èske se dlo Kiligan?

I cannot eat / drink...

Mwen pa ka manje / bwè...

Sak vid pa kanpe.
Empty bags don't stand up.

(No work gets done on an empty stomach. /
You get out of something what you put into it.)

I NEED / MWEN BEZWEN

Waiter! / Waitress!

I need a..., please.

knife,
fork,
spoon,
soup spoon,napkin,
paper napkin,plate,
cup,
saucer,

straw,

I need salt, please.

pepper,

It is dirty. **Li sal.**

A small / large glass of..., please.

A bottle of..., please.

The same thing, please.

HOW / KIJAN

Hot / cold.

Toasted / spicy / iced.

Rare / medium /
well-done.

Baked / grilled / fried.

COMPLAINTS / PLENT

Where are our drinks?

I did not ask for that.
I said...

This is not good.

This is cold / tough / stale.

Take this away, please.

Gason! / Madmwazèl!**Mwen bezwen yon..., souple.****kouto,
fouchèt,
kiyè,
gwo kiyè,****sèvyèt,
napkin,****asyèt,
tas,
soukoup,****chalimo,****Mwen bezwen sèl, souple.****pwav,****Yon ti / gwo vè..., souple.****Yon boutèy..., souple.****Menm bagay la, souple.****Cho / frèt.****Griye / pike / glase.****Pase sou dife / medyòm /
byen kwit.****Kwit nan fou / griye / fri.****(Ki) kote bwason nou yo?****Mwen pa te mande sa.
Mwen te di...****Sa a pa bon.****Sa a frèt / di / rasi.****Ale ak sa, souple.**

20 **paj ven**

PAYING / PEYE

The check, please.

Fich la, souple.

Is the tip included?

Èske sèvis la ladann?

Keep that for you.

Kenbe sa pou ou.

There is a math error
in the check.

**Gen yon fòt chif
nan fich la.**

This is not the price
(which was marked).

**Se pa pri sa a
(ki te make).**

I / We did not have...

Mwen / Nou pa te pran...

THANKS / MÈSI

The food was very good!
Thank you!

**Manje a te bon anpil!
Mèsi!**

We will come back.

Nou pral tounen.

Bwè dlo nan vè, respekte vè.
(If you) drink water in the glass, respect the glass.

(Don't bite the hand that feeds you.)

Si se Bondye ki voye, Li peye frè ou.
If it's God who sends (you), He'll pay your expenses.

(The Lord will provide.)

Sa ou fè, se li ou wè.
What you do is what you see.

ILLS AND PILLS / MALADI AK GRENN

Where is the restroom, please?	Kote twalèt la, souple?
I need toilet paper.	Mwen bezwen papye ijenik.
You OK?	Ou byen?
I am not (too) well.	Mwen pa (twò) byen.
I am sick.	Mwen malad.
He / She is (very) sick.	Li malad (anpil).
There was an accident.	Te gen yon aksidan.
He / She is hurt (badly).	Li blese (anpil).
Do not move him / her.	Pa deplase li.
We need a doctor / a nurse right away.	Nou bezwen yon dòktè / yon mis touswit.
Does the doctor speak English?	Èske dòktè a pale angle?
Where is the hospital?	(Ki) kote lopital la?
Where does it hurt you?	(Ki) kote li fè ou mal?
That hurts me (a little / a lot).	Sa fè mwen mal (yon ti jan / anpil).
It is not serious.	Sa pa grav.
It is better now.	Sa pi bon kounyeya.
I am having my period.	Mwen gen règ mwen.
I have menstrual cramps.	Mwen gen kolik mwen.
She is pregnant.	Li ansent.
Do you have something for mosquitoes?	Ou gen bagay kont marengwen?
I have a headache / earache / sore throat.	Mwen gen maltèt / malzòrèy / malgòj.

I have pain in my arm /
leg / here.

I have something
in my eye.

My nose is bleeding.

I cannot eat / sleep.

**Mwen gen doulè nan bra mwen / in my
nan janm mwen / isit.**

**Mwen gen yon bagay
nan je mwen.**

Nen mwen ap senyen.

Mwen pa ka manje / dòmi.

DIGESTION / DIJESYON

I have no appetite.

I ate too much.

I have indigestion.

I have diarrhea.

I feel nauseated.

I vomited.

I have a stomach ache.

I am allergic to that.

I am a diabetic.

I have hay fever.

He / She has a (bad) cold.

I have the flu.

Mwen pa gen apeti.

Mwen te manje twòp.

Mwen gonfle.

Mwen gen djare.

Mwen anvi vonmi.

Mwen te vonmi.

Mwen gen vantfèmal.

Mwen alèji ak sa.

Mwen fè sik.

Mwen gen lafyèv sezon.

Li anrimen (anpil).

Mwen gripe.

FEVER / LAFYÈV

My whole body is hot.

I have fever.

I am dizzy.

He / She fainted.

Tout kò mwen cho.

Mwen gen lafyèv.

Mwen toudi.

Li endispoze.

Se mèt kò ki veye kò.

It is the owner of the body who looks out for the body.

(Take care of yourself. / Take care of that which is yours.)

DENTIST / DANTIS

I have a toothache.

Mwen gen maldan.

Where can I find a
good dentist?

**(Ki) kote mwen ka jwenn yon
bon dantis?**

DRUGSTORE / FAMASI

Where is the drugstore?

(Ki) kote famasi a?

Do you have sanitary napkins?

Èske ou gen kotèks?

I need something for
this cut.

**Mwen bezwen yon bagay pou
blese sa a.**

We want to buy
Mercurochrome / iodine.

**Nou vle achte
mèkiwokòm / tentidyòd.**

We need bandages /
cotton.

**Nou bezwen pansman /
koton.**

Adhesive tape / gauze /
some Band-Aids.

**Bann adezif / twal gaz /
kèk ti pansman.**

Bondye di ou: fè pa ou, M a fè pa M.
God says to you: do your part, I'll do My part.

Ou wè sa ou genyen, ou pa konn sa ou rete.
You know what you've got, you don't know what's waiting for you.

Kreyon Bondye pa gen gòm.
God's pencil has no eraser.

(God makes no mistakes. /
What God promises, He will give. /
What's traced for you is forever traced.)

CAR / MACHIN

Where is the filling station?

(Ki) kote ponp gaz la?

Fill the tank, please.

Foul tank la, souple.

Ten dollars worth, please.

Di dola, souple.

Back up.

Fè bak.

Check the oil, please.

water,
tires,
spare tire,
brakes,
brake fluid,

Tcheke lwil la, souple.

dlo a,
kawòtchou yo,
kawòtchou de rechanj la,
fren an,
lwil fren an,

How much to wipe off
my car?

**Konben pou siye
machin mwen?**

Put distilled water in
the battery, please.

**Mete dlo distile nan
batri a, souple.**

The battery needs to be
recharged.

**Batri a bezwen
chaje.**

Grease the car, please.

Grese machin lan, souple.

Change the oil, please.

Chanje lwil la, souple.

Tighten / Loosen..., please.

Sere / Desere..., souple.

Where must I leave
my car?

**Kote pou mwen kite
machin mwen?**

TIRES / KAWÒTCHOU

I have a flat tire.

Mwen pran pàn kawòtchou.

Can you change the tire,
please?

**Èske ou ka chanje kawòtchou a,
souple?**

I need a
tire man.

**Mwen bezwen yon
kawòtchoumann.**

They let out the air in
the tire.

**Yo wete van nan
kawòtchou a.**

It is (not) punctured.

Li (pa) gen twou.

STUCK / KOLE

Our car is stuck in the mud.

Our car is stalled
in the water.

Can you help us push it?

We have run out of gas.

Can you leave us at
the nearest garage?

I have lost the car key.

I have locked the key
in the car.

ENGINE TROUBLE / PWOBLÈM MOTÈ

There is a problem with
my car / my jeep.

My car does not start.

The radiator leaks.

The motor is too hot /
is knocking.

The oil / The gas is leaking.

Can you change
the spark plugs?

We need a mechanic.

Is it serious?

Can you fix it?

How much (will that cost)?

How much time
(will that take)?

Can I drive it
like that?

(We need it) right away!

Machin nou kole nan labou.

**Machin nou mouri
nan dlo.**

Èske ou ka ede nou pouse li?

Nou te pran pàn gaz.

**Èske ou ka lage nou nan
garaj ki pi pre a?**

Mwen te pèdi kle machin lan.

**Mwen te fèmen kle a
nan machin lan.**

**Gen yon pwoblèm ak
machin mwen / djip mwen.**

Machin mwen pa estat.

Radyatè a koule.

**Motè a twò cho /
gen frapman.**

Lwil la / Gaz la ap koule.

**Èske ou ka chanje
bouji yo?**

Nou bezwen yon mekanisyen.

Èske sa grav?

Èske ou ka ranje li?

Konben (sa ap koute)?

**Konben tan
(sa ap pran)?**

**Èske mwen ka kondi li
kon sa?**

(Nou bezwen li) touswit!

FOOD AND DRINK: ENGLISH - HAITIAN

alcohol **alkòl**
 almond **zanmann**
 apple **ponm**
 apricot **zabriko**
 asparagus **aspèj**
 avocado **zaboka**
 bacon **bekonn**
 banana **fig (mi)**
 bean **pwa**
 beef **bèf**
 beer **byè**
 beet **bètjouj**
 bone **zo**
 brains **sèvèl**
 bread **pen**
 breadfruit **lamveritab**
 brown-sugar candy **rapadou**
 butter **bè**
 butterbean **pwa bè**
 cabbage **chou**
 cake **gato**
 candy **tablèt, sirèt**
 cantaloupe **melon frans**
 carrot **kawòt**
 cashew nut **nwa kajou**
 cassava bread **kasav**
 cauliflower **chouffè**
 celery **seleri**
 cereal (dry) **kònfleks**
 cereal (hot) **labouyi avwàn**
 chayote squash **militon**
 cheese **fwonmaj**
 cherry **seriz**
 chicken **poul**
 chili pepper **piman pike**
 chips (usually plantain) **papita**
 chocolate **chokola**
 cinnamon **kanèl**
 cocoa **kakawo**
 coconut **kokoye**
 codfish **lanmori**
 coffee **kafe**
 conch **lanbi**
 cookie **bonbon**
 corn **mayi**
 cornmeal **mayi moulen**
 cornmeal pudding **akasan**

crab **krab**
 cracker **bonbon sèl**
 crayfish **kribich**
 cream **krèm**
 cucumber **konkonm**
 dessert **desè**
 drink **bwason**
 duck **kanna**
 dumpling **doumbreyè**
 egg **ze**
 fried egg **ze fri**
 hard-boiled egg **ze bouyi**
 poached egg **ze poche**
 scrambled egg **ze bwouye**
 soft-boiled egg **ze alakòk**
 eggplant **berèjèn**
 fat **grès**
 fish **pwason**
 flour **farin**
 food **manje**
 frank(furter) **sisis**
 French-fried potatoes
 ponmdetè fri
 French toast **pen pèdi**
 fritter (plain batter) **marinad**
 fritter (usually malanga) **akra**
 fruit **fwi**
 fruit juice **ji fwi**
 garlic **lay**
 goat **kabrit**
 gravy **sòs**
 grease **grès**
 greenbean **pwa tann**
 green pea **pwa frans**
 green pepper **piman dou(s)**
 guava **gwayav**
 guinea fowl **pentad**
 ham **janbon**
 hamburger **anbègè**
 herring **aran**
 honey **siwo myèl**
 hotdog **sisis**
 ice **glas**
 ice-cream **krèm (glase)**
 iced tea **te glase**
 jam **konfiti**
 Jello **jelo**

juice	ji	peel	po
ketchup	sòs tonmat, katchòp	pepper	pwav
kidney bean	pwa wouj	green pepper	piman dou(s)
langouste	langous	hot pepper	piman pike
lard	mantèg	pickle	kònichon
leek	powo	pie	tat
leftovers	manje dòmi	pimento	piman
lentil	lantiy	pineapple	zannanna
lettuce	leti	pizza	pitza
lima bean	pwa souch	plantain	bannann
lime	sitwon	plantain chips	papita
limeade	sitwonad	plantain slices fried in oil	bannann peze
liver	fwa (di)	popcorn	mayi pèpèt
lobster	wonma	pork	vyann kochon
macaroni	makawoni	fried pork bits	griyo
mango	mang	potato	ponmdetè
manioc	manyòk	French-fried potatoes	ponmdetè fri
margarine	magarin	mashed potatoes	pire
mayonnaise	mayonèz		ponmdetè
meat	vyann	pumpkin	jou(wou)mou
meatball	boulèt	rabbit	lapen
melon	melon	radish	radi
milk	lèt	raisin	rezen sèk
evaporated milk	lèt vapore	raspberry	franbwaz
pasteurized milk	lèt pasterize	relish (spicy)	pikliz
powdered milk	lèt an poud	rice	diri
millet	pitimi	rice and beans	diri ak sòs pwa
mineral water	dlo mineral	rice and beans cooked	diri (kole) ak pwa
muffin	ponmkèt	together	diri (kole) ak pwa
mushroom (small black)	djondjon	roastbeef	woti
mustard	moutad	roll	pen won
nut	nwa	rooster	kòk
nutmeg	miskad	rum	wonm
oatmeal	labouyi avwàn	raw rum	kleren
octopus	chatwouy	rum punch	wonm ponch
oil	lwil	salad	salad
okra	kalalou	salami	salami
olive	zoliv	salmon	somon
omelet	lanmilèt	salt	sèl
onion	zonyon	sandwich	sandwitch
orange	zoranj	sardine	sadin
oyster	zwit	sauce	sòs
pancake	krèp	sausages	soxis
papaya	papay	scallion	echalòt
parsley	pèsi	seafood	bèt lanmè
passionfruit	grenadja, grenadin	seasoning	epis
pea	pwa	shaddock	chadèk
peanut	pistach		
peanut butter	manba		

sherbet **sòbè**
shortening **mantèg**
shrimp **chevrèt**
skin **po**
snack **soloba**
snapper **sad**
snowcone **fresko**
sole **sòl**
soup **soup**
soursop **kowosòl**
spaghetti **espageti**
spice **epis**
spinach **zepina**
squash **militon**
steak **estèk**
stew **bouyon**
strawberry **frèz**
string bean **pwa tann**
sugar **sik**
 sugar cane **kann**
sweet potato **patat**
 sweet potato pudding **pen**
 patat
sweets **dous**
syrup **siwo**
tangerine **mandarin**
tea **te**

herbal tea **tizann**
iced tea **te glase**
toast **pen griye**
 French toast **pen pèdi**
tomato **tonmat**
tongue **lang**
tonic water **tonnik**
tortoise **tòti**
tripe **trip**
tuna fish **tonnafich**
turkey **kòdenn**
turnip **nave**
turtle **tòti**
vanilla **vani**
vegetable **legim**
vermicelli **vèmisèl**
vinegar **vinèg**
water **dlo**
 Culligan water **dlo**
 Kiligann
 mineral water **dlo mineral**
 purified water **dlo distiye**
watermelon **melon dlo**
wheat **ble**
wiener **sisim**
yam **yanm**
yeast **leven**

Fanm se kajou: plis li vye, plis li bon.
Woman is like mahogany: the older, the better.

Fanm pou yon tan, manman pou tout tan.
Wife for a time, mother for all time.

Nèg di san fè, Bondye fè san di.
Man talks without doing, God does without talking.

FOOD AND DRINK: HAITIAN - ENGLISH

- akasan** cornmeal pudding
akra (usually malanga) fritter
alkòl alcohol
aran herring
aspèj asparagus
bannann plantain
bannann peze plantain slices fried in oil
bè butter
bèf beef
bekonn bacon
berejèn eggplant
bèt lanmè seafood
bètwoj beet
ble wheat
bonbon cookie
bonbon sèl cracker
boulèt meatball
bouyon stew
bwason drink
byè beer
chadèk shaddock
chatwoy octopus
chevrèt shrimp
chokola chocolate
chou cabbage
chouflè cauliflower
desè dessert
diri rice
diri ak sòs pwa rice and beans
diri (kole) ak pwa rice and beans cooked together
djondjon small black mushroom
dlo water
dlo distiyè purified water
dlo Kiligann Culligan water
dlo mineral mineral water
doumbrèy dumpling
dous sweets
echalòt scallion
epis spice; seasoning
espageti spaghetti
estèk steak
farin flour
fig (mi) banana
franbwaz raspberry
fresko snowcone
frèz strawberry
fwa (di) liver
fwi fruit
fwonmaj cheese
gato cake
glas ice
grenadin, grenadja passionfruit
grès fat; grease
griyo fried pork bits
gwayav guava
janbon ham
jelo Jello
ji juice
ji fwi fruit juice
jou(wou)mou pumpkin
kabrit goat
kafe coffee
kakawo cocoa
kalalou okra
kanèl cinnamon
kann sugar cane
kanna duck
kasav cassava bread
kawòt carrot
kleren raw rum
kòdenn turkey
kòk rooster
kokoye coconut
kola extremely sweet cola
konfiti jam
kònfleks dry cereal
kònichon pickle
konkonm cucumber
kowosòl soursop
krab crab
krèm cream
krèm (glase) ice-cream
krèp pancake
kribich crayfish
labouyi avwàn hot cereal, oatmeal
lamveritab breadfruit
lanbi conch
lang tongue
langous langouste
lanmilèt omelet
lanmori codfish
lantiy lentil
lapen rabbit
lay garlic
legim vegetable
lèt milk
lèt an poud powdered milk
lèt pasterize pasteurized milk
lèt vapore evaporated milk
leti lettuce
leven yeast
lwil oil
magarin margarine
makawoni macaroni
manba peanut butter
mandarin tangerine
mango mango

manje food
manje dòmi leftovers
mantèg lard, shortening
manyòk manioc
marinad (plain batter) fritter
mayi corn
mayi moulen cornmeal
mayi pèpèt popcorn
mayonèz mayonnaise
melon melon
melon dlo watermelon
melon frans cantaloupe
militon chayote squash
miskad nutmeg
moutad mustard
nave turnip
nwa nut
nwa kajou cashew nut
papay papaya
papita (usually plantain) chips
patat sweet potato
pen bread
pen griye toast
pen patat sweet potato pudding
pen pèdi French toast
pen won roll
pentad guinea fowl
pèsi parsley
pikliz spicy relish
piman pimento
piman dou(s) green pepper
piman pike hot pepper,
 chili pepper
pire ponmdetè mashed potatoes
pistach peanut
pitimi millet
po peel; skin
ponm apple
ponmdetè potato
ponmdetè fri French-fried
 potatoes
ponmkèt muffin
poul chicken
powo leek
pwa pea, bean
pwa bè butterbean
pwa frans green pea
pwa souch lima bean
pwa tann greenbean, string bean
pwa wouj kidney bean
pwason fish
pwav pepper
radi radish
rapadou brown-sugar candy
rezen sèk raisin
sad snapper
sadin sardine

salad salad
salami salami
sandwitch sandwich
sèl salt
seleri celery
seriz cherry
sèvèl brains
sik sugar
sirèt candy
sitwon lime
sitwonad limeade
siwo syrup
siwo myèl honey
sòbè sherbet
sòl sole
soloba snack
somon salmon
sòs sauce; gravy
sòs tonmat ketchup
sosis sausage; wiener, hotdog
soup soup
tablèt candy
tat pie
te tea
te glase iced tea
tizann herbal tea
tonmat tomato
tonnafich tuna fish
tonnik tonic water
tòti turtle, tortoise
trip tripe
vani vanilla
vèmisèl vermicelli
vinèg vinegar
vyann meat
vyann kochon pork
wonm rum
wonm ponch rum punch
wonma lobster
woti roastbeef
yanm yam
zaboka avocado
zabriko apricot
zanmann almond
zannanna pineapple
ze egg
ze alakòk soft-boiled egg
ze bouyi hard-boiled egg
ze bwouye scrambled egg
ze fri fried egg
ze poche poached egg
zèpina spinach
zo bone
zoliv olive
zonyon onion
zoranj orange
zwit oyster

DAYS / JOU

Monday - **lendi**
 Tuesday - **madi**
 Wednesday - **mèkredi**
 Thursday - **jedi**
 Friday - **vandredi**
 Saturday - **samdi**
 Sunday - **dimanch**

MONTHS / MWA

January - **janvye**
 February - **fevriye**
 March - **mas**
 April - **avril**
 May - **me**
 June - **jen**
 July - **jiyè**
 August - **dawou**
 September - **septanm**
 October - **oktòb**
 November - **novanm**
 December - **desanm**

SEASONS / SEZON

dry season - **sezon sèk**
 rainy season - **sezon lapli**

COLORS / KOULÈ

black - **nwa**
 blue - **ble**
 brown - **mawon**
 gray - **gri**
 green - **vèt**
 orange - **oranj**
 pink - **wòz**
 purple - **mov, vyolet**
 red - **wouj**
 white - **blan**
 yellow - **jòn**

NUMBERS / CHIF

0 - **zewo**
 1 - **en / youn**
 2 - **de**
 3 - **twà**
 4 - **kat**
 5 - **senk**
 6 - **sis**
 7 - **sèt**
 8 - **wit**
 9 - **nèf**
 10 - **dis**
 11 - **onz**
 12 - **douz**
 13 - **trèz**
 14 - **katòz**
 15 - **kenz**
 16 - **sèz**
 17 - **disèt**
 18 - **dizwit**
 19 - **diznèf**
 20 - **ven**
 21 - **venteyen**
 22 - **vennde**
 23 - **venntwa**
 24 - **vennkata**
 25 - **vennsenk**
 26 - **vennsis**
 27 - **vennsèt**
 28 - **ventwit**
 29 - **ventnèf**
 30 - **trant**
 31 - **tranteyen**
 32 - **trannde**
 33 - **tranntwa**
 34 - **trannkata**
 35 - **trannsenk**
 36 - **trannsis**
 37 - **trannsèt**
 38 - **trantwit**
 39 - **trantnèf**
 40 - **karant**
 41 - **karanteyen**
 42 - **karannde**
 43 - **karanntwa**
 44 - **karannkata**
 45 - **karannsenk**
 46 - **karannsis**
 47 - **karannsèt**
 48 - **karantwit**
 49 - **karantnèf**

50 - senkant
51 - senkanteyen
52 - senkannde
53 - senkanntwa
54 - senkannkat
55 - senkannsenk
56 - senkannsis
57 - senkannsèt
58 - senkantwit
59 - senkantnèf

60 - swasant
61 - swasanteyen
62 - swasannde
63 - swasanntwa
64 - swasannkat
65 - swasannsenk
66 - swasannsis
67 - swasannsèt
68 - swasantwit
69 - swasantnèf

70 - swasanndis
71 - swasannonz
72 - swasanndouz
73 - swasanntrèz
74 - swasannkatòz
75 - swasannkenz
76 - swasannsèz
77 - swasanndisèt
78 - swasann dizwit
79 - swasann diznèf

80 - katreven
81 - katreven-en
82 - katreven-de
83 - katreven-twa
84 - katreven-kat
85 - katreven-senk
86 - katreven-sis
87 - katreven-sèt
88 - katreven-wit
89 - katreven-nèf

90 - katreven-dis
91 - katreven-onz
92 - katreven-douz
93 - katreven-trèz
94 - katreven-katòz
95 - katreven-kenz
96 - katreven-sèz
97 - katreven-disèt
98 - katreven-dizwit
99 - katreven-diznèf

100 - san
101 - san en
150 - san senkant
200 - de san
500 - senk san
1,000 - mil
2,000 - de mil

Lanne pase toujou pi bon.
Past years are always better.

Sa k rive koukouloukou a, ka rive kakalanga tou.
What happens to the turkey, can happen to the rooster too.

(What happens to the dumb guy, can happen to the smart guy too.)

Nanpwen lapriyè ki pa gen “Amèn.”
There is no prayer which does not have an “Amen.”

(There is an end to everything.)

SOME USEFUL ADDRESSES

United States Embassy (Consulate)
104, rue Oswald Durand - Port-au-Prince
Tel.: 222-1504 or 222-5726

Hôtel Oloffson
Box 260 - Port-au-Prince
Tel.: (011-509-1) 223-4000 or 223-4101 or 223-4102
FAX: 23-0919 Telex: 2030471

SECOM Car Rental
Coin de Delmas 68 - Pétiön-Ville
Tel.: (011-509-1) 257-1913 or 257-2847
Telex: 2030403/SOMOTEL

Hôtel Roi Christophe
rue 24 B - Cap Haïtien
Tel.: (011-509-3) 62-0414

Bryant Freeman, Ph.D. Yale. Professor of French and African Studies; Founder and Director of Institute of Haitian Studies, University of Kansas. Has written or edited fifty-eight works concerning Haiti.

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