

A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO ST. LUCIA PATOIS,  
including quick phrases, basic grammar, 400-word vocabulary, 28 old-time proverbs

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with the assistance of the St. Lucia Tourist Board

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## PRONUNCIATION

### Vowels

#### Oral Vowels:

		English example	Patois example
a	as in	<b>cat</b>	<b>chat</b> (cat)
è	as in	<b>let</b>	<b>pèl</b> (shovel)
é	as in	<b>grey</b>	<b>soulyé</b> (shoe)
i	as in	<b>green</b>	<b>liv</b> (book)
ò	as in	<b>pawn</b>	<b>kòn</b> (horn)
o	as in	<b>robe</b>	<b>zo</b> (bone)
ou	as in	<b>rule</b>	<b>klou</b> (nail)
ay	as in	<b>high</b>	<b>manmay</b> (child)

#### Nasal Vowels:

an	as in		<b>dan</b> (tooth)
en	as in		<b>pen</b> (bread)
on	as in		<b>pon</b> (bridge)

#### Semi-vowels:

w	as in	<b>worry</b>	<b>wat</b> (rat)
y	as in	<b>yule</b>	<b>yonn</b> (one), <b>byen</b> , <b>chyen</b> , <b>ayen</b> , <b>faiyaya</b>

### Consonants

The following are similar to their English equivalents (c, j, q and x are not used):

b  
d  
f  
g (as in **girl**)  
h  
k  
l  
m  
n  
p  
r  
s  
t  
v  
z

These are different from the English:

ch	as in	<b>show</b>	<b>chapo</b> (hat)
dj	as in	<b>jump</b>	<b>djèp</b> (wasp)
j	as in	<b>garage</b>	<b>jip</b> (skirt)
tj	as in	<b>church</b>	<b>tjè</b> (heart)
ng	as in		<b>lanng</b> (tongue)

en

e.g. sen 'saint'  
pen 'bread'  
ten 'thyme'

enn

e.g. senn 'seine'  
penn 'pain'  
venn 'vein'  
chenn 'chain'

enm

e.g. menm 'same' (also mèm)  
tenm 'stamp'  
kawenm 'Lent'

an

e.g. san 'blood', 'without'  
tan 'time', 'weather'  
chan 'field', 'song'

ann

e.g. pann 'to hang'  
kann 'cane'  
wann 'to return'  
vann 'to sell'

anm

e.g. fanm 'woman'  
lanm 'blade'  
chanm 'room', 'bedroom'  
flanm 'flame'

àn

e.g. pàn 'pan'

on

e.g. son 'sound'  
pon 'bridge'  
non 'no,' 'name'  
won 'round'

onn

e.g. ponn 'to lay (eggs)'  
yonn 'one'

tonn 'to mow', 'ton'

onm

e.g.

bonm 'tin, container'

wonm 'run'

tonm 'grave'

konkonm 'cucumber'

## NOUNS

**A noun has only one form, whether subject or object, singular or plural.**

e.g. **Chat-la** wè mwen. = The **cat** sees me.  
Mwen wè **chat-la**. = I see the **cat**.  
Mwen wè sé **chat-la**. = I see the **cats**.

Some common nouns:

man	–	nom
woman	–	fam
boy	–	gason
girl	–	ti fi
husband	–	mawi
wife	–	madam
child	–	mamay
fellow	–	boug
people	–	moun
dog	–	chyen
cat	–	chat
bird	–	jibyé
cockroach	–	wavèt
house	–	kay
bed	–	kouch
hat	–	chapo
banana	–	fig
coconut	–	koko
town	–	vil
market	–	laplas
money	–	lajan
mountain	–	mòn
sea	–	lamè
St. Lucia	–	Sent Lisi
thing	–	bagay
darling	–	doudou

## ARTICLES

**There are 5 articles:**

**an** – a, an  
**la, a, lan, an, nan** – the;  
**sé** – the

e.g.	<b>an</b> kouch (also <b>yon</b> kouch)	=	<b>a</b> bed
	kouch- <b>la</b>	=	<b>the</b> bed
	sé kouch- <b>la</b>	=	<b>the</b> beds
	bouch- <b>la</b>	=	<b>the</b> mouth
	koko- <b>a</b>	=	<b>the</b> coconut
	nonm- <b>lan</b>	=	<b>the</b> man
	pen- <b>an</b>	=	<b>the</b> bread
	machin- <b>nan</b>	=	<b>the</b> machine

a	-	after oral vowels; e.g. péchè-a; tifi-a
an	-	after nasal vowels; e.g. gason-an; lajan-an
lan	-	after m; e.g. fanm-lan; nonm-lan
nan	-	after n
la	-	after oral consonants; e.g., lékòl-la, timanmay-la; fidjay-la; twòk-la

Note 1: **on** and **sé** precede their noun, whereas **la** follows.

Note 2: a plural noun with **sé** is usually followed by **la** as well.

Note 3: **-la** often becomes **-a** after nouns ending in a vowel.

Thus,

		<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>
boug- <b>la</b>	=	the fellow	<b>sé</b> boug- <b>la</b>	= the fellows
kay- <b>la</b>	=	the house	<b>sé</b> kay- <b>la</b>	= the houses
mamay- <b>la</b>	=	the child	<b>sé</b> mamay- <b>la</b>	= the children
chapo- <b>a</b>	=	the hat	<b>sé</b> chapo- <b>a</b>	= the hats
gason- <b>a</b>	=	the boy	<b>sé</b> gason- <b>a</b>	= the boys

## PRONOUNS

### There are 6 personal pronouns:

<b>mwèn</b> – I, me, my	<b>nou</b> – we, us, our
<b>u</b> – you, your	<b>zòt</b> – you (plural), your
<b>i (li)</b> – he, she, it	<b>yo</b> – they, them, their

Note 1: These pronouns keep the same form whether subject, object or possessive.  
Thus, **mwèn** = I, me, my

e.g. **I\*** èmé **mwèn**. = **He** (or **she**) likes **me**.  
**Mwèn** èmé **i**. = **I** like **him** (or **her**).  
Chapo-**ou** = **your** hat

Note 2: When showing possession, the pronoun follows its noun.

e.g. Papa-**i** = **her** (or **his**) father

Note 3: **i** often becomes **li**, especially after words ending in a consonant:

e.g. Yo wè **i** = They see **him** (or **her**).  
but,  
Yo bat **li**. = They hit **him** (or **her**).

Note 4: In rapid speech, the object pronoun may be almost swallowed by its verb.  
But it's there!

e.g. Yo wè **i**.

\* Remember, in Patois, “**i**” is pronounced “**ee**”!!

## More Pronouns

1.

**sa** = this, that, what

Note: **sa** becomes **sa-la** (or **sa-a**) when a particular thing is being pointed out:

e.g. **Sa** bon. = **That** is good.

**Sa-la** sé chapo-mwen. = **This one** is my hat.

2.

**sa-mwen** = mine  
**sa-ou** = yours  
**sa-li** = his, hers  
etc.

e.g. Mwen ba yo **sa-yo**. = I gave them **theirs**.

3.

**kò-mwen** = myself  
**kò-mwen** = yourself  
**kò-mwen** = himself, herself  
etc.

e.g. Nou lavé **kò-nu**. = We washed **ourselves**.

Note: This form of “-self” is reflexive: where one does something **to** oneself.

When used just for emphasis, the correct word is **menm**.

e.g. Mwen fè i **mwen-menm**. = I did it **myself**.

## VERBS

**A verb has only one form, regardless of person or number.**

**Tenses are indicated by auxiliary words:**

**ka** = incomplete, continuing action (present)

**té** = completed action (past)

**kay** \* = anticipated action (future)

e.g. Mwen **ka** alé. = I **am** going.

Mwen **té** alé. = I **had** gone.

Mwen **kay** alé. = I **will** go.

Note 1: The verb used alone suggests completed or a one-shot action:

e.g. Atjèlman mwen **alé**. = Now I **go**.

Yé mwen **alé**. = Yesterday I **went**.

Note 2: These auxiliaries may be combined to indicate greater subtlety of tense:

e.g. Mwen **té ka** alé. = I **was going** (or I **used to go**).

\* Remember, **ay** is pronounced like **high**!

Some Common Verbs:

ask	–	mandé
believe	–	kwè
buy	–	achté
come	–	vini
drink	–	bwè
eat	–	manjé
give	–	ba (bay)
go (to)	–	alé
have	–	ni
know	–	sav, kònèt
like	–	émé
listen to	–	kouté
look at	–	gadé
make, do	–	fè
need	–	bizwen
say	–	di
see	–	wè
speak	–	palé
take	–	pwan
want	–	vlé

e.g.	Mwen kay <b>mandé</b> i.	=	I will <b>ask</b> him.
	<b>Kouté</b> nom-la!	=	<b>Listen to</b> the man!
	I <b>bizwen</b> lajan.	=	He <b>needs</b> money.
	Ou <b>palé</b> patwa?	=	Do you <b>speak</b> Patois?

Note 3: **it is, he is, they are, etc.** = **sé**  
(past tense = **sété**)

e.g.	Sa <b>sé</b> gason-mwen.	=	<b>That is</b> my boy.
	Yè <b>sété</b> Nwèl.	=	Yesterday <b>was</b> Christmas.

Note 4: However, **sé** is often omitted.

e.g.	Nu malad.	=	We (are) sick.
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Note 5: **Sé** at the end of a sentence becomes **yé**.

e.g.	Mwen sav ki moun ou <b>yé</b> .	=	I know who you <b>are</b> .
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## PREPOSITIONS

asou	–	on top of
anho	–	above
anlè	–	on
an	–	in
nan	–	into
dan	–	within
andidan	–	inside
ant	–	between
anpami	–	among
bò	–	by, about
dèwò	–	outside
dèyè	–	behind
duvan	–	before
anmitan	–	in the middle
pwè	–	near
pa	–	through, by
dé	–	from, out of
jik	–	to, until

Also:

apwè	–	after
a	–	in, at, to
ba (bay)	–	for
dépi	–	since
épi, èvèk	–	with
magwé	–	despite
pandan	–	during
san, son	–	without

Some examples:

<b>an</b> kay-la	=	<b>in</b> the house
<b>anlè</b> mòn-nan	=	<b>on top of</b> the Morne
<b>apwé</b> ou	=	<b>after</b> you
<b>asou</b> tab-la	=	<b>on</b> the table
<b>anpami</b> jan	=	<b>among</b> friends
<b>ba</b> li	=	<b>for</b> him
<b>bò</b> lamè	=	<b>beside</b> the sea
<b>bò</b> nèv è	=	<b>about</b> 9 o'clock
<b>èvèk</b> lamou	=	<b>with</b> love
<b>magwé</b> tout	=	<b>in spite of</b> everything
<b>pandan</b> simèn pasé	=	<b>during</b> last week
<b>pwè</b> bout-la	=	<b>near</b> the end
<b>jik</b> mènwit	=	<b>until</b> midnight

## ADJECTIVES

An adjective has only one form, and it usually follows its noun.

e.g. an nonm **ho** = a **tall** man  
an fanm **ho** = a **tall** woman  
moun **ho** = **tall** people

Note 1: Exception: The following common adjectives go BEFORE their noun:

an **ti** fi = a **little** girl  
an **gwan** gason = a **big** boy  
an **mové** chyen = a **bad** dog  
an **bon** chat = a **good** cat  
an **lonng** chimen = a **long** road  
an **jenn** poul = a **young** chicken  
on **vyé** kabwit = an **old** goat  
an **bèl** ilèt = a **pretty** island  
an **gwo** vil = a **large** town

But remember, the REST go AFTER!

Note 2: Adjectives stand next to their noun, while articles and possessives go outside:

e.g. sé vyé fanm lèd-la = the old, ugly women

Note 3: Adjectives sometimes occur in the following form:

an nonm **ki las** (a man **who is tired**) = a **tired** man

Note 4: Nenpòt (or nepòt) = anything, anyone at all

e.g. **Nenpòt** moun-a sa fè sa = **Anyone** can do that.  
Ki lès ou ka vlé? = Which one do you want?  
**Nenpòt.** = **Anyone.** (It doesn't matter.)

Note 5: Nouns may also be qualified by other nouns which follow directly AFTER them and which show such relationships as possession, source, type, purpose, etc.

e.g. tèt **gason**-a = the **boy's** head  
 lapòt **bwa**-a = the **wooden** door  
 glo **lawivyè** = **river** water  
 on pyé **mango** = a **mango** tree  
 on panyé **fig** = a basket of **bananas**

Some More Adjectives

cold	–	fwèt
hot	–	cho
hungry	–	fen
thirsty	–	swèf
weak	–	fèb
strong	–	fò
dirty	–	sal
clean	–	nèt
easy	–	fasil
difficult	–	difisil
glad	–	kontan
miserable	–	mizéwab
right	–	dwèt
left	–	gòch
pleasant	–	agwéyab
interesting	–	entéwésan
important	–	enpòtan
tired	–	las
lazy	–	fenyan
annoying	–	anbètan
crazy	–	fou
black	–	nwè
blue	–	blè
brown	–	kako
green	–	vèt
white	–	blan
yellow	–	jòn
red	–	rouj

## COMPARISONS

Comparisons are made  
by putting **pli** (more) or **mwen** (less) before the quality being compared.  
“Than” is expressed by **pasé**.

e.g. Mwen **pli** gwan **pasé** ou. = I am bigger **than** you.

Note 1: **Pli** is sometimes omitted.

e.g. I bèl **pasé** sésé-i. = She is prettier **than** her sister.

Note 2: Comparison of equals or the same uses:

**menm kon** = as, like

e.g. Mwen ho **menm kon** manman-mwen. = I am **as** tall **as** my mother.

Note 3: The superlative is formed the same as the comparative and must be deduced from the context:

e.g. Ou **pli** entélijan **pasé** tut lézòt-la. = You are **the most** intelligent **of** all (the others).

## ADVERBS

Adverbs tell

### HOW

e.g.	byen	-	well
	mal	-	badly
	vit	-	quickly
	dousman	-	slowly

### WHEN

e.g.	janmen	-	never
	souvan	-	often
	toujou	-	always
	yè	-	yesterday
	jodia	-	today
	dèmen	-	tomorrow
	atjèlman	-	now
	talè	-	soon
	bonnè	-	early
	ta	-	late

### WHERE

e.g.	isi-a	-	here
	la	-	there
	toupatou	-	everywhere
	pyès koté	-	nowhere
	pwé	-	near
	lwen	-	far

Note 1: Many of the prepositions can be used alone as adverbs:

e.g.	Mwen antwé <b>andidan</b> kay-la.	=	I went <b>inside</b> the house.
	Mwen antwé <b>andidan</b> .	=	I went <b>inside</b> .

Note 2: “Very” may be indicated by repeating the word to be stressed, or by “on chay” (a lot).

e.g.	Mwen fwèt fwèt.	=	I am very cold!
	Mwen fwèt on chay!	=	”

## NEGATIVES

**A sentence is made negative by putting pa directly before the verb.**

e.g. Nou pa ni i. = We do not have it.

Exception: **pa** follows the verb **sé**.

e.g. **Sé pa** sa mwen. = **It is not** mine.

Note 1: **Ma** is sometimes expressed used to express **Mwen ... pa** (I ..... not).

e.g. **Ma** kay vini wè ou. = I will not come to see you.

Note 2: **Pòkò** = not yet.

e.g. Manman-mwen **pòkò** manjé. = My mother has **not yet** eaten.

Note 3: **Mòkò** = I ... not yet.

e.g. **Mòkò** kay achte i. = **I will not** buy it **yet**.

Note 4: **Pyès** = no, none (usually used with **pa**)

e.g. **Pyès** chyen **pa** kay mòdé ou. = **No** dog will bite you.

Note 5: **Pèsonn** = no-one (also usually with **pa**)

e.g. **Pèsonn pa** palé. = No-one spoke.

**Yo pa wè pèsonn.** = They saw no-one.

Note 6: **Ayen** = nothing (also with **pa**)

e.g. Nou **pa** ni **ayen** pou ba ou. = We have **nothing** to give you.

Note 7: **Jamen** = never

e.g. Ma\* **jamen** wè sa avan. = I **never** saw that before.  
(\*Remember, **ma** = mwen pa.)

Note 8: **Ni ... ni ...** = neither ... nor ...

e.g. I pa ni **ni** diwi **ni** pen. = He has **neither** rice **nor** bread.

## CONNECTIVES

Various connecting words may be used to make more interesting sentences.

For example:

1) **èvèk, èk, épi** = and

e.g. Madam **épi** Misyé = Mr. **and** Mrs.

I ka vini **épi** i ka alé. = He comes **and** goes.

2) **mé** = but

e.g. Mwen vlé fè i, **mé** mwen pa sa.= I want to do it, **but** I can't.

3) **èben, ouben** = or

e.g. Alé, **èben** mwen kay kwiyé polis-la. = Go away, **or** I'll call the police!

4) **ki** = which, that, who

e.g. Mwen konnèt gason-a **ki** vini. = I know the boy **who** came.

More: **Ki** is omitted if the word it refers to serves as object of the clause.

Compare: I know the boy (whom) you like.

5) **pis, pas** = because, since

e.g. Nou èmé ou pis ou tèlman bon. = We like you because you are so good.

6) **si** = if

e.g. Mwen sa alé bal-la **si** mwen ni on bèl had.  
I could go to the ball **if** I had a pretty dress.

7) **lè** = when

e.g. **Lè** ou ka vini, kité chyen-ou lakay-ou.  
**When** you come, leave your dog at home.

8) **magwé** = although

e.g. **Magwé** ou hayi i, i pa kay kité ou.  
**Although** you hate him, he will not leave you.

9) **pou** = in order to

e.g. Yo di mwen sa **pou** fè mwen pè.  
They told me that **in order** to scare me.

10) **kon sa** = as soon as, when

e.g. **Kon sa** i wè yo, i kouwi. = As soon as she saw them, she ran.

## INTERROGATIVES

**Questions are asked either:**  
**1) by the tone of voice, or**  
**2) with an introductory question word.**

Thus,

- 1) Ou konpwann sa mwen di? = You understand what I said?  
or  
2) Ès ou konpwann? = Do you understand?

Some Question Words:

- 1) **Ès** = Do ... ? (Is it that?)

e.g. **Ès** ou èmé najé? = **Do** you like to swim?

- 2) **Ki lès** = Which ... ?

e.g. **Ki lès** bagay ou vlé? = **Which** thing do you want?

- 3) **Ki sa** = What ... ?

e.g. **Ki sa** ki\* wivé ou? = **What's** the matter with you?

(\* For this use of **ki**, see Connectives, example 4.)

- 4) **Ki moun** = Who, Whom ... ? (literally, Which person?)

e.g. **Ki moun** ki manjé mango-mwen? = **Who** ate my mangoes?

- 5) **Ki koté, Koté, Ko** = Where ... ? (literally, Which place?)

e.g. **Ko** ou té yé? = **Where** were you?

- 6) **Ki lè, ki tan** = When ... ? (literally, Which time?)

e.g. **Ki tan** lékòl kay kumansé? = **When** will school begin?

7) **Ki mannyé, kouman** = How ...? (literally, Which manner?)

e.g. **Ki mannyé** ou fè sa? = **How** did you do that?

8) **Pou ki, poutji** = Why ...? (literally, For what?)

e.g. **Poutji** i pa ka twavay? = **Why** isn't he working?

9) **Konmen** = How much, how many ...?

e.g. **Konmen** sé-papay-la ka kouté? = **How much** do the pawpaws cost?

## NUMBERS AND QUANTIFIERS

0	nòt
1	yonn
2	dé (déz)
3	twa (twaz)
4	kat (katw)
5	senk
6	sis (siz)
7	sèt
8	wit
9	nèf (nèv)
10	dis (diz)
11	wonz
12	douz
13	twèz
14	katòz
15	kenz
16	sèz
17	disèt
18	dizwit
19	diznèf
20	ven (vent)
21	vent-é-yon
22	venndé
30	twant
40	kawant
50	senkant
60	swasant
70	swasanndis
80	katwéven
90	katwévendis
100	san (sant)
1000	mil

NOTE: The alternative forms tend to be used before words beginning with a vowel.

Some Quantity Words:

<b>None</b>	<b>Pyès</b> sé-jibyé-a pa sa volé. =	None of the birds can fly.
<b>Some, several</b>	Mwen kay biswen <b>plizyé</b> léfan.=	I will need several elephants.
<b>Much, many, a lot</b>	<b>On chay</b> moun kay èmé sa-a. = <b>Bokou</b>	A lot of people will like that.
<b>Enough</b>	I pa ni <b>asé</b> pou manjé. =	He doesn't have enough to eat.
<b>Too much</b>	Yo ni <b>twòp</b> pou manjé. =	They have too much to eat.
<b>Too</b> (adverbial)	Soulyé-ou <b>two</b> gwo. =	Your shoes are too big.
<b>All, every</b>	Ès <b>tout</b> moun kontan? =	Is everyone satisfied?

## TIME

Ki lè i yé?

I senk è.

I twazè é demi.

I yon ka apwé sèt è.

I yon ka pou katw è.

I dis minit apwé diz è.

I ven minit pou midi (ében mènwit).

\*\*\*\*\*

Sé mwa-a:

Janvyé  
Févwyé  
Mas  
Avwi  
Mé  
Jen  
Jiyé  
Aou/Awou  
Sèptanm  
Òktòb  
Novanm  
Désanm

## Sé jou-a

Dimanch	nou alé légliz
Lendi	nou alé lékòl
Madi	nou lavé sé had-la
Mèkwèdi	nou pasé sé had-la
Jèdi	nou nètwayé kay-la
Vandwèdi	nou twapé péyé
Samdi	nou alé laplas ay dépanse tout lajan-nou!

## Lè lajouné

Bonmaten	nou kay alé twavay
Midi	nou kay manjé on chay
Apwé midi	nou kay najé lanmè
Swè	nou kay dansé, kay bwè
Lanwit	nou kay dòmi an kouch-nou
Mènwit	nou kay jwènn doudou-nou

## MONEY

Dé sou	1 cent
Kat sou	2 cents
Yon chlen	24/25 cents
Yon pon	1 pound/\$5

## A TRIP TO MARKET

Konmen i kouté?

zowanj  
papay  
mango  
fig  
sitwo  
kòsòl  
bwa-pen  
bannann  
jòmou  
dachin  
bèlanjènn  
diwi  
pwéson

“SPICE WORDS”

**Eben, alòs** = Well

e.g. Ou pa èmé sa? You don't like that?  
Eben, ki-sa ou kay fè? Well, what are you going to do?

**Tann!** = Hear!

e.g. Misyé-a mò, tann! The man is dead, do you hear!

**Awa!** = No!

e.g. **Awa!** Sa pa sa! No! That can't be!

**Mi ...!** = See ...! What a ...!

e.g. **Mi** yon bèl koté! What a pretty place!

**On?** = Eh?

e.g. Ou pa ka kouté mwen, **on**? You aren't listening to me, eh?

**Bondyé** = God

e.g. **Bondyé**, mwen fen! Good Lord, I'm hungry!

## AN ANATOMY LESSON

Tèt	–	head
Né	–	nose
Bouch	–	mouth
Tjè	–	heart
Chivé	–	hair
Zyé	–	eye
Zowèy	–	ear
Kou	–	neck
Bwa	–	
Lamen	–	hand
Dwèt	–	finger
Jounou	–	knee
Janm	–	leg
Pyé	–	foot
Talon	–	heel

PROVERBS  
(freely rendered)

- 1) **Kout koutla an glo pa ni mak.**  
The stroke of a cutlass in water leaves no mark.
- 2) **Jou ou abiyé sé pa jou ou ka jwènn bèlmè-ou.**  
The day you dress up is not the day you will meet your mother-in-law.
- 3) **Bèf douvan ka bwé glo nèt**  
The early bird catches the worm.
- 4) **Sa souwi a di an féty kay pa sa i ka di atè.**  
What the mouse says in the ceiling is not what he says on the floor.
- 5) **Wavèt pa ni padònn douvan poul.**  
Cockroach has no pardon in front of the chicken.
- 6) **Lè chat pa la, wat ka bay bal.**  
When the cat's away, the mice begin to play.
- 7) **Sa ki fèt an fènwè ka pawèt an klèté.**  
What is done in the dark will appear in the light.
- 8) **Sé pou dòmi an poulayé poul pou sav si poul ka wonflé.**  
One has to sleep in the chicken coop to know if the chickens snore.
- 9) **Vyé kanawi ka fè bon bouyon.**  
Old pots make good soup.
- 10) **Bon tjè kwab bay kwab mal do.**  
Crab's good heart gave Crab a bad back.
- 11) **Wòch ki atè ka mandé an glo; sa ki an glo ka mandé atè.**  
Rocks on the land ask to be in the water; those in the water ask to be on the land.
- 12) **Zandoli sav ki pyé-bwa i ka monté.**  
Zandoli knows which tree to climb.
- 13) **Ou dèyè kon dé talon.**  
You're as far behind as two heels.
- 14) **Lè bab kamawad-ou pwi difè, pwan glo wouzé sa-ou.**  
When your friend's beard catches fire, sprinkle water on your own.
- 15) **Chyen pa ka fè chat.**

- Cat cannot make dog.
- 16) **Do-mwen laj ou sa mawé zaimo-ou asou ii.**  
My back is so broad, you can tether your animals on it.
- 17) **Sa ki endé machandé chouval gwo bouden, pa ka endé péyé.**  
He who helps to price a big-bellied horse won't help to pay for it.
- 18) **Kabwit bay bal; mouton sou.**  
When Goat throws a party, Sheep gets drunk.
- 19) **Koté pak-la ba, sé la bèf ka soté.**  
Where the fence is low, the cow will jump.
- 20) **Piti hach ka bat gwo bwa.**  
Little axes cut big trees.
- 21) **Bon van; bon kouwan; lamè bèl; navidjé!**  
Good wind; good current; calm sea; let's sail!
- 22) **La ni pli bèl anba labay.**  
There are prettier things under the tub.
- 23) **Pli ou an hanyon, pli chyen ka halé ou.**  
The more ragged you are, the more the dogs tug at you.
- 24) **Avan zaboka té ka mi, makak té ka swen ich-li.**  
Before the zaboca ever got ripe, Monkey knew how to feed her young.
- 25) **Dèyè do sé an lòt péyi.**  
Out of sight, out of mind.
- 26) **On batiman koulé pa ka anpèché on lot navidjé.**  
A sunken ship won't prevent another's sailing.
- 27) **Ou viwé manjé kaka-ou.**  
You'll eat your words.
- 28) **Sa zyé pa wè, tjè pa ka fè mal.**  
What the eyes don't see won't hurt the heart.

## QUICK PHRASES

<b>Bonjou!</b>	Good morning! Hello!
<b>Sou plé.</b>	Please.
<b>Mèsi.</b>	Thank you.
<b>Padonn.</b>	Excuse me. Sorry.
<b>Ki lè i yé?</b>	What time is it?
<b>Mwen pèdi.</b>	I'm lost.
<b>Koté mwen?</b>	Where am I?
<b>Ki bèl pèi!</b>	What a lovely country!
<b>Sa entéwésan!</b>	How interesting!
<b>Mwen cho èk las.</b>	I'm hot and tired.
<b>Koté pwèvit-la?</b>	Where's the restroom?
<b>Ès diné pàwé?</b>	Is dinner ready?
<b>Mwen vlé on bwé.</b>	I want a drink.
<b>Annou alé lakay-nou.</b>	Let's go home.
<b>Mwen ka alé.</b>	I'm going. Goodbye.
<b>Bonswè.</b>	Good evening.