

**Bryant C. Freeman, Ph.D.**

# **TI KOZE KREYÒL**

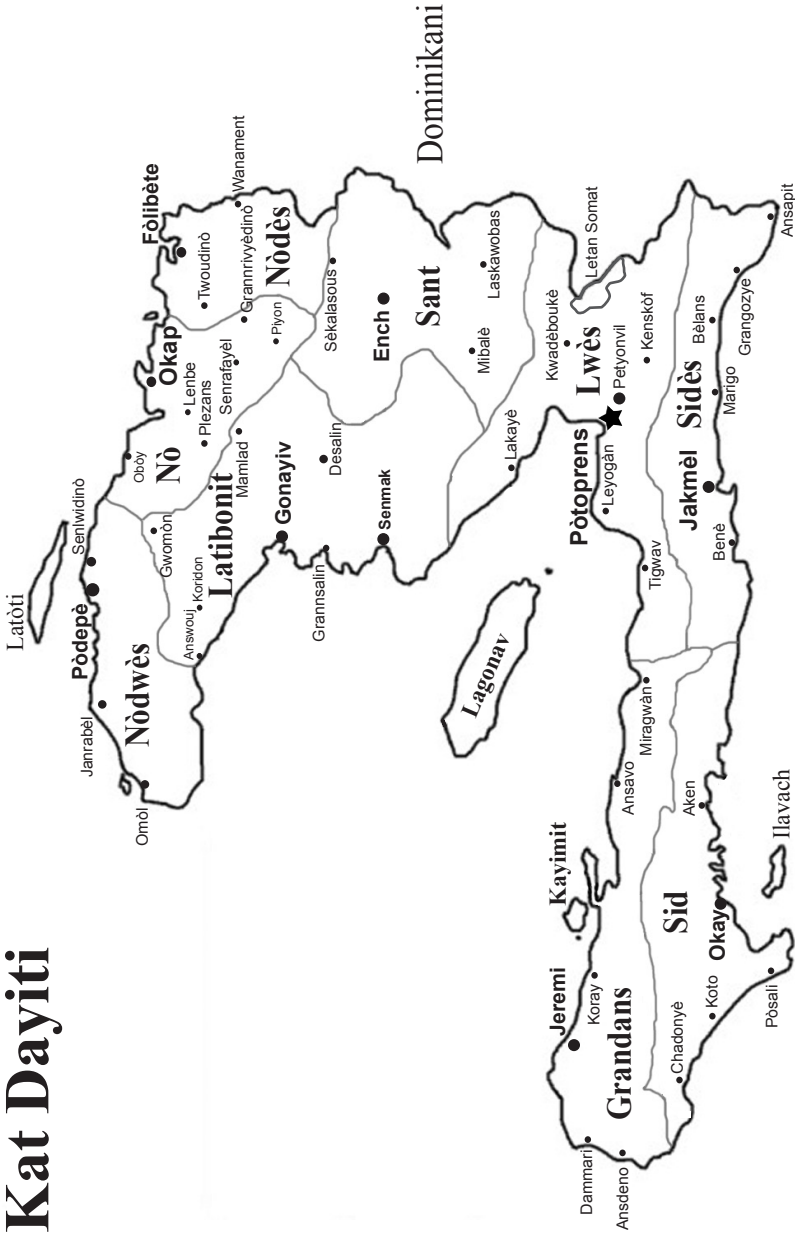
## **A Haitian-Creole Conversation Manual**



**Institute of Haitian Studies  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence**

**Edisyon Bon Nouvèl  
Pòtoprens**

# Kat Dayiti



# **Ti Koze Kreyòl**



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**And others**

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# **Ti Koze Kreyòl**

## **A Haitian-Creole Conversation Manual**

**With the collaboration of  
Jowel Laguerre, Ph.D.**

**Revised Edition**



**Institute of Haitian Studies  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence**

**Edisyon Bon Nouvèl  
Pòtoprens  
2007**

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## Introduction

*Ti Koze Kreyòl* is the tongue-in-cheek account of a generic John and Mary, or the story of boy meets girl (in Haitian Creole class!), and of their honeymoon adventures and misadventures across the Haitian scene. Mary is quite bright; John—although always with the best of intentions—is not. The first seven Conversations evolve in a scene familiar to the student, with repeated use of the terms of basic Haitian (e.g., **ale, kounyeya, wè**). Beginning with the eighth Conversation, the vocabulary of travel (e.g., **avyon, lotèl, malèt**) is introduced, and from this point on we have an informal travelogue on Haiti. The vocabulary widens to include more specific terms such as **bòs, machann, pyas, and pye kokoye**. The proverbial Haitian hospitality, Port-au-Prince, the Iron Market, the beaches, Cape Haitian, Sans-Souci palace, the Citadelle, all pass in review. In addition, we touch upon two basic subjects of which any student of Haiti should have at least some knowledge: foods, and Voodoo. In all, slightly over 1,000 words and expressions are used which will, we hope, give the beginning student greater ease with the language.

Besides these nineteen “prepared” Conversations, there are ten increasingly detailed outlines for free-form “Do-It-Yourself” Conversations, with topical vocabulary check-lists. Some fifteen other general subjects are suggested as well. As familiarity with the language increases, these outlines and subjects can also be used for written themes.

The Notes following each Conversation (indicated by an \*) are intended to highlight unfamiliar expressions, or to explain certain grammatical and linguistic problems. The section containing Historic Haitian Names attempts to provide a mini-guide to Haiti and its history, with names thus listed indicated by italics in the Conversations. The Haitian-English Glossary contains English equivalents for all Haitian terms occurring in the Conversations, Notes and Questions, as well

## **paj dis**

as in the short introductions preceding each “Do-It-Yourself” Conversation. The English-Haitian vocabularies of these embryonic Conversations, however, are not duplicated in the Glossary.

This text has been used successfully at the University of Kansas with classes which have completed the first basics of grammar and reading. It is intended as a lively corollary to further studies not only in the language but also in Haitian culture and literature.

Special thanks are due Jowel Laguerre, who prepared Conversation 13 on Haitian foods as well as the introductions to the “Do-It-Yourself” Conversations, while serving as a constant advisor. Additional thanks are extended to Marie Dieuvela César and to **Bon Nouvèl**’s inspiring director, Henk Kaal, both of whom made many invaluable suggestions. I wish to express appreciation to my wife, Stephanie Freeman, who sketched the amusing cartoons which help so much to set the tone for the texts. Finally, this most recent edition was set into type thanks to the patience and expertise of Gwen Claassen.

**Kenbe, pa lage! N a wè.**

Lawrence, Kansas  
September 2007

Bryant C. Freeman

**Tapes of the nineteen Conversations are available from Oread Books at the University of Kansas (tel.: 785-864-4431; [www.kubookstore.com](http://www.kubookstore.com)).**

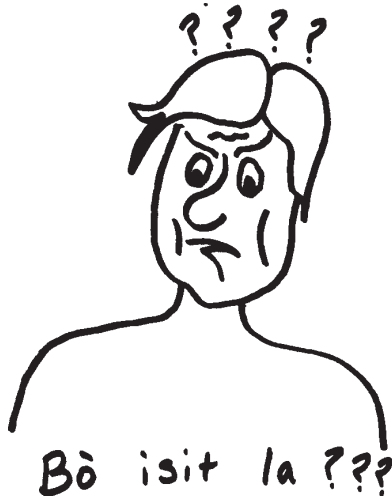
## Koze Youn (1): Kreyòl Ayisyen!

*Yon gason kontre ak yon fi.*

- Jan:** Bonjou, madmwazèl! Kijan ou ye?
- Mari:** M la,\* grasa Dye.
- Jan:** Ou se yon elèv isit la?\*
- Mari:** Men wi. E ou menm, ou se yon elèv tou? 5
- Jan:** Men wi. M ap etidye\* kreyòl ayisyen!
- Mari:** Kreyòl ayisyen! Men poukisa yon moun ta\* vle etidye sa?
- Jan:** M ap etidye l paske li enteresan. Epi m ta vle ale an Ayiti yon jou. 10
- Mari:** Ayiti? Ki kote li ye?
- Jan:** Li kote Kiba.\* Men ou poko di m: kijan ou rele?
- Mari:** M rele Mari.
- Jan:** Mwen menm, m rele Jan. Se ki kote ou rete, Mari? 15
- Mari:** Mwen rete bò isit la.\*
- Jan:** Kisa sa vle di, “bò isit la”?
- Mari:** Sa vle di m pa vle di ou kote m rete!
- Jan:** O! o! poukisa ou mechan avè\* m konsa! . . . 20  
E ou menm, Mari, kisa ou ap etidye?
- Mari:** Kreyòl ayisyen. Babay.
- Jan:** Mezanmi! Ala yon bèl ti dam!

## Koze Youn (1): Nòt

3. **M la** literally, “I’m there” (or: “I survived another day”), i.e., “I’m OK.” Many of the usual replies to the greetings “**Kijan ou ye?**” or “**Kouman ou ye?**” are inherently pessimistic: “**M pa pi mal**” (“I’m no worse”), “**M ap kenbe toujou**” (“I’m still holding on,” “I’m hanging in there”). Remember the role of the 18th-century slave community in the formation of what has become the Haitian language.
4. **isit la** literally, “here there,” but the **la** in this expression is used simply to give somewhat greater emphasis to **isit**.
6. **M ap etidye** “I am studying.” **ap** is the present progressive indicator, equivalent to the English ending “-ing.”
7. **ta** “would,” the conditional indicator.
12. **kote Kiba** “in the direction of Cuba,” or “near Cuba.”
17. **bò isit la** literally, “near here there,” i.e., “around here,” “in these parts.”
20. The word for “with” has three forms: **avèk**, **avè**, and **ak**.

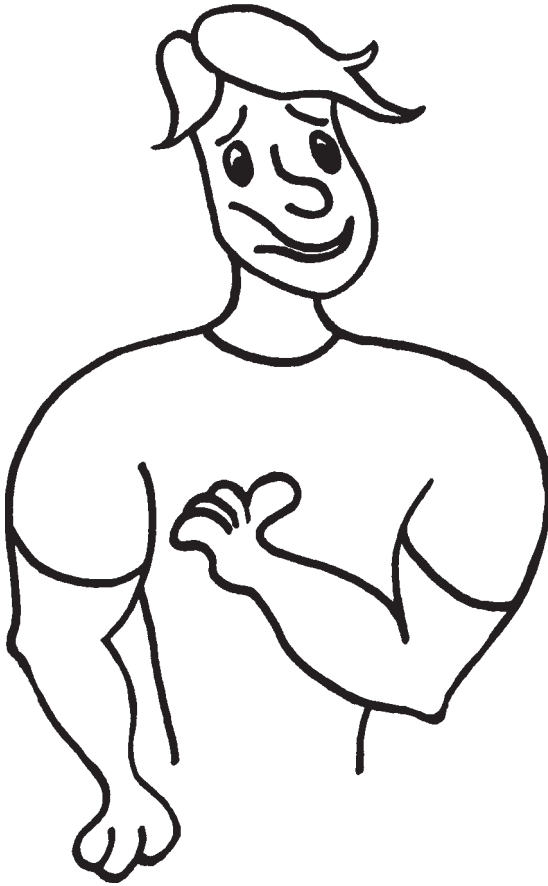


## Koze Youn (1): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kijan ou ye, madanm/madmwazèl/msye?
2. Ou se yon elèv isit la?
3. Ou se yon bon elèv?
4. Ou ap etidye kreyòl ayisyen?
5. Men poukisa ou vle etidye lang sa a?
6. Ou pale franse?
7. Ou pale angle?
8. Ou ta vle ale an Ayiti yon jou?
9. Ki kote Ayiti ye?
10. Kijan ou rele?
11. Se ki kote ou rete?
12. Èske ou dakò di tout moun ki kote ou rete?
13. Èske ou mechan?
14. Èske ou toujou janti ak tout moun?
15. Poukisa?

**Babay!**



*Mwen se yon fanatik nètale!*



## Koze De (2): Poukisa?

- Jan:** O! o! se ou! Kijan ou ye jòdi a, Mari?
- Mari:** M pa pi mal,\* Dye mèsì. E ou menm?
- Jan:** Mwen menm? M ap boule piti piti!\* Ki kote ou prale kounyeya, Mari?
- Mari:** Mwen prale nan klas kreyòl. 5
- Jan:** Nan klas kreyòl?! Mwen menm tou, se la m prale. M kab\* ale ansanm ak ou?
- Mari:** Si ou vle.
- Jan:** O wi! Men Mari, ou poko di m poukisa ou ap aprann kreyòl. 10
- Mari:** Se paske yon jou mwen ta renmen al wè yon peyi ki diferan. Si m vle byen konnen peyi sa a, se pou m pale\* lang li. Pou moun Ozetazini, Ayiti pa twò lwen. Se yon bèl peyi ki kab aprann nou anpil bagay. 15
- Jan:** Mari, ou se yon moun ki entelijan anpil! Kibò ou aprann tout kalite\* bèl bagay sa yo?
- Mari:** Men monchè, petèt se paske m fè anpil lekti! E ou menm, Jan, ou renmen li?\*
- Jan:** Men wi, machè! Mwen se yon fanatik nètale! 20  
Mwen li anpil anpil!
- Mari:** Se byen sa . . .\* Nou rive. Mèt la la\* deja.
- Jan:** M kab ba\* ou woulib\* lè nou lage?
- Mari:** Yon lòt fwa, monchè. Jòdi a, lè nou lage, m ap prese. 25

## Koze De (2): Nòt

2. **M pa pi mal** literally, “I’m no worse,” i.e., “I’m OK.” Cf. Conversation 1, Note 3.
3. **M ap boule piti piti** literally, “I’m burning little by little,” i.e., “I can’t complain,” “I’m getting along.”
7. **kab** “can.” This auxiliary verb has four forms: **kapab**, **ka**, **kap**, **kab**, used interchangeably.
13. **se pou m pale** “I must speak.” **pou** is used here to indicate necessity or obligation; **pou** is also used as a preposition meaning “for” (see line 13), or to indicate possession: **Liv sa a pou mwen** “That book is mine.”
17. **kalite** the most common meaning is “type of”; it can also mean “quality.”
19. Don’t forget: **li** can be a verb meaning “to read,” as well as a pronoun meaning “he, she, it; his, her, its; him, her, it.”
22. Mary seems somewhat less than fully convinced here of John’s sincerity!  
The first **la** is the definite article “the”; the second **la** means “there.”
23. The verb meaning “to give” has three forms: **bay**, **ba**, and **ban**, depending upon the following word (see Conversation 16, Note 34).  
**woulib** literally, “free wheel,” i.e., “a ride,” “a lift.”

## Koze De (2): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kijan ou ye jòdi a, madanm/madmwazèl/msye?
2. Ki kote ou prale kounyeya?
3. Ki kote klas kreyòl ou a ye?
4. Èske ou te janm vizite yon peyi lòt bò?
5. Ki peyi sa a?
6. Konben tan ou te pase la a?
7. Ou te renmen peyi sa a?
8. Lè ou ap vizite yon peyi, èske li pi bon pou ou konn pale lang li?
9. Pou moun Ozetazini, èske Ayiti lwen?
10. Ayiti, se yon bèl peyi?
11. Ayiti kapab aprann nou anpil bagay? Kisa, pa egzanp?
12. Ki kote ou aprann tout kalite bèl bagay sa yo?
13. Ou renmen fè lekti?
14. Kisa ou konn li?
15. Ou prese jòdi a?
16. Ou kapab ban m woulib jòdi a?

**Orevwa!**

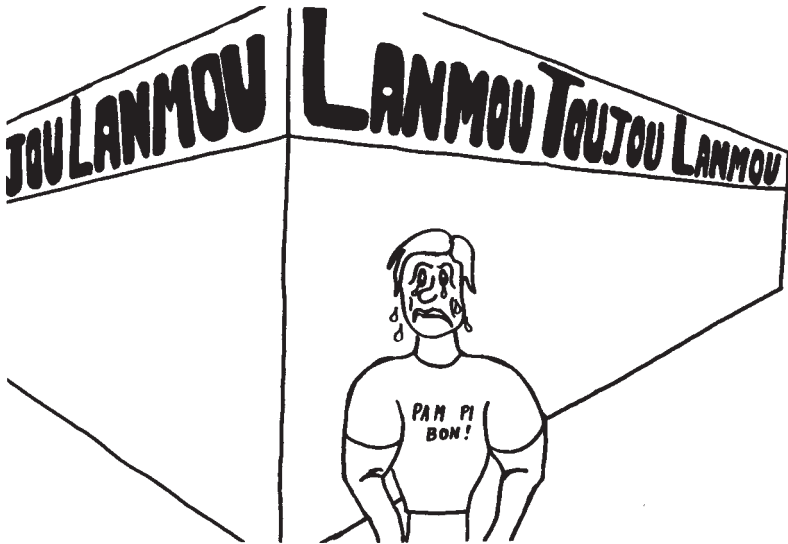
paj dizwit

### **Koze Twa (3): “Lanmou, Toujou Lanmou!”**

- Jan:** Woy!\* Mari! Ban m nouvèl ou!\*
- Mari:** M byen, wi. E ou menm, Jan?
- Jan:** Mwen menm? M ap gade san pran.\*
- Mari:** Kisa sa vle di, ou ap “gade san pran”?
- Jan:** Sa vle di jòdi a kè m pa kontan. 5
- Mari:** Poukisa, monchè?
- Jan:** Mwen tris paske mwen blije ale nan sinema pou kont mwen.\*
- Mari:** Kouman! Yon gwo nèg tankou ou, ou pè ale nan sinema ou menm sèl? 10
- Jan:** Non, machè. Mwen pa pè, men m konnen yon fi ki bèl anpil, mwen ta vle envite l ale ak mwen nan sinema. Mwen pa konn si l a vle.
- Mari:** O! o! ki moun sa a?
- Jan:** Ou pa konnen? Se ou menm menm\* wi, 15  
Mari.
- Mari:** Mèsi anpil, monchè. Ou janti, men m gen anpil travay pou m fè\* aswè a.
- Jan:** Men se yon fim ki bon anpil!
- Mari:** Wi? Kijan li rele? 20
- Jan:** Li rele: “Lanmou, Toujou Lanmou!”
- Mari:** “Lanmou, Toujou Lanmou!” Monchè, mwen twò piti pou al wè yon fim konsa... Men, ou kab envite m yon lòt fwa, si ou vle. N a wè\* 25  
yon lòt jou.
- Jan:** N a wè, Mari.

### Koze Twa (3): Nòt

1. **Woy!** “Hey!” (to attract someone’s attention).  
**Ban m nouvèl ou!** literally, “Give me your news!” another very frequent way of asking, “How are you?”
3. **ap gade san pran** literally, “to be looking without taking,” i.e., “to be on the outside looking in.” A popular, semi-humorous reply.
8. **pou kont mwen** literally, “for my account,” i.e., “alone.”
15. **Se ou menm menm** repetition for emphasis: “It’s you!”
18. **pou m fè** “(that) I must do.” **pou** is used here to indicate obligation; cf. Conversation 2, Note 13.
24. **N a wè** literally, “We shall see (each other again),” i.e., “(I’ll) see you!”



M ap gade san pran.

paj ven

### **Koze Twa (3): Kèsyon**

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Ban m nouvèl ou!
2. Ou tris jòdi a?
3. Poukisa ou tris?
4. Poukisa ou pa tris?
5. Ou renmen ale nan sinema?
6. Ou pè ale nan sinema pou kont ou?
7. Ou pito ale nan sinema ak yon zanmi?
8. Kijan li rele?
9. Ou konnen yon fi/gason ki bèl anpil?
10. Ou ta vle envite l ale ak ou nan sinema?
11. Ou kwè li ta vle ale ak ou?
12. Ou gen anpil travay pou ou fè aswè a?
13. Poukisa?
14. Ou konnen yon fim ki bon anpil?
15. Kijan li rele?

*Yon ti pyès teyat pou nou jwe -*

**Ou vle envite yon moun ale ak ou nan sinema:**

- a) Li vle ale ak ou.
- b) Li pa vle ale ak ou.

**N a wè!**

### Koze Kat (4): Yon Ti Gout Kafe

- Jan:** Mari! Mari! Kote\* ou prale?
- Mari:** Nan klas kreyòl; sa ou vle?\*. . . E ou menm, ou pa prale nan klas kreyòl kounyeya?
- Jan:** Men wi! Mwen manke bliye.\*
- Mari:** Ou manke bliye! Men ou pa serye, monchè! Kijan 5  
ou vle aprann kreyòl si ou pa vini nan klas chak jou?
- Jan:** Wi, se vre. Ou gen rezon, Mari. Men, m gen yon gwo pwoblèm.
- Mari:** Yon gwo pwoblèm? Men ki pwoblèm ou ka 10  
genyen, monchè?
- Jan:** Machè, mwen gen yon kout chapo pou\* yon dam, men li pa renmen m.
- Mari:** Yon dam ki pa renmen ou? Men ou se yon gason ki janti anpil! 15
- Jan:** Se sa m kwè! Men li menm, li pa wè sa!
- Mari:** Men dam sa a fou! Pou jan ou se yon bon nèg,\* Jan!
- Jan:** Mwen toujou kite\* l wè sa, men li pa okipe\* m.
- Mari:** Men kilès dam sa a? 20
- Jan:** Men se ou menm menm, Mari!
- Mari:** Mwen menm? Se pa vre! Mwen kwè ou debyen anpil!
- Jan:** Bon! Alò, ou vle n al bwè yon ti gout kafe ansanm? 25
- Mari:** Oke! Ann ale!\*



paj vennde

*Yo antre nan yon bèl ti restoran ki rele “Kiyè Sal.”\**

**Jan:** Ou renmen ti restoran sa a, Mari?

**Mari:** Men wi! Li bèl, men gen twòp moun.

**Jan:** Se vre! Kote gason an ye? O! men li. Gason, ou ka pote de ti tas kafe ban nou, souple? 30

**Gason:** Touswit! Nou vle krèm oubyen sik nan kafe a?

**Toude:** Men wi! Ou mèt mete toude.

**Jan:** Epi tou, pote yon pòch sigarèt pou mwen, souple.

**Gason:** Mwen regrèt sa, nou pa gen sigarèt menm!\*

**Mari:** O! o! Ou fimen, Jan? Li pa bon pou ou, non!

**Jan:** Wi, m konnen sa. M ta renmen kite\* fimen, men m gen anvi fimen tanzantan, sitou lè m eksite.

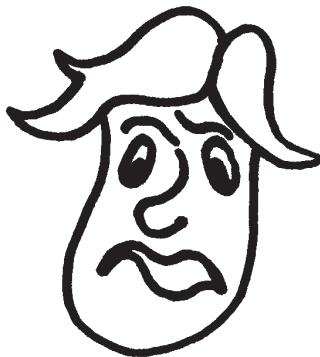
**Mari:** Ou eksite kounyeya? Poukisa?

**Jan:** Paske m avè ou. 40

**Mari:** Ou eksite paske ou avè m! Se pa serye sa, monchè!

**Jan:** Wi, men se premye fwa ou sòti ak mwen.

**Mari:** Men se premye fwa ou envite m tou, monchè.\*



Men, m gen  
yon gwo pwoblèm



## Koze Kat (4): Nòt

1. **Kote** “Where?” here short for **Ki kote?**
2. **sa ou vle?** “what do you expect?” here short for **kisa ou vle?** (Usually this would mean, “what do you want?”)
4. **Mwen manke bliye** literally, “I (just) missed forgetting,” i.e., “I almost forgot.”
12. **gen yon kout chapo pou** literally, “to have a hit of the hat for,” i.e., “to have a crush on.”
17. **Pou jan ou se yon bon nèg** “(For the way) you’re such a great guy.”
19. **kite** “to let, permit, allow”; also can mean “to leave”; and “to stop (doing something),” as in line 37.  
**okipe** “to pay attention to.”
26. **Ann ale!** “Let’s go!” **an** is combined with **n(ou)** to indicate the first-person plural imperative.
27. Any resemblance between this name and “Greasy Spoon” is purely intentional. Haitians often refer to this kind of restaurant as a “**restoran dezavèg**” (literally, “restaurant of the blind”).
35. **pa . . . menm** “not . . . at all.”
37. **kite** “to stop (doing something),” cf. line 19.
43. Mary’s good faith could be questioned here! (Cf. the preceding Conversation.)

## Koze Kat (4): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Ki kote Mari prale?
2. Kisa Jan manke bliye?
3. Ki konsèy Mari bay Jan?
4. Ou dakò ak sa?
5. Poukisa Jan manke bliye al lekòl?
6. Ki gwo pwoblèm Jan genyen?
7. Ki moun Jan renmen?
8. Èske ou kwè Mari renmen Jan tou?



9. Ki kote yo ale apre sa?
10. Ki non restoran sa a?
11. Ki bweson yo kòmande?
12. Kisa yo vle ansanm ak kafe a?
13. Èske Jan konn fimen?
14. E ou menm, èske ou konn fimen?
15. Poukisa Jan eksite kounyeya?
16. Èske se premye fwa Jan envite Mari sòti?

**M ale!\***

\***M ale!** literally, “I go!” i.e., “Bye!”

## Koze Senk (5): Nan Restoran “Kiyè Sal”

- Mari:** Men pa di m,\* ou renmen klas kreyòl nou an?
- Jan:** Men wi! M renmen l plis pase tout lòt klas yo!
- Mari:** Poukisa?
- Jan:** M pa konnen egzakteman. Li enteresan—epi mwen menm se yon nèg ki renmen fè sa ki 5  
diferan! . . . Epi tou, zanmi m yo anraje nan kò  
m\* paske yo kwè mwen fou dèske m ap etidye  
kreyòl.
- Mari:** Mwen menm tou! Men li amizan anpil anpil\*!
- Gason:** Men te\* yo. 10
- Jan:** Nou pa t mande te, non, se kafe nou te mande.
- Gason:** O! o! Eskize m! M pral chache sa pou nou san  
pèdi tan.
- Jan:** Ou ta renmen manje yon ti bagay kounyeya,  
Mari? Mwen menm, m grangou wi. 15
- Mari:** Mwen menm, m pa grangou. Mwen swaf sèlman.  
Men ou toujou grangou, ou menm?
- Jan:** Wi, se konsa m ye! M ta renmen pran yon  
anbègè.\*
- Mari:** Men monchè, se twòp sa! Li deja prèske senkè.\* 20  
Nan inèdtan\* ou pral soupe.
- Jan:** Ou gen rezon, Mari, ou toujou gen rezon. Mwen  
ka manje sa yon lòt fwa.
- Gason:** Men kafe yo, wi.
- Jan:** Mèsi, men nou pa gen kiyè. 25
- Gason:** Pa gen pwoblèm. Men de kiyè pou nou. Nou vle  
napkin\* tou?
- Mari:** Wi, souple.  
(*Yo bwè kafe yo.*)

paj vennsis

Mari: O! Li ta. Li prèske sizè. 30

Jan: Men wi. Gason, pote fich la pou mwen, souple.

Gason: Men li.

Jan: M kwè gen yon move kalkil sou fich la. Nou te pran de kafe sèlman, men ou mete de kafe ak de te. 35

Gason: O! o! Kite m wè sa. Ou gen rezon! M sonje kounyeya.

Jan: Oke, li bon kounyeya. Èske tep la nan total la?

Gason: Non, msye.

Jan: Bon. Mete sa nan pòch ou. 40

KIYÈ SAL



Mete sa nan pòch ou.

## Koze Senk (5): Nòt

1. **Men pa di m** literally, “But don’t tell me,” i.e., “But tell me.”
6. **anraje nan kò m** literally, “enraged in my body,” i.e., “on my case.”
9. **anpil anpil** repetition for emphasis, a frequently used device in Haitian.
10. **te** “tea”; **te** is also of course the past tense indicator, and watch out for **tè** “land, earth.”
19. Use both your ear and your imagination on this one!
20. **senkè** “five o’clock.” **è** indicates “hour,” and is combined with the various numbers for telling time:

<b>inè</b>	one o’clock	<b>setè</b>	seven o’clock
<b>dezè</b>	two o’clock	<b>witè</b>	eight o’clock
<b>twazè</b>	three o’clock	<b>nevè</b>	nine o’clock
<b>katrè</b>	four o’clock	<b>dizè</b>	ten o’clock
<b>senkè</b>	five o’clock	<b>onzè</b>	eleven o’clock
<b>size</b>	six o’clock		

BUT: **midi** noon

**minwi** midnight

See also “Do-It-Yourself” Conversation 3, page 93.

21. **inèdtan** “one hour (of time).” Cf. the French *une heure (de temps)*.
27. **napkin** “paper napkin”; **sèvyèt** “cloth napkin.”

paj ventwit

## Koze Senk (5): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Poukisa Jan renmen klas kreyòl li a?
2. E ou menm, ou renmen klas kreyòl ou a tou?
3. Èske zanmi Jan yo renmen kreyòl menm jan ak li?
4. E zanmi ou yo, èske yo renmen kreyòl menm jan ak ou?
5. Kisa gason an pote ba yo?
6. Men, kisa yo te mande pou bwè?
7. Kisa Jan ta vle manje?
8. E ou menm, ou ta vle manje yon bagay kounyeya?  
Kisa?
9. Poukisa Mari kwè Jan pa bezwen manje kounyeya?
10. Lè gason an pote kafe yo, kisa li pote tou?
11. Kisa gason an pa t bay mesye dam yo?
12. Lè yo fin bwè kafe yo, kilè li te ye?
13. Lè moun vle peye nan yon restoran, ki de bagay yo bezwen?
- 14) Kisa ki pa t bon nan fich la?
15. Kisa yon tep ye?
16. Lè ou ale nan yon restoran, konben kòb ou konn kite pou moun k ap sèvi ou a?

**Babay!**

**Koze Sis (6): Jalouzi**

*Nan lari. Jan wè Mari ak yon zanmi.*

**Jan:** Bonswa, Mari. Ban m nouvèl ou.

**Mari:** M pa pi mal, non. E ou menm?

**Jan:** M la, wi.

**Mari:** M ta renmen ou fè konesans ak zanmi m, Kami, 5  
ki fèk\* sòti an Ayiti.

**Jan:** O! o! Mwen kontan anpil anpil fè konesans ak  
ou!! Kilè ou rive isit?

**Kami:** Gen twa jou sèlman depi m rive.\* Se kay Mari  
m te desann, men kounyeya m fèk jwenn yon ti 10  
apatman prive.

**Jan:** O! o! yon ti apatman pa ou!\* Ki kote li ye?

**Mari:** Jan monchè, nou prese anpil kounyeya. Nou p ap  
gen tan pale plis ak ou. N a wè ou yon lòt jou. N  
ale.\* (*Yo pati. Jan rete pou kont li.\**) 15

**Jan:** O! o! Kèt! Dam sa a anfòm, papa! Piske Mari  
toujou mechan avè m. . .



*Li witè diswa konsa.\* Jan chita lakay li; l ap li  
yon liv ki rele: “KIJAN OU MENM TOU KAB  
JWENN YON BÈL FI.”* 20

**Jan:** Si sèlman m te konnen kijan m ta ka jwenn Kami,  
men m pa konn ki kote li rete. Fout!

*Telefòn lan sonnen; Jan reponn.*

**Jan:** Alo.

**Mari:** Bonswa, Jan. Se Mari. 25

**Jan:** O! Mari, kouman ou ye? Mwen kontan tande  
vwa ou. Kisa ou ap fè aswè a?

paj trant

**Mari:** Anyen. Mwen lakay mwen, m ap etidye.

**Jan:** Kisa ou ap etidye?

**Mari:** Sa ou kwè? Kreyòl ayisyen, monchè. 30

**Jan:** O! Mwen menm tou, mwen t ap etidye kreyòl!\*  
Èske ou dakò pou m vini etidye ak ou?

**Mari:** Mwen ta byen renmen sa.

**Jan:** M ap rive lakay ou taptap!\* M a wè ou talè.\*

**Mari:** Oke. M ap tann ou. 35





## Koze Sis (6): Nòt

6. **fèk** “to have just” (done something), an important idiom.
9. **Gen twa jou sèlman depi m rive.** “I got here only three days ago.”
12. **yon ti apatman pa ou!** “your own little apartment!”  
When **pa** is followed by a verb, it indicates a negative; when **pa** is followed by a pronoun (as here) or by a noun, it indicates possession.
15. **N ale** literally, “We go,” i.e., “Bye.” Cf. also **M ale** “Bye” in Note to Questions on Conversation 4, page 24. (It could well be that Mary’s hasty departure here is not unrelated to the title of this Conversation!)  
**pou kont li** “alone.” Cf. Conversation 3, Note 8.
18. **witè diswa konsa** “around 8 p.m.”
31. Here it is John’s good faith we can put into question!
34. **taptap** “right away,” “fast.” Also the name for the small pick-up trucks that serve as public transportation especially in downtown Port-au-Prince.  
**talè** “soon,” “in a little while (from now)”; “a little while ago” would have been **talè a**. (Sorry, but no language is without its little difficulties!)

paj trannde

## Koze Sis (6): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Ak ki moun Jan fè konesans kounyeya?
  2. Kami se moun ki peyi?
  3. Èske gen lontan depi li debake isit?
  4. Kay ki moun li te rete?
  5. Epi ki kote li rete kounyeya?
  6. Èske Kami gen tan di Jan kote li rete?
  7. Poukisa li pa gen tan?
- ◆ ◆ ◆
8. Ki liv Jan vin ap li pita?
  9. Èske Jan konnen ki kote Kami rete?
  10. Ki moun ki rele Jan nan telefòn, Mari oubyen Kami?
  11. Poukisa Mari rele Jan?
  12. Kisa Mari t ap etidye?
  13. Èske Jan t ap etidye kreyòl vre lè Mari te rele li?
  14. Ou kwè Jan mande Mari sa manmzèl te vle a?
  15. Lèfini, kisa k ap pase kounyeya?

N ale!

**Koze Sèt (7): Mwen renmen ou!**

*Jan rive lakay Mari.*

**Jan:** Bonswa, Mari. Kijan ou ye?

**Mari:** Bonswa, Jan.

**Jan:** Ou konnen, m kontan anpil ou te telefòn m.  
Gen si mwa konsa depi m konnen ou,\* men se 5  
premye fwa ou rele m.

**Mari:** Se vre?

**Jan:** Men wi, Mari. Mwen te fin kwè ou pa t renmen  
m menm menm.\*

**Mari:** Se pa sa ditou, Jan. Ou se yon nèg ki janti anpil 10  
anpil.

**Jan:** Wi, Mari. Ou di sa, men sa pa vle di anyen. Ou  
konnen anpil lòt gason ki janti tou.

**Mari:** Men yo pa tankou ou, Jan!

**Jan:** O Mari! M renmen ou anpil! 15

**Mari:** E mwen renmen ou tou, Jan!

**Jan:** O! o! (*Li ba l yon ti bo, epi li ba l yon gwo bo . . .*)



*Kèk tan pita:*

**Jan:** Mari, ou dous anpil anpil . . . Mwen ta vle marye  
ak ou!\* 20

**Mari:** O Jan! M te kwè ou pa ta janm mande m sa!

**Jan:** Se vre? Toutbon? Ou dakò? Ou vle marye ak  
mwen tou?

**Mari:** Wi, Jan. Ou se sèl gason m renmen!!

**Jan:** O, Mari. Mwen menm se nèg ki pi chanse nan 25  
lemonn. M sezi. M pa kapab kwè ou renmen m  
toutbonvre.

paj tranngkat

**Mari:** O Jan!

**Jan:** Men kilè nou ka fè maryaj sa a?

**Mari:** Jòdi a se jou kenz me.\* Legliz la lib jou de jen.\* 30

**Jan:** O! o!

**Mari:** Si nou marye a senkè diswa, nan denmen nou ta ka pati fè yon ti vwayaj nòs.

**Jan:** O! o! E ki kote nou ta ka ale, Mari? 35

**Mari:** Petèt nou ta ka al pase kèk tan an Ayiti. Nou toude ap etidye kreyòl, epi Ayiti se de kout pye.\*

**Jan:** O! Mezanmi! Se yon bon lide, Mari, men gen yon sèl ti pwoblèm: ki kote nou pral jwenn kòb\* pou fè vwayaj sa a? 40

**Mari:** Pa gen pwoblèm. M gen yon vye tonton, sa fè kèk tan depi li mouri. Msye kite yon ti kòb pou mwen. Yon vwayaj an Ayiti pa koute chè anpil, konsa nou ta ka pase kèk senmenn lòt bò a.

**Jan:** O! o! Ou se yon fanm total, cheri! 45



## Koze Sèt (7): Nòt

5. **Gen si mwa konsa depi m konnen ou** “I have known you for about six months.” Note the use of the present tense with **depi** for action continuing into the present. Cf. similar construction in French.
9. **menm** after a negative verb means “(not) . . . at all.” Cf. Conversation 4, Note 35. Here **menm** is repeated for emphasis.
19. **marye ak** note that “to marry someone” is **marye ak yon moun**; the verb **marye** alone means “to perform a marriage ceremony” or “to marry off (one’s daughter, etc.).”
30. This might be an appropriate time to review the months of the year:
- |                |          |                |           |
|----------------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| <b>janvye</b>  | January  | <b>jiyè</b>    | July      |
| <b>fevriye</b> | February | <b>out</b>     | August    |
| <b>mas</b>     | March    | <b>septanm</b> | September |
| <b>avril</b>   | April    | <b>oktòb</b>   | October   |
| <b>me</b>      | May      | <b>novanm</b>  | November  |
| <b>jen</b>     | June     | <b>desanm</b>  | December  |
37. **de kout pye** literally, “two kicks (away),” i.e., “a stone’s throw away.” Haiti is 600 miles southeast of Florida, or about one hour 30 minutes by air from Miami to Port-au-Prince.
39. **kòb** “money,” “dough.” **kòb** literally means the Haitian cent, formerly valued at 1/5 the American cent, but is also the familiar expression for “money.” **Lajan** is the more formal term for “money.”

## Koze Sèt (7): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Èske Jan kontan Mari rele l nan telefòn aswè a?
  2. Depi konben tan Jan konn Mari?
  3. Poukisa Jan te kwè Mari pa t renmen l?
  4. Èske Mari kwè tout gason tankou Jan?
- ♦ ♦ ♦
5. Lè Jan fin bo Mari, kisa Jan di l li ta vle fè?
  6. Èske ou kwè Jan fou nèt?
  7. Ki moun nan klas isit la ki marye deja? Si non, kilè ou ta vle marye?
  8. Èske Mari te kwè Jan t ap mande l marye?
  9. Mari renmen yon lòt gason tou, pa vre?
  10. Poukisa Jan sezi?
  11. Ki dat Mari vle marye? Ou ta vle ale nan maryaj sa a?
  12. Èske ou kontan lè yo envite ou ale nan yon maryaj?
  13. Gen moun ki konn kriye nan seremoni maryaj. Poukisa?
  14. Ki dat jòdi a ye?
  15. Poukisa se Ayiti yo ta vle fè vwayaj nòs yo?
  16. Kijan Mari kwè li ka jwenn kòb pou fè vwayaj la?
  17. E ou menm, èske ou ka jwenn kòb pou sa tou?
  18. Si ou ka jwenn kòb sa a, èske ou ta ka prete m yon ti kòb pou jouk denmen? Jouk nan yon mwa? Jouk nan si mwa?

N a wè!

**Koze Wit (8): Nan Avyon an**

**Jan:** Eskize m, msye. Ou konn akilè n ap rive *Pòtoprens*?

**Msye Nasis:** Nou pral rive nan karant minit konsa. Yo\* mete sèlman inè\* trant minit sòti Miyami rive *Pòtoprens*. Men di m non, ki kote ou aprann pale kreyòl konsa? 5

**Jan:** Nan yon inivèsite Ozetazini.

**Msye Nasis:** Mezanmi! Tande de koze!\* Se byen, sa! Mwen pa t konnen gen kote ki montre moun kreyòl Ozetazini. 10

**Mari:** Men wi! Gen deplizanpli moun k ap aprann kreyòl lòt bò kounyeya.

**Msye Nasis:** Gen lè ou pale kreyòl tou, madanm? M pa kab kwè ou pale kreyòl konsa, san pwoblèm . . . E kisa nou pral fè an Ayiti? 15

**Mari:** Nou pral pase kèk tan *Pòtoprens*, epi nou ta vle vizite *Jakmèl, Okap ak Sitadèl*.

**Jan:** Epi mwen menm, m ta renmen wè *Pilat*.

**Msye Nasis:** *Pilat*? Men poukisa ou ta renmen wè yon ti vil konsa? 20

**Jan:** Se paske m te li nan yon liv ki pale sou Ayiti: *Pilat* se kapital zonbi!

**Msye Nasis:** Kapital zonbi? Kisa sa vle di?

**Jan:** Yo di tout moun nan vil sa a, se zonbi yo ye.

**Msye Nasis:** E ou kwè sa?! Monchè, pa gen pwoblèm: se pou ou ale *Pilat*, pou ou ka wè ak de grenn je ou sa ou a jwenn. Epi *Pilat* pa twò lwen *Pòdepè*. *Pòdepè* se yon bèl ti pò, epi li gen yon bon lotèl ki bay sou\* lanmè. Fòk\* ou wè mache a tou. Epi si ou vle, ou ka jwenn yon ti bato la pou mennen ou *Latòti*. 30

paj trantwit

Jan: *Latòti? Kisa sa ye?*

Msye Nasis: O monchè, se yon zile ki enteresan anpil wi.  
Se kote sa a flibistye\* franse te tere\* trezò yo.

Jan ak Mari: Flibistye! Trezò!

Msye Nasis: Men wi, nan twou wòch\* yo. Gen anpil twou 35  
wòch *Latòti*. Moun toujou ap chache trezò sa yo  
jouk kounyeya.

Jan ak Mari: O! Fòk nou wè sa!

Msye Nasis: Men wi. Men nou pa di m, poukisa nou prale 40  
Ayiti kounyeya?

Jan: Paske se vwayaj nòs nou.

Msye Nasis: O! Nou se nouvo marye! Se pou nou fete sa!  
Fòk nou vini lakay mwen *Pòtoprens*. M ta renmen  
nou fè konesans ak\* fanmi mwen.

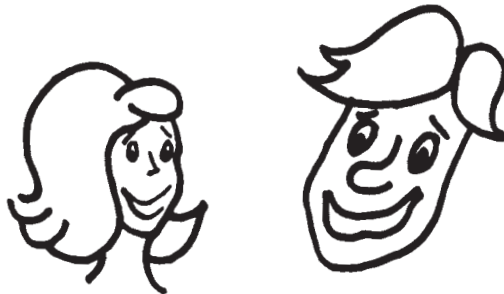
Jan ak Mari: Ak gran plezi. 45

Msye Nasis: O, nou rive *Pòtoprens*. Men ayewopò  
entènasyonal *Tousen Louvèti*.

Jan: *Tousen Louvèti? Se pa konsa yo te di nou li rele.*

Msye Nasis: Anvan, yo te rele l ayewopò *Franswa Divalye*, 50  
epi apre sa yo rele l *Mayi Gate*. Men kounyeya  
se *Tousen Louvèti* yo rele l.

Jan ak Mari: Oooo!



Flibistye! Trezò!!!



## Koze Wit (8): Nòt

3. **Yo** - note that **yo** is often used in the same way as is the French impersonal *on* (“one,” “they”).
4. **inè** here, “one hour.” It can also mean of course “one o’clock.” See Conversation 5, Note 20.
8. **Tande de koze!** literally, “Hear some talk!” i.e., “Just listen to that!”
28. **bay sou** literally, “gives upon,” i.e., “looks out onto.”
29. **Fòk** “It is necessary that”; here, with **ou** “You must.” **Fòk** is always the first word in a sentence or phrase.
33. **flibistye** “pirate” (originally from the Dutch or English word “freebooter”).  
**tere** “to bury.” Cf. the French **enterrer** “to bury”; often a two-syllable Haitian word corresponds to a three-syllable French word without the first syllable:
  - écouter* - **koute** (“to listen to”)
  - oublier* - **bliye** (“to forget”)
  - regarder* - **gade** (“to look at”)
  - écraser* - **kraze** (“to smash, break”)
  - acajou* - **kajou** (“mahogany”)
  - espagnol* - **panyòl** (“Spanish”)
35. **twou wòch** literally, “holes of rocks,” i.e., “caves.”
44. **fè konesans ak** literally, “to make acquaintance with,” i.e., “to meet.”

## Koze Wit (8): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Konben tan yon avyon mete pou sòti Miyami rive Pòtoprens?
2. Ki kote blan yo aprann pale kreyòl Ozetazini?
3. Ki kote yo ta renmen vizite an Ayiti?
4. Poukisa Jan anvi konnen Pilat?
5. Ki lòt vil ki tou pre Pilat?
6. Èske moun ka rive Latòti apye? Kijan moun ka janbe la?
7. Kisa Latòti ye?
8. Kisa yo kwè flibistye te fè Latòti?
9. Ou kwè trezò sa yo la toujou?
10. Poukisa Jan ak Mari prale Ayiti?
11. Lè yo rive Pòtoprens, ki envitasyon msye Nasis fè yo?

*De ti pyès teyat pou nou jwe:*

- A. De moun—yon Ayisyen ak yon Ameriken—fè konesans nan yon avyon ki ale an Ayiti.
- B. De moun ap pale nan yon avyon (men gen youn ki gen yon bonm kache nan valiz li!).

**Koze Nèf (9): Yo Rive!**

*Nan ayewopò Pòtoprens.*

**Jan:** Men\* paspò n yo, msye.

**Dwannye:** O! Se pa ou pale vre lang natif natal!\* M sezi!  
Pa gen anpil moun lòt bò\* ki fè menm jan an. M  
kontan wè sa. 5

**Mari:** Mèsi, msye. Men souple, di nou kote pou nou  
jwenn malèt nou yo.

**Dwannye:** Pa gen pwoblèm. Nou mèt tann yon ti moman  
nan sal la, y ap rive talè.

**Jan:** Mèsi anpil, msye. 10

**Dwannye:** Deryen.\*

**Mari:** M pa te kwè ta gen anpil touris konsa ki ta debake  
isit, men m kwè se nou sèl ki konn pale kreyòl.

**Jan:** Gen lè\* ou gen rezon, cheri. Men zanmi nou  
an. 15

**Msye Nasis:** O! Se nou! Se pa lapenn\* pou nou pran  
yon taksi. Pitit fi mwen an ap vin chache m nan  
machin. Nou ka ban nou woulib.

**Jan:** Mèsi anpil, msye. O! ala yon bon nèg se ou!\* 20

**Msye Nasis:** Men nou poko di m non\* nou.

**Mari:** M rele Mari, e mari m rele Jan.

**Msye Nasis:** Mwen kontan anpil fè konesans ak nou. E  
mwen menm m rele Jera Nasis.

**Pòtè:** M mèt ede nou?

**Msye Nasis:** Wi, souple. Konben malèt nou genyen? 25

**Jan:** Nou gen yon gwo malèt ak de lòt ki pi piti.

**Msye Nasis:** Oke! Msye, pote malèt sa yo deyò pou nou,  
souple. O! men pitit fi mwen an!

paj karannde

**Masèl:** Papa, mwen byen kontan wè ou! Ou te fè bon vwayaj? 30

**Msye Nasis:** Men wi, m kontan tounen nan peyi a. Masèl, m ta renmen ou fè konesans ak Jan e Mari. Yo fèk marye, epi se isit yo chwazi pou fè vwayaj nòs yo a. 35

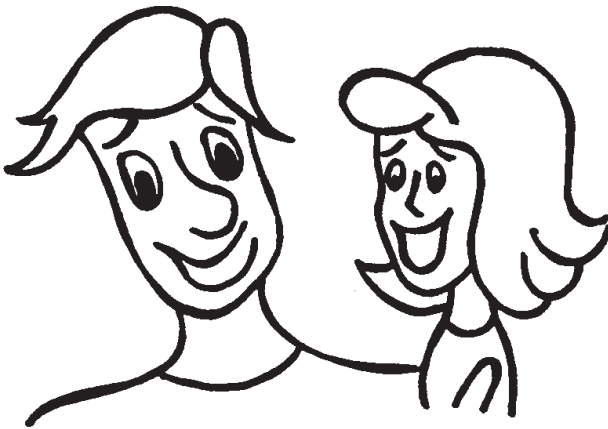
**Mari:** Bonjou! Papa\* ou te gentan\* di n kèk bagay enteresan sou Ayiti nan avyon an.

**Masèl:** Mwen sezi! Ou pale yon kreyòl natif natal!

**Msye Nasis:** Ann ale. Tout moun nan machin lan. N ap pati. 40

**Mari:** Manke yon malèt . . .\* Men li!

**Msye Nasis:** Tout bagay anfòm nèt? Oke, annou derape.



Se nou sèl ki konn  
pale Kreyòl!

## Koze Nèf (9): Nòt

2. **Men** “Here is.” **men** has three distinct meanings: (1) “but”; (2) “hand”; 3) “here is,” “here are.” Cf. its use here in lines 6, 13, 20, 28, and 32.
3. **natif natal** “native,” “local,” “authentic.”
4. **moun lòt bò (dlo)** literally, “people (from the) other side (of the water),” i.e., “foreigners.”
11. Both **Pa gen pwoblèm** and **Deryen** express “You’re welcome.”
14. **Gen lò** “It seems,” “It appears.” (Cf. French *avoir l’air*.)
16. **Se pa lapenn** literally, “It is not trouble (effort),” i.e., “It’s not worth the trouble.”
19. **ala yon bon nèg se ou!** “what a great guy you are!”
20. **non** means “name” as well as “no.” (Cf. Conversation 4, question 10, page 24.)
36. **Papa** “Father.” The word **pè** means “Catholic priest” (as well as “to be afraid” and “Voodoo altar!”).  
**gentan** “already,” as well as **gen tan** “to have time.”
41. **Manke yon malèt** “There’s a suitcase missing.”

paj karannkat

## Koze Nèf (9): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kisa Jan bay dwannye a?
2. Li ba li batistè\* yo tou?
3. Poukisa dwannye a sezi?
4. Kisa Jan ak Mari mande dwannye a?
5. Èske dwannye a di Mari ak Jan y ap pase mizè pou jwenn malèt yo?
6. Gen anpil touris ki debake?
- 7, Konben touris k ap pale kreyòl nan ayewopò a?
8. Ki sèvis msye Nasis vle rann yo?
9. Ki moun k ap kondi machin Mari ak Jan monte a?
10. Kibò Jan ak Mari aprann non msye Nasis?
11. Konben malèt Jan ak Mari genyen?
12. Ki moun msye Nasis wè, lè y ap sòti?
13. Èske msye Nasis di li fache tounen an Ayiti?
14. Kijan Masèl kwè Mari pale kreyòl?
15. E ou menm, kijan ou pale kreyòl?

N ale!

2. batistè “birth certificate.”

## Koze Dis (10): Nan Lotèl la

**Msye Nasis:** Nan ki lotèl nou prale?

**Jan:** Nan *lotèl Olofsonn*. Èske ou ta ka depoze nou la, souple?

**Msye Nasis:** Pa gen pwoblèm! Lakay nou pa lwen ditou ak *lotèl Olofsonn*. 5

**Jan:** Mari, gade. Gen piblisite menm an kreyòl. Li make: “Kòlgat\* —pa gen parèy!”

**Mari:** Gade! Men\* yon lòt! Li make: “Metè fòs nan kò ou!”\*

**Msye Nasis:** Men ri lakay.\* 10

**Mari:** Se avni Kristòf. Jan, ou sonje Kristòf?

**Jan:** Ki Kristòf? *Kristòf Kolon?*

**Mari:** Non, monchè. *Anri Kristòf*, wa Ayiti ki te bati *Sitadèl*, ak palè *Sansousi*.

**Jan:** Wi! Nou te etidye sa nan klas kreyòl. Fòk nou vizite yo nan *Milo*. 15

**Masèl:** Nou rive. Se *lotèl Olofsonn* lan sa.

**Mari:** Li bèl anpil! Li tou blan, gen anpil pye kokoye\* ak anpil bèl flè nan lakou a.

**Msye Nasis:** Wi, se yon vye kay ki gen plis pase santan kounyeya. Gen anpil touris ki renmen fè ladesant\* ladan l. 20

*Yo antre nan lotèl la.*

**Jan:** Bonswa. Nou te fè yon rezèvasyon; nou rele Maten. 25

**Richa:** O, msye ak madan Maten. Nou kontan wè nou. Chanm nou an tou pare. Si ou ka siyen rejis la\* pou mwen, gason an ka monte malèt nou yo. Epi apre sa, si nou vle, nou ka desann pou nou

paj karannsis

bwè bweson yo bay pou resevwa moun,\* bò pisin lan. 30

**Mari:** Nou ta renmen sa! Ki kalite bweson yo bay konsa?

**Richa:** Se gran bweson peyi a, madanm: yon wonm ponch. 35

**Jan:** E ou di nou ka bwè l bò pisin lan?

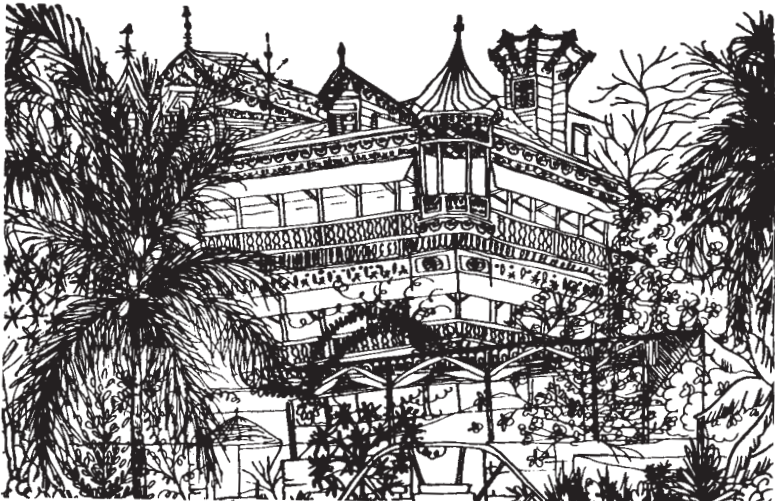
**Richa:** Wi, osinon nan pisin lan menm.

**Jan:** M renmen Ayiti deplizanpli!

**Msye Nasis:** Fòk nou pati kounyeya, men nou ta vle envite nou vin dine\* denmen lakay nou, vè inè konsa. N a vin chache nou nan machin. 40

**Jan ak Mari:** Mèsi anpil! N a wè denmen.

**Msye Nasis ak Masèl:** N a wè denmen, si Dye vle.\*  
Babay.



**Gran Lotèl Olofsonn**



## Koze Dis (10): Nòt

7. **Kòlгат** “Colgate”; **kòlгат** is also the term for “toothpaste” in general.
8. **Men** see Conversation 9, Note 2.  
 “**Mete fòs nan kò ou!**” is an advertisement for Haiti’s award-winning lager beer, **Prestij** (*Prestige* in French), created in 1975.
10. **Men ri lakay** “Here is (the) street (of our) home.”
18. **pye kokoye** “coconut trees.” **pye** means not only “foot” or “lower leg,” but is also the general term for anything with a “foot” in the ground, i.e., the generic term preceding the name of any specific kind of plant or tree.
21. **fè ladesant** literally, “to make lodging,” i.e., “to stay at” (hotel, etc.).
27. **siyen rejis la** “to sign the register.”
30. **bweson yo bay pou resevwa moun** literally, “drinks given to receive people,” i.e., “the welcoming drink,” a time-honored Haitian custom.
40. **dine** “to have lunch, noonday meal, main meal of the day”; **soupe** “to have supper, evening meal.”
43. **si Dye vle** “if God wishes,” “God willing.” This expression punctuates much of Haitian speech, and is sometimes regarded as almost a grammatical device indicating a future tense.

paj karantwit

## Koze Dis (10): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Nan ki lotèl Jan ak Mari prale?
2. Ki piblisite Mari ak Jan wè?
3. Ou konnen kèk bagay ki kap mete fòs nan kò moun?
4. Konben Kristòf ki gen nan istwa Ayiti?
5. Ki diferans ki genyen ant Kristòf Kolon ak Anri Kristòf?
6. Kisa Anri Kristòf te bati?
7. Poukisa li te bati yo?
8. Ou vizite Sitadèl deja?
9. Di sa ou konnen sou lotèl Olofsonn.
10. Èske chanm touris yo te pare anvan yo rive?
11. Kisa yon moun dwe fè lè l rive nan yon lotèl?
12. Kisa gason an ap monte pou yo?
13. Kisa yo ofri yo pou bwè?
14. Ki kote yo ka bwè l?
15. Ki pwogram Jan ak Mari genyen pou denmen?

**Orevwa!**

## Koze Onz (11): Bò Pisin lan

*Li dezè edmi nan apremidi. Jan ak Mari kouche bò pisin lan. Solèy klere dèyè pye kokoye yo. Flanbwayan\* yo santi bon. Mesye dam\* yo kontan!*

- Mari:** Petèt nou ta dwe al pwonmennen lavil. 5
- Jan:** Mwen bouke, cheri. Nou fèk rive isit. Annou fè yon ti kabicha\* nan solèy la. Denmen nou ka konmanse vire won.\*
- Oblen:** Bonswa\*, mesye dam. Nou fèk rive *Olofsonn*?
- Mari:** Wi, se premye vwayaj nou an Ayiti. M rele Mari 10  
Maten, e mari m rele Jan.
- Oblen:** Mwen menm, m rele *Oblen Jolikè*.
- Mari:** O! mwen wè non ou nan yon liv gid sou Ayiti! Yo rele ou “Msye Ayiti.”
- Oblen:** O madanm! Ou ap pase m nan betiz.\* 15
- Mari:** Men non. Se yon zanmi ki te ban nou bèl liv sa a sou Ayiti, e nou te wè non ou ladan l.
- Oblen:** Bèl liv sa a, petèt se yon kado nòs li te ye?
- Mari:** Kijan ou te fè konnen sa? Ou se divinò ou 20  
menm!\*
- Oblen:** Lè m wè jenn moun tankou nou isit ki kontan konsa . . . E kisa nou ta vle fè an Ayiti?
- Jan:** Mwen menm, gen de bagay m ta vle wè: *Pilat*,\* epi yon sèvis vodou.
- Oblen:** *Pilat* lwen anpil, men pou sèvis vodou a, se fasil. 25
- Mari:** Kisa sa vle di se fasil?
- Oblen:** M vle di, chè madanm, m gen yon zanmi m ki oungan.\* Jòdi a se samdi,\* gen yon sèvis aswè a menm *Kwadèboukè*. Si nou vle, m ta ka mennen 30  
nou.

paj senkant

**Jan ak Mari:** Oooo! San pwoblèm!

**Oblen:** Bon! Piske nou dakò, m ap vin chache nou isit la vè nevè edmi. Babay.

**Jan ak Mari:** Mèsi davans!

*Yo pou kont yo.*

35

**Jan:** Wi pip! Gade kijan yon pèp janti! Nou fèk rive, nou gentan envite nan yon dine, epi nan yon sèvis vodou tou.

**Mari:** Se vre, chou! Li pa fasil pou wè vre vodou a. Nan liv sa a, yo di gen vodou yo fè espres pou touris, men fòk yo envite ou pou ou kab al wè yon sèvis toutbon.\* 40

**Jan:** Cheri, annou al fè yon ti repoze pou nou ka anfòm nèt pita.



**Oblen Jolikè**

### Koze Onz (11): Nòt

3. **Flanbwayan** “royal poinciana,” “flamboyant.”  
**mesye dam** frequently used expression to designate either a group of people of both sexes, or just one man and woman. Cf. also line 9.
7. **kabicha** “nap.”
8. **vire won** literally, “to turn around,” i.e., “to go around,” “circulate,” “see things.”
9. **Bonswa** “Good afternoon,” or “Good evening,” used any time after noon. Cf. Conversation 10, line 24.
15. **Ou ap pase m nan betiz** literally, “You’re passing me in nonsense,” i.e., “You’re teasing me,” “You’re kidding me.”
19. **Kijan ou te fè konnen sa?** literally, “How did you do to know that?” i.e., “How did you manage to know that?”  
**Ou se divinò ou menm!** literally, “You are a seer (or soothsayer) yourself!” i.e., “You must really be clairvoyant!”
23. John retains his fixation concerning Pilate! See Conversation 8, lines 18-24.
28. **oungan** “Voodoo priest”; **manbo** “Voodoo priestess.”  
 For a review of the days of the week:
- |                |           |                 |          |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| <b>lendi</b>   | Monday    | <b>vandredi</b> | Friday   |
| <b>madi</b>    | Tuesday   | <b>samdi</b>    | Saturday |
| <b>mèkredi</b> | Wednesday | <b>dimanch</b>  | Sunday   |
| <b>jedi</b>    | Thursday  |                 |          |
42. A Voodoo temple belongs not to the congregation, as in Christian groups, but is the personal property of the Voodoo priest or priestess. Thus one is literally a guest at a Voodoo service and must be specially invited.

paj senkannde

## Koze Onz (11): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Sa Mari kwè yo ta dwe al fè?
2. Kisa Jan ta pito fè?
3. Kisa sa vle di: “vire won”?
4. Kilè Jan ak Mari te rive an Ayiti?
5. Ki moun ki vin fè konesans ak nouvo marye yo?
6. Ki kote Mari te wè non msye a?
7. Kijan Mari te jwenn liv sa a?
8. Kisa sa ye yon “divinò”?
9. Poukisa Mari di Oblen se yon divinò vre?
10. Kisa Jan ta renmen wè?
11. Èske Pilat pre ak Pòtoprens?
12. Ki metye zanmi Oblen an?
13. E ou menm, ki metye ou?
14. Poukisa Jan di Ayisyen yo janti?
15. Ki diferans ki genyen ant sèvis vodou pou touris, ak sèvis vodou toutbon?

**N a wè!**

## Koze Douz (12): Nan Sèvis Vodou a

*Li prèske onzè diswa, bò Kwadèboukè. Oblen, Mari ak Jan fèk antre anba peristil\* la.*

**Oblen:** Se la a menm y ap fè sèvis la. Yo poko konmanse dans lwa yo.\*

**Jan:** O! o! Gade moun! Ki kote pou n chita? 5

**Oblen:** La, nan fon an. Konsa nou ka wè tout bagay.

**Mari:** Ki desen nonm lan ap fè atè a la?

**Oblen:** Se oungan an, wi! zanmi m lan. L ap trase yon desen yo rele vèvè,\* ak farin melanje ak sab. Se pou rele lwa yo. 10

**Mari:** An! Se vre. Nou te etidye sa nan klas kreyòl.

**Jan:** E toujou gen twa tanbou konsa?

**Oblen:** Se sa. Ti tanbou a rele boula, lòt la rele segon, epi gwo a rele manman tanbou.

**Mari:** E sa a, se poto mitan\* kote lwa yo desann lan, pa vre? 15

**Oblen:** Non sèlman se sa, men se sa menm. Kounyeya oungenikonn\* lan ap voye chante\* yo. Moun ki abiye an blan yo rele ounsi,\* yo pral konmanse chante ak danse ti talè.

**Jan:** Kisa oungan an kenbe nan men l la? 20

**Oblen:** Sa, se yon ason\*. Lòt la se yon ti klòch. Se oungan sèl ki gen dwa kenbe yo.

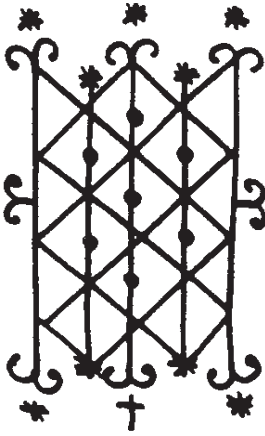
**Mari:** Ti kay ki tou kole ak peristil la, kisa li ye?

**Oblen:** Sa a se vrè tanp vodou, yo rele l badji.\* Ladan l yo gen pè\* a ak bagay sakre sou li, tankou potèt,\* 25 pakèt kongo,\* pòtre,\* ak anpil lòt bagay.

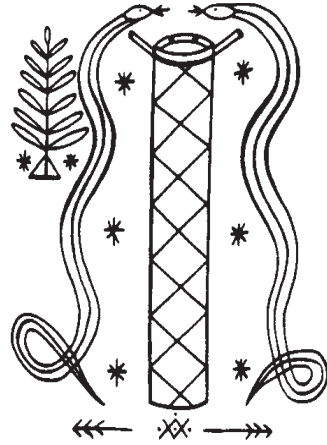
**Jan:** Poukisa moun sa a ap vire kò l konsa?

**Oblen:** Se lwa ki monte l.\* Lwa a ap sèvi ak vwa moun li monte a pou l pale ak nou.

paj senkannkat



Ogoun

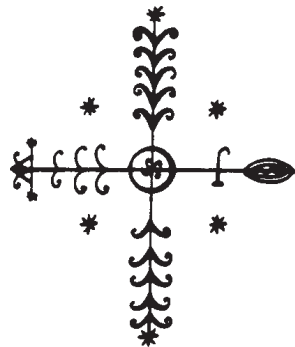


Danbala

# VÈVÈ



Ezili



Legba



- Jan ak Mari:** Oooo! 30
- Jan:** Kisa ki nan boutèy y ap pase a?
- Oblen:** Se wonm. Se pou ou pran yon ti gout tou piti, kouwè tout moun.  
*Gen anpil dans, anpil chante. Kounyeya li dezè dimaten konsa.* 35
- Oblen:** Zanmi m yo, nou gen lè bouke. Nou ta pito tounen lakay kounyeya?
- Jan:** Se sa menm! Bagay la enteresan anpil, nou regrèt dèske n pa ka rete pi lontan. Jounen an te long pou nou, vye kò a tanmen mande repo . . . Kite m bay chèf tanbouyè a yon ti kraze anvan nou derape. 40
- Oblen:** O! Ou se yon nèg ki konn lizay.\*
- Jan:** Se madanm mwen ki di m sa. Li jwenn sa nan liv gid la.
- Oblen:** Ann ale! 45



*Ti Lis kèk Lwa tout moun konnen\**

- Papa Legba** Lwa kafou, ki kontwole baryè ant mò ak vivan yo
- Ezili** Lwa bèlte, lanmou, jalouzi
- Bawon Samdi** Lwa lanmò 50
- Gede\*** Lwa asosye ak Bawon Samdi, ki fè mal epi ki di anpil betiz tou (yo plizyè)
- Danbala** Lwa koulèv
- Agwe** Lwa lanmè
- Azaka** Lwa jaden 55
- Ogoun** Lwa lagè

## Koze Douz (12): Nòt

2. **peristil** “Voodoo peristyle,” i.e., a large covered area partially open at the sides, where most Voodoo ceremonies, drumming, chanting and dancing, take place.
4. **Iwa yo** “Voodoo spirits.” The Voodoo religion recognizes one great God (**Gran Mèt**) as well as many helping spirits called **Iwa**, each with specific functions (cf. the Greco-Roman gods).
9. **vèvè** ritual design drawn on the ground by the Voodoo priest (**oungan**), or priestess (**manbo**), each design symbolizing a specific Voodoo spirit. See illustrations accompanying this Conversation.
15. **poto mitan - pote** means “post,” **mitan** means “middle,” i.e., “center-post.” The Voodoo spirits are believed to descend to earth by means of this center-post, which is accordingly a necessary component of any **peristil**. **Poto mitan** is also often used in a figurative sense to indicate “mainstay” or “lifeblood” (e.g., **Lagrikilti se pote mitan ekonomi ayisyen an**, “Agriculture is the mainstay of the Haitian economy”).
17. **ounganikonn** leader of songs and dances in a Voodoo service.  
**chante** means both “song” and “to sing.”
18. **ounsi** “Voodoo initiate.”
21. **ason** “ritual Voodoo rattle,” made of a gourd on which are strung beads or snake vertebrae.
24. **badji** a small room which constitutes the inner sanctuary of the whole **ounfò** (“general Voodoo temple complex”).
25. **pè** “Voodoo altar”; see Conversation 9, Note 36.  
**potèt** earthen pot containing hair and/or nail clippings etc. of a Voodoo initiate, representing the soul.

26. **pakèt kongo** small stuffed humanoid figure of cloth used as charm and in treatment of sick.

**pòtre** “pictures,” consisting mainly of lithographs representing various Catholic saints identified with certain Voodoo spirits.

28. **Iwa ki monte l** A Voodoo spirit is “mounting” or taking temporary possession of the mind and body of a believer. These Voodoo possessions, often quite frequent during a ceremony, are one of the most important facets of the religion.

42. **lizay** “proper etiquette,” “proper thing to do.” No collection is taken up at an authentic (i.e., not just staged for tourists) Voodoo service, but a tip is appropriate for the head drummer, the one playing the largest of the three drums. Some are in the habit of making a small donation as well to the Voodoo priest or priestess to help with the expenses of the service, which he or she alone has to bear.

47. Among the best of the many books on the fascinating subject of Haitian Voodoo are:

Alfred Métraux, *Voodoo in Haiti*. Trans. Hugo Charteris. New York: Schocken Books, 1972. Pp. 400. The standard work.

Maya Deren, *Divine Horsemen: The Voodoo Gods of Haiti*. New York: Dell Pub. Co., 1972. Pp. 350. A personalized account by an American Voodoo initiate.

Claude Planson and Jean-François Vannier, *Vaudou: Rituels et Possessions / Voodoo: Rituals and Possessions*. Paris: Pierre Horay, 1975. Pp. 79. Photographs, with accompanying text, which convey an excellent idea of a Voodoo ceremony.

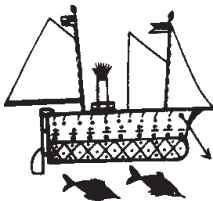
51. **Gede** “*Guédés*,” small demon-like creatures, a staple of almost all folk religions.

## Koze Douz (12): Kèsyon

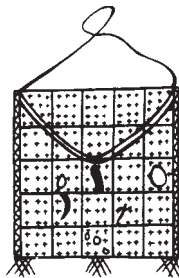
*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kibò Jan ak Mari ye kounyeya?
2. Ki dans moun yo ap konmanse ti talè?
3. Ki kote Oblen mete yo chita?
4. Poukisa li ta vle yo chita la a?
5. Moun k ap fè desen an, kisa li ye?
6. Poukisa yo trase yon vèvè?
7. Mesye dam yo te aprann sa deja? Kibò?
8. Èske ou ka bay non twa tanbou yo?
9. Poukisa gen yon poto mitan nan yon peristil?
10. Ki koulè rad ounsi yo gen sou yo aswè a?
11. Èske chak moun nan seremoni a kenbe yon ason nan men li?
12. Di kisa ki genyen nan yon badji.
13. Lè yon lwa monte yon moun, kijan li fè?
14. Kisa ki genyen nan boutèy la?
15. Ou ta renmen wè yon sèvis vodou?
16. Ou ta pè?

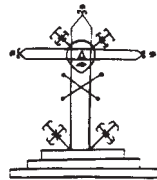
M ale!



Agwe



Azaka



Bawon Samdi

## Koze Trèz (13): Kay Nasis

*Jan ak Mari chita bò tab kay Nasis; gen msye Nasis, manman Nasis, epi Masèl. Li inè edmi.*

**Manman Nasis:** Mwen kontan wè nou anpil. M te pase twazan konsa Ozetazini, e Ameriken yo te janti anpil ak mwen. Jòdi a mwen byen kontan resevwa nou lakay mwen. 5

**Jan:** Nou menm tou, madanm, nou byen kontan fè konesans ak yon vre fanmi ayisyen.

**Mari:** Manje sa a bon anpil, men nou pa konnen anyen sou manje ayisyen. Èske ou ta ka esplike nou kisa n ap manje la? 10

**Manman Nasis:** Ak plezi! Isit *Pòtoprens* nou gen twa lè\* nou manje. Le maten\* vè setè, li rele kolasyon oubyen dejnen. Lè sa a nou pa manje anpil: apre yon bon ti tas kafe ayisyen, nou konn desann\* de grenn\* bannann\* ak fwa di\* oubyen ze,\* epi enpe ji tou. Vè midi konsa se lè dine. Nou manje anpil: vyann, diri kole\* oubyen diri ak sòs pwa,\* bannann, legim, ji, kola\* eksetera. 15

**Mari:** E aswè,\* kisa nou manje, madanm? 20

**Manman Nasis:** Aswè, pou soupe nou pa manje anpil: pafwa se labouyi,\* bannann graje,\* oubyen fritay.

**Jan:** Sa k fritay la?

**Manman Nasis:** Se bannann peze,\* patat fri,\* griyo,\* marinad,\* akra.\* Genyen sa pou vann nan tout lari. 25

**Jan:** Se koulè nòmal diri a sa?

**Mari:** Men wi, Jan, se diri ayisyen, se koulè l sa.

paj swasant

**Manman Nasis:** Nou gen diri tout koulè ak tout kalite: 30  
diri blan, diri wouj, tout bagay. Men nou mete  
djondjon\* nan diri a, se sa k fè li koulè sa a, epi  
sa ba li yon lòt gou.

*Jan pran yon ti gout ji.*

**Jan:** Mmm! Ji a bon!! Se ji papay?\* 35

**Manman Nasis:** Non, se ji grenadin.\* Nou gen de pye  
dèyè kay la. Nou gen kèk pye papay, zoranj,  
chadèk\* nan lakou devan an tou.

*Yo fin manje.*

**Mari:** Mesye dam, mèsì anpil pou tout bon manje sa a, 40  
ak pou bon ji nou fèk ban nou an.

**Fanmi Nasis:** Mezanmi, nou merite sa.

**Mari ak Jan:** Mèsì anpil anpil. Nou espere nou ka wè  
yon lòt jou! Babay!



**Mmm! Ji a bon!!**

## Koze Trèz (13): Nòt

12. **lè** has two meanings: “when,” and “time” (as here). The majority of Haitians, of course, cannot afford to eat this well.
13. **Le maten** “in the mornings.” **le** indicates habitual action: **le dimanch** “on Sundays,” **le swa** “in the evenings.”
15. **desann** literally, “to descend,” i.e., “to put down,” “eat.”
16. **grenn** means a “grain,” “berry,” “seed,” or a single unit or piece of anything.  
Watch out! **bannann** means “plantain.” The term for “banana” is **fig (mi)**. (And the expression for “fig” is **fig frans!**)  
**fwa di** “liver.”  
Again a potential problem word! **ze** means “egg,” while **je** means “eye.”
18. **diri kole** short for **diri kole ak pwa**, “rice and beans” cooked together (a staple of the Haitian diet).  
**sòs pwa** “bean puree.”
19. **kola** is, for most non-Haitians, an incredibly sweet bottled Haitian soft drink.
20. **aswè** “in the evening”; **aswè a** “this evening.”
22. **labouyi** “hot cereal,” “oatmeal.”  
**bannann graje** “grated plantain.”
25. **bannann peze** literally, “pressed down plantain,” i.e., “plantain slices fried in oil.”  
**patat fri** “fried sweet potatoes.” (“Potato” is **ponmdetè**.)

## paj swasannde

25. **griyo** spicy fried pork cut in small sections (a Haitian favorite).
26. **marinad** “spicy fritter.”  
**akra** “malanga fritter.” The “malanga” is a variety of starchy taro root.
32. **djondjon** “mushroom” (usually small, dried and black).
35. **papay** “papaya” (large, yellow, melon-like fruit).
36. **grenadin** “granadilla” (variety of passion fruit).
38. **chadèk** “shaddock” (the smaller, sweeter variety of grapefruit found in Haiti).



*Se koulè nòm al diri a sa??*



## Koze Trèz (13): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Di ki kote Mari ak Jan chita: anba tab la? sou tab la? oubyen bò tab la?
2. Nou menm, lè nou lekòl, ki kote nou chita?
3. Konben tan madan Nasis te pase Ozetazini?
4. Kijan Ameriken te trete l'?
5. Ki moun ki mande esplikasyon sou manje a?
6. Nan fanmi boujwa yo, konben fwa yo manje pa jou?
7. Kijan yo rele chak repa sa yo?
8. Kisa yo bwè le maten?
9. Epi kisa yo manje le maten?
10. Ou kwè bagay yo manje yo sanble ak manje ameriken?
11. Èske ou ka di nou kèk bagay yo manje vè midi?
12. Kisa moun manje aswè?
13. Se nan kay sèlman ki gen fritay?
14. Kisa yo mete nan diri a ki ba l yon koulè espesyal?
15. Ki ji yo te sèvi nan dine kay Nasis la?
16. Ki pyebwa genyen nan lakou kay Nasis?

**N ale!**

## Koze Katòz (14): Nan Mache Fè a

*Lendi maten. Gran Ri, Pòtoprens. De jenn gason ayisyen.*

- Tijo:** Woy! Papa! Kote ou prale konsa?
- Dyedone:** M prale lavil. M ta vle bouske\* kèk touris.
- Tijo:** Sa ou fè ak yo lè ou jwenn yo? 5
- Dyedone:** Se gid touris m ye wi! Ou pa konn sa?
- Tijo:** Ou menm! Gid touris! Ou ap jwe, monchè! Ki kote ou mennen yo? Kisa ou konn montre yo? Ou pa menm konn pale angle!
- Dyedone:** Mwen menm! M pale yon ti angle, epi m espere 10 jwenn kèk touris ki konn pale kreyòl.
- Tijo:** Ou fou nèt, monchè. Pa gen touris menm menm menm\* ki konn pale kreyòl.
- Jan ak Mari ap pwonmennen sou Gran Ri.*
- Jan:** Eskize m. Èske ou ta ka di m ki kote *Mache Fè* 15 *a ye, souple?*
- Tijo:** Mezanmi! *Li chape poul li.\**
- Dyedone:** Pa gen pàn,\* msye. Si ou vle, m ka mennen nou la.
- Jan:** Avèk plezi. 20
- Dyedone:** E kisa nou ta vle achte jòdi a, mesye dam, piske m konnen kèk machann k ap vann la.
- Mari:** Nou ta renmen jwenn kèk bon panyen latanyen.\*
- Jan:** Epi kèk ti tonton an bwa.\* Ou konnen yon 25 eskiltè\* ki ka vann nou sa li menm menm\*?
- Dyedone:** Pa gen pwoblèm! M kab montre nou tou sa ak anpil lòt bagay an plis.

*Yo antre nan Mache Fè a.*

- Dyedone:** Sa se pi gran mache ki gen nan peyi a. Tout moun konnen li. 30
- Mari:** O! Gade jan gen anpil moun! Y ap vann tout bagay: legim, fwi, vyann, liv, rad, soulye, penti, tout melimelo\*!
- Dyedone:** Men wi, madanm—epi sa ou wè a, se poko anyen sa! 35
- Mari:** Pou konmanse, fòk mwen jwenn de pil\* pou ti radyo m lan.
- Jan:** Pou ti radyo ou? Ki radyo? Poukisa ou vini ak yon radyo isit la? 40
- Mari:** Monchè, pa gen yon pi bon pwofesè pase yon radyo. Konsa nou ka koute kreyòl chak jou nan chanm nou. Gen nouvèl, mizik, gen pwogram an kreyòl sou istwa Ayiti, sou peyi a, sou tout bagay. 45
- Dyedone:** Pa gen pwoblèm, madanm. Men yon machann ki vann bagay konsa.
- Mari:** Èske ou vann ti pil pou radyo?
- Asefi:** Men wi. Ki gwosè pil ou bezwen?
- Mari:** M gen vye pil yo nan bous mwen. Men yo. Ou gen de konsa? 50
- Asefi:** M kwè sa. Kite m gade. Se konsa?
- Mari:** Bon! E ki pri ou?
- Asefi:** Karant goud\* chak.
- Mari:** Se twò chè. Ban m toude pou swasant pyas.\* 55
- Asefi:** Non, madanm. Se katreven pyas pou toude. Se pri yo sa.
- Mari:** Oke . . . Men katreven pyas la.

## Koze Katòz (14): Nòt

4. **bouske** “to look for,” “seek out.”
13. **menm menm (menm)** repetition for emphasis.
17. **Li chape poul li** literally, “He escapes his chicken,” i.e., “He takes off,” “He clears out.”
18. **Pa gen pàn** literally, “There is no (mechanical) breakdown,” i.e., “No problem,” “Fine.”
23. **panyen latanyen** “palm-thatch baskets.”
25. **ti tonton an bwa** literally, “little uncles in wood,” i.e., “small carved wooden figures.”
26. **eskiltè** “sculptor,” or here, “woodcarver.” Note that many English and French words beginning with the sounds “sk-,” “sp-,” and “st-” take an initial “e-” in Haitian:
- |                  |             |               |                         |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| <b>eskèlèt</b>   | skeleton    | <b>espò</b>   | sport                   |
| <b>eskòpyon</b>  | scorpion    | <b>estat</b>  | to start ( <i>car</i> ) |
| <b>eskout</b>    | scout       | <b>estati</b> | statue                  |
| <b>espesyal</b>  | special     | <b>estèk</b>  | steak                   |
| <b>espidomèt</b> | speedometer | <b>estòp</b>  | stop                    |
34. **melimelo** “hodgepodge,” “assortment,” “odds and ends”; **tout melimelo!** “everything but the kitchen sink!”
37. **pil** (radio) “battery”; **batri** (car) “battery.”
54. The basic Haitian monetary unit is the gourde (**goud**), with its exchange rate fluctuating in relation to the U.S. dollar. In February 2007 the rate was approximately 40 gourdes to the U.S. dollar. N.B.: Haitians very often quote prices in what is called the (non-existent) “Haitian dollar” (**dola ayisyen**), defined as five gourdes.
55. **pyas** familiar expression for the gourde (**goud**).

## Koze Katòz (14): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Poukisa Dyedone ta vle ale lavil?
2. Ki travay Dyedone fè?
3. Poukisa Tijo derefize kwè Dyedone se yon gid touris?
4. Ou kwè gen anpil touris ki konn pale kreyòl?
5. Kibò Jan ak Mari ye kounyeya?
6. Kisa Jan mande Dyedone?
7. Poukisa Tijo sezi?
8. Se fig mi ak zaboka Jan ak Mari pral achte?
9. Kisa ou konnen sou Mache Fè a?
10. Kisa yo konn vann nan Mache Fè a?
11. Pou konmanse, ki bagay Mari ta vle achte?
12. Èske Jan te konnen Mari te vini an Ayiti ak yon radyo?
13. Poukisa Mari te pote radyo a?
14. Pou konben kòb Mari achte toude ti pil yo?
15. Konben sa fè an lajan ameriken?

Orevwa!

*Papa! Kote  
ou prale konsa?*



## Koze Kenz (15): Fè jis pri\*

*Mari, Jan ak Dyedone toujou nan Mache Fè a.*

**Bòs Atizan:** Mesye dam, vini ak mwen. M ka montre nou  
kèk bon estati an bwa. Se yon bòs\* atizan m ye.

**Jan:** Oke. Kisa ou gen ki fèt an kajou?\*

**Bòs:** O msye, gade! M gen bòl salad, asyèt, soukoup,\* 5  
pòt chandèl,\* tou sa nou ta bezwen.

**Mari:** Wi, men nou ta renmen tèt kèk grannèg nan istwa  
Ayiti an bwa. Sa a, konben ou vann sa?

**Bòs:** Ou gen bon gou, madanm. Se yon vrè trezò li ye.  
Se tèt *Tousen Louvèti*. M fè l mwen menm, m te 10  
pase anpil tan pou fè l.

**Jan:** Ak ki bwa li fèt? Ak bwadchenn?\* ak sèd?\*

**Bòs:** Non, msye. Se ak kajou li fèt.

**Mari:** E konben ou vann li?

**Bòs:** Li pa chè. M ka ban nou li pou mil sisan goud 15  
sèlman.

**Jan:** Se jwe ou ap jwe, monchè. Oubyen ou te bwè twòp  
klerin\* yè swa! Se yon etidyan mwen ye—m pa  
gen anpil kòb. Ki rabè\* ou kab fè pou mwen?

**Bòs:** E kisa ou kab ofri m? 20

**Jan:** Wisan goud. Se sèl la m ka rive.\*

**Bòs:** Wisan goud! Li pa posib. Mwen te pase prèske  
di jou pou m fè l. Epi m gen anpil timoun pou m  
bay manje lakay mwen.

**Jan:** Men ou pa konprann, monchè. Se pou vye grann 25  
mwen ki pa lwen mouri m ap achte l. Poukisa ou fè  
pri touris ak mwen? M pale kreyòl! Epi madanm  
mwen se Ayisyèn\* li ye.

- Bòs:** Madanm ou Ayisyèn? Non, monchè. Ayisyèn yo pa blanch\* konsa. 30
- Jan:** Se paske li mete twòp poud sou figi l maten an . . . Oke, m ba ou mil desan pyas.
- Bòs:** Msye, estati sa a bèl anpil. Mil desan pyas, se trant dola ameriken sèlman! Gade li byen. Men piske ou se etidyan, m ka ba ou li pou mil katsan pyas. 35
- Mari:** Oke. N ap pran l. Men mil desan goud. N ale apre sa.
- Bòs:** Madanm, li pa posibil.
- Jan:** Oke, dènye pri: mil twasan goud, ant vye zanmi. 40 Kenbe sa, epi kite nou pati.
- Bòs:** . . . Se pou m vlope\* l pou nou?
- Mari:** Non, non, se pa nesesè. Babay, msye.
- Jan:** (*Tousen Louvèti? Ki moun li ye?*)



Se paske li mete twòp poud!

## Koze Kenz (15): Nòt

**Fè jis pri** literally, “making just price,” i.e., “bargaining.” Marketplace bargaining could almost be called a Haitian rite, or at least a local sport. To fail to engage in it is to deprive the merchant (and oneself!) of a certain amount of fun. Otherwise the merchant is left with the empty feeling that (s)he should have asked for more. The rule of thumb of many veteran “Haiti hands” is to start at one-third or even one-fourth the initial asking price, but of course John and Mary don’t know this. For certain imported goods however, such as the radio batteries in Conversation 14, the asking price is indeed the only price.

3. **bòs** general title of respect for an artisan, very frequently used in Haitian; “master craftsman” is perhaps the nearest translation.
4. **kajou** “mahogany” (cf. French *acajou*).
5. **soukoup** “saucer.”
6. **pòt chandèl** “candlestick holder.”
12. **bwadchenn** “oak” (cf. French *bois de chêne*).  
**sèd** “cedar.”
18. **kleren** “raw rum,” the strong liquor of the common man, somewhat comparable to tequila in Mexico.
19. **rabè** “reduction” (in price), “discount.”
21. **Se sèl la m ka rive** literally, “It’s only there I can arrive,” i.e., “That’s as high as I can go.”



28. Note that Haitian does distinguish between masculine and feminine for certain terms:

**Ayisyen** Haitian male

**Ayisyèn** Haitian female

**Ameriken** American male

**Amerikèn** American female

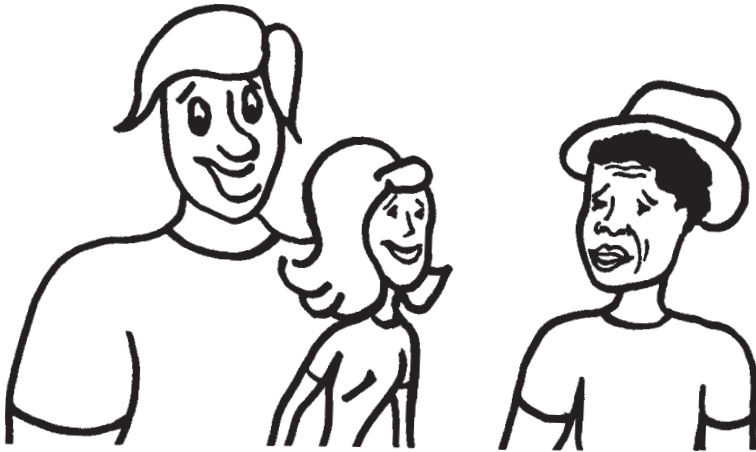
30. **blan** white (color or person); foreigner (of any race)

**blanch** white (color); white woman

**malere** poor or destitute man

**malerèz** poor or destitute woman

42. **vlope** “to wrap up.”



E konben ou vann li?

## Koze Kenz (15): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Ki bòs ki pale ak Jan? Yon bòs tayè?
2. Ki kalite bagay an kajou bòs la genyen?
3. Kisa Mari ta vle achte nan men li?\*
4. Ki moun Touden te ye?
5. Se ak bwa mango tèt Touden an fèt?
6. Konben dola ameriken bòs la mande pou estati a?
7. Konben kòb Jan ofri l'?
8. Poukisa bòs la pa vle asepte pri sa a?
9. Selon sa Jan di, pou ki moun l' ap achte estati sa a?
10. Nan ki peyi Jan di madanm li sòti?
11. Se vre? Bòs la pran sa Jan di l' la?
12. Selon sa Jan di, poukisa madanm li blanch konsa?
13. Poukisa bòs la ta vle ba yo li pou mil katsan goud?
14. Konben kòb yo resi achte l'?
15. Konben dola ameriken sa fè?
16. Ki dènye kèsyon Jan poze? Ou ka reponn li?

**Babay!**

3. nan men li literally, “in his hands,” i.e., “from him.”

**Koze Sèz (16): Ann al wè tout bagay**

- Mari:** E kounyeya, kisa ou ka montre nou?
- Dyedone:** O madanm, gen anpil anpil bagay *Pòtoprens* pou nou wè. Gen *Palè Nasyonal, Channmas, Panteyon Nasyonal, Katedral, legliz Sent-Trinite, Mize Da Ayisyen*— epi pita fòk nou monte *Petyonvil* ak *Kenskòf*. 5
- Jan:** Dousman! Nou pa kapab fè twòp bagay an menm tan. Ki kote pou nou konmanse?
- Mari:** Ann al wè *Palè Nasyonal* ak *Channmas*.
- Dyedone:** Oke! N ap pran yon taksi. 10
- Jan:** Li chè?
- Dyedone:** Non, msye. Isit anpil moun kab monte ansanm nan yon sèl taksi, konsa li pa koute chè. Sa koute katòz goud pou chak moun. Pssst!  
*Yo monte nan yon taksi.* 15
- Dyedone:** Ou ka depoze nou devan *Palè Nasyonal*, souple.
- Jan:** Kijan ou te konnen se te yon taksi, piske li pa gen yon koulè espesyal?\*
- Dyedone:** Plak\* li make “taksi,” men riban wouj ki mare nan retwovizè\* a pi fasil pou wè.  
*Yo desann devan Palè Nasyonal.* 20
- Dyedone:** Sa se biwo prezidan an. Yo te bati l an diznèf san dizwit. Anfas li nou wè estati\* *Tousen Louvèti*. Se li menm ki te gran chèf *Revolisyon ayisyen* an. Se te yon nèg debyen ki te entelijan anpil, men Napoleyon te fè arete l epi mennen nan peyi Lafrans. Se la Franse yo kite l mouri anba frede.\* 25
- Mari:** E ki estati sa a ki lòt bò a, sa k gen lanbi\* a? 30

paj swasannkatòz

**Dyedone:** Sa se estati *Nèg Mawon*. Nan peyi lòt bò dlo,\* yo gen estati yo rele “Unknown Soldier.” Bò isit,\* nou gen estati pou esklav ki te pati al kache kò yo\* nan mòn nan tan lakoloni. Se nèg mawon yo ki te ede chase Franse pou ban\* nou libète. 35

**Jan:** Mezanmi! Li bèl anpil!

**Dyedone:** Epi ti kras pi lwen, gen estati *Anri Kristòf* sou chwal li.

**Mari:** Wa Ayiti ki bati *Sitadèl*, pa vre?

**Dyedone:** Se sa menm.\* Petèt pita mwen ka mennen nou 40 Okap pou n al wè palè *Sansousi* ak *Sitadèl*.

**Jan:** Petèt, men kounyeya li cho, papa—e mwen swaf! Ou ka mennen n *lotèl Olofsonn*? Mwen anvì yon sèl bagay: yon gwo vè wonm ponch ak anpil moso glas!



## Koze Sèz (16): Nòt

19. **espesyal** “special.” See Conversation 14, Note 26.
20. **plak** “license plate.”
21. **retwovizè** “rearview mirror.”
24. **estati** “statue.” See Conversation 14, Note 26.
28. **anba fred** literally, “under cold.” i.e., “from the cold.”
30. **lanbi** “conch (pronounced ‘konk’) shell.” With a tip broken off one end, it was first used as a rudimentary trumpet by the slaves in pre-Revolutionary days to communicate with each other. Its low, weird, mournful sound is not one to be forgotten.
31. **lòt bò dlo** literally, “(on the) other side (of the) water,” i.e., “foreign.” Cf. Conversation 9, line 4.
32. **Bò isit** literally, “Near here,” i.e., “Around here.” Cf. Conversation 1, line 17.
33. **kache kò yo** literally, “to hide their bodies,” i.e., “to hide (themselves).” There are three ways of expressing the reflexive in Haitian: (1) by **kò** (“body”) plus the appropriate pronoun (**Li te kache kò li** “He hid himself”); (2) by **tèt** (“head”) plus the appropriate pronoun (**Li te touye tèt li** “He killed himself”); (3) by repeating the pronoun (**Ou fatigue ou twòp** “You tire yourself too much”).
35. **ban** “to give.” **bay** (“to give”) is the only irregular verb in Haitian. When followed by **ou**, **l(i)** or **yo**, it takes the form **ba**. (**M ba ou di goud.**) When followed by **m(wen)** or **n(ou)**, it takes the form **ban**. (**Ban m di goud.**) When not followed directly by a pronoun, it takes the form **bay**. (**M pa vle bay di goud!**)
40. **Se sa menm** “It’s exactly that.”

## Koze Sèz (16): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Èske ou ka nonmen kèk kote enteresan moun ka vizite nan Pòtoprens?
2. Ki de vil ki pa lwen Pòtoprens Dyedone ta vle montre Jan ak Mari pita?
3. Ki kote yo deside al wè pou konmanse?
4. Kisa yo fè pou al wè Palè Nasyonal?
5. Konben yo dwe peye taksi a?
6. Kijan moun ka rekonnèt yon taksi nan Pòtoprens?
7. Ki lane yo te bati Palè Nasyonal?
8. Estati ki moun ki anfas Palè Nasyonal?
9. Ki moun li te ye?
10. Kote li te mouri?
11. Poukisa?
12. Ki lòt estati yo wè bò Palè Nasyonal?
13. Ki enpòtans nèg mawon yo te gen nan istwa Ayiti?
14. Kisa ki pi lwen apre estati Nèg Mawon an?
15. Ki moun Anri Kristòf te ye?
16. Gen de gran bagay li te bati. Kijan yo rele?
17. Ki kote yo ye?
18. Men, ki sèl bagay Jan vle kounyeya menm?

**M ale!**

## Koze Disèt (17): Ann al Okap!

*Kèk jou pita. Jan ak Mari te gentan\* vizite anpil kote Pòtoprens, Petyonvil ak Kenskòf.*

**Jan:** Cheri, reveye ou! Souke kò ou!\* Mwen fèk\* lwe yon machin! Konsa nou ka pati touswit al *Okap.* 5

**Mari:** Ak Dyedone? Ou kwè nou bezwen yon gid si n ap sòti *Pòtoprens* nan yon machin pa nou?

**Jan:** Non, ti chouboulout\* mwen. Nou te deja pase anpil tan isit ak lòt moun. Pa bliye non, se nan vwayaj nòs nou ye. M ta vle pase yon bon tan\* 10 sèl ak ou.

**Mari:** O Jan cheri, m renmen ou! Ou se yon nèg san parèy!

◆ ◆ ◆

*Pita: yo nan machin sou Wout Nasyonal Nimewo En ki mennen Okap.* 15

**Mari:** Oooo! Gade yon mèvèy! Ou kwè sa m wè a se vre? Tout bagay bèl bèl. Lanmè a si ble, gen bèl flè, gwo pye kokoye, bèl pye palmis.\* Epi toupatou se bèl plaj. Ou kwè nou ta ka fè yon ti estòp\* pou al benyen? 20

**Jan:** Se yon bon lide! Ou pa bliye chòt deben nou yo?

**Mari:** Men non, monchè. O! M wè yon bèl lotèl. M kwè li rele *Moulen sou Lanmè*. Petèt nou ta ka manje yon ti kras, nou ta pran yon bon ti vè wonm, apre sa nou ta ka benyen nan dlo sou plaj la. 25

◆ ◆ ◆

paj swasanndizwit

*Kèk tan pita.*

**Jan:** Ala yon bon lide ou te genyen, Mari! Mwen kontan anpil nou te rete la. Men kounyeya li twazè edmi. 30

**Mari:** Ou kwè nou ka rive jouk *Okap* aswè a, chouboulout mwen?

**Jan:** Pa gen pàn.\* Yo te di m fòk nou mete omwens senkèdtan konsa sòti *Pòtoprens* rive jouk *Okap*. Men, èske nou prese? Poukisa nou vini an Ayiti? Se pou wè peyi a, pa vre? Alò, ann rete *Gonayiv*, epi denmen maten nou ka rive *Okap* san pwoblèm. Yo te di m gen yon ti lotèl *Gonayiv* ki rele “*Chez Frantz*.” 35

**Mari:** O Jan, ou toujou gen bon lide! Mwen kontan mwen te marye ak ou! 40



*Senkè. Yo rive Gonayiv “Chez Frantz.”*

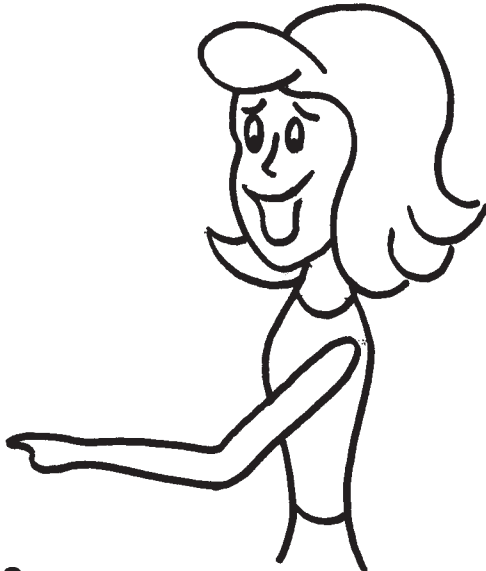
**Mari:** Jan, ou sonje. *Gonayiv* enpòtan anpil nan istwa Ayiti. Se isit menm an mil wisan kat *Desalin* te deklare Ayiti endepandan, apre yo te fin chase tout sòlda franse. Se sèl revolisyon esklav nan istwa lemonn ki te resi. Apre *Ozetazini*, Ayiti se premye peyi nan Amerik ki te vin endepandan. Èske ou vle al gade gran moniman yo te bati nan mitan vil *Gonayiv*, kote menm *Desalin* te deklare lendepandans lan? 50

**Jan:** Men wi, cheri! Ann al wè l!



## Koze Disèt (17): Nòt

1. **gentan** “already.” Also **gen tan** “to have time.”
3. **Souke kò ou!** literally, “Shake your body!” i.e., “Get moving!”  
**fèk** “to have just” (done something). Don’t forget this important idiom! (Cf. Conversation 6, line 6.)
8. **chouboulout** “honey,” “darling.”
10. **pase yon bon tan** “to have a good time.”  
♦ ♦ ♦
18. **pye palmis** “royal palm trees.” (Cf. Conversation 10, Note 18.)
19. **estòp** “stop.” (See Conversation 14, Note 26.)  
♦ ♦ ♦
33. **Pa gen pàn** see Conversation 14, Note 18.



Oooo! Gade yon mèvèy!

paj katreven

## Koze Disèt (17): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Lè Jan reveye Mari, kisa li te fèk fè?
2. Èske yo anvi mennen Dyedone ak yo?
3. Poukisa?



4. Selon Mari, ki bagay ki bèl piplis?
5. Pita: kisa Mari vle yo fè kounyeya?
6. Ki rad yo bezwen si yo vle al benyen nan lanmè?
7. Kisa yo ta vle al fè nan lotèl Moulen sou Lanmè?



8. Akilè yo kite lotèl sa a?
9. Èske yo ta ka rive Okap swa sa a?
10. Konben tan moun konn mete nan machin pou sòti Pòtoprens pou rive Okap - si yo pa rete pran yon ti repo?
11. Kibò yo deside rete?



12. Ki lane Ayiti te vin yon peyi endepandan?
13. Kibò yo te deklare lendepandans lan?
14. Epi ki moun ki te chèf Ayiti lè sa a?
15. Sòlda ki peyi Ayisyen te chase nan tan sa a?
16. Yo gen dwa di Revolisyon ayisyen an pa menm jan ak okenn lòt revolisyon. Poukisa?
17. Ki premye peyi an Amerik ki te vin endepandan?
18. Ki dezyèm peyi an Amerik ki te vin endepandan?

N a wè!

## Koze Dizwit (18): Sitadèl

*Yon swa pita. Y ap soupe nan bèl salamanje lotèl  
Wa Kristòf, Okap.*

**Mari:** Ala yon bèl vil, monchè, epi ala yon bèl lotèl! M renmen kay ki ansyen konsa! Epi li gen yon bèl pisin modèn! Tou sa fè m sonje tan lakoloni. Petèt se paske gen anpil ansyen chanmòt\* ki gen bèl balkon. 5

**Jan:** Fòk nou deside kounyeya akilè pou n al vizite *Sitadèl*.

**Mari:** O, m te gentan mande manadjè a: se pou nou pati denmen maten bonè, vè setè edmi, si nou vle wè tout bagey anvan solèy la twò cho. N ap kondi rive jouk *Milo*, ki pa lwen isit la. Lè sa a nou ka vizite *Sansousi*, gwo palè wa *Anri Kristòf*. 10

**Jan:** O! M espere nou ka dine nan yon bon restoran la. 15

**Mari:** Se jwe ou ap jwe,\* monchè! Gen plis pase san senkant nan depi te gen yon gran tranblemanntè\* ki te prèske mete l atè\* nèt. Men nan liv gid, yo di moun gen dwa toujou vizite gwo chapèl la, gran eskalye yo, epi tout chanm ki anba. 20

◆ ◆ ◆

*Yo fèk vizite palè Sansousi. Kounyeya y ap monte jouk Sitadèl ak gid yo ki rele Elifèt.*

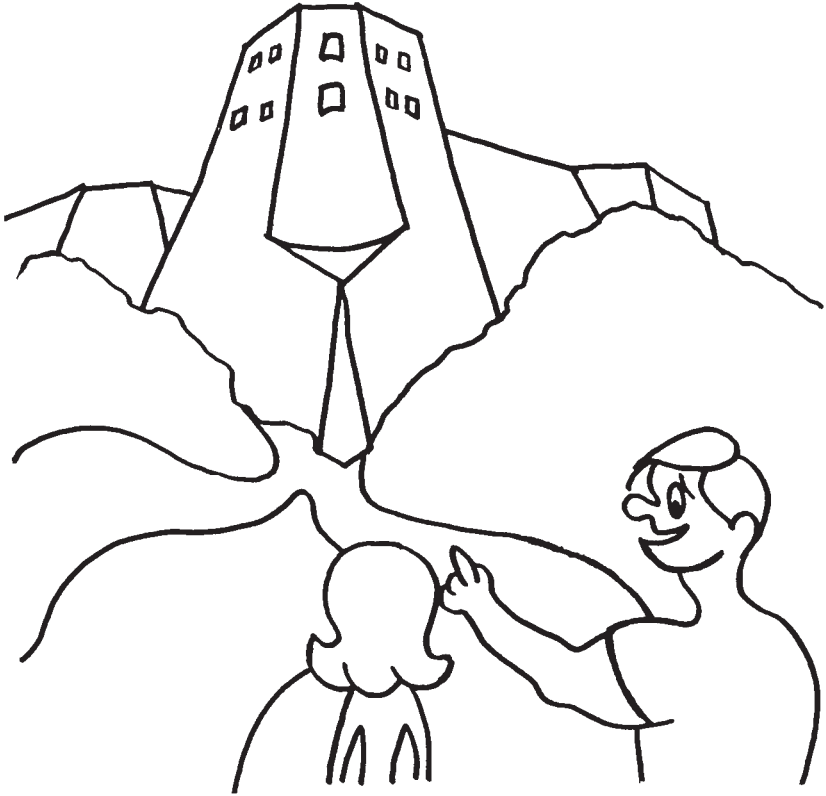
**Jan:** Mari, èske ou te sonje pote kodak la?

**Mari:** Men wi, monchè! Ou sonje: m te fè senk sis foto lè nou te *Sansousi*. M ap pran youn isit la tou. 25

**Jan:** Pa gen pàn!

*Se monte y ap redi monte.\* Anfen yo rive Sitadèl.*

**Toude:** Oooo! Li gwo, papa! Ala bèl li bèl!



Li gwo, papa!  
Ala bèl li bèl!

**Jan:** M pa t panse li te gwo konsa non! M pa kab kwè sa. 30

**Mari:** Men wi. Nan liv gid, yo di se pi gran moniman ki genyen an Amerik.

**Jan:** Men, ki moun ki te bati l? Ki laj li genyen?

**Elifèt:** Se wa *Anri Kristòf* ki te fè bati l,\* mesye dam. Nou pa konnen konben moun ki te travay pou fè l, epi nou p ap janm konnen konben moun ki te mouri lè yo t ap konstwi l. Monte tout gwo gwo wòch ak kanno\* jouk sou tèt yon gwo mòn konsa pa fasil menm menm menm. Yo te bati l pou defann tèt yo\* si yon jou Franse yo ta tounen nan peyi a. Yo te mete sèzan konsa pou yo bati l. Epi, apre *Anri Kristòf* te touye tèt li\* ak yon bal an ajan\* nan lane dizwit san ven, se isit la menm yo te tere l. 40

**Toude:** Mezanmi! 45



*Yo fin vizite Sitadèl, epi kounyeya y ap desann jouk Milo.*

**Jan:** Mari, konben foto ou te pran?

**Mari:** M pa konnen non. Petèt kenz oubyen ven konsa.

**Jan:** Men ou te pran senk sis deja lè nou te anba nan *Sansousi*. 50

**Mari:** Se vre. Kite m gade. O! o! o! . . . Chouboulout mwen, gen yon ti pwoblèm tou piti.

**Jan:** Kisa? Kisa ki genyen?\*

**Mari:** Ti cheri mwen, m pa vle di ou, men . . . men . . . m te bliye mete fim nan kodak la. 55

## Koze Dizwit (18): Nòt

6. **chanmòt** “two-story house.”
17. **Se jwe ou ap jwe** literally, “It is playing you are playing,” i.e., “You must be kidding.”
18. **tranblemanntè** literally, “trembling of earth,” i.e., “earthquake.”
19. **mete l atè** literally, “put it on ground,” i.e., “knocked it down.”



28. **Se monte y ap redi monte** literally, “It is to go up they are struggling to go up,” i.e., “They have a good long hard climb.”
35. **ki te fè bati l** “who had it built.” Note the position of the pronoun **l**. **Fè + verb** is used to mean “to have someone do something.”
39. **kanno** “cannon.”
40. **defann tèt yo** “to defend themselves.” (See use of reflexive, Conversation 16, Note 33.)
43. **te touye tèt li** “killed himself,” “committed suicide.”  
Another reflexive!  
**ajan** “silver.” (“money” is **lajan**, or **kòb**.)



54. **Kisa ki genyen?** “What’s wrong?”

## Koze Dizwit (18): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Ki kote Jan ak Mari ap soupe?
2. Poukisa Mari di Okap fè l sonje tan lakoloni?
3. Ki lòt kote yo ta vle al vizite?
4. Akilè pou yo sòti nan lotèl la si yo vle vizite Sitadèl anvan solèy la twò cho?
5. Fòk yo kondi jouk ki kote pou al wè Sitadèl?
6. Ki gran moniman enpòtan ki genyen Milo menm?
7. Èske palè Sansousi toujou rete anfòm nèt?
8. Poukisa?
9. Ki bagay ki la jouk kounyeya nan palè Sansousi?
- ♦ ♦ ♦
10. Èske ou kwè Mari konn fè bèl foto?
11. Kisa ki pi gran moniman an Amerik?
12. Ki moun ki te fè bati l?
13. Èske sa te mande anpil efò?
14. Poukisa yo te kwè se pou yo bati Sitadèl?
15. Konben tan yo mete pou bati l?
16. Kijan wa Anri Kristòf te mouri?
17. Nan ki lane li te mouri?
- ♦ ♦ ♦
18. Ki ti pwoblèm Mari genyen?

**Babay!**

## Koze Diznèf (19): Babay

*Twa jou pita yo mete tèt pou\* Pòtoprens.*

- Mari:** Mwen kontan nou te pase twa jou *Okap*. Konsa nou te gen tan ale jouk *Fòlibète*, vizite rès palè *Polin Bonapat* la, san bliye *Kòmye Plaj*!
- Jan:** Men wi! Ou gen rezon. Yo te di n wout *Fòlibète* 5  
a pa bon menm, men se pa vre. Li anfòm nèt. Epi ti repo a nou te pran nan *lotèl Wa Kristòf* ak jounen *Kòmye Plaj* la, sa te yès nèt—sitou paske ou te la ak mwen, cheri!
- Mari:** O chou! 10
- Jan:** . . . Kounyeya, m ta vle kontinye jouk *Jakmèl*. Anpil moun di pa gen pi bèl vil an Ayiti pase *Jakmèl*.
- Mari:** Ou gen rezon nèt, monchè. Akòz tout ansyen kay, epi plaj ki gen la, se ta bon anpil pou nou ta ale. 15  
Ou sonje tou, nou te kontre ak yon moun ki te di n li kwè pa gen pi bèl plaj an Ayiti pase *Remonle-Ben*. Plaj sa a pa lwen ditou ak *Jakmèl*. Epi pa bliye: *Okay* bèl tou. Si nou te kapab, nou ta ale jouk *Jeremi* menm. Men, monchè, ki jou jòdi 20  
a ye? Ou pa konnen?
- Jan:** Non, m pa konnen. Lè m isit an Ayiti ak ou, mwen bliye tout lòt bagay nèt.
- Mari:** Monchè, si ou gade tikè avyon nou yo, ou a wè se denmen apremidi pou nou kite Ayiti. Nou pa ka 25  
fè yon lòt jan.
- Jan:** O non! Pa di m sa! M pa kapab kwè sa. M kwè nou fèk rive, epi deja se pati pou nou pati!\* Pa gen kèsyon: m pa vle pati. M pa janm wè yon peyi tankou Ayiti. Tout moun janti anpil anpil anpil. 30  
Epi bon manje!\* Epi tout kote enteresan pou



nou wè! Epi vodou a menm! Epi flè, flanbwayan,  
pye kokoye, pye grenadin . . . epi manman Nasis,  
epi . . . epi . . .

**Mari:** M konnen, monchè. Men, gen yon ti pwoblèm. 35

**Jan:** Kisa? Ki pwoblèm ki genyen?

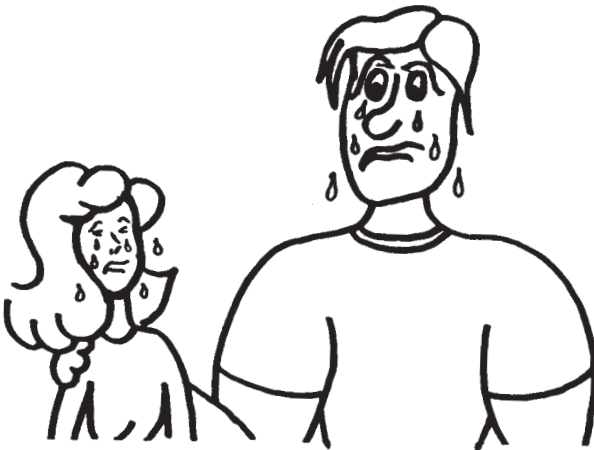
**Mari:** Ti pwoblèm sa a, se lajan. Nou bezwen tounen  
travay pou mare yon ti kòb,\* monchè.

**Jan:** Wi cheri, m konnen sa. Ou gen rezon. Men, kisa  
pou n fè? 40

**Mari:** Men, se byen senp, monchè. Se pou nou tounen  
an Ayiti nan yon ti tan!

**Toude:** Wi!!!

### Fen



*Deja se pati pou nou pati!*

## Koze Diznèf (19): Nòt

1. **yo mete tèt pou** literally, “they put head for,” i.e., “they head toward,” “they go in the direction of.”
28. **se pati pou nou pati** literally, “it is to leave for us to leave,” i.e., “we really have to leave.”
31. **manje** “food.” Remember that the distinction between many parts of speech in Haitian is often nebulous. Thus **manje** means both “to eat” and “food”; **chante** means both “to sing” and “song.” (Cf. Conversation 12, Note 17.)
38. **pou mare yon ti kòb** literally, “to tie (down) a little dough,” i.e., “to bring in some cash,” “make some money.”

## Koze Diznèf (19): Kèsyon

*Chache reponn ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kibò Mari ak Jan prale kounyeya?
2. Konben tan yo te pase Okap?
3. Ki kote yo te al wè lè yo te Okap?
4. Èske ou ka montre ki kote Fòlibète ye sou yon kat Ayiti?
5. Èske gen yon bon wout ki mennen jouk Fòlibète?
6. Kibò yo te pase yon jounen lè yo te Okap?
7. Poukisa yo ta vle al vizite Jakmèl?
8. Kisa sa ye, Remon-le-Ben?
9. Èske ou ka nonmen de lòt vil ki nan Sid Ayiti?
10. Poukisa Mari ak Jan pa kapab al vizite lòt kote an Ayiti kounyeya?
11. Ki bagay Jan te renmen pipilis an Ayiti?
12. Selon Mari, ki ti pwoblèm yo genyen?
13. Epi ou menm, èske petèt ou gen menm ti pwoblèm sa a tanzantan?
14. Kisa pou yo fè pou yo jwenn yon ti kòb?
15. Lèfini, kisa yo decide fè nan yon ti tan?

**Bon kouray! N espere nou ka kontre an Ayiti!**

## **Ti Koze Pa Ou — “Do-It-Yourself” Conversations**

The ten following topical vocabularies are meant to form the basis for a series of “Do-It-Yourself” conversations furnishing not only words which might be needed, but suggesting possible directions which each conversation could take. They can serve also as checklists of one’s command of the language. In addition are fifteen suggested topics for other conversations (or compositions).

However remember: one must learn to walk before learning to fly. Don’t try to say more than you are reasonably able at this point. It is better to be able to express simple, straightforward ideas well, than to become lost trying to use words and constructions far beyond one’s present level.

## Ti Koze Pa Ou—Youn (1): Fanmi mwen

**Pale enpe sou fanmi ou. Pale sou papa ou ak manman ou: kijan yo rele, si yo gen pitit ki marye. Pale sou kouzen ou, tonton ou, moun ki mouri, ki vèv ou byen vèf. Pale sou kay ou, kote li ye, moun ki rete ladan li. Epi bay yon ti koze sou zannimo kay tou.**

husband	<b>mari</b>	brother	<b>frè</b>
wife	<b>madanm</b>	sister	<b>sè</b>
father	<b>papa</b>	uncle	<b>tonton</b>
mother	<b>manman</b>	aunt	<b>matant</b>
parents	<b>papa ak manman</b>	grandfather	<b>granpapa</b>
child	<b>timoun</b>	grandmother	<b>grann</b>
relative	<b>paran</b>	(male) cousin	<b>kouzen</b>
		(female) cousin	<b>kouzin</b>
	♦ ♦ ♦	nephew	<b>neve</b>
unmarried	<b>selibatè</b>	niece	<b>nyès</b>
married	<b>marye</b>		♦ ♦ ♦
engaged	<b>fyanse</b>	boyfriend,	<b>mennaj</b>
divorced	<b>divòse</b>	girlfriend	
widow	<b>vèv</b>	to live, dwell	<b>rete</b>
widower	<b>vèf</b>	to work	<b>travay</b>
dog	<b>chen</b>	job	<b>djòb</b>
cat	<b>chat</b>	elementary	<b>lekòl</b>
home	<b>lakay</b>	school	<b>primè</b>
house	<b>kay</b>	high	<b>lekòl</b>
apartment	<b>apatman</b>	school	<b>segondè</b>
	♦ ♦ ♦	university,	<b>inivèsite</b>
young	<b>jenn</b>	college	
old	<b>vye</b>		♦ ♦ ♦
age	<b>laj</b>	city	<b>lavil</b>
dead	<b>mouri</b>	town	<b>bouk</b>
		farm	<b>bitasyon</b>
		in the country	<b>andeyò</b>

paj katrevendouz

**Ti Koze Pa Ou—De (2):**

**Kisa ou ap fè pandan vakans ou?**

**oubyen:**

**Kisa ou te fè pandan vakans ou?**

**Ki kote ou te ale, oubyen ki kote ou prale? Kilè? Ak ki moun? Kisa ou ta renmen fè lè ou rive la? Poukisa? Kijan? Konben tan ou te pase la, oubyen konben tan ou pral pase la? Konben kòb konsa ou kwè ou pral depanse?**

car	<b>machin</b>	day	<b>jou</b>
plane	<b>avyon</b>	week	<b>senmenn</b>
bus	<b>bis</b>	month	<b>mwa</b>
boat	<b>batiman</b>		♦ ♦ ♦
train	<b>tren</b>	alone	<b>pou kont</b>
	♦ ♦ ♦		<b>(mwen,</b>
home	<b>lakay</b>		<b>ou, li)</b>
mountain	<b>mòn</b>	together	<b>ansanm</b>
beach	<b>plaj, bitch</b>	family	<b>fanmi</b>
sea	<b>lanmè</b>	friend	<b>zanmi</b>
island	<b>zile</b>		♦ ♦ ♦
river	<b>larivyè</b>	to work	<b>travay</b>
lake	<b>lak</b>	to rest	<b>repoze</b>
	♦ ♦ ♦	to sleep	<b>dòmi</b>
to earn money	<b>fè lajan</b>	to eat	<b>manje</b>
to spend (money)	<b>depanse</b>		♦ ♦ ♦
to spend (time)	<b>pase</b>	to stay (at home)	<b>rete</b>
		to return	<b>(lakay)</b>
			<b>tounen</b>

## Ti Koze Pa Ou—Twa (3): Maten

**Akilè ou konn reveye le maten? Ki bagay/Ki moun ki konn reveye ou? Kisa ou konn manje le maten? Ki bagay ou dwe fè anvan ou chita manje? Konben tan ou pran anvan ou pare pou sòti lakay ou? Kijan ou fè pou ale lekòl/nan travay? Akilè ou dwe rive la? Ou pito travay/etidye le maten oubyen le swa? Poukisa?**

to wake up	<b>reveye</b>	time	<b>lè</b>
to get up	<b>leve</b>	7 o'clock	<b>setè</b>
(early)	<b>(bonè)</b>		
to take a	<b>pran yon</b>	7:15	<b>setè e ka</b>
shower	<b>douch</b>	7:30	<b>setè edmi</b>
to take a bath	<b>benyen</b>	7:45	<b>witè mwen ka</b>
to brush one's	<b>bwose</b>	8:00	<b>witè</b>
teeth	<b>dan</b>	8:20	<b>witè ven</b>
to shave	<b>fè bab</b>	8:45	<b>nevè mwen ka</b>
to comb	<b>penyen tèt</b>	9:00	<b>nevè</b>
one's hair		10:00	<b>dizè</b>
to get dressed	<b>mete rad</b>	noon	<b>midi</b>
to have	<b>pran</b>		
breakfast	<b>dejnen</b>		
♦ ♦ ♦			
to walk	<b>ale apye</b>	to remember	<b>sonje</b>
to take the bus	<b>pran bis</b>	to forget	<b>bliye</b>
to drive	<b>kondi</b>		
to go to	<b>ale nan</b>		
class	<b>klas</b>		
♦ ♦ ♦			
alarm clock	<b>revèy</b>		
radio	<b>radyo</b>		
television	<b>televizyon</b>		
newspaper	<b>jounal</b>		

paj katrevenkatòz

## Ti Koze Pa Ou—Kat (4):

Sa m konn fè chak jou  
nan senmenn lan

Chak jou gen yon pakèt bagay ki bezwen regle. Di sa ou fè pandan chak jou nan senmenn lan. Èske ou ta renmen chanje orè ou? Si ou reponn “non,” poukisa ou pa ta chanje l? Si ou di “wi,” ki lòt jan ou ta renmen ranje l?

Monday	<b>lendi</b>	to get dressed	<b>mete rad</b>
Tuesday	<b>madi</b>	to go to	<b>ale nan</b>
Wednesday	<b>mèkredi</b>	class	<b>klas</b>
Thursday	<b>jedi</b>	to go home	<b>ale lakay</b>
Friday	<b>vandredi</b>	to stay at home	<b>rete lakay</b>
Saturday	<b>samdi</b>	to clean the	<b>netwaye</b>
Sunday	<b>dimanch</b>	house	<b>kay la</b>

	◆ ◆ ◆		◆ ◆ ◆
in the mornings	<b>le maten</b>	to cook	<b>fè manje</b>
in the afternoons	<b>le apremidi</b>	to fix breakfast	<b>fè dejnen</b>
		to fix lunch	<b>fè dine</b>
in the evenings	<b>le swa</b>	to fix supper	<b>fè soupe</b>
		to eat	<b>manje</b>
		to drink	<b>bwè</b>

	◆ ◆ ◆		◆ ◆ ◆
to get up (early)	<b>leve (bonè)</b>		
to take a shower	<b>pran yon douch</b>	to go to bed	<b>al kouche</b>
to wash one's face	<b>lave figi</b>	to sleep	<b>dòmi</b>
to shave	<b>fè bab</b>	to dream	<b>fè rèv</b>
to brush one's teeth	<b>bwose dan</b>		◆ ◆ ◆
to comb one's hair	<b>penyen tèt</b>	house	<b>kay</b>
		home	<b>lakay</b>
		school	<b>lekòl</b>
		institute	<b>enstiti</b>



**paj katrevenkenz**

university	<b>inivèsite</b>	to telephone	<b>telefònen</b>
library	<b>biblyotèk</b>	to work	<b>travay</b>
restaurant	<b>restoran</b>	to study	<b>etidye</b>
outdoor market	<b>mache</b>	to read	<b>li</b>
supermarket	<b>makèt</b>	to think	<b>panse</b>
store	<b>magazen</b>	to exercise	<b>fè egzèsis</b>
movies	<b>sinema</b>	to take a	<b>pran yon</b>
church	<b>legliz</b>	little break	<b>ti kanpo</b>
Sunday	<b>lekòl di</b>	to rest	<b>repoze</b>
school	<b>dimanch</b>		

## Ti Koze Pa Ou—Senk (5): Aswè

**Kisa ou renmen fè piplis le swa? Poukisa? Sa koute chè? Konben kòb ou konn depanse konsa? Epi si gen lapli, kisa ou konn fè? Ou pito sòti pou kont ou, oubyen ak yon zanmi? Ki zanmi? Kisa ou ta fè le swa si ou te marye? E si ou pa t marye?**

to stay home	<b>rete lakay</b>	date (social)	<b>randevou</b>
to study	<b>etidye</b>	boyfriend	<b>mennaj</b>
to read	<b>li</b>	girlfriend	<b>mennaj</b>
to look at	<b>gade</b>	husband	<b>mari</b>
television	<b>televizyon</b>	wife	<b>madanm</b>
to listen to	<b>koute</b>	children	<b>timoun yo</b>
the radio	<b>radyo</b>		♦ ♦ ♦
	♦ ♦ ♦		
music	<b>mizik</b>	to see some	<b>al wè kèk</b>
records	<b>plak</b>	friends	<b>zanmi</b>
tapes	<b>tep, kasèt</b>	to jog	<b>kouri</b>
	♦ ♦ ♦	to go bicycling	<b>al monte bisiklèt</b>
to go out	<b>fè yon sòti</b>	to swim	<b>naje</b>
to go to	<b>ale nan</b>		♦ ♦ ♦
a party	<b>yon fèt</b>	library	<b>bibliyotèk</b>
bar	<b>ba</b>	lab(oratory)	<b>labo(ratwa)</b>
restaurant	<b>restoran</b>	gym	<b>jim(nazyòm)</b>
disco	<b>disko</b>	swimming	<b>pisin</b>
to drink	<b>bwè</b>	pool	
to dance	<b>danse</b>		♦ ♦ ♦
to talk	<b>pale</b>		
to play pool	<b>jwe biya</b>	to go to bed	<b>al dòmi</b>
to go to the	<b>ale nan</b>	early	<b>bonè</b>
movies	<b>sinema</b>	to go to bed	<b>al dòmi</b>
film	<b>fim</b>	late	<b>ta</b>
concert	<b>konsè</b>		
orchestra	<b>òkès</b>		

## Ti Koze Pa Ou—Sis (6): Rad mwen mete jòdi a

Di kijan ou renmen abiye, epitou kijan ou renmen wè lèt moun abiye. Ki rad (koulè eks.) ou renmen mete pou okazyon tankou legliz, lantèman, maryaj, entèvyou, lekòl, dine, eks? Kisa ou fè pou jwenn rad pou mete? Lè ou gen yon rad ou pa vle mete ankò, kisa ou fè ak li?

clothes	<b>rad</b>	blouse	<b>kòsay</b>
new	<b>nèf</b>	bow tie	<b>wozèt</b>
old	<b>vye</b>	button	<b>bouton</b>
nice	<b>bèl</b>	cap	<b>kaskèt</b>
ugly	<b>lèd</b>	coat, jacket	<b>levit, vès</b>
fashionable	<b>alamòd</b>	collar	<b>kolèt</b>
old-fashioned	<b>demode</b>	dress	<b>wòb</b>
clean	<b>pwòp</b>	glasses	<b>linèt</b>
dirty	<b>sal</b>	handkerchief	<b>mouchwa</b>
torn	<b>chire</b>		<b>(pòch)</b>
patched	<b>pyese</b>	hat	<b>chapo</b>
	◆ ◆ ◆	jacket, coat	<b>levit, vès</b>
to buy	<b>achte</b>	jeans	<b>djin</b>
to borrow	<b>prete</b>	(neck)tie	<b>kòl</b>
to lend	<b>prete</b>	overcoat	<b>padsì</b>
to give away	<b>fè kado</b>	pants	<b>kanson</b>
to throw away	<b>jete</b>	raincoat	<b>enpèmeyab</b>
	◆ ◆ ◆	ribbon	<b>riban</b>
FABRIC	<b>TWAL</b>	sandals	<b>sapat</b>
cotton	<b>koton</b>	scarf, kerchief	<b>mouchwa</b>
nylon	<b>naylonn</b>		<b>(tèt)</b>
wool	<b>lenn</b>	shirt	<b>chemiz</b>
	◆ ◆ ◆	shoe	<b>soulye</b>
bathing suit	<b>chòt debèn</b>	shoelace	<b>lasèt</b>
belt (woman's)	<b>senti</b>	shorts	<b>bout</b>
belt (man's)	<b>sentiwon</b>		<b>kanson</b>
		skirt	<b>jip</b>

## paj katrevendizwit

sleeve	<b>manch</b>	JEWELRY	<b>BIJOU</b>
slip	<b>jipon long</b>	bracelet	<b>braslè</b>
socks	<b>chosèt</b>	chain	<b>chenn</b>
stockings	<b>ba</b>	earring	<b>zanno</b>
suit	<b>kostim</b>	necklace	<b>kolye</b>
sweater	<b>chanday</b>	ring	<b>bag</b>
T-shirt	<b>mayo</b>	watch	<b>mont</b>
tie	<b>kòl</b>	wedding ring	<b>(bag)</b>
umbrella	<b>parapli</b>		<b>alyans</b>

◆ ◆ ◆

### (RAD TOUJOU!)

COLOR	<b>KOULÈ</b>
beige	<b>bèj</b>
black	<b>nwa</b>
blue	<b>ble</b>
brown	<b>mawon</b>
cream	<b>krèm</b>
golden	<b>dore</b>
gray	<b>gri</b>
green	<b>vèt</b>
orange	<b>oranj</b>
pink	<b>wòz</b>
purple	<b>mòv</b>
red	<b>wouj</b>
white	<b>blan</b>
yellow	<b>jòn</b>

bra(ssiere)	<b>soutyen</b>
nightgown	<b>chemiz denwi</b>
panties	<b>kilòt</b>
pyjamas	<b>pijama</b>
underpants	<b>kalson, slip</b>
wig	<b>perik</b>

◆ ◆ ◆

light blue	<b>ble pal</b>
light green	<b>vèt pal</b>
(etc.)	<b>(eks.)</b>
dark blue	<b>ble fonse</b>
dark green	<b>vèt fonse</b>
(etc.)	<b>(eks.)</b>



Ki rad pou  
m mete jòdi a?

## Ti Koze Pa Ou—Sèt (7): Sa m renmen manje ak bwè

Nou espere ou renmen manje anpil—menm jan ak kèk lòt moun! Nou pa vle fè ou grangou, men di kisa ou renmen manje, epi akilè ou renmen manje yo. Di ki manje ou renmen pare pou kont ou, ak sa ou renmen yon lòt moun pare pou ou. Ki moun? Si ou gen kèk bagay ou renmen bwè lè ou ap manje, di kisa.

(very) hungry	<b>grangou</b> (anpil)	special dish	<b>manje</b> espesyal
(very) thirsty	<b>swaf (anpil)</b>	typically	<b>manje</b>
my favorite food	<b>manje m</b> <b>pi renmen</b>	Haitian dish	<b>natif natal</b>
my favorite drink	<b>bweson m</b> <b>pi renmen</b>	♦ ♦ ♦	
to usually eat	<b>konn manje</b>	hot	<b>cho</b>
to usually drink	<b>konn bwè</b>	cold	<b>frèt</b>
♦ ♦ ♦		light	<b>lejè</b>
		heavy	<b>lou</b>
		spicy	<b>pike</b>
		sweet	<b>dous</b>
good	<b>bon</b>	sour	<b>si</b>
bad	<b>move</b>	bitter	<b>anmè</b>
inexpensive	<b>bonmache</b>	♦ ♦ ♦	
expensive	<b>chè</b>		
good for you	<b>bon pou ou</b>	DESSERT	<b>DESÈ</b>
		cake	<b>gato</b>
		custard	<b>èfolè</b>
		ice cream	<b>krèm</b> (glase)
breakfast	<b>dejnen</b>	chocolate	<b>chokola</b>
lunch	<b>dine</b>	strawberry	<b>frèz</b>
supper	<b>soupe</b>	vanilla	<b>vani</b>
snack	<b>soloba</b>	pie	<b>tat</b>

**paj san**

plate	<b>asyèt</b>
glass	<b>vè</b>
cup	<b>tas</b>
saucer	<b>soukoup</b>
knife	<b>kouto</b>
fork	<b>fouchèt</b>
spoon	<b>kiyè</b>
soup spoon	<b>kiyè soup</b>
pitcher	<b>po</b>
bottle	<b>boutèy</b>
serving dish	<b>pla</b>
napkin (cloth)	<b>sèvyèt</b>
napkin (paper)	<b>napkin</b>
toothpick	<b>bwadan</b>
straw (for drinking)	<b>chalimo</b>
tray	<b>kabare</b>

butter	<b>bè</b>
garlic	<b>lay</b>
honey	<b>siwo myèl</b>
ice	<b>glas</b>
jam	<b>konfiti</b>
jelly	<b>jele</b>
ketchup	<b>sòs tomat</b>
mayonnaise	<b>mayonèz</b>
mustard	<b>moutad</b>
oil	<b>lwil</b>
pepper	<b>pwav</b>
salt	<b>sèl</b>
sauce	<b>sòs</b>
sugar	<b>sik</b>
syrup	<b>siwo</b>
vinegar	<b>vinèg</b>

<b>BREAD</b>	
cracker	<b>krakèz</b>
French toast	<b>pen pèdi</b>
roll	<b>pen won</b>
toast	<b>pen griye</b>

<b>MEAT</b>	<b>VYANN</b>
bacon	<b>bekonn</b>
beef	<b>bèf</b>
chicken	<b>poul</b>
goat	<b>kabrit</b>
ham	<b>janbon</b>
hamburger	<b>anbègè</b>
pork (fried)	<b>griyo</b>
roastbeef	<b>woti</b>
sausage	<b>sisis</b>
steak	<b>estèk</b>
turkey	<b>kòdenn</b>

<b>EGG</b>	<b>ZE</b>
fried	<b>fri</b>
hard-boiled	<b>bouyi</b>
omelet	<b>omlèt</b>
poached	<b>poche</b>
scrambled	<b>brase</b>
soft-boiled	<b>alakòk</b>

<b>SEAFOOD</b>	<b>BÈT LANMÈ</b>
conch	<b>lanbi</b>
crayfish	<b>kribich</b>
fish	<b>pwason</b>
herring	<b>aran</b>
lobster	<b>wonma</b>
shrimp	<b>chevrèt</b>
snapper	<b>sad</b>

DRINK	<b>BWESON</b>	green peas	<b>pwa frans</b>
beer	<b>byè</b>	“Haitian”	<b>chadèk</b>
coffee	<b>kafe</b>	grapefruit	
cola	<b>kola</b>	lettuce	<b>leti</b>
cream	<b>krèm</b>	lime	<b>sitwon</b>
fruit juice	<b>ji fwi</b>	mango	<b>mango</b>
gin	<b>djin</b>	melon	<b>melon</b>
hot chocolate	<b>chokola cho</b>	<b>(frans)</b>	
iced tea	<b>te glase</b>	nut	<b>nwa</b>
milk	<b>lèt</b>	okra	<b>kalalou</b>
mineral water	<b>dlo mineral</b>	onion	<b>zonyon</b>
rum	<b>wonm</b>	orange	<b>zoranj</b>
rum punch	<b>(wonm)</b>	pancake	<b>krèp</b>
	<b>ponch</b>	peanut	<b>pistach</b>
tea	<b>te</b>	peanut butter	<b>manba</b>
water	<b>dlo</b>	(spicy)	<b>(pike)</b>
(purified)	<b>(distiye)</b>	pineapple	<b>zannanna</b>
whiskey	<b>wiski</b>	plantain	<b>bannann</b>
wine	<b>diven</b>	popcorn	<b>mayi pèpèt</b>
	◆ ◆ ◆	potato	<b>ponmdetè</b>
avocado	<b>zaboka</b>	French-fried	<b>ponmdetè</b>
banana	<b>fig (mi)</b>	potatoes	<b>fri</b>
beans	<b>pwa</b>	mashed	<b>pire</b>
black	<b>djondjon</b>	potatoes	<b>ponmdetè</b>
mushroom		potato chip	<b>papita</b>
cantaloupe	<b>melon</b>	pumpkin	<b>joumou</b>
carrot	<b>kawòt</b>	rice	<b>diri</b>
cereal (dry)	<b>kònfleks</b>	salad	<b>salad</b>
cereal (hot)	<b>labouyi</b>	soup	<b>soup,</b>
<b>(cho)</b>			<b>bouyon</b>
cheese	<b>fwonmaj</b>	soursop	<b>kowosòl</b>
cherry	<b>seriz</b>	string beans	<b>pwa tann</b>
eggplant	<b>berejèn</b>	tomato	<b>tomat</b>
fruit	<b>fwi</b>	vegetable	<b>legim</b>
grape	<b>rezen</b>	watermelon	<b>melon dlo</b>

paj sande

## Ti Koze Pa Ou—Wit (8): Sa m ap etidye kounyeya Sa m ta vle etidye pita

**Ki lang ou pale—oubyen ou ta renmen pale? Nan ki peyi yo pale yo? Ki matyè ou renmen lekòl—oubyen ou pa renmen? Nan ki matyè ou pi fò? Pale sou sa ki te ba ou plis pwoblèm nan lekòl primè, segondè. Di si li fasil pou yon moun aprann yon lòt lang.**

LANGUAGES	<b>LANG</b>	SCIENCES	<b>LASYANS</b>
Creole	<b>kreyòl</b>	astronomy	<b>astwonomi</b>
Haitian	<b>ayisyen</b>	biology	<b>byoloji</b>
Chinese	<b>chinwa</b>	calculus	<b>kalkil</b>
English	<b>angle</b>		<b>entegral</b>
French	<b>franse</b>	chemistry	<b>chimi</b>
German	<b>alman</b>	geography	<b>jeyografi</b>
Greek	<b>grèk</b>	geology	<b>jeyoloji</b>
Italian	<b>italyen</b>	mathematics	<b>matematik</b>
Latin	<b>laten</b>	microbiology	
Portuguese	<b>pòtigè</b>		<b>mikwobyoloji</b>
Russian	<b>ris</b>	physics	<b>fizik</b>
Spanish	<b>panyòl</b>	psychology	<b>sikoloji</b>
HUMANITIES	<b>ETID</b>	SOCIAL	<b>SYANS</b>
	<b>JENERAL</b>	SCIENCES	<b>SOSYAL</b>
history	<b>istwa</b>	anthropology	<b>antwopoloji</b>
history of art	<b>istwa da</b>	economics	<b>ekonomi</b>
linguistics	<b>lengwistik</b>	ethnology	<b>etnoloji</b>
literature	<b>literati</b>	political	<b>syans</b>
philosophy	<b>filozofi</b>	science	<b>politik</b>
		sociology	<b>sosyoloji</b>



accounting	<b>kontablite</b>
agriculture	<b>agrikilti</b>
architecture	<b>achitekti</b>
art	<b>desen, penti</b>
business	<b>biznis</b>
computer science	<b>konpitè</b>
dance	<b>dans</b>
dentistry	<b>dantist</b>
diplomacy	<b>diplomasi</b>
drama	<b>teyat</b>
education	<b>pedagoji</b>
engineering	<b>jeni</b>
journalism	<b>jounalis</b>
law	<b>dwa</b>
medicine	<b>medsin</b>
military science	<b>syans militè</b>
music	<b>mizik</b>
nursing	<b>enfimyè</b>
pharmacy	<b>famasi</b>
physical education	<b>edikasyon fizik</b>
radio	<b>radyo</b>
television	<b>televizyon</b>
religion	<b>relijyon</b>
sculpture	<b>eskilti</b>
social welfare	<b>byennèt sosyal</b>
speech	<b>fè diskou</b>
theology	<b>teyoloji</b>
veterinary science	<b>veterinè</b>

studies	<b>etid</b>
elementary	<b>primè</b>
secondary	<b>segondè</b>
college	<b>inivèsitè</b>
to pass	<b>pase</b>
to fail	<b>pa pase</b>
test, exam	<b>egzamen</b>
homework	<b>devwa</b>

easy	<b>fasil</b>
hard	<b>rèd, difisil</b>
to study hard	<b>etidye rèd</b>

paj sankat

## Ti Koze Pa Ou—Nèf (9): Sa mwen ta vle fè nan lavi m

**Di ki metye ou pi renmen, epi kilès ou pa renmen menm. Esplike poukisa. Di ki metye ou ta renmen fè anpil anpil, men ou pa ka fè l. Si ou vle, di poukisa ou pa ka fè li. Di ki metye ou pa ta fè, menm si yo te ba ou anpil lajan pou fè l. Poukisa? Ki metye ou kwè ki bay plis lajan, epi kilès nan yo ki pa bay lajan ditou?**

to like  
to make a lot of money  
to help people  
to work with people  
to see new places  
to spread the word of God  
to live in the city /  
town  
to live in the country  
long vacations  
to retire early

**renmen  
fè anpil kòb  
ede moun  
travay ak moun  
wè lòt kote  
gaye pawòl Bondye  
rete nan yon gwo vil /  
ti vil  
rete andeyò  
gwo vakans  
pran pansyon bonè**



interesting	<b>enteresan</b>
boring	<b>raz</b>
rich	<b>rich</b>
poor	<b>pòv</b>
happy	<b>(kè) kontan</b>
tiring	<b>fatigan</b>
fulfilling	<b>satisfè</b>
useful	<b>itil</b>
steady	<b>kach</b>
secure	<b>asire</b>

to create	<b>kreye</b>
to learn	<b>aprann</b>
to play	<b>jwe</b>
to repair	<b>ranje</b>
to sell	<b>vann</b>
to teach	<b>fè lekòl</b>
to travel	<b>vwayaje</b>
marriage	<b>maryaj</b>
to have babies	<b>fè pitit</b>

			<b>paj sansenk</b>
actor / actress	<b>aktè / aktris</b>	musician	<b>mizisyen</b>
administrator	<b>administratè</b>	nun	<b>chèsè</b>
advertising	<b>ajans</b>	nurse	<b>mis, enfimyè</b>
	<b>piblisite</b>	Peace Corps	<b>volontè</b>
architect	<b>achitèk</b>	volunteer	<b>Piskò</b>
artist	<b>atis</b>	pharmacist	<b>famasyen</b>
baker	<b>boulanje</b>	pilot	<b>pilòt</b>
banker	<b>bankye</b>	policeman	<b>polis</b>
barber	<b>kwafè</b>	politician	<b>politisyen</b>
beautician	<b>estetisyèn</b>	postal worker	<b>anplwaye</b>
builder	<b>fòmman</b>		<b>lapòs</b>
businessman	<b>bizismann</b>	priest	<b>monpè</b>
carpenter	<b>bòs ebenis</b>	printer	<b>enprimè</b>
cook	<b>kizinyè</b>	professor	<b>pwofesè</b>
dentist	<b>dantis</b>	psychologist	<b>sikològ</b>
diplomat	<b>diplomat</b>	rabbi	<b>raben</b>
doctor	<b>doktè</b>	restaurant	<b>manadjè</b>
engineer	<b>enjenyè</b>	manager	<b>restoran</b>
farmer	<b>kiltivatè</b>	salesman	<b>vandè</b>
fireman	<b>ponpye</b>	scientist	<b>moun</b>
flight	<b>asistan dlè</b>		<b>lasyans</b>
attendant		secretary	<b>sekretè</b>
homemaker	<b>gadò kay</b>	social worker	<b>anplwaye</b>
hotel	<b>manadjè</b>		<b>byennèt sosyal</b>
manager	<b>lotèl</b>	soldier	<b>sòlda</b>
insurance	<b>vandè</b>	surgeon	<b>chirijyen</b>
salesman	<b>asirans</b>	teacher	<b>mèt,</b>
interpreter	<b>entèprèt</b>		<b>pwofesè</b>
journalist	<b>jounalis</b>	travel agent	<b>ajans</b>
judge	<b>jij</b>		<b>vwayaj</b>
lawyer	<b>avoka</b>	undertaker	<b>antreprenè</b>
linguist	<b>lengwis</b>	veterinarian	<b>veterinè</b>
mechanic	<b>mekanisyen</b>	waiter	<b>gason</b>
minister	<b>pastè</b>	waitress	<b>sèvèz</b>
missionary	<b>misyonè</b>	writer	<b>otè, ekriven</b>

paj sansis

bank robber

kasèd bank



**Kasèd Bank??!!**

## Ti Koze Pa Ou—Dis (10): Machin pa m

**Pale sou machin ou, bisiklèt ou, oubyen moto ou. Di ki kalite machin ou genyen. Ki pwoblèm ou konn genyen ak li? Kijan ou fè pou ranje l? Di kijan ou kondi nan lari. Ki moun ou konn wè sou wout ou tanzantan?**

car	<b>machin</b>	engine	<b>motè</b>
motorcycle	<b>moto(siklèt)</b>	fender	<b>zèl</b>
jeep	<b>djip</b>	gastank	<b>tankgaz</b>
truck	<b>kamyon</b>	gear	<b>chanjman</b>
convertible	<b>dekapotab</b>		<b>vitès</b>
	♦ ♦ ♦	handbrake	<b>fren men</b>
to go for a ride	<b>al fè yon ti pwonmennen</b>	headlight	<b>limyè</b>
to run well	<b>mache byen</b>	hood	<b>kapo (motè)</b>
to start (car)	<b>estat</b>	horn	<b>klaksonn</b>
to back up	<b>fè bak</b>	inner tube	<b>chanm (kawòtchou)</b>
to push	<b>pouse</b>	jack	<b>djak</b>
to pull	<b>rale</b>	key	<b>kle</b>
to fix	<b>ranje</b>	leak	<b>twou</b>
	♦ ♦ ♦	license plate	<b>plak</b>
problem	<b>pwoblèm</b>	lock	<b>seri</b>
breakdown	<b>pàn</b>	oil	<b>lwil</b>
gas(oline)	<b>gaz(olin)</b>	paint	<b>douko</b>
diesel	<b>gazòy</b>	rearview mirror	<b>retwovizè</b>
filling-station	<b>ponp gaz</b>	roof	<b>kapòt</b>
garage	<b>garaj</b>	scratch	<b>grave</b>
mechanic	<b>mekanisyen</b>	seat (front, back)	<b>chèz (devan, dèyè)</b>
speed limit	<b>limit vitès</b>	steering wheel	<b>volan</b>
policeman	<b>polis</b>	tail light	<b>limyè dèyè</b>
	♦ ♦ ♦	tire	<b>kawòtchou (pete), (flat) (pàn kawòtchou)</b>
battery	<b>batri</b>	windshield	<b>vit devan</b>
brake	<b>fren</b>	windshield	<b>wouchin</b>
bumper	<b>defans</b>	wiper	
dashboard	<b>dach</b>		
dent	<b>kolboso</b>		

## **Kèk lòt koze nou ta ka fè**

- 1. Sa m ap fè apre klas la.**
- 2. Sa m konn fè nan wikenn.**
- 3. Men poukisa m ap etidye kreyòl ayisyen.**
- 4. Kote m rete a.**
- 5. Men poukisa kè m kontan/kè m tris jòdi a.**
- 6. Pwoblèm mwen (yo).**
- 7. Yon zanmi mwen.**
- 8. Yon moun ki enteresan anpil.**
- 9. Moun m renmen/m rayi pipilis.**
- 10. Nèg/Nègès rèv mwen.**
- 11. Yon pwogram televizyon m renmen/m pa renmen.**
- 12. Yon bon/move fim mwen fèk wè.**
- 13. Sa m renmen fè lè m gen tan lib.**
- 14. Sa m ta renmen fè, si m te gen anpil kòb ak anpil tan.**
- 15. Sa m ta fè si m te gran chèf lemonn.**

## Historic Haitian Names

***Bonapat, Polin***—Pauline Bonaparte (1780-1825), the ravishing sister of Napoleon Bonaparte (and who was not opposed to posing nude!), was the wife of Victor-Emmanuel Leclerc, commander of the some 21,000 French troops sent in early 1802 to subdue the slave rebellion and then to proceed to Louisiana. (This was the largest army ever sent from the Old World to the New.)

At her palace on the outskirts of Cape Haitian was Pauline's luxurious court of artists, musicians, and ladies' maids. She returned to France almost exactly nine months after her arrival, following the death from yellow fever of her 29-year-old husband.

***Channmas***—the Champ-de-Mars, the park and parade grounds adjoining the National Palace; completed by the Square of the Heroes of Independence. In this area are statues of Toussaint Louverture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Henry Christophe, and Alexandre Pétion; as well as of the Unknown Escaped Slave. Recently another martyr of the colonial period was added: the Unknown Indian.

***Desalin, Jan-Jak***—Jean-Jacques Dessalines (1758-1806). Although often accused of being excessively bloodthirsty even within the context of a bloody revolution, he nevertheless had the courage to do what no Black man had ever before dared: to proclaim (January 1, 1804) the independence of a Black nation, the final victory of the world's only slave revolt ever permanently to succeed.

It has been said that Toussaint Louverture gave Haiti liberty, Henry Christophe gave Haiti dignity, and Jean-Jacques Dessalines gave Haiti independence.

***Divalye, Franswa***—Dr. François Duvalier (1907-1971), often familiarly called "**Papa Dòk.**" He was one of the physicians

## **paj sandis**

who led the successful campaign to eradicate the tropical disease called yaws (Creole: **pyan**), as well as being an outstanding anthropologist. However his years as president of Haiti (1957 until his death) were characterized by ruthlessness and terror. The international jet airport which bore his name was inaugurated in 1967 and has been considerably enlarged since.

**Fòlibète**—Fort-Liberté is the last town of any size (c. 3,000) on Haiti's northeast coast before the Dominican border. Its superb natural harbor has never been fully utilized.

**Gonayiv**—Gonaïves is Haiti's third largest city (c. 100,000), founded in 1738. Twice it has played an important role in the cause of Haitian freedom: independence was proclaimed here (January 1, 1804), and it was here that the first demonstrations began which culminated in the downfall of the Duvalier regime (February 7, 1986). (See also Conversation 17, lines 43-51.)

**Gran Ri**—Port-au-Prince's main thoroughfare is officially named Avenue Jean-Jacques Dessalines (**avni Jan-Jak Desalin**), but is popularly known as simply **Gran Ri** ("Main Street").

**Jakmèl**—Jacmel is a charming old (1680) coffee-exporting town of some 16,000, on Haiti's southern coast near several of the country's best beaches. Its old mansions ("coffee palaces"), quiet streets, two attractive pensions and a luxury hotel on the beach, plus an excellent road and proximity to Port-au-Prince, make it a favorite yet unspoiled tourist spot.

**Jeremi**—*Jérémie* (French) or Jeremy (English), founded in 1765, is situated near the end (northern side) of Haiti's long southern peninsula. Although a relatively important town (c. 35,000), it has an aura of mystery due to its isolation and almost impassible road. It was here that Alexandre Dumas' father was born.



**Jolikè, Oblen**—Aubelin Jolicœur, journalist and art dealer, has served as Haiti’s Secretary of State for Information and Coordination, as well as Director General of Tourism. He is prominently described in the Hachette *Guide Bleu* volume on the Antilles, and immortalized as Petit Pierre in Graham Greene’s novel concerning Haiti, *The Comedians* (1966), as well as in the film version of the following year starring Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Alec Guinness and Peter Ustinov.

**Katedral**—the imposing pink and white stone edifice is Haiti’s main Roman Catholic cathedral, begun in 1884 and completed in 1913.

**Kenskòf**—Kenscoff is a picturesque little town (c. 2,500) above Port-au-Prince, even higher and thus cooler than Pétion-Ville. It is known especially for its flower market.

**Kolon, Kristòf**—Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), whose real name of course was Cristoforo Colombo, and of whom it is said: “**Lè li pati, li pa t konnen ki kote li prale; lè li rive, li pa t konnen ki kote li te ye; epi lè li te tounen, li pa t konnen ki kote li te ale!**”

**Kòmye Plaj**—Cormier Beach is an exceptionally fine bathing area some half hour’s drive from Cape Haitian, with a resort hotel beside the sea.

**Kristòf, Anri**—Henry Christophe (1767-1820), Haiti’s only king, ruled Northern Haiti from 1807 until his death. Called “the Civilizer,” he governed with an iron hand but made of his domain a showcase of prosperity. (See also Conversation 18, lines 35-44.)

**Kwadèboukè**—Croix-des-Bouquets, a small town (c. 4,000) just northeast of Port-au-Prince, known especially for producing metal sculptures.

## **paj sandouz**

**Latòti**—*La Tortue* (French) or Tortuga (English), is the island off the northern coast of Haiti where French, English and Dutch pirates sallied forth to attack the gold-laden Spanish galleons returning from the New World. Beginning c. 1629, it was the French who gained control of Tortuga, and thus from there that France gradually extended its influence over what was to become the wealthiest colony of the Americas. Called “the mother of Haiti,” today it is sparsely populated, rugged and almost roadless, and very much off the beaten track.

**lotèl Olofsonn**—the Grand Hotel Oloffson, built in 1888 as the Haitian president’s summer palace, was later the U.S. Marine hospital during the first American Occupation of Haiti (1915-1934). Still bearing the name of its subsequent Norwegian ship-captain founder, it is an incredible fantasy of turrets and towers intertwined with vines and tropical flora, described as “a Gothic white gingerbread castle resembling a Mississippi riverboat shipwrecked on a tropical isle.” It serves as the setting for Graham Greene’s novel and film, *The Comedians*, and has long been a favorite American gathering place in Haiti.

**lotèl Wa Kristòf**—Cape Haitian’s hotel Roi Christophe, built in 1724, with its balconies, interior courtyards and beamed-ceiling dining room, has a unique, almost colonial charm.

**Louvèti, Touden**—Toussaint Louverture (1743-1803), the brilliant leader of the Haitian Revolution, “the slave who became the savior of his country.” Tricked into captivity by the French, he was left to die of exposure in a dungeon in France. Haiti’s destiny might well have been vastly different had he been allowed to remain.

**Mache Fè a**—The Iron Market, thus named because of its iron roof and not because iron is sold there (though one could no doubt find that too, since there is practically nothing that is *not* sold there!). Built in 1889 under President Hyppolite, legend has it that this huge, venerable structure with its four

minarets was originally destined for India by its European manufacturer, but through a shipping error landed in Haiti. Whatever the case, no visit to Haiti is complete without witnessing its noisy, teeming life, “more vitally alive, more crowded, more clamoring, than the deck of a sinking commuters’ ferry.”

**Milo**—Milot, the small town (c. 2,000) near Cape Haitian where are the ruins of the Sans-Souci palace. From Milot one begins what used to be the some two-hour trek up to the Citadelle. Nowadays, however, one can drive approximately five miles up a dirt road past Milot, and then hike or go on horseback the last two miles.

**Mize Da Ayisyen**—the Museum of Haitian Art (belonging to the Episcopal secondary school of Saint-Pierre) is in effect Haiti’s national art museum. Opened in 1972, it houses a permanent collection of Haitian masters such as Hector Hyppolite, Philomé Obin, Jasmin Joseph, Salnave Philippe-Auguste and Bernard Wah, as well as temporary exhibits.

**Moulen sou Lanmè**—Moulin-sur-Mer, north of Port-au-Prince, is a large, charming beach resort which includes a truly excellent museum of Haitian history. There are two large swimming pools and a restaurant looking onto the sea. Its spacious lawns even have peacocks wandering about.

**Nèg Mawon**—bronze statue of the Unknown Escaped Slave blowing a conch shell (such as used to sound the call to the Haitian Revolution). The sculptor was Haiti’s great Albert Mangonès (1968). For the slave, there were but two ways out: suicide, or the hills. Some chose the former, more chose the latter. (See also Conversation 16, lines 30-35.)

**Okap**—*Le Cap-Haïtien* (French) or Cape Haitian (English), “the most subtly beautiful city in the West Indies” (Selden Rodman), and Haiti’s second largest metropolis (c. 150,000).

## **paj sankatòz**

Founded in 1670 and long the colonial capital, its old iron-balconied houses give it the same special appeal one finds in the French Quarter of New Orleans.

**Okay**—Aux Cayes, or Les Cayes, Haiti's fourth largest town (c. 75,000) and one of its oldest (1667). It was here in 1785 that the famous painter of birds, James Audubon, was born; and where Simón Bolívar took refuge for seven months and proclaimed in 1816 the abolition of slavery in Spanish America.

**Olofsonn**—see *lotèl Olofsonn*.

**Palè Nasyonal**—the present National Palace is the third one on the same site - the first destroyed by naval gunfire in 1869, and the second by a mysterious explosion in 1912. Designed and built by the Haitian architect Georges Baussan, its beautifully classical lines and startling whiteness make it the capital's most outstanding edifice. (See also Conversation 16, lines 23-24.)

**Panteyon Nasyonal**—the Museum of the Haitian National Pantheon (inaugurated in 1983), near the National Palace. It is made up of a magnificent permanent collection concerning Haitian history, including artifacts from the pre-Columbian period, the colonial regime, Revolutionary times, and extending up to the government of François Duvalier. Beautifully displayed in an underground marble museum, nowhere else can one find such a panorama of Haitian history. Adjoining it is a gallery for temporary displays of Haitian and foreign art.

**Petyonvil**—Pétion-Ville, above Port-au-Prince, is in effect an elegant suburb of the capital. Named for Alexandre Pétion (1770-1818) who served as president of the Republic of Southern Haiti from 1807 until his death, the town is by far the country's wealthiest community per capita.

*Pilat*—the pleasant little town of Pilate, in northwestern Haiti, has curiously had somewhat of a reputation for being the “zombi capital” since the publication of certain sensational accounts in the 1920’s. Nothing could be further from the truth.

*Pòdepè*—Port-de-Paix, founded in 1664, was the first French town on the Haitian mainland. Today, with a population of c. 50,000, it is the leading town of the Northwest.

*Pòtoprens*—Port-au-Prince was founded in 1749 in order to establish a more centrally-located capital than Cape Haitian. The population of the city and its immediate environs is estimated today at approximately two million and growing. For better or for worse, it is incontestably the center of Haitian life, certainly moreso than are New York or Washington for the U.S., or even Paris for France.

*Remon-le-Ben*—Raymond-les-Bains, less than a half-hour drive from Jacmel, is an unspoiled semi-circular beach with fine white sand, partially shaded by palm trees. Many consider it Haiti’s finest.

*Revolisyon ayisyen*—the Haitian Revolution was a long, incredibly complex, 13-year struggle waged initially to gain equal status for the Mulattoes, then freedom for the slaves, and finally for national independence. At times there were as many as eight opposing forces: (1) wealthy French planters; (2) poor French townspeople; (3) Mulattoes; (4) French royalists; (5) French republicans; (6) Spanish; (7) British; (8) and (most important of all) ex-slaves. However the most potent force was . . . yellow fever.

Triggered by the French Revolution (1789), its real birth came with a famous Voodoo ceremony under a slave named Boukmann on the night of August 14, 1791, in a remote spot called **Bwa Kayiman** (French: *Bois Cayman*), and culminated in the declaration of independence at Gonaïves by Jean-Jacques Dessalines on January 1, 1804 - the first Black country

## **paj sansèz**

ever to proclaim its independence, and the second independent nation (after the United States) in this hemisphere.

***Sansousi***—Henry Christophe’s majestic palace of Sans-Souci (Milot), with its polished mahogany walls, huge tapestries and crystal chandeliers, had a cold mountain stream made to flow under its marble floors (an ancestor of air conditioning!) and emerge below as a fountain. Its numerous bathrooms were an innovation for the times. Completed in 1813, it was partially destroyed by an earthquake in 1842.

***Sent-Trinite***—the Protestant Episcopal Holy Trinity Cathedral (1924), in downtown Port-au-Prince, whose murals constitute some of the greatest Haitian art ever created. Internationally known artists such as Philomé Obin, Wilson Bigaud, Castera Bazile and Préfète Duf(f)aut painted (1949-51) Bible scenes depicting a Haitian Christ and disciples (but a White Judas!), evolving in a very Haitian decor. Called the “Sistine Chapel of Naïve Art” by André Malraux, it is a ‘tourist must.’

***Sitadèl***—the Citadelle (constructed 1804-1820), Henry Christophe’s great mountain fortress intended as a center of resistance in case of a re-invasion by the French, is reputedly this hemisphere’s largest man-made monument. It was intended to be able to accommodate as many as 10,000 troops for a siege of a year or more. Even today its thick walls enclose some 365 huge bronze cannon. It was never used, its greatest enemy being time. (See also Conversation 18, lines 28-44.)

***Tousen Louvèti***—see *Louvèti*.

***Wa Kristòf*** —see *lotèl Wa Kristòf*.

***Wout Nasyonal Nimewo En***—National Highway Number One is an excellent two-lane, well-paved road running north from Port-au-Prince first along a series of beaches, through a desert with large cacti, and then across a breath-taking range of mountains to the sea and Cape Haitian.

## Haitian-English Glossary

## A

**a** the; at; *future indicator*:  
shall, will

**abiye** dressed, clothed

**achte** to buy

**Agwe** Agoué (*Voodoo spirit of the sea*)

**ajan** silver

**ak** with; and; as

**akilè** at what time

**akòz** because of

**akra** malanga fritter

**al** *see ale*

**ala** what (a) . . . ! how . . . !  
(*exclamation*)

**ale, al** to go

**m ale** I go; bye

**n ale** we go; bye

**alo** hello

**alò** well, then

**Amerik** America

**ameriken** American

**Ameriken** American (man)

**Amerikèn** American  
(woman)

**amizan** amusing

**an** the; in; to; year; ah!

**anba** under; below, on the  
lower level

**anba fred** from the cold

**anbègè** hamburger

**anfas** opposite, facing

**anfen** finally

**anfòm** in (great) shape; all set

**angle** English

**ankò** still, yet, again

**pa . . . ankò** no longer

**ann(ou)** let's

**anpil** much, many, a lot;  
very, very much

**anraje** to be(come) enraged

**anraje nan kò m** "on my  
case"

**Anri** Henry

**ansanm** together

**answit** next, after that

**ansyen** old, ancient

**ant** between

**antre (nan)** to enter, go in

**anvan** before

**anvi** desire; envy; to want

**gen anvi** to feel like,  
want

**anyen** nothing

**ap** *present progressive indicator*: "-ing"

**apatman** apartment

**aprann** to learn; to teach

**apre** after

**apremidi** afternoon

**apye** on foot

**arete** to arrest

**Asefi** *Haitian name*  
(*literally*: "Enough  
Daughters")

**asepte** to accept

**ason** ritual Voodoo rattle

**asosye (ak)** associated

## paj sandizwit

(with)

**aswè** in the evenings

**aswè a** this evening

**asyèt** dish, plate

**atè** on the ground

**atizan** artisan

**avè** with

**avèk** with

**avni** avenue

**avril** April

**avyon** airplane

**ayewopò** airport

**ayisyen** Haitian

**Ayisyen** Haitian (man)

**Ayisyèn** Haitian (woman)

**Ayiti** Haiti

**Azaka** Azacca, or Zacca

(*Voodoo spirit of  
agriculture*)

## B

**ba** see **bay**

**babay** bye bye

**badji** inner sanctuary of a  
Voodoo temple complex

**bagay** thing, something

**Se bèl bagay!** Good deal!

**bal** bullet; dance, ball

**balkon** balcony

**ban** see **bay**

**bannann** plantain

**baryè** gate, barrier

**bati** to build

**batistè** birth certificate

**bato** boat

**batri** battery (*car*)

**bawon** baron

**Bawon Samdi** Baron

Saturday (*Voodoo spirit  
of cemeteries and of  
death*)

**bay, ba, ban** to give

**bay sou** to look out onto

**bèl** pretty; handsome;

beautiful; fine

**bèlte** beauty

**benyen** to bathe; to go

swimming

**betiz** nonsense, foolishness

**pase nan betiz** to tease, kid

**bezwen** to need

**bisiklèt** bicycle

**biwo** office

**blan** white (*color or  
person*); foreigner (*of any  
race*)

**blanch** white (*color*); white  
woman

**ble** blue

**blije** to be obliged to, be  
compelled to

**bliye** to forget

**bo** kiss

**bò** side; near, around, in the  
vicinity of; beside, next to

**bò isit (la)** around here

**lòt bò (dlo)** foreign;  
abroad

**bòl** bowl

**bon** good

**pi bon** better

**Bonapat** Bonaparte



**bonè** early  
**bonjou** good morning  
**bonm** bomb  
**bonswa** good afternoon;  
 good evening  
**bòs** *general term of respect  
 for an artisan; master  
 craftsman*  
**boujwa** upper class  
**bouke** tired  
**boula** *smallest of the three  
 Voodoo drums*  
**boule** to burn  
**bous** purse; wallet  
**bouske** to look for, seek out  
**boutèy** bottle  
**bwa** wood  
**bwadchenn** oak  
**bwè** to drink  
**bweson** drink, beverage  
**byè** beer  
**byen** well, thoroughly;  
 quite; good, fine

### CH

**chache** to look for, get; to  
 try to  
**chadèk** shaddock,  
 “Haitian” grapefruit  
**chak** each, each one  
**chandèl** candle; torch  
**pòt chandèl** candlestick  
 holder  
**chanje** to change  
**chanm** room  
**chanmòt** second floor; two-

story house  
**Channmas** Champ-de-  
 Mars (*Port-au-Prince*)  
**chans** luck  
**chance** lucky  
**chante** to sing; song  
**chape** to escape  
**chape poul li** to take off,  
 clear out  
**chapèl** chapel  
**chapo** hat  
**chase** to chase (away, off)  
**chè** expensive; dear  
**chèf** chief, head, leader  
**cheri** dear  
**chez** (*French*) at the place  
 of, at the home of  
**chita** to sit (down); seated,  
 sitting  
**cho** hot  
**chòt** shorts, cut-offs  
**chòt deben** bathing suit  
*(man’s or woman’s)*  
**chou** cabbage; darling  
**chouboulout** honey,  
 darling  
**chwal** horse  
**chwazi** to choose

### D

**da** of art  
**dakò** agreed, in agreement  
**dam** lady  
**Danbala** Damballah  
*(Voodoo serpent spirit of  
 fertility)*

## paj sanven

- dans** dance  
**danse** to dance  
**dat** date (*calendar*)  
**davans** in advance, beforehand  
**Dayiti** of Haiti  
**de** two; some  
**debake** to disembark, land, arrive  
**deben** *see chòt deben*  
**debyen** fine, worthy  
**dechouke** to uproot  
**defann** to defend  
    **defann tèt li** to defend oneself  
**deja** already  
**dejnen** breakfast  
**deklare** to declare  
**demi** half  
**denmen** tomorrow; the next day  
**dènye** last  
**depanse** to spend (money)  
**depi** since (*time*)  
**deplizanpli** more and more  
**depoze** to drop (someone) off  
**derape** to hurry off, leave  
**derefize** to (absolutely) refuse  
**deryen!** you're welcome! don't mention it!  
**Desalin** Dessalines  
**desanm** December  
**desann** to descend, come down, go down; to get off; to stay (at); to "put down," eat  
**desen** drawing  
**deside** to decide  
**dèske** since, because  
**devan** front; in front of  
**dèyè** behind  
**deyò** outside  
**dezavèg** "of the blind"; *see restoran*  
**dezè** two o'clock  
**dezoutwa** several, a few  
**dezyèm** second  
**di** to say, tell; hard; ten  
    **Men pa di m** But tell me  
**dife** fire  
**diferan** different  
**diferans** difference  
**dimanch** Sunday  
**dimaten** in the morning, A.M.  
**dine** lunch, noonday meal, main meal of the day; to have lunch  
**diri** rice  
    **diri kole** rice and beans  
**dis** ten  
**disèt** seventeen  
**diswa** of the evening, P.M.  
**ditou** at all  
**Divalye** Duvalier  
**divinò** seer, clairvoyant  
**dizè** ten o'clock  
**diznèf** nineteen  
**dizwit** eighteen  
**djondjon** mushroom

**dlo** water  
**lòt bò dlo** foreign; abroad  
**dola** dollar  
**dola ayisyen** “Haitian dollar,” i.e., five gourdes  
**dous** sweet  
**dousman** slowly  
**douz** twelve  
**dwa** right, privilege  
**gen dwa** can, may, to be able  
**dwannye** customs official  
**dwe** to have to, must  
**Dye** God  
**si Dye vle** God willing  
**Dyedone** *male Haitian name with no English or French equivalent (literally: “God Given”)*

E

e and  
**ede** to help, aid  
**edisyon** edition  
**edmi** thirty (minutes), half past (the hour)  
**efò** effort  
**egzakteman** exactly  
**egzanp** example  
**pa egzanp** for example  
**ekonomi** economy  
**eks.** etc. (*abbreviation for eksetera*)  
**eksetera** et cetera (and so forth)  
**eksite** excited

**elèv** student  
**Elifèt** *male Haitian name with no English or French equivalent (literally: “And he is born”)*  
**en** one  
**Ench** Hinche  
**endepandan** independent  
**enpe** a little  
**enpòtan** important  
**enpòtans** importance  
**entelijan** intelligent  
**entènasyonal** international  
**enteresan** interesting  
**entèvyou** interview  
**envitasyon** invitation  
**envite** to invite  
**envoke** to invoke, call forth  
**epe** and  
**epitou** and (also)  
**epòk** period, times, era  
**eskalye** staircase, stairs  
**èske** *interrogative indicator*  
**eskèlèt** skeleton  
**eskiltè** sculptor;  
 woodcarver  
**eskize** to excuse  
**esklav** slave  
**eskòpyon** scorpion  
**eskout** scout  
**espere** to hope  
**espesyal** special  
**espidomèt** speedometer  
**esplikasyon** explanation  
**esplike** to explain  
**espò** sport

## paj sanvennde

**espre** expressly, on purpose

**estat** to start (*car*)

**estati** statue

**estati an bwa**

woodcarving

**estèk** steak

**estòp** stop

**etidyan** student

**etidye** to study

**Ezili** Erzulie (*Voodoo spirit of beauty, love, and jealousy*)

## F

**fache** annoyed, upset,  
angry

**fanatik** fan, enthusiast

**fanm** woman

**fanmi** family

**farin** flour

**fasil** easy

**fatige** to tire (out); tired,  
fatigued

**fè** to do, make; iron

**fè** + *verb* to have

(someone do something)

**fèk** to have just (done  
something)

**fen** end, ending

**fèt** made, done

**fete** to celebrate

**fevriye** February

**fi** girl; woman

**fich** bill, check

**fig (mi)** banana

**fig frans** fig

**figi** face

**fim** film

**finen** to smoke

**fin** *see fini*

**fini, fin** to finish; to finally  
(do something)

**flanbwayan** royal

poinciana, flamboyant

**flanm** flame

**flè** flower

**flibistye** pirate

**fò** strong; it is necessary  
that

**fòk** it is necessary that

**Fòlibète** Fort-Liberté

**fon** back, rear (*of room etc.*)

**fòs** force, strength

**foto** photo

**fou** crazy

**founi** to furnish, provide

**fout!** damn!

**frans** (of) France

**franse** French

**Franswa** François

**Frantz** Frantz

**fraz** sentence

**fredi** cold (*temperature*)

**fri** fried

**fritay** fried foods

**fwa** time, instance; liver

**fwa di** liver

**fwi** fruit

## G

**gade** to look (at)

**gason** boy; man; waiter;  
porter

**gate** to spoil, rot  
**Gede** Guédés (*mischievous*  
*Voodoo spirits associated*  
*with **Bawon Samdi***)  
**gen ago**; *see genyen*  
**gen dwa** can, may, to be  
able  
**gen lapli** it's raining  
**gen lè** to seem, appear  
**gen rezon** to be right, be  
correct  
**gen tan** to have time  
**gentan** already  
**genyen, gen** to have; there  
is, there are  
**Kisa ou genyen?** What's  
wrong?  
**gid** guide  
**glas** ice  
**Gonayiv** Gonaïves  
**gou** taste  
**goud** gourde (*Haitian*  
*monetary unit*)  
**gout** drop, drip  
**graje** grated  
**gran** great, large; main  
**Grandans** (Department of  
the) Grand'Anse  
**grangou** hungry  
**grann** grandmother  
**grannèg** important man,  
important personage  
**grasa** thanks to  
**grenadin** granadilla  
(*variety of passion fruit*)  
**grenn** grain, berry, seed;

single unit (*of anything*)  
**griyo** spicy fried pork  
**gwo** big; fat  
**gwozè** size

## I

**inè** one o'clock; one hour  
**inèdtan** one hour  
**inik** unique  
**inivèsite** university  
**isit** here; from here  
**isit menm** right here  
**istwa** history

## J

**jaden** field; garden  
**Jakmèl** Jacmel  
**jalouzi** jealousy  
**jan** way  
**Jan** John  
**janbe** to cross (over)  
**janm** ever  
**pa . . . janm** never  
**janti** nice, kind  
**janvyè** January  
**je** eye  
**jedi** Thursday  
**jen** June  
**jenn** young  
**Jera** Gerard  
**Jeremi** Jérémie (*French*),  
Jeremy (*English*)  
**ji** juice  
**jis** just, fair, equitable  
**jiyè** July  
**jòdi a** today

## paj sanvenkat

**Jolikè** Jolicœur  
**jou** day  
**jouk** until; (all the way) to  
**jounen** day  
**jwe** to play; to kid, joke  
**jwenn** to find, get

## K

**k** see **ki**  
**ka** see **kapab**  
**kab** see **kapab**  
**kabicha** nap  
**kache** to hide  
**kado** present, gift  
**kafe** coffee  
**kafou** crossroads,  
intersection  
**kajou** mahogany  
**kalite** type (of), kind (of);  
quality  
**kalkil** calculation,  
computation  
**Kami** Camille  
**kanno** cannon  
**kap** see **kapab**  
**kapab, ka, kab, kap** to be  
able, can  
**kapital** capital  
**karant** forty  
**kat** four; map  
**katedral** cathedral  
**katòz** fourteen  
**katòzan** fourteen years  
**katrè** four o'clock  
**katrèdtan** four hours  
**katrevensis** eighty-six

**kay** house  
**kay chanmòt** two-story  
house  
**kè** heart  
**gen kè kontan** to be  
happy  
**gen kè tris** to be sad  
**kèk** some, several  
**kenbe** to hold, hold on  
**Kenbe, pa lage!** Don't  
get discouraged! Keep the  
faith!  
**Kenskòf** Kenscoff  
**kenz** fifteen  
**kèsyon** question  
**kèt** wow!  
**ki, k** who; which; what  
**ki kote?** where?  
**ki moun?** who? whom?  
**Kiba** Cuba  
**kibò?** where?  
**kijan** how, what  
**kilè?** when?  
**kilès** which (one)  
**kisa** what  
**kite** to leave; to let, permit,  
allow; to stop (doing  
something)  
**kiyè** spoon  
**klas** class  
**klere** to shine  
**kleren** raw rum  
**klòch** bell  
**kò** body; self (*reflexive*)  
**kòb** Haitian cent; money  
(*familiar*)

**kodak** camera  
**kokoye** coconut  
**pye kokoye** coconut tree  
**kola** cola  
**kolasyon** breakfast  
**kole** to stick, cling to; to  
paste  
**tou kole ak** right next to  
**kòlgat** Colgate, toothpaste  
**Kolon** Columbus  
**kolonyal** colonial  
**kòmande** to order  
**Kòmye** Cormier  
**konben** how much, how  
many  
**kondi** to drive (*car etc.*)  
**konesans** acquaintance  
**fè konesans (ak)** to meet,  
get to know  
**kongo** *Voodoo rite*; dance  
rhythm  
**konmanse** to start, begin  
**konn** to be in the habit of,  
do often, usually do; *see*  
**konnen**  
**konnen, konn** to know,  
know how  
**konplèt** complete  
**konprann** to understand  
**konsa** like that, thus, in that  
way; approximately, more  
or less  
**konsèy** advice  
**konstwi** to construct  
**kont** account  
**pou kont mwen/ou/li/**

**nou/yo** alone  
**kontan** happy  
**konte** to intend, count on  
**kontinye** to continue, go on  
**kontre (ak)** to meet,  
encounter  
**kontwole** to control, direct  
**kote** near; where; place  
**(ki) kote?** where?  
**kote menm** (the) very  
spot, (the) very place  
**kouche** to lie down; lying  
**koulè** color  
**koulèv** snake  
**kouman** how; what!  
**kounyeya** now  
**kounyeya menm** right now  
**kouray** courage  
**kout** thrust, hit  
**de kout pye** just two  
steps away, a stone's  
throw  
**kout chapo** fancy,  
“crush”  
**koute** to cost; to listen (to)  
**koute chè** to be  
expensive  
**kouwè** like; just like  
**kouzen (male)** cousin  
**kouzin (female)** cousin  
**koze** conversation, talk  
**kras** dirt; crumb  
**ti kras** (a) little bit  
**kraze** to smash, break; bit,  
scrap; small amount of  
money

## paj sanvennsis

**krèm** cream; ice cream  
**kreyòl** (Haitian) Creole  
**Kristòf** Christophe;  
Christopher  
**kriye** to weep, cry  
**Kwadèboukè** Croix-des-  
Bouquets  
**kwè** to believe, think

## L

**I see li**  
**la** the; there  
**la a menm** right there  
**M la** I'm OK  
**labouyi** hot cereal, oatmeal  
**ladan** inside, within  
**ladesant** lodging; slope  
**fè ladesant** to stay at  
(*hotel etc.*)  
**Lafrans** France  
**lage** to let out, let go; to get  
out (of school); *see kenbe*  
**lagè** war  
**Lagonav** La Gonâve  
(Island)  
**lagrikilti** agriculture  
**laj** age  
**lajan** money  
**lakay** home  
**lakoloni** colony; colonial  
**lakou** yard  
**lan** the  
**lanbi** conch shell  
**lane** year  
**lang** language  
**lanmè** sea

**lanmò** death  
**lanmou** love  
**lantèman** funeral; burial  
**lapenn** trouble, effort  
**Se pa lapenn!** It's not  
worth the trouble!  
**lapli** rain  
**gen lapli** it's raining  
**lari** street  
**latanyen** palm thatch  
**Latibonit** Artibonite (river;  
Department)  
**Latòti** Tortuga  
**lavi** life  
**lavil** town, city; downtown  
**le** every (*habitual*)  
**le maten** mornings, in the  
morning  
**le swa** evenings, in the  
evening  
**lè** when; time  
**gen lè** to seem, appear  
**lè sa a** then  
**lèfini** afterwards  
**Legba** Legba (*Voodoo  
spirit of crossroads, of the  
barrier between the living  
and the dead*)  
**legim** vegetable  
**legliz** church  
**lekòl** school  
**lekti** reading  
**lemonn** (the) world  
**lendepandans**  
independence  
**lendi** Monday



**li, l** he, she, it; his, her, its;  
 him, her, it; to read  
**li menm** he himself, she  
 herself  
**lib** free  
**libète** liberty  
**lide** idea  
**limen** to light, be lit  
**lis** list  
**liv** book  
**lizay** proper etiquette,  
 proper thing to do  
**long** long  
**lontan** (for a) long time  
**lòt** other, another  
**lòt bò (dlo)** foreign;  
 abroad  
**lotèl** hotel  
**Louvèti** Louverture  
**lwa** Voodoo spirit  
**lwe** to rent  
**lwen** far  
**lwen ak** far from  
**Lwès** (Department of the)  
 West

## M

**m** *see mwen*  
**machann** market woman  
**mache** outdoor market,  
 marketplace  
**Mache Fè a** the Iron  
 Market  
**machè** dear friend  
 (*feminine*)  
**machin** car; machine

**madan** Mrs. (*title*)  
**madanm** lady; wife  
**madi** Tuesday  
**madmwazèl** miss, young  
 lady  
**make** to mark; to be  
 marked  
**mal** bad; badly; evil, harm  
**pi mal** worse  
**malere** poor man, destitute  
 man  
**malerèz** poor woman,  
 destitute woman  
**malèt** suitcase  
**manadjè** manager  
**manbo** Voodoo priestess  
**mande** to ask; to ask for; to  
 require  
**mango** mango  
**manje** to eat; food  
**manke** to almost do  
 (something), nearly  
 do (something); to be  
 missing, lacking  
**manman** mother; *largest of*  
*the three Voodoo drums*  
**manmzèl** she, the lady in  
 question  
**mare** to tie, attach  
**mare yon ti kòb** to bring  
 in a little cash, make a  
 little money  
**mari** husband  
**Mari** Mary  
**maryaj** marriage, wedding  
**marye (ak)** to marry, get

## paj sanventwit

married  
**nouvo marye** newly wed(s)  
**mas** March  
**Masèl** Marcelle  
**maten** morning  
**Maten** Martin  
**matyè** matter, subject  
**mawon** wild, savage, untamed; to escape, be in hiding  
**Nèg Mawon** Unknown Escaped Slave  
**mayi** corn  
**me** May  
**mechan** mean, difficult  
**mèkredi** Wednesday  
**melanje** to mix  
**melimelo** hodgepodge, assortment, odds and ends  
**tout melimelo!** “everything but the kitchen sink!”  
**men** but; hand; here is, here are  
**men non** why no  
**men wi** why yes, yes indeed  
**nan men li** in his hands; from him  
**menm** same; even; exactly; self; itself  
**la a menm** right there  
**pa . . . menm** not at all  
**Se sa menm!** It’s exactly that!

**mennen** to take, lead  
**merite** to deserve  
**mèsi** thank you, thanks  
**mesye** sir, Mr.; he  
**mesye dam** lady and gentleman, ladies and gentlemen  
**mèt** teacher; master; may (*permission*)  
**Gran Mèt** God  
**mete** to put; to put on; to put in, spend (time)  
**mete atè** to knock down  
**mete tèt pou** to head toward, go in the direction of  
**metye** trade, profession  
**mèvèy** marvel, wonder  
**mezanmi!** wow!  
**mi** ripe  
**midi** noon  
**mil** (one) thousand  
**Milo** Milot  
**minit** minute  
**minwi** midnight  
**mitan** middle, center  
**Miyami** Miami  
**mize** museum  
**mizè** misery, suffering; *see pase*  
**pase**  
**mizik** music  
**mmm!** *exclamation!*  
**mò** (the) dead  
**modèn** modern  
**moman** moment  
**mòn** mountain

**monchè** dear friend  
*(masculine)*  
**moniman** monument  
**monte** to go up; to get  
 on, board, ride; to carry  
 up; to take upstairs; to  
 possess, temporarily take  
 over one's mind, "mount"  
*(Voodoo)*  
**montre** to show; to teach  
**moso** piece  
**moto** motorcycle  
**moulen** mill  
**moun** person; people  
**ki moun?** who? whom?  
**moun lòt bò** foreigner  
**mouri** to die  
**move** bad; angry  
**msye** sir, Mr.; he  
**mwa** month  
**mwen, m** I, my, me  
**mwen menm** (I) myself

N

**n** *see nou*  
**nan** in, at; from  
**napkin** paper napkin  
**Napoleon** Napoleon  
*(Bonaparte)*  
**Nasis** Narcisse  
**nasyonal** national  
**natif natal** native, local,  
 authentic  
**natirèlman** naturally  
**nèf** nine  
**nèg** man

**nègès** woman  
**nesesè** necessary  
**nèt** completely; exactly;  
 quite  
**nètale** completely, totally  
**nevè** nine o'clock  
**nimewo** number  
**Nò** (Department of the)  
 North  
**Nodès** (Department of the)  
 North-East  
**Nòdwès** (Department of  
 the) North-West  
**nòmàl** normal  
**non** no; not; name  
**nonm** man  
**nonmen** to name  
**nòs** wedding  
**nòt** note  
**nou, n** we, our, us; you  
*(plural)*, your *(plural)*  
**nouvèl** news  
**Ban m nouvèl ou?** How  
 are you?  
**nouvo** new  
**novanm** November

O

**o** oh!  
**Oblen** Aubelin  
**ofri** to offer  
**Ogoun** Ogoun *(Voodoo  
 spirit of war, energy,  
 force, iron - and even of  
 atomic energy)*  
**Okap** Le Cap-Haïtien

## paj santrant

(*French*), Cape Haitian

(*English*)

**Okay** Aux Cayes, Les

Cayes

**okazyon** occasion

**oke** OK

**okenn** (not) any

**okipe** to pay attention to,  
take care of

**oktòb** October

**òldòp** holdup

**Olofsonn** Oloffson

**omwens** at least

**onz** eleven

**onzè** eleven o'clock

**orè** schedule

**orevwa** good-bye

**osinon** or, if not

**ou** you, your

**ou menm** yourself

**oubyen** or

**ounfò** general Voodoo

temple complex

**oungan** Voodoo priest

**oungnikonn** leader of

songs and dances in a

Voodoo service

**ounsi** Voodoo initiate

**out** August

**Ozetazini** United States

## P

**pa** *negative indicator:*

not; *possessive indicator*

(*when preceding a*

*pronoun or noun*); by;

each

**pa . . . ankò** no longer

**pa l(i)** his, hers, its

**pa . . . menm** not . . . at  
all

**pa m(wen)** mine, my

**pa . . . ou** yours, your

**pa vre?** isn't that so?  
right?

**pafwa** sometimes

**paj** page

**pakèt** bundle, package

**pakèt kongo** *small*  
*stuffed humanoid figure*  
(*Voodoo*)

**yon pakèt** a lot of, many

**pale** to speak, talk

**palè** palace

**palmis** royal palm

**pye palmis** royal palm  
tree

**pàn** (mechanical)

breakdown

**Pa gen pàn!** No problem!

Fine!

**pandan** while, during

**panse** to think

**Panteyon** Pantheon

**panyen** basket

**panyòl** Spanish

**papa** father; man!

(*familiar*)

**papay** papaya

**pare** to prepare, fix; ready,  
prepared

**parèy** peer; similar, equal

**pase** to pass; to pass  
around; to spend (time);  
to happen; than  
**pase mizè** to have a hard  
time  
**pase nan betiz** to tease,  
kid  
**paske** because  
**paspò** passport  
**patat** sweet potato  
**pati** to leave  
**pè** to be afraid; Catholic  
priest; Voodoo altar  
**pèdi** to lose  
**penti** painting  
**pèp** people, nation  
**peristil** Voodoo peristyle  
**petèt** maybe, perhaps  
**Petyonvil** Pétion-Ville  
**peye** to pay  
**peyi** country  
**peyi a** Haiti  
**peze** to weigh; to press  
(down), compress  
**pi** more; most  
**piblisite** publicity,  
advertising  
**pil** battery (*radio*)  
**Pilat** Pilate  
**pip** *see wi*  
**piplis** more; most  
**pisin** swimming pool  
**piske** since (*condition*)  
**pita** later  
**piti** little, small; young  
**piti piti** little by little

**pitit** child  
**pitit fi** daughter (*of any  
age*)  
**pitit gason** son (*of any  
age*)  
**pito** to prefer  
**plaj** beach  
**plak** license plate  
**plezi** pleasure  
**plis** more; most  
**an plis** in addition  
**plizyè** several  
**pò** port  
**pòch** pocket; pack (*of  
cigarettes*)  
**Pòdepè** Port-de-Paix  
**poko** not yet  
**Polin** Pauline  
**ponch** punch (*beverage*)  
**ponmdetè** potato  
**posib** possible  
**pòt chandèl** candlestick  
holder  
**pote** to carry, bring  
**pòtè** porter  
**potèt** earthen pot (*Voodoo*)  
**poto** post  
**poto mitan** center-post  
**Pòtoprens** Port-au-Prince  
**pòtre** picture, image  
**pou** for; in order to;  
*indicator of necessity;*  
*possessive indicator*  
**poud** powder  
**poukisa** why  
**poul** chicken

## paj santrannde

**poze** to put, place; to ask (a question)  
**pozitif!** definitely! you bet! certainly!  
**prale, pral** to be going (*to do something*)  
**pran** to take; to accept, believe, “swallow”  
**pre (ak)** near  
**premye** first  
**prese** to be in a hurry  
**prèske** almost  
**Prestij** Prestige (*brand of Haitian beer*)  
**prete** to lend; to borrow  
**prezidan** president  
**pri** price  
    **fè jis pri** to bargain  
**primè** elementary, primary  
**prive** private  
**prizon** prison  
**pssst!** pssst! hey!  
**pwa** bean  
**pwoblèm** problem  
**pwofesè** professor  
**pwogram** program; plans  
**pwonmennen** to walk around, stroll  
**pyan** yaws  
**pyas** (*familiar for*) gourde (*Haitian monetary unit*)  
**pye** foot; lower leg; tree; plant  
**pyebwa** tree  
**pyès** play, dramatic production

## R

**rabè** reduction (in price), discount  
**rad** clothes, clothing  
**radio** radio  
**ranje** to arrange; to fix, repair  
**rann** to render  
**rayi** to hate  
**redi** to struggle, slave away  
**regle** to settle, take care of  
**regrèt** to regret, be sorry  
**rejim** regime  
**rejis** register  
**rekonnèt** to recognize  
**rele** to call; to be named  
**Remon-le-Ben** Raymond-lesBains  
**renmen** to love, like  
**repa** meal, repast  
**repo** rest  
**reponn** to answer  
**repoze** to rest; rest  
**rès** remains  
**resevwa** to receive; to welcome  
**resi** to succeed  
**restoran** restaurant  
    **restoran dezavèg** “greasy spoon”  
**ret** *see rete*  
**rete, ret** to live, dwell; to stay, remain; to stop  
**retwovizè** rearview mirror  
**rèv** dream  
**reveye** to wake up; to get up

**revolisyon** revolution  
**rezèvasyon** reservation  
**rezon** reason  
     **gen rezon** to be right, be correct  
**ri** street  
**riban** ribbon  
**Richa** Richard  
**rive** to arrive, get into; to happen

**S**

**sa** that; what; *short for kisa*  
     **sa a** this, that  
     **sa yo** these, those  
**sab** sand  
**sakre** sacred  
**sal** dirty; room  
**salad** salad  
**salamanje** dining room  
**samdi** Saturday  
**san** without; (one) hundred  
**sanble ak** to resemble, look like  
**Sansousi** Sans-Souci  
**sant** (one) hundred; center  
**Sant** (Department of the) Center  
**santan** one hundred years  
**santi** to smell  
**sanzatann** immediately, right away  
**se** to be  
     **se pou** it is necessary that, must  
**sèd** cedar

**segon** *second largest of the three Voodoo drums*  
**segondè** secondary  
     **lekòl segondè** high school  
**sèl** alone; only; single  
**sèlman** only  
**selon** according to  
**senk** five  
**senkant** fifty  
**senkantann** fifty years  
**senkè** five o'clock  
**senkèdtan** five hours  
**Senmak** Saint-Marc  
**senmenn** week  
**senp** simple  
**Sent-Trinite** Holy Trinity  
**septanm** September  
**seremoni** ceremony  
**serye** serious  
**sèt** seven  
**setè** seven o'clock  
**sèvi** to serve  
     **sèvi ak** to use  
**sèvis** favor, service; service, ceremony  
**sèvyèt** cloth napkin  
**sèz** sixteen  
**sèzan** sixteen years  
**sezi** surprised  
**si** if; six; so  
**sid** south  
**Sid** (Department of the) South  
**Sidès** (Department of the) South-East

## paj santrannkat

**sigarèt** cigarette  
**sik** sugar  
**sinema** movies  
**sis** six  
**Sitadèl** the Citadelle  
**sitèlman** so, so very, so  
very many  
**sitou** especially  
**siyen** to sign  
**sizè** six o'clock  
**sòlda** soldier  
**solèy** sun  
**sonje** to remember  
**sonnen** to ring, sound  
**sòs** sauce  
**sòs pwa** bean puree  
**sòti, sòt** to go out, leave;  
to have just (done  
something)  
**sou** on, upon  
**souke** to shake  
**Souke kò ou!** Get  
moving!  
**soukoup** saucer  
**soulye** shoe  
**soupe** to have supper, have  
the evening meal; supper  
**souple** please  
**swa** evening  
**swaf** thirsty  
**swasant** sixty

## T

**t** *short form of past tense  
indicator: te*  
**ta** *conditional indicator:*

would; late  
**tab** table  
**taksi** taxi  
**talè** soon, in a little while  
(from now)  
**talè a** a little while ago  
**ti talè** in a moment (from  
now)  
**tan** time; times  
**gen tan** to have time  
**nan tan lakoloni** in  
colonial times  
**pase yon bon tan** to have  
a good time  
**tanbou** drum  
**tanbouyè** drummer  
**tande** to hear  
**tankou** as, like  
**tanmen** to begin  
**tann** to wait, wait for  
**tanp** temple  
**tanpri** please  
**tanpri souple** (*a very  
polite*) please  
**tanzantan** from time to time  
**taptap** right away, fast;  
*small pick-up truck used  
for public transportation*  
**tas** cup  
**tayè** tailor  
**te** tea  
**te, t** *past tense indicator*  
**tè** land, earth  
**telefòn** telephone  
**telefònen** to telephone  
**televizyon** television



**tep** tip, gratuity  
**tere** to bury  
**tèt** head; bust; peak; self  
*(reflexive indicator)*  
**teyat** theater  
**ti** little, small  
**Tijo** Joey, Little Joe  
**tikè** ticket  
**timoun** child  
**tonton** uncle; figure,  
 carving  
**total** total; exceptional,  
 great  
**tou** too, also; quite; all  
**toude** both  
**toujou** always; still  
**toulede** both  
**tounen** to return, come  
 back  
**toupatou** everywhere  
**touris** tourist  
**Tousen** Toussaint  
**touswit** right away  
**tout** all, every  
**tout moun** everyone,  
 everybody  
**toutan** always  
**toutbon** authentic  
**toutbonvre** really,  
 completely, for real  
**touye** to kill  
**touye tèt li** to commit  
 suicide  
**tranblemanntè** earthquake  
**trase** to trace, draw  
**travay** work, job; to work

**trete** to treat, act toward  
**trèz** thirteen  
**trezò** treasure  
**tris** sad  
**twà** three  
**twazan** three years  
**twazè** three o'clock  
**twò** *(preceding an  
 adjective or adverb)* too,  
 excessively  
**twòp** *(preceding a noun,  
 or at end of a phrase or  
 sentence)* too much, too  
 many, excessively  
**twou** hole  
**twou wòch** cave

V

**vakans** vacation  
**valiz** briefcase  
**vandredi** Friday  
**vann** to sell, sell for  
**vè** around, about; glass  
**vèf** widower  
**ven** twenty  
**vèv** widow  
**vèvè** ritual Voodoo design  
**vil** town, city  
**vin** *see vini*  
**vini, vin** to come; to  
 become  
**vire** to turn; to walk, stroll  
**vire won** to go around,  
 circulate, see things  
**vivan** living  
**vizite** to visit

## paj santrannsis

**vle** to wish, want; to expect

**Sa ou vle?** What do you want? What do you expect?

**vle di** to mean

**vlope** to wrap (up)

**vodou** Voodoo

**voye** to send; to throw; to initiate, start, begin (*songs, stories etc.*)

**voye lòt bò** to send away, chase away

**vre, vrè** true, real; really, truly

**pa vre?** isn't that so? right?

**vwa** voice

**vwayaj** trip, voyage

**vwayaj nòs** honeymoon

**vyann** meat

**vye** old

## W

**wa** king

**wanga** magic charm, fetish (*Voodoo*)

**wè** to see; to see each other  
**N a wè!** See you!

**wi** yes

**wi pip!** wow!

**wikenn** weekend

**wit** eight

**witè** eight o'clock

**wòch** rock

**won** round

**wonm** rum

**wouj** red

**woulib** ride, lift

**wout** route, road, way

**woy** hey! (*to attract someone's attention*)

## Y

**y see yo**

**ye** to be

**yè** yesterday

**yès** great, wonderful

**yo, y** they, their, them

**yon** a, an; one

**youn** one (*in counting*); one (*pronoun*)

## Z

**zaboka** avocado

**zanmi** friend

**zannimo** animal

**ze** egg

**zèdtan** hours

**zile** island

**zonbi** zombi

**zoranj** orange

## Also Available

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