SO

SOMALI LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 11 · Booking a Hotel

🏨 Booking a Hotel — Hudheelka

By the end of this chapter you will be able to ask for a room, say how many nights, ask the price, check in and out and report a simple problem. Respellings use CAPITALS as a rough guide to stress; c, x and q stay as themselves (see Chapter 1). ***This is the least checked chapter so far: I found almost no hotel Somali to verify it against. Please read the Not Yet Verified box at the end.***

💬 Six Conversations — Wada hadal

① A Room — Qol

A:

Subax wanaagsan! Qol ayaan u baahanahay.

SOO-bahx wah-NAAG-sahn! qol ah-YAAN oo baa-hah-nah-HAY.

Good morning! I need a room.

B:

Imisa habeen?

im-MEE-sah hah-BEEN?

How many nights?

A:

Laba habeen.

LAH-bah hah-BEEN.

Two nights.

② The Price — Qiimaha

A:

Waa immisa qiimaha halka qol?

waa im-MEE-sah QEE-mah-hah HAHL-kah qol?

What is the price per room?

B:

Habeenkii waa konton doollar.

hah-BEEN-kee waa KON-ton DOL-lahr.

It's fifty dollars a night.

A:

Quraac ma ku jirtaa?

qoo-RAAC mah koo jir-TAA?

Is breakfast included?

B:

Haa, way ku jirtaa.

HAA, way koo jir-TAA.

Yes, it is.

③ I Booked — Waan ballansaday

A:

Qol baan ballansaday.

qol baan bahl-LAHN-sah-day.

I booked a room.

B:

Magacaa?

mah-gah-CAA?

Your name?

A:

Magacaygu waa Philip.

mah-gah-CAY-goo waa Philip.

My name is Philip.

B:

Waa kan furaha qolkaaga.

waa kahn foo-RAH-hah qol-KAA-gah.

Here is your room key.

④ Wi-Fi — Internet

A:

WiFi ma jiraa?

WY-fy mah ji-RAA?

Is there Wi-Fi?

B:

Haa. Lambarka sirta ah waa kan.

HAA. lahm-BAHR-kah SIR-tah ah waa kahn.

Yes. Here is the password.

A:

Mahadsanid.

mah-hahd-SAH-nid.

Thank you.

⑤ A Problem — Dhibaato

A:

Raali ahow, nalku ma shaqaynayo.

raa-LEE ah-HOW, NAHL-koo mah shah-qay-nah-YO.

Excuse me, the light isn't working.

B:

Waan ka xumahay. Hadda ayaan hagaajinaynaa.

waan kah xoo-mah-HAY. HAHD-dah ah-YAAN hah-gaa-ji-nay-NAA.

I'm sorry. We'll fix it now.

⑥ Checking Out — Ka bixid

A:

Maanta waan baxayaa. Xisaabta, fadlan.

MAAN-tah waan bah-xah-YAA. xi-SAAB-tah, fahd-LAHN.

I'm leaving today. The bill, please.

B:

Waa kan. Safar wanaagsan!

waa kahn. SAH-fahr wah-NAAG-sahn!

Here it is. Have a good journey!

🔑 Key Phrases — Weedho muhiim ah

MEANING	ONE WAY	ANOTHER WAY
I need a room	**Qol ayaan u baahanahay.** *qol ah-YAAN oo baa-hah-nah-HAY*	**Qol ma haysaa?** (do you have a room?) *qol mah hay-SAA*
For … nights	**… habeen** *hah-BEEN*	**Hal habeen uun.** (just one night) *hahl hah-BEEN oon*
What is the price?	**Waa immisa qiimaha halka qol?** *waa im-MEE-sah QEE-mah-hah HAHL-kah qol*	**Imisa ayey ku kacaysaa?** *im-MEE-sah ah-YAY koo kah-cay-SAA*
I'm sorry (about a problem)	**Waan ka xumahay.** *waan kah xoo-mah-HAY*	**Raali ahow.** *raa-LEE ah-HOW*
Help me, please	**I caawi, fadlan.** *i CAA-wi, fahd-LAHN*	**Ma i caawin kartaa?** *mah i CAA-win kar-TAA*

🔤 Three Verbs — Saddex fal

u baahan (to need), gal (to go in) and bax (to go out, leave). U baahan uses the "to be" endings.

WHO	U BAAHAN (NEED)	GAL (GO IN)	BAX (LEAVE)
I: *waxaan*	**u baahanahay** *oo baa-hah-nah-HAY*	**galaa** *gah-LAA*	**baxaa** *bah-XAA*
you: *waxaad*	**u baahan tahay** *oo BAA-hahn tah-HAY*	**gashaa** *gah-SHAA*	**baxdaa** *bahx-DAA*
he: *wuxuu*	**u baahan yahay** *oo BAA-hahn yah-HAY*	**galaa** *gah-LAA*	**baxaa** *bah-XAA*

WHO	U BAAHAN (NEED)	GAL (GO IN)	BAX (LEAVE)
she: *waxay*	**u baahan tahay** *oo BAA-hahn tah-HAY*	**gashaa** *gah-SHAA*	**baxdaa** *bahx-DAA*
we: *waxaan*	**u baahannahay** *oo baa-hahn-nah-HAY*	**galnaa** *gahl-NAA*	**baxnaa** *bahx-NAA*
you all: *waxaad*	**u baahan tihiin** *oo BAA-hahn tee-HEEN*	**gashaan** *gah-SHAAN*	**baxdaan** *bahx-DAAN*
they: *waxay*	**u baahan yihiin** *oo BAA-hahn yee-HEEN*	**galaan** *gah-LAAN*	**baxaan** *bah-XAAN*

Two Kinds of Sorry

Raali ahow is “excuse me / pardon me” to get attention or after bumping into someone. *Waan ka xumahay* is “I'm sorry (that happened)”. This distinction is general knowledge.

Booking in Practice

Many hotel staff in cities may also speak English, Arabic or French, and booking is often done by phone, message or through an agent. Check current official travel advice before planning any trip to the region. General knowledge, not from a source.

Somaliland and Djibouti

I found no source on hotel Somali in Somaliland or Djibouti, so no words are marked. The currency in the dialog is US dollars as an example only.

📖 Vocabulary — Ereyada

20 hotel words. Nouns are shown with their “the” ending.

#	SOMALI	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**hudheelka**	*hoo-DHEEL-kah*	the hotel	noun (m)

#	SOMALI	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
2	**qolka**	*QOL-kah*	the room	noun (m)
3	**habeenka**	*hah-BEEN-kah*	the night	noun (m)
4	**sariirta**	*sah-REER-tah*	the bed	noun (f)
5	**furaha**	*foo-RAH-hah*	the key	noun (m)
6	**albaabka**	*ahl-BAAB-kah*	the door	noun (m)
7	**daaqadda**	*daa-QAHD-dah*	the window	noun (f)
8	**musqusha**	*moos-QOO-shah*	the toilet	noun (f)
9	**qubayska**	*qoo-BAYS-kah*	the shower, bath	noun (m)
10	**nalka**	*NAHL-kah*	the light, lamp	noun (m)
11	**quraacda**	*qoo-RAAC-dah*	the breakfast	noun (f)
12	**dhibaatada**	*dhi-baa-TAH-dah*	the problem	noun (f)
13	**safarka**	*SAH-fahr-kah*	the journey	noun (m)
14	**u baahan**	*oo BAA-hahn*	to need	verb
15	**ballanso**	*bahl-LAHN-so*	to book, make an appointment	verb
16	**gal**	*gahl*	to go in	verb
17	**bax**	*bahx*	to go out, leave	verb
18	**nadiif**	*nah-DEEF*	clean	adj
19	**wasakh**	*wah-SAHKH*	dirt; dirty (*wasakh ah*)	adj
20	**uun**	*oon*	only, just	adv

✍️ Try It Yourself — Layliyo

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say you need a room.

▼ Show answer

Qol ayaan u baahanahay.

2. Say “three nights”.

▼ Show answer

saddex habeen

3. Ask if breakfast is included.

▼ Show answer

Quraac ma ku jirtaa?

4. Say you have booked a room.

▼ Show answer

Qol baan ballansaday.

5. Say the light is not working.

▼ Show answer

Nalku ma shaqaynayo.

6. Say “we need a key”.

▼ Show answer

Fure baan u baahannahay.

> **Not Yet Verified**

Checked against two pages (Preply travel phrases and Ling, read 2026-11-25): only *Qol ayaan u baahanahay*, *Waa immisa qiimaha halka qol?* (Ling glosses it “one bedroom”), *Imisa ayey ku kacaysaa*, *I caawi* and *Waan ka xumahay*, plus *safar* as “journey”. Part of the Preply page was cut off and was only summarised. A search found no Somali hotel-booking material.
Not checked, from general knowledge: everything else, including nights, booking, breakfast, keys, Wi-Fi, the problem and check-out lines, the three-verb table, the two kinds of sorry, the vocabulary list, and every respelling and stress mark. No textbook, dictionary or native speaker was consulted. **Please have a Somali speaker check this chapter before you rely on it.**

Sources for This Chapter

Preply, Somali travel phrases; Ling, Somali phrases.

Coming Up in Chapter 12

The final chapter: buses, taxis, planes, tickets and delays, with a recap of the whole course.