SO

SOMALI LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 12 · Getting Around

Somali Basic Conversation 1

Chapter 12 · Getting Around: Trains, Buses & Tickets

🚌 Getting Around — Gaadiidka

The last chapter. By the end you will be able to ask where someone is going, find the bus or station, ask a taxi fare, buy a ticket, ask when something leaves and understand that it is late. Respellings use CAPITALS as a rough guide to stress; c, x and q stay as themselves (see Chapter 1). ***Please read the Not Yet Verified box at the end.***

💬 Six Conversations — Wada hadal

① Where Are You Going? — Halkee u socotaa?

A:

Halkee u socotaa?

HAHL-keh oo so-co-TAA?

Where are you going?

B:

Magaalada Beledweyne.

mah-gaa-LAH-dah beh-led-WAY-neh.

To the town of Beledweyne.

A:

Maxaad qaadan rabtaa?

mah-XAAD QAA-dahn rahb-TAA?

What are you going to take?

B:

Diyaarad.

di-YAA-rahd.

A plane.

② How Long? — Immisa saacadood?

A:

Immisa saacadood ayaad jidka ku jiraysaa?

im-MEE-sah saa-cah-DOOD ah-YAAD JID-kah koo ji-ray-SAA?

How many hours will you be on the road?

B:

Hal saac.

hahl saac.

One hour.

A:

Goormaad soo noqon doontaa?

gohr-MAAD soo NO-qon doon-TAA?

When will you come back?

B:

Laba maalmood kaddib.

LAH-bah maal-MOOD KAHD-dib.

In two days.

③ The Bus Station — Meelaha basaska

A:

Xaggee baan ka heli karaa gaadiidka?

xahg-GEH baan kah HEH-li kah-RAA gaa-DEED-kah?

Where can I find transport?

B:

Boosteejadu waa halkaas.

boos-TEE-jah-doo waa hahl-KAAS.

The station is over there.

④ A Taxi — Tagsi

A:

Tagsigu meeqa ayuu qaataa?

TAHG-si-goo MEE-qah ah-YOO qaa-TAA?

How much does the taxi charge?

B:

Toban doollar.

TOH-bahn DOL-lahr.

Ten dollars.

A:

Waa hagaag. Toos u soco, kaddib bidix.

waa hah-GAAG. toos oo SO-co, KAHD-dib BI-dix.

All right. Go straight, then left.

⑤ A Ticket — Tikidh

A:

Hal tikidh, fadlan.

hahl TI-kidh, fahd-LAHN.

One ticket, please.

B:

Xaggee?

xahg-GEH?

Where to?

A:

Hargeysa. Goorma ayuu baxaa baska?

har-GAY-sah. GOHR-mah ah-YOO bah-XAA BAHS-kah?

Hargeisa. When does the bus leave?

B:

Saacadda laba subaxnimo.

⑥ A Delay — Dib u dhac

A:

Diyaaraddu ma soo daahday?

di-YAA-rahd-doo mah soo DAAH-day?

Is the plane late?

B:

Haa, way daahday. Fadlan sug.

HAA, way DAAH-day. fahd-LAHN soog.

Yes, it's late. Please wait.

A:

Dhib ma leh. Mahadsanid.

dhib mah leh. mah-hahd-SAH-nid.

No problem. Thank you.

saa-CAHD-dah LAH-bah soo-bahx-NI-mo.
At eight in the morning.

🔑 Key Phrases — Weedho muhiim ah

MEANING	ONE WAY	ANOTHER WAY
Where are you going?	**Halkee u socotaa?** *HAHL-keh oo so-co-TAA*	**Xaggee baad u socotaa?** *xahg-GEH baad oo so-co-TAA*
When does it leave?	**Goorma ayuu baxaa …?** *GOHR-mah ah-YOO bah-XAA*	**Goormaa … dhoofayaa?** *gohr-MAA dhoo-fah-YAA*
How much is the fare?	**Imisa ayey ku kacaysaa?** *im-MEE-sah ah-YAY koo kah-cay-SAA*	**Meeqa?** *MEE-qah*
Show me the way	**Jidka ma ii tilmaami kartaa?** *JID-kah mah ee til-MAA-mi kar-TAA*	**Fadlan i tus jidka.** *fahd-LAHN i toos JID-kah*

🔤 Three Verbs — Saddex fal

raac (to travel on, ride), noqo (to return, become) and sug (to wait).

WHO	RAAC (RIDE)	NOQO (RETURN)	SUG (WAIT)
I: *waxaan*	**raacaa** *raa-CAA*	**noqdaa** *noq-DAA*	**sugaa** *soo-GAA*
you: *waxaad*	**raacdaa** *raac-DAA*	**noqotaa** *no-qo-TAA*	**sugtaa** *soog-TAA*
he: *wuxuu*	**raacaa** *raa-CAA*	**noqdaa** *noq-DAA*	**sugaa** *soo-GAA*
she: *waxay*	**raacdaa** *raac-DAA*	**noqotaa** *no-qo-TAA*	**sugtaa** *soog-TAA*

WHO	RAAC (RIDE)	NOQO (RETURN)	SUG (WAIT)
we: *waxaan*	**raacnaa** *raac-NAA*	**noqonnaa** *no-qon-NAA*	**sugnaa** *soog-NAA*
you all: *waxaad*	**raacdaan** *raac-DAAN*	**noqotaan** *no-qo-TAAN*	**sugtaan** *soog-TAAN*
they: *waxay*	**raacaan** *raa-CAAN*	**noqdaan** *noq-DAAN*	**sugaan** *soo-GAAN*

Which Transport Exists?

The lesson page I read includes the exchange "Can you take the train?" — *Tareen ma laha*, "there is no train". From general knowledge, Somalia has no working passenger railway, while Djibouti has a rail link to Ethiopia. So *tareen* is mostly a word for travel elsewhere. Check current official travel advice before planning any journey in the region.

Somaliland and Djibouti

I found no source on how transport Somali differs in Somaliland or Djibouti, so no words are marked. Dialog place names (Beledweyne, Hargeisa) are examples only.

📖 Vocabulary — Ereyada

20 travel words. Nouns are shown with their "the" ending.

#	SOMALI	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**gaadiidka**	*gaa-DEED-kah*	the transport	noun (m)
2	**baska**	*BAHS-kah*	the bus	noun (m)
3	**tagsiga**	*TAHG-si-gah*	the taxi	noun (m)
4	**tareenka**	*tah-REEN-kah*	the train	noun (m)
5	**diyaaradda**	*di-YAA-rahd-dah*	the aeroplane	noun (f)

#	SOMALI	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
6	**gaariga**	*GAA-ri-gah*	the car	noun (m)
7	**markabka**	*MAHR-kahb-kah*	the ship	noun (m)
8	**baaskiilka**	*baas-KEEL-kah*	the bicycle	noun (m)
9	**waddada**	*wahd-DAH-dah*	the road	noun (f)
10	**tikidhka**	*TI-kidh-kah*	the ticket	noun (m)
11	**garoonka diyaaradaha**	*gah-ROON-kah di-yaa-rah-DAH-hah*	the airport	noun (m)
12	**shufeerka**	*shoo-FEER-kah*	the driver	noun (m)
13	**duuliyaha**	*DOO-li-yah-hah*	the pilot	noun (m)
14	**raac**	*raac*	to ride, travel on	verb
15	**noqo**	*NO-qo*	to return; to become	verb
16	**sug**	*soog*	to wait	verb
17	**dhoof**	*dhoof*	to depart, travel away	verb
18	**daah**	*daah*	to be late	verb
19	**degdeg**	*DEG-deg*	quick, express	adj
20	**dhib ma leh**	*dhib mah leh*	no problem	phrase

✍️ Try It Yourself — Layliyo

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

1. Ask someone where they are going.

▼ Show answer

Halkee u socotaa?

2. Ask for one ticket, politely.

▼ Show answer

Hal tikidh, fadlan.

3. Ask when the bus leaves.

▼ Show answer

Goorma ayuu baxaa baska?

4. Say “there is no train”.

▼ Show answer

Tareen ma laha.

5. Say “we are waiting” (use *sug*).

▼ Show answer

Waan sugaynaa. (we are waiting) · **Waan sugnaa.** (we wait)

6. A friend's flight is late. Ask them to wait, and say it is no problem.

▼ Show answer

Fadlan sug. Dhib ma leh.

🎓 Course Complete — Koorsada waa dhammaatay

You have finished Somali Basic Conversation 1. Here is what you can now do.

CHAPTER	YOU CAN NOW …
1 Greetings & Goodbyes	greet at different times, ask how someone is, thank, apologise and say goodbye
2 Introducing Yourself	give and ask names, say what you are, introduce a friend
3 Numbers, Age & Contacts	count to 100, say your age and swap phone numbers
4 Where You're From	say where you come from and which languages you speak
5 Your Family	talk about relatives and say what you have
6 Your Job	say what you do, where you work and what you want to be
7 Days, Dates & Time	name days and months and tell the Somali hour
8 At the Café	order food and drink and ask for the bill
9 Shopping & Prices	ask prices, ask for a discount and pay
10 Directions	ask where places are and follow simple directions
11 Hotel	ask for a room, check in and report a problem
12 Getting Around	ask about transport, buy a ticket and cope with a delay

Before You Go Further

Throughout this course much of the Somali, and all the respellings and stress marks, came from general knowledge or from learner websites rather than a textbook or dictionary. Before building on it, **have a Somali speaker listen to you and read through the chapters**, and take their version over this one. The next course is **Somali Basic Conversation 2**. A grammar course, Somali Grammar 1, will explain the patterns you have been using as ready-made phrases.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (read 2026-11-25): from Harvard's transport lesson (read as a model-extracted summary, not the page's full text): *bas, tareen, diyaarad, gaari, markab, baaskiil, waddo*, dialog 1 and most of dialog 2, *Tareen ma laha*, *shufeer* and *duuliye*. From Preply and Ling: *Xaggee baan ka heli karaa gaadiidka?*, the taxi-fare question and the route question. From a Preply time page:

Goormaa … dhoofayaa?

Not checked, from general knowledge: the ticket word and ticket dialog, *Goorma ayuu baxaa …?*, the whole delay dialog, the airport phrase, the three-verb table, the railway note, the recap, 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

Harvard ELIAS, Transport and communications; Preply, Somali travel phrases; Ling, Somali phrases; Preply, Telling the time in Somali.