SO

SOMALI LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 9 · Shopping & Prices

🛍️ Shopping & Prices — Suuqa iyo qiimaha

By the end of this chapter you will be able to ask what something costs, say it is too expensive, ask for a discount, choose a size or colour and pay. 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 How Much? — Immisa?

A:

Iska warran? Tani waa immisa?

IS-kah WAR-rahn? TAH-ni waa im-MEE-sah?

Hello. How much is this?

B:

Waa boqol shilin.

waa BO-qol shi-LIN.

It's a hundred shillings.

② Too Expensive! — Waa qaali!

A:

Tani aad bay qaali u tahay.

TAH-ni AAD bay QAA-li oo tah-HAY.

This is too expensive.

B:

Maya, waa jaban tahay!

MAH-yah, waa jah-BAHN tah-HAY!

No, it's cheap!

A:

Qiimo dhimis ma jiraa?

QEE-mo DHI-mis mah ji-RAA?

Is there a discount?

B:

Haa, sagaashan.

HAA, sah-GAA-shahn.

Yes, ninety.

③ Fruit — Miro

A:

④ Colour and Size — Midab iyo cabbir

A:

Moos ma haysaa?

moos mah hay-SAA?

Do you have bananas?

B:

Haa, moos iyo tufaax.

HAA, moos EE-yo too-FAAX.

Yes, bananas and apples.

A:

Miisaanka ii saar, fadlan.

mee-SAAN-kah ee saar, fahd-LAHN.

Weigh it for me, please.

Maro cas ma haysaa?

MAH-ro cahs mah hay-SAA?

Do you have red cloth?

B:

Maya, laakiin buluug baan haynaa.

MAH-yah, laa-KEEN boo-LOOG baan hay-NAA.

No, but we have blue.

A:

Ka weyn ma jiraa?

kah wayn mah ji-RAA?

Is there a bigger one?

⑤ I'll Take It — Waan qaadanayaa

A:

Waa hagaag, waan qaadanayaa.

waa hah-GAAG, waan qaa-dah-nah-YAA.

All right, I'll take it.

B:

Bac ma rabtaa?

bahc mah rahb-TAA?

Do you want a bag?

A:

Haa, fadlan i sii bac.

HAA, fahd-LAHN i see bahc.

Yes, please give me a bag.

⑥ Paying — Lacagta

A:

Mahadsanid, lacagta qaado.

mah-hahd-SAH-nid, lah-CAHG-tah QAA-do.

Thank you, take the money.

B:

Mahadsanid. Nabad gelyo!

mah-hahd-SAH-nid. NAH-bahd GEL-yo!

Thank you. Goodbye!

🔑 Key Phrases — Weedho muhiim ah

MEANING	ONE WAY	ANOTHER WAY
How much is it?	**Waa immisa?** *waa im-MEE-sah*	**Imisa ayay ku kacaysaa?** *im-MEE-sah ah-YAY koo kah-*

MEANING	ONE WAY	ANOTHER WAY
		cay-SAA
How much do you sell … for?	**Immisa ayaad ku iibinaysaa …?** *im-MEE-sah ah-YAAD koo ee-bi-nay-SAA*	**Immisa?** *im-MEE-sah*
Final price?	**Qiimaha ugu dambeeya?** *QEE-mah-hah oo-goo dahm-BAY-yah*	**Qiimo dhimis ma jiraa?** (a discount?) *QEE-mo DHI-mis mah ji-RAA*
Do you have …?	**… ma haysaa?** *mah hay-SAA*	**… ma jiraa?** (is there …?) *mah ji-RAA*
I'll take it	**Waan qaadanayaa.** *waan qaa-dah-nah-YAA*	**Kaas baan rabaa.** (I want that one) *kaas baan rah-BAA*

🔤 Three Verbs — Saddex fal

iibso (to buy), iibi (to sell) and qaado (to take). Notice that buy and sell share a root.

WHO	IIBSO (BUY)	IIBI (SELL)	QAADO (TAKE)
I: *waxaan*	**iibsadaa** *eeb-sah-DAA*	**iibiyaa** *ee-bi-YAA*	**qaataa** *qaa-TAA*
you: *waxaad*	**iibsataa** *eeb-sah-TAA*	**iibisaa** *ee-bi-SAA*	**qaadataa** *qaa-dah-TAA*
he: *wuxuu*	**iibsadaa** *eeb-sah-DAA*	**iibiyaa** *ee-bi-YAA*	**qaataa** *qaa-TAA*
she: *waxay*	**iibsataa** *eeb-sah-TAA*	**iibisaa** *ee-bi-SAA*	**qaadataa** *qaa-dah-TAA*
we: *waxaan*	**iibsannaa** *eeb-sahn-NAA*	**iibinaa** *ee-bi-NAA*	**qaadannaa** *qaa-dahn-NAA*

WHO	IIBSO (BUY)	IIBI (SELL)	QAADO (TAKE)
you all: *waxaad*	**iibsataan** *eeb-sah-TAAN*	**iibisaan** *ee-bi-SAAN*	**qaadataan** *qaa-dah-TAAN*
they: *waxay*	**iibsadaan** *eeb-sah-DAAN*	**iibiyaan** *ee-bi-YAAN*	**qaataan** *qaa-TAAN*

⚖️ Opposites and Colours — Liddi iyo midabbo

SOMALI	ENGLISH	SOMALI	ENGLISH
weyn	big	**yar**	small
qaali	expensive	**jaban**	cheap
cusub	new	**duug ah**	old, used
cas	red	**buluug**	blue
cad	white	**madow**	black
cagaaran	green	**jaalle**	yellow

The describing word follows the thing: ***maro cas*** *(red cloth). To say "bigger", put ka in front:* ***ka weyn****.*

Where to Bargain

The source I read says bargaining belongs to open markets and street stalls, while supermarkets in cities such as Mogadishu and Hargeisa use fixed prices. Greet the seller first, and bargain with a smile. It gives no Somali bargaining routine, so the exchange in dialog 2 is a simple sketch.

Money in Somalia, Somaliland and Djibouti

Check the currency: the Somali shilling, the Somaliland shilling and the Djibouti franc are different, and US dollars are common in some places. Mobile money (such as EVC Plus, named by the source) is widely used. A price like "a hundred shillings" in the dialog is a language example, not a real

price. Apart from the mobile-money mention, this is general knowledge; I found no source on Somali usage in Somaliland or Djibouti shops.

📖 Vocabulary — Ereyada

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

#	SOMALI	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**suuqa**	*SOO-qah*	the market	noun (m)
2	**dukaanka**	*doo-KAAN-kah*	the shop	noun (m)
3	**qiimaha**	*QEE-mah-hah*	the price	noun (m)
4	**lacagta**	*lah-CAHG-tah*	the money	noun (f)
5	**bacda**	*BAHC-dah*	the bag	noun (f)
6	**miisaanka**	*mee-SAAN-kah*	the scales, weight	noun (m)
7	**midabka**	*mi-DAHB-kah*	the colour	noun (m)
8	**tufaaxa**	*too-FAA-xah*	the apple	noun (m)
9	**mooska**	*MOOS-kah*	the banana	noun (m)
10	**yaanyada**	*yaan-YAH-dah*	the tomato	noun (f)
11	**basasha**	*bah-SAH-shah*	the onion	noun (f)
12	**baradhada**	*bah-rah-DHAH-dah*	the potato	noun (f)
13	**rootiga**	*ROO-ti-gah*	the bread	noun (m)
14	**kalluunka**	*kahl-LOON-kah*	the fish	noun (m)
15	**cusbada**	*coos-BAH-dah*	the salt	noun (f)
16	**iibso**	*EEB-so*	to buy	verb

#	SOMALI	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
17	**iibi**	*EE-bi*	to sell	verb
18	**qaado**	*QAA-do*	to take	verb
19	**hayso**	*HAY-so*	to have (with you), keep	verb
20	**kaas**	*kaas*	that one	pronoun

✍️ Try It Yourself — Layliyo

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

1. Ask how much something is.

▼ Show answer

Waa immisa?

2. Say “this is too expensive”.

▼ Show answer

Tani aad bay qaali u tahay.

3. Ask if there is a discount.

▼ Show answer

Qiimo dhimis ma jiraa?

4. Ask “do you have apples?”

▼ Show answer

Tufaax ma haysaa?

5. Say “I buy bread”.

▼ Show answer

Waxaan iibsadaa rooti.

6. Say “a big red one” in two words for the colour and size.

▼ Show answer

weyn (big) · **cas** (red)

Not Yet Verified

Checked against Preply's grocery page (read 2026-11-25): *Immisa?*, the “how much do you sell” question (the page words it *Immisa ayaad iibineysaa*, without *ku*), *Qiimaha ugu dambeeya?*, the weighing phrase (printed there as *iii saar*), *Fadlan i sii bac*, *lacagta qaado*, the fruit, vegetable, bread, fish and salt words, and the note on bargaining and fixed prices. A search summary of another Preply page gave *Imisa ayey ku kacaysaa*, *Tani aad bay qaali u tahay* and *Qiimo dhimis ma jiraa*; I did not read that page.

Not checked, from general knowledge: *jaban* (cheap), all the colours and opposites, “bigger”, most of the dialogs, the three-verb table, the currency notes, the noun endings and genders, 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, Grocery shopping in Somali (read); Preply, Somali travel phrases (search summary only).

Coming Up in Chapter 10

Asking for directions: where is, left, right, straight on, near and far.