A prefatory section discusses the background of Cameroonian pidgin English and presents the pidgin sound and alphabet. Fifteen lessons cover: greetings and leave-taking expressions; present, future, immediate future, unspecified past, simple past, conditional, and compound tenses; subject, possessive, emphatic, object, and relative pronouns; question words; the verbs "to be" and "get"; plural markers; adjectives and comparison; the family; numbers; possessive adjectives and pronouns; uses of the word "de"; emphatic pronouns; adverbs; the imperative; auxiliaries; Cameroonian food vocabulary; color and clothing vocabulary; two folktales; situations in which tense markers are not needed; expressions with "mek"; prepositions; idiomatic expressions with verbs; and conjunctions. A quick pidgin grammar reference and a list of 50 untranslated pidgin proverbs are appended. (MSE)
INTRODUCTION TO
CAMEROONIAN & IDGIN

By David Bellama, Solomon Nkwele and Joseph Yudom

Peace Corps

August, 1983
2nd Edition

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INTRODUCTION

(CAMEROONIAN PIDGIN)

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50 Pidgin Proverbs pages 94 - 96
An Introduction to Cameroonian Pidgin is a part language course consisting of a Student's Book, a Teacher's Manual and a Pidgin/English-English/Pidgin Glossary.

The Teacher's Manual was conceived and written during the Summer 1981 in-country language training program in Cameroon, with the Student's Book following one year later, during the 1982 program. The present edition of the Student's Book is a revised, expanded version of the original, including three additional lessons, a short grammar reference section and a collection of proverbs. It is designed to be used together with the Teacher's Manual and Glossary in a course or tutoring program, but may easily be used separately as a self-study guide and reference. The Pidgin-English/English-Pidgin Glossary, currently nearing completion, will appear in 1984.

As with many Peace Corps language materials, countless people - Trainers, Volunteers and Trainees alike - have contributed to this final product. To all these people, our sincere thanks. They, no doubt, were motivated by the same forces as we were: the strong need for a practical Pidgin course for Peace Corps training and tutoring programs, but also a deep respect, admiration and fascination for the genius of the Pidgin language to which, again, so many people and cultures have contributed in their turn.

David BELLAMA
Solomon NKWELE
Joseph YUDOM

Yaoundé, August, 1983
INTRODUCTION

Pidgin is believed to have started back in the 15th century with the arrival of the Portuguese on the African coast. By the 17th century many other European and African ethnic groups had begun using it in their contacts and transactions with each other and had contributed to its development. By the 19th century—the period of its greatest expansion—Pidgin was being used in West Cameroon, much of Southern Nigeria, Fernando Po, Sierra Leone, numerous other African coastal areas, and some inland areas. As a trade language—"a language of contact"—Pidgin has borrowed from different quarters through the centuries. Many of the earlier borrowings, from Dutch, German and Portuguese to name a few, have drifted into disuse, but some still remain. For example, the following words from Portuguese are still very current in Pidgin:

pikin from "pequino", meaning "child"
dash from "dache", meaning "gift" or "tribute"
sabi from "saber", meaning "to know"
palaba from "palaba", meaning "conference", "discussion"

African languages, too, have contributed immensely to the Pidgin vocabulary. The following words are but a few examples; a complete list would fill a book.
wahala—"trouble"
wfa—"bag"
kwankanda—"bachelor", "useless fellow"
nayo—"slowly"
moyo—"male in-law"
munya—"female in-law"
ashya—"greetings", "sorry"
kongosay—"gossip"
njamanjama—"greens"
nyanga—"ostentation"
ngondele—"young woman", "girl"
potopoto—"mud", "mud mortar"

Although the Pidgin vocabulary, on the whole, is derived from English, the word "derived" must be emphasized. Many words which have an equivalent meaning in both languages have quite different pronunciations.
Many other Pidgin words, while clearly derived from English, have changed in form and/or taken on new meanings quite different from the original root word.

husay (from "which side") - "where"
chus - "to choose", but also "to excuse"
chop - "to eat"
dray - "dry" but also "skinny"

husay - (from "which side") - "where"

foseka (from "for the sake of") - "because"
frobay (from "forby") - "to miss", "to lose the way"
fayn (from "find") - "to look for"
luk - (from "look") - "to find"  

note the reversal of meanings

kolhat - (from "cool the heart") - "sweetheart"
komot - (from "come out") - "to come from"
buk - (from "book") - "book", but also "letter", or anything written

manhan - (from "man + hand") - "right", "right hand"
wumanhan - (from "woman + hand") - "left hand"
memb - (from "remember") - "to think of", "to think about", as well as "to remember"
motofut - (from "motor + foot") - "tire"
tanap - (from "stand up") - "to stand up", but also "to stop"
soso - (from the word "so") "continually"

Tones, too, are a very important element. Pidgin has two basic tones, a high one ( rise ) and a low one ( fall ). As in many African languages, a change in tone will often bring a change in meaning. For example:

baba means "barber"; while
\[ \textoralversion \] baba means "father"
\[ \textoralversion \] popo means "real", "proper", "correct"; while
\[ \textoralversion \] popo means "pawpaw (an African fruit)
\[ \textoralversion \] go means "to go"; while
\[ \textoralversion \] go means the accompanying verb is in the future tense.
Tones need not discourage the learner. There are "tones" in every language. In English you may say the same sentence:

I am late.
I am late?

and mean entirely separate things.

Pidgin's tones and its own very distinct "accent" or "cadence" combine to give it a unique, African sound quite unlike English. To be understood, you must speak Pidgin in a way people are used to hearing it.

You can say:

"I day go for market"

with a fine American accent and make no sense at all to your listener. But:

"A de go fo maket"

will be understood by any Pidgin speaker.

The important thing in learning Pidgin is to listen carefully how things are said and "sing" them back in the same way.

Probably the most essential point to remember about Pidgin is that it is not English. Nor is it "Broken English" or "Bush English", as it if often called. It is its own language, an African grammatical structure, African concepts, an African accent and African tones.
PIDGIN SOUNDS AND THE ALPHABET USED IN THIS BOOK

Since Pidgin is not really a written language, it has no formal alphabet. The alphabet used in this book was chosen for simplicity and for feasibility on a normal typewriter. It should be noted (and is below) that some letters may have more than one sound.

### VOWELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pidgin Letter</th>
<th>Pidgin Example</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>1) like the &quot;a&quot; in &quot;fat&quot;, &quot;man&quot;, &quot;back&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>man</td>
<td>(man)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bak</td>
<td>(back)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fat</td>
<td>(fat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) like the &quot;a&quot; in &quot;father&quot;, &quot;bar&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>na</td>
<td>(now)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ba</td>
<td>(bar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>baba</td>
<td>(father)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>1) like the &quot;e&quot; in &quot;bed&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bet</td>
<td>(bed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>get</td>
<td>(to have)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>het</td>
<td>(head)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) like the &quot;a&quot; in &quot;make&quot;, &quot;late&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>et</td>
<td>(eight)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mek</td>
<td>(make)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mistek</td>
<td>(mistake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>1) like the &quot;i&quot; in &quot;sit&quot;, &quot;fit&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fit</td>
<td>(to be able to)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stik</td>
<td>(tree, stick)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wit</td>
<td>(with)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) like the &quot;ee&quot; in &quot;keep&quot;, &quot;see&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>si</td>
<td>(see)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>kip</td>
<td>(keep)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bi</td>
<td>(be)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>always like the &quot;o&quot; in &quot;rope&quot;, &quot;hope&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>go</td>
<td>(go)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>so</td>
<td>(so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bo</td>
<td>(friend)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
always like the "o" in "bore", "sorry"
or the English "aw" in "law"

| fo    | (for) |
| lo    | (law) |
| do    | (door) |

1) like the "oo" in "book", "look"

| buk   | (book) |
| luk   | (look) |
| put   | (put)  |

2) like "oo" in "hoot", "boot"

| du    | (do)  |
| yu    | (you) |
| tu    | (too) |
### COMMON VOWEL COMBINATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pidgin letters</th>
<th>Pidgin example</th>
<th>(English meaning)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>au</strong></td>
<td>- like the &quot;ow&quot; in</td>
<td>&quot;cow&quot;, &quot;fowl&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>kau</td>
<td>(cow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>faul</td>
<td>(fowl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>haus</td>
<td>(house)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ay</strong></td>
<td>- like the &quot;i&quot; in</td>
<td>&quot;like&quot;, &quot;fine&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>lay</td>
<td>(like)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fayn</td>
<td>(fine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>tay</td>
<td>(tie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>day</td>
<td>(die)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ia</strong></td>
<td>- like in the words &quot;Leah&quot; or &quot;Tia&quot;; note that the accent is on the i (ee-ya)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bia-bia</td>
<td>(hair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ia</td>
<td>(ear)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pia</td>
<td>(avocado pear)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ie</strong></td>
<td>- a dialect variation of &quot;ia&quot;, above; again the accent is on the i (ee-ye)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bie-bie</td>
<td>(hair)-variation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ie</td>
<td>(ear)-variation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pie</td>
<td>(avocado pear)-variation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ya, ye</strong></td>
<td>- like the &quot;ia&quot; and &quot;ie&quot; above, but the accent is on the second letter:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ya or ye</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fya or fye</td>
<td>(fear)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dy a (or) dye</td>
<td>(&quot;dear&quot; = expensive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hya (or) bye</td>
<td>(here)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CONSONANTS

The following consonants are pronounced just as in English:

- **b**
- **p**
- **d**
- **r**
- **f**
- **t**
- **h**
- **v**
Special cases:

- **g** - always hard, as in get, gather (never like the "g" of George)

- **j** - always like the j in jam

- **l** - always like the l of like (never like the "ll" of wall)

- **s** - always like the "ss" of pass (never like the "s" of rose)

- **ch** - as in church

- **sh** - as in ship

- **ŋ** - as in swing, ring

- **ny** - as in onion

One final reminder on Pidgin orthography. It seems that no two people write Pidgin the same way. Different sources use different systems and even within the same system a word might appear in varied forms. The latter may happen because a word may have more than one pronunciation, according to region.

- **rod = rot = "road"**
- **gron = graun = "graun"**
- **ha = hau = "how"**
- **huskayn = wichkayn = "what kind"**
- **beni = beri = "bury"**
- **stik = sitik = "stick", "tree"**
- **flap = fulop = "to fill up", "to be full"**
- **weti = wetin = "what"**
- **gud = gut = "good"**

With such possible variations, it is important to concentrate on and practice catching sounds and reproducing them, rather than worrying about how to write them.
**LESSON 1**

**Dialogue**

Lucas: *Gut monin!*

David: *Monin.*

Lucas: *Na na?

David: A de fayn. *Ha fo yu?*

Lucas: *Mi tu a de fayn.*

Ya nem na weti?

David: *Ma nem na David.*

Ya on nem na weti?

Lucas: *Ma nem na Lucas.*

Husay yu komot?

David: A komot fo America.

**Vocabulary**

* gut: good
  a: I
  a de: I am
  fayn: fine, good
  yu: you
  fo: Fo has many meanings. In the expression, "Ha fo yu?" it means "about". In, "A komot fo..." it means "from".
  mi tu: I also; me, too
  ya: your
  ya nem: your name
  na: is
  weti (wetin): what (literally: what thing)
  ma: my
  ma nem: my name
  ya on nem: your name (literally: your name. "On" (=own) is used thus to put emphasis on "your")
  husay: where (literally: which side)
komot: come from (literally: come out)
Hussy yu komot?: Where do you come from?
A komot fo Amerika: I come from America. (Note that here "fo" means "from").

3. Other Typical Exchanges

a) A: Welkom
   B: Tancyu (tank yu).
   A: Ha yu de?
   B: A wel.

b) A: Gut aftanun.
   B: Tancyu.
   A: Huskayn nyus?
   B: No bat nyus.

c) A: Gut ivnin.
   B: Ivnin. Ha na?
   A: A wel. Ha fo yu?
   B: A de fayn.

4. Notes

a) Greetings according to the time of the day:
   Gut monin. Good morning.
   Monin.
   Gut aftanun. Good afternoon.
   Aftanun.
   Gut ivnin. Good evening.
   Ivnin.

   Any of the above can be answered by the every phrase repeated back, or by "Tancyu" (i.e. you are thanking the person for his/her greeting --a very current practice in Pidgin).
b) Welkom

This Pidgin expression has a broader meaning than the English "Welcome", and is heard much more often in conversation. It is a normal greeting to a person who arrives in your home, in your office, in a place where you are sitting, or any place where you are installed and the other person joins you.

It is not just used to greet people arriving from a trip. The person may just have joined you from across the street. "Welkom" means, naturally enough, that the arriving person is welcome. The response is always "Tal'yu".

(Note however that Pidgin speakers do not use "welkom" as a response to "Thank you", as is the practice in English).
LESSON 2

1. Dialogue

Lucas: David, a salut!
David: Taŋ yu, Lucas.
Ha yu de?
Lucas: A wel.
Ha wok?
David: I de-waŋ fayn.
Lucas: Weti yu kam du fo Kamerun?
David: A kam tich fo kolej.
Hu sa yu de wok?
Lucas: Mi a de wok fo pos ofis.
David: I fayn.
Lucas: Oke. A de go.
David: Olrayt. Waka fayn.
Lucas: Taŋ yu an welkom fo Kamerun.

David, I greet you!
Thank you, Lucas.
How are you?
I'm well.
How is work?
It's going well.
What have you come to do in Cameroon?
I've come to teach school.
Where do you work?
Myself, I work at the Post Office.
That's fine.
OK, I'm going.
Alright. Go well.
Thank you and welcome to Cameroon.

2. Vocabulary

Salut: To greet
wok: to work
waka: numerous meanings, including: to walk, to travel, to go,
to succeed, to journey.
i: it, he, she.
I de waka: could mean: "It works", "It is working right",
"He/she/it is travelling."
I de waka fayn: It's working fine; it's going well.
kam: to come
du: to do
fo Kamerun: In Cameroon (It could also mean: to Cameroon).
tich: teach
Lesson 2

Kolej: secondary school
qirayt: alright
an: and

3. More typical greetings and variations

A: A salut: I greet you.
B: Taq yu. Thank you.
Ha yu slip? How did you sleep?
A: A slip fayn. I slept well.
Ha famili? How is (your) family?
B: Dem wel. They are well.

4. Vocabulary
slip (silip; shlip): to sleep
famili (fambru): family
de, dem: they
pikin: children (child)
ha pikin?: How are (your) children?

5. Typical leave-taking expressions
Waka fayn: go well
Sidon (shidon) fayn: stay well (literally: sit down fine)
Sidon (shidon): to sit, to sit down, to live (in a place),
to remain, to stay

6. Exercise: Answer the following questions:
1. Ùa nem na weti?
2. Hussy yu kmppt?
3. Ha na?
4. Ha yu de?
5. Ha fo yu?
6. Ha wqk?
7. Weti yu kam du fo Kamerun?
Lesson 2

8. Huusay yu de wok?
9. Ha yu slip?
10. Yu de wok?
LESSON 3

1. Text

David na "trainee" fo Piskop.
I de sidon fo Mbalmayo.
I de go fo klas evri de fo len
French an Pidgin.
Fo ivnin taym, I de chop plenti.
Afta dat, I de du i homwox.
I de slip fo elevin oklok.

2. Vocabulary

na: You have already seen "na" used to mean "is". Another form of "na" is "bi". "David bi trainee fo Peace Corps".

sidon (shidon): to stay, live, remain, dwell temporarily, to sit

fo: (see Lesson 1, Vocabulary). Another meaning of "fo" is "to".

fo klas: to class; in class

fo skul: to school, in school, at school
evri de: every day

len: to learn

ivnin taym: evening, evening time

chop: to eat

afta chop: after eating

fo elevin oklok: at eleven o'clock

wich taym; (hustaym): what time?

3. Answer the following questions on the text

1. David na weti?
2. Husay i de sidon?
3. Husay i de go evri de?
4. Wet i de du fo ivnin taym?
5. Wet i de du afta chop?
6. Wich taym i de slip?
Lesson 3

4. Grammar: Present Tense with "de" and subject pronouns

The subject pronouns in Pidgin are (with variations in parentheses):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>we</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yu</td>
<td>you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he/she/it</td>
<td>they</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Singular: the subject pronouns in Pidgin are (with variations in parentheses):

The present tense in Pidgin is usually indicated by the presence of the small word "de".

Subject + verb = A normal present tense structure

Examples:

A de ste fo Bamenda.  I live in Bamenda.
Yu de chop monki.  You are eating monkey.
I de wok plenti.  He works a lot.
Wi de kam evri monin.  We come every morning.
Wuna de len fayn.  You are learning well.
Dem de sidoi fo Kumba.  They are living in Kumba.

Note that the "de" form in Pidgin actually translates several English meanings:

Present Progressive (Action in progress)

I de chop  He is eating (right now).
I de kam.  She is coming (right now).

Habitual

I de chop plenti.  He eats a lot (though he is not necessarily eating now).
I de wok evri de.  She works every day (though she is not necessarily working right now).

The present tense negative is formed by using ".....no de......"
Lesson 3

Examples:

A no de kam.
I no de bye Pidgin.

Yu no de go?
Wi no de drink mimbo.
Dem no de tok Pidgin.

I'm not coming.
He doesn't understand Pidgin.
(literally: He doesn't hear Pidgin).
Aren't you going?
We don't drink alcohol (wine).
They don't speak Pidgin.

5. Grammar: Question Words

Below are some of the question words in Pidgin:

Husay?
Wet, (wetin)?
Wich taym (hustaym)?
Ha (hau)?
Hu? Husman?
Way? (Fgeeka weti?)
Wich'kayn (huskayn)
Wich (hus?)

Examples:

Husay i komot?
Wet wuna de du?
Wich taym dem de go?
Ha yu de?
Hu de tich Pidgin?
Way yu no de slip?
Yu layk wich kany chap?
Wi de go fo wich ples?

Where is she from?
What are you doing?
When are they going?
How are you?
Who teaches Pidgin?
Why aren't you sleeping?
What kind of food do you like?
Which place are we going?

6. Vocabulary

wakop: to wake up
drink (drin): to drink
rayt: to write
Lesson 3

bay: to buy
luk: to look at; to find
si: to see
tok: to talk
nye: to hear; to understand
hambok: to bother
kari: to carry
ste: to live, to live at, to remain (used very much like "sidon")
tes: to rest
nak: to knock, to hit, to beat
layk: to like
plea: place
maket: market
mimbo: usually refers to alcoholic drinks (beer, wine, palm wine, etc.)
but can also simply refer to any drink, hard or soft.
suit mimbo: soft drinks (literally: sweet drink)
haus: House

Answer the following questions orally in Pidgin:

1. Wich taym yu de wekop fo monin taym?
2. Yu layk wich kayn chop?
3. Wet'i de hambok yu plenti?
4. Wet'i yu de bay fo maket?
5. Yu de hye Ewondo?
6. Husay wunq de ste?
7. Fo wich taym wuna de enta fo klas?
1. Grammar I: More forms of the verb "to be" in Pidgin

The English verb "to be" can be expressed in several different ways in Pidgin, according to meaning or context.

You have already seen the word "de" as a form of "to be", when it is used as an auxiliary to a verb.

A de go. I am going.
I de chop. He/She is eating.

"De" in this context is a tense marker; it indicates that the action is present - that it is going on at the present time. In later lessons, you will see more uses of "de".

In this lesson, two more forms of the verb "to be" are introduced: "na" and "bi". These two words are used to identify people or objects, that is, to say who or what they are.

(It is a....
That is a....
He is....
They aren't.... etc.)

Examples:
Na buk dis. This is a book, (literally: It is a book, this)
Na nyu shet. It is a new shirt
Peter na big man. Peter is an important person.
Peter bi big man. Peter is an important person.
Na fayn rod dat? Is that a good road?
No, no bi fayn wan. No, it is not a good one.
Na wowo rod. It is a bad road.

Though "na" and "bi" mean the same thing, they are not always interchangeable. Note how in certain situations one form is used, while in another, the other form is used.
Lesson 4

**Affirmative** | **Negative**
---|---
**Persons** | "na" or "bi" | "no bi"
Peter na big man | Peter no bi big man
Peter bi big man | "no bi"
**Objects** | "na" only | no bi fayn haus.
na fayn haus |

**Summary:**

In affirmative statements:
- "Na" can be used with persons or objects.
- "Bi" is used only with persons.

In negative statements:
- "No bi" is always used. ("Na" never appears in the negative.)

Finally, note that you can use "na" and "no bi" without a subject or pronoun preceding them.

Na ol man. | He is an old man.
No bi yon man. | He is not a young man.

In this sense they can mean "He is....", "She is....", "it is...." etc.

With "bi", however, you need a subject or pronoun before...

I bi ol man. | He is an old man.

2. Grammar II: The Plural Marker "Dem"

"Dem" is used as a plural marker when no number precedes the noun. It follows the word it modifies.

**Examples:**

a) singular: Na buk-dis.
   plural: Na buk-dem dis.
   This is a book.
   These are books.

b) singular: Na wuman dis.
   plural: Na wuman-dem dis.
   This is a woman.
   These are women.

c) singular: Dat man de dans.
   plural: Dat man-dem de dans.
   That man is dancing.
   Those men are dancing.
Lesson 4

3. Grammar III

"Get" means "to have", "to possess". Its negative form is "no get". Note that it needs no auxiliary ("de") in the present tense.

Examples:

A get moni. I have money.
Yu get moto? Do you have a car?
Dem no get kago. They don't have any baggage.
Wi no get chop. We have no food.

"get" is very idiomatic in Pidgin and is found in many expressions.

I get bele. She is pregnant. ("she has a belly")
Dem no get sens. They are stupid. ("they have no sense")
I get mot. He is loud-mouthed. ("he has a mouth")
A get moni I am rich.
Yu no get chans. You are unlucky. ("you have no luck")
Bele no get Sonde. The belly doesn't get a day off (a "Sunday").

4. Grammar IV: Comparisons

Simple comparisons are made in Pidgin by using the word "pas" ("more than..." or "past...")

Dis rod fain pas dat wan. This road is better than that one.
Douala big pas Yaoundé. Douala is bigger than Yaoundé.
Ren de fol fo Kamerun pas Chad. It rains more in Cameroon than in Chad.
Dat mimbo dye pas ol. That beer (wine, etc.) is more expensive than all others. (or)

That beer is the most expensive.

A. Nouns

chyel: chair
shet: shirt
trosa (trosis): trousers, pants
buki: book
botul (botru): bottle
tebul (tebol): table
Lesson 4

shus: shoe
bie-bie (bia-bia): hair
kwa: bag, sack

moni: money
ngongo: tin can
stik: tree, stick

bif: any kind of animal
fawl: hen, cock
dok fawl: duck

fut: foot, leg
han: hand, arm

B. Adjectives

nyu: new
ol: old
yos: young
big: big
smol: small, little, a little

fat: fat
dray: thin, dry
log: long
shot: short
fayn: good

www: bad, ugly
kayn ba kayn: varied, different

man: man
wuman: woman

graun (gron): ground, floor

maket: market

poket: pocket

rum: room

moto (motua): car, vehicle

bush: bush, forest

bush bif: wild animal

rot (rod): road

kago: goods, merchandise, baggage

tronq: hard, difficult, strong

dye: expensive

klin: clean

doti: dirty

tayt: narrow

ret (red): red

grin: green

blak: black

pientf: much, a lot

hot: hot, upset

tol: cold, calm

somkayn: strange


David de mitop witi Mass Fru fg rot:
(David meets up with Mister Fru on the road)

David: Fru! Ha na?

Fru: Fayn bo, ha fg yu?

Fru: How are you?

Fine, my friend. How are you?
David: Hi I'm David. How's the weather today?
Fru: It's hot here.
David: How's your wife and children?
Fru: They're all well.
David: Where are you going like that?
Fru: I'm going to the market.
David: Why are you going to the market?
Fru: I get meat.
David: So why are you going to the market?
Fru: It's not a bad market.
David: It is a lot of meat.
Fru: It has a lot of meat.
David: Is the market better than the one in Bamenda?
Fru: No, the market here is better.
David: It's a huge market. It has a lot of merchandise.
Fru: So why are you going to this market?
David: I'm going to buy meat.
Fru: I get a lot of meat.
David: Okay. Have a good trip.

7. Notes on the Text

In expressions such as:

- wa de go mi...
- ya de go yu...

The second pronoun (mi, yu) is simply put in for emphasis.
1. Text

Mista Fru na klak fo pos ofis fo Mbalmayo.
I mari tu wuman an i get sevin pikin.
Di nomba wan wuman i nem na Matina.
Matina bon fo pikin: tri man pikin an wan wuman pikin.
Di nomba tu wuman i nem na Manjana.
Manjana bon tri pikin. 01 i pikin na wuman pikin.
Mista Fru i papa an i mama dem de fo Bamenda.
I papa i nem na Papa Fru an i mama i nem na Mami Fru.
Dia na Mista Fru i famili.

Mr. Fru is a clerk at the Mbalmayo post office.
He has two wives and seven children.
The first wife's name is Matina.
Matina has (borne) four children: three boys and one girl.
The second wife's name is Manjana.
Manjana has (borne) three children. All her children are girls.
Mr. Fru's father and mother (parents) are in Bamenda.
His father's name is Papa Fru and his mother's name is Mami Fru.
This is Mr. Fru's family.
Lesson 5

2. Vocabulary

Mista:
Mister; Mr.

klak:
clerk

mari:
to marry, to be married (to)

nomba wan (fes):
First. Adjectival numbers, or positions, are indicated in Pidgin by adding the word "nomba" before the figure. Thus "nomba tu" (sekon): second; "nomba tri": third; "nomba ten": tenth.

wumain:
woman, wife

bon:
give birth

di:
the

dis:
this

pikin:
child

man pikin:
male child, boy

wuman pikin:
female child; girl

papa an mama:
parents (this can also mean "father and mother")

3. Questions on the text

1. Hussy Mista Fru de wok?
2. Wich kayn wok Mista Fru de du_fo pos ofis?
3. Ha meni wuman Mista Fru mari?
4. Dem nem na weti?
5. Hu bi nomba wan wuman?
6. Ha meni pikin di nomba wan wuman bon?
7. Dem nem na weti?
8. Hu bi nomba tu wuman?
9. Ha meni pikin di nomba tu wuman bon?
10. Dem nem na weti?
11. Mista Fru get ha meni man pikin-dem?
Lesson 5

12. I get ha meni wuman pikin-dem?
13. Mista Fru i papa an i mama dem de fo Mbalmayo? Husay dem de?
14. Mista Fru i famili big o i smol?

4. Vocabulary II: Numbers

1. wan
2. tu
3. tri (tiri)
4. fo
5. fayv (fayf)
6. siks
7. sevin
8. et (eyt)
9. mayn
10. ten (wan tali)

N.B.: In certain parts of the country (Douala, Nkongsamba and most Bamileke areas) the unit "ten" is referred to as "tali".

11. elevin (wan tali wan)
12. twef (wan tali tu)
13. tetin (wan tali tri)
14. fotin (wan tali fo)
15. fiftin (wan tali fayf)
16. sikstin (wan tali siks)
17. sevintin (wan tali sevin)
18. etin (wan tali et)
19. maytin (wan tali mayn)
20. twenti (tu tali)
21. twenti wan (tu tali wan)
22. twenti tu (tu tali tu)
23. teti (tri tali)
24. hondret; høn; (ten tali)
25. hondret an sikst fayf (sikstin tali fayf)
26. tosin (wan tausin); wan to

5. Grammar I: Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives in Pidgin always precede the nouns they qualify. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ma</td>
<td>wi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ya</td>
<td>wuna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>dem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>his/her/its</td>
<td>our</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Lesson 5

Na ma buk dis.
Na ya shet dis.
I pen de fo tebul.
Wi chop de fo pot.
Wuna fren dem de fo haus.
Na dem pikin dem dat.
Na John i buk dis.
Na Nancy i tebul dat.
Na Mary an Tom dem papa dat.

N.B.: When a person or a noun is the possessor, "i" (singular) or "dem" (plural) must come between the possessor and the noun.

Na ma moto dis.
But: Na ma kombi i moto dat.
Na wi haus dis.
But: Na Mary an Tom dem haus dat.

6. Grammar II: Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns in Pidgin are formed by simply adding the word "on" (like the English word "own") to the possessive adjectives above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ma on: mine</td>
<td>wi on: ours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ya on: yours</td>
<td>wuna on: yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i on: his/hers/its</td>
<td>dem on: theirs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:

No bi ya buk dis.
Na ma on.
Ma nem na Mary.
Weti bi ya on?
Wi moto de fo rod.
Hussy dem on de?

This isn't your book.
It's mine.
My name is Mary.
What's yours?
Our car is on the road.
Where is theirs?
Lesson 5

7. Questions

A number of question words were presented in the Grammar Section of Lesson 3. Another way of asking a question is simply to raise the intonation of the last word of a sentence.

Example:

Na ya tebul dis? Is this your table?
Na i pencil dât? Is that his pencil?
Na wuna buk dem-dis? Are these your books?

8. Drills

A) Model sentence: Na ma haus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>wi</th>
<th>Na wi haus.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>Na Joseph i haus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wuna</td>
<td>..................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>..................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph an Mary</td>
<td>..................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ya</td>
<td>..................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ma</td>
<td>..................</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B) Model sentence: A de go fo ma kontri.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>wi</th>
<th>Wi de go fo wi kontri.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yu</td>
<td>........................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>........................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas an Marie</td>
<td>..................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wuna</td>
<td>........................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elisabeth</td>
<td>........................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>........................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>........................</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Vocabulary III: (Supplementary)

broda: brother
sista: sister
man(masa): husband
big papa: (gran papa): grandfather
big mami: (gran mama): grandmother
Lesson 5

papa: father
mama: mother
onkul (mama/papa i broda): uncle
anti (mama/papa i sista): aunt
moyo: male in-law, brother-in-law
munya: female in-law, sister-in-law
mbanyi: co-wife. In a polygamous home the women (wives) are "mbanyi" to each other.

N.B.: Pidgin does not use words like nephew, niece. Nephews, nieces, cousins, are all called "broda" or "sista". Other variations would include:

Ma mama i sista i pikin. My aunt's child (cousin)
Ma broda i pikin. My brother's child (niece, nephew).

10. Exercise:
Translate the following sentences into Pidgin:

Example: This is my book. Na ma buk dis.
These are your brothers. Na ya broda-dem dis.

1. This is my shirt.
2. That is his chair.
3. Those are her sisters.
4. This is our class.
5. Those are your books.
6. This is Ronald's money.
7. This is Mary's aunt.
8. That is (name of trainee)'s table.
9. This is mine.
10. That is theirs.

11. Assignment for Tomorrow
Prepare a small presentation of your family including the following information:
1. Your name, job, where you are from.
2. Whether your family is large or small.
3. Your parents' names, their jobs, where they are.
4. Your brothers'/sisters' names; their jobs, where they are.
LESSON 6

1. Text: John na Volontie


C) Fo twef oklok, wen wok finish, i de go kwik-kwik fo haus fosaka se i de hye hongri bat. Wen i chop beleful, I de slip fo son sote tu oklok, den i go fo wok egen.

D) Wok de finish fo haf fayv fo ivnin. Wen John rich haus, i de muf klos. I de wye spots klos fo ple futbol.

E) Fo ivnin taym John de hye redio o i rayt leta fo i kolhat fo Bamenda. I de slip fo elevin oklok fo nayt. Taym we i de slip, i de memba i kolhat.

2. Vocabulary

Kopretiv: cooperatives
fawe: far away
skin: body
klos: clothes
ti: tea ("ti" is usually used to include what is taken during breakfast, be it coffee, cocoa, tea, etc.)
fama: farmer
kwik-kwik: quickly, hurriedly, in a hurry
wit (witi): with

John is a Peace Corps Volunteer. He works with the cooperatives at Mbouda. Mbouda is in the Western Province. It's not far from Bafoussam.

John gets up every day at six o'clock. He brushes his teeth and then takes a bath. He puts on his clothes and then eats breakfast. He goes to work after that. He works with many farmers in the Western Province.

At twelve when work is done, he hurries home because he is very hungry. When he's eaten to his fill, he lies in the sun until two o'clock then leaves for work again.

The work day finishes at 5:30 p.m. When John gets home he takes off his clothes. He changes into his sports clothes to play football.

In the evening, John listens to the radio or writes to his sweetheart in Bamenda. He goes to bed at eleven p.m. While in bed, he thinks of his sweetheart.
Lesson 6

sote (sute): until
haf fayv (haf pas fayv): half past five
muf: take off; remove; take away; (also, "go away")
pipol (pipul): people
wich taym (hustaym, huskayn taym): when
way (foseka weti): why
bikos (foseka se): because
swit (shwit): sweet
spots klos: gym shorts; sportswear, sports attire
kolhat: sweetheart (i.e., the one who makes your heart cool and nice).
memba: to think about; to remember; to recall
evri de: every day
futbol: football

3. Questions on the Text:
1. Hu bi John?
2. Husay i de wok?
3. Husay Mbouda de?
4. Mbouda fawe fo Bafoussam? I fawe fo Yaounde?
5. Wich taym John de wekop evri de?
6. Na wetin i de wosh?
7. I de drink kof fo monin taym?
8. Wen i drink ti, husay i de go?
9. John de wok wit wich kayn pipol?
10. Wich taym wok de finish fo monin?
11. Husay John de go wen wok finish?
12. Foseka weti i de go fo haus kwik-kwik?
13. Wen i beleful, wetin i de du?
14. I de slip sote tri oklo?
15. Wet i de du afta slip?
16. Wich taym wok de finish fo aftenun?
17. Way John de muf klos fo aftenun?
18. Wet i John de du fo ivnin taym?
19. Husay John i kolhat de?
20. Wich taym John de slip?
21. Taym we i de slip, i de memba i mama an i papa?
Lesson 6

4. Grammar - Several more usages of the word "de"

A) "De", used as a verb by itself, serves as a "locator"; that is, it tells where persons or things are.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pidgin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A de fo klas.</td>
<td>I'm in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem de fo ba.</td>
<td>They are in the bar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wuna de fo Kumba.</td>
<td>You are in Kumba.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco de fo America.</td>
<td>San Francisco is in America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hussy ya kolhat de?</td>
<td>Where is your sweetheart?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B) In addition to being a marker for the present tense, "de" also indicates habitual actions, as we have already seen.

Examples of present and habitual tenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pidgin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A de sing.</td>
<td>I'm singing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I de chop.</td>
<td>He's eating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wi de laf;</td>
<td>We are laughing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You de drink ti evride.</td>
<td>You drink tea everyday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dudley de drink Bofot evride.</td>
<td>Dudley drinks Beaufort everyday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan de rayt leta evride.</td>
<td>Susan writes letters everyday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yu de slip fo son evride.</td>
<td>You lie in the sun everyday.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C) "De" at times is an indicator of a subsequent action.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Wen + Subject + Verb} & \quad \text{Subject + "de" + Verb} \\
\text{(finished action without "de")} & \quad \text{(Subsequent action).}
\end{align*}
\]

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pidgin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wen a driz ti, a de go fo wok.</td>
<td>After drinking tea, I go to work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wen John slip, i de memba i kolhat.</td>
<td>John dreams of his sweetheart after he goes to sleep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wen a chop, a de res.</td>
<td>I rest after I eat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.B.: You will have noticed that the verb "to be" can be represented by three forms in Pidgin: "na", "bi", and "de". Knowing when and how to use any of the forms depends a lot on practice. However, it will help if you know that "na" and "bi" can be followed by a noun or an adjective while "de" is usually followed by another verb or a preposition.
Lesson 6

Examples:

John na volontie fo Piskops.
A bi fayn ticha.
A de fo haus.
I de wok plenti

John is a Peace Corps Volunteer. (noun)
I'm a good teacher. (adjective + noun)
I'm in the house. (preposition)
He/she works a lot. (verb)

5. Supplementary Vocabulary

ren: rain
kofi: coffee
ovaltine: ovaltine or chocolate drink
fut: foot, leg
hed (het): head
bie-bie (bia-bia): hair
nek: neck
bele: stomach, belly
finga fo han: fingers
finga fo fut (tos): toes
mbanja (banja): ribs
bak: back
ches: chest
fes (feys): face
ie (ia): ear
nos: nose
tit: teeth, tooth
tog: tongue
han: hand, arm
las: buttocks
bele fulop (bele ful): full stomach, sat to one's fill
de (e.g. A de de): there (I'm there).
Lesson 6

6. **Exercise I**

Answer the following questions:

1. Husay Philadelphia de?
2. Husay Bafoussam de?
3. Poseka weni wuna de fo Kamerun?
4. Wich taym wuna de wekop fo monin?
5. Husay ya big mana de?
6. Wetin yu de chop fo monin?
7. Wich taym wuna de go fo klas?
8. Wuna de wuna hameni fo klas?
9. Husay ya haus de?
10. Yu de ple wich kayu gem fo hye?

7. **Exercise II**

Complete the following sentences in your own words using "de".

Example: Wen a wekop,........... Wen a wekop, a de wosha ma mot.

1. Wen a waf kloa,...........
2. Wen a rich fo haus,...........
3. Wen a komot fo wok,...........
4. Wen klas finish,............
5. Wen nayt rich,..............
6. Wen wi moni finish,........
7. Wen ma mama veks,...........
8. Wen yu get wun fo fut,.....
9. Wen ren fol,................
10. Wen a pas exameneshon.......

8. **Exercise III**

Answer the following questions in Pidgin.

Example: What do you do after wen a wosha ma skin, a de wayp ma skin.

1. What do you do when you get up in the morning?
2. What do you do after eating in the evening?
3. How do you feel when class is over for the day?
Lesson 6

4. What do you do when you take off your clothes?
5. What do you do when the weather is nice?

Assignment

For the next class, prepare a presentation on "A Day in the Life of a Trainee". You should describe your actions on a typical day at the training centre. (It may be a weekday or a weekend). Your presentation should follow a chronological order.
1. Dialogue: Public Holiday

Lucas: Tumoro na poblik holide. Skul no go bi.

David: As skul no de tumoro, a go wekop fo shap-shap monin. Mi an ma kombi go go bush.

Lucas: Weti wuna go du fo de?

David: Wi go fo maket fo ma kombi i ton.

Lucas: Weti wuna go du afta?

David: A go sabi ma kombi i famili.

Lucas: Yu go slip fo bush?

David: No-o, a go kam bak fo Mbalmayo fo ivnin.

Lucas: A beg, yu go brig me som fayn tin fo chop.

David: Olrayt. If bushbif de fo maket, a go brig yu fayn wan. Ha fo yu? Weti yu go du tumoro?

Lucas: A go slip mi di hol de.


Tomorrow is a public holiday. There will be no classes.

Since there's no class tomorrow, I will get up very early in the morning. My friend and I will go into the country.

What will you do there?

We'll go to the market at my friend's village.

What will you do after that?

I will meet my friend's family.

Will you spend the night in the country?

No, I shall return to Mbalmayo in the evening.

Please, will you bring something nice to eat for me?

All right. If there's game in the market, I'll bring a nice piece for you. What about you? What will you do tomorrow?

I shall sleep the whole day.

That's fine. I want to go arrange my luggage. See you soon.

2. Vocabulary

tumoro: tomorrow
poblik holide: public holiday
skul: school, classes
as: since, as
shap-shap monin: very early in the morning (see the section on adverbs)
kombi (bo; fren): friend
bush: a word has several meanings depending on the context. It can stand for: farm; forest, country, bush. It can also serve as an adjective.
Lesson 7

bush (shvain, -kau, -fawl, etc.): wild (pig, cow, hen/cock, etc.)
sabi: to meet (it usually means: to know)
somtin: something
hol: whole; hole
fiks: arrange; pack; repair
smol taym: soon
bush bif: game
du: to do
ton: home; village; town
kam bak: to return
A beg: please (I beg)
fayn: nice, fine: good
wan: want
kago: luggage, load
I wan: alone, by oneself

3 Questions on the Text

1. Tumoro na weti?
2. Skul go bi tumoro?
3. Wich taym David go wekot?
4. Way i go wekot fo shap shap monin'
5. I go fo bush i wan? I na hu go fo bush.
6. Wetl dem go du fo bush.
7. Dem go go maket fo busay.
8. Afta mket, dem go kam bak darot i Mbalayo? Weti dem go du?
9. David go slip fo bush?
10. Wich taym David go kam bak fo Mbalayo?
11. Wetl i go briy fo Lucas?
12. Wetl Lucas go du tumoro?
13. Way i go slip di hol de?
14. Wetl David wan go du nau?
15. Wich taym dem go si egen?
Lesson 7

4. Grammar: The Future Tense

The future tense in Pidgin is formed by adding the auxiliary "go" before the verb.

Present

a) Subject + de + verb
b) Subject + bi + noun

Examples

Present

a) A de rayt leta.
   I de chop koko.
   Wuna de len Pidgin.
   Dem de go fo maket.

b) A bi trainee.
   Peter bi drayva.

Future

Subject + go + verb
Subject + go + bi + noun

A go rayt leta.
I go chop koko.
Wuna go len Pidgin.
Dem go go fo maket.
A go bi trainee.
Peter go bi drayva.

N.B.: In the sentence: "Dem go go fo maket"; the second "go" is the verb "to go" while the first "go" is the future marker. The second "go" is pronounced with a higher pitch than the first.

The future tense with "go + verb" in Pidgin corresponds to "shall/will + verb" in English. It is a general future tense.

There is also a kind of immediate future in Pidgin, which is used when you are literally "on your way" to do something right away. This is formed by using the combination: Subject + de go + verb.

Note the following comparison of forms:

Present

A de ple.
Wuna de fayt.
I de kuk.

Immediate Future

A de go ple.
Wuna de go fayt.
I de go kuk.

I am playing.
You are fighting.
She's cooking.

I'm going to play (right away).
I'm on my way to play (right away).
You're going to fight (right away).
You're on your way to fight (right away).
She's going to cook (right away).
She's on her way to cook (right away).
Lesson 7

A go ple.
Wuna go fayt.
I go kuk.

I will play.
You will fight.
She will cook.

(could be fairly soon in the future; could be fairly distant).

Negative (Future; Immediate Future)

The negative of the Future Tense (....go...) and the Immediate Future (....de go....) is formed by adding "no" before "go" and "de go" respectively.

Examples

a) 1. A go ple.
   2. Wuna go fayt.
   3. I go kuk.
   4. Dem go kam.
   5. Yu go chop.

b) 1. A de go ple.
   2. Wuna de go fayt.
   3. I de go kuk.
   4. Dem de go swim.

5. Grammar: Emphatic Pronouns

Emphatic Pronouns, as the name suggests, are pronouns that are used to emphasize nouns or other pronouns. The following are the emphatic pronouns in Pidgin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mi (micef)</td>
<td>wi (wicef)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yu (yusf)</td>
<td>wuna (wunasef)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i (isef)</td>
<td>dem (desf)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>herself/herself/itself</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples

a) A go slip mi di hol de. (myself) I will sleep the whole day.
b) Dem de go dem smol taym. (They) They will be leaving soon.
c) John de ple i futbol. (He) John is playing football.
Lesson 7

6. Grammar: Adverbs

Often, adverbs are formed by doubling words in Pidgin, that is a word is repeated twice. Examples:

- ol ol = completely
- nau nau (na na) = immediately
- kwik kwik = quickly
- wel wel = really well
- smol smol = gradually
- sofli sofli = slowly, quietly
- fayn fayn = really fine
- tron tron = steadily, heavily, unceasingly
- shap shap = very early

Examples:

- Wasa Tom de waka kwik kwik. Mr. Tom is walking quickly.
- Ren 'de fal tron tron. It's raining heavily.
- Wet mi, a de kam nau nau. Wait for me, I'm coming immediately.

7. Supplementary Vocabulary

- afta tumoro = the day after tomorrow
- afta yestede = the day before yesterday
- neks wik = next week
- neks mun = next month
- neks yie = next year
- koko = cocoyam
- Monde = Monday
- Tiusde = Tuesday
- Wenesde = Wednesday
- Tosdi = Thursday
- Frayde = Friday
- Satude = Saturday
- Sonde = Sunday (In certain areas especially in the Northwest Province, there is a "Kontri Sonde").
Lesson 7

8. Exercise I

Change the following sentences into the future. You can use one of the following time markers: Afta tumoro, neks wik, neks mun, etc.

For example: A de res. A go res. (or) A go res tumoro.

1. David de bay bush bif fo Lucas.
2. John de memba i kolhat.
3. Lucas an David dem de go fo bush.
4. Dem de sidon fo chye.
5. Wi de drink mimbo fo be.
6. Wi de kam bak fo Foumban.
7. I de veks plenti.
8. I no de slip fo bush.
9. A no de vok tude.
10. Yu de rayt leta.

9. Exercise II

Change the following sentences into negative statements:

For example: A go drink ti.

1. A go fo mabet.
2. Shirley go chop bushbif.
3. Yu go drink kofi?
4. Dem go slip fo twef oklok.
5. Yu go stil bi "trainee" neks mun?
6. Wi go chop rays afta tumoro.
7. Wuna go fo klas tumoro.
8. Jim go fo Bertous.
10. Olu go rayt bok.

10. Exercise III

Answer the following questions:

1. Wetu yu go du afta tumoro?
2. Wetu wuna go chop fo ivnin?
3. Wich taym wuna go drink mimbo?
4. Wetu yu go bi wen yu go bak fo Amerika?
Lesson 7

5. Hussay yu go bi wen "training" finish?
6. Weti yu go du fo ya "post"?
7. Hu go bi president fo Amerika neks taym?
8. Yu go stil bi vontie afta tu yis?
9. Wich kayn kloa yu go we fo Sonde?
10. Wich kayn wuman/man yu go mari?

11. Assignment

For the next class prepare a short presentation on any of the following topics:

a) How you will spend the next week-end.

b) What you will do during the next holiday.

c) What you hope to do at your post.

d) What you will do when you return to the States.

e) What you will do when you are old and rich.
LESSON 8

1. Dialogue: Night Out

Lucas: Kwa-kwa fo hye!
David: Na hu de de?
Lucas: Na mi bo, na Fru.
David: Ah, ma kombi, enta fo Hau na. Ha di ivnin de waka?
Lucas: I de waka fayn. An as man de shayn plenti, a tin se layf de fo autsayd plenti. Mek we go drink smol mimbo fo ton.
David: Ah ha! A layk am. Onli se smol tin de hambok mi. As sun go finish smol tayn, a de jam moni.
Lucas: No wori. Na mi a go pe.
David: Na fayn tin dat. Tamebu. Wet mek a tek ma sweta.
David: Olrayt. Wi fit go. Fo which ba yu wan go?
Lucas: A tin ae wi fit go fo MONGO BETI.
David: Yes, MONGO BETI get fayn myusk an kol mimbo. Mek wi begin go.

2. Vocabulary

Kwa-kwa: This is traditional. It's a reproduction of the sound made when one knocks at a door. It simply means: "knock knock" or "Is there anyone in?".

a tin se: I think ...

Layf: Generally, it means "Life" though there are a few variations in meaning. E.g.: "Layf trepo": Life's difficult. "A de chop layf": I'm enjoying myself. "Layf de": There's plenty of "action"; it's lively.
LESSON 8

autsayd (oppsayd) : outside ; out
smol : small, little
onli se : only that ; except that
hambok : to worry, to disturb, to trouble
jam : a) to lack (A jam moni). (A jam moto : There's no car)
   b) to have an accident (Moto jam mi : I was hit by a vehicle)
wori : to worry, to bother, to trouble
fit : to be able to ; can
kol : cold
mek. : Let .. (imperative, see grammar below)


1. Na hu de fo David i do ?
2. Wet i de tok ?
3. Way i de tok so ?
4. Ha di ivnin de waka fo Lucas ?
5. Ha di mun de ?
6. Ha yu sabi se ol pipol no de slip fo ton ?
7. Weti de hambok David ?
8. Wet Lucas wan du ?
9. David i tu layk fo go ?
10. Way i jam moni ?
11. Way Lucas tok se "No wori" ?
12. Weti David wan we fo go fo ba ?
13. Way i fit lef sweta fo haus ?
14. Way di kombi-dem wan go fo Mongo Beti ?

4. Grammar I - The Imperative

Pidgin has two imperative or "command" forms :
  a) The first is used to tell (order, command, ask...) someone to do something. As in English, no special form is needed, you just say the verb.

  Tanap ! Stand up !
  Go fo do ! Go to the door !
  Ton skin ! Turn around !
  Kam bak fo chye ! Come back to your chair !
**LESSON 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Pidgin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sit down</td>
<td>Sido!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eat</td>
<td>Chop!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beat it</td>
<td>Muf!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Negative**

For the negative, add "no" before the verb.

- No sido! Don't sit down!
- No chop! Don't eat!
- No hambok mi! Don't bother me!

**"Wuna" form**

Add "wuna" if you want to let your listeners know you are addressing more than one person.

- Wuna tanap! Stand up! ("you" - plural)
- Wuna chop! Eat! ("you" - plural)
- Wuna tek taym! Be careful! ("you" - plural)
- Wuna no hambok mi! Don't bother me! ("you" - plural)
- Wuna no komot Don't leave ("you" - plural)

**N.B.** The above forms are the simplest way to tell someone to do something and are very commonly used in Pidgin.

b) The form "mek" + pronoun + verb corresponds to the English "Let...." (Let's go!) or "...should..." (We should go!). It is a little more polite, having more of the character of a suggestion rather than a command. Note that it can be used with all pronouns.

- Mek a go fo maket. Let me go to the market.
- Mek a salut ma'kombi. Let me greet my friend.
- Mek'wi bigin go. Let's get going.
- Mek wi go fo haus. Let's go home.
- Mek yu chop. Eat! You should eat.
- Mek yu res smol Rest a little. You should rest a little.
- Mek wuna kam bak fo fayv oklgk. Come back at five o'clock. (Plural) You should come back at five o'clock.
LESSON 8

Mek wuna enta fo klas
Go into the classroom (plural)
You should go into the classroom (plural)

Mek i wet smol
Let him wait a while.
He should wait a while.

Mek i rayt i nem
Let her write her name
She should write her name

Mek dem go kwik-kwik
Let them go quickly
They should go quickly

Mek dem len French
Let them learn French
They should learn French.

Negative
For the negative, put "no" between the pronoun and the verb.

Mek a no foget ...
Let me not forget ...

Mek wuna no fayt.
Don't fight.
You (plural) should not fight.

Mek i no let.
Let him not be late.
He should not be late.

Mek yu no hambok mi
Don't bother me.
You shouldn't bother me.

N.B.: Note that in some Pidgin dialects and in fast spoken Pidgin in general, the "k" of mek is often swallowed. Hence you will often hear:

Me a begin go
Let me get going

Me wuna no fayt
Don't fight

Me i no let
Let him not be late.

5. Grammar II: Auxiliaries "Sabi", "Wan", and "Fit".

a) Sabi - As an auxiliary, "sabi" means "to know how to" (often expressed by "can" in English). It indicates that you have the skill or knowledge to do a certain thing.

Note that neither "sabi" nor the other auxiliaries listed below require the marker "de" in the present. They can be used without it.

Examples:
A sabi tok French
I know how to speak French
(I can speak French)

I sabi drayv moto
He knows how to drive
(He can drive)
LESSON 8

Wi sabi dans Makossa
We know how to dance Makossa
(We can dance Makossa)

Yu no sabi ple gita
You don't know how to play the guitar
(You can't play the guitar)

b) Wan - The auxiliary "wan" means "want" or "would like to".

Examples
A wan go fo ton.
I want to go to town

I wan bity-klos
She wants to buy a dress

Dan wan bi president fo Amerika
Dan wants (would like) to be the President of the United States

Wi no wan go fo ba
We don't want to go to the bar.

c) Fit - The auxiliary "fit" means "can" or "to be able to".

Note that where "sabi" indicates that you have the skill or knowledge to do something, "fit" indicates whether you are physically (or legally) able to do something.

Examples
A fit kari dis tebul.
I can carry this table.

Yu fit mari tu woman.
You can marry two women.

A fit bit yu.
I can beat you up.

Wi no fit chop ten elefan.
We can't eat ten elephant.

Note the difference between "sabi" and "fit":

A sabi drayv, bet a no fit drayv fo dis wowo rod.
I know how to drive, but I can't drive on this bad road.

6. Supplementary Vocabulary

tanap : stand up

ton skin : turn round
tok : to speak, to talk
rum : room
drayv : to drive, to send away

kuk : to cook, a cook
kari : to carry
dans : to dance ; a dance

snek : snake
monki (sombo) : monkey
plenti : a lot, many
LESSON 8

7. **Exercise I:**
   Complete the following sentences using "mek":

   **Example:** Tude na maket de, ........ Tude na maket de, mek a go fo maket.
   1. A hongri bat, ................
   2. A taya plenti, ..............
   3. Dis rum doti plenti ........
   4. Tude na Sonde, ..............
   5. Taym nau na sevin oklok, ....
   6. Wi get plenti moni, ..........
   7. Tude na holide, ..............
   8. Ma trosis doti, ..............
   9. Joe de hongri mimbo, ........
   10. Kol de fo autsayd plenti, ...

8. **Exercise II**
   Answer the following questions:
   1. Hu wan bi president fo Amerika neks taym ?
   2. Darekto fo Pis Kops fit ple gita ?
   3. Ya papa sabi tok French ?
   4. Ya papa wan Khm fo Kamerun ?
   5. Kissinger fit bi president fo Amerika ?
   6. Weti wuna wan chop tude ?
   7. Weti yu sabi du, bet yu no fit du am ?
   8. Fo wich kayn kontri yu fit go ?
   9. Weti wuna wan du tumoro ?
   10. Hu sabi kuk fufu kon ?

9. **Assignment**
   Imagine that you are the Director of the training program. You have to make rules (Do's and Don't's) for the trainees and trainers. Write out these rules using "mek".
1. Dialogue
Francis : Kwa-kwa.
David : Na hu dat?
Francis : Na mi, sa.
David : Wetemol a opin yu do.

Francis : Gut monin sa.
David : Gut monin. Ena fo haus.
Francis : Thuk yu sa.
David : Weti a fit du fo yu?
Francis : Abye se yu de sayn hausboy. Na di tin mek mi a kam.
David : Na tru. Ya nem na weti?
Francis : Ma nem na Francis
David : Hussay yu de ste?
Francis : A de ste fo Ol Kwata
David : Hameni yie yu de?
Francis : A de twenti-tu yie.
David : Yu sabi swip haus?
Francis : Yes sa, a sabi.
David : Yu sabi wash klos an ayon am?
Francis : Yes sa.
David : Wich kaiy chop yu sabi kuk?
Francis : A sabi kuk bits li fup, a sabi kuk okro an a sabi kuk fufu.
A sabi kuk plenti kayn chop. A fit kuk ivin waytman chop.
David : Tru? Yu sabi mek hamboga?
Francis : Weti dem de kol hamboga, sa?
David : Na som kayn bif we dem mash am, den dem fray am.
Francis : A tin se if yu tich mi ha fo kuk am, a go fit kuk am.

Is there anyone in?
Who is it?
It's me, sir.
Hold on, let me open the door for you.
Good morning, sir.
Good morning. Come in.
Thank you sir
What can I do for you?
I hear you are looking for a person to work in the house. That's what made me come. (That's why I came)
That's true. What is your name?
My name is Francis.
Where do you live?
I live in the Old Quarter.
How old are you?
I am twenty-two.
Can you keep a house clean?
Yes sir, I can.
Can you wash and iron clothes?
Yes sir
What kind of meal can you prepare?
I can cook soup with "bitter leaves". I can cook "okro" soup, and I can cook "fufu". I can cook many kinds of meals. I can even prepare European dishes.
Really? Can you prepare hamburger?
What is a Hamburger, sir?
It's beef that is ground and then fried.
I think, sir, that if you teach me how to prepare it, I'll be able to do so.
LESSON 9


Francis: A glat plenti sa. Wich taym a go finish wok?

David: Yu go finish fo tu oklok.

Francis: I fayn sa.

David: A go pe yu et tausin fran fo wan mun. If yu wok fayn, a go ad yu tu tausin frag. Yu gri so?

Francis: Yes sa.

We'll see. All right. I'll employ you. You'll start work tomorrow at seven.

I'm very pleased sir. When do I finish for the day?

You'll finish at two.

That's good sir.

I'll pay you eight thousand francs a month. If you work well, you'll have an increase of two thousand francs. Do you agree?

Yes sir.

2. Vocabulary

sa: sir

a hye se ... : I hear that

fayn: to look for (You have already seen "fayn" as an adjective to mean "fine" or "well" - Cf. Lesson 1 - Other meanings of "fayn" are: nice, beautiful, pretty, good-looking, handsome).

na di tin mek.... : that's why ...

bita lif sup: soup prepared from vegetables called "bitter leaves" and popularly known as "Ndole".

okro: Kind of fruit-vegetable which when cooked makes the soup gluey, sticky.

fufu: Dough type of food. Usually prepared by pounding tibers (cassava, cocoyams, yams) or from flour (millet, corn, cassava, etc).

masa: Sir. Title used by workers for their employers or superiors. In some homes, women use it for their husbands. Female employers are usually called "Mam". "Masa" is often used informally to mean "man" or "my friend". Examples: "Masa, a don taya!" (Man, I'm tired) and "Masa, ha yu de?" (My friend, how are you?)

A tin se... : I think that, I suppose that, I believe that...

gri: to agree, to accept

wi go si tumoro: See you tomorrow

si: to see

koret: right, correct, exact
Lesson 9

3. Question on the Dialogue

1. Francis na'hu?
2. I bye se David de fayn weti?
3. Husay-Francis de ste?
4. Nemen yie i de?
5. Wet Francisco sabi kuk?
6. Wet-i no sabi kuk?
7. "Hamboga" min se weti?
8. Na Francisco go sabi kuk am?
9. David gri fo.tek Francisco fo wok?
10. Woch taym Francis go bigin wok?
11. Woch taym i go finish wok?
12. Hamoch David go pe i?
13. Way i go ad tu tausin fraz?
14. Francis gri so?
15. Yu go tek hausboy fo.wok?

4. Grammar: Object Pronouns

Object pronouns are used to replace nouns in the object position to avoid repetition. The Object Pronouns in Pidgin are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mi</td>
<td>wi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yu</td>
<td>wuna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i(persons)</td>
<td>dem/am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>am(objects, animals)</td>
<td>dem/am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples

a) A de chop fufu
   A de chop am.
   I'm eating "fufu".

b) Wuna sabi Yaounde.
   Wuna sabi am.
   You know Yaoundé.

b) Put mimbo fo tebul.
   Put am fo tebul.
   Put the drink on the table.

b) Yu sahi Marie?
   Yu sabi i?
   Do you know Marie?

b) A go si Peter tumoro.
   A go si i tumoro.
   I shall see Peter tomorrow.

f) Wuna sabi Sarah an Terence?
   Wuna sabi dem?
   Do you know Sarah and Terence?
LESSON 9

5. Grammar : "Se" meaning "That"

In Pidgin, "se" often follows words like "fye, tok, tin, hye, min, etc". (words expressing opinion, fear, hope, etc) and serves the same connecting function as the English word "that". Note, however, that whereas English speakers often omit "that", Pidgin speakers always use "se".

**tin se**

a) Wichtaym yugogo fo ba?
   A tin se a go go fo et oklok.

b) Wich taym yu go slip dis nayt?
   A tin se a go slip fo ilevin oklok.

c) A tin se ren go fel tude?

d) Yu tin se ya papa go kam fo Kamerun?

**tok se**

a) Ma papa tok se i de veks.

b) Hu tok se mek yu kam?

c) I tok se i de hye hongri.

**fye se**

a) A fye se i no go kam.

b) A fye se wi go mis chop.

c) I fye se dem go tif i moni.

**hye se**

a) A hye se dem tif ya moni.

b) Wi hye se moto jam John.

c) Yu hye se Thomas de fayn yu?

**Mia se** (literally, "means to say...")

a) "Flop ya bele" min se "fill your stomach" fo grams.

b) "Kwa-kwa" min se weti?

c) "Sweetheart" min se weti fo Pidgin?

Who owns this motorcycle and this bicycle?
Who owns them?

When will you go to the bar?
I think I'll go at eight o'clock
When will you go to bed tonight?
I think I'll go to bed at eleven o'clock
I think (that) it will rain today.
Do you think (that) your father will come to Cameroon?

My father says (that) he's angry.
Who said (that) you should come?
He says he's hungry.

I'm afraid he won't come.
I'm afraid we shall miss our meal.
He's afraid they'll steal his money.

I hear they have stolen your money.
We hear John had an accident.
Did you hear that Thomas is looking for you?

"Flop ya bele" means (to say)
"fill your stomach" in English.

What does "kwa-kwa" mean?
What does "sweetheart" mean in Pidgin?
6. **Supplementary Vocabulary**

Kau-bit: beef

Shwayn-bit: pork

Kumkum (wata fufu): Dough-like meal prepared from the flour or paste of fermented cassava.

Fufu kon: dough-like food from corn flour.

Fufu koko (fufu kassava): pounded cocoyams (pounded cassava)

Kwakoko: ground cocoyam wrapped usually in plantain leaves and cooked.

It is eaten with a special sauce made out of palm nuts ("banga soup"). Because this food is soft, the word kwakoko has also come to mean "weakling".

Ekwan: ground cocoyam wrapped in either cocoyam leaves or bitter leaves and cooked with palm oil fish or meat and spices.

Achu: kind of fufu koko. It is mostly eaten in the Western and North-Western Provinces.

Faul: hen/rooster/chicken

Poteto: (arish potato): sweet potato (potato)

Kwem: soup prepared with cassava leaves and mostly eaten in the Centre-South Province.

Jama Jama: (njamanjama): general name for vegetables.

Planti: plantains

Bobolo: (Yaounde bred): fermented cassava, ground and cooked in leaves.

It is longish in shape.

Myondo: same as "bobolo" but smaller in size.

Koki (bins, kon): ground beans or corn, with oil and spices and cooked in leaves.

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7. **Exercise 1**

Answer the following questions using an object pronoun (am, dem, i, etc)

Example: Yu sabi John? Yes a sabi i.

1. Yu sabi New York?
2. Wuna sabi Kumba?
3. Yu fit ple futbol?
4. Wuna sabi Susan an Lisa?
5. Yu de hye redio?
6. Hu sabi Nestor?
7. Wuna go help John wit i homwok?
8. Hu fit drajv?
9. Yu fit fayt Ali an Spinks?
10. Yu fit hari dis tabul?
LESSON 9

8. Exercise II

Transform the following sentences using any of the following expressions where appropriate: tok se; tin se; fye se; min se; hye se.


1. Dem tif ya moni.
2. I go slip fo twef oklok.
4. Ren go fol.
5. Wuna no go fo Satude.
6. Chop go finish fo Mbalmayo.
7. "No man no tumoro" na "No one knows the future" fo grama.
8. Wi go dans sote wi taya.
9. Peter: "Mek wuna kam".
10. Mary: "A get planti moni".

9. Assignment

You are very hungry and you are in a restaurant. You want a local dish people have very much talked to you about. Write a dialogue between you and the person serving in the restaurant.
LESSON 10

1. Dialogue

David : Monin Lucas. Yu don kam ?
Lucas : A don kam. Ashya bo !
      A hve se dem don tif
      fo ya haus.

David : Na tru. Dem don brok
      windo fo enta.
Lucas : Wet dem don tek ?
David : Dem don tif ol mgni fo
      ma trossa, ma radio an
      wan han banana fo kichin.

Lucas : Wan han banana ?
      Way dem tif banana ?
David : Mi a sabi ? Somtaym tif
      man i tu de bye hongri.
Lucas : Dem don tif ya paspat ?
David : Dem no si am. I de
      onda matras.

Lucas : Yu don go fo polis asteshn ?
David : A noba go. Na de a wan
      go so nau.

Lucas : A go kam viti yu.
      Wi fit fo wantaym.
David : Olrayt. Mek wi bigin go.

Lucas : Yu no de lok do ?
      Dem fit kam tif egen.
David : A no mayn. Day man no
      de rye beri graun. Dem
      don olredi tif ol tin.
      Notn no lef fo tif egen.

Lucas : Jos lop do dasol. Arata
      no de mek nyanga fo
      pusia i domot.

Good morning Lucas and welcome
Thank you. It's a pity. I hear
you've been robbed.

That's true. They broke the
window to get in.

What have they stolen ?

They've stolen all the money I
had in my trousers, my radio
and one "hand" of bananas from
the kitchen.

A hand of bananas?

Why did they steal bananas ?

Do I know ? Maybe a thief gets hungry too.

What's your passpot stolen ?

They didn't see it. It's
under the mattress.

Have you gone to the Police ?

Not yet. That's where I'm
about to go now.

I will come with you.

We can go right away.

Okay. Let's be moving.

Aren't you going to lock the door ?

They could come steal again.

I don't care. He who is down
need fear no fall. They've
already stolen everything.

There's nothing left for them
to steal.

Lock the door all the same.

One does not play with fire.

(see Vocabulary).

2. Vocabulary

brok : to break, to break into

wan han banana : a "hand" of bananas (a bunch of bananas is made up of several "hands" of bananas

wantaym : immediately, right away

a no mayn : I don't care
LESSON 10

day man : corpse, dead person
beri graun (beni graun) : graveyard

Day man no de fye beri graun : A Pidgin proverb. When translated literally, Pidgin proverbs often lose their meaning. Literally, this proverb means "A corpse does not fear the graveyard". However, it really means "He who is already down need fear no fall". It should be noted that not all Pidgin proverbs have English equivalents and vice versa.

arata (rat) : mouse, rat
pusi : cat
nyanga : to show off, to bluff; pride
domot : threshold

Arata no de mek nyanga fo pus i domot : Another Pidgin proverb. Literally, it means, "A mouse does not show off at the cat's front door". It means "Don't play with fire".

Questions on the Dialogue
1. Dem don tif fo hu i haus ?
2. Ha tif man - dem don enta ?
3. Husay dem si David i moni ?
4. Wet dem tek fo kichin ?
5. Way tif man - dem tif banana ?
6. Way dem no si paspgt ?
7. David don olredi go fo polis steshon ?
8. Way i wap go fo de ?
9. Way i no de lok do ?
10. Way day man no de fye beri graun ?
11. Way arata no de mek nyanga fo pus i domot ?

Grammar : The "Unspecified Past Tense" : "Don"

A) "Don" is the indicator of the "Unspecified Past" in Pidgin: it is used to express past events for which the time of the action is unspecified. That is, the speaker wishes to express that a certain action has been done, but he/she does not situate it at any particular time. It is just done, that's all. The action may be (and often is) recent, but may also be quite distant in the past; whichever it is is not particularly important. In this sense the "Unspecified Past" in Pidgin is fairly similar to the "Present Perfect" in English.
LESSON 10

Examples
Dem don tif ma moni. They have stolen my money
Wi don chop. We have eaten.
John don finish i wok. John has finished his work.
A don put ma kago fo tebul. I have put my things on the table.

Note that, in the above, when the money was stolen, when we ate, when John finished his work are unspecified. These are probably quite recent actions, but the exact time is not important. The important thing is that they have been done.

As an indicator of an unspecified time, "don" is often used to ask whether one has ever done something.

Examples
Yu don chop monki? Have you ever eaten monkey?
Yes, a don chop monki. Yes, I have eaten monkey
Yu don go fo Chad bifo? Have you ever been to Chad?
Yes, a don go fo Chad. Yes, I've been to Chad.

Again, the time is unimportant. The speaker wants only to know whether you have ever done those things. You have, and you say so: "A don ...."

B) Negation

The negative form of "don" is noba (or, in some dialects, "neba"). It is used alone and means you haven't done something yet, or have never done it.

a) A don go fo Nigeria. I've been to Nigeria.
   A noba go fo Nigeria. I haven't been to Nigeria.

b) Wi don chop bushbif. We've eaten game.
   Wi noba chop bushbif. We haven't eaten game (yet).

C) "Don/Noba" vs. Other Past Tenses

The "Unspecified Past" is not the only past tense in Pidgin. When Pidgin speakers wish to fix an action at a specific past time, they use another form. Note the following examples:
LESSON 10

Unspecified:
A don go fo maket. I've been to the market.

Specified:
A bin go fo maket yestede. I went to the market yesterday.

"Bin" is the specified or Simple Past marker. It will be treated in Lesson 11.

5. Supplementary Vocabulary
windo : window
do : door
matras : mattress
pilo : pillow
tifman : thief
tif : to steal
polis steshon : police station
lok : to lock, a lock
kotin gras : cane rat
chukuchuku bif : porcupine

6. Exercise I
Change the following sentences into the Unspecified Past Tense.
Example: A de salut Mary. A don salut Mary.
1. A de tok Pidgin.
2. Thomas de chop bif.
3. Luca de aks kweshon.
4. Dem de kot stik.
5. Dem de brok windo.
6. Wi de kari dis tebul.
7. I de kuk fufu wit njamanjama.
8. John de memba i kolhat.
10. Yu de rid fayn buk.

7. Exercise II
Change each of the following sentences into the negative using "noba":
Example: A don go fo Chad. A noba go fo Chad.
1. Wi don go fo polis steshon.
LESSON 10

2. Ticha don veks.
3. Dem don finish dem homwok.
4. Wuna don lok do.
5. A don si ma trossa.
6. Peter don memba i-mitin.
7. Francis don kuk bita lif sup.
8. Masa don go fo wok.
9. Yu don chop achu.
10. Dem don enta fo haus.

8. Exercise III
Answer the following questions.
1. Yu don chop chukuchuku bif bifo ?
2. Wuna don taya fo len Pidgin?
3. Wich kayn bush bif wuna don chop fo Cameroon ?
4. Weti yu don bay sins yu kam fo Cameroon ?
5. Yu don go fo sinims fo dis taun ?

9. Assignment
Make a list of:
a) five unusual things you have done.
b) five things you have never done.
Lesson 11

1. Dialogue

Elise: Ah solo, husay yu bin bi yeastede?

Solo: A bin go fo Yaounde.

Elise: Weti yu bin go du fo Yaounde?

Solo: A bin go rayt eksam.

Elise: Yu bin rayt am fayn?

Solo: A bin tray ma bes.

Elise: Dem bin aks yu tryq kweshon?

Solo: No-o, di kweshon—dem no bin had plenti, dasol se a no bin len fayn.

Elise: Yu tin se yu go pas?

Solo: A no sabi. Man no day. man no rotin, so a no go mayn if a no pas dis taym.

Elise: I fayn. Na ol tin dat yu bin du fo Yaounde?

Solo: Na ol tin dat a bin du.

Elise: Yu no bin si ya kolhat?

Solo: Oh, na tru. A bin si ma kolhat. Wi bin go sinima an afta sinima wi bin go dans.

Elise: Ya kolhat bin kray taym we yu de kam bak fo Mbalmayo?

Solo: A tel yu se, i bin kray sote a no bin wan kam bak sef. Wetí wuna bin du hye taym we a no de?

Elise: Wi bin go klas. Fo ivnin wi bin get kros Kolcho. Afta kros kolcho wi bin töri smol, den we slip.

Solo: I fayn. Mek a go kip ma kago fo rum.

Elise: Smol taym.

Solo: Tank yu.

Ah Solo, where were you yesterday?

I went to Yaounde.

What did you go to Yaounde for?

I went to write an examination.

Did you write it well?

I tried my best.

Did they ask difficult questions?

No, the questions were not very difficult, it's only that I did not study well (hard).

Do you think you will pass?

I don't know. As long as there is life there's hope, so I won't mind if I do not pass this time.

That's good. Is that all you did in Yaounde?

That's all I did.

Didn't you see your sweetheart?

Oh, that's true. I saw my sweetheart. We went to the movies and after the movies we went to dance.

Did your sweetheart cry when you were returning to Mbalmayo?

In fact. (I tell you!) She cried so much that I did not even want to come back. What did you do here while I was away?

We went to class. We had cross culture in the evening. After cross culture we talked for a while, then we went to bed.

That's good. Let me go put my luggage in the room.

See you soon.

Thanks.
LESSON 11

2. Vocabulary
   rayt : write
   bes : best
   tray : try
   trop : difficult, strong
   kweshgn : question
   Had : difficult
   dasql : only, except, except that, it's only that...
   pas : succeed, pass

   man no day man no rotin : As long as there's life, there's hope.
   (Proverb : see notes below)

   mayn : care, bother
   tru : true, truth
   sinima : cinema
   kray : cry
   'taym we : when

   A tel yu : kind of exclamation serving as a reinforcement to
   what is being said; really; in fact.

   sote : until, so much so that
   kam bak : to return
   kros kolcho : cross culture
   tori : conversation, to converse, to talk, story, to narrate
   Smol : a little, for a while, a bit
   kip : keep, store, put away
   kago (kako) : luggage, load
   smol 'taym : see you soon
   sef : even

3. Questions on the Text
   1. Hussy Solo bin go ?
   2. Wet i bin go du fo Yaounde ?
   3. Ha Solo bin rayt eksam?
   4. Dem bin aks Solo trop kwesh gn ?
   5. Wich kayn tin bin hambok Solo ?
   6. Wet i Solo bin du fo Yaounde egen ?
   7. 'Met i an i kolhat dem bi du ?
   8. Wet i 'kolhat bin du 'taym we Solo
de kam bak fo Mbalmayo ?
   9. Way i bin kray ?
   10. Wet i Elise bin du 'taym we Solo de fo Yaounde ?

4. Proverb (Parables, Sayings) - "Panapul"
   Proverbs are used frequently by Africans in their everyday speech.
   As one prominent writer put it, proverbs are the palm oil with which
LESSON 11

words are eaten. In many societies it is prestigious to be able to use the correct proverbs at the correct time. There is always a proverb to illustrate a situation. You should therefore start building a collection of common proverbs in Pidgin, their meaning, and when they are used.

5. Grammar - Simple Past Tense

A) In this lesson, a second past tense is introduced, the "specified" or "Simple Past Tense": "bin + verb (or in same dialects: "bi" + verb).

It is very important to distinguish between the Unspecified Past Tense ("don") and the Simple Past Tense ("bin"). As mentioned in Lesson 10, the unspecified Past ("don") is used to express actions where the time is not identified. Where the time of the action is a specific one, the Simple Past is used.

Examples
A bin chop koko fo monin taym. I ate cocoyams this morning.
Dem bin go dans yestede. They went dancing yesterday.
Wi bin rich Kumba fo fo oklok We arrived in Kumba at four'o'clock.

The time of the action need not be identified in every individual sentence. Often it will simply be clear from the context. This is usually the case when you are recounting a story or a sequence of events. If both the speaker and listener know when the action(s) took place, the Simple Past will be used.

Examples
a) Tavm we yu bin go fo Buea, weti yu bin du? When you went to Buea What did you do?
   A bin go si ma kombi-dem. I went to see my friends.
b) Ticha bin veks fo klas. The teacher got angry in class.
c) Yu don finish ya wok? Have you finished your work?
   A bin finish am sins log taym. I finished it a long time ago.
d) Dem bin tel wi lay. They told us a lie.

(Though no time seems obvious here, "bin" indicates that both the speaker and listener are conscious of when then the lie was told.)

B) Negation

The negative of "bin" is "no bin".

Examples
A no bin si i yestede. I didn't see him yesterday.
Wi no bin go fo skul las wik. We didn't go to school last week.
Tom no bin ansa taym we dem bin kol i. Tom didn't answer when they called him.
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Son no bin shayn fo dat de.
I no bin bay notin fo Yaoundé.
Dem no bin tif ma klos.
The sun didn't shine that day.
He didn't buy anything in Yaoundé.
They didn't steal my clothes
(while they were stealing other things...)

6. Exercise I

Change the following sentences using "bin".

1. Yu de tok fo klas.
2. Dis gel sabi ple futbol.
3. Ol tin de waka fayn.
4. Ol man de kari kago.
5. Wet i de du fo Yaoundé?
6. A de tel wuna fayn tori.
7. Son de shayn plenti.
8. Ren de fol trop trop.
9. Yu de veks kwik kwik?
10. Dat wuman de tif ya moni?

7. Exercise II

Change the following sentences into the regular past using "bin". Use a time marker to fix the time of the action (yestede, las wik, etc).

Example
Tom don go fo maket. Tom bin go fo maket yestede.
1. Mimbo don finish fo ba.
2. Mary don kuk sup.
3. A don kot faul i nek.
4. Yu don go fo Yaoundé.
5. Wi don wosh klos.
6. Wuna don drink ol ti.
7. Eroplen don fol.
8. Faya don ben mi.
10. Randy don si mi.
LESSON 11

8. Exercise III
Change the following sentences into the negative using "no bin."

Example: Dem bin kari dat tebul. Dem no bin kari dat tebul.

1. Lisa bin kam let fo klas yestede.
2. Wuna bin foget wuna buk-dem.
3. Dem bin chop ol dat fufu.
4. John bin fo maket las wik.
5. Ma papa bin bi big man fo Kamerun.
7. William bin tok se yu tif i buk.
8. Ol pipol dem bin fo fil plenti.
9. Dat dans yestede bin fayn plenti.
10. A bin put pepe fo dat sup.

9. General Questions

1. Hu bin bi president fo Amerika fo 1974?
2. Weti yu bin chop yestede?
3. Huway ol pipel-dem bin bi las nayt?
4. Weti yu no'bin brig fo Amerika taym we yu de kam fo Kamerun?
5. Hu no bin kam fo klas las wik?
6. Way i no bin kam fo klas?
7. Weti ya papa bin tel yu bifo yu wan kam fo Kamerun?
8. Wich kontri no bin bi fo "Olympics"?
9. Weti yu bin wan du yestede?

10. Assignment
Prepare a short presentation on any of the following topics:
1. A time when you were in danger.
2. A time when you were embarrassed.
3. A strange dream you had.
4. A serious accident in which you were involved.
5. A topic of your choice (in the past).
LESSON 12

Dialogue for a Monday Morning...

Lucas: Monin bo David, ha yu slip?

David: A slip fayn, dasol se a bin taya plenti yestede.

Lucas: Na sol Yu bin ste log taym wit dat gel fo Satude ivnin?

David: Wich gel?

Lucas: A min dat gel we i bin sidog fo wi tebul.

David: Dat wan we i bin wye blak klos?

Lucas: Na i! Di wan we yu an i bin dans hol tayt sote wuna taya.

David: Bo lef mi. I bin go i.

Lucas: Ha? Weyi bin hapin?

David: I bin get fo go lif i sista-dem fes, den i mit mi fo ba egen. I go an i no kam bak.

Lucas: Bet yu fo go wit i. Ha yu lif i go i wan?

David: I fo tiin se a.de hambok i.

Lucas: Ah yu tu! Oda taym, no lif i go i wan.

David: A no mayn. Yu no se, de no bi wan. Anoda Satude go kam.

Lucas: Olrayt bo, tray ya lok.

Vocabulary:
dasol se...; onli se...
taya
taya fo...
we
wye
hol tayt

Good morning my friend David, how did you sleep?

I slept well, except that I was very tired yesterday.

Ohoh! Did you spend a long time with that girl Saturday evening?

Which girl?

I’m talking about the girl who sat at our table.

The one who had a blak dress on?

That’s her! the one you danced the slow tune with until you were both exhausted.

Leave me alone, friend. She went away.

What? What happened?

She was supposed to go see off her sisters, then meet me in the bar after. She left and never came back.

But you should have accompanied her. Why did you let her go alone?

She would have thought I was bothering her.

Ah! (exasperation) next time don’t let her go alone.

I don’t care. You know a day doesn’t come only once. There’ll be another Saturday.

All right friend, good luck.

Except that... (it’s) only that... to be tired
to be tired of...

Who, whom, which, that (see grammar section)
to wear, to put on
a slow tune (one where you can "squeeze" or "hold tight")
LESSON 12

That's him (her/it)
That's the one.

It is difficult to find an English equivalent to this. It is used when the person saying it is sorry for himself, pities himself, or blames himself. ("Woe is me!")

To 'have to, to be supposed to, ought to (see grammar section)

To happen

Should have (see grammar section)

Alone; by oneself

Next time

I don't care; if doesn't matter

A proverb meaning literally, "A day doesn't come only once". As with all proverbs, there are several meanings. In this context, David is saying that there will be other chance.
LESSON 12

Note the sentences in the dialogue above:

A min dat gel we i bin sidon fo wi tebul.
"I mean the girl who (she) sat at our table".
Dat wan we i bin wye blak klos?
"The one who (she) had on a black dress?"

A. "we" as "Who"

Examples:

1. A bin gif ma buk fo dat wuman.
   Dat wuman bin kam hye yestade.
   A bin gif ma buk fo dat wuman
   we i bin kam kam hye yestade.

2. Yu bin tok fo dat gel.
   Dat gel bin wye blak klos.
   Yu bin tok fo dat gel we
   i bin wye blak klos.

B. "we" as "Whom"

Examples:

1. A bin gif ma buk fo som
   wuman yestade.
   Na di wuman dat.
   Na di wuman dat we a bin
   gif ma buk fo i yestade.

2. Na di boy dat.
   Wi bin tok fo i las mun.
   Na di boy dat we wi bin
tok fo i las mun.

C. "we" as "Whose"

Examples:

1. A bin gif medsin fo dat boy
   Dat boy i fut de hot.
   A bin gif medsin fo dat boy
   we i fut de hot.

2. Na di man dat.
   Dat man i pixin bin tif
   shwayn.

I gave my book to that woman.
"I gave my book to that woman"
"I gave my book to that woman
who came here yesterday".
"You spoke to that girl."  
"That girl wore a black dress!"
"You spoke to that girl who
wore a black dress"

I gave my book to a woman
yesterday.
That's the woman.
That's the woman to whom I gave
my book yesterday.
That's the boy.
We spoke to him last month.
That's the boy whom we
spoke to last month.

I gave medicine to that boy.
That boy's leg is hurting (him).
I gave medicine to that boy
whose leg is hurting.
That's the man.
That man's child stole a pig.
LESSON 12

Ma di man dat we i pikin
bin tif shwayn.

That's the man whose child
stole a pig.

D. "we" as "which" or "that"

Examples:

1. Wi don drink ol dat mimbo.
   Yu bin bay am yestade.
   We yu bin bay am yestade.
   We've drunk all that wine.
   You bought it yesterday.

2. Di shus dem de fit graun.
   Di shus dem doti.
   Di shus we dem de fo graun dem doti.
   The shoes are on the floor.
   The shoes are dirty.

E. You will have noticed from the example above that Pidgin
speakers generally use:

   we + a pronoun (i, am, dem, yu, etc),

Whereas English requires only a "who", "which", "that" (and some-
times nothing) to connect the two parts of the sentence. The
additional pronoun is never used in English.

Dat man we a bin si i...

The man that I saw...

(The additional "him" is not
necessary in English)

Ol di mimbo we yu bin bay am...

All the beer which you bought...

All the beer you bought...

(The additional "it" is not
necessary in English)

Dat boy we i fut de hot...

The boy whose foot hurts...

(The additional "his" is not
necessary in English)

The above practice of using we + something else generally holds
in Pidgin. The exception would be when "we" is followed by an "i".
The two sounds kind of slide together:

"Dat wan we i bin wye blak klos"

May often be pronounced:

"Dat wan way bin wye blak klos"

Otherwise, the practice of we + something else is always
followed.
Grammar: The Auxiliary Verbs "Get fo..." and "Fo..."

A. "Get fo..." in Pidgin is equivalent to "to have to...", "must" or "to be supposed to..." in English. It does not need a tense marker ("de") when used in the present, but when used in other tenses takes bin, go, etc... like any other verb.

Examples:
1. A get fo rest tude.
   I have to rest today.
   I must rest today.

2. I get fo si dentis dis monin.
   He has to see the Dentist this morning.
   He is supposed to see the Dentist this morning.

3. Dem bin get fo sel dem kago.
   They had to sell all their goods.

The negative of "get fo..." is "no get fo..." It means "must not".
1. Yu no get fo kam tude.
   You must not come today.

2. Wuna no get fo tok.
   You must not talk.

B. "Fo..." in Pidgin is equivalent to "should have..." or "ought to have..." in English.

The negative "no fo..." means "should not have..." or ought not to have..."

Note that this verb automatically pertains to the past; it indicates actions which should have or should not have been done already. It needs no special past tense marker.

Examples:
1. Yu fo put ya moni fo bank.
   You should have put your money in the bank.

2. A fo bring ma umbrela.
   I should have brought my umbrella.

3. I fo gif-yu i adres.
   He should have given you his address.

4. Yu no fo tok so.
   You shouldn't have talked that way.

5. Wi no fo drink dat wata.
   We should not have drunk that water.

N.B.: "Fo + verb" can also be used to mean "nearly...",
1. Snek fo bayt mi yeastede.
   A snake nearly bit me yesterday.

2. Wi fo get aksiden dis monin.
   We nearly had an accident this morning.

3. I fo los i moni fo maket.
   He nearly lost his money in the market.
LESSON 12

Supplementary Vocabulary

A. Colors

With colors, the influence of local languages is greatly felt. Since, in many local languages, only a few colors are commonly distinguished, Pidgin speakers may often use only blak, red and wayt.

Blak: used for any dark color (black, grey, blue, green, purple, etc)
Red: used for any light color (red, yellow, orange, etc)
Wayt: White.

However, the influence of English has introduced other colors, and Pidgin speakers are using them more and more.

Grin: green     blu: blue
Yelo: yellow (also means "fair-complexioned", as in:
Ma sister yelo: My sister is fair-complexioned)

B. Clothes

shirt: shet
tie: tay

gown: gaun

Hausa gaun: robes (from the Northern Province)
kaba: large loose gown worn by women (very popular)

Lapa (rapa): loin cloth, wrapper
dros: drawers, underwear

Trosa, trosis: trousers

Feskap (kap): cap, hat

Jompa (bubu): loose shirt worn mostly by men

Slipas ("san konfians"): slippers

Stokings (soks): socks

Monki kota: waistcoat

Kot: coat

Sweta: pullover, sweater

Hat: hed tay

Exercise 1

Combine the following sentences using "we"

Example: Mary de tok fo dat man

Dat man get wan han: Mary de tok fo dat man we i get wan han.

1. Peter de fayn kolhat. Di kolhat mus get gud fashon

LESSON 12

3. Dat bol don pos. Wi bin bay am fo maket.
4. Wi don chop dat monki. I bin get tri fut.
6. A go sel ma shet. Di shet red layk banana.
7. Ma papa go bay dat moto. Di moto red.
8. A bin rid dat leta. Yu bin rayt am yestede.

Exercise II
Transform the following sentences using 'get fo'
Example: A go chop hamboga. A get fo chop hamboga.
1. Yu de klin tebul.
2. Wi go dans tude.
3. Nancy de rid buk.
4. Ma dog de chop bif.
5. Wuna go swip rod.
7. Papa go bit yu.
8. Patricia no de drink plenti mimbo.
9. I no de chop monki.

Exercise III
Answer the following questions in Pidgin.
1. Wetil yu get fo du dis ivnin?
2. Wetil man get fo du fo bi president fo Amerika?
3. Husay yu get fo go if yu de sik?
4. Hu get fo swip ya rum evride?
5. Wetil yu fo du if yu no bin kam fo Cameroon?
6. Husay yu fo go yestede?
7. Wich kayn tin wi fo len yestede?
8. Wich taym pipol get fo dans holtyt?
9. Wetil yu no get fo du if yu de go si big man?
10. Wetil Abraham Lincoln no fo du?

Assignment
For the next class, prepare ten things you have to do during your two-year stay in Cameroon, and ten things you should have done before coming to Cameroon.
LESSON 13

1. **DIALOGUE:**

Paul: A bye se yu de go tumoro.
Lucy: Na tru. A set fo enta eroplen tumoro fo fo oklok.
Paul: We-e, yu no fit ste egen layk tu de?
Lucy: A fo layk fo ste, onli se a don olredi bay tiket fo eroplen.
   If a no bin don risev ples fo eroplen, a fo ste egen layk tu de.
Paul: We-e, ma hat no de glat insayd as yu de go.
Lucy: If yu bin wan mek a ste, yu fo tel mi sins log.
Paul: Bet a no bin no se yu go go kwik kwik so.
   Wetin yu de go du fo Yaounde?
Douala fayn pas Yaounde bay fa.
Douala get fayn sinima an nayt klob pas Yaounde.
Douala klin pas Yaounde.
Layf de fo Douala pas fo Yaounde.

Lucy: Chey! yu sabi lay!
Douala doti pas Yaounde; na di tin mek moskitto dem plenti fo bye.

I hear you are leaving tomorrow.
That's true. I have to catch the plane tomorrow at 4 o'clock.
Oh, can't you spend about two more days?
I would have loved to stay but I have already bought my airplane ticket.
If I had not already reserved a seat, I would have spent about two more days.
Oh, I'm sad that you are leaving.

If you had wanted me to stay, you should have told me long ago.
But I didn't know you would be leaving so soon.
What are you going to do in Yaounde?
Douala is by far more beautiful than Yaounde.
Douala has more beautiful cinemas and night clubs than Yaounde.
Douala is cleaner than Yaounde.
Douala is more lively than Yaounde.

Geez! How you can tell lies!
Douala is dirtier than Yaounde; that's why there are so many mosquitos here.
Tif pipol dem plenti fo Douala pas fo Yaoundé, an Yaoundé kløy met fayn pas kløy met fo Douala.

Pipol fo Douala no get moni rich pipol fo Yaoundé.

Paul: Olrait nyango, mek wi no fayt fo notin.
Sins yu de go tumoro, wi fit go dans fo 'Kings'.

Lucy: A ng wan dans tude. Mek we insted go luk Manu Dibango i konsat fo WOURI.

Paul: Oh, dat wan dye plenti. Bet if a get moni bifo sevin oklok, wi go go.

Lucy: Yu de ova-kray puo.

Paul: Ha fo yu? Ya pe big layk ma on, bet yu no fit eva tek mi fo sinima.

Lucy: A de go. Yu de wes ma taym.
A fo don pak ma kago nau fo Haus.

Paul: Chus mi. Palava finish.

Lucy: Olrait, a de wet yu bet mek yu no ful mi.

Paul: No-o, a go kam tru tru. Smol taym.

Lucy: Emhe

2. VOCABULARY:
eroplen
layk
layk (verb)
onli se

There are more thieves in Douala than in Yaoundé, and Yaoundé has a better climate than Douala.

People in Douala don't have as much money as people in Yaoundé.

All right, miss. Let's not quarrel over nothing.

Since you are leaving tomorrow, let's go and dance at 'Kings'.

I don't want to dance today. Instead, let's go see Manu Dibango's concert at the WOURI.

Oh, that's too expensive. But if I have money before seven o'clock, we shall go.

You complain too much of being poor.

What about you? Your pay is as much as mine, but you never can take me to the movies.

I'm going. You are wasting my time.

I could have already packed my luggage at home by now.

I'm sorry. No more quarrelling.

I'II come and get you at seven thirty so that we can go to Manu Dibango's concert.

All right, I'II be waiting for you but don't let me down!

Oh no, I'II come for sure. See you soon.

mmm mmm mm.

airplane
about...; as much as...
to like
only that, except that, but
long ago, since long ago
more... than
by far
kind of exclamation in Pidgin. Geez! Lord! Holy smoke!
Literally it means, "know how to tell lies".
Name of a night club in Douala.
Name of a cinema hall in Douala.
concert
too much (usually attached to a verb)
complain of poverty, "to cry poverty"
ever
I'm sorry. Forgive me
to deceive, to cheat, to fool
surely, truly
kind of disbeliefing acceptance

The small adverb "ova" is often attached to verbs in Pidgin to emphasize that the action has been done too much or a great deal.

A don ova-fayn dat man. I searched and searched for that man.
Yu don ova-drink mimbo. You drank too much.
I de ova-krai puo. He complains too much of poverty.
3. QUESTIONS:
1. Na hu-dem de tok?
2. Wich taym Lucy get fo go, an busay?
3. Na Paul i hat de as Lucy get fo go?
4. Poseka wetin Lucy no fit ste egen layk tu de?
5. Wetin Paul fo du if i bin wan mek Lucy ste egen?
6. Tok tri tin we Douala pas Yaounde an tri tin we Yaounde pas Douala.
7. Wetin Paul wan, mek i an Lucy du dat nayt?
8. Wetin Lucy wan mek dem du?
9. Paul i pe pas Lucy i on? Na dem pe de?
10. If yu bin bi Paul wetin yu fo du fo mek Lucy ste egen layk tu de? (tak layk tri tin)

4. A. GRAMMAR: THE CONDITIONAL

As there are similarities between Pidgin and English Conditional tenses, let us first look at how the Conditional is expressed in English.

1. Future Conditional: "If" + present tense verb + future tense verb
   Example: If it rains, I will stay.
   This shows a likely situation.

2. Simple Conditional: "If" + past-tense verb + conditional verb ("would")
   Example: If it rained, I would stay.
   This shows a possible but less likely situation than the first.

3. The Past Conditional: "If" + past perfect verb ("had") + past conditional ("would have")
   Example: If it had rained, I would have stayed.
   This is the "hypothetical" conditional. It refers to something which could have happened in the past but which in fact did not.

Let us now consider the Pidgin forms of the three examples given above:

1. If it rains, I will stay.
   If rem fol, a go ste.
2. If it rained, I would stay.
   If ren fol, a go ste. (same as № 1)
3. If it had rained, I would have stayed.
   If ren bin fo, a fo ste.

We can now make the following deductions:

1. The Future Conditional and Simple Conditional in English are
   both represented by the same structure in Pidgin (let us call it
   "Simple Conditional").

   Examples:
   If a chop, a go slip.      If I eat, I will sleep.
   If a chop, a go slip.      If I ate, I would sleep.
   If i brok di glas, i go    If he breaks the glass, he will pay
   pe am.                     for it.

   To review, this Simple Conditional in Pidgin expresses two types
   of actions:
   a) Those likely to happen
   b) Those which are less likely, but still possible.

   The grammatical formula for the Pidgin Simple Conditional is:
   If + Simple verb (no tense markers) + future (go + verb)
   If a drink mimbo a go slip

2. The Hypothetical Conditional in Pidgin is expressed by the
   following structure:
   If bin + verb + fo + verb
   If a bin no a fo tel i.

   Examples:
   If a bin no, a fo tel i.   If I had known, I would have told him.
   If wi bin go choch, wi    If we had gone to church, we would have
   fo si di nyu pasto.       seen the new pastor.

3. Finally, there is an additional Conditional form in Pidgin which
   should be kept in mind:
   a) If a bin don chop, a fo don go.
      If I had (already) eaten, I would have (already) left.
   b) If i bin don si Lucy, i fo don bign i fo ya maus.
      If he had (already) seen Lucy, he would have (already) brought
      her to your house.

   The Structure of the above sentences is:
   If bin don + verb + fo don + verb
This form, with bin don and fo don, shows a situation which has not yet happened, but which is still expected to happen. (Hence the idea of "already brought her". He still expects to see her and still expects to bring her. For Pidgin speakers, bin don, and fo don express exactly this concept. Listen for it; you will hear it.

4.B. The Negative in the Conditional

The negative form of the Conditional in Pidgin is as straightforward as can be. You just put "no" in front of anything you wish to negate.

1. Simple Conditional

   If you no eat, you will not sleep.
   If you did not eat, you would not sleep.
   If it rains, I will not go to the market.

2. Hypothetical Conditional

   If I hadn't known, I wouldn't have told him.
   If you had gotten the money, you wouldn't have asked me.

3. "bin don and fo don"

   Though this "bin/fo don" form of the Conditional is unlikely to appear in the negative, "bin don" and "fo don", used separately in other contexts would still be negated with no.

   A no bin don go.
   A no fo don go.
4.B. GRAMMAR: Fo + verb; Fo don + verb

1. Fo + verb (already treated in lesson 12)
   A fo bring ma ombrela. should have brought my umbrella.
   Ê fo tel mi se i de go. he ought to have at least told me
   he was leaving.
   Yu no fo tok dat. you shouldn't have spoken about that.
   In summary, fo + verb can be equivalent to "should have...
   "would have...", "ought to have...", or "could have...". It
   always refers to the past.

2. Fo don + verb adds an element. Whatever the action, it should
   already have been done by now.
   Yu fo don rayt di leta. - you should have already written
   the letter by now.
   Wi fo don rich Kumba. We could have already arrived in
   Kumba by now.
   Mary fo don kuk chop. Mary ought to have already prepared
   the meal by now.

   In summary, fo don + verb can be equivalent to:
   "should have already...." (by now)
   "would have already...."
   "ought to have...."
   "could have already...."

   It refers to something which should (could, would) have been
   done in the past, has not been, but still can be done. Obviously,
   this form would be rare in the negative.
4.C. GRAMMAR: COMPARISONS

1. More...than = "pas"

- John ol pas Mary.
- Mary get broda-dem pas Peter.
- Douala big pas Kumba.
- England kol pas Kamerun.

- John is older than Mary.
- Mary has more brothers than Peter.
- Douala is bigger than Kumba.
- England is colder than Cameroon.

2. As....as = layk

- Wi skul big layk wuna on.
- Ma broda get pawa layk Hercules.
- Bofot bita layk Gol Harp.

- Our school is as big as yours.
- My brother is as powerful as Hercules.
- Beaufort is as bitter as Gold Harp.

3. Less....than = "no...rich"

- Michael no get moni rich Lawrence. Michael has less money than Lawrence.
- Jane no get klos rich Mary. Jane has less dresses than Mary.
- Orenj no swit rich banana.

- Oranges are less sweet than bananas.

4. "Pas mak", "taym no de", "pas ol"

These are useful Piggin expressions which indicate the superlative or a high degree of comparison.

Examples:

- Dis sup swit pas mak. This soup is very tasty.
- Solt pas mak fo dis chop. There is too much salt in this food.
- Wata fo de doti taym no de. The water there is very dirty.
- Ma broda trog pas ol. My brother is stronger than anyone.

5. EXERCISE I. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Rusay yu go go if yu get bolide?
2. Wetin yu go wye if ren fol?
3. If darekto fo Pis Kops kam si yu, wetin yu go gi i?
4. Rusay yu fo bi if yu no bin kam fo Cameroon?
5. Yu fo go Chad if Pis Kops bin wan sen yu fo de?
6. Wetin yu fo don du if yu bi don rich sevinti yie?
7. If yu no bin don joyn Pis Kops wetin yu fo don du?
EXERCISE II: Complete the following sentences:

1. If tumgro na pàlikholide.
2. If tude bin bi Sonde.
3. If wata finish fo hye.
4. If a no bin si yu.
5. If ma papa win lótrí.
6. If ã bin don finish ma wok.
7. If di tif man no bin mek noys.
8. If yu no bin wek mi dis monin.
9. If dans de tude.
10. If ma famili-dem kam si mi fo Kamerun.

EXERCISE III:

Look at this table and then answer the questions below it in complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Weight in lbs.</th>
<th>Shoe Size</th>
<th>Marks in an Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOYS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6' 0&quot;</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5' 6&quot;</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5' 9&quot;</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIRLS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5' 4&quot;</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josephine</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5' 1&quot;</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5' 6&quot;</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Wich skul pikin get sens pas ol?
2. Hu i shus smol pas Paul i on?
3. Rose tol layk hu fo dat klas?
4. Wich skul pikin dol pas ol?
5. Josephine i hevi rich Lucy?
6. Hu i fut big pas ol?
7. Wich skul pikin shot pas ol?
8. Yu hevi rich Peter?
9. Ya fut big pas Josephine i on?
10. Yu ol layk Rose?
6. ASSIGNMENT:

1. Say five things you would have done if you had not joined the Peace Corps.

2. Say five things you would not have known or seen if you had not come to Cameroon.

3. Say five things you would do if you were an actor.

4. Choose any town in the United States and compare it to any town you know in Cameroon. (Your points should include amongst others, size, climate, population, buildings, roads, etc.)
LESSON 14

TOTIS AN SHWAYN (YU DU GUD I TON BAD)

Totis an shwayn bin bi fren fes fes taym. Ol tin bin de waka fayn sote de we chop finish fo di hal kontri. Totis an i famili dem no bin get somtin fo chop. Bet shwayn bin get plenti chop an plenti moni bikos i no bin get famili an i bin sabi yus i tin-dem. So wan de wen hongri pas totis fo skin, i wekop go fo shwayn i haus.

Totis: Kwa kwa fo hye.
Shwayn: Ah bo totis, enta fo haus. Ha yu don dray so?
Totis: Bo, sins sevin de nau, a noba chop. Bo shwayn, ha yu de soso fat-so?
Shwayn: Bo lif mi, na chop. As yu noba chop, na chop dis. Chop fes den wi go tord-arta.

So totis chop, i chop sote i bele wan bos. Wen i don chop beleful i tok se:

Totis: Bo, dank yu plenti. If no bi yu a fo day. Bo, na som ogent tin mek mi a kam si yu. A wan se mek yu boro mi moni. Ma fes man pikin don rich taym fo mari. I wan se mek a bay i wuman.
Shwayn: Hamoch yu wan se mek a boro yu?
Totis: A wan se mek yu boro mi fifti tausin fran.
Shwayn: Sins yu bi ma fren, a go boro yu fifti tausin fran as yu tok.
Wich taym yu go bak am?
Tokis: A go bak an afta wan mun.

So shwayn boro totis tausin fran. Bet totis no yus dis moni fo bay wuman fo i fes pikin. Insted, toxis tek di moni bay chop an mimbo, i an i famili-dem chop an dem drink.

Wan mun pas, toxis no pe shwayn i moni. Tu mun pas, tri mun pas, toxis no pe shwayn i moni. So shwayn wekop fo go aks toxis moni. Taym we toxis si shwayn de kam toxis go hayd fo onda bed. I tel i wuman se mek i tok se i don go waka.

Shwayn: A salut Misis toxis. Husayn ya masa de?
Misis toxis: Ma masa don go fo log waka.
Shwayn: Wich taym i go kam bak?
Misis toxis: A no no mi. I no tel mi.
Shwayn: Olrait, wen i kam, tel i se mek i brij ma moni.

So shwayn go. Anoda mun pas. Wen shwayn kam fayn toxis, misis toxis stil tel i se toxis don go waka. Siks mun don pas. Shwayn don veks tru tru. I kar i kotlas se i de go kil toxis.
Totis bin bi fo i domot. I si shwayn de kam fawe wit veks an wit kotlas fo han. Totis no se dis taym no bi na ple. I no se palava don baje. So i tel i wuman se:

Totis: Ma kolhat. Tori don baje. Shwayn de kam wit kotlas fo kil me. Tek mi ton am opsayd daun, den yu stat grayn granot fo ma bele. If shwayn aks yu husay a de, tok se a don go kil bif.

Shwayn salut misis totis bet misis totis no ansa i salut. Shwayn salut egen misis totis no ansa. Dis tin veks shwayn bat. Wit ol veks i tek misis totis i 'pepe ston' trove fo bush. Misis Totis stat kray tron tron.

Dat 'pepe ston' we shwayn trove am bin bi na totis i sef sef. So wen totis don fol fo bush, i wekop stat kam bak fo haus. Wen i enta haus i mit i wuman de kray an i mit shwayn we i wan bos wit veks.

Totis: Ma kolhat, wetin yu de kray? Hu don bit yu?
Misis totis: Na..... na Masa Shwayn don tek ma 'pepe ston' trove am fo bush.


If yu no bak ma moni tude, ayda yu kil mi o a kil yu. A don sayn da.

Totis: Eh, eh bo, ha yu de mek so? Yu tin se a fit chop ya moni?
A noba kam bak ya moni bikos a get plenti wok. A don get ya moni sins.
Fes go briq ya wuman i pepe ston. If yu briq di pepe ston, a go gif ya moni.

Shwayn: Dat wan na izi tin. A de go briq ya wuman i pepe ston. No tray ful mi wen a kam bak. If yu tray, ma kotlas go ansa yu.

Shwayn komot fo go fayn di pepe ston. I stat fayn am fo di bush we di pepe ston bin fol. I stat dig potopoto wit i nos fo fayn pepe ston; Sins shwayn no se di pepe ston bin bi na totis i sef sef, i fayn pepe ston sote i no si am. I pas i ha i go go bak fo totis we i noba si di pepe ston.

Na di tin mek shwayn de stil dig potopoto wit i nos sote tude: i de fayn totis i pepe ston.
The Tortoise and the Pig (Good breeds evil)

A long time ago, Tortoise and Pig were close friends. Everything was fine between the two friends until the day famine broke out in the whole country. Tortoise and his family had nothing to eat. Pig, on the other hand, had plenty of food and money because he had no family and he was economical. One day, when Tortoise could no longer bear the hunger, he went to Pig's house:

Tortoise: Is there anyone in?

Pig: Oh friend Tortoise, please come in. Why have you lost so much weight?

Tortoise: My friend, I have had nothing to eat for seven days. But my friend Pig, why are you continually putting on weight?

Pig: What can I say, my friend; it's food. Since you've not eaten, here is some food. Eat first and we shall talk later.

So Tortoise ate and ate until he nearly burst. When he had eaten his fill, he said:

Tortoise: Thanks a lot, my friend. If not for you, I would have died. I've come to see you for something urgent. I would like you to lend me some money. My first son is old enough to get married. He wants me to get him a wife.

Pig: How much do you want me to lend you?

Tortoise: I would like you to lend me fifty thousand francs.

Pig: Since you are my friend, I will lend you fifty thousand francs as you say. When will you return it?

Tortoise: I'll return it in a month's time.

So Pig lent Tortoise fifty thousand francs. But Tortoise did not use this money to get a wife for his first son. Instead, Tortoise took this money to buy food and drinks which he and his family ate and drank.

After one month, Tortoise did not return Pig's money. Two months passed; three months passed; Tortoise did not return Pig's money. So Pig went to Tortoise's house to ask for his money. When Tortoise saw Pig coming, he went and hid himself under the bed. He told his wife to tell Pig that he had gone on a journey.

Pig: Hello Mrs. Tortoise, where's your husband?

Mrs. Tortoise: My husband has gone on a long journey.

Pig: When will he be back?

Mrs. Tortoise: I do not know. He didn't tell me.

Pig: All right; when he returns tell him to bring my money.

Pig went away. After another month Pig came to look for Tortoise but again Mrs. Tortoise told him Tortoise had gone on a journey. After six months, Pig got very angry. He took his machete with the intention of killing Tortoise.
Tortoise was in front of his house. He saw Pig coming angrily from afar with a machete in his hand. He knew that there would be no joking this time. He knew that things had become very serious. So he said to his wife:

Tortoise: Darling, things are serious. Pig is coming with a machete to kill me. Turn me upside-down and grind groundnuts on my stomach. If Pig asks you where I am, tell him I've gone hunting.

So Tortoise's wife turned Tortoise upside-down and started grinding groundnuts on his stomach. Pig came in.

He greeted Mrs. Tortoise but she did not return his greetings. He greeted her again but still she did not answer. This annoyed Pig. With anger, he took Mrs. Tortoise's 'grinding stone' and threw it far into the bush. Mrs. Tortoise started crying bitterly.

The 'grinding stone' which Pig had thrown away was Tortoise himself. So when Tortoise was thrown into the bush he got up and came back to the house. When he entered the house he met his wife crying and he saw Pig almost bursting with anger.

Tortoise: Darling, why are you crying? Who has beaten you?

Mrs. Tortoise: It's....it's Mr. Pig who has thrown my 'grinding stone' into the bush.

Pig: Yes, I have thrown away the grinding stone. I've come to get my money. I did you a good turn but you're doing me a bad one. We're going to fight it out today. If you do not give back my money, you will kill me or I will kill you. It's life or death.

Tortoise: Oh, my friend. How can you be this way? Do you think that I've 'eaten' your money? I didn't come to give back your money because I've been very busy. I had your money ready long ago. But first you must go bring back my wife's grinding stone. If you bring the grinding stone I'll give you your money.

Pig: That's an easy thing. I'm going to get your wife's grinding stone. Do not dare play tricks on me when I return. If you dare, I'll use my machete on you.

Pig went out to look for the grinding stone. He looked for it in the bush where he had thrown it. He used his nose to dig up mud looking for the grinding stone. Since Pig did not know that the grinding stone was Tortoise himself, he looked for it but he could not find it. He didn't know how he could return to Tortoise's house without the grinding stone.

That is why Pig is still digging up mud with his nose till today: he is looking for Tortoise's grinding stone.
3) VOCABULARY

**totis** (also "troki")
- tortoise (noted in Africa for its cunning) both 'totis' and 'troki' are commonly used.

**tayt** (fren; kombi)
- close (friends)

**sabi yus** (moni, tin, etc.)
- to be economical; careful

**dray**
- pale; thin; dry; lost weight; skinny

**tori**
- to converse; to talk; to discuss

**rich taym fo mari**
- to be ripe for marriage

**boro (or 'tros')**
- to borrow, to lend (notice that Pidgin does not make any distinction between to 'borrow' or 'to lend.' The same word is used for both. Only the context brings out the difference.

**bay**
- This usage of "bay" in the tale demonstrates the customary belief that a woman could be bought just like any other household object; this is why one would often hear people say: 'A wan bay wuman' to mean I'm taking a wife.

**bak**
- to return; to pay back; to repay; to give back

**onda**
- under

**waka**
- journey

**masa**
- husband

**lonjon**
- very far; very long

**kotlas**
- machete, cutlass

**domot**
- front of the house; doorstep; threshold

**wit veks**
- angrily

**tori (palava) don baje**
- This is an expression to mean; Things are very serious; things have turned bad.

**opsayd daun**
- upside-down

**grayn (mash)**
- to grind

**mash**
- to grind; to pound

**pepe ston**
- flat stone used for grinding pepper

**fawe**
- far away; far off

**tron troq**
- In this context it means 'bitterly'

**set set**
- oneself
The text presents a collection of phrases and their meanings, accompanied by questions for comprehension. Here is a transcription and translation of the content:

**Phrases and Meanings**

- **Mi na yu go wye wan fut trosis**
  - Translation: This is commonly heard when two parties have a dispute and one party is determined to have it out with the other. It means the determined party has made up his mind to give the other party no breathing space.
  - Further explanation: This is used to show extreme determination. It can mean I'm prepared to die. I've made up my mind to see the end of this situation.

- **I|sayn day**
  - Translation: Why are you behaving this way?
  - Further explanation: Literally, it means 'eat money'. It really means to embezzle to use fraudulently. To a lesser extent it can mean 'to use money extravagantly; to spend. to dare, to attempt, to try

- **ha (or way) yu de mek so?**
  - Translation: Not to know how............
  - Further explanation: I do not know what to do. We do not know how to tell them.

**Questions on the Text**

1. Ha totis an shwayn dem bin bi fes fes taym?
2. Wetin bin hapin wan de fo di hol konstri?
3. Way shwayn bin get chop an moni pas totis?
4. Wetin mek totis go fo shwayn i haus wan de?
5. Poseka wetin totis dray plenti?
6. Way shwayn de soso fat?
7. Wetin totis wan se mek shwayn du fo i?
8. Poseka wetin totis wan boro fifti tausin fran?
9. Way shwayn no dinay fo boro totis moni?
10. Wich taym totis tok se i go bak di moni?
11. Wetin totis du wit dis moni?
12. Afta wich taym shwayn go aks i moni fo totis?
13. Wetin hapin di fes taym we shwayn go aka y moni fo totis?
14. Wetin hapin di sekon taym?
15. Wetin hapin di nomba tri taym?
16. Way shwayn no bin'no se di pepe ston bin bi na totis i'sef?
17. Way shwayn de stil dig potopoto sote tude?
B. Compare tortoise and pig (size, family status, cunning, etc).
C. Retell the story as if you were tortoise.
D. Retell the story as if you were pig.
A) GRAMMAR: When Tense Markers Are Not Needed...

1. As has been seen throughout this course, Pidgin has a series of "markers" which determine the "tense" or time of a verb.

   - de present
   - bin simple past
   - don unspecified past
   - go future
   - etc...

   You have also seen situations where these markers are dropped -- i.e. no marker is necessary to express the time.

   a) Imperative (Lesson 8)
      - Tanap! Stop! (or) stand up!
      - Wuna chop! Eat!
      - Mek i enta. Let him come in.

   b) with 'wen' and 'den' (Lesson 6)
      - Wen wok finish, a de go haus. When work is done, I go home.
      - I de wosh' i mot, den i wosh. He brushes his teeth, then takes a bath.

   c) With certain verbs: fit, sabi, wan, beg, etc.
      - These need no tense marker in the present (though in other tenses they do).

   Below are several additional situations where Pidgin speakers habitually drop tense markers.

2. Narratives

   Notice in the first paragraph of this lesson's folktale Totis an Shwayn, the narrator is fairly faithful to tense marker usage:

   "Totis an Shwayn bin bi tayt fren fes fes taym. O1 tin bin de waka fayn... Totis an i famili no, bin get somtin fo chop...

   Shwayn bin get plenti chop....."

   Soon after, indeed, after the first short dialogue, the narrator begins to neglect his tense markers:

   "So totis i chop, i chop sote i bele wan bos......"

   After the second short dialogue, he seems to forget tense markers entirely:
"So Shwayn boró totis fifti tauzin fraq. Bet totis no yus dis moni fo bay wuman'fo i fes pikin. Insted, totis tek di moni bay chop an mimbo, i an'famili dem chop an dem drink".

This dropping of tense markers once the time of a story has been established is very common in Pidgin. It is especially true in tales and stories, but may be equally true when a friend is simply recounting events that happened this morning or yesterday. If the time of the actions is fixed, why bother to pinpoint it in a sentence? One action obviously follows the other. In cases where, Pidgin speakers will only include the markers if they are necessary to clarify or emphasize a time or show that a specific time has taken place. Note, however, that when they quote a conversation in their story, they are faithful in their usage of tense markers in the dialogue for the conversation is normal every day speech.

1. Expressions with "mek..."

You have already seen in Lesson 8 that in the Imperative (with or without "mek..."), no tense marker is needed. This holds true for several other standard expressions using "mek...":

a) Na di tin mek...
Na di tin mek a kam kwik-kwik.
Na di tin mek al pipol sofa fo kontri.

b) ...wan se mek...
A wan se mek yu tros (boro) mi moni.
Peter wan se mek yu wekop i fo nayn.
Hu van se mek a helep i?

c) ...layk se mek...
A layk se mek wuna tok soso tru.
A layk se mek ren fol evri de.

"This/that is why..."
That is why I came in a hurry.
This is why all people in the land were (are) suffering.
"...would like...", "...want..."
I would like you to lend me some money.
Peter wants you to wake him up at nine.
Who wants me to help him?
"... would like...", "...want..."
I would like you to tell the truth always.
I would like it to rain every day.
B) GRAMMAR: Prepositions

Pidgin has a multi-functional preposition, fo, which is equivalent, depending on the context, to the English to, on, from, in, it, and many other prepositions.

Examples:

1. A de go fo maket. I'm going to the market.
4. Lucy i maba de fo huis. Lucy's mother is in the house.
5. Som man de fo do. There's someone at the door.

Other prepositions in Pidgin include:

1. Snek de (fo) ontop huis. There's a snake on top of the roof.
2. Pipol dem de (fo) insayd choch plenti. There are many people inside the church.
3. Tif man bin hayd (fo) onda bed. A thief hid himself under the bed.
4. I huis de fo kona rod. His house is near (beside) the road.
5. David tanap fo bifo i huis. David is standing in front of his house.
6. A de ste fo bak Peter i huis. I live behind Peter's house.
7. Muyuka de fo midul Kumba an Limbe. Muyuka is between Kumba and Limbe.
8. Kamerun de afta Nayjeria. Cameroon is next to Nigeria.

Note that these prepositions are often combined with fo.

Some Additional Useful Expressions:

The following are some common Pidgin expressions which do not require tense markers with the verbs that follow in the second part of the sentence.

A de glad se... I'm happy that...
A de veks se... I'm angry that...
A de fye se... I'm afraid that...
I bi se... It's that...
Di tin bi se... The thing is...
A de sori se... I'm sorry that...
A de wonda se... I'm surprised that...
I fit bi se... It may be that...
A hop se... I hope that...

Examples:
Di tin bi se a no 'bin
get moni fo kam.
The thing was I had no money to come.
A de fye se ren go
spol rot.
I'm afraid the rain will ruin the
troad.
A de sori se yu no bin si i.
I'm sorry you didn't see her.

EXERCISE I:
Make a list of ten things you would like the teacher (or a friend) to
do for you or say to you. Use the expressions: A wan se... ; A layk se...

Examples:
- A wan se mek ticha tel mi i nem.
- A wan se mek i tich wi paynapul.

EXERCISE II:
Translate the following sentences into Pidgin:
1. He's angry that you have eaten all the food.
2. I'm surprised that you do not know my name.
3. I'm afraid that you will not come.
4. It may be that they have lost their way.
5. What is in front of this house?
6. Susan is standing behind Gary.
7. That girl is between two boys.
8. All my clothes are in the suitcase.
9. The truck is near the school.
10. We are in the classroom.

7. ASSIGNMENT
For the next class, prepare a story which you will tell in class
without reading your notes. It can be either a folktale or a sequence of
events which happened to you. Try to include both narrative and dialogue
in your story.
LESSON 15

WAY TROKI I BAK BROK HAF HAF

Wan de som big big dina bin bi fo skay. Dem bin invayt ol bif an bed fo, dat dina. Sins fo rich fo skay man get fo flay, na upli bed-dem bin fit go. Bet troki ng bin wan mis dis pati. So i go mitop bed-dem tel dem se mek eni bed boro i wan. Feda mek i tu flay fo go fo di dina. Bed-dem gri. Eni bed gif troki wan feda. Wen taym fo go rich, troki, tok fo bed-dem se: "Mek eni man gif i sef nem foseka wen wi rich fo skay eni man go introdyus i sef"; Bed-dem gri, Erimmen gir i sef nem. Som bed kol i sef se 'Poli Poli'; anoda wan kol i sef se "Naytingel"; anoda wan se i nem na 'Igul'; troki gif i nem se 'Wuna Ol'.


Poli Poli gri. Wen i rich fo graun i go mit troki i wuman. I tok fo i se: "Ya masa se i wan. Tray somtin. I se mek yu tek ol brokin botul an ston put am fo autsayd. Wen yu don put am, mek yu layt faya so i go si smok, no se yu don finish."

So troki i wuman put ol haf haf botul-dem an ston fo autsayd den i layt faya. Wen troki si smok i no se i wuman don finish put sof tin-dem fo autsayd. So troki jump i fol fo brokin botul an ston. Ol i bak chakara. Na onli day bin lef i. Bet i wuman kari i fo som troon medsin man. Di medsin man manej sote i joyn troki i bak bet no bin fit bi layk fes fes taym.

Na di tin mek troki i bak de haf haf.
2. VOCABULARY

dina         feast
skay         sky
invayt       invite
bif          animal
bed          bird
mis          miss
pati         party; feast
mitop
enì            to meet (has the idea of
geni man (enì bed) going towards someone)
01 man        every; any
intr0dyus     feather
tori0yus
Poli Poli
Naytingel
Igul         to accept, to agree
'Iwuna O1'     each person (each bird)
savis         everybody
each person (each bird)
'everybody'
to introduce oneself
parrot
nightingale
eagle
eagle
'All of you'; 'You all'
servant
'servant'
It means that
to wait
throst
thirsty
plate, dish; bowl; etc.
to repeat; to say again
to stoop; to bend down.
Here it means: to get down
to something.
to lick
just
'I'm very very hungry ("Hunger
is too much for my body")
veks pas mi fo skin
'I'm very angry ("Anger is
too much for my body")
graun check mane las jump sof hye hot hye kol; hye hongri; hye hit layt faya smok tray somtin.

brokin haf haf chakara Na onli day bin lef i

tron tron medsin man joyn

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT
1. Wetin bin bi fo skay wan de?
2. Hu dem bin invayt am fo de?
3. Ha man fit rich fo skay?
4. Way onli bed dem fit rich fo skay?
5. Wetin troki bin du so dat mek i tu rich fo skay?
6. Wich nes troki bin gif i sef?
7. Wetin di savis we biŋ brin mimbo bin tok?
8. Wetin troki bin tok fo bed-dem?
9. Wetin di savis we i bin briŋ chop bin tok?
10. Wetin troki bin tok fo bed-dem?
11. Wetin troki bin du wit di chop?
12. Poseka wetin hongri an veks bin pas bed-dem fo skin?
13. Wetin bed-dem bin du troki?
14. Wetin troki bin tok fo Poli Poli?
15. Way yu tin-se i bin tok so?
16. Wetin Poli Poli bin tok fo troki i wuman?
17. Way yu tin se i bin tok so?
18. Wetin bin hapin taym we troki jomp?
19. Ha troki manej get bak we i de haf haf.
20. Wich kayn sens troki bin yus fo ful bed-dem?

4. A. GRAMMAR: Conjunctions

The common conjuctions in Pidgin include:

Bet = "but"

I no get moni, bet I gud hat. He has no money but he is a good (generous) person.

So = "in order that...", "so that..."

Tel am se mek i put ol sof tin fo autsayd, so, wen a jomp a no go hye hot.

(Note that it is very common to start a sentence with "so" in Pidgin; this indicates a logical sequence to what has preceded.)

Mek = "in order that..." "so that..."

I de chop mek i fat. He eats in order to gain weight.

Poseka se; bikos = "because"

A kam let poseka se a wekop let. I came late because I woke up late.

I de veks bikos i no get kolhat. He is angry because he has no sweetheart.

Taym we = "when"

Arata de ple taym we pusi no de. The rat (mouse) plays when the cat is away.

Sote = "until"

Peter wok sote i taya. Peter worked until he was tired.

A don wet sote... I waited until...!

(i.e. too much!)

If; Ifi = "if"

A go kam if a get moni. I will come if I have money.
I don't know whether John or Lucy will come.

Lucas and David are close friends.

Today you and I will settle this.

(Note that Pidgin does not often use an to connect verbs or clauses):

A go kam tek am.

I will come and take it.

Tortoise ate and ate until he nearly burst.

B. GRAMMAR: Compound Tenses

1. Future Continuous (...go de...)

Just as in English, this tense is used to indicate an action that will be going on when another future action takes place.

A go de wok taym we yu go kam.

I will be working when you arrive.

Wi go de ple futbol taym we wuna go bi fo Klas.

We'll be playing football when you are in class.

2. Past Continuous (...bin de...)

Again, as in English, this tense indicates an action going on in the past when another takes place.

A bin de chop taym we yu kam.

I was eating when you arrived.

I bin de slip taym we tif man enta.

He was sleeping when the thief came in.

3. Note that the above two tenses, Future Continuous (...go de...) and Past Continuous (...bin de...) tend to indicate a longer action which is happening before, during and perhaps even after another takes place.

A go de wok

1 p.m. _______ A go de wok _______ 4 p.m.

Yu go kam.

(2:30 p.m.)

A bin de chop

1 p.m. _______ A bin de chop _______ 1:30 p.m.

Yu bin kam

(1:15 p.m.)
4. Past Continuous (...bin de...) can also be used to express things one "used to do" over a long period.

John bin de klaym stik

taym we i bin bi smol pikin.

John used to climb trees when he was a child.

5. Past Perfect (...bin don...).

The ...bin don... form is used to express an action that already took place before another past action.

A bin don chop taym we yu kam.

Lucas bin don go taym we di haus bin bon.

Fish bin don finish fo maket taym we i bin wan bay am.

I had (already) eaten when you arrived.

Lucas had (already) left when the house caught fire.

All the fish in the market had been sold when he wanted to buy some.

6. Future Perfect (...go don...)

As would be expected, the.... go don.... form expresses a future action which is expected to take place/finish before another one.

I had (already) eaten when you arrive.

Lucas had (already) left when the house caught fire.

All the fish in the market had been sold when he wanted to buy some.

When you arrive at the house I will have already left.

4.C. MORE ADVERBS

egen = again, more, some more, any more.
A no fit slip egen. I can't sleep any more.
I no go kam egen. He will not come back again.

Atol = a strong agreement with a negative statement
Yu no de chop snek? You don't eat snake?
Atol Never/Not at all.

or a strong disagreement with a positive question:
Yu de lay? = Do you tell lies?
Atol = Never/Not at all

Wantaym = immediately, right away
Mek wi go wantaym. Let's go immediately.

Dem don mitop wantaym. They met right away.

Dasol = only
Dasol I bought only chicken.
A don bay dasol. I only want to look.

Tu = too, much, too
"I tu dye. It's too expensive.
Tutu = too much
I de tutu wok. He works too much.
Soso = always; all the time.
Dem de soso drink mimbo. They are always drinking beer.

5. **ASSIGNMENT - I**
Translate the folklore of the beginning of this lesson into English.

6. **ASSIGNMENT - II**
You have seen two stories in Pidgin which explain the origin of some behaviour or characteristic of certain animals (Tortoise and Pig). Make up stories in Pidgin to present to the class explaining:
   a) Why the lizard constantly does push-ups.
   b) Why the porcupine has quills.
   c) Why the snake has no legs.
   d) Why the giraffe has a long neck.
   e) Why the chicken does not fly.
I Subject Pronouns

Singular
- a = I
- yu = you
- i = he, she, it

Plural
- wi = we
- wuna = you
- de, dem = they

II Possessive Pronouns

Singular
- ma = my
- ya = your
- i = his, her; its

Plural
- wi = our
- wuna = your
- dem = their

III Object Pronouns

Singular
- mi = me
- yu = you
- i = him, her (persons, animals)
- am = it (things, places)

Plural
- wi = us
- wuna = your
- dem = them (persons, animals)
- am; dem = them (things, places)

IV Relative or Connecting Pronouns

We (followed at some point in the sentence by the appropriate accompanying pronoun: i, am, etc.)

- who
- whose
- whom
- which
- that
- for which
- of which
- etc

V Verb tenses and their markers

Present Continuous
- A de kam

Habitual
- A de kam (evride)
Future
Imperative (I) Kam!
Imperative (II) Mek wuna kam
Unspecified Past A don kam
(Specification: A noba kam)
Specified or Simple Past A bin kam
Simple Conditional If a get moni, a go kam
Hypothetical Conditional If a bin get moni, a fo kam

Complex tenses
Future Continuous A go de kam
Past Continuous A bin de kam
Future Perfect A go don kam
Past Perfect A bin don kam
Hypothetical Conditional If a bin don get moni, a fo don kam
Assignment: Below is a list of common Pidgin proverbs. Find out what they mean.

1. Trobul no de rig bel.
2. Mbonga bin tel njanga se wi go mitop fo pot sup.
3. Wan han no de tay bondru.
4. Dayman no de fye berigron.
5. Arata no de mek nyanga fo pusi i do mot.
7. Man no day, man no rotin.
8. Eni wata de kwench faya.
9. Wata go lif ston.
10. Tok fo mot no bi kago fo hed.
11. De no bi wan
12. Hu bon dog?
15. Man we i aks, no fit frobay.
16. Man we i get mot, no fit mis rot.
17. Adaman tin no put ay.
18. A gi asha kari Kenja.
19. Moni no bi sansan.
20. Du mi a du yu, god no go veks.
22. Ay no de shut bif.
23. Gron bif no de foget i ol haus.
24. Koni man day, koni man beri am.
25. Man faul no fit hala fo ala man i ton.
26. Gron bif no fit dig hol fo wata.
27. Man ve i ben i biabia, na i go hye simel.
28. Hye fo hye, tok fo de, no had fo mek wahalà.
29. Kontri sitik sabi ton kontri fufu.
30. Tori bin fayn, tifman laf fo banda.
31. Pikin fo haus pas kwobo fo kwa.
32. Yu fit kot ya fut trowe am if pikin shit fo de?
33. Man no de kari wata fo basket.
34. Hori hori brok trosa.
35. Wakaman no de tori.
36. Trenja no de kuk kanda.
38. Ayon sabi kot ayon.
39. De de go, kwacha de troq.
40. Jam pas day, monki chop pepe, kol am se njakatu.
41. Sup i swit, na ma moni mek am.
42. Rod fo go Legos i izi, bet fo kam bak na waya.
43. Bele no get Sonde.
44. Dayman noba hongri.
45. Wen han de rob fut, fut tu de rob han.
46. Sens no bi daso fo wan man.
47. Smol no bi sik-o.
48. Du gud ton bad.
49. Moto no fit waka fo kwata rot.
50. No wok we i big pas man.