



To: Guest user

A list of Xitsonga proverbs translated to English.

- A proverb is xivuriso in Xitsonga.
- A proverb is a short pithy saying in general use, stating a general truth or piece of advice.
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- The community is correcting the information on this document.

1 A ndzi ku hi laha ku nga na mpfula ku sala ndzhongo

I thought it is where the rain has poured and left the fertile soil.

I thought it was good things.

2 Baji ri talele hi moya

The jacket is full of air

Someone has passed away

3 Dzondzo i xithangu xa vutomi

Education is the key to a good life

4 Emahlweni ka nghala ku fambiwa na xisana

When you go in front of a lion, you take a fire

Be prepared when you approach a difficult target

5 Fuwa hlolewa u tsema ndleve

When you domesticate a wild dog you must cut its ear

When you help someone and he or she later turns against you.

6 Hambu wo famba enkoveni lundza ri ta vonaka

Even if you walk in a valley your head will be visible.

Ku hava xihundla

7 Hi ta ku i timangwa loko hi vona mavala

We will say it's zebras when we see the stripes

I will believe something when I see it

8 Homu yo famba hi ndlela a yi heti nsimu

A cattle which eats as it moves by the roadside does not finish a field

A visitor does not finish your food

9 Huma mhiri se ku nghena mamba

A python should leave for the black mamba to go in

To beat someone on something very important.

10 Humba yi olele nkuma

The snail has collected ashes

Someone passed away



11	I kwakwa ra sekwa mavonela ekule The blessings of a duck is that it can see things which are far
12	I malebvu ya nghala It is a lion's beard A thing may not be as scary as it looks.
13	I matutu vana va tavasi It is plenty
14	I tihomu ta ka Sono ti gomolana exivaleni Cattle fighting in a kraal A family discussing family matters.
15	Ku ba mati tingwenya ti tlela To beat the water and the crocodiles sleep Ku humesa swo nkarhi (ngopfu ngopfu mali) ku papalata xigwevo (xupulo) lowu a wu ta wu kuma.
16	Ku dya ngopfu a hi ku hlula ndlala Eating too much doesn't defeat hunger
17	Ku pfuxiwa leyi ti pfuxaka -
18	Ku tlula ka mhala swi letela n'wana wa le ndzeni The way an impala jumps influences its unborn child. A child often takes after their mother
19	Kuwa ra le tshyakeni u dyisa hi n'wana Only your child can feed you a dirty fig fruit
20	Kuwa ro tshwuka ri na xivungu endzeni A fig fruit which is pink has a worm inside A beautiful woman tends to have bad deeds/behaviour/habits
21	Kwembe ro hiwa a ri na murhu A pumpkin which is given to you or you didn't prepare yourself is usually dry.
22	Laha ku nga ni tinhongani ku borile xilo Where there are flies there's a rotten thing



23	Laha ndlati yi nga ba kona yi tlhela yi vuya
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24	Lexi xi nga heriku xa hlola
What doesn't end is taboo	
Everything has an end	
25	Lexi xi Xirhami
Chillness causes a girl to come back to her parents house from her husbands house	
It is very cold.	
26	Loko u nga fambi u ta teka makwavo
If you don't travel you'll marry your sibling.	
27	Loko u tsundzuka mhelembe khandziya nsinya
When you think of a rhino immediately climb a tree	
When you remember something do it immediately	
28	Mahlo ya kwahle ya tiva hi muyevuri
The eyes of lizard are only seen by the hunter who kills it	
You don't know something until you experience it	
29	Makondlo mambirhi a ya celi mbovo wun'we
Two rats cannot dig the same hole	
30	Mangwa yi pfumale timondzo hi ku rhumisa
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31	Masasani u fele enhoveni
A person who helps people died in the bushes	
Those who help others in need normally do not get help when they themselves are in need	
32	Masiku i tinguluve
Days are pigs	
It means days are plenty	
33	Mavala ya mangwa i man'we
Stripes of a zebra are all the same.	
Women are the same.	
34	Mavoko ya munhu a ya mili nhova
Grass cannot grow on a human beings hands.	
You must work hard (in every possible way) to succeed.	



35	Maxinjani a xi khani ka mbiri A squirrel cannot cross your path twice Present success/luck makes it more unlikely to obtain a similar success/luck in future.
36	Mbita ya vovo yi dlele tingengendza A person who is always sick tend to live longer than those who are more often in good health
37	Mbuti ya xihaha a yi tswaleli entlambhini A secretive goat does not give birth in a midst Timhaka to lava xihundla a ti vulavuleriwa evanhwini
38	Mbuti yi dya laha yi nga bohiwa kona A goat eats where it is tied.
39	Mbyana leyi hanyaka yi tlula nghala leyi feke A living dog is better than a dead lion
40	Mbyana loko yi lava ku ku luma ya n'wayitela A dog smiles when it intends to bite something.
41	Mbyana yo vukula a yi lumi A barking dog does not bite
42	Mfenhe a yi tivoni makovo A baboon can't see if he's ugly.
43	Mfenhe loko yi khome vulombe yi famba hi milenge yinharhu A baboon with honey walks on three legs
44	Mhisi ya mikoka yi mbirhi yin'we yi phatluka nyonga A hyena with 2 trails or foot prints will break it's leg
45	Mhisi yi tlakule tshuri A hyena stole the food basket Ndlala yi ngenile emuntini
46	Mhuti yi biwa ya ha ri na mahika An Antelope is killed while is sighing Mhaka yi tengiwa/endliwa ya ha hisa



47	Mhuti yo tlulatlula Mangulwe u ta yi khoma
An antelope which is jumping next to a dog named Mangulwe will be caught.	
Used by a boy when he is in love with a girl. Any girl who has been seen by this boy, she will accept his proposal.	
48	Mintirho ya vulavula
Deeds speak	
49	Mpfundla wa rivala cucululu
A rabbit which forgot to run away from hunters	
50	Muhloti wa tinyarhi tivuya hi yena
Buffalos are chasing their hunter	
51	Mundzuku i siku
Tomorrow is a day	
52	N'hwari mbirhi yin'we yi ta tshwa nkanga
If one tries to do more than one thing at the same time, one might not prosper.	
53	N'wana loko a nga rili u ta fela a dzobyeni
A child who does not cry will die unnoticed at the back of his mother.	
54	N'wana u tseme mubya
A disobedient child.	
55	N'wana wa mfenhe a nga tsandziwi hi rhavi
The child of baboon does not fail a branch	
56	N'wana wa nyoka i nyoka
The child of snake is a snake.	
57	Nchindzu makukulela ekule
Munhu wo tirhela ehandle a tshika ekaya	
58	Ndlela ya khale yi hava muntwa
An old path doesn't have thorns	



59	Ndlopfu a yi fi hi rivambu rinwe An elephant does not die of one broken rib. Wanuna a nga heli matimba hi khombo rin'we
60	Ndzi nge dyeriwi hi ti mpfuvu ndzi nga rimangi e nhlalukweni I will not allow hippos to eat my produce when I didn't even plough by the marshes Said to defend one's property or rights
61	Ndzi ta ku komba xancila wa bulubulu I will show you a mythical creature
62	Nghala yi ettele ni khwiri ra yona A lion sleeps with its stomach
63	Nghala yi vomba exihlahleni A lion roars in the bush Munhu u tiya loko a ri na ka va vona
64	Ngoma a yi tichayi A drum doesn't beat itself An expert does not boast or talk about her skills, the skills talk for her
65	Ngwenya kelenge xivutla ni mindzeko A crocodile which is troubling people going to get water at the river for fun I munhu wo karhata ngopfu.
66	Nhenha yi vonaka enyimpini A brave person is seen during the war A person should display their strength and/or skills against their counterparts, instead of boasting about them.
67	Nhonga ya le kule ayi dlayi nyoka A stick which is far cannot kill a snake
68	Njiya a yi fani na murhoho A locust is not the same as a vegetable Little is better than nothing
69	Nkoka woya kule awuna nyama A long trail doesn't have meat
70	Nkondzo i malahla Help a stranger who bewilds into your home, tomorrow you may bewild into their home.



71	Nomu a wu talerwi hi nambu
A mouth can cross any river.	

72	Nsinya wa le ndzelekanini a wu na n'winyi
A tree grown in the boundaries have no owner	

73	Nyoka yo yi vona a yi lumi
A snake which you can see can't bite you	

74	Nyuku wa mbyana wu helela a voyeni
The sweat of a dog finishes in it's fur.	
To work for no reward	

75	Rihlampfu ra khale ri tiyisiwa hi leri ntswa.
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76	Rintiho rin'we a ri nusi hove.
One finger cannot pick a grain	

77	Risokoti ri dlele ndlopfu
An ant killed an elephant	

78	Sasela vanungu
Helping others	

79	Siku ra ngati a ri tshuki
A day of blood is never red	

80	Timpfuvu timbirhi a ti tshami xidziveni xinwe
Two hippos cannot stay in the same deep water.	

81	Tinghala timbirhi ta chavana
Two lions fear each other	

82	Tinhlanga ta le ndzhaku ti tiviwa hi mutlhaveri wa tona.
The tattooing marks made on the back are known by the tattooer, not by the tattooed	



83	Tolo a nga ha vuyi Yesterday will not come back
84	U lumiwile hi mpfundla He was bitten by a rabbit A man who is afraid to approach women or a man how is struggling to find a woman to love him.
85	U nga dlayi nyoka u yi ndzuluta, ta micele ta ku vona Do not kill a snake and swing it, the ones inside the holes are watching you U nga endli swilo swo hamboloka u famba u ti bumabuma.
86	U nga hlawuli nkuku wa mhangele One must not choose the male of the guinea-fowl. This proverb is said to a young husband who might be tempted to prepare something for their babies before their birth, since you do not know if the baby is a male or female.
87	U nga sahi nsinya hi vuxika, u ta tshwa hi mumu hi malanga Do not cut the tree in winter, you will burn by sun in summer.
88	U nga teki mali u bohela enengeni wa mpfuvu Do not tie money in the leg of hippopotamus
89	U nga teki sava u ba ngwenya Don't take sand and hit a crocodile. Don't take the small you have and give to someone who has more
90	Vana va munhu va tsemelana nhloko ya njiya Siblings are sharing the head of locust
91	Vuhosi a byi peli nambu Chieftdom does not cross the river
92	Vukati va kandza hi mbilu A strong heart is necessary to make a marriage work
93	Vukosi i mberha Chieftdom is dew Beautiful things end
94	Vusiwana byi na xilandzu -



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95	Vusiwana i vuloyi
Poverty is often from witchcraft	

96	Vutlhari bya mhangele i ku hubuta
The wisdom of a guinea fowl is being early	

97	Vuxaka bya n'harhi i ku handza swin'we
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98	Xandla famba, xandla vuya.
Let the hand go and let the hand come back.	

99	Xibodze xa mughana a xi chayeriwi noti
Don't whistle to a friend's tortoise	
Unga tshembi swilo swa un'wana	

100	Xihlovo a xi dungiwi loko u heta ku nwa mati
Do not close the well after having drunk.	

101	Xihlovo xa le mahlweni i madlayisa torha
A well which is far away will make you die of thirst	
Live for today as tomorrow is not guaranteed. Never assume that tomorrow will be better than today.	

102	Xikomu xi vuyela mbhinyini
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103	Xikomu xo lomb a xi na ndzima
A borrow ploughing hoe doesn't have a ploughing field.	

104	Xilandza nsati a va hleki
A man who goes to get his wife back, shouldn't be made fun of	

105	Ximita ntsengele xi tshemba nkolo
He who swallows a large stone has confidence in the size of his throat	

106	Xinamu xi dlele nkwahle
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Slowness killed a lizard

107	Xisuti xa mbuti xi tiva hi n'wini wa xona
The waist of a goat is known by the owner.	