

Introduction to the International Auxiliary Language - Sona

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Kenneth Searight first published his book: Sona; an auxiliary neutral language (London, K. Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd., 1935, LCCN: 35016722) in 1935.

Much has changed in the world since then, but the need for a truly neutral, simple, international tool for communication is as pressing as ever -- Even more so, perhaps, in this world where the cultures of the world are in closer contact, and people are beginning to focus on the common experiences of the human race, regardless of the accident of our location of birth, or the culture in which we are immersed.

Sona is, the idealist intention of its author aside, a beautiful and expressive language, whose minimalist simplicity is well in line with the esthetic of 21st century arts.

I can only hope you enjoy learning Sona as much as I have!

-Dan Holodek

The Sona Alphabet

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In designing an alphabet and choosing the sounds for a language for International use, several important considerations must be kept in mind:

1. Simplicity
2. Ease of pronunciation
3. Clarity

These three elements (however subjective they may be in many regards) are incorporated in Sona thus:

1. Every word can only be spelled one way -- the spelling rules are simple and consistently applied.
2. The consistent alternation between consonants and vowels makes it easier for more people to pronounce words.
3. The sounds that comprise Sona are common across many languages.

The Sona alphabet consists of 24 letters (scarcely twice as many letters as months in the year!):

Five vowels:

a as in **f**ather (but smiling a little!)
e as in **l**et
i as in **m**achine
o as in **h**orse
u as in **b**oot

Seven "voiced" consonants (put your finger on your Adam's apple, or the middle of the front of your neck, and feel the vibration or "humming"):

b, d, g, v, z as in English (**b**oy, **d**o, **g**o, **v**ery, **z**oo)

(Note: **z** can also be pronounced like "ts" -- just choose one pronunciation or the other, but be

consistent!)

j as in **judge**, (or as a similar sound: the **s** in **vision**)
h as in **help**

Seven "unvoiced" consonants:

p, t, k, f, s as in English (**put**, **tea**, **kind**, **foot**, **see**)
x as in **shoe**
c as in **church**

One "special vowel":

y This letter has **two** different sounds:

1. Before a vowel, like the English "y" in **yet**.
2. when alone, or at the end of a word (rarely), like the English "schwa", or the simple **u** sound in **"butter"**. (Kind of like a little grunt!)

One "rhotic", or "r" sound:

r this sound varies considerably across languages, even within a language between speakers of different varieties or dialects!
Technically, a "rhotic" is defined by certain acoustic characteristics which we won't get in to --- suffice it to say that you should use whatever "r" sound you know from your language.

The "traditional/recommended" pronunciation of "r" is a flap of the tongue, much as in Spanish or Italian:
(Think of the "tt" in **"better"**, when pronounced quickly.)

Any "r" sound is OK, however -- just be consistent!

One "lateral", or "L" sound:

l Again -- there are MANY varieties of "L" in different languages. For English speakers, the L in **"love"** is fine!

How to pronounce / spell words:

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Spelling in Sona is extremely easy! Every Sona word can only be spelled one way: exactly as it is pronounced!

Sona words are made up of syllables -- in fact, every Sona "basic word" is a one- or two-syllable word.

A syllable in Sona can consist ONLY of:

just one vowel:	V
one consonant, followed by a single vowel:	CV
one consonant + one vowel + "n":	CVN

For instance:

so help
na thing

Sona help-thing / "auxiliary" (the name of the Sona language!)

! Watch out for the following vowel combinations:

1. Be careful to distinguish *y* from *i*:

Dania *dan-ni-a* (dah-nee-ah) "Denmark"
danya *dan-y-a* (dahn-yah) bank

2. Watch out for the vowel *u*:

To make pronunciation easier, the *u* can sound like an English "w" when placed before a vowel:

<i>ua</i>	for / in order to	(sounds like "water"	NOT like "oo-ah")
<i>ue</i>	should	(sounds like "wet"	NOT like "oo-eh")
<i>ui</i>	Yes!	(sounds like "Wee!"	NOT like "oo-ee")
<i>uo</i>	must / obligation	(sounds like "war"	NOT like "oo-oh")

When putting together longer words, add a "y" (like the "y" sound in **y**et) between:

1. two "strong" vowels (*a*, *e*, *o*)

<i>e + en</i>	=	<i>eyen</i>	"once"
<i>uto + aki</i>	=	<i>utoyaki</i>	"too quickly / hastily"

2. the letter *n* and any vowel:

dan + a = danya "bank"

(otherwise, we might think the word is:)

da + na = dana "act"

"Stress"

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By "stress" in linguistics we mean that one syllable in a word is pronounced either more loudly, or in a higher pitch (or a combination of both!)

In Sona, words are not stressed in any particular syllable, but we will naturally tend to stress a syllable that carries **more importance** in a word, or phrase.

-*airese!* "ah-**ee-re**-seh"! (till - **again** - see)! (See you soon)!

Sona -- Lesson 1

=====

Greetings

=====

juri!

Hello! (Good day!)

jukiri!

Good morning!

juniri!

Good evening!

mi hani ~

My name is / I'm called ~

-o hani?

(Your) name?

(ui) ju da age tu, ~.

(Certainly) nice to meet you, ~

-asi ju da age tu, ~!

- Nice to meet you, too, ~! (lit.: Also nice to meet you, ~!)

kesantu?

How are you? (lit.: How's your health?)

-xa, xan!

-Fine, thanks!

juvan!

Good night!

airese!

See you later!

aireseda!

See you later! (more formal)

Vocabulary

=====

ju

Pleasure / Enjoy

ri

time / while

mi

I / me / my

tu

you / your

hani

name / called

ha

call

~ni

~ed (used after a word to indicate the effect of an action)

o~

honorific prefix -- used before a word to "elevate its status" -- (more about this later)

asi

as / so / like(ness) / like(wise) / same / copy

age

meet

da age

to meet

ke

question word - is used to

da

do

dai

doing

san

health

a

at / to (indicates location in space or time)

ri

time

kiri

morning

niri

afternoon / evening

van
night / dark / shadow

ire
again

se
see

a irese da / aireseda = a + ire + se + (da)
(lit.: to (till) again see / do)
See you later!

Introduction to the Sona language =====

Welcome to this short course in the Sona language!

The grammar of Sona can be learned very quickly. *Sona* was designed to serve as an international auxiliary language, so the grammar can be described as minimalistic. You will find that Sona is very similar to English in many ways.

We will learn the grammar of Sona by example -- you will quickly get a "feel" for how the language works.

The creator of Sona, Kenneth Searight, modelled his language after Chinese. In fact, Searight created the vocabulary of his language using one- or two- syllable "words" he called "radicals" or "ideograms". Each radical represents an idea, or a group of related meanings, much like Chinese characters. For instance:

mi - I / me / my

tu - you / your

Sona has a basic vocabulary of 375 "radicals" (one for each day of the year, plus 10!).

These radicals are put together to make words and sentences.

Word-building =====

Sona "radicals" are put together, much as in English, to form new words:

so
with / accompany

ji
person

soji = friend (companion)

That's easy and fairly logical, right? Let's look at another example:

aki (fast) + *zu* (animal) = *akizu* (horse).

Wait a minute! "fast + animal = horse"?!

Well, although the horse is NOT the ONLY fast animal, the Sona word *akizu* means horse, just like the English word "swift" means a kind of bird.

It's important to remember that Sona is a living language, and all human languages rely on metaphor and simile to create words --- that's just how human languages work.

Let's talk about the main rule for word-building. In this regards, Sona follow the English language model:

descriptive word + main word

Let's take the English words "dog" and "house". We can make two words: "doghouse" and "house dog". As English speakers, we know instinctively that a "doghouse" is a kind of house, whereas a "house dog" is a kind of dog. Sona follows the same rule:

ru = move, *su*=water, liquid

1 ==> *rusu* = "moving" water = river

2 ==> *suru* = "liquid" motion = flow, current

So, essentially, a *suru* is a *su* kind of *ru*, and a *rusu* is a *ru* kind of *su*. See?

Sentence-building, a.k.a.: "Grammar"

=====

Let's look at a simple sentence in Sona:

mi se tu.

I see you.

Easy, right?

In normal adult conversation, however, not all words and sentences are that obvious and simple, but we can use this simple sentence to illustrate the basic structure of Sona sentences!

The "core" of a Sona sentence is:

Subject Verb Object

In other words:

who (Subject) **does** what (Verb) to **whom** (Object)?

mi se tu, ge tu se mi.

I see you, and you see me.

Here's a different kind of sentence:

mi hani Tom.

I (am) called Tom. / My name is Tom.

Note how the previous example has two, equally valid English translations.

That's due to the fact that, in Sona we do not usually use the word "to be" (is, are, was, were, etc.)!

"To be" in Sona is *zi*, but it is used **only** when the meaning of a sentence is unclear. We will learn more about this later.

If you think about it, the basic idea or meaning of the English words "name" and "called" is the same, but we use one or the other depending on the position of the verb "to be".

However, the Sona language is minimalistic in its expression -- we say only what is truly necessary for comprehension. This simplicity of expression is a great advantage in an "international" language.

Let's look at a different kind of sentence, an "interrogative" sentence, (otherwise known as a question):

ke

(question word -- means a question is coming)

ke hani tu.

what? called you = what's your name?

(Note that in Sona spelling we don't need to add a question mark, because the Sona word "*ke*" already lets us know it's a question.

You can, however use a question mark, if it makes the sentence more clear.)

We can also write in Sona:

ke hani tu.

kehani tu.

kehanitu.

"How can this be?", you may ask perplexedly...

Many languages, particularly from the far East, such as Japanese, Korean and Chinese do not separate words in writing. (Searight called his basic vocabulary words "ideograms", remember?) Also, note we do NOT capitalize the first word in a sentence. (Actually, we only capitalize NAMES in Sona !)

ke
what / query / ask
Question word.

the radical "*ha*", we find:

ha
call / (to) name / (to) address / Oh!

If we look up the radical "*ni*", we find it has two meanings or uses:

ni
can / able to (when used as an independent word)
-ed / undergo / effect of an action (when used as a suffix)

Thus, the Sona word "*hani*" means "called / named" or simply, "name".

To sum up, In Sona, we separate the words in sentence based on two simple rules:

1. DO NOT separate radicals that, when used together, form another word.
2. DO separate enough in writing to make the meaning clear.

Note that, from rule # 1, we can infer that:

We should NOT separate a radical from another when used as a PREFIX or SUFFIX.

Wait a minute! If we look up the Sona word *tu*, it is defined as:

tu
you (when used alone)
your (when used before a word, as well as a prefix OR suffix! -- more about this later!!)

According to the above rules, the clearest way of writing our sample sentence ("What's your name?") is:

ke hani tu.

or

kehani tu.

or even, as a single word:

kehanitu.

All of these are valid "spellings" of this simple phrase!

airese!

Exercises

A. Translate into Sona:

1. Hello!
2. What's your name?
3. Good morning!
4. My name is... / I'm called....

B. Translate from Sona:

1. How are you? (How's your health?)
2. Fine, thanks!
3. Nice to meet you!

C. Complete the conversation:

- *juri! kesan?*

--

- *mi hani Tom, ge tu?*

--

- *ju da age tu!*

--

- *airese!*

--

Sona -- Lesson 2

=====

This, that, etc...

=====

in

this, these, in this direction

un

that, those, in that direction

in kehani po Sona?

What's this called in Sona?

ra

man, male

zan

woman, female

hara

Mr. / gentleman

hazan

Ms. / Mrs. / lady

on

he, his

an

she, her

ti

they, them

ji

person, people

ko

small, a little

jiko

child

rako

boy

-kehani an?

--an hani Mary.

-kehani un hara?

--on hani hara Smith.

-ge un hazan?

-- an hazan Smith. ti gerazan Smith.

- ge un jiko?

-- ui. un rako hani Bill.

-kehani "apple" po Sona?

--pomo.

-kehani "supa" po Anglo lasin?

-- "soup".

-tu juke inpa supa?

--ui, mi ju. / na, mi na ju supa.

-tu sake laba Sona?

--ui, mi laba ko. mi insa po ko.

-- tu hasake un ra?

- ui -- on hara Jones.

Vocabulary

=====

in

this, these, in this direction

un

that, those, in that direction

sa
to know

hasa
to know / be acquainted with someone (in the sense of having met a person)

insa
learn / study

inpa
eat / drink

pomo
apple

supa
soup

ge
and

gerazan
"Mr. and Mrs."

laba
speak, say

lasin
language

ui
yes, certainly

na
no, not

inha
Here's....!

inya
here, at this place

inri
now, currently, at this point in time

Use of *in* and *un*
=====

The "demonstrative/directional particles" (words) *in* and *un* are used often in Sona:

* use *in* to point out an object/person/topic close by:

* use *un* to point out an object/person/topic further away:

The particle *in* is also used to indicate that an action is directed towards you, or that something is coming in your direction:

Thus, *in* is used to create many common words:

insa - learn

inpa - eat / drink

inha - here's...! (used to present or point out an object to someone)

inya - here (at/in this place) -

* SPECIAL NOTE:

(*in* + (*y*) *a*) Note how we add a letter "y" to join the word *in* with the word *a*.

If we didn't add the extra "y", by suffixing *a* to *in*, we would get the basic vocabulary word *ina* which means "cancel, destroy, wipe."

Sona uses this extra or "intrusive" *y* within words to avoid confusion!

inri - now (at this time)

The word *un* is used in much the same way as *in*!

unha - There's...!

unya - There / at that place (indicating a place far from the speaker)

unri - Then / at that time (at a time other than the present)

How to say he, she, they, etc..

=====

In Sona, there are many ways to point out people:

You can say "this person" or "that person":

in ji / *un ji*

You can specify the gender and say "this man / woman":

in ra / *zan*

More formally, you might say "that gentleman / lady":

un hara / hazan...

The equivalents of English "he" and "she" in Sona are *on* and *an*.

To refer to many people, use *ti* (they, them)

kehani ti.

Use of *ge*

=====

ge has many many uses. In general, it means "and".

However, *ge* is also used to form many words:

gera
husband

gezan
wife

gerazan
"Mr. and Mrs."

Use of *ko*

=====

The word *ko* has many uses.

1. In general, it means "small" or "(a) little".

mi laba Sona ko.
I speak Sona a little.

un pomo ko.
That apple is small.

2. When used as a suffix, *~ko* often creates a new word altogether:

jiko child
rako boy
zanko girl

Use of *po*

=====

po is a very handy word! It is used as a preposition (before a word) in many common

expressions, where other languages
have specific rules about what prepositions can be used:

For instance:

po Sona / po Anglo lasin
in Sona / in the English language

po ko
little by little

We will learn more uses of *po* later!

How to say "yes" / "no":

=====

Yes/No in Sona are easy to remember:

ui yes
na no

Use *ui* / *na* **before a word** for emphasis / negation:

-tu sake laba Sona?

-ui, mi (ui) sa laba Sona.

Yes, I certainly know (how to) speak Sona.

-na, mi na sa laba Sona.

No, I do not know (how to) speak Sona.

Use of *na*

=====

Note that the word *na* has two different uses:

1. before a word (or as a prefix), it means "not"

mi na sa laba Sona.

I don't know (how) to speak Sona.

2. attached to the end of a word (as a suffix), it can be loosely translated as "thing":

For instance, if we analyze the name of the Sona language, it translates as:

so help, assist, aid
na thing

So, essentially, *Sona* means "helping / auxiliary thing".

(BTW, *Sona* is the only "native" word in the Sona language that is capitalized!)

Note that *na* is used to create MANY words:

<i>nari</i>	never	(<i>na + ri</i>)
<i>naji</i>	no one / no person	(<i>na + ji</i>)

Look for more *na* words in the following lessons!

airese!

Exercises

=====

A. Translate into Sona:

1. Hello! Do you speak Sona?
 2. He knows (how to) speak Sona.
 2. What's your husband/wife's name?
 3. Do you know Mr. Tanaka?
 4. Mrs. Smith knows (how to) speak Sona, a little.
 5. She never drinks soup.
-
-
6. No one here knows me.

B. Translate from Sona:

1. *gerazan Jones na hasa gerazan Smith.*
2. *on laba Sona ui xa!*
3. *an na sa laba Anglo* lasin.*
4. *hara Tanaka inyake?*

[

* *Anglo* = English

You can look up words you do not know in the online Sona/English dictionary:

<http://sonalanguageweb.x10.mx/default.html>
]

- *airese!*

Sona -- Lesson 3

=====

a hucema - At the airport

=====

*gerazan Smith ari a hucema, a Chapultepek, Meksiko.
abiidaci unoci tolen.*

abiidaci: juari min Meksiko. o cu, o tolen...

grz Smith: inha.

a: nekeli tue ari?

S: ne yen Unanihaidaia.

a: ada nu alodi?

S: alodi. in mie enyo ruta li Meksiko.

a: ta xa! ketari tue iti da man min umma?

S: dici diri.

a: xa! juha o alodi!

S: ta xan!

Vocabulary:

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ari

arrive / reach

juari!

Welcome!

a / a(ye) [before a radical that begins with a]
at (a location)

min

in, inside, within (a location/building/Country)

cu

want, desire

o cu

Please...

pi

flight, bird

pino
airplane

ma
place

hucema
airport

abi
custom, habit

ida
office, direct, minister

abiidaya [*abi + ida + (y) + a*]
Customs office

~ci
person/thing which does/is doing...

idaci
Officer / Official

abiidaci
Customs Officer/Official

uno
cross, check, squint

to
pass

len
document / ~book / (to) read

tolen
passport

no
carry

~no
vehicle

nekeli (*ne + ke + li*)
from where? / "whence" ?

keli
where to? / "whither" ?

tue

You (plural) - "you (all)"

en Unanihaidaia ((una+ni) + (ha + ida) + ia))
the United States

ada
work

alo
allow, let, leave (military), ticket

alodi
Holiday, "vacations"; also: *judi*

en, dici
one, ten (more about numbers in a later lesson!)

enyo [en + (y) + o]
first

ruta
travel, voyage

li
to, towards

diri
day

iti
intend, plan

(da) man
(to) wait, remain, stay

Use of *li*
=====

Note that the word *li* (to / point) is often used to indicate the direction of an action:

<i>keli.</i>	<i>where to?</i>	/	<i>"whither"?</i>
<i>nekeli.</i>	<i>where from?</i>	/	<i>"whence"?</i>

mie ruta li Europa.
We are travelling / "on our way" / "headed towards" Europe.

Use of *en*
=====

The little word *en* completes the series of "demonstratives" (*in, un, an, on*).

Use *en* to mean "it / the":

mi ima xen. en Rotweiller xensin.
I have a dog. It's a Rotweiller (breed).

Note that in Sona, we very seldom use the word *en* in the sense of the English word "the" (called a "definite article" by grammarians.)

In Sona, *en* is used in this sense only before certain nouns:

mie ari ne (y)en Unanihaidaia. ((*una + ni*) + (*ha + ida*) + *ia*)

We are arriving from **the** United States.

Note that the special ending *ia* (pronounced: "ee-ah") is used with many country names (like the English ending "~land"):

Anglo - English

Anglia - England

Note the following gender-specific endings *i*, *a*:

Angli - an Englishman

Angla - an Englishwoman

You may also use the more generic *ji* (person):

Angloji - an English person / citizen

Use of the honorific marker: *o*

=====

The little word *o* is an interesting feature of the Sona language.

It is used before a word to "elevate its status". Think of it as meaning "honorable". (This word is actually used much as in Japanese!)

In human languages, there is something linguists call "register" -- this means the level of "formality" of the conversation.

For instance, we speak differently to close friends than we do to our bosses, or to authority figures such as judges.

Different languages use a variety of tools to indicate "formality" or "register", but Sona uses just one: the little word *o*.

Use *o* before another word to make it more "formal". We most often use *o* when referring to objects that belong or relate to other people.

For instance:

o tolen - (your) passports

o jiko - (your / his / her / their) children (depending on the context of the conversation!)

o hara - ("Dear Sir", "Your Honor", "Gentlemen" etc.)

o hazan - ("Dear Lady/Ladies", "Madam", "Ms.", "Miss", etc.)

o tu - (at the end of a letter: "Yours truly,")

By far the most common use of *o* is in the following expression:

o cu - "your" intention/want =~ Please...

Use of the plural marker: *e*

=====

The word *e* has several interesting uses.

In general, it means "many", and can be used alone, before a noun to indicate more than one person, place or thing.

mi se (e) pino a hucema.

I see (many) airplanes at the airport.

When used as a suffix, *~e* forms the plural:

mi - I
mie - we

tu - you
tue - you (all)

You can make the plural form of anything using *e* -- However, in Sona we use the plural form of a noun ONLY if it is not clear or obvious from the context that we are speaking of many persons, places or things.

For example:

e ji man aye abiidaya.

Many people are waiting at the Customs office.

ji man aye abiidaya.

A person is waiting at the Customs office.

min in hucema, ji man aye abiidaya ri ari.

At this airport, people wait at the Customs office when they arrive.

Note how, in the Sona sentence, we do NOT say *jie*, because the context makes it clear we are speaking of many people in general, not of one particular person.

While this may seem strange to speakers of English, we often do the same in our language, but only with certain nouns or expressions:

"Tom and Bill went out to hunt **bear**." (one bear? two bears? who knows?)

In fact, in English, we often have to memorize an entirely new word for the plural:

child - children
person - people

Note that Sona does away with all these formalities!

You will quickly get into the "minimalist" mindset of Sona...!

Use of *ci*

=====

The little word *ci* has many uses in Sona!

When used alone, before a phrase, it is used as a "relative particle" to introduce a reference to a person or object.

In these cases, it often translates into English as "that/which":

gelen (ci) mi len zadiri...

The book (that) I read yesterday...

Note that, as in English, this "relative" *ci* may be dropped (as long as the sentence remains clear!)

When used as a suffix to a verb, *~ci* is used to mark an "active agent" -- the person or thing carrying out an action:

In this case, *~ci* can often be translated into the English "*~ing*":

inri, mi lenci gelen.

Right now, I am reading a book.

abiidaci unoci tolen.

The customs official is checking passports.

~ci is also used in many common words:

idaci official (officer)
kaci conductor

pinokaci airplane pilot

dici ten (more about numbers, later!)

Use of *ta*

=====

In many ways, *ta* is the opposite of *ko*.

When used alone, or before a noun, it means "big, large", or "very".

in hucema ui ta. This is a big airport!

mi ta ju rutada. I greatly / very much enjoy traveling.

ta is used as a suffix to create many words:

ruta travel, voyage

tanta a million

ta also appears in many words related to quantity:

keta how much?

ketari how long (time)?

ketare how long (measure)?

inta this much / this amount

unta that much / that amount

Note the following expressions:

po ta at most...

po ko at least...

Use of *da*

=====

The word *da* when used alone, means "do, act."

The verb "marker" *da* (to do) is used before a word, to explicitly mark it as a verb.

For instance:

mi cu da...

I want (to do an action)...

as opposed to:

mi cu ...

I want (some object)

In these cases, it can often be translated into English as "to ~":

mie iti (da) man min umma ri dici diri.

We intend **to stay** in the country for/during ten days.

on cu (da) pi li Meksiko indiri.

He wants **to fly** to Meksiko today.

Note that, in Sona, the *da* is optional in the previous examples, but it is often better to use it, for

clarity.

When used **as a suffix**, it refers to a general occurrence of an action. In these cases, *~da* is often equivalent to English "*~ing*".

Flying is enjoyable. - *pida (zi) ju.*

I enjoy flying. - *mi ju pida.*

~ha as a suffix

=====

The word *ha* can be used as a suffix (attached to the end of a verb), for emphasis, or to express a command:

juha o pida! Enjoy your flight!

Often, it's used as a sort of audible exclamation point (!) --

tu ariha! You've (finally!) arrived!

juariha! WELCOME!

Note the similarity with:

inha Here's...!

unha There's...!

ha! Oh!

Exercises

=====

A. Translate into Sona:

1. Welcome to the United States!
2. They are flying to Germany.*
3. I want to stay in England 10 days.
4. There's the Customs Official!
5. How long is the flight to Mexico?
6. How far is it from London to Madrid?

B. Translate from Sona:

1. *o tolen, hazan.*

2. *o cu, man inya.*

3. *o cu, ru so mi li abiidaya.*

4. *rutaci li Paris, o cu ru li cen 10.*

5. *rutada taha ju!*

[* *Doic* = German

You can look up words you do not know in the online Sona/English dictionary:

<http://sonalanguageweb.x10.mx/default.html>

]

C. Come up with a list of 10 travel-related words, in English and Sona:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

- *airese!*

Sona -- Lesson 4

=====

isidai dan – Exchanging money

=====

hara John Smith cu da isi 100 UH Dolar ua da ima Meksiko danlen. on va li danyisican.

John: juri! mi cu da isi 100 (son) Dolar, o hazan.

isidanci: juri! inri isicin 5 (pen) MeksikPeso po UH Dolar

John: xa. in koyo kela: kedan, min cinsino, li Grand Hotel alukan min tunyimi.

isidanci: li Grand Hotel a Independencia tareya?

John: ui

isidanci: ili 30 (tindici) Peso, o hara.

John: ta xan!

isidanci: na xandanyo! in o dan, hara: son, doson, tinson, cason, penson Peso.

John: ta xan!

Vocabulary:

=====

isi

exchange

dan

value / money / worth

len

paper, book, reading

UH = unanihaidaia

U.S.= United States

da ima

to have / possess

can

box / booth

cin

rate

kela

question

kedan

How much is (money / value)...?

sino

automobile

alu

guest / host / invite

tun

wall / city

imi

between / center

reya

street

tareya

Avenue, Boulevard

More about numbers:

Counting in Sona is very easy!

Here are the numbers:

0 naci

1 enna

2 do

3 tin

4 ca

5 pen

Note: how the numbers 1-9 alternate between –n endings!

6 xi

7 zun

8 ato

9 nun

10 dici

11 ennadici (enna + dici)

12 dodici

13 tindici

...

20 doyedi (do + (y) + e + di [ci])

30 tinyedi

100 son
1 000 tan
1 000 000 tan tan
1 000 000 000 tan tan tan

2014 dotan cadici

1999 tan nunson nunyedi nun

1492 tan cason nunyedi do

Exercises

=====

A. Translate into Sona:

1. Where is the currency exchange booth?
2. What is the rate today for US Dollars to Mexican Pesos?
3. How much is a taxi to the Central Hotel downtown?
4. There's the taxi stand! * (Hint: *man*=wait + *a*=place)
5. To 495 Independence Boulevard, please...
6. Do you have any change? * (*danjen*)
7. The country's trade balance is 350 billion US dollars.

B. Write out the following numbers from/into Sona:

1. 2020
2. *tinyedi ca*
3. *zuntan penson doyedi en*
4. *zunsoncayeditantan tinyediensontan pensonnyedido*
5. 98,753,266

C. Come up with a list of 10 travel-related words, in English and Sona:

Using the online Sona/English dictionary <http://sonasojigin.freeoda.com/dictionary.php> ,

- 1.
- 2.

- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

- *airese!*