

## MEDICAL CREOLE

Describing an illness is often difficult even when being done in one's native tongue. Trying to do so in a foreign language can be at best very frustrating. This is meant to be a guide to non-speaking Creole medical personal.

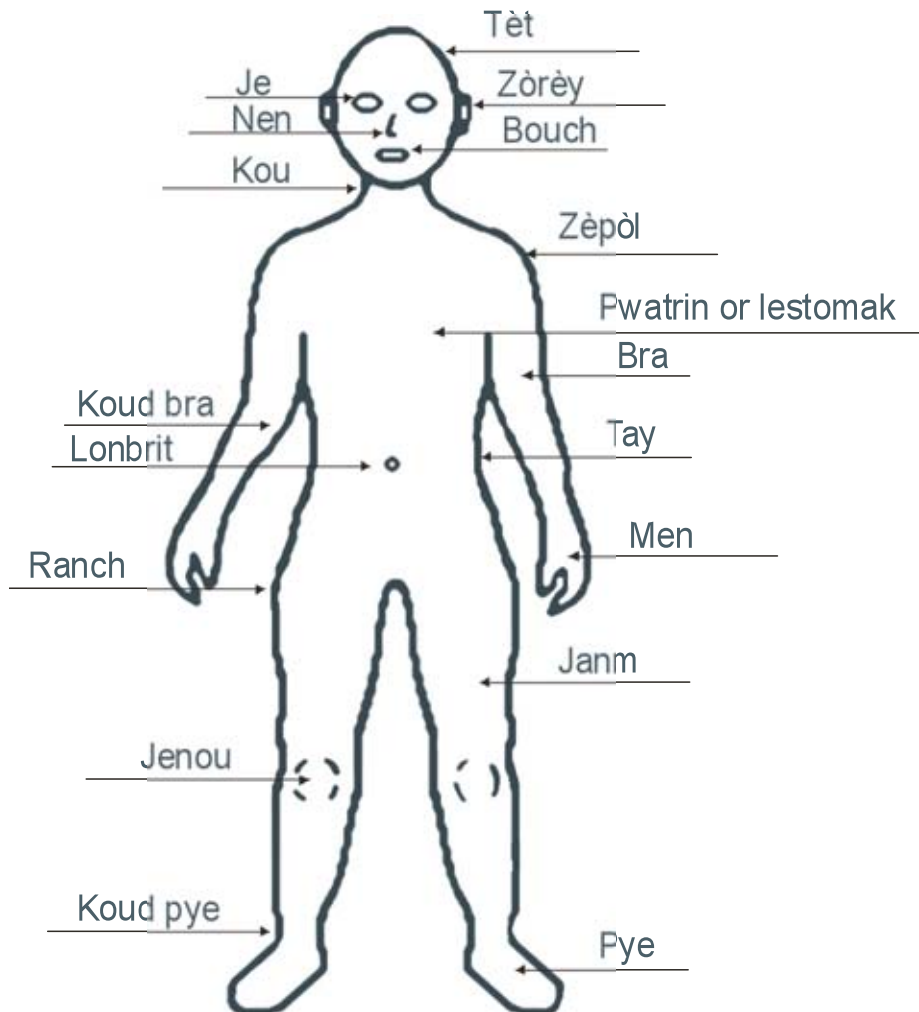
In Creole, as a general rule each letter has one sound and one sound only and every letter is pronounced. Exceptions are the combinations **ou**, **an**, **en**, and **on**.

These pronunciation examples are based on US English.

Haiti	Ayiti	<i>ah-yeetee</i>
can	kapab	<i>kah – pahb</i>
give	bay	<i>by</i>

**a** is sounded like **o** in **lot**  
**e** is sounded like the **first half** of the **long a** in **day**\*  
**è** is sounded like **e** in **let**  
**i** is sounded like **ee** in **seed**  
**o** is sounded like the **first half** of the **long o** in **go**\*  
**ò** is sounded like **o** in **or**  
**ay** is sounded like **I** in **ice**  
**ou** is sounded like **o** in **movie** (u is only used as ou)

- In English, the sounds of the long **a** in day and cake and of the long **o** in go and boat are stretched out and the lips are gradually closed as the letters are pronounced. In Creole, only the first part of the sound is made for **e** and **o**, with the lips remaining open.



## Conditions and ailments

anemia	anemi	hernia	èni
appendicitis	apenndisit	hives	bouton
arthritis	atrit	hypertension	rappe wo
asthma	opresyon	hypotension	rappe ba
bladder infection	enfeksyon blad	indigestion	gonfleman
bloated	gonflè	jaundice	lajònis
colic	kolik	malaria	palidis
diabetes	sik, dyabèt	nausea	vomisman
diarrhea	djare	mumps	malmouton
eczema	egzema	pneumonia	nemoni
heart attack	kriz kadyak	pregnancy	gwosès
heartburn	zègrè	rash	gratèl
heat rash	bouton chalè	tetanus	tetanòs
hemorrhoid	emowoyid	typhoid	tifoyid

## The body

abdomen	vant	liver	fwa
ankle	koud pye	lungs	poumon
arm	bra	mouth	bouch
back	do	muscle	misk, chè
bladder	blad pise	navel	lonbrit
breast	tete, sen	neck	kou
chest	pwatrin, lestomak	nose	nen
ear	zòrèy	palm	pla men
elbow	koud bra	rib	kòt
eye	je, zye*	penis	pati gason
eyelid	po je	shoulder	zepòl
face	figi	spine	rèl do
finger	dwèt	stomach	vant
fingernail	zong	sternum	biskèt
foot	pye	tooth	dan
gall bladder	fyèl	throat	gòj
hair	cheve	toe	zòtèy
hand	men	toenail	zong pye
head	tèt	tongue	lang
heart	kè	vagina	bòbòt, pati fi
hip	ranch	vein	venn
kidney	ren	waist	tay
knee	jenou	wisdom tooth	dan zòrèy
knuckle	jwenti dwèt	womb	matris
leg	janm	wrist	ponyèt

**TRIAGE**

<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
What is your name?	Ki jan ou rele?
What is your address?	Ki adrès ou?
do you have your name and address written down for me to see?	Eske ou gen adrès ou ekri sou yon papye pou mwen wè li?
What is your phone number?	Ki nimewo telefòn ou?
Are you married?	Eske ou marye?
Are you the parent?	Eske se ou ki paran?
Are you the guardian?	Eske se ou ki responsab?
Can you read Kreyòl?	Eske ou kapab li kreyòl?
Can you read French?	Eske ou kapab li Fransè?
Can you read English?	Eske ou kapab li rapp?
What is the name of your doctor?	Ki jan doktè ou rele?
Did a doctor tell you to come here?	Eske se doktè ou ki di ou vini isist la?
<b>POSITIONS:</b>	
Please stand up	Tanpri kanpe
Please sit down	Tanpri shita
Please lean forward	Tanpri panche devan
Please lean back	Tanpri panche dèyè
Please lean to the right	Tanpri panche a dwat
Please lean to the left	Tanpri panche a gosh
Please lie down	Tanpri kouche
Please bend your knee	Tanpri koube jenou ou
Please lean your knees	Tanpri panche jenou ou
Please wiggle your toe	Tanpri fè dwet pye ou mache
Please wiggle toes	Tanpri fè dwet pye ou yo mache
Please move your finger	Tanpri fè dwet ou mache
Please move your fingers	Tanpri fè dwet ou yo mache
Please raise your arm	Tanpri leve bra ou
Please raise your arms	Tanpri leve tou le de bra ou
Please raise your leg	Tanpri leve janm ou
Put your head down to your chest	Panche tèt ou sou lestomak ou
Look up	Gade anlè
Look down	Bese tèt ou
Look to the left	Gade a gosh
Look to the right	Gade a dwat
Turn to the left	Vire a gosh
Turn to the right	Vire a dwat
Jump up and down several times	Sote de twa fwa
Walk a few steps	Mashe de twa pa
Cough a few times.	Touse de twa fwa
Cover your mouth when you cough please.	Tanpri kouvri boush ou lè ou touse
Do not move please.	Pa bouje
Please be still	Rete trankil
Turn towards me	Vire gade mwen
Turn away from me	Vire ban'm do

<b>MEDICAL HISTORY:</b>	
Are you allergic to any medication?	Eske ou gen alèji oken medikaman?
Tell me all medications you are allergic to.	Di mwen tout medikaman ou ge alèji yo.
Tell me the names of medications you cannot take.	Di mwen tout medikaman ou pa kapab pran.
Are you a Diabetic?	Eseke ou dyabèt? / Eske ou fè sik?
Do you have low blood sugar?	Eske ou manke sik nan san?
Do you have a history of coughing a lot?	Eske ou toujou touse anpil?
Do you have a history of high blood pressure?	Eske ou fe tansyon?
Do you have history of low blood pressure?	Eske tansyon ou bese?
Do you have a history of eye problems?	Eske ou konn gen pwoblèm nan je?
How many times has this happened to you before?	Konbye fwa sa konn rive ou rap?
Are the immunization shots being taken on time?	Eske ou toujou pran vaksen?
Do you have immunization records here?	Eske ou genyen kat vaksen ou?
<b>TIME IT HAPPENED:</b>	
Did it happen today?	Eske sa rive jodi a?
Did it happen a few days ago?	Eske sa gen de twa jou depi sa rive?
Did it happen a few weeks ago?	Eske sa gen de twa semen depi sa rive?
Did it happen a few months ago?	Eske sa gen de twa mwa depi sa rive?

**MORE HELPFUL PHRASES**

I have a fever.	Mwen genyen lafyèv.
Do you have a fever?	Eske ou genyen lafyèv?
It hurts.	Li fè mal.
Where does it hurt?	Ki kote li fè mal?
We need a doctor right away!	Nou bezwen yon doktè toutswit!
Does the doctor speak English?	Eske doktè a pale angle?
I am sick.	Mwen malad.
I have a head ache.	Mwen genyen yon maltèt.
I have diarrhea.	Mwen genyen djare.
I have no appetite.	Mwen pa genyen apeti.
I have pain.	Mwen gen doulè.
Do you have pain?	Eske ou genyen doulè?
I have a toothache.	Mwen gen maldan.
I have something in my eye.	Mwen gen yon baygay nan je mwen.
I have indigestion.	Mwen gonfle.
I have my period.	Mwen gen règ mwen.
I vomited.	Mwen te vomi.
I am allergic to that.	Mwen gen alèji ak sa.
She fainted.	Li endispoze.
He is hurt (injured).	Li blese.
It hurts here.	Li fè mal isit.
Do not move him.	Pa deplase li.
I need to buy (some) medicine.	Mwen bezwen achte remèd.

I am a diabetic.	Mwen dyabèt.
There was an accident.	Te genyen yon aksidan.
Please call the nurse.	Tanpri, rele mis la.
Where does it hurt?	Ki kote li fè mal?
Do you have sanitary napkins?	Eske ou genyen kotèks?
Where is the pharmacy?	Ki kote famasi a ye?
Do you have a bandage?	Eske ou genyen yon pansman?
Take 2 tablets 3 times a day.	Bwè de gren twa fwa pa jou.
Take 1 teaspoon once daily.	Bwè yon ti kiyè yon fwa pa jou.
Apply topically each morning and night.	Pase rappe chak maten e swa.

Note: To say “it hurts” in Creole, one says “li fè mal” or literally, “it makes bad.”

Note: Genyen (have) may be shortened to gen. Both forms are used above, but they are interchangeable.

A *general practitioner* is a **doktè**. Other specialist are listed below:

cardiologist	kadyològ, doktè kè	optometrist	doktè je
dentist	dantis	orthopedist	òtopedis, doktè zo
gynecologist	doktè fanm	pediatrician	pedyat, doktè timoun
neurologist	doktè niwoloji	podiatrist	doktè pye
obstetrician	doktè fanm	surgeon	chirijyen

Note: In rural areas, the more common way to refer to a specialist is to say “doktè” and then state the area of specialty. For example: An *orthopedist* might be known as an **òtopedis** near a city, but as a **doktè zo** (*bone doctor*) in more rural areas.

## MEDICAL VOCABULARY

The following vocabulary is included to help the medical professional communicate with limited Creole language knowledge. These terms will be understood by all Haitian medical personnel, including orderlies and nurses' aides and by most patients in urban areas although not every term will be understood by all patients in rural areas.

<b>A:</b>		childbirth	akouchman
Abcès	abse	cirrhosis	siwoz
abrasion	fwote	clinic	linik
abstain (food)	pa manje	cold	grip (n), rap (v)
accident	aksidan	colic	kolik
administer (give)	bay	collapse (v)	endispoze
apply	pase	cough	tous (n), touse (v)
affliction	maladi	congestion	konjesyon, toufe
AIDS, HIV	SIDA	consent	konsanti, dakò
ailing	malad	console	rekonfòte, bay kouraj
alergic	genyen alèji	cramp	lakranp
allergy	alèji	critical (grave)	grav
ambulance	anbilans	<b>D:</b>	
anesthesia	anestezi	daze, dazed	toudi
anesthetize	andòmi	deceased	mouri
antibiotic	antibiyotik	dead	mouri
antidote	antidòt, remèd kont pwazon	deaf	soud
appendicitis	apendisit	dehydrated	kò sèch, dezidrate
appetite	apeti	delusion	foli
artery, vein	venn	denture	atelye, danti
assist	asiste, ede	detach	detache
<b>B :</b>		diabetes	dyabèt, sik
Bandage, bandaid	pansman	diaphragm	dyafram
basin	kivèt	diarrhea	djare, dyare
bedwetter	pisannit	diet	rejim
belch	rann gaz, degobye	digest	dijere, pase nan vant
bellyache	vant fè mal	diphtheria	difteri
bicarbonate	bikabonak	directions (instructions)	eksplikasyon
bite	kout dan (n), mode (v)	disinfect	dezenfekte
bleeding	senyen	disrobe	dezabiye
blood pressure	tansyon	dislocated	dejwente
blow (hit)	kou	dizziness	toudisman, vètij, tèt vire
breathe	respire	doctor	doktè
broken	kase	doctor's office	biwo doktè, klinik
bronchitis	bwonchit	dosage, dose	dòz
bruise	metri	drain (v)	degoute
bug	ti bèt	drainage	drenaj
bump	rappe (v)	<b>E:</b>	
bump on head	konkonm, bòs	earache	malzòrèy
<b>C :</b>		effect	efè
cap (for bottle)	bouchon	electrocardiogram	kontwòl kè
care for	swen, okipe	emergency, urgency	ijans
careful (be careful)	veye, fè atansyon	emaciated	mèg
centipede/millipede	annipye, milpye, milpat	enrich, enriched	anrichi
cervix	bouch matris	epidemic	epidemi

epistaxis,	nen senyen	inspection	enspeksyon
exam, examination	egzamen	install, put	mete
examine (a patient)	konsilte	instruct	enstwi, montre
exhaustion	kòkraz, fatig	instruction	ansèyman
expert	ekspè, spesyalis	invalid	malad
explanation	eksplikasyon	iodine	yòd, tentidyòd
<b>F:</b>		irritable	rechiya
faint	endispoze	irritated	eksite, irite
fatigue	fatig, feblès	isolated	izole
feeling	sansasyon	itch	gratèl (n)
fever	lafyèy	<b>J:</b>	
fill a tooth	plonbe	jaw	machwè
flu	grip	jaundice	lajònis
fracture	kase, fractire	jellyfish	lagratèl
frail	enfim	joint	jwenti
<b>G:</b>		<b>K:</b>	
gall bladder	fyèl	keep an eye on	voye je sou
gargle	gagari	kidney	ren
germ	mikwòb	kidney stone	pyè nan ren
gonorrhoea	grantchalè	knock out	blayi, degrennen
gout	lagout	knuckle	jwenti dwèt
<b>H:</b>		<b>L:</b>	
headache	maltèt, tèt fè mal	laboratory	laboratwa
hemorrhage	emoraji	laceration	blese
hospital	lopital	latrine	latrin, watè
hospitalize	entène	lessen	bese
hourly	chak inè de tan	let (permit)	kite, pèmèt
hurts	fè mal	lethal	mòtel
hydrogen peroxide	dlo oksijene	lethargic	fèb, manfouben
hygiene	ijyèn	listless	molas
hypertension	tansyon, tansyon wo	loose	lache
hypotension	tansyon ba	loosen	lage, desere
hysteria	krizdenè	lotion	krèm, losyon
<b>I:</b>		lumpy	gen ti boul
illness	maladi	<b>M:</b>	
immobile	san mouvman	médicine	remèd, medikaman
impossible	enposib	membrane	manbran
improvement	alemye, miyò	meningitis	menenjít
improvement	amelyorasyon, pwogrè	menopause	menopòz
incisor	dan devan	menstrual cycle, period	règ
incurable	san gerizon, engerisab	migraine	migrèn, tèt fè mal
inebriated	sou, gri	mixture	melanj
infect	bay maladi	molar	dan dèyè
infected	enfekte	motionless	san mouvman
infection	enfeksyon	mouthwash	dezenfektan pou bouch
infectious	atrapan	muscle	misk, chè
inflamed	wouj, anfle	muscular	miskle, manbre
inflammation	anflamasyon	<b>N:</b>	
influenza	gwo grip	nausea	gen vomisman
injury	blese, domaj	nervous	ajite, enève
insomnia	paka dòmi	nervousness	ajitasyon, enèvyman
inspect	enspekte, kontwole	newborn	nouvone, fèk fèt

nosebleed	nen senyen	probably	siman
nostril	twou nen, narin	procedure	pwosede
nourishing	nourisan	prolong	pwolonje, lonje
nurse	enfimyè	prostate	glann pwostat
<b>O:</b>		psychiatric	sikyatrik
obstruction	angòje, bouche	psychiatrist	sikyat
occupation	okipasyon, metye	pull a tooth	rache dan
operate on	fè operasyon, opere sou	pulmonary	pilmonè, nan poumon
optician	optisyen	pulse	poul, batmankè
organ	ògan, pati	purify	pirifye, dezenfekte
orthopedist	òtopedis	pus	pi
ovary	ovè	<b>Q:</b>	
overdose	twòp remèd	quarantine	karantèn
overdue	anreta	quickly	vit, byen vit
overnight	pase nwit	quiet	trankil, san bri
overweight	twò gwa	<b>R:</b>	
ovulation	ovilasyon	rabies	raj, laraj
oxygen	oksijèn	radiation	reyonnman
<b>P:</b>		radiograph (v)	radyografye, fè radyografi
p.m.	apremidi 12-6, diswa 7-12	rash, heat rash	gratèl, chofi
pain	doulè	reaction	reyaksyon
painful	fè mal	reassure	rasire
painkiller	kalman, remèd pou doulè	recline	kouche
painless	san penn, san doulè	records (file)	dosye, dokiman
palpitate	bat	rectum	rektòm, twou dèyè
palpitation	palpitasyon, batman	reddened	wouji
pancreas	pankre	refill (v)	replen
panic	panic, panike (v)	reflex	reflèks
paralyze	paralize	refusal	refi
parasite	parazit	relapse	tonbe malad ankò
pathology	patoloji	relationship	relasyon
patient	malad, pasyan	release (from hospital)	bay egzeyat
payment	peyman	relief	soulajman
pediatrician	pedyat, doktè timoun	respiration	respirasyon, souf
pee (urinate)	fè pipi, irinen, pise	respond	reponn
penicillin	penisilin	rest (relax)	poze
personal	prive	rheumatism	rimatis
perspiration	swe	rhythm	kadans
pharmacist	famasyen	rickets	rachitis
phobia	lapè, laperèz	right-handed	dwatye
plastic surgery	chiriji estetik	rigid	rijid, rèd
posture	posti, kanpe	ringworm	lateng
powerful	fò, pisan	rock (v)	baskile, balanse
pregnant	ansent	roll over	vire sou lòt bò
premature	avan lè, prematire	routine	woutin
premenstrual	anvan règ	<b>S:</b>	
prenatal	avan nesans	safely	byen, san malè
pressure	presyon	sanatorium	sanatoryòm
preventable	evitab	sane	sèn, gen bon tèt



save (keep)	sere	tingling	pikotman
scabies	gal	tinnitus	tande bri nan zòrèy
scald	chode	tiredness	fatig
scream	rèl, rele (v), kriye (v)	to cough	touse
scrotum	sak grenn	to vomit	rechte, vomit
scrub	foubi	toilet	watè, latrin
seizure	kriz	topical	remèd po
seriously	seryezman	touth	dan
severely	grav	touthache	malden
severety	severite	toxicity	toksisite
sex m/f	sèks	train (v)	montre, antrene
sex (have sex)	fè baygay, kouche	tranquilizer	kalman, trankilizan
shot (injection)	piki	transfer	transfere
sick	malad	transfuse	bay san
sickness	maladi	transfusion	transfizyon
sinus	sinis	transmissible	transmisib
sleep with	kouche ak	transmission	transmisyon
sleeping	nan dòmi	treatable	ki kapab trete
sleepy	gen dòmi nan je	triceps	trisèp, misk dèyè ponyèt
smallpox	vèrèt	trimester	trimès, chak twa mwa
smelly	santi	turn around	virewon
sore throat, laryngitis	gòj fè mal, malgòj, anwe	twisted	tòde, kokobe
sperm	dechay, jèm	<b>U:</b>	
spine	rèl do	ulcer	ilsè
spleen	larat	uncap	ouvri
spot	tach	unclothed	dezabiye
sprain	antòs	uncommon	ra
stammer	bege	uncooked	kri, san kwit
sternum	biskèt	uncross	dekwaze
stomachache	vant fè mal	underarm	anba bra
suddenly	sibitman, briskeman	underdeveloped	soudevelope, rasi (child)
suffer	soufri	undernourished	malnouri
suffering	soufrans	underweight	mèg, pa peze ase
suffocate (v)	toufe	undigested	pa dijere
suffocation	etoufman	undress	dezabiye
survive	siviv, pase	uneducated	malapri
<b>T:</b>		unhealthy	malsen
tablespoon	gwo kiyè	upper part	anlè
take off clothes	dezabiye	ureter	irèt, kanal marasa
technique	teknik	urgency, emergency	ijans
tenderness	tandrès	urine	pipi
tepid	tyèd	urinate	pipi
term	tèm, limit	use (v)	sèvi
therapy	trètman	<b>V:</b>	
thermometer	tèmomèt	vagina	bòbòt, vajin
thorax	pwatrin, lestomak	vaginal discharge	pèt blanch
throb	bat	vague	vag
throw up	rejte, vomit	vaporizer	vaporizatè
thrush	chit	variable	chanje, varyab
tibia	zo janm	varicose vein	varies
ticklish	sansib	vegetative	vejetatif, sans konensans
vein, artery	venn		

venereal	veneryèn		
venom	pwazon		
ventilate	ayere, vante		
ventricle	vantrikil		
vertebra	vètèb, zo do		
vertigo	vètij, tèt vire		
violence	vyolans		
virgin	vyèj, ti fi		
virus	viris		
vision good/bad	wè byen / wè mal		
visitor	vizitè		
visual	vizyèl		
vital	enpòtan, vital		
vocal chord	kòd vokal		
vomiting	vomisman		
vulva	pati fi, bouboun		
<b>W:</b>			
waist	tay, senti		
ward (surgical)	sal chiriji		
warm	tyèd (adj), chofe (v)		
warmth	chalè		
warning	avètisman		
wart	vèri		
watch over	veye		
weight loss	pèdi pwa		
well (not sick)	pa malad		
wet nurse	nouris		
womb	matris		
wonderful	mèvèye		
wounded, injured	blese		
<b>X:</b>			
x-ray	radyografi		
<b>Y:</b>			
yawn	baye		
yaws	pyan		
you are welcome	padkwa, ou merite		
yourself	ou menm		