

## A

**aandypie** n, D/Afk. x

see: afrikaner (iv)

**-able** suff

see: suffixes: -able, etc

**admission/admittance**

*admission* is used figuratively & applies esp to the privileges & rights of being admitted, eg 'The *admission* of immigrants has been heavily restricted'; *admittance* applies to the actual physical entrance & is therefore used literally, eg 'He bought a ticket & gained *admittance* to the park'

**African blackwood** n, E, + (*Dalbergia melanozylon*)

alt: driedoringebbehout

tree wh reaches a height of 12m, bearing dark green foliage & yellow flowers; hardy & frost resistant; when planted in rows forms a good wind-break; leaves can be used as fodder

see also: African wattle

**afrikaner (i)** n, D/Afk, +

S Afr name applied to several plants belonging to the genus *Gladiolus*; flowers range in colour fr cream to brown; some species produce flowers with a strong scent

**afrikaner (ii)** n, D/Afk, + (*Gladiolus carinatus*)

alt: mauve afrikaner, sandypie

plant commonly found on sandy flats fr Cape Town to Port Elizabeth; flowers have a very sweet scent

see also: afrikaner (i)

**afrikaner (iii)** n, D/Afk, + (*Gladiolus caryophyllaceus*, *G. hirsutus*)

alt: pink afrikaner, sandveldlelie

plant bearing strongly scented bright pink flowers; found in sandy areas fr Malmesbury to Clanwilliam

see also: afrikaner (i)

**afrikaner** (iv) n, D/Afk, + (*Gladiolus grandis*)

alt: aandpypie, kaneelblom, large brown afrikaner, ribbokblom  
plant found on the coastal mountain slopes fr Cape Town to  
Plettenburg Bay; flowers have a sweet scent  
see also: afrikaner (i)

**afrikaner** (v) n, D/Afk, + (*Gladiolus maculatus*)

alt: small brown afrikaner  
more common plant than the large brown afrikaner with smaller  
flowers  
see also: afrikaner (i) & (iv)

**afrikaner** (vi) n, D/Afk, + (*Homoglossum watsonianum*, *Antholyza  
revoluta*)

alt: red afrikaner, suikerkan  
plant wh is becoming increasingly rare but was once common on the  
lower mountain slopes of the Cape Peninsula  
see also: afrikaner (i)

**afterwards**

alt: afterward  
*afterward* is now obs in E usage, but still survives in Amer;  
*afterwards* meaning 'at a later time' is +

**-age** suff

see: suffixes -able, etc

**agretjie** n, D/Afk, ? (*Tritonia scillaris*)

[a' xɾəki]

alt: weeskindertjies

attractive, small plant of the fam *Iridaceae*, common along the S Afr  
coastline fr Namaqualand s-wards; its corm produces fan-like leaves  
in the rainy season & small pink flowers in the spring

**all time**

meaning 'for all time' appears to be Amer; should be avoided as the  
expression includes the past as well as the future & future events  
cannot be predicted; eg 'The athlete established an *all time* record' x

**angler fish** n, E, + (*Lophius piscatorius*)

alt: fishing frog

fish approx 1,25m in length; found in Saldanha Bay, Table Bay, the w coast of the Cape Peninsula, the Nth Atlantic & the Mediterranean

**Anglo-Afrikaner** n, E/D/Afk, ?

term applied to an English-speaking S Afr

**angwantibo** n, Ba, +

[aŋ'wantibɔ]

small W Afr lemur

**anticipate/expect**

*anticipate* = to take into consideration before the due time, eg 'We *anticipate* the results of motor car accidents & therefore take out an insurance'; *anticipate* should not be used in the sense of *expect* wh = to regard as about to happen, eg 'I *expected* this to happen as he had warned me'

**apostrophe** s

is used to denote the gen, eg 'Miss Brown's cat, my brother's sandel, Keats's sonnet'; irregular pl forms also take the 's, eg 'the men's section', 'children's games'; regular pl forms take s' eg 'the boys' school' ie the school of the *boys*; in some cases the pronunc of the gen form determines whether 's or simply the apostrophe is used. eg Jesus' disciples, Socrates' wisdom

**apt/liable**

*apt* = inclined, prone, suitable, eg 'Elderly people are *apt* to be forgetful' 'His remark was very *apt*'; *liable* = bound, likely to occur, obliged, responsible eg 'Young men who are eighteen years of age are *liable* to be called up for military service'

**arch-verlig** adj, E/D/Afk, x

[atʃfɪrləx]

also: (n) arch-verligte(s)

see: verlig

**arrive at**

arrive to x; eg 'to arrive *at* a decision' + ; prob Afk infl 'om *tot* 'n besluit te kom'

**Asian/Asiatic**

*Asian* is preferable to *Asiatic* when referring to an inhabitant of or a native emigrant fr Asia; so also Africa – African, Europe – European, India – Indian; but Asiatic Bazaar +

**askari n, Swahili, +**

an East Afr warrior or policeman

**assous n, D/Afk, x**

see: whitebait (iv)

**Australian bug n, E, + (*Icerya purchasi mask*)**

alt: cochineal bug, cottony cushion scale, mealy bug  
hermaphroditic insect wh feeds mainly on cactus; the cochineal bug is reared in Mexico for making scarlet & carmine dye; cottony cushion scale is a pest of citrus in California & is kept under control by means of a ladybird beetle imported fr Australia; the mealy bug, so named because of its floury appearance, introduced to S Afr fr Australia as a means of cactus control, has become a pest of citrus & Jacaranda trees in particular, but it attacks such plants as geraniums & certain succulents as well

**autumn fever n, E, +**

see: blue tongue

**avocet n, F, + (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)**

migratory bird with webbed feet & a slender recurved bill; has black markings on white plumage; feeds on aquatic insects in shallow water, sweeping aside the surface film; its local movements are determined by the drying up of vleis

## B

**baardman** n, D/Afk, x

see: tasselfish

**bad grammar**

*bad & grammar* should not be combined, as an expression is either grammatical or ungrammatical; so also *good grammar* x

**baira** n, Ba, x

see: beira

**bakkop** n, D/Afk, x

see: cobra, rinkals

**balance fish** n, E, +

see: hammerhead shark

**bamboo fish** n, E, + (*Crenidens valenciennes*)

alt: mooi nooitjie (Cape), strepie (Knysna), striped karanteen (Natal), sasa (Transkei)

fish with a plump, oval body, approx 45cm in length; large fish are more common in the colder waters off the w coast of S Afr; frequents rocky areas; has a small mouth & sharp teeth wh make it a pest to rock anglers; excellent as bait

**bass** n, E, +

the freshwater bass is a kind of sunfish known as black bass; the most important species are the large-mouth black bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) the small-mouth black bass (*M. dolomieu*) & the spotted black bass (*M. pseudoplites*);; has a long body & is plain coloured; the large-mouth prefers the quiet waters of a lake, & weighs fr 3,5 to 5 kg; the small-mouth prefers the cool, clear waters of running streams; the bass was brought fr Amer to stock S Afr rivers & lakes

**bath/bathe**

*bath* differs fr *bathe* in that it has a distinct ref to a vessel for bathing & is always literal eg 'I *bath* (subject myself to a bath) every

evening'; 'I shall *bathe* my swollen feet in warm water' (literal); 'The square was *bathed* in sunlight' (figurative); in S Afr & Amer E *bathe* is also the equiv of *swim*

**beira** (i) n, Ba, + (*Dorcatragus megalotis*)

alt: baira

small antelope found in Somaliland; purple-black in colour with bright yellow-fawn markings

**beira** (ii) n, Hott, +

the gum of *Acacia mellifera*, orig 'heira'

see also: haakdoring

**belhambra tree** n, Sp/E, + (*Phytolacca dioica*)

alt: bel sombra, bella sombra

quick-growing evergreen tree, first introduced to S Afr fr S Amer in 1845; fleshy fruit is eaten by Afr & Ind & is also used to make a rich plum-coloured jam; the vernacular name is a corr of Sp 'bella sombra' wh = 'beautiful shade'

**belief/believe**

*belief* is the n, eg 'It is my *belief* that he is not as honest as he appears to be'; *believe* is the v, eg 'I *believe* that he is wrong'; Afk-speaking S Afr tend to confuse the two forms

**bella sombra tree** n, Sp/E, +

see: belhambra tree

**below/beneath/under/underneath**

below = lower than, lit, eg '*below* sea level'; figuratively; 'He is *below* flattery'; *beneath* is archaic but still occurs in such phrases as '*beneath* contempt'; its use is also more restricted than that of 'below'; *under* = in a position lower than, eg 'The dog lay *under* the table'; *underneath* = below (in a local position), at an underlying or lower level, eg '*underneath* the arches'

**bel sombra tree**

see: belhambra tree

**beneath/below/under/underneath**

see: below/beneath/under/underneath

**berg adder n, D/Afk/E, + (*Bitis atropos atropos*)**

alt: Cape mountain adder, mountain adder  
small venomous snake found in the highlands of the Transvaal & the S Afr uplands

**berglelie n, D/Afk, x**

see: George lily

**berg lily n, D/Afk/E, +**

see: George lily

**bietou (i) n, D/Afk, +(*Castalis spectabilia, Dimorphotheca spectabilis*)**

[ ' b ɪ t oʊ ]

alt: Transvaal bietou

plant found in the Transvaal grasslands; has a very deep rootstock wh produces one or more shoots approx 45cm in length, often covered with stiff hairs; leaves blue-green; flowers dark-blue to mauve; fruit winged, oval, notched & flat

**bietou (ii) n, D/Afk, + (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera, Osteospermum moniliferum*)**

alt: boetebossie, bokbessie, brother berry, bush-tick berry  
bush producing a sweet, blue-black, edible fruit favoured by birds; the fruit of *C. monilifera* is eaten by the Afr; S So believe that burning a branch of the shrub in a madman's hut will cure the patient

**bietou (iii) n, D/Afk, + (*Dimorphotheca ecklonis, Osteospermum ecklonis*)**

plant found in the Cape Province; toxic to cattle as it causes hydrocyanic acid poisoning; not to be confused with the Transvaal

species *Castalis spectabilis*

see also: bietou (i)

**bietou** (iv) n, D/Afk, + (*Dimorphotheca fruticosa*, *Osteospermum fruticosum*)

plant found in the Port Elizabeth district; believed to cause hydrocyanic acid poisoning in cattle

see also: bietou (i)

**bietou** (v) n, D/Afk, + (*Osteospermum sinuatum*, *Tripteris sinata*)

indigenous plant; most species are highly toxic, found in the Roggeveld, Griqualand West & the Orange Free State; bears small yellow flowers; seeds winged

**biskop** n, D/Afk, + (*Cymatoceps nasutus*)

[ ' bɪskɒp ]

alt: black biskop, blue biskop, musselcracker, musselcrusher, poenskop, stompkop (Cape); bank blouer, blouer (Knysna); black steenbras, stembras, witbek (Est Cape & Natal)

large marine fish of S Afr; found fr False Bay to Natal as far down as 40 fathoms; grey with irregular mottled darker patches, white below; feeds mainly on molluscs (hence the alt vernacular names) & crabs

**bitterblaar** n, D/Afk, + (*Brachylaena elliptica*)

[ ' bɪtərbɪlɑr ]

shrub found in scrub veld; the foliage is relished by animals; leaves also used by Afr in an infusion wh acts as an emetic; Afr & Eur believe that the leaves can be used as a remedy for diabetes

**black cobra** n, E, +

see: forest cobra

**black mamba** n, E/Ba, + (*Dendroaspis polylepis*)

longest venomous snake of Afr attaining 2 to 3,5m in length; coloured fr slate grey to blackish; young snakes are dark olive; terrestrial & semi-arboreal; venom a powerful neurotoxin; inside of mouth a shade of black; occurs in Natal, Zululand, the Transvaal, Central & East Africa

see also: green mamba (ii), mamba



**black rhinoceros** n, E, + (*Diceros bicornis*)

thick-skinned mammal with an upright horn on the front & sometimes a smaller one in the middle of the snout; like the white rhinoceros it has no skinfolds & no lower incisors  
see also: white rhinoceros

**bobbejaandruif** n, D/Afk, x

see: bimbrikos

**bobbejaangif** n, D/Afk, + (*Adenia digitata*)

[bɔbɛ'janxɪf]

Transvaal twining plant of the fam *Passifloraceae*, wh sprouts fr a large underground tuber; leaves large & deeply lobed; pale, trumpet-shaped flowers; produce an oblong, yellow, berry-like fruit; both tuber & fruit are highly toxic as suggested by the vernacular name (bobbejaan = baboon, gif = poison), & frequently cause death when eaten by animals

**bobbejaanklapper** n, D/Afk, x

see: botterklapper

**bobbejaankos** n, D/Afk, x

see: Hottentot head

**boetebossie** n, D/Afk, x

see: bietou (ii)

**bokbessie** n, D/Afk, x

see: bietou (ii)

**bokhara clover** n, Russian/E, + (*Melilotus alba*)

weed wh occurs annually in arable land; was previously cultivated for fodder, but has been replaced by better-paying crops; its burs mat the wool of sheep & Angora goats

**bokmakierie's tail** n, D/Afk,/E, + (*Watsonia maura*)

[ 'bɔkməkiri]

alt: waaiertjie

plant of the fam *Iridaceae*; occurs in the permanent swamps of the Caledon district of the Cape Province; stems rigid & covered with sheathing leaves at the top; produces clusters of flowers

**boom** n, D/Afk, +coll

[ 'būəm]

alt: dagga, grass, marijuana

leaves of *Cannabis sativa* used as a strong narcotic esp when smoked in cigarettes

see also: dagga

**box fish** n, E, +

any of several species of the fam *Ostraciontidae*; found in tropical seas; head & body enclosed in a hard carapace of bony hexagonal plates; nine species occur in S Afr waters; superstition holds that when dried & suspended on a thread the fish will forecast bad weather by turning towards the direction of an oncoming storm

**Broederbond** n, D/Afk, +

[ 'brudərsbɔnt]

semi-secret Afk organization established in the early 1920's to protect the cultural & other interests of the Afrikaner & to promote a sense of unity; membership was confined to Afrikaners in high political posts in the days when General Hertzog, who with General Smuts's party established a coalition government, accused the organization of attempting to undermine his aims; the organization is still suspect to many S Afr

**bromgras** n, D/Afk, x

prob a corr of 'bromegrass'

see: bromegrass

**brome** n, E, +

see: bromegrass

**bromegrass** n, E, +

alt: brome

any grass of the genus *Bromus* bearing spikelets in loose, frequently drooping clusters

**brother berry** n, E, +

see: bietou (ii)

**burweed** n, E, + (*Setaria verticillata*)

alt: klitsgras

annual grass; garden weed in s-wst S Afr; produces cylindrical spiked seeds wh are troublesome in wool & mohair as they cannot be removed without damaging the wool fibres; the Afk vernacular name is derived fr the densely matted mass frequently produced when several spikes brush against one another in the wind when the awns begin to coil (Afk klits = tangle)

**bush loerie** n, E/M/D/Afk, + (*Apaloderma narina*)

[ ' l v r i ]

alt: Narina trogon

beautiful tropical forest bird of the fam *Trogonidae* occurring fr Knysna eastwards to s-est Rhodesia & Port East Afr; named Narina trogon by the ornithologist, le Valliant, in honour of a Hott girl whose beauty he greatly admired

see also: loerie

**bush tea** n, E, +

dried leaves & twigs of several genera & species of plants, but not tea bushes, used to brew tea & believed to have medicinal properties eg *Asplathus contaminata* (rooibos tea), *A. tenuifolia* (swarttee), *Borbonia lanceolata*, *B. pinifolia* (rooibos tea), *B. trinervia*, *Cyclophia genistoides*, *C. maculata* (vleisbostee), *C. subernata*, *C. vogelli*

see also: rooibos tea

**bush-tick berry** n, E, +

see: bietou (ii)

## C

**calamus** n, E, +

alt: kalmus, sweet flag, sweet sedge  
several species of the plants *Umbelliferae* are known by this name;  
has rhizomes with a balsamic odour

**Camdeboo** n, Hott, +

plateau area situated between Graaf Reinet & Aberdeen in the Cape Province, hence the plains of Camdeboo; once inhabited by the Hott

**cancer bush** n, E, + (*Sutherlandia frutescens*, *S. microphylla*, *S. tomentosa*)

alt: kankerbossie  
shrub fr 0,3 to 2m high; when crushed the leaves are very bitter, but aromatic & used by the Hott as an antiseptic for wounds or orally for curing fever; the early pioneers believed that the plant could be successfully used in cases of chickenpox & esp for the treatment of cancer (Afk kanker)

**candela** pronunc

[k æ n ' d e l ə]

an international unit of luminous intensity

**candlewood** n, E, + (*Gardenia capensis*, *Rothmannia capensis*)

alt: aapsekos, kershout  
shrub or small tree of the fam *Rubiaceae*, with leathery leaves; occurs mainly in the est parts of S Afr fr the Cape Province eastwards; flowers creamy white with dark spots on the 'tube', & a heavy, sweet scent; the large, round, woody fruit is inedible, its firm flesh becomes a black pulp when mature

**cannot/can not**

in Amer E both forms are +; in British E *cannot* is the accepted form, but in certain instances only *can not* should be used eg 'The doctor can not only advise you, but also cure you' *cannot* would be incorrect here for the positive not the neg form of the v is used, *not* is linked with *only* wh is correlated with *but also*

**Cape chestnut** n, E, + (*Calodendrum capense*)

ornamental sth Afr evergreen tree of the fam *Rutaceae*; approx height 10m; has a spreading crown, light green foliage & produces panicles of white or flesh-coloured flowers

**Cape salmon (i)** n, E, +

see: geelbek

**Cape salmon (ii)** n, E, + (*Elops saurus*)

alt: bony fish, John Marrigle or tenpounder (Amer), skipjack (Transkei), springer (Natal), wildevis (Knysna – Mossel Bay)  
local name applied to a large gamefish found fr Knysna to East London in warm waters

**Cape siskin** n, E, + (*Serinus totta*)

small bird found in the scrub on hills & mountains in the Cape Province fr Klaver s-wards & eastwards to Lesotho & Natal

**Cape turtle dove** n, E, + (*Streptopelia capicola*)

found throughout sth Afr, esp the Cape; this dove & the red eyed dove are the only collared doves in sth Afr; bobs its head as it walks along; sexes alike; its flight is upward followed by a descending spiral glide, wings stiffly spread; feeds on grain & seeds

**Cape wolf-snake** n, E, + (*Lycophidion capense*)

alt: wolf snake  
found throughout S Afr; nocturnal burrowing snake wh inhabits tropical regions & is most frequently seen in the rainy season; placid species wh is not inclined to bite; the vernacular name refers to its upper front teeth wh are fairly large & curve inwards, enabling it to seize & hold lizards, etc

**caracul** n, Ar, +

see: karakul

**carpenter** n, E, +

see: silver fish

**catjang** n, M, ?

[ 'kătjaŋ]

see: kaffir bean

**cavally** n, L, +

see: yellowtail (i)

**certainly/surely**

*certainly* = without doubt, unquestionably, eg 'He was most *certainly* wrong in his assumption'; *surely* = as must be confidently supposed, eg 'Surely he has every right to appeal against the sentence'

**chemist/pharmacist**

strictly speaking a *chemist* = a person skilled in chemistry, in GB & in S Afr a *chemist* also = a dealer in medical drugs, an apothecary; a *pharmacist* = a person who prepares & dispenses medical drugs; the latter term is therefore more correct when speaking of the person who is concerned with making up a doctor's prescription; so also *pharmacy* is preferable to *chemist's* in this sense; in Amer *druggist*, *drugstore*

**collective nouns**

a distinction can be made between four different kinds of collective ns (i) 'class' collectives, eg crockery, furniture; such ns always take the sing v & are replaced by a sing pron, they have no pl form & cannot be preceded by the sing ind article; (ii) distributive collectives, eg people; such ns take the pl v & are replaced by the pl pron; (iii) generalising collectives, eg the clergy, police; such ns usu take the pl v & are replaced by the pl pron; (iv) group collectives, eg audience, committee, public; many such ns have pl forms, but the sing form can be regarded as sing or pl depending on the circumstances; as a rule the sing is preferable but not always possible, eg 'The audience has responded favourably to the request' but 'The audience *is* requested to remain in *its* seat' x, this should read 'The audience *are* requested to remain in *their* seats'

**cornuda** n, L, +

see: hammerhead shark

**course in/on**

the preps offer a slight difference in meaning, eg 'I am doing a course in English' implies that a wide field of study is offered in E language & literature; 'I am doing a course *on* the English Romantic poets', in this case the field of study is limited; so also 'I am doing a course *on* landscape gardening but 'I am doing a course *in* sewing'

**crepe myrtle** n, E, +

see: pride of India

**crested barbet** n, E, + (*Trachyphonus vaillantii*)

large bird wh has a red-speckled head; the crest, neck, breast wings & tail are black; occurs in Natal & the Transvaal; feeds on fruit, grubs & insects

**crowfoot grass** n, E, + (*Scolopia zeyheri*)

alt: hoenderspoor

vernacular name applied to several species of grasses wh resemble a crow's foot; the Afk name hoenderspoor = fowl's spur

**crowned guinea-fowl** n, E, + (*Numida meleleagcis*)

alt: tarentaal

fowl related to partridge & pheasant, but belonging to a separate fam; its head is bare, except for a topknot of feathers, in some cases; body feathers spotted with white or pale blue on a dark background; the size of the fowl, the shape of the helmet & the pattern of the neck feathers vary; roosts in flocks in trees; eats insects, seeds, snails & worms; is a fast runner & only flies into trees when pursued

## D

**dabbie** n, Hott, + (*Tamarix usneoides*)

alt: dabees, dabby, daweb, dawee, dawEEP

shrub or semi-shrub with small spirally-borne leaves; orig Hott 'daba-heis' & 'keidabes' wh are preserved in corrupted versions of place-names such as Dabbiespoort, Daweros

**Damara bergkatlagter** n, Hott/D/Afk, x

see: Damara rock jumper

**Damara rock jumper** n, Hott/E, + (*Chaetops pycnopygius*)

alt: Damara bergkatlagter

shy bird approx 18cm in length known only in the mountains of nth Damaraland, in Mossamedes & Benguella; feeds on insects; hides at the least alarm; utters a beautiful warble

see also: orange-breasted rock jumper, rufous rock jumper

**dassievanger** n, D/Afk, x

see: black eagle

**defect** pronunc

in both the n & the v the second syllable should be stressed, eg 'This *defect* should be corrected'; 'The Russian ballerina *defected* to the west'; in Amer the first syllable is stressed

**dependant/dependent**

as ns, both versions +, but this applies to the *n* only; one who relies on another for support

**dependent**

as an adj depending on, subordinate; sp *dependant* (adj) x; the same applies to independent

see also: dependant (n)

**derivatives with the suffixes -able, -age, -ish, etc**

see: suffixes: -able, -age, -ish, etc

**descendant** sp

descendent x

see also: dependant (n), dependent (adj)

**devil fish** n, E, +

see: angler fish



**devil's dung** n, E, +coll

alt: devil's dirt, duiwelsdrek

plant resin used for medicinal purposes or as a seasoning for food

**driedoring** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild pomegranate

**driedoringebbehout** n, D/Afk, x

see: African blackwood

**dual carriage way** n, E, +

see: freeway

## E

**egret** n, E, +

see: oxpecker, tickbird

**ei & ie**

when *ei* or *ie* is pronounced [i] *i* precedes *e* except after *c*, eg *believe*, *retrieve*, but *deceive*, *receive*; there are five exceptions to this rule: *counterfeit*, *plebeian*, *seize*, *weir*, *weird*

**Elim heath** n, E, + (*Erica regia* var. *variegata*)

lax shrub wh grows to a height of 1,25m; the tubular, white flowers are waxy-crimson around the mouth; occurs round Elim, a G mission station s-east of Genadedal in the Cape Province

**elletjie** n, D/Afk, +coll

[ 'ɛlɛkɪ ]

schoolboyism; marble made of clay

**European**, a

see: a, an

**expressway** n, E, +

see: freeway

## F

**finger supper** n, E, +

buffet-style supper, but no forks & knives are used

**Free Stater** n, E, +

Eur inhabitant of the Orange Free State; mainly Afk-speaking

**freeway** n, E, +

alt: dual carriage way, expressway, highway

*freeway* appears to be preferable to the alts & is the equiv of motorway in GB; applied to the new national roads in S Afr, wh bypass towns & cities & have no intersections, as opposed to the old national roads wh are tarred but carry two-way traffic; certain restrictions are placed on vehicles wh use the freeways

**-ful/-fuls**

see: spoonful, spoonfuls

## G

**gardenia** n, E, + (*Gardenia jasminoides*)

shrub up to 1,5m high, with sweet-scented white flowers wh turn brown if bruised or touched; ripe fruit is orange-coloured & was once used by the Malays as a dye; indigenous to China, but was at first related to the Cape where it was introduced before 1750

**Gariep** n, Hott, +

[xarɪp]

derived fr the Hott 'garib' wh = large river; once applied to the Orange River

**George lily** n, E, + (*Vallota speciosa*)

alt: berg lily, Knysna lily

mountain lily of the sth coastal regions; has a tunicate bulb, dark green leaves up to approx 60cm in length & 2,5cm in width & funnel-like red flowers borne on a stem 1m long; orig found in the kloof near George in 1774, but is now a popular garden flower

**gha grass** n, ? /E, ?

see: volstruisgras

**ghieliemientjie** n, D/Afk, x

see: gilliemienkie

**giga-** pronunc

[ 'dʒaigə ]

eg giga-volt; the symbol G is indicative of one billion (10<sup>9</sup>), thus giga-volt = one billion volts

**gilliemienkie** n, D/Afk, + (*Barbus asper*)

alt: ghieliemientjie

freshwater fish found in the Est Province & Natal; small, often brilliantly coloured & has a short rounded snout; approx 8–10cm in length

**go with**

see: come with

**gram/gramme**

both spellings are +

see also: program/programme

**Great Karoo** n, E/Hott, +

see: Karoo

**Great Trek**, the n, E/D/Afk, +

the organized immigration inland of approx ten thousand Boers fr the est Cape Province in the 1830's; they wished to throw off the yoke of British rule & to establish their own state in the interior

see also: trek

**green mamba** n, E/Ba, + (*Dendroaspis angusticeps*)

alt: eastern green mamba

venomous arboreal emerald-green snake, black between the scales;

tail prehensile; belly scales yellowish green; inside of mouth white to bluish white; occurs along the Natal coastal regions, in Kenya & Tanzania; length 1,5 to 2m  
see also: black mamba

**guinea-fowl** n, E, +

see: crowned guinea-fowl

## H

**harpisbossie** n, D/Afk, x

see: resin bush

**hectare** pronunc

[ 'hɛktaə ] +, [ 'hɛktɛə ] +

**high school** n, E, +

see: primary school

**highway** n, E, +

see: freeway

**hoenderspoor** (i) n, D/Afk, x

see: crowfoot grass

**hopper** n, E, +

Afk voetganger, lit 'pedestrian'  
wingless immature locust

**Hottentot-bean tree** n, Hott/E, + (*Schotia speciosa*)

alt: hotnotsboerboon, Hottentot's bean tree  
pod-bearing tree with red flowers & edible seeds

**Hottentot fish** n, Hott/E, + (*Pachymetopon blochii*)

S Afr marine fish, bronze-brown in colour, approx 45cm in length;  
found off the coast of S W Afr to Table Bay, False Bay & the Agulhas bank

**Hottentot head** n, D/Afk, + (*Stangeria eriopus*, *S. paradoxa*)

alt: bobbejaankos, Hottentot's head  
cycads with thick trunks; male & female cones are borne on separate plants; has a tuberous main root wh is up to 10cm in diameter & fern-like leaves 25cm to 2m in length; single cones develop on the stems with a silvery pubescence at first, but turn brown with age; both species are found in the coastal grassveld & forests fr Bathurst in the est Cape to nth Zululand; *S. eriopus* also occurs in the Karoo; baboons (Afk bobbejane) eat the roots (Afk kos = food) in protracted drought, but this is coincidental; inferior as a source of food for human beings

**-ic/-ical**

adjs ending in *-ical* are now, on the whole, obsolescent, eg *comic* is preferable to *comical*, *fantastic* to *fantastical*; sometimes however, there is a nuance at stake, eg *historic*, *historical*, 'The unveiling of the monument was a *historic* (never *historical*) occasion, but 'His conclusions were based on *historical* (never *historic*) facts; in such cases it is advisable to consult the O.E.D.

**identify**

identify someone/something with someone/something, eg 'He realised that he could identify *himself* with *the tragic hero* in the play'; such constructions as 'I can identify with the poet' are Amer & should be avoided

**ie & ei**

see: ei & ie

**Indian lilac** n, E, +

see: pride of India

**-ing**

see: suffixes: -able, etc

**inkberry** n, E, +

see: bimbrikos

**inkosi** n, Zu, +coll

[ɪŋ'kɔzi]

used coll to mean 'Master' as *inkosikazi* is used to mean 'Madam'

**instance**

confusion frequently arises as the Afk pl 'instansies' has the meaning of 'concerns, parties, quarters'; Afk '... in die eerste *instansie*'= E '... in the first *instance*'; but Afk '... by alle betrokke *instansies* aanklop' = E '... approach all the *parties* concerned'

**interval**

should always be used with the def article in such expressions as 'during *the* interval', 'in *the* interval' of a cinema show; '*at* interval' x

**-ish**

see: suffixes -able, etc

## J

**Jeugweerbaarheid** n, D/Afk, x

see: Youth Preparedness

## K

**Kaapse bergkatlagter** n, D/Afk, x

see: rufous rock jumper

**Kaffraria** n, Ar/E, +

district in the Est Cape Province between the Kei & Keiskama Rivers, named British Kaffraria by Sir Harry Smith when the territory was annexed by Britain on 23rd December, 1847; it was then administered separately, the Governor acting as High Commissioner; fr the coast the territory rises sharply to a high escarpment wh acts as a watershed with mountains in the interior, stretching fr the Winterberg range eastwards to the Amatole Mountains

**kaffrarian** adj, Ar/E, +

see: Kaffraria

**Kaffrarian Coast** n, Ar/E, +

see: Kaffraria

**Kalahari** n, Ba, +

an arid, desert-like plateau in sth Afr extending fr est S W Afr to wst Botswana; name prob derived fr Kgalagadi wh = land or region

**kamassie** n, Hott/Afk, x

see: Cape box

**kaneelblom** n, D/Afk, x

see: afrikaner (iv)

**karakul** n, Ar, +

alt: caracul

breed of sheep originating in Asia, now bred extensively in S W Afr for their wool; the young have glossy, tightly curled wool, that of older sheep is coarse & wiry; a valuable fur is made fr the pelts of young lambs wh are sometimes removed fr the ewes by caesarian operation or else slaughtered within twenty-four hours of birth

**karamat** n, M, +

see: kramat

**karee** n, Hott, +

[ka'riə]

potent drink made by the Afr fr prickly pears; if it has stood for a long time it could drive the drinker to insanity; the Hott prepare karee using peas, sugar & water

**Karoo rat** n, Hott/E, +

any one of several rodents of the fam *Muridae* spp *Otomyinae*, found in the Karoo, eg *Parotomys brantsi* wh has fluted incisors in the upper jaw, *P. littledalei* a species of Bushmanland wh has unfluted incisors & *Otomys sloggetti* with ordinary incisors; nests are built of large quantities of dry sticks & twigs gathered together &

crisscrossed by a number of passages with the actual breeding area in the bottom centre of the pile

**Karoo** n, Hott, x

see: Karoo

**Kat**, the n, D/Afk, +

porch forming part of the Castle in Cape Town, the oldest fortification in S Afr; was used when proclamations or criminal sentences were read in the days when the building was the seat of government of the Dutch East India Company in the Cape

**kiepiemielies** n, D/Afk, +coll (*Zea mays*)

[ 'kipimiliz]

+ when it means 'chicken maize', a variety of grain used as chicken food; x when it means 'popcorn'

**kilo** pronunc

[ 'kɪlɔv] + [ 'kilɔv]x

**kilometre** pronunc

[ 'kɪlɔvmitə] + [kɪ 'lɔmətə] Amer x

**kist** n, E, +

in GB a chest in wh money is kept; in Amer & S Afr a chest with a hinged lid for storing clothes or linen

**know/remember**

as in 'You must *know* ...' alt 'You must *remember* ...' x; prob transl of Afk 'Jy moet *weet* ...', 'Jy moet *onthou* ...'; x in such statements as 'You must *know/remember* that we only arrived an hour ago!'; it would be better to say, '*Remember/Do not forget* we only arrived an hour ago!'

**Knysna lily** n, E, +

see: George lily



**koester** n, D/Afk, x  
see: tawny pipit

## L

**lance tree** n, E, +  
see: rain tree

**land python** n, E, +  
see: African rock python

**large brown afrikaner** n, E/D/Afk, +  
see: afrikaner (iv)

**large-mouth black bass** n, E, +  
see: bass

**laughing dove** n, E, + (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)

found throughout sth Afr, common in urban areas; sexes alike; small bird without a black collar; upper plumage soft lilacgrey dappled with cinnamon-brown; chest rufous with black spots; moves on the ground with a slow 'shuffle'; takes off with a characteristic squeak made by the wings; calls with a soft soothing note likened by some to a laugh, hence the vernacular name; feeds mainly on seeds; drinks frequently & is therefore often seen at garden pools

**laureate** pronunc

[ 'lɔːriət ] + [ 'lɒriət ] +

**leave** n, E, +  
see: holiday

**lilac-breasted roller** n, E, + (*Coracias caudatus*)

alt: Mosilikatse's (Mozilikatze's) roller  
colourful bird found mostly in the sub-tropical thornveld of S Afr, in nth Natal, Zululand & the wooded parts of the Transvaal; has a

light mauve breast, blue wings & long, straight tail feathers; in the breeding season it is conspicuous by its high-pitched call & wheeling flight; Mosilikatse, king of the Matabele, claimed sole use of its plumage; hence the vernacular name

**lily trotter** n, E, +

see: African jacana

**litre** n, E, +

*liter* is x in E, though it is + in Afk

**loco disease** n, L/E, +

see: krimpsiekte

**long-eared fox** n, E, +

see: bat-eared fox

**long-tailed widow-bird** n, E, + (*Diatropura progne*)

alt: sakabula

weaver bird of the fam *Ploccidae*; male larger than female & has red patches on the shoulders; in summer it is easily distinguished by its breeding plumage, in particular, by the long tail; found in est S Afr see also: bishop bird

**long/tall**

confusion arises in the use of these adjs because of the Afk 'lang' & 'lank'; 'lang' is the attributive, 'lank' the predicative adj eg 'Hy het *lang* bene' 'He has *long* legs'; 'n pad, vyf kilometer *lank*', 'a road, five kilometres *long*'; but 'Hy is 1,8m *lank*' = 'He is 1,8m *tall*', 'Hy is 'n *lang* kêrel' = 'He is a *tall* chap', in E 'long' is never used to describe a person's height; 'tall' may also be used to describe the height of a mast, a tree, a steeple, etc

**luibossie** n, D/Afk, x

see: agtdaegeneesbos (ii)

**lumpy-skin disease** n, E, +

alt: knoppiesvelsiekte

highly infectious disease of Afr cattle, characterized by mild fever & the appearance of inflamed nodules under the skin & in the mucous membranes, wh later ulcerate; prob caused by a virus & transmitted by insects

**lynx** n, E, +

see: caracal, rooikat

## M

**Maartlelie** n, D/Afk, x

see: Belladonna lily

**mali** n, E, +coll

[ ' mali]

alt: malie

see: ali, elletjie

**mamba** n, Ngu, +

tropical & sth Afr venomous snake of the genus *Dendroaspis*, related to the cobras, but without a dilatable hood; found in Natal, Pondoland, the Transvaal & S W Afr nth of 25°S; poison mechanism highly developed, fangs inclined forward so increasing the speed & effectiveness when in use; the lumen of the tube is larger than that in the fang of the cobra, thus the discharge of venom at the fractional moment of attack is greater

see also: black mamba, green mamba

**maroela** n, D/Afk, x

see: marula

**Mau Mau** n, Ba, +

secret, nationalistically-inclined, terrorist organization of the Kikuyu in Kenya, offshoot of the Kikuyu Central Association whose aim was to exterminate Kenyans who refused to join them, white settlers & Christianity; members were initiated by terrifying rituals after wh they were to commit atrocities; the independent Kenyan Government pardoned still-outlawed Mau Mau terrorists in 1963

**mauve afrikaner** n, E/D/Afk, +

see: afrikaner (ii)

**mealy bug** n, E, +

see: Australian bug

**meter** n, E, +

see: metre

**metre** n, E, +

a distinction is made between *meter* & *metre*; *meter* = object wh measures, esp gas, water; *metre* = the unit of length in the metric system

### **metric terms**

take an 's' in the pl when written out in full or when spoken, but no 's' is added to abbrs, eg 'He won the one hundred *metres* event', 'We travelled 500 *km*'

### **micro-** pronunc

[ 'maɪkrɒv ]

as in '*microphone, microscope*'

see also: micrometer/micrometre

### **micrometer/micrometre** pronunc

micrometer [ 'maɪkrɒvmitə ], an instrument for measuring small distances or objects; micrometre [ 'maɪkrɒmɛtə ], very small distance

**Mosilikatse's roller** n, Ba/E, +

see: lilac-breasted roller

**motherless drunk** , E, x

completely intoxicated, prob transl of '*moederloos* drunk' wh is possibly a corr of '*moedeloos* drunk' ie hopelessly drunk

**mountain adder** n, E, +

see: berg adder

**mountain ash** n, E, +

see: Cape ash

**mountain barbel** n, E, + (*Amphilius platychir*)

fish found fr the Mkuze River in Natal to the mountain tributaries of the Zambezi River system, fr 700 to 2000m above sea level

see also: barbel

**Mountain Men** n, E, +

see: Bergenaars

**mountain zebra** n, E, + (*Equus (Hippotigris) zebra zebra*)

alt: bergkwagga

smallest of the zebras, now almost extinct in S Afr; sturdy with long donkey-like head, long ears & a pronounced flap of skin under the throat; white unmarked belly; narrow patch of gridiron-like bars across top of rump & base of tail; legs striped down to the hooves

**Mozilikatze's roller** n, Ba/E, +

see: lilac-breasted roller

**mud barbel** n, E, + (*Clarias mossambicus*)

alt: platkop, platkop barbel

S Afr river catfish with a flat heavily-protected head, elongated body & long dorsal fin; the pectoral fins have strong spines; found in East Afr, the Zambezi system & the Transvaal; related species occur in Natal & the Orange River with its nth but not sth tributaries; frequents muddy, slow-moving sections of rivers; in the dry season it buries itself in mud where it can remain alive for some time prob as a result of its accessory breathing organs on the gills

**munt** n, Ba, x

[ 'mʌnt]

derogatory coll equiv of Zu 'umunthu' = 'person' or Nth So 'monna'  
= 'man', applied to an Afr male

## N

**Nagmaal** n, D/Afk, +

[ 'nǎxmal]

holy communion; in rural areas people gathered in the nearest village or town & extended their stay over several days on wh social functions & entertainments took place

**nagtegal** n, D/Afk, x

see: capped wheatear

**Natalian** n, E, +

Eur inhabitant of the province of Natal, mainly E-speaking

**Normal College** n, E, x

see: College of Education

**northern twig-snake** n, E, +

see: bird snake

**northern vine-snake** n, E, +

see: bird snake

**northern wolf-snake** n, E, +( *Lycophidion semiannule* )

alt: wolf-snake

found in Zululand & Moçambique; nocturnal burrowing snake wh inhabits tropical regions & is most frequently seen in the rainy season; placid species wh is not inclined to bite; the vernacular name refers to its upper front teeth wh are fairly large & curve inwards, enabling it to seize & hold lizards, etc

**northward**

alt: northwards

see: eastward

## not so

interrog abbr for 'Is it *not so?*' 'is that *not so?*' apparently not influenced by Afk 'Nê?', 'Nie waar nie?'; *not so* can also be used as a mild understatement eg 'It's *not so* pleasant outside today' ie 'It is rather unpleasant outside today'; also occurs in such statements as 'This is the right road, not so?' when the speaker expects affirmation

## nouns collective

that are pl in form but refer to collective units or single concepts require the v to be in the sing, eg 'Gin and tonic *are* two different liquids', but 'Gin and tonic (single concept) *is* what I ordered'; 'The Union Buildings (one building) *is* conspicuous in Pretoria'; but 'The Union Buildings *are* ...' is also + when used by someone who is unaware of the fact that it is only one building

## O

### occur/take place

*occur* pertains to that wh is accidental or unforeseen, eg 'The accident *occurred* at midnight'; *take place* pertains to that wh is arranged or planned, eg 'The concert will *take place* on the 27th October'

### office boy n, E, +coll

Afr male employed to do office duties, eg filing, collecting mail, making tea; *messenger* is preferable  
see also: boy

### Officer Commanding n, E, x

see: Commanding Officer

### off-sides adj, E, +

the term used in football, hockey, rugby, etc meaning 'on the wrong side' away fr one's own side'; 'off side' i n GB

### of us/you/them

as in 'There are *six of us* going' x, prob Afk infl 'Daar's ses van ons ...'; '*Six of us* are going' +

## one

*one*, the indef personal pron should not be replaced by *you/he/you/him/his/yourself/himself* in a sentence as this can lead to confusion, eg ‘*One* believes that *one’s* father will provide for *one*’ is a general statement, whereas ‘*One* believes that *his* father will provide for *him*’ is ambiguous; in familiar speech & writing *you* is permissible, but care should be taken not to confuse the personal *you* (what are *you* doing?) with the impersonal *you* (when you’re dead, you’re dead); in formal speech & writing *one* should be avoided

## onward adj/adv, E, +

alt: onwards  
see: eastward

## opsaal v, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of ‘to saddle’

## orange-breasted rock jumper n, E, + (*Chaetops auranticus*)

alt: Stormberg katlagter  
bird approx 20 to 22cm in length; occurs in the Stormberg & Drakensberg Mountains; its habits resemble those of the Damara & rufous rock jumpers; nests fr September to October at Giant’s Castle in the Drakensberg; builds nest of grass lining it with hair & wool; lays white eggs  
see also: Damara rockjumper, rufous rock jumper

## ordinary/ordinarily pronunc

[ˈɔdənəri]+ [ˈɔdɪnərieli]+

## osprey n, E, +

see: fish eagle

## our pronunc

[aʊə]+ [aʊwə] x



## P

### pack out

lit transl of Afk 'pak uit' & therefore x; *unpack* is the correct v; 'I *packed out* my suitcase' x, 'I *unpacked* my suitcase' +

### paddastoel n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'mushroom, toadstool'

### paid

p tense & pp of *to pay*, ie to give what is due in discharge of a debt, eg 'I *paid* this account last month', *never* 'I *payed* ...' in this case; the pp *payed* is derived fr *to pay* wh = to cover or smear with pitch, resin, tar, eg 'The fisherman *payed* the bottom of his boat as it had sprung several leaks'

### paper packet n, Amer, ?

Amer & S Afr equiv of 'paper bag' in GB

### part from/part with

*part from* = leave, separate, become detached fr eg 'The two boys were *parted from* their friends because they had an infectious disease'; *part with* = (i) relinquish possession, transfer fr one's own possession to that of another, eg 'He did not want to *part with* that watch because it belonged to his father'; (ii) lose someone's services, eg 'Mrs Wright rendered excellent services to her employers & when she left they were sorry to *part with* her'

### pens en pootjies idiom, D/Afk, x

[ 'pɛŋs ɛn 'puəkis]

lit Afk 'tripe & trotters', used in the sense of 'boots and all, bodily, entirely'

### peperbos n, D/Afk, x

see: bergklapper

**perdoog** n, D/Afk, +coll

[ 'pɛrtu x]

see: butterflyfish (iii)

**Phalaborwa** pronunc

[ pala 'bɔwa]

name of a town in the nth-est Transvaal; lit Nth So 'that wh excels the South'

**Pharaoh's fig** n, E, +

see: sycamore fig

**physics**

'physics' the subj or course, is treated as a sing n, eg 'Physics *was* my favourite subject at school'; 'physics', the sciences, are treated as a pl n, eg 'Physics *are* sciences treating of properties of matter & energy'

**pico-** pref, Sp, +

the symbol p = one trillionth,  $10^{12}$ , eg pico second = one trillionth of a second

**pigeon berry** n, E, +

see: bimbrikos

**pink afrikaner** n, E/D/Afk, +

see: afrikaner (iii)

**pinky** n, E, + coll

see: rock grunter

**Pioneer Column** n, E, +

in 1890 a group of 200 settlers & 500 police led by Col E.G. Pennefather reached the site of the future capital of Sth Rhodesia & built Fort Salisbury; Rhodes had negotiated with the Matabele for the concession of mineral rights in 1888 & the settlement of the Pioneer Column enabled him to continue with his plans for the development of Rhodesia

**pipit** n, E, +

see: tawny pipit

**platkop** n, D/Afk, x

see: mud barbel

**platkop barbel** n, D/Afk/E, x

see: mud barbel

**platkroon** n, D/Afk, x

see: flat crown

**play**

as in 'play a *game*' +; play a *sport*' x

**please/thank you**

see: thank you

**plein** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'square', an open area or space enclosed by buildings, eg Church Square, or as in Amer a block of buildings bounded by streets, eg Barclay Square; the examples given here are found in Pretoria

### plural of family names

names ending in mute s, x or z remain unchanged in the pl but then the last letter is pronounced, eg Mr & Mrs Marais [mã' rɛ] but, the Marais [mã' rɛz] Mr & Mrs Tredoux [trɛ' d u], but, the Tredoux [trɛ' duz] Mr & Mrs du Preez [dɛ' priɛ] but the du Preez [dɛ' priz]; add *es* to form the pl of names ending in s or z, when these consonants are pronounced, eg Mr & Mrs Crous ['kraʊs] the Crouses ['kraʊsɛz] Dr & Mrs Queiroz ['keɪə' rɔs] the Queirozes [keɪə' rɔsɛz]; add *s* to names ending in vowels & consonants other than s, x or z, eg Mr & Mrs Maré, the Marés; Mr & Mrs du Toit, the du Toits; Mr & Mrs Wood, the Woods

## plural of compound nouns

usu compound ns form their pl by adding *s* to the significant, *not* the distinguishing part of the compound, esp when the significant part is a n, eg lookers-on, mothers-in-law, passers-by; when two parts of a compound become virtually one word, the pl is formed in the usu way, eg castaways, goodbyes, spoonfuls; sometimes both n compounds become pl, eg Lords-justices, men-servants; in addition, terms such as Attorney-General, Governor-General can have either n in the pl, ie Attorneys-General +, Attorney-Generals +

**poegaai** adj, D/Afk, +coll

[ 'puxai ]

Afk equiv of 'exhausted, physically weary or semi-conscious because intoxicated'

**poison leaf** n, E, +

see: gifblaar

**poke** n, E, +

see: bobbejaandruif

**pokeweed** n, E, +

see: bobbejaandruif

**pokkiesblom** n, D/Afk, x

see: agt dae geneesbos (i)

## possessive adjective

care should be taken in using the correct possessive adj instead of an incorrect pron, eg 'There is nothing against *my* (not me) staying till midnight', 'You told me about *their* (not them) being tired'

## post-graduate

is written with a hyphen, but note *undergraduate*; postscript; in most words when it occurs as a pref it is followed by a hyphen, eg 'post-mortem, post-war'

### **prestigious**

this word is not derived fr prestige & does not therefore carry the meaning of eminent, influential, preponderant; prestigious = deceptive, illusory

### **prickly pear** n, E, +

alt: turksvy

general name for all species of *Opuntia*; flat jointed cactus with a pear- or barrel-shaped prickly, but edible fruit

### **pride of India** n, E, + (*Melia azedarach*)

alt: crepe myrtle, Indian lilac

deciduous tree or shrub believed to have come orig fr China, but extensively cultivated in India, hence the vernacular name; bears flowers in large upright feathery sprays or plumes, usu a deep rosy pink, but white & lilac as well; popular garden shrub in S Afr

### **primary school** n, E, +

alt: junior school

S Afr children spend 7 years at a primary school, fr the age of approx 6 to 13 years, & attend a high school for 3 to 5 years, ie fr the age of approx 13 to 18 years

### **principal/principle**

*principal* = first in rank of importance, chief, eg 'The *principal* town of the district', 'The *principal* of the school'; *principle* = primary element, eg 'The early philosophers believed water to be the first *principle* of all things'; fundamental truth eg 'The *principles* of political economy'; personal code of conduct, eg 'She is a woman of rare moral *principles*'

### **principle/principal**

see: principal

### **project school** n, E, +

school at wh children are trained to work & learn independently; at high school level the pupils write only internal examinations wh are controlled by the teachers

**promoter/promotor**

*promoter* = one who, or that wh, promotes or furthers any movement or project; *promoter/promotor* = an academic at a university who supervises the work of a student esp at post-graduate level

**proselytising pronunc**

[prɒ'sɪlɪtaɪzɪŋ]

**provided/providing**

*provided that* & *providing that* are more correct in the sense of 'it being stipulated that' eg '*Provided that* you take the necessary precautions, you may accompany them', 'He will help you *providing that* you give him a full account of the facts'; *that* may be omitted when the meaning is 'on the condition that', eg '*Provided* the weather does not change, the crop will ripen in mid-October', 'I shall go with you *providing* you pay for my ticket'

**public holiday n, E, +**

see: bank holiday

**pypie n, D/Afk, +**

[ 'peɪpi]

first applied to one or several species of *Gladiolus* or *Watsonia* wh resemble miniature, long-stemmed pipes; this is most pronounced when the base of the stem is held up & only one flower hangs down

**pypsteelhoutboom n, D/Afk, x**

see: lekkerbreek

**Q**

**queen n, D/Afk, +coll**

term derived fr the D 'kween', a barren cow, ewe or mare; also applied to barren elephant cows by hunters

## R

### rain/reign/rein

these words are ns & vs:

*rain* (n) = condensed vapour of the atmosphere, (v) = to fall in the form of rain; *reign* (n) = rule of a monarch, time of rule, eg 'during the *reign* of Charles II', (v) = to be monarch, to prevail, eg 'The king showed great wisdom while he *reigned*', 'Silence *reigned* after the sombre statement had been made'; *rein* (n) = the strap of a bridle, any means of curbing, (v) = to fasten or tie by the rein, to control or restrain

### rain bird n, E, +

see: Burchell's coucal, clapper lark

### rainbowfish n, E, +

see: klipfish

### Rapportryer n, D/Afk, +

orig a dispatch rider in time of war; *Rapportryers* now an exclusive Afrikaner movement instituted to promote Afrikaner culture & Calvinism; offers courses in youth leadership wh are concentrated mainly on school leavers or young people to encourage them to become good Afrikaners; every city & town has a Rapportryers' corps wh is affiliated to the Federation of Rapportryers' Corps

### red afrikaner n, E/D/Afk, +

see: afrikaner (vi)

### red bottle-brush n, E, + (*Mimetes lyrigera*)

alt: rooi stompie, soldaat

low shrub of the fam *Proteaceae*, found on the lower mountain slopes in the s-wst Cape Province; stems have several stiff leaves with three tiny teeth at the apex of each leaf; red, occasionally yellow, flowers appear on the tips of the branches in the axils of the leaves

### red-breasted bream n, E, + (*Tilapia melanopleura*)

fish similar in shape to the blue bream; usu nests in a clearing in

shallows, where the eggs are fertilized; both parents guard the eggs & the young when hatched; found in the lowveld, Limpopo & Pongola River systems & used as a weed eater in farm dams; now also introduced to the Transvaal & Natal

see also: bream

**red bush-willow** n, E, +

see: bush-willow

see also: river bush-willow

**red-eyed turtle dove** n, E, + (*Streptopelia semitorquata*)

found throughout S Afr except in dry areas; black, with red eyes rimmed by bare red skin; feeds on fruit, seeds & termites; its call is coo-coo, coo-coo-ccoo-coo

see also: Cape turtle dove

**red hartebees** n, E/D/Afk, +

see: Cape hartebees

**redhen** n, E, +

see: Cape rail

**red-hot poker** n, E, + (*Kniphofia rooperi*)

alt: soldier, torch lily

robust perennial reaching 1m & more; grows in clusters in the open veld; found wild in marshy regions near the coast of East London & northwards to the Natal S Coast; has a characteristic almost globose flower head wh is round when in full bloom; flowers orange-yellow or yellow-green; Xh mothers insert pieces of dry rootstock between the beads of their necklaces, wh act as a charm of good luck for the child

**red-legged tick** n, E, + (*Boophilus decoloratus*)

S Afr parasitic tick wh feeds on cattle, horses & other domestic animals transmitting various diseases, eg anaplasmosis, redwater; it draws blood with its 'beak' wh is equipped with strong teeth wh are curved forward



**red-neck** n, Amer, + coll

see: poor whites, rooinek

**red nightshade** n, E, +

see: bimbrikos

### **reflexive and emphatic pronouns**

the personal pron cannot replace the reflexive pron in E eg 'She saw *her* in the looking-glass', ie She saw someone else; 'She saw *herself* in the looking-glass', *herself*, the reflexive pron refers to the subj 'she'; also 'I bought a book' implies the book was for 'me', if emphasis is required, then, 'I bought *myself* a book, ie 'for myself'; 'I bought a book *myself*' = 'I, on my own initiative, bought a book' or 'You bought a book, but I too bought one'

**reign/rain/rein**

see: rain

**rein/rain/reign**

see: rain

**relatively**

is frequently incorrectly used, eg 'Whites spent *relatively* the least on food' x, In *relation* to the other racial groups, the whites spent ... +; also 'Compared to other groups Asians spent *relatively* little on beef' + 'The *relatively* high expenditure on other products ...' +

**resin bush** n, E, + (*Euryops multifidus*)

alt: narpuisbossie

medicinal plant found in the est Cape; its resin is used for home remedies

**restriction** n, E, ?

Rhodesian equiv of 'reserve', ie an area set aside for the Afr; 'homeland' is frequently used in S Afr today; reservation in Amer

**rhinoceros** n, E, +

see: black rhinoceros, white rhinoceros

**ribbokblom** n, D/Afk, x

see: afrikaner (iv)

**river bush-willow** n, E, +

see: bush-willow

**river sand** n, E, +

see: sand

**rock** n, E, +coll

alt: hairy back

term applied facetiously to an unintelligent, uncouth, inferior person; abbr of 'rock spider' a species of spider wh has a hairy body; when applied specifically to Afrikaners x

**rock barbel** n, E/L, + (*Gephyroglanis sclateri*)

freshwater fish of the fam *Bagridae*; has six barbels around the mouth; grows to a length of approx 35cm; in the Olifants River near the w Cape coast a smaller species *G. gilli* is common

see also: barbel (i)

**rock bunting** n, E, +

see: klipmossie

**rock grunter** n, E, + (*Pomadasys olivaceum*)

alt: pinky (Natal)

fish known fr Indo-Malaya; found on the S Afr coast as far s as False Bay; very common in tidal estuaries

**rock jumper** n, E, +

species of bird found only in S Afr

see: Damara rock jumper, orange-breasted rock jumper, rufous rock jumper

**rock pigeon** n, E, + (*Columba guinea*)

large grey pigeon found throughout S Afr; has red wattles, white, speckled wings & chestnut neck; feeds on grain; its call is a continuous 'doo-doo-doo-doo'

**rock salmon** n, E, +

see: Johnny, snapper

**Roggeveld** n, D/Afk, +

lit: rye land

semi-desert area in the s wst Cape lying s w to nth w; the mountains reach a height of more than 1,500m & are surrounded by the Karoo plains

**rooihaakdoring** n, D/Afk, + (*Acacia gerrardii*)

alt: aapkop

tree up to 10m high with a 5m trunk diameter; bears yellow flowers; grows profusely in some areas of the Transvaal & is easily recognized by the greyish tomentum on the young growth, & the spines wh sometimes attain a length of 10cm; the Zu use the bark in a decoction 'to overcome dislike by their fellowmen', wh functions as an emetic & an enema

**roman** n, E, + (*Chrysolephus laticeps*)

alt: red roman

one of the best known smaller red rock fishes of S Afr; belongs to the fam *Sparidae*; there are prob dozens of rocks on the S Afr coastline known as 'Roman Rock', but this is no guarantee that one will catch a roman there

**roncador** n, Port, +

see: spotted grunter

**rooiassie** n, D/Afk, x

see: orange-breasted waxbill

**rooibekkie** n, D/Afk, x

see: wax bill

**rooitulp** n, D/Afk, x

see: tulp

**rubalo** n, ? , x

see: soldier

**rufous rock jumper** n, E, + (*Chaetops frenatus*)

alt: Kaapse bergkatlagter

bird approx 22 to 25cm in length; occurs in rocky mountains above 650m in the s-wst Cape Province, but not on the Peninsula; found in pairs or small parties; prefers to run rather than to fly; jumps fr rock to rock in search of food; utters a cry wh resembles the running down of an alarm clock

see also: Damara rock jumper, orange-breasted rock jumper

**ruikpeul** n, D/Afk, x

see: redheart

**run over** (i) v, E, +

to drive a vehicle into or over a person, animal, etc. eg 'The car *ran over* the child at the corner', 'Our dog was *run over* by a reckless motorcyclist'; *over* is, strictly speaking, a prep but often used as an adv, therefore one may say 'to *run over* (prep) someone, or to *run* someone *over* (adv)

**run over** (ii) v, E, +

to overflow (of a vessel or its contents) as in 'My cup *runneth over*'; the S Afr usage as in 'Dams in the Free State have been *running over* since yesterday' is questionable; 'Dams in the Free State have been *overflowing ...*' is preferable

## S

**sakabula** n, Zu, +coll

see: long-tailed widow-bird

see also: bishop bird

**salable**

sp preferable to 'saleable'  
see also: suffixes

**sale** n, E, +

the preps wh may be used with this n are *on* & *for*, ie 'goods are *on sale*, *for sale* or put up *for sale*'

**salt** (i) v, E, +

*to salt* a mine or reef = to practise some method wh will deceive a possible investor into believing that a piece of land wh is valueless contains precious minerals in profitable amounts; also, to immunize an animal by inoculation or some other means

**salt** (ii) pronunc

[ ' salt ] + [ sɔlt ] +

**sand** n, E, +

in S Afr *sand* may mean *sandy soil*, in addition to sea-sand, or river-sand

**sandkruiper** n, D/Afk, x

see: sand shark (i), (ii), (iii) & (iv)

**sandpypie** n, D/Afk, x

see: afrikaner (ii)

**sand shark** (i) n, E, + (*Rhinobatus annulatus*)

alt: fiddle fish, guitar fish, shovelnose  
fish found in sth Afr mainly in shallow water fr the Cape to Zanzibar

**sand shark** (ii) n, E, + (*Rhinobatus blochii*)

alt: fiddle fish, sandkruiper, vioolvis  
fish found in sth Afr, in shallow water, fr the Cape to Beira

**sand shark (iii)** n, E, + (*Rhinobatus obtusus*)

alt: fiddle fish, vioolvis

an East Indian fish rarely seen in S Afr waters, but does occur off the Natal coast

**sand shark (iv)** n, E, + (*Rhinobatus schlegeli*)

alt: shovelnose

uncommon Indo-Pacific fish found on the sand in deep water; occurs on the east coast of S Afr & has been reported as far s as Port Shepstone

**sandveldlelie** n, D/Afk, x

see: afrikaner (iii)

**sandwich loaf** n, E, +coll

in S Afr a rectangular loaf of white bread

see also: rock 'n roll

**scaly anteater** n, E, + (*Manis temmincki*)

alt: anteater, Cape armadillo, pangolin

primitive, nocturnal, insect-eating mammal found in the Orange Free State, the Transvaal, S W Afr & Rhodesia; related to the antbear wh it resembles in its eating & digging habits, but it looks more like an armadillo as its body is covered with scales & it is toothless; harmless; frequents ant & termite areas, breaking down anthills with its well-developed claws; rolls itself into a tight ball when attacked

**scaly weaver** n, E, + (*Spropiper squamifrons*)

alt: baardman (ii)

small bird found in dry areas as it is able to survive for long periods without water; light in colour with black, white-edged 'scaly' feathers on wings & forehead & black stripes on the throat

**sea barber** n, E/D/Afk, x

barber is prob a corr of the Afk 'barber' wh = barbel

see: barbel (iv)

**sea bat** n, E, +

see: angel fish (iii)

**sea-cow** n, E, + (*Lactoria diaphana*)

transl of Afk 'seekoei'; in S Afr E not a walrus, but a hippopotamus wh inhabits Afr rivers, lakes & estuaries

**seapike** n, E, +

see: snoek (ii) & (iii)

**sea-sand** n, E, +

see: sand

**second-last** adj, E, ?

S Afr equiv of 'last but one' in GB

**secretary bird** n, E, + (*Sagittarius serpentarius*)

large, long-legged bird of sth Afr found in the open veld; black, with a long, blue-grey tail, black wing quills, a crest of long feathers & a hooked beak; uses its blunt toes to hold down prey while striking it to death; feeds on frogs, insects, lizards, mice & snakes; its nest is a platform of sticks in the top of a large tree; its ability to raise & lower the crest feathers, resembling pens, gives rise to the vernacular name

**seebas** n, D/Afk, ? (*Lithognathus mormyrus*)

alt: bontrok (ii), severrim (Cape), sand steenbras (Knysna)

marine fish found right round Afr, esp in sandy areas; not very common

**seeroogblom** n, D/Afk, x

see: candelabra flower

**senecio** n, L, +

see: staggers

**siringa** n, D/Afk/E, +

see: syringa

**severrim** n, ? , +

see: seebas

**shack** n, E, x

schoolboyism for 'house, home, room, establishment', eg 'Come to my *shack*'

see also: pad, place

**shall/will**

delicate shades of meaning are lost if no distinction is made between *shall* & *will*, *should* & *would*; *future tense* : *shall* is used for the first person, sing & pl, *will* for the second & third persons, sing & pl, eg 'Tomorrow I *shall* go to town', 'They *will* come early'; *subjective volition* : use *will* throughout to express determination, intention, etc. eg 'I *will* not go until this is done'; *objective volition* : use *shall* throughout, 'You *shall* never go again'

see also: should & would

**shepherds tree** n, E, + (*Boscia albitrunca*)

alt: matoppie, white-stem, witgatboom, witstam

small, evergreen tree wh has a smooth white bark, straight trunk, round crown & thick narrow leaves; bears small round fruit wh has a leathery skin, white flesh & a large kernel; the pickled flower buds are reputed to be tasty; the roots can be powdered & used to make a porridge, roasted they yield a reasonable ersatz coffee; boiled they can be made into a syrup; a variety of stock & game eats the leaves; in many regions it is often the only tree that offers shade, hence the vernacular name

**shiner** n, E, +

see: anchovy (iv)

**shoot off** v, E, ?

apparently a S Afr coll, used as in 'I *shot off* to town'



## should/would

*conditional tense*: use *should* for the first person sing & pl, *would* for the second & third persons, sing & pl, eg 'We *should* go, but we cannot', 'He *would* be prepared to help us'; *subjective volition*: to express intention, etc, eg 'I *would* not ask him to help me' 'You *should* not speak to us like that'

see also: shall/will

## show (i) n, E, +

a collection of things shown, to obtain financial gain, eg flower show, horse show; a display, exhibition, pageant, spectacle; can also mean any kind of public entertainment such as a film, play, etc

## show (ii)

the p tense of this v is *showed*, the pp is *shown*, rarely showed, eg 'He *showed* me how to do it', 'He *has shown* me how to do it'

## sick, to be or feel

in S Afr E this expression is far too frequently used to mean 'to feel ill, indisposed'; its actual meaning is 'to vomit'; may be used in such expressions as 'He is a *sick* man' ie his health is poor; also 'He is *sickly*'

## side n, E, +

as in cricket: 'This *side!*' , the cry to a fielder who is in doubt as to whether he should throw the ball to the bowler or the wicketkeeper; S Afr equiv of 'This *end*' in GB

see also: off-sides

## side-street n, E, +

alt: cross-street, off-street

prob transl of Afk 'systraat', a minor street entering or intersecting a main street

## silver bream (i) n, E, + (*Rhaphidosargus sarba*)

see: yellow-fin bream

**silver bream** (ii) n, E, +

see: stumpnose

see also: red stumpnose, white stumpnose

**silver fish** n, E, + (*Argyrozona argyrozona*)

alt: doppie (Cape), rooitjie (Knysna), Kaapenaar or karpenter (East London to Natal), karp (Port Elizabeth)

marine fish wh has considerable commercial value; found fr Table Bay to Natal

**silver mudfish** n, E, + (*Labeo ruddi*)

fish found in the Limpopo & Inkomati River systems; prefers slow-flowing areas in streams & pools; weights up to 0,5kg

**silver terminalia** n, E, +

see: Transvaal silverleaf

**simi** n, Xh, x

a garden or cultivated field; also collective land

**sit**

for an examination = be a candidate at a written examination, undergo an academic examination

**situtunga** n, Ba + (*Limnotragus spekii selousii*)

antelope found in swampy areas nth of the Zambezi in tropical Afr; has elongated hoofs wh enable it to move through marches easily, but it is slow on land; male has fairly thick horns; the Boers of old called this animal the waterkudu or 'waterskaap' wh = watersheep

**sjambokbos** n, D/Afk, + (*Senecio juncus*)

alt: sjambokbossie

succulent, bushy shrub of the fam *Compositae* with numerous erect single or multiple root-like green branches wh are leafless most of the year, & resemble a sjambok; the long, tough roots may be used as a poor substitute for a sjambok

**skaapwagter** n, D/Afk, x

see: capped wheatear

**skans** n, D/Afk, x

[ ' skäns ]

a kind of redoubt made by the Boers in the field as a means of protection, usu of earth & stones; skanses were widely used in the Boer War

**skerm** n, D/Afk, x

[ ' sk æ r m ]

protective 'hedge' of tree trunk & thorn branches, constructed by hunters & travellers in S Afr to ward off wild animals

**skilpadbessie** n, D/Afk, + (*Mundtia spinosa*)

[ ' sk ɪ p ă t b ɛ s i ]

alt: dune berry

bush or shrub wh bears a juicy, slightly acid fruit, once gathered by the Cape M & hawked in the streets of Cape Town; eaten by children, Afr, ostriches & tortoises; Afk skilpad = tortoise, hence the vernacular name

**skilpad trek** n, D/Afk, ?

[ ' sk ɪ p ă t t r ɛ k ]

old Afrikaner game in wh two players, with their backs towards each other, pull at a rope fastened around their backs or waists & passing between their legs; the attitude, manner of crawling & position is reminiscent of the movement of a tortoise (Afk skilpad) hence the name

**slanghalsvoël** n, D/Afk, x

see: darter

**slapgat** adj, D/Afk, x

[ ' sl ă p x ă t ]

lit: slack hole

vulgar expression wh refers to a useless person

**slime** n, E, +

term used in the gold-mining industry; refers to the fine grey matter wh was once washed away with waste material, but under a new process it was found to yield a reasonable percentage of gold

**slow combustion stove** n, E, +

alt: for a small coal stove; burns fuel at a slow rate

**small-mouth black bass** n, E, +

see: bass

**snapper** n, E, +

see: Johnny

**so**

'She bores me *so!*' +; 'She gets *so* on my nerves' x, prob infl of Afk 'Sy raak *so* op my senuwees'

**sort of**

used in place of *kind of* x, eg 'That *sort of* person' x, 'That *kind of* person' + ; used instead of 'partly' x, eg 'Do you understand?' 'Sort of' x, 'Partly', 'To some extent' +

see also: kind of

sort of style

as in 'Funny *sort of* style' x, 'In a funny kind of way' +

**Sotho clans**

are frequently named after an important place, event or animal, wh characterizes the clan, eg Bakgalagadi (Kalahari people), Bapula (Rain people), Bafokeng (Mist people), Bakwena (Crocodile people), Bataung (Lion people)

**soup-bully** n, E, +

see: kingklip (i)

**Southern bush hare** n, E, + (*Lepus saxatilis saxatilis*)

alt: kolhaas, ribbokhaas, scrub hare

large nocturnal hare found in the s-wst districts of the Cape Province fr the Cape Peninsula to Knysna & nthwards to the Vanrhynsdorp district; similar in appearance & habits to the Eur hare, but slightly smaller; insides of feet & limbs & underside of tail, white; has a white spot on the forehead & a rufous patch behind the neck

**Southern twig-snake** n, E, +

see: bird snake

**Southern vine-snake** n, E, +

see: bird snake

**southward**

alt: southwards

see: eastward

**sparrow weaver** n, E, +

see: white-browed sparrow-weaver

**spear-eye shark** n, E, + (*Mustelus nigropunctatus*)

alt: gummy shark, hound, spierhaai, spotted gully shark, sweet William, vlekhaai

shark found in the Atlantic & Indian Oceans off the sth Afr coast; greyish brown with black dots; has small blunt teeth; flesh excellent, exported to Eur where it fetches a good price; the E term is prob a transliteration of the Afk spier wh = muscle & haai wh = shark

**species** n, E, +

[ 'spi:ʃiz ]

sing & pl have the same form, ie 'This *species* is ...', 'These *species* are...'

**speelwonderboom** n, D/Afk, ? (*Helichrysum caespitium*)

dwarf plant with long tap root; one of the earliest plants to flower on the Transvaal highveld; the vernacular name refers to the shape of the small growths resembling those of the wonderboom, 'speel' is here used in the sense of 'diminutive' or 'make-believe'  
see also: wonderboom

**spek-en-boontjies** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'in vain'

**spekvreter** n, D/Afk, x

see: familiar chat

see also: dagbrekertjie

**spider orchid** n, E, + (*Bartholina ethelae*, *B. pectinata*)

dwarf terrestrial orchid wh has slender, hairy stems that bear a single, prostrate leaf & a large flower; the vernacular name refers to the segments of the flower

**spierintjie** n, D/Afk, x

see: whitebait (iv)

**Spitzkop** n, D/Afk, +

[ 'spɪtskɒp]

lit; sharp-pointed hill; term applied to hills in various regions of S Afr, eg near Pilgrim's Rest & in S W Afr

**splint** n, E, +

a fractured diamond

**split infinitive**

this should be avoided whenever possible, eg 'I asked him *to* quickly *go* & buy a loaf of bread' x, 'I asked him *to go* quickly ...' +, 'He was told *to* slowly *walk* to the other side of the field' x, 'He was told *to walk* slowly' +; 'She was told pertinently *to see* you immediately' +

**sport**

see: play

**spurwing goose** n, E, + (*Plectropterus gambensis*)

found among reeds & grass in large stretches of water; feeds on vegetable matter, fish & frogs; has a large spur on each wing, with wh it attacks its enemies

**squeal** v, E, +coll

sl for 'to turn informer'; in Amer & S Afr 'squeal' also means complain about or object to (something)

**staff**

body of persons employed, under the direction of a chief or manager, in the work of an establishment, in particular, a body of domestic servants; 'personnel' is more generally applied to a body of persons engaged in any service, esp in a public institution; eg 'The manager of the hotel called on his *staff* to work harder'; 'He is responsible for appointing the *personnel*, in the Department of Agriculture'

**standing committee** n, E, +

Amer used in S Afr as the equiv of the Afk 'dagbestuur' or 'vaste komitee', ie a committee wh considers subjects of a particular class during a set period; more specifically, a committee of a legislative body

**stapelia** n, L, +

see: carrion flower

**stationary/stationery**

*stationary* = having a fixed place, eg 'The car was *stationary* when the lorry struck it'; *stationery* = writing materials, eg 'As we are undertaking more correspondence we shall require additional *stationery*'

**steelboom** n, D/Afk, x

see: Vaal River yellowwood

**steenbras** n, D/Afk, +

see: biskop

**stein** n, G, +

semi-sweet S Afr wine produced fr the grapes of vines orig introduced fr Germany

**stokalleen** adj, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'quite alone, solitary'

**stone bass** n, E, +

see: bafaro

**Stormberg katlagter** n, D/Afk, x

see: orange-breasted rock jumper

**strandjut** n, D/Afk, x

see: brown hyena

**strandloperkje** n, D/Afk, +

[ 'strantlʊpərki]

lit: little beachcomber, bird of the fam *Charadriidae* spp *Charadrius*, wh apparently searches the beach for food

**striped dogfish** n, E, +

see: lazyshark (ii)

**study for**

to *study for* an examination, a diploma a degree is an expression more commonly used in S Afr than the standard British equiv 'to *read* English, law, etc'

**succeed in/to**

'He *succeeded in* filling up the hole in the garden' +; 'He *succeeded to* fill ... x; but 'The new king *succeeded to* the throne last year' +

**such a manner**

alt: such a way

both expressions are +

**sucker** n, E, +

S Afr equiv of 'ice lolly' in GB



**suffixes:** -able, -age, -ing, -ish

when these suffixes are added to an adj, n or v ending in a *mute e* to form a pres p, an adj or a n, the *e* is omitted, eg to like (v) becomes *likable* (adj), *liking* (n); mile (n) becomes *milage* (n); to smile becomes *smiling* (pres p or adj, eg 'He is *smiling*; a *smiling* face'); white becomes *whitish*; sue, *suing*; the mute 'e' is only *retained* when it indicates a soft *c* or *g*, eg serviceable [sɜvəsəbl], manageable [mænədʒəbl]; if the *e* were to be omitted, these words are pronounced [sɜvəkəbl] x & [mænəgəbl] x

**sugar-cane** n, E, (*Saccharum officinarum*)

alt: sweet cane

stout tall perennial grass wh is cultivated in sub-tropical & tropical countries & forms the main sources of manufactured sugar

**Suid-Afrikaanse Taalbond** n, D/Afk, x

see: Taalbond

**suikerkan** n, D/Afk, x

see: afrikaner (vi)

**suit/suite**

*suit* [ 'su:t ] = set of man's or woman's clothes; petition; any of four sets into wh a pack of cards is divided; *suite* [ 'swit ] = set of things belonging together, esp a *suite* of furniture or rooms

**superior**

is a comparative adj & adv wh = 'better or greater in some respect; of a higher rank, of above-average quality'; 'more' in the foll sentence is therefore superfluous, 'This is the *more superior* person who is an authority on matters of culture'x, 'This is the *superior* person ...' + , or simply 'the *better* person'

**sure**

*sure* is an adj, therefore 'It *sure* was a lively party' x; prob Amer infl; 'It *really* was a lively party' +

see also: easy, good, real

**surely/certainly**

see: certainly

**swakara** n, -, +

S W Afr pelts of karakul lambs, a contraction of the initial letters of South West Africa & the first two syllables of *karakul*

see also: karakul

**swarttee** n, D/Afk x

see: bush tea

**sweet cane** n, E, x

see: sugar cane

**sweet flag** n, E, +

see: calamus

**sweet sedge** n, E, +

see: calamus

**syringa** n, E, +

alt: seringa

common name for various trees, eg the Eur species *Syringa vulgaris*; the wild syringa (*Burkea africana*), the white syringa (*Kiria acuminata*) & the S Afr mountain syringa (*K. wilmsii*); produces small, heavily-scented flowers in feathery plumes or sprays, in early spring

## T

**taaipit** n, D/Afk, x

see: clingstone

**tailings** n, E, +

term used for the residuum after ore containing gold has been crushed & washed; in the early days the tailings were regarded as

almost worthless, but with new methods of recovery they yielded favourable returns

**take a bet**

prob S Africanism for 'lay a wager'

**take/bring**

see: bring/take

**take place/occur**

see: occur

**tall/long**

see: long

**tarentaal n, D/Afk, x**

see: crowned guinea-fowl

**tasselfish n, E, + (*Sciaena capensis*)**

alt: baardman, belvis (Cape)

silvery brown or grey fish of wh the pectoral fins terminate in a number of long threads; reaches a length of 1m; occurs fr False Bay to Natal

**tawny pipit n, E, + (*Anthus richardi*)**

common bird of the open grass-veld & Karoo; dull brown in colour; has no scales at the back of its legs; builds its nest on the ground under grass; hides away when disturbed

**tchagra shrike n, E, + (*Tchagra tchagra*)**

[ 'tʃǎgrǎ ]

large S Afr shrike; its call is a loud 'rattle' foll by a stuttering 'chchch ...' & ending in a 'tew, a-tew', wh prob accounts for the vernacular name

**teff n, E, + (*Eragrostis abyssinica*)**

alt: teff grass

Afr cereal grass of economic importance; the grain yields a white flour of good quality & the grass is used as forage

### **tenpounder** n, E, +

alt: Cape salmon, skipjack

large, silvery fish with a slightly compressed body wh resembles that of a herring; closely related to the tarpon; prob found in all warm oceans

### **thank you**

in E it is customary to answer 'Please' to a question such as 'Will you have another cup of tea?'; in Afr it is more common to say 'Dankie' (Thank you); consequently 'Thank you' is frequently used instead of 'please' in this particular instance in S Afr E, but this habit is x; also common in Australia

### **that/who/which**

see: who/that/which

### **the one ... the other**

when comparison is involved between *two* persons or things, the def article is used in each case, eg '*The one* girl was a brunette, *the other* a blonde'; if one person or thing is compared with several others, the article is omitted, eg '*One* girl was a brunette, another was a redhead & the rest were nondescript'

### **therefor/therefore**

the two spellings have different meanings, illustrated in the foll example, 'The reason *therefor* (for this) is *therefore* (for this reason) quite acceptable'

### **therefrom/therein/thereof**

these are archaic advs, & should be avoided whenever possible, eg 'He took his name *therefrom*', should rather read 'He took his name *from* that family, place, etc'; 'There is no sense *therein*', should rather read 'There is no sense *in this/that action, argument, statement*, etc'; 'Please acknowledge receipt *thereof*', should rather read 'Please acknowledge *receipt of this letter, statement*, etc'

### there is/there are

when *there* introduces a sentence, the *v* precedes the subj & the grammatical construction becomes confused; in verbal communication this is sometimes forgivable, but in writing the error should be corrected, eg 'There *are* a boy and two girls in the classroom'; 'There *were*, at the time, several prisoners who had been condemned to death'; but, the sing *v* may be used when (i) the pl form denotes a single amount or sum, eg 'There *is* R20 to pay'; (ii) two or more ns present a single idea, eg 'There *is* bread and butter on the table', 'There *is* my wife and children to consider'; (iii) the *v* is thought of as applying to each person or item separately & successively, eg 'There *is* Arthur, Joe, Donald and Peter', 'There *is* a dress a coat and a pair of shoes; what else do you want?'

### there is/are here

see: here there is/are

### therein

see: there from/therein/thereof

### thereof

see: there from/therein/thereof

### they's x

incorrectly used by illiterate persons for 'they've', ie 'they *have*' eg 'They's got it' x, prob on the analogy of 'He's got it', ie 'He *has* got it'

see also: yous

### three-cornered snake n, E, +

see: Cape file snake

### throw over v, E, +

+ in such sentences as, 'He *threw* the ball *over* the wall'; 'When the husband became attached to another woman he *threw over* (abandoned, deserted) his wife'; x in 'The boys *threw* the tarpaulin *over* the cricket pitch'; 'The boys *spread out* the tarpaulin *on* the

cricket pitch'+ or ' ... *covered* the cricket pitch *with* a tarpaulin' +

**tickey drive** n, E, +

alt: beetle drive

evening's entertainment at wh participants paid threepence to enter an event or game

**tierslang** n, D/Afk, x

see: Eastern tiger snake

**tiger snake** n, E, +

see: Eastern tiger snake

**time**

'The dam *will be built* within three years' +, ie it *will take* three years to build; 'The dam *will be built* in three years' 'time' + ie three years *will elapse* before construction begins; 'The dam *was built* in three years' +, ie it *took* three years to build; 'The dam was built in three years' time' x as there is contradiction in time sequence

**timeously**

see: timely

**t'nami** n, Ba, + (*Pelargonium antidysentericum*)

alt: t'namie

plant with a large reddish tuber & several slender, many-angled, much-branched stems; the Hott once boiled the tubers in milk & drank the decoction as a remedy for dysentery

**toad**

see: frog

**today**

alt: to-day

both spellings +; consistency, however, should be the rule

**toward/towards/towardly**

as adjs these forms are all archaic though 'untoward' meaning 'averse to, unfavourable' is still currently used, eg 'She made a most *untoward* choice'; toward/towards as preps both mean 'in the direction of' & either form may be used, eg 'He rushed *toward* me', 'He rushed *towards* me'

see also: eastward

**Transvaal bietou n, D/Afk, +**

see: bietou (i)

**Transvaal bloutulp n, D/Afk, x**

see: tulp

**Transvaal, the n, L/D/Afk, +**

lit: across the Vaal (drab, sallow) River; the article should never be omitted when referring to this S Afr province

**Transvaler n, L/D/Afk, +**

white Eur inhabitant of the province of the Transvaal

**tree python n, E, +**

see: African rock python

**troupant n, D/Afk, x**

see: lilac-breasted roller

**tsa! int, Xh, +coll**

see: sa!

**tsotsi n, Ba, +coll**

Afr youth who is often out of work & loiters about, usu with criminal intentions

see also: amaleita, skollie

**Tswa** n, Tswa, +

tribe found in the nth Transvaal & sth Moçambique; a member of the tribe; the language spoken by the tribe

**Tswana** n, Tsw, +

Afr tribe wh inhabits the region between the Orange & Zambezi Rivers, esp Botswana; a member of the tribe; the language spoken by the tribe

**Tuesday**

[ 'tjuzdeɪ ]

sometimes incorrectly spelt 'Teusday'

**tula** v, Ngu, +coll

hush! sleep!

**tumble-bug** n, E, +

see: dung roller

**tuna** n, Sp/Amer, + (*Germa alalunga*)

alt: albacore, avoador, germon, longfin tunny, tunny scombroid, warm-water, marine food fish found in open water of all warm seas; found off the s-wst Cape coast & at Durban

**tunny** n, Ger, +

see: tuna

**turksvy** n, D/Afk, x

see: prickly pear

**twig snake** n, E, +

see: bird snake

## U

**umfundisi** n, Zu, +coll

teacher, missionary  
see also: fundi



### **unbroken record**

in this case 'unbroken' is superfluous as once a record has been broken, it is no longer a record; but 'Mr Maxwell had twenty-five years of *unbroken* service with the engineering firm' +

### **under/below/beneath/underneath**

see: below/beneath/under/underneath

### **underneath/below/beneath/under**

see: below/beneath/under/underneath

### **Union Buildings** n, E, +

this government building in Pretoria consists of one building, so the sing v should be used, eg 'The Union Buildings *is* situated on Meintjies Kop'; the pl v is however permissible in cases where the speaker or writer is not aware of the fact that it is only *one* building; Sir Herbert Baker, the architect, orig intended to place more than one building on the grounds

### **unique**

frequently incorrectly used to express rarity or excellence, ie as a substitute for exceptional, marvellous, rare, remarkable, adjs wh are capable of degrees of comparison, whereas 'unique' is not  
see also: degrees of comparison

### **United States of America** sing/pl

'*The United States of America is* one of the greatest powers today'; the rule is, that prop ns wh are pl in form but sing in concept require the v to be in the sing  
see also: Union Buildings

### **university** rag n, E, +

see: rag

### **unpack**

see: pack out

### **unpractical/impracticable/impractical**

see: impracticable/impractical/unpractical

### **unreal/unrealistic**

*unreal* = not actually existing or occurring in fact, not genuine, eg 'The experience was like a nightmare to me, in fact it seemed quite *unreal*'; *unrealistic* = unpractical, without fidelity of representation, eg 'These statistics are an *unrealistic* interpretation of the actual situation'

### **unrealistic**

see: unreal/unrealistic

### **unsatisfied/dissatisfied**

see: dissatisfied

### **unsuitable/unsuited**

*unsuitable* = unfitting, inappropriate for the occasion, eg 'The clothes he wore were most *unsuitable* for the dinner party'; *unsuited* = not having the right qualities for, ill-adapted, eg 'He is quite *unsuited* for the legal profession'

### **until**

is spelt with one *l*, as is *fulfil*; but note the alt *till*  
see also: -ful

### **upcoming** adj, Amer, x

Amer equiv for 'approaching, forthcoming', eg 'The astronaut showed little concern for his *upcoming* trip to the moon' x; prob infl of D on Amer; possibly also an incorrect transl of the Afk 'opkomend' lit 'up coming', but actually meaning 'rising'

### **uprisal/uprising**

these ns are synonymous, eg 'There is a constant threat of *uprisals* in Northern Ireland', 'The suppression of the poor led to an *uprising* in the state'; *uprisal* is very rarely used nowadays

## V

**vaalbos** n, D/Afk, + (*Tarchonantus camphoratus*)

[ 'falbɔs]

alt: vaalbossie

small tree or shrub found in the dry wst areas of S Afr & Botswana; the leaves leathery, grey-green above & ash white below, smell strongly of camphor; bears creamy-white flowers in sprays at the ends of branches; highly drought-resistant; serves as a fodder plant

**vaalboskat** n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape wild cat

**Vaal River yellowwood** n, E, + (*Combretum hereroense*)

alt: kierieklapper, steelboom

densely-leaved, deciduous tree wh usu has an erect narrow crown; the bark is pale grey to brown, smooth or finely flaked; the branches droop; flowers small, yellow or green, appear in clusters; the fruit is four-winged, golden brown & approx 1cm in length; the tree sometimes reaches a height of approx 30m, but is more often shrubby with a trunk of approx 1m in diameter; the oval, sometimes round fruit approx 1cm in diameter remains on the tree throughout the winter; occurs in sth Afr, growing on river banks, on occasions on hillsides; grows very rapidly in the right conditions; the yellow wood is soft, but tough; the vernacular name 'steelboom' alludes to the use of the wood for axe & pick handles (Afk steel = handle)

see also: kierie

**vacation** n, E, +

alt: holiday(s)

vacation & holiday are used in Amer & S Afr to mean a period of relaxation fr customary occupation; in GB the term vacation is used more specifically for the period of cessation fr work, esp in educational & legal institutions

see also: holiday, leave

**van Staden's daisy** n, D/Afk/E, +

see: bietou (ii)

**varicose** pronunc

[ ' v æ r i k oʊ s ]

as in 'varicose veins'; sometimes mispronounced 'various'

**varied/variegated**

*varied* = changed, modified, diversified, eg 'His style is not very *varied*'; *variegated* = diversified in colour, many-coloured esp in botanical terms, eg 'This geranium has *variegated* leaves'

**varkbek** n, D/Afk, x

see: river steenbras

**varkie** n, D/Afk, x

[ ' f ǎ r k i ]

see: pinky (Natal), rock-grunter

known fr Indo-Malaya; has colonised our coast as far as False Bay; plentiful in tidal estuaries

**vegetable ivory** n, E, +

see: ilala palm

**veldkornet** n, D/Afk, x

see: field-cornet

**velskoenblaar** n, D/Afk, x

see: blood-flower

**verkramptheid** n, D/Afk, +

[ f ɛ r ' k r a m p t h e i t ]

bigotry

see: verkramp

**vetkoek** n, D/Afk, +coll

lit: 'fat cake'; small cake made of light dough & fried in fat; similar to a small doughnut

**vexatious**

often misspelt vexacious

**viability**

as in 'Viability Programme for Youth'  
see: Youth Preparedness

**Vierkleur** n, D/Afk, +

lit: four colours; flag of the Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek (Transvaal) comprising horizontal red, white & blue stripes with a vertical green stripe on the left-hand side; continues to have an emotional appeal

**villagisation** n, E, x

term used in Kenya for a village surrounded by a hedge or fence to house Afr who come fr isolated & remote areas; they were concentrated in small communities with their cattle, protected by their own primitive home-guard against attack by the Mau Mau

**vine snake** n, E, +

see: bird snake

**vink** n, D/Afk, x

see: bishop bird

**violet tree** n, E, + (*Securidaca longipendunculata*)

alt: fibre tree, krinkhout  
slender shrub or small deciduous tree; has a smooth whitish bark; branchlets are spinelike; leaves leathery; violetscented flowers rose pink to purplish; the fruit has a spherical, rough base; the bark yields a durable fibre

**vioolvis** n, D/Afk, x

see: sand shark (i), (ii), (iii) & (iv)

**vivacious**

applied only to persons, eg 'a *vivacious* young girl' +; 'a *vivacious* stream' x

**vlakbokkie** n, D/Afk, x

see: steenbuck

**vlakhaas** n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape hare

**vlakte** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'plain'; flat, open country

**vleibostee** n, D/Afk, x

see: bush tea

**vleikurper** n, D/Afk, + (*Tilapia sparrmanii*)

[ 'fleikɛpə ]

small fish wh occurs in the upper Orange River system, the Transvaal, Rhodesia, Malawi & Katanga; olive to brown in colour with a dark spot on the gill cover; grows to a length of approx 20cm; serves mainly as a fodder fish for predators such as bass; feeds on algae, small aquatic organisms & soft aquatic plants; often kept in aquaria

**vleiloerie** n, D/Afk, x

see: Burchell's coucal

**vlekhaai** n, D/Afk, x

see: spear-eye shark

**vlierboom** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild elder

**voetganger** n, D/Afk, x

see: hopper

**volkspele** n, D/Afk, +

Afk version of folk-dancing, dating fr the time of the Voortrekkers,

performed by groups of young boys & girls or students in traditional costume

**volstruisgras** n, D/Afk, ? (*Eragrostis spinosa*)

alt: gha grass

plant of the fam *Gramineae* wh forms large, dense masses in sandy areas along the s-wst shoreline of sth Afr; in the flowering stage, the young branches harden into flattened spines wh produce fairly large spikelets; the ostrich (Afk volstruis) was, in the past, observed to have eaten the young unhardened tops, hence the vernacular name

**volstruiskaroo** n, D/Afk, x

see: gemsbokkaroo

**voorhuis** n, D/Afk, ?

[ 'fuərhös ]

front part of house, consisting of two rooms; the 'voorkamer' lit front room, ie sitting room & the 'vrykamer' lit free room, ie guest room

**voorkamer** n, D/Afk, ?

see: voorhuis

**voorlaaier** n, D/Afk, +

[ 'fuərlaiəɾ ]

muzzle-loader; type of rifle used by the Voortrekkers & the Boer forces in the Boer War

**voorloper** n, D/Afk, +

[ 'fuərluəpr ]

Afr boy who walks with the foremost pair of a team of oxen for the purpose of guiding them

see also: touleier

**Voortrekker** n, /D/Afk, +

[ 'fuətrekə ]

Afk 'voor' = ahead, before & 'trekker' = migrant, traveller; a D S Afr

pioneer, esp one of the boers who took part in the Great Trek fr the Cape Colony nthwards in 1834 to 1837

**Voortrekkers** n, D/Afk, +

members of a S Afr Afk youth movement, equiv of the Boy Scout & Girl Guide movements originated by Lord Baden-Powell who served with the British forces in the Boer War; his observations of the ability & efficiency of Boer scouts during the War inspired him to found the Scout movement

**vrek** v D/Afk, x

[ 'frɛk ]

to die, perish, used only of animals; the vulgarity 'Gaan vrek!' is the equiv of 'Drop dead!' 'Go to blazes!'

**vreksiekte** n, D/Afk, +

disease of stock, wh can develop into an epidemic

**vrotvel** n, D/Afk, x

[ 'frɔtʃɛl ]

lit: rotten skin or hide

derogatory term applied to a good-for-nothing, a dishonest person

**vygie** n, D/Afk, +

[ 'feixi ]

name applied to several species of *Mesembryanthemum*; veld plant with succulent leaves & white, pink, red, orange & purple flowers, now extensively cultivated as a garden plant

## W

**waaiertjie** n, D/Afk, x

see: bokmakierie's tail

**waboom** (i) n, D/Afk, x

see: blousuikerbos



**waboom** (ii) n, D/Afk, x

see: cabbage tree

**wag-'n-bietjie** n, D/Afk, +

[ 'vǎxəbiki ]

lit wait-a-bit

name applied to several species of shrubs wh have strong, usu recurring, spines wh necessitate a passerby to 'wait-a-bit' if his clothes are hooked by the thorns; the most common species are *Acacia caffra* (kafferdoring), *A. mellifera* sub sp *detinens* (haak-en-steek), *A. retinens* (swarthaak), *Asparagus africanus*, *A. capensis*, *A. thunbergianus*, *Capparis citrifolia* (kapkappertjie) *C. zeyheri*, *Erythrina acanthocarpa* (tamboekiedoring), *Fagara capensis* (knophout), *Scuthia myrtina* (katdoring), *Ziziphus mucronata* (blinkblaar-wag-'n-bietjie), & *Ziziphus zeyheriana* (klein-wag-'n-bietjie)

see also: come-and-I'll-kiss-you, haak-en-steek

**Wahlberg's eagle** n, E, + (*Aquila wahlbergi*)

small, brown eagle wh feeds on birds, reptiles & small rodents, even insects; its nest consists of a loose collection of sticks & is built in the fork of a tree, frequently a mopani

**wait for/on**

*to wait for* someone = to remain inactive until some expected person arrives, eg 'I am *waiting for* John'; *to wait on* = to serve someone at table, eg 'The maid *waited on* the guests at the dinner party'

**wandering albatross** n, E, +

see: albatross

**wandering Jew** n, E, + (*Commelina livingstonei*)

perennial herb wh occurs in the open, on the coastal flats in the Eastern Province & Natal; grows along the ground & produces delicate flowers wh bloom only a few hours; popular as a pot plant

**-ward**

alt: -wards

as a suff  
see: eastward

**Warm Bokkeveld** n, E/D/Afk, +

see: Bokkeveld

**warmbos** n, D/Afk, x

see: Zeyher's bush willow

**warmth**

warmness x

**washaway** n, E, +

during heavy rains when the culverts along a railway line or road cannot cope with the sudden rush of water, portions of the earth & ballast forming the foundation of the railroad, or portions of the tarmac & the shoulder of a road are washed away, hence the term

**wash girl** n, E, +coll

see: girl

**wash the dishes**

S Afr equiv of 'do the washing up' or 'wash up' in GB

**water-berry** n, E, + (*Syzygium cordatum*)

alt: waterbessie, waterboom, waterhout  
medium-sized to large spreading evergreen tree of the fam *Myrtaceae*, wh usu grows near water; has a straight trunk & bluish-green leaves wh form clusters at the ends of the branches; flowers appear in dense terminal sprays; the edible, purplish-black fruit resembles a small cherry; wood used for beams, rafters & boat planking in particular, as it is very durable in water

**waterbessie** n, D/Afk, x

see: water-berry

**waterblommetjie** n, D/Afk, ?

lit: little water-flower

term loosely applied to plants with thick succulent leaves growing in damp regions, also in water; *Aponogeton distachyos* (wateruintjie) & *Lagarosiphon muscoides* (babergas) grow only in water

**waterblommetjiebredie** n, D/Afk, ?

[ 'vatərblo:məki 'brɪɛdi]

S Afr dish of stewed mutton & vegetables, including 'waterblommetjies' instead of potatoes

see also: waterblommetjie

**waterboekenhout** n, D/Afk, x

see: quinine tree

**waterboom** n, D/Afk, x

see: water-berry

**waterbuck** n, E, + (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*)

heavily built, robust antelope with coarse wiry, greyish or greyish-brown coat; darker on the legs; hair round neck shaggy; long, heavily ringed horns (in males only) projecting backwards, curving upwards & outwards, & forwards at the tips; conspicuous, white elliptical mark on each hindquarter wh jointly form a white 'ring' at the base of a slightly-tufted, fairly long tail; white round the eyes & nostrils, forehead reddish brown, darker in cows

**water dikkop** n, D/Afk, + (*Burhinus vermiculatus*)

lit: thick head

large bird, resembling a plover, with a square head & big white eyes; nocturnal in habits; utters a melancholy whistle as it flies about; during the day it seeks shelter under bushes; always occurs near water; found throughout S Afr

see also: Cape dikkop, dikkop

**water-finder** n, E, +

small, branched shrub of the fam *Selaginaceae*, found in dry inland

areas of the Cape Province; the minute heath-like leaves cluster in closely placed tufts on the stem; flowers small, tubular & purple or white; where it grows sub-terranean water is found not far fr the surface of the ground, hence the vernacular name

**waterfiskaal** n, D/Afk, x

see: boubou shrike

**waterhout** n, D/Afk, x

see: water-berry

**water kudu** n, E/Xh/Afk,+

see: situtunga

**watermelon** (i) n, E, +

name applied to several species of *Colocynthis*; the plant bears a distinctive fruit; most common variety has a thick dark green or streaked green skin; the juicy flesh is a deep pink; contains a large number of seeds surrounding the length of the 'core'

**watermelon** (ii) n, E, +

see: skipjack (iii)

**water python** n, E, +

see: African rock python

**watsonia** n, L, + (*Watsonia longifolia*)

plant wh occurs on open slopes & in flat country; has long thin leaves & flowers wh vary in colour fr white to red; blooms in early summer; all fifteen species are S Afr with the exception of one wh grows in the Malagasy Republic

**wattled plover** n, E, +

see: kiewiet

**wattled starling** n, E, + (*Creatophora cinerea*)

alt: locust-bird, springkaanvoël

restless bird wh moves about the country in small or large flocks; destroys great numbers of locusts in the hopper & mature stages; if locusts are insufficient, it frequents pastures & garbage heaps for food

**waxbill** n, E, + (*Estrilda astrild*)

alt: rooibekkie

very common bird, usu found in small flocks, but when not breeding, in large numbers; active bird wh flits its tail fr side to side; frequently kept as a cage bird

**ways & means**

this expression is followed by the prep *of*, eg 'There are *ways & means of* raising money for such a worthy cause'

**weather/wether/whether**

*weather* = atmospheric condition, eg 'We enjoyed the beautiful *weather* in the Cape'; *wether* = castrated ram, eg 'The *wethers* & the ewes were sent to market'; *whether* = conj, introducing an indirect question, eg 'I don't know *whether* I should go to the party'

**weedfish** n, E, +

see: klipfish

**week-end**

'*at* the week-end' +, '*during* the week-end' +; '*on* the week-end' x

**week-end** pronunc

in S Afr the stress is placed on the first syllable; in GB both syllables are usu given equal stress

**weeping boerboon** n, E/D/Afk, + (*Schotia brachypetala sond*)

alt: African walnut, Hottentot's bean, tree fuchsia

evergreen tree with round top; in S Afr all varieties of (boerboon) *Schotia* appear to have been given the vernacular name as the seeds resemble beans (bean = Afk boon) some of wh are edible; the seeds of the 'weeping boerboon', however, are not edible; the flowers are

so full of nectar that the tree ‘weeps’ when in bloom

**weeskindertjies** n, D/Afk, x

see: agretjie

**wentletrap** n, D/Afk, +

alt: staircase shell

lit: spiral staircase

molusc of the fam *Epitoniidae*; usu has a white, spirally coiled, tapering shell with longitudinal ridges around the whorl; the shell is a favourite collector’s item

**werf** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of ‘yard, farmstead, farmyard, shipyard, dockyard’

**Westminster** pronunc

[ 'wɛstmɪnstə ]+ , [ 'wɛstmɪnɪstə ] x

**westward**

alt: westwards

see: eastward

**wether**

see: weather

**where’s it**

incorrect word order, prob Afk infl eg ‘Weet jy *waar’s dit?*’ lit ‘Do you know *where’s it?*’ x; ‘Do you know *where it is?*’ +

see also: there’s it

**whether**

see: weather

**wewenaars** n, D/Afk, x

see: blackjack

**which/who/that**

see: who/that/which

**white n, E, +**

grade of ostrich feather; a long pure white wing feather plucked fr the male bird

**white-backed vulture n, E, + (*Gyps africanus*)**

bird wh feeds on carrion & offal; breeds, in scattered communities; nests built in trees; the white patch along its back is a distinctive characteristic; beak & claws specially adapted to tearing flesh fr a carcass; finds its food by sight, not by scent

**white-bait n, E, +**

see: anchovy (iii)

**white-browed sparrow-weaver n, E, + (*Plocepasser mahali*)**

conspicuous & common bird wh frequents the wst acacia veld; occurs alone, in pairs or in small flocks; nests are constructed in large trees

**white cobra n, E, +**

see: forest cobra

**white-eye n, E, +**

see: Cape white-eye

**white fish n, E, +**

see: river steenbras

**white-headed vulture n, E, + (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*)**

bird with a characteristic white head & red bill; flight like that of an eagle; lives on carrion but sometimes catches birds & small mammals; the distinctive white patches on the head, belly & undertail coverts are clearly visible when the vulture is in flight

**white syringa** n, E, + (*Kirkia acuminata*)

alt: bastard marula

deciduous tree with a straight trunk & smooth grey bark when young, wh becomes rough & darker in older trees; has a round spreading crown; leaves cluster at the end of the branches; bears white to cream flowers in sprays, wh produce oval woody fruit

**white-mouthed mamba** n, E, +

see: green mamba

**white pear** n, E, + (*Apodytes dimidiata*)

evergreen tree wh has a smooth, white trunk; the white timber is used mainly for making felloes of wagon wheels

**white rhinoceros** n, E, + (*Ceratotherium simum simum*)

alt: square-lipped rhinoceros

unwieldy quadruped with a pronounced hump on the back of the neck & head wh it usu carries low; the front horn is longer than the rear one; dull yellowish-grey in colour; muzzle square with straight edged wide lips; fairly lethargic; second largest land mammal; found in Zululand & on the Lado enclave on the Upper Nile; almost extinct, but now protected; has been introduced to the Kruger National Park

see also: black rhinoceros

**white steenbras** n, E/D/Afk, +

see: river steenbras

**white-stem tree** n, E, +

see: shepherd's tree

**white stinkwood** n, E, + (*Celtis africana*)

alt: camdebo stinkwood

large, deciduous tree belonging to the elm fam; up to 30m in height; has a spreading crown, smooth bark & saw-toothed leaves; the vernacular name is derived fr the unpleasant odour of the newly cut wood; not related to the true stinkwood, *Ocotea bullata*; occurs



mainly in the Knysna area of the Cape Province

**white stork** n, E, + (*Ciconia ciconia*)

migrant bird fr Eur where it nests on the roofs of houses; feeds on locusts & aquatic creatures

**white stumpnose** n, E, + (*Rhaddosargus globiceps*)

alt: five-finger (Knysna), go-home fish (Plettenburg)  
common name for a S Afr fish wh is most common near the Cape Peninsula, but occurs right round the coast to Natal

**white-tailed gnu** n, E, +

see: black wildebees

**white-thorn** n, E, + (*Acacia campylacantha*)

deciduous tree widespread in East & W Afr & found s-wards to the nth-est Transvaal; the yellowish bark peels off in flakes & strips giving the trunk a white appearance & this gives rise to the vernacular name

**White Train** n, E, +

train used officially by the S Afr State President

**white-winged widow-bird** n, E,+ (*Coliuspasser albinotatus*)

bird found in est S Afr fr Natal nthwards; male resembles the female in winter, but grows long tail feathers in the summer wh hamper it in flight

**who/that/which**

the relative pron *who* should be used for persons, *that* is also permissible but less common; *which* & *that* should be used for objects or things, eg 'This is the man *who* took her to the hospital'; some distinction can be made between *which* & *that* as relative prons: *which* introduces a relative clause giving incidental information about the n it qualifies, & this information is not essential to the meaning of the sentence; *that* introduces a relative clause defining the n it qualifies, eg 'This is a painting, *which* my father

bought thirty years ago, of vineyards in the Hex River Valley'; the meaning of the sentence would have been complete had the sentence read 'This is a painting of vineyards in the Hex River Valley'; but, 'This is a painting of the farm *that* my father owned' would be incomplete had the relative clause been omitted

### **whose**

normally refers to persons only, but it may replace *of which* to avoid awkward constructions, eg 'Brass discs *whose* workmanship shows that they were made in the later Celtic period', rather than 'Brass discs *of which* the workmanship shows ...'

### **who/whom**

who is the nom form (the subject) of this relative & interrog pron, eg 'This is the man *who* almost drove me to insanity', 'Who is this person?'; *whom* is the acc form (the direct object), eg 'The girl *whom* you questioned is my sister', 'Whom have you asked to take part in the play?'

### **widow-bird** n, E, +

see: Cape widow-bird

### **wikkel** v, D/Afk, x

[ 'vɪkəl ]

lit: hurry up, move, skedaddle!

see also: weg is jy!

### **wild almond** n, E, + (*Brabeium stellatifolium*)

alt: Cape almond, ghoeboontjie, Hottentotsamandel, wilde amandel much-branched shrub of the fam Proteaceae, therefore not actually an almond; simple serrated leaves occur in whorls of six; bears small white flowers in pairs in the axils of the bracts; the fruit is a large nut, densely covered with short, brown hairs; seed poisonous when fresh, but the poison may be removed by soaking the nut in water for some time; seed can be roasted & used as a substitute for coffee

### **wild asparagus** n, E, + (*Asparagus capensis*)

spiny species belonging to the fam *Liliaceae*; indigenous to the wst

Cape Province; has underground tubers fr wh shoots sprout annually; the young shoots are thin & are eaten as a substitute for garden asparagus

**wild banana** n, E, +

see: strelitzia

**wild barley** n, E, + (*Hordeum marinum*)

barley cultivated in S Afr as a fodder plant; also used for brewing beer

**wild celery** n, E, +

see: blister-bush

**wild date** n, E, +

see: kaffirbread tree

**wildeamandel** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild almond

**wildebees** n, D/Afk, +

[ˈvɪldəbrɛs]

alt: wildebeest

lit: Afk meaning 'wild beast' S Afr equiv of 'gnu', an ox-like antelope

see also: black wildebees(t), blue wildebees(t)

**wildekalkoen** n, D/Afk, x

see: glossy ibis

**wildekattjiepiering** n, D/Afk, x

see: Transvaal gardenia

**wild elder** n, E, + (*Nuxia floribunda*)

alt: bosvlier, vlierboom, wildevlier

evergreen forest or forest-margin tree wh grows to a height of 15m;

has a rounded crown, smooth bark & small, cream-coloured, sweet-scented flowers wh appear in large loose sprays that resemble the flowers of the Eur elder, hence the vernacular name

**wildeperd** n, D/Afk, x

see: streepdassie

**wildesalie** n, D/Afk, x

see: bird's-brandy

**wildeseldery** n, D/Afk, x

see: blister-bush

**wildesering** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild syringa

**wildevis** n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape salmon (ii)

**wildevlier** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild elder

**wildevy** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild fig

**wild fig** n, E, +

alt: wildevy

common name for various species of wild fig, eg *Ficus ingens* (see: red-leaf rock fig), *F. petersii* (see: Peter's wild fig), *F. pretoriae* (see: wonderboom fig), *F. sycamorous* (see: sycamore fig)

**wild gardenia** n, E, +

see: Transvaal gardenia

**wild olive** n, E, + (*Olea africana*)

alt: coast assegai, ironwood, olienhout, swart olienhout

small to medium evergreen tree with dense foliage; fruit smaller than that of the cultivated Eur olive; wood used for making furniture, fencing posts, etc

**wild pear** n, E, + (*Dombeya rotundifolia*)

alt: blombos, dikbas, plum-blossom tree, wild plum  
small deciduous tree wh has a fissured, dark-brown, thick, corky bark; sweet-scented, white flowers are produced in dense clusters; fruit small & hairy; wood very hard

**wild pepper tree** n, E, +

see: mountain syringa

**wild plum** n, E, +

vernacular name for *Bequaertiodendron magalismontanum* (see: stamvrug) & *Dombeya rotundifolia* (see: wild pear)

**wild pomegranate** n, E, +

alt: driendoring  
shrub with branches ending in three (Afk drie) elongated thorns (Afk doring(s)); found mainly in the nth-wst & central areas of S Afr; produces attractive funnel-shaped reddish-yellow flowers

**wild quince** n, E, +

see: Transvaal silverleaf

**wild stock** n, E, +

see: bergviool

**wild syringa** n, E, + (*Burkea africana*)

alt: Rhodesian ash, wilde sering  
small to large deciduous tree; has a rounded crown, rough bark & its branches are often very low on the trunk; leaves clustered at the ends of the branches; white to creamy flowers appear in early spring; host to a caterpillar wh is eaten dried or roasted by the Afr; bark used by Rhodesian Afr as a fish poison; wood used for small articles of furniture & parquet flooring

**wild wattle** n, E, +

see: African wattle

**wild wistaria** n, E, +

see: Vanwykshout

**will/shall**

see: shall/will

**willie** n, -, + (*Andropodus impotunus*)

alt: sombre bulbul

common species of bulbul wh frequents forests & coastal bush; rarely seen as it spends its time hopping about the branches, searching for food; call a loud 'peet-chuke-a chuke-achuke' ending in a descending 'pheeoooo' wh is very commonly heard in the coastal regions; name may be derived fr the prop n, the Xh 'i-nkwili', or the Zu 'i-wili'

see also: bulbul

**wit apiesdoring** n, D/Afk, x

see: ana-tree

**witbek** n, D/Afk, x

see: biskop

**witgatboom** n, D/Afk, + (*Boscia albitrunca*)

[ 'vɪ tʰǎtʰvə̯m]

tree of the fam *Capparidaceae*; widespread in the bushveld region but rare in the Kruger National Park; browsed by cattle & antelopes, but believed to taint cow's milk; wood coarse-grained, hard & white; roots roasted as a substitute for coffee

**witgatspreeu** n, D/Afk, x

see: pied starling

**with** (i)

see: come with

## with (ii)

this prep is often incorrectly used, prob because of the infl of Afk, eg 'to travel *by* bus'+ '... *with* the bus' x Afk '... *met* (with) die bus'; 'She is married *to* that man' , '... married *with* that man' x, Afk 'Sy is getroud *met* (with) daardie man'

## withdrawal pronunc

is sometimes mispronounced with an intrusive r,

[wiθdrɔrl] x [wiθdrɔal] +

## with regard to/in regard to

see: in regard to

## witklossie n, D/Afk, x

see: botterblom (ii)

## witogie n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape white-eye

see also: kersogie

## witsering n, D/Afk, x

see: white syringa

## win/beat

one may *win* something as a result of betting, competition, effort, eg 'He will *win* the race'; also persuade someone, eg 'I *won* him over to my point of view'; *to beat* = to conquer in a contest, eg 'He *beat* them all in the 100m breaststroke'; but, 'He *won* me in the race' x, prob Afk infl 'Hy het my *gewen* ...'; therefore, 'He *beat* me in the race' +

## winter horse tick n, E, + (*Margaropus winthemi*)

alt: Argentine tick

tick suspected of transmitting the disease 'redwater' to cattle

see also: blue tick, red-legged tick, redwater

**wishful/hopeful**

see: hopeful

**witstam** n, D/Afk, x

see: shepherd's tree

**witstompneus** n, D/Afk, x

see: white stumpnose

**wittevis** n, D/Afk, x

see: soldier (i)

**wolf snake** n, E, +

see: Cape wolf snake, northern wolf snake

**woltoon** n, D/Afk, +coll

[ 'vɔltuən ]

lit: wool toe

nickname for an inhabitant of the Cape Province

see also: blikoor, vaalpens

**wolwegif** n, D/Afk, x

see: boesmangif

**woman/women** pronunc

woman [ 'wʊmən ], women [ 'wi:mən ]

**Wonderboom, the** n, D/Afk, + (*Ficus pretoriae*)

prop n wh applies to a very large specimen of *Ficus pretoriae* growing at the foot of one of the hills of the Magaliesburg range, in Pretoria North

**Worcester heath** n, E, +

see: Cold Bokkeveld heath



**worm**

loosely applied to a caterpillar as well; *caterpillar* = the larva of a butterfly or moth, whereas *worm* = a slender, creeping, naked, limbless or apparently limbless animal, esp one that is segmented in rings or parasitic in the intestines or tissues, eg earthworm, songalolo, tapeworm

**worsboom** n, D/Afk, x

see: sausage tree

**would/should**

see: should/would

**wreck fish** n, E, +

see: bafaro

**write an examination**

see: sit for an examination

**y****y – i**

final *y*, preceded by a consonant, becomes *i* when followed by a suff, eg beauty – beautiful, dreary – dreariest – drearily, marry – marriage, salty – saltier – saltiness, but trolley – trolleys, toy – toys; the foll are exceptions to this rule: (i) beauty, bounty, pity + *ous* – beauteous, bounteous, piteous; the *e* keeps the *t* hard; cf cautious [-ʃəʊs]; (ii) the *y* is retained when the initial letter of the suff is *i*, eg marry-*ing*; (iii) the pres p of dye is dyeing to distinguish it fr dying; (iv) gay becomes gaiety; (v) in certain monosyllables the *y* is retained before a suff, eg shyly, shyness, slyly, slyness, but dry - drily

**yellow arum lily** n, E, +

see: pig lily

**yellow bill** n, E, + (*Anas undulata*)

bird found throughout S Afr where open water is available; occurs in

flocks, except in the breeding season; feeds with its head in the water

**yellow-billed hornbill** n, E, + (*Lophoceros flavirostris*)

bird found in Botswana & the Transvaal, sexes alike in appearance but the female is slightly smaller than the male; feeds on fruit, insects, larvae, seeds & small reptiles such as lizards  
see also: hornbill

**yellow-billed kite** n, E, + (*Milvus aegyptius*)

common brown hawk wh has a long, forked tail; builds its nest, lined with rags & dung, in a high tree; feeds on frogs, locusts, lizards & small birds; a scavenger & daring thief; often seen in large flocks feeding on newly rising swarms of white ants or locusts

**yellow-billed oxpecker** n, E, + (*Buphagus africanus*)

bird found near large domestic stock or game animals wh it searches for ticks; badly decimated by cattle-dipping; when disturbed it flies up with a warning 'rattle' & either flies away or hovers around the animal on wh it was perched  
see also: oxpecker

**yellow-fin bream** n, E, + (*Rhabdosargus sarba*)

alt: silver bream  
well known angling marine fish wh occurs in tropical waters of the Indian Ocean; occasionally found as far s as Knysna, in the summer

**yellow flag** n, E, +

vernacular name for 'yellow arum lily'  
see: pig lily

**yellow-footed squirrel** n, E, +

see: bush squirrel

**yellow-fronted tinker barbet** n, E, +

see: barbet

**yellow mongoose** n, E, +

see: meercat

**yellow-nosed albatross** n, E, +

see: albatross

**yellow steenbras** n, E/D/Afk, +

see: red steenbras

see also: steenbras

**yellowtail** (i) n, E, + (*Caranx djedaba*)

alt: cavally, kingfish

fish commonly found in the Indian Ocean & the central Pacific

**yellowtail** (ii) n, E, + (*Seriola bonariensis*)

Atlantic fish rare in S Afr waters but found occasionally in Algoa Bay & on the nth Natal Coast

**yellowtail** (iii) n, E, + (*Seriola lalandi*)

alt: albacore, alfkoord, amberfish (Amer)

fish wh occurs mainly in the Atlantic Ocean; found as far s as Pondoland; most common in False Bay during the summer months

**yellowwood** n, E, +

see: Vaal River yellowwood

**yesterday, to-day & tomorrow** n, E, +

flowering shrub of the fam *Brunsfelsia* with heavily scented flowers wh are white when they open, then turn pale mauve & eventually a deep purple; all three colours occurring at the same time

**you/one**

see: one/you

**you people**

vulgar expression; in addition 'people' is superfluous, eg 'Will you

*people* join us for a drink this evening?' x 'Will *you* (both, all) join us for a drink this evening?'

**yours**

sometimes incorrectly spelt with an apostrophe, eg 'Your's sincerely'

x

see: possessive pronouns

**yous**

applied to the second person pl x; also, 'Yous ous' x

**Youth Preparedness** n, E, +

Afk equiv of 'Jeugweerbaarheid'; 'viability' programme for S Afr youth to provide for moral & physical preparedness; suggested alt: Viability Programme for Youth, but the term 'Youth Preparedness' is far more easily understood; in addition viability is too indecisive in this case

**ysterhout** n, D/Afk, x

see: leadwood

**Z**

**zareba** n, Ar, x

improvised enclosure constructed mainly of thornbushes, used by Afr as a means of defence against enemies & wild animals

**zebra** (i) pronunc

[ 'zɛbrə ] +, [ 'zibrɛ ] +

**zebra** (ii) n, E, +

see: streepdassie

**zebra shark** n, E, +

see: leopard shark (i)

**zeerbos** n, D/Afk, ? (*Ochna pulchra*)

alt: zeermaakbos

lit: bush which hurts

the vernacular name refers to the toxic properties wh this shrub contains

see also: lekkerbreek

**Zeyher's bush willow** n, E + (*Combretum zeyheri*)

alt: Niklaasklapper, raasblaar, raasbos, warmbos

spreading deciduous tree wh has a smooth bark; differs fr other species of *Combretum* as its large leaves are virtually hairless; has four-winged fruit & big flowering spikes; named after a famous German collector; the vernacular name 'raasblaar' (lit: noisy leaf) refers to the distinctive rustling of the withered leaves in the wind, wh remain on the tree well into the winter, & the dry fruit wh is retained throughout the winter even after the leaves have fallen

**zinc** n, E, +

see: sink