

## METHOD AND FORMAT

We find ourselves in the same predicament as H.W. Fowler, 'plunging into the sea of lexicography without having been first taught to swim'. I quote Fowler further, from the fourth edition of *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*, adapting his words to my needs: an Index-maker 'unless he is a monster of omniscience, must deal with a great many matters of which he has no firsthand knowledge. That he has been guilty of errors and omissions in some of these he will learn soon after publication, sometimes with gratitude to his enlightener, sometimes otherwise'.

Simplicity and economy are the keynote of our approach. The preliminary lists in this issue and subsequent lists in later issues are by no means complete.

1. Main entries are printed in the lower case, only the initial letters of proper nouns bear capital letters.
2. Pronunciation: In general we refer you to the International Phonetic Alphabet, the Oxford English Dictionaries and Daniel Jones, *Everyman's Pronouncing Dictionary*. Where the need arises a phonetic transcription is given in square brackets.
3. Qualification: An entry is in most cases followed by symbols such as n, E, +. The symbols are used to denote
  - (a) the part of speech,
  - (b) the language of origin,\*
  - (c) acceptability or non-acceptability of a word or expression.Thus: + signifies 'acceptable'  
x signifies 'not acceptable'  
? signifies 'undecided' or 'origin unknown'  
- signifies 'no information required'

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\* Origin: Listed words which occur in the OED, SOED, and COD as standard vocabulary are graded as E, although they may have been derived from Anglo-French, Anglo-Indian, Danish, Greek, Latin, etc. Only direct derivations such as those from the Bantu languages, Dutch/Afrikaans, Hottentot, Malay, Portuguese, etc. are indicated by the appropriate abbreviation. In many instances these sources will be questionable as the *Index* is not concerned with etymology. We assume that many of the Afrikaans words, absorbed into South African English, are of Dutch origin, hence the symbols D/Afk. In addition, we cannot give an absolute decision as to whether a Bantu word was incorporated into South African English from South or North Sotho, for instance; this would be a highly specialized field of study.

Here are some examples,

(1) apartheid n, D/Afk, +

political policy in S Afr whereby it is planned that the different races will develop separately in their own territories according to their own character & requirements

(2) bookbag n, E, x

lit transl of Afk 'boeksak'

vulg for 'schoolbag', 'satchel', 'briefcase'

(3) camp n, E, +

alt: rest camp

enclosed area in a game reserve where visitors are housed in huts, rondavels, luxury bungalows or tents

see also: bungalow, hut, rondavel

(4) gemsbok n, D/Afk, + (*Oryx gazella*)

[xemsbɒk]

alt: gemsbuck

large strikingly marked S Afr antelope with long slender straight horns; inhabits waterless regions as it can survive without water for months on end

(5) indaba n, Ngu, + coll

communication or transaction of affairs,

conference or consultation between or with Ba chiefs; in S Afr coll usage, 'a problem or worry', eg 'That's your indaba'

(6) kaross n, Hott/D/Afk, +

[kə'rɒs] [kǎ'rɒs]

rug or bedspread made from animal skins

4. Spelling Variants: These are listed alphabetically with appropriate cross-references.
5. Etymology: We refer you to the Oxford English Dictionaries, *The New International Dictionary* and *Afrikaanse Etimologieë*. Specific enquiries should be directed to Professor W. Branford, Institute for the Study of English in Africa, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

6. We are including some of the more common species of flora and fauna. Detailed information can be obtained from the authoritative sources we have consulted thus far:
- Vivian F.M. FitzSimons: *Snakes of Southern Africa*. Purnell & Sons (SA) Pty Ltd, Cape Town, 1962.
- Austin Roberts: *Birds of South Africa*. Cape & Transvaal Printers, Ltd, Cape Town, 1963.
- Austin Roberts: *The Mammals of South Africa*. Central News Agency, South Africa, 1951.
- J.B.L. Smith: *The Sea Fishes of Southern Africa*. Central News Agency, South Africa, 1961.
- C.A. Smith: *Common Names of South African Plants*. The Government Printer, Pretoria. From the Dept. of Agricultural Technical Services.
- Plant Protection Research Institute: *Common Names of Insects*. Dept. of Agricultural Technical Services.
- In our research we are deeply indebted to the authors, in some cases the editors, of the reference books we have listed.
7. General works consulted:
- S.P.E. Boshoff & G.S. Nienaber, *Afrikaanse Etimologieë*. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, Pretoria, 1967.
- ed. William Morris, *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*. American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., Boston, 1969.
- H.J. Terblanche & J.J. Odendaal, *Afrikaanse Woordeboek*. Afrikaanse Pers Boekhandel, Johannesburg, 1966.
- F.T. Wood, *Current English Usage*. Macmillan, London, 1964.
- F.T. Wood, *English Prepositional Idioms*. Macmillan, London, 1967.
- F.T. Wood, *English Verbal Idioms*. Macmillan, London, 1965.
- F.G. Cassidy & R.B. le Page, *Dictionary of Jamaican English*. Cambridge University Press, London, 1967.
- H.W. Fowler, *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage*. Oxford Clarendon Press, London, 1968.
- ed. James A. Murray, *The Oxford English Dictionary*. Oxford Clarendon Press, London, 1961.
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- Daniel Jones, *Everyman's English Pronouncing Dictionary*. Dent and Sons Ltd., London, 1969.
- H.A. Treble & G.H. Vallins, *An A.B.C. of English Usage*. Oxford Clarendon Press, London, 1968.
- D.B. Bosman, I.W. van der Merwe & L.W. Hiemstra, *Tweetalige Woordeboek*. Nasionale Boekhandel Bpk., Cape Town, 1969.
- Eric Partridge, *Usage and Abusage*. Penguin, Harmondsworth, 1969.
- A. Merriam-Webster, *Third New International Dictionary*. G. Bell & Sons Ltd., London, 1961.
- Nicholson, Margaret, *A Dictionary of American-English Usage*. University Press, New York, 1957.

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