

## B

### **banded kurper** n, E/D/Afk, + (*Tilapia sparrmanii*)

kind of bream wh rarely exceeds 17cm; hardy, & found in a wide range of water temperatures; forage food for black bass; has nine distinctive vertical bars on its sides in the summer

see also: bream

### **blacktail** n, E, + (*Diplodus sargus*)

alt: das (ii), dassie (ii) (Cape), kolstert  
small sparid fish found off the Afr coast  
see also: blacktail (i)

### **bloublommetjie** n, D/Afk, +

name applied to a number of species of the genera *Amellus* & *Aster* wh produce blue-rayed flower-heads; most species are important fodder plants for sheep, esp in the est Karoo

### **blue bream** n, E, + (*Tilapia mossambica*)

fish found in warm inland waters & in the estuaries of ea coast rivers; weighs up to 4kg but usu only 2kg; a mouth-breeder; the male prepares a hollow in shallows as a nest; after fertilisation the female keeps the eggs in her mouth; the eggs hatch after 2 to 3 weeks; the female's mouth remains a place of refuge for the young fish; used in fish farming in Afr & the Far East

see also: bream

### **blue waxbill** n, E, + (*Uraeginthus angolensis*)

bird found in Angola, Tanzania & s-wards to the Orange River in grass & bushes of the drier thornveld, usu along rivers & streams; breeds during mid- & late summer; its nest is round & has an entrance at the side

### **bokmakierie** n, D/Afk, + (*Telephorus zeylonus*);

alt: bakbakiri, Janpiewit, kokkewiet  
bird wh has characteristic yellow underparts, a black gorget & a dark tail fringed with yellow; always found in pairs; the call is a duet though it sounds like one single call & amounts to a 'bokbok kiririe' 'pirrevit-pirrevit quitquit', 'urwit urwit wokwokwok chop' wh is

repeated over & over again; a croak is the alarm signal; found all over S Afr where it is not too bare; egg blue with rusty spots esp around the large end

**bosloerie** n, D/Afk, x

see: bush loerie

**botterblom**, n, D/Afk, x

see: gazania, gousblom

**bottlebrush** n, E, + (*Greyia sutherlandii*)

alt: baakhout

shrub or small tree of the fam *Melanthaceae*, with a pale bark, large, broad, simple leaves & bright scarlet flowers wh appear in June & are borne in dense racemes; occurs in rocky places in the Transvaal & on the Drakensberg in Natal; often cultivated in gardens because of the showy flowers

**bottle heath** n, E, + (*Erica ampullacea*)

this & other species of *Erica* have corollas wh suggest miniature bottles

see also: erica

**boubou shrike** n, E, + (*Lanarius ferrugineus*)

alt: boubou, water bailiff

common, but shy bird wh lives among trees & bush usu near water; eats insects; the call is a duet & amounts to 'koko' fr one bird & the reply 'kweet' fr the other, alt 'booboo' & 'wee oo'; a guttural 'cha-chacha' or 'bizzykizkiz' is the alarm note; builds a shallow basin-shaped nest usu hidden in dense vegetation

**brakdoring** n, D/Afk x

see: brak thorn

**brak thorn** n, D/Afk/E, + (*Acacia grandicornuta*)

round-topped tree up to 6m high, occurring in Zululand, the est & central Transvaal; resembles the *Acacia karoo* (sweet thorn) in shape & also has sickle-shaped pods; straight white thorns up to 8cm in

length appear in pairs; on young branches the bark is a mottled grey, while older branches & the main trunk are black & deeply striated  
see also: enkeldoring

**bream** n, E, +

name commonly applied to fish of the fam *Cichlidae*; deep-bodied with long dorsal fin & many spines; the species found in sth Afr are *Tilapia melanopleura* (red-breasted bream), *T. mossambica* (blue bream) & *T. sparrmanii* (banded kurper)

**brown-bearded protea** n, E/L, + (*Protea speciosa*)

Caledon to Bredasdorp species of protea with bearded inner bracts; a smallish shrub approx 1m in height; flowers in late summer & withstands the winter cold well  
see also: Protea, protea

**brubru** n, Ba, +

any of several shrikes, eg *Lanius brubru*, *L. capensis*, *Nilaus afer* & *N. capensis*; found nth of the Orange River, usu in pairs; searches the branches of trees for insects; utters a double whistling call

**Bulawayo** place name, Ngu, +

lit: the place of killing  
city in Rhodesia founded by Lobengula, king of the Matabele, in 1893; he named it Kwabulwayo (place of a man who suffers); Lobengula fled fr Bulawayo after the Matabele revolt in 1896 & the Eur took it over; was also the name of the royal kraal of the Zu chief, Chaka

**bunk** v, E, +coll

used in S Afr to mean 'play truant, malinge, take French leave', eg 'The girls decided to *bunk* school & go to the swimming baths instead'; in GB sl for 'to go away, esp as an escape', eg 'The thief suddenly took fright and *bunked*', or as a n eg 'The boys did a *bunk* before the headmaster arrived to reprimand them'

**Burchell's coucal** n, E, + (*Centropus superciliosus*)

alt: rain bird

bird wh is rarely seen; occurs in the s-wst Cape & ea-wards; has a

conspicuous black head, chestnut back & broad, dark tail; one species has white eyebrows; no difference in the appearance of the sexes; feeds on rodents & insects; alt name derived fr the belief that the bird's movements presage rain

**Burchell's zebra** n, E, + (*Equus (quagga) burchellii burchellii*)

alt: bontkwagga

wild ass related to the zebra but the upper parts are striped reddish-brown, the posterior is a plain greyish-brown & the legs & belly are whitish; the ears are smaller & the tail hairier than in the majority of other asses & zebras; locally differing species are found fr nth Kenya to est Zululand & the w of S W Afr

**buses**

the pl of bus is buses, busses x;  
similarly gas, gases

**bush baby** n, E, + (*Otolemur crassicaudatus*)

alt: bosnagaap, nagapie, thick-tailed galago

nocturnal mammal, the size of a small monkey, found in dense bush or woodland fr Natal nthwards; has a pointed, fox-like face, large eyes, a soft, thick, drab greyish-brown fur & is paler & more rufous-tinged underneath; feeds on fruit, young plants, buds, lizards, insects & bird's eggs; clumsy on the ground, but graceful & agile in trees; the various species differ only in size fr 18 to 45cm; quick to escape fr view, but readily tamed

**Bushman candle** n, E, + (*S. burmannii, Sarcocaulon patersonii, S. rigidum*)

alt: Bushman's candle

plant with succulent stems & branches, wh secretes resin that becomes a kind of cast even after the plant has died; resin highly inflammable & used by the early Bu to provide light & to keep fires burning

**Bushman grass** n, E, +

alt: Boesmangras, Bushman's grass

general name for several species of *Aristida*, eg *A. brevifolia*, *A. capensis*, *A. ciliata*, *A. dregeana* etc, all believed to be valuable

fodder grasses & indispensable to stock farming; the D/Afk vernacular name is derived fr the practice of Bu to use the stamped seed to make a kind of dumpling; in Van Riebeeck's time the Hott were able to keep large herds of cattle in Namaqualand because of the sustaining properties of this grass; less accurately, the name is also extended to *Schmidtia kalahariensis* & *Stipia dregeana* (steek-gras)

**Bushman hare** n, E, +

found in the scrub along eroded dongas on the sth border of Bushmanland; when alarmed, it seeks refuge along these dongas & very soon disappears fr view  
see also: donga

**bush loerie** n, E/D/Afk, +

see: Narina trogon

**Bushman poison** n, E, +

alt: Bushman's poison (bush)  
several toxic plants, eg *Acokanthera venenata*, *Euphorbia avas-montana*, *E. virosa*, of wh the Bu used the latex or other juice to poison their arrows; by dropping branches of these plants into watering holes the game was also poisoned

**Bushman rice** n, E, +

alt: Bushman's rice  
the eggs of certain kinds of termites were called by this name as they closely resemble rice; the eggs were in fact eaten by the Bu

**Bushman tea bush** n, E, + (*Methyscophyllum glaucum*)

alt: Bushman's tea bush or tree  
arborescent, resinous tree or shrub up to 6m high; Bu & others used the leaves to make a beverage as the leaves were reputed to contain life-sustaining powers; a related species is cultivated in the Middle East as tea

**bushpig** n, E, + (*Koiropotamus koiropotamus*), (*Potamochoerus koiropotamus*)

Afr wild swine that has a white erectile crest, white cheek patches & a reddish coat that becomes grey as the animal grows old

**bush snake** n, E, + (*Philothamnus semivariegatus*)

snake of the fam *Colubridae*; slender, agile & harmless; found in trees & bushes; green with black spots or bars on the front part of the body; averages 1,25m; lays fr 6-12 eggs at a time; inflates neck & front of body when annoyed & strikes viciously; lives on chamelions, geckos & tree frogs; found fr tropical Afr s-wards, in est S Afr & w-wards along river valleys such as those of the Orange & Vaal

**bush squirrel** n, E, + (*Paraxerus cepapi*)

alt: yellow-footed squirrel  
common, small bushveld squirrel, grizzled, greyish-yellow with bushy tail, striped slightly in darker shades; frequently seen darting across the road or chattering noisily in a tree

**bushveld boekenhout** n, D/Afk, +

see: boekenhout

**bush willow** n, E, +

general name for a large number of species of *Combretum*, eg *Combretum erythrophyllum* (more specifically known as 'river bush willow'), *C. apiculatum* (red bush willow), *C. caffrum*, *C. zeyheri* (Zeyher's bush willow)  
see also: Zeyher's bush willow

**business**

sometimes misspelt 'bussiness' x

**butcher bird** n, E, + (*Lanius collaris*)

alt: fiscal shrike, Jack(y) hanger, Jack(y) hangman, Johnny hangman  
one of the most common black & white shrikes found throughout S Afr with the exception of the central sandy Kalahari; feeds on birds, frogs & lizards; often impales its prey on the barbs of wire fences or thorns; perches on the top of a tree or shrub in search of prey; utters a harsh, grating challenge, sometimes imitating the cry of other birds; notorious for frightening tamed caged birds wh causes them to flutter against the bars of their cages, they are then seized by the head & killed

**butter barbel** n, E/L, + (*Eutropius depressirostris*)

edible freshwater fish wh weighs up to 1,5kg; found in the Limpopo & Pongola River systems & nthwards

see also: barbel (i)

**butter bream (i)** n, E, +

see: blue Hottentot

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

see: butterfish (ii)

**butterfish (i)** n, E, + (*Neoscorpis lithophilus*)

alt: stone bream or stone fish & stinker (Natal), pan galjoen (Bredasdorp)

'butterfish' is the Transkei name for this species of fish found only in S Afr waters; feeds on vegetable matter; has a long intestine & when the fish is gutted it emanates a strong smell, hence the name 'stinker' in Natal

**butterfish (ii)** n, E, + (*Dinoperca petersii*)

alt: butter bream, lantern fish (Pondoland), blackfish  
fish of the tropical Ind Ocean, found as far s as Pondoland

**butterfish (iii)** n, E, + (*Palunolepis brachydactylus*)

alt: steenklipvis, perdoog

species of marine fish found in S Afr fr Walvis Bay to Delagoa Bay; known as 'butterfish' on the w coast; the other names apply more particularly on the sth & s-wst coastline

**butterfish (iv)** n, E, +

see: blue Hottentot

**butterfish (v)** n, E, + (*Stromateus fiatola*)

alt: bluefish, Cape lady, pampelmoes

Atlantic fish, but common fr the Cape to Natal; usu rather solitary, but often associates with jellyfish; this fish is a beautiful blue, approx 45cm in length; fishes of the fam *Stromateidae* have a characteristic slippery mucus coating

**buttonhole flower** n, E, +

see: Abraham's book

**button spider** n, E, +

applied to two species of highly venomous spiders, *Latrodectus geometricus*, better known as the house button spider, & *L. indistinctus*, wh are closely related to the Amer 'black widow' wh they resemble in appearance & habit

**button wood** n, E, + (*Grewia occidentalis*)

common in S Afr in places that are not too dry; medium-sized shrub of the fam *Tiliaceae*; stems smooth & grey, leaves elliptical with slightly toothed margins; flowers lilac; fruit consists of four small fleshy drupes

**buurman** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'neighbour', often used as an affectionate term of address in the same way as 'old chap', 'ou swaer'. etc

**Bwana** n, Swahili +

form of address for an employer; equiv of 'master' in Zambia, & probably all the former est Afr British colonies

**by**

prep prob frequently used incorrectly because of Afk infl, eg Almal was *by* die wedstryd +, Everybody was *by* the match x, ... *at* the match +; Kom sit *by* my + Come and sit *by* me x, ... *beside* me +; Ons het dit *by* die slagter gekoop + We bought it *by* the butcher's x, ... *at* the butcher's +

**by-angel** n, D/Afk x

see: bee-sting

**bywoner** n, D/Afk, +

lit: sub-farmer

Eur farm labourer who has not the means of establishing himself as a farmer; he is given the use of a house & some land, and/or a share in the profits – in exchange for assisting in running the farm – by the



owner who may or may not live on the farm & be actively engaged in farming; the word can have derogatory connotations, ie it implies that the man & his family are squatters

## C

**cabbage tree** n, E, +

see: kiepersol

**caboodle** n, E, +coll

alt: kabodel

Amer & S Afr word meaning 'the whole lot', eg 'I threw away the whole *caboodle*'

**cache** pronunc

[<sup>1</sup> kaʃ] + [<sup>1</sup> kæʃ]+

**cactus euphorbia** n, E/L, +

see: candelabra tree

**calabash** n, E, + (*Lagenaria vulgaris*)

alt: kalbas

large fleshy fruit of a trailing pumpkin-like plant; the rind is hollowed out & dried to form a hard shell; the Ba use this as a container or drinking vessel for beer, etc

**Caledon bluebell** (*Gladiolus bullabus*, *G. spathaceus*)

alt: bakpypie

flower of the fam *Iridaceae*, borne on a wiry stem approx 30cm high; at one time common in the Caledon district extending estwards to George; the corm is round & covered with brown wiry scales; the mauve flower has a short tube wh widens to become bell-like with yellow markings on the lower lip

**call** n/v, E, +coll

a telephone call; to make a telephone call

see: ring

**Camdeboo stinkwood** n, Hott/E, +

see: white stinkwood

**camel thorn** n, E, + (*Acacia giraffae*)

alt: basterkameeldoring, kameeldoring, karoo-thorn, swartkameeldoring

semi-deciduous tree with umbrella-shaped crown, straight thorns & large, grey, velvety pods wh are sometimes used as fodder for stock & game; highly drought resistant; named *giraffae* by Burchell because giraffes feed on the pods high on the tree; 'kameel-(camel)doring' is a misnomer for kameelperd-(giraffe)doring

**canary kurper** n, E/D/Afk, + (*Chetia flaviventris*)

predatory fish not more than 20cm long; the female carries the eggs in her mouth until they hatch; vernacular name derived fr the conspicuous yellow belly of the fish

**candelabra flower** n, E, + (*Brunsvigia orientalis*)

alt: Orange River lily, sore-eye flower

large plant of *Brunsvigia*, sometimes has as many as 50 flowers on a stem; leaves lie flat on the ground; bulb very large; usu occurs on slopes facing the sea; blossoms fr February to April; strongly scented at night

**candelabra tree** n, E, + (*Euphorbia ingens*)

alt: cactus euphorbia, naboom

succulent tree with single trunk & dense branches; round candelabra shaped crown; up to 15m high; devoid of leaves; green stems produce a milky juice when injured; the prefix 'na' in the vernacular name 'naboom' is derived fr Hott 'gnap' = powerful, & refers to the effect of the milky fluid on contact with the skin as it causes blistering, & blindness when it enters the eyes

**Cango caves** n, E, +

one of the most beautiful stalactite caverns in the world, situated approx 30km nth of Oudtshoorn in the limestone formation at the base of the Swartberg range in the est Cape

**Cape, the**

abbr for the Cape Province in the Republic of S Afr; orig used as an  
abbr for the Cape of Good Hope

**Cape almond** n, E, +

see: wild almond

**Cape ash** n, E, + (*Ekebergia capensis*)

alt: dog plum, essenhout, mountain ash

medium sized to large, usu evergreen spreading tree with sprays of  
sweet-scented flowers & fruit that is eaten by birds; belongs to the  
mahogany fam; the wood is used for making furniture, etc

**Cape baboon** n, E, +

see: chacma baboon

**Cape box** n, E, + (*Notobuxus macowanii*)

alt: buig-my-nie

small, fairly common tree of the fam *Buxaceae*; occurs in the coastal  
bush near King William's Town & East London; leaves small &  
glossy; wood heavy & hard, with a smooth, fine texture, & a uniform  
light yellow in colour; used for rollers in spinning mills, geometrical  
& musical instruments, etc; with kamassie, the only indigenous  
timber exported fr S Afr, mainly to Eur

**Cape buffalo** n, E, +

see: African buffalo

**Cape bulbul** n, E/prop Arab, +

see: toppie

see also: bulbul

**Cape bushbuck** n, E, + (*Tragelaphus scriptus sylvaticus*)

small, thick-set, fairly coarse-haired S Afr antelope wh frequents  
forests; males have thick necks & fairly short, stout, but very  
pointed, spiralled horns; tail bushy; coat dark reddish-brown (almost  
black in old rams), more rufous in females & young; white spots on  
cheeks; conspicuous collar of white on lower part of neck; a few  
white spots or stripes on hindquarters & flanks, front of legs white,

black bands round knees & upper part of hind legs; erectile dorsal ridge of long hair, whitish in rams, darker in ewes

**Cape canary** n, E, + (*Serinus canicollis*)

bird common throughout S Afr but not found in S W Afr; its song is loud & wild, rather like that of a Eur lark, usu preceded by the ascending 'tsweeet' characteristic of caged canaries; species also found in Angola, E Afr & the highlands of Abyssinia

**Cape centipede eater** n, E, +

see: black-headed snake

**Cape clawless otter** n, E, + (*Aonyx capensis capensis*)

alt: giant Cape otter

largest of all otters; brown in colour, with cheeks, chin & throat a yellowish white; it is clawless, but has rudimentary claws on the third & fourth toes of the hindfeet; eats fish, frogs, crabs & small mammals; will also kill birds found along permanent streams & rivers wh have dense vegetation on the banks

**Cape cobra** n, E, + (*Naja nivea*)

alt: geelslang, koper kapel, yellow cobra

venomous snake wh varies in colour, but is predominantly yellow, reddish, brown or black; sometimes speckled; aggressive & partly arboreal

**Cape cod** n, E, +

see: Cape salmon (ii)

**Cape cormorant** n, E, + (*Phalacrocorax capensis*)

bird found fr the Congo River mouth s-wards to the Cape & ea-wards as far as Durban; in the Cape they can be seen trekking fr place to place in large numbers during the summer months; breeding plumage black

**Cape crayfish** n, E, +

see: rock lobster

**Cape dabchick** n, E, + (*Podiceps ruficollis*)

common grebe of the Cape Province wh frequents open sheets of water & quiet pools & streams; has a characteristic habit of 'perching' on the water while it flaps its wings vigorously; shakes its entire body when it settles on the water again; flaps its wings in partial flight & 'runs' along the surface of the water finally skidding to a stop; its actions are accompanied by a descending, laughing trill; dives underwater at the first sign of danger

**Cape dikkop** n, E/D/Afk, + (*Burhinus capensis*)

shy bird wh hides during the day & comes into the open at night; feeds on insects & small animals; its call is frequently heard on moonlight nights

**Cape eland** n, E/G or D/Afk, + (*Taurotragus oryx oryx*)

largest & heaviest of the S Afr antelopes; humped shoulders, horns straight, but spiralled at the base in both sexes; long, slender tail tufted at the tip; colour rufous fawn; old bulls grey-tinged as a result of sparse coat hair; the young of the true sth eland have narrow white vertical stripes

**Cape filesnake** n, E, + (*Mehelya c apensis capensis*)

alt: southern file snake, three-cornered snake

though formidable in appearance this snake is actually one of the most inoffensive in S Afr; hardly ever bites even when first handled

**Cape Flats** n, E, +

sandy, low-lying stretch of land approx 20km across, wh separates Table Bay fr False Bay & connects the Cape Peninsular to the mainland

**Cape flycatcher** n, E, + (*Batis capensis*)

peculiar to S Afr, this active little bird prefers moist forests, kloofs & the marginal vegetation of such areas; it hops about trees looking for insects; also catches insects in flight; when alarmed it beats its wings in noisy whirrs

**Cape fox** n, E, +

see: silver jackal

**Cape francolin** n, E, + (*Francolinus capensis*)

found in the s-wst Cape, nthwards to the Orange River & ea-wards to Uitenhage; prefers the sheltering scrub along streams & rivers to very thick forests; calls loudly at sunrise & sunset

**Cape gannet** n, E, + (*Morus capensis*)

found in the coastal waters of sth Afr, particular during the cooler months of the year, in groups some distance fr the shore; follows in the wake of shoals of fish & captures its prey by diving into the water fr a little height; feeds voraciously mainly on fish wh are typical of the cold-current region off wst S Afr; nests in highly populated colonies on off-shore islands

**Cape gooseberry** n, E, + (*Physalis peruviana*)

small perennial bush, indigenous to Peru but cultivated for its fruit; the bright yellow berries are rich in vitamin C; S Afr is the largest producer of Cape gooseberries in the world

**Cape grass** n, E, + (*Thamnochortus fruticosus*)

alt: love grass

perennial rush-like herb found on sandy, peaty flats in coastal areas, fr Port Elizabeth to the s wst Cape, where it grows on hills & lower mountain slopes; the veld occupied by plants of this fam is usu designated 'sour veld'; young Xh & Fingo girls make bangles fr the stems believing that they have medicinal properties to cure menstrual pains; the juice of the roots is used as ear & nose drops

**Cape grasses** n, E, +

mostly species of *Restionaceae*, used in flower arrangements & as table decorations; once gathered for export purposes

**Cape grysbok** n, E/D/Afk, + (*Nototragus melanotis*)

antelope more stoutly built than the steenbok & with a more wiry coat; reddish brown above, intermingled with white hairs wh give it a grizzled appearance; the horns of the rams are shorter & stouter  
see also: steenbuck

**Cape hare** n, E, + (*Lepus capensis capensis*)

large, swift, long-legged hare widely distributed in sth Afr grasslands; yellowish-brown, mottled with darker shades, as the woolly hair is

slate-coloured at the base & dun-brown or yellowish with a sub-terminal black band; the underside is whitish, the sides ruddy; the eye is ringed with white & there is a dark brown spot above each eye; limbs & feet yellowish

**Cape hartebees** n, E/D/Afk, + (*Alcelaphus caama caama*)

alt: red hartebees(t)

awkward-looking, high-shouldered, large, rich reddish-brown antelope with a black-marked, long face; crooked, fairly upright horns wh rise fr a pedicle at the top of the head; no neck mane

**Cape hen** n, E, + (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*)

large, black petrel of sth oceans found fr Angola in the w to beyond Moçambique in the ea; follows boats to feed on offal, even enters harbours

see also: stinker (i) & (ii)

**Cape hunting dog** n, E, + (*Lycaon pictus venaticus*)

alt: Cape wild dog

large, wild dog formerly widespread over S Afr but now exterminated in settled areas; built rather like a hyena, but without the sloping back; resembles the Alsatian in size, but its ears are large, upright & rounded; a line extends along the top of the black muzzle to the forehead, colouration a blotchy, irregular mixture of black, white & sandy yellow; no two dogs are absolutely alike in colour; tail also vari-coloured & of medium length, usu has a white tip; usu runs in packs, sometimes in large groups, sometimes in small groups, occasionally in pairs or singly; its hunting habits are particularly cruel; it runs down its prey & on reaching it snaps out portions of flesh until its victim falls down exhausted; then the pack continues to tear out pieces of flesh fr the living animal & consumes it in a matter of minutes

**Cape katonkel** n, E/M +

see: bonito (i)

**Cape lady** (ii) n, E, + (*Monodactylus falciformis*)

alt: kite-fish, moon-fish, moony, sea-kite (Cape to Natal)

local name in Knysna for a brilliant silvery fish wh occurs in great

shoals in the warmer parts off the ea coast; also found in fresh water along the s & ea coasts

**Cape lady** (iii) n, E, +

see: butterflyfish (v)

**Cape lobster** n, E, +

see: rock lobster

**Cape longclaw** n, E, + (*Macronyx capensis*)

bird usu found in pairs on the ground or perched on tufts of grass & low bushes; flight, slow & quail-like with noisy wing-beats, accompanied by a kitten-like 'mewing'

**Cape mountain adder** n, E, +

see: berg adder

**Cape mountain zebra** n, E, +

see: mountain zebra

**Cape oryx** n, E, +

see: gemsbok

**Cape parrot** n, E, + (*Poicephalus robustus*)

largest parrot of S Afr; found in the Knysna forests & ea-wards to Natal & the Est Tvl; feeds on berries & fruit

**Cape penduline tit** n, E, +

see: kapokvoël

**Cape pigeon** n, E, + (*Daption capensis*)

small, pigeon-sized, black-and-white petrel of the sth seas; seen off the S Afr coast between May & November where it freely approaches boats at sea; breeds chiefly in sth S Amer

**Cape rail** n, E, + (*Rallus caerulescens*)

alt: crake, kaffir rail, kwartelkoning, red hen

elusive bird wh has its habitat in reed-beds & swamps; when



disturbed it flies low, with its long legs & tail dangling; becomes very active at dusk, uttering screams & purring calls; moves jerkily & nervously with tail held erect; flicks its tail as it probes the ooze with its long bill for aquatic animal matter; conceals its nest in reeds or rank grass growing in water

**Cape raven** n, E, + (*Corvultur albicollis*)

bird wh frequents mountainous country, but strays fr hills, yet is not seen in open country; regarded in its haunts as a pest as it plunders poultry runs & even destroys lambs & sick sheep; always first to arrive at the carcass of a dead animal, tearing out the eyes before the vultures settle in

**Cape robin** n, E, + (*Cossypha caffra*)

bird wh has adapted itself to urban conditions; finds a retreat in garden shrubberies; ventures into the open with a nervous jerking of its reddish tail, as it is always suspicious, & slips back into shelter as soon as it senses danger

**Cape rock thrush** n, E, + (*Monticola rupestris*)

common bird wh has adapted itself to urban conditions; usu seen perched on rocks or the tops of bushes, aloes or trees fr wh it utters a wild, whistling note; flicks its wings on landing

**Cape shoveller** n, E, + (*Spatula capensis*)

S Afr duck found mostly in shallow waters in wh it 'shovels' for food; if disturbed it rises vertically fr the water & flies away very quickly

**Cape sparrow** n, E, + (*Passer melanurus*)

alt: mossie

common species of sparrow found in S and S W Afr; roosts throughout the year in nests wh consist of an unruly conglomeration of grass, dry weeds, string & old rags, but are cosily lined with feathers & other soft material & are built under the eaves of houses, on telegraph poles, in trees, thorn bushes, etc

**Cape teak** n, E, + (*Strychnos decussata*)

alt: Kaapse kiaathout

tree of wh the wood is yellowish, hard & tough; the slightly flattened seeds are poisonous

**Cape teal** n, E, + (*Anas capensis*)

bird wh is found throughout S Afr, usu in small flocks in shallow waters, salt pans, estuaries & even coastal waters

**Cape thrush** n, E, + (*Turdus olivaceus*)

bird found in mountain forests & thick bush; spends much of its time on the ground where it scratches amongst the fallen leaves; if alarmed it flies off uttering a loud cry & then settles in a nearby bush

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

found throughout S Afr; blue-grey in colour with a black half-collar; feeds on grain; utters a sharp 'krr' or 'hoos-dardee-hoos-dardee'

**Cape vulture** n, E, + (*Gyps coprotheres*)

most common of the S Afr vultures; in groups, have been known to attack sheep, tearing at them with their strong beaks, not with intent to kill, but only injuring the animals

**Cape wagtail** n, E, + (*Montacilla capensis*)

alt: kwikkie

bird generally protected by common consent; found throughout S Afr wherever there is water & a certain amount of shelter; also inhabits cities, towns & villages

**Cape weaver** n, E, + (*Ploceus capensis*)

bird found throughout S Afr where there are trees or bushes & water  
see also: bishop bird, fluitjiesriet, vink

**Cape white-eye** n, E, + (*Zosterops pallidus*)

alt: kersogie, witogie

bird usu found in small flocks wh are constantly on the move; the birds straggle after one another as they fly fr tree to tree keeping in touch by a constant call

**Cape widow bird** n, E, + (*Coliuspasser capensis*)

alt: Kaapse kaffervink

found in sth & est S Afr; prefers marshy ground or boggy streams in

the rank vegetation at the foot of hills or mountains, otherwise dry scrub; the breeding plumage of the male is black with yellow on the rump & shoulders; in the off-season the sexes are alike  
see also: bishop bird

**Cape wild cat** n, E, + (*Felis lybica caffra*)

alt: grey wild cat, kafferkat, vaalboskat  
very much larger than the domestic cat, but has the same characteristics, taking refuge in trees when pursued; fierce when cornered or trapped

**Cape wild dog** n, E, +

see: Cape hunting dog

**Cape wild fig** n, E, + (*Ficus capenses*)

deciduous tree wh grows in open woodland & reaches a height of approx 10m; bears large fruit borne in branched clusters on the main branches, wh is relished by birds & monkeys; wood white & soft

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

snake usu found in damp areas under stones or vegetable debris; sluggish & mainly nocturnal

**capital letters**

words designating a nation or nationality, used as ns or adjs should always be spelt with an initial capital letter, eg the Austrians, the European Common Market, the Polish Corridor

**Capoid** n, L, +

one of the five major racial groups into wh *Homo sapiens* is classified & of wh the Bu & Hott are the only living representatives; only a small number of them are found today  
see also: Bushman, Hottentot

**capped wheatear** n, E, + (*Oenanthe pileata*)

bird wh frequents outspans, kraals & homesteads in the drier regions of the Cape Province, nesting in a hole in the ground

**caracal** n, E, + (*Felis caracal*)

alt: African lynx, rooikat

large, wild cat, reddish-rufous in colour; has black ears with long tufts of hair projecting fr the tips; tail slender & long; differs slightly fr the true lynx; found throughout S Afr; prefers grassy areas, open kloofs & sparsely wooded koppies; preys on larger birds & rodents

**carrion flower** n, E, +

alt: stapelia

various species of *Stapelieae*, eg *S. variegata*, wh bears carrion-coloured flowers that exude a putrescent carrion-like odour, hence the vernacular name; attracts flies for pollination purposes; name also applied to the Amer catbrier (*Smilax herbacea*) wh is also a plant of the genus *Stapelia*

**cashushu** n, Port, +

see: blueskin

**Castle, the**

fort in Cape Town; oldest building in S Afr dating back to 1666; erected as a fortification to protect the early settlers & designed in the shape of a five-pointed star with gun-mounted bastions & a moat

**cat's eye** n, E, +

type of crocidolite wh occurs in the wash of the Vaal River diamond fields; differs slightly fr a similar stone found in the Far East

**cat-thorn (ii)** n, E, +

see: buffalo thorn

**cat-thorn (iii)** n, E, +

alt: katdoring

name applied to *Scutia myrtina* a small shrub of the est Cape Province; a small tree found in open scrub & having recurved paired spines wh resemble the claws of a cat; weed-like forest liane wh climbs tall trees forming a 'monkey rope', its dense leaves eventually killing the host; elsewhere in S Afr the name refers to a large variety of *Asparagus*, eg *A. africanus*, *A. capensis*, wh are as obnoxious, as their withered shoots cling to the hair of Angora goats

**cattle egret** n, E, +

see: tick bird

**centre round**

prep incorrectly used; should rather be *centre in*, *centre on* or *be centred in* though these expressions imply an exact position or precise point; *centred at* also + when an object is situated or has been placed in a particular locality

**Ceylon rose** n, E, + (*Nerium odorum*)

alt: Ceylon's rose, selonroos

shrub resembling the oleander wh is indigenous to Asia Minor & India; brought to the Cape in the early days as an ornamental shrub; the leaves, branches, flowers & nectar are highly toxic

**chabi** n, Tsama? ? (*Lapeirousia anceps*)

Namaqua name given to a plant with fragrant flowers, & corms with a sweet taste; roasted in ashes & eaten by the Ba

**chacma baboon** n, Hott/E, + (*Papio ursinus*)

alt: Cape baboon

large, powerful, terrestrial monkey found throughout sth Afr as far nth as the Zambezi River; has a long, prominent dog-like muzzle & a massive jaw with well-developed canines; eyes small & closely set under beetling brows; coat coarse, haggly & wiry, dark or light brown; carries the tail in a swaggering loop, upwards & downwards, as it walks; frequents bare, rocky mountainous areas; eats wild fruit, berries, young leaves & insects; also drinks the sap of young trees; formidable fighter as a member of a troop

**chicken tick** n, E, +

see: tampan

**chincerinchee** n, D/Afk, + (*Ornithogalum thyrsoides*)

alt: chinkerinchee

bulbous plant of the lily fam having long spikes of white flowers; toxic to livestock; exported to Eur for the Christmas trade; the vernacular name is reputed to be an onomatopoeic rendering of the sound produced when the flower stalks are rubbed together

**Chinese lantern** n, E, +

see: Christmas bell (i)

**chinkerinchee** n, D/Afk, +

see: chincherinchee

**chorchor** n, -, + (*Pagellus natalensis*)

alt: pinky red (or rooi) chorchor, red grunter

marine fish found fr approx Mossel Bay to Madagascar; grunts when taken fr water, hence the onomatopoeic name

**chorister robin** n, E, + (*Cossypha dichroa*)

alt: noisy robin

very noisy, S Afr robin; spends most of its time in the midstratum of forests; feeds on the ground only during the winter months; fond of imitating the calls of other birds

**chou-chou** n, Amer Ind, +(*Sechium edule*)

[<sup>1</sup>∫u∫u]

climbing plant of the fam *Cucurbitaceae*, wh bears a small marrow-like fruit resembling a gem squash in taste, but has only one large seed

**Christmas bee** n, E, +

see: cicada

**Christmas bell (i)** n, E, + (*Sandersonia aurantiaca*)

alt: chinese lantern

slender, erect, herbaceous perenial, 30-40cm high; has a tuberous rootstock; grows in the moist grassveld & mountainous regions near Kokstad, in Pondoland & in Zululand, but is becoming extremely rare, as children pick the flowers & sell them

**Christmas bell (ii)** n, E, +

see: Natal mahogany

**Christmas box** n, E, +coll

term used by Afr servants & labourers; equiv of the Christmas gift or present itself & not the wrapping

**Christmas cicada** n, E, +

see: cicada

**Christmas flower (i)** n, E, +

see: blue lily

**Christmas flower (ii)** n, E, +

S Afr coll name for the hydrangea wh blooms in December

**Christmas singer** n, E, +

see: cicada

**cicada** n, L, +

name loosely applied to any insect of the fam *Cicadidae*, in S Afr also known as Christmas bee, Christmas beetle, Christmas cicada, Christmas singer & sonbesie as it appears in mid-summer & is conspicuous because of the ear-splitting monotonous, shrill whistling sound it emits throughout the day

**circumstances**

*in the circumstances* is the usual idiom, but *under the circumstances* is also acceptable

**City of Gold, the**

Johannesburg, is so called because it is the centre of the gold-mining industry in S Afr

**clapped** adj, E, x

in S Afr 'to be exhausted'; in Amer & GB to be suffering fr gonorrhoea

**clapper lark** n, E, + (*Mirafra apiata*)

alt: rain bird

smallish rufous bird found in sth Afr (with the exception of Natal & Port Ea Afr); usu rises in slow flight, claps its wings while hovering in the air for a few seconds, & then drops straight down emitting a long, drawn-out 'fooeee'; farmers believe that this behaviour forecasts rain, hence the name 'rain bird' or 'misvoël' (mist bird)

**clingstone** n, E, +

alt: taaipit, lit: 'tough kernel'

variety of orange-coloured peach wh is not very juice; name derived for the fact that the flesh adheres closely to the stone

**close/shut**

should be used as follows: 'Please *shut* the door' (ie the doing of the deed); 'I have *closed* the door for you' (ie the completed action)

**cluster disa** n, E, + (*Disa ferruginea*)

alt: red cluster disa

attractive ground orchid; spikes of bright-red flowers closely packed, hence the vernacular name

see also: disa

**coast assegai** n, E/Ar, +

see: wild olive

**cob** n, E, +

alt: cod, kob

see: kabeljou

**cochineal bug** n, E, +

see: Australian bug

**cocopan** n, Ngu, +

mining tipcart wh runs on rails or a cable; used in the transportation of gravel, ore, etc

**cod** n, E, +

see: kabeljou

**cognizant of** +

cognizant with x

'to take cognizance of' is officialese for 'to heed' or 'to notice', & should be avoided

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

see: Bokkeveld



**Cold Bokkeveld heath** n, D/A/E, + (*Erica monsoniana*)

alt: Bokkeveld heath, Worcester (white) heath

shrub up to 1,3m in height found in the Bokkeveld, esp around Ceres, bears white flowers; the young branches are covered with a peculiar *floccose indumentum*

**College of Education** E, +

training college for teachers; previously the term 'Normal College' was used, but this is now obs

**come with**

the prep *with* governs an obj & should therefore be followed by a n or pron, eg 'He will come *with Mary*', 'She will come *with him*'; this rule also applies to go with, play with

**come-and-I'll-kiss-you** n, E, + (*Ziziphys mucronata*)

see: buffalo thorn

vernacular name transl of Zu 'sondela ngange' lit 'approach nearer & I'll kiss you', in ref to the firm hold the recurved spines of the tree have on clothing, etc

**Commanding Officer** n, E, +

see: Officer Commanding

**compare to/compare with**

compare to = point out or imply similarities between objects that are of a *different order*, eg *Life* has been *compared* to a *journey*, to a drama; compare with = point out the difference between objects that are of the *same order*, eg The *British Parliament* may be *compared* with *Congress*; thus 'They *compared* her *to* a monkey: is an insult, whereas 'They *compared* her *with* a monkey' could be part of a scientific experiment

**compliments**

'With the compliments of ...' +

'With compliments from ...' +

'With Peter's compliments ...' +

**compound** n, M/E, +

loosely used to describe premises for housing Ba & other non-Eur employees of mines & industrial concerns; word derived fr the Malay kompong, wh is still used in Afk

**comprise/constitute**

*comprise* = include, comprehend, consist of, eg 'The school *comprises* twenty classrooms'; *constitute* = to make up, be the components of, eg 'Twenty classrooms *constitute* the school'; thus, 'An aviary *comprises* many birds & many birds *constitute* an aviary'

**conciseness/concision**

*conciseness* = brevity in expression (of person, speech, style), eg 'The lecturer was noted for his *conciseness*'; *concision* = mutilation, contemptuous circumcission; rending, esp of the church, eg 'The day of the Lord is nigh in the valley of *concision*'

**concision/conciseness**

see: conciseness

**coney** n, E, +

see: dassie

**conflict** pronunc

the n has the first syllable stressed & the v the second, ie 'The *conflict* within the political party reached a climax this week'; 'Need you always to *conflict* with authority?'

**connexion/connection**

both spellings are acceptable

**constitute/comprise**

see: comprise

**consult about/on/with**

*consult about* = request an opinion, eg 'You should *consult* your doctor *about* your ailment'; *consult on* = request advice, eg 'I have *consulted* my solicitor *on* that point of law'; *consult with* = express

an opinion, to arrive at a conclusion, eg 'The chairman *consulted with* his committee & they decided that the tour should not take place'

### **contact**

'We were unable to establish *contact* (n) with him' +; 'to *contact* (v) someone' x 'to *get in touch with* someone' +  
see also: get in touch with

### **contents**

as the subj of a sentence is followed by the pl v, eg 'The *contents* of the bag are ...'; though the sing *bag* precedes the v it is *not* the subj of the sentence

### **contrast pronunc**

the n has the first syllable stressed & the v the second, ie 'He uses *contrasts* very well in his paintings'; 'Contrast this sample with that one & you will see the difference'

### **coolie Christmas** n, E, x

derogatory, obs term applied in Natal to the Muharram festival of Moslem Indians & to the Diwali of the Hindus, both of wh were characterized by merry-making

### **cork tree** (i) n, E, + (*Erythrina latissima*)

large tree found in frost-free areas; the wood is light & soft when dry, hence the vernacular name

### **cork tree** (ii) n, E, +

see: mobola plum

### **cottony cushion scale** n, E, +

see: mealy bug

### **coucal** n, E, +

see: Burchell's coucal

### **crawfish** n, E, +

see: crayfish

**cream-of-tartar tree** n, E, +

see: baobab

**crested francolin** n, E, + (*Francolinus sephaena*)

bird wh has a habit of cocking its tail vertically so that it looks like a bantam; eats berries, bulbs, seeds & insects; usu found in pairs with the young

**crested guinea-fowl** n, E, + (*Guttera edouardi*)

bird with a characteristic thick tuft of curly, black feathers & white skin on the nape

**crombek** n, D/Afk + (*Sylvietta rufescens*)

bird of the warbler fam (*Sylviidae*); found throughout S Afr; has a short tail & a long bill; vernacular name a corr of Afk 'krombek' = crooked bill

**crowned crane** n, E, + (*Balearica regulorum*)

particularly beautiful bird common in the Est Province; one of few birds sacrosanct to the Ba who believe that the spirits of departed princesses are embodied in them

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

see: tarentaal

**crowned hornbill** n, E, + (*Lophoceros alboterminatus*)

medium-sized hornbill with red casque & beak; the sexes are alike though the female is smaller; found fr Knysna along the est coast to Natal; eats insects, larvae, lizards, seeds & small birds  
see also: hornbill

**crowned plover** n, E, + (*Stephanibyx coronatus*)

alt: kiewiet(jie)

bird with distinctive black crown & red legs; prefers open veld; eats insects; nests in a shallow depression in the ground; extremely noisy, esp when disturbed at night

**cupful**

pl cupfuls

see also: plural of compound nouns

**Currie cup** n, E, +

annual S Afr sporting trophy awarded inter-provincially for rugby, soccer, swimming & cricket; presented in 1889 by Sir Donald Currie

**cutworm**, n, E, + (*Agrotis noctuae*)

S Afr nocturnal garden plague, not actually a worm, but a kind of caterpillar, hides by day in soil & debris, but emerges at night to feed on plant stems, cutting off the shoots of young plants, such as cabbages, maize, melons, dahlias, etc, just above the ground; matures in mid-summer into an egg-laying moth; term used in Amer as well

**cycad** n, E, +

see: breadfruit tree

**czar/tsar/tzar** pronunc

czar may be spelt in three different ways & is pronounced

[<sup>1</sup>za]+; [<sup>1</sup>tʃa]+; [<sup>1</sup>tʃa] x

**D****daba grass** n, Ba/E, + (*Miscanthidium capense*)

long, coarse, flag-like grass used by the Ba as thatch for their huts

**dabees** n, Hott, x

see: dabbie

**dabby** n, Hott, +

see: dabbie

**daeraad** n, D/Afk, x

see: dageraad

**dagbrekertjie** n, D/Afk, x

see: familiar chat

see also: spekvreter

**dageraad** n, D, + (*Chrysolephus cristiceps*)

[<sup>1</sup> daxərat]

alt: daeraad, daggerhead, redfish (Natal)

marine fish found fr the Cape to Natal frequently on rocky banks in fairly deep water; occurs in large numbers along the S Coast; when it is dying the body of the adult fish takes on waves of various colours & this prob suggested the name wh means 'dawn', lit 'day red'; the name may also be derived fr the Port 'dorade' or Sp 'dorado'; ie gold or gilded

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

see: dageraad

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

see: Roman

**dagga** n, Hott/D/Afk, +

alt: Indian hemp, makdagga, marijuana

herbaceous plant (*Cannabis sativa* or *C. indica*, fam *Moraceae*) introduced into S Afr fr the Ea by the D colonists, prob in the time of Van Riebeek; the dried leaves are smoked for narcotic effect; local varieties include *Leonatis leonurus* (red or wild dagga) named dakab by the Hott who powdered the leaves & made the powder into small cakes wh they chewed; *L. ovala* (klipdagga) & *Phlomis leonurus* (wild dagga); the Commadagga Mountain & the town Commadagga derived their names fr the large quantities of *Leonatus* wh grows in the area

**Dama** n, Ba, +

see: Damara

**Damara** (i) n, Hott, +

alt: Bergdamara, Dama

ethnic group of Ba who are old inhabitants in S W Afr of a specific region near Windhoek known as Damaraland

**damara** (ji) n, Hott, +

indigenous, unimproved species of cattle with large horns; kept by Hott tribes

**Damara dikdik** n, Hott/D/Afk, + (*Madoqua (Rhynchotragus) damarensis damarensis*)

alt: Damaralandse bloubokkie

very small, greyish-yellow antelope with a fairly prominent, almost 'tapir-like' muzzle; the males only are horned; usu inhabits rough, rocky, thorny country

**Damaraland** n, Hott/E, +

region near Windhoek, in S W Afr, inhabited by the Damara people  
see also: Damara

**Damaralandse bloubokkie** n, Hott/D/Afk, x

see: Damara dikdik

**damba** (i) n, prob Xh, x

see: galjoen

**damba** (ii) n, prob Xh, x

see: bastard galjoen (ii)

**damkokker** n, D/Afk, x

see: blue Hottentot

**dane** n, E, +

see: Natal roman

**darter** n, E, + (*Anhinga rufa*)

alt: anhinga, snakebird

aquatic bird of the fam *Anhingidae* wh resembles a cormorant in habit & habitat, but is distinguished by its sharp-pointed bill; swims with its body almost submerged with only the neck & head above water giving the impression of a watersnake; bill has serrated edges; feeds on frogs & fish wh it pursues under water; a curious 's' kink in the neck enables it to give a javelin-like thrust when spearing fish; roosts in companies wh build nests in high trees near water

**das** (i) n, D/Afk, x  
see: blue Hottentot

**das** (ii) n, D/Afk, x  
see: blacktail (i)

**dassie** (ii) n, D/Afk, x  
see: blacktail (i)

**dassievoël** n, D/Afk, x  
see: mocking chat

**daweb** n, Hott, x  
see: dabbie

**dawee** n, Hott, x  
alt: dawEEP  
see: dabbie

#### **decrease** pronunc

the n has the first syllable stressed & the v the second, eg 'Will there ever be a *decrease* in the cost of living?' 'The government should make an effort to *decrease* the cost of living'

#### **definite article**, omission of

'I shall see you at office' x '... at the office +

#### **degrees of comparison**

beware of words denoting perfection or uniqueness:  
there are no degrees of perfection, eg 'most *ideal*' x, 'more *unique*' x;  
the same applies to such adjs as alive, dead, empty, full

#### **Delagoa thorn** n, Port/E, + (*Acacia delagoensis*)

thorn tree indigenous to Port Ea Afr; also found in Swaziland & the est Transvaal lowveld; characterized by the leaf stalks & side branchlets wh are free of hairs



**Delalande's fox** n, E, +

see: bat-eared fox

**dengue fever** n, Swa/E, +

infectious disease most common in Natal, in the summer months; lassitude, headaches, fever, skin eruptions & aching joints are characteristics of the illness; the name 'dengue' is possibly derived fr a Swahili word

**department** n, E, +

in the sense of a ministerial department of government, eg the Department of Agriculture'; in GB 'the Ministry of ...'

**devil's thorn** n, E, +

see: dubbeltjie

**diamond eyes** n, E, + (*Staavia dodii*)

alt: Dod's staavia

small shrub of the genus *Erica* belonging to the fam *Bruniaceae*; has a closely-packed head of dark-coloured flowers with white bracts, wh resemble eyes, hence the vernacular name

**dikbas** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild pear

**dikbekkie** n, D/Afk, x

see: panga

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

name applied to several species of large plover-like birds of the fam *Burhinidae*, with characteristic big head & eyes; nocturnal in habit, squats among rocks during the day; utters a sad whistling cry

see also: Cape dikkop, water dikkop

**dikkop** (ii) n, D/Afk, + (*Gobius nudiceps*)

alt: bully, goby

small marine fish, the most common goby of the s coast; found fr the w coast to Natal in rock pools & estuaries where it lives among

weeds & burrows in the mud  
see also: goby

**dikkop** (iii) n, D/Afk x

see: blue tongue

**dikoog** n, D/Afk, + (*Boopsoidea inornata*)

alt: Frans madame, Jacopever (Cape), grootogie, peuloog (Knysna),  
Cape lady (Transkei)

local name in Knysna for a well-known small marine fish found fr  
the Cape to Natal; considered a pest as it occurs in shoals & strips  
bait; too small to be caught easily

**Dini** n, Ba ? +

fanatical religious movement in ea & central Afr, a mixture of  
Christianity, paganism & the hysterical inspiration of self-hypnotized  
prophets who advocate the spilling of the white man's blood to  
cleanse the world, hence the Dini ya Mswamba (the cult of the  
spirits of the dead), the Dini ya Roho (the cult of the Holy Ghost) &  
the Dini ya Jesu Kristo

**disa** n, L, +

[disə] + [daisə] +

commonly applied to various species of S Afr terrestrial orchids

**disassociation/dissociation**

these words have the same meaning, but *disassociation* is widely used  
as a psychological term, eg '*disassociation* of personality'

**disinterested/uninterested**

*disinterested* = having no personal advantage to gain, impartial, eg  
'He showed great devotion in caring for the needy & was  
*disinterested* in the financial rewards'; *uninterested* = unwilling to  
give attention to, bored, eg 'The project was so monotonous that she  
was *uninterested* in continuing with the work'

**dissatisfactory** x

should be replaced by *unsatisfactory*; however, the n *dissatisfaction*,  
& the v *dissatisfy* are +

**dissatisfied**

spelt with a double s as the word consists of the prefix *dis-* & the root word *satisfied*

**dissatisfied/unsatisfied**

*dissatisfied* = discontented, displeased;

*unsatisfied* = not to have disposed on one's appetite or want, eg 'The teacher is *dissatisfied* with the unsatisfactory examination results of his pupils' +; 'The boys were still *unsatisfied* inspite of the heavy meal the matron had prepared for them'

**disselboom n, D/Afk, +**

the main shaft of an oxwagon or other animal-drawn vehicle; the word is of additional interest as the early Kruger sovereigns minted in England bore an imprint of an oxwagon with a 'double' disselboom wh does not exist; such coins are of great value to the numismatist

**Dod's staavia n, E, +**

see: diamond eyes

**dog-box n, E, +**

S Afr equiv of 'dog-house', dog-kennel' in GB & Amer; eg 'He was put into the *dog-box*' = 'He fell into disfavour'

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

see: lazyshark (ii)

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

see: skaamoog (i) & (iii)

**dogfish (iii) n, E, +**

see: luihaai

**dogplum n, E, +**

see: Cape ash

**dolfhout n, D/Afk, x**

see: kiaat

**dom** adj, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of dense, dull, stupid  
see also: domkop

**dop** (ii) n, D/Afk, +coll

cheap kind of brandy made in the Cape of the skins left over after the juice has been extracted fr the grapes for making wine; notoriously strong & crude to the taste

**dopertjie** n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape dabchick

**Dopper** n, D/Afk, +

popular name for a member of the '(Enkel-) Gereformeerde Kerk van Suid-Afrika; the Dopper Kerk is one of the Dutch Reformed Churches

**dopperkiaat** n, D/Afk, x

see: African wattle

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

see: silver fish

**Dorothea flower** n, E, +

see: bokbaai-vygie

**double negative**

two negs make a positive, so avoid them; 'Nobody had nothing' + 'Everyone had something'; also in such constructions as 'Unless you do *not comply* with my request, I cannot help you' x, '*Unless* you *comply* with my request, I cannot help you' +

**douwurmbossie** n, D/Afk, x

see: agtdaegeneesbos (ii)

**draaijakkals** n, D/Afk, x

see: bat-eared fox

**drip disa** n, E, +

see: disa

**drongo** n, ? , +

fairly large bird found in many areas in sth Afr; frequents wooded districts fr Swellendam ea-wards; plumage black, bill broad & tail usu forked; feeds on insects, & is particularly fond of bees

**dronkgras** n, D/Afk, + (*Melica decumbens*)

dwarf perennial grass, one of few indigenous species with known toxic properties wh sometimes cause death in cattle; animals grazing this grass begin to stagger as though they were drunk (Afk dronk) & this condition is known as 'dronksiekte' lit 'drunk disease'

**dronksiekte** n, D/Afk, +

see: dronkgras

**drostdy** n, D/Afk, +

old S Afr name for the building in wh the landdrost had his home & office; drostdys of repute are situated in Tulbagh, Uitenhage & Worcester

see also: drosteny

**drosteny** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'magisterial district' term now obs

see also: drostdy, landdros(t)

**dubbeltjie** n, D/Afk, +

alt: devil's thorn, duwweltjie

name applied to several species of *Tribulus*, annual herbs with decumbent or upright stems & branches wh bear fruit with several carpels, each of wh has two to four sharp-pointed thorns, in particular *T. terrestris* wh causes the disease 'geeldikkop' in sheep; name also applied to *Emex australis* a rigid herb found in the Cape; stem & branches similar to those of *T. terrestris* but the fruit has the shape of a three-angled little nut each bearing three sharp hard thorns; the vernacular name is applied to the plant & the fruit & is either a corr of Afk duiwel (devil) or a derivation fr Afk dubbel

(double) in ref to two or more thorns on the seeds wh are a menace to barefooted human beings & animals

**duiker** n, D/Afk, +

one of several small, shy, solitary sth Afr antelopes of the genus *Cephalophys* & related genera, with short, straight horns; the Afk term = 'diver' & is derived fr the antelope's habit of suddenly 'diving' into the bush when pursued

see also: blue duiker, grey duiker, Natal duiker

**duiwelsdrek** n, D/Afk, ?

alt: devil's dirt, devil's dung

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

**dung roller** n, E, +

alt: dung beetle, miskruier, tumble bug

beetle of the genus *Scarabaeus*, *Canthon*, *Copris* or *Phanaeus*, so called because of its habit of forming balls of dung into wh it lays its eggs; the balls are then rolled to a suitable place & covered with sand

**Durban July** n, E, +

see: July handicap

**duwweltjie** n, D/Afk, +

see: dubbeltjie

**dwarf boerboon** n, E/D/Afk, + (*Schotia transvaalensis*)

alt: Transvaal boerboon

shrub or small slender tree growing fr 1 to 5m in height; usu found with thorn scrub on brackish flats & along stream banks; occurs in the Transvaal lowveld, Port Ea Afr & Zululand; produces blood-red clusters of flowers in November & December, wh are so tangled with the surrounding foliage that it is difficult to determin wh plant is responsible for the strikingly contrasting colour

**dwarf kurper** n, E/D/Afk, + (*Hemihaplochromis philander*)

small species of fish occurring in the rivers of the Transvaal; a mouth breeder; seldom exceeds 10cm in length; its colour is very variable; adult fish feed on small aquatic organisms

**dwarf tigerfish** n, E, + (*Micralestes acutidens*)

small fish wh does not exceed 8cm in length; occurs in shoals in warm waters of the Transvaal; can be a nuisance to anglers as it uses its sharp teeth to pull bait off the hooks

**E**

**each**

the position of *each* affects the meaning of a sentence, eg 'Thank you for sending *each* of us copies of your publications', ie every individual received copies; 'Thank you for sending us copies of *each* of your publications', ie a copy/copies of every publication offered was/were received

**eagle vulture** n, E, +

see: fish eagle

**earth star** n, E, +

fungus of the genus *Geastrum*, of wh the form resembles a puffball; has a double peridium of wh the outer layer bursts into the shape of a star & the inner one forms a ball wh contains dustlike spores; eg *G hygrometricum*, *G. penctinatum*, *G. velutinum*

**Eastern tiger snake** n, E, + (*Telescopus semiannulatus semiannulatus*)

slow-moving, sluggish snake wh is sinister in appearance; closely related to the red-lipped snake; aggressive when molested, striking out viciously, inflates its body & hisses

**eastward** adj/adv, E, +

alt: eastwards

usu the adj has no *s*, eg 'an *eastward* direction'; the adv has an *s*, eg 'They travelled *eastwards*'; this usage is common esp when the word consists of a n & ward(s), eg 'back & ward(s)', 'north & ward(s)', but also applies to words in wh the prefix is a prep, eg 'for & ward(s)' 'on & ward(s)'

**easy/easily**

easy is an adj, *easily* an adv; eg 'This is an *easy* task'; 'I was able to do this quite *easily*'

see also: good, real, sure

**educationalist/educationist**

both are +

**eel** n, E, +

see: paling

**eenvingergras** n, D/Afk, ? (*Digitaria monodactyla*)

lit: one-finger grass

perennial, tufted grass with bristly leaves; has a low grazing value; the vernacular name refers to the single spike of the individual grass

**eggy** n, E, +coll

ball game played by school children

**egret** n, E, +

see: tick bird

**Egyptian goose** n, E, + (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*)

bird smaller than a goose with a characteristic brown 'horseshoe' patch on its chest; usu found near dams & pools; is a pest to grain (esp wheat) farmers; builds its nest on rocky ledges or in hollow trees; also occupies disused hammerkop nests; was once domesticated in ancient Egypt & regarded as the emblem of Seb the father of Osiris

**eh** int, E, x

see: hey

**eier-in-die-hoed** n, D/Afk, ?

lit: egg-in-the-hat

children's game played by tossing balls or stones into a hat

**eland** n, G or D/Afk, + (*Taurotragus debrianus* & *T. oryx*)

large Afr antelope, bovine in form; both sexes have short spirally twisted horns; *T. oryx* is indigenous to sth & est Afr, the male sometimes reaching a height of 2m & weighing 690kg; *T. derbianus*, a larger, dark-striped giant eland is restricted to wst equatorial Afr; name prob derived fr obs G 'elend' or fr D 'elk'



**Elberta** n, -, +

free-stone peach of the fam *Rosaceae* with a distinctive curled tip & an orange skin streaked with red; the flesh is yellow, juicy & full-flavoured; the ridges of the endocarp are red

**electric barbel** n, E, + (*Melapterurus electricus*)

alt: electric catfish

ugly fish wh is found in warm water esp in the middle & lower Zambezi & the Pungwe River; also occurs ntwards in the Congo basin, the rivers of W Afr & the Nile

**electric catfish** n, E, +

see: electric barbel

**elephant's ear** n, E, + (*Grewia lasiocarpa*)

plant with thick stems & large leaves wh resemble elephant's ears in shape; bears a candle-like flower wh has a strong sweet scent, esp after sundown

**elephant's foot** n, E, + (*Dioscorea elephantipes*)

alt: Hottentot bread, tortoise plant

plant with large tuber wh resembles an elephant's foot or a large tortoise, eaten by the Hott & used for medicinal purposes by the Natal Ba

**elephant's trunk** n, E, + (*Pachypodium namaquanum*)

alt: halfmens

spiny succulent found in Namaqualand; has stout cylindrical stems wh grow to a height of 2,5m; the Afk vernacular name half-(half)mens (person) perpetuates a Hott belief that each plant represents a transformed, & therefore only 'half', a human being

**elephant's wood** n, E, +

see: vanwykshout

**elevator** n, E, +

as in 'grain elevator' +, but in GB & S Afr the word 'lift' is used to denote the enclosure wh is raised & lowered in a verticle shaft to

transport people; therefore, in this sense 'elevator' is x but + in Amer

**elf** n, D/Afk, + (*Pomatomus saltator*)

alt: elft, shad (Est Cape to Natal), skipjack or tailer (general), anchova (Port)

the common name for a marine fish found in virtually all, but the coldest, waters; the alt names are peculiar to S Afr

**emerald-spotted wood dove** n, E, + (*Turtur chalcospilos*)

found along the ea coast & adjacent territories; has characteristic metal-green spots on its wings & two faint, white lines on its rump; the sexes are alike

**eminent/immanent/imminent**

eminent = high, towering above other things, projecting, prominent, exalted in rank or station, distinguished, eg 'He was an *eminent* philosopher in his day'; *immanent* = indwelling, inherent, eg 'An *immanent* decision has no external effect'; *imminent* = overhanging, impending, threatening, eg *imminent* danger'

**enclosed herewith**

is tautologous as *enclosed* means 'shut up in a receptacle, usu something in addition to a letter in an envelope', therefore omit 'herewith'

**Engelsedoring** n, D/Afk, x

see: enkeldoring

**enkeldoring** n, D/Afk, + (*Acacia robusta*)

alt: Engelsedoring, brakdoring, brak thorn, brosdoring, oudoring  
widely distributed thorn tree, common in the Transvaal bushveld, with very thick branches & twigs; the vernacular name 'enkeldoring' is a corr of 'Engelsedoring', ie English thorn & is derogatory as it refers to a thorn tree of inferior quality; old trees are often riddled with borer

**enormity**

is applied to an extraordinary crime or a monstrous wickedness, eg 'The *enormity* of his crime was justly balanced by the court's

sentence'; The *enormity* of a task x, 'The *magnitude* of a task' +

**erica** n, L, +

any plant of the genus *Erica*, fam *Ericaceae*; low, evergreen shrubs with many branches, wh include the true heaths & have whorled scale- or needle-like leaves; the sepals are shorter than the petals  
see also: bell heath

**esseboom** n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape ash

**essehout** n, D/Afk, x

alt: essenhout

vernacular name applied to *Ekebergia capensis* (see: Cape ash) & sometimes to *Trichilia emetica* (see: Natal mahogany) wh is more specifically known as 'rooi essehout'

**etc**

+ 'and so forth', 'and the rest', the abbr should, therefore, not be used at the end of a list introduced by such phrases as 'for example', 'such as'; should be used when it represents the last term of a list wh is already given almost in full, or to replace insignificant words at the end of a quotation

**ever**

however, whatever, whenever, wherever, whichever & whoever are written as one word when *ever* implies a generalisation, eg 'Do *whatever* you like', 'Go *wherever* you will'; when *ever* is emphatic, it is not joined to another word, eg 'Who *ever* misled you so?' 'When *ever* will you finish?'

**everlasting** n, E, +

alt: sewejaartjies

name applied to all the large-headed & more attractive species of *Helichrysum* & *Helipterum* as well as *Phaenocoma prolifera* so named because the coloured whorls of the bracts retain their colour for a long time

**ewwa-trewwa** n, ? , + (*Satyrium coriifolium*)

popular name for a very common orchid of the Cape Peninsula; the generic name is supposed to be derived fr the two spurs on the flower, wh look like the horns of a satyr

**eyeless tampan** n, E, + (*Ornithodoros moubata*)

venomous S Afr tick wh transmits tick fever to human beings

## F

### fabulous

+ 'given to legend, celebrated in fable, unhistorical, legendary, incredible, absurd, exaggerated' & should not be substituted for 'good, enjoyable, entertaining, interesting, etc', eg 'It was a *fabulous* party' x 'We had a *fabulous* holiday' x 'It was a *wonderful* party' +, 'We had a *spendid* holiday' +

### facts

+ 'things assumed as basis for inference' therefore 'He based his theory on *facts* but his conclusions were faulty' +, 'His facts were *incorrect*' x

**false karee** n, E/Hott, +

see: mountain karee

**familiar chat** n, E, + (*Cercomela familiaris*)

alt: dagbrekertjie, spekvreter

bird found throughout S Afr on rocky mountain slopes & on homesteads, attracts attention because it is friendly, & by its habit of flicking its wings; active, but quiet; can easily be tamed

### family names

see: plural forms, possessive forms

see also: Marais

**fanlight** n, E, +

small window, square, rectangular, round or oval above a door or larger window, usu opened with a sash cord; term used in Amer & S Afr

**fees** n, D/Afk, x

[<sup>1</sup>fiəs]

Afk equiv of 'festival'

**femina** n, E, +

long white wing feather fr a female ostrich

**fiddlefish** n, E, +

see: sandkruiper (i), (ii) & (iii)

**field-cornet** n, E, +

transl of 'veldkornet', an important official, esp during the 19th century, in local government, who was subordinate to the 'landdros' but had authority to deal with matters of great importance in military, administrative, judicial & police affairs; now re-introduced to replace 'lieutenant'

see also: landdros

**Fingos** n, Ba, +

tribe in the Ea Province, their official name being Amafengu wh signifies 'Homeless Wanderers'

**fiscal shrike** n, E, +

see: butcherbird, kanariebyter

**fish eagle** n, E, + (*Haliaëtus vocifer*).

alt: eagle vulture, osprey

martial & raptorial eagle found in sth & central Afr; feeds on dead fish but also catches its own prey such as live fish & rats by swooping down on it; has a distinctive colour & call

**fish-horn** n, E, +

small trumpet used by fish vendors, usu Cape Coloureds in the Wst Province, to announce their presence in order to advertise or draw attention to their wares; the term appears to be peculiar to S Afr

**fishing frog** n, E, +

see: angler fish

**five-finger** n, E, +

see: witstompneus

**flame thorn-tree** n, E, + (*Acacia ataxacantha*)

straggly shrub or thorny climber usu occurring on forest margins & in wooded kloofs; found fr tropical Ea Afr to Natal; small hook thorns grow irregularly along the stems; the leaves are made up of numerous leaflets; the young pods are bright red in Autumn & look like patches of flame in the bush, hence the vernacular name

**flatcrown** n, E, + (*Albizzia gummifera*)

deciduous tree with a flat crown found in forest margins fr Zululand to tropical Afr

**flathead mullet** n, E, +

see: springer (iii)

**floss** n, E, +

type of particularly soft feather obtained fr the wing covers of ostriches

**flower-shop** n, E, +

an alt to florist or florist's

see also: butcher shop

**fluisterboom** n, D/Afk, x

see: raasblaar

**fluitjiesriet** n, D/Afk, + (*Phragmites communis* & *P. mauritanus*)

reed commonly found along river banks & streams throughout S Afr; the Ba make tobacco pipes & parts of musical instruments fr the hollow culms; in the open the reeds are a favourite of the Cape weaver bird, for building its nest

see also: bishopbird, Cape weaver bird

**fly** n, E, + coll

boys' game something between 'bok-bok' & leap-frog

see also: bok-bok

**fonteinbuchu** n, D/Afk, + (*Agathosma crenulata*)

shrub reaching a height of 1,5m & more, with rod-like branches; usu grows in damp areas around a natural spring (Afk fontein), hence the vernacular name; the leaves are used to make buchu brandy & buchu vinegar

**fonteinhout** n, D/Afk, ?

see: bloukeur

**for**

as in the expression 'I *am for* going at once'; used emphatically 'all for'; + coll when it means 'strongly in favour of, eg 'We are (all) *for* continuing the research work, although little has been discovered to date'

**forest cobra** n, E, + (*Naja melanoleuca*)

alt: black cobra, white cobra

found in Zululand & nthwards, also in Central, Ea & W Afr, in the cooler, more humid forest regions; mainly a forest & aquatic species, nocturnal in habit; makes its home in deserted termite nests, hollow trees & dense thickets; remains in one place for long periods; quick & alert it seeks cover if disturbed; not aggressive, but will bite if molested; has a potent neuro-toxic venom

**fork-tailed drongo** n, E, +

see: drongo

**former/latter**

should be used only when two objects are concerned, eg 'This hat is mine, that one is yours, the *former* (mine) is made of straw, the *latter* (yours) is made of felt

**for sure**

Amer sl equiv of 'unquestionably', eg 'We shall win *for sure* x, 'We shall definitely win' +; 'That's for sure' is an Amer used in Aust & S Afr as well, equiv of 'That's certain', 'That's definite'

**forte pronunc**

[<sup>1</sup> fɔteɪ] derived fr Italian & used as a musical direction to signify 'loud'; usu abbr to *f*, *ff* signifying, very loud;

[<sup>1</sup> fɔt] derived fr *F* 'fort' wh = strong, is used in E in the sense of 'strong point'

**fortune pronunc**

[<sup>1</sup> fɔtʃun] + [<sup>1</sup> fɔtʃun] +

see also: appreciate

**forty pronunc**

[<sup>1</sup> fɔti] +, [<sup>1</sup> fɔti] x

**freeway**

see: dual carriageway, highway

**frightened by/afraid of**

see: afraid of

**frog n, E, +**

in S Afr little verbal distinction is drawn between a frog & a toad; both are web-footed, tailless, leaping amphibians, lay their eggs in water & develop fr tailed, gilled, limbless larvae into four-limbed adults without tail or gills; the differences between the frog & the toad are, however, significant: the frog is smooth-skinned & mainly aquatic, the toad is rough, dry & warty, generally more terrestrial; produces an acrid & irritating though not harmful secretion fr the skin glands, wh is its only means of defence; it is squatter & shorter in build; its hind legs are also weaker than those of the frog

**fuchsia n, -, +**

[<sup>1</sup> fjuʃiə] + [<sup>1</sup> fuksiə] +

ornamental shrub of the fam *Onagraceae*, the genus *Fuchsia*; has long, pendulous flowers; named after the 16th century German botanist, Leonard Fuchs; frequently misspelt 'fuschia'

**future prospects**

is tautologous; *prospects* = 'expectations', 'what one expects' & is therefore automatically associated with the future; therefore omit 'future' in this phrase



## G

**gallamsiekte** n, D/Afk, +

[xalɑmsiktə]

disease of livestock, known medically as osteoma; once prevalent in Botswana, the Orange Free State & the Transvaal; Sir Arnold Theiler of Onderstepoort, near Pretoria, discovered an effective treatment for the disease

**Garden Route** n, E, +

scenic coastal region between the sea & the Outeniqua & Tsitsikama mountains, wh stretches for 300km fr Mossel Bay to beyond Storms River in the Wst Cape Province; has an equable climate, & rainfall throughout the year

**Gardens, the** n, E, +

municipal botanical gardens in the heart of Cape Town

**garrick** n, E, +

alt: leervis

game fish wh prefers live or moving bait

**gars** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild barley

**garter snake** (i) n, E, +

any of several Afr venomous ringed snakes of the genera *Elapsoidea* & *Elaps* related to the New World coral snakes

see also: gartersnake (ii) & (iii)

**gartersnake** (ii) n, E, + (*Elaps dorsalis*)

alt: Southern dwarf garter snake

slender, small snake wh is less common than its larger relative *E. lacteus*, little is known of its habits, but they prob resemble those of *E. lacteus*

**gartersnake** (iii) n, E, + (*Elaps lacteus*)

alt: spotted gartersnake

prettily marked snake wh spends much of it time underground

though it is not a burrower; does not strike when molested, but wriggles violently to evade capture

**gas** n, Amer, +coll

alt: gasolene, gasoline

Amer equiv of 'petrol' in S Afr & GB

**gate** n, E, +

S Afr equiv of 'border post' or 'immigration control point'; used to form place names in S Afr, eg 'Numbi Gate' an entry point in the s-wst Kruger National Park

**gazania** n, Gr, +

see: botterblom

**geelbek** (ii) n, D/Afk, +

[ ˈxilbɛk ]

wild duck found throughout S Afr

**geelrys** n, D/Afk, x

see: yellow rice

**geelslang** n, D/Afk, +

see: Cape cobra

**geeltulp** n, D/Afk, +

see: tulp

**geelvygie** n, D/Afk, + (*Malephora mollis*)

mat-forming, prostrate plant with long stems that root in the ground at frequent intervals; bright, yellow flowers are produced throughout the year; much favoured by grazing animals

**gemsbokkaroo** n, D/Afk/Hott, + (*Nestlera conferta*)

alt: volstruiskaroo

sprawling, bushy shrub with loose branches; found in the Fauresmith area where it is regarded as a useful fodder plant; it is said that gemsbok & ostriches once fed on the plant hence the vernacular

names (Afk volstruis = ostrich)

**gem squash** n, E, +

see: squash

**germon** n, L, +

see: tuna

**get/got**

see: got

**get in touch with**

to establish contact with someone; the Amer v 'to contact' is x

**get off**

'Get off the table!' +; 'Get off of the table!' x  
prob Afk infl 'Klim af van die tafel!'

**ghoeboontjie** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild almond

**giant bustard** n, E, +

see: kori bustard, gompou

**gifappel** n, D/Afk, +

see: bitter apple

**gifblaar** n, D/Afk, + (*Dichapetalum cymosum*)

alt: gifblad, poison leaf

dwarf herb with a deep root system; the vernacular name is derived  
fr the poisonous (Afk gif(tig)) nature of the leaves (Afk blaar, sing n)

**gifboom** n, D/Afk, x

see: boesmangif

**gifklapper** n, D/Afk, +

see: suurklapper

**giraffe** n, E, + (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)

once common fr the Orange River to the Zambezi, now found in sth Afr only in the Kruger National Park, Botswana, wst Rhodesia & Port Ea Afr; the most common S Afr species *G. camelopardalis capensis*, likes open country in wh the camel thorn occurs; has two small horns; its only weapons are its keen senses, its speed & its heels; is quite harmless

**glass-eye** n, E, +

see: bleating bush warbler, kwêvoël

**glass-nose** n, E, +

see: anchovy (i)

**glassy** n, E, +coll

schoolboyism for a marble

**goedkaroo** n, D/Afk, x

see: ankerkaroo

**go-home-fish** n, E, +

see: witstompneus

**golden bishop bird** n, E, + (*Euplectes afer*)

in the breeding season the plumage of the male is golden yellow, otherwise it is black like that of the female; occurs in central & est S Afr

**goliath heron** n, E, + (*Ardea goliath*)

largest of the herons, standing at 1,2m; resident birds found singly or in pairs; feeds on fish, frogs & insects wh it catches close to the water's edge; breeds in dense reeds along streams; usu seen standing kneedeep in water with the neck drawn back in readiness to strike

**glossy ibis** n, E, + (*Pleyadis falcinellus*)

once believed to be an unusual, non-breeding migrant fr the nth hemisphere; bird wh does not occur frequently; inhabits boggy meadows & the fringes of stagnant water; has long legs & walks gracefully

**gompou** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of giant bustard, kori bustard

**gomtor** n, D/Afk, ? coll

Afk equiv of unclean person, lout

**go through/go through with**

*go through* = discuss in detail, perform, undergo, suffer; eg 'He *went through* the article very carefully'; 'She *went through* dreadful suffering before they operated';

*go through/go through with* = to carry to completion, eg 'If you begin this work you must *go through with* it to the bitter end'

**go to bioscope** x

the def article is frequently omitted before 'bioscope', eg 'Let's *go to bioscope*' x; 'Let's *go to the bioscope*' +

see also: omission of *the*

**gotta** int, D/Afk, x

[<sup>1</sup> xɔta]

see: gats

**goudegeel-kaffervink**, n, D/Afk, x

see: golden bishop bird

**gousblom** n, D/Afk, +

see: botterblom, gazania

**gown** n, E, +

used in Amer & S Afr to mean 'dressing gown' the GB equiv

**graatjiemeerkat** n, D/Afk, x

see: meercat

**graduate** at/from/with

'He graduated *at* or *from* Rhodes *with* honours as a Master of Science'

see also: study for

**granaat fish** n, D/Afk, ? (*Monocentris japonicus*)

fish found fr the Cape to the Indian & the Pacific Oceans

**Grand Parade**, the

large open space in the centre of Cape Town, originally used as a training ground for soliders when Van Riebeeek's old fort stood on the nth-wst side of the Parade; now used as a car park on week days, but as a flea market on Saturday mornings

**grapefruit** n, E, + (sub species of *Citrus decumana*)

alt: pomelo

large, round citrus fruit with a bitter, yellow rind & outer skin; the acid, juicy pulp is highly flavoured & varies in colour fr pale yellow to deep reddish-pink; eaten mainly for breakfast or as an appetizer

**grapefruit knife** n, E, +

small knife with serrated curved tip used for loosening the flesh of a grapefruit or orange fr the rind

**grapefruit spoon** n, E, +

small spoon that tapers to a sharp serrated point used for eating grapefruit, orange or melon

**grateful**

ie thankful, sometimes misspelt 'greatful'

**grease tables** n, E, +

device used in S Afr diamond mines, based on the theory that the diamonds will adhere to the grease while the blue ground is washed away

**greasy slip** n, E, +

mineral found in diamond pipes, together with blue ground; geologically known as a crystalline carbonate of lime; its soapy feel accounts for the name

**green-backed heron** n, E, + (*Butorides striatus*)

solitary shy heron wh frequents swamps & wooded riverbeds; feeds on swamp & aquatic animals & nests in branches of secluded trees

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

alt: common or eastern green mamba, white-mouthed mamba  
arboreal snake found along the Natal coastal regions, the est border of Rhodesia & in Kenya, Tanzania & Zanzibar; frequents thickets & leafy trees; shy, elusive & comparatively non-aggressive; venom weaker than that of the black mamba; often mistaken for the green boomslag

see also: black mamba

**green pigeon** n, E, + (*Treron calva*)

only green pigeon in S Afr, found along the ea coast, in Natal & in the Transvaal; no differences between the sexes; hangs upside down like a parrot when feeding on fruit; its call is a shrill tweti-tweti-tweti, wh ends in several explosive clicks

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

see: bush squirrel

**grey-headed albatross** n, E, +

see: albatross

**grey-headed bush shrike** n, E, + (*Malaconotus poliocephalus hypopyrrhus*)

alt: spookvoël

uncommon shrike wh frequents bushes & trees esp near streams & rivers; utters a challenging call; feeds on insects wh it finds on the branches

**grey heron** n, E, + (*Ardea cinerea*)

S Afr heron wh nests in high trees; feeds on fish & frogs, also mice & birds wh frequent reeds near water; sometimes catches prey wh is too large to swallow but will eventually kill its victim by banging it about; carries its neck very straight

**grey hornbill** n, E, + (*Lophoceros erythrorhynchus*)

found in Botswana, the Transvaal & Zululand; the beak of the male is dark, that of the female yellow; has a grey head, white eyebrows, a brown tail & a white streak along its back wh is conspicuous when

the bird is in flight; feeds mainly on fruit  
see also: hornbill

**grey rhebuck** n, E, + (*Pelea capreolus*)

alt: vaal ribbok

S Afr antelope wh stands approx 75cm at the shoulder; found only on mountain plateaux; conspicuous because it has a curiously woolly, grey coat, long legs, pointed ears, a rather round snout & a bushy tail; the male has pointed, narrow, almost upright horns

**grey wild cat** n, E, +

see: Cape wild cat

**Griqua** n, Ba, +

member of a race of mixed origin, Eur & Hott; migrated to the nth frontier of the Cape near the Orange River in the early 19th century; pl form also applied to Eur sports teams of that area  
see also: Korana

**Griqua tea** n, Ba/E, +

see: kaffir tea

**Groote Schuur** n, D, +

the S Afr Prime Minister's official residence in Cape Town, bequeathed to the nation by Cecil Rhodes; also, Groot(e) Schuur Hospital in Cape Town where the first heart transplant was performed by Prof Christiaan Barnard

**ground hornbill** n, E, + (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*)

alt: bromvoël

short-legged turkey-like bird wh moves about in groups in search of food such as insects, frogs, lizards & rats; forages on open grassy ground & roosts in trees; utters a deep, resonant, booming call; nests in holes in trees, but this species does not close up the nest opening as do other hornbills

see also: hornbill

**guitarfish** n, E, +

see: sandkruiper (iii)



**gummy shark** n, E, +  
see: spear-eye shark

**gunubi** n, Xh, + (*Rubus*)

the original Xh word is the name of a wild fruit; occurs only in  
*Gunubi* River, est Cape Province

**gurnard** n, E, + (*Trigla capensis*, *T. kumu*)

fish with a large spiny head, mailed cheeks & three free pectoral  
rays; several species of gurnard are found in the sea around S Afr; *T.*  
*capensis* is the largest, growing to approx 75cm in length; in  
Australia *T. kumu* is an important food fish

**guti** n, Ba, +coll

cloudy to overcast weather wh occurs throughout the year ac-  
companied by drizzle & moderate to fresh s-westerly winds

## H

**haakdoring** n, D/Afk, +

see: black monkey thorn, buffalo thorn

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

lit: rabbit's mouth

expression used when young children first lose their front teeth

**haasoor** n, D/Afk, +

lit: hare's ear

several species of *Stapelia*, eg *S. hirsuta* & *S. flavirostris*, of wh the  
corolla lobes resemble the ear (Afk oor) of a hare (Afk haas)

**hadada** n, -, x

see: hadeda

**hadahah** n, -, x

see: hadeda

**hadida** n, -, x

see: hadeda

**hageda** n, -, x

see: hadeda

**hair** sing/pl

hair is used collectively in the sing, eg 'He has very short *hair*', I have washed my *hair* (not hairs), Human *hair* is used in the manufacture of these wigs'; the pl form is used distributively of individual hairs, eg 'If you look carefully you will notice that she has only a few grey *hairs*' +; 'to have someone by the short *hairs*' is idiomatic for 'to have complete control over someone'

**hairy-back** n, E, x

facetious name for an Afrikaner

see also: rooinek

**hake** n, E, +

see: stockfish

**half-jack** n, E, +coll

alt: half bottle

S Afr term for pocket-sized, flat, spirit bottle measuring 375 ml, ie half a bottle; in GB a quarter of a pint; in Amer, both a quarter of a pint & a half-pint, are known as a jack

see also: bomb, bottle, nip

**hamel** n, D/Afk, +

S Afr name for a wether or castrated ram

**hammerhead shark** n, E, + (*Sphyrna zygaena*)

alt: balance fish (Australia), cornuda (West Africa)

ferocious, fearless & voracious fish wh occurs in all warm seas; found in S Afr waters fr the Cape eastwards

**handsupper** n, E, +coll

n derived fr 'hands up';

term of contempt used of members of the Republican forces who surrendered to the British during the S Afr War

**hanepoot** n, D/Afk, +

S Afr grape orig introduced fr the Mediterranean countries; has a pear-shaped berry with a very distinctive flavour; used as a table grape & for making wine & raisins

**hanged/hung**

the past tense & pp of *to hang* (to put to death by hanging) is *hanged*, eg 'The man *hanged*/has *hanged* himself'; the past tense & pp of *to hang* (to suspend, attach loosely fr or to a hook, etc) is *hung* 'The maid *hung*/has *hung* the washing in the garden'

**hard put**

alt: hard put to

equiv of 'find it difficult, eg 'They were *hard put* 'to it' +, 'We should be *hard put* to find enough work for you' +

**harpuisbossie** n, D/Afk, x

see: resin bush

**head ring** n, E, +

decorated ring formed on the head by building up the hair with animal or vegetable fibres & worn by married warriors of some Ba tribes; pad worn on the head by Ba women to ease a load carried on the head

**hedgehog** n, E, + (*Erinaceus frontalis*)

this species, once common but now rare in S Afr except in the Karoo, closely resembles the Eur hedgehog; it is slightly smaller & has a more distinct white band across the forehead, wh extends on both sides of the head below the ears; the upper part of the body is covered with short spines projecting in all directions; when alarmed it curls into a ball

**Heemraad** n, D, +

D heem = home, D/Afk raad = council; council wh once assisted the local Boer magistrate in governing a rural district in S Afr, before the establishment of British administration; also applied to a member of the council

**help/help**

it is never wrong to insert *to*, eg '*Help* me mend my bicycle' +, '*Help* me *to* mend my bicycle' +; but on occasions *to* may not be omitted, eg 'This medicine will *help* you *to* sleep'; therefore, *to* may only be omitted when the 'helper' assists in executing some of the work; the 'medicine' does not take part in the sleeping

**herald snake** n, E, +

see: red-lipped snake

**here there is/are**

alt: there is/are here

clumsy constructions should be avoided, eg '*here there* are no facilities for waterskiing', 'Facilities for waterskiing are not provided *here*' +. '*There* is not *here* in the school...' x; '*There* is nothing in the school...' +

**Herero** n, Ba, +

Ba tribe of S W Afr; inhabiting areas w, nth-ea & s-ea of Windhoek; predominantly pastoralist  
see also: Ovambo

**herring** n, E, +

see: anchovy (i)

**hierjy** n, D/Afk, x

inferior person, lout, son of a gun; in its meaning 'Hullo!' 'I say!' x

**highest pronunc**

[<sup>1</sup> haiəst] + [<sup>1</sup> haist] x

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

extensive plateau in the Transvaal with an elevation of approx 1500m, used esp for grazing  
see also: lowveld

**highwater** n, E, ?

see: galjoen

**hill matone** n, E/Xh, +

alt: African ebony, bush matome, red teak, Rhodesian ebony, Transvaal ebony

shrub or spreading, evergreen tree with leathery leaves; bark blackish-grey, rough & fissured; fruit has an edible pulp wh is favoured by the Ovambo who make an alcoholic beverage fr it; jackals are believed to eat the berries, hence the vernacular name

**hippopotamus** n, E, + (*Hippopotamus amphibious*)

alt: sea cow

once common throughout sth Afr even in the Cape Peninsula, today found only in the nth Transvaal, the Kruger National Park, Zululand, Rhodesia & Moçambique; the place where a hippo wallows is known as a 'seekoeigat' (hippopotamus hole) & such holes are not uncommon in areas where hippos no longer roam

**hire/lease/let/rent**

*let* in this sense has only the meaning of 'to grant temporary possession & use of, eg property, to someone for payments of money' ie payment of rent; *hire* = to procure the temporary use of something for a stipulated payment, this word is seldom applied to land & houses; *rent* can be regarded as the opp of *let*; ie to take, occupy & use by payment of money; *lease* is a legal term, the person who *lets* the property is the *lessor*, the one who pays the rent is the *lessee*; eg 'My uncle *let* his house; his tenants *rented* it at R140 a month & they *hired* a servant at R25 a month; the lawyer determined that the property was only *leased* to the *lessee* for a period of two years'; 'I *let* my house *to* them' is preferable to I *rented* my house *to* them'; 'We *hired* this car' is preferable to 'We *rented* this car'

**hold thumbs** n, E, +coll

S Afr equiv of 'cross fingers' in GB

**Hollands** adj/n, D/Afk, x

the Afk equiv of D, ie pertaining to Holland, the people or the language; the Afk word should not be substituted for D, eg 'They speak *Hollands*' x; 'They speak *Dutch*' +; but the name of the country in E is *Holland* & the people are *Hollanders* or *Dutch(men)*; 'Dutchman' is also used in a slightly derogatory sense, eg 'I'm a

*Dutchman* if I were to decide not to accompany you', ie 'I am not myself...'

### home

word frequently applied in the past to England, by E immigrants & their descendants in S Afr; this practice has now fallen away

### honourable/honoured

*honourable* = worthy of honour; *honoured* = to confer dignity upon someone; eg 'He is an *honourable* man' +; 'I am *honoured* to accept...' +

### hooded vulture n, E, + (*Necrosyrtes monachus*)

bird wh is distinguished fr the palmnut vulture, by the down on the neck wh forms a hood; has a slender beak wh is not very useful for ripping up flesh; exists mainly on offal, locusts & reptiles; common outside villages; perches right inside trees; at a carcass it avoids other vultures & sneaks about to find forgotten scraps

### hoof

the pl form is hoofs or hooves [hufs] + [huvs] +

### hoopoe n, L, +

alt: hoepoe

bird of the *Upupidae* fam with a characteristic long, rather slender, curved, pointed bill; birds of the fam *Upupidae* have a large crest, reddish plumage & are white across the wings; birds of the sub-fam *Phoeniculinae* have no crest & their plumage is glossy & dark; local species include *Phoeniculus purpureus* (red-billed hoopoe), *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* (scimitar-bill hoopoe) & *Upapa africana* (African hoopoe)

### hopana n, Ba, +coll

illegal drink commonly brewed by Ba, particularly in the Transvaal

### hornbill n, E, +

bird of the fam *Bucerotidae*; has a characteristic stout, rather curved & pointed bill usu with a horny casque on top, wh varies in shape & does not appear to serve a particular purpose; the casque occurs

mainly in males; moves clumsily & inhabits forests & savanna country; amongst the local species are: *Bucorvus leadbeateri* (ground hornbill); *Bycanistes buccinator* (trumpeter hornbill); *Lophoceros alboterminatus* (crowned hornbill); *L. erythrorhynchus* (red-billed hornbill); *L. flavirostris* (yellow-billed hornbill); *L. nasutus* (grey hornbill)

**horned-adder** n, E, + (*Bitis cornuta*)

snake so called because of the scales above its eyes; found in the dry, sandy areas of the Cape; approx 45cm long; dirty reddish-brown in colour, with dark markings

**horse mackerel** n, E, +

edible fish wh occurs in most parts of the Atlantic but is not common ea of the Cape

**hotnotsboerboon** n, D/Afk, x

see: Hottentot bean tree

**Hottentot God** n, Hott/D/Afk, + (*Mantidae*)

alt: Hottentot's God, praying mantis  
insect of wh there are over 100 S Afr species; simulates flowers, dry leaves & sticks; related to the grasshopper; the vernacular name is derived fr the supposed reverence of the Hott for the insect

**Hottentotsamandel** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild almond

**Hottentot's God** n, Hott/E, +

see: Hottentot God

**Hottentot teal** n, Hott/E, + (*Anas punctata*)

rare resident duck found in many parts of S Afr; usu occurs in pairs or small parties in flooded, marshy areas & sheltered waterways wh contain floating vegetation

**hound** n, E, +

see: spear-eye shark

**house snake** n, E, +

there are three known species: *Boaedon fuliginosus* (brown house snake) wh is widely distributed throughout S Afr; *B. guttatus* (spotted house snake) & *Lamprophis inornatus* (olive house snake) are apparently found only in S Afr: in the Cape, Natal & the Transvaal; the common name applies to their habit of frequenting buildings in search of food

**however**

whenever possible, *however* should not be used to begin a sentence, when it means 'nevertheless', eg 'At last, *however*, we managed to reach them' is preferable to *However*, at last we managed to reach them; when it means 'in whatever way' or 'to whatever extent', *however* should be the introductory word in a sentence, eg '*However* hard we tried, we could not drag the car out of the ditch'

**how much**

sl equiv of 'what?' similar to 'come again' when someone is asked to repeat a remark or a particular word, eg 'What's the time?' (mumbled question) 'How much?'; should be avoided; rather use 'what?' or 'I beg your pardon'

**how's it?**

an ellipsis of 'How is it with you?' used when enquiring after someone's health; apparently not peculiar to S Afr

**how so?**

ellipsis of 'How is that?' or 'How is it so?'; not peculiar to S Afr

**hubbard squash** n, E/Amer/Indian, +

see: squash

**humble/humiliate**

*to humble* = to show low estimate of a person's importance, eg 'I thought I had insurmountable difficulties, but when I heard of his plight, I was *humbled*'

*to humiliate* = to lower a person's dignity or self-respect, therefore 'The Minister will *humiliate* himself...' x, malapropism for *humble*



**humiture** n, E, +

Amer & S Afr term; blending of humidity & temperature; combined measurement of humidity & temperature; computed in integers: the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit or Celsius is added to the relative humidity, the sum is divided by two; if a fraction of a ½ is left the next integer is chosen, ie if the temperature is 83°F & the relative humidity is 70%, the humiture is 77

**hung/hanged**

see: hanged/hung

**hunger belt** n, E, +

thong of hide, used as a belt by the Namaqua Hott; in times of scarcity it was tightened to dull the growing pains of hunger

**hyena poison** n, E, + (*Hyaenanche globosa*, *Toxicodendrum capense*)

alt: boesmangif, gifboom, wolwegif

small tree of the fam *Euphorbiaceae*, found along stream beds in the Gifberg mountains near Vanrhynsdorp; the seeds contain poison wh has been used to control hyenas & jackals, hence the name; the Afk names, signify 'bushman poison', 'poison tree' & 'wolf bane', respectively

**hyphen**

there appears to be no hard & fast rule concerning the use of the hyphen; the British tendency is generally to hyphenate compound ns whereas it is Amer practice to omit the hyphen, eg coal-mine, oil-field in GB, coal mine, oil field in Amer; in words compounded with 'grand' it is British practice to write grandchild, grandmother whereas in Amer a hyphen is used, eg grand-child, grand-mother; frequently the sense of an expression or combination of words determines the use or omission of the hyphen, eg non-acid forming, long- and short-term investments; it is best to look up individual word combinations in a reliable dictionary

**I****impresario**

impresario x

**independent**

frequently misspelt independant  
see also: dependant/dependent

**index** n, E, +

the pl of this n is *indices*, not 'indexes'

**Indian** n, E, +

the majority of the Indians in S Afr are descendants of indentured Hindu labourers brought fr India in 1860 to work for the sugar industry in Natal: many of the descendants of these immigrants are today still in the sugar industry, others have found employment as laundrymen, market gardeners & waiters; many Hindu & Moslem Indians are merchants & quite a number of these have settled in the Transvaal

**Indian shot** n, E, + (*Canna glauca*)

ornamental plant of the genus *Canna*, esp *C. glauca* & *C. indica* with black seeds approx the size of buckshot, hence the vernacular name; the so-called 'edible canna' has been cultivated as a fodder plant

**ingubu** n, Zu, +coll

name used by Ba in Natal for second-hand garments; derived fr an expression meaning 'skin'

**inkosikazi** n, Zu, +coll

orig only the title of the wife of a Zu chief or king; now used by the Zu in Natal when addressing a Eur woman, esp an employer, as the equiv of madam or mistress; also applied by the Zu to their wives whether these are of royal blood or not

**in regard to/with regard to/in respect of**

excessive use of *regard* or *respect* in periphrases ruins a writer's style & should be avoided; substitute preps for these phrases whenever possible, eg 'I wish to speak to you *with regard to* the latest developments' x, '... about the latest developments' +

**in respect of**

see: in regard to/with regard to/in respect of

**in so far as**

always written as *four separate* words; insofar x

**intombazan** n, Ngu, +coll

equiv of little girl

**intombi** n, Ngu, +coll

equiv of young girl or virgin

**intonga** n, Ngu, +coll

equiv of stick used in fights

**inveigle** pronun

[ɪnˈviɡl] + [ɪnˈveɪɡl] +

**irascible** pr

[ɪræsəbl] +, [ɪˈræskəbl] x

**Irene** pronunc

[aɪrɪni] + [aɪrɪn] +

**-ise, ize** as verb endings

either ending can be used, but the proviso is that there should be consistency; if preference is given to *-ise* no problem arises, but in the case of *ize* it must be remembered, that, for specific reasons, certain vs in E demand the *-ise* ending & this may never be replaced by *ize*; these vs are:

advertise	despise	exercise
analyse	devise	improvise
apprise	disfranchise	incise
chastise	disguise	premise
circumcise	enfranchise	supervise
comprise	enterprise	surmise
compromise	excise	surprise

**issuing**

frequently misspelt *issueing*

**Izak** n, D/Afk, x

see: skaamoog (ii)

## J

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

alt: japie, plaasjapie

Afk equiv of bumpkin, simpleton, yokel

**jab** n, E, +

long ostrich feather plucked fr the wing where this joins the body of the female bird

**jackal-buzzard** n, E, + (*Buteo rufofuscis*)

bird found throughout S Afr; the upper feathers are almost black, the lower feathers & the tail are rufous; has a black bill & yellow feet; the sexes are alike; feeds on insects, reptiles & rodents

**jackass penguin** n, E, +

common bird of the S Afr coastal islands; capable of swimming rapidly under water with the aid of its feet & flippers

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

see: hill matome

**Jan Bruin** n, -, x

see: John Brown (ii)

**Jerepigo** n, Port, +

alt: jeropiek

muscat-type aperitif, desert or after-dinner wine; sweeter than any other wine; often used for blending purposes

**jersey** n, E, +

word loosely applied in S Afr to a jumper, cardigan or pullover

**jeukbol** n, D/Afk, + (*Drimia ciliaris*, *D. media* & *D. purpurascens*)

bulbous plant of wh the leaves & flowers appear simultaneously; the

bulb has purple to reddish scales wh contain crystals of calcium oxalate; these crystals cause an itch (Afk jeuk) when the bulb is rubbed against the skin, nence the vernacular name

**jigger flea** n, E, + (*Leptus americanus*, *L. irritans*)

flea commonly found in S Amer & the W Indies, but also occurs in other tropical regions; the fertile female burrows under the skin of an exposed part of the body of man & animal & causes great discomfort

**John Brown** (i) n, E, + (*Gymnocrotaphus curvidens*, *Pachnetopon grande*)

alt: blue-eye John Brown (Ea Cape) Jan Bruin (Cape)  
fish found fr the Cape to Durban usu in shallow water in rocky areas, but also down to 40 fathoms; not very common

**judgement/judgment**

both acceptable

**jukskei** n, D/Afk, +

orig a yoke used for oxen & draught animals; the Boers applied the name to a game wh is played throughout S Afr

**jumping hare** n, E, +

see: springhaas

**just for mos** x

= 'just for the fun of it', expression possibly derived fr Hebrew 'mazeltov'

**just sommer** x

see: sommer

## K

**kaapenaar** n, D/Afk, x

see: silver fish

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

see: tulp

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

see: Cape dabchick

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

see: bishop bird, Cape widow-bird

**Kaapse kiaathout** D/Afk, x

see: Cape teak

**kaart en transport** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'title-deed', a legal term

**kabeljou** n, D/Afk, + (*Johnius hololepidotus*)

alt: cob or kob, Cape cod, Cape salmon (Natal)

an angling & common commercial fish; the name is applied to *Elops machnata* & *Sciaena aquila* as well

**kaboedel** n, D/Afk, x

see: caboodle

**kaboekoring** n, Ba/Afk, ?

see: kaboemielies

**kaboemealies** n, Ba/Afk, ?

boiled, dried, unbroken mealie seeds or kaffircorn, hence kaboe-koring

**kafferdoring** n, D/Afk, x

see: kaffir-thorn tree

**kafferkat** n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape wild cat

**kafferkoring** n, D/Afk, x

see: kaffircorn

**kaffertjie** n, D/Afk, + (*Wurmbea latifolia*)

low-growing, perennial herb frequently found in healthy, damp places in the Port Elizabeth district; the small corm produces a single stem 10-15cm high wh has three linear leaves at the base; reputed to be poisonous

**kaffer-wag-'n-bietjie** n, D/Afk, x

see: kaffirthorn

**kaffir beer** n, Ar/E, +

alcoholic drink made of kaffircorn; also known as utshuala; contains certain vitamins & has medicinal properties; officially known as Bantu beer

**kaffirbread tree** n, Ar/E, + (*Encephalartos villosus*)

alt: wild date

evergreen tree of wh the simple, tuberous stem is hidden in the ground; common in the coastal forest of East London; seeds used by Ba witchdoctors to make necklaces reputed to ensure long life

**kaffir dog** n, Ar/E, +

mongrel owned by Ba, usu underfed, maltreated & very thin

**kaffir kraal** n, Ar/Port/D/Afk, +

Ba hamlet consisting of a number of huts sometimes encircled by a wall or fence made of thorn bushes

**kaffir rail** n, Ar/E, +

see: Cape rail

**kaffirthorn tree** n, E, + (*Lycium tetrandrum*)

alt: kafferdoring

deciduous bush or shrub with dense branches that terminate in sharp hard thorns (Afk doring(s)); once used to make thiefproof hedges around gardens, homesteads, kraals, etc

**kajatenhout** n, D/Afk, x

see: African wattle

**kalbas** n, D/Afk, x

see: calabash

**kalmoes** n, D/Afk, x

see: calamus

**kamam** n, ? , x

see: bobbejaangif

**kambaroo** n, Hott, +

alt: kamaroo, kambro, kammaro

name applied to several of the larger tuberous-rooted species of *Asclepiadaceae* wh belong to such genera as *Brachystelma*, *Fockea* & *Pachypodium*; the watery, sweet rootstock was an important item in the diet of the Bu & Hott; *Fokea edulis* was most frequently eaten by the Hott & later by the colonists, either raw or as a preserve known as kamkoo

see also: baroe, bobbejaankos, Hottentot bread

**kamkoo** n, Hott, +

alt: Hotnotswaatlemoen, kamoo, kamu

the tuberous rootstock of *Fockea edulis* wh weights up to 70kg was eaten by the early colonists & is still used to make a preserve; name also applied to the edible tuber of *Brachystelma thunbergii* wh is also known as Hottentot('s) bread

see also: Hottentot bread, kamaroo

**kanariebyter** n, D/Afk, x

see: butcher-bird, fiscal shrike

**kandelaarblom** n, D/Afk, x

see: candelabra flower, seeroogblom

**kankerbossie** n, D/Afk, x

see: cancer bush

**kanniedood** n, D/Afk, +

lit: cannot die

popular name for several varieties of *Aloe*, in particular *A. variegata*



wh has variegated leaves & red flowers; the vernacular name reflects the ability of the plant to resist extreme droughts

**kanoti grass** n, Zu/E, + (*Flagellaria guineensis*, *F. indica* var *guineensis*)

plant with stems that become hard like bamboo & are approx 1 cm in diameter; Pondos use the stems for making baskets, other Ba use them to tie down the thatch of their huts; the vernacular prefix is a corr of the orig Zu 'uGonoti' & the Pondo 'uGonoto' wh = thin stick wh bends easily

**kanotgras** n, Zu/D/Afk, x

see: kanoti grass

**Kaokoveld** n, ? /D/Afk, +

region in nth S W Afr reserved for Ba; wild country wh teems with game; it is claimed that the quagga still survives there

**kaparing** n, Javanese, +

alt: kaproen

sandal made of a plank or blok of wood carved in the shape of the foot & held by means of a knob wh fits between the first two toes; mocking term for a clumsy shoe or boot

**kapokblom** n, D/Afk, + (*Lanaria plumosa*)

lit: capoc flower

plant wh grows in tufts over large areas of land; the flower-clusters look as though they are made of white cottonwool; has grasslike leaves & tough roots; blooms fr August to December

**kapokvoël** n, D/Afk, ? (*Anthoscopus minuta*)

alt: Cape penduline tit

tiny bird wh is found throughout the Cape Province; feeds on large insects

**kappie** n, D/Afk, +

lit: bonnet

refers in particular to the headdress worn by Voortrekker women & girls

**kaproen** n, Javanese, +

see: kaparang

**karbonaatjie** n, D/Afk, +

old Cape speciality wh consists of thinly cut meat roasted over an open fire

**Karoo** (i) n, Hott, +

the Karoo comprises the Great Karoo wh extends over the nth area of the central Cape Province as far nth as the Orange River, & the Little Karoo wh lies in the s-wst part & adjoins Oudtshoorn & the Swartberg Mountains; the Karoo has characteristic small, flat-topped koppies, a dry climate & sparse vegetation, mainly *Zerophytic* scrub; highly suitable for sheep farming

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

a vernacular 'generic' name for several fodder plants, esp *Compositae* usu found in arid areas

**karoo korhaan** n, Hott/D/Afk, + (*Eupodotis vigorsii*)

alt: black-throated korhaan

bird wh is found in the Karoo; frequents scattered, stunted bushes; eats insects & vegetable matter; its call is similar to the croak of a frog

**karoo prinia** n, Hott/L, + (*Prinia maculosa*)

bird with a distinctive long, narrow tail & streaked breast; occurs throughout S Afr, but mainly in the Cape & Natal; flits its tail up & down a great deal

**Karooveld** n, Hott/D/Afk, +

see: Karoo

**Karoo violet** n, Hott/E, + (*Aptosimum depressum*)

alt: braambossie, brandblaar, brandbossie, carpet plant, veld violet  
densely tufted perennial found in dry areas of the est Cape; base of stem woody; deep blue flowers carpet the veld even during severe drought; the woody, hard seed capsules frequently remain on the plant for years & open only during rains when the seeds are shed; the

plant is used in the preparation of a gargle for diphtheria, in the treatment of ringworm, krimpsiekte & other ailments

**karp** n, D/Afk, x

see: silver fish

**katdoring** n, D/Afk, √

see: buffalo thorn

**katel** n, D/Afk, +

wooden bed or hammock used by the trekkers in a n ox-wagon; word derived fr M or Tamil 'kattil' & adopted by the Port

**katjeepering** n, D/Afk, x

see: gardenia

**kerfstok** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of nickstick

notched tally stick; used on old S Afr farms to keep check of lost cattle & sheep

**kershout** n, D/Afk, x

see: aapsekos

**kersogje** n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape white-eye

see also: witogje

**keurboom** n, D/Afk, + (*Virgilia capenses*, *V. oroboides*)

evergreen shrub or tree up to 15m high with a girth of 1,5 to 2m; found on river banks & along streams; the bark exudes a transparent gum wh is reputed to have been used by the Ba as a substitute for starch; the vernacular name is derived fr the beauty of the flowers, Afk keur = choice, boom = tree

**khalifa** n, Ar, +

Moslem celebration popular amongst the Cape Malays who work themselves into a frenzy with music & the monotonous beating of

drums; then, without losing blood, they pierce themselves with swords, pins & sharp objects; Moslem religious leaders disapprove of the custom, but the Malays of the Cape consider it a form of entertainment

**kierieklapper** n, D/Afk, ?

see: steelboom

**kiesieblaar** n, D/Afk, ? (*Malva parviflora*)

weed introduced fr Eur in approx 1700, now common throughout the Republic; leaves once used in decoctions for throat ailments or as a poultice for neuralgia & abscesses; considered very effective as a drawing-plaster & still so used in the Bredasdorp district; the vernacular name is a corr of 'kaasjesblaar' the orig D word wh became keesjesblaar & then kiesieblaar

**kiewiet** n, D/Afk, + (*Afribyx senegallus lateralis*)

alt: wattled plover

bird found singly or in pairs, but usu in small flocks, near marshes, rivers or vleis; fairly tame; when breeding, calls loud & persistently, even at night

**kiewietjie** n, D/Afk, +

see: crowned plover

**kinderbessie** n, D/Afk, ? (*Halleria elliptica*)

shrub or tree, 3m high with a main trunk diameter of approx 22cm; wood yellowish & soft, but tough, once used for axe-handles, plough-beams, etc; has red, juicy berries (Afk bessie(s)) wh were eaten by children (Afk kinder(s)), hence the vernacular name

**kind of**

*kind of* when it is the equiv of 'rather' should be avoided, eg 'It seems *kind of* odd, that we shall never see him again' x, 'It seems *rather* odd... +

**kingfish** n, E, +

see: yellowtail (i)

**kingklip** (i) n, E/D/Afk, + (*Acanthistius sebastoides*)

alt: soup bully (East London)

found in S Afr fr the Cape to Natal in shallow water among rocks;  
popular commercial fish

**kingklip** (ii) n, E/D/Afk, + (*Epinephelus andersoni*)

alt: rock cod

found fr Knysna to Delagoa Bay often in fairly shallow water among  
rocks

**kingklip** (iii) n, E/D/Afk, + (*Genypterus capensis*)

found fr Walfish Bay to Algoa Bay; popular commercial fish & an  
important food-fish of the Cape

**kingklip** (iv)

sp king klip x

**king protea** n, E/L, + (*Protea cynaroides*)

alt: giant protea

sturdy plant, wh grows fr 1 to 1,25m high; found in the Tsitsikama  
National Park on open slopes facing the sea; species generally  
accepted as the S Afr floral emblem; the only protea with a petiole;  
blooms fr September to March; now also grown in the Transvaal  
see also: Protea, protea

**kinkelbossie** n, D/Afk, + (*Tetragonia fruticosa*)

small bushy shrub; the vernacular name is derived fr the twist (Afk  
kinkel) in the stems or branches

**Kirstenbosch** prop n, - +

National Botanical Garden in Newlands, Cape Town; situated on the  
slopes of Table Mountain above Rhodes Drive & recognized as one  
of the major botanical institutions in the world; 4 000 of the 16 000  
known species of S Afr flora are cultivated here

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

lit: knave of clubs

popular old-time cardgame similar to 'pam' & 'nap', in wh the knave

of clubs is regarded as the highest card; all the knaves are trumps

**kleinkoring** n, D/Afk, + (*Triticum aestivum*)

species of S Afr wheat wh has characteristic red-&-white grain & forms short stools

**klipbokkie** n, D/Afk, x

see: klipspringer

**klipfish (i)** n, E/D/Afk, +

lit: Afk klip = rock, stone

vernacular name applies to several species of small carnivorous shallow-water fishes; occurs mainly in the colder waters of the Cape; similar species occur in Australia & S Amer; most of them are viviparous; the principle characteristics used for distinguishing the many species are the number of dorsal & anal spines & rays & the absence or presence of tentacles; scales when present are embedded in the skin

**klipfish (ii)** n, D/Afk/E, + (*Blennioclinus brachycephalus*)

alt: klipvis

sea fish found fr Cape Point to the Kei River

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish (iii)** n, D/Afk/E, + (*Blenniomimus cottoides*)

alt: bully, klipvis, rocky

found fr Port Nolloth to the Kei River, in shallow water

see also: bully (ii), klipfish (i)

**klipfish (iv)** n, D/Afk/E, + (*Cirrihibarbis capensis*)

agile fish, found mainly in shallow water & rock pools fr Port Nolloth to East London, some times in deeper water; not uncommon, but elusive

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish (v)** n, D/Afk/E, + (*Climacoporus navalis*)

quite common fr Port Alfred to Port St Johns

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish** (vi) n, D/Afk/E, + (*Clinus robustus*)

found fr the Cape to Port Alfred, not very common

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish** (vii) n, D/Afk/E, + (*Clinus superciliosus*)

alt: rocky

occurs fr Swakopmund to the Kei River

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish** (viii) n, D/Afk/E, + (*Fucomimus mus*)

alt: weedfish

sea fish found fr False Bay to the Kei River

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish** (ix) n, D/Afk/E, + (*Muraenoclinus dorsalis*)

found fr Swakopmund to the Natal s coast, usu under stones;

very common

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish** (x) n, D/Afk/E, + (*Ophthalmolophus acuminatus*)

found fr Swakopmund to the Cape Peninsula; very common

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish** (xi) n, D/Afk/E, + (*Ophthalmolophus agilis*)

found only among sea-grass in the Knysna estuary; not very common

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish** (xii) n, D/Afk/E, + (*Ophthalmolophus helenae*)

alt: rocky

found fr East London to the Bashee River; not very common

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish** (xiii) n, D/Afk/E, + (*Ophthalmolophus latipennis*)

only one species found in S Afr waters; found in False & Table Bay

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish** (xiv) n, D/Afk/E, + (*Ophthalmolophus venustris*)

found fr False Bay to Port Alfred; rare

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish** (xv) n, D/Afk/E, + (*Pavoclinus heterodon*)

alt: rainbowfish, rocky

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipfish** (xvi) n, D/Afk/E, + (*Smithichthys fucorum*)

sea fish found fr False Bay to East London; rare

see also: klipfish (i)

**klipmossie** n, D/Afk, + (*Fringillaria impetuani*, *F. tahapisi*)

alt: lark-like bunting

sparrow-like bird commonly found in dry, rocky country, for this reason common in the Karoo; spends most of its time on the ground & only sometimes perches on bushes; towards dusk in summer frequents water-holes in flocks; *F. tahapisi*, (rock bunting) has a distinctive cinnamon breast & is found throughout S Afr except in the s wst

**klipvis** n, D/Afk, x

see: klipfish (i) to (xvi)

**klipvygie** n, D/Afk, + (*Ruschia saxicola*)

rigid, laxly branched shrublet; is secured under rocks or stones, hence the vernacular name (Afk klip = stone)

see also: vygie

**klitsgras** n, D/Afk, x

see: burweed

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

see: klonkie

**knapsekerwel** n, D/Afk, x

see: black jack

**knob-billed duck** n, E, + (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*)

black & white duck with a distinguishing knob on the bill; wings dark; frequents sandbanks where it rests; eats grass & waterplant seeds; removes its young fr the nest, on its back



**knoppieshout** n, D/Afk, x

see: buttonwood

**knoppiesvelsiekte** n, D/Afk, x

see: lumpy-skin disease

**knorhaan** n, D/Afk, x

see: spotted grunter

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

see: berglelie, George lily

**Knysna loerie** n, D/Afk, + (*Turacus corythaix*)

bird found fr George eastwards to Natal & the Est Transvaal in evergreen forests; feeds on fruit, esp wild figs, its hopping movements along the branches are characteristic

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

see: salmon (i)

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

see: kabeljou

**kob (iii)** n, Senegalese, +

alt: koba

any of several Afr antelopes of the genus *Adenota*, related to the waterbuck

see also: waterbuck

**koester** n, D/Afk, + (*Acanthistius sebastoides*)

S Afr fish of the rockcod fam; most frequent in tropical seas; some live in cooler waters, but always in shallow rocky areas, rare elsewhere

**koggelaar** n, D/Afk, x

see: capped wheatear

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

alt: chameleon, rock lizard

reptile of the genus *Chamaeleo*; has a prehensile tail, long tongue, & eyes wh move independently; has the power of changing the colour of its skin

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

see: koggelmander

**kokerboom** n, D/Afk, + (*Aloe dichotoma*)

the Ba & Hott hollowed out branches of this tree (Afk boom) & used them as quivers (Afk koker(s)), hence the vernacular name

**koko tree** n, Hott/E, + (*Maytenus undatus*)

large spine less shrub or small tree; the name 'koko' was first applied to the plant by the Hott

**kolhaas** n, D/Afk, ?

see: Southern bush hare

**kolstert** n, D/Afk, x

see: blacktail (i)

**kommetjie** n, D/Afk, +

lit: diminutive of Afk kom wh = basin, bowl; a small depression found in the S Afr veld; *Kommetjie* is a place-name

**kommetjeteewater** n, D/Afk, + (*Adenandra uniflora*)

plant with flower that resembles a small basin or bowl (Afk kommetjie) with white petals wh are reddish purple at the base; the vernacular name is prob suggested by the rainwater found in the flowers, wh is tinged the shade of tea (Afk tee) by the colour of the bottom of the calyx

**koningklip** n, D/Afk, x

see: kingklip (i), (ii) & (iii)

**koolslai** n, D/Afk, x

lit: cabbage salad

Afk equiv of 'cole slaw'; salad made of raw, sliced or chopped cabbage

**koordhaar** n, D/Afk, ? (*Passerina filiformis*)

alt: koordehaar

the tough bark of this tree is made into a cord (Afk koord) & used in thatching, etc; the fibres of the bark suggest hair (Afk hair)

**kop** n, D/Afk, x

Afr equiv of 'head, hill'; + in place-names, eg *Leeukop*, *Meintjieskop*

**koper kapel** n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape cobra

**koppie** n, D/Afk, +

alt: kopje

diminutive of 'kop'; hillock of the S Afr veld wh sometimes rises above 30m & is covered with scrub

see also: kop

**Korana** n, Hott, +

tribe of Hott half-breeds related to the Griqua; inhabit the nth frontier of the Cape Province, along the Modder, Orange & Vaal Rivers; divided into a number of clans, eg the 'Magicians', the 'Righthands', the 'Springboks'; a member of this tribe; the Hott dialect spoken by these people

**korhaan** n, D/Afk, +

see: kori bustard

**koringvoël** n, D/Afk, x

see: white-browed sparrow-weaver

**Koue Bokkeveld** n, D/Afk, x

see: Bokkeveld

**kousbandjie** n, D/Afk, x

see: gartersnake (i), (ii) & (iii)

**kraalbos** n, D/Afk, + (*Galenia africana*)

shrub with hairy scales & small leaves found mainly in the wst regions of sth Afr

**kraalbossie** n, Port/D/Afk, + (*Aptosimum steingroeveri*)

bushy, rigid, perennial shrub with ash-grey or whitish spines on the leaf stalks & midribs of the leaves; hard woody fruit grows along the branches, suggestive of closely strung beads (Afk kraal = bead), hence the vernacular name

**kramat** n, M +

alt: karamat

term used by the Cape Malays to describe the tomb of a Moslem holy man or saint buried in or near the Cape Peninsula

**krimpsiekte** n, D/Afk, ?

alt: loco disease, locoweed disease

disease of cattle & horses caused by their eating locoweed; affects the brain; characterized by dullness, lack of co-ordination & partial paralysis

**kruisbessie** n, D/Afk, x

see: buttonwood

**krulkop** n, D/Afk, x

see: ricksha boy (ii)

**kudu** n, Xh, + (*Strepsiceros strepsiceros strepsiceros*)

large, yet timid Afr antelope with annulated, spirally twisted horns in the male; greyish brown with vertical white stripes on the sides; stands 1,5m at the shoulder; frequents thickly wooded country & river beds; meat excellent, but the species is strictly protected; occurs in reserves in the Est Province, the nth Cape, the Kalahari, S W Afr, the Kruger National Park, Zululand, Moçambique & Rhodesia

**kurper** n, D/Afk, +

freshwater fish; common name for various species, eg *Sandelia capensis* & *Serranochromis thunbergi*

**kwartelkoning** n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape rail

**kweekgras** n, D/Afk, ?

alt: quickgrass

name generally applied to several species of grass wh have runners underground & stolons above ground, rooting at the nodes; name prob first applied in S Afr to *Cynodon dactylon* & later extended to include other species

**kwêvoël** n, D/Afk, + (*Camaroptera brachyura*)

alt: bleating bush warbler, glass-eye

common bird wh occurs singly or in pairs; frequents undergrowth, moving about with its tail erect & its wings drooping; utters a weak, bleating noise, hence the onomatopoeic suff 'kwê' in its vernacular name

**kwêla** n, Ba, +

primitive Ba rhythm, danced, sung or whistled; hence *kwêla* dans = penny dance, & *kwêla* fluit = penny whistle