

## S

**sambok** n, D/Afk, x

see: sjambok

**sassaby** n, Tsw, x

see: tsessebe

**schaapstekker** n, D/Afk, x

see: skaapstekker

**silvie** n, E, + coll

see: blinkvis

**simba** n, Swahili, + coll

equiv of 'lion'; also used as proper n for a lion

**similarly pronunc**

[ ' s ɪ m ə l ə l i ] + [ s ɪ m ə l i ] x

**single**

used to give emphasis to a statement may be ambiguous, eg 'Every *single* man will be given a gift' could mean that married men will be excepted

**sink** pronunc & sp

[ ' s ɪ ŋ k ]

a kitchen or scullery basin with a drain; *zinc* [ z ɪ ŋ k ] is a metal

**sis!** int, D/Afk, x

exclamation of disgust, fr Afk 'sies' the equiv of 'phew! , ugh! '

**sjambok** n, D/Afk, +

alt: sambok

short plaited leather whip or thick strip of leather, usu made of hippopotamus or rhinoceros hide

**skaamhaai** n, D/Afk, x

see: skaamoog (ii)

**skaamoog** (i) n, D/Afk, x (*Haploblepharus fuscus*)

alt: dogfish

marine fish found in shallow water along the coast fr Durban to Port Nolloth

**skaamoog** (ii) n, D/Afk, x (*Holohalaelurus regani*)

alt: Izak, lazyshark, leopardshark, skaamhaai, tigershark

common marine fish found fr Port Nolloth to the Natal coast

**skaamoog** (iii) n, D/Afk, x (*Haploblepharus edwardsi*)

alt: dogfish, pofadderhaai,

marine fish found in shallow water fr Port Nolloth to Durban

**skaap** n, D/Afk, x

lit Afk 'sheep'; applied to a person who speaks or acts foolishly

**skaapbossie** n, D/Afk, ?

see: ankerkaroo

**skaapsteker** n, D/Afk, +

alt: schaapsteker

any of several non-aggressive & generally harmless backfanged Afr snakes; the spotted skaapsteker (*Psammophylax rhombeatus*) is irregularly marked in shades of brown; the striped skaapsteker (*Psammophylax tritaeniatius tritaeniatius*) has two or three longitudinal bands on a greyish brown back; the name 'skaapsteker' is misleading as the snake is quite incapable of killing a sheep, but probably arises fr the fact that these snakes are often found in grazing pens & kraals wh they frequent in search of mice

**skelm** n/adj, D/Afk, + coll

as a n, 'crook, rascal, rogue, scoundrel'; as an adj, 'cunning, sly'

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

see: elf(t)

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

see: Cape salmon (ii)

**skipjack** (iii) n, E, + (*Euthynnus pelamis*)

alt: bonita, watermelon

fish found in all but the coldest seas, in S Afr fr Knysna to Delagoa Bay; important canning fish of the Ea & of Amer

**skoff** n, D/Afk, x

see: scoff

**skokiaan** n, Ngu, +

potent drink brewed by the Ba esp on the Reef; the basis is usu fermented yeast to wh other ingredients, even carbide, are added to give it a 'kick'

see also: Cape smoke, mampoer, peach brandy, vaaljapie, witblits

**skollie** n, prob Afk, + coll

alt: skolly

Cape coloured hooligan or member of a quarrelsome gang of street loafers

see also: tsotsi

**skolly** n, prob Afk, +

see: skollie

**skop** v, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'kick'

**skoppie** n, D/Afk, x

dustpan

**skottelploeg braai** n, D/Afk, ?

concave disc-shaped plough-share used in S Afr to fry meat at a braaivleis or barbecue

see also: braai

**skrik** v, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'to get a fright, be frightened or startled'

**slangbos** n, D/Afk, +

see: bankrotbos

**slangetjie** n, D/Afk, +

see: kapitein

**slanghoutjie** n, D/Afk, +

see: bankrotbos

**slangkos** n, D/Afk, + (*Amanita phalloides*)

poisonous mushroom, bearing a close resemblance to the common field mushroom, wh has proved fatal to humans who have eaten it; the vernacular name is derived fr an old belief that the plant forms the food (Afk kos) of snakes (Afk slang(e)) and supplies them with venom

**slap, smack, hit**

often used with superfluous or incorrect prep, eg 'I'll slap (smack) you *through* the face' x, 'I'll hit you *over* the head' x; 'I'll slap (smack) your face' +, 'I'll hit you *on* the head' +; idiomatically used, the following are +: 'He slapped me *on* the back & congratulated me', 'He hit me *on* the head & *in* the face' as distinct fr 'The stone hit his left eye'

**slaploot** n, D/Afk, x

see: mountain syringa

**sleeping sickness** n, E, +

endemic, often fatal disease caused by two typanosomes, characterised by fever, lethargy and tremors; transmitted by the tsetse fly; prevalent in tropical Afr  
see also: nagana, tsetse fly

**slinger** n, E, + (*Chrysolephus puniceus*)

found on the ea coast of Afr, in deep water; most common off the Moçambique coast; smaller species plentiful off Durban; very young fishes sometimes found at Knysna

**sloot** n, D/Afk, +

narrow channel, natural or artificial, through wh water flows

**smaak** v, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'taste'; 'I *smaak* (like, approve of) that kind of thing' x

**small bont-legged tick** n, E, +

see: bont-legged tick

**small brown afrikaner** n, E/D/Afk, +

see: afrikaner (ii)

**smallmouth bass** n, E, + (*Micropterus dolomieu*)

game fish, imported fr Nth Amer, wh prefers cool water that does not flow too strongly; the smallmouth is a predator wh will eat other fishes only slightly smaller than itself

**smallmouth yellowfish** n, E, + (*Barbus holubi*)

popular sporting fish, endemic to the Orange-Vaal system, but now artificially cultured & introduced elsewhere as well; it is a bottom feeder taking small aquatic organisms & aquatic plants; it is a slow grower, but long-lived; fish, 15 years old, have been found frequently

**small-scaled yellowfish** n, E, + (*Barbus polylepis*)

occurs in the ea-flowing streams of the Transvaal & is apparently restricted to the cooler stretches over an altitude of 500 m above sea level; it feeds on algae fr the mud; like most of the yellowfishes, it is slow-growing & relatively longlived

**small spotted genet** n, E, + (*Genetta genetta*)

alt: musk cat

small, musk-producing cat with blackish spots & weighing up to just over 2 kg

**smoor** v, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'braise, stew (fish, meat, etc)'

see also: smoorvis

**smoorvis** n, D/Afk, +

old Cape Malay dish consisting of braised fish & onions

see also: smoor

**smous** n, G/D/Afk, + coll

derogatory term for a hawker or pedlar; in earlier days an itinerant, usu Jewish, merchant trader, whence the name 'schmaus' fr 'Mauschel' = Jewish merchant; as v = to dispose of goods in an undignified manner

**snakebird** n, E, +

see: darter

**snake flower** n, E, + (*Ornithogalum flavissimum*)

similar to the chinchinchee, but the flowers are lemon yellow; the vernacular name is prob derived fr the flowering peduncle

**snake muishond** n, D/Afk/E, + (*Poecilogale albinucha*)

slender, small Afr burrowing weasel; the top of its head is white

**snoek (i) n, D/Afk, + (*Scomberomorus leopardus*)**

fish very common in the central tropical Indo-Pacific; found as far s  
as Algoa Bay

**snoek (ii) n, D/Afk, + (*Sphyaena japonica*) (*Sphyaena jello*)**

alt: barracouda (general), seapike (Natal)  
an Indo-Malayan marine fish, not common off our coastline

**snoek (iii) n, D/Afk, + (*Sphyaena obtusata*)**

alt: barracouda (general), seapike (Natal),  
marine fish widespread in the Indo-Pacific, found along the Natal  
coastline

**snoek (iv) n, D/Afk, + (*Thyrsites atun*)**

alt: barrac(o)uda, barrac(o)uta (Australia)  
fish found in the colder waters of most oceans of the sth  
hemisphere; flesh eaten fresh, but frequently smoked

**snotsiekte n, D/Afk, ?**

cattle disease characterised by a discharge fr mouth & nostrils; also  
occurs in certain wild game, including wildebees(t)

**snow**

see: fall

**snysels n, D/Afk, ?**

alt: melksnysels  
strips of pastry resembling Italian 'pasta', cooked in milk; a  
traditional S Afr dish  
see also: melkkos

**so...as**

see: as...as

**soetkoekie** n, D/Afk, +

alt: soetkoekies

small, hard, home-made biscuit, plain but sweet; 'soetkoek', used in the Afk expression 'alles vir soetkoek opeet' = to be gullible

**soldaat** n, D/Afk, x

see: bottlebrush

**soldier** (i) n, E, + (*Cheimerus nufar*)

alt: red stumpnose (Knysna), rubalo, sunfish, wittevis (Cape)

widespread in the Indo-Pacific, found as far s as the Cape; common food-fish in Portuguese Ea Afr

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

see: red hot poker

**so long**

*so long*, in the sense of 'in the meantime' is prob an Afrikanerism derived fr 'so lank', 'will you type this letter for me *so long*?' x '... in the meantime?' +

**sombre bulbul** n, E/prob Ar, +

see: willie

see also: bulbul

**somebody/someone**

see: anybody

**someday** x

should be 'some day'

**sommer** adv, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'just, merely, for no particular reason, without any difficulty, without further ado, straight off, immediately', eg 'Ek



wou *sommer* geweet het of hy nog daar is' (I merely wanted to know whether he was still there), 'Waarom het jy dit gedoen?' – 'Sommer!' (Why did you do it? – For no particular reason), 'Hy het dit *sommer* reggekry' (He did it without any difficulty), 'Hy is *sommer* 'n twak' (He is just a rotter), 'Hy is *sommer* 'n lekker kêrel' (He is a really good sort), 'Jy moet *sommer* weer terugkom' (You must come back immediately); 'If she heard the news, she would just *sommer* pass out'

see also: darem, maar, mos

**sonbesie** n, D/Afk, x

alt: boomsingertjie

Afk equiv of 'cicada'

**songalolo** n, Ngu, + coll (*Julus terrestris*)

alt: songhalolo

a centipede; fr (uku-) songa wh = to roll up (like a worm)

**songhalolo** n, Ngu, x

see: songalolo

**sonvis** n, D/Afk, x

see: soldier (i)

**soolskoen** n, D/Afk, x

see: kaparang

**sooty albatross** n, E, +

see: albatross

**sophisticated** adj, E, +

complex & complicated; refined; eg 'a sophisticated machine'

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

Afk equiv of 'drink, spot, tot'

**sort of x**

'to a certain extent' is the correct E expression as in 'Do you understand?' 'Sort of' x

**sosaties n, M or Tamil/D/Afk, +**

small cubes of curried, marinated meat arranged on skewers & grilled over the embers of an open fire

**Sotho n, So, +**

member of the Sotho tribe; group of closely related languages comprising N So, S So & Tsw  
see also: North Sotho, South Sotho

**sour grass n, E, +**

species of grass that is hard & has little nutritional value, eg *Enneapogon scaber*  
see also: sweet grass

**sourveld n, E, +**

veld consisting mainly of grasses that prefer acid soil conditions & afford inferior grazing; Sourveld = grass-land areas in the est parts of S Afr  
see also: sweetveld

**sourveld tick n, E, +**

see: bush tick

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

[ 'sousbuənki:s]

soaked & cooked dried beans served with a sour-sweet vinegar sauce

**South Africa**

is not hyphenated as is the Afk 'Suid-Afrika'

**South Africanism** n, E, +

acceptable word or phrase peculiar to the Republic of S Afr

**South African nightjar** n, E, + (*Caprimulgus pectoralis*)

prob most common S Afr nightjar, esp in the Cape where its characteristic call sounds on moonlight nights; by day it stays in the shade of bushes; hunts at night fr a fixed perch & does not hawk over a wide area as other species do; inhabits wooded areas

**South African spitting cobra** n, E, +

see: rinkals

**South African wistaria** n, E, +

see: Vanwykshout

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

Afk equiv of 'savoury, snack'; lit means 'salty titbit'  
see also: happies

**South-Easter** n, E, +

see: Cape Doctor

**southern brown mamba** n, E/Ngu, +

see: black mamba

**southern file snake** n, E, +

see: Cape file snake

**South Sotho** n, So, +

language spoken by the Basuto of Lesotho

**South West Africa**

alt: South-West Africa  
as abbr South West

whether or not the hyphen is inserted, consistency should be the rule

cf Northwest Territories (Canada), North Eastern Transvaal

**soutribbetjie** nn, D/Afk, + coll

rib of lamb, salted & spiced & left to marinate for a few days before being boiled & grilled over coals

**so what?**

crude equiv of 'What does it matter?' 'What about it?'

**spadona** n, ? , +

type of ostrich feather; spadonas = the first year's feathers plucked fr a young ostrich

**span** n, E, +

pair or team of horses or other animals matched in colour, size & strength, & used to draw a cart, plough, etc

**spanspek** n, D/Afk, + (*Cucumis melo*)

alt: cantaloup melon, musk melon, sweet melon  
of the fam *Cucurbitaceae*, with a rough skin and sweet, juicy orange flesh

**speck** n, D/Afk, +

alt: spek  
bacon, very fat pork, fat of seals, whales, etc; the word is used in S Afr & Amer

**spek** n, D/Afk, x

see: speck

**spekboom** n, D/Afk, + (*Portulacaria afra*)

alt: olifantskos  
shrub or small tree up to 2,5 m high; stems & branches succulent; drought resistant & a very valuable fodder plant

**spierhaai** n, D/Afk, x  
see: spear-eye shark

**spiny lobster** n, E, +  
see: rock lobster

**spitting cobra** n, E, +  
see: black-necked cobra

**sponssiekte** n, D/Afk, ?  
cattle disease wh derives its name fr the spongy swellings it causes on the body of the animal; spons = sponge

**spook** n, D/Afk, + coll  
Afk equiv of 'ghost, apparition, spectre'

**spookvoël** n, D/Afk, +  
see: grey-headed bush shrike

**spoonful**  
pl spoonfuls  
see also: plural of compound nouns

**spoor** n, D/Afk, +  
Afk equiv of 'track, trace, footprint, footmark, trail or sent of animal'; eg 'We followed the *spoor* of the wounded lion' +

**sporrie** n, D/Afk, + (*Spergula arvensis*)  
weed found in wheat fields in the Cape; introduced in Van Riebeeck's time as a fodder plant, but soon recognised as a weed

**spot-tail** n, E, + (*Alestes imberi*)  
small fish seldom exceeding a length of 20 cm; the deeper body &

the black spot on the caudal peduncle distinguishes this species fr the dwarf tigerfish

**spotted grunter** n, E, + (*Pomadasys operculare*)

alt: knorhaan (Cape), purple grunter (Delagoa), roncador (Port), tiger (Est Cape)

fish found in tidal estuaries of the sth Cape coast during summer only; fr Algoa Bay ea & nthwards present in estuaries & in the sea throughout the year

**spotted gully shark** n, E, +

see: spear-eye shark

**spotted hyena** n, E, + (*Crocuta crocuta*)

approx the size of a large, powerfully built dog, but with a sloping back; reddish through buffy-ochre to dull grey; body covered with large, more or less oval, irregularly distributed dark brown spots

**spotted skaapsteker** n, E/D/Afk, +

see: skaapsteker

**springbok (i)** n, E, ?

see: springbuck

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

pl: Springboks

amateur sportsman or woman chosen to represent S Afr in international matches or competitions, & entitled to wear the registered Springbok colours; used in this sense 'bok' is never anglicised

see also: springbuck

**springbuck** n, E, + (*Antidorcas marsupialis marsupialis*)

alt: springbok

graceful, brightly-marked antelope; reddish-brown on back separated

by a dark line fr the pure white of the underparts; stands approx 75 cm at the shoulder; both sexes have small straight horns; the name derives fr the habit of leaping & jumping; once very common but now highly protected; 'springbuck' is preferable to 'springbok' as the E pronunc is valid & acceptable cf gemsbok

**springer (i)** n, E, + (*Heteromugil tricuspidens*)

alt: haarder, streep-haarder

general name for large marine fish capable of clearing more than 2 m & covering 12 m in one leap, a feat wh can be repeated several times in succession; found mainly in estuaries fr Mossel Bay to Durban

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

see: Cape salmon (ii)

**springer (iii)** n, E, + (*Mugil cephalus*)

alt: flathead mullet, haarder, mullet, tainha (Port)

species of fish found in all tropical & temperate waters of the Indian, s Atlantic & s Pacific oceans; has great leaping powers

**springer (iv)** n, E, + (*Trachystoma euronotus*)

alt: haarder, mullet

fish found in fresh water along the est Cape coast, in the sea along the Natal coast; the fresh-water fish may be almost black above, shading to dusky silver below in turbid water

**springhaas** n, E/D/Afk x

see: springhare

**springhare** n, E, + (*Pedetes cafer*)

alt: Cape jumping hare, Cape kangaroo, jumping hare, springhaas  
nocturnal rodent of sth & est Afr resembling a hare &, to a certain extent, a small kangaroo; has pointed ears, very short forelegs & long, powerful hindlegs; long bushy tail wh becomes more bushy at the tip; usu progresses in a series of kangaroo-like hops

**sprinkaanvoël** n, D/Afk, ?

see: wattled starling

**spruit** n, D/Afk, +

small tributary stream of a river, containing little or no water, except in the rainy season

**spuugslang** n, D/Afk, x

see: rinkals

**square-lipped rhinoceros** n, E, +

see: white rhinoceros

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

see: drongo

**squash** n, Amer Ind +

asakutasquash = green thing eaten green

in S Afr & Amer any of various fruits of the plants of the genus *Cucurbita*, widely cultivated as a vegetable, eg gem squash (green, approx the size and shape of an orange), hubbard squash (larger, shaped like a lemon)

**squatter** n, E, +

in S Afr, Ba who settles on land without right or title

**squeaker** n, E, + (*Synodontis zambezensis*)

fish with distinguishing branched mandibular barbels; the vernacular name derives fr the squeaking noise made by the bones of the fish moving in their sockets; colour variable, olive-brown or grey without spots, or spots varying in number over the whole body, sometimes even on the fins

**squeeeter** n, E, + coll

nipple-like gadget used for extracting juice fr an uncut, unpeeled orange by inserting one end into the orange & sucking fr the other



**staggers** n, E, +

disease of horses, usu the result of eating senecio or ragwort

**stamp** v, E, +

the process by wh the outer husk is removed fr ripe mealie seeds

**stamper** n, E, +

wooden pestle employed in stamping mealies

see also: samp, stamp

**stampers** n, E, +

crushing machines used in the gold-mining industry

**stampielies** n, D/Afk, ?

see: samp

**stamvrug** n, D/Afk, x (*Bequaertiodendron magalismontanum*)

alt: wild fig

lit: stem fruit

shrub or small densely leaved tree, with dark green glossy thick leaves & strongly scented flowers, edible bright red oblong fruit with a leathery skin, pink flesh & a milky juice; in some areas the fruit forms the major part of the summer diet of baboons

**stand** n, E, +

plot of land, site; originally standplaas (standing place)

see also: erf, plot

**stand forward** v, E, x

lit transl of Afk 'staan vorentoe'; should be 'move forward'

**stay/live**

stay = reside temporarily; live = reside permanently;

eg 'I shall *stay* with a friend in Pretoria until I have completed my studies, after which I shall return to Nylstroom where I *live*'

**steekgras** n, D/Afk, +

Afk steek = prick, gras = grass

any one of the grass species *Aristida* wh have spined, not bearded, seeds; the latter are known as Bushman grasses

see also: toagras

**steenbok** n, D/Afk, +

any small antelope of the genus *Raphicerus*, of the plains of sth & est Afr, so called because it frequents rocky koppies; *R. campestris* is small, graceful, large-eared, light rufous-fawn; the male has short upright horns

**steenbokboegoe** n, D/Afk, + (*Agathosma ciliata*)

bushy shrub up to 70 cm high; the leaves smell of aniseed & when distilled yield a lemon-yellow oil; the vernacular name is derived fr the fact that steenbok very commonly browse the young tops

see also: steenbok

**steenbras** (i) n, D/Afk, + (*Sparodon durbanensis*)

alt: musselcracker, mussel crusher, sand blouer, sand stompkop (Cape), brusher, silver steenbras, steenbras (Est Cape to Natal)

one of the best known angling fishes found in S Afr waters fr the Cape to Natal; greyish in colour, with faint stripes along the body

see also: bank steenbras, black steenbras, red steenbras, river steenbras, sand steenbras, white steenbras, yellow steenbras

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

see: biskop

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

see: steenbok

**steenklipvis** n, D/Afk, x

see: butterflyfish (iii)

**steentjie** n, D/Afk, + (*Spondyliosoma emarginatum*)

fish found in S Afr fr Saldanha Bay to Madagascar

**steenvis** n, D/Afk, x (*Chilodactylus fasciatus*)

alt: niggerfish

found fr Port Nolloth to Durban mostly in shallow water among rocks

**stellenbosched** n, adj, ? + coll

coined during the S Afr war & applied to British officers who proved to be insufficiently competent & were sent to Stellenbosch away fr the battlefields

**Sterkte!** n, D/Afk, x

lit: strength

as an exclamation 'Courage!' 'Keep your chin up!'

**sterretjie** n, D/Afk, x

see: autumn star

**stick away** v, E, +

S Africanism for 'hide oneself'; prob Afk infl 'wegsteek'

**still**

this adv should be correctly placed in a sentence 'The hail *is lying still* in the garden' x, prob Afk infl 'Die hael *lê nog* in die tuin'; 'The hail *is still lying...*' +

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

plant of the species *Datura ferox*, *D. metel*, *D. stramonium*, herblike annual wh is regarded as poisonous, though goats, donkeys & cattle eat the plants down to the ground at the beginning of winter, when other herbage is scarce

**stinkblaar** (ii)

see: black stinkwood

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

see: butterflyfish (vi)

**stinker** (ii) n, E, + (*Macronectes giganteus*)

alt: giant petrel

common name given to a marine bird of the sth oceans, wh follows boats to feed on offal; differs fr the albatross in that it has small wings, a large body & a heavy bill; in flight it is ungainly

**stinkpeul** n, D/Afk, x

see: redheart

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

name applied mainly to *Ocotea bullata*, the true stinkwood tree (see black stinkwood), but also to *Pygeum africanum* (see red stinkwood) & *Celtis africana* (see white stinkwood); the newly cut or planed wood has an unpleasant odour; hard to work, but durable

**stockfish** n, E, + (*Merluccius capensis*)

alt: hake

found in great numbers on the w coast of S Afr, but progressively scarcer eastwards to just beyond East London; commercially the most important in S Afr

**stoep** n, D/Afk, +

open, paved or concrete portico, sometimes terraced, extending along a side of a dwelling; one or several doors may open onto the area

**stoke** v, E, + coll

distil spirit in an unprofessional way, the implication being that it is done illegally

**stomp** (i) adj, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'blunt' eg 'This knife is *stomp*'

**stomp** (ii) v, Amer, + coll

tread or trample heavily or in an indignant manner

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

Afk equiv of 'end, stub, small stump' esp of a cigarette or cigar

**stompkop** n, D/Afk, +

see: biskop

**stompstertjie** n, D/Afk, ?

see: crombec, krombek

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

in GB the weight of a person is calculated in stones; in S Afr it was calculated in lbs before the introduction of the metric system

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

the hard kernel in a fruit such as an apricot, peach, etc

see also: pip

**stone bream** n, E, +

see: butterflyfish (i)

**stone chat** n, E, + (*Saxicola torquata*)

alt: bontrokkie

common bird found in areas where there are few trees, but low scrub, esp along streams; usu perches low on the tip of a dry twig or grass stem

**stone faces** n, E, +

general name for the better known species of *Lithops* wh are

commonly found in rock gardens; in their natural surroundings the plants grow flush with the ground & their colour usu matches that of their immediate surroundings

**stone fish** n, E, +

see: butterflyfish (i)

**stone plant** n, E, +

small succulent plant resembling a pebble, of the *Mesembryaeae* fam & the genus *Lithops*

see also: stone faces

**stop street** n, E, +

S Afr name for a side street with a stop sign at a main street intersection

see also: side street

**story/stories**

either storey (pl storeys) or story (pl stories) is correct for 'the parts into wh a house is divided horizontally', but the former & its plural are preferable for 'the parts of a house...', as a distinction can then be made between storey(s) & story/ies wh = 'account given of an incident(s)'

**stove** n, E, +

alt: coal stove, electric stove

S Afr equiv of 'cooker' in GB

see also: slow combustion stove

**strandloper** n, D/Afk, +

alt: beach ranger

member of a tribe of Hott or Bu who lived on seafood found along the Cape beaches; now extinct

**Strandveld** n, D/Afk, +

coastal region in the sth Cape Province between Cape Agulhas & Mossel Bay, including the districts of Bredasdorp & Riversdale

**strandwolf** n, D/Afk, x

see: brown hyena

**streepdassie** n, D/Afk, + (*Diplodus trifasciatus*)

alt: bontrok (Knysna), wildeperd (Cape), zebra (general) local name in the Cape for fish found off the coast

**streephaarder** n, D/Afk, x

see: springer (i)

**street** n, E, +

equiv of 'road' in GB, where 'street' is used only in built-up areas with shops, offices, etc on either side of a street, & never of suburban residential 'roads'

**strelitzia** prop n, – + (*Strelitzia alba*)

alt: wild banana

genus of Afr herbaceous plants, with rigid distichous leaves & richly coloured flowers wh have three sepals & three very irregular petals; named after the Countess von Mecklenburg-Strelitz; the leaves resemble those of the banana plant, hence the alt name

**strength** pronunc

[str ε ŋ θ] + [str ε n θ] x

**strepie** n, D/Afk, +

see: bamboo fish

**striped dogfish** n, E, +

see: lazysack (ii)

**striped karanteen** n, E/? , +

see: bamboo-fish

**striped muishond** n, E/D/Afk, + (*Ictonyx striata*)

S Afr variety of nocturnal polecat resembling a ferret in size & form;  
can be tamed  
see also: muishond

**striped skaapsteker** n, E/D/Afk, +

see: skaapsteker

**strokie** n, D/Afk, x

small slip of paper, usu a cash slip, an invoice or a counterfoil

**strokies** n, D/Afk, x

comics; strokiesverhaal = comic strip

**stroois** n, D/Afk, x

alt: struis

Ba hut; the word is a contraction of 'strooi-huis' (straw house) in ref  
to the thatched roof

**stroom** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'stream'

+ when used in compounds to form place names, eg *Nylstroom*,  
*Wakkerstroom*

**stroppey** adj, E, x

abbr of 'obstreperous'

**stryddag** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'party rally'

**stump** n, E, +

see: red stumppnose



**stumpnose** n, E, + (*Rhabdosargus tricuspidens*)

alt: bream, silver bream (Transkei – Natal), flatty (Est Cape), silvie (East London), stumpnose (Knysna)

beautiful marine fish found in shallow water fr the Cape to Zululand

**stywe pap** n, D/Afk, + coll

see: putu (-pap)

**substitute for/replace by**

see: replace by

**sugarbird** n, E, + (fam *Promeropidae*)

bird peculiar to S Afr; has rather plainly coloured plumage, a long, curved bill & elongate tail feathers; it builds a cup-shaped nest & its diet consists mainly of insects & the nectar of proteas

**sugar bush** n, E, +

see: Protea

**suikerbos** n, D/Afk, +

alt: protea, sugarbush, suikerbossie

common name for all species of *Protea*, but applied mainly to the larger bushy varieties; first recorded by Thunberg in 1772 for *Protea mellifera*, so called because of the high sugar content of the nectar secreted by the flowers

see also: Protea

**suikerbos** n, D/Afk, x

see: afrikaner (v)

**suing** pres p, E, +

*sueing* x

**suka!** int, Fan, + coll

go away!

see also: sa!

**sukkel** v, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'have trouble with, worry at, plug away at, trudge on, plod on, struggle' as in 'I *sukkel* along'; also 'annoy, interfere with', eg 'Don't *sukkel* with me'

**sulphur-bark tree** n, E, +

see: fever tree

**sunfish** n, E, +

alt: sonvis

see: soldier (i)

**sun** n, Ngu? , + (*Nesotragus livingstonianus zuluensis*)

alt: Livingstone's antelope

small antelope about the size of a blue duiker, with a shoulder height of 35-40 cm; rich red-brown in colour; frequents thick bush & scrubby undergrowth

see also: blue duiker

**suricate meerkat** n, F/D/Afk, +

see: meerkat

**suurklapper** n, D/Afk, + (*Strychnos cocculoides*)

small tree with dense, rounded crown, straight trunk, thick corky fissured bark & an edible fruit about the size of an orange, wh liquefies when fully ripe & is used by the Ba, Bu & Ovambo of nth S W Afr to make a sour sweet slightly fermented drink

see also: klapper

**suurpap** n, D/Afk, ?

fermented liquid mealie-meal porridge

see also: maheus

**suurpruim** n, D/Afk, x

see: kaffir plum

**suurveld** n, D/Afk, ?

see: sourveld

**swaer** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'brother-in-law'; 'ou swaer' is used coll in the sense of 'old chap', eg 'Good morning, *ou swaer*, how are you today?'

**Swahili** n, Ba, +

lingua franca of Ea Afr, widely spoken in Kenya & neighbouring territories; basically a Ba language with adaptations fr Ar, & other modifications; similar in some respects to Fanagolo

**swart boekenhout** n, D/Afk, ?

see: boekenhout

**swartbos** n, D/Afk, ?

see: bloubos

**swart kameeldoring** n, D/Afk, x

see: camel-thorn

**swart olien** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild olive

**swartstinkhout** n, D/Afk, x

see: black stinkwood

**swartstormbos** n, D/Afk, +

name applied to several plants used medicinally; the vernacular name alludes to the black colour of the root bark & the 'stormy' action of the bark in decoctions when taken as a purgative

**swart wildebeest** n, D/Afk, x

see: black wildebeest

**swartwitpens** n, D/Afk, x

see: sable antelope

**Swazi** n, Ngu, +

Ba people of Swaziland, sth Afr; a member of these people; language of 'the Swazi', closely related to Zu & Xh wh also belong to the Ngu group of languages

**sweating sickness** n, E, +

see: bont-legged tick

**sweet grass** n, E, +

any of several species of tender, digestible grass, eg *Brachiaria nergopedata*, *Chloris vergata*, *Hierochloë odorata*

see also: sour grass

**sweethearts** n, E, +

see: black-jacks

**sweet melon** n, E, +

see: spanspek

**sweet thorn** n, E, + (*Acacia karoo*)

one of the best known & most widespread species of *Acacia* in sth Afr; occurs in all four provinces as well as in Rhodesia, Botswana & Malawi; varies in shape fr a dense spiny shrub, a narrow straggly shrub or small tree, to a tall graceful tree with a rounded crown; thorns up to 17 cm long; bark used in tanning, also has a good quality gum, at one time exported as 'Cape gum'; the vernacular name refers to the fact that the young foliage is eaten by stock

**sweetveld** n, E, +

veld covered with sweet-tasting grass

see also: sourveld

**sweet William** n, E, +

see: spear-eye shark

**swim** v, E, +

in S Afr no distinction is made between the vs to *bathe* (to moisten all over) & to *swim* (float on or progress through water by working the arms & legs); the def of the latter is applied to both vs; also used in the sense of 'to immerse oneself in water without the purpose of exercising the limbs'

**swimming costume** n, E, +

alt: bathing costume, cossie (coll)  
equiv of 'bathing suit' in GB

**sycamore fig** n, E, + (*Ficus sycamorus*)

alt: Pharaoh's fig, wild fig  
large spreading tree up to 25 m in height, dark green dense crown, sometimes a fluted trunk, woolly young branches & twigs & hairy figs on the old wood & trunk in dense branched clusters; fruit eaten by a variety of game

**syllabication**

there is no hard & fast rule, but the principles wh most frequently apply are:

- (a) divide the word according to its formation: cart-age, Mil-ton, pre-scrip-tion;
- (b) divide on the vowel; spe-cial, conta-gious, ra-mi-fi-ca-tion (as many divisions as this are of course unnecessary);
- (c) divide between double letters unless they occur at the end of the simple form of the word: bet-ter, run-ning, *but* smell-ing;
- (d) *do not* divide before the final *-ed* if the *e* is not pronounced: relat-ed, *but not* loan-ed, fam-ed;
- (e) the division of consonants in combination is best shown by providing examples: dis-trust, man-gle, sub-ject, dis-tinc-tion

## T

**taaibos** n, D/Afk, x

see: karee

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

see: clingstone

**taal** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'language, tongue, speech'; 'The Taal' used in ref to the Afk language

**Taalbond**, Suid-Afrikaanse

Society formed in 1890 to encourage the use of D & later Afk; also offers examinations, the Higher & Lower Taalbond, wh are recognised as standards of proficiency in Afk

**Tablecloth**, the n, E, +

a special meaning is attached to this word in S Afr as it refers to the cloud wh covers Table Mountain during the summer months & is caused by the moisture-laden South Easter

see also: Cape doctor

**Table Mountain** place name, E, +

the flat-topped mountain on the Cape peninsula at the foot of wh lies Cape Town; a sheer precipice on the sth-est side; it rises to a height of more than 1250m; the table top is over 3 km long; flanked by Devil's Peak ( $\pm$  1100m) to the ea & Lion's Head ( $\pm$  725m) to the w; to the w of Lion's Head is a long line of buttresses, the Twelve Apostles

see also: Tablecloth

**tackies** n, E, +

S Afr equiv of 'tennis shoes, plimsoles, sandshoes' in GB

**tailer** n, E, +

see: elf(t)

**tainha** n, Port, x

see: springer (iii)

**take/bring**

see: bring/take

**take me up to here**

transl of a Ba expression used to indicate how tall a person is, the hand held close to the body; the hand is usu cupped, palm upwards, as superstition holds that a child will cease to grow if the palm is turned down

**take up** v, E, +

as in 'she *takes up* the baby, and holds it with care'

see: pick up

**takhaar** n, D/Afk, +

lit: tak = branch, bough; haar = hair, derogatory term originating in Cape D & applied to an unkempt, untrained, uncouth person; eg Marico takhaar

**Tamboekie** n, Ba, +

tribe living in the est Cape Province, wh takes its origin fr intermarriage between the Bu and the Amatembu

see also: Tembu

**tamboekiegrass** n, Ba/D/Afk/E, +

alt: tambukiegrass

general name for several species of *Cymbopogon*, *Hyparrhenia* & *Miscanthidium*

**tambotie** n, Ba, + (*Spirostachys africana*)

alt: Adlerholz, angelhout, headache tree, jumping-bean tree  
tree of the euphorbia family found only in Afr; has a round crown,  
rough blackish bark & small three-lobed fruit of wh the seed is often  
infested with larvae wh straighten & contract spasmodically, causing  
the seed to jump fr the ground; the bark exudes a highly toxic milky  
juice wh Ba used as fish & arrow poison, & is a favourite ingredient  
in the medicine of Ba witchdoctors; the name 'headache tree' refers  
to the pain caused by sawdust wh may enter the eye

**tambukiegrass** n, Ba/D/Afk, x

see: tamboekiegrass

**tameletjie** n, D/Afk, +

flat slab of dried fruit or a kind of toffee made of butter & sugar

**tampan** n, Tsw, + (*Ornithorus sauigryi*)

alt: chicken tick

any of various argasid ticks frequently found in fowl-runs; its bite  
can be particularly painful & irritating

**tasselfish** n, E, +

see: baardman

**tawny eagle** n, E, + (*Aquila rapax*)

common in the bushveld of the dry N-wst Transvaal; rapacious &  
powerful, it kills its own prey (game birds, small antelopes & other  
mammals) but will feed on carrion as well

**teach/learn**

see: learn

**tea-room** n, E, +

alt: café

Amer & S Afr equiv of 'café = a certain class of restaurant; tearoom



in GB is a *room* where tea is served, whereas in S Afr it can be the section set aside for serving light refreshments in a café or Greek shop wh also sells groceries, confectionery, etc

**tea-room bioscope** n, E, ?

see: bio café

**Tembu** n, Ba +

tribe living in the est Cape Province; member of this tribe

**temporary/temporarily** pronunc

[ ' t ɛ m p ə r ə r i ] + [ t ɛ m p ə ' r ɛ r i ] x;

[ ' t ɛ m p ə r ə r ə l i ] + [ t ɛ m p ə ' r ɛ r ə l i ] x

**tent-sail** n, E, +

canvas hood of a wagon eg ‘... Hans Engelbrecht’s wife and his eighteen-year-old daughter, Maria, were seated on the wagon, under the tent-sail...’

**terrestrial bulbul** n, E/prob Ar, +

see: bulbul

**than/as**

as in ‘This stone is heavier *than* that one’ *not* ‘... heavier *as...*’ wh is prob the infl of Afk ‘Hierdie klip is swaarder as daardie een’; if equality is expressed, then as... as, eg ‘Your apple is *as* big *as* mine’ see also: as ...as

**than I/me**

depending on whether *than* is used as a conj or a prep the nom or acc follows, eg *conj*: ‘He is taller than *I* (nom) (am)’, the sentence is elliptical; *prep*: ‘Good fortune favoured me more than (it(nom) favoured) *her* (acc); again the sentence is elliptical; in case of doubt mentally supply the words understood

**thank you,**

written as two separate words, *not* ‘thankyou’

**than what** x

‘She is older *than what* I thought’ x; ‘she is older *than* I thought’ +

**that**

Misused for ‘thus, to that degree, so very’, eg ‘Oh, it’s not *that* urgent’ x; ‘It’s not *so* urgent *as* all *that*’ +

**the (i)**

is *not* used before a place name followed by a noun, eg ‘Kano airport’ + ‘the Kano airport’ x; ‘Middelburg Station’ + ‘the Middelburg Station’ x

**the (ii) pronunc**

[ ð ə ] before consonants (other than silent *h*) & before initial vowels sounded [ ju ] eg *the* beautiful view, *the* haughty woman, *the* European manner, *the* United Nations; ɒ [ ð i ] before vowels & silent *h*, eg *the* Artful Dodger, *the* honest merchant

**the (iii) omission of**

see: definite article, omission of

**themselves**

see: myself

**the Reef** n, E, +

see: Reef (i) & (ii)

**therefrom/therein/thereof**

see: therein

**there's it**

incorrect word order, prob infl of Afk 'daar's dit', eg 'there's it, over there' x 'There it is, over there' +  
 see also: where's it

**these ones**

'these' is adequate, 'ones' is superfluous

**thick-tailed galago** n, E, +

see: bush baby

**thirty** pronunc

should not be carelessly pronounced 'thutty'  
 [ θ ɜ ti ] + [ θ ʌ t i ] x

**thornveld** n, E, +

veld in wh thorn-trees & bushes abound

**those ones**

see: these ones

**throw (i)**

someone with something x  
 transliteration of Afk 'iemand met iets gooi', eg 'I'll throw you with a stone' x 'I'll throw a stone at you' +

**throw (ii)**

the garden wet x  
 transliteration of Afk 'Gooi die tuin nat'; Water the garden' +

**throw (iii)**

as in '*throw up* the sponge'; '*throw in* the sponge' appears to be a S Africanism; '*throw up* the sponge' is more commonly used; cf '*throw in* the towel', '*throw down* the gauntlet'

**tick bird** n, E, + (*Bubulcus ibis*)

alt: cattle egret

bird wh keeps close to cattle, feeding on the insects & grasshoppers wh are disturbed by them while grazing; roosts in large heronries in trees; often seen with buffalo herds in the Kruger National Park; legs & bill yellow

see also: oxpecker

**tickey** n, ? , +

S Afr threepenny piece before decimalisation; poss introduced by the Cape Malays fr 'tiga' meaning 'three' or the Ngu 'ciki/tiki' = small; poss modification of Port 'pataca' & F 'patac' fr Port 'pataca'

**tickey drive** n, E, +

see: beetle drive

**tiekiedraai** v, D/Afk, + coll

movement in wh a dancing couple spins around in circles in 'volkspele'; an organised dance party

see also: volkspele

**tierboskat** n, D/Afk, x

see: serval

**tiger** n, E, +

see: spotted grunter

**tigerfish** n, E, + (*Hydrocynus vittatus*)

popular angling fish found in the lower stretches of the ea-flowing rivers of the Transvaal; survives only in warm waters; the horizontal black lines & the cartilaginous structures partly surrounding the eyes are characteristic of the species

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

semi-precious S Afr stone

**tigershark** n, E, +

see: skaamoog (ii)

**tikoloshe** n, Ba, x

see: tokoloshe

**title repetition**

see: repetition of noun, proper noun or title

**tjaila** v, Ba/Afk, + coll

[ t ∫ aila ]

to stop working, either for the lunch break or at the end of the working day; derived fr Zu 'shayisa', Xh'shiyela' & Tsw 'chaile'

**tjantalappie** n, Zu/Afk, + coll

alt: beshu

traditional loin-cloth or apron worn by Zu men

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

alt: tjorrie

[ ' t ∫ o r(i) ]

Afk equiv of 'jalopy'

**toad/frog**

see: frog

**toast**

a toast is proposed *to* someone, not *on* someone; incorrect prep prob used because of Afk infl ' 'n heildrank instel *op*'

**toby** n, E, + coll

see: blaasop

**toering** n, M, +

conical straw hat worn by Malays esp on festive occasions

**tog boy** n, E, + coll

Ba in Natal who works in urban areas & is licensed as a labourer & messenger; a badge & number indicate his status

**tokoloshe** n, Ba, +

alt: tikoloshe, tikolossie

in Ba folklore a goblin or river sprite, with a hairy tail; reputed to resemble a man but of smaller stature; feared for the powers he has to punish those who disrespect him; he is, nevertheless, supposed to like children

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

beetle of the genus *Psammodes*, wh makes a tapping noise apparently with its abdomen, hence the vernacular name wh is derived from D 'tokken' = to knock softly

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

schoolboys' game of knocking at doors and running way; word derived fr D 'tokken' = to knock softly

**tollie** n, Ba/D/Afk, +

alt: tolly

S Afr term for a castrated calf

**tolly** n, Ba/D/Afk, x

see: tollie

**tom** n, ? , x

prob abbr of 'tomfoolery', as in 'He gave me a lot of *tom* before I sacked him' x

**tommie** n, E, x

see: tommy

**ton**

the measure of weight, when used in the sing as a partitive, requires the sing form of the v, eg 'At least a *ton* of coal *is* required'; when used in the pl, the v must be in the pl form, eg '*Tons* of earth *are* being removed', 'Thousands of *tons* of steel *were* produced

**tongblaar** n, D/Afk, +

name applied to several species of *Rumex*; refers to the tongue (Afk tong)-like shape of the lower leaves (Afk blaar = leaf) of this plant

**too**

coll acceptable in such phrases as 'only *too* true', 'only *too* pleased', but should be avoided as a substitute for 'very', eg 'It is *too* good of you'; but used in an understatement, eg 'He wasn't *too* pleased' +

**too/also**

see: also

**toppie** n, D/Afk, x (*Pycnonotus capensis*)

alt: Cape bulbul

conspicuous, noisy, lively bird found in the Cape Province; usu seen in pairs; utters a call of 'pietmajol' or 'piet-piet-patata'; a pest in orchards

see also: bulbul

**torch lily** n, E, +

see: red hot poker

**tortoise plant** n, E, + (*Testudinaria elephantipes*)

alt: elephant's foot, Hottentot's bread

S Afr plant allied to the yam; has a large fleshy rootstock wh grows above the ground; the root surface becomes deeply fissured so

suggesting the carapace of a tortoise  
see also: elephant's foot, Hottentot's bread

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

alt: voorloper  
someone, usu a Ba child, leading a span of draught-animals by a 'riem' attached to the yoke of the two animals

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

dried, salted strips of fish, usu geelbek, a S Afr marine fish  
see also: bokkems

**traffic circle** n, E, +

S Afr equiv of 'roundabout' in GB, a more expressive term than the latter; used in Amer as well

**trailer** n, Amer E, +

short motion picture film consisting of snatches fr a feature picture, shown in advance for advertising purposes; term now commonly used by speakers of E

**Trans-Karoo** proper n, L/Hott, +

express train travelling fr Cape Town to Johannesburg & back, five times a week

**Trans-Natal** proper n, L, +

daily train service between Durban & Johannesburg in both directions.

**transpire**

figuratively equiv of 'to become known', 'to come to light', eg 'It *transpired* that he was not guilty of the crime'; sometimes loosely used to mean 'to happen, to occur'

**transport** pronunc

the n has the stress on the first syllable & the v on the second, eg



‘This matter concerns the Minister of *Transport*’; ‘He will help me to *transport* my furniture to Durban’

**transport driver** n, E, +

alt: transport rider

person who undertakes to transport goods, in former days by ox-wagon, now by motor truck

**transport rider** n, E, +

see: transport driver

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

see: bietou

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

see: boekenhout

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

see: dwarf boerboon

**Transvaal daisy** n, E, +

see: Barberton daisy

**Transvaal ebony** n, D/Afk/E, +

see: jakkalsbessie

**Transvaal gardenia** n, D/Afk/E, + (*Gardenia spatifolia*)

alt: wild gardenia, wilde katjiepiering

round-crowned shrub or tree, intricately branched; has a short trunk, smooth bark, spine-like branches almost at right angles to the stem, glossy leaves, waxy, white, sweet-scented flowers & round woody fruit wh is believed to be poisonous; the hard white wood is used by Ba for carving ornaments, & the roots for medicinal purposes

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

see: moepel

**Transvaal silverleaf** n, E, + (*Terminalia sericea*)

alt: sandvaalboom, sandvaalbos, sandgeelhout, silver terminalia, vaalboom, wild quince

medium to large semi-deciduous tree; dark branches spreading horizontally with silver-grey silky leaves, ill-smelling flowers & pink shield-shaped fruit in pendulous clusters; grows only in sandy soil; wood used for mine props

see also: silverleaf

**Transvaal suikerbos** n, D/Afk, + (*Protea caffra*)

alt: suikerbos, Transvaal protea

small gnarled tree peculiar to S Afr; rough black bark, leathery, dull grey-green leaves; flowers have large round heads surrounded with pink to red tipped bracts

see also: suikerbos

**Transvaal teak** n, D/Afk/E +

see: kiaat

**Transvaal wattle** n, E, +

see: African wattle

**tree cony** n, E, +

see: tree dassie

**tree dassie** n, E/D/Afk, + (*Dendrohyrax arboreus*)

alt: tree cony, tree hyrax

one of several mainly arboreal Afr hyraxes, similar in size & appearance to the rock hyrax

see also: dassie (i)

**tree fuchsia** n, E, +

see: weeping boerboon  
see also: fuchsia

**tree hyrax** n, E, +

see: tree dassie

**tree wistaria** n, E, +

see: Vanwykshout

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

organised migration, a journey by ox wagon, eg ‘The Great Trek’ = the migration of the Voortrekkers fr the Cape nthwards in 1836

**trek (ii)** v, D/Afk +

to migrate, to go on an overland journey usu under difficult conditions; to move one’s property; coll to go on holiday

**trek (iii)**

equiv of draught, migratory, etc prefixed to a noun +, eg trek-animal, trekboer, trek-fever, trek-ox, trek-rope

**trekker** n, D/Afk, +

person who migrates or goes on a journey, in particular the ‘Trekkers’ or ‘Voortrekkers’ who migrated fr the Cape nthwards in 1836

see also: Voortrekker

**trekking** adj, D/Afk/E, +

moving about, travelling, eg ‘... the *trekking* spirit of South Africans ...’

see also: trek

**trots van Franschhoek** n, D/Akf, +

see: blushing bride

**true facts**

‘true’ is superfluous as ‘facts’ are presumed to be ‘true’

**truffle n, F, + (*Terfezia pfeilii*)**

saprophytic fungus of the Kalahari, allied to the Eu species & regarded as a delicacy; primitive people of the Kalahari believe that it originates fr the sand itself, into wh it again becomes transformed

**trumpeter hornbill n, E, + (*Bycanistes buccinator*)**

bird found in Knysna, the coastal areas of Natal & the Est Transvaal; the largest of the arboreal hornbills; conspicuous large bill & casque, black & white plumage; the female casque is shorter & square in front; feeds chiefly on fruit  
see also: hornbill

**trunk n, Amer E, x**

alt: boot

the luggage compartment of an automobile; the British equiv ‘boot’ is used in S Afr, & is preferable to ‘trunk’

**try and/try to**

*try and* is more informal than *try to*; coll *try and* is common in such expressions as ‘*try and* make me’ (defiance), ‘*try and* get some sleep’ (exhortation); in most contexts, however, *try to* should not be replaced by *try and*, eg ‘We should *try to* establish contact with the Minister’

**tsama n, Hott, + (*Citrullus vulgaris*)**

see: kaffir watermelon

**tsar/czar/Tzar pronunc**

see: czar

**tseessebe n, Tsw, + (*Damaliscus lunatus lunatus*)**

alt: bastard hartebees(t), sassaby, tseesseby

large S Afr hartebees(t); dark purplish-red, the back & face almost black; regularly curved horns

**tsetse fly** n, Ba/E, +

dipterous insect (*Glossina morsitans* & all species of this genus) of the fam *Tabanidae*, common in parts of tropical & sth Afr; transmits the usu fatal disease 'nagana' to domestic stock & causes the dreaded 'sleeping sickness' in man

**Tukkie** n, abbr, + coll

student of the University of Pretoria, wh was formerly the *Transvaal University College* (Afk Kollege)

**Tuks** n, abbr, + coll

alt: Tukkies

the University of Pretoria wh was previously the *Transvaal University College* (Afk Kollege)

**tulp** n, D/Afk, +

name applied to a variety of irids known to be poisonous to cattle, eg bloutulp, geeltulp, kaapsebloutulp, rooitulp, Transvaal-bloutulp, etc

**turf** n, E, +

in S Afr a type of soil wh is fertile, black & greasy & cracks when dry but is clayey when wet; in Eu a sod of grass, with the roots & earth adhering, used since earliest times as fuel; also, a covering of grass & other plants, with its matted roots, forming the surface of grassland or, eg a race course  
see also: lawn

**Turfloop** n, D/Afk, +

the University of the North, an institution wh caters only for the Ba

**turfsoil** n, E, +

this may appear to be tautologous in S Afr E, but 'turf' is a

particular type of soil  
see also: turf

**turn**

in the sense of 'become, reach or surpass' (a certain age, time, amount) is common usage in Amer, GB & S Afr, 'She *has* just *turned* twelve' +

**twaagras** n, D/Afk, +

see: twagras

**twagras** n, D/Afk, +

alt: twaagras

collective name for several species of *Aristida* wh have plumose awns to the spikelets; typical grass of the Kalahari where it is an important fodder grass; the pref 'twa' is a contraction of 'um Twa' the self-styled name of the Bu

**twak** n, D/Afk, +

contraction of Afk 'tabak' used coll for 'tobacco' but also fig in the sense of 'nonsense; rubbish, good-for-nothing & to blazes with'

**Twickenham** pronunc

[ 'tw ɪ kn ə m ] + [ 'tw ɪ k ə n ə m ] x

**tzar/tsar/czar** pronunc

see: czar

**U**

**uhuru** n, Ba x

equiv of 'freedom, independence'; came into prominence when the first Afr states gained independence in the 1960's

**uitlander** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'alien, foreigner, outlander, stranger'  
see: outlander

**uitspan** v, D/Afk, x

see: outspan (ii)

**uitspanplek** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'outspan' or 'place for outspanning'  
see: outspan (i)

**umfaan** n, Ngu, + coll

equiv of 'small boy'; in Natal, a junior male servant employed to care for small children or perform general work

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

pl: Uppies  
student of the University of Port Elizabeth  
see also: Ikey, Matie, Tukkies, Witsie

**Ursula** pronunc

[ ʊ sju:lə ], rarely [ ʊ f ul ə ]

**usage/use**

*usage* = manner of using, esp of customary or habitual practice creating a standard, eg 'The *usage* of English in South Africa has been influenced by Afrikaans and the Bantu languages'; *use* = the act of using, application to a purpose eg 'The penalty for private *use* to avoid payment of postage is R100'

**used to**

the negative form is 'used not to' 'did not used to' x eg 'She *used not to* travel by train'

## V

**vaalboom** n, D/Afk, x

see: Transvaal silverleaf

**vaalbos** n, D/Afk, +

see: bloubos

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

cheap inferior white wine

see also: Cape smoke, peach brandy, witblits

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

lit: sallow belly

nickname for a Transvaler; member of a tribe of Bu in the nth Transvaal

see also: blikoor, woltoon

**vaal ribbok** n, D/Afk, x

see: grey rhebuck

**vadoek** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'dish cloth' 'glass cloth'

**vagary** pronunc

[vəgɛəri] is preferable to [veɪgəri]

**Van der Hum** prop n, D/Afk, +

S Afr liqueur made fr naartjies & spiced with cloves

**Vanwykshout** n, D/Afk, + (*Bolusanthus speciosus*)

alt: elephant's wood, Rhodesian wistaria, S Afr wistaria, tree wistaria or wild wistaria

graceful, semi-deciduous pod-bearing tree with a narrow crown &



branches drooping at the ends; green shiny compound leaves, deep violet scented flowers in drooping sprays & pods in pendulous bunches; the white, hard durable wood is used for furniture & fencing posts; vernacular name derived fr the surname of the man who apparently first specialised in using the wood; there is only one species of *Bolusanthus*

**vastrap** n, D/Afk, +

lit: vas = firm, trap = tread  
type of country dance originating fr the Hott

**vatterig** adj, D/Afk, x

fr Afk vat = 'take, touch, grip' as in 'That man is so *vatterig*' ie he is fond of pawing women

**veld** n, D/Afk, +

grassland in sth Afr wh is usu fairly level with scattered shrubs & trees

**veldskoen** n, D/Afk, x

see: velskoen

**veld sore** n, D/Afk/E +

contagious sore forming a shallow ulcer of unknown cause, usu affecting the legs & feet; occurs in the arid regions of sth Afr

**velskoen** n, D/Afk, +

alt: veldskoen  
formerly a homemade shoe of untanned leather, now a factory product; the variation in the spelling changes the meaning of the word, vel = hide, veld = grassland

**Venda** n, V,+

Ba tribe of the nth Transvaal; member or language of this tribe

**verkramp** adj, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'bigoted, convulsed' applied in a political sense in S Afr to the narrowminded members of the National Party, hence *the verkrampes* n pl

**verlep** v/adj, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'fade(d)', 'wilt(ed)'

**verlig** adj, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'enlightened', applied in a political sense in S Afr to the less narrowminded members of the National Party, hence *the verligtes* n pl

**vervet monkey** n, E, + (*Cerocopithecus aethiops pygerythrus*)

common Afr monkey with a grizzled yellowish-grey coat, black face, hands & feet, whitish side-whiskers & chest, & long, dark-tipped tail

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

Afk equiv of 'fatty, fatso'

**vlei** n, D/Afk +

shallow, marshy depression, in an arid expanse of veld, in wh water collects in the wet season; used in compounds, eg Makouvlei, vleipypie, vleiroos

**voetsek** int, D/Afk, x

S Afr expletive used to scare off or chase away a dog (prob an abbr of 'voort se ek! ' = Away say I! '); it is claimed that dogs elsewhere also react to the exclamation

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

as in 'a voetstoots sale', ie an auction sale at wh goods are bought without closer inspection

**Volksraad** n, D/Afk, +

once the legislative assembly of the Transvaal & Orange Free State Republics, elected by the enfranchised voters & forming the legislative authority sometimes with the Senate or the Second House & the Head of State, sometimes alone; Afk equiv of the House of Assembly

**voorskot** n, D/Afk, ?

money advanced; loan; partial remuneration, in advance of balance (known as 'agterskot') that has to follow  
see also: agterskot

**vrotpootjies** n, D/Afk, ?

plant disease caused by a minute worm wh is known in the Transvaal as the 'eel worm' (*Anguillulidae*) & in the Cape Province as the 'root gall worm'

**vry** v, D/Afk, x

[freɪ]

to caress, fondle, embrace, cuddle, woo, court, make love, flirt, whence 'vryer' = lover, 'vryerig' = amorous & 'vryery' = love making

## W

**waatlemoenkonfyt** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'watermelon preserve'

**warthog** n, E, + (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*)

Afr wild pig, grey in colour, with a long crest of bristly hairs down the back of the neck & shoulders; conspicuous warts protrude on either side of the face below the eyes; the long tusks curve upwards

**waslap** n, D/Afk, x

alt: waslappie

Afk equiv of 'face cloth, flannel'

**Weg is jy!** int, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of ‘begone, away with you!’ used in a jocular vein

**who’s**

is a contraction of ‘who is’ & should not be confused with *whose*, the poss case of *who*, eg ‘For students *who’s* bent is decidedly literary, the recommended course is English I’ x ‘... *whose* bent...’ + see also: it’s

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

lit: Afk ‘white lightning’  
cheap, potent spirit distilled fr peaches or grapes  
see also: Cape smoke, peach brandy, vaaljapie

**Wits** n, abbr, + coll

the University of the Witwatersrand

**Witsie** n, abbr, + coll

student of the University of the Witwatersrand  
see also: Wits

**Witwatersrand** prop n, D/Afk, +

[v i t v ɔ t ɜ z r æ n d / r a n t]  
the gold fields, mining towns & cities situated along the gold reef in and around, Johannesburg; the pronunc [ v ] of the initial consonant should be retained as the anglicised version [w i t] changes the meaning fr ‘white’ (Afk ‘wit’) to E ‘wit’

## X

**Xhosa** n, Xh, +

abbr of Amaxhosa, Ba tribe of the est Cape Province; originally known as the Abanguni after an early chief, Mnguni; a member of the tribe; the language spoken by the tribe, wh has characteristic clicks

## Y

**yellow ground** n, E, +

characteristic geological formation occurring in the diamondiferous layers at Kimberley, where it overlies the blue ground; at first it was believed that only yellow ground contained diamonds

**yellow rice** n, E, +

transl of Afk 'geelrys', a traditional S Afr dish of M origin consisting of rice boiled with raisins, turmeric & sugar

**yes** pronunc

[ j ε s ] + [ j ε ə s ] x [ j i s ] x

**yesterday** pronunc

[ j ε st ə de i ] + [ j i st ə de i ] x

**you lie!**

x; transl of Afk 'Jy jok! '

## Z

**Zoo Train** n, E, + coll

nickname used for the train on wh civil servants travel fr Pretoria to Cape Town (& back) in order to attend the parliamentary session fr January to June each year

**Zulu** n, Zu, +

Ba tribe of nth Natal known as Zululand; once fierce & warlike with powerful leaders; member of the tribe; the language spoken by these people

**Zululand** n, Zu/E, +

area in nth-est Natal inhabited by the Zu