

## L

### **la(a)ger** n, D/Afk, +

obs in Afk, now 'laer'  
emergency Vootrekker camp encircled by wagons, the gaps between filled with thorn bushes, to secure maximum protection against attack by Ba tribes; people drawn together in a defensive group because of their ideals, eg 'the verkrampte laer'

### **-laagte** suff, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'lowland'; used in place names, eg 'Langlaagte'

### **lady** n, E, +

a woman, whether married or unmarried, is formally addressed as 'Madam', not 'Lady', eg 'Good morning, Madam, may I assist you?'; the pl of *madam* in this case is *ladies*; 'Lady' as an appellation, is reserved for titled persons, eg 'Lady Fraser'; 'Mrs, Madame' as a prefix to a lady's name has the pl 'Mesdames'; in S Afr E 'lady/ladies' is incorrectly used for 'woman/women', eg 'Men and women (*not* necessarily ladies) attended the meeting'

### **lady fingers** n, E, +

common name in Natal for a species of small, deliately flavoured banana (*Musa paradisiaca*) wh is angular in shape and yellowish green in colour

### **lakboom** n, D/Afk, x

see: kiaat

### **lamentable** pronunc

[ 'læməntəbl ]

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

common S Afr name for *Botulinus*, a disease in cattle & sheep

**lance tree** n, E, +

see: appelblaar

**land(s)/field** n, E, +

in S Afr E the area on a farm suitable for cultivation; landed property, estates; 'field' is used in the sense of 'rugby field, sports field', etc

**landdros(t)** n, D/Afk, +

S Afr equiv of 'magistrate'

see also: drosdy, drosteny

**lantern fish** n, E, +

see: butterflyfish (ii)

**lapa (i)** adv, Fanagalo, +coll

here, there, that, eg lapa side

**lapa (ii)** n, So, ?

open space or yard in front of Ba huts enclosed by a mud or reed wall

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

Afk equiv of 'cloth' or 'rag', eg 'waslappie' = face cloth

S Afr E, flannel GB

**largemouth bass** n, E, + (*Micropterus salmoides*)

popular sporting fish, originally imported from N Amer, wh thrives in warm, clear waters of dams; it is popular as a sport fish as it can be caught on artificial lures

**largemouth kurper** n, E, + (*Serranochromis meridianus*)

tropical fish with a conspicuous large protractile mouth, opening obliquely to the top, wh distinguishes it from the closely related canary kurper

**largemouth yellowfish** n, E, + (*Barbus kimberleyensis*)

the largest scaled fish in S Afr waters, mainly a predator with a preference for large, open waters of strongly flowing streams

**large-scaled yellowfish** n, E, + (*Barbus marequensis*)

the most common yellowfish of our east-flowing river systems

**lark-like bunting** n, E, +

see: klipmossie

**last/past** adj, E, +

*last* implies finality, eg 'He spent the last years of his life in Paris', ie he then died there; *past* implies continuity, eg 'He has spent the past few years in Paris', ie he is still living there

**latter** adj, E, +

refers to the second of *two* objects mentioned, *not* the last of a *number* of objects, eg 'I have a white and a pink pearl; the *latter* is the more valuable' +; 'It takes many ingredients to make a good cake, flour, milk, sugar, eggs and butter, the *last* of which is indispensable' +

**lawaimaker** n, D/Afk, x

see: chorister robin

**lawn** n, E, +

closely mown grass-covered portion of a garden; in GB also untilled or grass-covered ground

**lay-by** n, E, +

the widening or branch of a road, for parking vehicles; deposit paid on an article, wh is forfeited unless the balance is paid  
see also: resting place

**lay/lie** v, E, +

the tenses of these verbs give rise to confusion

- (i) to lie = to make a false statement
- (ii) to lie = to be in a horizontal position
- (iii) to lay = to produce an egg, to set the table, etc.

	inf	p tense	pp	pres p	
(i) to lie		lied	lied	lying	
(ii) to lie		lay	lain	lying	
(iii) to lay		laid	laid	laying	eg
(i)	He lies (lied, has lied, is lying), ie he tells (told, has told, is telling) lies;				
(ii)	I lie (lay, have lain, am lying) on the bed;				
(iii)	The hen lays (laid, has laid, is laying) an egg				

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

see: skaamoog (ii)

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

see: luihaai

**leadfish** n, E, + (*Labeo molybdinus*)

found in the east-flowing rivers of the Transvaal; the posterior edge of the dorsal fin is concave & as a rule only a single pair of barbels is present

**lead water, to** v/n, E, +

prob lit transl of Afk 'waterlei', a particular method of irrigation; expression also used in Amer E

**leadwood** n, E, + (*Combretum imberbe*)

alt: elephant-tusk tree, hardekool, ironwood, ivory tree, lignum-vitae tree, loodhout, ysterhout

medium-sized to large deciduous tree with small, pale, grey-green leaves, small, winged fruits & pale yellow flowers; wood exceedingly

hard, used mainly for ornaments, fencing posts, mine props & sleepers; as fuel it retains heat for a long time & the hardness of the charcoal produced after burning has given rise to the Afk name 'hardekool' (hard charcoal); 'lead' refers to the weight of the wood

**learn/teach** v, E, +

*learn*: to be informed, to get to know, to gain knowledge, skill or ability; *teach*: to show, direct, impart knowledge or art to someone, eg If a teacher *teaches* well, his pupils will soon *learn*

**lease/hire/let/rent** v, E, +

see: hire

**lechwe** n, Ba, + (*Onotragus leche leche*)

alt: basterwaterbok

large Afr antelope, related to the waterbuck

**leervis** n, D/Afk, x (*Hypocanthus amia*)

alt: garrick

game fish wh prefers live or moving bait, known as garrick in Natal

**legua(a)n** n, Sp/F/D/E, +

alt: guana, iguana, likkewaan

large lizard of the fam *Iguanidae*

**lekker** adj/adv, D/Afk, x

there is no need to use this word since equivalents are available in E, eg 'nice, delicious, pleasant, tasty, savoury, palatable, pleasurable, enjoyable, fine, good, well'

**lekkerbreek** n, D/Afk, + (*Ochna pulchra*)

alt: Barnard-gif, broshout, peeling-bark Ochna, pypsteelhoutboom, rooihout, seermaak, zeerbos, zeermaak

ornamental small to medium-sized tree with narrow crown; the fruit is said to be poisonous, but is rich in oil; the vernacular name means 'easy to break' & refers to the brittleness of the wood wh is red in colour; the name 'seermaak' refers to the toxic properties of the tree

**Lemba n, Ba, +**

Ba tribe residing amongst the Bavenda; their features are less Negroid than those of other tribes of S Afr & their customs are in many respects distinctly Hamitic  
see also: Bavenda

**lemonade tree n, E, +**

see: baobab

**lend/borrow v, E, +**

see: borrow/lend

**lend/loan v, E, +**

*loan* as the v for *lend* is Amer E, eg 'I *loaned* him my book'; 'I *lent* him my book' is more acceptable; *loan* as the n means a thing lent, esp money at interest

**leopard shark (i) n, E, + (*Stegostoma fasciatum*)**

alt: monkey-mouth (India), zebra shark  
occurs fr Algoa Bay ea-wards

**leopard shark (ii) n, E, +**

see: skaamoog (ii)

**lesser flamingo n, E, +**

see: flamingo

**less/fewer adj, E, +**

see: fewer/less

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

the imperative form of this v should be followed by the dat prons, eg 'Let *us* go to town'; 'Let *him* and *me* speak', rather than the nom prons, eg 'Let *he* and *I* speak'

**let** (ii) hire/lease/rent v, E, +

see: hire

**Libertas** n, L, +

the name of the S Afr Prime Minister's official residence in Pretoria

**library** pronunc

[ 'larbrəri ] + , [ 'larbri ] x

**licence/license** sp

the n always ends in -ce, eg 'My *licence* has expired'; the v may have s or c, but the modern tendency is to prefer s as in *practise*, *prophesy*, *advise*; the past tense and pp formed from this v are spelt with an s

**lie/lay** v, E, +

see: lay

**liedjie** n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'song, tune, ditty, ballad'

**lift up** v, E, +

to lift = to raise to a higher position, take up, hoist;  
*lift up* might be regarded as tautologous but the additional prep does add meaning and emphasis, cf 'I shall lift *up* mine eyes unto the hills', and 'I shall lift mine eyes unto the hills', alt: 'I shall raise mine eyes...'

**lighted candles** n, E, + (*Loranthus natalitius*)

partial parasite on trees; the arrangement & colouring of the flowers resemble small lighted candles in a miniature old-fashioned candelabra

**lignum-vitae tree** n, L/E, +

see: leadwood

**like** (i) adj/adv, E, +

used as an adj, eg 'He is *like* his father' + (*like* here qualifies *he*); as an adv, eg 'She sings *like* a nightingale' +, but not as a conj, eg 'I cannot work *like* you do' x, *as* you do +

**like** (ii) adj, E, +

when *like* introduces an adj phr, care should be taken to see that the phr qualifies precisely the n intended; thus, the sentence 'The Transvalers now wanted an educated president *like* the Free State' x; this should read, 'The Transvalers ... the Free Staters ...'; or 'The Transvaal ... the Free State ...'

**like** (iii) conj, E, +

for 'as if, as though' x, eg 'It looks *like* it is going to rain' x, 'It looks *as if* (as though) it is going to rain' +

**like** (iv) v, E, +

this can be followed by the inf or the pres p, eg 'I like *to dance*, or *dancing*'; the pres p is preferable after *dislike*, eg 'We dislike *hearing* gossip'; after *should* or *would like* use the inf, eg 'I should like *to know*...'

**like so** adv, E, x

sl for 'like this', 'in this manner', eg 'Do it *like so*' x



**lilac-breasted roller** n, E, +

see: Mosilikatze's roller

**limbo** n, ? , ?

applied to certain kinds of cotton prints, used in trade and barter with the Ba

**liquorice** pronunc

alt: licorice

[ 'lɪkə rɪs ] in GB, [ 'lɪkə rɪʃ ] in S Afr;

in GB the word 'liquorish' meaning 'fond of liquor' has the latter pronunc, prob perverting the sense of 'lickerish'

**literary** pronunc

[ 'lɪtərə ri ] + [ 'lɪtəri ] x

**little egret** n, E, + (*Egretta garzetta*)

small white heron with a distinctive black bill, black legs & yellow feet, commonly seen in vleis or near rivers

**Little Kar(r)oo** n, Hott, +

see: Kar(r)oo

**little/less** n, E, +

as ns these are followed by the sing v, eg 'Less than fifty tons was unloaded', 'Little remains of what was once the Roman Empire'

**live** v, E, +

in combination with a period of time, demands the correct tense, eg 'He *lived* in Parys for thirty years' implies that he is *no longer* living there; 'He *has been living* in Parys for thirty years' implies that he is *still* living there

see also: last/past

**live/stay** v, E, +

see: stay

**Livingstone's antelope** n, E, +

see: suni

**loan/lend** v, E, +

see: lend/loan

**lobola** n, Ba, +

Ba custom whereby a wife is acquired in exchange for the number of cattle agreed upon by the bridegroom and the bride's father

**location** n, E, +

S Afr term for a Ba township

**locust-bird** n, E, +

see: wattled starling

**loerie** n, M/D/Afk, +

alt: lory, lourie, loury

various species of medium-sized forest or savanna birds of the fam *Musophagidae*, peculiar to Afr, the former having beautiful green, purple & red plumage & the latter being plain coloured; loeries feed on fruit & berries & utter harsh cries; amongst the species are *Corythaixoides concolor* (grey lourie), *Gallirex porphyreolophus* (purple-crested loerie), *Turacus corythaix* (Knysna loerie)

**long/tall** adj, E, +

see: tall/long

**longevity** pronunc

[lɒn'dʒɛvəti] + [lɒn'gɛvəti] +

**longfin tunny or tuna** n, E, +

see: Albacoe (ii)

**longitude** pronunc

[ 'lɒndzɪtʃud]

[ 'lɒndzɪtʃud] + [ 'lɒŋ gɪtʃud] +

**long-tail cassia** n, E, + (*Cassia abbreviata*) Oliv.

subsp. *beareana* (Holmes Brenan)

alt: candle tree, cloth-of-gold, kersboom

round-crowned medium-sized tree with a slender, straight trunk, dark bark and drooping branches; the common name refers to the long pods wh resemble tails

**long-tailed widow-bird** n, E, +

see: sakabula

**loodhout** n, D/Afk, x

see: leadwood

**looproad** n, E, +

term used in S Afr national parks for a circular drive

**loquat** n, Chinese, +

fruit of *Eriobotrya japonica*, a tree native to China and Japan, introduced to sth Europe, India, Australia and sth Afr

**lory, lourie, loury** M/D/Afk, +

see: loerie

**lose/loose/loosen** v, E, +

*lose* and *loose* are frequently misspelt; to lose [luz] = to mislay, to cease to have, eg 'If you *lose* that ring, you will regret it'; to loose

[lus] = to undo, to set free, eg 'Loose the dog and let him run after the rabbit'; *to loosen* = to relax or slacken, to make looser, eg 'Loosen his collar so that he can breathe more freely';

NB loose (adj) = not tense or stretched, unbound, eg 'His shoelace is loose'

**love grass** n, E, +

see: Cape grass

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

low-lying area, esp the N-est Transvaal, with a sub-tropical climate

see also: bushveld

**Lowveld bauhinia** n, E/? , +

see: Pride of de Kaap

**lucky bean climber** n, E, + (*Arbus precolorius*)

the small, hard, red & black seeds of this climber, wh contain a poison, are well known as ornaments & charms; the lucky bean creeper is found in the Kruger National Park & is widely distributed in tropical Afr & Asia

**lucky bean tree** n, E, +

see: kaffirboom

**luihaai** n, D/Afk/x (*Poroderma africanum*)

alt: dogfish, lazyshark, striped dogfish

found fr False Bay to Madagascar

**lung-sickness** n, E, +

lung disease in cattle

**luxuriant/luxurious** adj, E, +

*luxuriant* implies rich growth; *luxurious* conveys the idea of luxury, comfort, eg 'The gardens were *luxuriant*'; 'They lived in a *luxurious* house'

## M

**maanhaarjakkals** n, D/Afk, ?

see: aardwolf

**maar** adv, D/Afk, x

*maar*, like *sommer*, *darem* & *mos*, used in a certain sense in Afk, has no equiv in E, but is sometimes borrowed by S Afr E speakers to serve the same purpose, eg 'You will *maar* have to do as he says, if only to keep the peace'; 'It would be better to do as he says ...'

**maartblom** n, D/Afk, x

see: blood-flower

**maas** n, Ngu, x

see: amasie

**maasbanker** n, D/Afk/x (*Trachurus trachurus*)

alt: horse mackerel

edible fish which occurs in most parts of the Atlantic but is not common east of the Cape

**mabela** n, Zu, +

ground kaffircorn (*Sorghum caffrorum*) sold under various trade names & used to make porridge

see also: kaffircorn

**maccoa duck** n, prob Port/D/E, + (*Oxyura maccoa*), formerly

(*Anas punctata*)

alt: muscovy duck, makou  
species of duck widely distributed over S Afr found in small dams or quiet waters, always in the vicinity of reeds; very difficult to put to flight because of its diving ability

**madumbi(e)** n, Zu, + (*Arum esculentum*)

see: amadumbi(e)

**maelstrom** pronunc

[ ' meɪlstrəm ]

**magistraat** n, D/Afk, +

see: red stumpnose

**maheus** n, Ba, ?

alt: suurpap

fermented liquid mealie-meal porridge

**mahoniehout** n, D/Afk, x

see: Natal mahogany

**maid** n, E, +

in S Afr E a Ba or Coloured servant

see also: ayah, boy, girl, nanny, nursemaid

**maintenance** pronunc

[ ' meɪntənəns ] or [ -tɪn-, -tənəns ]

**Maizena** n, Sp/E, +

S Afr trade name for a brand of cornflour

**makdagga** n, Afk/Hott, +

see: dagga

**make**

'He *made* his matric last year' is an Afrikanerism x in the sense of 'sat for' or 'passed' an examination

**make a fire** v, E, ?

S Africanism for 'set a fire' or 'set & light a fire' prob infl of the Afk 'vuurmaak'

**make a plan** +coll

as a synonym for 'arrange something' is a S Africanism that prob owes its origin to the Afk 'n plan maak'

**mal** adj, D/Afk, x

· Afk equiv of 'mad'

**Malay** n, M, +

the Islamic Malays in Cape Town are the descendants of political exiles & slaves who were brought to the Cape in the 17th century from the Malay peninsula

**mampara** n, Ba, +coll

alt: mamparra, mompar(r)a

raw, untrained, unskilled, inexperienced person, used particularly for such Ba; in Fanagalo 'waste material'

**mampoer** n, Ba, +coll

potent alcoholic drink distilled by Ba from wild fruit, esp maroelas, but also from peaches; name may have been derived from the personal name of the captain of a Pedi tribe, Mampuru, or from the name of a Ba tribe in Sekukuniland, Mapogger

see also: Cape smoke, maroela, peach brandy, skokiaan, vaaljie, witblits

**man** int, E, +

used in Amer, Canadian & S Afr E as an expletive to express excitement or to draw attention, eg 'Man! it's good to see you!'; in GB, as an impatient or lively vocative, eg 'Hurry up, man'

**mapasjaan** n, NSo, +coll

[mã 'pãʃan]

rough, home-made Ba sandal of wh the sole is cut fr a tyre or piece of untanned leather

**maraba-raba** n, Ngu, +coll

popular dice game, similar to checkers, & Nine-men's Morris, played by groups of Ba on street pavements on wh they draw the appropriate squares

**marabou stork** n, F/E, + (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*)

alt: maribou stork

a stork, recognisable by its dark back & white underparts, huge horn-coloured bill, bare & ugly head crowned with bristly hair, & pink neck pouch; has adopted the habits of vultures; many have been killed because of a superstition & for the economical value of the feathers

**maraca** n, Port, +

species of *Cucurbita*, gourd-like types of edible vegetables prepared like marrow

**maribou stork** n, F/E, +

see: marabou stork

**marijuana** n, Sp, +

see: dagga



**marimba** n, Ba, +

see: kaffir piano

**marogo** n, NSo, +coll

the leaves of various garden weeds, used by the Ba as spinach

**marsh rose** n, E, + (*Orothamnus zeyheri*)

very rare, protected protea of the Cape Province, with reddish flower heads that resemble large rosebuds, wh accounts for the vernacular name

**martial eagle** n, E, + (*Polemaëtus bellicosus*)

powerful & rapacious eagle with great talons and a wing span of more than 2 m; feeds on small mammals, eg squirrels, even small antelopes, reptiles, etc; constructs a large nest (approx 2 m across) of sticks, usu on tree tops

**martingulu** n, ? , +

shrub found on the Natal coast; an edible red fruit with a milky sap

**marula** n, NSo, + (*Sclerocarya caffra*)

alt: maroela

large tree with smooth bark, compound glossy blue-green leaves, & fruit the size of an apricot; wood used to some extent for furniture & pannelling & extensively by the Ba for stamping blocks, spoons, etc; the edible fruit is used by Europeans for making jelly & by the Ba for brewing liquor; the kernels contain oil wh is extracted by boiling & used by the Ba; the bark provides an antidote against malaria; the marula is the host of a small beetle (*Polydada*) of wh the highly poisonous grubs are used by the Bu as an ingredient of arrow poison; this tree is also one of the hosts of the mopane caterpillar wh is roasted & eaten by most Ba & Bu tribes; because of its many uses the tree is cultivated

**mary** n, -, +coll

see: sammy

**Mashona** n, Ba, +

Afr tribe in est Rhodesia whose origin is little known but they are believed to have occupied much of their present territory as far back as the 16th century; of peaceful disposition, they were noted for their skill in iron-work as well as in trade

see also: Shona

**Matabele** n, Ngu, +

Afr tribe living principally in the Nth Transvaal and sth Rhodesia; more correctly Amandebele or Ndebele, the name meaning 'those who disappear'

**mathematics**

as a science, takes the sing v, eg 'Mathematics *is* an important subject' +, 'Mathematics *was* never my strong point' +, but, 'If my mathematics *are* correct, it amounts to...' +, mathematics lesson, teacher, etc, without an apostrophe

**Matie** n, Afk, +coll

coll for a student of the University of Stellenbosch, prob from 'tamatie' in reference to the red colour of their rugby jerseys; hence 'Maties', the University itself

**matjiesgras** n, D/Afk, + (*Aristida sabulicola*)

used by the Nama Hottentots for plaiting mats with wh to cover their huts

**matome** n, Xh, +

alt: matumi

Ba name applied to species of tree, eg hill matome or bush matome (*Diospyros mespiliformis*) water matome (*Adina galpinii*)

**matriculate** v, E, +

in S Afr E to pass the final secondary school examination, thus matriculation or abbr matric

**matriculation** n, E, +

in S Afr E the examination that qualified a student for admission to a university; since streaming was introduced known as the University Entrance Examination; the alt School Leaving Certificate does not qualify a student for admission to a university

**Mau Mau** n, Kikuyu, +

Afr terroristic movement in Kenya; member or adherent of this movement

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

see: afrikaner (iii)

**may/can**

see: can/may

**mayor** pronunc

in GB ['mɛɪə] +, in S Afr ['mɛjə] x

**me/him for I/he**

'*Him* and *me* went' x, 'John and *me* are going' x, *me* and *him* are the acc & dat cases of the prons *I* and *he* (cf also *she/her*, *we/us*, *they/them*) and cannot be used as the subj of a sentence, where the nom is used, therefore '*He* and *I* went; John and *I* are going +, in addition the first person sing pron should follow the ns and prons of other persons, eg Robert and *I* are great friends

**me (for myself)**

'I am going to buy *me* a book' x; the correct form of the pron here is

the refl 'myself', if it is necessary to emphasize for whom the book is to be bought

see also: pronouns, reflexive

**mealie** n, Port/D/Afk, + (*Zea mays*)

S Afr equiv of 'maize' in GB & 'corn' in Amer; 'green mealie' = 'corn on the cob' in Amer

**mealie-meal** n, Port/D/Afk/E, +

maize meal, a coarse flour made of mealies; principal food of Ba

see also: pap, putu, stywe pap, suurpap

**mealie-pap** n, D/Afk/E, +

mealie porridge made to a stiff consistency so that it can be eaten with the fingers

**mealie-rice** n, D/Afk/E, +

alt: crushed mealies

crushed ripe mealie seeds wh may be boiled like rice or used as chicken feed

**measuring stick** n, E, ?

S Africanism for 'rod, tape', etc, for measuring, as tape-measure, yard-measure, measuring-rod, carpenter's rule, etc; term prob transl of Afk equiv 'maatstok'

**mebos** n, Jap or Ar/D/Afk, +

confection prepared fr minced apricots; name derived either fr the Jap 'umeboshi', an article of diet made fr plums, for wh the recipe was introduced to the Cape by early D merchantmen, or fr Ar 'mush-mush' wh means 'apricot'

**medicine-horn** n, E, +

animal horn in wh medicine-men & witch-doctors keep their muti  
see also: medicine-man, muti, witch-doctor

**medicine-man** n, E, +

witch-doctor or influential member of Ba tribe reputed to possess special magical powers or the ability to predict events; the word is more commonly used of the Amerindian religious healer or sorcerer, whereas 'witch-doctor' is more appropriate to the professional worker of magic in a primitive Afr society

**Medley Wood's acacia** n, E, +

see: paperbark thorn

**meelbol** n, D/Afk, +

traditional food for infants amongst the Boers, composed of finely ground maize or flour, boiled while wrapped tightly in a cloth & afterwards mixed with milk

**meercat** n, D/Afk, +

lit: sea cat; small mammal found in many parts of S Afr, including the Est Province, Namaqualand, Griqualand Ea & other areas; usu lives in burrows & eats insects, reptiles & other small creatures; there are two varieties, the bushy-tailed meerkat (alt: roomeerkat or yellow mongoose) (*Cynictis penicillata*), and the slender-tailed meerkat (alt: suricate meercat or graatjie-meerkat) (*Suricata suricata*), both are popular as pets

**meitjie** n, D/Afk, x (*Chrysococcyx klaas*)

see: Klaas's cuckoo

**melkbos** n, D/Afk, + (*Euphorbia helioscopia*)

shrub of wh the sap is caustic & milky

**melkkos** n, D/Afk, ?

dish prepared mainly fr milk & flour, with the addition of sugar, eggs, butter & cinnamon, served hot

see also: snysels

**melksnysels** n, D/Afk, ?

see: snysels

see also: melkkos

**melktert** n, D/Afk, +

alt: milk tart

traditional S Afr pastry, a kind of custard pie

**melkvis** n, D/Afk, + (*Parascorpis typus*)

found in S Afr from the Cape to Delagoa Bay; not very common

**memorable** pronunc

[ 'mɛmərəbl̩ ] + [ mɛmrəbl̩ ] +

**merely**

adv such as merely, just, only & almost should be placed immediately before the words they modify, otherwise the meaning may become ambiguous, eg 'I *merely* asked for what was left' implies that 'I requested rather than demanded what was left'; 'I asked *merely* for what was left' means 'I asked for nothing in excess of what was left'

**Messrs**

should be used before the names of businesses or firms if these include personal names, eg Messrs F.G. Alexander & Co, Messrs Jenkins, Brown & Wilson, Ltd; if the firm is controlled by a woman it would be best to write Margaret Worth & Co.

**meter maid** n, E, +coll

alt: ticket tannie

female traffic warden

**metrication** n, E, +

a term suggested by the OED editors at the request of the S Afr

Bureau of Standards, and adopted in S Afr when the Imperial system of weights and measures was replaced by the metric system; thereafter introduced to Australia; also used in conj with another n, eg Metrication board

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

ridge between wheel tracks on a dirt road

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

geographical area in Transvaal between Lowveld & Highveld

**mielie** n, Port/D/Afk, x

see: mealie

**mieligif** n, D/Afk, ?

see: rooibloem(metjie)

**miggel** n, D/Afk, +

see: red stumpnose

**migrate**

see: emigrate/immigrate/migrate

**militate/mitigate**

*militate* = to make war, to exert influence, eg 'At last housewives are beginning to *militate* against the high cost of living'; *mitigate* = to reduce the severity of, appease (anger), alleviate (pain), etc, eg 'She did her best to *mitigate* the disastrous effects of his actions'

**milk boy** n, E, +

S Afr equiv of 'milkman' in GB; usu a Ba

see also: boy

**Milne** pronunc

there is no vowel between the l & n; the pronunc is therefore [ 'mɪln ]  
see also: film/helm

**mimosa** n, E, +

incorrectly applied to several species of *Acacia*, especially to *A. karroo* (doringboom); one species of mimosa, *M. exasperata* occurs in the est Transvaal

**mini-tot** n, E, +

a tot of 25 millil of spirit served in S Afr bars

**misbredie** n, D/Afk, ?

common name applied to several species of *Amaranthus* and *Chenopodium* because the plants are generally found in sheltered places in kraals where they germinate from seed contained in the droppings (Afr mis) of animals that feed on the plants; the leaves are used for making a 'bredie'  
see also: bredie

**mischievous** pronunc

[ 'mɪʃtʃəvəs ] +, [ mɪs'tʃɪvəs ] x

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

lit: dung cake

Afk term for a cow-pat or cow-dung, in S Afr E the word 'miskoek' seems to be common; used as fuel by Ba & mixed with clay to plaster floors, whence miskoek-fire, misvloer

**miskruier** n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of a 'dung-beetle, dung-roller, scarab, tumble-bug'; an insect of the order *Coleoptera*, & fam *Scarabaeidae*

**misogamist/mysogynist**

misogamist [ mɪs'ɒgə'mɪst ] fr Gk miseo (hate) + gemos (marriage)  
misogynist [ mɪs'ɒdʒɪnɪst ] fr Gk miseo + guné (woman)



**misrybol (-ry(ers)blom) n, D/Afk, +** (*Amaryllis belladonna*)  
(*Haemanthus coccineus*)

alt: maartblom

plants of both species flower when the wine farmers begin to cart (Afk ry) manure (Afk mis) into the vineyards, whence the vernacular name

**Miss Lucy n, E, +**

see: red stumpnose

**Mist Belt n, E, +**

term used in several parts of S Afr for mountainous regions noted for their cool misty climate, particularly in the Nth Transvaal & Natal

**misvloer n, D/Afk, +**

the floor, usu of a primitive hut or dwelling, that has been plastered with a mixture of cow-dung & clay

see also: miskoek, perskepitvloer

**mkwakwa n, Tsonga, +** (*Strychnos innocua*)

alt: kaffir-orange, klapper, monkey-orange small deciduous tree of the monkey-orange fam (*Loganiaceae*) with a spreading crown, thick branches & an edible fruit the size of a small orange with a hard woody shell & sweet pulp

see also: klapper, suurklapper

**moan v, E, +coll**

'moan' in the sense of 'complain' enjoys a wide currency in S Afr

**mobola plum n, Ba/E, +** (*Parinari curatellifolia* subsp *mobola*)

alt: boomgrysappel, cork tree, grysappel, hissing tree, sandapple  
small to large almost evergreen spreading tree with drooping branches, rough corky bark, stiff leathery leaves & plum-like greyish brown egg-shaped fruits hanging in large bunches; wood very hard;

bark used for tanning; fruit edible; the kernels have a high oil content

**mocking chat** n, E, + (*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*)

alt: dassievoël

very local species of bird, confined to steep cliffs & kloofs, shy but becomes remarkably tame; lively, attractive & somewhat noisy

**Modjadji palm/Modjaje's palm** n, Ba/E, +

see: breadfruit tree

**moeg** adj, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'tired, fatigued, weary'

**moepel** n, So, + (*Mimusops aeyheri*)

alt: red milkwood, Transvaal melkhout

shrub or small evergreen spreading tree with a single, sometimes twisted trunk, rough bark, leathery glossy leaves on slender stalks, exuding a milky juice when pricked; wood used for general wood-work

**mole snake** n, E, + (*Pseudaspis cana*)

found throughout Afr, mainly in sandy regions; the common name is derived from the habit of burrowing just below the surface of the sand, usu to avoid detection, but also when searching the burrows of rodents; when molested or first captured, mole snakes are inclined to hiss & bite, but they soon become extremely tame & thrive in captivity

**mom(my)** n, E, +

S Afr & Amer equiv of 'mum(my)' in GB, informal address for mother; fr 'momma'

**mompar(r)a** n, Ba, +coll

see: mampara

**monkey-bread** n, E, +

see: baobab

**monkey rope** n, E, +

name given to a number of species of the genera *Cynanchum*, *Secamone*, *Rhoicissus*, etc; the name 'bobbejaantou' is less appropriate than 'monkey rope', as baboons (Afr sing bobbejaan) very seldom climb up the lianes, whereas monkeys frequently do  
see also: bobbejaantou

**monkey-thorn** n, E, + (*Acacia galpinii*)

alt: apiesdoring

tall deciduous tree with a straight trunk, dark grey furrowed bark, wide spreading rounded crown, feathery leaves, flowering spikes & paired thorns; timber was at one time used in the railway workshops in Pretoria for buffer blocks; vernacular name refers to the effective cover wh the high leafy crown affords to monkeys  
see also: black monkey-thorn

**moochi** n, Zu, +

loin-cloth made of skins; sometimes also of the tails of animals; worn by Zu males

**mooi nooitjie** n, D/Afk, +

see: bamboo fish

**moon-fish** n, E, +

see: Cape lady (ii)

**moony** n, E, +

see: Cape lady (ii)

**moor** v, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'to murder'

**mopane** n, Tsw, + (*Colophospermum mopane*)

alt: balsam tree, butterfly tree, mopanie, Rhodesian ironwood, turpentine tree

small to medium-sized narrow-crowned tree with rough, deeply fissured bark, & oval to kidney-shaped flat pods, & leaves arranged like the wings of a butterfly, wh smell of turpentine when crushed; wood used for fencing posts, mine-props etc; in Ovamboland twine is made from the bark; animals eat the leaves, & mopane worms feed on the tree & are in turn eaten by Ba who dry & store them, or roast & eat them

**mopane worms** n, Tsw/E, +

black, spotted caterpillars wh feed on the mopane & marula trees; & are eaten by Ba & Bu tribes

**more impossible**

is a false comparative, a thing is either possible or impossible

**more/much**

used as ns, are followed by a sing v, as are 'little/less', eg 'More than a hundred tons *was* sold', 'Much *has* happened while I was away'

**more perfect**

is not acceptable 'perfection' cannot be improved upon

**morgen** n, D/Afk, +

measure of land, roughly 100 x 100 m or 2 E acres, the area that could be ploughed, in former times, by one span of oxen in a morning; hence the D term 'morgen' wh means 'morning'

**moruti** n, So, +

title of a Ba minister of religion

**mos** (i) adv, D/Afk, x

Afk adv used to give emphasis, wh has no E equiv, eg 'I *most* told you' x, 'I told you so, didn't I?' +, 'I *mos* had to go home first' x, 'I had to go home first, as you may know' +

**moskonfyt** n, D/Afk, +

lit: Afk for must jam, new wine jam  
syrup made from grape juice wh has not quite fermented, required for the making of wine

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

must, grapejuice, new wine; + only in compounds, see 'mosbolletjies, moskonfyt'

**mosbeskuit** n, D/Afk, +

dried out 'mosbolletjies', ie buns in loaf form made with must as the leavening agent

**mosbolletjie** n, D/Afk, +

a roll or bun of wh two ingredients are fermented grape juice (Afr mos) & aniseed flavouring

**mossie** n, Afk, +coll

alt: sparrow  
S Afr name for sparrow (fam *Ploceidae*, subfam *Passerinae*) of wh the Cape sparrow (*Passer melanurus*) is the most common species  
see also: Cape sparrow, house sparrow

**Mother City, the**

Cape Town, the Parliamentary capital of the Republic of S Afr, the first settlement & therefore the oldest city & fr its earliest times a seat of government, is known by this name

**motivate** n, E, +

means to supply a motive to, be the motive (or motif) of, eg 'Such senseless murders are presumably *motivated* by sheer sadism'; *motivate* used in the sense of 'explain, justify' is unacceptable eg 'Civil servants are requested to *motivate* their demands for higher wages' x

**mountain ash** n, E, +

see: Cape ash

**mountain karee** n, E/Hott, + (*Rhus leptodictya*)

alt: bastard karee, berg karee, bergsering, false karee  
smallish evergreen tree wh droops; dark rough bark, similar to *Rhus lancea*, the true karee, shows a preference for rocky places particularly hillsides, hence the vernacular name; an intoxicating liquor is made from the pounded small seeds by some Ba tribes

**mountain reedbuck** n, E, + (*Redunca fulvorufula*)

alt: rooiribbok

rather like but smaller than a reedbuck; the horns of the rams very much smaller & more definitely 'hooked' at the tips; greyish in colour, yellowish on head & upper neck; underparts & under-surface of the bushy tail white

see also: reedbuck

**mountain seringa** n, E, + (*Kirkia wilmsii*)

alt: bergsering, slaploot, wild pepper tree

small deciduous tree with single trunk or several stems fr the base, smooth greyish bark, rounded crown, branchlets abruptly ending in a blunt tip, & compound feathery leaves; grows on mountain slopes in frost-free areas; bark of the thin stems & roots used as twine by Sekukuniland Ba; one of the few indigenous trees with really magnificent autumn colours

see also: seringa

**mud mullet** n, E, + (*Labeo umbratus*)

commonest species of mudfish in the Vaal River; also found in the Olifants River; in certain waters like Barberspan in the Wst Transvaal mud mullet is a menace as it breeds so prolifically & is not cropped by angling to any significant degree

**mudsucker** n, E, + (*Labeo cylindricus*)

small fish not growing much longer than 3 cm; the eyes are characteristically red & the dorsal fin has a posterior edge; in the late summer these fish can be seen in the Crocodile River south of the Kruger National Park where they move up the concrete weirs in the rivers with the aid of their sucker-like mouths & pectoral fins

**muishond** n, D/Afk, + (*Mustela putoris* and *Putorius foetidus*)

S Afr variety of nocturnal polecat, noted for its unpleasant smell; equipped with long teeth & claws it kills snakes & other creatures such as its relative the weasel  
see: snake muishond  
see also: striped muishond

**mullet** n, E, +

see: springer (iii), (iv)

**municipal** pronunc

[mju'nisipəl]

**murmur** sp

sometimes incorrectly spelt 'murmer'

**muscatel** n, F, +

alt: muscadel

rich, spicy wine of various kinds made fr the muscatel grape wh has a musky smell and taste

**musk cat** n, E, +

see: small spotted genet

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

see: biskop

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

see: steenbras (i)

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

see: biskop

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

see: steenbras (i)

## **must**

must = have to, be forced to, and should not be used in a simple inquiry, eg *Must* I sign here = 'Do I *have to* sign here?' and *not*, 'Shall I sign here? Do you *want/wish* me to sign here?' constructions wh do not suggest compulsion

## **must/may**

'You must go home now' is a command; 'You may go home now' is a permission; similarly in the negative 'You must not touch that' (command), 'You may not touch that' (permission)

**muti** n, Zu, +coll

Zu for 'tree'

Afr 'medicine' made from herbs, roots & other parts of plants & trees & also animal & human parts, used for medicinal purposes or in witchcraft; medicaments of any kind, +coll



## N

**naaibos** n, D/Afk, +

see: bee-sting

**naaldbos** n, D/Afk, +

see: bee-sting

**naartjie** n, Ar or Tamil/D/Afk, + (*Citrus nobilis*)

S Afr equiv of 'tangerine' or 'mandarin(e)' (*Citrus reticulata*) in GB

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

[ ' nabum]

see: candelabra tree

**nagana** n, Ba, +

highly fatal animal disease caused by a trypanosome (*Trypanosoma brucei*) transmitted by the tsetse fly, a dipterous insect (*Glossina morsitans* & species of the genus) of the fam *Tabanidae* that is very common in parts of tropical & sth Afr

see also: sleeping sickness, tsetse fly

**nagapie** n, D/Afk, +

[ ' nǎxapi]

see: bush baby

**nama** n, Hott, +

tribe living in S W Afr, closely allied to the Hottentots, although slightly taller; cattle-breeding is their main occupation

**Namaqua dove** n, Hott/E, + (*Oena capensis*)

smallest species of dove found throughout sth Afr; the cock has a black face and breast and an orange bill

**nanny** n, E, +coll

Ba or Coloured maid who is responsible for the care of white children

**Narina trogon** n, E/L, + (*Apaloderma narina*)

beautiful tropical forest bird of the fam *Trogonidae* occurring from Knysna eastwards to s-est Rhodesia & Portuguese E Afr, named by the ornithologist, le Vaillant, in honour of a Hott girl whose beauty he greatly admired

**nastergal** n, D/Afk, ? (*Solanum nigrum*)

[ 'näst ərxǎl]

common (black) night-shade or bane-wort, a European plant species bearing bunches of pea-sized dark blue edible berries, introduced into S Afr at the time of Van Riebeeck; the species is a common garden & rural weed; the unripe berries contain a substance poisonous to man & animals

**Natal** n, L, +

name of a province of the Republic of S Afr of wh the white inhabitants are predominantly E speaking

**Natal camel-thorn** n, E, +

see: paperbark-thorn

**Natal duiker** n, L/D/Afk, + (*Cephalophus natalensis*)

alt: red duiker, rooiduiker

small reddish brown antelope wh weighs up to 13 kg; bright foxy-red with pronounced crest between the short, backward-directed horns in both sexes; walks in a stealthy, almost crouching manner with head & neck extended below line of back; dwells only in thick bush near water

**Natal fever** n, E, +coll

euphemistic designation for an indisposition to exert oneself ostensibly and humorously ascribed to the intense heat of summer associated with Natal

**Natalian** n, E, +

resident or inhabitant of the province of Natal

**Natal kaffirboom** n, E/D/Afk, + (*Erythrina humeana*)

slender, graceful shrub wh occurs chiefly in the Transkei & Natal, but is found also in the Est Tvl & Nyasaland; rarely exceeds 2 – 3,5 m in height

**Natal mahogany** n, E, + (*Trichilia emetica*)

alt: basteressenhout, Cape mahogany, Christmas bells, essenhout, mahoniehout, red ash, rooi essenhout

large spreading evergreen tree with well-formed trunk, smooth bark, compound leaves, sweet-scented flowers in bunches at ends of branches & hard stalked fruits; wood suitable for furniture & panelling, etc; bark has emetic properties

**Natal orange** n, E, + (*Strychnos spinosa*)

spiny shrub of tropical & sth Afr with greenish yellow edible berries, also cultivated as an ornamental shrub

**Natal plum** n, E, +

*Carissa bispinosa* and *C. grandiflora* two shrubs of sth Afr with forked spines and edible scarlet fruits wh resemble plums

**Natal red-top (grass)** n, E, + (*Rhynchelytrum roseum*)

grass of sth Afr wh is grown for hay and forage esp in Australia

**Natal Roman** n, E, + (*Porcostoma dentata*)

alt: Dane

fish wh occurs in sth Afr, mainly between Durban & Beira, though occasional strays reach Algoa Bay

**Natal snoek** n, E/D/Afk, +

small fish related to the katonkel (*Scomberomorus guttatus*)  
see also: bonito (*Sarda orientalis*) Cape katonkel, katonkel

**native** n, E, x

not acceptable in S Afr E to mean member of the Afr Negroid race  
see: African, Bantu, boy, girl, kaffir

**natros** n, D/Afk, ?

the prefix 'na' here means 'later' or 'late' & is assigned in the s wst Cape to a bunch (Afr tros) of grapes wh matures after the main crop has been harvested

**Ndeble** n, Ba, +

see: Matabele

**necessary** sp

sometimes incorrectly spelt with two cc's

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

Afk equiv of cousin (male) & nephew; also a form of address for boy or man, eg 'I always addressed him as "Mr Huysmans": there was something dignified about his appearance that prevented me from calling him bluntly "Neef Herklaas"'  
see also: nig(gie)

**negative**

excessive use of the negative to invite assent, should be avoided, eg 'Won't you please post this letter for me?' x, 'Can't I come with you?' x; 'Will you please...' +, 'Can I come...' +

### neither sing/pl

in its proper sense is: 'not the *one* nor the *other* of the two' & therefore takes the sing v, eg 'Neither of them *seems* to have the answer' +; 'Neither side *is* going to win' +; *neither...nor*, however, has two subjects both of wh have to be served by the same v: if the subj is sing, the v is sing; if the subj is pl, the v is pl, eg 'Neither he nor she *was* right' +; 'Neither they nor we *are* to be considered' +; avoid awkward constructions wh occur when, owing to a difference in number or person between the subjects of *neither & nor*, the same form does not suit both, eg 'Neither *you* nor *I am/is/are* right, rather use 'Neither of *us is* right'

### nek n, D/Afk, +

lit Afk meaning 'neck', equiv of 'mountain pass', used in place names, eg Horn's Nek

### nerve-racking sp

nerve-wracking x

### net/nett sp

spelling optional when meaning 'free from, or not subject to, any deduction'

### neuk v, D/Afk, x

to hit, strike, flog, trounce; to bother

### never

equiv of 'not ever', 'not once', eg 'They parted & *never* saw each other again' +; *never* should not be used for *not*, eg 'I *never* did it' x 'I did not do it' +; 'I *never* had a row with anyone for years' x, 'I have not had...' +

### never ever

'never' means 'not ever', therefore 'never ever' is tautologous, eg 'I *never ever* want to speak to him again' x, 'I do not ever want to

‘speak to him again’ or ‘I never want to speak to him again’  
see also: never

**ngubo** n, Ba, +coll

garment, blanket, skin

**Nguni** n, Ngu, +

ethnic group of the sth Ba wh has settled mainly along the coast belt of S Afr, bounded on the West by the Drakensberg ranges; their territory extends fr Swaziland in the north to the Great Fish River of the Cape Province in the south; there are four distinct sub-groups, Swazi, Xhosa, Zulu, Ndebele

see also: Ndebele, Swazi, Xhosa, Zulu

**nice**

this is an adj that has been worn to shreds; avoid unless used in its meaning of ‘showing delicate discrimination’, eg ‘a *nice* distinction’

**niesbos** n D/Afk, + (*Buddleia lobulata*)

the vernacular name is derived from the sneezing (Afr nies) induced by the pollen liberated from the flowers of this shrub

**niggerfish** n, E, +

see: steenvis

**nig(gie)** n, D/Afk, +coll

[ 'nɛx(i) ]

Afk equiv of cousin (female) & niece; also a form of address for a girl or woman, eg ‘Nig Sannie’

see also: neef

**night adder** n, E, + (*Causus rhombeatus*)

found in most parts of S Afr; although poisonous, not as deadly as the puff adder or mamba; haunts dwellings at night in search of frogs

& mice, but is not aggressive unless irritated; it lays a number of eggs around wh it coils to incubate them

**night-time**

the hyphenated form is preferable to 'nighttime' wh is Amer

**Niklaasklapper** n, D/Afk, x

see: Zeyher's bush willow

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

Afk equiv of 'nothing'; slang in GB and Amer 'nix' prob derived from D & G

**nip** n, E, +

small spirit bottle measuring 200 millil

see also: bomb, bottle, half-jack

**Nkosi** n, Ngu, +

equiv of 'chief', 'God', 'master'

**Nkosikaas** n, Ngu, +

equiv of 'mistress', 'missus'

**nobody/no one**

see: anybody

**noem-noem** n, Hott, ?

species of *Carissa*; shrub with edible berries and bispinous thorns, found in the dune lands of Caledon, the Karoo and also in the Transvaal

**nogal** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'rather, quite, fairly'

**noisy robin** n, E, +

see: chorister robin

**nomenclature** pronunc

first or second syllable may be stressed, though the stress on the first is preferable

**nominal**

is not synonymous with *low* but means 'existing in name only, in distinction to real or actual' eg a nominal fee' is *not low*, but *so low* that it can hardly be considered a fee

**none is or are?**

the use of the sing or pl form of the v depends on the number of the n wh 'none' replaces, eg '*Is there any sugar?*' (sing), '*No there is none*'; '*Are there any plums?*' , '*No, there are none*'

**nooi(ens)boom** n, D/Afk, +

name applied to several species of *Cussonia* because of the umbrella-like nature of the leafy crown of each branch wh suggests a parasol carried by a 'lady' (Afr nooi), whence also the name 'sambreelboom', ie 'umbrella tree'

**noon**

means 'twelve o'clock in the day', or 'midday'; therefore in the sentence 'The fighting began shortly before noon yesterday afternoon', 'afternoon' is superfluous

**noorsdoring** n, D/Afk, +

name applied to several succulent spiny species of *Euphorbia*, because of the 'morose' (Afr 'noors') appearance of the plants owing to the close spiny nature of the stems (doring = spine); several of these species contain a toxic latex wh can be corrosive



### **nostalgia/nostalgic**

the literal meaning of *nostalgia* is 'a painful desire to return home', 'acute homesickness'; the word should not be **used** to signify any vague longing as this excludes the essential ingredient of pain and suffering; can be used in the sense of 'a wistful looking back to one's past or past times'

### **now**

meaningless in constructions such as 'What kind of dress can you *now* buy for less than R20?' 'What can you *now* do about this'; prob Afk infl, eg 'Watter soort rok kan jy *nou* koop...', 'Wat kan jy *nou* doen daaromtrent?'

### **now-now**

Afrikanerism fr 'nou-nou' used as the equiv of 'presently' or 'in a minute' x  
see also: just now

### **number** sing/pl

if the subj of a sentence conveys the idea of plurality the v is pl even though the governing n is sing eg 'A large *number* of the pupils *were* under quarantine for measles'; the v is sing when the group n conveys the idea of oneness, eg 'There *is* a number of interesting things to see'

### **nunu** n, Ba, +coll

Ba word for insects in general

### **nursemaid** n, E, +coll

in S Afr E a Ba or Coloured nanny  
see also: ayah, **boy**, girl, nanny

### **nyala** n, Tsonga/Venda, + (*Nyala angasi*)

alt: inyala

large sth & est Afr antelope with greyish-brown coat, well-developed dorsal mane, & shaggy fringe of almost black hair on the throat & belly; the body is marked with 8 to 12 white stripes & the horns are much larger than those of the bushbuck

**nyala tree** n, Ba, + (*Xanthocercis zambesiaca*)

alt: hoenderspoor

medium-sized to very large densely-leaved evergreen tree with ends of branches drooping; often has several trunks, dark rough bark, compound leaves & spherical fleshy fruit; wood used as timber but causes severe irritation to nose & throat when worked; fruit eaten by Ba, birds, monkeys & various antelope, eg the nyala, whence the vernacular name

## O

**oblivious of**

applies to what was known, but has been forgotten & does not mean 'unconscious of' or 'impervious to'

**occasion**

the correct prep to use with 'occasion' is *on* not *at*, eg 'It was *on* the occasion of his marriage that...'

**occurred**

is spelt with two c's & two r's

**of (i)**

omitted in such phrases as 'a cup tea' x, 'a cup *of* tea' +, prob Afk infl 'n koppie tee'

**of (ii)**

for *have* is a solecism, eg 'I would *of* done it' x

**of** (iii)

in the sense of 'associated or connected with', eg Professor Jackson *of* the University of Bombay', in this case *of* could be replaced by *at* to avoid repetition of the prep *of*

**off**

incorrectly used for *from* eg 'He borrowed a shilling *off* me' x

**office boy** n, E, +

Ba male employed to perform menial tasks in the administrative section of a business concern, government department, etc, eg franking envelopes, collecting & delivering post  
see also: boy

**offices/officers** pronunc

[ 'ɒfɪsɪz ], [ 'ɒfɪsɜz ]

the s of the former is pronounced s, of the latter z

**offload** v, E, +

for 'unload' is firmly established; this v also occurs in Canadian E

**off-saddle** v, E, +

S Afr E for 'remove the saddle from a horse'

**off sales** n, E, +

see: bottle store

**off-street** n, E, +

alt: cross-street, side-street

minor street running at right angles to or out of main street; also used in Amer

**of it**

is redundant in the following: 'Of all the sherry we sell to Britain, more than half *of it* goes to Glasgow' x

**often** pronunc

[ 'ɒfən ] + [ 'ɔfən ] x; occasionally [ 'ɒftən ] +

**Oherero** n, Ba, +

see: Herero

**O.K.** abbr, Amer, +coll

alt: Ok, okay

sl equiv of such forms of assent as 'Very well, All right, Right oh! Are you ready?'; used as a v meaning, 'to sanction, approve', & as a n, eg 'to give the O.K. to'

**old man's beard** n, E, + (*Usnea barbata* & *U. florida*)

common lichens in the sth coastal forests, where they form long festoons on the branches of *Podocarpus elongatus* (geelhout) & other trees

**Old Year's Night** n, E, ?

is the night of the 31st December, ie the night before New Year's Day, prop infl of Afk 'Oujaarsaand, Oujaarsnag'; more correctly 'New Year's Eve'

**olienhout** n, D/Afk, x

see: wild olive

**olifantskos** n, D/Afk, x

see: spekboom

**Olympiad** n, E, +

**period** of four years between Olympic games, by wh time was computed in ancient Greece; *not* the competition itself

**omission sp**

spelt with one m, as is 'omit'

**omission of that**

logic should be the guide in deciding when to omit the conj *that* fr a sentence, when to retain it, eg 'He knew he could do it' is as clear as 'He knew *that* he could do it' but in many instances, *that* is essential, eg 'He felt *that* his big red nose made him look ridiculous' – omit *that* & you have, 'He felt his big, red nose...'

**omission of the**

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

**omission of verb**

the repetition of a v may be avoided only when the same v serves more than one subj, eg 'My age is 20, my mother-tongue, English' +; 'A careful watch is kept on projects and regular reports called for' x, 'watch' *is* kept, 'reports' *are* called for, therefore 'are' cannot be omitted; 'People may be and often are killed at that crossing' +

**ompad n, D/Afk, x**

Afk equiv of 'detour' or 'roundabout way'

**on**

the prep *on* is frequently misused, prob owing to Afk prep use eg 'to propose a toast *on* someone' x (Afk "n heildronk instel *op*") should be 'to propose a toast *to*'; *on* the moment, x (Afk 'op die oomblik') should be '*at* the moment'

**onderbos n, D/Afk, +**

lit: under-brushwood

*Trichocladus crinitus* & *T. ellipticus* are both known by this name;

the Ba make kieres & ornaments of the former; in the neighbourhood of the Pirie forest the latter is used mainly as firewood

**one day** sp

sometimes mistakenly written as one word 'oneday' x

**one or other** x

lit transl of Afk 'een of ander'; should be *some ... or other*, eg 'In some way or other they managed to fod the river'

**only**

should be placed immediately before the word it is intended to qualify; the sense depends on the position of this word in a sentence eg 'They *only* complained' ie they were never satisfied; 'They had been walking *only a short time*' ie not very long; '*Only the man* ran down the hill' ie he alone ran; 'The man ran *only down the hill*' ie not up the hill  
see also: even

**only** pronunc

the l should be pronounced

**oom** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'uncle'; + in special cases only, eg as in 'Oom Paul', when referring to President Paul Kruger

**Oom Paul**

'Uncle Paul', the name familiarly applied to Paul Kruger (1825-1904), President of the Transvaal Republic & leader of Boer resistance to British rule in this Republic

**oondbos** n, D/Afk, +

see: bakbos

**oorlams** adj, D/Afk, ?

name originally applied to Hottentots in S W Afr, who were able to speak D or E, also used to mean 'shrewd'; origin obscure, one theory being that it is derived from the name of an early settler in Namaqualand, another that it comes from the Malay 'Orang Lama' (old man)

**op en wakker** Afk idiom, x

lit means 'up and awake', used in the sense of 'alert', 'wide awake', eg 'In this game you have to be *op en wakker* if you don't want to be eliminated' x

**opinion**

the def article should not be omitted in the following expression:  
'He is of *the* opinion that ...'  
see also: omission of *the*

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

Afk equiv of 'sit up' or 'stay up', applied to courting couples  
see also: opsitkers

**opsitting** n, D/Afk, x

lit 'sitting up'; old Boer custom by wh a young man was allowed to stay with the girl of his choice while the rest of the family retired; a candle was left burning on the table, its length an indication of the degree of favour wh he had attained, a long candle showing that he was well liked; when the candle was burnt out the young man was expected to leave

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

lit Afk meaning 'kicking up' but used as the equiv of 'an evening's dancing', esp a 'boeredans'  
see also: bokjol, jol

**opskud** v, D/AFk, +coll

lit Afk meaning 'to shake up', used in the imperative in the sense of 'Hurry up! Get cracking!'

**oral** pronunc

[ 'ɔr əl ] in GB [ 'br əl ] in S Afr E

**orange-breasted waxbill**

see: rooiassie

**Orange Express** n, E, +

express train travelling from Cape Town to Durban, and back twice a week

**Orange River mudfish** n, E, = (*Labeo capensis*)

commonly found in the Vaal River; can weigh more than 3 k & is long-lived, fishes more than twelve years old having been found; the colour varies according to the turbidity of the water, from silvery grey to dark slate-grey

**oribi** n, prob Hott, + (*Ourebia ourebi*)

graceful, bright orange-rufous antelope with short but conspicuously black-tipped tail; the ram has fairly short, pointed upright horns

**ossewa** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'oxwagon'

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

pl: ou's

lit: old

as a n, S Afr sl equiv of 'chap, fellow, bloke, guy', eg 'Who were the two *ou's* who gate-crashed?'; as an adj, used affectionately in the sense of 'dear' (as also in E, eg 'Well, *old* chap ...') eg 'How is *ou* Danie?', x



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

Afk equiv of 'old gentleman' (fellow, chap), 'elderly master'  
see also: baas, kleinbaas, kleinnooi, ounooi

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

see: ouhout

**ouboet** n, D/Afk, x

alt: ouboeta, ouboetie

abbr of 'ou broer' lit 'old brother'; affectionate term used of, or in addressing, an older, or eldest brother; in addressing a friend, the equiv of 'old chum, mate'

see also: boeta

**oubos** n, D/Afk, x

see: ouhout

**oudehout** n, D/Afk, x

see: ouhout

**ouderling** n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'Church elder'

**oudoring** n, D/Afk, x

see: enkeldoring

**oudstryder** n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'old fighter', 'war veteran'; applied esp to the men who fought in the Boer War

**ouhout** n, D/Afk, + (*Leucosidea sericea*)

alt: oubaas, oubos, oudehout

straggly shrub or small densely branched evergreen tree of the rose fam; there is only one species of *Leucosidea* & it is found only in Afr: the common name wh lit means 'old wood' may allude to the crooked branches wh suggest an aged appearance but may also be derived fr the fact that the wood burns very easily

**oulaas** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'for the last time' eg 'Our train leaves at 5 pm but we are going to have another dip in the sea for "oulaas"' x

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

equiv of 'penny', 'dirt-cheap', eg 'vir 'n "oulap en 'n bokstert"', fr the D 'oude lap' wh means old rag

**oulik** adj, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'cute, clever, tricky, dinky, neat, shrewd, adroit'

**ouma** n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'granny'; has become acceptable usage in S Afr E  
see also: oupa

**oumakappie** n, D/Afk, +

lit: 'granny-bonnet'; various species of terrestrial orchids, so named because of their conspicuously hooded flowers; chiefly species of *Disperis* & *Pterygodium*

**oumeidsnuifdoos** n, D/Afk, + (*Lycoperdon hyemale*)

plant of wh the shape of the seed pod and the dark brown spores resemble a snuff box (Afr snuifdoos); the contents were used as snuff by old Ba women (Afr meide)

**oupa** n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'grandpa'; has become accepted usage in S Afr E  
see also: ouma

**oupa-en-sy-pyp** n, D/Afk, x

see: begging hand

**ourselves**

see: myself

**ousie** n, Afk, +coll

diminutive of 'ousus' Afk equiv of 'old sister', a term of affection; 'ousie' also used in addressing non-white women

**outbreak/epidemic**

see: epidemic

**outer room** n, E, +

alt: outside room

see: buitekamer

**outside room** n, E, +

alt: outer room

see: buitekamer

**outspan** n, E, +

also *outspanning*, 'During the *outspan* the men went off to shoot a buck', 'The old kraal was used for *outspanning* the trek oxen'; as a prop n a characteristically S Afr trade name, eg '*Outspan* oranges'; the *Outspan* a S Afr magazine no longer in print

see also: outspan (v)

**outspan** v, E, +

to unyoke or unharness a draft animal; the pp is also used as an adj, eg 'the *outspanned* oxen'

**Ovambo** n, Ba, +

tribe living in the north of S W Afr, comprising the Ondonga, the

Ombalantu, the Onkolonkathi, the Ukuanyama, the Ukuambi, the Ukualuthi, the Ongandjera & Eunda; they are of Ba origin, worship the spirits of their ancestors & attach great importance to the wearing of charms

**over**

misused for *on* eg 'He hit me *over* the head' x

**overall/over all**

'an overall shortage' = a shortage of overalls, *not* a general or widespread shortage of something; over all = from end to end (in attrib use over-all; an over-all length of 22 m); overall = a loose work-garment

**Overvaal** prop n, D/E/Afk, +

official residence in Pretoria of the Administrator of the Transvaal

**owing to/due to**

see: due to

**oxpecker** n, E, +

fam *Buphagidae*; called 'oxpecker' because of its habit of perching and hopping about on large game mammals & cattle to procure the ticks; local species include the yellow-billed oxpecker (*Buphagus africanus*) & the red-billed oxpecker (*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*)