

A

aardvark n, D/Afk, + (*Orycteropus afer*)

alt: antbear, erdvark

burrowing, nocturnal Afr mammal (between the armadillo and S Amer anteater); the term 'antbear' may lead to confusion with *Myrmecophaga jubata*, the anteater wh belongs to the order *Edentata* and wh is found in S Amer and British Guiana

aardwolf n, D/Afk, + (*Proteles cristatus*)

pl aardwolves

hyena-like mammal of S & Ea Afr that has a striped coat and a distinct mane; feeds chiefly on ants but also catches other insects

aasvoël n, D/Afk, ?

[!ɑ:sfuəl]

alt: D aas-vogel, obs in S Afr

lit: 'carrion bird', Afk equiv of 'vulture', infrequently used by E-speaking S Afr

aborted

incorrectly used for *abortive* in Amer: 'Mr Nixon's sentiments were relayed to newsmen by former astronauts Michael Collins & William Anders, who were with the President at the White House on April 17 as he watched Odyssey's safe return from the *aborted* moon mission'. ('American News Digest' April 23, 1970)

acacia n, E, +

generic name for large group of trees belonging to the pod-bearing fam *Leguminosae*, e.g. *Acacia burkei*, *A. galpinii*, etc; the name is derived from the Gk word meaning 'sharp', or 'spines', in allusion to the fact that so many species bear spines

see also: black monkey-thorn, camel-thorn, enkeldoring, fever tree, haak-en-steek, kaffir-thorn, knob-thorn, monkey-thorn, paperbark-thorn, sweet-thorn

accommodation

spelt with two c's & two m's

account

S Afr equiv of 'bill' in GB

acoustics

'The *acoustics* of the hall *are* not all that could be desired', but, '*Acoustics* is an important subject in the training of an architect'.

administrative pronounc

the second syllable is stressed

admirable pronounc

the first syllable is stressed

Adoons n, D/Afk, + coll

personifying name for a baboon, used facetiously & ironically in terms of the beautiful youth, Adonis, of Gk mythology; name applied to a stupid person

adult pronounc

the modern tendency is to put the stress on the second syllable, though it is permissible to stress the first

adverse

sometimes incorrectly used for 'obverse': 'the *adverse* side of the medal' x

advice/advise

advice is the n, *advise* the v
see also: practice

adviser

often incorrectly spelt 'advisor' x; notice, however: 'advisory' +

a eulogy

see: eulogy

affect/effect

affect (v) (i) to produce an effect upon, to move, to touch, eg 'That does not affect me'; (ii) to assume, simulate, eg 'He affected innocence'; affection (n), affectionate (a) are derived from (i); affectation (n) from (ii); effect (v) to bring about, to achieve, eg 'The revolution effected the downfall of the monarchy'; effect (n) result, consequence, eg 'That had no effect on me'; effects (n, pl) results; personal property or belongings, eg 'All household effects were insured'.

afford

intrusive pron as direct obj: 'We cannot afford *it* to go' x prob Afk inf 'Ons kan *dit* nie bekostig nie'.

African n, E, +

native of Afr, generally understood to refer to a member of the Negroid racial groups; in S Afr E often equiv of Ba
see also: Bantu, kaffir, native

Africana n, E, +

furniture, publications, paintings, documents and other cultural or antique objects relating to Afr but of socio-historical interest to S Afr in particular

African bont-legged tick n, E, +

see: small bont-legged tick
see also: bont-legged tick

African Coast fever

see: East Coast fever

African ebony n, E, +

see: jakkalsbessie

African elephant n, E, + (*Loxodonta africana*)

very tall, large-eared pachyderm that is widely distributed in sth & tropical Afr & wh differs from the Ind elephant mainly in body form & size of ears; in addition, the Afr elephant cannot be domesticated

African race, the x

amongst the races that inhabit Africa are the following: *Capoid*, eg Bushmen & Hottentots; *Caucasoid*, eg Arabs, Belgians, Britons, Copts, Egyptians, Germans, Portuguese; *Mongoloid*, eg Chinese, Malay; *Negroid*, eg Bantu, Pygmies, Sudanese

African-speaking x

'The African-speaking people of the continent...' x

'The Bantu-speaking people of the continent...' +

see: Bantu

African walnut n, E, +

see: weeping boerboon

Afrikaans n, D/Afk, +

related to the Afk people; modern Germanic language wh developed in S Afr mainly from 17th century Dutch & Low German, introduced into S Afr by the first White settlers; one of the official languages of the Rep of S Afr

see also: Afrikaner

Afrikander n, D/Afk, +

particular species of S Afr cattle

Afrikaner n, D/Afk, +

S Afr native of W European descent, esp an Afk-speaking descendant of the 17th & 18th century D, G & F settlers who colonized the Cape Province of S Afr
see also: Afrikaans

Afrikanerism n, D/Afk, +

non-acceptable lit transl of a word, phrase or idiom, from D/Afk into E
see also: South Africanism

ag int, D/Afk, + coll

equiv of 'oh! ', 'alas! ' & 'och! '

against

'object *against*' x 'object *to*' +

-age

pronunc *-idge* as in partridge, cottage, passage, marriage

aggravate

means 'to increase the gravity of', *not* 'to irritate or exasperate'; it is, however, used in the latter sense in Amer & in GB (coll)

agterryer n, D/Afk, (obs)

servant on horseback bringing up the rear in a hunt, or on commando esp during the Boer War

agterskot n, D/Afk, + coll

balance paid to members of co-operatives after marketing their products, to make up the difference between the total amount owing to them and the payment called 'voorskot', a type of loan they receive in advance of delivery
see also: voorskot

aia

see: ayah

aikōna int, Zu/Afk, x (coll ?)

[ai'kɔ:na]

Afk corruption of two Zu words meaning 'no, it is not there', with a change in meaning, namely, an emphatic 'no'

aits(a) int, Hott/Afk, x

exclamation of surprise

aja

see: ayah

ali n, D/Afk, + coll

term used among children for a marble

see also: ghoen

allamastig int, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'good gracious! ' or 'I say! '

already

one word, spelt with one l; 'all ready' is used thus: 'All of us are *ready*; we are *all ready*'

already

is frequently placed in the wrong position in the word order of a sentence & is often redundant: 'I told her I had had tea *already*' x; *already* should be placed between the aux & the principal verb, 'I told her that I *had already had* tea' + ; *already* means 'previously, by this time' or 'prior to some specified time', either past, present or future; 'I have *already* finished my work' means that the work was finished before a specified time. In the following sentence *already* is superfluous: 'He had *already* 'phoned me at ten o'clock this morning' x

also

incorrectly used for *too*: ‘... and her mother came *also*’ x ‘... and her mother came *too*’ +

alternative/choice

choice can be applied to any number, whereas *alternative* may be applied only to two courses of action or two possible decisions: ‘The *alternatives* are complete segregation & complete integration’ + ; ‘He had the *choice* between fighting, running away, and capture’ + ; ‘The *alternative* is ...’ (one other choice)

although

spelt with one l

amaleita n, Zu, +

alt: amalaita, malaita

urban, adolescent Ba males, now commonly known as tsotsies, who participate in organised knobkierie fights; formerly they were criminal gangs who were noted for assaults on pedestrians

see also: knobkierie, tsotsie

among/amongst

there is no real syntactical or idiomatic difference between these two words, but both should be followed by a pl n; euphony alone decides wh of the two shall be used, therefore: use ‘amongst’ only before vowels & unstressed words; before consonants use ‘among’; eg ‘amongst us, amongst the boys’; ‘among strangers’

amper adv, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of ‘almost’ or ‘nearly’

annexure n, E, +

used in S Afr E in the sense of ‘appendix to document’

see also: appendix

anteater n, E, +

see: scaly anteater

antbear n, E, + (*Orycteropus afer*)

not to be confused with *Myrmecophaga jubata*, the great anteater in British Guiana, also known as antbear

see: armadillo

see also: scaly anteater

ant heap n, E, +

S Afr equiv of 'ant hill' in GB

anticipate

in the sense of 'look forward to' or 'expect' x

see also: expect

anybody/anyone/nobody/no one/somebody/someone

these ind prons represent the third person sing & are therefore followed by the third person sing prons he, him, his, himself, she, her, herself, & *not* by the pl prons they, their, themselves, eg 'Anybody who feels that the manager has not solved *his* or *her* problem, may come to the meeting'

apartheid n, D/Afk, +

alt: separate development

political policy in S Afr whereby it is planned that European and non-European races will develop separately in their own territories according to their own character & requirements

appendix

subsidiary addition to book or publication, pl 'appendices'; 'appendixes' is the pl of the anatomical 'appendix'

see also: annexure

applicable pronunc

the first syllable is stressed

arbitrary/arbitrarily pronunc

'ar-bi-tra-ry, 'ar-bi-tra-ri-ly, and *not* 'ar-bi-try, 'ar-bi-tra-ly

arrive/come there

see: come there

arum lily n, E, +

see: pig lily

as ... as/so ... as

the former is neutral, the latter emphatic, eg '*As* soon *as* he is ready, he will go', '*So* soon *as* you are ready, you will go'; when *to* plus an infinitive follows, use *so ... as*, eg 'He was *so* silly *as* to leave the key in the door', because there is considerable emphasis in this case; in negative assertions & questions wh imply a negative answer, *as ... as* and *so ... as* are used interchangeably, though preference is still given to *so ... as*, eg 'She is not *so* kind *as* her sister'

assagai n, Ar, +

see: assegai

assegai n, Ar, +

['æ sə ɡ ai]

alt: assagai

slender hardwood spear or light javelin usu tipped with iron, used by native tribes in Afr; also in compounds, eg 'assegai wood'

assegai v, Ar, +

to pierce with an assegai

assegai wood n, Ar/E, + (*Curtisia faginea*) or (*Grewia occidentalis*)

sth Afr tree of the dogwood fam, of wh the wood may be used for making assegais

assess/estimate/evaluate

growing tendency to use these as literary/critical terms +

assurance/insurance

assurance is falling into disuse; 'life insurance', 'marine insurance' +

avocado pear pronunc

advocado x

auk int, Ba, x

Ba exclamation of surprise

ayah n, Port, + coll

alt: aia, aja

matronly Ba or Coloured woman servant; form of address

B

baai n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'bay' usu found in place names, eg Melkbaai; otherwise x

baas n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'boss, master, person in charge, manager, head, chief'; a term of address

see also: baasskap

baasskap n, Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'white domination'

see also: baas

baba n, Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'baby'

bab(b)elas a, Zu, x

alt: babalaas,abela(a)s, babbelaas
to be drunk, to have a hangover

babiana n, D/Afk, +

alt: babianer, bobbejaantjie
corr of D 'baviaan' (baboon), commonly used today for several species of *Babiana*, a S Afr wild flower of the Iris fam

baboon spider n, E, +

Afk bobbejaanspinnekop; name of a variety of large spider with a big body, dark brown to black in colour, with very hairy legs; belongs to the genus *Harpactiva* and related genera, some of wh live in shallow holes covered by a trap door, others in trees in bag-like nests with one or two trap doors; this spider is not the same as the hunting spider or the tarantula

Bachapin bean n, Ba/E +

see: kaffir bean

backveld n, E/D/Afk +

isolated, uncivilized region
see also: bundu, gopse, gramadoelas

backvelder n, E/D/Afk, +

person who is uncouth, uncivilized, unkempt
see also: backveld, takhaar

backyard n, E, +

alt: backyard (Amer)
area, often enclosed by a fence, behind a house or other habitation

badly

mistakenly used for 'well', 'A lesson I needed to know *badly* ...', x
'A lesson I needed to know *well* ...' +

bakkie n, D/Afk, x

small dish x; light delivery van x

bakore n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'large, protruding ears'

bales

pl, therefore pl v, 'A hundred bales *was* destroyed' x 'A hundred bales *were* destroyed' +

balsam tree n, E, +

see: mopane

banal pronunc

[bə'na:l], ['beɪnəl], ['bænal]

bangbroek n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'coward'

bankie n, D/Afk, + coll

Afk equiv of 'bench'

Bantu n, Ba, +

collective name for a large number of tribes or nations of the Afr
Negroid race in Central & sth Afr; a member of any of these peoples;
collective name for the group of languages spoken by these related
peoples; official S Afr term for the above
see also: African, kaffir, native

Bantu-speaking a, Ba/E, +

see: Bantu

Bantustan n, Ba/? +

territory in the Rep of S Afr where self-government is granted to a Ba nation with a view to national independence

banket n, D/Afk, +

mining term for auriferous conglomerate found in the Witwatersrand gold reef and so called on account of its resemblance to a type of confectionery or dough

Barberton n, E, + coll

strong liquor, after the town of that name

barracuda n, Sp, +

see: katonkel (i)

bastard willow n, E +

see: karee

Basuto blanket n, Ba/E, +

multi-coloured blankets wh S Afr Ba drape around themselves throughout the year, hence 'blanket Kaffir' & by extension the term 'blanket vote' for 'Kaffir vote'

see also: kaffir

Basuto pony n, So/E, +

sth Afr breed of hardy pony, suitable for mountainous country, developed by interbreeding Arab and Barbary horses

bathing costume n, E, +

alt: cossie (coll), costume, swimming costume

equiv of 'bathing suit' GB

see also: costume

beach buggy n, E/Amer, +

small, open motor vehicle used for short-distance transportation of passengers; popular with the younger generation

bedspread n, E, +

S Afr & Amer equiv of 'counterpane' in GB, prob in both instances derived from the D 'bedsprei'

beloved pronunc

[bə' lʌv i d̩], when used attributively or as a n, [bə' lʌv d̩]
when used predicatively

berg n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'mountain' + coll; used in place names, eg Drakensberg (mountain range), Colesberg (town); used in compounds, eg 'berg winds', 'berg adder'

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

small venomous snake inhabiting the highveld of the Transvaal & the sth Afr uplands

berg wind n, D/Afk/E, +

dry, hot wind that blows from a high plateau to a coastal region, eg in the Wst Province of the Cape during the wet, winter months; can be accompanied by a scorching heat wave

beskuit n, D/Afk, + coll

special kind of rusk; particularly as in 'boere beskuit'

between/among

use *between* when only two persons or objects are involved, *among* for greater numbers, 'Our cousins live *between* the Bantu' x; 'The lamp was placed *between* the two chairs' + ; 'The work was divided *among* twenty members' +
see also: among

big/great

should be carefully distinguished,

big: large, eg 'He is *big* for his age',

grown up, eg 'When I am *big* I shall ...',

important, eg 'It will be a *big* day for us';

great: beyond the ordinary, eg 'a *great* attraction', '*great* friends' *not* *big* friends';

of remarkable qualities, ability or genius, eg 'a *great* painter', 'a *great* statesman';

important, elevated, distinguished, eg 'the *great* powers', 'a *great* occasion'

biltong n, D/Afk, +

strips of raw, salted, dried venison or beef; cf Amer 'pemmican'

see also: bakkem, fish biltong, toutjies

bioscope n, E, +

common S Afr term for a motion-picture theatre; 'cinema' or coll 'pictures' in GB & 'motion pictures' or coll 'movies' in Amer;

bioscope means biograph, the early type of cinematograph; *bio*, abbr of 'bioscope', + coll

see also: flick(s)

black-backed jackal n, E, + (*Canis mesomelas*)

common sth Afr jackal, reddish brown in colour with black & white dorsal saddle mark

black-bearded protea n, E, + (*Protea lepidocarpodendron*)

species of *Protea* with bearded inner bracts, suggestive of a beard

Black Maria n, E, + coll

alt: pick-up van

police patrol van for picking up & transporting offenders against the law, term prob introduced from Amer

black wildebees(t) n, E/D/Afk, + (*Connochaetes gnou*)

S Afr name for a white-tailed gnu

blanket kaffir a/n, E/Ar, + coll

see: Basuto blanket

blanket vote a/n, E, +

see: Basuto blanket

blatjang n, M/D/Afk, + coll

[' b l ʌ t j ʌ ŋ]

Afk equiv of 'chutney'

blik n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'tin'

bliksem n, D/Afk, x

lit Afk 'lightning'; expletive used to give emphasis or express anger or to revile someone considered to be a scoundrel

bloodwood n, E, +

see: kiaat

bloukappie n, D/Afk, + (*Polygala virgata*)

evergreen shrub with rod-like branches, up to 3 ms high, & purplish-blue, pea-like, drooping flowers giving the impression of an old-fashioned bonnet

blue duiker n, E/D/Afk, + (*Cephalophus monticola*)

one of the smallest S Afr antelopes, about 33 cms tall and blue-grey in colour

see also: duiker

blue ground n, E, +

name given at Kimberley to the dark greyish-blue soil wh forms the matrix in wh diamonds are found

blue train n, E, +

luxury express passenger train travelling between Cape Town & Pretoria, so called on account of its blue colour

blue wildebees(t) n, E/D/Afk, + (*Connochaetes taurinus*)

S Afr name for a brindled gnu
see also: black wildebees(t), wildebees(t)

bobbejaan n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'baboon'; used in the sense of 'ass' of a person who is ignorant or who has done something foolish

bobbejaan spanner n, D/Afk/E, + coll

S Afr equiv of 'monkey wrench'

bobbejaanspinnekop n, D/Afk, x

see: baboon spider

bobotie n, M/D/Afk, +

dish of curried mincemeat with a custard topping, baked in the oven

boepens n/a, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'pot-belly, pot-bellied'; 'boep', abbr of 'boepens'

boer n, D/Afk, +

[buəɾ]

Afk equiv of 'farmer'; in 19th & early 20th century S Afr E, the equiv of 'Afrikaner'; used in compounds, eg 'boerboon, boere beskuit, boeremusiek, boerewors'

boerboon n, D/Afk, +

variety of large green bean
see also: boer

boer(e) beskuit n, D/Afk, + coll

special kind of spiced, sweetened rusk
see also: boer, beskuit

boeremusiek n, D/Afk, + coll

Afk folk music with a pronounced regular beat
see also: boer

boerewors n, D/Afk, +

'wors' Afk equiv of 'sausage'; spicy sausage, not twisted or tied into lengths of a few cms
see also: boer

boermeel n, D/Afk, ?

'meel' Afk equiv of 'meal' or 'flour';
grade of wheat flour containing a higher proportion of wheat germ than white flour, but a lower proportion than whole-wheat flour
see also: boer

boerseun n, D/Afk, x

lit 'farmer's son'; generally accepted meaning 'good Afrikaner youth'
see also: boer

Boer War n, D/Afk, +

S Afr Wars (1888; 1899-1902) between British forces & the Boers
see also: boer

blikoor n, D/Afk, x

lit Afk 'tin ear'; coll 'fool' or 'pig-headed person'; facetiously used to deride Free-Staters
see also: vaalpens

boeta n, D/Afk, x

boet, *boeta* & *boetie* are affectionate terms of address in Afk, but *boeta* is also used in the sense of 'Brother!'

see also: kaffirboetie

bok (i) n, D/Afk, +

alt: buck

lit Afk equiv of 'male antelope'; occurs in combinations such as blesbok, bloubok, bontebok, gemsbok, grysbok, springbok; apparently the Afk 'bok' is preferred where the first component part is of Afk orig & is pronounced as in Afk. Where the first component part may be translated into E or given an E pronunc it seems usu to prefer the E 'buck', eg bushbuck (Afk bosbok), reedbuck (Afk rietbok), waterbuck (Afk waterbok)

bok (ii) a, D/Afk, x vulg

as in 'I am *bok*' in the sense of 'I am game'

bok-bok n, D/Afk, + coll

popular name of a game played by boys

bokjol n, D/Afk, ? coll

evening's dancing arranged by students, in particular at S Afr universities

bokkem n, D/Afk, +

alt: bokkom, Cape biltong

dried, salted & sometimes smoked whole fish (usu ha(a)rder, but also stumpnose, steenbras, elf & doppies) fried in butter or grilled & served with only the skin removed

bokkom n, D/Afk, +

see: bokkem

Boland n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'highland', the S Wst region of the Cape Province wh, although lower in altitude than the interior plateau, was named 'Boland' by the first D settlers, from the custom in the Ea Indies to call the white settlers who inhabited the healthier highlands of the interior, as opposed to the low coastal regions, 'Bolanders'

bookbag n, E, x

lit transl of Afk 'boeksak'; vulg for 'schoolbag, satchel, briefcase'

boot n, E, +

S Afr & GB equiv of 'trunk' in Amer, meaning luggage compartment of motor car

border industry n, E, +

industrial concerns situated on the borders of Ba homelands, introduced for the specific purpose of absorbing & encouraging Ba labour
see also: homelands

borrow/lend

to *borrow* something from a person means to obtain temporary use of something wh is to be returned by the borrower to the lender; to *lend* something to someone means to grant someone the use of something on the understanding that it or its equiv is to be returned to the lender by the borrower, eg 'Hø *borrowed* the book (my book) from me', 'He *lent* the book (his book) to me'. The Afk verb 'leen' means both 'borrow' & 'lend', eg 'Terwyl hy aangebied het om sy tikmasjien aan my te *leen*, het ek sommer papier ook by hom *geleen*'

bosluis n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'tick' or 'bushtick'

boss n, E, + coll

see: baas

boss boy n, E, + coll

Ba foreman, or leader of a gang of Ba workers esp on S Afr mines, in industry, farming, etc

boubou shrike n, ? /E, +

see: kokkewiet

boy n, E, + coll

Ba male domestic servant, or employee in business & industrial concerns, eg boss boy (on the mines, farms & in industry), butcher boy, cook boy, delivery boy, flat-boy, garden boy (now gardener), house boy, kitchen boy, messenger (boy), milk boy (now often milkman), native boy, ricksha boy, tea boy

see also: African, Bantu, girl

braaivleis n, D/Afk, +

open-air gathering, party or function, usu in the late afternoon at wh meat is roasted over the embers of an open fire; the meat usu consists of individual portions, eg chops, steaks & boerewors, unlike the whole carcasses turned on a spit at Amer barbecues

brak n, D/Afk, x

alt: brakkie (diminutive)

Afk equiv of 'mongrel' or 'cur'

brakkie

see: brak

bredie n, Port/Afk, +

dish of meat, usu mutton, braised with vegetables, onions & peppers

bringal n, Port, + (*Solanum melongena*)

alt: brinjal, brinjel, brinjella, egg-fruit

indigenous S Afr plant of wh the pear-shaped, purplish fruit is used as a vegetable

brinjal/brinjel/brinjella

see: bringal

broekie n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'knickers'

buck n, E, +

alt: bok (Afk for 'male antelope')

S Afr term for 'antelope', frequently occurs in compounds, eg bushbuck, springbuck, waterbuck

see also: bok (i)

buckshoot n, E, +

expedition organized to shoot buck

see also: buck

bundu n, Tagalog or Ba, + coll

S Afr sl for 'uncultivated, uncivilised country', eg 'live in the bundu'; equiv of Amer sl 'boondock(s)' or 'bundocks' for 'rough country, dense bush' or 'rural areas', derived from the word 'bundok', ie 'mountain' in Tagalog, the official language of the Rep of the Philippines; 'bundu' may have been derived from Xh 'u-bunda' (place of the goats & sheep)

bunga n, Xh, +

['bu:ŋga]

Ba council with members who are elected & appointed to deal with local government affairs in the Transkei under guidance of white commissioners

bungalow n, Hind, +

in S Afr E a small, usu rustic building, consisting of one or more rooms with cooking & bathing facilities, at a holiday resort

see also: hut, rondavel

-burg suff, D/Afk, +

+ in place names, eg Middelburg, Johannesburg

burger n, D/Afk, +

{g}

alt: burgher

citizen, civilian

bus n, E, +

S Afr equiv of 'coach' in GB, in the sense of a vehicle used for long distance conveyance of passengers, eg bus tours, railway bus, tourist bus

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

small, sth Afr antelope with spirally twisted horns & white markings resembling a harness; frequents dense bush & reeds along rivers, therefore rarely seen

Bushman n, E, +

member of a now almost extinct, nomadic Capoid race of Paleolithic hunters surviving only in sth Afr; the language of these people is monosyllabic, with 'clicks' used for certain consonants
see also: Bushman grass & other compounds

Bushmanland

very dry region in the N Wst Cape Province

Bushman('s) tea

see: kaffir tea

bush matome n, E/Ba, +

see: jakkalsbessie

bush-tick n, E, +

S Afr E for 'tick' prob from Afk 'bosluis'

bushveld n, E/D/Afk, +

veld composed largely of scrub; low country of the Transvaal
see also: Lowveld, veld

busy

is followed by the pres part & not by the inf of the v, 'They were busy *eating*' + 'They were busy *to eat*' x

butterfly tree n, E, +

see: mopane

C

ca(a)ma fox n, Ba, +

see: silver jackal

café pronunc

['kæfeɪ] +

S Afr pronunc 'caffy' vulg x

camp (i) n, E, +

enclosed portion of a farm where animals graze

camp (ii) n, E, +

alt: rest camp

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

see also: bungalow, rondavel

camp off v, E, +

make enclosures on a farm for grazing animals

camp fever n, E, +

traditional name for 'enteric', formerly very common among the mining community at Kimberley & in Johannesburg in the early days, owing to poor water supplies

can/may aux, E, +

'can' was the past tense of the Anglo-Saxon verb 'cunnan', meaning 'to know', hence its present meaning 'to know how' or 'to be able'; *can* should therefore never be used in the place of *may* wh expresses permission or possibility, eg '*May I play rugby?*' = 'Will you give me permission?' '*Can I play rugby?*' = 'Am I able to play rugby?'

candle tree n, E, +

see: long-tail cassia

Cape thorn-tree n, E, +

see: sweet-thorn

c(h)anna n, Hott, +

see: kanna

Cape armadillo n, E, +

see: scaly anteater

Cape biltong

see: bokkem

Cape boy

see: Cape Coloured

Cape Coloured n, E, +

alt: Cape boy, Coloured

member of a group of people of mixed White, Capoid, Malay & to a lesser extent Negroid stock, mainly & originally located in the Wst Province of the Cape, whose mother tongue is Afk or E

Cape crayfish

see: rock lobster

Cape doctor, the n, E, +

alt: South-easter

the strong s-easterly wind along the Cape coast wh local inhabitants believe to be health-giving as it blows fresh sea air inland

Cape hartebees(t) n, E/D/Afk, +

see: red hartebees(t)

Cape jumping hare n, E, +

see: springhaas

Cape kangaroo n, E, +

see: springhaas

Cape mahogany n, E, +

see: Natal mahogany

Cape polecat n, E, +

see: striped muishond

Cape ruby n, E, +

garnet, semi-precious stone

Cape smoke n, E, + coll

jocular name for cheap Cape brandy

capital pronunc

the i should be given its rightful place in pronunc

car pronunc

'cor' x, eg 'Where are you going to *pork* the *cor*?' x

catch a bus, train, etc

permissible if it means to arrive in time to board a bus, train, etc, but *not* when it is equiv merely to 'go by bus, *board* a bus, *get on* a bus, eg 'We cannot wait for them any longer, as we have to *catch* a train at 3.30' +, 'Are you *catching* the bus?' x, 'Are you *going by* bus?' +, 'Where do you *catch* the bus?' x, 'Where do you *board* the bus?' +

cater for/cater to

to provide a supply of food *for*; to occupy oneself in providing *for*, eg 'The hotel management catered *for* a hundred guests'; to pander *to*, eg 'The politician catered *to* the national taste and vanity'

cat's eye n, E, +

alt: crocidolite

'type of semi-precious stone found in the diamond fields & used in the manufacture of jewelry; not identical with the precious stone of Ceylon & Malabar

cattle n, E, +

pl n denoting 'beasts of pasture', esp oxen, bulls & cows, therefore demanding pl form of v, eg 'The cattle *have* been slaughtered'

cattle egret n, E, +

see: tickbird

cat-thorn (i) n, E, +

see: kaffir-thorn

causeway n, E, +

see: dam wall

chance/change

sp frequently confused as a result of poor pronunc:

chance [tʃɑ:nɪs] that which falls out fortuitously; an unexpected event, opportunity or risk;

change [tʃeɪnʒ] the act of alteration or variation of any kind or of changing; money given in adjustment of payment

cheetah n, Hind, + (*Acinonyx jubatus*)

alt: cheeta, chita, hunting leopard

long-legged, small-headed, swift-moving Afr & formerly Asiatic cat about the size of a small leopard, that has a tawny pelt marked with dark brown or black, oval or round spots unlike the spots of the leopard wh are arranged in rosettes; also distinguished by its claws wh are only partially retractile

Chinaman (i) n, E, +

native of China; *Chinese* is preferable

Chinaman (ii) n, E, +

alt: Chink

used as a derogatory term

see also: Jap for Japanese, Chinaman (i)

chin/jaw

chin = front of lower jaw; jaw = two sets of bones forming framework of mouth – upper jaw and lower jaw

Chink n, E, x

see: Chinaman (ii)

chiperone

see: guti

chita n, Hind, +

see: cheetah

circumstance(s) pronunc

['sə:kəmstəns(əz)]

cloth-of-gold n, E, +

see: long-tail cassia

coast n, E, +

S Afr equiv of 'sea' or 'seaside' in GB; 'coast', a formal geographical term in GB

cold drink n, E, +

see: cooldrink

colour

Amer sp 'color' x

Coloured n, E, +

see: Cape Coloured

combat pronunc

both the v & n take the stress on the first syllable:

['kʌmbət], ['kʌmbæt], ['kɒmbət], ['kɒmbæt], + ;
[kəm'bæt] is Amer x

come there/arrive

'When we *came there* he had already left' x, 'When we *arrived he had already left*' + ; incorrect usage prob due to Afk inf, eg 'Toe ons *daar kom* was hy reeds weg'

commando n, D/Afk, +

party called out for military service (introduced into E during the Boer War); widely used for special kind of military training today

commendable pronunc

the second syllable is stressed

committee

notice *mm* & *tt* in sp; an m and/or t frequently omitted, prob Afk inf 'komitee', hence 'committee' x, 'committee' x

comparable (i) pronunc

['kɒmpərəbl]

comparable(ii)/comparative

comparable: 'able to be compared (with)', eg 'Two parties of *comparable* power'; comparative: 'involving comparison, perceptible by comparison, estimated by comparison', eg 'to live in *comparative* comfort' or 'the *comparative* merits of this project...'

comparison of adjectives

when two persons or objects are compared, the comparative should be used in preference to the superlative, eg 'the *younger* of the two'; 'the *youngest* of the ten' +; 'Peter is the *better* student of the two, but he is not the *best* student in the class' +

compound n, E, +

area or group of buildings where Ba labourers, esp on the mines & in industry, are housed

compound manager n, E, +

mine or industrial official in charge of a compound
see also: compound

constable pronunc

[ˈkɒnstəbl]

so also the surname ‘Constable’, except in Scotland where the pronunc is [kɒn-]; in ‘constabulary’ the stress is on the second syllable

continual/continuous

must not be confused: the former is defined as ‘always going on’, the latter as ‘connected, unbroken’, eg ‘This *continual* bickering must stop’; ‘Some cinemas have a *continuous* performance throughout the day instead of three or four sessions per day’

continuance/continuation/continuity

continuance: obs in the sense of *continuation* & *continuity*;
continuation: ‘continued maintenance’; ‘resumption’ or ‘that by wh or in wh anything is maintained or prolonged’, eg ‘a continuation of the fine weather’; *continuity*: lit & fig ‘connectedness, unbrokenness, uninterruptedness’

continuation/continuance/continuity

see: continuance

continuity/continuance/continuation

see: continuance

continuous/continual

see: continual

controversy pronunc

first syllable stressed

cooldrink n, E, +

alt: cold drink

S Afr equiv of ‘soft drink’ in GB; cold, non-alcoholic beverage, prob from Afk ‘koeldrank’

coolie (i) n, E, + coll

abbr of 'cooldrink' or 'cold drink'
see: cooldrink

coolie (ii) n, Hind, + coll

S Afr Ind, not necessarily a labourer or a menial; the word has a derogatory connotation; not applicable to S Afr Chinese

coolie pink a, Hind/E, + coll

violent pink colour
see also: coolie (ii)

coon n, E, + coll

abbr of 'raccoon' used in Amer for 'negro', usu taken to be offensive; in S Afr applied to Ba; the word has a derogatory connotation

Coon carnival n, E, +

procession & display presented annually by the Cape Coloureds in Cape Town

coral tree n, E, +

see: kaffirboom

cork tree n, E, +

see: mobola plum

coffie n, E, + coll

see: bathing costume

costume n, E, +

ladies' two-piece garment, jacket & skirt, equiv of 'suit' in GB; S Afr equiv of bathing suit in GB
see also: bathing costume

cottage n, E, +

S Afr holiday home at the coast, equiv of 'holiday bungalow' in GB; in S Afr also 'cottage' as in GB, but frequently of the rondavel type
see also: bungalow, coast, rondavel

council/counsel

council n (never occurs as a v): 'ecclesiastical, advisory or deliberative assembly or body of persons'; *counsel* n: 'advice & opinion given or offered' (no pl in this sense); 'a counsellor-at-law, a barrister, an advocate'; *counsel* n: in a pl sense, 'barristers' or 'body of legal advisers', eg 'Both counsel agreed with the judge'; *counsel* v: 'to advise, recommend'; hence 'counsellor'

cow pea n, E, +

see: kaffir bean

counsel/council

see: council

crayfish n, E, + (*Astacus fluviatilis*)

fresh-water crustacean resembling a small lobster, but usu much smaller in size, found in rivers & streams; those of the nth hemisphere belong to a single fam *Astacidae* wh includes the genera *Astacus*; 'crayfish' is frequently written as two words in S Afr x
see also: rock lobster

credible/creditable

credible = 'believable (of persons & statements), eg 'He told a *credible* tale'; creditable = 'that brings credit or honour (to)', eg 'He gave a *creditable* performance last night'

creditable

see: credible

crocidolite

see: cat's eye

crystalline pronunc

[ˈkristəli:n]

cucumber tree n, E, +

see: sausage tree

cumquat n, Chinese, +

see: kumquat

customer n, E, +

as 'buyer' + ; 'patron' used to replace *customer*, in advertisements, departmental store & other notices displayed by shops, businesses, cinemas, etc x; 'patron' of a shop, etc, only + as 'regular customer'

D

dagha n, Ba, + coll

common word among the Ba for 'mortar', esp in the building trade

daisy tea n, E, +

see: kaffir tea

dam n, D/Afk, +

in S Afr an artificial reservoir; the water accumulated in a banked-up depression; the depression & its contents, rather than the actual bank; Amer +

see also: dam wall

dam wall n, E, +

alt: causeway

this term could be regarded as tautologous, for 'dam' means

'causeway, barrier constructed to hold back water'; in S Afr E + ,
prob inf of Afk 'damwal'
see also: dam

darem adv, Afk, x

roughly the equiv of 'really', eg 'It is *darem* a pity' x

dassie (i) n, D/Afr, + (*Procavia capensis*)

alt: rock rabbit

small rabbit-like mammal wh lives mainly in rock fissures or among
boulders

data pronunc

['dɑ : tɑ] in S Afr, ['d eɪ t ə] in GB; 'data' & 'strata' are the pl
forms of 'datum' & 'stratum' & therefore take the pl v

dead dog n, E, +

see: jakkalskos

decade pronunc

['dekəd] + ['dekeɪd] + [də'keɪd] + ;
the first is preferable

deceitful/deceptive

'He is *deceitful*' = dishonest; 'These statistics are *deceptive*' =
misleading

defence

Amer sp 'defense' x

deficit pronunc

['defɪsɪt]

Department

S Afr equiv of 'Ministry' in GB

dependant/dependent

both permissible as n; *dependent* only as adjective

desperate

frequently spelt incorrectly 'desparate' x: *desperate*, meaning 'having little or no hope' comes from L de(sperare = hope); *disparate*, meaning 'essentially different or diverse in kind' comes from L dis(paratus pp of parare = provide)

deurmekaar a/adv, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'confused, mixed up'; 'That rugby match was just a *deurmekaar* affair' x; 'I feel *deurmekaar*' x

differ

differ from = to be not the same, eg 'Coffee *differs from* tea'; to be at variance, eg 'I *differ from* you in that matter'; *differ with* = also 'to be at variance', eg 'I *differ with* you in that matter'; *differ to* x see also: different

different

different from + ; *different to* is permissible; *different than* is + only where a prep is inconvenient, eg 'This is more *different than* I ever imagined', from/to that – which/what would be very clumsy

dignitary

often incorrectly spelt 'dignatory' x

dikkop n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'blockhead, numbskull'

dilettante pronunc

[dili'tænti]

dinges n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'thingamy, thingumajig, thingumbob, thingummy';
'thingamybob' in S Afr ?

diphtheria pronunc

[dif 'θ iəriə]

see also: diphthong

diphthong pronunc

[' difθɔŋ]

see also: diphtheria

disappear

frequently spelt incorrectly with two s's & one p

disappoint

frequently spelt incorrectly with two s's & one p

disparate/desperate

see: desperate

disselboom n, D/Afk, +

long draught-pole in front of a wagon or cart

distribution

'to distribute, to share among a number', eg 'R200,000 is available
for distribution — to the sole beneficiary' x — 'to the heirs' +

divide

frequent S Afr sp mistake, 'devide' x

disparate/disparately/disparateness pronunc

the first syllable is stressed, but in 'disparity' the second syllable is stressed

doek, doekie n, D/Afk, + coll

Afk equiv of 'cloth';

square of material used as head-scarf, esp by Ba women

doily n, E, +

small, often decorative, piece of linen, lace, paper or plastic, usu serving as a mat beneath some object, eg a vase, either as an ornament or to protect the surface on wh the object is placed; in S Afr also a small, round net cloth, weighted with beads or sea shells, used to cover milk jugs, sugar bowls, etc

doings n, E, x

alt: concern, bustle, fuss, hubbub, goings-on, ado, to do, affair(s)

dolly n, E, + coll

early form of stamping machine for breaking up gold-bearing rock on S Afr gold-fields

dolos n, D/Afk, +

['dɔ:l, ɔ:s]

metatarsal & metacarpal bones of sheep, goats, pigs, etc wh are thrown by Ba witchdoctors in forecasting future events; played with by children in games where the bones represent oxen

dominee n, D/Afk, +

minister of the Afk churches; form of address or title (usu abbr ds.)

domkop n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'blockhead, dunce, fathead'

donder v, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'thunder, fulminate'; vulg for 'thrash, beat up'

donkey's years n, E, + coll

a long period of time, eg 'I haven't seen him for donkey's years'

dop v, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'fail an examination'

dop & dam n, D/Afk, ? coll

tot of brandy & water

donga n, Ngu, +

['dɒŋga:]

deep ravine or gully caused by soil erosion

dop(pie) n, D/Afk, + coll

Afk equiv of 'husk, shell'

tot of brandy, whiskey, etc; cheap S Afr brandy, distilled from the husks of grapes after the juice has been extracted

doringboom n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'thorn tree'; applied as a general term to almost all native species of *Acacia* esp those wh have long straight white spines, eg *A. karroo*

see also: sweet-thorn tree

dorp n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'town, village'; used in the names of towns, eg 'Krugersdorp'; a derogatory term for an uninteresting, small town or village

see also: backveld

Dorsland n, D/Afk, +

alt: Dorsveld

Afk 'dors' equiv of 'thirst'; arid, almost waterless region of the Kalahari desert

Dorsland trek n, D/Afk, +

the trek of the Angola boers from the Transvaal to Angola across the Kalahari desert (1874-1905)

see also: Dorsland

Dorsland trekkers n, D/Afk, +

party of Transvaal boers who trekked to Angola across the Kalahari desert

see also: Dorsland, Dorsland trek

Dorsveld

see: Dorsland

drift n, D/Afk, +

in S Afr E a passage through a river; a ford; prob derived from Afk 'drif'

drift sand n, E, +

sand driven into banks by the wind

dronk a, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'drunk, intoxicated, tipsy, tight'

drostdy n, D/Afk, +

alt: drosty

official residence of a land-drost or magistrate

see also: land-dros(t)

dry diggings n, E, +

in diamond mining diamondiferous material is disintegrated by exposure to the atmosphere and sun
see also: river diggings

dry-rot n, E, +

term applied to a disease of timber occasioned by the fungus *Merulius lachrymans* wh causes wood to pulverise, eg floorboards rotting as a result of lack of cross-ventilation in the foundations of a building; in Knysna the term appears to be used of the dark stains in timber occasioned by moisture

due to/owing to

the only way to use *due to* in the sense of *owing to*, is to provide it with an actual n, so that in qualifying this n it retains its adjectival function, eg 'The *difficulty* is *due to* our ignorance' +, 'The *discovery* is *due to* Newton' +, 'His *inability* to come was *due to* the weather' +. Unlike *owing to*, *due to* has never become a compound prep & must therefore never be used like a participle as the first word of a phrase, eg '*Due to* the bad weather he came late' x (prep use), '*Owing to* the bad weather he came late' + (prep use), 'My *lateness* is *due to* the bad weather' + (a use), 'I came late *due to* the bad weather' x (adv use)

dwaal v/n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'to wander'; 'to *dwaal* around' = 'to wander about aimlessly'; 'to be in a *dwaal*' = 'to have one's head in the clouds' or 'not to be in accord with the situation'

dwarswal n, D/Afk, ?

wall built, or sandbank thrown diagonally across the ground, eg on the side of a road to divert the flow of rainwater, or in the open veld to prevent soil erosion

E

each/every

nn qualified by *each* & *every* require the sing form of the v, eg 'Each of the items *is* to be listed on a separate form', 'Every leaf, every twig, every drop of water *teems* with life'; also, 'Each & every individual *has* to answer for *his/her* own actions'

East Coast Fever n, E, +

alt: African Coast fever

acute, highly fatal disease of cattle, esp in est & sth Afr, marked by intense fever, laboured breathing, gastro-intestinal haemorrhage, swelling of the lymph glands & general weakness & emaciation, caused by a protozoan, *Theileria parva*, & transmitted by ticks of the genus *Rhipicephalus*

see also: brown(-ear) tick, red(-legged) tick

eel-worm n, E, +

alt: root gall worm (Cape)

nematode worm; esp any free-living or plant-parasitic round-worms, some of wh are serious pathogens of cultivated plants

see also: vrotpootjies

effect/affect

see: affect

egg-fruit n, E, +

see: bringal

eina int, Hott/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'ouch', exclamation expressing pain

either

n or pron qualified by *either* requires the sing form of the v, eg '*Either* of the two solutions *seems* satisfactory'

elephant rock n, E, +

name for dolomite, so called on account of the resemblance of its surface to the rough skin of an elephant

elephant shrew n, E, +

any of several leaping Afr shrews comprising the fam *Macroscelididae*; remotely related to both the true shrews & the hedgehogs; it has a flexible proboscis-like nose, thick fur & short ears

elephant tusk-tree n, E, +

see: leadwood

elephant's wood n, E, + (*Bolusanthus speciosus*)

elephant were said to browse on the foliage of this tree, hence the vernacular name

see: van Wykshout

embarrassed

often spelt incorrectly with one r or one s

emigrate/immigrate/migrate

emigrate: 'leave one's country to settle in another' (hence emigrant);
immigrate: 'come as a settler into a foreign country' (hence immigrant);
migrate: 'move from one country or place to another' (hence migrant)

epidemic/outbreak

epidemic is used in connection with infectious diseases amongst human beings, *outbreak* among livestock, eg 'Hundreds of people lost their lives during an *epidemic* of typhoid in the northern provinces of India', 'Many head of cattle have died in an *outbreak* of foot-and-mouth disease in Botswana'

erdvark n, D/Afk, +

see: aardvark

esel n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'ass, blockhead, dunce'

Eskimo pie n, E, +

small, wafer-sized slab of ice cream with a chocolate coating; in Amer, trademark for this product; S Afr & Amer equiv of 'choc ice' in GB

estimate/assess/evaluate

see: assess

eulogy

'a eulogy', 'a European', *not* 'an eulogy', 'an European', because 'eu' is pronounced [j]

evaluate/estimate/assess

see: assess

even

must be placed immediately before the word it is intended to qualify; the sense of the sentence depends entirely on the position of *even* in the sentence, eg '*Even I* spoke to the Queen' (in addition to everybody else), '*I even spoke* to the Queen' (in addition to seeing her), '*I spoke even to the Queen*' (in addition to speaking to other important persons)

see also: only

excuse me

should not be used in the sense of 'What did you say?'; use instead, 'I beg your pardon' or 'What did you say?'; 'I beg yours?' x; 'Excuse me' to express an apology, an interruption or a difference of opinion +, eg 'Will you excuse me from the meeting?', 'Excuse me, I would like to get to the door', 'Excuse me! But you are quite wrong there!'

exigence/exigency pronunc

first syllable stressed in both cases

exigency

see: exigence

exit n, E, +

in S Afr E a sign in cinemas, municipal offices, etc for 'way out' in GB

expect

see: anticipate

extant pronunc

[eks 'tænt] +, ['ekstənt] +

extremism/extremist pronunc

second syllable stressed

exquisite pronunc

first syllable stressed