ENGLISH USAGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

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METHOD AND FORMAT

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

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

1. Main entries are printed in the lower case, only the initial letters of proper nouns bear capital letters.

2. Pronunciation: In general we refer you to the Oxford English Dictionaries and Daniel Jones, *Everyman's Pronouncing Dictionary*. Where the need arises a phonetic transcription is given in square brackets.

3. Qualification: An entry is in most cases followed by symbols such as n, E, + . The symbols are used to denote
   (a) the part of speech,
   (b) the language of origin,*
   (c) acceptability or non-acceptability of a word or expression. Thus: + signifies 'acceptable'
   x signifies 'not acceptable'
   ? signifies 'undecided'
   - signifies 'origin unknown'

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

(1) apartheid n, D/Afk, +
    political policy in S Afr whereby it is planned that European & non-European races will develop separately in their own territories according to their own character & requirements

(2) bookbag n, E, x
    lit transl of Afk ‘boeksak’
    vulg for ‘schoolbag’, ‘satchel’, ‘briefcase’

(3) camp n, E, +
    alt: rest camp
    enclosed area in a game reserve where visitors are housed in huts, rondavels, luxury bungalows or tents
    see also: bungalow, hut, rondavel

(4) gemsbok n, D/Afk, + (Oryx gazella)
    [x]
    alt: gemsbuck
    large strikingly marked S Afr antelope with long slender straight horns; inhabits waterless regions as it can survive without water for months on end

(5) indaba n, Ngu, + coll
    communication or transaction of affairs,
    conference or consultation between or with Ba chiefs; in S Afr coll usage, ‘a problem or worry’, eg ‘That’s your indaba’

(6) kaross n, Hott/D/Afk, +
    [kərˈɔs] 
    rug or bedspread made from animal skins

4. Spelling Variants: These are listed alphabetically with appropriate cross-references.

5. Etymology: We refer you to the Oxford English Dictionaries, The New International Dictionary and Afrikaanse Etimologieë, Specific enquiries should be directed to Professor W. Branford, Institute for the Study of English in Africa, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.
6. We are including some of the more common species of flora and fauna. Detailed information can be obtained from the authoritative sources we have consulted thus far:


Plant Protection Research Institute: *Common Names of Insects*. Dept. of Agricultural Technical Services.

In our research we are deeply indebted to the authors, in some cases the editors, of the reference books we have listed.

7. General works consulted:


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(vi)
PHONETIC SYMBOLS

Key-words for the following consonant-letters are not given, as they have the customary English sounds:

- p, b, t, d, k, m, n, l, r, f, v, s, z, h, w

Key-words for the remaining sounds, including the affricate consonants and the diphthongs, are listed below.

**Consonants**

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face cloth n, E, +  
cloth used for washing a person; S Afr equiv of ‘flannel’ in GB

fall v, E, +  
redundant in the following sense: ‘rain, snow is falling at or in ...’ x;  
‘it is raining, snowing at or in ...’ +

false karee  
see: mountain karee

Fanagalo n, Ngu, +  
alt: Fanakalo  
lit: ‘do it like this’  
artificial, simplified language consisting of words from various Ba  
languages as well as E & Afk, designed as a medium of communica­  
tion between European employers & Ba employees esp on S Afr  
mines

Fanakalo  
see: Fanagalo

fan palm n, E, +  
see: ilala palm

farther/further

*farther* applies only to distance; *further* applies to distance or  
addition, eg ‘I cannot walk any farther (or further)’ +, ‘I do not wish  
to argue any further’ +; ‘Thus far & no farther’ +, has become an  
established expression & need not apply only to distance

fatfish n, E, +  
see: blue Hottentot
February pronunc

[‘febrʊəri] +, [‘febjuri] x
see also: arbitrary, itinerary, library, etc

fetish bean

see: sausage tree

fever tree n, E, + (Acacia xanthoploea)

alt: koorsboom, sulphur-bark tree

Tree of up to 15m, found in swampy, mosquito-infested areas, which gives rise to the superstition that the tree is a carrier of malaria; the yellowish green powder which covers the bark resembles sulphur, hence the alt name ‘sulphur-bark tree’; ‘fever tree’ is also applied to various other trees, eg species of Eucalyptus, on account of their alleged anti-febrile medicinal properties

see also: acacia

fewer/less

fewer denotes number, less quantity (in bulk):
fewer like few qualifies a pl n only & is preferred in phrases or sentences involving numbers or units considered individually & therefore capable of being counted, eg ‘There were fewer accidents last week’, ‘Fewer opportunities presented themselves at that time’;

less is a comparative adj & usu occurs with a sing n, less refers to collect quantity or to something abstract, eg ‘less money, less opportunity’; phrases involving sums of money, periods of time, measures of weight, distance, etc require less, as the sense in these cases is collect, eg ‘less than R50, less than sixty years, less than three kilograms, less than twenty metres’; ‘Fewer flights mean less empty seats’

fibre tree

see: violet tree

field/land n, E, +

see: land(s)
fiemies n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of ‘whims and fancies’ or ‘finicky, fussy’; ‘He is full of fiemies’

fiery

sometimes incorrectly spelt ‘firey’

film/helm pronunc

there is no vowel between the l & m, these & similar words should therefore not be pronounced as if they were spelt ‘fillem, hellem’

finance pronunc

[fɪ'naɪns] & [fɛɪ'naɪns] are preferable to [fɛ'næns]

finger grass n, E, +

various species of Digitaria so called because of the digitate arrangement of the spikes at the apex of the culms; D. eriantha, known as ‘hoenderspoorgras’ from the resemblance of the flower spikes to the spurs of fowls, is a fodder grass of the ‘sweet’ veld in summer-rainfall areas

finish and klaar int, E/Afk, ? coll

‘finish(ed)’ plus its Afk equiv ‘klaar’ are used to give emphasis to an exclamation of relief or of decision, eg ‘That’s it’, ‘Let’s have no further argument about it’

finished

‘I am finished’ + only when it means ‘I am completely overcome, exhausted’; otherwise ‘I have finished the exercise’, pres perf tense of ‘to finish’

fire lily n, E, +

alt: kei lily

lit Afk ‘vuurlelie’, the name given by the Natal Voortrekkers to several species of Cyrtanthus, of the fam Amaryllidaceae, eg Cyrtanthus sanguineus, C. contractus, because of the fiery colour of the flowers
fiscal shrike n, E, +
see: butcher bird

fish biltong n, E/D/Afk, +
see: toutjies
see also: bokkem

fisheries n, E, +
S Afr equiv of ‘fishmonger’ in GB

fishery zone n, E, +
legal term used for the area set aside for catching fish at a particular place or in certain waters esp by drawing a net or seine

flamboyant n, E, + (*Poinciana regia*)
ornamental tree with brilliant scarlet flowers, introduced into S Afr from Madagascar & grown in frost-free areas from Natal to the Est Transvaal; the name was given to the tree by Mark Twain on a visit to Natal

flame tree n, E, + (*Sterculia acerifolia*)
ornamental tree up to 20m high with bright crimson-coloured flowers introduced into S Afr from Mexico

flat-boy n, E, +
Ba cleaner in block of flats; hyphenated as ‘flat’ is a n and an a, cf house boy
see also: boy

flatty n, E, +
see: blinkvis

fleecy rot n, E, +
fungal disease in sheep, affecting the wool
flick(s) n, Amer, x

short for 'flicker', ie movie, usu pl, eg 'He took his girl to the flicks'

floating reef n, E, +

peculiarly shaped masses of rock up to one hectare in extent, found in diamond mines but containing no diamonds

flower-girl n, E, +

in S Afr a little girl acting as a bridesmaid; also + in Amer; in GB a girl who sells flowers

fluted scale n, E, +

see: Australian bug

fond

followed by of + pres part, not inf, eg 'They are fond of swimming' +, 'They are fond to swim' x, prob Afk inf, 'Hulle hou daarvan om te swem'

fontein n, D/Afk, +

[fɔn'tein] + [fon'ti:n] x
Afk equiv of 'fountain', used in place & plant names, eg Sterkfontein, fonteinhout

fonteinbos/-hout n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'fountain wood'; shrubby, aromatic species of Psoralea, eg P. aphylla & P. pinnata wh have blue flowers & are usu found growing near running water or springheads, hence the vernacular name; used as firewood
see also: bloukeur

for prep

used instead of to, eg 'I'll send it for you' x; + when the meaning is 'I shall undertake to send it on your behalf to someone else'; similarly 'I have an invitation for you from her', 'I have posted her
invitation to you'; prob Afk inf 'Ek sal dit vir (for & to) jou stuur', 'Ek het haar uitnodiging aan/vir (to/for) jou gestuur'

forge v, E, +

intr v, ie it cannot take a direct obj, eg 'They forged the river' x, 'Forge ahead & cross the river' +

forget

'I forgot my book at home' x in the sense of 'I left my book at home'; 'I forgot to bring my book' +; prob Afk inf 'Ek het my boek by die huis vergeet'

formidable pronunc

[ˈfɔːmɪdəbl] preferable to [ˈfɔːmɪdəbl]

frangipani n, -, +

alt: frangipane

any of various subtropical Amer shrubs of the genus Plumeria, eg Plumeria rubra, P. acutifolia, having succulent stems with terminal masses of heavily scented flowers called 'frangipani' because their scent is similar to that of a perfume named after the Italian Marquis Frangipani, who introduced it in the 16th century for scenting gloves

Frans madame n, D/Afk/F, +

see: dikoog

freesia n, -, +

alt: freezia

any of several plants of the genus Freesia, fam Iridaceae, native to sth Afr, with clusters of variously coloured, fragrant flowers, eg Freesia corymbosa & F. refracta; named after the G physician Freese

freezia n, -, +

see: freesia
fricadel n, E, +
  alt: frikkadel
  spiced minced meat ball

frightened of (at) (by)
  see: afraid of

frikkadel n, D/Afk, x
  see: fricadel

frommel v, Afk, x
  Afk equiv of ‘crush’ or ‘crease’

fruit(s) n, E, +
  a distinction is drawn between fruit, eg bananas, guavas, pears, & vegetables, eg cabbages, marrows & spinach; fruit in this sense demands the sing v, eg ‘Fruit is very expensive at present’; when denoting ‘edible products’, fruit demands the pl, eg ‘The fruits of the earth are harvested by all mankind’; the pl n & v are also used in the case of ‘revenue produced’, eg ‘The fruits of industry are reflected in ...’; also, the fruit(s) of my labour(s) is (are) that ...

fuffie slide n, ?, +coll
  [ˈfuːfi]
  child’s game; rope or wire strung from a high to a lower point on which children hang and slide to the ground; a strip of plastic stretched out on a slope, made wet and used as a slide

-ful
  this suf has only one l, eg delightful, hopeful

fulfil
  spelling frequently incorrect as a result of poor enunciation, forfill x, forefill x
**full of**

frequently used incorrectly to mean 'covered in or with', eg 'His clothes were full of mud' x

**fundi a, Zu, +coll**

abbr of Zu 'umfundisi', equiv of 'teacher, minister', eg 'He is fundi', 'learned, well informed'

**furniture n, E, +**

has no pl form, therefore sing v, eg 'The furniture has been sold by auction' +

**furore pronunc**

as 'admiration, craze' [fjuəˈroʊri] as the musical term [ˈfuˈroʊri]

**fuschia**

frequent sp error

see: fuchsia

**future/futuristic**

future = describing event yet to happen, eg 'That has no connection with any future nomination' +; futuristic = describing departure from traditional methods, eg 'futuristic art'

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**G**

**ga int, Hott/D/Afk, vulg**

[xa:]

exclamation of disgust

**gala pronunc**

['ɡaːlə] +, ['ɡeiːlə] +

but the former is ousting the latter
galjoen n, D/Afk, +
[xal'jun]
name applied to species of S Afr marine fish, eg Oplegnathus conwayi (see: bastard galjoen (i)) & Coracinus multifasciatus (see: bastard galjoen (ii))

gall sickness n, E, +
lit transl of Afk ‘galsiekte’; S Afr term for almost every kind of liver disease in cattle, sheep & goats, more specifically for anaplasmosis, a tick-borne disease of cattle transmitted by the blue- & black-pitted ticks

gammat n, M, +coll
[!*xa:ma:t]
alt: gammatjie
a Cape Coloured; Malay corr of ‘Mohamed’

gammatjie n, M, +coll
[!*xa:ma:ki]
see: gammat

garden pronunc
carelessly pronounced ‘gorden’ x

garden boy n, E, +coll
Ba or Coloured gardener
see also: boy

gases
the pl of gas is gases, not gasses; similarly bus, buses

gastrology/gastronomy

gastrology = science of cookery; gastronomy = art & science of good eating
gats int. Afk, x

[xaːts]
alt: gits, gonna
Afk equiv of 'gosh'

geelbek n, D/Afk, + (*Atractoscion aequidens*)

alt: Cape salmon, salmon
Marine fish known from the Cape to Natal; not often captured from the shore

geeldikkop n, D/Afk, ?

alt: tribulosis
disease contracted by sheep browsing on species of *Tribulus* (see: dubbeltjie); in several parts of the Central Karoo, *T. terrestris forma parvispinus* causes the loss of thousands of sheep annually

geelhout n, D/Afk, +

see: river bush willow

geelrys n, D/Afk, x

see: yellow rice

geilsiekte n, D/Afk, +

[ˈxeilsiektə]
acute form of prussic acid poisoning in stock, often fatal, caused by browsing on 'geil' (rich, lush) grass

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

[ˈxeɪmsbɔk]
alt: gemsbuck
large, strikingly marked S Afr antelope with long, slender, straight horns; inhabits waterless regions as it can survive without water for months on end
geography pronunc

[dʒiˈɒɡrəfi] + [ˈdʒɪˈɒɡrəfi] x

George lily n, E, + (Vallota speciosa or purpurea)

protected indigenous species of lily with funnel-shaped flowers, the bulbs are toxic to animals; found in and around George, Cape Province

gesondheid int, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of the toast ‘Cheers!’, lit ‘health’

get pronunc

carelessly pronounced ‘git’ x

get/got

the too frequent substitution of get and got for other vv expressing arrival, acquisition, receipt, achievement, etc should be avoided, eg ‘I got a train within twenty-four hours of getting your cable; when I got to Cape Town I got a first class cabin on the Pretoria Castle...’ x; ‘I boarded a train ... received your cable ... arrived in Cape Town ... reserved a cabin ...’ +

gha(a)p n, Hott, +

[ɡɑːp] various spiny-stemmed species of Trichocaulon with succulent stems wh were eaten raw by the Hott & used by the colonists to make a preserve; an infusion of the bruised stems in brandy was used medicinally & even exported to Amer; the vernacular name was later extended to species of Stapelia, Caralluma & to Decabelone barklyi

ghoef v, ‘?, x

[ˈɡuf] schoolboyism for ‘swim’ or ‘go swimming’
ghoen n, M or Hott, +coll

['gun]
large marble, previously an ivory marble, also used in playing hopscotch

ghwarrie n, Hott/Afk, +

['gwarri]
see: guarri

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

['gifbla:r]
highly toxic plant with subterranean root system going down to 12m; only a small cluster of leaves sprouts on the surface of the soil in early spring before other grazing is available, so that it attracts animals to which it is fatal

gifbol n, D/Afk, + (Boöphane disticha)

['gifbɔːl]
alt: seeroogblom
lily with deep rose-coloured flowers, leaves spread in a fan-like manner, & a bulb up to 40cm in diameter, the inner scales of which are extremely toxic & from which arrow poison is made by the Bu & Hott; both leaves & bulbs are fatal to cattle; name also applies to Ammocharis coranica, Haemanthus amarylloides & Nerine laticoma

girl n, E, +coll

alt: maid
non-White female domestic servant, employee in business & industrial concerns, eg cook girl, flat-girl, house girl, ironing girl, wash girl, tea girl
see also: boy

gits int, D/Afk, x

see: gats
go-away bird n, E, + (*Schizoris concolor*)
alt: grey touraco
Afr bird with a long tail, erectile crest and a short stout bill; named after its cry of ‘kway-kway’

goby n, E, +

general name for small marine fish belonging to the order *Gobioidae*, the smallest of living vertebrates, the adult being less than 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) cm in length
see also: dikkop (ii)

gogga n, Hott/D/Afk, +coll
['xo:xa:]
Afk term for an insect, vermin; a mischievous spirit

goings-on n, Amer, +coll

proceedings or behaviour, esp when regarded with disapproval

golden roman n, E, +

see: bastard galjoen (i)

gonna (i) int, Afk, x
['xo:na:]
Afk exclamation of surprise, the equiv of ‘oh dear! ’, ‘good gracious! ’, prob euphemism of ‘gotta’ from ‘God’; the word may, however, be of Hott origin
see also: gats

gonna (ii) n, Hott, +
['xo:na:]
collec name, used by the Hott for several species of *Thymeleaceae*, eg species of *Passerina & Struthiola*, the bark of wh is known as ‘gonnabas’ & was used by a tribe of Bu who came to be known as ‘Gonna Bushmen’ presumably because they used ‘gonnabas’
gonnabas n, Hott/Afk, +
   see: gonna (ii)

good in x
   the correct prep after good (ie skilful or proficient) is at, eg 'He is good at mathematics, tennis, & at making model aeroplanes' +

goods sing/pl
   pl n denoting movable property, merchandise, wares, etc in bulk, requiring pl v, eg 'The goods were damaged in transit'

gopse n, -, x
   ['xɔpsə]
   inferior locality, place; 'gops' a low-class person
   see also: backveld

gorah n, Hott, +
   ['ɡɔraː]
   Ba & Hott musical instrument played with the mouth, made of reeds across wh is stretched a length of sinew

got
   see: get

gousblom n, D/Afk +
   see: botterblom

government pronunc
   the n in this word should be pronounced; there is an inclination to say 'goverment', prob the inf of Afk 'goewerment' wh has no n

go with
   see: come with
gramadoelas n, Ba/Afk, +coll
wild, inhospitable, backward region of the country, ‘off the beaten track’
see also: backveld, bundu, gopse

grammar
spelt ‘grammer’ x

granadilla n, Sp, + (Passiflora caerulea)
alt: grenadella, grenadilla, passion-fruit
the species of Passiflora, (tropical Amer fruit) cultivated in S Afr for its oblong fruit, widely used as a desert, fruit drink & for flavouring

grass
sing when used collec in the sense of ‘herbage, pasturage’, eg ‘The grass is green’, but pl when denoting individual types, eg ‘Pasture grasses are essential to cattle farming’

grateful
spelt ‘greatful(l)’ x

grease tables n, E, +
device used on S Afr diamond mines, based on the fact that diamonds will adhere to grease, the remaining blue ground being washed away by water

greasy slip n, E, +
mineral found in diamond pipes together with blue ground, so named because it feels soapy

great/big
see: big/great

Greek shop n, E, +coll
equiv of ‘café’ in S Afr
green mamba n, E/Ngu, +coll
  peppermint liqueur

greengrocer
  is written as one word, *not* 'green grocer'

green mealies n, E/D/Afk, +
  mealies gathered and cooked while still green and tender; equiv of
  'corn on the cob' in Amer

greinhout n, D/Afk, x
  see: kiaat

grenadella
  see: granadilla

grenadilla
  see: granadilla

grey duiker n, E/D/Afk, + (*Sylvicapra grimmia*)
  tawny coloured S Afr antelope about 48-58cm in height
  see also: duiker

grey touraco n, E, +
  see: go-away bird

Griet int, D/Afk, x
  Afk personal name used as an exclamation, eg 'o Griet! ', the equiv
  of 'oh dear! ', 'great Scott! '

gril v, D/Afk, x
  [xril]
  Afk equiv of 'shudder' esp at something wh is weird, gruesome or
  grisly
grizzly n, Amer, +
mining term; grating of parallel iron bars with interstices between to allow the finer material to fall into the sluices below while the larger stones are screened off

groom
in GB a servant having care of horses, or one of certain officers of the Royal Household; in S Afr incorrectly used for ‘bridegroom’
grootjie n, D/Afk, +
see: dikoog
ground squirrel n, E, + (Xerus inuarus)
squirrel wh inhabits drier areas of the country; feeds on plants, seeds, roots & bulbs
see also: bush squirrel
grysappel n, D/Afk, +
see: mobola plum
grysbok n, D/Afk, +
[’greisbo:k]
small reddish antelope of sth Afr of the genus Raphicerus of wh there are two species, R. melanotis or Cape grysbok & R. sharpei or Sharp’s grysbok
see also: Cape grysbok, Sharp’s grysbok

guard
spelt gaurd x

quarri (bush) (tea) (tree) n, Hott, +
[’gwAri]
alt: ghwarrie
species of Euclea, eg E. undulata, E. lancea, a rigid, much-branched shrub or small tree, much browsed by stock, with edible small
succulent fruits known as ‘guarribessies’ which the Hott fermented to make a type of vinegar; an astringent ‘tea’ is prepared from the leaves of *Euclea crispa*.

**gubu** n, Zu, +

[gu:bu:]

Zu musical instrument consisting of a calabash attached to a bow, the string is struck with a stick, giving a monotonous sound.

**gymnasium** n, E, +

Military college established at Pretoria (Voortrekkerhoogte) in 1949; its naval counterpart at Saldanha Bay dates from 1951, as does the Air Force gymnasium near Pretoria.

**gynaecology** pronunc

[gaɪnə'kələdʒi] is preferable to [dʒainə'kələdʒi] though the latter is permissible.

See also: gynandrous.

**gynandrous** pronunc

[g] more commonly used than [ŋ]; botanical term meaning ‘with stamens & pistil united in one column as in orchids’.

See also: gynaecology.

**H**

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

See: black monkey-thorn.

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

See: haak en steek.

**haakdoring (iii)** n, D/Afk, + (*Acacia mellifera* var. *detinens*)

Alt: beiraboom, blouhaakdoring, bruinhaakdoring, gnoibos, heiraboom, noebush, swarthaakdoring, wag-'n-bietjie, weerhaakdoring, wynruithaakdoring.
deciduous tree up to 8m high, with numerous pairs of thorns; the timber is used for pick & axe handles, the heartwood being both termite- & borer-proof; foliage & pods make good fodder

**haak en steek n, D/Afk, + (Acacia tortilis subsp heteracantha)**

alt: Basterkameeldoring, haakdoring, sambreeldoring, umbrella thorn, withaak

common flat-topped thorn tree of the bushveld savanna, usu from 4.8m in height, characterised by very small feathery leaves, small pods, thorns in pairs, some small & hooked, others straight, long & white, & sweet scented flowers borne in masses on the branches; leaves & pods make excellent fodder but wood of little value; vernacular name derived from the hooked thorns wh ‘catch’ (haak) & the straight thorns wh ‘prick’ (steek)

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

see: springer (i)

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

see: springer (iii)

**hadeda n, –, + (Hagedashia hagedash)**

alt: addada, hadahah, hadada, hadida, hageda

large olive-grey ibis found in Afr s of the Sahara in flocks up to thirty in summer; when disturbed they rise with raucous calls of ‘ha-ha-ha-ha-dahah’, wh startle everything in the neighbourhood

**half-full a, corr, x**

quantity applied to contents instead of container, eg ‘He drank a glass half-full of water’ x; ‘He drank half a glass of water’ +

**halfmense n, D/Afk, + (Pachypodium namaquanum)**

see: elephant’s trunk
hamba ga(s)hle v/adv, Ngu, ? coll

['ha:mба: 'ga:ʃle]
saying of farewell, lit ‘go well’

hamel n, D/Afr, +

S Afr name for a wether or castrated ram

hamerkop n, D/Afk, + (Scopus umbretta)

alt: hammer-head
bird with a large crest on its head wh, coupled with the large bill, gives the illusion of a hammer shape; of fam Scopidae wh contains only one genus, peculiar to Afr, S Arabia & Madagascar; a wader, subsisting mainly on frogs but unlike other waders it builds a large, oven-like nest of sticks & rubbish with a small circular opening below

hands-up v, E, +coll
to put up the hands in token of surrender; of Anglo-Boer War origin

handsupper n, E, +coll
term of contempt used of members of the Boer forces who surrendered to the British during the S Afr War

hangberger n, D/Afk, +

see: Hottentot (i)

happie n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of ‘appetising morsel, titbit’, lit ‘small bite’; ‘southappies’ Afk equiv of snacks, savouries

harassed
misspelt harrassed

hardekool n, D/Afk, +

see: leadwood
hartbees huisie n, D/Afk, +
  see: hartbees hut

hartbees hut n, D/Afk/E, +
  primitive dwelling built of reeds, sometimes plastered with mud or clay, equiv of ‘wattle and daub’ hut

hartbeest(n) n, D/Afk, +
  alt: caama, kaama, kama, khama
  any of several large Afr antelopes of the genus Alcelphus, eg A. camma (see: red hartebeest)

has/has got
  got in this case is tautologous;
  ‘He has got a cold’ x, ‘He has a cold’ +;
  ‘Have you got a pen?’ x, ‘Do you have a pen?’ +
  see also: got

have pronunc
  [hæv] +, [hef] x

have to/must
  should be avoided when replying to an inquiry for an interview, eg ‘You will have to/must see the manager’, +; ‘You will have to/must wait’ +; ‘Will/would you mind waiting?’ +

he/him
  ‘It is but for he & I to accept’ x; when pron(s) follow a prep they have to be in the acc because they are direct objects to the prep, eg ‘It is but for him & me to accept’ +; I and he (we and they) are used nominatively, ie as subjects of a verb, eg ‘They hope both he and I will accept the invitation’ You sing pl remains unchanged as it has the same form in the nom and acc
**heartwater n, E, +**

serious febrile disease affecting cattle, sheep & goats in sth Afr, caused by the micro-organism (*Cowdria ruminantium*), transmitted only by the bont tick, *Amblyomma hebraeum*, & so called from the accumulation of fluid in the pericardium

see also: bont tick

**heater n, E, +**

alt: radiator
S Afr equiv of ‘electric fire’ in GB

**heira n, Hott, +**

see: beira

**helluva adv, −, x**

sl term lit ‘hell of a’, used in the sense of ‘hellishly, extremely’, eg ‘It is helluva expensive’

**helm pronunc**

[helm] +, [heləm] x

see also: film

**her/she**

in speaking of a country as she or her, there is ill-advised personification, eg ‘In her protest Israel made no mention of ...’; use its instead

**Here int, D/Afk, x**

[hiərə]
Afk equiv of the int ‘Lord!’

**herself**

see: myself
hey int, E, x coll

alt: eh
int calling attention, expressing inquiry or surprise, or inviting assent, eg ‘You won’t forget to lock the door, hey?’; much abused in S Afr esp in giving emphasis to a statement, eg ‘Thank you so much, hey?’
see also: see

himself

see: myself

hissing tree n, E, +
see: mobola plum

hit/slap/smack
see: slap

hoenderspoor n, D/Afk, +
see: Nyala tree

hoederspoor karee n, D/Afk/Hott, +
see: kareebom

hok n, D/Afk, x
Afk equiv of ‘kennel, pen, sty, run, cage, shed’

hokai int, Ba/Afk, ? coll
Afk equiv of ‘whoa! , halt there! ’ chiefly used to bring draught-animals to a halt, but also used in the sense of ‘wait a minute!’

hold/keep
‘You may hold that, I don’t want it’ x, ‘You may keep that ...’ +; ‘Will you hold may bag while I take off my coat?’ +; prob Afk inf ‘Jy kan dit hou ...’
homelands n, E, +
areas set aside and reserved for the Ba in S Afr

honey badger n, E, +
see: ratel

honey beer n, E, +
see: kareemoer

honorary pronunc
[ˈhɒnəri] + [ənəri] x

-hoogte suf, D/Afk, +
Afk equiv of ‘height’ + in place names, eg ‘Voortrekkerhoogte’

horse-whim n, E, +
large wooden wheel used in early diamond mining for hauling up buckets containing diamondiferous soil

hospitable pronunc
[ˈhɒspɪtəbl]

hospitalization pronunc
[ˌhɒspɪtəlaiˈzeɪʃn], spelt with a z

hostess pronunc
first syllable stressed

hotnot n, D/Afk, +coll
contraction of ‘Hottentot’; sometimes used as a term of derogation

hot rod n, Amer, +coll
a homemade vehicle made of parts of different makes of cars, trucks, etc, modified for fast acceleration and high speed
Hottentot (i) n, D/Afk, +

member of one of the practically extinct Capoid races who formerly occupied the region near the Cape of Good Hope

Hottentot (ii) n, D/Afk, + (Pachymetopon blochii)

alt: hangberger
common food-fish of the Cape, occurring on the w coast of S Afr

Hottentot (iii) n, D/Afk, + (Pachymetopon aeneum)

alt: bluefish, copper bream
brilliantly coloured marine fish with cobalt blue head & blue-streaked bronzy yellow body, found in rather deep water from the Cape to Natal

Hottentot (iv) n, D/Afk, +

see: blue Hottentot (a fish)

hottentot v, D/Afk, +

to become or live as a hottentot

Hottentot button-quail n, D/Afk/E, + (Turnix hottentotta)

small bird of the fam of diminutive quail-like birds (Turnicidae) that nest under a tuft of grass; when disturbed they fly off a little way, alight and then run very fast to one side, so that when followed they are not found where expected

Hottentotese n, D/Afk/E, obs

the speech of the Hottentots

Hottentotic a, D/Afk/E, obs

alt: Hottentotish
pertaining or relating to Hottentots or to similar races; after the manner of a Hottentot
Hottentotish n, D/Afk/E, +

see: Hottentotic

Hottentotism n, D/Afk,E, obs

a practice characteristic of Hottentots; medical term for one of the varieties of stammering

Hottentot pie n, D/Afk/E, +

a type of meat pie

Hottentot’s bean n, D/Afk/E, +

see: weeping boerboon

Hottentot(’s) bread n, D/Afk/E, + (Dioscorea elephantipes)

alt: elephant’s foot, tortoise plant
name first recorded for this species, but also applied to Dioscorea sylvatica & Brachystelma foetidum, wh has dark purple-brown, fetidly scented flowers, tubers wh are bitter when fresh but can be roasted & eaten, or after drying are ground to a meal for making bread by the Hott, & also to Brachystelma crispum & B. thunbergii, the latter of wh is also known as kamb(a)roo; cortisone was originally made from species of Dioscorea
see also: elephant’s foot, kamb(a)roo

Hottentot(’s) cherry n, D/Afk/E, + (Maurocenia frangularia)

shrub up to 2.5m high with glossy leaves, fragrant clusters of flowers & red cherry-like fruits formerly eaten by the Hott; by 1730 cultivated in England as an ornamental plant

Hottentot’s fig n, D/Afk/E, + (Carpobrotus edulis)

plant forming dense, mat-like, prostrate growths with succulent leaves & large, succulent, fragrant fruits with edible, jelly-like sweet pulp; fruits were preserved in sugar by the colonists & the leaves were used medicinally; the vernacular name was recorded as early as 1685 & is sometimes incorrectly applied to Carpobrotus acinaciforme, or ‘sour fig’
Hottentot’s rice n, D/Afk/E, + (*Gasteria nigricans*)

succulent plant with broad, flat, firm, fleshy leaves & pendulous coral-pink flowers with green-tipped segments; the Hott are said to have boiled the young buds as rice; the name also appears to have been applied in the past to the eggs of a large species of ant said to have been eaten by the Hott

Hottentot’s tea n, D/Afk/E, + (*Helichrysum orbiculare*)

plant usu found along banks of streams or in marshy places, with aromatic leaves used by the Hott as tea, and by the colonists as a remedy for pulmonary & catarrh complaints

house boy

see: boy

house button spider n, E, +

see: button spider

house sparrow n, E, + (*Passer domesticus*)

Afk equiv ‘Engelse mossie’
sparrow introduced at Durban & East London whence it has spread over parts of the est Cape Province, Orange Free State & towns of the sth Transvaal; essentially a bird of towns & settlements
see also: Cape sparrow, mossie

how come

equiv of ‘how did it happen? ’; apparently an E phrase introduced to Amer by the early settlers and propagated even amongst the Negro slaves

huilboerboom n, D/Afk, x

see: African wattle

huilboerboon n, D/Afk, x

see: weeping boerboon
huiiboom, (-bos) n, D/AfK, x

see: African wattle

humour

Amer sp 'humor' x

hunting dog n, E, +

see: Cape hunting dog

hunting leopard n, E, +

see: cheetah

hyena n, E, +

alt sp: hyaena

any of several large, strong, nocturnal, dog-like mammals constituting the fam Hyaenidae, having a long thick neck, large head, powerful jaws, rough coat, & feeding largely on carrion

see also: brown hyena, spotted hyena

I

I may only be used as the subj of a v, eg 'I invited him' +; 'they have invited you & I' x, 'They (subj) have invited you & me' + (direct obj & therefore acc; 'It was given to him and I' x, 'It (subj) was given to him and me' + (indirect obj & therefore dat)

see also: pronouns

I.D.B. abbr, E, +

abbr for 'Illicit Diamond Buying', a legal term adopted in 1882 with the introduction of the Diamond Trade Act

ifafa lily n, -, +

several species of lily of the genus Cyrtanthus, bearing delicate, fragrant, pastel-coloured flower clusters; now cultivated commercial-
ily; named after the town Ifafa, where the species *Cyrtanthus mackenii* was first discovered

Ikey n, −, +coll

diminutive of Jewish name ‘Isaac’, applied by students of other universities to those of the University of Cape Town wh in turn is known as ‘Ikeys’

ilala palm n, Zu, + (*Hyphaene crinita*)

alt: fan palm, gingerbread tree, vegetable ivory
one of the only two species of palm tree in Sth Afr with fan shaped leaves, the other being *H. ventricosa* found only in S W Afr; Ba in the est Transvaal tap the trunk of the tree & make a potent liquor from the sap; the white nut of the fruit was formerly used in button making, hence the name ‘vegetable ivory’

immanent

see: eminent/immanent/imminent

immigrate

see: emigrate

impala n, Zu, + (*Aepyceros melampus*)

one of the most common S Afr antelopes, bright reddish-brown in colour, white below, with a black crescentic stripe on the haunch; can leap a distance of 11m & clear a height of 3m

impala lily n, Zu, + (*Adenium obesum var. multiflorum*)

shrubby succulent of the fam Apocynaceae, having a ball-shaped stem, spiny branches & white with pink-marked sweetly scented flowers wh appear after the leaves have dropped in winter; the vernacular name is also applied to a related species, *Pachypodium saundersii*, known as rathbonia or kudu lily
see also: rathbonia
impi n, Ngu, +

body of kaffir warriors

impius proununc

[ 'impiəs]

impracticable/impractical/unpractical

*impracticable*, adj = not practicable, that cannot be carried out or done; *impractical*, adj Amer equiv of *unpractical*, ie 'unwise to implement or maintain in practice', 'a person who is incapable of dealing efficiently with practical matters'

impractical/impracticable/unpractical

see: impracticable/impractical/unpractical

in/into

*in* is frequently misused for *into*, prob owing to Afk inf, eg 'The child fell *in* the water' x, from the Afk, 'Die kind het *in* die water geval'; if a verb of motion precedes the prep, *into* must be used, eg 'He jumped, fell, dived, stepped, walked, crawled or slid *into* the water' +

indaba n, Ngu, +coll

communication or transaction of affairs, conference or consultation between or with sth Afr Ba chiefs; in S Afr coll usage, a 'problem' or 'worry', eg 'I don't know how he is going to get out of this difficulty but that is his *indaba*, not mine'

Indian hemp n, E, +

see: dagga

induna n, Ngu, +

lit 'headman'; warrior, leader of an impi; an adviser or counsellor; man in authority, usu next in rank to the chief; a swaggerer

see also: impi
in fact
sometimes incorrectly written as one word ‘infact’

in front of
sometimes incorrectly written as two words ‘infront of’

ingenious/ingenuous/ingenuity/ingenuousness

ingenious adj (current sense) = showing cleverness of invention or construction; ingenuous adj (current sense) = honourably straightforward, open, candid, frank, guileless, innocent, artless; ingenuity = the abstract n common to both ingenious & ingenuous; ingenuousness is preferred as the n from ingenuous

inspan v, D/Afk, +
S Afr equiv of ‘to harness’ (horses) & ‘yoke’ (oxen)
see also: outspan

inspirational/inspiring
see: inspiring/inspirational

inspiring/inspirational

inspiring = infusing thought or feeling into a person; that inspires or tends to inspire; inspirational = produced by divine influence, esp that wh is thought to visit creative artists & under wh books of Scripture are held to have been written; relating to inspiration (the inspirational elements of scripture); communicating inspiration

in spite of
incorrectly written as two words, ‘inspite of’

insurance/assurance
see: assurance

intersection
S Afr equiv of ‘crossroads’ in GB
intrigue

[in'tri:ɡ]
equiv of ‘to puzzle’; should be avoided in the sense of ‘to interest’ or ‘to arrest the attention’

in vain

sometimes incorrectly written as one word ‘invain’

inyala n, Ngu, +

see: nyala

ironwood n, E, +

name originally applied as lit transl of Afk ‘yysterhout’ or ‘swartysterhout’ to *Olea capensis* s.sp. *capensis* in ref to the exceedingly hard timber of this tree; as other kinds of ironwood were recognized they were given distinctive D vernacular names, eg *Linociera foveolata* s.sp. *foveolata* became known as bastard (black) ironwood, *Milletia grandis* as kaffir ironwood, *Vepris undulata* as white ironwood; name also applied to *Olea africana* (see: wild olive), *Combretum imberbe* (see: leadwood) & *Colophospermum mopane* (see: mopane)

irrefutable pronunc

second syllable stressed

irreparable pronunc

second syllable stressed

irresponsible

equiv of ‘without sense of responsibility’, eg ‘Only an irresponsible parent would hand a small child a pair of scissors’ +; not responsible, equiv of ‘not answerable’, eg ‘Don’t blame me for the accident, I am not responsible’ +

irrevocable pronunc

second syllable stressed
Iscor n, abbr, +

South African Iron and Steel Corporation Limited

is it?

meaningless S Afr colloquialism for 'Is that so?', eg 'I am going to town this morning' — 'Is it?' x, use instead 'Are you?' or 'Is that so?'; in the following example it is correctly used: 'This is a fine institution' — 'Is it?'

itinerary pronunc

[aɪˈtɪnərəri] +; [aɪˈtɪnəri] x

its

is the gen form of the demonstrative third person pron it (as hers is of she) & does not take the gen form 's as does the ind pron one's, eg 'It needs to have its tail docked' +; not to be confused with 'It's time to go' for 'It is time to go'

itself

see: myself

ivory tree n, E, +

see: leadwood

J

ja adv, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'yes'

jacaranda n, Port, +

genus of pinnate-leaved tropical Amer trees of the fam Bignoniaceae, with showy blue flowers in panicles, extensively cultivated in Pretoria wh is sometimes referred to as the 'Jacaranda City'
Jack hanger n, E, +coll
see: butcher bird

Jacky hangman n, E, +coll
see: butcher bird

Jacopever n, —, +
see: dikoog

jakkalskos n, D/Afk, + (*Hydnora africana*)
alt: dead dog, kannip
root parasite of fam Hydnaraceae wh attacks various species of *Euphorbia* esp ‘melkbos’; only the foul smelling flower appears on the surface of the soil, the edible guava-like fruit ripens underground & is dug up & eaten by the Hott, according to reports also by baboons & jackals; vernacular name was first used by the Hott who had come to speak D, in the sense of ‘something worthless’ although the fruit was sometimes sold at the Cape Town vegetable market in the early days

Jap abbr, E, x
abbr of Japanese, not to be used in the company of a Japanese

japie n, D/Afk, +coll
[jɑːpi]
simple, inexperienced youth esp from the country whence ‘plaas-japie’, Afk equiv of ‘country-cousin’, ‘country bumpkin’, but also ‘dorpsjapie’, a person born & bred in a city & inexperienced in the ways of farm life; Japie is the diminutive of Jaap, a personal name derived from Jacob or Jakob
see also: dorp, plaas

jaw/chin
see: chin
Jewess pronunc

in S Afr the second syllable is stressed, in GB the first

job v, E, x

‘Where do you job? ’ x

job reservation n, E, +

restriction of employment outside a particular racial group

John Brown n, E, +

see: blue Hottentot

Johnny hangman n, E, +coll

see: butcher bird

join with

when two or more persons, organizations, or firms join for a common purpose, they join with each other, eg ‘The Liberal party joined with the Labour party in an attempt to defeat the government’

jol v, D/Afk, x

[jə:l]
coll Afk equiv of ‘to have fun’ from D ‘jolen’, with possible relationship to E ‘jolly’
see also: bokjol, jool

jool n, D/Afk, ?

[juɻəl]
Afk, equiv of ‘organised merriment’ in particular annual fund-raising carnival or ‘rag’ arranged by S Afr university students
jukskei n, D/Afk, +

[ˈjʊkskei] pl jukskeis
a game, unique to S Afr, in wh an object known as a skey is cast from a point, over a fixed distance, in the direction of and at another object called the stake wh is planted in a sandpit; the word ‘jukskei’ lit means ‘yoke skey’

July handicap

alt: Durban July
premier S Afr horse race, established in 1894; held annually in Durban on the first Saturday in July

jumping hare

see: springhaas

just

before v, eg ‘Just wait for him’ x, ‘Just do as I tell you’ x, ‘You just sit down’ x

just for mos x

sl equiv of ‘just for fun’

just now

in S Afk E equiv of ‘presently, in a little while’ x; ‘a short while ago’ +; in GB = ‘at this moment’ or ‘a short while ago’

K

kaaiman n, Sp/Port/D/Afk, +

in S Afr a type of lizard; in Amer ‘caiman’ is any of several Central & Sth Amer crocodilians similar to alligators but differing in ventral armour & often resembling crocodiles

kaal a, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of ‘naked, nude, bare, bleak, bald’ etc, eg ‘kaalvoet’ = barefoot, ‘kaalkop’ = bald
kaalvoet adv, D/Afk, x
Afk equiv of 'barefoot'
see also: kaal

kaalvoet rangers n, D/Afk/E, coll
sl for 'street urchins'
see also: kaalvoet

kaama n, Hott, +
see: hartebees(t)

kaapenaar n, D/Afk, +
see: silver fish

kabeljou n, D/Afk, +
see: salmon (i)

kaffer-wag-'n-bietjie n, Ar/D/Afk, x
see: kaffir-thorn

kaffir n, Ar, x
formerly a general name in S Afr for a member of the Afr Negroid race, nowadays regarded as a term of abuse; any one of the various languages spoken by this racial group; + in compounds, eg kafferboom, kaffircorn, Kaffir circus, kaffir watermelon
see also: African, Bantu

kaffir almanac n, Ar/E, +
two species of lily, Haemanthus katherinae & H. magnificus the vernacular name of wh is said to have been coined by the Voortrekkers in Natal, from the fact that the flowering period of the plants served the Ba as a sign that the time was right for crop sowing
kaffir bean n, Ar/E, + (*Vigna sinensis*)

alt: Bachapin bean, catjang, cow pea
species cultivated by Bechuanaland Bachapins for the edible beans long before the 19th century, prob introduced overland by Ba tribes from the ea coast where it had been brought from the East either by the Port in the 16th century or even earlier by the Arabs; useful leguminous crop for hay or silage; name also applied to seed of the kaffirboom

kaffirboetie n, Ar/D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of negrophil(e), negrophilist; derogatory term for one who shows excessive interest in the well-being of the Ba

kaffirboom n, Ar/D/Afk, +

alt: coral tree, lucky bean tree
name applied to several species of *Erythrina*, fam *Leguminosae*, eg *E. caffra, E. lysistemon*, an ornamental, thorny, deciduous tree found & cultivated in frost-free areas; produces bunches of bright scarlet flowers in spring when the tree is leafless, & later black pods containing bright red beans with a black spot, known as ‘kaffirbeans’ or ‘lucky beans’

kaffirbread n, Ar/E, +

see: breadfruit tree

Kaffir circus n, Ar/E, +coll
term used for the section of the London Stock Exchange specialising in certain S Afr mining shares

kaffircorn n, Ar/E, + (*Sorghum caffrorum*)

alt: Indian millet, mabela
tall reed-like grass, widely cultivated for its grain & largely used for making kaffir beer by S Afr Ba, prob introduced into S Afr from India by the Port in the 15th century; when the grain is ground to a meal, it is called ‘mabela’ & sold under various trade names, eg ‘Maltabela’ & makes an excellent porridge
kaffir date n, Ar/E, +
see: kaffir plum

kaffir hut n, Ar/E, + (*Euphorbia meloformis*)
dome-shaped succulent resembling a special type of Ba hut

kaffir piano n, Ar/E, +coll
alt: marimba
kind of xylophone used by the Negroes & Ba of Afr

kaffir plum n, Ar/E, + (*Harpephyllum caffrum*)
alt: kaffir date, kaffir scimitar, suurpruim
tall, evergreen, forest tree with conspicuous masses of flowers & plum-shaped fruits eaten by the Ba & made into a jam, whence the vernacular Afk name 'kafferpruim'; the red timber is prized for high-class furniture; the name is sometimes also applied to *Ximenia caffra* var. *Natalensis*
see: 'suurpruim' (i)

Kaffirs n, Ar, +
Stock Exchange term for certain S Afr mining shares

kaffir scimitar n, Ar/E, +
see: kaffir plum

kaffir tea n, Ar/E, +
alt: Bushman tea, daisy tea, Griqua tea
name given to several species of plants used by the Ba as medicinal tea, eg *Helichrysum nudifolium*, *H. miconiaefolium*, *Athrixia phylicoides* & *A. elata*

kaffir-thorn n, Ar/E, + (*Acacia caffra*)
alt: cat-thorn, kaffer-wag-'n-bietjie, katdoring
tree with a somewhat twisted trunk, spreading thin crown, feathery leaves, flowering spikes in clusters, & short, hooked thorns in pairs;
pods are browsed by stock & wood is used by the Ba for fence poles & for making tobacco pipes; bark used medicinally

kaffir tree n, Ar/E, +
see: kaffirboom

kaffir watermelon n, Ar/E, + (*Citrullus vulgaris*)
alt: tsama, t’sama, tsamma
inferior type of watermelon, generally cultivated as succulent feed for cattle during times of drought; the rind is made into the preserve ‘waatlemoenkonfyt’ or watermelon preserve; the species is sometimes confused with the bitter watermelon

kaggel n, D/Afk, x
Afk equiv of fire-place

kaia n, Ngu, +coll
alt: kaya
native hut; servant’s quarters on urban properties; facetiously used of modest European homes

kaiings n, Afk, x
Afk equiv of ‘greaves, browsels’

kajate(n)hout n, D/Afk, ?
see: African wattle

kakebeenwa n, D/Afk, obs
special kind of Voortrekker ox-wagon the profile of which resembled an animal jaw, hence the name which lit means ‘jaw wagon’

kakiebos
see: khakibos
kakkerlak n, Port/D/Afk, x
Afk equiv of ‘cockroach’

kalkoentjie n, D/Afk, +
several species of Iridaceae are known by this name, eg Tritonia hyalina, T. deusta, T. crocata, Gladiolus allatus, G. equitans & Sutherlandia microphylla, the latter on account of the resemblance of its red flowers to the red wattles of a turkey

kameeldoring n, D/Afk, +
see: camel-thorn

kankerblaaar
see: botterblom, gousblom

kanna n, Hott/D/Afk, +
alt: canna, channa
Hott name applied to various species of Sceletium, the roots & stems of wh were chewed by the Namaquas in Van Riebeeck’s time, much as the Indians chew betel, for narcotic effect

kanni(p) n, Hott, + (Hydnora africana)
alt: dead dog, jakkalskos
the fruit of a plant formerly eaten by the Hott
see also: jakkalskos

kaokoveld n, D/Afk, +
geographic region with dry, more or less hilly type of veld, situated s of the Cunene River & ea of the nth part of the Namib desert in S W Afr

kaparrang n, M, +coll
alt: soolskoen
wooden sandal worn by the Cape Malays, held to the foot by means of a knob between two toes
kapkar n, D/Afkr, x
hooded cart

kappie n, D/Afkr, +
Afk equiv of ‘bonnet’ esp the type worn by the Voortrekker women

karee (i) n, Hott/D/Afkr, +
name loosely applied to several species of *Rhus* (of wh there are 66 in the Rep) though today more commonly restricted to *Rhus lancea*, alt bastard willow, hoenderspoorkaree, rooikaree; an evergreen tree with spreading crown, lance-shaped leaves, very small berries & a gnarled trunk; the wood is deep red, suitable for woodwork, & takes a fine polish but is not much used commercially today; the berries are eaten by the Ba & by birds, & the N So tribes make a beer from the pounded fruit; other species are *R. amerina* & *R. leptodictya*, alt bastard karee, *R. mucronata*, alt taaibos, & *R. viminalis*, alt kareehout

karee (ii) n, Hott/D/Afkr, +
alt: honey beer
see: kareemoer

kareemoer n, Hott/D/Afkr, +
name applied to several species of plants of wh portions were used by the Hott as a ferment or yeast (Afk ‘moer’) in the making of ‘honey beer’, eg *Trichodiadema stellatum* of wh the rootstock is still used as a ferment with honey in the Humansdorp area, & *Euphorbia decussata, Anacampseros ustulata* or kareemoerwortel; ‘karee’ is the orig Hott equiv of ‘honey beer’

karkoer n, prob Bu or Hott, +
name applied to *Citrullus lanatus* (see: bitter watermelon) & also to *C. ecirrhosus*, an allied species with more or less oblong-globose fruit having a bitter, non-edible pulp but the seeds of wh are said to be nutritious & are eaten by the Bu
karoobossie n, Hott/D/Afk, +

general name for the characteristic Karoo vegetation, but not infrequently used specifically of species of Pentzia, Phymaspermum parvifolium (witheuningkaroo), Chrysocoma tenuifolia (bitterkaroo) & Sutera atropurpurea (saffraankaroo)

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karroo bush n, Hott/E, +

term applied to several plant species, chiefly of the fam Compositae, or used as a general term for all plants in the Karoo or to indicate a type suggestive of that found in the Karoo
see also: karoobossie

karooparalysis tick n, Hott/E, + (Ixodes rubicundus)

tick wh causes paralysis in sheep, goats & cattle

karoo-thorn n, Hott/E, +

applied to species of the genus Acacia, eg Acacia karroo (see: sweet-thorn) & A. giraffae (see: camel-thorn)

kaross n, Hott/D/Afk, +

[kəˈrɒs]
blanket, bedspread or rug made from animal skins

katdoring n, D/Afk, +

see: cat-thorn

Katonkel (i) n, prob M, + (Scomberomorus commerson)

[kaˈtɒnkel]
alt: barracuda, kuda (Natal), bonita (Delagoa Bay), serra (Port), Spanish mackerel
large predatory fish ranging over most of the warmer Indo-Pacific, abundant from Durban northwards & reaching as far s as Algoa Bay in summer
katonkel (ii) n, prob M, +

see: bonito

kaya

see: kaia

kei apple n, Hott/E, + (Dovyalis caffra)

bushy shrub, densely covered with long, sharp spines because of which it was used in early pioneering days as a thief-proof hedge; the apple-like fruit is edible & makes an excellent jelly; vernacular name refers to the abundance of the species in the Kei River region

kennetjie n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of ‘tip-cat’ ancient outdoor game for children, known by different names in different countries, in which a short, wooden peg is batted with a wooden stick

kérel n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of ‘chap, fellow’ or ‘boy friend’, eg ‘Hy is ’n gawe kérel’ = ‘He is a fine chap’, ‘Hy is haar kérel’ = ‘He is her boy friend’

kersboom n, D/Afk, +

see: long-tail cassia

kettle pronunc

kittle x

Khaki n, Hind, +coll

alt: tommie

name given to the British soldiers by the Boers during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) because of their khaki-coloured uniforms
khakibos (-bush) n, Hind/D/Afk, +

alt: khakiebos, khaki weed
name loosely applied to various alien weeds in S Afr but mainly to the following two species: *Inula graveolens*, a viscid, aromatic, annual weed introduced from Europe, prob during the Anglo-Boer War & now a pest in grain lands; *Tagetes minuta*, an annual, glandular, aromatic herb introduced from S Amer, prob via the U.S.A. & now a common, proclaimed weed in S Afr; it is believed that this species hybridizes with the black-jack & that the hybrid is *Bidens bipinnatus*, known as 'baster-khakiebos'; the vernacular name is derived from the belief that the weeds were introduced by the British troops who were called 'khakis' because of their khaki-coloured uniforms

k(h)ama n, Hott, +

see: hartebees(t)

kiaat n, D/Afk, + (*Pterocarpus angolensis*)

alt: bloodwood, dolphout, greinhout, kajatenhout, lakboom, paddlewood, Rhodesian teak, sealing-wax tree, Transvaal teak
medium-sized, deciduous, spreading tree with dark, rough corky bark, sweet-scented, pea-like, yellow flowers in short sprays, & winged pods; timber very popular for furniture, doors, parquet flooring, etc, but more difficult to work than real teak; the Ba use the bark & roots for medicinal purposes, & the blood-red sap of the tree as a dye

kiaathout n, D/Afk, x

see: African wattle

kiepersol n, Port/Ind/D/Afk, +

species of *Cussonia*, eg *Cussonia spicata* (Lowveld cabbage tree), *C. paniculata* (Highveld cabbage tree), & *C. thyrsiflora*; 'kiepersol' was derived from the Ind names 'kippe-solis' & 'kitty-solis' (corr of the Port 'quita-sol' meaning 'excluding the sun') given to a light bamboo & paper parasol & subsequently applied at the Cape to *Cussonia*
*thyrsiflora* on account of its umbrella-like crown of leaves at the end of a long, branchless stem which also gave rise to the alt 'sambreelboom'

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

Afk equiv of 'walking stick'
see also: knobkierie

**kikuyu grass** n, Ba, + (*Pennisetum clandestinum*)

type of coarse lawn grass extensively used; introduced from Kikuyu in Est Afr where it was first located & experimentally cultivated

**kist** n, D/Afk, +

in S Afr E the equiv of Afk 'kis', a large wooden chest with a lid, commonly used for storing blankets, trousseau linen, etc; usu an ornamental article of furniture

**kite-fish** n, E, +

see: Cape lady (ii)

**Klaas's cuckoo** n, Afk/E, + (*Chrysococcyx klaas*)

common Afr cuckoo migrating to S Afr from September to April, named in honour of Klaas, the faithful Hott servant of the ornithologist le Vaillant; the Afk name for this bird, 'meitjie', is onomatopoeic

**klapbroek** n, D/Afk, x

lit 'flap trouser'; old-fashioned trouser having a flap instead of a fly

**klapper** n, D/Afk, +

species of *Strychnos*, ie a genus of trees of the monkey-orange fam, eg *Strychnos cocculoides* (suurklapper) & *S. pungens* (botterklapper) are called 'klapper' in Afk because the seeds rattle in the dried fruits making a clapping sound
kleilat n, D/Afk, +coll
flexible stick used to flick a pellet of clay at an opponent in a game played by S Afr schoolboys particularly in rural areas

kleinbaas n, D/Afk, +coll
the designation given by farm labourers to the eldest son of the farmer, also to a sub-manager known in S Afr as ‘bywoner’
see also: kleinnooi, oubaas, ounooi

kleinnoi n, D/Afk, +coll
see: kleinnooi

kleinnooi n, D/Afk, +coll
alt: kleinnoi, noi, nooi
form of address originally used by labourers, esp Coloureds, when addressing the daughter or young wife of a farmer; older women are called ‘ounooi’
see also: kleinbaas, oubaas

kleios n, D/Afk, x
ox, modelled in clay by children & used in games esp in pioneering days

klip n, D/Afk, x
Afk equiv of ‘stone’; ‘klipple’, the diminutive = ‘pebble’

klipfish n, D/Afk/E, +
see: bully (ii)

klip-salamander n, D/Afk/E, + (Cordylus cordylus)
spiny girdle-tailed lizard widely distributed in rocky uplands of sth Afr, wh exhibits black & yellowish or reddish colour phases
klipspringer n, D/Afk, + (*Oreotragus oreotragus*)
smallish antelope somewhat like the chamois in habits, found in Afr from the Cape Province to Somaliland

klonkie n, D/Afk, +coll
pronunc ['klo:53ki]
diminutive of ‘klong’ wh is a contraction of ‘kleinjong’ meaning ‘boy’ used esp by the Cape Coloureds

kloof n, D/Afk, +
ravine, valley (between mountains); occurs also in place names, eg Duiwelskloof, Waterkloof

knobkierie n, D/Afk/Hott/E, +
from Afk ‘knopkierie’ a short stick with a knobbed head, used by S Afr Ba tribes as a weapon; from ‘knop’ (knob) + ‘kierie’, a Hott word for ‘stick’

knob-thorn n, E, + (*Acacia nigrescence*)
alt: knoppiesdoring
large tree with dark green foliage, a straight trunk conspicuously armed with hooked thorns on knobs in young trees, & paired, hooked thorns on branchlets; occurs in frost-free, low-rainfall areas & provides good timber for furniture
see also: black monkey-thorn

knoppiesdoring n, D/Afk, +
see: knob-thorn

koeksister n, D/Afk, +
contexture of dough fried in boiling fat or oil & then dipped into syrup; from D/Afk ‘koek’ (cake) & ‘sisser’ (to sizzle) or ‘sister’ (sister) because the dough was sometimes shaped to resemble human figures
kokkewiet n, Afk, + (*Laniarius ferrugineus*)

alt: boubou shrike
common resident shrike resembling the butcher bird in appearance but not in habits, preferring tangled bush, esp along water courses (whence the alt Afk name 'water fiskaal') through wh it creeps & hops, often on the ground; very inquisitive; usu occurs in pairs that utter a familiar duet of 'ko-ko' answered by 'kweet', giving rise to the name 'kokkewiet' wh is sometimes incorrectly applied also to the 'bokmakierie' wh has a similar call

konfyt n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of 'preserve, jam' or 'syrup'

koorsboom n, D/Afk, x

see: fever tree

kop-en-pootjies n, D/Afk, x

head & trotters (of sheep)

kopje n, D, obs

see: koppie

kraal n, Port/D/Afk, +

['kraːl] or ['kroːl]
enclosure for live-stock; Ba village

kraal v, D/Afk, x

Afk v 'kraal' = 'to drive into a kraal', used in S Afr E in the sense of 'to fence off', eg '... to be 'kraaled' off into separate schools' x

krans n, D/Afk, +

precipitous or overhanging wall of rocks; formerly spelt 'krantz'
kremetartboom n, D/Afk, +
see: baobab

krinkhout n, D/Afk, x
see: violet tree

kruidjie-roer-my-nie(t) n, D/Afk, +
various species of *Melianthus*, eg *M. major, M. minor, M. comosus*, a shrub or bush with leaves that smell unpleasant, are highly toxic to animals but were widely used for medicinal purposes by the Hott & early colonists; has flowers that secrete a nectar, giving rise to the generic name wh is derived from two Gk words for 'honey flower'; the vernacular name lit means 'little herb, touch me not', presumably because of the unpleasant odour emitted by the crushed leaves or branches

kuda n, abbr of 'barracuda'? +
see: katonkel (i)

kuil n, D/Afk, x
Afk equiv of 'hole, pit, pool'

kukumakranka n, Hott, +
general name for all species of *Gethyllis* (one of the few Hott names still in common use today), eg *G. afra, G. spiralis, G. ciliaris*, having a bulbous rootstock & bearing a longish, club-shaped berry with an edible pulp; the scent is like that of the custard apple; the fruit is sometimes used to make 'kukumakranka brandy' wh is taken as a medicine in cases of colic and flatulence

kumquat n, Chinese, +
alt: cumquat
any of several small yellow to orange citrus fruits, eg *Citrus*
aaurantium, with a sweet spongy rind & acid pulp; used candied or in preserves but not as fresh fruit

kwagga n, Hott/Bu/D/Afk, +
see: quagga

kwikkie n, D/Afk, +coll
abbr of ‘kwikstertjie’, Afk equiv of ‘wagtail’