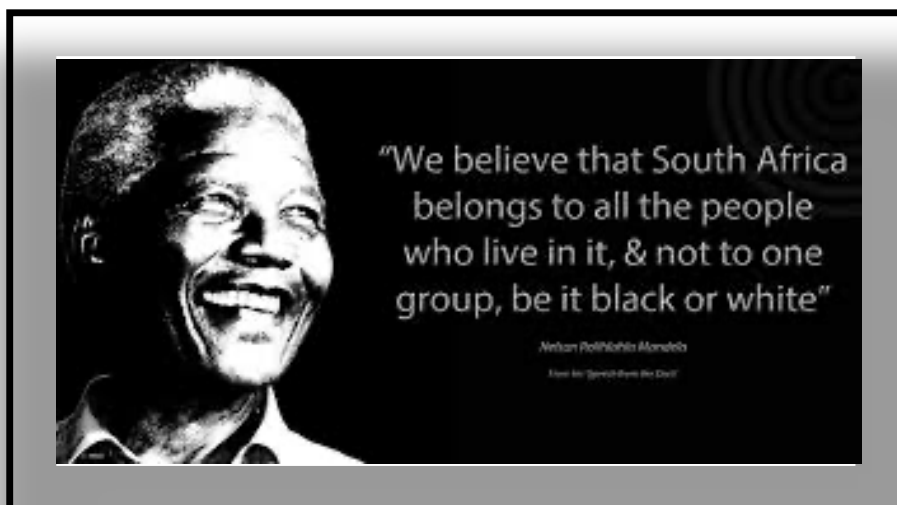




THE ONE THOUSAND AND ONE WORDS AND PHRASES EVERY SOUTH AFRICAN SHOULD KNOW

ke e: /xarra //ke

"Diverse people unite"



TOWARDS MULTILINGUALISM AND THE PROMOTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

The South African Department of Basic Education actively promotes the use of indigenous languages in education, recognizing their importance in strengthening literacy, cultural identity, and inclusivity. By integrating indigenous languages into early learning programs, the department aims to:

- **Bridge language barriers** that impact comprehension and learning outcomes.
 - Support **linguistic diversity**.
 - Help learners connect with their **cultural heritage**, making education more relevant and accessible.
-

THE SOUTH AFRICAN SPELLING BEE: A NEW FORMAT

To support language diversity and enhance literacy, the South African Spelling Bee now adopts a **60% English and 40% indigenous languages** format. This approach:

- Encourages engagement with multiple languages.
- Promotes proficiency in English while reinforcing indigenous languages.
- Reflects the linguistic richness of South Africa.

The competition seeks to create well-rounded learners who are multilingual and embrace their cultural heritage, contributing to equitable literacy outcomes for all.

THE IMPACT OF MOTHER TONGUE LITERACY

Mother tongue education does more than build literacy; it supports cognitive and academic development across subjects:

1. **Cognitive Development and Language Transfer**
 - o Learning in one's mother tongue improves memory, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.
 - o Skills developed in the mother tongue transfer to other languages, facilitating smoother transitions to English and other subjects.

2. Confidence and Classroom Engagement

- o Learning in a familiar language helps students actively participate and engage in lessons.
- o Confidence in their abilities encourages experimentation and risk-taking when learning new languages.

3. Improved Academic Performance Across Subjects

- o **Mathematics:** Familiar language reduces vocabulary struggles, allowing better focus on concepts.
- o **Science & Social Studies:** Clear understanding of foundational concepts in the mother tongue supports deeper learning in additional languages.

4. Cultural Relevance and Identity Development

- o Indigenous language education fosters cultural pride and a sense of self-worth.
- o Reflecting students' cultures in education creates motivated, well-rounded individuals connected to their roots.

5. Enhanced Language Awareness

- o Learning the mother tongue first develops metalinguistic awareness, enabling students to analyze and learn additional languages more effectively.

6. Long-term Academic Success

- o Students with a strong foundation in their mother tongue achieve higher retention rates, literacy levels, and educational progression.

ALIGNING WITH THE SPELLING BEE

The South African Spelling Bee's inclusion of indigenous languages mirrors these educational benefits by:

- Encouraging multilingualism.
- Promoting cultural pride and linguistic diversity.
- Nurturing learners proficient in English and indigenous languages, showcasing the country's linguistic wealth.

This innovative approach builds a generation of learners who are globally competitive yet deeply rooted in their cultural heritage.

HOW TO USE THIS SECTION

This section is essential for success in the South African Spelling Bee, as it constitutes 40% of the competition. Mastering this content will enhance your performance while deepening your appreciation for South Africa's diverse languages and cultures. Follow this guide to make the most of this section:

1. Overview of the Content

This section contains a word list of frequently used words and phrases from South African languages, including:

- **Official languages** (11 recognized languages of South Africa).
- **Non-official and immigrant languages** spoken by minority groups.

Each entry includes:

- **English translation.**
- **Phonetic pronunciation.**
- **Links to audio clips** for accurate pronunciation practice.

2. How to Approach the Word List

- **Familiarize yourself** with the cultural and linguistic background of each language.
- Study **one language at a time**, focusing on its most useful words and phrases.
- Use the **phonetic guide** to practice pronunciation.

3. Using the Audio Clips

- Listen to the **audio clips** for each word or phrase.
- **Repeat aloud** several times to perfect your pronunciation.
- Practice with the audio frequently to reinforce your learning.

4. Tips for Effective Learning

- Start with a language you know **the least** to challenge yourself.
- Regularly **quiz yourself** on vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Pair up with a friend or family member for **interactive practice**.

5. Why This Section Matters

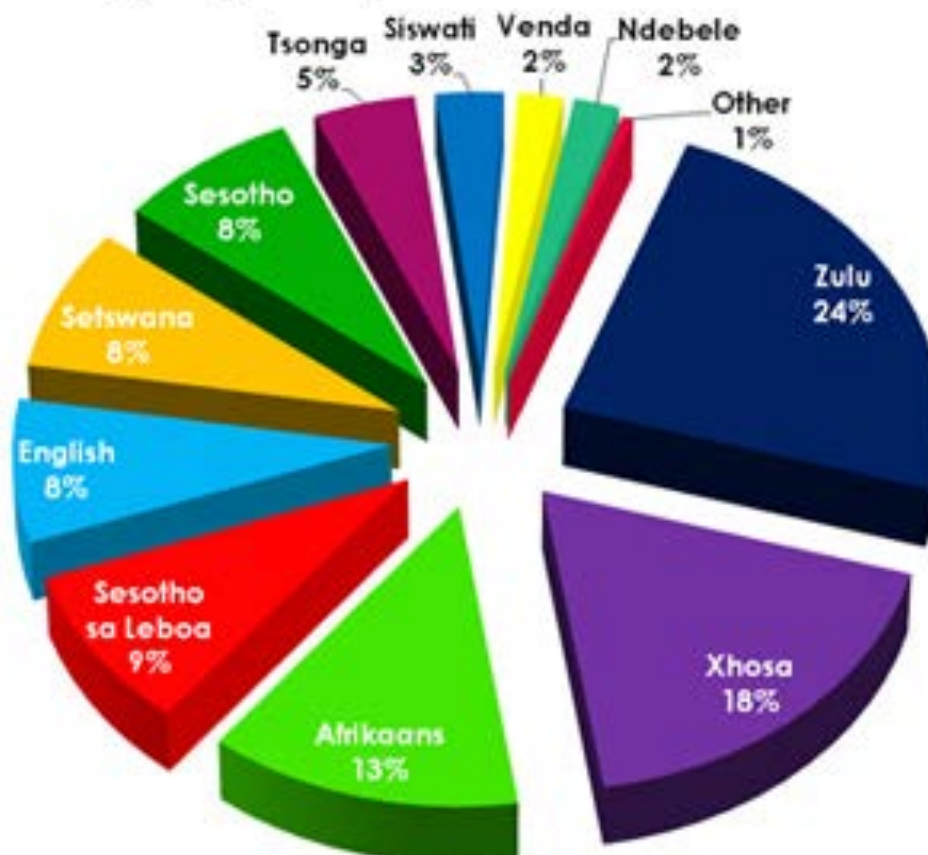
- **Beyond the competition:** These words and phrases will help you connect with people in everyday life.
- Show respect for South Africa's cultural and linguistic diversity by learning how to greet and communicate effectively.

6. Final Reminder

- Learning this section is an **exciting journey**—approach it with curiosity and an open mind.
- Enjoy the process of discovering and celebrating new languages!

Good luck!

Languages spoken in South Africa



CONTENTS

Section 1: Official Languages

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. isiZulu | 7. Sepedi |
| 2. Afrikaans | 8. siSwati |
| 3. isiNdebele | 9. Tshivenda |
| 4. isiXhosa | 10. Xitsonga |
| 5. Setswana | 11. English |
| 6. Sesotho | 12. South African Sign Language |

Section 2: Non-Official Languages and Immigrant Languages

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. San and Khoe languages | 12. Chewa |
| 2. German | 13. Nigerian languages (Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, Pidgin) |
| 3. Portuguese | 14. Languages from the Democratic Republic of Congo |
| 4. Gujarati | 15. Swahili |
| 5. Hindi | 16. Somali |
| 6. Urdu | 17. Amharic |
| 7. Tamil | 18. Arabic |
| 8. Greek | 19. Mandarin |
| 9. Italian | 20. South African Slang |
| 10. French | |
| 11. Shona | |



SECTION 1: OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Overview of South Africa's 12 Official Languages

South Africa's 11 official languages reflect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity. These languages ensure inclusivity, representation, and accessibility for all major linguistic groups in the country.

1. Afrikaans:

- o Evolved from Dutch.
- o Widely spoken in the Western Cape and Northern Cape.
- o Significant in literature, government, and media.

2. English:

- o Common language for business, government, and education.
- o Acts as a bridge for communication across linguistic groups.

3. isiNdebele:

- o Spoken primarily in Mpumalanga and Gauteng.
- o Recognized for its distinctive clicks.

4. isiXhosa:

- o Known for its complex system of clicks.
- o Predominantly spoken in the Eastern and Western Cape.

5. isiZulu:

- o Most widely spoken home language in South Africa (~24% of the population).
- o Represents the rich culture and heritage of the Zulu people.

6. Sepedi (Northern Sotho):

- o Primarily spoken in Limpopo.
- o A key part of the Sotho language family.

7. Sesotho (Southern Sotho):

- o Common in the Free State and Gauteng.
- o Known for its literary contributions.

8. Setswana:

- o Spoken in the North West province.
- o A language of the Tswana people with cultural ties to Botswana.

9. siSwati:

- o Spoken in Mpumalanga and the Kingdom of Eswatini.
- o Represents Swazi culture and heritage.

10. Tshivenda:

- o Predominantly spoken in Limpopo.
- o Distinct linguistic characteristics unique to the Venda people.

11. Xitsonga:

- o Spoken in Limpopo and Mpumalanga by the Tsonga people.
- o Known for its unique phonetic structure.

12. South African Sign Language (SASL):

- Recognized as an official language in 2023.
- Used primarily by the Deaf community in South Africa.
- A visual language with its own unique grammar and syntax, distinct from spoken languages.
- Plays a critical role in ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities.



These languages were chosen to reflect and respect the multicultural and multilingual identity of South Africa. They ensure that people from all backgrounds have the opportunity to access services and participate in society in their native language, fostering a sense of unity and inclusivity.

1. Zulu (isiZulu)

Spoken by ~24% of the Population



Overview

The Zulu people form one of the largest ethnic groups in South Africa, celebrated for their vibrant cultural heritage, resilience, and historical significance. Their roots trace back to the Nguni migrations, which brought Bantu-speaking communities from Central Africa to Southern Africa approximately 1,500 years ago.

The Zulu people became a distinct group in the early 19th century under the leadership of **King Shaka Zulu**, who united smaller clans into a powerful kingdom. Through military reforms and innovative warfare strategies, King Shaka transformed the Zulu kingdom into one of the most formidable powers in the region. The Zulu's military might was notably demonstrated in the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War, including their famous victory at the **Battle of Isandlwana**.

Despite the challenges of colonization, the Zulu people have maintained a strong sense of identity, culture, and tradition, which continue to thrive in modern South Africa.

Key Historical Figures

- **King Shaka Zulu:** A military genius and founding figure of the Zulu nation.
- **John Langalibalele Dube:** The first president of the African National Congress (ANC) and a significant Zulu intellectual.
- **Albertina Sisulu:** A prominent anti-apartheid activist with Zulu heritage.
- **Mangosuthu Buthelezi:** Founder of the Inkatha Freedom Party and a long-standing Zulu politician.

Cultural Significance

The Zulu people remain a vital part of South Africa's cultural and social fabric, contributing richly to the nation's diversity. Their language, **isiZulu**, is the most widely spoken home language in South Africa and is deeply tied to Zulu culture and heritage.

Essential isiZulu Words and Phrases

The following list includes frequently used isiZulu words and phrases, along with their English translations and phonetic pronunciations:

isiZulu Words and Phrases List

	isiZulu	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Sawubona	Hello	Sah-woo-boh-nah
2	Unjani?	How are you?	Oon-jah-nee
3	Ngiyaphila	I am fine	Ngee-yah-pee-lah
4	Yebo	Yes	Yeh-boh
5	Cha	No	Chah
6	Ngicela	Please	Ngee-cheh-lah
7	Ngiyabonga	Thank you	Ngee-yah-boh-ngah
8	Hamba kahle	Go well (Goodbye)	Hahm-bah kah-hleh
9	Sala kahle	Stay well	Sah-lah kah-hleh
10	Uxolo	Sorry	Ook-soh-loh
11	Ngicela ukubuza	Can I ask a question?	Ngee-cheh-lah oo-koo-boo-zah
12	Ngiqedile	I am done	Ngee-keh-dee-leh
13	Kusasa	Tomorrow	Koo-sah-sah

	isiZulu	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
14	Namhlanje	Today	Nahm-hlah-njeh
15	Izolo	Yesterday	Ee-zoh-loh
16	Ulala kahle	Sleep well	Oo-lah-lah kah-hleh
17	Ngiyavuma	I agree	Ngee-yah-voo-mah
18	Angivumi	I disagree	Ahng-ee-voo-mee
19	Kuyabanda	It's cold	Koo-yah-bahn-dah
20	Kuyashisa	It's hot	Koo-yah-shee-sah
21	Wamukelekile	You're welcome	Wah-moo-keh-leh-kee-leh
22	Siyavuma	We agree	See-yah-voo-mah
23	Ngiyakuthanda	I love you	Ngee-yah-koo-tahn-dah
24	Umsebenzi	Work	Oom-seh-benz-ee
25	Ikhlhaya	Home	Ee-khah-yah
26	Ibhola	Ball	Ee-boh-lah
27	Inkosikazi	Wife	Een-koh-see-kah-zee
28	Inkosana	Son	Een-koh-sah-nah
29	Inja	Dog	Een-jah

	isiZulu	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
30	Ikati	Cat	Ee-kah-tee
31	Umfundi	Student	Oom-foon-dee
32	Umama	Mother	Oo-mah-mah
33	Ubaba	Father	Oo-bah-bah
34	Umngane	Friend	Oom-ngah-neh
35	Abangani	Friends	Ah-bahng-ah-nee
36	Umntwana	Child	Oom-ntwah-nah
37	Izinyawo	Feet	Ee-zee-nyah-who
38	Amehlo	Eyes	Ah-meh-hloh
39	Ulimi	Tongue	Oo-lee-mee
40	Inhloko	Head	Een-hloh-koh
41	Ukudla	Food	Oo-koo-dlah
42	Amanzi	Water	Ah-mahn-zee
43	Umlilo	Fire	Oom-lee-loh
44	Indlu	House	Een-dloo
45	Umfula	River	Oom-foo-lah

	isiZulu	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
46	Ulwandle	Sea	Oo-lwahn-dleh
47	Umoya	Air	Oo-moy-ah
48	Izinkanyezi	Stars	Ee-zeen-kah-nyeh-zee
49	Izulu	Sky	Ee-zoo-loo
50	Imvula	Rain	Eem-voo-lah
51	Ifu	Cloud	Ee-foo
52	Inkanyezi	Star	Een-kah-nyeh-zee
53	Unyawo	Foot	Oo-nyah-who
54	Umhlaba	Earth	Oom-hlah-bah
55	Inhliziyo	Heart	Een-hlee-zee-yoh
56	Uqobo	Self	Oo-koh-boh
57	Isandla	Hand	Ee-sahn-dlah
58	Ukufa	Death	Oo-koo-fah
59	Impilo	Life	Eem-pee-loh
60	Uxolo	Sorry	Ook-soh-loh

2. Xhosa (isiXhosa)



Spoken by ~16% of the population

The Xhosa people are one of South Africa's major ethnic groups, celebrated for their rich cultural heritage, vibrant traditions, and resilience against colonial oppression. Their origins trace back to the Bantu-speaking migrations from Central Africa around 1,500 years ago. The Xhosa settled predominantly in the southeastern regions of modern-day South Africa, particularly in the Eastern Cape, where they developed a diverse society comprised of numerous clans. Historically, the Xhosa organized themselves under chiefdoms led by chieftains, maintaining a strong cultural identity rooted in language, customs, and community.

Key Historical Events:

- The **Cape Frontier Wars (1779–1879)**: A series of nine wars fought over a century between the Xhosa and British colonial forces, marking a significant resistance to colonial expansion.
- The **1856–1857 Cattle-Killing Movement**: Triggered by a prophecy, this movement led the Xhosa to sacrifice their cattle and crops in hopes of driving out colonial forces. Unfortunately, this resulted in widespread famine and suffering.

Notable Figures:

- **Nelson Mandela**: South Africa's first democratic president and an icon of the anti-apartheid struggle.
- **Oliver Tambo**: A prominent leader of the African National Congress (ANC) and a key figure in the liberation movement.
- **Steve Biko**: Leader of the Black Consciousness Movement and a martyr of the anti-apartheid cause.
- **Thabo Mbeki**: Former president of South Africa and a notable intellectual.
- **Miriam Makeba**: Internationally renowned singer and activist with deep ties to Xhosa heritage.

The Xhosa people continue to play an integral role in South Africa's history, culture, and national identity.

Essential isiXhosa Words and Phrases

	isiXhosa	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Molo	Hello	Moh-loh
2	Unjani?	How are you?	Oon-jah-nee
3	Ndiphilile	I am fine	Ndee-pee-lee-leh
4	Ewe	Yes	Eh-weh
5	Hayi	No	Hah-yee
6	Ndicela	Please	Ndee-cheh-lah
7	Enkosi	Thank you	En-koh-see
8	Hamba kakuhle	Go well (Goodbye)	Hahm-bah kah-koo-hleh
9	Sala kakuhle	Stay well	Sah-lah kah-koo-hleh
10	Uxolo	Sorry	Ook-soh-loh
11	Ndicela ukubuza	Can I ask a question?	Ndee-cheh-lah oo-koo-boo-zah
12	Ndiqedile	I am done	Ndee-keh-dee-leh
13	Ngomso	Tomorrow	Ngoh-m-soh
14	Namhlanje	Today	Nahm-hlah-njeh
15	Izolo	Yesterday	Ee-zoh-loh

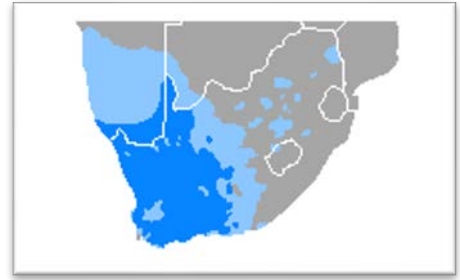
	isiXhosa	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
16	Lala kakuhle	Sleep well	Lah-lah kah-koo-hleh
17	Ndiyavuma	I agree	Ndee-yah-voo-mah
18	Andivumi	I disagree	Ahndee-voo-mee
19	Kuyabanda	It's cold	Koo-yah-bahn-dah
20	Kuyashisa	It's hot	Koo-yah-shee-sah
21	Wamkelekile	You're welcome	Wahm-keh-leh-kee-leh
22	Siyavuma	We agree	See-yah-voo-mah
23	Ndiyakuthanda	I love you	Ndee-yah-koo-tahn-dah
24	Umsebenzi	Work	Oom-seh-benz-ee
25	Ikhaya	Home	Ee-khah-yah
26	Ibhola	Ball	Ee-boh-lah
27	Inkosikazi	Wife	Een-koh-see-kah-zee
28	Unyana	Son	Oo-nya-nah
29	Inja	Dog	Een-jah
30	Ikati	Cat	Ee-kah-tee
31	Umfundi	Student	Oom-foon-dee

	isiXhosa	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
32	Umama	Mother	Oo-mah-mah
33	Utata	Father	Oo-tah-tah
34	Umhlobo	Friend	Oom-hloh-boh
35	Abahlobo	Friends	Ah-bah-hloh-boh
36	Umntwana	Child	Oom-ntwah-nah
37	Iinyawo	Feet	Ee-nya-who
38	Amehlo	Eyes	Ah-meh-hloh
39	Ulwimi	Tongue	Ool-wee-mee
40	Intloko	Head	Een-tloh-koh
41	Ukutya	Food	Oo-koo-tyah
42	Amanzi	Water	Ah-mahn-zee
43	Umlilo	Fire	Oom-lee-loh
44	Indlu	House	Een-dloo
45	Umfula	River	Oom-foo-lah
46	Ulwandle	Sea	Ool-wahn-dleh
47	Umoya	Air	Oo-moy-ah

	isiXhosa	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
48	linkwenkwezi	Stars	Een-kwehn-kweh-zee
49	Izulu	Sky	Ee-zoo-loo
50	Imvula	Rain	Eem-voo-lah
51	Ifu	Cloud	Ee-foo
52	Inkwenkwezi	Star	Een-kwehn-kweh-zee
53	Unyawo	Foot	Oo-nya-who
54	Umhlaba	Earth	Oom-hlah-bah
55	Intliziyo	Heart	Een-tee-zee-yoh
56	Uqobo	Self	Oo-koh-boh
57	Isandla	Hand	Ee-sahn-dlah
58	Ukufa	Death	Oo-koo-fah
59	Ubomi	Life	Oo-boh-mee
60	Uxolo	Sorry	Ook-soh-loh



3. Afrikaans



Afrikaans, one of South Africa's 12 official languages, emerged in the 17th century from Dutch settlers' language. It later incorporated elements from African languages, Malay, Khoisan, and Portuguese. Today, Afrikaans is spoken by approximately 13% of the South African population, including a wide variety of ethnic and cultural groups.

Demographic Diversity

1. Coloured South Africans

- o Represent the majority of Afrikaans speakers.
- o Especially prevalent in the Western, Northern, and Eastern Cape regions.
- o Afrikaans is central to their cultural identity.

2. White South Africans (Afrikaners)

- o Historically tied to Afrikaans, stemming from Dutch, French, and German settlers.
- o Associated with Afrikaner nationalism and its controversial role during apartheid.

3. Black South Africans

- o Smaller but significant group.
- o Afrikaans served as a language of work and interaction in various regions.

Historical Context

- The **1976 Soweto Uprising**, a protest against Afrikaans as a medium of instruction, highlighted its contentious role.
- Today, Afrikaans represents cultural diversity and is actively used in literature, arts, and education.

Afrikaans Today

Afrikaans remains a widely spoken language in South Africa, celebrated through music, art, and media. It continues to evolve and bridge cultural gaps, reflecting the nation's diversity.

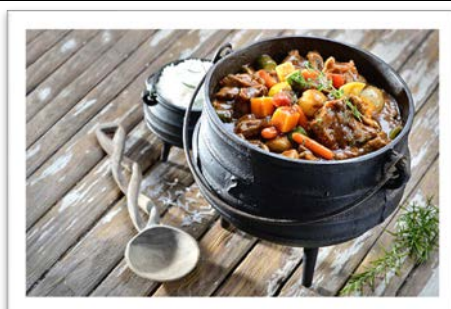
Essential Afrikaans Words and Phrases

	Afrikaans	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Hallo	Hello	HAH-loh
2	Goeie môre	Good morning	HOO-yeh MOH-ruh
3	Goeie middag	Good afternoon	HOO-yeh MID-dahg
4	Goeie naand	Good evening	HOO-yeh NAH-nt
5	Totsiens	Goodbye	TOT-seens
6	Ja	Yes	YAH
7	Nee	No	NEE
8	Dankie	Thank you	DUN-kee
9	Asseblief	Please	AH-suh-bleef
10	Verskoon my	Excuse me	Fair-SKOON my
11	Ek is jammer	I'm sorry	Ek is YAH-mur
12	Hoe gaan dit?	How are you?	Hoo GAHN dit?
13	Dit gaan goed	I'm doing well	Dit GAHN goot
14	Wat is jou naam?	What is your name?	Vut is yo NAHM?
15	My naam is...	My name is...	My NAHM is...

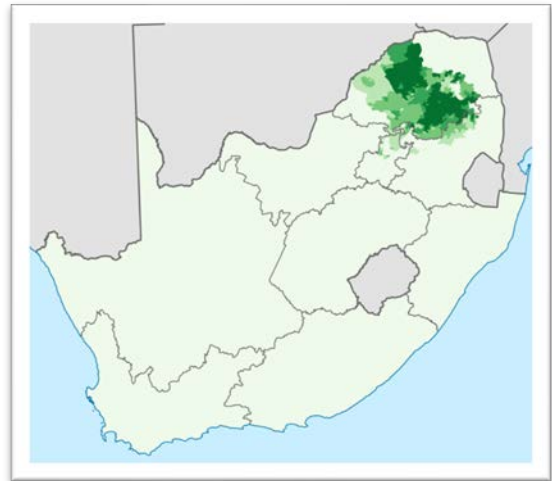
	Afrikaans	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
16	Waar kom jy vandaan?	Where are you from?	Vahr kom yay fun-DAHN?
17	Ek is van...	I am from...	Ek is fun...
18	Lekker om jou te ontmoet	Nice to meet you	LACK-ur om yo tuh on-MOOT
19	Hoe laat is dit?	What time is it?	Hoo LAHT is dit?
20	Waar is die badkamer?	Where is the bathroom?	Vahr is dee BAD-kah-mer?
21	Ek verstaan nie	I don't understand	Ek fair-STAHN nee
22	Kan jy help?	Can you help?	Kan yay help?
23	Hoeveel kos dit?	How much does this cost?	Hoo-feel KOS dit?
24	Dit is duur	It's expensive	Dit is DEER
25	Goedkoop	Cheap	HOOT-koop
26	Ek hou daarvan	I like it	Ek how dah-van
27	Ek hou nie daarvan nie	I don't like it	Ek how nee dah-van nee
28	Ek is moeg	I'm tired	Ek is MOOGH
29	Ek is siek	I'm sick	Ek is SEEK
30	Ek is honger	I'm hungry	Ek is HONG-er

	Afrikaans	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
31	Ek is dors	I'm thirsty	Ek is DORS
32	Help!	Help!	Help!
33	Stop!	Stop!	Stop!
34	Bel die polisie	Call the police	Bell dee po-LEE-see
35	Waar is die hospitaal?	Where is the hospital?	Vahr is dee HOS-pi-tahl?
36	Ek het hulp nodig	I need help	Ek het HULP no-dig
37	Kan ek betaal?	Can I pay?	Kan ek be-TAHL?
38	Met kontant	With cash	Met KON-tant
39	Met kaart	With card	Met KAHRT
40	Water	Water	VAH-ter
41	Etes	Food	EE-tes
42	Brood	Bread	BROHT
43	Vleis	Meat	Flace
44	Melk	Milk	MELK
45	Tee	Tea	TEE
46	Koffie	Coffee	KAW-fee

	Afrikaans	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
47	Wyn	Wine	VINE
48	Bier	Beer	BEER
49	Een, twee, drie	One, two, three	Yen, TWEH, DREE
50	Vier, vyf, ses	Four, five, six	FEER, FAIF, SES
51	Sewe, agt, nege	Seven, eight, nine	SEE-vuh, AHKT, NEE-guh
52	Tien	Ten	TEEN
53	Maandag	Monday	MAHN-dahg
54	Dinsdag	Tuesday	DINS-dahg
55	Woensdag	Wednesday	VOONS-dahg
56	Donderdag	Thursday	DON-der-dahg
57	Vrydag	Friday	FRAY-dahg
58	Saterdag	Saturday	SAH-ter-dahg
59	Sondag	Sunday	SON-dahg
60	Liefde	Love	LEEF-duh



4. Sepedi (Northern Sotho)



Spoken by ~9% of South Africans

Sepedi, also referred to as Northern Sotho, is one of South Africa's 12 official languages and is primarily spoken by the Bapedi people. It accounts for approximately 9% of South Africa's population and is most commonly used in the Limpopo Province.

History

The Bapedi people have a rich history dating back to the 17th century. Their kingdom was solidified under King Thulare's leadership around 1780, uniting various chiefdoms in the region. During the 19th century, the Pedi Kingdom became prominent, especially under King Sekwati and his successor, King Sekhukhune I. The latter is particularly remembered for his resistance against British and Boer colonizers during the Sekhukhune Wars of the 1870s. Despite this resistance, the kingdom was eventually subdued in 1879, marking the beginning of colonial rule.

The Bapedi people are renowned for their vibrant cultural traditions, including music, dance, initiation ceremonies, and craftsmanship, such as metalworking.

Famous Pedi Figures

- **King Sekhukhune I:** A revered leader known for his resistance against British forces.
- **Dr. Njabulo Ndebele:** An esteemed South African writer and academic with Pedi heritage.
- **Julius Malema:** A prominent political figure and leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), hailing from Limpopo.
- **Cassius Baloyi:** A world-renowned professional boxer, celebrated for his achievements in the lightweight and super featherweight divisions.

The Bapedi people continue to play a significant role in South Africa's social, cultural, and political landscape.

Essential Sepedi Words and Phrases

Sepedi Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1. Dumela	Hello	Doo-meh-lah
2. Le kae?	How are you?	Leh kah-eh?
3. Ke a leboga	Thank you	Keh ah leh-boh-gah
4. Ee	Yes	Eh
5. Aowa	No	Ah-who
6. Ke nna	It's me	Keh nah
7. O kae?	Where are you?	Oh kah-eh?
8. Ke kopa...	Please give me...	Keh koh-pah...
9. Tsela sentle	Goodbye (to one person)	Tse-lah sen-tleh
10. Re tla bona gageso	See you later	Re tlah boh-nah gah-geh-so
11. Thobela	Good morning	Toh-beh-lah
12. Gabotse	Good night	Gah-boh-tseh
13. Ke lapile	I'm tired	Keh lah-pee-leh
14. Ke nyaka dijo	I want food	Keh nyah-kah dee-joh
15. Ke nyaka meetse	I want water	Keh nyah-kah meh-tseh

Sepedi Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
16. O tsogile bjang?	How did you sleep?	Oh tsoh-gee-leh bjahng?
17. Ke phela gabotse	I'm fine	Keh peh-lah gah-boh-tseh
18. Leina laka ke...	My name is...	Leh-ee-nah lah-kah keh...
19. O tswa kae?	Where are you from?	Oh tshwah kah-eh?
20. Ke tswa...	I'm from...	Keh tshwah...
21. Nako ke mang?	What time is it?	Nah-koh keh mang?
22. Ke rata wena	I love you	Keh rah-tah weh-nah
23. O nyaka eng?	What do you want?	Oh nyah-kah eng?
24. Nka thušwa?	Can you help me?	Nkah too-shwah?
25. E kae ntlo?	Where is the house?	Eh kah-eh n-tloh?
26. A o tshwere sentle?	Are you okay?	Ah oh tshweh-reh sen-tleh?
27. Ke tshwere sentle	I'm okay	Keh tshweh-reh sen-tleh
28. A o nale bana?	Do you have children?	Ah oh nah-leh bah-nah?
29. Ke na le bana ba babedi	I have two children	Keh nah leh bah-nah bah bah-beh-dee
30. Ke kgatlhegile	I'm interested	Keh khah-tleh-hee-geh-leh

Sepedi Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
31. Ke swabile	I'm sorry	Keh swah-bee-leh
32. Ke kgotso	I'm at peace	Keh khoh-tsoh
33. Tlo bona!	Look!	Tloh boh-nah!
34. E mo kae?	Where is it?	Eh moh kah-eh?
35. E fihlile?	Has it arrived?	Eh fee-hee-leh?
36. Ga ke kwešiše	I don't understand	Gah keh kweh-shee-sheh
37. Re ya kae?	Where are we going?	Re yah kah-eh?
38. Ke nyaka go ithuta Sepedi	I want to learn Sepedi	Keh nyah-kah goh ee-too-tah Seh-peh-dee
39. Ke na le potso	I have a question	Keh nah leh poh-tsoh
40. Ke kgatlhegile	I'm happy	Keh khah-tleh-hee-geh-leh
41. Ke nyorilwe	I'm thirsty	Keh nyoh-ree-lweh
42. Ke nyaka go robala	I want to sleep	Keh nyah-kah goh roh-bah-lah
43. Modimo a go šegofatše	God bless you	Moh-dee-moh ah goh sheh-goh-fah-tseh
44. Re a go leboga	We thank you	Reh ah goh leh-boh-gah

Sepedi Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
45. Leina la gagwe ke...	His/her name is...	Leh-ee-nah lah khah-gweh keh...
46. Tšhese ka kgotso	Go in peace	Tsh-heh-seh kah khot-soh
47. Go šea kgopolo	To laugh	Goh sheh-ah khoh-poh-loh
48. Go bona	To see	Goh boh-nah
49. Go sepela	To walk	Goh seh-peh-lah
50. Go šoma	To work	Goh shoh-mah
51. Go bina	To dance	Goh bee-nah
52. Go ruta	To teach	Goh roo-tah
53. Go ithuta	To learn	Goh ee-too-tah
54. Nako	Time	Nah-koh
55. Ngwaga	Year	Ngwah-gah
56. Tše dingwe	Others	Tseh deen-gweh
57. Nna	Me/I	Nah
58. Wena	You	Weh-nah
59. Yena	He/She	Yeh-nah
60. Rena	We	Reh-nah

5. Setswana (Tswana)



Spoken by ~8% of the population

The Setswana-speaking people, commonly known as the Batswana, are a Bantu ethnic group primarily found in South Africa, Botswana, and parts of Namibia. In South Africa, they are mainly concentrated in the North West Province, and parts of the Northern Cape and Gauteng. The Batswana speak Setswana, one of South Africa's 11 official languages.

History

- The Batswana trace their origins to the ancient Bantu migrations, with their presence in Southern Africa dating back over a millennium.
- The formation of the Tswana polities began around the 14th century, with significant groups such as the Barolong, Bakgatla, Bakwena, and Bafokeng emerging.
- By the 19th century, the region saw significant upheaval during the Mfecane (a period of widespread chaos and warfare) and later colonial conflicts. British colonial influence was notable in Botswana (then Bechuanaland Protectorate), while parts of modern South Africa fell under both British and Boer rule.
- Despite this, the Batswana maintained strong cultural cohesion, with chieftaincies (dikgosi) playing a significant role in governance and community leadership.

Culture

The Batswana are known for their rich cultural traditions, such as: Communal living, Respect for elders, Oral storytelling, Traditional music, dance (like the Setapa dance), and crafts such as basket weaving are significant aspects of their heritage.

Famous Batswana People

- **Kgosi (Chief) Sechele I** – A historical Tswana king and early Christian convert, key in resisting colonial encroachment.
- **Kgalema Motlanthe** – Former President of South Africa, of Tswana heritage.
- **Lucas Radebe** – Famous South African footballer of Tswana descent.

The Batswana continue to play a significant role in **South Africa's cultural, social, and political** landscape.

Essential Setswana Words and Phrases

	Setswana	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Dumela	Hello	Doo-meh-lah
2	O kae?	How are you?	Oh kah-eh?
3	Ke teng	I am fine	Keh teng
4	Ee	Yes	Eh
5	Nnyaa	No	Nnn-yah
6	Ke kopa...	Please (I request...)	Keh koh-pah...
7	Ke a leboga	Thank you	Keh ah leh-boh-gah
8	Tswee-tswée	Please (informal)	Tsway-tsway
9	Ke itshwarele	Sorry	Keh eet-swah-reh-leh
10	O bidiwa mang?	What is your name?	Oh bee-dee-wah mahng?
11	Leina la me ke...	My name is...	Lay-nah lah meh keh...
12	Ke tswa...	I am from...	Keh tswah...
13	O tswa kae?	Where are you from?	Oh tswah kah-eh?
14	Ke tla bona	Goodbye (formal)	Keh tlah boh-nah
15	Sala sentle	Stay well (goodbye)	Sah-lah sen-tleh

	Setswana	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
16	Tsamaya sentle	Go well (goodbye)	Tsah-mah-yah sen-tleh
17	Ema	Stop/Wait	Eh-mah
18	A re tsamaye	Let's go	Ah reh tsah-mah-yeh
19	Ke itumetse	I'm happy	Keh eet-oo-meh-tseh
20	Ke lapile	I'm tired	Keh lah-pee-leh
21	Ke tshwere ke tlala	I'm hungry	Keh tshwe-reh keh tlah-lah
22	Ke nyorilwe	I'm thirsty	Keh nyoh-ree-lweh
23	Ke a utlwa	I understand	Keh ah oot-lwah
24	Ga ke tlhaloganye	I don't understand	Gah keh t-lah-loh-gah-nyeh
25	O tlhaloganya?	Do you understand?	Oh t-lah-loh-gah-nyeh?
26	E bile jang?	How was it?	Eh bee-leh jahng?
27	Ke a go rata	I love you	Keh ah goh rah-tah
28	A o nyetswe?	Are you married?	Ah oh nyeh-tsweh?
29	Ke moithaopi	I am a volunteer	Keh moh-ee-thah-oh-pee
30	Ke tlaa boa	I will come back	Keh tlah boh-ah
31	Ga ke itse	I don't know	Gah keh eet-seh

	Setswana	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
32	Ke a itse	I know	Keh ah eet-seh
33	A ko nthuse	Please help me	Ah koh n-too-seh
34	Ke kopa metsi	May I have water?	Keh koh-pah meh-tsee
35	Go botlhoko	It hurts	Goh bohl-hoh-koh
36	Kwala fa	Write here	Kwah-lah fah
37	Nka bona kae...?	Where can I find...?	Nkah boh-nah kah-eh...?
38	A reke	Let's buy	Ah reh-keh
39	Tlhompho	Respect	Tlhom-poh
40	Ke a go leboga	Thank you (formal)	Keh ah goh leh-boh-gah
41	Lebaka	Reason	Leh-bah-kah
42	Tlhaloso	Explanation	Tlhah-loh-soh
43	Dijo	Food	Dee-joh
44	Metsi	Water	Meh-tsee
45	Nama	Meat	Nah-mah
46	Senkgwe	Bread	Sen-kweh
47	Motse	Village	Moh-tseh

	Setswana	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
48	Toropo	Town/City	Toh-roh-poh
49	Sekolo	School	Seh-koh-loh
50	Thuto	Education	Thoo-toh
51	Ngwaga	Year	Nwah-gah
52	Ngwana	Child	Nwah-nah
53	Motho	Person	Moh-toh
54	Rona	Us/We	Roh-nah
55	Bona	Them/They	Boh-nah
56	Re tlaa kopana gape	We'll meet again	Reh tlah koh-pah-nah gah-peh
57	Goreng?	Why?	Goh-reng?
58	Kana?	Really?	Kah-nah?
59	Eo ke mang?	Who is that?	Eh-oh keh mahng?
60	Tota?	True?	Toh-tah?



6. Sesotho (Southern Sotho)



Spoken by ~7.6% of the population

The Sesotho (Southern Sotho) people are an ethnic group native to Southern Africa, primarily found in Lesotho and South Africa, with smaller communities in neighboring countries. They speak Sesotho, which is both one of South Africa's official languages and the national language of Lesotho.

The history of the Basotho people is deeply rooted in the broader Bantu migration patterns, with their ancestors believed to have arrived in the region over 2,000 years ago.

History

The Basotho were historically part of the larger Nguni and Sotho-Tswana groups, residing in southeastern Southern Africa. They were united by King Moshoeshe I in the early 19th century, forming the Basotho Kingdom. Moshoeshe is celebrated for his leadership in defending his people against colonial forces and rival groups. In 1868, Lesotho (then Basutoland) was declared a British protectorate and later gained independence in 1966, becoming the modern Kingdom of Lesotho.

Culture

- **Traditional Clothing:** Basotho are known for their iconic blankets (often brightly patterned) and hats. These garments are not only functional but also symbolic of status and identity.
- **Music and Dance:** Music holds a central role in cultural life, especially during ceremonies such as weddings and initiation rituals. The moropa dance highlights their coordination and rhythmic prowess.
- **Language:** The Sesotho language is characterized by its distinct tonal quality and complex verb conjugation system—a cornerstone of their cultural identity.
- **Social Structure:** Traditionally, Basotho live in extended family units, with elders holding significant authority. A communal lifestyle emphasizes cooperation and mutual assistance.

Famous Sesotho People

- **King Moshoeshe I (1786–1870):** The founder of the Basotho Kingdom, renowned for uniting Sotho clans and defending his people.
- **Thabo Mbeki:** Former President of South Africa (1999–2008), born to a Basotho mother. Mbeki played a pivotal role in the anti-apartheid movement and post-apartheid leadership.

Essential Sesotho words and phrases

	Sesotho Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Dumela	Hello	/doo-meh-lah/
2	Ke a leboga	Thank you	/keh ah leh-boh-gah/
3	O kae?	How are you?	/oh kah-eh?/
4	Ke phela hantle	I am fine	/keh phel-ah han-tleh/
5	Le kae?	How are you? (plural)	/leh kah-eh?/
6	Kea leboha	Thank you (formal/plural)	/keh ah leh-boh-hah/
7	Ke rata	I like/I love	/keh rah-tah/
8	E tla pele	It will come	/eh tlah peh-leh/
9	Feta	Go	/feh-tah/
10	Tsamaea	Walk	/tsah-mah-eh-ah/
11	Leka	Try	/leh-kah/
12	Phela	Live	/peh-lah/
13	Kea tseba	I know	/keh ah tseh-bah/
14	Ha ke tsebe	I don't know	/hah keh tseh-beh/
15	Ke khona	I can	/keh khoh-nah/

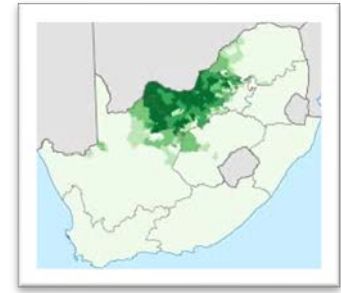
	Sesotho Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
16	O tla fihla kae?	Where will you arrive?	/oh tlah fee-lah kah-eh?/
17	Ke batla	I want	/keh baht-lah/
18	U tla fihla kae?	Where will you arrive?	/oo tlah fee-lah kah-eh?/
19	Kea etsa	I am doing	/keh ah eht-sah/
20	Re rata	We like/We love	/ray rah-tah/
21	Ke tla tsena	I will enter	/keh tlah tseh-nah/
22	Ke hloka	I need	/keh hloh-kah/
23	U batla eng?	What do you want?	/oo baht-lah eng?/
24	Ke kopa	I request	/keh koh-pah/
25	Re boetse	We are back	/ray boh-eh-tseh/
26	Hantle	Well/Good	/han-tleh/
27	Ke a tshaba	I am afraid	/keh ah tshah-bah/
28	Ke tseba	I know	/keh tseh-bah/
29	Ke ea koenya	I am going to the shop	/keh eh ah koh-eh-nyah/
30	Re tla ea	We will go	/ray tlah eh-ah/
31	Ke batla ho ja	I want to eat	/keh baht-lah hoh jah/

	Sesotho Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
32	Ke hloka metsi	I need water	/keh hloh-kah meh-tsee/
33	Oa rata	You love/like	/oh ah rah-tah/
34	Ke lula	I live/Stay	/keh loo-lah/
35	Ke balele	I am reading	/keh bah-leh-leh/
36	Ho fella	It is over	/hoh feh-lah/
37	Ka kopo	Please	/kah koh-poh/
38	Ke leboha haholo	Thank you very much	/keh leh-boh-hah hah-tloh/
39	Ke na le	I have	/keh nah leh/
40	Ho bonahala	It is clear	/hoh boh-nah-hah-lah/
41	Ke kopa ho tseba	I request to know	/keh koh-pah hoh tseh-bah/
42	Tla	Come	/tlah/
43	Tloaeleha	It's common/normal	/tloh-ah-eh-lah/
44	Ke bolla	I am crying	/keh boh-lah/
45	Fela	Only	/feh-lah/
46	Ho lula	Stay	/hoh loo-lah/
47	Ke le ka hare	I am inside	/keh leh kah hah-reh/

	Sesotho Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
48	Ke tla tswa	I will leave	/keh tlah tswah/
49	Ke se kae	Where is it?	/keh seh kah-eh?/
50	U ne u tla tsamaea	You were walking	/oo neh oo tlah tsah-mah-eh-ah/
51	Ke sheba	I am looking	/keh sheh-bah/
52	Bohlale	Wisdom	/boh-lah-leh/
53	Ho tseba	To know	/hoh tseh-bah/
54	Ke tla batla	I will search	/keh tlah baht-lah/
55	Ke thabile	I am happy	/keh tah-bee-leh/
56	Ke tla rapela	I will pray	/keh tlah rah-peh-lah/
57	O tla tshwara	You will catch	/oh tlah tshwah-rah/
58	Ke a lora	I dream	/keh ah loh-rah/
59	E ne e le joang?	How was it?	/eh neh eh leh joh-ahng?/
60	Ke a go rata	I love you (formal)	/keh ah goh rah-tah/



7. Xitsonga (Tsonga)



Spoken by ~4.5% of the population

The **Xitsonga-speaking people**, also known as the **Tsonga** or **Shangaan**, are a Bantu ethnic group predominantly found in **southern Africa**, particularly in **Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Eswatini (Swaziland)**. Their origins trace back to the **migration of Bantu-speaking groups** from **Central Africa**, eventually settling in **southern Mozambique** and parts of **Limpopo** and **Mpumalanga provinces** in South Africa.

Culture

The Xitsonga culture is rich in traditions and customs. Here are its key highlights:

- **Language:** Xitsonga is a **Bantu language** celebrated for its **musical tones** and **poetic expressions**.
- **Music and Dance:** Traditional Xitsonga music features instruments like the **timbila** (a type of xylophone) and vibrant **Xibelani dances**, where women wear colorful, flared skirts to enhance rhythmic movements.
- **Social Structure:** Xitsonga society is **clan-based**, emphasizing **family** and **communal living**.
- **Rituals:** Significant cultural practices include **initiation ceremonies** (rites of passage) for boys and girls.
- **Cuisine:** The Xitsonga diet commonly features **maize-based dishes, vegetables, and river fish**.

Famous Xitsonga People

The Xitsonga community has produced notable figures in various fields, including:

1. **Gito Baloi:** Renowned South African musician and a member of the band **Tananas**.
2. **Dr. Thomas Chauke:** Legendary Xitsonga traditional musician, known for preserving and popularizing the music.
3. **Cassius Baloyi:** Acclaimed South African professional boxer.

Despite **colonial disruptions**, the **Xitsonga people** have successfully preserved their traditions and continue to play an essential role in the cultural diversity of southern Africa.

Essential Xitsonga words and phrases

	Xitsonga	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Avuxeni	Good morning	Ah-voo-xe-nee
2	Minjhani	How are you?	Mee-njha-nee
3	Ndzi kona	I am fine	Nzee koh-nah
4	Inkomu	Thank you	Een-koh-moo
5	Ndzi khense ngopfu	Thank you very much	Nzee khen-seh n-goo-koo
6	Ndza khoma	Excuse me	Nza khoh-ma
7	Sala kahle	Goodbye (Stay well)	Sah-lah kah-leh
8	Hamba kahle	Goodbye (Go well)	Ham-bah kah-leh
9	Ina	Yes	Ee-nah
10	E-e	No	Eh-eh
11	Ndzi lava	I want...	Nzee lah-vah
12	Ndzi rhandza	I like...	Nzee rha-nda
13	Ndzi nga twisisi	I don't understand	Nzee nga twee-see-see
14	U njhani?	How are you? (formal)	Oo n-jha-nee?
15	Ndzi endla ku hlohlotha	I'm just visiting	Nzee en-dlah koo hlo-hlo-tha

	Xitsonga	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
16	Ndzi ta vuya	I will return	Nzee ta voo-yah
17	Loko ndzi kombelela	Please	Loh-koh nzee kohm-be-leh-lah
18	Ndzi komberile	I'm sorry	Nzee kohm-beh-ree-leh
19	Mbuyelo	Response	Mboo-yeh-loh
20	Ndzi endla ntirho	I am working	Nzee en-dlah n-toh-roh
21	Ndzi suka	I come from...	Nzee soo-kah
22	Ndzi tshama e...	I live in...	Nzee tcha-ma eh...
23	I mani?	Who is it?	Ee mah-nee?
24	Xana u na swona?	Do you have it?	Zha-nah oo nah swoh-nah?
25	Ndzi rhandza wena	I love you	Nzee rha-nda weh-nah
26	Hina	We	Hee-nah
27	Vona	They	Voh-nah
28	Ndzi ta vuya	I will return	Nzee ta voo-yah
29	Ndzi ya exikolweni	I'm going to school	Nzee yah eh-shee-koh-loo-weh-nee
30	Ndzi na ndlala	I'm hungry	Nzee nah n-dlah-lah

	Xitsonga	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
31	Ndzi nyenya	I'm thirsty	Nzee nyeh-nya
32	Ekuhlaleni	In the village	Eh-koo-hla-leh-nee
33	Nghozi	Danger	N-ghoh-zee
34	Dyondza	Learn	Dyon-dzah
35	Tshinela	Come closer	Tshi-neh-lah
36	Lulama	Be kind	Loo-lah-mah
37	Ndzi ta pfuna	I will help	Nzee ta pfoo-nah
38	Xana u tshembile?	Are you sure?	Zha-nah oo tshem-bee-leh?
39	Ndzi pfuni	Help me	Nzee pfoo-nee
40	Swinene	Beautiful	Swee-neh-neh
41	Swilo leswi	These things	Swee-loh swee-lee
42	Ndlela	Road	N-dleh-lah
43	Kanyisa	Turn on (light)	Kah-nyee-sah
44	Tima	Turn off (light)	Tee-mah
45	Ndzi ta yima	I will wait	Nzee ta yee-mah
46	Tsakani	Be happy	Tsah-kah-nee

	Xitsonga	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
47	Ndzi rhurhumerile	I am tired	Nzee rhu-rhu-meh-ree-leh
48	Ndza ku tlangela	I appreciate you	Nza koo tlan-geh-lah
49	Loko swina kahle	If it is fine	Loh-koh swee-nah kah-leh
50	Hambeta u byela	Continue speaking	Ham-beh-tah oo bee-yeh-lah
51	Ndzi tshemba	I believe	Nzee tshem-bah
52	Hambi	Even though	Ham-bee
53	Xana swi tano?	Is it true?	Zha-nah swee tah-noh?
54	Ndzi tsaka	I am happy	Nzee tsah-kah
55	Ndzi twa ku vava	I feel pain	Nzee twa koo vah-vah
56	A ndzi swi tivi	I don't know	Ah nzee swee tee-vee
57	Loko wu lava	If you want	Loh-koh woo lah-vah
58	Khensa	Thank	Khen-sah
59	Ndzi ta vuya mundzuku	I will come back tomorrow	Nzee ta voo-yah moon-dzoo-koo
60	Ndzi na ndlala	I'm hungry	Nzee nah n-dlah-lah

8. Swati (siSwati)



Spoken by ~2.5% of the Population

The Swati-speaking people, also known as the Swazi, are a Bantu ethnic group primarily found in the Kingdom of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) and parts of South Africa, particularly in Mpumalanga province. They are part of the Nguni ethnic group and share linguistic and cultural similarities with the Zulu and Xhosa peoples.

History Origins: The Swazi trace their origins to the Nguni migrations from East Africa during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Dlamini Leadership: They settled in present-day Eswatini under the leadership of Dlamini I, after whom the royal family takes its surname.

Unification: The modern Swazi nation was consolidated under King Sobhuza I in the early 19th century and later expanded under King Mswati II, after whom the nation is named.

Colonial Era: In the 19th century, the Swazi faced threats from Zulu expansionism under Shaka Zulu and later from British and Boer colonial pressures. Despite these challenges, Eswatini retained partial independence during British colonial rule and achieved full sovereignty in 1968 under King Sobhuza II.

Culture Swazi culture is deeply rooted in tradition and monarchy, with the king holding central ceremonial and governance roles.

Language: siSwati, a Bantu language, is part of the Nguni language group.

Monarchy: The king (Ngwenyama) and queen mother (Ndlovukati) hold significant ceremonial and political roles.

Key Ceremonies: **Incwala (First Fruits Ceremony):** A sacred ritual celebrating the harvest and the renewal of the king's power. **Umhlanga (Reed Dance):** A well-known ceremony where young women present reeds to the queen mother, symbolizing purity and unity.

Social Structure: Traditional Swazi society is organized around homesteads (emakhaya) and revolves around cattle herding and subsistence farming.

Beliefs: Traditional ancestor worship coexists with Christianity, which is widely practiced today.

Famous Swati People

- **King Mswati III:** Current monarch of Eswatini, known for maintaining the monarchy's influence.
- **Sobhuza II:** Longest-reigning monarch, pivotal in Eswatini's independence from British colonial rule.

The Swati-speaking people have a rich cultural heritage closely linked to their monarchy and traditional ceremonies, emphasizing unity and ancestral respect.

Essential siSwati Words and Phrases

	siSwati	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Sawubona	Hello (singular)	sah-woo-BOH-nah
2	Sanibonani	Hello (plural)	sah-nee-boh-NAH-nee
3	Unjani?	How are you? (sing.)	oon-JAH-nee?
4	Ninjani?	How are you? (plural)	nee-NJAH-nee?
5	Ngiyaphila	I am fine	ngee-yah-PEE-lah
6	Ngiyabonga	Thank you	ngee-yah-BOHN-gah
7	Yebo	Yes	YEH-boh
8	Cha	No	CHAH
9	Uvelaphi?	Where are you from?	oo-VEH-lah-pee?
10	Ngiphuma e...	I am from...	ngee-POO-mah eh...
11	Hamba kahle	Go well (goodbye)	HAM-bah KAH-leh
12	Sala kahle	Stay well (goodbye)	SAH-lah KAH-leh
13	Babe	Father	BAH-beh
14	Make	Mother	MAH-keh
15	Bhuti	Brother	BOO-tee

	siSwati	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
16	Sisi	Sister	SEE-see
17	Umndeni	Family	oom-NDEH-nee
18	Mngani	Friend	mng-GAH-nee
19	Umfati	Wife	oom-FAH-tee
20	Indvodza	Husband/Man	eend-VOH-dzah
21	Umntfwana	Child	oom-nt-FAH-nah
22	Kunye	One	KOON-yeh
23	Kubili	Two	koo-BEE-lee
24	Kutsatfu	Three	koo-TSAH-tfoo
25	Kune	Four	KOO-neh
26	Kusihlanu	Five	koo-SEE-hlah-noo
27	Kusitfupha	Six	koo-SEE-tfoo-pah
28	Kusikhombisa	Seven	koo-SEE-KOM-bee-sah
29	Kusiphohlongo	Eight	koo-SEE-poh-HLON-go
30	Kulisumi	Ten	koo-LEE-soo-mee
31	Lamhla	Today	LAHM-hlah

	siSwati	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
32	Kusasa	Tomorrow	koo-SAH-sah
33	Itolo	Yesterday	ee-TOH-loh
34	Lisontfo	Sunday	lee-SON-tfo
35	Ubusuku	Night	oo-boo-SOO-koo
36	Lilanga	Day	lee-LAHN-gah
37	Emanti	Water	eh-MAHN-tee
38	Sitjalo	Food	see-TJAH-loh
39	Inyama	Meat	een-YAH-mah
40	Sibisi	Milk	see-BEE-see
41	Utsi	Salt	oo-TEE
42	Emaphoyisa	Police	eh-mah-POY-ee-sah
43	Sipetulo	Hospital	see-PEH-too-loh
44	Lihlatsi	Forest	lee-HLAH-tsee
45	Indlela	Road	eend-LEH-lah
46	Likhaya	Home	lee-KAH-yah
47	Inhloko	Head	een-HLOH-koh

	siSwati	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
48	Emehlo	Eyes	eh-MEH-hloh
49	Indlebe	Ear	een-DLEH-beh
50	Lihlahla	Arm	lee-HLAH-hlah
51	Tinjebe	Legs	TEEN-jeh-beh
52	Ngicela	Please	ngee-CHEH-lah
53	Uxolo	Sorry	oo-XOH-loh
54	Ngiyakutsandza	I love you	ngee-yah-koo-TSAN-dzah
55	Uneminyaka emingaki?	How old are you?	oo-neh-MEE-nyah-kah ee- MEENG-ah-kee?
56	Ngilambile	I am hungry	ngee-LAHM-bee-leh
57	Ngomile	I am thirsty	ngo-MEE-leh
58	Ngiyahamba	I am leaving	ngee-yah-HAM-bah
59	Ngiyajabula kukuhlangana nawe	I am happy to meet you	ngee-yah-JAH-boo-lah koo-koo- HLAH-ngah NAH-weh
60	Ngiyabonga	Thank you	ngee-yah-BOHN-gah

9. Tshivenda (Venda)



Spoken by ~2.5% of the Population

Overview

The Tshivenda-speaking people, commonly known as the Venda, are primarily located in Limpopo Province near the Zimbabwean border. Their origins date back to the 9th–12th centuries, with ties to the ancient Mapungubwe Kingdom, one of Southern Africa's earliest advanced societies. The Venda were historically governed by powerful chieftaincies, most notably the Vhavenda Kingdom, founded by Dimbanyika, the first king (mid-16th century). This kingdom was renowned for its complex governance and spiritual leadership.

Cultural Highlights

1. **Rituals and Spirituality:** Strong spiritual beliefs centered on ancestors and nature spirits. Sacred sites like Lake Fundudzi and the Thathe Vondo Forest hold spiritual significance.
2. **Art and Craft:** Known for pottery, wood carving, and beadwork, often created for ceremonial purposes.
3. **Dance:** The Domba dance (python dance) is a famous traditional dance performed during initiation ceremonies.
4. **Language:** Tshivenda is one of South Africa's official languages, celebrated for its rich oral literature and proverbs.

Famous People

- **Tshilidzi Marwala:** Academic and AI researcher; former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg.
- **Noria Mabasa:** Renowned sculptor and ceramic artist, celebrated for her traditional Venda art forms.
- **Phathutshedzo Ndlovu:** Contemporary musician and cultural advocate.
- **Kenneth Kaunda:** Zambian political leader with ancestral ties to the Venda region.

Legacy

The Venda people maintain their cultural heritage while making significant contributions to South Africa's cultural diversity and intellectual landscape.

Essential Tshivenda Words and Phrases

	Tshivenda	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Ndaa / Aa	Hello (male/female)	Ndaa / Aa
2	Vho vuwa hani?	How are you?	Vho voo-wah hah-nee?
3	Ndi khou bva zwavhudi	I am fine	Ndee khoo bvah zwa-voo-dee
4	Zwa vhudi	Good	Zwa voo-dee
5	Ndi a livhuwa	Thank you	Ndee ah lee-voo-wah
6	Ee	Yes	Eh
7	Hai	No	Hai
8	Ndila tshinyama?	Where is the road?	Ndee-lah chee-nyah-mah?
9	Ndi mangani?	How much is this?	Ndee mahn-gah-nee?
10	Fhedzi	Only	Feh-dzee
11	Ndi do dovha	I will return	Ndee doh doh-vah
12	U bva gai?	Where are you from?	Oo bva gah-ee?
13	Ndi bvaho ...	I am from ...	Ndee bvah-hoh
14	Nne ndi na vhudi	I am good	Nneh ndee nah voo-dee
15	Ndi khou luma	I am eating	Ndee khoo loo-mah

	Tshivenda	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
16	U a divha?	Do you know?	Oo ah dee-vah?
17	Ndi nga thusa?	Can I help you?	Ndee ngah too-sah?
18	Ni khou tshimbila gai?	Where are you going?	Nee khoo cheem-bee-lah gah-ee?
19	Ndi khou ya hayani	I am going home	Ndee khoo yah hah-yah-nee
20	Ndi khou funa	I love you	Ndee khoo foo-nah
21	Ni na vhana?	Do you have children?	Nee nah vhah-nah?
22	Ndi na vhana vhararu	I have three children	Ndee nah vhah-nah vhah-rah-roo
23	Ndi a khou vhuya	I am coming back	Ndee ah khoo vhoo-yah
24	Vhuya hafha	Come here	Vhoo-yah hah-fah
25	Ri khou ya tshikoloni	We are going to school	Ree khoo yah chee-koh-loh-nee
26	U a zwi funa?	Do you like it?	Oo ah zee foo-nah?
27	Ndi a zwi funa	I like it	Ndee ah zee foo-nah
28	Ndi khou tamba	I am playing	Ndee khoo tahm-bah
29	Vhukati ha zwothe	In the middle	Vhoo-kah-tee hah zwoh-theh

	Tshivenda	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
30	Khotsi	Father	Khot-see
31	Mma	Mother	Mmah
32	Muru	Brother	Moo-roo
33	Khaladzi	Sister	Kha-lah-dzee
34	Vhana	Children	Vhah-nah
35	Tshiṭuhu	Morning	Chee-too-hoo
36	Masikati	Afternoon	Mah-see-kah-tee
37	Vhusiku	Night	Vhoo-see-koo
38	Ri a vhona	Goodbye	Ree ah voh-nah
39	Tshifhinga	Time	Chee-feeng-gah
40	Madi	Water	Mah-dee
41	Tshimela	Food	Chee-meh-lah
42	U a luma?	Are you eating?	Oo ah loo-mah?
43	Ndi a luma	I am eating	Ndee ah loo-mah
44	Zwino	Now	Zwee-noh
45	Zwifhinga zwa hone	Later	Zwee-feeng-gah zwah hoh-neh

	Tshivenda	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
46	Ndi a ṭavha	I am cooking	Ndee ah tah-vhah
47	Ndi fhano	I am here	Ndee fah-noh
48	Ni fhano?	Are you here?	Nee fah-noh?
49	Ndi dzula hafha	I live here	Ndee dzu-lah hah-fah
50	Ni dzula gai?	Where do you live?	Nee dzu-lah gah-ee?
51	U tamba?	Do you play?	Oo tahm-bah?
52	Ndi a tamba	I am playing	Ndee ah tahm-bah
53	U shuma gai?	Where do you work?	Oo shoo-mah gah-ee?
54	Ndi shuma fhano	I work here	Ndee shoo-mah fah-noh
55	Tshilidzi	Light	Chee-leed-zee
56	Nḡila	Road	Ndee-lah
57	U ya vhudi	Go well (farewell)	Oo yah voo-dee
58	U sale vhudi	Stay well (farewell)	Oo sah-leh voo-dee
59	Ndi khou humbela thuso	I am asking for help	Ndee khoo hoom-beh-lah too-soh
60	Ndi na mushonga?	Do you have medicine?	Ndee nah moo-shon-gah?

10. Ndebele (isiNdebele)



Spoken by ~2.1% of the South African Population

The Ndebele people of South Africa are a Bantu ethnic group primarily residing in the northeastern parts of the country, particularly in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Gauteng provinces. They belong to the larger Nguni ethnic group, which includes the Zulu, Xhosa, and Swazi. While the Ndebele of South Africa share historical ties with the Ndebele of Zimbabwe, they are distinct communities.

Origins: The South African Ndebele trace their origins to the Nguni migrations during the early centuries of the Common Era. Their early leader, Musi, separated from the main Nguni groups around the 1600s and established the Ndebele community near the present-day Pretoria region.

Factions: The Ndebele community split into two main groups: Southern Ndebele (Amandebele kaMusi): Based in Gauteng and Mpumalanga. Northern Ndebele (BagaLanga): Located in Limpopo and culturally influenced by the Sotho and Tswana.

Challenges: During the Mfecane (early 19th century upheaval), the Ndebele faced attacks from Zulu King Shaka. They later resisted colonial encroachment but were subdued during British colonial expansion and the apartheid era.

Culture The Ndebele are renowned for their vibrant artistic culture, particularly their beadwork and geometric mural paintings, which are traditionally created by women.

Language: The Southern Ndebele language (isiNdebele) is a Bantu language closely related to Zulu and Swazi.

Art: Geometric patterns in bright colors are used on homes, clothing, and beadwork, symbolizing identity and cultural pride.

Rites of Passage: Initiation ceremonies (*ukuthomba*) are significant for both boys and girls, marking the transition into adulthood.

Traditional Dress: Features colorful beadwork. Married women often wear neck rings and elaborate clothing during ceremonies.

Famous Figures

Esther Mahlangu: An internationally renowned Ndebele artist, known for her mural paintings and beadwork.

King Musi: The founding figure of the South African Ndebele.

The Ndebele people have preserved a rich cultural heritage while adapting to modern South African society. Their art, language, and traditions remain integral to the nation's cultural identity.

Essential Ndebele Words and Phrases

	Ndebele	English	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Sawubona	Hello	Sah-woo-boh-nah
2	Unjani?	How are you?	Oon-jah-nee?
3	Ngiyaphila	I am fine	Ngee-yah-pee-lah
4	Uphi?	Where are you?	Oo-pee?
5	Ngiyabonga	Thank you	Ngee-yah-bon-gah
6	Sala kahle	Goodbye (stay well)	Sah-lah kah-leh
7	Hamba kahle	Goodbye (go well)	Hahm-bah kah-leh
8	Yebo	Yes	Yeh-boh
9	Cha	No	Chah
10	Ngicela	Please	Ngee-cheh-lah
11	Ngiyaxolisa	Sorry/Excuse me	Ngee-yah-kso-lee-sah
12	Umama	Mother	Oo-mah-mah
13	Ubaba	Father	Oo-bah-bah
14	Umfowethu	My brother	Oom-foh-weh-too
15	Udadewethu	My sister	Oo-dah-deh-weh-too

	Ndebele	English	Phonetic Pronunciation
16	Umntwana	Child	Oom-ntwah-nah
17	Umzali	Parent	Oom-zah-lee
18	Umkhulu	Grandfather	Oom-koo-loo
19	Ugogo	Grandmother	Oo-goh-goh
20	Kunye	One	Koo-nyeh
21	Kubili	Two	Koo-bee-lee
22	Kuthathu	Three	Koo-tah-too
23	Kune	Four	Koo-neh
24	Kuhlanu	Five	Koo-hlah-noo
25	Isithupha	Six	Ee-see-too-pah
26	Isikhombisa	Seven	Ee-see-kohm-bee-sah
27	Isishiyagalombili	Eight	Ee-see-shee-yah-gah-loh-mbee-lee
28	Isishiyagalolunye	Nine	Ee-see-shee-yah-gah-loh-loon-yeh
29	Ishumi	Ten	Ee-shoo-mee
30	Usuku	Day	Oo-soo-koo
31	Iviki	Week	Ee-vee-kee

	Ndebele	English	Phonetic Pronunciation
32	Inyanga	Month	Een-yah-ngah
33	Unyaka	Year	Oon-yah-kah
34	Namhlanje	Today	Nahm-hlan-jeh
35	Izolo	Yesterday	Ee-zoh-loh
36	Kusasa	Tomorrow	Koo-sah-sah
37	Ukudla	Food	Oo-koo-dlah
38	Amanzi	Water	Ah-mahn-zee
39	Itiye	Tea	Ee-tee-yeh
40	Ubisi	Milk	Oo-bee-see
41	Isinkwa	Bread	Ee-seen-kwah
42	Inyama	Meat	Een-yah-mah
43	Imifino	Vegetables	Ee-mee-fee-noh
44	Ngapha	This way	Ngah-phah
45	Ngale	That way	Ngah-leh
46	Phezulu	Up/Above	Peh-zoo-loo
47	Phansi	Down/Below	Pahn-see

	Ndebele	English	Phonetic Pronunciation
48	Ekunene	Right	Eh-koo-neh-neh
49	Ekhohlo	Left	Eh-khoh-loh
50	Ngubani?	Who?	Ngoo-bah-nee?
51	Kanjani?	How?	Kahn-jah-nee?
52	Kuphi?	Where?	Koo-pee?
53	Nini?	When?	Nee-nee?
54	Kungani?	Why?	Koon-gah-nee?
55	Hamba	Go	Hahm-bah
56	Buya	Come	Boo-yah
57	Bona	See	Boh-nah
58	Khuluma	Speak	Koo-loo-mah
59	Fundisa	Teach	Foon-dee-sah
60	Thanda	Love	Tahn-dah



11. South African Sign Language (SASL)

South Africa's linguistic diversity includes South African Sign Language (SASL), one of the country's official languages, recognized in the 1996 Constitution. This recognition was a pivotal moment for the Deaf community, marking a step toward greater inclusion. However, full integration of SASL into public life—such as in education, media, and government services—has not yet been achieved.

Key Points About SASL:

- **Primary Language:** SASL is the main form of communication for most Deaf people in South Africa, with its unique grammar and syntax different from spoken languages like English and Afrikaans.
- **Visual Language:** It relies on hand shapes, facial expressions, and body movements to convey meaning, distinguishing it from spoken languages.
- **Development:** Unlike a language created by a single individual, SASL developed organically within the Deaf community over time.

Challenges:

- **Recognition vs. Implementation:** Despite SASL's recognition as an official language, it faces challenges in widespread use, particularly in education and public services.
- **Educational Gaps:** SASL is not consistently offered in schools, and interpreters are often unavailable in public institutions or media.

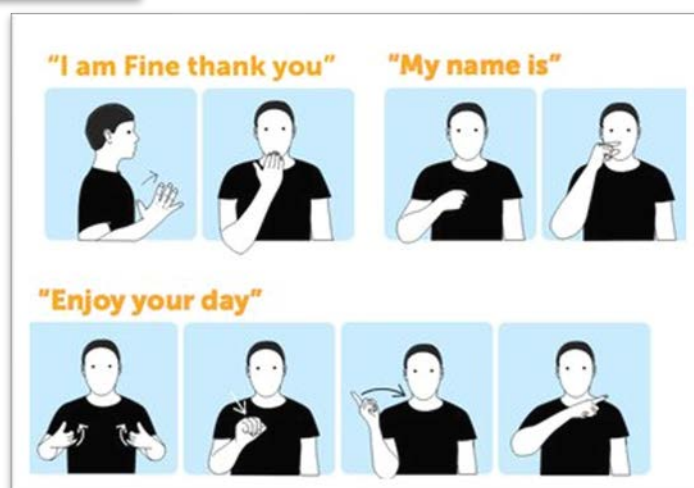
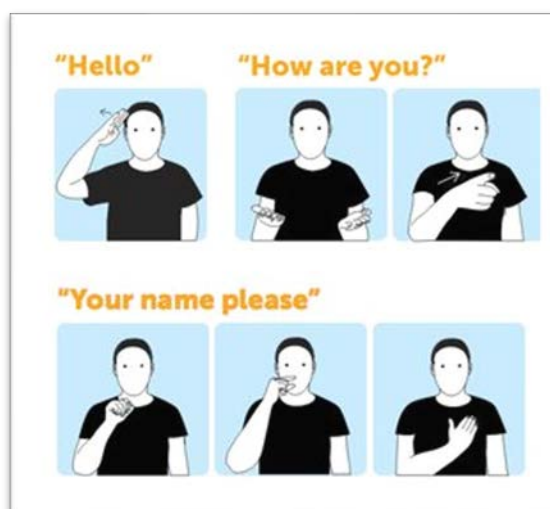
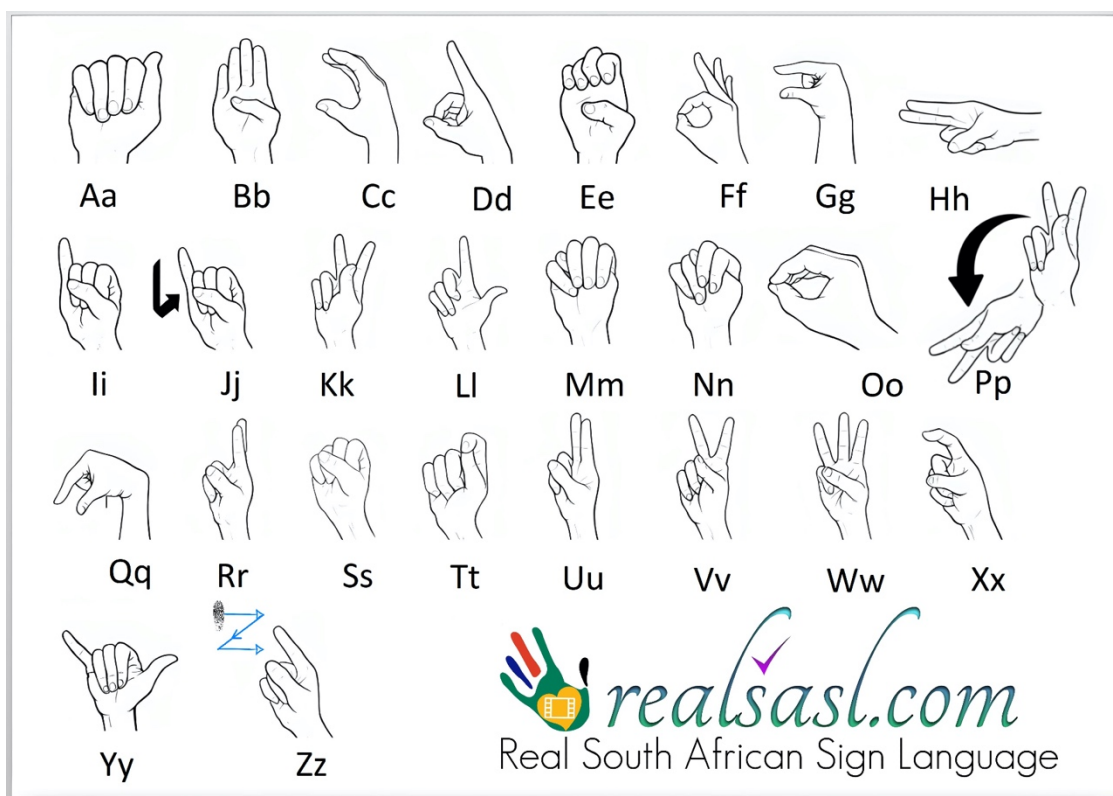
Comparison with Other Sign Languages:

- **American Sign Language (ASL):** While both SASL and ASL are visual languages, they differ significantly in structure. ASL has roots in French Sign Language (LSF), whereas SASL has regional influences, including from British Sign Language (BSL).
- **British Sign Language (BSL):** Although SASL and BSL share some similarities due to historical interactions, they are not mutually intelligible.
- **International Sign Language (ISL):** ISL, used in global contexts such as conferences, is simpler in structure compared to regional languages like SASL.

Usage and Statistics:

- Around 500,000 to 1 million people in South Africa are Deaf or hard of hearing, many of whom use SASL. However, determining the exact number of fluent SASL users is challenging, as some may use other forms of communication or not be fully fluent in sign language.

South African Sign Language Alphabet



Non-Official and Minority Languages

South Africa's linguistic landscape is as **diverse** as its people, shaped by centuries of **cultural exchange, migration, and historical developments**. While the country officially recognizes **12 languages**, many other languages are spoken by **minority communities**, each contributing uniquely to the nation's rich tapestry of **identity and heritage**.

This section celebrates **words and phrases** from languages that are not officially recognized or widely spoken in South Africa. Though often **underrepresented**, these languages hold immense **value**, reflecting the lived experiences, **traditions**, and **histories** of the communities that speak them. Their inclusion in this manual not only acknowledges **linguistic diversity** but also promotes greater **cultural appreciation** and **respect** among all participants.

By exploring these words and phrases, we honor both South Africa's **complex history** and its **current reality**, while affirming the importance of **preserving** and **respecting** all forms of linguistic expression. May this section inspire **curiosity** and a deeper **understanding** of the many voices that contribute to the nation's collective **identity**.

Note: The South African Spelling Bee acknowledges the existence of numerous other **languages** spoken throughout the country. This list is not exhaustive but serves as an introduction to the linguistic **richness** found within South Africa.



San and Khoe Languages

The San (Bushmen) and Khoe (Khoikhoi) are two distinct Indigenous groups of Southern Africa, each with unique histories, cultures, and languages, though they are often mistakenly grouped together.



San (Bushmen)

- **History:** The San are among the oldest continuous cultures on Earth, dating back over 20,000 years. They were traditionally hunter-gatherers, living in Southern Africa long before the arrival of Bantu-speaking peoples or European colonists.
- **Culture:** The San practiced a nomadic lifestyle, relying on tracking and foraging skills. Their art, such as the rock paintings in the Drakensberg Mountains, provides insight into their spiritual beliefs, often centered around nature and trance dances for healing and communal bonding.
- **Languages:** The San languages, such as !Kung and !Xóõ, are known for their distinctive click sounds.
- **Famous Figures:** !Kung healer and activist N!xau Toma, star of *The Gods Must Be Crazy*.

Khoe (Khoikhoi)

- **History:** The Khoe, sometimes referred to as the Hottentots (a colonial term now considered offensive), historically practiced pastoralism, herding cattle and sheep. They were more settled than the San and often clashed with European settlers during the colonial period, particularly in the 17th century.
- **Culture:** Khoe society was structured around clan systems with a focus on livestock wealth. Their spiritual beliefs included reverence for a supreme being and ancestral spirits.
- **Languages:** The Khoe languages, such as Khoekhoegowab, also feature click sounds but differ significantly from San languages.
- **Famous Figures:** Sara Baartman, a Khoikhoi woman exploited in 19th-century Europe, and Dawid Kruiper, a Khoe activist for Indigenous land rights.

Key Difference

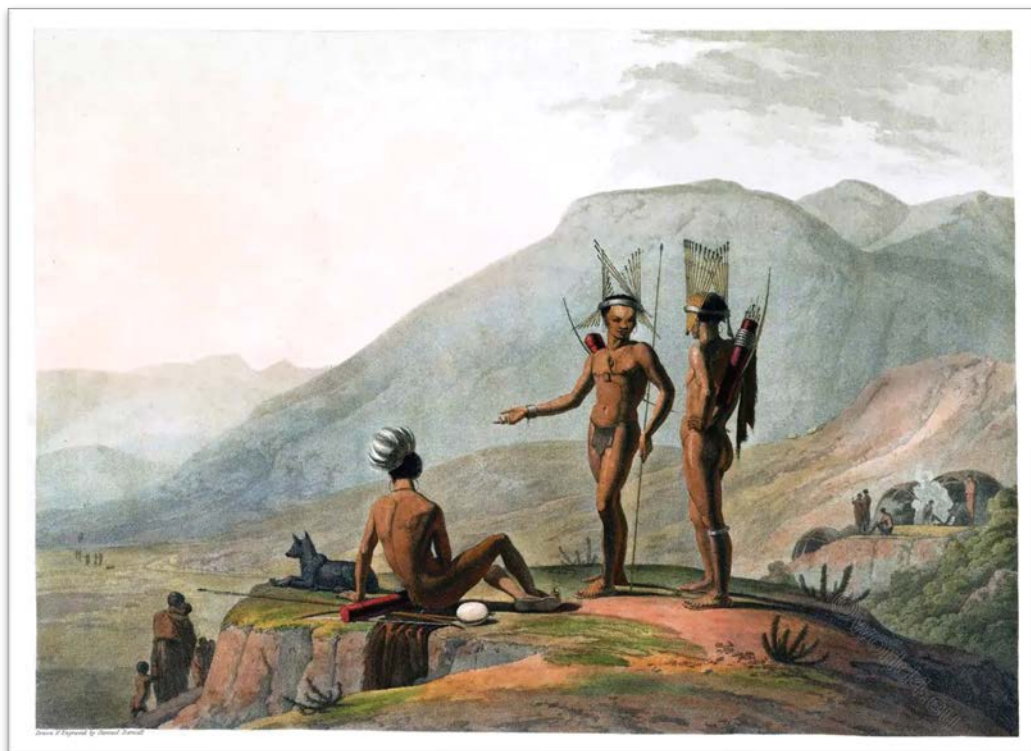
- The San were primarily hunter-gatherers, while the Khoe were pastoralists.
- Their languages, though both featuring clicks, belong to different linguistic families.

Both groups have faced marginalization but continue to play significant roles in the cultural landscape of Southern Africa.

Some San and Khoe words & phrases

San (Bushmen) Words	English Translation	Phonetic Transcription
!Kung Language		
1. !Xun	Person	[!χũ:n]
2. !'Oma	Water	[!ʔɔma]
3. !Gã	Fire	[!gã]
4. !Hû	Meat	[!hũ]
5. !N!a	Sun	[!ŋ!a]
!Xóõ Language		
1. Taa	Person	[tá:]
2. !G!o	Water	[!g!ó]
3. !Hã	Fire	[!hã]
4. !N!u	Meat	[!ŋ!ú]
5. !Kwi	Sun	[!kwí]
Khoekhoegowab Words and Phrases	English Translation	Phonetic Transcription
1. !Gâi tsēs	Good day	[!gâi tsēs]
2. !Gâi !lgoas	Good morning	[!gâi !lgoas]

Khoekhoegowab Words and Phrases	English Translation	Phonetic Transcription
3. !Gâi !oes	Good evening	[!gâi !oes]
4. Matisa	How are you?	[Matisa]
5. !Gâise !gû re	Goodbye	[!gâise !gû re]
6. !lKhawa mûgus	See you soon	[!lKhawa mûgus]
7. Regkomtani	I'll manage	[Regkomtani]
8. Tae na Tae	How's it hanging?	[Tae na Tae]
9. Ê	Yes	[Ê]
10. Hî-î	No	[Hî-î]



2. German & German-Speaking Communities in South Africa



History

German-speaking communities in South Africa trace their roots back to the 17th century. Initially, German settlers arrived under the Dutch East India Company to work at the Cape Colony (modern-day Cape Town). In the 19th century, additional waves of Germans migrated to South Africa, particularly during the German colonization of Namibia (then German South West Africa). This led to the establishment of German communities in various parts of the country.

- **Early German Settlers (17th Century):** German immigrants arrived as part of the Dutch East India Company's efforts to populate the Cape Colony.
- **19th Century Immigration:** Large numbers of German farmers, artisans, and missionaries migrated, especially after the collapse of the Napoleonic Wars.
- **Missionary Work:** German missionaries, particularly from the Berlin Missionary Society, played a significant role in founding educational and religious institutions in South Africa, particularly in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal regions.

Locations

- **Cape Town:** Among the first areas to have a significant German-speaking population, where many worked as tradespeople or farmers.
- **Eastern Cape:** German immigrants established settlements in regions such as Port Elizabeth.
- **KwaZulu-Natal:** The German-speaking community here was notably active in agriculture.

Famous South Africans of German Descent

- **Ernst van Dijk:** A renowned long-distance runner of German descent who represented South Africa internationally.
- **Barney Barnato:** A significant figure in South African mining history, of Jewish-German descent, and a key player in the diamond industry.
- **Reinhard Strydom:** A South African businessman with German ancestry, recognized for his contributions to commerce.

Cultural Integration

Over time, German-speaking communities in South Africa have integrated into broader society while maintaining their cultural traditions, especially in regions where they initially settled.

Essential German Words and Phrases

	German	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Hallo	Hello	HAH-loh
2	Guten Morgen	Good morning	GOO-ten MOR-gen
3	Guten Tag	Good day	GOO-ten tahk
4	Gute Nacht	Good night	GOO-teh NAH-cht
5	Tschüss	Bye	CHOOSS
6	Ja	Yes	YAH
7	Nein	No	NINE
8	Bitte	Please	BIT-teh
9	Danke	Thank you	DAHN-keh
10	Entschuldigung	Excuse me / Sorry	Ent-SHUL-di-gung
11	Wie geht's?	How's it going?	VEE geh-ts
12	Mir geht's gut	I'm doing well	Meer geh-ts goot
13	Sprechen Sie Englisch?	Do you speak English?	SHPREH-ken zee EN-glish?
14	Ich verstehe nicht	I don't understand	IHK fer-SHTAY-eh nikht
15	Haben Sie...?	Do you have...?	HAH-ben zee

Portuguese-Speaking Communities in South Africa



Portuguese-speaking communities in South Africa come from diverse cultural, historical, and social backgrounds, including groups from Portugal, Madeira, Angola, and Mozambique. Below is a brief history and overview of each group:

1. Portuguese from Portugal

Arrival & History: Portuguese immigrants began arriving in South Africa in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, drawn by economic opportunities during the mining boom. Many were involved in construction, agriculture, and labor-intensive industries.

Culture: Portuguese from mainland Portugal brought traditions such as Catholicism, Fado (traditional folk music), and iconic culinary dishes like **bacalhau** (salted cod) and peri-peri chicken. Their influence is visible in areas like Cape Town, known for Portuguese cuisine and architecture.

Famous People

- **Cristiano Ronaldo:** While not South African, the football superstar of Portuguese descent represents the broader Portuguese cultural heritage.
- **Joaquim de Almeida:** A celebrated Portuguese actor with international acclaim.

2. Madeirans (from Madeira)

Arrival & History: Madeirans began migrating to South Africa in the late 19th century, particularly during the sugar and mining boom. Over time, they established themselves in agriculture, retail, and small business, with a strong presence in Cape Town.

Culture: The Madeiran community brought unique traditions, including their folk music, language, and cuisine. They maintain strong ties to Portuguese Catholicism and celebrate distinct Madeiran festivals.

Famous People: **Carmen L.:** A singer with roots in the Madeiran community.

3. Angolans

Arrival & History: Angolan migration to South Africa began during the colonial era and increased significantly after Angola's independence in 1975. Many Angolans

arrived as refugees during the Angolan Civil War (1975–2002), while others came as skilled workers or professionals.

Culture

- Angolans introduced vibrant music and dance styles, such as **semba** and **kizomba**, which have influenced South African music.
- Their cuisine includes dishes like **moamba** (chicken stew) and **fufu** (a starchy side dish).

Famous People

- **Toni Malau**: An Angolan-born South African artist known for his music.

4. Mozambicans

Arrival & History

- Mozambican migration to South Africa increased after the country's independence in 1975 and during the Mozambican Civil War (1977–1992).
- Many Mozambicans worked in mines or as agricultural laborers, particularly in rural provinces like Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

Culture

- Mozambicans brought cultural elements like **marabenta** (music and dance), **xigubo** (drumming), and the iconic **piri-piri sauce**.
- Traditional dishes include **matapa** (cassava leaves stew) and various seafood specialties.

Famous People

- **Mariza**: A globally renowned Fado singer of Mozambican-Portuguese descent.

Overall Cultural Influence

Across these Portuguese-speaking communities, a shared influence on South African culture includes:

- **Music**: Genres like Fado, semba, and marabenta.
- **Religion**: Strong ties to Catholicism.
- **Food**: Iconic dishes such as peri-peri chicken, bacalhau, and cassava-based meals.

While each group maintains its distinct identity, their collective contributions have enriched South Africa's multicultural society, leaving a lasting impact on its economy, arts, and social fabric.

Essential Portuguese Words and Phrases

	Portuguese	English	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Olá	Hello	oh-LAH
2	Como vai?	How are you?	KOH-moh vai?
3	Tudo bem?	Is everything good?	TOO-doh behm?
4	Sim	Yes	seem
5	Não	No	now
6	Por favor	Please	poor fah-VOHR
7	Obrigado/Obrigada	Thank you (male/female)	oh-bree-GAH-do / oh-bree-GAH-dah
8	Desculpe	Excuse me	des-KOOL-pee
9	Com licença	Excuse me (to get attention)	kohm lee-SEN-sah
10	Quanto custa?	How much does it cost?	KWAN-toh KOOS-tah?
11	Onde é o banheiro?	Where is the bathroom?	ON-deh eh oo bah-NYEH-roh?
12	Eu não entendo	I don't understand	ayoo now en-TEN-doh
13	Fala inglês?	Do you speak English?	FAH-lah een-GLEHSH?
14	Eu falo um pouco de português	I speak a little Portuguese	ayoo FAH-loh oong poo-KOH dee por-too-GEHZ
15	Qual é o seu nome?	What is your name?	kwahl eh oo seh-ooh NOH-meh?

Gujarati – Among South Africans of Indian Descent



Historical Background

Gujarati-speaking people in South Africa trace their history back to the late 19th century. They were among the first Indian immigrants, primarily arriving from the Gujarat region of India. Unlike indentured laborers brought to work on sugar plantations in Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal), many Gujaratis came as traders and merchants.

- **Migration:** Gujarati migration began in the 1860s, driven by economic opportunities in the British colony of Natal. Gujaratis established themselves as successful entrepreneurs, particularly in commerce and retail.
- **Mahatma Gandhi's Role:** Mahatma Gandhi spent time in South Africa (1893–1914) as a lawyer and civil rights activist. His experiences advocating for the rights of the Indian community shaped his philosophy of non-violence and passive resistance.

Cultural Identity

Gujarati culture in South Africa is deeply rooted in family values, religion, and vibrant traditions. The community has preserved its language, cuisine, and customs, enriching South Africa's cultural diversity.

- **Religious Practices:** Gujaratis in South Africa belong to various faiths, including Hinduism, Islam (notably Dawoodi Bohra and Sunni Vohra communities), and Jainism. They have established temples, mosques, and cultural centers that contribute to South Africa's multicultural landscape.
- **Festivals:** Festivals like **Diwali** (Festival of Lights) and **Navratri** (celebration of dance and devotion) are celebrated with enthusiasm.
- **Culinary Influence:** The Gujarati community is known for its unique vegetarian dishes, including dhokla, thepla, and farsan.

Notable Figures of Gujarati Descent

The Gujarati community has made significant contributions to South African society in politics, business, and activism: **Ahmed Kathrada:** Anti-apartheid activist and close associate of Nelson Mandela. **Pravin Gordhan:** Politician and former Minister of Finance in South Africa.

Legacy and Contribution

The Gujarati community has played a vital role in shaping South Africa's economy, politics, and cultural heritage. While preserving their traditions, Gujaratis have seamlessly integrated into the broader South African society, enriching its diversity.

Essential Gujarati Words and Phrases

	Gujarati (ગુજરાતી)	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	નમસ્તે (Namaste)	Hello	Nah-muh-steh
2	કેમ છો? (Kem cho?)	How are you?	Kehm cho?
3	હાં (Haan)	Yes	Haan
4	ના (Naa)	No	Naa
5	ધન્યવાદ (Dhanyavaad)	Thank you	Dhun-ya-vaad
6	કૃપા કરીને (Krupa karine)	Please	Kruh-paa ka-ree-neh
7	માફ કરજો (Maaf karjo)	Sorry/Excuse me	Maaf kar-jo
8	મારું નામ ... છે (Māru nām ... che)	My name is ...	Maa-roo naam ... che
9	તમે ક્યા થી છો? (Tame kya thi cho?)	Where are you from?	Tuh-meh kya thee cho?
10	મને સમજાતું નથી (Mane samajātu nathi)	I don't understand	Ma-neh sa-ma-ja-too na-thee
11	હા, હું ગુજરાતી બોલી શકું છું (Hā, hum Gujarātī bolī śakum chum)	Yes, I can speak Gujarati	Haa, hoon Goo-ja-raa-tee bo-lee sha-koon choo
12	તમારે શું જોઈએ છે? (Tamare shun joie che?)	What do you want?	Tuh-maa-reh shoon joy-eh che?

	Gujarati (ગુજરાતી)	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
13	તમે મદદ કરી શકો? (Tame madad kari shako?)	Can you help me?	Tuh-meh ma-dad ka-ree sha-ko?
14	રામ રામ (Raam Raam)	Greetings (informal)	Raam Raam
15	આ કેટલા રૂપિયાં છે? (Ā keṭlā rūpiyāṁ che?)	How much is this?	Aa ket-laa roo-pee-yaan che?



Proportion of Indian South Africans in each municipality according to the census.



Hindi – Among South Africans of Indian Descent

The history of Hindi-speaking people in South Africa is closely tied to the migration of Indian laborers and traders during the 19th century.

History

- **Arrival as Indentured Laborers (1860 onwards):**

The first wave of Hindi-speaking people arrived in South Africa from British India, primarily from the regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, to work on sugarcane plantations in Natal (modern-day KwaZulu-Natal). These laborers were brought under indentured contracts by the British colonial authorities to meet the labour demands of the sugar industry.

- **Post-Indenture Settlement:**

After completing their contracts, many laborers chose to stay in South Africa rather than return to India. They established communities, especially in Durban, where a significant Indian population remains today.

- **Merchant Class Migration:**

Alongside the laborers, free Indian traders (known as "passenger Indians") also arrived, many from Gujarat and northern India, including Hindi-speaking regions. They engaged in small businesses and contributed significantly to the local economy.

- **Apartheid and Discrimination:**

During apartheid (1948-1994), Hindi-speaking and other Indian communities faced discrimination and segregation under the Group Areas Act. However, they maintained their cultural identity through resistance movements and community cohesion.

Culture

The Hindi-speaking community in South Africa has retained many aspects of their cultural heritage:

- **Language and Religion:**

Hindi remains a spoken language, though many younger generations may speak English more fluently. Hinduism is the dominant religion among Hindi speakers, with temples, cultural festivals, and religious ceremonies widely observed.

- **Festivals:**

Major festivals like **Diwali**, **Holi**, and **Navratri** are celebrated with grandeur, including public events and cultural performances.

- **Cuisine:**
Traditional North Indian dishes such as **samosas**, **rotis**, **biryanis**, and **curries** have influenced South African cuisine.
- **Arts and Music:**
Bollywood music, dance, and cinema have a significant cultural presence. Local Hindi-speaking groups often organize cultural programs involving traditional dances like **Kathak**.

Famous Hindi-speaking South Africans

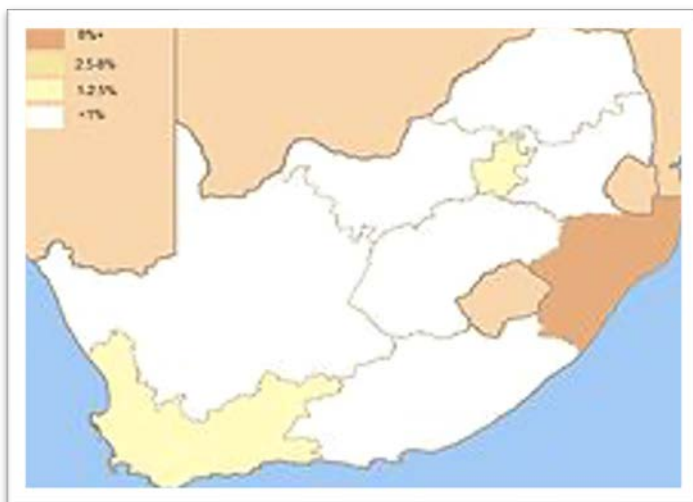
- **Jay Naidoo:**
Former minister and anti-apartheid activist, involved in labour rights and social development.
- **Kumi Naidoo:**
An international human rights and environmental activist, involved in global advocacy.

The Hindi-speaking community has contributed significantly to South Africa's multicultural landscape, particularly in the fields of business, arts, and social justice.

Essential Hindi Words and Phrases

	Hindi Word (हिंदी शब्द)	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	नमस्ते (Namaste)	Hello / Greetings	Nah-muh-stay
2	धन्यवाद (Dhanyavaad)	Thank you	Dhun-yuh-vaad
3	हाँ (Haan)	Yes	Haan
4	नहीं (Nahin)	No	Nah-heen
5	कृपया (Kripya)	Please	Kri-pya

	Hindi Word (हिंदी शब्द)	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
6	माफ़ कीजिए (Maaf kijiye)	Sorry / Excuse me	Maaf kee-ji-yeh
7	पानी (Paani)	Water	Paa-nee
8	खाना (Khaana)	Food	Khaa-naa
9	अच्छा (Achha)	Good	Uh-chha
10	बुरा (Bura)	Bad	Boo-raa
11	मदद (Madad)	Help	Ma-dad
12	दोस्त (Dost)	Friend	Dost
13	परिवार (Parivaar)	Family	Pa-ri-vaar
14	स्कूल (School)	School	Skool
15	डॉक्टर (Doctor)	Doctor	Dok-tar



Post-apartheid population distribution of Indian-origin people in provinces of South Africa.

Urdu – Among Some South Asian Communities

Urdu-speaking South Africans are primarily descendants of Indian Muslims who migrated to South Africa, mainly during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their roots trace back to the Indian subcontinent, particularly regions like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where Urdu was widely spoken.

History

- **Indentured Labor Migration:**

Many Urdu-speaking South Africans arrived as part of the indentured labor system initiated by the British colonial administration between 1860 and 1911. They worked on sugar plantations in Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal).

- **Traders and Merchants:**

A significant number of free Indians, including Urdu speakers, arrived as traders, contributing to the economic landscape.

- **Apartheid Era:**

During apartheid, Urdu-speaking South Africans, like other non-white groups, faced systemic discrimination and were subject to racial segregation. Despite these challenges, they preserved their language, culture, and religious practices.

Culture

- **Language:**

Urdu has been preserved in religious settings, poetry, and cultural events but is less commonly spoken by younger generations due to linguistic assimilation.

- **Religion:**

Most Urdu-speaking South Africans are Muslims, with a strong emphasis on Islamic teachings and traditions.

- **Cuisine:**

Influences from North Indian culinary traditions are prominent, including dishes like **biryani**, **kebabs**, and **samosas**.

- **Festivals:**

Religious observances such as **Eid-ul-Fitr** and **Eid-ul-Adha** are celebrated with communal prayers and feasts.

Famous People

- **Imam Abdullah Haron:**

Anti-apartheid activist and Islamic scholar who was martyred in police custody in 1969.

- **Achmat Dangor:**

Renowned South African writer and activist.

- **Ebrahim Rasool:**

Prominent politician and former Premier of the Western Cape, involved in the anti-apartheid movement.

The Urdu-speaking community has contributed significantly to South Africa's cultural and historical landscape, particularly in the fields of education, literature, and social justice.

Essential Urdu Words and Phrases

	Urdu Script	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	السلام علیکم	Peace be upon you (Hello)	As-salaam-alaikum
2	وعلیکم السلام	And peace be upon you (Response)	Wa-alaikum-salaam
3	شکریہ	Thank you	Shukriya
4	براہ کرم	Please	Barah karam
5	معاف کیجئے	Sorry	Maaf kijiye
6	ہاں	Yes	Haan
7	نہیں	No	Nahi
8	کیسے ہیں؟	How are you? (to a man)	Kaise hain?
9	کیسی ہیں؟	How are you? (to a woman)	Kaisi hain?
10	میں ٹھیک ہوں	I am fine	Main theek hoon
11	آپ کا نام کیا ہے؟	What is your name?	Aap ka naam kya hai?
12	میرا نام _____ ہے	My name is ____	Mera naam ____ hai
13	کہاں سے ہیں؟	Where are you from?	Kahan se hain?
14	میں _____ سے ہوں	I am from ____	Main ____ se hoon
15	مدد کریں	Help!	Madad karein

TAMIL – significant among Indian South Africans in certain areas

The Tamil-speaking people in South Africa are primarily descendants of indentured laborers brought from Tamil Nadu, India, during the colonial period. Their history, culture, and contributions have significantly shaped the Indian community in South Africa.

History

- **Indentured Labor Migration (1860-1911):**
The first group of Tamil-speaking Indians arrived in South Africa in 1860 aboard the [SS TRURO](#). They were brought by the British to work as indentured laborers on sugar plantations in Natal (modern-day KwaZulu-Natal).
- **Post-Indenture (1911 onward):**
After their contracts ended, many Tamils chose to stay, engaging in small businesses, agriculture, and trading rather than return to India.
- **Apartheid Era:**
Tamil people, along with other South Africans of Indian descent, were subjected to racial discrimination under the apartheid system, which classified them as "Asians" with limited rights.
- **Post-Apartheid Contributions:**
Since the end of apartheid in 1994, Tamil South Africans have become prominent in various fields, contributing to politics, arts, and education.

Culture

Tamil culture in South Africa is rich and vibrant, blending traditional practices from Tamil Nadu with adaptations influenced by the local context.

- **Language:**
Tamil is still spoken, though often mixed with English due to generational shifts. Tamil schools and cultural organizations help preserve the language.
- **Arts:**
Tamil dance forms like **Bharatanatyam** and music traditions, including **Carnatic music**, are widely practiced.
- **Festivals:**
Key festivals celebrated include **Pongal**, **Deepavali**, and **Thaipusam Kavady**. The **Kavady festival** has become a significant cultural event in South Africa.
- **Cuisine:**
Tamil cuisine such as curry dishes, dosa, and idli are popular, often infused with local influences.

Religion

The majority of Tamil South Africans practice **Hinduism**, although smaller groups of **Muslims** and **Christians** also exist within the community.

- **Hinduism:** Tamil Hindus worship deities such as Lord Murugan, Shiva, Parvati, and Vishnu. Temples are central to cultural preservation.
- **Islam and Christianity:** A minority of Tamil South Africans follow Islam, primarily from the Tamil Muslim community known as Maraikayars, while Tamil Christians were influenced by missionary work during the colonial era.

Famous Tamil South Africans

- **Rajbansi Family:** Amichand Rajbansi was a prominent politician representing the South African Indian community.
- **Sathima Bea Benjamin:** Renowned jazz singer with Tamil heritage.
- **Tholisiah Naidoo:** Educator and cultural activist preserving Tamil heritage.

The Tamil community has played a vital role in South Africa's multicultural landscape, contributing significantly to its social, cultural, and political fabric.

Essential Tamil Words and Phrases

	Tamil	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	வணக்கம் (Vaṇakkam)	Hello	Va-na-kkam
2	எப்படி இருக்கிறீர்கள்? (Eppaṭi irukkiṛkaḷ?)	How are you?	Ep-pa-tee i-ruk-ki-reer-kal?
3	நன்றி (Nanri)	Thank you	Nan-dree
4	இல்லை (Illai)	No	Ill-lay
5	ஆம் (Ām)	Yes	Aam
6	மன்னிக்கவும் (Mannikkavum)	Sorry	Man-nik-ka-vum

	Tamil	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
7	தயவுசெய்து (Tayavu ceytu)	Please	Tha-ya-vu sei-thu
8	என் பெயர்... (En peyar...)	My name is...	En pey-ar...
9	நீங்கள் எங்கே? (Nīṅkaḷ eṅkē?)	Where are you?	Neeng-kal en-gay?
10	எத்தனை? (Ettanai?)	How many?	Et-ta-nai?
11	நான் பேசக் கூடுமா? (Nāṇ pēsak kūṭumā?)	Can I speak?	Naan pay-sak koo-du-ma?
12	எங்கு? (Eṅku?)	Where?	En-ku?
13	என்ன? (Enna?)	What?	En-na?
14	எப்போது? (Eppōtu?)	When?	Ep-po-thu?
15	எப்படி? (Eppaṭi?)	How?	Ep-pa-tee?



Greek – Among Greek Heritage Communities

History

1. **Early Migration:** Greek immigration to South Africa began in the late 19th century and significantly increased during the early 20th century due to the Balkan Wars (1912-1913) and World War I. Economic hardship, political instability, and conflict in Greece prompted many Greeks to seek better opportunities abroad.
2. **Settlement in Urban Centers:** Upon arrival, Greek immigrants settled in cities such as Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Cape Town. Many worked in small businesses, including cafés, restaurants, and grocery stores.
3. **Challenges and Community Growth:** Early immigrants faced challenges like language barriers and cultural adjustments. Over time, they built a strong and thriving community in South Africa.
4. **Apartheid Era:** Greeks, classified as "white," benefited from privileges denied to non-white South Africans. Despite this, they maintained their distinct cultural identity, separate from dominant Afrikaner and British groups.

Culture and Traditions

1. **Language:** Greek is spoken in family settings and at community events, though younger generations often use English as their primary language.
2. **Religion:** The Greek Orthodox Church is central to the community, with significant churches like:
3. **Cuisine:** Greek dishes such as moussaka, souvlaki, and baklava are widely known, especially through Greek-owned restaurants.
4. **Festivals:** Events like **Greek Orthodox Easter** and the **Hellenic Festival** in Johannesburg feature music, dance, and traditional Greek food.

Famous Greek South Africans

1. **George Bizos (1927-2020):** A human rights lawyer and anti-apartheid activist who was close to Nelson Mandela.
2. **Alec Erwin:** Former South African Minister of Public Enterprises and a prominent political figure.

The legacy of Greek people continues to enrich South Africa's multicultural society.

Essential Greek Words and Phrases

	Greek	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Καλημέρα (Kaliméra)	Good morning	kah-lee-MEH-rah
2	Καλησπέρα (Kalispéra)	Good evening	kah-lee-SPEH-rah
3	Καληνύχτα (Kaliníkhtha)	Good night	kah-lee-NEEKH-tah
4	Ευχαριστώ (Efcharistó)	Thank you	ef-khah-ree-STOH
5	Παρακαλώ (Parakaló)	Please	pah-rah-kah-LOH
6	Συγγνώμη (Signómi)	Excuse me / I'm sorry	see-NOH-mee
7	Ναι (Nai)	Yes	Neh
8	Όχι (Óchi)	No	OH-hee
9	Πόσο κοστίζει; (Póso kostízei?)	How much does it cost?	POH-soh koh-STEE-zee
10	Τι κάνετε; (Ti kánate?)	How are you?	tee KAH-neh-teh?
11	Καλά (Kalá)	Fine / Good	kah-LAH
12	Είμαι καλά (Íme kalá)	I am fine / I am good	EE-meh kah-LAH
13	Τι νέο υπάρχει; (Ti néo ypárchei?)	What's new?	tee NEH-oh ee-PAHR-khee?
14	Χαίρω πολύ (Chéro polí)	Nice to meet you	HEH-roh poh-LEE
15	Ναι, λίγο (Nai, lígo)	Yes, a little	neh, LEE-gho

Italian – Among Communities with Italian Heritage



The history of Italians in South Africa spans several centuries, marked by significant waves of migration, economic contributions, and cultural integration.

History

- **Early Beginnings (17th-18th Century)**

During the Dutch and British colonial eras, Italians were among the European settlers who arrived in South Africa. Although their numbers were small, they made a lasting impact. Some Italians were involved in agriculture, trade, or skilled craftsmanship. A lasting legacy is seen in Italian surnames such as **Botta** (now **Botha**) and **Viglione** (now **Viljoen**).

- **19th Century Migration**

In the 19th century, the influx of Italian immigrants included skilled artisans, stonemasons, and builders. They played a crucial role in constructing infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and buildings. The discovery of gold and diamonds attracted many Italians, establishing a large community in Johannesburg. This community created the first Italian pasta-producing company, "**Fatti's & Moni's**," which still operates today.

- **Post-War Migration (1940s-1960s)**

After World War II, many Italian POWs chose to remain in South Africa or returned as immigrants. During this period, Italian communities flourished, particularly in cities like Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban. Italians worked in various industries, including construction, agriculture, and commerce, and established small businesses like Italian restaurants.

Cultural Contributions

Italians have made significant contributions to South African culture, particularly in:

- **Architecture:** Italian influence can be seen in buildings and infrastructure.
- **Cuisine:** Italian restaurants, bakeries, and culinary traditions have been embraced by the broader South African population.
- **Arts:** The arts have been enriched by Italian culture, including music and visual arts.

Modern-Day Community

Despite their modest numbers, Italians have left a lasting legacy in South Africa, particularly in **architecture, infrastructure, culture, food, and business**. The cultural cooperation between Italy and South Africa also offers opportunities for students, such as **scholarships** and **job prospects** in the cultural field.

Essential Italian Words and Phrases

	Italian	English	Pronunciation
1	Ciao	Hello	chao
2	Arrivederci	Goodbye	ah-ree-veh-DEHR-chee
3	Per favore	Please	pehr fah-VOH-reh
4	Grazie	Thank you	GRAHT-tsyeh
5	Prego	You're welcome	PREH-goh
6	Sì	Yes	see
7	No	No	Noh
8	Mi scusi	Excuse me / Sorry	mee SKOO-zee
9	Parla inglese?	Do you speak English?	PAR-lah een-GLEH-zeh
10	Non capisco	I don't understand	non kah-PEE-skoh
11	Quanto costa?	How much does it cost?	KWAN-toh KOH-stah
12	Dov'è il bagno?	Where is the bathroom?	doh-VEH eel BAH-nyoh
13	Aiuto!	Help!	ah-YOO-toh
14	Vorrei...	I would like...	vohr-RAY...
15	Buongiorno	Good morning	bwon-JOR-noh

French – Spoken by Immigrants from France and Francophone African Countries

French-speaking people in South Africa include descendants of early French settlers and recent immigrants from France and Francophone African countries. Their history is intertwined with South Africa's colonial past, migration patterns, and cultural diversity.

Early French Migration:

1. Huguenots (17th Century)

The first significant group of French-speaking settlers were the Huguenots, French Protestants fleeing religious persecution in France. They arrived in the Cape Colony in the late 1600s under the Dutch East India Company.

2. French Settlers during Colonial Era (1800s)

In the 19th century, other French individuals, including those in the British colonial administration and entrepreneurs, migrated to South Africa.

Recent French Migration:

In the 20th and 21st centuries, migration from France to South Africa has been driven by economic opportunities and political unrest in Europe. Most recent French migrants are professionals in fields like business, education, and diplomacy.

Migration from Francophone African Countries:

There has been significant migration from Francophone African countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, and Senegal, particularly for better economic opportunities, political stability, and education.

Culture: These migrants bring a rich blend of traditions, including music (e.g., Congolese rumba, Ivorian coupé-décalé) and cuisine (e.g., West African stews, maize-based dishes). They contribute to the growing Francophone community, with cultural centers providing spaces for these migrants to stay connected with their heritage.

Key Differences Between the Groups:

- **Origins and History:** The Huguenots introduced Protestant French culture, while modern French migrants and Francophone African migrants bring more contemporary and diverse traditions.
- **Language:** Modern French migrants are fluent in French, while Francophone Africans often speak French as a second language, in addition to their native languages.

Famous French South Africans:

1. **Erik van der Merwe (Huguenot descent):** Famous South African tennis player.
2. **Jean-Baptiste Le Cléac'h:** French expatriate who became a businessman and philanthropist in South Africa.
3. **Gérard du Preez:** French-born South African actor known for local films and television series.

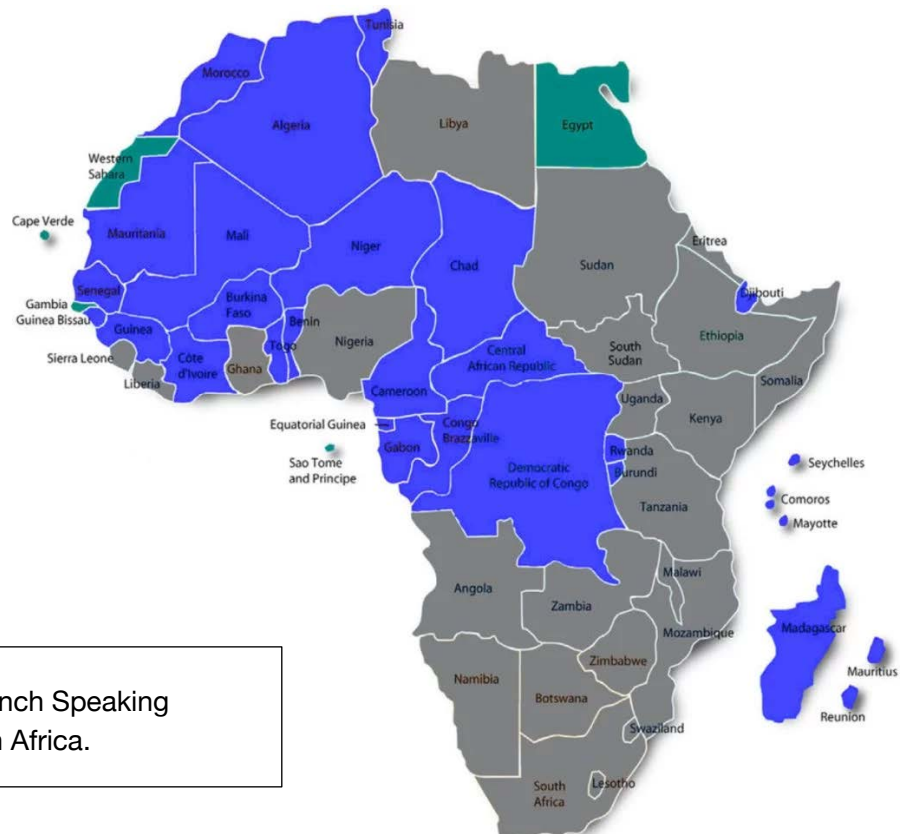
Cultural Contributions:

- **Wine-making:** The Huguenot influence in the wine-making industry is significant, especially in the Western Cape.
- **Cuisine:** French culinary techniques have influenced South African fine dining, and the Cape Malay cuisine reflects a fusion of French, Southeast Asian, and Dutch flavors.

Essential French Words and Phrases

	French	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Bonjour	Good morning / Hello	bon-zhoor
2	Merci	Thank you	mehr-see
3	Oui	Yes	Wee
4	Non	No	Noh
5	S'il vous plaît	Please	seel voo pleh
6	Excusez-moi	Excuse me	ex-kew-zay mwah
7	Parlez-vous anglais ?	Do you speak English?	par-lay voo ahn-glai?

	French	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
8	Je ne parle pas bien	I don't speak well	zhuh nuh parl pah byan
9	Comment ça va ?	How are you?	koh-mohn sah vah?
10	Ça va bien	I'm fine	sah vah byan
11	Où est... ?	Where is... ?	oo eh...?
12	Combien ça coûte ?	How much does it cost?	kohm-byan sah koot?
13	L'addition, s'il vous plaît	The bill, please	lah-dee-syon, seel voo pleh
14	Je voudrais...	I would like...	zhuh voo-drays
15	Aidez-moi !	Help me!	eh-day mwah!



In blue, French Speaking countries in Africa.

Shona – Among People Predominantly from Zimbabwe

The Shona people are one of the largest ethnic groups in Zimbabwe, with significant populations also in Mozambique, Zambia, and Botswana. Their history is deeply intertwined with the history of Zimbabwe, where Shona-speaking communities have lived for centuries.

History:

- **Early Origins:** The Shona are believed to have migrated to the region from the Congo Basin, possibly around the 11th century. They are widely known for their role in creating the **Great Zimbabwe Civilization**, which flourished between the 11th and 15th centuries. The Great Zimbabwe ruins, including the Great Enclosure and Hill Complex, are UNESCO World Heritage sites and stand as a testament to the Shona's advanced construction skills and social organization.
- **Colonial Era:** In the 19th century, Shona-speaking communities were impacted by European colonization, particularly under Cecil Rhodes' British South Africa Company. The Shona faced disruption, displacement, and forced labor during this time. They also resisted colonial rule during the **First Chimurenga (1896-1897)**, a revolt against British imperialism.
- **Liberation Struggle:** The Shona people were significantly affected by the Rhodesian regime. Many played key roles in the **Zimbabwe War of Liberation (1964-1979)**, which led to the country's independence in 1980. Post-independence, the Shona have continued to be central to Zimbabwe's development.

Shona in South Africa:

- Due to political and economic challenges in Zimbabwe, a significant number of Shona speakers have migrated to South Africa. The country's proximity and economic opportunities have made it a common destination for Zimbabweans fleeing instability, unemployment, and hardships.
- It is estimated that millions of Zimbabweans live in South Africa, with a large portion speaking Shona. Many maintain strong ties with their families in Zimbabwe through remittances, and contribute to South Africa's economy, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and healthcare. Cultural and familial exchanges continue, preserving the connection between Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Famous Shona Speakers and Figures:

1. **Robert Mugabe** – A key figure in Zimbabwe's liberation struggle and the first prime minister and president of independent Zimbabwe.
2. **Joshua Nkomo** – A nationalist leader and founding figure of Zimbabwe's independence movement, later becoming a major political figure in the post-independence era.
3. **Oliver Mtukudzi** – One of Zimbabwe's most beloved musicians, known for blending traditional Shona music with modern sounds. His music conveyed messages of hope and resilience.
4. **Mbuya Nehanda** – A historical and spiritual leader, she played an important role in the resistance to colonial rule during the First Chimurenga, acting as a medium for the spirits.

Essential Shona Words and Phrases

	Shona Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Translation
1	Mhoro	Hello	M-ho-ro
2	Zviri sei?	How are you?	Z-vee-ree say?
3	Ndiri bhoo	I'm fine	N-dee-ree b-hoo
4	Ndinokutendai	Thank you	N-dee-no-khoo-ten-die
5	Ndapota	Please	N-da-po-ta
6	Hongu	Yes	Ho-ngoo
7	Aiwa	No	A-ee-wah
8	Tingori	We are fine	Ting-oh-ree

	Shona Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Translation
9	Makadini?	How do you do?	Ma-ka-dee-nee
10	Ndinoda	I want	N-dee-no-da
11	Uchandibatsira here?	Will you help me?	Oo-chan-dee-bee-tsee-ra he-re?
12	Zvakanaka	Again	Z-v-a-ka-re
13	Ndiri kubva	I am coming	N-dee-ree koo-va
14	Chakanaka	It's good	Cha-ka-na-ka
15	Zvinonaka	It's delicious	Z-vee-no-na-ka



Chewa (Chichewa/Nyanja) Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique



1. Origins and History:

- o The Chewa people, also known as Chichewa or Nyanja speakers, are one of the largest ethnic groups in Central and Southern Africa, primarily found in Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, and parts of Zimbabwe.
- o Historically, they were part of the Bantu migration that spread throughout Africa, particularly to the southeast and central regions.
- o The Chewa people trace their origins to the Central African region and have a long-standing cultural presence in areas like central and southern Malawi.
- o They established powerful kingdoms and developed a rich cultural heritage, influenced by trade, rituals, and their relationships with neighboring peoples and kingdoms.
- o Chewa society traditionally functioned under a chieftainship system, with the paramount chief known as the "Chewa Chief" or "Inkhosi."

2. Relationship with South Africa:

- o The Chewa-speaking people, particularly from Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique, have historical connections with South Africa, though they are not as numerous as other African ethnic groups in South Africa.
- o During the colonial era and under the apartheid regime, many Chewa-speaking individuals migrated to South Africa in search of work opportunities.
- o These labor migrants were often employed in South Africa's mines, agriculture, and other sectors.
- o Today, a sizable Chewa-speaking diaspora exists in South Africa, especially in urban areas like Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Cape Town.

- o Many maintain strong cultural ties with their Chewa heritage, including language, food, and traditional practices, while integrating into South Africa's multicultural society.

3. Famous Chewa Speakers with Connections to South Africa:

- o **John Chilembwe:** A famous Malawian independence leader and religious figure of Chewa descent. His influence in the Pan-Africanism struggle inspired many across Southern Africa.
- o **Clements Kadalie:** Born in Nyasaland (present-day Malawi) and later settled in Cape Town. He became South Africa's first black national trade union leader of the Industrial and Commercial Union (ICU).
- o **Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda:** The first President of Malawi, born in a Chewa-speaking area. While his primary role was in Malawian politics, he had a significant influence on Southern African political dynamics and interacted with African leaders, including those from South Africa.
- o **Moses Mabhida:** A prominent figure in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Though more associated with the Zulu culture, Mabhida's mother was from the Chewa ethnic group, connecting him to the broader Southern African liberation movement.

The Chewa people have maintained a rich cultural presence and identity, contributing significantly to the diverse tapestry of South African society through migration and their diaspora's influence.

Essential Chichewa Words and Phrases

	Chichewa Word	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Moni	Hello	MOH-nee
2	Zikomo	Thank you	ZEE-koh-moh
3	Ndikufuna	I want	NDEE-koo-FAH-nah
4	Muli bwanji?	How are you?	MOO-lee BWAHN-jee?

	Chichewa Word	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
5	Bwino	Good	BWEE-noh
6	Chabwino	It's fine	CHAH-bwee-noh
7	Ayi	No	AH-yee
8	Inde	Yes	EE-ndeh
9	Tiwonana	See you later	TEE-wuh-NAA-nah
10	Mudzabwera	You will come	MOO-jah-BWEH-rah
11	Dziwani	Know	DZEE-wah-nee
12	Ndikubwera	I am coming	NDEE-koob-WEH-rah
13	Muli pa ntchito	Are you working?	MOO-lee pah N-CHIH-toh
14	Ndimakonda	I like	NDEE-mah-KOHN-dah
15	Banja	Family	BAH-njah

Language Profile: CHICHEWA

Dataset
Document Classification
5000 instances

Countries where spokenn
Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia,
Zimbabwe, South Africa

Number of Speakers
12 million

Language family
Niger-Congo, Bantu language

Researcher(s)
Amelia Taylor



Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, Pidgin – Nigeria



Nigeria and South Africa Connection:

Nigeria and South Africa share a long history of connection through trade, migration, and cultural exchanges. Both countries have also been significant players in African politics, frequently cooperating through organizations like the African Union.

Nigerian Language Groups:

- **Yoruba:** One of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria, primarily found in the southwest. Yoruba is spoken by millions and is known for its rich cultural traditions and history.
- **Igbo:** Predominantly spoken in southeastern Nigeria, the Igbo people have a deep cultural heritage, with a focus on communal living and a strong sense of identity.
- **Hausa:** Mainly found in the northern region, the Hausa are known for their contributions to trade, religion, and culture. Hausa is one of the most widely spoken languages in West Africa.

Nigerian Pidgin:

Nigerian Pidgin (often referred to as "Pidgin") is a creole language blending English with local languages. It has evolved as a lingua franca across Nigeria and is widely spoken, despite not being an official language. The language mixes English syntax with words from Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa, and is celebrated for its adaptability and vibrancy.

Famous Nigerians with Connections to South Africa:

1. **Wole Soyinka:** Nobel Prize-winning author and playwright, known for his long-standing relationship with South Africa, particularly in the context of the anti-apartheid movement.
2. **Augustine Azuka Okocha (Jay-Jay Okocha):** Famous Nigerian former professional footballer, who played for the Nigeria national team and clubs like Paris Saint-Germain, Bolton Wanderers, and Fenerbahçe. Okocha also appears as a football commentator on DSTV's Supersport.

Essential Yoruba Words and Phrases

	Yoruba	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Bawo ni?	How are you?	bah-woh nee?
2	Ẹ n lẹ	Hello / Greetings	eh n leh
3	Jọwọ	Please	joh-wah
4	E se	Thank you	eh sheh
5	Bẹ̀ẹ̀ni	Yes	beh-eh-nee
6	Rara	No	rah-rah
7	Iwọ n'ibo?	Where are you from?	ee-waw n ee-boh?
8	Orukọ mi ni...	My name is...	oh-roo-koh mee nee...
9	Şẹ ẹ fẹ?	Do you want?	sheh eh feh?
10	Ẹ jọwọ	Excuse me / Sorry	eh jaw-waw

Essential Hausa Words and Phrases

	Hausa	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Sannu	Hello / Greetings	sah-noo
2	Lafiya lau?	How are you?	lah-fee-yah lah-oo?
3	Don Allah	Please	dohn ah-lah

	Hausa	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
4	Na gode	Thank you	nah goh-deh
5	Eey	Yes	Eh
6	A'a	No	ah-ah
7	Ina zuwa?	Where are you going?	ee-nah zoo-wah?
8	Sunana...	My name is...	soo-nah-nah...
9	Me yasa?	Why?	meh yah-sah?
10	Yi hakuri	Excuse me / Sorry	yee hah-koo-ree

Essential Igbo Words and Phrases

	Igbo	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Ndewo	Hello / Greetings	n-deh-woh
2	Kedu?	How are you?	keh-doo
3	Biko	Please	bee-koh
4	Daalụ	Thank you	dah-loo
5	Ee	Yes	eh
6	Mba	No	mba

	Igbo	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
7	Ị bụ onye?	Who are you?	ee boo on-yeh?
8	Aja m bụ...	My name is...	ah-jah m boo...
9	Olee otú?	How is it? / How's it going?	oh-leh oh-too?
10	Kwụsịrị	Stop	kwee-see-ree

Essential Nigerian Pidgin Words and Phrases

	Nigerian Pidgin	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	How far?	How are you?	how fah?
2	Woté deh?	What's up?	woh-teh deh?
3	Abeg	Please	ah-beg
4	Tank you	Thank you	tanjk yu
5	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	No	No	No
7	Wetin dey happen?	What's happening? / What's going on?	weh-teen dey hap-pen?
8	I no sabi	I don't know	eye noh sah-bee
9	My name na...	My name is...	mai neem nah...
10	How much e be?	How much is it?	how moch eh beh?

Languages from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) & Republic of Congo

Migration from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville) to South Africa has occurred for a variety of reasons, including economic opportunities, education, and safety from political instability and conflict. Shared linguistic and cultural ties, as well as the political and economic conditions in Central Africa, have influenced migration patterns between these countries and South Africa.

Migration Patterns:

- **DRC:** Years of war and instability, notably the Second Congo War (1998–2003), led many refugees and migrants to seek safety in neighboring countries like South Africa.
- **Congo-Brazzaville:** Periods of civil war and political strife also led to migration, with many seeking refuge in more stable countries like South Africa.

Famous Congolese Individuals with Connections to South Africa:

1. **Jean-Philippe Demba:** A Congolese-born South African professional footballer, who has played in various South African football leagues.
2. **Fally Ipupa:** A renowned Congolese singer and musician, Fally Ipupa has a large fanbase in South Africa due to his popularity across Africa.

Languages Spoken in South Africa from the DRC and Republic of Congo:

Several languages from the DRC and Republic of Congo are spoken in South Africa, particularly among migrants, refugees, and their descendants. The most spoken DRC languages in South Africa are:

1. **Lingala:**
 - o The most widely spoken Congolese language in South Africa, especially among the DRC diaspora.
 - o Often used as a lingua franca and is prominent in the DRC's music, making it popular across borders.
2. **Swahili:**
 - o Widely spoken in the eastern regions of the DRC.
 - o While less common than Lingala in South Africa, it remains prevalent, especially in urban areas.

3. Tshiluba:

- o Spoken in the Kasai region of the DRC.
- o Less common in South Africa compared to Lingala and Swahili, but spoken by some members of the Congolese diaspora.

4. Kikongo:

- o Primarily spoken in the western part of the DRC.
- o While not as widely spoken as Lingala, Kikongo is present among the Congolese population in South Africa, especially those from the southwest of the DRC.

Cultural Integration:

These languages reflect the diversity of the DRC's linguistic landscape, where more than 200 languages are spoken. The DRC community in South Africa tends to use their native languages at home and within community settings, while also integrating into the broader South African society.

Essential Kikongo Word/Phrase

	Kikongo Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Mbote	Hello	m-BOH-teh
2	Kale mbote	Goodbye	KAH-leh m-BOH-teh
3	Muna	Child	MOO-nah
4	Tata	Father	TAH-tah
5	Mama	Mother	MAH-mah
6	Nge	You	N-geh
7	Ingeta	Amen/Let it be so	EEN-geh-tah

	Kikongo Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
8	Zola	Love	ZOH-lah
9	Kudia	To eat	KOO-dee-ah
10	Ndinga	Language/Voice	N-DEEN-gah

Essential Lingala Word/Phrase

	Lingala Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Mbote	Hello	M-BOH-teh
2	Tokoponana	Goodbye	TOH-koh-POH-nah-nah
3	Mwana	Child	MWAH-nah
4	Tata	Father	TAH-tah
5	Mama	Mother	MAH-mah
6	Yo	You	YOH
7	Bolingo	Love	BOH-LEEN-go
8	Kolia	To eat	KOH-lee-ah
9	Lingala	Language	LEEN-gah-lah
10	Nzambe	God	ZAHM-beh

Essential Tshiluba Word/Phrase

	Tshiluba Word/Phrase	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Mbote	Hello	M-BOH-the
2	Tukese	Goodbye	TOO-keh-she
3	Mwana	Child	MWAH-nah
4	Tata	Father	TAH-tah
5	Mama	Mother	MAH-mah
6	Ngeyi	You	N-GAY-yee
7	Mutshima	Heart/Love	MOO-t-SHEE-mah
8	Dia	To eat	DEE-ah
9	Tshiluba	Language	T-SHEE-loo-bah
10	Leza	God	LEH-zah



Swahili – Spoken by People from Kenya, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda



Swahili, also known as Kiswahili, is a Bantu language with significant Arabic influence, particularly in its vocabulary, due to historical trade relations along the East African coast. It is one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa and serves as a lingua franca in many parts of East Africa.

Countries Where Swahili is Spoken:

- **Tanzania:** Official and widely spoken
- **Kenya:** Official and widely spoken
- **Uganda:** Official and widely spoken
- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):** Spoken in some regions
- **Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique (northern regions), Comoros, Malawi (limited regions), Zambia, Somalia:** Limited use
- **Swahili** is also an official language of the **African Union** and widely used in the **East African Community (EAC)**.

Groups in South Africa Who Speak Swahili:

Swahili is not traditionally spoken in South Africa but has gained popularity due to Pan-Africanism, migration, and cultural exchange. Some groups that speak or study Swahili include: Migrant communities from East Africa, Academic institutions teaching Swahili, Diplomatic circles and language enthusiasts.

Famous People Who Spoke Swahili:

1. **Julius Nyerere** – Former President of Tanzania and a key figure in the promotion of Swahili.
2. **Jomo Kenyatta** – Kenya's first President.
3. **Bi Kidude** – Zanzibari musician and cultural icon.
4. **Eliud Kipchoge** – Kenyan runner and the first person in recorded history to do a sub-two-hour marathon.

Swahili continues to play a significant cultural and unifying role in Africa.

Essential Swahili Words and Phrases

	Swahili	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Habari	Hello/How are you?	ha-BAH-ree
2	Jambo	Hello (informal)	JAM-bo
3	Karibu	Welcome	ka-REE-boo
4	Asante	Thank you	ah-SAN-the
5	Tafadhali	Please	ta-fah-DHA-lee
6	Samahani	Sorry/Excuse me	sa-ma-HA-nee
7	Ndiyo	Yes	NDEE-yo
8	Hapana	No	ha-PAH-na
9	Jina langu ni...	My name is...	JEE-na LAN-goo nee...
10	Unatoka wapi?	Where are you from?	oo-na-TOH-ka WAH-pee?
11	Ninatoka...	I am from...	nee-na-TOH-ka...
12	Lala salama	Goodnight	LAH-lah sa-LAH-ma
13	Tutaonana baadaye	See you later	too-ta-oh-NAH-na ba-ah-DAH-yeh
14	Naomba msaada	I need help	nah-OM-ba m-sa-AH-da
15	Ninaelewa	I understand	nee-na-eh-LEH-wa

Somali – Somalia



Overview: The Somali-speaking population in South Africa primarily consists of Somali migrants and refugees who have settled in the country, particularly since the early 1990s. Many fled the civil war and instability in Somalia, seeking safety and better economic opportunities.

History:

- **Migration:** Significant Somali migration to South Africa began in the 1990s after the collapse of the Somali government and the subsequent civil war.
- **Reasons for Migration:** Many Somalis fled violence, political instability, and economic hardship in their home country.
- **Settlement:** Somalis have primarily settled in urban centers such as Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, and Port Elizabeth, with a notable presence in areas like Mayfair in Johannesburg.

Activities:

- **Entrepreneurship:** Somalis are known for their entrepreneurial spirit, especially in the informal sector. Many run small businesses like grocery shops and convenience stores in townships and urban areas.
- **Community Development:** Somali communities often form close-knit groups, emphasizing mutual support and cooperation.
- **Challenges:** They face challenges such as xenophobia, violence, and crime in South Africa, with incidents of looting and targeted attacks on their businesses.

Famous Somali People:

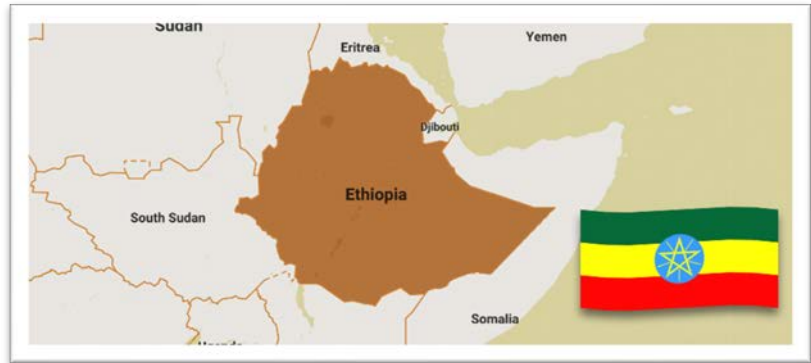
While most Somalis in South Africa are entrepreneurs and community figures, some globally renowned Somalis include:

- **Iman Abdulmajid:** Somali supermodel and philanthropist (primarily associated with the U.S.).
- **K'naan:** Somali-Canadian musician with global recognition, best known for his 2009 hit "Wavin' Flag," which became a promotional anthem during the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

Essential Somali Words and Phrases

	Somali	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Salaam	Greeting/Hello	Sah-lahn
2	Sidee tahay?	How are you?	Si-dey ta-hai?
3	Waan fiicanahay	I am fine	Waan fee-ahn-ah-hai
4	Mahadsanid	Thank you	Ma-had-sa-nid
5	Fadlan	Please	Fad-lan
6	Haa	Yes	Haa (like "ha" in "hat")
7	Maya	No	Ma-ya
8	Magacaygu waa...	My name is...	Ma-ga-kai-goo waa...
9	Waan ka xumahay	I'm sorry	Waan ka hu-ma-hai
10	Nabad gelyo	Goodbye	Na-bad gel-yo
11	Biyo	Water	Bee-yo
12	Cunto	Food	Coon-toh
13	Halkee joogtaa?	Where are you from?	Hal-kee joog-ta?
14	Waxaan rabaa...	I want...	Wah-aan ra-baa...
15	Immisa?	How much?	Im-mee-sa?

Amharic – Ethiopia



Amharic is a Semitic language and the official working language of Ethiopia, spoken by over 32 million native speakers. It serves as a lingua franca for many Ethiopians. Written in the Ge'ez script, it holds significant cultural and literary value in Ethiopia. The Ge'ez script is an ancient writing system originating from the Horn of Africa, primarily used for Ethiopian and Eritrean languages, including Amharic and Tigrinya. It is recognized for its distinctive, syllabic characters.

Ethiopian Community in South Africa:

- The Ethiopian community in South Africa is growing, with many migrants seeking better economic opportunities and refuge from political instability in Ethiopia.
- Many Ethiopians in South Africa engage in small businesses, particularly in retail sectors such as convenience stores and clothing shops.
- The community faces challenges like xenophobia but maintains strong cultural ties and support networks.
- Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity plays a significant role in community cohesion, with churches serving as cultural and spiritual hubs.

Famous Ethiopians:

1. **Haile Selassie I** – Former Emperor of Ethiopia and a key figure in modern Ethiopian history, also significant in the Rastafari movement.
2. **Haile Gebrselassie** – Legendary long-distance runner, Olympic and World Champion gold medalist.
3. **Tirunesh Dibaba** – Multiple Olympic and World Champion in long-distance running.
4. **Gigi (Ejigayehu Shibabaw)** – Famous Ethiopian singer known for blending traditional Ethiopian sounds with global music styles.

Essential Amharic Words and Phrases

	Amharic	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	ሰላም (Selam)	Hello / Peace	Se-lahm
2	እባክህ (Ebakeh)	Please	Eh-bah-keh
3	አመሰግናለሁ (Ameseginalehu)	Thank you	Ah-meh-seg-ee-na-leh-hoo
4	እንዴት ነህ? (Endet neh?)	How are you?	En-det neh?
5	እኔ መልካም ነኝ (Ene melkam nen)	I'm fine	Eh-neh mel-kahm nen
6	አዎን (Awen)	Yes	Ah-wen
7	አይ (Ay)	No	Eye
8	እባክህ አትሆንም (Ebakeh at'honeem)	Excuse me	Eh-bah-keh at-ho-nim
9	ወድ ባለሞያ (Wüd balemoya)	Good morning	Wud ba-leh-moy-ya
10	ማህበረሰብ (Mahbereseb)	Community	Mah-beh-re-seb
11	ስም (S'im)	Name	Sim
12	ይቅርታ (Yik'irta)	Sorry / Apology	Yik-irta
13	አዝናኝ (Azna'ñ)	Sad / Sorrowful	Az-na-ñ
14	እንግሊዝኛ (Engilizña)	English	En-gee-liz-ñ-ya
15	ቤተሰብ (Beteseb)	Family	Beh-teh-seb

Arabic in South Africa



Arabic is a Semitic language with deep ties to Islam, serving as the language of the Qur'an and the liturgical language of the Muslim world. In South Africa, Arabic was introduced primarily through Islamic missionaries and traders from the 17th century, particularly from regions like the Middle East, East Africa, and Southeast Asia. Many South Africans of Muslim descent, especially those with roots in the Indian Ocean world, speak or have studied Arabic for religious purposes.

Historical Context:

- **Introduction of Arabic:** Arabic was introduced in South Africa through Islamic missionaries and traders, beginning in the 17th century.
- **Geographical Influence:** Many of the early Arabic-speaking communities in South Africa had connections to regions such as the Middle East, East Africa, and Southeast Asia.
- **Growth of Muslim Population:** The Muslim population grew during the 19th and 20th centuries, especially in regions like Cape Town, where many Muslims arrived as slaves, exiles, or traders. Arabic became central to their religious and cultural practices, especially in the study of the Qur'an.

Famous South Africans Who Spoke Arabic:

1. **Imam Abdullah Haron** – A prominent anti-apartheid activist and Muslim cleric.
2. **Sheikh Yusuf of Macassar** – A 17th-century Islamic scholar and leader from Indonesia, exiled to the Cape.

Arabic continues to play a significant role in South Africa, especially within the Muslim community's religious life and educational practices.

Essential Arabic Words and Phrases

	Arabic	English	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	مرحباً (Marhaban)	Hello	Marhaban
2	كيف حالك؟ (Kayfa halak? / Kayfa halik?)	How are you?	Kayfa halak? (M) / Kayfa halik? (F)
3	جيد (Jayed)	Good	Jayed
4	نعم (Na'am)	Yes	Na'am
5	لا (Laa)	No	Laa
6	من فضلك (Min fadlik)	Please	Min fadlik
7	شكراً (Shukran)	Thank you	Shukran
8	عفواً ('Afwan)	You're welcome	'Afwan
9	أين؟ (Ayna?)	Where?	Ayna?
10	كم؟ (Kam?)	How much?	Kam?
11	ماذا؟ (Mada?)	What?	Mada?
12	أنا لا أفهم (Ana laa afham)	I don't understand	Ana laa afham
13	هل تتحدث الإنجليزية؟ (Hal tatahaddath al-ingliziya?)	Do you speak English?	Hal tatahaddath al-ingliziya?
14	نعم قليلاً (Na'am qaleelan)	A little bit	Na'am qaleelan
15	اسمي... (Ismi...)	My name is...	Ismi...

Mandarin – China, Taiwan



Mandarin is the official language of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan. As of today, it is the most spoken language in the world, with over 1.1 billion speakers globally, primarily in China, Taiwan, Singapore, and among Chinese diaspora communities worldwide.

History in South Africa:

- The first Chinese immigrants arrived in South Africa during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, primarily from Guangdong Province, China. They sought work as laborers in the gold mines, particularly in Johannesburg.
- Over time, many of these immigrants started businesses, becoming an integral part of South Africa's economy.
- During the apartheid era, the Chinese community faced discrimination but were classified as "honorary whites" under certain conditions, granting them privileges compared to other non-white groups.
- Since the end of apartheid in 1994, the Chinese South African community has continued to thrive.

Mandarin's Growth in South Africa:

- Mandarin has grown in prominence in South Africa due to increased Chinese immigration and strong economic relations between South Africa and China.
- Today, Mandarin is taught in schools and universities, with more South Africans learning it for business, cultural, and diplomatic purposes.

Famous South Africans who speak Mandarin:

- **Jade S. Yang:** A Chinese-South African entrepreneur and community leader, fluent in both Mandarin and English. She is known for fostering South Africa-China relations through business and cultural activities.
- **Dr. David Wei:** A Taiwanese South African businessman and philanthropist, recognized for his contributions to economic development and proficiency in Mandarin.

Essential Mandarin Words and Phrases

	Mandarin	English Translation	Phonetic Pronunciation (Pinyin)
1	你好	Hello	nǐ hǎo
2	谢谢	Thank you	xiè xiè
3	不客气	You're welcome	bù kè qì
4	对不起	Sorry	duì bù qǐ
5	请	Please	Qǐng
6	是的	Yes	shì de
7	不是	No	bù shì
8	再见	Goodbye	zài jiàn
9	早上好	Good morning	zǎo shàng hǎo
10	晚上好	Good evening	wǎn shàng hǎo
11	我不知道	I don't know	wǒ bù zhī dào
12	你好吗？	How are you?	nǐ hǎo ma?
13	很好，谢谢	I'm good, thank you	hěn hǎo, xiè xiè
14	我是...	I am...	wǒ shì...
15	你叫什么名字？	What's your name?	nǐ jiào shén me míng zì?

South African Slang



South Africa's linguistic diversity, with 11 official languages and various dialects, has fostered the development of a rich variety of slang. Slang plays a significant role in communication across many South African communities, reflecting cultural dynamics, social hierarchies, and historical contexts. It often blends different languages and expresses the unique identities of diverse groups, from gang members and laborers to artists and ordinary people.

Gangs and Street Culture Slang is crucial to the identity and communication of South African street gangs. It is used to establish group solidarity, obscure meaning from outsiders (including law enforcement), and maintain a distinct subcultural identity. Gangs such as the Numbers Gangs (26s, 27s, and 28s) in prisons have their own complex codes, slang phrases, symbols, and hand gestures, which serve as markers of rank, loyalty, and roles within the gang.

Slang in these contexts is often a mixture of indigenous languages, Afrikaans, and urban influences, creating a localized form of expression. For instance, in Cape Flats, a historically marginalized area, the fusion of Afrikaans and English has produced slang terms that are widely used in daily conversations.

Mines and Fanagalo Fanagalo, a pidgin language, emerged in South Africa's mining industry during the colonial and apartheid eras. It was used as a practical communication tool among workers of various linguistic backgrounds, including Zulu, Xhosa, English, and Afrikaans speakers. While simple and utilitarian, Fanagalo helped create common ground among miners, although it lacked the cultural depth of native languages. For example, a sentence in Fanagalo might be:

"Yiza lapha, sala umsebenzi!" (Come here and start working).

Although Fanagalo is criticized for reinforcing hierarchical and exploitative structures, it remains an important part of South Africa's linguistic heritage, highlighting labor, migration, and colonialism.

Community Slang Outside of gangs and mines, slang is widely used in South African communities to foster identity, humor, and creativity. Urban centers like Johannesburg and Cape Town are hubs of multilingual slang. For example:

- "Shap shap" (meaning "all good"), derived from Afrikaans, is used by various ethnic groups.
- "Eish" (an expression of disbelief or frustration) has transcended linguistic boundaries to become a national term.

In township communities, **Tsotsitaal** emerged as a hybrid urban slang blending Afrikaans, English, and indigenous languages, often used by young people to create a modern urban identity.

Slang in South African Arts Slang has also become a significant artistic tool. Artists such as Don Mattera and Hugh Masekela have incorporated slang into their works to capture the essence of South African life.

- **Don Mattera**, a poet and activist, used Tsotsitaal and township slang to reflect the struggles, humor, and resilience of marginalized communities. His poetry connected with readers through the authentic language of the townships, making his work both relatable and revolutionary.
- **Hugh Masekela**, the iconic jazz musician, infused his music with everyday expressions and slang, using it to engage audiences and express the vibrancy of urban life. His lyrics often conveyed political commentary and social issues, demonstrating how slang can challenge the socio-political status quo.

In both cases, slang served not only as a means of authenticity but also as a tool for resistance and storytelling.

Essential South African Slang Words and Phrases

	Slang Word/Phrase	Meaning in English	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Aikona	No way / Definitely not	Eye-koh-nah
2	Chommie	Friend	Choh-mee
3	Eish	Wow / Expression of surprise	Aysh
4	Hayibo	No way! / Are you serious?	Hi-bo
5	Leker / Lekker	Nice / Cool	Lek-ker
6	Shap shap	Cool / It's fine	Sharp sharp

	Slang Word/Phrase	Meaning in English	Phonetic Pronunciation
7	Spaza	Informal shop	Spah-zah
8	Bru	Dude / Brother	Brew
9	Ek sê	I'm telling you	Ek seh
10	Tsotsi	Gangster / Thug	Tso-tsee
11	Moeg	Tired	Moo-gh
12	Kiff	Cool / Awesome	Kiff
13	Mzanzi	South Africa	Mm-zan-zee
14	Mzala	Cousin / Friend	Mm-zah-lah
15	Gwara	Fight / Argument	Gwah-rah
16	Mshoza	Boss / Leader	Mm-sho-zah
17	Vaya	Go	Vai-yah
18	Shaya	Hit / Do it	Shah-yah
19	Fede	Cool / Alright	Feh-deh
20	Ous	People (guys or folks)	Ohs
21	Chesa	Burn / Hot	Cheh-sah
22	Dala	Do / Make it happen	Dah-lah
23	Mshana	Friend / Mate	Mm-sha-nah
24	Suka	Get away / Leave	Soo-kah
25	Nca	Nice / Lovely	Nn-tsha