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

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

-laagte suff, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of ‘lowland’, used in place names, eg ‘Langlaagte’

lady n, E, +

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

lady fingers n, E, +

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

lakboom n, D/Afk, x

see: kiaat

lamentable pronoun

[ˈlæməntəbl]

lamsiekte n, D/Afk, +

common S Afr name for Botulinus, a disease in cattle & sheep
lance tree n, E, +
    see: appelblaar

land(s)/field n, E, +
    in S Afr E the area on a farm suitable for cultivation; landed
    property, estates; ‘field’ is used in the sense of ‘rugby field, sports
    field’, etc

landdros(t) n, D/Afk, +
    S Afr equiv of ‘magistrate’
    see also: drosdy, drosteny

lantern fish n, E, +
    see: butterfish (ii)

lapa (i) adv, Fanagalo, +coll
    here, there, that, eg lapa side

lapa (ii) n, So, ?
    open space or yard in front of Ba huts enclosed by a mud or reed
    wall

lappie n, D/Afk, +coll
    Afk equiv of ‘cloth’ or ‘rag’, eg ‘waslappie’ = face cloth
    S Afr E, flannel GB

largemouth bass n, E, + (Micropterus salmoides)
    popular sporting fish, originally imported from N Amer, wh thrives
    in warm, clear waters of dams; it is popular as a sport fish as it can
    be caught on artificial lures

largemouth kurper n, E, + (Serranochromis meridianus)
    tropical fish with a conspicuous large protractile mouth, opening
    obliquely to the top, wh distinguishes it from the closely related
    canary kurper
largemouth yellowfish n, E, + (*Barbus kimberleyensis*)

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

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

the most common yellowfish of our east-flowing river systems

lark-like bunting n, E, +

see: klipmossie

last/past adj, E, +

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

latter adj, E, +

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

lawaaimaker n, D/Afk, x

see: chorister robin

lawn n, E, +

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

lay-by n, E, +

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

see also: resting place
lay/lie v, E, +

the tenses of these verbs give rise to confusion
(i) to lie = to make a false statement
(ii) to lie = to be in a horizontal position
(iii) to lay = to produce an egg, to set the table, etc.

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

lazyshark (i) n, E, +

see: skaamoog (ii)

lazyshark (ii) n, E, +

see: luihaai

leadfish n, E, + (Labeo molybdinus)

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

lead water, to v/n, E, +

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

leadwood n, E, + (Combretum imberbe)

alt: elephant-tusk tree, hardekool, ironwood, ivory tree, lignum-vitae tree, loodhout, ysterhout
medium-sized to large deciduous tree with small, pale, grey-green leaves, small, winged fruits & pale yellow flowers; wood exceedingly
hard, used mainly for ornaments, fencing posts, mine props & sleepers; as fuel it retains heat for a long time & the hardness of the charcoal produced after burning has given rise to the Afk name ‘hardekool’ (hard charcoal); ‘lead’ refers to the weight of the wood

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

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

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

see: hire

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

alt: basterwaterbok
large Afr antelope, related to the waterbuck

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

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

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

alt: guana, iguana, likkewaan
large lizard of the fam *Iguanidae*

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

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

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

alt: Barnard-gif, broshout, peeling-bark Ochna, pypsteelhoutboom, rooihout, seermaak, zeerbos, zeermaak
ornamental small to medium-sized tree with narrow crown; the fruit is said to be poisonous, but is rich in oil; the vernacular name means ‘easy to break’ & refers to the brittleness of the wood wh is red in colour; the name ‘seermaak’ refers to the toxic properties of the tree

**Lemba** n, Ba, +

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

**lemonade tree** n, E, +
see: baobab

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

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

_loan_ as the _v_ for _lend_ is Amer E, eg ‘I _loaned_ him my book’; ‘I _lent_ him my book’ is more acceptable; _loan_ as the _n_ means a thing lent, esp money at interest

**leopard shark** (i) n, E, + (_Stegostoma fasciatum_)

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

**leopard shark** (ii) n, E, +
see: skaamoog (ii)

**lesser flamingo** n, E, +
see: flamingo

**less/fewer** adj, E, +
see: fewer/less
let (i) v, E, +

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

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

see: hire

Libertas n, L, +

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

library pron unc

[ˈlɑbrəri] +, [ˈləbri] x

licence/license sp

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

lie/lay v, E, +

see: lay

liedjie n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of ‘song, tune, ditty, ballad’

lift up v, E, +

to lift = to raise to a higher position, take up, hoist;

lift up might be regarded as tautologous but the additional prep does add meaning and emphasis, cf ‘I shall lift up mine eyes unto the hills’, and ‘I shall lift mine eyes unto the hills’, alt: ‘I shall raise mine eyes...’
lighted candles n, E, + (*Loranthus natalitius*)

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

lignum-vitae tree n, L/E, +

see: leadwood

like (i) adj/adv, E, +

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

like (ii) adj, E, +

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

like (iii) conj, E, +

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

like (iv) v, E, +

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

like so adv, E, x

sl for ‘like this’, ‘in this manner’, eg ‘Do it like so’ x
lilac-breasted roller n, E, +
see: Mosilikate's roller

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

liquorice pronunc
alt: licorice
[ 'lɪkərɪs] in GB, [ 'lɪkəri] in S Afr;
in GB the word 'liquorish' meaning 'fond of liquor' has the latter pronunc, prob perverting the sense of 'lickerish'

literary pronunc
[ 'lɪtərəri] + [ 'lɪtəri] x

little egret n, E, + (Egretta garzetta)
small white heron with a distinctive black bill, black legs & yellow feet, commonly seen in vleis or near rivers

Little Kar(r)oo n, Hott, +
see: Kar(r)oo

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

live v, E, +
in combination with a period of time, demands the correct tense, eg 'He lived in Parys for thirty years' implies that he is no longer living there; 'He has been living in Parys for thirty years' implies that he is still living there
see also: last/past
live/stay v, E, +

see: stay

Livingstone's antelope n, E, +

see: suni

loan/lend v, E, +

see: lend/loan

lobola n, Ba, +

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

location n, E, +

S Afr term for a Ba township

locust-bird n, E, +

see: wattled starling

loerie n, M/D/Afk, +

alt: lory, lourie, loury

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

long/tall adj, E, +

see: tall/long

longevity pronunc

[lon'dzevəti] + [lon'gevəti] +
longfin tunny or tuna n, E, +
see: Albacoe (ii)

longitude pron unc
[ ’lɔndzɪtjud]
[ ’lɔndzɪtjud] + [ ’lɔŋgtjud] +

long-tail cassia n, E, + (Cassia abbreviata) Oliv.
subsp. beareana (Holmes Brenan)
alt: candle tree, cloth-of-gold, kersboom
round-crowned medium-sized tree with a slender, straight trunk,
dark bark and drooping branches; the common name refers to the
long pods wh resemble tails

long-tailed widow-bird n, E, +
see: sakabula

loodhout n, D/Afk, x
see: leadwood

looproad n, E, +
term used in S Afr national parks for a circular drive

loquat n, Chinese, +
fruit of Eriobotrya japonica, a tree native to China and Japan,
introduced to sth Europe, India, Australia and sth Afr

lory, lourie, loury M/D/Afk, +
see: loerie

lose/loose/loosen v, E, +
lose and loose are frequently misspelt; to lose [luz] = to mislay, to
cease to have, eg ‘If you lose that ring, you will regret it’; to loose
[lus] = to undo, to set free, eg ‘Loose the dog and let him run after the rabbit’; to loosen = to relax or slacken, to make looser, eg ‘Loosen his collar so that he can breathe more freely’;
NB loose (adj) = not tense or stretched, unbound, eg ‘His shoelace is loose’

love grass n, E, +

see: Cape grass

Lowveld n, E/D/Afk, +

low-lying area, esp the N-est Transvaal, with a sub-tropical climate
see also: bushveld

Lowveld bauhinia n, E/? , +

see: Pride of de Kaap

lucky bean climber n, E, + (Arbus precatorius)

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

lucky bean tree n, E, +

see: kaffirboom

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

alt: dogfish, lazyshark, striped dogfish
found fr False Bay to Madagascar

lung-sickness n, E, +

lung disease in cattle
luxuriant/luxurious adj, E, +

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

M

maanhaarjakkals n, D/Afk, ?

see: aardwolf

maar adv, D/Afk, x

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

maartblom n, D/Afk, x

see: blood-flower

maas n, Ngu, x

see: amasie

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

alt: horse mackerel

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

mabela n, Zu, +

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

see also: kaffircorn

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

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

madumbi(e) n, Zu, + (Arum esculentum)
see: amadumbi(e)

maelstrom pronunc
[ˈmeɪlstɒm]

magistraat n, D/Afk, +
see: red stumpnose

maheus n, Ba, ?
alt: suurpap
fermented liquid mealie-meal porridge

mahoniehout n, D/Afk, x
see: Natal mahogany

maid n, E, +
in S Afr E a Ba or Coloured servant
see also: ayah, boy, girl, nanny, nursemaid

maintenance pronunc
[ˈmɛntənəns] or [-tin-, -tnəns]

Maizena n, Sp/E, +
S Afr trade name for a brand of cornflour

makdagga n, Afk/Hott, +
see: dagga
make

‘He made his matric last year’ is an Afrikanerism in the sense of ‘sat for’ or ‘passed’ an examination

make a fire v, E, ?

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

make a plan +coll

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

mal adj, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of ‘mad’

Malay n, M, +

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

mampara n, Ba, +coll

alt: mamparra, mompar(r)a
raw, untrained, unskilled, inexperienced person, used particularly for such Ba; in Fanagalo ‘waste material’

mampoer n, Ba, +coll

potent alcoholic drink distilled by Ba from wild fruit, esp maroelas, but also from peaches; name may have been derived from the personal name of the captain of a Pedi tribe, Mampuru, or from the name of a Ba tribe in Sekukuniland, Mapogger
see also: Cape smoke, maroela, peach brandy, skokiaan, vaaljapie, witblits
**man** int, E, +

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

**mapasjaan** n, NSo, +coll

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

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

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

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

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

**maraca** n, Port, +

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

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

see: marabou stork

**marijuana** n, Sp, +

see: dagga
marimba n, Ba, +
see: kaffir piano

marogo n, NSo, +coll
the leaves of various garden weeds, used by the Ba as spinach

marsh rose n, E, +(Orothamnus zeyheri)
very rare, protected protea of the Cape Province, with reddish flower heads that resemble large rosebuds, wh accounts for the vernacular name

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

martingulu n, ?, +
shrub found on the Natal coast; an edible red fruit with a milky sap

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

see: Sammy

Mashona n, Ba, +

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

see also: Shona

Matabele n, Ngu, +

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

mathematics

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

Matie n, Afk, +coll

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

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

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

matome n, Xh, +

alt: matumi

Ba name applied to species of tree, eg hill matome or bush matome (Diospyros mespiloformis) water matome (Adina galpini)
matriculate v, E, +
in S Afr E to pass the final secondary school examination, thus matriculation or abbr matric

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

Mau Mau n, Kikuyu, +
Afr terroristic movement in Kenya; member or adherent of this movement

mauve afrikaner n, D/Af/E, +
see: afrikaner (iii)

may/can
see: can/may

mayor pronunc
in GB [ˈmeɪər] +, in S Afr [ˈmeɪəɾ] x

me/him for I/he

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

me (for myself)
‘I am going to buy me a book’ x; the correct form of the pron here is
the refl ‘myself’, if it is necessary to emphasize for whom the book is to be bought
see also: pronouns, reflexive

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

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

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

maize meal, a coarse flour made of mealies; principal food of Ba
see also: pap, putu, stywe pap, suurpap

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

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

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

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

measuring stick n, E, ?

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

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

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

medicine-horn n, E, +

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

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

**Medley Wood’s acacia** n, E, +

see: paperbark thorn

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

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

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

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

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

see: Klaas’s cuckoo

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

shrub of wh the sap is caustic & milky

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

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

see also: snysels
melonynysel n, D/AfK, ?
see: snysels
see also: melkkoos

melktert n, D/AfK, +
alt: milk tart
traditional S Afr pastry, a kind of custard pie

melkvis n, D/AfK, + (Parascorpis typus)
found in S Afr from the Cape to Delagoa Bay; not very common

memorable pronunc
[ˈmɛrəbl] + [mɛrəbl] +

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

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

meter maid n, E, +coll
alt: ticket tannie
female traffic warden

metrication n, E, +
a term suggested by the OED editors at the request of the S Afr
Bureau of Standards, and adopted in S Afr when the Imperial system of weights and measures was replaced by the metric system; thereafter introduced to Australia; also used in conj with another n, eg Metrication board

middelmannetjie n, D/Afk, +coll
ridge between wheel tracks on a dirt road

middleveld n, E/D/Afk, +
geographical area in Transvaal between Lowveld & Highveld

mielie n, Port/D/Afk, x
see: mealie

mieliegif n, D/Afk, ?
see: rooiblom(metjie)

miggeļ n, D/Afk, +
see: red stumpnose

migrate
see: emigrate/immigrate/migrate

militate/mitigate

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

milk boy n, E, +
S Afr equiv of ‘milkman’ in GB; usu a Ba
see also: boy
Milne pronunc

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

mimosa n, E, +

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

mini-tot n, E, +

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

misdredie n, D/Afk, ?

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

mischievous pronunc

[ˈmist ʃəvəs] +, [ˈmis’tʃivəs] x

miskoek n, D/Afk, +coll

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

miskruier n, D/Afk, +

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

misogamist/mysogynist

misogamist [ˈmɪsəgəmɪst] fr Gk miseo (hate) + gemos (marriage)
misogynist [ˈmɪsədʒɪnɪst] fr Gk miseo + guné (woman)
**misrybol (-ry(ers)blom)** n, D/Afk, + (*Amaryllis belladonna*)

*(Haemanthus coccineus)*

alt: maartblom

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

**Miss Lucy** n, E, +

see: red stumpnose

**Mist Belt** n, E, +

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

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

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

see also: miskoek, perskepitvloer

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

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

see also: klapper, suurklapper

**moan** v, E, +coll

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

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

alt: boomgrysappel, cork tree, grysappel, hissing tree, sandapple

small to large almost evergreen spreading tree with drooping branches, rough corky bark, stiff leathery leaves & plum-like greyish brown egg-shaped fruits hanging in large bunches; wood very hard;
bark used for tanning; fruit edible; the kernels have a high oil content

mocking chat n, E, + (*Thamnolaea cinnamonomeiventris*)
alt: dassievoël
very local species of bird, confined to steep cliffs & kloofs, shy but becomes remarkably tame; lively, attractive & somewhat noisy

Modjadjí palm/Modjaje’s palm n, Ba/E, +
see: breadfruit tree

moeg adj, D/Afk, x
Afk equiv of ‘tired, fatigued, weary’

moepel n, So, +(*Mimusops aeyheri*)
alt: red milkwood, Transvaal melkhout
shrub or small evergreen spreading tree with a single, sometimes twisted trunk, rough bark, leathery glossy leaves on slender stalks, exuding a milky juice when pricked; wood used for general wood-work

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

mom(my) n, E, +
S Afr & Amer equiv of ‘mum(my)’ in GB, informal address for mother; fr ‘momma’

mompar(r)a n, Ba, +coll
see: mampara
monkey-bread n, E, +
see: baobab

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

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

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

mooi nooitjie n, D/Afk, +
see: bamboo fish

moon-fish n, E, +
see: Cape lady (ii)

moony n, E, +
see: Cape lady (ii)

moor v, D/Afk, x
Afk equiv of ‘to murder’
mopane n, Tsw, + (Colophospermum mopane)
alt: balsam tree, butterfly tree, mopanie, Rhodesian ironwood, turpentine tree
small to medium-sized narrow-crowned tree with rough, deeply fissured bark, & oval to kidney-shaped flat pods, & leaves arranged like the wings of a butterfly, wh smell of turpentine when crushed; wood used for fencing posts, mine-props etc; in Ovamboland twine is made from the bark; animals eat the leaves, & mopane worms feed on the tree & are in turn eaten by Ba who dry & store them, or roast & eat them

mopane worms n, Tsw/E, +
black, spotted caterpillars wh feed on the mopane & marula trees; & are eaten by Ba & Bu tribes

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

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

more perfect
is not acceptable ‘perfection’ cannot be improved upon

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

moruti n, So, +
title of a Ba minister of religion
mos (i) adv, D/Afk, x

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

moskonfyt n, D/Afk, +

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

mos (ii) n, D/Afk, x

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

mosbeskuit n, D/Afk, +

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

mosbolletjie n, D/Afk, +

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

mossie n, Afk, +coll

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

Mother City, the

Cape Town, the Parliamentary capital of the Republic of S Afr, the first settlement & therefore the oldest city & fr its earliest times a seat of government, is known by this name
motivate n, E, +
means to supply a motive to, be the motive (or motif) of, eg ‘Such senseless murders are presumably motivated by sheer sadism’; motivate used in the sense of ‘explain, justify’ is unacceptable eg ‘Civil servants are requested to motivate their demands for higher wages’ x

mountain ash n, E, +
see: Cape ash

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

mountain reedbuck n, E, + (Redunca fulvorufula)
alt: rooiribbok
rather like but smaller than a reedbuck; the horns of the rams very much smaller & more definitely ‘hooked’ at the tips; greyish in colour, yellowish on head & upper neck; underparts & under-surface of the bushy tail white
see also: reedbuck

mountain seringa n, E, + (Kirkia wilmsii)
alt: bergsering, slaploot, wild pepper tree
small deciduous tree with single trunk or several stems fr the base, smooth greyish bark, rounded crown, branchlets abruptly ending in a blunt tip, & compound feathery leaves; grows on mountain slopes in frost-free areas; bark of the thin stems & roots used as twine by Sekukuniland Ba; one of the few indigenous trees with really magnificent autumn colours
see also: seringa
**mud mullet n**, E, + (*Labeo umbratus*)

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

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

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

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

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

see: snake muishond
see also: striped muishond.

**mullet n**, E, +

see: springer (iii), (iv)

**municipal** pron unc

[ˈmjuːˈnisipəl]

**murmur sp**

sometimes incorrectly spelt ‘murmer’

**muscatel n**, F, +

alt: muscadel
rich, spicy wine of various kinds made fr the muscatel grape wh has a musky smell and taste.
**musk cat** n, E, +
see: small spotted genet

**musselcracker** (i) n, E, +
see: biskop

**musselcracker** (ii) n, E, +
see: steenbras (i)

**musselcrusher** (i) n, E, +
see: biskop

**musselcrusher** (ii) n, E, +
see: steenbras (i)

**must**

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

**must/may**

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

**muti** n, Zu, +coll

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

naaibos n, D/Afk, +
see: bee-sting

naaldbos n, D/Afk, +
see: bee-sting

naartjie n, Ar or Tamil/D/Afk, + (Citrus nobilis)
S Afr equiv of ‘tangerine’ or ‘mandarin(e)’ (Citrus reticulata) in GB

naboom n, Hott/D/Afk, +
['nabum]
see: candelabra tree

nagana n, Ba, +
highly fatal animal disease caused by a trypanosome (Trypanosoma brucei) transmitted by the tsetse fly, a dipterous insect (Glossina morsitans & species of the genus) of the fam Tabanidae that is very common in parts of tropical & sth Afr
see also: sleeping sickness, tsetse fly

nagapie n, D/Afk, +
['nåxapi]
see: bush baby

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

Namaqua dove n, Hott/E, + (Oena capensis)
smallest species of dove found throughout sth Afr; the cock has a black face and breast and an orange bill
nanny n, E, +coll

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

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

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

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

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

Natal n, L, +

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

Natal camel-thorn n, E, +

see: paperbark-thorn

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

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

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

Natalian n, E, +

resident or inhabitant of the province of Natal

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

slender, graceful shrub wh occurs chiefly in the Transkei & Natal, but is found also in the Est Tvl & Nyasaland; rarely exceeds 2 – 3.5 m in height

Natal mahogany n, E, + (Trichilia emetica)

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

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

Natal orange n, E, + (Strychnos spinosa)

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

Natal plum n, E, +

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

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

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

Natal Roman n, E, + (Porcostoma dentata)

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

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

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

**native** n, E, x

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

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

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

**Ndeble** n, Ba, +

see: Matabele

**necessary** sp

sometimes incorrectly spelt with two *cc*'s

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

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

**negative**

excessive use of the negative to invite assent, should be avoided, eg 'Won't you please post this letter for me?' x, 'Can't I come with you?' x; 'Will you please...' +, 'Can I come...' +
neither sing/pl

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

nek n, D/Afk, +

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

nerve-racking sp

nerve-wracking x

net/nett sp

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

neuk v, D/Afk, x

to hit, strike, flog, trounce; to bother

never

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

never ever

'never' means 'not ever', therefore 'never ever' is tautologous, eg 'I never ever want to speak to him again' x, 'I do not ever want to
speak to him again’ or ‘I never want to speak to him again’
see also: never

ngubo n, Ba, +coll

garment, blanket, skin

Nguni n, Ngu, +

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

nice

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

niesbos n D/Afk, + (Buddleia lobulata)

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

niggerfish n, E, +

see: steenvis

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

[’nəx(i)’]
Afk equiv of cousin (female) & niece; also a form of address for a girl or woman, eg ‘Nig Sannie’
see also: neef

night adder n, E, + (Causus rhombeatus)

found in most parts of S Afr; although poisonous, not as deadly as the puff adder or mamba; haunts dwellings at night in search of frogs
& mice, but is not aggressive unless irritated; it lays a number of eggs around which it coils to incubate them

**night-time**

the hyphenated form is preferable to ‘nighttime’ which is Amer

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

see: Zeyher’s bush willow

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

Afk equiv of ‘nothing’, slang in GB and Amer ‘nix’ prob derived from D & G

**nip** n, E, +

small spirit bottle measuring 200 millil

see also: bomb, bottle, half-jack

**Nkosi** n, Ngu, +

equiv of ‘chief’, ‘God’, ‘master’

**Nkosikaas** n, Ngu, +

equiv of ‘mistress’, ‘missus’

**nobody/no one**

see: anybody

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

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

**nogai** n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of ‘rather, quite, fairly’
noisy robin n, E, +
see: chorister robin

nomenclature pronunc

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

nominal

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

none is or are?

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

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

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

noon

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

noorsdoring n, D/Afk, +

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

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

now

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

now-now

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

number sing/pl

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

nunu n, Ba, +coll

Ba word for insects in general

nursemaid n, E, +coll

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

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

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

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

O

oblivious of

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

occasion

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

occurred

is spelt with two c’s & two r’s

of (i)

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

of (ii)

for have is a solecism, eg ‘I would of done it’ x
of (iii)

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

off

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

office boy n, E, +

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

offices/officers pronunc

[ˌɒfɪsɪz], [ˌɒfɪsəz]
the s of the former is pronounced s, of the latter z

offload v, E, +

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

off-saddle v, E, +

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

off sales n, E, +

see: bottle store

off-street n, E, +

alt: cross-street, side-street
minor street running at right angels to or out of main street; also used in Amer
of it

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

often pronunc

[ˈɒfən] + [ˈɒfən] x; occasionally [ˈɒftən] +

Oherero n, Ba, +

see: Herero

O.K. abbr, Amer, +coll

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

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

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

Old Year’s Night n, E, ?

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

oolenhout n, D/Afk, x

see: wild olive

olifantskos n, D/Afk, x

see: spekboom

Olympiad n, E, +

period of four years between Olympic games, by wh time was computed in ancient Greece; not the competition itself
omission sp
spelt with one m, as is ‘omit’

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

omission of the
‘I shall see you at office’ x; ‘...at the office’ +

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

ompad n, D/Afk, x
Afk equiv of ‘detour’ or ‘roundabout way’

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

onderbos n, D/Afk, +
lit: under-brushwood
Trichocladus crinitus & T. ellipticus are both known by this name;
the Ba make kieries & ornaments of the former; in the neighbourhood of the Pirie forest the latter is used mainly as firewood

one day sp

sometimes mistakenly written as one word ‘oneday’ x

one or other x

lit transl of Afk ‘een of ander’; should be some ... or other, eg ‘In some way or other they managed to ford the river’

only

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

see also: even

only pronunc

the l should be pronounced

oom n, D/Afk, x

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

Oom Paul

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

oondbos n, D/Afk, +

see: bakbos
oorlams adj, D/Afk, ?

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

open wakker Afk idiom, x

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

opinion

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

opsit n, D/Afk, +coll

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

opsitting n, D/Afk, x

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

opskop n, D/Afk, +coll

lit Afk meaning 'kicking up' but used as the equiv of 'an evening's dancing', esp a 'boeredans'
see also: bokjol, jol
opskud v, D/AFk, +coll

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

oral pronunc


orange-breasted waxbill

see: rooiassie

Orange Express n, E, +

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

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

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

oribi n, prob Hott, + (Ourebia ourebi)

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

ossewa n, D/AFk, x

Afk equiv of ‘oxwagon’

ou n, adj, D/AFk. x

pl: ou’s
lit: old
as a n, S Afr sl equiv of ‘chap, fellow, bloke, guy’, eg ‘Who were the two ou’s who gate-crashed?’; as an adj, used affectionately in the sense of ‘dear’ (as also in E, eg ‘Well, old chap ...’) eg ‘How is ou Danie?’, x
oubaas (i) n, D/Afk, +
Afk equiv of ‘old gentleman’ (fellow, chap), ‘elderly master’
see also: baas, kleinbaas, kleinnooi, ounooi

oubaas (ii) n, D/Afk, x
see: ouhout

ouboet n, D/Afk, x
alt: ouboeta, ouboetie
abbr of ‘ou broer’ lit ‘old brother’; affectionate term used of, or in
addressing, an older, or eldest brother; in addressing a friend, the
equiv of ‘old chum, mate’
see also: boeta

oubos n, D/Afk, x
see: ouhout

oudehout n, D/Afk, x
see: ouhout

ouderling n, D/Afk, +
Afk equiv of ‘Church elder’

oudoring n, D/Afk, x
see: enkeldoring

oudstryder n, D/Afk, +
Afk equiv of ‘old fighter’, ‘war veteran’; applied esp to the men who
fought in the Boer War
ouhout n, D/Afk, + (*Leucosidea sericea*)

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

oulaas n, D/Afk, x

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

oulap n, D/Afk, +coll
equiv of ‘penny’, ‘dirt-cheap’, eg ‘vir ’n “oulap en ’n bokstert”’, fr the D ‘oude lap’ wh means old rag

oulik adj, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of ‘cute, clever, tricky, dinky, neat, shrewd, adroit’

ouma n, D/Afk, +

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

oumakappie n, D/Afk, +

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

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

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

oupa n, D/Afk, +

Afk equiv of ‘grandpa’; has become accepted usage in S Afr E see also: ouma
oupa-en-sy-pyp n, D/Afk, x
see: begging hand

ourselves
see: myself

ousie n, Afk, +coll
diminutive of ‘ousus’ Afk equiv of ‘old sister’, a term of affection; ‘ousie’ also used in addressing non-white women

outbreak/epidemic
see: epidemic

outer room n, E, +
alt: outside room
see: buitekamer

outside room n, E, +
alt: outer room
see: buitekamer

outspan n, E, +
also outspanning, ‘During the outspan the men went off to shoot a buck’, ‘The old kraal was used for outspanning the trek oxen’; as a prop n a characteristically S Afr trade name, eg ‘Outspan oranges’; the Outspan a S Afr magazine no longer in print
see also: outspan (v)

outspan v, E, +
to unyoke or unharness a draft animal; the pp is also used as an adj, eg ‘the outspanned oxen’

Ovambo n, Ba, +
tribe living in the north of S W Afr, comprising the Ondonga, the
Ombalantu, the Onkolonkathi, the Ukuanyama, the Ukuambi, the Ukualuthi, the Ongandjera & Eunda; they are of Ba origin, worship the spirits of their ancestors & attach great importance to the wearing of charms.

over

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

overall/over all

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

Overvaal prop n, D/E/Afk, +

official residence in Pretoria of the Administrator of the Transvaal

owing to/due to

see: due to

oxpecker n, E, +

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