



Learn to speak Truly South African

Thanks to its melting pot of 11 official languages, South African's tend to use a lot of *South Africanisms* drawn from the various languages. South African conversational English is littered with words and phrases from its seductive menu of official languages, so don't be shy to mix it up. Here's an example:

Mark: 'Howzit my china?'

Claudia: 'Hundreds bru!'

Mark: 'Why don't you chuck on your cozy and plaatjies and jump in the bakkie. We'll stop at the Spaza shop for some biltong padkos and head to my chommie's larney rondavel where we can sit on the stoep, braai some sosaties and boerie and catch the latest skinner.'

Claudia: 'Yebo, sounds lekker man. I'll be ready just now.'

Other South Africanisms to get you chatting the truly South African way.

Aikona – not on your life / never

Aita (Pronounced ai-tah) – a greeting

Arvie – afternoon

Bobotie (Pronounced buh-boor-tea) – served with yellow rice and raisins, this is a spicy traditional Malay mince with an egg custard topping

Babbelas (Pronounced bub-el-as) – South African Afrikaans for hung over or tender

Bakgat – when something is done correctly

Bakkie – a utility / pick-up truck or Tupperware container

Biltong - dried, seasoned meat, similar to jerky

Bioskoop (Pronounced bio-skoop) – the Cinema

Biscuit – South African Afrikaans for cookie, used as a term of affection – Claudia, you biscuit!

Bliksem – hit or punch

Bitter Koud (Pronounced bitter-coat) – South African Afrikaans for very cold

Boer – Afrikaans word for farmer

Boerewors (boerie) – spicy South African farmers' sausage

Boetie (Pronounced Boet-tea) – South African Afrikaans for little brother, this can also be used as a nickname.

Bokkie – a small buck, or affectionate name for a female (my bokkie)

Bra – Afrikaans word for male friend - dude in English

Bru – male friend

Braai – a BBQ

Cell – mobile phone

Choc – township slang for R20 note

Chommie / china – my friend

Choon – South African Indian slang for telling someone something, could also be a song

Chow – to eat

Cozy (Pronounced cozzie) – swimming / bathing costume

Dik bek – sulking / pouting

Diski – South African township slang for football e.g. Learn the Diski Dance for 2010

Doss – a nap

Dorpie (Pronounced door-pea) – a town small in size

Droë wors (Pronounce Drew-a-voars) – dried sausage, similar to biltong

Eina! (Pronounce A-nah) – Ouch!

Eish! (Pronounced aysh) – a phrase of exclamation e.g.. Eish! I am so tired

Fundi – expert

Gatvol – fed up, had enough

Gelukkige Verjaarsdag (Pronounced Ggeluk-kighe Ferrr-yaars-dag) – South African Afrikaans for Happy Birthday

Gogga - bug in Khoikhoi

Gooi (Pronounce 'g' as a rolling 'gggg' almost like a cat purring) – chuck or throw something

Highway – motorway / freeway

Howzit – how's it going? How are you?

Hundreds – excellent, good – Hi buddy how are you? I am hundreds

Indaba – from the Zulu language meaning a matter for discussion or widely known in South African English as conference

Just now – interchangeable meanings which could be just now tomorrow... or perhaps never

Kombi – a minivan

Kwaai (Pronounced kw-eye) – a homonym meaning – cool, excellent or angry in South African Afrikaans

Monkey's wedding – a rain shower when the sun is out

Plaatjies (Pronounce 'tj' as an 'ck') – flip slop sandals (also see slip slops)

Laaitie (Pronounces as lighty) – a young person, usually a young male such as a younger brother or son

Laduma! (Pronounced la-doom-a!) – it thunders in Zulu - used when a

goal is scored in South African soccer matches

Larney – fancy / designer

Lekker – great / tasty

Makarapa – a modified, decorated miners' helmet used by South African soccer fans

Mielie – corn on the cob

Naartjie (Pronounce 'v' as an 'f') – tangerine, mandarin

Ou Ballie – South African Afrikaans for old man

Oke (Pronounced oak) – a guy / bloke

Padkos – food for the road / journey

Pap / mielie meal – ground maize

Pavement – sidewalk

Robot – traffic light

Rondavel – free-standing round building which usually has a thatched roof

Sangoma – South African traditional healer

Shongololo – millipede

Siff – Used in South African English to describe disgusting, horrible or ugly – "This milkshake is siff!"

Skinner – gossip

Slap chips – French fries

Slip slops / slops – flip slop sandals

Spaza shop / cafe (Pronounced caffie – convenience store)

Stoep – veranda

Sosatie – a kebab on a stick

Swak (pronounced – swuk) – South African Indian slang for bad or a lot on your shoulders

Tannie – Afrikaans for aunt

Tekkies – sneakers

Tokoloshe – evil spirit

Toyi-Toyi - South African Zulu for protesting and dancing in the street

Tsotsi (Pronounced Tzotzi – a person who does no good, gangster, layabout

Tune – to give a person lip – Don't you tune me

Veld – bush / grassland

Veldskoens / vellies (Pronounce 'v' as an 'f') – traditional Afrikaans outdoors shoes made from hide

Voetsek (Pronounce 'v' as an 'f') – go away / buzz off

Vuvuzela (Pronounced Voo-voo-ze-la) – Setswana for a stadium horn, used by football fans during matches in South Africa

Yebo (Pronounced Yeah-baw) – Yes in Zulu