

# 6<sup>th</sup> Science Centre World Congress

## South Africanisms you should try to learn and use

South African English is a colourful mixture of words from English, Afrikaans, our own African languages, Dutch, Portuguese, Malay and even Arabic

Compiled by Mike Bruton

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- Afri-Can* The 'can-do' spirit of Africa. An 'Afri-Can guitar' is a traditional South African guitar made from a 5 litre oilcan, partly derived from the 'ramkie'
- Aloe* Common succulent plant in South Africa. The juice is used to make soaps, health drinks and medicine. Try the 'Karoo Cocktail', a health drink comprising aloe juice, pomegranate, devil's claw and buchu juice!
- Ayoba* Something that is cool or exciting, like the 6SCWC in South Africa
- Babelaas* Hangover
- Bakgat* Well done, awesome ("A bakgat talk")
- Bakkie* Pick up truck
- Bitter ghaap* Indigenous plant traditionally used by Khoi-San hunters to make an appetite-suppressant. Now on sale worldwide.
- Biltong* Dried meat, jerkie ("lekker")
- Boerewors* Traditional savoury Afrikaans farmer's sausage
- Bobotie* Traditional Malay dish, made from mince meat and spices topped with egg sauce
- Boma* Open, thatched structure used for entertainment. Also, a thatched hut that Xhosa initiates live in
- Braai, braai vleis* Outdoor barbecue

- Buchu* Indigenous fynbos shrub from which San and Khoi-Khoi people derived extracts to treat a variety of medical maladies, now on sale worldwide
- Bunny chow* Delicious, cheap food on the go, comprising curry served in a hollowed-out half-loaf of bread
- Coelacanth* Famous 'fossil fish' that was thought to be extinct but was rediscovered off South Africa in 1938
- Cooldrink, coldrink* Soda
- Dassie* Rodent-like animal, related to the elephant, found on Table Mountain and elsewhere
- Dolos* Harbour protection device, named after the knuckle bones of a sheep, invented in South Africa and used worldwide
- Dop* Short, strong drink ('oppas')
- Droëwors* Dried sausage, from Afrikaans (also 'lekker')
- Eina* Expression of pain or shock
- Eish* Expression of surprise, e.g. when the Chair of your session says that your time is up
- Flat* Apartment
- Frikkadel* Traditional savoury meat ball
- Fundi* Expert, from the Nguni 'umfundisi', a teacher or preacher. We will be an 'indaba of fundis'
- Fynbos* 'Fine bush' in Afrikaans. Indigenous, small-leaved plants, unique to the Cape Floral Kingdom, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, around Cape Town. There are over 6 000 species of fynbos, including proteas, sedges and various shrubs
- Gees* Spirit, for instance, 'the gees of the congress'
- Gogga* Insect
- Gogo* Term of endearment for elderly women, from isiZulu
- Hanepoot* Sweet wine made from the Muscat Blanc d'Alexandrie grape cultivar, famous in the Cape
- Hoerikwagga* Traditional Khoi-San name for Table Mountain

<i>Howzit!</i>	Traditional South African greeting, like 'How are you?' or 'Hello'
<i>iLala wine</i>	Wine tapped from the indigenous iLala palm in Zululand
<i>Indaba</i>	Meeting traditionally around a fire, now extended to include a conference. We will be attending a 'science centre indaba'
<i>Iqhilika mead</i>	Traditionally made mead from honey, from isiXhosa
<i>Jislaaik!</i>	Expression of extreme surprise, such as "Jislaaik, I just saw Elvis at lunch"
<i>Joi</i>	Versatile word for any event that is enjoyable. Our social events will all be 'jois'
<i>Joller</i>	Someone who jois, 6SCWC delegate
<i>Jukskei</i>	Sport originally developed by local transport riders in South Africa who accompanied the Voortrekkers (Afrikaans and Dutch pioneers) on their treks into the interior in the 1800s. Wooden wagon wheel spokes were thrown at pegs in the ground. Now an international sport.
<i>Kif</i>	Great, wonderful; "A kif braai", from the Arabic 'kayf' ("enjoyment")
<i>Kleinhuisie</i>	Toilet, 'small house' in Afrikaans
<i>Koeksister</i>	Traditional Malay and Afrikaans sweet, twisted (very twisted) delicacy. It is so popular that there is even a koeksister statue in South Africa!
<i>Kwaito</i>	Music of South Africa's urban black youth, a mixture of South African disco, hip hop, R&B and ragga, with a heavy dose of percussion
<i>Kwela</i>	Popular, 1950s penny whistle music derived from the townships and popular with street musicians
<i>Lekker</i>	Very good or nice ("lekker talk")
<i>Madiba</i>	An affectionate name for former President Nelson Mandela and his clan
<i>Mampoer</i>	Very strong brandy 'dop' made from peaches and other fruit, similar to moonshine.
<i>Marimba</i>	African wooden xylophone

<i>Marula</i>	Marula berries are used to make foods, drinks and beauty products. Elephants get drunk eating ripe marula berries
<i>Mealie</i>	Maize or corn
<i>Molo</i>	Hello, in isiXhosa
<i>Morabaraba</i>	Traditional African Cattle-trading board game which originated over 3 000 years ago; widely used to teach logic and numeracy to children
<i>Mosbolletjies</i>	Aniseed baked rusk, a Malay delicacy
<i>Muti</i>	Traditional medicine, from isiZulu, 'umuthi'
<i>Mzansi</i>	Popular word for 'South Africa'
<i>Naartjie</i>	Tangerine
<i>Negawatt</i>	A megawatt of electricity saved by consumers who voluntarily switch off unneeded electric appliances. A concept introduced by Eskom, South Africa's electricity supplier.
<i>Nkosi kakulu</i>	Thank you very much, from isiXhosa
<i>Oppas</i>	Look out, beware (e.g., "Oppas, there is an elephant in your bedroom")
<i>Padkos</i>	Food for the road (biltong)
<i>Pap</i>	Mealie meal porridge, a staple food in South Africa, also eaten cold with braai
<i>Pap 'n sheba</i>	'Train smash', tomato and mashed potatoes, popular in Gauteng
<i>Papbroek</i>	Spineless person
<i>Pavement</i>	Sidewalk
<i>Pofadder</i>	Lazy, poisonous snake (oppas!). Also refers to boerewors made from kudu meat
<i>Potjiekos</i>	Traditional Afrikaner food, slow cooked in a three-legged cast-iron pot over an open fire; anti-fast food
<i>Qolf</i>	A combination of golf and croquet invented in South Africa

<i>Quagga</i>	Extinct subspecies of the Plains Zebra, which is being brought back to life using genetic engineering at the University of Cape Town
<i>Ramkie</i>	Traditional three-stringed lute made using a gourd as a sound box
<i>Rand</i>	South African currency, made up of 100 cents. Named after the 'Witwatersrand', where most of South Africa's gold deposits are found
<i>Robot</i>	Traffic light
<i>Rooibos</i>	Afrikaans for 'red bush'; a kind of fynbos from which teas, soaps and many other products are made; famous for its health benefits
<i>Rooinek</i>	Englishman, Afrikaans for 'red neck'
<i>Saboeratjies</i>	Traditional Malay biscuits
<i>Safari</i>	Trek in the veld
<i>Samoosa</i>	Spicy, triangular pie, deep fried in oil, of Indian and Malay origin
<i>iSangoma</i>	Traditional healer or diviner, from isiZulu
<i>Sarmie</i>	Sandwich
<i>Slap tjijs</i>	Soft, oily, gooey French fries, from Afrikaans for 'limp chips'
<i>Smiley</i>	Roasted or boiled whole sheep head, a popular Xhosa and Malay delicacy
<i>Snoek</i>	Delicious indigenous fish, eaten smoked or braaied, stuffed with onions and apricot jam
<i>Sosatie</i>	Shish kebab on a stick
<i>Spanspek</i>	Cantaloupe, orange-fleshed melon
<i>Strandlopers</i>	'Beach walkers', an unscientific term for a group of early Khoi and San people who lived along the 3 000 km long shoreline of South Africa. They left extensive middens, which are scientific goldmines
<i>Stoep</i>	Porch or verandah
<i>Takkies</i>	Running shoes

<i>Teksie</i>	Taxi, traditional weapon
<i>Toi-Toi</i>	Rhythmic African dance accompanied by chanting
<i>Tokoloshe</i>	Dreaded evil spirit
<i>Totsiens</i>	Good bye, au revoir
<i>Trek</i>	Arduous hike or journey
<i>uBuntu</i>	South African humanist philosophy that holds as its central tenet that a person is a person through other persons. Similar to the Arabic 'Asabiyah'
<i>uMqombothi</i>	Traditional homemade beer, from isiXhosa
<i>Vasbyt</i>	Hang in there, persevere, from Afrikaans
<i>Veld</i>	Open grassland, from Dutch
<i>Velskoek</i>	Simple leather shoes, from Dutch
<i>Vetkoek</i>	Deep-fried bread roll filled with mince, guaranteed to clog your arteries and satisfy your hunger, from Afrikaans
<i>Vlei</i>	Shallow, temporary wetland, from Afrikaans but used worldwide
<i>Voetsek!</i>	Go away! (to marauding lion)
<i>Vuvuzela</i>	Large plastic trumpet made famous during the FIFA World Cup in South Africa in 2010. Expect to hear it at the 6SCWC. Known as a 'lepatata' in isiSetswana
<i>Walkie talkies</i>	Chicken feet cooked until tender
<i>Waterblommetjebredie</i>	Delicious baked dish made from indigenous freshwater plants